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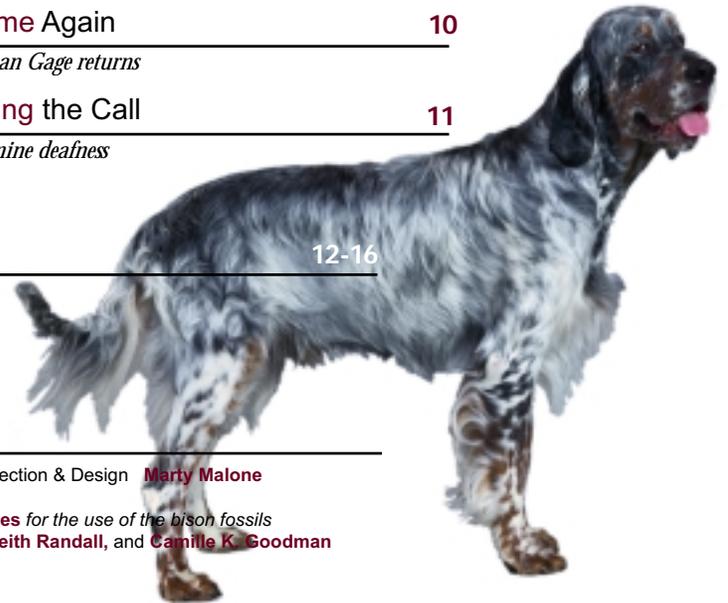
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# All Things Considered

As part of a traditional land-grant university, the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) has a real sense of responsibility and commitment to ensure that our educational programs appropriately serve all citizens and regions of our great state. With the growing concern regarding foot and mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and other potential health threats to food animal production, the college has recently paid particular attention to how well we are meeting the needs of rural Texas and the livestock industry. Many practitioners currently in large and mixed animal practices have expressed understandable concern about the dearth of new graduates wanting to live and work in small communities. This is a key issue facing the future of the large animal side of our profession, and it is especially important to states with major animal agriculture industries such as Texas.

Questions about large and mixed animal practice seem to gain importance each year as Texas and the entire United States continue their demographic march away from an agrarian society toward metroplex communities with their burgeoning populations of companion animals. Because veterinarians by definition want to be where animals live, it is not too surprising when new graduates (and many seasoned practitioners as well) gravitate toward private practices located in more populated regions. However, there are several other factors tugging at both the heart and purse-strings of new veterinary graduates when they calculate the advantage/disadvantage ratio of various employment opportunities. On average, new veterinary medical graduates from Texas A&M University receive over three separate job offers from which to choose.

The fiscal side of the advantage/disadvantage equation for rural practice was addressed in an excellent article by Kristen Tribe in the *Cattleman* (November, 2000) published by the Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association. In brief, Tribe emphasized the economic and lifestyle issues surrounding rural large animal practice when compared to analogous job characteristics associated with small animal practice in big cities. Certainly, we are all aware of the economic characteristics and lifestyles associated with many typical rural practices. We understand that a 50+ hour work week with only a \$48,000 salary in the country is likely to

be less attractive than a 35 to 40 hour work week with an annual salary of \$54,000 in the city. Even when rural large animal practices offer much higher personal compensation packages, work conditions and related factors often seem to swing decisions toward small animal medicine in larger communities. Tribe suggested that this choice between rural and city

practice primarily reflects “a matter of economics,” compounded by the growing educational debt incurred by nearly all veterinary students today.

Despite striking differences between small animal practice and large animal practice, many Texas A&M veterinary medical graduates still decide to accept employment in exclusive food animal, exclusive equine, or approximately 50 percent large animal, 50 percent small animal mixed practices. To be frank, we were somewhat surprised to see the actual data that describe practice preferences, first jobs, and rural hometown origins of those students selected by our Selections Committee for entry into the professional DVM program. Student applicants are not requested to

identify their “practice interests” in the actual application process.

Veterinary colleges have learned over the years that it is human nature for applicants to feel and express interest in those areas they believe will help gain admittance. To avoid that temptation, we survey our students one year after graduation. We ask them to identify their practice interests when they were accepted into the veterinary college, their first jobs, and their jobs one year after graduation.

From graduates who responded to our survey during the past decade, we have learned that on average about 45 percent of entering students have interests in large animal or mixed practices. There is considerable year-to-year fluctuation of unknown origin with individual class numbers varying from a high of over 60 percent to a low of 33 percent. Based on these figures, it would seem that the current selection/admissions process is appropriately identifying a high number of students who have interests in large animal and mixed animal practice, irrespective of where they grew up.

Because of the college’s commitment to serve all regions of Texas, we have recently analyzed additional data that address the hometown (high



Dean H. Richard Adams

# Exponential Potential



Cloned calf, Bull 86<sup>2</sup>

In a groundbreaking procedure, researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University successfully cloned what is believed to be the first animal specifically cloned for disease resistance. The calf was named 86<sup>2</sup> due to his exponential genetic potential, born three years after the death of Bull 86, his genetic donor.

After testing hundreds of cattle, Bull 86 was found to be naturally disease-resistant to brucellosis, and under laboratory conditions resistant to tuberculosis, and salmonellosis – all serious diseases in veterinary and human health. Until Bull 86 was no longer able to breed, he was extensively studied as part of a breeding research program conducted by Drs. Garry Adams and Joe Templeton. In 1985, 86<sup>2</sup> was cloned by Drs. Taeyong Shin and Mark Westhusin using cells that were frozen for 15 years, representing the longest time that genetic material has ever been maintained by cryopreservation, thawed and then successfully used in cloning. A DNA analysis confirmed that Bull 86<sup>2</sup> is a genetic clone of Bull 86.

Brucellosis, tuberculosis, and salmonellosis are infectious bacterial diseases that can be transmitted from one herd to another and even to humans. Although nearly eradicated in the United States and Canada, brucellosis and

tuberculosis are widespread elsewhere in the world and could find their way back into U.S. herds. “The impact of cloning disease-resistant cattle is potentially monumental,” added Dr. Garry Adams. “For example, in countries where they are unable to pasteurize milk to kill the bacteria, or to process meat appropriately, breeding disease-resistant cows could greatly contribute to a safer food supply, especially pre-harvest.”

“Brucellosis and tuberculosis are prevalent in Mexico and could easily be brought into the United States by stray cattle that swim across the Rio Grand River, or by any of the approximately one million cattle that are imported annually from our neighbors under the NAFTA treaty,” said Dr. Joe Templeton. That’s why the potential to purposefully breed this natural resistance into cattle will be an important addition to current disease control methods which have not been 100 percent effective in the United States and abroad.”

*“This research will benefit ranchers in many countries who cannot afford to vaccinate or test their herds for these diseases.”*

Vaccinations, testing, quarantine, and even destroying infected herds has not resulted in the worldwide eradication of these diseases. “This research will benefit ranchers in many countries who cannot afford to vaccinate or test their herds for these diseases,” said Templeton.

The College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University is believed to be the only institution currently using cloning technology as a tool to specifically clone disease-resistant animals.

*Drs. Taeyoung Shin, Mark Westhusin, Joe Templeton, Garry Adams, and Bull 86<sup>2</sup>*





*During the first annual Parents' Weekend, students at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University share what they have learned in anatomy class. More than 500 students, parents, and family members from across the country attended the daylong events held on April 21, 2001.*



## Dean's Letter continued

school) origin of students entering the college during the past five years. We learned that almost one-third of all students accepted into the veterinary college during this period were from rural communities, with the latter defined as counties with a total population of 100,000 or less. If only those counties with less than 50,000 population are considered, 21 percent of our professional students grew up in these sparsely-populated rural communities. These statistics indicate that current admissions procedures effectively identify highly-qualified and highly-motivated students who live in rural communities. Let me emphasize that we do not believe that the admissions process is skewed toward rural students per se. Rather, many rural students seem to have greater opportunity for working with animals, animal owners, and their veterinarians. I believe such wealth of work experiences and dedication to animals and their owners increase the confidence level that Selections Committee members feel for these applicants.

If one-third of our students are from rural communities and over 40 percent have initial interests in large

animal/mixed practice, why do only 25 percent or so end up in such practices one year after graduation? I am not sure, and I wish I knew all the answers! There probably are many different answers to that question, including the obvious economic and lifestyle issues addressed by Tribe. Perhaps animal agriculture today only requires about one-third of the veterinarians needed by owners of companion animals in cities; in other words, perhaps the economic consequences of the old supply-demand-compensation triumvirate are already at work?

At a time when so many potentially catastrophic diseases, such as foot and mouth, threaten the livestock and wildlife on our shores, it is prudent for the college to seek answers to these difficult questions.

Your perspective and comments about ways the college can better serve all Texans are always appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Richard Adams".

# Where Buffalo Roam



American Bison

As an icon of the Old West, buffalo bring to mind an image of cowboys, cactus, and cattle drives. For Dr. Joe Templeton, professor of pathobiology, and Dr. James Derr, associate professor of Pathobiology, buffalo invoke a sense of responsibility to understand the past and ensure the future of one of America's most storied creatures.

"The focus of our research has been to understand the factors contributing to the buffalo's genetic health and its susceptibility to

disease," said Dr. Joe Templeton. Buffalo, or American bison, were once the largest biomass of any mammal. Their geographic range extended from Canada to Mexico and from Buffalo, New York, west to the Rocky Mountains. An estimated 60 million bison grazed the prairies in the 1700s. However, by 1885, there were fewer than 1,000 bison left.

The near extinction of the American bison was due to a combination of increased hunting by man, loss of habitat, and diseases transmitted from domestic livestock to bison herds. Today, the bison population numbers about 250,000 with fewer than 8,000 pure-bred bison owned and protected by the Federal government.

"Our research is concerned with three primary issues," states Templeton. "Understanding the genetic make up and evolution of bison, ensuring the health of existing populations and preserving pure-bred bison for generations to come."

*"Unlike other species whose numbers dwindled to the brink of extinction, bison didn't suffer adverse genetic disorders."*

Through sampling bison DNA from pre-1850 tooth, bone or hide tissue, Derr and Templeton hope to create a benchmark to compare the genetic make up of modern bison. "Unlike other species whose numbers dwindled to the brink of extinction, bison didn't suffer adverse genetic disorders. If we can map these genetic traits, then we will have a better understanding of bison physiology and the animal's natural resistance to diseases that cattle and other bovidae have succumbed to."

Ensuring the health of existing herds includes testing bison for disease and looking for individual animals that show a natural resistance to disease. For example, brucellosis is endemic in many of the federally owned herds; however, there are individual animals that appear to be naturally resistant to the disease. Brucellosis can be transmitted from cattle, elk, or moose and can devastate a bison herd.

Additionally, Templeton and Derr are discussing the possibility of storing frozen fibroblast cultures of purebred bison with herd owners or managers in the event of catastrophic loss. This precautionary measure would leave open the possible use of cloning to help preserve the species. "Beyond the scientific benefit of better understanding bison genetics, the research should help the species to recover in the event of major loss," Templeton said.

Derr's and Templeton's research includes private and federally owned pure-bred bison herds and is supported through grants from the Federal government and other granting agencies.



Bison fossils

# Vaccinating Veterinarians

Responsible pet owners are not the only ones seeking rabies vaccinations. Clinicians at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University and practitioners around the country are receiving injections to protect themselves as well.

The importance of such precautionary measures recently became even more evident to Dr. John August, an internal medicine specialist with the Small Animal Clinic at the college. August treated an eight-week old kitten that appeared lethargic and lacked appetite. Before a diagnosis could be determined, the animal scratched and bit several students, staff, and faculty – including August. The aggression, combined with other suspicious behavior, led doctors to recommend the kitten be placed in strict isolation

at the Brazos Valley Animal Shelter. Tests later confirmed that the kitten was rabid.

“It was a wake-up call,” August said. “Rabies was not high on my list of differential diagnoses that morning, but it sure became high as the day wore on and we realized that the kitten had to be quarantined.” After the diagnosis was

confirmed, hospital administration utilized the college’s Occupational Health Program to ensure the exposed individuals received proper medical treatment.

The program, in conjunction with the Scott & White Clinic, provides students, faculty, and staff with

recommendations concerning important health issues such as rabies vaccination schedules. It offers participants an opportunity to receive certain preventative health measures and, if necessary, treatment. Practitioners are encouraged to set-up a similar program with their local healthcare provider.

“We recommend

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*“Rabies was not high on my list of differential diagnoses that morning, but it sure became high as the day wore on and we realized that the kitten had to be quarantined.”*

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that anyone with significant animal contact meet with their occupational health doctor to schedule an immunization schedule for themselves,” said Dr. Frank Stein, coordinator for the CVM Occupational Health Program.

State health code regulations require all incoming veterinary students to

receive a pre-exposure prophylaxis series; however, clinicians and other animal health-care professionals are not required to receive pre-exposure prophylaxis injections.

Dr. Leon Russell, a specialist in zoonotic diseases such as

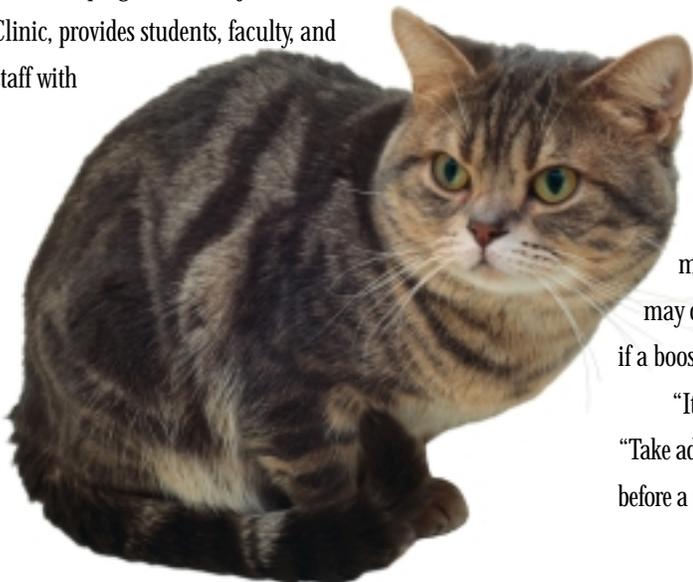
rabies, recommends that anyone with significant animal or wildlife contact receive the initial pre-exposure prophylaxis series, with follow-up care or booster every two years.

“Because approximately 6 percent of people may experience a mild reaction to boosters, some may opt for a titer-level blood test every two years to see if a booster is necessary at that time,” he said.

“It is so inexpensive to have peace of mind,” Stein said, “Take advantage of the available prevention opportunities before a problem arises.”



Dr. John August



# Broken Hearts



Dr. James Jensen and Karma

Veterinarians and human health professionals worked together at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, in an effort to save Karma, a Bengal tiger cub in need of heart bypass surgery. Dr. Theresa W. Fossum, professor and chief of surgery in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery teamed with a pediatric cardiovascular surgeon in an effort to correct the

tiger's serious heart condition, known as Tetralogy of Fallot.

The five-month old tiger cub from Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge in Tyler, Texas was at least 20 pounds underweight and easily fatigued when Dr. Sonya Gordon, a veterinary cardiologist at the college, diagnosed his life-threatening condition.

Days before the surgery, Dr. James Jensen, the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital's specialist in charge of the tiger's long-term care, matched Karma's blood type to that of his mother, Katrina, whose blood was used for a transfusion during the surgery. An echocardiogram provided an image of Karma's heart, which Fossum used to assess the severity and nature of the cub's congenital defect.

After approximately five hours of surgery, the tiger was placed on a ventilator in intensive care, where he was constantly monitored by clinicians. Unfortunately, seven hours later, Karma went into respiratory arrest, from which clinicians were not able to revive him.

"If we did not attempt to correct the problem surgically, the cub would not have survived more than a few months," Dr. Theresa Fossum said. "To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that bypass surgery to correct a complex congenital heart defect has been done on a tiger."

"Initially we were pleased with how Karma reacted in surgery. However, we were very concerned with his lung capacity and ability to breathe," Fossum said. "Karma's lungs filled with fluid and we were not able to save him. We are not certain if this was a response to the procedure, the medicine, or other complications," she said.

Fossum and the other doctors who worked on the case agree that the surgery was a step forward in building a first-rate veterinary cardiology program at the college. "The procedure on Karma helped us to develop collaborative efforts with our counterparts in human medicine," Fossum said. "The potential for mutual professional development is very exciting." With the Michael E. DeBakey Institute for

Comparative Cardiovascular Science and Biomedical Devices recently established at the College of Veterinary Medicine, even more advancements in veterinary cardiology treatments are on the horizon.

After Karma's milestone heart surgery, the college received two heart-bypass machines from generous anonymous donors. Heart disease, including the need for valve replacement or repair, is common in dogs. "We plan to continue developing our heart surgery program so that we can perform bypass procedures on pets and other animals," Fossum said.

*"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that bypass surgery to correct a complex congenital heart defect has been done on a tiger."*

# Open Door Policy

Animal lovers, both young and young-at-heart, enjoyed a variety of activities at the eighth annual College of Veterinary Medicine's Open House on March 24, 2001. On one weekend each year the college has an "open door policy" as it shares the many facets of veterinary medicine with the public during this student-run event.

"We try to offer an opportunity for children and parents to become excited about veterinary medicine," said Jennifer Wade, fourth year veterinary student and Executive Director for Open House 2001. Events included ultrasound and endoscopy demonstrations, and a large animal petting zoo.

In addition to demonstrations, Open House includes veterinary anatomy, histology, parasitology, nutrition, microbiology, and pathobiology exhibits. Often, Open House provides the first exposure that children have to exotic pets including snakes, lizards, ferrets, rabbits, hedgehogs, and many more.

Teddy bear surgery is always a popular event held in the Small Animal Clinic. Children enjoyed wearing surgical attire and assisting with the repair of their stuffed animals in a fully equipped operating room.



*Gowning up for Teddy Bear Surgery*

Despite rainy weather, the outdoor events drew quite a crowd, including Girl and Boy Scouts of America, who participated in special orientation sessions and tours to obtain merit badges. Demonstrations included the Round Rock Police Dogs and the World Champion Frisbee Dogs, sponsored by Friskies and Alpo.

None of this would have been possible without the efforts and dedication of the veterinary students who organized Open House. Planning and organization for the daylong event takes a full year. Preparation, including formation of the 2002 Open House committees, is well underway. Generous donations from nutrition, pharmaceutical, and veterinary supply companies in the form of financial support and products helped to make the day a success.



*Nose to nose at Open House*

## OPEN HOUSE 2002

March 23, 2002 • 9:00 am- 4:00 pm

**Demonstrations**

★ ★ ★

**Exhibits**

★ ★ ★

**Tours**

★ ★ ★

**Petting Zoo**

★ ★ ★

**Teddy Bear Surgery**



# A New Tradition



First white coat ceremony

Dr. Jeanne Fairweather's recent gift to 127 first-year DVM students will long be remembered. Funds donated by Fairweather, along with matching funds from the college, supported the College of Veterinary Medicine's first white coat ceremony. Similar to the white coat ceremony of medical schools, the college's newest tradition, for first-year veterinary students, symbolizes their opportunity for professional and personal development.

College faculty members joined Dean H. Richard Adams

and Dr. E. Dean Gage, Associate Dean for Professional Programs, in presenting each member of the Veterinary Class of 2004 with a white lab coat to wear during their academic and professional careers. "Let your coat serve as a reminder of the goals you have set, and the responsibilities that you carry as future doctors of veterinary medicine," said Dean H. Richard Adams.

The role of the veterinarian in society has changed a lot over the past fifty years. Today, the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree is a four-year program that prepares students for a variety of professional careers. Graduates become veterinary practitioners, administrators of public health, and researchers.

"Don't worry if your coat seems a little large right now; we are planning for future growth," Adams said. "I am referring to professional and intellectual growth, that is."

## Friend of the College

By providing funds for the college's first annual White Coat Ceremony, Dr. Jeanne Fairweather is helping to shape the professional futures of the class of 2004.

Fairweather, a San Antonio native, is a retired senior staff internist and was the first woman to become chief of the General Medical Clinic at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. Her love for animals and the happiness they brought to her patients attracted her to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"Animals are so important in our daily lives," Dr. Fairweather said. "The joy seen in the eyes of sick children and adults shows how important animals are to them."

In 1954 she received her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston. Today, she fondly remembers her own white coat ceremony, which inspired her to make the generous donation.

Fairweather recalls that she, and many of her peers in medical school, looked forward to receiving their white coats. "It represented a milestone and something that we had to earn," Fairweather said.

"Wearing a white coat is a very important symbol of belonging to the profession."

"Appearance is very important when interacting with clients," said Dr. O.J. Woytek, senior director for Development and External Relations. "When practitioners appear professional and confident in themselves, owners notice that pride and become more comfortable in entrusting their pet's care to them."

Even though Dr. Fairweather is not a veterinarian herself, she has had a lifelong love for animals, which set the stage for her friendship with the college.

"A well trained, compassionate, professional veterinarian is extremely important." Fairweather said. "The students today are living and studying in a marvelous time. As with human medicine, there are wonderful pharmaceuticals and advanced surgeries to keep animals healthy and give them longer lives." The college appreciates Dr. Fairweather's generous donation and continued support for the future of veterinary medicine.

# Read Chair

Dean H. Richard Adams is pleased to announce that Dr. Theresa W. Fossum has been appointed the first Tom and Joan Read Chair in Veterinary Surgery.

Described as “driven” by her colleagues, and “compassionate” by the clients who entrust their animals to her care, Fossum’s passion is rivaled only by her determination to help build a world-class cardiothoracic program at the College of Veterinary Medicine. “When anyone thinks about cardiac surgery, I want them to think of Texas A&M University,” said Dr. Theresa W. Fossum. “We have the faculty expertise and the commitment to make it happen.”

Fossum has been on faculty at the College of Veterinary Medicine since 1987. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at the University of Idaho, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University, a Master of Science in Veterinary Anatomy at the Ohio State University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Veterinary Microbiology at Texas A&M University. She completed a surgery residency at the Ohio State University in 1986 and is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. She held the Wiley Distinguished Professor of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University from 1994 to 1997.

Fossum’s research areas include cardiothoracic surgery, angiogenesis, lymphatic system, and chylothorax. She was instrumental in establishing the Michael E. DeBakey Institute at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Her research in biomedical devices using a calf model led to clinical trials of The MicroMed DeBakey VAD (ventricular assist device) in human patients with heart failure. The device, weighing less than four ounces, can be implanted in children or small

adults and will assist the heart in pumping blood. In the near future, Fossum hopes to apply this same technology to veterinary medicine. Fossum has authored more than 70 scientific publications in refereed journals, 18 abstracts, 33 book chapters, served as editor for three books, and made over 130 scientific presentations. Her honors include the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award, Texas A&M University, the American Veterinary Medical Foundation and American Kennel Club Excellence in Canine Research Award, and she was an intern in the Center for Leadership in Higher Education Administration program at Texas A&M University. She is a member of the AVMA, TVMA, and numerous other scientific organizations.

“The College is truly fortunate to have someone as accomplished as Dr. Fossum, with her dedication and expertise, to serve as the first Tom and Joan Read Chair in Veterinary Surgery,” said Dean H. Richard Adams.

The purpose of the Chair is to provide educational leadership for the faculty and students of the College of Veterinary Medicine with an initial emphasis in cardiothoracic surgery.



*Mrs. Joan Read, Dean H. Richard Adams, and Dr. Theresa W. Fossum*

# Down to Business



*Dr. Leonard Berry*

Veterinary students dedicate much of their academic careers to science and math; but Dr. Leonard Berry, a professor of marketing at Texas A&M University, told future practitioners that business education

is also a vital part of their professional careers.

During the first annual Pet’s Choice Leadership Lecture at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Berry shared his “nine

drivers” of sustainable success for building a thriving practice. The presentation, based on Berry’s latest book “Discovering the Soul of Service,” reminded students that veterinary medicine is a service business that requires excellent management practices for effective delivery.

“Assuming you are competent in veterinary medicine, if you practice excellent service principles, you will build a strong successful practice in your community,” he said.

After the presentation, Berry graciously presented his \$5,000 Pet’s Choice honorarium to Dean H. Richard Adams to benefit student initiatives and activities at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

# Home Again!



Dr. E. Dean Gage

Opportunity knocked a third time at the College of Veterinary Medicine when Dr. E. Dean Gage returned as the new associate dean for professional programs, replacing Dr. Mary Herron who retired in January, 2001. "We are truly fortunate to have someone of Dr. Gage's caliber and experience to help lead our students," said Dr.

H. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Much of Gage's professional life has been spent at Texas A&M University serving in various capacities at the college and university levels; however, it all began in 1961 when a scrubbed-faced freshman from San Saba, Texas arrived at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas with the dream of becoming a veterinarian.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Veterinary Science in 1965, Gage earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1966. With two Texas A&M University degrees in hand, he went to Auburn University where he received a Master of Science degree in Neurophysiology and Neurosurgery and a Surgical Residency in 1968.

In 1969, Gage returned to the College of Veterinary Medicine as an assistant professor of neurosurgery, with promotion to associate professor in 1972. Gage left Texas A&M in 1974 to become professor and department head for Urban Practice and chairman of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the new College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee. He returned to Texas A&M in 1982 as associate dean for Academic and Clinical Programs.

In 1989, after accepting a position as the executive assistant and chief of staff to the president of Texas A&M University, Gage held a number of university-level positions, including senior vice-president and provost, and from 1993-1994 he served as interim president of the university. He then served as director of the Center for Executive Development and taught leadership to senior students in the College of Business at Texas A&M. Upon leaving Texas A&M University in 1996, Gage became president and chief executive officer of a private leadership organization, where he remained until assuming the associate dean for Professional Programs position in January.

*"I am hoping to have an impact, to make a difference in the lives of these young professionals as they enter this most noble profession."*

"I am deeply humbled and honored to be back in the College of Veterinary Medicine, to be able to contribute to and be a part of my chosen profession," stated Gage. Citing the interaction with students and faculty as a valued component of his new position Gage said, "I am hoping to have an impact, to make a difference in the lives of these young

professionals as they enter this most noble profession."

Faculty, staff, and students have responded well to Gage's return and to his thoughtful leadership style. "The most rewarding and encouraging comment that I've been hearing is 'Welcome home,'" said Gage. Who said that opportunity knocks only once?

# Hearing the Call

Researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University are investigating deafness in popular breeds such as Dalmatians and English Setters. This common problem can create significant challenges for pets and their owners.

Dr. Keith Murphy, an Associate Professor of Genetics in Veterinary Pathobiology, began the study on genetic canine deafness in 1999. "Our major goal is to understand the basis for hereditary deafness in certain breeds, and use that information to reduce the prevalence or even prevent future deaf offspring," Murphy said.

Murphy and his team of researchers have discovered that deafness in Dalmatians and English Setters does not follow a simple pattern of inheritance. To solve the mystery of why approximately 30 percent of Dalmatians and over 14 percent of English Setters are born

deaf in one or both ears, they must first identify the genes responsible for the phenomenon

"We don't know what exactly we are going to find, so we are studying the entire canine genome," Murphy said. To complete the project, researchers have collected information on 75 Dalmatians and 30 English Setters from across the United States. Murphy hopes to identify the inherited deafness genes by using a painless hearing

test and collecting pedigree information on each dog.

Researchers are especially interested in collecting more data on English Setters with bilateral or unilateral deafness. It is hoped that the

results of this project will help more Dalmatians and English Setters to hear their master's call. More information on the project and enrolling dogs in the study can be found at

<http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/cgr/>.

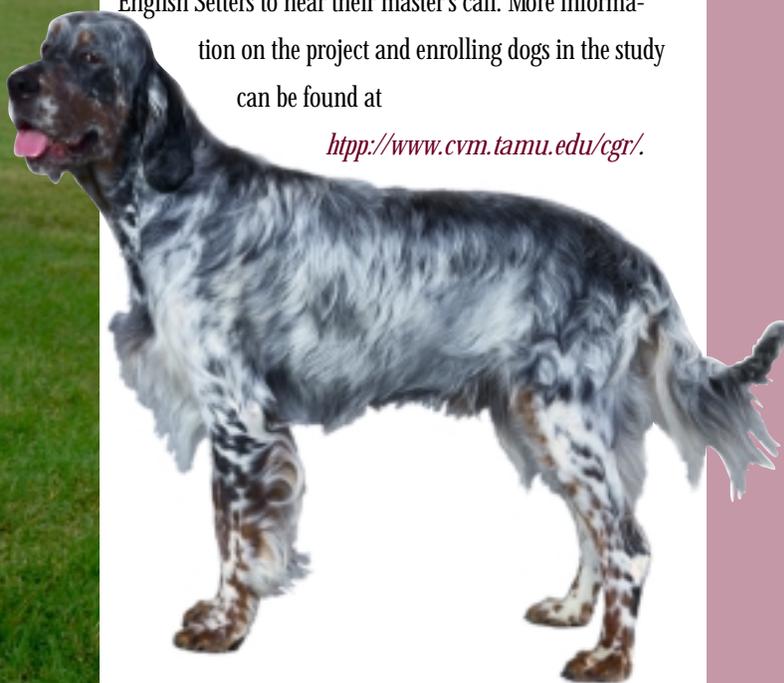
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*"Our major goal is to understand the basis for hereditary deafness in certain breeds..."*

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Dr. Keith Murphy



## Long Distance

On the heels of two successful video-conferences, the Office of Veterinary Continuing Education is offering its third distance education program to serve rural practitioners throughout Texas. *Intestinal Disease/Hepatic Disease/Pancreatic Disease* will be presented by Drs. Mike Willard and Deb Zoran on Saturday, July 14. The program will be available in Canyon, Edinburg, and San Angelo, Texas.



Dr. Mike Willard



Dr. Deb Zoran

Each distance education program is broadcasted from KAMU-TV, College Station's PBS affiliate, to three different Trans-Texas Videoconference Network (TTVN) sites around the state. Veterinarians and their technicians may choose to attend locations in the Panhandle, Central Texas, and the Valley.

"The College of Veterinary Medicine recognizes the importance of taking continuing education to rural areas where it may be difficult for practitioners to obtain it," said Diane Oswald, coordinator of Veterinary Continuing Education.

Plans are underway to broadcast programs live from the college's research tower, providing the opportunity for participants to ask questions and eventually to view surgeries as they happen. A number of faculty members have agreed to participate in distance education training to take part in delivering continuing education to off-site participants.

The college's distance education program has been made possible through the generous support of the Iams Company and the Texas Academy of Veterinary Practitioners.

## Wallace Retires

The College of Veterinary Medicine bid a fond farewell to Carolyn K. Wallace, Coordinator for the Office of Continuing Education, as she retires after more than 20 years of service to Texas A&M University.

Wallace, a native of Nacogdoches, attended Stephen F. Austin State University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in English and Business Administration in 1964. She joined Texas A&M in 1978 as a secretary in the Department of Political Science and later moved to the College of Veterinary Medicine as senior secretary in the Dean's Office. In 1991, Wallace became the coordinator of Veterinary Continuing Education.

The continuing education program was originally established to support six to eight conferences per year. Under Wallace's guidance, the college offered between 14 and 17 annual conferences, providing continuing education for over 1,400 veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

"Through her dedication and efforts, the college's Veterinary Continuing Education Program has gained a national reputation for quality among colleges of veterinary medicine" said Charles Vrooman, assistant dean for Finance and Administration. "Ms. Wallace's professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication to her responsibilities were truly outstanding."

As coordinator, her duties included advertising and promotion, equipment and room scheduling, meal arrangements, registration, educational publications, financial records, and certificates of completion.

"To me, Carolyn proudly represents the best Texas A&M has to offer – pride and a good work ethic," said Ellen Forsythe, meetings coordinator for the Texas Veterinary Medical Association. "She is a person who is not afraid to roll up her sleeves and give it all she's got."

As Wallace prepared to retire in February 2001, the search began for a new coordinator of Veterinary Continuing Education. The college did not have to look far to find someone else who is not afraid to roll up her sleeves and



Carolyn Wallace

give it all she's got. Diane L. Oswald accepted the position as an expansion of her responsibilities as the college's public relations coordinator.

"With the commonality between public relations and continuing education in event planning and marketing, I see this as a logical extension of my current duties," Oswald said. "I am pleased to have an opportunity to serve the needs of one of the college's most important constituencies – practicing veterinarians."

In the year that Oswald has coordinated public relations, the college was frequently featured in the *Dallas Morning News*, *Austin American Statesman*, *Houston Chronicle*, and numerous daily and weekly Texas publications. Additionally, articles mentioning the College of Veterinary Medicine were published in *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, *Business Week*, *Pet Life*, and other national print publications. Television news programs in College Station and all of the major Texas markets, national programs such as *Good Morning America*, *The Today Show*, *Animal Planet*, and national news programs with Dan Rather and Tom Brokaw carried college stories.

With such positive results in public relations, the merger of the public relations and continuing education functions promises an exciting future for participants in veterinary continuing education.

## Womack Wins Wolf Prize

Dr. James E. Womack, professor of pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University received the prestigious Wolf Prize in Agriculture for his pioneering research in the cattle genome. Womack shared the \$100,000 prize with Dr. Roger Beachy, a researcher at the Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Israel President Moshe Katsav presented the prize in Jerusalem on May 13.

The selection panel, citing Womack's work, noted, "Dr. Womack has provided the foundation for the development of marker-assisted selections in cattle, comparing the bovine and human genomes within the bovine genetic map." Many of his students have gone on to positions of international leadership in animal genomics.

"A whole new generation of scientists will use techniques provided by Womack to clone the genes affecting economically important traits in mammals."

Texas A&M President Ray M. Bowen praised Womack, pointing out the Wolf Prize is among the top scientific honors in the world. "His work has drawn international attention and acclaim, and I join with others in congratulating him," said Bowen.

"This tremendous honor is also a tribute to my colleagues and other scientists working to unravel the fabric of life through the study of genomics," Womack said. "This is a great personal and professional milestone."

Womack, a native of Anson, Texas, holds degrees from Abilene Christian University and Oregon State University. He was a faculty member at Abilene Christian from 1968 to 1973 and was a researcher at the Jackson Laboratory in Maine before joining the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University in 1987.

Womack has received numerous awards, among them the Beecham Award for Research Excellence, the CIBA Prize for research in animal health awarded from Switzerland, the Outstanding Texas Geneticist Award from the Texas Genetic Society, and in 1999 he was named a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences.

The late German-born inventor, diplomat, and philanthropist Ricardo Wolf established the Wolf Foundation through which the awards are granted. Five annual Wolf Prizes have been



*Dr. and Mrs. James E. Womack*

awarded every year since 1978 to scientists and artists in four out of five scientific fields in rotation: agriculture, chemistry, mathematics, medicine and physics.

## Highest Standards

The Small Animal Clinic at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital is the first university hospital to receive a three year accreditation as an Emergency and Critical Care Hospital from the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The association accredits approximately 15 percent of all small animal veterinary practices in the United States. To maintain accredited status, the Small Animal Clinic must continue to be evaluated regularly by the association's trained consultants.

To achieve this distinction, the clinic voluntarily participated in a comprehensive evaluation by the AAHA. The evaluation includes a detailed quality assessment review of the clinic's facility, medical equipment, practice methods and pet health care management.

By achieving accreditation, the Small Animal Clinic has shown that it meets or exceeds more than 300 emergency and critical care standards developed by the association. "No institution achieves this level of excellence without a lot of hard work. It takes a team effort and the accomplishment is a credit to the dedication and professionalism of our clinical faculty and staff," said Henry C. Reinhard, Jr., director of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at Texas A&M University.

The American Animal Hospital Association is an international organization of more than 22,000 veterinary care providers who treat companion animals. Established in 1933, the association is well known among veterinarians for its high standards for hospitals and pet health care.

## Medical Sciences Library Gets New Director

The Medical Sciences Library (MSL), the premier bio-medical information resource for the College of Veterinary Medicine and Texas A&M



University System Health Science Center has a new leader. Martha Bedard became associate dean of the University Libraries and director of MSL in fall 2000. Formerly associate director for Library Services at the University of North Carolina Health Sciences Library in Chapel Hill, Bedard brings enthusiasm and a wealth of experience in health sciences information management to the library.

"The College of Veterinary Medicine was a key factor in my decision to come to the Medical Sciences Library. In particular, the Clinical Veterinary Librarian (CVL) program which fosters collaboration and integrates librarians into the teaching and clinical activities of the college," said Bedard.

## Biomedical Science Milestone

As the university begins its yearlong 125<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, the Biomedical Science Program (BIMS) is celebrating an anniversary of its own. Biomedical Science, within the College of Veterinary Medicine, is celebrating 30 years of awarding Bachelor of Science degrees.

Students studying biomedical science are preparing for careers in professional medical programs and allied health fields. Established under the administration of the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1970, the Biomedical Science Program meets the needs of students with diverse interests in animal and human health fields. Over the past 10 years, the program has grown from 700 to 2,160 undergraduate majors. Biomedical Science has become a high quality degree option with one of the highest grade point averages at Texas A&M University.

As the BIMS curriculum has evolved, so have the career choices available to the enrolled students. BIMS graduates enter professional and technical programs in human medicine, veterinary medicine, scientific research, dentistry, osteopathy, podiatry, optometry, pharmaceuticals, and nursing.

The goals of the BIMS program have developed academically from a preparatory training program into offering a versatile degree for individuals who will obtain employment in a variety of health or science related sectors in industry, academia, or government. Additionally, BIMS provides a pre-professional education to students who plan to enter either professional schools in the health sciences or graduate schools.

"The college is pleased to celebrate such a distinguished undergraduate success story, and to congratulate the Biomedical Science Program on its monumental 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary," said H. Richard Adams, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

## Dr. Alvin A Price 1918-2001

Dr. Alvin A. Price, former dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University, died at his home on March 11, 2001 at the age of 83. Dr. Price was a lifelong educator, and he dedicated much of his prestigious career to cultivating students, conducting research, and developing academic programs directed to the advancement of veterinary medicine and veterinary medical education.

Dr. Price was born in Lingleville, Texas, and lived in College Station for over 50 years. He received his A.S. in Agricultural Education from Tarleton State University in 1938, and his B.S. in Dairy Science in 1940 from then Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, later to become Texas A&M University. He then departed college life to serve his country in World War II, and after four years of exemplary service as an officer in the United States Army, he returned to Texas A&M for advanced education. Dr. Price entered the professional veterinary medical program, receiving his D.V.M. in 1949 and his M.S. in Physiology in 1956.

He was appointed as an instructor in 1949 in the veterinary school, and later assumed the responsibility of department head in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy in the renamed College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Price subsequently became the sixth Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1957 and provided role-model leadership in this capacity for 16 years. The college experienced exceptional growth under Dean Price's stewardship, with the professional student enrollment doubling from 64 to 128 DVM students. The size and patient-care responsibilities of the college's teaching hospital also grew dramatically during Dean Price's watch, with many new faculty joining the basic science and clinical departments. The national stature of the college, its faculty and staff, and graduates grew significantly while Dr. Price administered the deanship. During his tenure as dean, the college also developed its new undergraduate baccalaureate program in Biomedical Sciences, which subsequently expanded to over 2200 students as the largest individual B.S. degree plan in Texas.

Current Associate Dean for Professional Programs in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. E. Dean Gage, recalls the impact Dr. Price had on his professional career. "Dean Price greatly influenced my career decision to enter administration and leadership in higher education

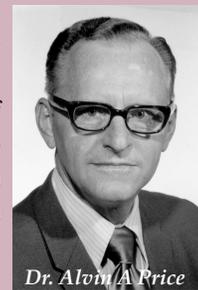
through his personal example of vision, strength of character, and leadership skills of bringing people together to work towards a common goal," Gage said. "He was a great statesman and role model who stood firm with great resolve to make changes and advancements that made a difference."

Dr. Price returned to teaching as a professor in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology in 1973 where he pursued his special interests in endocrinology, embryology, and reproductive biology. His passion for teaching and his rapport with students led to his continued participation in the undergraduate Biomedical Sciences program, wherein he was appointed as its first official director in 1975.

Dr. Price was a member and held office in numerous professional and scholastic honor societies including the American Veterinary Medical Association, Texas Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Veterinary Anatomists, and American Animal Hospital Association. His considerable list of honors and awards ranged from Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award in Teaching at Texas A&M University, to Veterinary Consultant in East Pakistan. Local, state, national, and even international appointments demonstrated the extensive scope of Dr. Price's contributions to veterinary medicine and veterinary medical education.

After 42 years of service to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University, Dr. Price retired in 1988. In his retirement letter, he wrote, "Most of my life has been spent here (at Texas A&M), doing what I like best; and I am indebted to this place. It is not without emotion that I leave, but I guess the time has come."

Dean Alvin Price's commitment and service to veterinary medicine has left an indelible mark on the college and the profession. "Dr. Price was an energetic, productive, and accomplished veterinarian and academician who will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues," said H. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University. "Dr. Price was my dean while I was a student at A&M, and I remember well the sense of professionalism, character, and integrity he projected at all times," Adams said. "His influence has affected generations of veterinarians, and his commitment to service and educational excellence will not be forgotten; he made a difference in our lives."



Dr. Alvin A. Price

**1938**

***Ben F. Gearhart, Jr., DVM***

Gearhart, of Marfa, died September 12, 2000.

**1939**

***Victor L. Kothmann, DVM***

Kothmann, of Mason, died February 26, 2000.

**1940**

***Nelson L. Nicholl, DVM***

Nicholl, of San Senito, died March 19, 2001.

**1942**

***Cecil B. Ragland, DVM***

Ragland, of Alton, died September 11, 1999.

***Arthur A. Miller, DVM***

Miller, of Jasper, died October 18, 2000.

**1943**

***James T. Lang, DVM***

Lang, of Gatesville, died April 11, 2001.

***Clyde Otto Morgan, Jr., DVM***

Morgan of Houston, died March 21, 2001.

**1944**

***Joseph M. Farrell, Jr., DVM***

Farrell, of Waxahachie, died November 18, 2000.

***Robert M. Garrett, DVM***

Garrett, of Richards, died April 13, 2000.

**1945**

***Lavell T. Davis, DVM***

Davis, of Denison, died January 20, 2001.

***Samuel Keith Kirk, DVM***

Kirk, of San Antonio, died December 16, 2000.

***Robert S. Knight, DVM***

Knight, of Fort Worth, died September 22, 2000.

***Roy A. Riddels, DVM***

Riddels, of Sherman, died September 30, 2000.

**1949**

***William D. O'Mara, DVM***

O'Mara, of Springdale, AR, died September 18, 2000.

***Alvin A. Price, DVM***

Price, of Lingleville, died March 11, 2001. (See related article.)

**1951**

***Roy E. Carr, Sr., DVM***

Carr, of Lake Jackson, died May 19, 2000.

***Harold F. Hall, DVM***

Hall, of Irving, died February 15, 2000.

**1955**

***David Alton Darter, DVM***

Darter, of Crystal City, died October 3, 2000.

**1961**

***Allen D. Speyrer, DVM***

Speyrer, of Lafayette, died January 9, 2001.

**1964**

***Elton Knox Lamb, DVM***

Lamb, of Waco, died November 3, 2000.

**1966**

***Wallace A. Deen, DVM***

Deen, of Richmond, MO, died October 18, 2000.

***Henry A. Hodges, DVM***

Hodges, of Corpus Christi, died November 8, 2000.

***Larry A. Phillips, DVM***

Phillips, of Woodville, died December 9, 2000.

**1970**

***James Louis Courtney, DVM***

Courtney, of Irving, died September 28, 2000.

**1979**

***Larry Ehrlund, DVM***

Ehrlund, of San Antonio, died October 31, 2000.

**1990**

***Michael K. Reed, DVM***

Reed, of Baytown, died March 23, 2001.

## Veterinary Class Scholarship Fund

Memorials in honor of deceased classmates can be made to:

Veterinary Class Scholarship Fund

c/o Dr. O.J. Woytek

Office of the Dean, MS #4461

College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU

College Station, TX 77843-4461

Please make checks payable to "Texas A&M Foundation."

Indicate "Class Scholarship", the honoree's name and CVM class year in the memo section.

### What's New?

Keep your college and fellow alumni informed by sending your news to:

*CVM Today*

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College of Veterinary Medicine

College Station, TX 77843-4461

fax: 979-845-5088 or

e-mail: [editor@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:editor@cvm.tamu.edu)

# Meeting the Challenge



Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek

As friends of the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine, your help is needed. Next year, the university will announce a new five year \$1 billion Capital Campaign, and the goal for our college has been set at \$50 million. For the college to meet this challenge, it will require support from all of our friends and graduates. Enclosed is a self-addressed reply card with a sign-up form. We hope each of you will register your interests in those college programs where you are willing to contribute your time and resources.

Every person who owns a pet, rides a horse, or understands the importance of animal agriculture is a potential prospect. Although exceedingly loyal to their alma mater, the alumni base from this college is one of the smallest at Texas A&M. We have approximately 6,000 graduates compared, for example, to Engineering and Agriculture which each have over 60,000 alumni. Dean H. Richard Adams, Dr. Henry "Sonny" Presnal, and I are scheduling college briefings

at local veterinary association meetings throughout the coming year. It would be truly appreciated if you could attend one of these meetings to familiarize yourself with the needs of the college and the challenges we face for the future of the veterinary medical program at Aggieland. We would like to seek your assistance in identifying and educating prospective donors who, if approached in the appropriate manner, might be willing to consider supporting our students, faculty, and programs.

We all treasure the value of our veterinary medical education, and our goal for the future is to ensure that the value of the Texas A&M DVM degree grows in perpetuity.

Please fill out the enclosed postcard and return it to us, so we can list you as a supporter of this important challenge for our college. I know you want to see the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine become the best that it can be, which would make it truly the best in the world!

I am looking forward to working with you, and the college sends best personal regards.

*Gig 'em!*

Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek '64

**CVM Today is published to keep you informed about Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine. If you have a comment, question or information to share, please take a moment to fill out this form and return it to us at the college. Thank you.**

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if:  New home address  
 New business address

I have a comment/question/information:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Yes, I want to help.

Here is my donation to Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine.  
*Please refer to the enclosed "Friends" brochure.*  
*(Make checks payable to the Texas A&M Foundation)*

Please contact me about making a gift to Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine.

I'd like to know more about making an estate gift  
(trusts, life insurance, bequests).

I'd like to know more about giving opportunities in the following area(s):

- Research
  - Small Animal Medicine & Surgery
  - Large Animal Medicine & Surgery
  - Capper & Chris Save-the-Animals Fund
  - Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital
  - Stevenson Life-Care Center
  - Scholarships
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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