



Spring 2013



Texas A&M University

A Message from the Department Head

Greetings Colleagues

Another successful semester draws to a close. The spring has been a real one and we are almost anxious for a little hot weather. It must be around the corner as the snakes are out and active. Lots of changes going on in upper administration with new appointments and even some relocations and resignations. TAMU is certainly never a place one could get bored! If you do not like things here wait a short while, they will change, just like the weather!

I am exceptionally proud to see so many awardees achievements beautifully captured in this newsletter. This is truly a very productive department. We may not toot our horns much, but if anyone were to pick up this newsletter they would see a vibrant department in which every level of individual is putting their shoulder to the research, teaching and service wheel and it is really cranking. Kudos to you all!

There are too many of you to even start to mention one outstanding individual's achievements and perhaps insult another for not showing their best side in the comments or photos! What I love about these newsletters that Marcia and Robin create is the clever themes they choose, and the level of detail they capture that demonstrates just how unique and accomplished our faculty, staff and students really are!

We could not be so successful in VTPB without the strong administrative support we are blessed with. Things run so smoothly due to the hard work our staff put in on our behalf. It is only when one retires, like Stevie Bundy, or others threaten to do so too, that we realize just how important they are and how they carry the weight of our department on their shoulders! Folks, our administrative luncheon is coming up on the 4th and Dana is collecting for this special once a year event. We hold this each year to thank and recognize the great job our administrative staff provides to each and every one of you. Please be generous in your monetary donations to providing a lovely luncheon away from this place and a little fun and laughter in another world, Caldwell. Thanks to you all for your dedication and hard work!

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“HOME RUN!”

Outstanding Recognitions



Ian R. Tizard, Richard M. Schubot Endowed Professor, has been awarded the title of **University Distinguished Professor**. This is a title bestowed on a faculty member when that faculty member is pre-eminent in his or her academic discipline, nationally and internationally and has made at least one seminal contribution to his or her field. Texas A&M University selects no more than six faculty for this distinguished title each year. Dr. Ian Tizard's book, *Veterinary Immunology: An Introduction* now in its 9th edition, is literally a seminal contribution. It has been used around the world for more than 30 years and translated into 7 languages. Dr. Tizard has been referred to by colleagues as “**the father of veterinary immunology.**” When asked to share his thoughts about this honor Dr. Tizard said, “I am very honored and touched by this award and by the kind comments of my colleagues who supported it. I would point out that career achievements such as this are only accomplished with the help and support of many colleagues and staff. Even something as personal as writing a book, can only be undertaken if one has colleagues who can take over other duties. So- I would like to think of this as an honor due to the Department as a whole and it reflects especially positively on my dedicated, hard-working staff.” Dr. Tizard was honored by the College at a reception held on Tuesday, April 23.

Batter Up!



Karen Snowden, was in for a big surprise Tuesday, March 12, when she was called to the Dean's Office for an important "meeting." Upon arrival Dean Eleanor Green announced that Dr. Snowden had been selected to receive a 2013 Association of Former Students University-Level Award for Teaching. This award recognizes, encourages, and rewards superior classroom teachers—the individuals whose command of their respective discipline, teaching methodologies, pervasive caring, communication skills, and commitment to the learning process exemplify the meaning of teacher/mentor in its highest sense. Dr. Snowden received this award at a ceremony on Monday, April 29 at Rudder Theater.



Roy Pool, was selected as a recipient of a 2013 Alumni Achievement Award by his alma mater, the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, in recognition of his experience and contributions as an orthopedic pathologist with a dedication to improving clinical veterinary medicine through teaching, service and research. The award reception will be held in late June. The following is an excerpt of the letter that Dr. Pool received: "Congratulations for being selected as a UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine 2013 Alumni Achievement Award recipient. Your accomplishments have brought great honor not only to you personally but also to the School and the profession. This is the highest award given by the School's faculty and you're joining a prestigious group of current and previous honorees."



At the annual College of Veterinary Medicine Honors Convocation held, April 5, 2013 Veterinary Pathobiology faculty and students were recipients of the following outstanding awards. A reception followed the convocation.

In the Research Category:

Thomas A. Ficht – was awarded the CVM Research Leader Award

Scott Dindot – was awarded the Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award for the past year

Christopher Seabury – was awarded the Outstanding Young Faculty Research Award

In the Teaching Category:

Ann Kier and **Karen Snowden** were awarded the Bridges Teaching and Service Awards

Gerald Bratton (former department head) was awarded the Zoetis Distinguished Veterinary Teaching Award.

In the Service Category:

Roy Pool was awarded the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital Clinical Service Award

Residents and Graduate Students

Nicolette Jackson was awarded the L. P. Jones Pathology Resident Memorial Award.

Natalie Jacobs, in Michael Criscitiello's lab, was awarded the Outstanding Non-Thesis Masters Student Award.

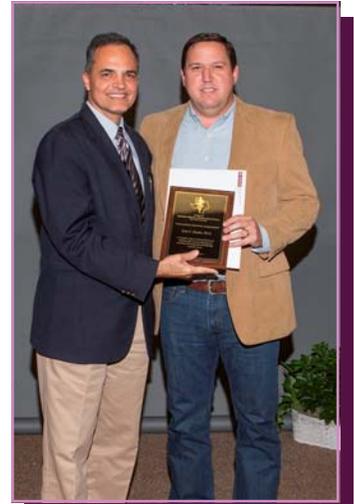




Natalie Jacobs-Outstanding Non-Thesis Masters Student Award



Dr. Roy Pool-Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital Clinical Service Award



Dr. Scott Dindot-Outstanding Scientific Achievement Awards



Dr. Tom Ficht-College of Veterinary Medicine Research Leader Award



Dr. Gerald Bratton-Zoetis Distinguished Veterinary Teaching Award



Dr. Ann Kier-Bridges Teaching and Service Awards



Dr. Karen Snowden-Bridges Teaching and Service Awards



Dr. Brian Porter receiving the L.P. Jones Pathology Resident Memorial Award for Nicolette Jackston



Ashley Seabury receiving the Outstanding Young Faculty Research Award on behalf of Dr. Christopher Seabury



Postdoctoral Associates: (Mentor)

Sankar Chaki, (Gonzalo Rivera), and **Gonzalo Rivera** were invited by the editors of BioArchitecture, the first peer reviewed journal to cover a broad range of aspects concerning cell architecture and its role in cell function, to write a commentary on a recently published article in the Journal of Cell Science, “Nck enables directional cell migration through the coordination of polarized membrane protrusion with adhesion dynamics.” This invitation reflects the high quality and impact of Dr. Chaki’s findings. Dr. Chaki has identified a molecular mechanism that coordinates an “inner compass” that enables directional cell migration. Sankar’s paper made it to the cover page of Journal of Cell Science!

<http://jcs.biologists.org/content/126/7.cover-expansion>.

Jessica Hokamp, (Mary Nability) won 1st place in the Outstanding Postdoctoral Platform Presentation at the CVM Graduate Student and Postdoc Research Symposium.

Sarah Schneider, (George Lees, Mary Nability) 1st place in the Outstanding Postdoctoral Poster Presentation at the CVM Graduate Student and Postdoc Research Symposium.

Gina Lungu, (George Stoica) 2nd place in the Outstanding Postdoctoral Poster Presentation at the CVM Graduate Student and Postdoc Research Symposium.

Graduate Students: (Advisor)

Ryan Doan, PhD Student (Scott Dindot) 1st place, Outstanding Graduate Student Platform Presentation at the CVM Graduate Student and Postdoc Research Symposium

Elena Gart, Research Assistant (Sara Lawhon) has received the AFS Diversity Fellowship for her PhD program, Fall 2013.

Stacey Godbeer, MS student (Sara Lawhon), has been accepted into the DVM Program, Texas A&M University.

Sara Mashoof, PhD Student (Mike Criscitiello); **Zoe Browning**, MS Student (Ann Kier); **Fengguang Guo**, PhD Student (Guan Zhu); **Ryan Doan**, PhD Student (Scott Dindot) received the 2013 CVM High Impact Achievement Recognition Award-First Author Publication Award.



Ashley Peterson, MS Student (Mike Criscitiello); **Krystle Yakshe**, PhD Student (Judith Ball); **Shehnaz Lokhandwala**, PhD Student (Waithaka Mwangi); **Sabrina Vorbornik**, PhD Student (Mary Nability); **Fengguang Guo**, PhD Student (Guan Zhu) received CVM Graduate Student Research Trainee Grant Awards.

Undergraduates (Lab):

Marc Caragea, (Gloria Conover's lab) won first place, for his poster presentation at the Texas A&M Biochemistry and Genetics Society Poster Session, March 19, 2013.

W. Jacob Cobb, (Pat Holman's lab) was awarded second place for his poster presentation W. Jacob Cobb and P.J. Holman. "In vitro screening of ripampicin and fosmidomycin shows significant inhibitory effect of the causative agents of equine piroplasmiasis, *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*." Texas A&M Biochemistry and Genetics Society Poster Session, March 19, 2013.

Ashley Cristiano, (student worker in administration office), was featured in the Bryan Daily Eagle, Saturday, March 30, 2013 offering a grape to a young Texas Tortoise at the Winnie Carter Wildlife Center at Texas A&M University.

Martha Echevarria, (Blanca Lupiani lab) was awarded second place in the Southern Science Symposium: Cell Biology and Careers competition. Ms. Echevarria presented her research, "The Investigation of Simport Matrix-Chaperones for Avian Influenza Sample Storage and Transportation," at the Ponce School of Medicine and Health Science in Ponce, Puerto Rico in November.

Ming Yang, Graduate Assistant Research, in Shuping Zhang's lab.





WELCOMING NEW FACES

Tomas Castillo, visiting scholar from Mexico, in Garry Adams' and Thomas Ficht's labs supported by CENID-Microbiologia Veterinaria, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales.

Jaime Hernandez Escareno, visiting scholar from Mexico, in Thomas Ficht's lab, supported by Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon.

Yong-Zhen Huang, visiting scholar from China, in James Womack's lab, supported by Northwest A&F University.

Felipe Pierezan, visiting scholar from Brazil in Aline-Rodrigues-Hoffman's lab.

Kathy Rector, Technician II, in the Microbiology Teaching Lab.

Alex Salazar, visiting student in Michael Criscitiello's lab, from C.I.A.D. in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.

Sun Su, Technician in Susie Dai's lab.

Ming Yang, Graduate Assistant Research, in Shuping Zhang's lab.

ADJUNCT APPOINTMENTS

M. Scott Echols, BS, DVM, DABVP, Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor, Avian Practitioner, Medical Center for Birds, Oakley, CA.

Barbara Heidenreich, BS, Adjunct Clinical Instructor, President, Good Bird Inc., Austin, TX.

Adalberto Perez de Leon, DVM, MS, PhD, Adjunct Associate Professor, Director and Research Leader, USDA-ARS Knippling-Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory, Kerrville, TX.



FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK TO

Stevie Bundy retired March 22, 2013 after 14 years of service with the department. She says she wants to work in her garden, travel and help a friend with her business at the coast. She also will help her husband, Brett, in his jewelry business. A celebration was held in her honor on March 22. Dr. Holman did a creative slide show presentation based on “Alice in Wonderland,” and made the comment that she didn’t know what was going to happen when she told the students, “Ask Stevie!”



Kelly McNeely, Technician I in the Histopathology Lab, who left in April, for a higher level position.

Carrie Stokes, Technician in the Teaching Lab, left in January. She recently got married and is moving out of town.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Continuing Education

Donald Davis, trained veterinarians on Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area as part of a contract with Borlaug Institute, March 7-18, 2013.

James Derr and **Linda Logan** led a group of veterinarians to South Africa to participate in a CVM continuing education course, African Wildlife Medicine: **Chemical Immobilization Course (CIC)** presented in partnership with Wildlifevets.com and Wildlife Pharmaceuticals. March 15-23, 2013.

Ann Kier accompanied residents, Zoe Browning, Devon Klipsic and CMP Operations Manager Ryan Bird to visit lab animal facilities at the University of Texas, Austin, March 29.

Linda Logan, with funding from USAID regional mission Nairobi, and support of The Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture and The Texas A&M University System, designed A Training Program in Standard Methods and Procedures for Animal Disease Control for 15 East African Chief Veterinary Officers. Dr. Logan accompanied them to Austin, Tx. to visit the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, USDA/APHIS/VS, Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas State/Federal Laboratory; to El Dorado, TX to Eldorado Animal Clinic, Sheep and Goat facilities; to San Angelo, Tx. to the Producers Livestock Auction; Lipan Cattle Feeders; TAMU Research and Extension Center; Texas Vet Lab, Inc; to Del Rio to USDA VS Texas Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program Facilities and USDA VS Animal Import/Export facility; Import/Export Broker, David Winters Livestock Pens.



Informing the Public

Fred and Ross Clubb, Patty Vychopen, Cheryl Chamblee, Tawfik Omran, Cindy Voelker, Diane McCleary participated in a College sponsored activity to exhibit our teaching, research, extension, patient care and service programs at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in Houston, TX. This booth provided literature and information to the public as well as to prospective students.

Appointments:

Gabriel Gomez, DVM, appointed to Lecturer, working 50% in Tom Ficht's Lab and 50% in the Pathology Diagnostic Lab (Necropsy).

Dharani Ajithdoss, DVM, PhD, DACVP, DACVM, appointed to Clinical Assistant Professor.



New Grants Received

Garry Adams, received a grant, "Veterinary Medical Student Research Training," from the National Institutes of Health.

Donald Brightsmith, received a grant, "Population Trends for Conservation Action: The Amazons of Tamaulipas, Mexico after 20 years," from the Loro Parque Fundacion.

Michael Criscitiello, received a 3 yr. grant, "Evolution of Immune Loci Critical in Antigen Recognition," from the National Science Foundation. Competition for funds in the Symbiosis, Defense and Self-recognition program was exceptionally competitive this year.

Michael Criscitiello, was one of four Texas A&M University Professors who were selected as 2013 SEC Faculty Travel Grant Recipients as part of the program to enhance collaboration between SEC Universities. Dr. Criscitiello will travel to Vanderbilt University Medical Center to establish collaboration with Dr. Louise Rollins Smith in the area of comparative immunology.

James Derr, received funding from the Dallas Safari Club for a genetic conservation project to provide DNA collection kits to a number of outfitters and professional hunters in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Waithaka Mwangi, received a Texas A&M University-CONACYT: Collaborative Research Grant "Generation of a Cross-protective Vaccine against Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus." Dr. Mwangi's collaborator is Dr. Jesus Hernandez at the Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo – CIAD, Hermosillo, Sonora Mexico.

Pablo Pinedo, (P.D.) from AgriLife Research (Texas A&M, Amarillo,) **Christopher Seabury (Co-PD)** (Texas A&M, College Station), as part of a team of 12 scientists from seven Universities, have received nearly \$3 million in funding from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture for research on "Genomic Selection for Improved Fertility of Dairy Cows with Emphases on Cyclicity and Pregnancy," in order to search for genetic markers for enhanced fertility.

SHARING IDEAS

(International Presentations)

Scott Dindot – "Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms Regulating Imprinting of Ube3a in the Brain," Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics Scientific Meeting in Melbourne, Australia, Jan. 29-Feb. 4.

Karen Snowden "*Heterobilharzia americana* as a cause of systemic granulomatous disease in horses", authors Wayne Corapi, Karen Snowden and M Keith Chaffin (presenter); at the 6th Congress of the European College of Equine Internal Medicine, Feb 7-9, 2013, Le Tourquet, France.

George Stoica – Taught a course, "Oncology of Wildlife Animals," and made two presentations, "New breakthrough in understanding the mechanism(s) in Parkinson's disease" and "Understanding glioblastoma pathogenesis through a dog model," at the Medical School, University of Transylvania in Brasov, Romania, April 11-26.

(National Presentations)

Fred Clubb – Seminar: "Application of Integrative Pathology Techniques in Translational Medicine Research," Pathology Residents Workshop: "Cardiovascular Pathology," March 18; Wet Lab: "Evaluation of Great Ape Hearts," March 19, University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Fred Clubb – Discussant: "Cardiovascular Pathology Section" Great Ape Heart Project, Atlanta Zoo, March 20-22.

Scott Dindot – "Integrating Genomic and Epigenomic Maps". PAG Animal Epigenetics Workshop, San Diego, CA, January 12-16, 2013.

Scott Dindot - "Epigenetic Research in Academia: Implications for the Agricultural and Biomedical Industries," at the 2013 BIO International Conference, Chicago, IL, April 23-25, 2013.

Ann Kier - "Rabbit biology and diseases," presentation at the ACLAM mock exam at URM, Galveston, March 30.

Roy Pool - Orthopedic diseases of the horse- lectures on bone, joint and tendon disorders. (morning session on Monday January 28), 2013 at the 35th Lake Tahoe Equine Conference, Incline Village, Nevada, January 28-Feb 1, 2013



(National Presentations Continued)



Charles Scanlan, University of Missouri. Columbia, Missouri. March 11, 2013. Presentation/Abstract: “Veterinary microbiology in Afghanistan: Perspective of a USAID consultant” and “Concurrent contagious footrot and infective bulbar necrosis in ewes. A culture survey at a west Texas abattoir.”

Charles Scanlan, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica. St. Joseph, Missouri. March 12, 2013. “Enteric salmonellae in neonatal dairy calves;” (w/R. Harvey) “Disease outbreak of *Clostridium septicum* in Mexican cattle vaccinated with an experimental *Clostridium chauvoei* anaculture. A case report.”

Charles Scanlan, USDA-APHIS-VS Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health. March 14, 2013 and College of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University. Fort Collins, Colorado, March 15, 2013. “Bovine and Ovine Bacterial Food Diseases: Critical Literature Review;” (w/T. Kasari) “Bovine footrot” “Bovine infective bulbar necrosis;” “Culture confirmation of contagious interdigital dermatitis from a dairy cow;” (w/T. Kasari) “Bovine papillomatous digital dermatitis;” “Ovine contagious footrot;” “Ovine infective bulbar necrosis;” “Concurrent contagious footrot and infective bulbar necrosis: A survey of postpartum ewes at a West Texas abattoir.”

Christopher Seabury, “Modern Genome Theory: A Case Report on Enhanced Resistance To Respiratory Disease And The Future Of Deer Genomics” at the Texas Deer Board Association Meeting in Selma, Tx, February 9, 2013.

Ian Tizard, “Uneasy truce: Living in Peace with our Microbiota,” and “Avian bornavirus and Proventricular Dilatation Disease,” at Auburn University and the College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn, AL, April 7-10, 2012

Shuping Zhang, “Prevalence of Bacterial and fungal pathogens in Bobwhite quail,” March 18, Annual Mtg. of Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation, Sweetwater, TX.

Guan Zhu, “Effects of parasites in the gut and blood on wild Bobwhite quail,” at the Annual Mtg., Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation, Sweetwater, TX, March 19-20, 2013.





Student Presentations

College of Veterinary Medicine Spring Research Symposium, February, 2013

Antimicrobial peptide resistance genes are crucial in *Salmonella enterica* serovar Enteritidis infection in chicken oviduct epithelial cells and macrophages. **Mckelvey, J.**, Yang, M., Jing, L., and Zhang, S. (Poster).

Short-term culture of *Cytauxzoon felis*, the causative agent of feline cytauxzoonosis. **D.A. Pollard**, M.V. Reichard, L.A. Cohn, and P.J. Holman, (poster).

Texas A&M University Biochemistry and Genetics Undergraduate Poster Ses- sion, March 2013

Single filament and network mechanics of desmin intermediate filaments bound to nebulin. Marc A. Caragea, Wilson K. Serem and **Gloria M. Conover**.

Desmin filament network bulk viscosity responds to nebulin binding. Daniel Hernandez, Marc A. Caragea, Lyubov V. Dunina-Barkovskaya and **Gloria M. Conover**.

In Vitro Drug Screening of Rifampicin and Fosmidomycin Shows Significant Inhibitory Effect of the Causative Agents of Equine Piroplasmiasis, *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*. (Poster) **Cobb, Jacob** and Patricia J. Holman. (Second place award)



Texas A&M University 15th Annual Student Research Week, March 2013

Single filament and network mechanics of desmin intermediate filaments bound to nebulin. Marc A. Caragea, Wilson K. Serem and **Gloria M. Conover**.

Distribution patterns of desmin and nebulin in primary myocytes and muscle tissues. Laura K. Baker, Lyubov V. Dunina-Barkovskaya, Andy Ambrus and **Gloria M. Conover**.

Desmin filament network bulk viscosity responds to nebulin binding. Daniel Hernandez, Marc A. Caragea, Lyubov V. Dunina-Barkovskaya and **Gloria M. Conover**.

Proteomic analysis in chick embryo models of cardiomyopathy. Jeff M. Hord, Nathan Slota, Kaci Decock, Andrew Liao, Ronita Roy, Emily Anderson, Ana Egatz-Gomez and **Gloria M. Conover**.

Drug Screening of Rifampicin and Fosmidomycin for the treatment of Equine Piroplasmosis. Platform presentation. **Cobb, Jacob** and Patricia J. Holman, (Second place award).

Distribution of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causative agent of Lyme disease in ticks across Texas". Alexandra Brown and **Maria D. Esteve-Gassent**.

The Frequency and Occurrence of Lyme disease in Texas". Juang Pavey, May Bogges and **Maria Esteve-Gassent**.

Undergraduate Research Thesis

Juang M. Pavey, "The Frequency and Occurrence of Lyme disease in Texas" (Mathematics Major)

Alexandra Brown, "Distribution of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causative agent of Lyme disease in ticks across Texas" (BIMS Major)



KEN'S KORNER

American Apple Pie

For apple pie filling, 9" 2-crust pie

6 cups sliced apples (up to 8 if you like a really thick pie)

1/2 to 1 cup sugar (can use brown sugar if you like, or even some maple sugar or honey) depending on the sweetness of the apples and how sweet you like your pie

1 Tbsp lemon juice

2 to 4 Tbsp All-purpose flour (more if the apples are extra juicy, if you use honey for sweetener, you probably should add a little extra flour, less flour if you like a more runny filling)

1 tsp cinnamon

Optional additions:

1/2 cup raisins, dried cranberries, pecans, or walnuts

1/4 cup Praline pecan liqueur or Applejack

Freshly ground nutmeg either in addition to, or in place of the cinnamon

Once I even added 1/2 cup of heavy cream

For an oatmeal crumb topping (you would probably want to keep the filling to 6 cups or less so it doesn't spill over the sides of the crust, or use an extra deep pie plate):

1/2 cup butter

1 cup brown sugar

3/4 cup All-purpose flour

1/2 tsp cinnamon (or nutmeg)

1/4 tsp salt

3/4 to 1 cup Rolled oats (not instant)

Combine butter and brown sugar. In a separate bowl combine flour, cinnamon and salt. Use your fingers to rub the flour mixture into the butter mixture to make coarse crumbs. Add oats and mix well. Sprinkle loosely over filling in pie crust in place of a top crust.

Apple varieties that I like include: Rome, Braeburn, Granny Smith, Cortland. I usually combine 2 or 3 each of 3 or 2 varieties depending on availability figuring about 1 cup of slices from a medium apple. A couple times I found some really big Rome apples that yielded 2 cups per apple.

One of my cookbooks also recommends: Pippins (I've never seen them), Golden Delicious, McIntosh (in my experience they get mushy when cooked), Jonathans, Staymans, Winesaps

Many of the apple varieties that are yummy and sweet for eating fresh don't hold up when cooked (lose their flavor and/or go to mush) - think Red Delicious, Gala.

