We have had an interesting year. Dr. Dean Hawkins resigned and took an administrative position at West Texas. Dr. Kirk McDaniel and Dr. Mark Petersen retired. Dr. Jason Turner moved from his academic position to an extension specialist position. Each of these have left big holes in our program. I appreciate what each of these faculty meant to our program and wish them the very best in the future. So now our task is to get these positions filled. We currently have active searches for the ruminant nutrition and reproductive physiology positions. The horse position and vegetation position are temporarily (I hope) on hold until the University's budget is finalized. Regardless, we have a tremendous opportunity to seek new talent to continue the growth of our programs. We have interviewed for a faculty position in Companion Animals. This position will strengthen our Pre-Vet Program and provide other career opportunities for our graduates. I appreciate the support of our college administration and our faculty to get these positions approved.

As always, our students continue to “shine.” Our Horse and Wool judging teams had great years. The Ranch Horse Team earned Reserve National Champion honors at the National Championship Collegiate Ranch Horse Competition. The Range Club received First Place in the University Chapter Display at the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting which, by the way, was hosted by the New Mexico association in Albuquerque. Our Academic Quadrathlon Team represented us well at the Western Section, American Society of Animal Science competition. Logan Potts placed second in the Undergraduate Student Competition at the Equine Science Society meeting. Travis Mulliniks received first place honors for the Applied Animal Science Award at the Western Section meetings in June. I am proud of our students and their accomplishments.

Our department continues to grow. This fall, we increased our Student Credit Hours by 8.4% over last fall. Graduate Student numbers are also significantly higher this fall with a near doubling of Ph.D. students. Thanks to the faculty for making this happen.

I want to welcome our new members of our Department. Linda Keener is our new secretary in the front office looking out for the Interim Department Head. She brings tremendous experience and a “can-do” attitude to our Department. Sarah Veeder is our equitation and therapeutic riding instructor. She launched the therapeutic riding program which has taken off like a rocket. Dr. John Campbell has taken the reins as our Judging Team Coordinator. He has rekindled interest in our livestock judging program and strengthened our other judging activities.

I want to congratulate and recognize Mr. Neil Burcham who received the College’s Distinguished Service Award and Dr. Kirk McDaniel for receiving the Distinguished Research Award. Our faculty and staff continue to be recognized as leaders in our College and University.

This summer we had the largest Half Day of College at the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center (CRLRC). Cudos to Shad Cox and Richard Dunlap for organizing the event. We continue to work on the plans for building the Southwest Center on the CRLRC. We have a signed contract with the architects.
and should be going out for bid later this fall or winter. I want to express my thanks to the CRLRC Advisory Board for their hard work and support.

We continue to work on improving our livestock facilities on and near campus. The College is taking an active role in developing plans for the “West End of Campus.” Currently, we have emerging needs for improvements in our facilities including the Horse Center which has immediate needs.

Finally, we have an outstanding Department evidenced by our students, faculty and staff. But also our success can be attributed to our alumni throughout New Mexico, nationally and internationally. We appreciate your support and the support of our many friends throughout the state.

**Personnel**

After 18 years at NMSU, Dr. Mark Petersen retired from this institution and headed to Montana where he became the Research Leader at the USDA-ARS Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory in Miles City. Mark came to NMSU in 1991 from Montana State University, having also worked with the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service. His research has focused on range ruminant nutrition and he has been recognized for his efforts with the WSASAS Young Scientist Award and the WSASAS Service Award. He also received the Gamma Sigma Delta “Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Advising Award” in 2007.

Dr. John Campbell joined the faculty as a College Instructor and Judging Team Coordinator. John received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Texas A&M University and his Ph.D. from NMSU in 1992. He has considerable experience in working with FFA and 4-H students in livestock judging.

Welcome to Linda Keener, new Departmental Secretary III, who joined the department on September 16. She filled the vacancy created when Julie Basile retired in July. Linda and her husband, Will, recently moved to Las Cruces from Albuquerque where she had extensive experience as an executive assistant and office manager.

Dr. Nathan Elam, Superintendent of the Clayton Livestock Research Center since May 2005 resigned his post effective June 2009. He has joined Nutritional Services Associates in Hereford, Texas as a nutritional consultant.

Joining the faculty as an equitation and therapeutic riding instructor is Sarah Wallace Veeder. Sarah graduated from NMSU with a degree in Animal Science in December, 2007.

The 2009 Awards Day was held April 24 at the University Golf Course Club House. Receiving honors were Kirk McDaniel, recipient of the Distinguished Research Award and

**Faculty Recognitions**
Neil Burcham, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Kirk was recognized for his efforts with the rangeland ecology project, the locoweed project, and the salt cedar initiative, while Neil was honored for his 40 years of service to NMSU and the livestock industry.

Tim Ross was recognized by the New Mexico Wool Growers’ with their “Amigo Award”, which is presented to an individual for their service and dedication to the sheep industry in New Mexico. Dr. Ross has worked with the group for 27 years.

Student Teams

The Horse Judging Team, coached by Jason Turner, competed at the AQHA Congress in Columbus, Ohio on October 10-16. The team placed 5th overall (out of 26 teams), 8th in halter, 5th in performance, and 6th in reasons. Logan Potts was 11th in reasons and tied for 8th overall high individual. Team members are Kali Benson, Jacinda Hinkson, Emily Hibbard, Ari Wilbanks, and Logan Potts.

The NMSU Horse Judging Team also competed at the AQHA World Championship Judging Contest in Oklahoma City on November 13-20. The team finished 5th overall, 5th in reasons, 5th in performance, and 5th in halter. Individual honors went to Jacinda Hinkson (2nd High Individual, 2nd in performance, and 4th in reasons) and Ari Wilbanks (9th overall). Other team members were Logan Potts, Kali Benson, and Emily Hibbard. Audra Powell, a range science alumnus, competed in the amateur breakaway roping while Megan Duff Schuller (animal science alumnus) participated in the amateur working cowhorse class.

The NMSU Ranch Horse Team competed at the Collegiate Stock Horse Show at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, TX on October 31-November 2. The team placed 3rd overall with Bryn Wells earning High Point Limited Non-Pro rider honors. Zach Ozborn won the working cowhorse class, placed 5th in reining and 4th high point rider in the Open division. Denny Burnett placed 5th in cowhorse, 4th in reining, and was 5th high point rider in the Open division. Sean Reagan and Kayce McDaniel finished in the top 10 in reining and cowhorse in the Novice division while Trey Rusk placed in the top ten of the Limited Non-PRO class.

The Ranch Horse Collegiate Team competed at the National Championship Collegiate Ranch Horse Competition in Lubbock, Texas on April 25-27, finishing as the Reserve National Champions. Denny Burnett won the “Non-pro Reining”; Zach Ozborn was 4th high individual in non-pro; Kelly Horton won the “limited non-pro trail”; and Kayce McDaniel won “novice reining and was 3rd high point individual. Other team members were Katy Dunn and Jacinda Hinkson. Joby Priest is coach of the team.

The Wool Judging Team participated at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. Brandi Polk was High Individual in Placings with a perfect score in six classes. Other team members were Joanne Martin, Quentin Preece, Marlon Pimienta, Katelyn Marchetti, and Kristin Wargowsky. The team also competed at the Houston Livestock Show. Assisting Tim Ross with coaching duties were Trevor Gray and Cody Terpening.

The NMSU Range Club received FIRST PLACE in the University Chapter Display at the SRM meeting in Albuquerque. Members representing the local club were Monty Lane, Chase Elkins, Nick Padilla, Carson Taylor, Donald Schoederbeck, Craig Lamy, Brad Cooper, Rachel Suazo, and Kenton Martin.
The **Academic Quadrathlon** team, coached by **Sergio Soto-Navarro**, participated in the Western Section ASAS Quadrathlon in Cedar City, Utah on April 17 and 18. The team finished 3rd overall out of six teams. They earned 2nd in oral presentation and the quiz bowl and were 4th on practicum and written. Students representing NMSU were **Lori Richardson, Andrea Stapp, Brock Graham**, and **Denny Burnett**.

**Student Awards**

**Gamma Sigma Delta**, the Honor Society of Agriculture, presented The Distinguished Graduate Student award to **Travis Mulliniks**, who recently completed his M.S. degree under **Mark Petersen**. **Travis** also received the first place “Applied Animal Science Award” for his paper “Increasing glucogenic pre-cursors in range supplements improves reproductive efficiency and profitability in young postpartum range cows in years 2000 to 2007.” A native of Oklahoma, Travis is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition at NMSU.

Six students graduating in Fall, 2008 were awarded the departmental “Distinguished Graduating Senior” medallion for outstanding accomplishments. These were **Kassidy Burnett, Danielle Castellon, Yvonne Diaz, Shannon Kruse, Katie Taylor**, and **Brandon Sanders**. Brandon also was recognized with the “Dean’s Award of Excellence.” A special medallion was presented to **Dana Wiebe**, Departmental Secretary, who also graduated this fall with a degree in Human Resources.

Students receiving the departmental “Distinguished Graduating Senior” medallion for Spring, 2009 were **Kali Benson, Laura Dawdy, Sara Marta, Kenton Martin, Allison Otis, Cody Terpening**, and **Heath Tjaden**. Allison Otis and Heath Tjaden, both animal science majors, received the Dean’s Award of Excellence, while the “Outstanding Student in Agriculture” award goes to **Sara Peterson Marta**, a double major in AXED and Animal Science.

The American Society of Animal Science Scholarship Awards were presented to the following students:

**SENIORS**: Christina Bean, Megan Coleson, Laura Dawdy, Logan Potts, Lori Richardson, Heath Tjaden

**JUNIORS**: Lindsey Green, Katelyn Hanson, Kelsey Kalbacher, Melissa Mozer, Nina Vail

**SOPHOMORES**: Jovani Armendariz, Kathleen Behm, Victor Gutierrez, Katelin Marchetti, Melissa Rigdon, Elizabeth Wirick

**Logan Potts**, animal science major, placed 2nd in the Undergraduate Student Competition at the Equine Science Society meeting in Keystone, Colorado. His presentation was titled “Nitrogen retention and nutrient digestibility in geldings fed grass or alfalfa hay or alfalfa cubes.”

The 24th annual A. L. Neumann Scientific Paper Competition for Animal Science Graduate Students was held on June 9, 2009. Eight students who were to present papers at the WSASAS meeting participated in the competition. First place went to **Kasey DeAtley** (“Microsatellite ETH10 in the promoter of signal transducer and activator of transcription-6 gene predicts 205-d weight in Red Angus cattle”), whose advisor is **Milt Thomas**, while second place was awarded to **Dustin Yates** (“Effects of human chorionic gonadotropin on serum progesterone and complete blood counts during early gestation in ewes,”), a doctoral student working with **Tim Ross**. Others participating were **Pablo Luna, Patrick Sanchez, Alison Iroz, Maria Martinez-Perez, Flint Harrelson**, and **Ely Camacho**. Serving as judges were **John Campbell** and **Clint Lœst**.
Horse Judging Team
Logan Potts, Kali Benson, Ari Wilbanks, Jacinda Hinkson, Emily Hibbard, Dr. Jason Turner (Coach)

NMSU Wool Team
Dr. Tim Ross, Marlon Pimienta, Quentin Preece, Kristin Wargowsky, Brandi Polk, Joanne Martin, Katelyn Marchetti

NMSU Range Club
1st Place University Chapter Display – SRM
Shawna Allen, Nick Padilla, Allen Rasmussen (SRM President), Rachael Davis, Brad Cooper, Carson Taylor

Reserve National Champion
Collegiate Ranch Horse Team
Denny Burnett, Katy Dunn, Kelly Horton, Kayce McDaniel, Jacinda Hinkson, Zach Ozborn

Academic Quadrathlon Team
Dr. Sergio Soto (coach), Denny Burnett, Andrea Stapp, Lori Richardson, Brock Graham
GSD Distinguished Graduate Student Award
Travis Mulliniks

Fall 2008 Distinguished Graduating Seniors
Kassidy Burnett, Danielle Castellon, Yvonne Diaz, Shannon Kruse, Katie Taylor, Brandon Sanders

2009 ASAS Scholastic Achievement Award
Back Row: Heath Tjaden, Logan Potts, Melissa Mozer, Christina Bean, Jovani Armendariz
Front Row: Lindsey Green, Laura Dawdy, Megan Coleson, Kelsey Klabcher, Kathleen Behm, Nina Vail, Katelin Marchetti

Spring 2009 Distinguished Graduating Seniors
Heath Tjaden, Kenton Martin, Laura Dawdy, Sara Marta, Allison Otis, Cody Terpening, Kali Benson

2nd Place: Equine Science Society meeting
Dr. Jason Turner, Logan Potts

Neumann Competition
Alison Iroz, Dustin Yates, Kasey DeAtley, Flint Harrelson, Maria Martinez-Perez, Pablo Luna, Ely Camacho, Patrick Sanchez
Graduating Classes 2008/2009

Fall 2008 Graduates
Back Row (L to R): Kassidy Burnett, Shannon Kruse, Dr. Tim Ross, Katie Taylor, Brandon Sanders
Front Row (L to R): Yvonne Diaz, Erica Hernandez, Jacquelyn Hawk, Ashley Lama, Justin Smith, Brent Dixon

Spring 2009 Graduates
Back Row (L to R): Justin Hagel, Shawna Allen, Valerie Detrick, Adrienne Coe, Jeremy Casados, Sara Marta, Julian Marta, Scott Jones, Cody Terpening, Bryan Hightower, Barbara Witmore, Chase Elkins, Pablo Luna, Heath Tjaden, Kenton Martin, Dr. Tim Ross
Front Row (L to R): Kali Benson, Kelly Horton, Rachel Luera, Kari Galloway, Laura Dawdy, Brittany Herrera, Cherish Wattner, Allison Otis, Colleen Richardson, Rachael Davis