

**2010 ASAS Western Section
President-Elect Candidate**

Andy Roberts

Andy Roberts obtained a BS in animal science from New Mexico State University, an MS in animal science from the University of Wyoming, and a PhD in animal science (reproductive physiology) from Washington State University in 1988. From 1989 to 1990, Roberts conducted postdoctoral studies at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine with Mike Skinner. Roberts was subsequently employed (1990–2001) as a reproductive physiologist at the USDA, ARS, Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, Nebraska. In 2001, Roberts transferred to his current position at the USDA, ARS, Fort Keogh Large Animal and Range Research Laboratory in Miles City, Montana. Currently Roberts serves on the Advising and Coordinating Committee for the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science (2008–2010), and he recently completed a term (2003–2006) as an associate editor for the *Journal of Animal Science*.

**2010 ASAS Western Section
Secretary Candidate**

Glenn C. Duff

Glenn Duff received his BS degree in animal and dairy science from Northwest Missouri State University, MS degree in physiology from the University of Arkansas, and PhD in animal nutrition from New Mexico State University. Duff then worked as a research specialist for the University of Arkansas, sales nutritionist for Farr Better Feeds in Garden City, Kansas, and then postdoctoral research associate and acting superintendent of New Mexico State University's Clayton Livestock Research Center in Clayton, New Mexico. Duff served as assistant professor and superintendent of the Clayton Livestock Research Center from 1996 to 2001 and has been at the University of Arizona since 2001. Duff's appointment is 70% research and 30% teaching. His undergraduate courses at the University of Arizona include Feeds and Feeding, Applied Animal Nutrition, and a senior Capstone course. His graduate courses include Advanced Nutrition and Management—Feedlot, Experimental Statistics for Biological Experiments, and Seminar. In addition, Duff guest lectures on animal nutrition for the Introduction to Animal Agriculture and often guest lectures on digestive tract physiology and the beef industry for Vet Science courses. Duff serves on Department of Animal Science Undergraduate and Graduate Committees, as chair of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Curriculum Committee, on the University of Arizona Undergraduate Council, and as chair of the University of Arizona Undergraduate Council Academic Programs Subcommittee. He also serves on numerous other departmental and college committees. Duff is currently serving or has served as major advisor for six MS students and seven PhD students at the University of Arizona and as research advisor at New Mexico State University. He has served on 11 MS committees and 5 PhD committees at the University of Arizona along with 6 MS and 3 PhD committees while on faculty at New Mexico State University. Duff

is faculty advisor for the Collegiate Cattle Growers Association. Duff's research program focuses on Holstein bull calves from birth through finishing and feedlot nutrition and management of beef breeds. During the past 10 years, Duff has authored or coauthored 47 refereed journal articles. He has served on the editorial board for the *Journal of Animal Science* and *The Professional Animal Scientist* and as ad hoc reviewer for several international journals. In addition, he served for three years as section/associate editor for the *Journal of Animal Science*. Duff has served on the Beef Symposium Committee and is currently chair of the Advising and Coordinating Committee for the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science. Besides his involvement in the university, Duff also has served his community as president, sergeant at arms, and director of club service for the Rotary Club of Tucson–Sunset. Duff married Donna Knudson in 2005.

2010 ASAS Western Section Candidate for Western Section Director

Jack C. Whittier

Jack C. Whittier is currently an extension beef specialist and professor at Colorado State University. He was raised on a diversified livestock and crop farm in northeastern Utah. He received a BS degree in 1979 and a MS degree in 1981 from Utah State University. After working for Utah State University as beef herdsman for two years, he attended the University of Nebraska and received a PhD degree in ruminant nutrition in 1985. He then joined the faculty at the University of Missouri as extension cow-calf specialist, where he worked for nine years. In 1995, he joined the faculty in Animal Sciences at Colorado State University. During his tenure at both the University of Missouri and Colorado State University, he has held joint appointments with extension and research. In recent years, he has also been assigned undergraduate and graduate teaching responsibilities. His joint assignments have allowed him to focus on both research and educational efforts to meet applied production needs of cattle producers. He has trained several graduate students who have gone on to faculty positions, industry, and livestock production careers. Much of Whittier's work has dealt with reducing the costs associated with producing beef by improved use of forages. He has also focused on improving reproductive output through proper heifer development, estrous synchronization, and reproductive management of the cowherd. He received the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science Extension Award in 1999 and served as the president of the Western Section of ASAS from 2003 to 2004.

2010 ASAS Western Section Graduate Student Representative Candidates

Rebecca R. Cockrum

Rebecca Cockrum graduated in 2004 with her BS degree in animal science from Arkansas State University. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree, she obtained an externship with the St. Louis Zoo in the endocrinology laboratory, where she received training in laboratory techniques and management. After her externship, she served as a scientific recruiter, managing over 90 employees and working directly with managers of scientific research companies to provide quality scientists with all levels of experience. In 2007, Cockrum began her MS program in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Wyoming under the direction of Kristi Cammack. During her thesis research, Cockrum had the opportunity to take the lead role on three research projects and collaborate on three additional projects. In 2009, she successfully defended her thesis titled "Effects of Subacute Nitrate Toxicity on Production, Reproduction, and Gene Expression in Suffolk Ewes." Her thesis work has produced one publication as a primary author, one publication currently in revisions as a primary author, and two publications as a contributing author. Cockrum is continuing her education at the University of Wyoming in the Department of Animal Science, where she will focus on determining genetic mechanisms controlling feed intake in sheep and identifying markers that can be used by producers to genetically select for more highly efficient animals. She plans to complete her PhD program in May of 2012. Cockrum is a proven leader as she has served as president of the University of Wyoming Animal Science Graduate Student Association and is currently serving on the Small Ruminant Committee for National ASAS. In addition, she has assisted professors and instructed students in Principles of Animal Breeding and Current Issues in Animal Science courses offered at the University of Wyoming. Cockrum has been an active member of ASAS since 2007 and seeks to obtain a position with the Western Section of ASAS where she can have a direct effect on the next generation of animal science professionals and their role in the agriculture industry.

Megan L. Van Emon

Megan Van Emon was born in Sturgis, Michigan, and grew up in Columbia City, Indiana. She attended Purdue University and graduated with a BS in animal science and minors in biological sciences and Spanish language and literature in May 2006. During her undergraduate career, she worked in the Swine Nutrition Laboratory under Alan Sutton, Brian Richert, and Scott Radcliffe. Working in the laboratory sparked her interest in graduate school. She began her MS work at Purdue University under the direction of Scott Lake. Her thesis was titled "Process of Wet Distiller's Grains to Optimize Protein Quality for Ruminants." Van Emon graduated with a MS in animal sciences in December of 2008. She is currently pursuing her PhD at North Dakota State University under the guidance of Kim Vonnahme and Christopher Schauer. She is located at Hettinger Research Extension Center in Hettinger, North Dakota, where she is currently working on her research project. Her research consists of administering protein supplementation to ewes during late pregnancy and observing the outcome on the lambs. Being located at the research center has provided unique opportunities. She is able to work in research but also interact with local producers and design future projects based on producer input to provide information on livestock specific to the region. Van Emon indicated that the ASAS Western Section plays a crucial role in developing livestock programs in western

America, and she believes that working at the Hettinger Research Extension Center will provide her with increased opportunities to provide current research information directly to producers. She is interested in being a Graduate Student Representative because she wishes to be involved in the development of graduate students and animal science programs in universities. Van Emon believes she could provide insight into how to improve current programs and aid in the development of new programs.