

Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal Recipient of University of Nebraska Holling Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

Lisa Karr-Lilienthal, Assistant Professor of Animal Science, is recipient of an Institute of Ag & Natural Resources Holling Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. The Holling Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence is designed to recognize outstanding contributions by faculty and teaching assistants. The award presentation was made at the Holling Family Award Program reception on March 10.

Lisa Karr-Lilienthal is known for the remarkable pace with which she established an excellent companion animal teaching and extension program in the past three years. Karr-Lilienthal developed a comprehensive and science-based set of courses for undergraduates, provided a student organization for students interested in companion animals, and identified companion animal career information. Her students range from middle school to adult learners. She is dedicated to quality teaching along with being energetic and innovative.

The Companion Animal curriculum was designed to provide information and knowledge graduates need for a successful career in the ever expanding Companion Animal industry. The courses developed include: "Introduction to Food Technology for Companion Animals," "Human-Companion Animal Interactions," "Introduction to Companion Animals," "Companion Animal Behavior," and "Companion Animal Nutrition." In addition, she created the Companion Animal Career Satellite Series and PodCast Series with the goal of aiding in career exploration and college preparation for Nebraska youth interested in the companion animal industry. This two-part program satellite series was offered at 17 locations across Nebraska and 15 speakers from different careers were included in the broadcast. Furthermore, Karr-Lilienthal produces a podcast series available on I-Tunes highlighting different careers with companion animals with new podcasts released the first and third Wednesday of each month.

A key aspect of Karr-Lilienthal's companion animal education program is the breadth of her target audience and her unique ability to use the latest technology to reach all of the segments of her audience. Last year, 183 undergraduate students enrolled in Karr-Lilienthal's courses, and she provided advising to 40 undergraduates. The Nebraska Companion Animal Conference had over 150 participants; and her companion animal camps, group presentations and displays have reached over 2,500 individuals. Moreover, the Nebraska Companion Animal Podcast series has been in the top 100 downloads of I-Tunes University.

The Companion Animal Program involves a diverse group of colleagues and students in Animal Science, Food Science and Technology and 4-H development. With Karr-Lilienthal's leadership, SEECA (Students for Education in Exotic and Companion Animals) was formed; furthermore, SEECA received status as a Recognized Student Organization in May 2008.



Dr. Larry Berger, Department Head of Animal Science, and Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal at the presentation of the Holling Award. Photo courtesy of Tom Slocum.