AGGIES GO GLOBAL

From the Project Management Office in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

No. 2 Quarterly report July 2009

Aggies Go Global (AGG) goes forward

AGG is a cooperative of ACES, IRI and Study Abroad. Dr. Paul Huntsberger, Rich Phillips and Dr. Gary Lowe have been meeting this summer to better understand all the programs that Study Abroad has developed. This information will be critical as Dr. Lowe launches ACES undergraduate mentoring program for international learning experiences.

Aggie Students Go Global and Gain International Experience

In late spring, proposals were submitted and accepted and students began their individual international experiences. The students are required to set up a blog and report their adventures as time permits. They are sometimes so busy that they have to wait up to a week between blogs. These blogs cover their activities and have kept us updated on their trips. The pictures and stories are fascinating. Following are their names and blog addresses. You can also log on to the AGG website at http://aggiesgoglobal.nmsu.edu/ and click on their name to read their blogs, follow their adventures, and see great pictures.

Casey O’Neill www.caseyoneill.blogspot.com is in Cambodia until the end of August. Casey is following the efforts of law enforcement and other agencies working on the issues surrounding human trafficking and child exploitation in Cambodia.

Lindsey Thomen http://lindsayinbelize.blogspot.com is in Belize until the end of July. Lindsay is working with Community Development and Environmental Education for Friends of Conservation and Development (a non-government organization-NGO) in Belize primarily in the Chiquibul National Forest.


Ashley Scitern will be leaving for Ensenada, Mexico on July 23rd for 10 days. She will be working with staff at the hospital in Mexico on medical intervention and a cervical cancer research study.
Owen Cortner will be in Kenya for two weeks in August where he will attend the Agroforestry conference with Rich Phillips. 2nd World Congress on Agroforestry 2009-08-23 to 2009-08-28: Nairobi, Kenya (ICRAF, UNEP)

Karissa Coffey [http://travelingkari.blogspot.com/] will be leaving for Tokyo in August for the entire fall semester. She will be attending the Temple University, Japan Campus.

ACES Faculty/Staff International Travel

**Dr. Andres Cibils, Range Scientist, Animal and Range Sciences**  
**February 2009**

**Argentina**
Cibils traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina in February 2009 to meet with a group of collaborators from the Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata and the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA). Cibils is working with this group on a regional research project that involves studying livestock distribution patterns on rangelands using GPS/GIS technology. The protocol used in this study, which includes sites in the Argentine provinces of Corrientes (sub-tropical grassland), Buenos Aires (temperate grassland), and Neuquén (cold desert), was modeled after a grazing distribution research project currently being conducted at NMSU's Corona Ranch. Regional data meta-analysis spanning several ecosystems will allow much needed insights into drivers of livestock grazing distribution on rangelands.

While in Buenos Aires, Cibils met with the Organizing Committee of the IX International Rangeland Congress. Preparations for the IX IRC which will be held in Rosario, Argentina in April 2011 are underway. Cibils is the fundraising co-chair of the IX IRC Organizing Committee.

**Chile**
Cibils also traveled to southern Chile in February 2009 to collaborate with scientists from Chile's Instituto Nacional de Investigacion Agropecuaria (INIA). This collaboration involves a multi-year study aimed at improving the nutritional state of sheep flocks raised on rangelands surrounding the Straits of Magellan. Specifically, Cibils collaborated in the assembly and deployment of custom built GPS collars to track feeding site selection of sheep in very large (several thousand hectares) grazing pastures. Cibils gave a presentation for local sheep ranchers at a field day held at INIA's Kampenaike Field Station, close to the city of Punta Arenas.

Cibils has been invited to speak at the V Argentine Rangeland Congress (V Congreso de Pastizales Naturales [http://www.vcongresopastizales.com.ar/about1.htm]) to be held in Corrientes, Argentina on August 13-14, 2009. Cibils will give a presentation on "Manipulation of grazing behavior of rangeland-raised livestock". While in Corrientes, Argentina, Cibils will also attend IX IRC organizing committee meetings.

**Dr. Gary R. Lowe, AGG Mentoring Coordinator**  
**May 2009**

**Italy**
At the conclusion of a personal trip to Europe, Lowe, who is the Aggies Go Global/ACES Global Mentoring Coordinator, spent three days in Rome visiting with Dr. Ian D'Agata, Director of the Wine Academy of Roma to initiate discussions about a possible Rome based study opportunity for ACES HRTM students. Dr. D'Agata is an internationally known wine expert and is
interested in developing ties with the emerging New Mexico wine industry. The Roma Wine Academy also has strong ties with noted hoteliers and restaurants in Italy. This contact was facilitated by the University of New Mexico’s international programs office. UNM has an on-going program based in Rome and they approached ACES/HRTM during the spring of this year to explore possible collaborative efforts. Following this visit to Rome, ACES and HRTM are moving forward to develop a possible summer, 2010 academic program in Italy as well as having Dr. D’Agata come to New Mexico in the fall to meet with key faculty and representatives of the New Mexico wine industry.

Dr. Brenda Seevers, Agricultural & Extension Education
June 2009

Belize

Seevers traveled to Belize in June to visit and supervise undergraduate intern from the college, Lindsay Thomen. She met and visited with Lindsay and her host family as well as with local people and other potential host families. While there she met with staff of Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD), visited sites and programs conducted by FCD and met with Rafael regarding Lindsay’s performance. One of Seevers’ goals was to increase knowledge and understanding of Belizian culture and heritage. Seevers visited Mayan ruins, Clarissa Falls, butterfly gardens, Belize zoo, Caye Caulker, and even took in some snorkeling.

Seevers’ planned to meet with local groups and organizations to explore the possibilities for future internships and to strengthen academic ties with University of Belize and Galen University for possible student exchanges, faculty exchanges, and short courses for both students and faculty in a variety of disciplines. She met with Mr. Luke Ramos, director of National 4-H Programs, and with Galen University representatives Dr. Nancy Adamson, Provost and Ms. Rhondine Petrof, Director of International Programs. Unfortunately Seevers was unable to make contact with any University of Belize representatives on this trip.

Derek Bailey, Animal and Range Sciences and
Jim Libbin, Interim Associate Dean and Ag Econ/Ag Business
June – July 2009

Jordan

Bailey and Libbin traveled to Jordan June 22 to July 3 to collect data from a rangeland restoration project and to conduct a workshop in the village of Ghrain. Bailey and Libbin, in cooperation with the USDA-ARS Forage and Range Research Lab in Logan, Utah and Jordanian colleagues in Badia Research and Development Center (BRDC) and local Jordanian communities, established numerous rangeland restoration studies near the villages of Ghrain and Tal Ramah during 2007 and 2008. Bailey and Libbin were accompanied by Ismiel Nassar, a New Mexico State University graduate student from Jordan (Ag Economics and Ag Business), who collected data for his graduate research project on potential economic impact of tourism in Badia of Jordan.

Preliminary results from the rangeland restoration studies in Jordan suggest that forage kochia (Kochia prostrata) and perennial grasses (Agropyron fragile and Agropyron desertorum X Agropyron cristatum) can be established in arid conditions between 70 and 110 mm of annual precipitation with minimal tillage. A workshop and field day was conducted in the village of Ghrain to show local community members the success of rangeland restoration efforts and differences between forage kochia and perennial grass varieties. Over 20 local sheep producers and community members attended the field day and workshop. Economic analyses of these studies are planned in order to identify cost effective methods to restoring arid rangelands in the Badia of Jordan. Bailey and Libbin also met with personnel from the Jordanian Royal Botanical Garden regarding development of a proposal for future rangeland and wildlife habitat restoration research and other collaborative projects.
Visit from Sheikh
Sheikh Hussain from the village of Ghrain in southern Jordan, where Bailey and Libbin conducted the field day and rangeland restoration research, and Ahmed Alqadi, a researcher from BRDC in Jordan, will be visiting New Mexico State University from July 19 to 28, 2009. Sheikh Hussain and Mr. Alqadi will meet with faculty in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences to exchange ideas and information on small ruminant management, rangeland management, and other agricultural enterprises. They are scheduled to tour the Center for Animal Research and Teaching on campus, Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center, Corona Range and Livestock Research Center and local dairy and agricultural operations. If anyone would like to schedule an appointment to meet our Jordanian visitors, please contact Derek Bailey (dwbailey@nmsu.edu or 646-2554).

Derek Bailey, Milt Thomas and Pablo Luna-Nevarez, Animal and Range Sciences
July 2009

Mexico
On July 6 and 7, 2009, Thomas, Bailey and Luna-Nevarez traveled to Chihuahua, Mexico to meet with faculty from La Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua regarding the potential for collaborative research. The group also visited the La Campana Bull Testing Facility located about 50 miles north of the city of Chihuahua. The purpose of the visit was to examine and identify features of this facility that might be useful for the beef cattle breeding program at New Mexico State University (NMSU). To ensure that cattle tested at the La Campana facility could readily travel on extensive rangelands, bulls were placed in 27 x 600 meter paddock with water and feed located in opposite ends. Adoption of certain aspects of the La Campana facility may assist NMSU researchers in development of methods and facilities for readily identifying cattle at NMSU’s Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center that will perform well in arid rangeland conditions and can be used as superior breeding stock for desert ranches in the southwest.

If you are involved in an international project or have a visiting colleague or student from another part of the world, please contact Albina Armijo at alarmijo@nmsu.edu or 646-7936. We will share this information with the college and our campus partners by including it in our newsletter.

The founding officers of the WSA of NMSU are:
President: Casey O'Neil
Vice-President: Morgan R. Nelson
Secretary: Jeremy Kilburn
Treasurer: Monica Castaneda
Member at Large: Callie Coble
Faculty advisors are Yosef Lapid and Lowell Catlett.

For more information, comments, or suggestions on Aggies Go Global (AGG), contact Rich Phillips at rphillip@nmsu.edu.