

CVM Today



Summer 2007 ★ Volume 8, No. 3

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Journey to Excellence

Milestones &
Memorable Moments



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CVMToday is published twice a year by the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences for alumni and friends of the college.



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We welcome your suggestions, comments and contributions to content.

OUR COLLEGE LEAVING OUR SIGNATURE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to meet fascinating people and learn about their cultures. I discovered that their traditions and rituals gave them a unique identity – a brand – that was all their own. This brand becomes a link across generations. It's built on the accomplishments of the past, places a signature on the present, and, like a compass, sets the course for the future. In this edition of CVM Today, we will journey to the past examining our rich heritage as it relates to where we are today, and where we will go tomorrow.

By traveling to our past, I am always amazed by how much the college, and our profession in general, has evolved. It has taken a lot of people and hard work over the decades to establish the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences as a leader in the field of veterinary medicine, veterinary medical education, and research. We continue our work today of defining that identity, that brand, that will carry us into the future.

One of my favorite quotes states, "We warm by fires we did not build, and drink from wells we did not dig." Without a strong heritage, we would not be where we are today. And, as we gather at the proverbial well of knowledge to take our drink, we must leave our mark to assist future generations in their own quest for continuing the CVM's tradition of academic excellence.

We have come a long way from the humble beginning with Dr. Mark Francis in 1916 to our current state of unprecedented growth in both programs and facilities. In this edition of CVM Today, we will revisit the past. In these pages you will discover five milestones that changed

the face of the CVM in the feature story "Journey to Excellence". Join us as we celebrate our fourth successful Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction and honor five special former students as Outstanding Alumni. Help us to recognize the outstanding individuals within the CVM who are helping us to define our brand each and every day.

Reflecting on our accomplishments enables us to celebrate our traditions and look optimistically to the future, as we continue building our own brand and priming the educational pump for CVM generations yet to come.

I hope you enjoy the trip through time within these pages, and meeting some of the fascinating people that help make the CVM what it is today. Their dedication to and support of our programs are what makes us successful. May you appreciate learning more about our traditions, our culture, and the unique brand that is the CVM.

Importantly, if you ever find yourself back in Aggieland, be sure to stop by the college. The door is open, the coffee's hot, and the hospitality is warm.



H. RICHARD ADAMS

CARL B. KING DEAN OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



H. Richard Adams

GENTLE DOCTOR BENEFIT
MARCH 2007

*Special to CVM Today
by Marilyn Snell*

CARING

Need spawned an idea which generated thought that initiated implementation.

Dean H. Richard Adams borrowed an idea from the University of Missouri and came up with a way to help financially support veterinary student tuition via new scholarships from an endowed fund. Sherry Adams, Martha Huebner, and a long list of folks at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), implemented that idea with the Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction.

At the CVM, it is all for one and one for all. Nowhere is this better exemplified than with the united effort put forth by the staff, faculty, administration, and friends of the CVM who help to execute the annual Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction.

Now in its fourth year, the GDBAs have generated almost a half million dollars for DVM student scholarships. In addition, four GDBA scholarships are given annually to professional veterinary students to help

defray schooling costs. Currently, twelve veterinary students have received GDBA scholarships totaling \$30K.

Historically, the cost of veterinary medical schooling has increased from \$8,810 in 2001 to \$13,479 in 2006. First, second, and third year professional students attend 27-34 class hours per week. Fourth year students are in clinics 50-plus hours per week. Required class time and clinics, in addition to study/preparation demands, leave professional students with little time to earn extra income for education and living expenses. Consequently, veterinary students are graduating with an average of \$75K in school loans. Ninety-two percent of the professional veterinary students have educational loans. (Note: 54.6 % of Texas A&M University undergraduates have educational loans with an average debt of \$19K, per 2006 information.)

Income generated from the GDBA

***“It’s not just the money—it’s
the support and integrity from which
it originates that really counts.”***

-Whitney Pagel



Dean H. Richard Adams (above) welcomes everyone to the annual GDBA. Attendees (below) review some of the many treasures in the silent auction.



enhances the “Gentle Doctor Educational Program” which financially supports veterinary medical student education. The GDBA scholarship fund is working toward an endowment of several million.

The GDBA began as a fundraiser for scholarship funds and has evolved into an evening of fun, food, and fellowship. The CVM’s “Spur of the Moment” stage band provides lively western musical entertainment while guests enjoy barbeque and reminisce with fellow veterinarians and friends of the



in this annual event. “I know that so many people have contributed in numerous ways to make this scholarship program possible; it makes it that much more meaningful to receive a GDBA scholarship. It’s not just the money—it’s the support and integrity from which it originates that really counts.” Whitney notes, “... the GDBA scholarship is a special honor because I have seen all the countless hours of work that goes into planning this event and how many people are willing to graciously donate their time and/or resources to make this event a success. Just to think that so many people would be so compassionate to offer assistance in financing my dream of becoming a veterinarian is very touching.”

Idea, thought, implementation after four renditions, it is surely now a tradition.

See you at the 5th Annual Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction April 5, 2008!



Bidding was swift (left) in the live auction which included hand made knives and a black Labrador puppy.



The “Spur of the Moment” stageband (above) featuring the CVM’s own Dr. Dickson Varner kept things moving while patrons (below) enjoyed historical silent auction items.

College. Silent and Live Auction items are displayed for viewing and bids are encouraged to keep rolling up, after all, it is a benefit.

Of course the GDBA would not be possible without the generous donations of faculty, staff, and friends of the CVM. From registered horses, steers, and puppy, to handmade objects of art, diamonds, fashion accessories, hunting and fishing trips, get-away vacations, and fine dining, the GDBA has received magnanimous support for which we are truly grateful. These charitable gifts, tangible as well as monetary, enable the GDBA to continue to reach its endowed scholarship goal.

Conceived in 2003 and initiated in 2004, the GDBA is a testament to what creative minds, diligent hands, giving hearts, and the supportive CVM community can accomplish to ease financial pressures for some of our professional veterinary students. Whitney Pagel, a 2006 GDBA scholarship recipient, appreciates the efforts of all who are involved



CURING

Special to CVM Today
by Emily Baker

The Texas A&M University Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital's Cardiology Service is known for providing a variety of specialized services for animals with heart conditions. The cardiology team, consisting of Drs. Matt Miller, Sonya Gordon, Theresa Fossum and Ashley Saunders, is on the cutting-edge of heart repair due to experimentation with technology used primarily in humans. Advancements in interventional and medical therapy of heart disease have secured the CVM cardiologists as forerunners in their fields, drawing in clients and building a solid reputation of innovation.

A front-runner in minimally-invasive interventional catheterization procedures, Dr. Matt Miller pioneered the use of transvenous catheter closure of canine patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) using stainless steel embolization coils. PDA, the most common heart defect in dogs, is the result of an abnormal communication between the aorta and the pulmonary artery, causing the left ventricle to work harder and potentially fail. In addition to PDA, the cardiologists under the guidance of Dr. Miller, treat multiple congenital heart defects.

Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)

Guinette Peebles' standard poodle puppy kept crashing and her regular veterinarian recommended she see a specialist. Peebles brought her puppy to TAMU where it underwent multiple surgeries for heart defects. Almost a year later, Peebles champion poodle Haley started having trouble after a caesarian section and the dog's veterinarian noticed Haley had an enlarged heart. Peebles remembered her experience at VMTH, and rushed Haley to the teaching hospital where the cardiology team diagnosed Haley with a rare congenital heart defect called Atrial Septal Defect (ASD).

Peebles, a standard poodle breeder, was

informed of a connection between her poodles and ASD, and decided it was best to contact all of her dog's owners and have each of the poodles checked for the defect. Of the ten poodles brought to TAMU for inspection, three were diagnosed with ASD, including Peschi.

An innovative procedure used previously in human cases was performed on Peschi, where a device called a septal occluder, which uses two disks to cover the defect, was inserted through the jugular vein into the heart to close the ASD. The CVM cardiologists and a team from Texas Children's Hospital performed the procedure, which required tweaking due to variations between human and canine anatomy.

Peschi's procedure and subsequent ASD repairs on a number of Peebles' other poodles have been successful. Peebles continues to support ASD research and says she never let ASD defeat her because she knew that the CVM cardiology team's research and determination would lead to the development of an effective solution for the problem.

"I felt compelled to conquer (ASD) because I had Dr. Gordon behind me," Peebles said. "I was so impressed with the incredible amount of attention that I got (at A&M) and with the politeness of the staff and the students. They were very thorough in their questions. I can't say enough about them."

While ASD is rare, the application of human technology to canine ASD has been crucial for Peebles' poodles. Gordon said the surgery and consequent advancements in ASD treatment will help a range of dogs with similar conditions.

"When you have pure-breed dogs, sometimes you land on a mine," Gordon said. "This defect is rare in dogs, but it's still out there. Maybe we can help other dogs that have it."

Medical Management

Landis and Terri Griffiths' Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Abby, was originally diagnosed with mitral valve disease by local veterinarians. It was not until Abby "crashed" that the Griffiths' took friends' advice to seek out further treatment at TAMU,



Abby (above) and Bryce (below) have both had life saving cardiology treatments performed at the CVM.



resulting in an emergency visit to the cardiology clinic.

“Even though we still did not know if Abby would live through another day, we knew we had at least gotten her into the right hands,” Terri Griffeth said.

Pimobendan, a relatively new drug therapy in veterinary medicine is used by the CVM as part of its aggressive medical management of heart failure. It has become a key component of achieving therapeutic success. The drug can improve clinical signs and quality of life almost immediately. The cardiology department recommended and prescribed pimobendan as treatment for Abby.

“As Drs. Saunders and Gordon had explained, if the pimobendan was going to work, it would work quickly. In Abby’s case, it was nothing short of miraculous,” Griffeth said.

Abby’s heart failure treatment including pimobendan kept her in stable condition for 20 months, well above the average for her kind of heart disease, with only a few relapses, which were monitored and stabilized with help from CVM cardiologists.

“Her tail and her nose were again held high; she once again twirled in excitement at seeing one of us after an absence of any length; and she was again able to sleep in her favorite position—on her

back. She played like she had not played in several years,” Griffeth said.


Pacemakers

Bryce, a Labrador mix, is a modern medical marvel. Considered a young dog to receive a pacemaker, Bryce was implanted with the heart-regulating device in 2002 at the age of four, and in March of this year, Bryce’s pacemaker battery was replaced. In the majority of cases, pacemakers are implanted in older dogs who will not likely outlive the battery life.

Brin Graham, however, recognized a decline in Bryce’s energy level and brought her in for a checkup. Graham thought Bryce was suffering from old age, but cardiologists discovered Bryce’s pacemaker battery performance was declining as it slowly ran out. Rather than stop completely, pacemaker batteries—much like watches—deteriorate by performing at half-capacity, rather than stopping completely. An abnormal decrease in heart rate is a trigger that the battery needs to be replaced, Saunders said.

“We were throwing the ball in the street in front of the house and Bryce began to have what we thought were seizures,” Graham said. “We called A&M and brought her in—we liked the idea of A&M being a teaching hospital. We knew the problem was something related to her pacemaker. In retrospect, my husband and I thought she was getting older, but that wasn’t the case at all. As soon as her battery was replaced, she was back to normal and she’s doing great.”

While pacemaker operations are not uncommon, Bryce’s experience proved the effectiveness and reliability of the pacemaker as a way to regulate heart rates despite the device running on a battery. Bryce’s experience has brought the Graham family together and has been a way of reaching out to neighbors.

“Our neighbor brought their dog to TAMU for a heart-related surgery. It’s comforting to find out someone you know has gone through the same experience with their dog,” Graham said. 



Dr. Sonya Gordon, CVM cardiologist, poses with her dog Tiger, a patient of Dr. Gordon’s, and Tiger’s brother, Atticus. These two poodles like some other pure-bred poodles had genetic heart defects. Both dogs have been successfully treated at the CVM.



Atticus and his owners (left) are grateful for the advances in veterinary cardiology that are improving quality of life for pets.

COMMUNICATING

Thousands of pint-size visitors—and their parents—came from all over the state to the 14th annual Open House of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, held on March 31. Warm weather welcomed a crowd between 8,000 and 10,000 to see the world of veterinary medicine in action on the Texas A&M University campus.

“Open House is our one chance to really open our doors to the community, so they can see what services we have to offer, what veterinary school is like, and what veterinarians do on a daily basis,” said Jordan Tayce, a third year veterinary student at Texas A&M University and coordinator of the event.

The event has become a mainstay for the college, attracting both the general public and organized groups, such as Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA.

Guests were invited to tour the facilities, visit the petting zoo, milk cows, and even don scrubs to participate in teddy bear surgery.

“We have people attend Open House

from as far away as Dallas, perhaps further, and the entire event is a wonderful opportunity to show our facilities to the public,” said Tayce. “We try to bring in as many new events as possible, but we continue to offer the favorites, such as teddy bear surgery, and the demonstrations of our aquatic treadmill, which we added last year.”

Entertaining the crowd out of doors, were the exhibitions of Allen Pogue’s trick horses, Bob Evans and his World Famous Frisbee Dogs, and the Cen-Tex K9 Search and Rescue unit.



The roping demonstration (right) was a fun new addition to the schedule. Returning to Open House was the always popular teddy bear surgery.



New to the schedule this year were calf roping demonstrations, sponsored by the student chapter of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, and stick horse barrel racing, sponsored by the student chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

“This year we were also lucky enough to show off the newly renovated areas of the small animal clinic, including our new neurology suite and orthopedic and rehab rooms,” Tayce said.

Planning an event of this size is not an easy task. Tayce said they chose a date for the event in July of 2006, and the planning got underway soon after.

"I can't even begin to count how many hours are required to put on Open House, but the important thing to note is that the event is only possible due to the help of all our volunteers," Tayce said.

"Because of the efforts of individuals like Jordan Tayce and all of the volunteers, the event is able to be held each year and accomplish the mission of opening up the world of veterinary medicine to a diverse audience and inspiring young people to explore careers in our rewarding profession," said H. Richard Adams, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Open House is completely run by these volunteers, comprised of veterinary and graduate students of the college, with the support of numerous faculty and staff. 🐾



Trained horses (above) and frisbee dogs educated outside, while attendees learned about non-traditional pets such as these tortoises (left) inside at the Zoo Medicine area.



Zoo animals like the zebra (left) gave kids of all ages a chance to see a variety of animals.

CREATING

Time marches on, and with each passing moment, the world becomes a smaller place. New technologies and modes of transportation have helped to create a truly global marketplace. It has never been more critical than right now for the veterinary medical profession to begin training veterinary students to become better citizens of the world.



Dr. Jeremy Wasser (above left) and Dr. Jeffrey Musser (above right) pause for a photo with students outside the veterinary college in Germany.

Winchester Mvula, Animal Health Technician Bunda College works with 3 TAMU veterinary students, (below) Karen Smith, Rickie Christensen and Genny Chacon, to age goats while TB testing in Malawi.



“Veterinarians are, and will continue to be, impacted by global dynamics,” said Dr. Jeffrey Musser, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. “There are many emerging infectious diseases that we do not have in this country, so it is important that we work with colleagues around the world to provide opportunity for our students to study abroad so that they have a better understanding of how these pathogens affect animals and humans everywhere.”

Musser, a food animal veterinarian whose graduate studies took him to Costa Rica, has also worked to send students to places like Ecuador to work with local veterinarians and USDA veterinarians to vaccinate for foot and mouth disease. He has also arranged for students interested in poultry diseases to work with veterinary contacts in South

Africa. Additionally, some CVM students have traveled to Malawi to look at tuberculosis in goats and mastitis in dairy cattle, and others have had the opportunity to compare the swine industry across the United States to that in Australia.

“These opportunities help us to graduate a veterinarian who is more appreciative of their role in global veterinary medicine,” added Musser. “We have also been able to enhance our understanding of this role by supplementing lessons with relevant course material, bringing in experts in international veterinary medicine, public policy, and public health from around the world, and by funding seminars and trips that increase faculty understanding.”

Most recently, Musser has been working with Dr. Gabriel Caranza in the Texas A&M International Programs Office to develop contacts between faculty at the CVM and their counterparts in Mexico in order to facilitate collaborative projects between faculty in both places with similar interests. For his efforts at building bridges through educational opportunities for faculty and students, Musser was awarded the 2007 International Excellence Award.

“By understanding the cultural implications of animal and public health in other countries,” said Musser, “we become better at serving those interests at home.”

Dr. Jeremy Wasser, associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology, also believes in the value of adding international study opportunities to the experience of students in the CVM.

“I think what we (Dr. Musser and I) are trying to accomplish by actively creating these international opportunities,” said Wasser, “is to challenge the preconceived notions about other cultures that we as Americans tend to harbor.”

Dr. Wasser spent over a year as a guest scientist at the Max-Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine in Goettingen, Germany, and during that time came to have an appreciation for the differences between cultures. When a call went out for faculty that would be interested in creating a study abroad

opportunity in Germany, Wasser enthusiastically answered.

“Our first group to make was in 2004,” said Wasser. “We took 11 biomedical sciences students to Germany. It’s an intensive experience where students actually attend class, they learn some German, and they get to see some of the places (laboratories, etc.) that relate to their interests. We try to provide a broad spectrum of experiences that appeal to everyone.”

During this extended study abroad program, students actually live with host families and have free time to travel in Europe on the weekends. The rest of the time is spent in classes learning the language or listening to lectures on the history of science or related topics. Some of the lectures are offered by our CVM staff, while others are from faculty colleagues abroad. In 2005, Wasser set up a system for students to keep a web log, or blog, as part of their grade (you can read what students had to say about their international experience at www.dusseldorfdigest.blogspot.com). From the very first year of the program, he also had students produce a “video journal” of their time abroad using camcorders purchased by his department. The collected tapes are being edited into a documentary of the Aggie experience in Germany and its impact on student perceptions of the world and of themselves.

“To be able to witness the transformation that these young people made through their observations was incredible,” said Wasser. “It was evident that when they returned, they had changed, and their perspectives on themselves, their culture, and the world in general were very different from prior to their trip.”

The creation of the European study abroad programs earned Dr. Wasser the International Excellence Award in 2006. In May 2007, Wasser will take the first group of 12 veterinary medical students on a different kind of study abroad program. This trip will specifically focus on veterinary medicine with trips to the stud farms in Hanover,



Dr. Karen Russell, Mphatso Makwale and Rickie Christensen are surrounded by children while working on a dairy mastitis project for small holder farmers in Malawi

the zoo in Berlin, and Bayer and Pfizer corporate tours. Each of these stops will include special tours just for the students. Instead of staying with families, the students will stay with German veterinary medical students, will study at the veterinary college, and will also get to participate in some clinical programs.

The study abroad opportunities offered by Drs. Musser and Wasser are not for everyone. They require hard work and are not inexpensive. Dr. Musser has worked diligently to obtain grant funding from government agencies for individual students to travel, and Dr. Wasser has had significant success attracting corporate support for travel and student scholarships.

“The programs that Dr. Musser and I put together are designed to help students realize the role they play as citizens of the world,” said Wasser. “The world is getting smaller and smaller each day, and we need to have a better understanding of one another in order to better address the global issues of tomorrow together.” 🐾



Students enjoy free time to explore between lectures and organized excursions.

MILESTONES & MEMORABLE MOMENTS

JOURNEY to Excellence

When a rock is thrown in a pond, the impact it makes changes the water by sending ripples across the surface. The bigger the splash, the further these ripples travel, and the more dramatic the change.

predicted that the CVM would become one of the largest veterinary medical schools in the world. Not only have the facilities become world renown, but the research has also brought the CVM international recognition. Over the years, CVM research efforts have led to discoveries that have positively impacted human health, as well as that of animals, leading to the “One Medicine” concept. CVM researchers are involved in global research that will have long lasting effects on both animal and human medicine.

New techniques have taken researchers to new frontiers in the laboratory. The decade of the 90s saw big breakthroughs in reproductive biology, and the CVM was there to introduce the world’s first cloned cat. The CVM has continued to work on the cutting edge of cloning science, having cloned more species than any other university.

It isn’t just the technology that has changed over the years. The face of the profession has changed as well. In 1966, the CVM graduated the first woman veterinarian from Texas A&M. Today, women make up the majority of those practicing veterinary medicine and also the veterinary medical student body.

Big splashes that have made big changes at the CVM. Changes that are still felt today. The five events that follow are just some of the many milestones that define the path of the CVM, and will set the course for the future.

The Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is a unique place where clinical patients benefit from cutting-edge research, and the very best entry-level veterinarians continue to enter the veterinary medical profession each year. During its 91 years, many things have been accomplished at the CVM, and many changes have occurred. But while the journey to excellence has not always been a smooth one, it is full of memorable moments. However, just as some rocks make a bigger splash, some events in the history of the CVM have made a significant impact on who we are today and where we will go tomorrow.

In the early years with Dr. Mark Francis and a handful of students, few would have

Buildings such as the fever barn (above) signified the beginning of the College of Veterinary Medicine which has grown into one of the largest state of the art veterinary medical centers in the country.

I. IN THE BEGINNING...

Every journey has a beginning, and this one is no exception. The initial step in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences' journey to excellence was the establishment of a school of veterinary medicine, the first of its kind in the state of Texas.

In April of 1888, Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College received \$2,500 in state funding for equipping and operating its Department of Veterinary Science, and in June of that same year, the college hired Dr. Mark Francis, the first trained veterinarian to be appointed to the faculty. Francis established himself as a leader in veterinary medicine after he helped prove that the tick was the cause of Texas cattle fever and developed effective inoculations for the fever that had plagued southern livestock since the late 1700s. His appointment to the faculty marked the true beginning of veterinary medicine in Texas.

Veterinary science continued to grow in Texas, and 28 years later, a school of veterinary medicine was established, with Francis as its founding dean. The new school opened its doors in September 1916 with 13 stu-



Early veterinary students worked in very challenging environments by today's standards.

dents, making it possible to earn a degree in veterinary medicine in Texas for the first time. In 1920, the first class of graduates (all four of them) received their doctor of veterinary medicine degrees from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, now Texas A&M University. Now, almost 90 years later, the college graduates an average of 125 students per year.

"We owe so much of what we are today to Dr. Mark Francis; his vision for veterinary medicine was the foundation that helped establish the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences"

-Dean H. Richard Adams

Thanks to the early efforts of Francis and those that followed, the CVM has been able to grow and become one of the premier establishments in veterinary medicine.

"We owe so much of what we are today to Dr. Mark Francis; his vision for veterinary medicine was the foundation that helped establish the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences," said Dr. H. Richard Adams, dean of the college. "Although we had such humble beginnings, on that foundation we have built a world-class institution dedicated to promoting animal and human health."

In the early days, the veterinary school often provided much needed services to area livestock owners.



II. FIRST FACILITIES

The establishment of a school of veterinary medicine at Texas A&M University set the foundation for exponential growth in the profession, generating the need for the next milestone—the erection of a veterinary hospital. The construction of this building, as well as a



As the department of veterinary medicine grew into a college, more facilities were added, including lecture space and a new teaching hospital.

veterinary anatomy building and two stables, spanned the years of 1932-1933. At a cost of \$200,000, these additions housed the school of veterinary medicine until it moved to its current location during the 1950s. Today, these buildings are home to the Civil Engineering department. The veterinary hospital of the 1930s was the precursor to the small and large animal clinics that stand today. Built in 1981 and 1993, respectively, these two facilities serve the 19 million residents of Texas and their animals.

In the early days of the veterinary hospital, the number of patients treated each year was small compared to the over 20,000 treated each year by CVM clinicians today. The numbers, however, have not been the only thing to change. There has also been a shift in the demand for certain types of veterinary medicine.

“As the general demographics of our population have changed over the last 90 years, so has our client base,” said Terry Stiles, director of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at

Texas A&M University. “From the early days of rural living to the current urban city life, there has been a major change from agricultural and food animal medicine to companion animal medicine.”

With over 100 clinicians on faculty, the veterinary hospital has adapted to this change by offering a wide variety of services for both small and large animals; faculty members specialize in everything from anesthesiology to zoological medicine. The cost of running such a high caliber

“We had a room about 14 x 16 feet that was on the ground floor of the Main Building (destroyed by fire in May 1912) that served as office, classroom and laboratory. At the end of the school year-June 1889-the adjoining room became vacant and was assigned to us as a classroom. In this unsuitable place we toiled for 15 years.”

Mark Francis

facility is expensive—over \$14 million a year—but thanks to generous support from caring clients, the hospital is able to continue providing excellent care to its patients.

“As the only veterinary medical teaching hospital in the state of Texas, we are proud to embody the phrase ‘teaching through service,’” said Stiles. “We deliver quality veterinary care using state-of-the-art medical equipment and are continually growing to better meet the needs of the citizens of Texas.”

This growth has been the hallmark of the history of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

“The continual need for larger and more

1932

advanced facilities shows the dedication of our faculty and students to excellence in veterinary medicine,” said H. Richard Adams, dean of the CVM. “Because of their discoveries and academic endeavors, our facilities have had to expand along with the breadth of knowledge in veterinary medicine and the biomedical sciences.”

III. BECOMING ONE MEDICINE

When most people think of public health, they envision doctors, nurses, and scientists healing the sick and stamping out disease around the world. However, a large part of the driving force battling emerging pathogens today is made up of veterinarians. The Integrative Biosciences Department of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has a long history of impacting human and animal health around the world.

In 1958, Dr. F. P. Jaggi became the head of the newly formed public health section at the CVM. That next year, he recruited Leon Russell, DVM, Ph.D., to join his growing team. Later, the



In the late 50's it became more evident that there was a strong relationship between animal and human health.

anatomy department was combined with public health to begin the foundation of the current Integrative Biosciences Department which is making significant contributions to global public health initiatives today.

“It was Dr. William Osler, considered by many to be the father of pathology, who pointed out that animals and humans have so much in common when it comes to disease and pathogens,” said Dr. Russell.

According to Russell, today’s veterinarian has built on the past to help create today’s preventive approach which synthesizes efforts in human and animal medicine.

“What we see is that easily three fourths of the emerging pathogens are zoonotic, meaning they can infect humans and animals,” explained Russell. “At the same time, the world continues to shrink as global transportation becomes more efficient and the world economy continues to grow. This makes it much easier for these emerging pathogens to travel across borders and to mutate more quickly into a disease that is easily transmitted from animal to human and human to human.”

While headlines about outbreaks of avian influenza grab the public’s attention, scientists continue to work on methods for containing the



Veterinary medical students were keenly aware of the growing role they played in promoting both human and animal medicine.

1958

disease and preventing a pandemic outbreak. Significant contributions to these efforts are being made by veterinarians, including those at the CVM, as they collaborate with colleagues within the World Health Organization and other national and international agencies.



As the college grew and technology changed, the CVM continued to keep pace with a newer Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

“Most of the new emerging pathogens are viruses,” said Russell, “and it’s gaining more acceptance that we haven’t discovered the vast majority of the viruses out there. Most of the new viruses are seen in animals before they are ever diagnosed in humans. The veterinarians in the field are the front line for identifying them. This is an important step in beginning to look at these pathogens and discovering ways to prevent the mutations that would allow them to transmit human to human.”

As a profession, veterinarians have always historically been committed to public health efforts. However, today, they find themselves the “newest soldier” with a larger mandate. From the humble beginnings of finding ways to ensure that families had a safe supply of meat and milk, to using the latest evidence-based scientific advances to protect the world from enemies too small to be seen, the Veterinary Integrative Biosciences Department continues to adapt to meet the needs of an ever-changing world.

IV. THE CHANGING FACE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

In 1963, another rock was thrown into our proverbial pond, and its ripples truly changed the “face” of the CVM. The first woman was admitted to Texas A&M University as a veterinary student that year, and three years later, Dr. Sonja Lee Oliphant graduated as the first female veterinarian to earn her degree from Texas A&M.

Fast forward 41 years and women now make up over 60 percent of veterinary college enrollment at Texas A&M University—and the numbers are only growing.

“In 1970, there were less than 500 women veterinarians in the United States, and today there are approximately 40,000,” said Dr. Bonnie Beaver, professor in the small animal department of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

But Beaver says that the reason for this change in demographics is not a simple answer.

“We do know that the number of men enrolling in universities nationwide is down, not just in veterinary medicine, but in all subjects,”

said Beaver. "We know that gender is no longer being used to discourage potential veterinary applicants, but these things alone do not describe the trend. Greater minds than mine are trying to understand this."

While earning her DVM degree at the University of Minnesota in the late 1960s, Beaver only had one other classmate who was a woman. Dr. Beaver came to Texas A&M University as a faculty member in 1969 and has watched that trend shift dramatically.

As the first woman president of the TVMA and the second woman president of the AVMA, Beaver has been at the forefront of this change, and she says that the biggest differences between then and now are the fact that women are not viewed as unique in veterinary medicine and can participate in any aspect of veterinary medicine that they choose.

Dr. Kenita Rogers, associate dean for professional programs at the CVM, is another leader in veterinary medicine. She earned her DVM in 1982 from Louisiana State University and has also witnessed the change in numbers.

"Veterinary medicine is a great career for women, and more and more women are taking advantage of the opportunities," Rogers said.

Beaver said she learned several lessons during her time as president of both the TVMA and the AVMA:



"First, I got a much deeper appreciation of ALL aspects of the profession and how important each piece is to the wellness of the profession as a whole. Second, it became very clear that for a relatively small profession (they graduate more attorneys each year than there are total veterinarians), we are making a huge impact in many areas. Third, there is so much more we need to do but we have limited resources and people to accomplish everything that would really improve our profession. And lastly, veterinarians are the greatest people in the world, and that is true around the world."

It is for these reasons that Beaver would like to see the veterinary demographics stay balanced.

"Members of both genders have much to contribute to the profession and I would hate for the profession to swing as far to the female side as it was to the male side previously," she said.

Regardless of what enrollment trends do in the future, women such as these have made a big impact on veterinary medicine, and the ripples from that one rock will continue to open doors of opportunity.

Today, female students make up the largest part of veterinary college enrollment at Texas A&M.

1963



There are now nearly 40,000 female veterinarians in the United States.

V. REPRODUCING REPRODUCTION

When most people think about cloning, they think about the nightmares created in movies like *Star Wars* with its cloned warriors or genetic experiments gone awry. However, cloning research is far from that, and actually holds a lot of promise for the future.



Researchers at Texas A&M CVM cloned more species than any other institution in the world.

"In the early days, we used cells collected from embryos because these have not yet differentiated and we knew they worked well for cloning animals" said Dr. Mark Westhusin, Professor at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. However, this all changed in 1997 when a group of scientists from Scotland reported the birth of a cloned sheep (Dolly) using cells obtained from an adult animal. "After Dolly was born we completely switched our research focus to using cells obtained from live animals".

In 1999, Dr. Westhusin and a team of experts at the CVM had the opportunity to clone a steer named Chance. At the time, Chance was more than 20 years old and represented the oldest animal that scientists had ever tried to clone. A series of experiments were conducted to specifically answer questions regarding the utilization of cells derived from old animals on chromosome structure in the resulting cloned animals, and to determine whether these individuals would age normally and be healthy.

The cloned bull, named Second Chance, provided the answers.

"What we learned with Chance is that cloning was possible using cells derived from extremely old animals," said Westhusin. "In addition, Second Chance did not exhibit any signs of premature aging, is healthy and his chromosomes appeared normal. He is now 7 years old. However, it is important for people to realize environmental factors have a big impact on individual animals. For example, while Second Chance has a lot of the same physical characteristics as the original Chance, he does not look exactly the same and tends to exhibit a more aggressive personality. That's why often times people think having their pet cloned is a way to get their pet back after it dies, but the clones don't always look like or act like the original."

Another milestone occurred in 2001 when Dr. Westhusin and his colleague Dr. Duane Kraemer cloned the world's first cat, named CC. CC has lived with Dr. Kraemer, a professor at the CVM, since that time, and in 2006 had a litter of three kittens.

Researchers at the CVM have also examined practical applications for cloning, including conservation and genetic engineering for production enhancement.

A Black Angus bull that was part of a herd of cattle bought for brucella research was determined to have a genetically based resistance to the disease. Over the course of two decades, breeding studies were carried out to determine if natural resistance to the disease was heritable. The bull, called Bull 86, died in 1996 of natural causes and no semen was available for artificial insemination, so it appeared that the genetics he carried for brucella resistance were gone as well.

However, in 1985, fibroblast cell lines had been established and frozen for future genetic study. In a first of its kind cloning attempt, Dr. Westhusin and his colleagues utilized these cells to produce a cloned calf.

"Bull 86 was a very unique animal," recalls Westhusin. "He was proven through stringent testing to be genetically resistant to brucellosis.

CC was introduced in 2001 as the world's first cloned cat.



No one knew if we could be successful with cells that had been frozen for more than 20 years. Today, we have Bull 86 Squared as proof of what we can accomplish. Not only do we have a living clone, but he has also proven to have the same genetic resistance to brucellosis as the original donor.”

Lessons like these can make a big impact on production animals. The more we understand reproduction and genetics, scientists and veterinarians will be able to develop new tools to fight against diseases that can have a harmful effect on the food supply.

Although cloning is still a relatively new science, many look to it as the solution that will save endangered species, or to save blood lines of herds that have been developed over generations.

“When an outbreak of foot and mouth disease occurred in the United Kingdom,” added Westhusin, “whole herds had to be rapidly depopulated to stop the spread of the disease. Some of these herds had been bred by the same family for generations. It was a tragic situation to see these families lose everything they had and have to go back to square one. Cloning may one day provide an opportunity for ranchers to protect the bloodlines they have worked so hard to develop by allowing them to preserve genetic material. In the event of the introduction of an infectious disease that would require state veterinarians to depopulate entire herds, the genetic material would be there to help these ranchers recover faster.”

Conservationists see cloning working the same way for endangered species. The difficulty is not all species are easy to clone. There are many steps in the cloning process and all of them are dependent on timing.

“Cloning is still a very inefficient process,” said Westhusin. “While we know a lot about it, and we understand the methods, only 1 out of every 10 embryos results in a live offspring. It is also an expensive process, and therefore not always a practical option, particularly with those species where alternative methods such as artificial

insemination or in vitro fertilization are available.”

Texas A&M has cloned more species than any institution in the world. Since 1999 researchers have cloned cattle, swine, a goat, and horses, as well as the world’s first white-tailed deer and cat.

As a research topic, cloning has come a long way, yet its real promise may lie more in genetic engineering applications.

Numerous research projects have demonstrated that breast cells can be genetically engineered to produce certain proteins in milk that can be isolated and utilized by pharmaceutical companies in the manufacture of medications. In addition, genetic engineering is leading scientists to new understandings of resistance to diseases such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or mad-cow disease.

“We are currently learning how genes work to suppress the prion proteins responsible for BSE,” said Westhusin, “and then how we can pass those genetic traits on to the offspring. This could enable us to have a genetic solution for the potential threat of BSE on our food supply.”

Although still in its infancy, the science of animal cloning will continue to make a significant impact on animal and human health for decades to come. 🐾



CC now lives in a private residence and recently gave birth to three healthy kittens.

Dewey, named for cloning expert Dr. Duane Kraemer, is the world’s first cloned white tail deer.



The immaculate entry way of the Stevenson Center, complete with plush furnishings, warmly welcomes visitors with the impression of home. But the residents of this home are not your usual human inhabitants. Thirteen dogs, nine cats, and one cranky llama ("you have to visit him in a wet suit") call the center home.

These animals came to live at the center when their owners were no longer able to care for them, either because of death or illness. The Stevenson Center is one of a kind. In return for establishing a permanent endowment, a person's animals will be cared for in a home-like setting for the remainder of its life. The Center is completely funded by private contributions and the income from endowments. Estimated operating costs run close to \$250,000 annually.

The center was the vision of Dr. E. W. "Ned" Ellett, former head of the Small Animal Clinic, who saw a need for such a facility. With generous donations from Mrs. Madlin Stevenson and the Luse Foundation, the vision became reality and opened its doors to pet owners across Texas and the entire United States in 1993.

In the 14 years since its establishment, the list of pets enrolled in the program has grown to 294, some of which are from other states. The building has also grown; additions made in 2004 allow the center to house up to 60 pets. But the mission of the center has not changed.

"The Stevenson Center still gives owners peace of mind because they know their pets are going to be cared for the way they would want," Assistant to the Director of the Stevenson Center, Ellie Greenbaum, said.

The center's staff, which includes three live-in student workers, works around the clock to provide the animals with the care they need.

"We have the crème de la crème of student workers," says Greenbaum. "Our students feed the animals, groom them, and give them the

attention and medication they need—it is as close to a home environment as possible."

One of the student workers, Jordan Speir, has worked at the Stevenson Center for three years and lived there for the past year. She graduated a year early with her bachelor's degree in biomedical science and will enter veterinary college this fall at Texas A&M University.



Jordan Speir (right) enjoys some recreation with a Stevenson Center Resident.

Pets like this Boston Terrier have a warm and loving place to go after their owners pass away.



As the daughter of two veterinarians, she has been exposed to the medical side of working with animals, but living at the Stevenson Center has allowed her to experience living with geriatric pets.

"This experience will be invaluable to me in the future because I will be able to empathize more with my clients," Speir said.

Living at the center does require a large amount of work (twice a day feedings can take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour), but Speir says it is worth all of the effort.

"There are no cons to living here, except for when an animal becomes sick, or we lose one, because they are like our own," Speir said.

The compassion and care given at the Stevenson Center has attracted attention around the country from others desiring to replicate this unique facility. However, through the efforts of the staff and students at the center, the facility remains second to none, and reminds us that "there is no place like home."

A NEW DEFINITION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

When most people think about first responders, they conjure up images of firemen, paramedics and policemen. The events of 9/11 brought these community heroes and their stories into the limelight. However, for many years, another group of professionals has quietly been serving our country by protecting its food supply – the food animal veterinarian.

This special group of veterinary practitioners specializes in the care of cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and poultry, and has historically worked to ensure the health of food animals from conception to consumption. With the heightened level of security, the food animal veterinarian can now be counted among first responders.

“We’ve always been about biodefense, but on 9/11, the emphasis changed,” said Dr. Dan Posey, Chief of Food Animal Medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University. “The need for increased vigilance is there. The first line of defense against an attack – intentional or natural – on our food supply is the rural veterinarian that is part of the community that serves our nation’s producers.”

With the number of foreign animal and zoonotic diseases (those that affect both humans and animals) increasing, the potential for the introduction of one of these agents into the nation’s food supply is also increasing. The introduction



Dr. Dan Posey and three senior veterinary students (above) load up for a trip to one of the TDCJ farms. The swine (below left) are an example of the types of animals they will see.

of a zoonotic agent into the food chain would not only be physically and economically devastating, but also psychologically. Veterinarians are able to help bridge the gap between the producers and the latest research so that current information about available diagnostics and reporting procedures are quickly disseminated.

“Texas A&M and the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences are uniquely poised to take the lead in agrodefense efforts,” said Dr. Floron Faries, veterinarian for Texas Cooperative Extension. “As a land grant university, Texas A&M is home to the Texas Cooperative Extension Program that has the resources and relationships to reach out county by county to provide education to veterinarians across the state about how to identify these foreign animal and zoonotic diseases. We provide training programs that teach them how to recognize and respond rapidly through a coordinated effort. In addition, we encourage veterinarians to get involved with their county or community disaster preparedness team.”

Veterinary medical students at Texas A&M are taught early on about preparedness and the importance of rapid reporting. In many cases, it is not just about the health of populations of animals at stake. It could be a matter of public health with a tremendous economic impact as well.

A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Veterinary medicine is not usually associated with criminal justice, but at Texas A&M University, veterinary students are making a difference in Texas correctional facilities—and they have been since the early 1960s.

During the 1960s, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) kept dairy cows that provided milk and allowed inmates to learn to manage the animals. The animals needed veterinary care as well, so the department approached the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine with the proposal of a joint venture.

“It was a mutual agreement between the prison system, which had a need for veterinary care, and the veterinary school because we wanted to expose our students to veterinary care,” said Dr. Derry Magee, veterinarian and professor in the large animal clinical sciences department of the college.

The program, titled the TDCJ Senior Veterinary Rotation, allows senior veterinary students to spend time during their final year providing care for the variety of animals at one or more of the 16 farm units run by the TDCJ.

“In the inception, the prison system needed some help with the dairy,



but then the program was expanded to include all livestock, poultry and dogs," Magee said.

The program has grown to include approximately 16,000 head of cattle, 1650 horses, 30,000 hogs, 1,600 dogs and 330,000 laying hens. There are 24 two-week rotations each year, and during each rotation, three qualifying seniors spend time providing the services that are needed at that particular time. Between 60 and 80 students participate in the program annually and provide a number of veterinary services including breeding soundness exams, palpation, equine dentistry, and deworming.

"There are other schools that have similar programs," said Magee, but the scale is very small compared to what we have here in Texas."

In addition to providing individual care for these animals, students also evaluate population medicine.

"Students look at the problems associated with the delivery of healthcare to 30,000 swine or do an epidemiological evaluation of a disease outbreak in the heifer development herd," said Dr. Dan Posey, another veterinarian and large animal faculty member involved with the program. "We pride ourselves on providing both individual animal and herd level health care to a variety of species."

Posey says his primary role as a clinical teacher is to facilitate learning, which he accomplishes through service to the TDCJ. His goal is for every student in the program to experience mixed animal practice.

"Quality medicine, great client interactions, interesting cases, and diversity of thought are all part of mixed animal practice," said Posey, "and it can all be fun. This service provides excellent veterinary care for TDCJ animals through our students and in turn gives the professional veterinary student the opportunity to become the best entry level veterinarian they can be."

Not only does this program provide experience for future veterinarians, it provides a solution to the problem of a shortage of food animal veterinarians. Faculty members from the CVM have worked closely with a TVMA task force to address the shortage, and this program is one way in which Texas A&M University is making a difference.

"Environmental health issues come up where people and animals interface," added Posey. "It's not just the food animal veterinarian's responsibility but our profession's responsibility to respond. We teach our students about this responsibility and to remain vigilant, and not to be the veterinarian that didn't make the call."

The most important impact that the new emphasis has made on the veterinary profession is how future veterinarians are trained. At Texas A&M University, this includes integrating six important topics from the classroom to clinical application. These are bioterrorism, alternative food production (aquaculture, organics), food safety, environmental health, regulatory medicine and animal welfare associated with food animals. By introducing these concepts in the early stages, and then incorporating them in their clinical training, it gives students the opportunity to put

into practice what they learn from lecture.

"By providing our students with a well rounded exposure to the food animal production industry, they will be better prepared for the veterinary careers of tomorrow," said Posey. "Already the food industry is coming under increased scrutiny from society, and these corporations want to be able to have source and age verification on the animals processed. They are learning very quickly that veterinarians specializing in food animals are good arbitrators and synthesizers of information. It's in areas like this where there will be an increasing demand for the food animal veterinarian."

While the title of first responder may be new to food animal veterinarians, the role and the responsibility are not. They will continue to quietly serve so that the meat, eggs, and milk Americans eat and drink continue to be among the safest in the world.



Students in the TDCJ Senior Veterinary Rotation provide a number of services to animals serving in the correctional system.



BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES SPOTLIGHT

Growing up in the small town of Breckenridge, Texas (population 6,800), Barbara Medina had no idea that her big dreams would eventually take her 300 miles south to Texas A&M University. But the journey here has not been an easy one.

A first-generation college student, Medina decided to take things gradually before she stepped out on her own. She remained at home, and with the goal of being a medical doctor as her motivation, she began to take classes at the local Cisco Junior College.

"Being close to home allowed me to work more and save money for college," she said.

She eventually reached the point that the Cisco campus did not offer the courses she needed, but she was not deterred. Instead, she began to make the hour long commute to Abilene twice a week, where the CJC Abilene campus offered a wider range of science classes.

"They offered more classes like histology and immunology that give you a better foundation for continuing your education at a larger university," Medina said.

All of her hard work and dedication were ideal preparation for the career she had chosen, but it was a botany professor, Dr. Debbie Barton, at the Cisco campus that pointed her in the right direction.

"She suggested that I apply to the 2+2 program in conjunction with the Biomedical Sciences program at Texas A&M University, and I am so glad that I did because it gave me a solid start," Medina said.

The 2+2 program allows students to make a seamless transition from participating junior colleges to the undergraduate program at Texas A&M University. Students must maintain a cumulative 3.6 GPA, or above, in their community college courses, must not have any grade below a B in all of their "common body of knowledge" science and math course work, and must be eligible for graduation from the community college. Students who meet these requirements and complete the approved degree plan as full-time students will be admitted to the BIMS program.

Biomedical Sciences is the largest major on the



Texas A&M University campus, with approximately 2,000 students enrolled. Most students pursuing this degree are preparing for a career in the health field, which includes such professions as medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, nursing, ophthalmology and dentistry.

Medina's decision to participate in the program led her to Aggieland, where she is still pursuing her goal of becoming a medical doctor as a part of the Class of 2008.

"I like the biomedical sciences program at Texas A&M because it challenges me in so many ways and gives me a sense of accomplishment when I complete a difficult course," she said. "I would recommend this program to anyone pursuing a career in medicine."

Medina plans to graduate with her bachelor's degree in biomedical science in May of 2008, and she hopes to continue her education by entering medical school in the fall of 2008.

"I would like to go to medical school, start a family practice in my home town for a few years, and then go back to school and specialize," she said.

With the determination she has already shown, her advisor has no doubt that she will achieve her goals.

"We are so pleased to have students like Barbara Medina in our biomedical sciences program because they are both intelligent and hard-working," said Dr. Skip Landis, director of the biomedical science program. "They are such an asset to our program, and we are fortunate to have the 2+2 agreements to bring them to Texas A&M University."

Barbara Medina plans on taking her Biomedical Sciences training to medical school and then back to Breckenridge.

Each spring, first-year veterinary students at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences receive the outward symbol of their commitment to the veterinary profession. It is a garment that will mark their profession for the remainder of their career—the white coat.



At the completion of their first year, these veterinary students proudly sport off their newly received white coats.

This year's ceremony took place in the Ray Auditorium of the business school, and nearly 500 family and friends filled the auditorium to capacity as 127 students received their white coats.

"The ceremony is analogous to commencement because it marks their progress in the profession," said Les Fiechtner, Director of Student Services for the Professional Program and coordinator of the event. "It is a right of passage." To earn the white coat, students must pass their first semester of veterinary school, a semester that has a reputation for being extremely difficult.

The fund for the white coats is made possible by an endowment given by Jeanne Fairweather, M.D. Fondly known around the college as the "white coat doctor," Fairweather enthusiastically supported the students in their endeavors until her death in 2006.

"It is so important to always be professional in appearance and actions," Fairweather wrote to students. "Putting on the white coat today should remind you of the honor and privilege you have

to become a part of the veterinary profession and part of the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine legacy."

With her generosity, Fairweather has helped build this legacy and set an example for future generations of veterinary students.

"She was a sweet lady, and the veterinary students became her family," said Fiechtner. "Her contributions will never be forgotten."

out-stand-ing—adj. marked by superiority or distinction; excellent; distinguished

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Since the veterinary college at Texas A&M University was established in 1916, over 6000 students have graduated with their veterinary degree. They have gone on to achieve excellence in many fields, but a few of them have stood above the rest. Over the past 27 years, the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has honored these outstanding alumni, who are nominated by their peers for making significant contributions to society through veterinary medicine. This year, five former students were chosen to be honored for their accomplishments at the Outstanding Alumni banquet held March 23 at the Miramont County Club in Bryan.

Dr. Christian R. Abee, Class of '71, established himself as an international leader in laboratory animal medicine and comparative medicine research, particularly research on the reproductive biology of nonhuman primates and animal models of human disease.

Abee is currently the R. Lee Clark Professor and Chair in the Department of Veterinary Sciences at the Michale E. Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. His current work



Dr. H. Richard Adams (above) and Dr. Anton Hoffman (below) congratulate students during the White Coat ceremony.



includes five research grants totaling over \$13 million.

Abee has authored 67 scientific publications and a chapter in a book on nonhuman primate research, and he has also served as editor of two more books on the same subject.

Dr. Michael G. Groves, Class of '64, spent the first 26 years of his career as a soldier scientist with the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps where he was active in infectious disease research. Groves has played a central role in guiding research on the protection of deployed military personnel from infectious disease.

In 1990, he joined the faculty at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine where he served as both department head and director of the state veterinary medical diagnostic laboratory until chosen to be the dean of the veterinary medical school. He retired in 2006 and was granted the title of Dean Emeritus.

Dr. Kristy Murray, Class of '98, graduated from Texas A&M University with her DVM in 1998, but her career began a year earlier with the Centers for Disease Control in 1997 as an epidemiology elective student studying rabies vaccine failures in companion animals. Her work there earned her a postdoctoral fellowship, and she remained with the CDC in Atlanta, Georgia until 2002.

After graduation, she was accepted into the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) at the CDC. As an EIS officer, she traveled the world from New York City to Wyoming to Ireland, working on illnesses from West Nile virus to bubonic plague to unexplained illnesses and deaths in heroin users.

In 2001, Murray was chosen as EIS Officer of the Decade for the organization's 50th anniversary celebration—the only veterinarian to receive this honor.

Following her two years of service with the EIS, Murray went to work as a veterinary medical epidemiologist with the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine at the CDC where she focused on bioterrorism defense.



Dr. Christian R. Abee



Dr. Dr. Michael G. Groves



Dr. Donald L. Ross



Dr. Kristy Murray

She currently serves as an assistant professor of epidemiology at the Center for Infectious Diseases at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

Dr. Donald L. Ross, Class of '67, began his career in veterinary medicine with the U.S. Air Force in 1967, assigned to the Military Working Dog Hospital. For three years, Ross performed dental services for the canines and developed his dental skills by working with the base endodontist.

Upon leaving the armed services, Ross earned his master's degree in dentistry in 1972. After graduation, he opened the Houston Veterinary Dental Clinic that continues to provide dental care for small animals in the Houston area.

Ross has authored dental chapters in four textbooks, had articles published in several veterinary journals, has lectured widely and mentored many veterinary dentists during his time in practice. Because of his efforts, his peers have dubbed him "The Father of Veterinary Dentistry in Texas."



Dr. Charles R. Wiseman

After earning his DVM, **Dr. Charles R. Wiseman**, Class of '59, returned to his home town of San Antonio to open a small animal private practice, serving the Bexar County area for the next 37 years, including a stint as president of the Bexar County Veterinary Medical Association.

Wiseman's generosity with both his time and financial support has contributed greatly to Texas A&M University and the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. In addition to providing an endowed scholarship and endowing a chair in cardiology at the CVM, he is also providing the funding for a new façade for the former small animal teaching hospital. His leadership as chair of the CVM "One Spirit One Vision" campaign was key to its success. Wiseman has also been an integral part of the 12th Man Foundation and endowed a Presidential Scholarship in memory of his daughter, Polly Wiseman Franklin '86.

For full biographies of these outstanding alumni, please visit our website at www.cvm.tamu.edu/alumni.

RESEARCH AT ITS BEST

Vinayak Brahmakshatriya proudly receives his first place award.



Searching for better solutions to global threats, the United States Department of Homeland Security held the first ever DHS University Network Research and Education Summit in Washington D. C. on March 14-16. The goal was to provide a platform for the presentation of research by several designated university-based centers for homeland security. Texas A&M is a base center for the National Center for Foreign Animal & Zoonotic Disease Defense – one of six centers of excellence in the country.

Representing Texas A&M University, and the FAZD Center, Vinayak Brahmakshatriya presented his

poster "The Evaluation in Chickens of a Live Attenuated NS1 Mutant Avian Influenza Virus (AIV) Vaccine". Not only did Brahmakshatriya walk away with first place in the poster presentation competition out of 39 entries, but he came away with a stronger sense of the impact his research will have on the world.

"The entries came from varied fields," said Brahmakshatriya. "And they represented centers based at universities across the country. The competition helped me to streamline my research findings and more importantly, how to present the results and their significance to an audience of varied background."

Brahmakshatriya arrived in the United States after completing a bachelors degree in veterinary science in India. After his earning his masters degree from the University of Delaware, he traveled to Aggieland.

"I am working on a Ph. D. in poultry science under the mentorship of Dr. Blanca Lupiani and Dr. Sanjay Reddy," said Brahmakshatriya. "After I finished my masters, I was interested in the research carried out in Dr. Reddy's lab here at Texas A&M, and thought it would be a great place specifically in the area of my research."

After completing his Ph. D., Brahmakshatriya would like to continue his work in virology.

"One really important thing that I have learned after attending the conference," added Brahmakshatriya, "was that the impact of your research is what really matters. One needs to keep that in mind while working on a project. Posters and presentations give one the opportunity to evaluate the significance and applicability of his or her research."

LEGISLATIVE GUESTS

The first week in April saw some very special visitors arrive to the Texas A&M campus. More than 30 wives of Texas legislators toured A&M system facilities in College Station as part of an effort to introduce them to the educational, research, and extension programs of the Texas A&M System.

"I believe the A&M System is the best-kept secret in the nation as far as outstanding schools and programs," said Daisy White, wife of John D. White, chairman of the A&M System's Board of Regents. "It's important we reach across the aisle with the wives of these decision-makers to let them know all that we have here."

Mrs. White co-hosted the event with Lou Ann McKinney, wife of A&M System Chancellor Michael D. McKinney, to increase awareness of the A&M System among wives of legislators, who make key decisions affecting educational institutions and related agencies in Texas.

"We wanted to share information with the wives by inviting them to College Station," said



Dean H. Richard Adams responds to questions from the legislative spouses.

Mrs. McKinney, "to tour some of our facilities and hear from program leaders about their work and the outstanding services they provide to our state."

The full-day itinerary included a presentation and tour at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. H. Richard Adams, dean of the college, gave a brief history of the Texas A&M CVM, and how it has changed over the years – evolving into the "One Medicine" concept. After the presentation, the group toured the Large Animal Hospital where they learned about the efforts of the CVM faculty and staff who cared for human patients in the Large Animal Hospital when it became a designated surge facility during the Hurricane Rita evacuation.

"We have facilities and programs that are unequaled anywhere else in the country," said Adams. "We are also at a point in time where we are experiencing tremendous growth, much of which is fueled by scientific research here at the CVM. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our story with our special guests, especially since continued development of the CVM will require strong support in the Texas legislature."

The legislative spouses received a tour of the Large Animal Hospital and were shown how it was converted for human patients during Hurricane Rita in 2005.



EAGLES LAND IN AGGIELAND

The eagles have landed.

Unfortunately, the pair of bald eagles, soaring symbols of American pride, landed in the Small Animal Hospital at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences after being discovered in the



Members of the zoo medicine section of the Small Animal Hospital work on an injured bald eagle.

Brazos Valley in need of medical attention. The raptors, one female and one male, are young, but face a long road to recovery.

"These birds both had portions of their wings sheared off from flying into a guy wire or something similar," said veterinarian Dr. Sharman Hoppes, an avian specialist. "They will never be able to be released back into the wild because of the damage to their wings."

For a couple of weeks, these magnificent birds received intensive wound treatment to preserve as much of their wings as possible. Once they were discharged, they were sent to a raptor rehabilitation center, and then hopefully to a permanent placement in an educational setting.

"These birds are big and heavy and need as much wing length as possible for balance," said Hoppes. "It was our goal to remove as little wing as we can so they won't have continued problems long-term."

Adding to the complexity of the case was a secondary respiratory infection that is common to raptors under stress that was experienced by the younger of the two birds.

"We had to resolve the underlying fungal infection prior to scheduling surgery for the wing repair," said Hoppes. This meant that while the first eagle could be discharged within 10-14 days, the younger one had a longer stay.

With the medications, surgeries, and the long-term stay, the cost for caring for the eagles escalates each day. However it is an important mission of the wildlife and zoo medicine section of the small animal clinic to make sure that no animal suffers needlessly, and that they receive appropriate treatment. Accomplishing that mission requires the generosity of others.

"At the college, we established a special fund that gives us the ability to care for these exotic animals," said Hoppes. "By the time these two eagles are discharged, their bills will total near \$1000 if not more. We are always thankful for contributions to our fund that help us to continue our mission of caring for some very special creatures."

One of the bald eagles (below) is anesthetized prior to treatment. Dr. Jill Heatley (right) examines the eagle to monitor its progress.



AFS UNIVERSITY AWARD WINNERS

For more than 50 years, the Association of Former Students at Texas A&M University has recognized outstanding members of Texas A&M's faculty and staff for their dedication to advancing the University through research, student relations, and service. Honorees, recognized at a campus ceremony May 1, were given a commemorative watch and a \$4000 stipend. This year, the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is home to four of the 27 winners of the AFS University Level Distinguished Achievement Award.

The honorees are: for teaching, Dr. Anton Hoffman, clinical associate professor in the integrative biosciences department; for staff, Ms. Sherry Adams, assistant to the dean; for student relations, Dr. Dan Posey, clinical associate professor in the large animal clinical sciences department; and for extension, outreach, continuing education and professional development, Dr. Larry Johnson, professor in integrative biosciences.

"While I enjoy working with students at all levels," said Hoffman, "nothing beats the contagious enthusiasm of the first-semester, first-year veterinary students. Helping these students learn a little anatomy, and more importantly helping them learn with confidence and meaning, is simply a joy. Most of my time revolves around teaching students, and I personally consider it to be most important. I am also blessed to have outstanding faculty peers that teach alongside of me and wonderful students to work with in the classroom and lab."

At the heart of the CVM is the dean's office, which keeps things running due to the efforts of Ms. Adams.

"My work in the dean's office has given me the privilege over the years to work with so many different people," said Adams. "It is always an honor to work with so many talented people who are generous enough to give of their time and talents to the special programs here at the CVM. Being recognized by the AFS is a testament to the hard work of so many, and I'm truly grateful to have served with all of them."

Providing opportunities for students has been the hallmark of success for Dr. Dan Posey.

"Coming out of private practice, it took a little while for me to find my niche in academia," said Posey. "I found that niche with helping students. Most of what I do is listen and act as a sounding board for these future veterinarians. I am a very fortunate person that I get to know these students and they allow me to interact in their professional lives."

Creating awareness about the importance of science education for youth has been the long time mission of Dr. Larry Johnson.

"This award is really a milestone achievement toward the overall goal of advancing science education among Texas youth," said Johnson. "It reflects the accomplishments of teamwork, and is a testimony to the efforts of a campus-wide committee to promote the value and need for science educational outreach from TAMU faculty."

Whether it be in the classroom, the clinic, or the conference room, the CVM faculty and staff recognized by their peers and students through the AFS, continue to make a positive impact on the lives of others and help to promote the growth and development of the college.

"We are so honored to be recognizing four outstanding individuals from our college," said H. Richard Adams, dean of the college. "Ms. Adams, along with Drs. Hoffman, Posey and Johnson, are a reflection of the excellence of our faculty and staff. We commend them for their efforts, and extend our congratulations to these deserving individuals."

The CVM is home to four of the 27 AFS University Level Distinguished Achievement Awards. Pictured l-r are: Dr. Dan Posey, Ms. Sherry Adams, Dr. Larry Johnson, and Dr. Anton Hoffman.



FACULTY SELECTED FOR BAYER INSTITUTE

The Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) is proud to announce that six of its faculty members have been chosen to attend the 2007 Bayer Animal Health (BAH) Communications and Faculty Development Program in New Haven, Connecticut. In the past, the number of attendees has been limited to two per university, but because of its strong commitment to leadership and communication, the CVM will be allowed to send four additional faculty members to the program, which will take place in June. With a 24-person limit, they will make up one fourth of the enrollment—the largest number of participants that one school has ever sent.

The faculty members that were chosen to attend are Dr. Lisa Howe, Dr. Peter Rakestraw, Dr. Virginia Fajt, Dr. Debra Zoran, Dr. Laura Peycke, Dr. Ashley Saunders and Dr. Kent Carter. They were nominated by administrators, including Dr. H Richard Adams, dean of the CVM, and Dr. E. Dean Gage, executive director for the Center for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medicine.

Pictured below l-r: Dr. Virginia Fajt, Dr. Kent Carter, Dr. Debra Zoran, Dr. Peter Rakestraw, and Dr. Laura Peycke. Not pictured is Dr. Ashley Saunders.



"We chose faculty members whose influence, credibility, respect, clinical experience, role model interactions, passion and clinical application were the strongest," Gage said.

The BAH Faculty Development Program is offered through the Institute for Healthcare

Communications and is designed to present educational modules that address the different communications issues that occur in the healthcare field. Kathleen Bonvicini, MPH, is the project director for the BAH Communication Project.

"We were so pleased with the vast interest of additional Texas A&M University faculty to attend the upcoming 2007 faculty development program," said Bonvicini.

"This reflects a high level of enthusiasm, support and commitment to faculty development in the area of communication training."

The \$5,000 tuition for each participant is covered by the CVM and the Center for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medicine, which was established in 2003 to improve the communications and leadership skills of future veterinarians. Leaders of the college consider this a small investment compared to the returns their students and the public whom they serve will receive in the future.

"The training that our faculty members receive at the BAH Communications program is invaluable because they are now better equipped to give our students the tools they need, not only to be better veterinarians, but to be leaders in their profession as well," Adams said.

Last year, four CVM faculty members attended the program, and brought back a wealth of knowledge about leadership and communications training for the professional student.

"The initiatives and implementation of communication skills training programs by our 2006 Bayer faculty have already made a great impact and further enhanced our entire college, faculty and students," said Adams.

Leaders at the BAH Faculty Development Program recognized their efforts.

"It's obvious that Drs. Blue-McLendon, Hardy, Kerwin, and Posey demonstrated excellent leadership and commitment upon their return to Texas A&M University after participating in the weeklong and intensive faculty development training here in New Haven," Bonvicini said.

“Texas A&M University veterinary medical students will certainly benefit from the inclusion of communication skills training throughout the curriculum,” added Bonvicini, “because the commitment to communication training is evident among most of the faculty and reflected in the administrative leadership at the university.”

The CVM intends to add more communication and leadership development courses with the help of the newly-trained faculty members, and Bonvicini said that the program will provide a starting point.

“By June 2007, the CVM at Texas A&M University will have 10 faculty members trained in the project,” said Bonvicini, “which will serve as a solid foundation and critical mass of faculty leaders who serve as true models for what they teach.”

TEXAS A&M JOINS FIGHT AGAINST HPAI

Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences recently joined the international fight against highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

As a new partner in the Global Avian Influenza Network for Surveillance (GAINS), the CVM’s Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center will play a key role in the HPAI monitoring process.

As a GAINS partner, the Schubot Center will focus on monitoring for HPAI in wild and domestic birds sold in live-bird markets in Peru and in birds confiscated from illegal trade. This project, spearheaded by parrot-conservation specialist Dr. Donald Brightsmith, will involve collaboration with local and international universities along with members of the Peruvian and U.S. governments.

“We have a strong presence in South America because of our ongoing research in that region,” said Brightsmith. “This really made us a natural choice for assisting in the surveillance program.”

Global data collected to date suggests that HPAI may be spread by several routes, including legal and illegal movements of poultry and poultry products,



Greenwing Macaws in flight.

wild birds in legal or illegal trade, as well as by free-ranging wild birds. Consequently, surveillance of wild birds through the efforts of the Schubot Center and the GAINS program is critical to enhancing chances of early detection of the disease so that effective risk mitigation strategies can be deployed when needed.

“Worldwide, millions of birds are traded legally and illegally each year,” said Brightsmith. “The bird trade is big business and threatens to introduce avian influenza into new areas. Our plan is to test birds for AI and other diseases in Peruvian markets and in birds seized during government confiscations.”

Brightsmith also noted that the surveillance program that GAINS is building will be very beneficial to human health.

“Avian Influenza is not the only bird related disease that can impact human health and wellbeing” added Brightsmith. “Salmonella, psittacosis, West Nile virus and other zoonotic diseases can have very detrimental effects on humans and the food supply. As we begin to actively monitor birds for HPAI in the markets, we can also be aware of potential outbreaks of other devastating diseases.”

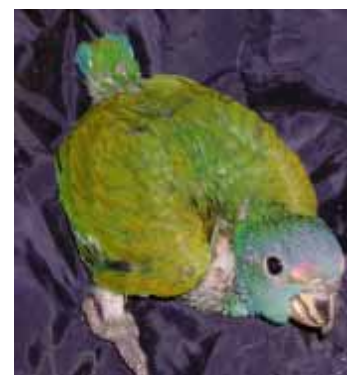
The GAINS program runs under the direction of Dr. William Karesh of the New York based Wildlife Conservation Society, whose mission is to save wildlife and wild lands through careful science, international conservation, education, and the management of the world’s largest system of urban wildlife parks.



Birds like these shown are often traded in crowded markets in foreign countries



CVM researchers will now play a role in monitoring these markets for outbreaks of HPAI.



PRACTICE MAKES (ALMOST) PERFECT

Each year, veterinary students from around the country meet at the national Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) symposium. This year the event was held from March 15 to 17 in Raleigh, North Carolina, and several Texas A&M University veterinary students were in attendance.

Students participate in several competitions, and the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences was well represented in both the bovine palpation and radiology events.

Bovine palpation is one of the more lengthy competitions at the symposium, taking an entire day to complete the process. The first round is a written exam. The written test has a reputation for being difficult, but Koby Reitz, third year veterinary student and co-captain of the bovine palpation team, did not seem phased.

"The test has to be difficult to weed out people," he said. "It just makes the competition more challenging."

The top eight teams from the written test advance to the second round of the competition. This year the second round consisted of bovine reproduction based tool identification and blind palpation of numerous bovine reproductive tracts.

After this round, the top two people from each of the top four teams advance, so that a total

of eight people palpate cows in the final round. Each individual palpates five cows and determines if the cow is pregnant or not. This round is a total of 40 points; eight for each correct diagnosis.

"It is usually Texas A&M University, Auburn and Colorado State fighting for first in the last round," said Koby Reitz. "It is kind of a friendly rivalry every year."

Reitz and fellow team member, Abi Casillo, were the two individuals advancing to this final round. Texas A&M University ended up in third place, but Casillo was the high point individual for the entire competition. Reitz said the team was extremely proud of her.

Preparation for this competition began in the fall when the co-captains Jenny Hardesty, another third year veterinary student, and Reitz organized a series of weekly lectures by faculty members outside of class, culminating in a test that pared it down to eight people.

These remaining individuals palpated cows at least once a week throughout the fall and spring. In February, the team took another written test, and the top six people (four team members and two alternates) were chosen to attend the symposium and compete.

The bovine palpation team members feel that their hard work paid off, but they know they would not have been as successful without the support they received. The cows they practiced on were from the teaching herd that is provided through the generosity of many Texas veterinarians and their clients.

"The teaching herd is a necessity for us to practice our skills, and it is an asset that will give us an advantage in our future careers as veterinarians," Reitz said.

The pharmaceutical company, Merial, helped underwrite the cost of the trip so that the students could compete.

"The financial assistance we received is definitely a deciding factor in who can go and who can not," Reitz said.

Mary Anne Wegenhoft and Valery Scharf practice for the SAVMA radiology competition.



Several large animal faculty members also took the time to coach them throughout the year.

"The large animal clinicians play a vital role in our preparation. Without them, there wouldn't be a palpation team, and we are so thankful for all of the long hours they put in to see us succeed," said Bob Shelton, third year veterinary student and team member.

"Win or lose, the experience we gained was invaluable.

The time we worked to prepare was offset by the education we received."

-Bob Shelton

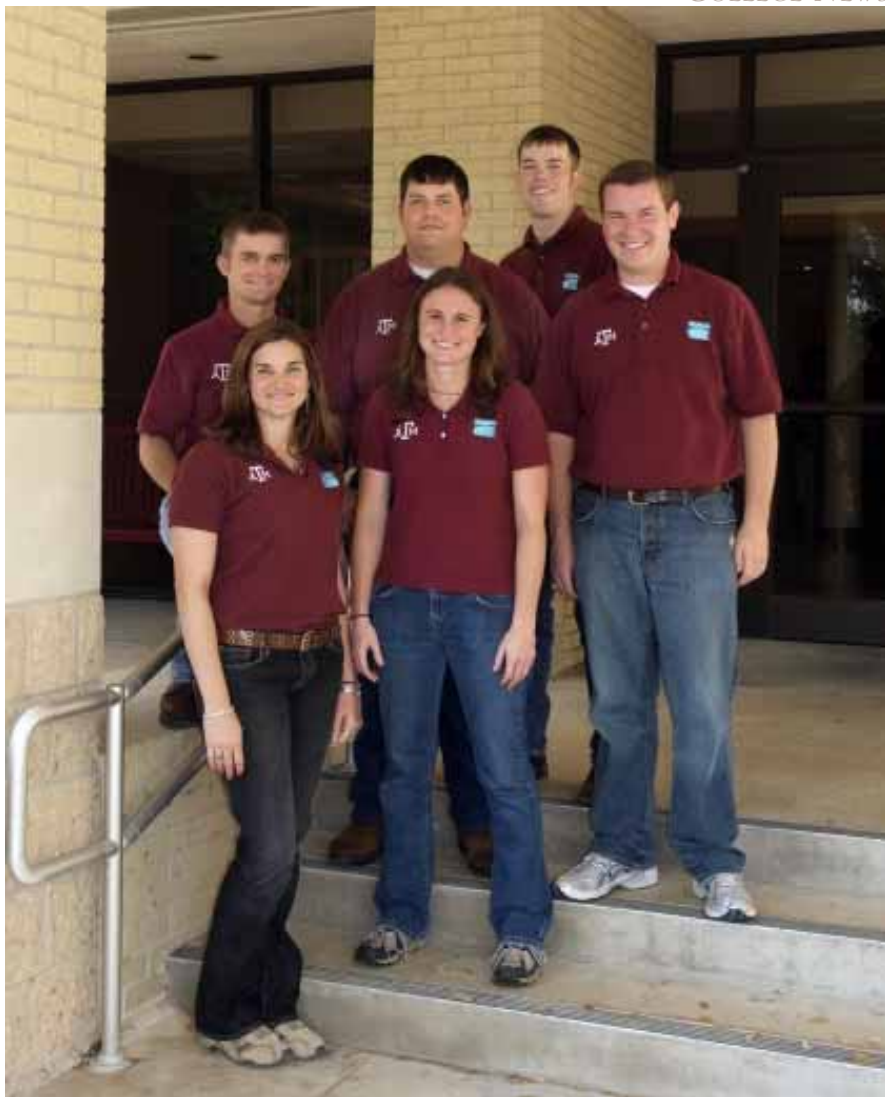
Also competing at the symposium were Texas A&M veterinary students Mary Anne Wegenhoft and Valery Scharf. The two competed against 17 other teams in the radiology competition. For this competition, the students looked at a variety of x-rays from snakes, sea turtles, frogs, dogs, cats, horses, and poultry, and they answered several questions pertaining to bone structures, diagnoses of abnormalities and the technical aspects of radiology.

"I liked the radiology competition because it is about being able to apply knowledge and synthesize information," Wegenhoft said. "The test was similar to one that we might take in an anatomy lab here at Texas A&M, so we felt comfortable with the format."

As second year students, Wegenhoft and Scharf did not expect to do extremely well in the competition, but the pair ended up in second place.

"Our goal was to not finish last, so we were very pleased with the outcome," Wegenhoft said.

Wegenhoft also gave the credit for their success to the professors who have given them quality training.



"Without the good instruction we received, we would not have done as well," she said.

Members from both teams said they plan to attend the symposium next year because the experience is both enjoyable and educational.

"Win or lose, the experience we gained was invaluable. The time we worked to prepare was offset by the education we received," Shelton said.

Reitz echoed his sentiments:

"I like to compete, I like to have fun, and I find palpating interesting. Symposium is all of these things wrapped into one—it's a grand slam."

*Members of the 2006-2007
SAVMA Bovine Palpation Team.*

Koby Reitz 3VM

Abi Casillo 3VM

Jenny Hardesty 3VM

Bob Shelton 3VM

Mark Birkenfeld - Alt. 2VM

Charles Collins - Alt. 2VM

CVM HOSTS INTERNATIONAL VETERINARIANS

The Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has long been recognized internationally as a



l-r Veterinarians from China, Drs. YouGang Zhong, Jason Shi, Xiao-Peng Tang, and YongLan Yu, hope to establish collaborative relationships with their counterparts here at the CVM.

leader in veterinary medicine. It is this reputation that compelled four veterinarians from China Agricultural University to stop at the CVM Feb. 8 and 9, during their trip to the United States.

The delegation made up of Dr. Xiao-Peng Tang, Dr. Jason Shi, Dr. YongLan Yu, and Dr. YouGang Zhong spent the day learning about the educational programs and research efforts at Texas A&M.

"Texas A&M has a very strong international reputation," said Dr. Shi. "We knew we needed to include a stop here on our trip to the United States. It is our hope to build relationships with our colleagues at Texas A&M, and possibly host them at China Agricultural University in the future."

After meeting with members of the CVM faculty, the group toured the clinical facilities of the CVM and had the opportunity to interact with clinicians.

"The facilities here are incredible," added Dr. Shi. "We are very excited to have the opportunity to see them and observe patient care."

Dr. Shi and Dr. Zhong specialize in small animal medicine with their research focusing on reproductive health. In addition, Dr. Shi has been involved in organizing the Asian Small Animal Veterinary Dermatology Conference which will be held in China in 2007, and the World Veterinary Dermatology Congress slated for Hong Kong in 2008.

Parasitology is the interest of Dr. YongLan Yu. Her responsibilities have included teaching veterinary clinical diagnostics and serving in the internal medicine department of the clinic at China Agricultural University.

Dr. Xiao-Peng Tang has established himself as an expert in equine medicine. Dr. Tang specializes in lameness and surgery, serving as associate professor of surgery and equine lameness. When he's not in the clinic or the classroom, Dr. Tang has served as the official veterinarian at a number of equestrian events.

While at the CVM, the delegation was hosted by Dr. Gale Wagner of the veterinary pathobiology department.

"Dr. Shi and the others were very excited to be at Texas A&M," said Wagner. "These four veterinarians have a wealth of experience and expertise, and represent leaders in their profession. It was an honor to host them and begin to build the foundation for opportunities to learn from each other in the future."

TEXAS FIRST LADY SPEAKS AT COMMENCEMENT

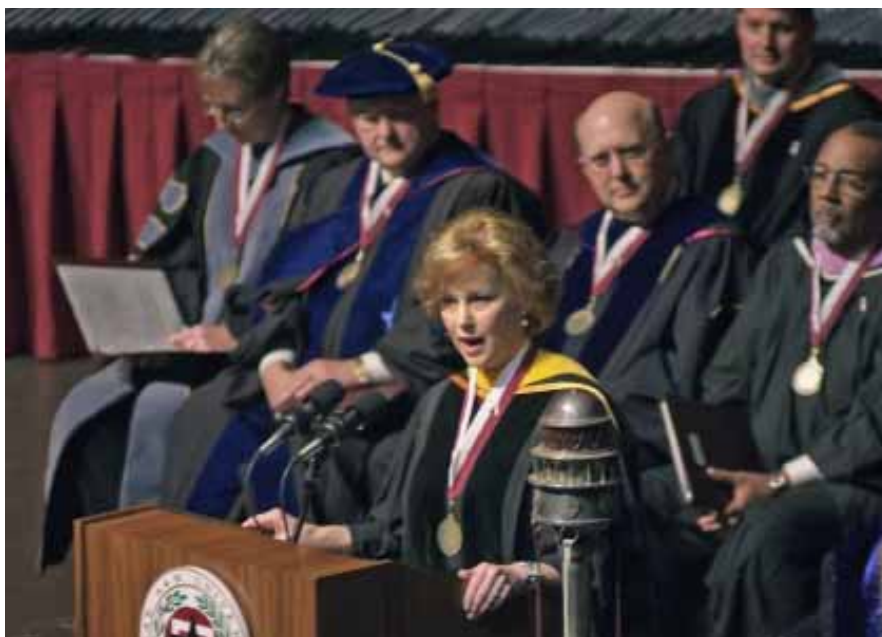
First Lady Anita Perry today applauded graduates of the College of Veterinary Science and Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University for their hard work and the culmination of their formal education. During the commencement ceremony, 127 graduates received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree. Additionally, two DVM degrees were bestowed posthumously and accepted by family members of deceased students.

Founded in 1916, the College of Veterinary Medicine is one of only 31 such colleges in the United States and Canada. The College of Veterinary Medicine DVM ceremony marked the beginning of Texas A&M University's five commencement ceremonies and commissioning ceremony spanning three days.

"As you receive your diploma and walk across the stage today, you begin the next phase of not only your careers, but also your lives," Perry said. "Rick and I add to the many cheers of congratulations for your achievement as Doctors of Veterinary Medicine. We wish you unlimited success on your journey to be a good doctor, Aggie, Texan and most importantly a kind and wise human being."

The First Lady was joined by Dr. Ed Davis, Interim President of Texas A&M University; Dr. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine; John White, Chairman of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, and other distinguished academic faculty and administration members of Texas A&M University and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"The days of your professional practice will be educational and even intimidating at times, but be confident in your knowledge and the instincts you have honed during your time at this renowned institution," Perry said. "Perfection is not a realistic



goal, but persistence is, and the indispensable and irreplaceable wisdom of family members, professors and fellow colleagues will help you on your path."

The First Lady received a bachelor's degree in nursing from West Texas State University, now West Texas A&M University, and a master's degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. She has been honored by both her alma maters, which have set up endowments in her name. The Anita Thigpen Perry Nursing Excellence Scholarship provides financial support to students admitted to West Texas A&M University's School of Nursing; and the Anita Thigpen Perry Endowment at the Health Science Center of the University of Texas at San Antonio, supports the Center for Community-Based Health Promotion in Women and Children.

"Ms. Perry is an exceptional speaker, and we were very fortunate to have her offer our commencement address" said H. Richard Adams, dean of veterinary medicine.

Texas First Lady Anita Perry delivers commencement address to graduates receiving Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees at Texas A&M University

DR. THERESA FOSSUM RECOGNIZED

Dr. Theresa Fossum, surgeon with the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, has been recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.



Dr. Theresa Fossum

“Recognition such as this, by ones peers, is truly an honor,” said Fossum. “I am thrilled to receive this award from the Ohio State University, an institution for which I hold great respect.”

Fossum currently holds the Tom and Joan Read Chair in Veterinary Surgery, and is the director of cardiothoracic surgery and biomedical devices for the Michael E. DeBakey Institute at the Texas A&M CVM. Her work in treating cardiac disease in animals, and the testing of new technology and therapeutic agents has improved the quality of life for many of her patients while providing data that aids in the development for treatment of cardiac disease in humans.

“Dr. Fossum has distinguished herself by pursuing excellence throughout her career,” said Dr. Rustin Moore, Chair of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. “She truly epitomizes the

‘triple threat’ academician, as she is an accomplished scientist, gifted clinician and skilled educator. We are proud that Dr. Fossum is an alumnus of The Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine where she completed her small animal surgical residency and Master of Science degree in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences.”

Arriving at Texas A&M in July 1987 as an assistant professor, Fossum received her tenure in 1993 as an associate professor. She was named Chief of Surgery in 1996 and was honored as a Wiley Distinguished Professor of Veterinary Medicine in 1994. Her work in device testing has led to the establishment of the Texas Institute for Preclinical Studies in 2007, a division of Texas A&M University, which she will assume leadership of upon commencement of operations.

“Dr. Fossum’s efforts in veterinary cardiology and preclinical studies have earned her an international reputation for excellence,” said H. Richard Adams, dean of veterinary medicine. “Her contributions to veterinary medicine, both in and out of the surgical suite, have made a lasting impact on not only our college, but also the veterinary profession. We are very proud of her recognition as a Distinguished Alumnus, and look forward to her continued accomplishments.”



PARENTS WEEKEND 2007



Parents had the opportunity to stock up on CVM gear and support different student groups.



Parents of veterinary students get an inside look at the kinds of things their students work on nearly every day.



Presentations and lectures kept the participants busy throughout the weekend.



IN MEMORIAM

Class of 1938

Dr. Edwin A. Beckcom, Jr., 90, of Dallas, TX died Nov. 26, 2006

Class of 1941

Dr. Raymond G. Garrett, 90, of Taylor, TX died Nov. 19, 2006

Class of 1942

COL Robert H. Haight, 89, of Fullerton, CA died Nov. 18, 2006

Class of 1943

Dr. Lee N. Borer, 85, of New York City, New York died Oct. 17, 2006

Dr. Percy A. Clayton, Jr., 86, of Memphis, TN died Feb. 23, 2007

Dr. Justin T. Pinkerton, of Tyler, Tx died May 1, 2005

Class of 1946

Dr. Walter Elmo Crenshaw, 83, of College Station, TX died March 5, 2007

Dr. Crenshaw's family has established an endowed scholarship at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences to honor him and his memory. Information on contributing to this scholarship is available by contacting Dr. Oscar "Bubba" Woytek, CVM Development Officer or Noell Vance, Development Assistant, at 979.845.9043.

Class of 1947

Dr. John Norton Hunt, 88, of Mount Pleasant, IA died March 7, 2007

Class of 1949

Dr. Virgil Edward Ford, Sr., 88, of Baton Rouge, LA died Dec. 19, 2006

Dr. John W. Gupton, 80, of Richmond, TX died Nov. 23, 2006

Class of 1951

Dr. Wallace H. Cardwell, 80, of Elgin, TX died Feb. 25, 2007

Dr. Cardwell's family has established a scholarship at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences to honor him and his memory. Information on contributing to this scholarship is available by contacting Dr. Oscar "Bubba" Woytek, CVM Development Officer or Noell Vance, Development Assistant, at 979.845.9043.

Dr. Frank H. Sims, 78, of Vernon, TX died March 16, 2007

Class of 1952

Dr. Patrick L. Hubert, 79, of Kingsville, TX died Dec. 2, 2006

Class of 1953

Dr. Rodney L. Hubert, of Fairhope, AL died Dec. 29, 2006

Class of 1957

Dr. Menzies D. McWilliams, Sr., 74, of Rockdale, TX died Feb. 22, 2007

Class of 1976

Dr. Dale A. Hafercamp, 57, of Crowley, TX died April 21, 2007



DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The development effort for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has successfully concluded its second university capital campaign. During the first capital campaign from 1990-1996, our College's goal was \$29 million and we raised \$30 million. This campaign that just ended in December, exceeded our initial goal of \$60 million for the College by 50 percent, with the total giving for the University at \$1,502,861,000.

The largest gift the College received was for \$5 million by someone who had never visited the College. Many of the gifts credited to the College were given by people who had formed a relationship with our graduates as they cared for their pets and livestock. I knew when I accepted this job that it would be an honor to represent our profession, Texas A&M University and our CVM family and students. The trust and respect from donors towards our College has made my job so very rewarding many times over.

\$55,787,293 was credited to the CVM in planned gifts – what an honor and a blessing! To me, the thought of someone giving their life savings to our College after they are gone is very humbling. Just think about the trust and confidence they must feel to leave or invest all they have to our institution to make this a better world for animals and mankind. It's special because they know they won't be here to see how we utilize their gifts – they just have to trust in who we are and what we have done in the past.

I want to congratulate the 12 veterinary classes who endowed scholarships during this campaign. There are at least 10 more classes who are halfway to their goal. This total scholarship effort by our alumni has resulted in approximately \$1 million. The Class of '51, who honored Dr. A. A. Lenert with their scholarship, has over \$150,000 in their endowment. There are currently five students who are receiving financial support from their class scholarship. The Class of 2002, who memorialized their classmate, Heidi Hopps, is the youngest class to establish an endowed scholarship. The veterinary class of '41 is the oldest and I am optimistic that all classes will someday soon endow their class scholarship.

Moving forward for the next couple of years, we still need to concentrate on scholarships for our students because the cost of education is increasing every year. Another priority is to purchase an MRI and a Linear Accelerator and a specialized building to house them. Endowed internships, residencies and endowed chairs are needed to attract the best and brightest faculty and students available. The future is bright for our profession and its' students, so thank you to everyone who has supported the CVM in the past and let's continue to make our Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine the best it can be which will sustain its prestige and reputation through the months and years to come.

Gig' em and God Bless!

O. J. "Bubba" Woytek, DVM



O.J. "Bubba" Woytek, DVM

**\$87,560,999 Total
Giving to College of
Veterinary Medicine
for the
OneSpirit/
OneVision
Capital Campaign**

CONTINUING EDUCATION CALENDAR

		<i>Chairs</i>
July 21-22, 2007	Practical Veterinary Dentistry	Dr. Jonathan (Bert) Dodd
August 4-5, 2007	Dermatology Conference	Dr. Christine Rees
October 12-14, 2007	Clinical Neurology Conference	Dr. Jonathan Levine
October 19-21, 2007	Anesthesia/Analgesia for Large & Small Animals	Dr. Nora Matthews
November 2-4, 2007	Annual Equine Conference	Dr. Jeffrey Watkins
November 9-11, 2007	Annual Equine Reproduction Symposium	Dr. Dickson Varner
November 17-18, 2007	Small Animal Emergency Medicine & Critical Care	Dr. Maureen McMichael
December 1-2, 2007	Annual Exotic Pets Conference	Dr. Sharman Hoppes
February 8-10, 2008	15th Annual Veterinary Technician Conference	Lori Atkins & Candise McKay
March 15, 2008	Annual Feline Conference	Dr. John August
April 12, 2008	Canine Conference	Dr. Mike Willard
June 7, 2008	17th Annual Food Animal Conference	TBA

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Office of Veterinary Continuing Education is pleased to announce the addition of two new conferences for 2007. Small Animal Dentistry, chaired by Dr. Jonathan (Bert) Dodd and a Dermatology Conference chaired by Dr. Christine Rees are now on the schedule. We feel they will be a great addition to this year's lineup.

We had an outstanding year in 2006 with over 164 hours of continuing education offered for 1,611 attendees.

We hope that 2007 will be even bigger and better. Looking to 2008, we will have a new Canine Conference, chaired by Dr. Michael Willard, so keep an eye on our schedule.



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