New school year to bring new faces to the department

The Department of Animal and Range Sciences would like to welcome Dr. Hatim Geli and Dr. Jennifer Hernandez Gifford, as well as Dr. Mike Hubbert to Knox Hall, and Dr. Craig Gifford to the Extension Animal Sciences and Natural Resources Department.

Associate Professor for Animal Science, Dr. Hernandez Gifford, pictured, will be teaching Anatomy and Physiology this Fall semester.

Dr. Geli will be an Assistant Professor in Range Science and work in landscape hydrology.

Annual Neumann Competition awards graduate students

The 32nd annual NMSU Neumann Competition was held Friday, July 8, 2016, in Knox Hall, with multiple graduate students participating.

The competition was sponsored by the Animal Science Graduate Committee, and students who plan to present papers or posters at the Western Section ASAS meeting, the National ASAS meeting or the SSR meeting were eligible to compete. The competition was based on an oral presentation and abstract.

Former department head for Animal and Range Sciences at NMSU, Dr. A.L. Neumann, established a fund through the NMSU Foundation, with a portion of the proceeds from this fund going to recognize outstanding performance by graduate students in the area of animal science.

Winning first this year was Shelby Rosasco. She earned a cash prize of $200, a plaque and will have her name inscribed on a permanent plaque that remains in the department. Earning second place was Caitlin Hebbert, and third place went to Stacia Prosser.
Animal science department to offer minor in human-animal interaction

Beginning this summer, NMSU undergraduate students will have the option of choosing human-animal interaction (HAI) as a minor area of study. This will be the first time the college is offering this minor of study.

Associate professor of companion animals, Dr. Gaylene Fasenko, said the addition of the HAI minor is important because companion animals, especially dogs, are seen more and more in modern jobs, and there are not many companion animal programs available at universities or the option to minor in HAI.

Dr. Fasenko also said, “Just about any major you can think of that is offered at NMSU could potentially incorporate companion animals into that career.”

Students who select HAI as a minor can choose to focus on either canine/feline species or equine. The minor is intended to supplement the academic path for students who plan to pursue a career in criminal justice, early childhood education, special education, occupational therapy, social work and psychology.

Travels


Following the trip to Scotland, Dr. Cibils attended the 10th International Rangeland Congress in Saskatoon, Canada, on July 17-22 and presented the following posters and oral paper:

“Effects of mob grazing with sheep in winter or spring on green-up and reproductive effort of Poa ligularis in northern Patagonia,” by C. Farina, A. Cibils, G. Siffredi, M. Oesterheld and P. Wilhem (poster).


“Use of a UAV-mounted video camera to assess feeding behavior of Raramuri Criollo cows,” by S. Nyamurekung’e, A. Cibils, R. Estell, A. Gonzalez (oral).

Students and faculty attend the 2016 Grazing Livestock Nutrition Conference

Dr. Eric Scholljegerdes and Dr. Shanna Ivey along with graduate students Shelby Rosasco, Kacie McCarthy, Joslyn Beard and Kathryn Smith traveled to Park City, Utah, on July 16, to attend the 2016 Grazing Livestock Nutrition Conference.

Dr. Scholljegerdes delivered a presentation entitled, “How do we identify energetically efficient grazing animals?”

Former NMSU faculty and graduate students were also in attendance, including Dr. Mark Peterson who presented a video interview of Dr. Wallace. Also, Dr. Mitch Stephenson and Richard Waterman co-authored a paper that Dr. Travis Mulliniks gave a talk over.

This conference was an international meeting, with people from all over in attendance. Dr. Scholljegerdes said the presentations sparked a lot of interest in the work animal scientists are doing at NMSU.
NMSU students bring home awards from Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science

NMSU animal scientists traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to compete in the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science on July 19-23.

Eben Oosthuysen received first place and Caitlin Hebbert third place in the Graduate Student Paper Competition for their proceedings papers and presentations. As a result of their achievements and having received the highest combined scores in the WSASAS Graduate Student Competition, NMSU brought home the trophy for the Institution Award.

*Top left:* NMSU animal scientists at the WSASAS Awards Banquet pose with the trophy for the Institution Award.

*Top right:* Eben Oosthuysen presents his research project at the WSASAS Graduate Student Paper Competition. Eben’s research project was entitled, “Health evaluation of immune-stimulated and hay-supplemented feedlot receiving calves as assessed by blood gas analysis.”

*Bottom right:* Eben Oosthuysen received first place and Caitlin Hebbert received third place in the Graduate Student Paper Competition for their outstanding proceedings papers and presentations.

**Thank you and Good Luck!**

The department would like to wish Nick Peterson luck in his future endeavors with his family in Oklahoma. We would also like to thank Rob McNeely for his 37 years of continuous service to NMSU as an Agricultural Research Assistant. Happy retirement!