

The background of the cover is a close-up photograph of a brass globe on a stand, with a magnifying glass positioned over it. The globe shows the continents of North and South America. The magnifying glass is held at an angle, with its lens focusing on the globe. The lighting is warm and golden, creating strong highlights and deep shadows on the metallic surfaces.

Outside In...
Global Impact on Veterinary Medical Education

Lending a Helping Paw ~ page 4
From Bench to Bedside ~ page 16

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Leaving a Legacy

What a fantastic ride this has been! For almost 11 amazing years I have had the distinct honor and privilege of serving at the helm of your great college of veterinary medicine. During my time as dean, we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences; we established the Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction raising scholarships for our veterinary medical students; we continued to grow the Biomedical Sciences undergraduate program – the largest undergraduate major at Texas A&M University; we added programs that would help connect retirees with the college; and we expanded our reach across Texas through our unique 2+2 articulation agreements between our biomedical sciences program and select junior and community colleges.

We took time to develop a strategic approach to research and clinical programs by focusing on key areas where our expertise was the strongest and had the greatest potential for national prominence, which we called our “signature programs”. To enhance our teaching efforts, we have created a dynamic leadership center within the college that provides support for faculty leadership development, curriculum enhancements, and leadership career opportunities.

We garnered over \$90 million to add several new buildings including a 26 laboratory/52 office wing for the research building, two major renovations of the small animal hospital, a 26-stall equine pavilion, a covered equine lameness arena, and an in-progress imaging and cancer treatment center. Plus, we added a modern 13,600 sq. ft. necropsy teaching theater to finally replace the old necropsy room that was over 40 years old. In addition to new facilities, we have also added over 40 new faculty. What a ride!

The changes in the college, such as the ones mentioned, have been in response to the changes in our profession and in our world. We have encouraged our students to think and act beyond the walls of the CVM and become citizens of the world, whether through studying abroad, exploring job



Dean H. Richard Adams

opportunities throughout the nation, or tackling international problems in animal agriculture. The world is a smaller place now, and our faculty are continuing to seek improved ways to help train our students to become leaders in everyday life or time of crisis.

The one thing that remains the same through all of this is our commitment to graduate the highest quality entry-level veterinarian possible through a four-year professional curriculum. It's a principle that is important to me, and I believe to every faculty and staff in our college.

At the end of this semester, there will be another change in your college. I will officially return to the classroom as my tenure as dean comes to closure. Our new Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine will be Dr. Eleanor Green, one of the nation's leading veterinary academicians, and an award-winning equestrienne to boot! I know that everyone in the college, as well as those who we've always counted on for support, will make the new dean feel warmly welcomed

in Aggieland. Dr. Green is an equine internist who has served as both head of large animal departments as well as director of veterinary medical teaching hospitals. She will be an outstanding addition to the college.

On a final note, I want to thank each and every one of you for your generosity and support of me and the college. While I appreciate all that we have accomplished over the last decade, I realize that it was because of the energetic and dynamic team of people who commit themselves daily to our success. I value the relationships that we've created, and the time we've spent together. Next time you're in Aggieland, be sure to stop by because one more thing will always be the same: the door will be open and the coffee hot.

H. Richard Adams
Carl B. King Dean
of Veterinary Medicine

Lending a helping paw:

Aggie Guide Dogs and Service Dogs

2008 marks the tenth anniversary for the student organization Aggie Guide Dogs and Service Dogs (AGS). Since their formation in 1998, the group has been dedicated to educating the public about, fundraising for, and promoting the training and use of guide dogs and service dogs. They hope to increase awareness about these animals and how they help individuals with disabilities that use them throughout the Texas A&M University campus, the community and beyond.

"The dogs we raise and train are donated to us from many different sponsors and are anywhere between eight weeks to four or five months old," explains Dr. Alice Blue-McLendon, a

clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and primary advisor for AGS. "These dogs can be pure bred or a mixed breed. The main requirements are that they pass a temperament evaluation, medical screening, and that the animal has a medically sound pedigree. Every month, the donors of our puppies receive letters and sometimes pictures updating them on the animal's progress."

Although the group takes a variety of breeds, some tend to be more suited to the work than others.

"We get a lot of Labradoodles," states Kate McClelland, president of AGS. "Labradoodles are a cross

between a poodle and a Labrador and were actually bred to be service and guide dogs because they are very friendly and obedient, as well as hypoallergenic."

Right now AGS has four puppies in training. Three are labradoodles, Deuce, Chloe, and Teddy; and one North American retriever named Hunter.

Once a dog has been accepted to the AGS program, they are given to a puppy raiser. Puppy raisers are members of the AGS organization that have been certified to train the animal.

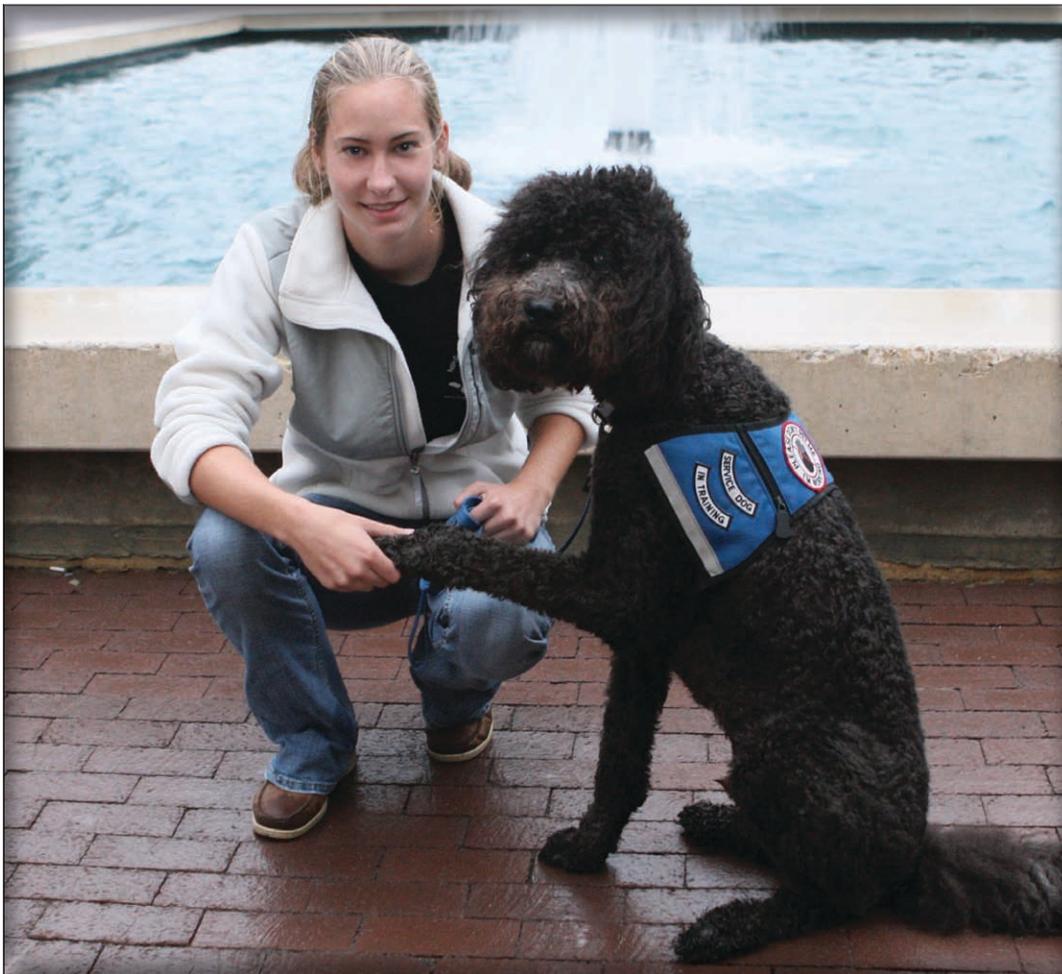
"You have to apply to be a trainer, and it usually takes three months to become certified," notes McClelland. "Not everyone that meets the requirements of a puppy raiser will get a puppy. We simply do not have enough dogs for everyone to have their own, but even if you do not get a dog to train, there are plenty of other ways to be involved in AGS."

Puppy sitters are those who do not have their own AGS dog, but will help the puppy raisers if they are unable to take their dog with them on certain outings or trips. Sitters also help to socialize the dogs by teaching them to obey commands from others and by exposing them to new and different situations and surroundings.

Before a puppy is allowed the privilege of unlimited public access, they must receive their "jacket." AGS jackets have patches, often sewn on by volunteers from the vet school, that read "Service Dog in Training" and "Please don't pet me I'm working."

"It usually takes a dog about 6 months to earn its jacket," explains Blue-McLendon.

Earning a jacket marks a milestone in a dog's training. With a jacket, the puppy has the ability to go anywhere their handler goes, just like a fully certified service dog. Though federal law states these dogs are allowed to enter public places, the puppy raisers



Puppy-raiser Hannah Bateman with Deuce, a soon to be graduate from the AGS program.

are sometimes faced with resistance from businesses.

"We train all puppy raisers to handle situations where someone is restricting their dog's access. In addition to the training, students are issued cards that state their dog is in training and have the same privileges as certified service dogs," notes Blue-McLendon.

Puppy raisers can train their dogs for all kinds of situations. Training can include things like turning light switches on and off, pushing the buttons to dial 911 on a phone, and stabilizing a person getting in and out of a wheelchair. They can even be trained to stand on two legs and hand a cashier credit cards or money by having it placed in their mouths.

As part of their training, dogs are encouraged to take part in a local pet therapy program, "Aggieland Pets with a Purpose." AGS participates in this program by taking the dogs to local nursing homes and interacting with residents. Along with visiting nursing homes, AGS gives presentations with their dogs to local groups and schools.

"Our presentations allow us to increase community awareness about service and guide dogs, what they do, and why they are so helpful to those in need," notes McClelland.

Even with all the training AGS does for, the dogs, it is impossible for them to know what the dog will be used for or if it will even be accepted as a professional service or guide dog.

"When a dog is close to graduating from the AGS program, their handler creates a resume for them," explains McClelland. "The resume includes their background information, the commands they know, what training they have received, and information about their personality. We then send their resume to different organizations and wait to see if they are interested in testing the dog."

After completing their training, which usually happens when they are between twelve and eighteen months old, AGS dogs can become stability dogs, hearing aid dogs, or guide dogs, just to name a few. If a dog is not able to become a service dog, then they can be tested to work with law enforcement. Some of the AGS graduates have gone on to work for US Customs. Though the dogs are tested, not all will make it through their

next phase of training.

Less than 50 percent of dogs that are accepted to formal training will finish, but that doesn't mean they are failures," explains Blue-McLendon.

If a dog does not pass the test given by an organization they can continue training to work on areas that need improvement or they can go to help other people with disabilities.

"We recently had a puppy tested to work with a national organization but after testing it was decided he was not a compatible match for their program," comments McClelland. "He has since been placed with a 13 year old girl who has cerebral palsy and is in a wheel chair. He is very happy, and the family has hired a trainer to help him with the individual needs of the girl."

Training these dogs can be very expensive and puppy raisers often pay for many expenses out of their own pockets. AGS members hold fundraisers and accept donations to help keep personal expenses minimal.

"It costs about \$1,800 to raise each dog. This includes vet bills, training classes, and day to day expenses. We are fortunate that Purina donates food for all our dogs," notes Blue-McLendon. "Also, there are a few local veterinarians that have donated their services, and we just found out that the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital is going to be sponsoring a puppy as well. Any donations we receive are greatly appreciated; every little bit helps when it comes to raising these puppies."



Deuce gets a chance to practice his training during a trip to the mall by handing the cashier money. (Photo by: Jonny Green/THE BATTALION)

Personal donations are also accepted and can be made through the AGS website, <http://ags.tamu.edu/>. Also posted on the website is a "Wish List" which contains things ranging from dog collars to crates. AGS also holds fundraisers to help with the costs of training the puppies.

The students of AGS are dedicated whole-heartedly to their cause. Training these animals is a twenty four hour a day job that requires a lot of patience. They take these dogs everywhere they go; to the mall, restaurants, the movies, even on dates-then they have to give them up.

"Giving up the puppy you helped raise is always the most difficult part of training," states McClelland, who has raised two dogs for AGS, "but knowing that you are going to make someone's life easier by giving them this animal makes it all worth it." 🍀

~ Story by Lauren Klahn

NIH-funded study works to discover new treatments for canine spinal cord injuries

When actor Christopher Reeve fell from his horse, he lost the ability to walk. Reeve, who had portrayed the invincible Superman, was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life because of the spinal cord injury he had suffered.

Such spinal cord injuries can also happen to dogs. When pets suffer injuries of the spinal cord, they may no longer be able to walk, let alone run around and play.

Dr. Jonathan Levine, a veterinary neurologist at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, is working to discover new treatments for spinal cord injuries. He hopes that the treatments will benefit not only our pets, but also one day humans.

Last year, Levine, in collaboration with Dr. Linda Noble of the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, received funding from the National Institutes of Health to study the effects of blocking matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) in dogs with spinal cord injury associated thoracolumbar disk herniation. They accomplish this by injecting an inhibitor subcutaneously, which then blocks the MMPs. MMPs are enzymes in the bodies of humans and dogs that are

responsible for degrading the substance, known as extra-cellular matrix, surrounding cells. The extra-cellular matrix (or ECM) is a collection of proteins and sugars that support and nourish cells. Within the nervous system, injury to the ECM can disrupt the blood-spinal cord barrier, promote inflammation, and lead to nerve cell death.

The intervertebral disk normally acts as a cushion between the bones of the vertebral column. When disk herniation occurs, the disk becomes displaced into the vertebral canal, compressing the spinal cord and caus-



An MRI image of a disk herniation.

ing problems such as neck pain, back pain, leg pain, and muscle weakness. In dogs, disk herniation is fairly common, resulting in 2.3% of all veterinary hospitalizations. This condition in dogs can be promoted by a variety of factors, including genetics, body shape, and repeated physical stress. For some breeds, such as the Dachshund, the lifetime incidence of disk herniation can be as high as 20-25%. Many dogs suffer disk herniation as young adults.

Unlike humans, dogs with disk herniation often have severe spinal cord injury. Although part of this injury is due to direct mechanical trauma to the spinal cord, other factors such as MMP activation are believed to be important. The current treatment for disk herniation in dogs is disk surgery. During this procedure veterinarians remove the parts of the disk that compress the spinal cord, thus relieving any compression. Surgery for thoracolumbar disk herniation is a very successful treatment in dogs that can still perceive pain in the back legs.



The dachshund is a breed that suffers from a high incidence of disk herniation.



Dr. Jonathan Levine

His primary focus has been on investigating MMP blockade, in order to help preserve the extra-cellular matrix and therefore help prevent nerve cells from dying. Preliminary results show that blocking MMPs could reduce the disruption of blood-spinal cord barrier and inflammation after injury, improving the dog's potential to walk again.

Dr. Levine and his colleagues are seeking participants to enroll in this study of MMP blockade. If you own a dog that meets the criteria for inclusion, if you are a veterinarian treating a dog that qualifies, or if you would like additional information

on the selection criteria for this trial, please contact Dr. Levine or Alisha Onkst at 979-845-2351. 🐾

~ Story by Min-Fang Huang

Dogs without pain perception have a poorer outlook.

Although Dr. Levine's approach to promoting recovery from a spinal injury in dogs with thoracolumbar disk herniation includes surgery, his focus is also on improving medical management of factors that exacerbate injury.

Study Criteria

Dogs may qualify to participate in Dr. Levine's study of disk-herniation treatment if they meet the following criteria:

1. Less than a 48-hour history of weakness or coordination problems when admitted to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital of Texas A&M University.

2. Neurological abnormalities localized to the thoracolumbar spinal cord (this will result in back limb weakness without involvement of the front limbs).

3. NO STEROIDS administered (for example, prednisone, dexamethasone, or methylprednisone) within 7 days before admission to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital of Texas A&M University.

4. At Texas A&M, disk herniation will need to be confirmed by advanced imaging (MRI, CT, myelogram) and herniated material will need to be removed by surgery.

CVM opens new equine lameness arena

Adding a new dimension to the lameness program at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, the new lameness arena is complete and open for business.

The arena consists of a 100 foot by 200 foot area where horses can be ridden at varied speeds and through different disciplines. A roof over the top allows for workouts during the rain while the surface features a synthetic Astro-turf material with a state-of-the-art drainage system underneath and approximately one inch of sand on the top of it.

"The Astro-turf provides a consistent surface and better upkeep," said Sam Wigington, clinic manager for the Large Animal Hospital. "The arena also creates a safer place for our clinicians, clients, and students. We're proud to be the first academic institution to have one of these facilities, and among a very few in the nation to have this surface. It will be a tremendous benefit to our diagnostic capabilities."

Combined with the years of expertise in lameness care found on the Texas A&M staff, the arena will be a

cornerstone of a growing southwest regional center for lameness. 🐾

~ Story by Angela Clendenin



The new arena provides a covered, safe place for clinicians and students to diagnose lameness.

USDA Scholarships give a leg up to veterinary medical students

Every year Texas A&M University educates hundreds of students in the fields of agriculture and veterinary medicine. Unfortunately, the representation of ethnic underrepresented students in these fields is surprisingly low.

In response to this problem, the USDA has awarded grant money to Texas A&M University to fund six scholarships for students in these areas. Four of these will go to students in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and will be provided to incoming freshman for the fall of 2009.

The other two scholarships, which were allocated to the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), have been awarded to current CVM students, Carlos Olivares '11 and Jayson Longoria '12.

Olivares, a second year veterinary student, was selected both for his hard work in his scholastic pursuits in veterinary school and during his masters degree program in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, as well as his involvement in the Hispanic Leaders in Agriculture and the Environment (HLAE). He is originally from Mexico City, Mexico, but grew up in San Antonio, Texas.

"I'm honored to receive this scholarship because there are plenty of people who deserve it," states Olivares. "I just try to work as hard as I can to do my best and while the outcome is not always what I want, I take pride in knowing that I did my best and will continue to do better every time."

After completing both his undergraduate and master's degree at Texas A&M, Olivares decided that veterinary school was the next step and that continuing at Texas A&M was the best fit for him.

"All my life I have had this dream of becoming a veterinarian," says Olivares. "I have a great passion towards animals and I want to help them in the best way I possibly can."

Although he spends a lot of time studying, Olivares also participates in a broad range of extra-curricular activities and organizations. He is involved in the zoo, exotic, and wildlife club (ZEW) and the student chapter of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (SCACVIM) and also finds time to play and watch sports and play in a mariachi band.

"I play with Aggieldand Mariachi, which is the first mariachi group to form at A&M, and it is a lot of fun for me," states Olivares.

After graduation he plans to work in small animal and wildlife conservation medicine.

The second recipient, Jayson Longoria, is a first year DVM student from Graham, Washington. He was selected for the USDA scholarship based on an essay contest that included other qualified candidates.

In his essay, Longoria outlined his reasons for pursuing a DVM degree, how he will use his degree to benefit the community, and what his financial needs were for the scholarship.

"My family could not afford to help me with college, so with the assistance



Jayson Longoria uses horses to spark enthusiasm in underprivileged children.

of Pell grants and a part-time job I was able to pay my own way,” notes Longoria. “Unfortunately, my first year in school I was paying out of state tuition and it was incredibly hard to make ends meet. This scholarship will enable me to meet those ends as well as visit my family in Washington.”

Longoria obtained his undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His desire to become a veterinarian is the product of his upbringing on a ranch and his desire to make a difference in people’s lives through animals.

“I’ve been caring for animals my entire life, from sticking my pinky down the throats of newborn piglets to clear out the mucous and rubbing them to life, to saving abused horses as a teenager,” explains Longoria. “These experiences and countless others compelled me to gain acceptance into veterinary school.”

It was also his father’s commitment to horses and his community that deepened his desire to become a veterinarian.

“My father trained horses all my life and he would work with disadvantaged kids in our area in order to keep them off the streets. He would teach them about horses, how to train them, and how to ride,” states Longoria.

After graduation Longoria hopes to expand on his father’s work by establishing a horse-oriented camp directed towards misguided youth.

“Like my father before me, I want nothing more than to give a less fortunate kid a chance at another life. Something to feel passionate about, focus on, and succeed in,” adds Longoria.

In addition to his studies, Longoria is already volunteering at a place that is similar to his dream ranch. He trains horses on the weekend at Still Creek Ranch, a boys and girls ranch that provides homes and equine therapy to underprivileged children.

Dr. Kenita Rogers, associate dean for professional programs at the CVM, headed-up the selection committee to identify Olivares and Longoria for these scholarships.

“We are very proud of both of these outstanding young men and believe that they will make a tremendous contribution to our profession and to their communities,” remarked Rogers.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has become



Carlos Oliveras (left) plays the Guitarron with Aggieldand Mariachi at a Quinceañera.

increasingly sensitive to the low numbers of minorities in these programs. In response to this need they developed the Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP).

The purpose of the MSP is to provide scholarships to support recruiting, retaining, mentoring, and training committed, eligible multicultural scholars, resulting in either baccalaureate degrees within the food and agricultural sciences disciplines or the DVM degree. The scholarships are intended to encourage outstanding students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the food and agricultural sciences, to pursue and complete baccalaureate degrees in food and agricultural sciences, or achieve a DVM.

Drs. Cyde L. Munster and Manuel Piña, Jr. from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences saw this opportunity to improve ethnic diversity at Texas A&M University and thus pursued this grant.

“The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, as well as the CVM, is very

interested in increasing the enrollment of underrepresented ethnic groups in our programs,” states Piña. “However, in order to do this, faculty must take an interest and take the time to apply for these types of grants.”

As a result of this hard work by Drs. Munster and Piña, along with a team of faculty from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the CVM, Texas A&M University received funding for these important scholarships.

“With the grant money we received from the USDA, along with some money each college matched, we are able to provide each of the six students with \$9,000 a year for four years,” said Munster.

Through the USDA scholarship program and the hard work of the faculty at Texas A&M University, both Olivares and Longoria will be able to fulfill their dreams and become valued members of the veterinary profession. 

~ Story by Stacie Kopecki

¿Puede Escribir en Inglés?

Writing course teaches important techniques for publishing in English

When Dr. Manuel Medina Elizondo from the Autonomous University of Coahuila asked Dr. Roberto Tuda Rivas to find the best to help his Mexican researchers write scientific English for publication, he knew exactly who to go to – Dr. Barbara Gastel, professor at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and co-author of “How to Write & Publish a Scientific Paper.”

With this goal in mind, Tuda invited Gastel to his university to give a lecture. By the end of the trip they developed the idea to start a course that would not only help Tuda’s researchers, but would include researchers from all over Mexico.

“Research is not complete until you have reported the results,” stated

Gastel. “The most-read scientific journals are published in English, and most of these researchers have little, if any, instruction on how to write for English-language publications. This was putting them at a severe disadvantage.”

For the next several months, Tuda and Gastel ironed out the specifics of the course and contacted researchers across Mexico.

“The only way we could do it financially was to have the employer of each researcher pay for the course, so we had to contact them very early in order to get the fees included in the employer’s budget cycle,” said Rivas.

In order to make sure they could get a viable class, Tuda contacted 95% of all researchers in Mexico. 200 of them responded and 18 students

made their way to College Station for the first “Intensive Course in Research Writing” taught by Gastel.

“The students we ended up with work in a variety of scientific disciplines and therefore are very representative of Mexican science,” noted Tuda. “We really had some of the best researchers in Mexico to start off this course.”

The result of Tuda’s and Gastel’s planning was a three-week intensive course to increase the researchers’ ability to write papers publishable in English-language international journals. The first class was held from July 7-25, 2008.

“We also covered information about the academic publication process, how to enhance their professional communications skills, and how to edit or peer-review others’ work,” stated Gastel. “I wanted to make sure that the information was as organized and comprehensive as possible and that the course was really worth the time and money for the students and their employers.”

According to Dr. Alejandro Macias, it was. Macias, a medical doctor at Guanajuato University Medical School in the center of Mexico, was interested in improving his writing skills. He had already read Gastel’s book, which he says is the standard for writing scientific papers in proper English, so when he received the e-mail from Tuda he was immediately interested.

“I was expecting to learn a lot, but the course really exceeded my expectations,” said Macias. “Dr. Gastel’s technique of teaching both through theoretical and practical applications really helped me understand the writing process and the common mistakes that I make. I believe it made us all better qualified to write for English-speaking journals.”



Dr. Gastel reviews a writing assignment with students.

Dr. Elisa Cabrera-Diaz, assistant professor at the University of Guadalajara, was also happy to take advantage of this opportunity. Cabrera-Diaz, who attended Texas A&M University for her PhD, was aware of the importance of writing in English for scientific journals.

"Publishing is a measure of productivity in the scientific community, and writing in English was still difficult for me," stated Cabrera-Diaz. "So when I received the information from Dr. Tuda, I immediately thought 'yes, I need that class!'"

She explains how the class gave her more confidence in her writing, and how she feels that writing in English is now a much less daunting task.

"I now know how to better look for reference tools, and I feel much more comfortable writing in English," said Cabrera-Diaz. "I was putting pressure on myself to write perfectly the first time and when I couldn't, I would get frustrated. I learned that I can write and then go back and improve it later."

Not only did the students offer praise for the course, but Gastel was also extremely happy with the preparation for and the outcome of the class.

"I really couldn't have asked for more cooperation from the College. When I approached the dean and the head of my department, they were both very supportive," remarked Gastel. "I wanted to do something worthwhile with my background in international science communication, and I feel that this class really had an impact for the students and the school."

She also praised the students for their hard work and professionalism in the course. All of the students were already doctors or researchers so they already had an extensive educational background upon arriving to Aggieland.

"They were my students, but they were also my colleagues. This in itself made it interesting and satisfying to work with them," stated Gastel. "One thing that really impressed me about the group as a whole is that there was a spirit of cooperation among them. They really stuck together during the time they were here and worked extremely well together."

As the students went home, they took not only the tools to publish in English-language journals, but a desire to help their fellow researchers.



18 researchers from Mexico participated in Dr. Gastel's first Intensive Course in Research Writing.

"I am planning on using the information I learned to motivate the group of researchers I work with," said Cabrera-Diaz. "I want to be a trigger for their interest so they will consider taking this course in the future to advance their careers."

While Gastel is not certain about the future of the program, she would be willing to continue it as long as there is enough interest. But, as far as Tuda is concerned, there shouldn't be

a problem getting students interested in learning these crucial principles.

"English is the language of science when it needs to reach a broader audience," states Tuda. "Learning to write science in English opens doors and creates communities even though researchers are spread around the world. That is why I believe this concept will spread very quickly." 🏆

~ Story by Stacie Kopecki

Writing class leads to publication

Since her completion of Dr. Barbara Gastel's writing course, Dr. Elisa Cabrera-Diaz has had a paper accepted for publication by the Journal of Food Protection.

Although it was not the paper she was working on in Gastel's class, she credits her publication on the instruction she received while at Texas A&M.

"I had almost completed it prior to the class, but what I learned during the course helped me to improve it a lot," states Cabrera-Diaz.

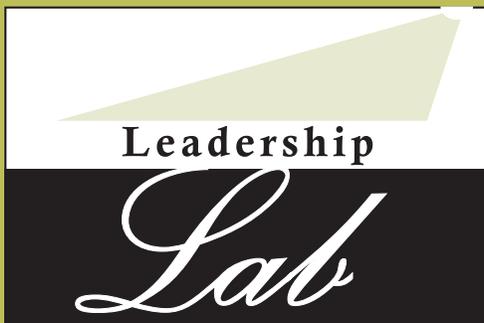
The paper titled *Fluorescent protein-marked Escherichia coli biotype I strains as surrogates for enteric pathogens in validation of beef carcass interventions* was authored by Cabrera-Diaz, along with colleagues Tiffany M. Moseley, Lisa M. Lucia, James S. Dickson, Alejandro Castillo, and Gary R. Acuff.

It was submitted for publication on August 21, 2008 and accepted on October 3, 2008.

"I still don't know when is going to be published, but it takes about 6 months to get the article printed," noted Cabrera-Diaz.



PROMOTING LEADERSHIP



Stories by Angela Clendenin

Fossum assumes leadership role

With the retirement of Dr. E. Dean Gage, Dr. Theresa Fossum will assume the responsibility of coordinating the Advisory Council for the Center for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medicine at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. The Advisory Council is a key link in developing programs that enhance the educational opportunities for veterinary medical students, turning them into the veterinary leaders of tomorrow and answering the future needs of the veterinary profession.

“Dr. Gage left a tremendous legacy of leadership here at the CVM,” noted Fossum. “His commitment to preparing not

only veterinary medical students, but also veterinary practitioners, for the future of the profession is the cornerstone of our mission in the Leadership Center. We hope to continue working with faculty, students, staff, and our external advisory council to strategically plan for the future.”

Theresa (Terry) W. Fossum is a Professor of Surgery and holds the Tom and Joan Read Chair in Veterinary Surgery at Texas A&M University. She is a world renowned surgeon and serves as the Director for Cardiothoracic Surgery and Biomedical Devices in the Michael E. DeBaakey Institute at TAMU. She was recently appointed Director of the new Texas A & M Institute for Preclinical Studies, a 70 million dollar venture at TAMU which will promote public-private partnerships to speed the development of medical devices and drugs. Dr. Fossum’s leadership was integral in

conceptualizing and funding this Institute.

“It is truly an honor to work with the Advisory Council,” added Fossum.

“This group represents the highest levels of leadership in the pet health industry. Having them bring their expertise and vision to the table to work collaboratively for the benefit of animal health and the veterinary profession is an opportunity to make a lasting impact on the future.”



Visioning the future

When you bring together a group of extraordinary people and engage them with a vision of the future, amazing things can happen. It is this thinking that led to the original development of the Center for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medicine at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, and to the subsequent establishment of the Leadership’s Advisory Council made up of executives representing the leading organizations in veterinary medicine.

The Advisory Council convened for its annual meeting on the Texas A&M campus on Oct. 9th and began discussions about the changing face of the animal health industry. Dr. H. Richard Adams, Carl B. King dean of veterinary medicine opened the day by presenting an overview of the challenges facing the future of the CVM. He also asked the council members to consider also serving as an advisory group for the dean of the college as well.

“The major emphasis on leadership in the curriculum, along with an external leadership council for the college, had been a vision of mine since before becoming dean,” said Adams. “And then when I was able to entice Dr. Dean Gage back to lead the program after he had been gone from the college for several years, we were off and running. Dr. Terry Fossum,

yet another outstanding executive leader, will take the torch from Dr. Gage and we will not miss a step as dean-designate Eleanor Green arrives. This college is very fortunate to have numerous highly skilled leaders among its faculty and staff.”

Dr. E. Dean Gage, the first executive director of the Center, announced leadership changes with Dr. Theresa Fossum taking on the role of coordinator for the Advisory Council, and Dr. Dan Posey joining the team as Director of Special Projects for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. The new administrative approach will allow the Center to become a better conduit between industry and the CVM and its students.

Recognizing that the need for increased numbers of veterinarians and thus veterinary students is a problem facing the world today, Dr. Larry Johnson, professor, introduced the Veterinarian’s Black Bag program that he and his team have been developing in order to spark an interest in science early on in a student’s education. Targeted at sixth grade and up, the Black Bag program is designed to provide tools to veterinarians for school visits, as well as curriculum enhancements for science teachers. By exposing younger students to the important role that veterinarians play in our society, the hope is to grow the interest in not only science, but the veterinary profession.

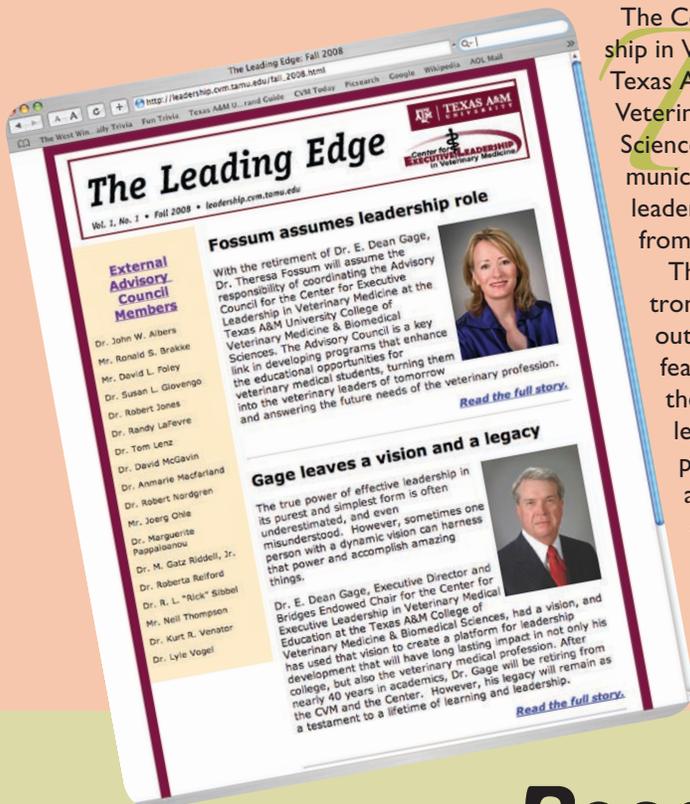
Drs. Rogers and Posey discussed the current state and future developments within the professional curriculum, and how they are working to respond to the changing needs of the profession as well as the needs of the veterinary students.

The afternoon session kicked off with a brief update on the status of the Texas A&M Institute for Pre-Clinical Studies provided by Dr. Fossum. The building construction is well underway, and interest is growing for the services that the staff of TIPS will provide to an industry that spends billions of dollars on research and development of biomedical devices.

Fossum’s session provided a nice segue into small group discussions. The Advisory Council was divided into two groups to tackle the questions of how best to facilitate clinical trials in a college of veterinary medicine and with TIPS as an example, what should the CVM be doing with regards to pharmacology/toxicology testing. The end results that were summarized included that the CVM is uniquely poised to partner with industry for pharmacology testing and clinical trials. The expertise is already available on site, and by locating at a college of veterinary medicine, there is a concern and oversight for animal health.

“I think the meeting was very productive,” said Fossum. “I was very happy to observe the discourse that was going on in the small groups, and the results that came out of them. It’s very important that we utilize the tremendous resource the Advisory Council provides by keeping them engaged, active, and involved in what we are trying to accomplish. That way we can always make sure we are training the next generation of veterinary leaders to have the skills that the industry will need in the future.”

'The Leading Edge' newsletter



The Center for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medicine at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has launched a new communication tool to better share leadership information and news from the Center.

The Leading Edge is an electronic newsletter that will come out at least three times a year, featuring the latest activities of the Center, new appointments, leadership tips that can be applied in any company setting, and links to the latest articles on leadership.

"We created The Leading Edge as a forum to keep Advisory Council members informed of what we're

doing with the Center," notes Dr. Theresa Fossum, coordinator of the Advisory Council. "Since then, we've expanded it to include government officials, university administrators, and anyone who has an interest in our programming."

Fossum also said that the newsletter provides an opportunity to receive feedback on the direction the Center is going, and also helps to keep the Advisory Council members engaged between meetings.

"It is our hope that The Leading Edge will be an important resource for our Advisory Council members and for practicing veterinarians who choose to receive it," said Fossum.

If you would like to receive The Leading Edge, please visit the Leadership Center's website at <http://leadership.cvm.tamu.edu>, and then click on "Get The Leading Edge" to subscribe.

Posey named to new post

As the future of the veterinary profession changes to meet the needs of a growing society in a global world, the need to create the next generation of veterinary leaders becomes apparent. It's the development of new and innovative ways to accomplish this task that led Dr. Dan Posey to accept the position of Director of Special Projects at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. He will also hold the Wiley Professorship of the Center for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medicine at the college.

"When we look at the research that has been done," notes Posey, "some of the greatest predictors of success are non-technical skills, such as team building, ethics, self management, and professional development. The single most important of these skills is communication. It is essential that we find ways to teach communication and leadership skills throughout the curriculum."

Posey will work closely with the curriculum committee of the college to find places to incorporate these essential lessons into classes beginning Day 1 in orientation through the 4th year transitional classes.

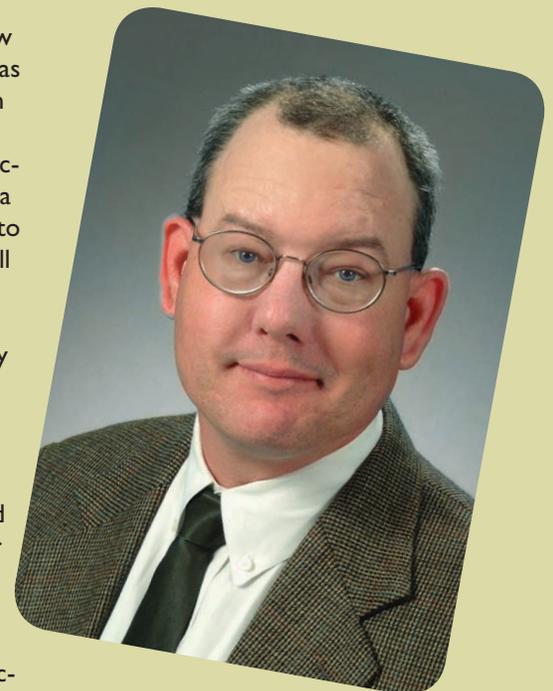
According to Posey, the most important thing he will be doing is working with students.

"Before, I met the students at orientation, I'd work with the ones I was assigned to as a mentor, but many I wouldn't see again until much later," said Posey. "Student interaction is what makes me excited about my job, and through this new position, I have found that there are areas where I can help students at all points in the curriculum."

What began as a career in private practice in rural Madison County, has taken a decidedly different tack, bringing Posey to the CVM six years ago. And while he will still continue some of his clinical service responsibilities, he will be working diligently to develop tomorrow's veterinary leaders.

"This is a really exciting time for me," adds Posey. "And I hope it will be exciting for the students. We have so many faculty that have received leadership and communications training from a number of different places, so as a team we all see the value in incorporating this into the learning process. As we move forward, it will be important that the fac-

ulty sees the benefit to the students, and that they support what we are trying to accomplish. I hope to be able to not only energize the students about leadership, but also provide that same enthusiasm for my colleagues as we work together to enhance the learning environment."



The Future of Veterinary Medicine

Class of 2012 Profile

Total applicants: 387

Class size: 132

90 of the 132 students are women

Average Age: 22.06 (range: 18 to 48)

Science GPA: 3.62

States of Residence:

TX – 122

NM – 2

UT – 1

CO – 1

CT – 1

LA – 1

MA – 1

SC – 1

NJ – 1

NY – 1



Class of 2008 Placement

Class Size: 129

(129 Respondents)

Number expecting to practice in Texas: 93

Number selecting small animal practice exclusive: 46

Number selecting small animal predominant: 12

Number selecting mixed practice: 27

Number selecting large animal exclusive: 1

Number selecting large animal predominant: 2

Number entering equine practice: 8

Number entering civil or uniformed service:

1 civil service, 2 uniformed service

Number expecting to seek internship/residency: 22

Number expecting to pursue advanced study: 1

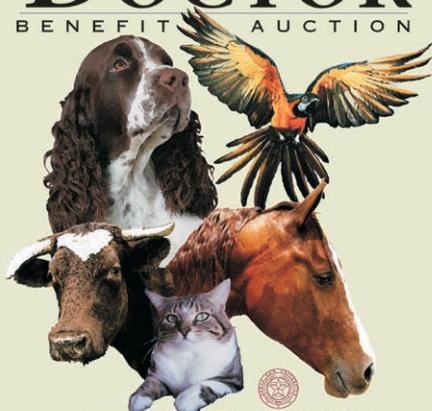
Estimated average starting salary:

\$60,768.83



Gentle DOCTOR

BENEFIT AUCTION



Sponsored by Parents, Friends, and Family of the

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE of VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

The 2009 Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction

Please join us for the Sixth Annual Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction. Income generated will enhance the "Gentle Doctor Educational Program"—a program established to provide support to veterinary medical student education.

When:

Saturday Evening, April 4, 2009

Where:

Brazos County Exposition Center, Bryan, TX

Events:

Doors open for Silent Auction at 4:30 pm; Dinner Buffet begins at 5:30 pm; Live Auction begins at 7:00 pm; Entertainment

For more information about reservations and auction donations, please call Sherry Adams at 979-845-5053.



Research

Spotlight

From Bench to Bedside

Companies that manufacture devices and drugs used in human medicine spend large sums of money in research and development in order to bring new treatments and therapies to the marketplace. For many of these companies, the process of getting from the bench to the consumer brings them in contact with Dr. Fred Clubb, Jr. at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Clubb is Director of the Cardiovascular Pathology Research Laboratory at the Texas Heart Institute in the Texas Medical Center, Houston. In addition to being a professor of Veterinary Pathobiology at the CVM, he also directs the Comparative Cardiovascular Pathology Laboratory for the department. For his students, it's about the opportunity to use unparalleled technology while assisting in Clubb's research efforts that focus on developing and testing medical technology in animals and applying their findings to advance the healthcare of humans and animals.

Currently, four main types of products are subject to pathology evaluation by Clubb and his students. They are working with heart stents, ventricular assist devices, bio-prosthetic heart valves, and special coils that are designed to keep vascular aneurysms from rupturing.

Clubb has been doing research with stents for more than 15 years. His labs play an important role in the evaluation of stents for the Michael E. DeBakey Institute for Comparative Cardiovascular Science and Biomedical Devices in the CVM, and also for faculty in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Dwight Look College of Engineering, as well as the Texas A&M University Institute of Preclinical Studies when it opens next year.

"There are two types of stents: classic metal and polymer," explains Clubb. "We are currently working on the next generation of polymer stents. Unlike metal stents, which are permanent once placed in an artery, polymer stents are bioresorbable, which means they dissolve naturally into the body. The use of stents can often help the heart heal by improving blood flow. If a heart heals after a metal stent has been implanted, that stent will not be removed even though it now has limited use. Polymer stents begin to dissolve three months to one year after they are deployed, which avoids the problem of having unnecessary devices in the heart."

Using the Hawk, a micro x-ray/CT unit designed by X-Tek, Clubb and his students study the effectiveness of such stents. This machine allows for two dimensional high

resolution x-rays and three dimensional reconstructed images of the sample containing the stent.

“We are able to see design flaws that would not show up using lesser technology,” states Clubb. “It eliminates the need for repetitive testing and provides a mean to evaluate the stented vessel in a non-destructive manner. This type of analysis allows us to visualize at the microscopic level the malfunction and design fault within the stent. As far as we know, we are the only group in the country conducting such research with this technology.”

In addition to his research with stents, Clubb is evaluating adult and pediatric ventricular assist devices. Ventricular assist devices are used to augment heart function for a person who is in congestive heart failure and awaiting a transplant.

“Currently, these pumps are limited to adults,” explains Clubb. “We are now working with several biotech companies that have a VAD that can be used in children (PVAD). These will help aid children with heart failure until they receive a transplant. In addition to VADs used for bridge to transplant, technology is now entering a phase where they may be used as bridge to recovery in some patients.”

For the past eight years, Clubb has also been conducting evaluations on special coils that could help prevent aneurysms from rupturing.

“If there is a weak spot in an artery, it can cause a widening and sometimes forms a balloon-like bulge, or aneurysm,” clarifies Clubb. “We are conducting evaluations on different coils to seal the aneurysm sac, thus preventing it from rupturing.”

Additionally, Clubb’s group is working with a company on a new modular bioprosthetic heart valve design that has the potential to reduce side effects and multiple high-risk surgeries that are sometimes associated with these types of long-term implants.

In order for a lab’s evaluations to be accepted for studies conducted for approval by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), they must be “GLP” compliant. “GLP” stands for “Good Laboratory Practice”, meaning they meet and follow the standards outlined by the FDA. The lab must ensure the data regarding a product, and the safety of that product, has been collected in a valid and accurate manner. “GLP” studies are required before the FDA can approve the device for initial human trials.

“Being GLP compliant means our students are impeccably trained on the latest technology,” notes Clubb. “Their standard training is learned at the GLP level, giving them experience in an active GLP laboratory.

There aren’t many academic labs that give students training and active participation at this level of sophistication.”

The veterinary cardiovascular pathology lab is the first laboratory to be GLP compliant at Texas A&M at this time. In the next few months, the lab is hoping to become “GCP” or “Good Clinical Practice” compliant in accordance with the FDA.

According to the FDA’s Good Clinical Practice guidance document, the GCP compliance is intended to act as an international ethical and scientific quality standard for designing, conducting, monitoring, recording, auditing, analyzing and reporting clinical studies evaluating human and veterinary products. Being GCP compliant provides public assurance about the integrity of the clinical study data, and that due regard has been given to patients (both humans and animals) enrolled in the study.

“Once we become GCP compliant we will be able to evaluate implanted cardiovascular devices enrolled in human clinical trials. This means that we can be involved in every aspect of a product’s development,” notes Clubb. “We will literally see our work facilitate the move of the product from the bench to the bedside, thus encompassing the spirit of translational research.”

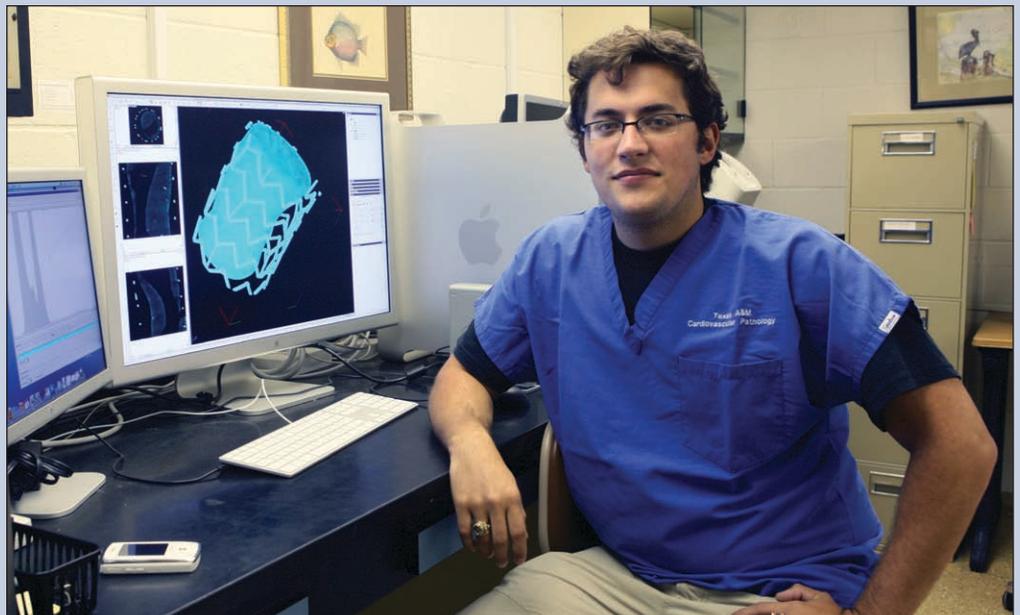
Because of his well known research, students working with Dr. Clubb are given incredible opportunities to understand the larger impact of research findings in comparative medicine. Clubb has worked with well over 25 biomedical companies, and currently is working with a group that has allowed him to take three or four students with him to conduct GLP studies in California.

Dr. Clubb also extends comparative medicine opportunities to students outside his lab and the classroom, serving as the faculty advisor for the Pre-Veterinary Society. Through this organization, Clubb is able to build a bridge for students that demonstrates the important link between veterinary medicine and human medicine.

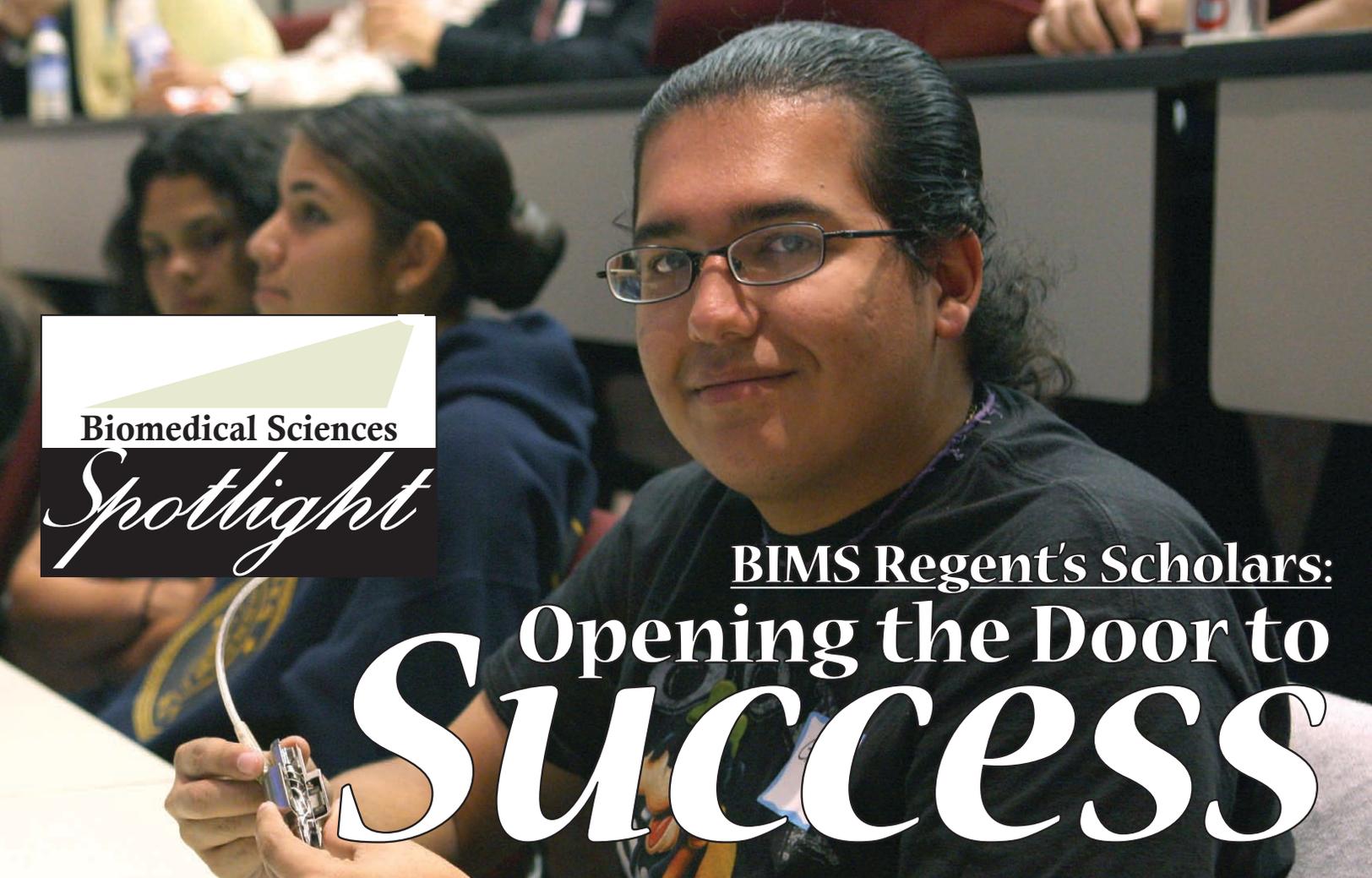
“Currently, the Pre-Veterinary Society is working on “Project Midnight”, in which students help in taking care of Midnight, a disabled woman’s companion dog,” comments Clubb.

“The lady has cerebral palsy, and Midnight is very important to her daily routine and quality of life. Students participate in Midnight’s healthcare through daily interactions with him and his ‘Mom’. Every day, even during summers and other university breaks, the students provide Midnight with exercise and grooming. The students learn how veterinary medicine and the care of animals are really important to human medicine and care as well. They get a deeper appreciation of not only the human-animal bond, but how the things we can develop in the lab that benefit animals can also make an impact on the lives of humans and vice versa. They see how vital Midnight is to this individual’s self-esteem and independence, and they realize how important it is that they keep him in the best possible condition,” adds Clubb. “At the end of the day, it’s about improving quality of life for humans and animals alike. Teaching students about the magnitude of the work we do in veterinary medicine, and preparing them to take it to new levels is where the future of comparative medicine lies.” 🐾

~ Story by Lauren Klahn



Stephen Darrouzet '09, uses information gathered by the Hawk, a micro/x-ray CT unit, to recreate three dimensional images of an intravascular stent within the artery.



Biomedical Sciences

Spotlight

BIMS Regent's Scholars: Opening the Door to **SUCCESS**

"I don't think I would be here without it," states David Marquez, a Regents' Scholarship recipient and vice president of the Regents' Scholars Organization. "The scholarship helps me pay for my tuition, books, groceries, medicine if I get sick; it pays for things many people might take for granted."

David Marquez, class of 2010, is a junior Biomedical Sciences (BIMS) major who is currently in the process of applying to veterinary school. From an early age he knew he wanted to go into the medical field, and while attending Northside Health Careers High School in San Antonio, Texas, a financial aid counselor from Texas A&M University told David that with his outstanding grades and determination to succeed he was a perfect candidate for the Regents' Scholar Program here at Texas A&M University.

Former Texas A&M University President, Dr. Robert Gates created the Regents' Scholarship Program in 2004. The scholarships are intended to provide high-performing high school students from low income families with the money and tools needed to be successful at Texas A&M University.

"The Regents' Scholarships are designed for incoming freshman that are first generation college students and come from a household where the family income is less than \$40,000 a year," explains Lydia Carrascosa, academic advisor and the Success Program Coordinator for the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences BIMS Regents' Scholars. "The recipients must first be accepted to Texas A&M University. Only after they are accepted are they considered for the Regents' Scholarship. After being chosen as a recipient, they are given a total of \$20,000 distributed evenly over the course of four years. To continue receiving the scholarship each year, the student must meet the expectations required for Regents' Scholars."

According to the Regents' Scholars handbook, during their freshman year recipients must live on campus, participate in an Academic Success Program, and attend the Regents' Scholars orientation meeting prior to the beginning of classes. After their freshman year, Regents' Scholars are expected to consistently pass 75 per-

cent of their registered credit hours and maintain a 2.0 GPR.

"Academic Success Programs are organized individually by college," notes Carrascosa. "For BIMS majors, our program is called "MERGE", which stands for Mentoring Regents' to Excellence. We have mandatory monthly meetings, and we try and make it fun for the students by providing food and an interesting educational presentation from someone in the medical or veterinary field. Along with the meetings, we provide peer and faculty mentoring to students as well as social and service activities."

These programs are designed to provide the students with the best possible start to their college experience. The programs provide recipients with the skills and knowledge they will need to excel in academics, careers, and their personal lives.

"MERGE' has been really helpful to me," states Marquez. "Academic success programs are a really good way to help Regents' members bond because each program is specific to a college. We all have something in common and can help each other out."

As the vice president of the university-wide Regents' Scholars Organization, Marquez knows a lot about all the programs each individual college has for their respective Regents' Scholars.

"I really like the way that the BIMS program is set up. The atmosphere is informal and relaxed as opposed to some programs that are more labor intensive, strict, and can meet as often as bi-weekly," explains Marquez. "BIMS has made our program exciting. The meetings are not something I dread fitting into my schedule. I look forward to dropping whatever it is I am doing to go have something to eat and listen to people that inspire me and talk about things I am interested in. I want to go; it is great networking."

In total, Texas A&M University is able to award 600 Regents' Scholarships each academic year. Carrascosa is proud to say that each year 65 to 75 of the recipients are Biomedical Sciences majors.

"Our Regents' Scholars are incredibly hard working. If we ever lose any at the end of the year it is typically due to a change of major, not their inability to fulfill the requirements," comments Carrascosa. "Once they are in the program, our students are quick to step up and mentor incoming scholars."

Not only are the BIMS Regents' Scholars encouraging to one another, they act as inspiration for others who meet the requirements to become a Regents' Scholar.

"We often find that many of our scholars went to the same high schools. This usually happens because when a person gets the scholarship, they go back and spread the word to

other students at their alma mater who have the capability and desire to go to college, but have never been presented with the opportunity or don't think they can for financial reasons," notes Carrascosa. "There have been many cases of siblings receiving Regents' Scholarships. Having an older brother or sister as a recipient of a Regents' Scholarship shows the younger children they too can go to college."

Being awarded a Regents' Scholarship is life changing for these students. Not only are they able to receive a college education, through attending their Academic Success Programs they gain leadership skills and are able to form relationships with people in the field they hope to enter.

"I always thought I would just come to college and only work and go to school. Being a part of "MERGE" has really gotten me involved in more ways than I ever thought possible," says Marquez. "Now I am vice president of the Regents' Scholars Organization, I have formed bonds with faculty and staff members; I have gotten to attend leadership conferences, and even meet the president of the university—all things that I could not have imagined happening when I first came to Texas A&M."

The Regents' Scholar program was designed to give students who have the academic performance as well as the desire an opportunity to go to college. The Regents' Scholars for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences are prime examples of deserving candidates who take full advantage of their experience. 🩺

~ Story by Lauren Klahn



Success program coordinator, Lydia Carrascosa, speaks to BIMS Regents' Scholars during a "MERGE" meeting.

2009 Schedule

February 6–8, 2009
16th Annual Veterinary
Technician Seminar
Chairs: Lori Atkins
& Candise McKay

February 20–22, 2009
Pain and Physical
Rehabilitation Seminar
Chair: Dr. Gwendolyn
Carroll

May 1–3, 2009
Annual Feline
Medicine Symposium
Chair: Dr. John August

June 5–7, 2009
18th Annual Food
Animal Conference
Chair: To Be Named

July 24–26, 2009
Practical Dentistry
for Small Animal
Practitioners
Chair: Dr. Bert Dodd

**All dates are subject
to change.**

Office of Veterinary Continuing Education

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CONTINUING EDUCATION
Calendar

Outside In...

Global Impact on Veterinary Medical Education

It has been said over and over again that the world is getting smaller. The impact each individual makes has ripple effects around the globe. For this reason, it has been increasingly important for academia to prepare students to be true citizens of the world, to understand the larger society and their role in it. The Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has embraced this mission with faculty continually looking for new ways to educate students outside the classroom, providing opportunities for them to not just learn about veterinary medicine or biomedical science, but to experience it.

The faculty of the CVM have used some very different methods to enhance the experiential education for their students. From the far reaches of the desert of Iraq to an emergency animal shelter set up in response to Hurricane Ike, CVM students and the veterinary profession have benefitted from not only the experiences, but also the stories that have been shared and the examples that have been set.

Rebuilding Iraq: A Veterinarian's View on Independence

When representatives from the Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M University assembled a team to travel to Iraq and examine ways to help the country's agriculture industry get back on track, Dr. William Moyer, department head of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, knew he had to answer the call. What he came back with was stories and examples about the important role animal health plays for a nation that he shares with faculty, staff, and students.

While in Iraq, Moyer traveled to farms in the country, as well as to the veterinary college in Baghdad. What he found was both devastating as well as hopeful at the same time.

"Farmers are farmers, no matter what country they are from," said Moyer. "They just want some good seed, some fertilizer, and some water. The infrastructure, after decades of war, requires a joint effort to re-establish the ability to carry on. I saw Shiite and Sunni working to rebuild their land together in some provinces. That is the future of Iraq. More and more people are starting to join in the effort to regain control of their country and their destiny."

Before the war, Iraq was home to ten veterinary medical schools, with the limited ability to successfully support but one. Moyer spent some of his time developing recommendations for not only rebuilding the college, but redeveloping the profession for a nation in need. It would be one thing to send armies of foreign veterinarians in to address the animal health crisis that many Iraqi farmers are faced with. By giving them a way to educate and provide for their own makes a much bigger impact on the future of animal health.

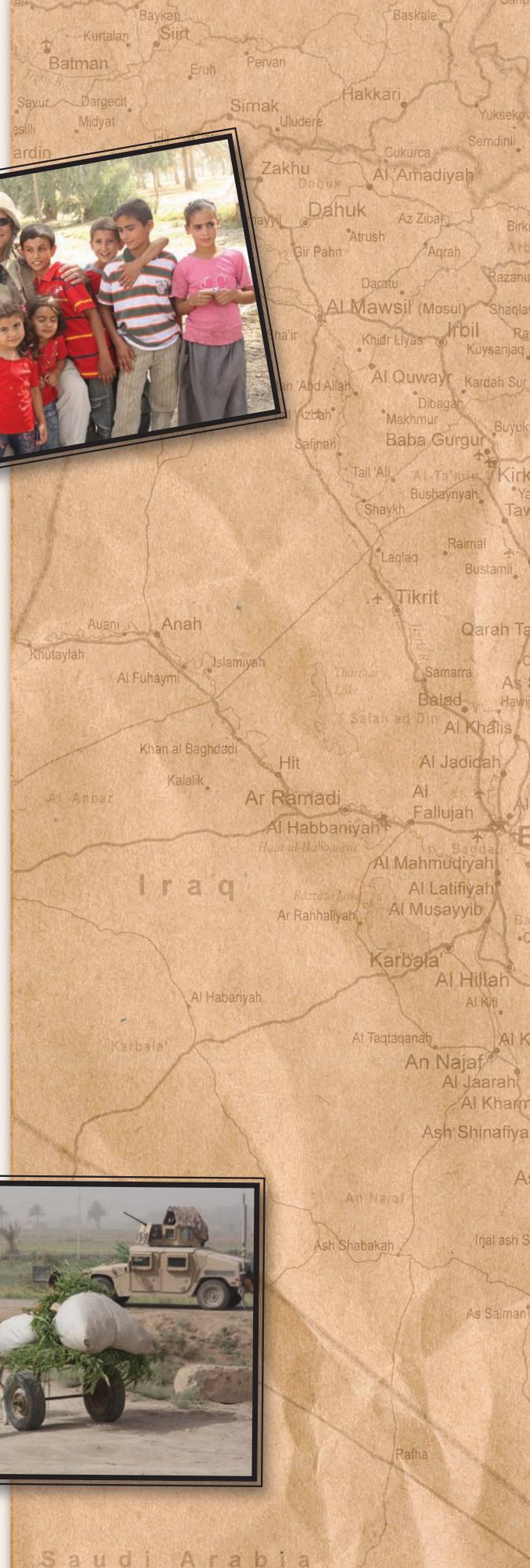
The Iraqi people have historically depended on chickens, sheep and goats, and the dairy business for animal protein sources. Only recently have they attempted aquaculture; interestingly enough, with farm raised carp. Cattle continue to supply milk, and donkeys are still often used as beasts of burden. What Moyer found when he arrived was an absence of veterinary care for these animals,

and very few practicing veterinarians. Animal disease continues to make a significant economic impact on public health and the fragile agriculture industry.

"The need is there for more veterinary professionals, but there is much work to be done to provide a place to educate them," said Moyer. "My recommendation is to fully rebuild and support a single College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), such as the University of Baghdad, and use the others as satellite clinics. At the present time, the CVM does not have any capacity for animals used in teaching, as the previous ones disappeared as the result of looting during the invasion. Replacing these teaching animals and the re-establishment of a clinical practice are necessary to complete the educational experience. The CVM at the University of Baghdad has already reopened its doors with the faculty and staff doing the best they can with limited facilities for the time being. Fortunately, tuition and other financial needs of the students are provided for.

First and foremost, if there is to be any success in improving the status of animal health and the agriculture industry, the priority has to be security followed by the ways and means to replace/repair the very complex irrigation system. Iraqi people need to have stability and opportunity. That's what the Borlaug Institute and this team that I am serving on are working with the United States military to do."

The role of the military in helping to improve the agriculture endeavors in Iraq has been significant. Moyer noted that our soldiers are highly respected members of the communities he vis-





ited for the help that they are providing in a dangerous place.

“Every soldier I met, was committed to the mission, couldn’t have been nicer, and was welcomed by the Iraqi people,” said Moyer. “The three weeks I spent in Iraq have made me extremely proud to be an American. I couldn’t have asked to work along side more patriotic and dedicated people. Every one of us needs to remember to express our gratitude to our soldiers serving over there. Because of their efforts, there may be a real shot at having peace for the first time in centuries.”

Finding ways to apply current knowledge and methods in Iraq to improve animal health and the agriculture industry is no easy task, and will take time. Members of the Borlaug team will be involved in this endeavor for some time into the future. However, Moyer says that finding ways to open the “Bread Basket of the Middle East” and make it productive again for everyone is rewarding work.

“My part is so small,” said Moyer, “and there are a lot of people involved in this effort. However, if my involvement helps to rebuild the veterinary medical profession in Iraq into something the Iraqi people can

be proud of, then I’ve accomplished what I set out to do.”

The experience that Moyer brings back from Iraq as the nation seeks to rebuild the veterinary profession is something he shares with faculty, staff, and students in hopes that they gain a better appreciation of the role that the veterinary profession plays in the stability of a nation. In a time when the United States faces a critical shortage of food supply veterinarians, examples such as what Dr. Moyer has witnessed first-hand in Iraq demonstrate an increasing need worldwide for veterinarians who are committed to feeding the world and ensuring a safe food supply. In addition, Moyer’s experience has provided a look into a part of the world that not many will ever see, and shows them a side of the Iraqi conflict that often misses the media.

Studying Science: A Historical Italian Perspective

It’s been close to five years ago that Dr. Jon Hunter, professor in the Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology department, began exploring non-traditional teaching techniques. His Wings Across Texas program brought experiential learning opportunities to middle and junior high school students throughout Texas. Life style choices and water and air quality presentations were made to more than 9,000 students at schools in 49 counties. Between November, 2002, and May, 2005, he traveled more than 100,000 miles using an aircraft to reach rural schools throughout the State. On many of these trips he took Biomedical Science majors to participate in these presentations and appreciate the diversity of Texas.

Now, just a short time later, he has found an even better way to get students out of the classroom and to experience other cultures outside of Texas. He and colleague, Dr. James Herman, offered Biomedical Physiology I in Padua, Italy this past summer to seven undergraduate Biomedical Sciences students from the CVM and seven first year veterinary medical students attending the University of Padua.

A little over two years ago, we began looking for an opportunity to offer a study abroad program for



our students,” recalls Hunter. “We considered both Spain and Italy, and in the end entered into an agreement with the University of Padua beginning in Fall 2007.”

According to Hunter, this was the first science course with a laboratory component offered by Texas A&M University as a Study Abroad Program. For the team, this brought many challenges as equipment had to be shipped in addition to the regular arrangements of living quarters, meals, and travel. As the course was designed, the students met four days a week for a one-hour lecture and one day for a three-hour lab. Friday through Sunday, the students and the faculty were able to travel to other places in Europe.

“We stayed in an old convent within the center of Padua,” said Hunter. “We could walk to a local market or buy fresh fruits and vegetables from vendors in the local piazza. The residence had a kitchen, meeting room, and a laundry facility. Every morning students would hike about a mile to the bus stop and then take a 30 minute bus ride to the veterinary campus located 10 kilometers from Padua. Students traveled together on weekends to places throughout Italy (Rome, Florence, Milan, Venice, Verona) and to France, Germany, and Switzerland. In Padua and the smaller towns in Italy very few people spoke English, so students were expected to communicate in Italian as best they could. Our students matured a lot during this program and we really got to know them well. For those students who had never traveled much, this was an eye-opening experience.”

In addition to the physiology course, Dr. Hunter and his colleagues directed another course – Famous Italian Medical Scientists. As a part of this course students traveled to Bologna and Lake Como to visit the homes of Luigi Galvani and Alessandra Volta.

“The students’ responses to their experiences were really fun to watch and be a part of,” added Hunter. “We have reviewed our Study Abroad Program and identified some areas of improvement for our next cultural exchange opportunity, but overall for a pilot program, the experience definitely exceeded our expectations. We are planning to add another course,

Pharmacology, for the Summer 2009. In addition, we will be studying the research of several famous medical scientists (Harvey, Falloppia, Fabricius) who were faculty at the University of Padua.”

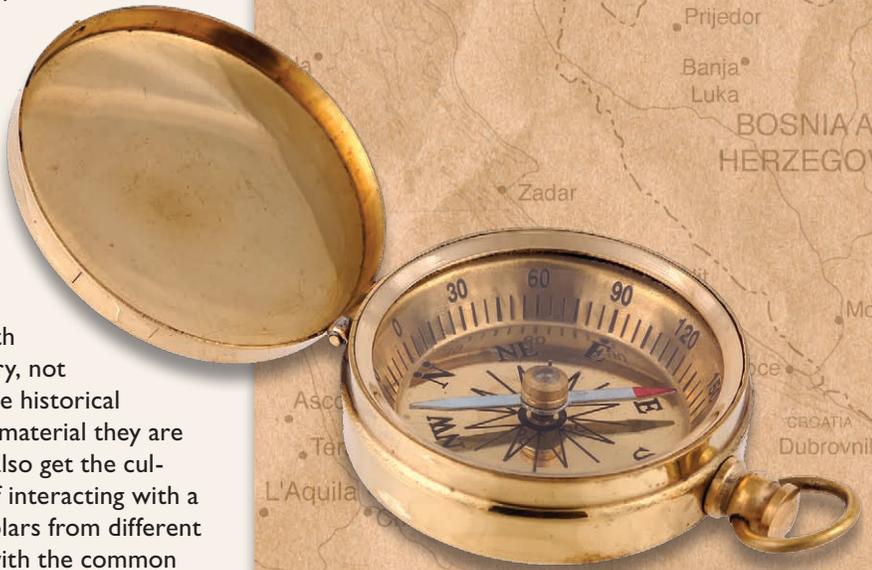
The University of Padua was established in 1222, and is one of the oldest universities in Europe, second oldest in Italy. At one point or another in its history, scientists such as Copernicus and Galileo called Padua home. By providing students an opportunity to study in a place with such a noted history, not only do they get the historical perspective of the material they are learning, but they also get the cultural experience of interacting with a community of scholars from different backgrounds but with the common foundation of science.

“Taking this course gave me a great opportunity to live in a foreign country,” said Joey Atiee, one of the participating students. “It was a unique experience because we took the class at an Italian school with Italian veterinary medical students. It gave us an opportunity to experience their methods of learning.”

While many Texas A&M students have found courses to take abroad that provide the cultural experience they seek, this science course was a life-changing experience for Olivia Masters in a completely different way.

“I wanted to study abroad, but had not found any programs offering serious courses for science majors,” said Masters. “I wanted to really study something in a foreign country rather than just gain international experience. When I found out about the veterinary physiology in Italy summer program, it was exactly what I was looking for. I realized my love of physiology, and this program inspired me to pursue further study in the field.”

From lengthy discussions, to late night dinners together, to experiencing the opera Carmen at the Arena of Verona which was built in 30 AD, this unique study abroad opportunity has



helped the participating students begin to find their place in the world.

Food Supply Veterinary Medicine: A Traveling Tale

With the recent news coverage about contaminated food products for both animals and humans manufactured in China, the role of the food supply veterinarian has never been more critical. However, as our society

becomes increasingly urbanized fewer and fewer of the students enrolling in veterinary medical school have ever been exposed to food production operations, much less spent any time around the veterinarians who care for the animals there.

“For quite some time we have been looking at ways to fuel the interest of veterinary medical students in food supply veterinary medicine,” said Dr. Dan Posey, clinical assistant professor in the Veterinary Large Animal Clinical Sciences department. “One of my colleagues, Dr. Jeffrey Musser, told me about a program at the University of Minnesota where they take first year veterinary medical students out to dairies in the area to observe veterinarians specializing in dairy medicine working in the field. A short time later, another of our colleagues, Dr. Virginia

Fajt, began to develop the idea of taking some of our students to different production facilities around the state of Texas. Dr. Floron Faries, from veterinary extension, and Dr. Melissa Libal also joined in to participate. From there, everything just began to fall into place.”

Ten students from the first and second year classes were selected to accompany three faculty members on this year’s tour. They represented a

true mix of students with some having food animal experience and some without any at all.

“The selection process included an application and an essay,” said Dr. Virginia Fajt, clinical assistant professor in the Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology department. “The essay had to demonstrate the student’s interest in food supply veterinary medicine.”

During the five-day course, which counted for a one-hour elective, students were able to visit with veterinarians who service large purebred cow-calf production facilities, a swine operation, a large dairy, feedyards, and the Texas AgriLife Research-USDA Center outside of Amarillo.

Dr. Darrell Kinnard of K4 Farms, a practicing veterinarian in Mabank, Texas, started the tour off by teaching the participating students that veterinary medicine is not just about treating sick animals, it’s about understanding the food animal industry.

“The students were shown five different management systems on stocker calf preconditioning, purebred breeder for replacement males and females, commercial embryo transfer, commercial cow-calf to feedlot, and genetic selection for regional producer demands,” said Kinnard. “I wanted the students to understand first the diversity of the industry, and second to recognize the very important role that the food animal veterinarian plays in this diversified industry.”

Kinnard recognized that many of his professional clients assisted by opening up their operations for the students and faculty on the tour. John W. Hyde’s custom order buying-preconditioning stocker program; Adam Davis, Aggie Class of 2005 and manager of Lesikar Angus Farms; Robert Mills, owner of Rockcrest Brafordts; Art Pool, manager of Valleyview Farms and co-owner of Friona Feed Yards; and Darrell Pitchford, owner of Pitchford Cattle Service and Pitchford Genetics & Bull Gain Tests.

“These clients deserve some recognition for their participation,” said Kinnard, “because of their strong concern for and commitment to food animal veterinary medicine.”

From beef cattle and feedlots, the tour visited dairy and swine operations with Dalhart veterinarians, Dr. Angela Daniels, Dr. Scanlon Daniels,



and Dr. Ryan Royder, of Circle H Headquarters, LLC.

“We have grown our company over time by identifying unmet service needs and diversifying our activities to meet these needs,” said Angela Daniels.

“It was important to us for the students to understand that there is much opportunity in food production medicine,” said Royder, “and that the veterinary profession provides excellent training that allows veterinarians to do a variety of things.”

Scanlon Daniels also noted that because the scale of production systems is changing rapidly, it is hard for students to gain accurate perspective without experiences that are generally not available until the final year in veterinary school... making opportunities such as this tour increasingly important.

“We really saw this as an opportunity to introduce students to food supply veterinary medicine,” said Posey. “We are trying to train veterinarians in this college for a variety of things, and we wanted to abolish some of the myths about food production systems including animal welfare concerns and food production methods.”

Dr. Fajt noted that it also was a chance to show students first hand what goes on at large dairy and swine operations.

“There are not a lot of those types of producers in the Brazos Valley,” Fajt said. “In order for students to totally understand these types of operations and the veterinary medical career opportunities that they offer, we really have to get outside the college and take our students to the farms.”

By reaching students early in their veterinary medical education through programs like this, it is hoped to expand the numbers of veterinary students choosing mixed or large animal practice.

“Through my years of experience in diagnostic medicine, I learned of the huge influence food animal practitioners have, on a daily basis, on both animal and public health,” said Dr. Melissa Libal, clinical associate professor. “Yet for many years, I have listened to food animal practitioners say they have trouble recruiting new graduates. I thought this program would influence veterinary students at an early point

in their education to consider food animal medicine as a career.”

Libal also felt the tour important for those students who did not have an agricultural background prior to veterinary school to realize that food animal medicine is exciting and it is not restricted to those who “grew up on a farm”.

“It’s important for these students to actually see state-of-the-art food animal practices and production units, thus allowing them to see what potential there is for them in food animal medicine.”

This fall, Drs. Fajt and Posey reported on their program to the CVM Development Council, and included their ideas for improving the program in the future should the necessary funding be secured. With a passion for expanding educational opportunities in food animal medicine, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Cocanougher, members of the Development Council and long time supporters of the CVM agreed to fund the next two years of the Food Animal Production Tour.

“A student’s background matters only a little for this program,” said Posey. “It’s about finding a spark of interest in them and then fueling it. These students didn’t have to come from a farm to get something out of this trip, but they did learn a lot about themselves and their career plans while on the ride. Support for this program like that from the Cocanougher’s means we are able to continue reaching out to future veterinary students and possibly provide them the experience they need to choose a rewarding future in food supply veterinary medicine.”

A Shelter from the Storm

Not all learning opportunities take students out of the country or around the state. Some of them can be found right down the road...such as the time disaster struck the Texas coast in the form of Hurricane Ike.

With thousands of people evacuating from the coastal area near Galveston, an Emergency Response Team formed at the CVM with a plan for sheltering large numbers of companion animals and livestock.

The college found itself in a position of having a dual role in this time of disaster. Many faculty and fourth year

students were called upon to participate. In the Small Animal Hospital, the caseload steadily increased as owners evacuating from the coast arrived with ill or injured animals. This continued even after Ike as the CVM served as one of the only open veterinary hospitals in the region while those in the Houston area remained without power. In addition, some biomedical sciences students, as well as first year through third year veterinary students volunteered time at Texas A&M’s Riverside campus where companion animals were sheltered.

Dr. Deb Zoran, associate professor, served in the small animal hospital helping to coordinate the response to the increasing caseload.

“The students (house officers) in the small animal hospital performed extremely well, and were under a lot of duress – the caseload was quite high, the stress level was quite high – and they did a great job of stepping up to get the job done,” said Zoran.

Zoran also noted that almost more than the job that was done, the experience the students had was important.

“It is a fantastic experience for them,” said Zoran. “Whether they were working in the clinic and seeing the types of cases that present in these situations, or working at the shelter and becoming part of the animal caretaker and shelter operations, I think these are invaluable experiences that increase the world view and awareness of our students of the future roles as veterinarians they will play in their communities in these circumstances.”

Not too far down the road from the Riverside shelter, a completely different operation was set up for evacuated livestock and horses at the Brazos County expo center. In the large animal shelter, there was capacity for 200 horses, 80 head of cattle, and 80 small ruminants and pigs.

“We had close to 200 horses, two longhorn cattle, and four pigs arrive ahead of the storm,” said Sam Wigginton, clinic manager for the CVM’s large animal hospital. “Preparing to register and care for that number of large animals required a complex process and the cooperation of a large team of people. We included many of our fourth year students in providing

intake exams and the record keeping process, and the rose to the challenge.”

As a result of the response to Hurricane Ike, Wigington and Dr. Wesley Bissett, assistant professor in the Large Animal Clinical Sciences department, are working to develop potential elective courses in the veterinary medical curriculum that address disaster response and preparedness.

CVM Infection Control Coordinator, Kit Darling, not only worked closely with the Brazos Animal Shelter to provide sheltering response for the more than 314 companion animals that arrived with their owners in Bryan/College Station, but also served as a liaison with the Brazos County Emergency Operations Center. She was able to have the “big picture view” of the county’s disaster response and the many roles that the CVM assumed during that time. Darling acknowledged how important it is that students experience situations that they face in the real world, and how valuable their time spent responding to Hurricane Ike was in preparing them for the future.

“Some situations are not planned,” said Darling. “You need to be ready to handle the situation. Even though you can make some preparations before the disaster occurs there are situations that are not in the plan or are different than expected. You learn to be flexible and work with what is presented. I hope that our students that volunteered at the shelter learned that disasters affect animals, and they need a safe place to stay, that they gained an appreciation for what it takes to prepare a shelter in a short period of time to meet the needs of evacuated animals, and that they learned how to deal with not only the animals, but also the people who are in the disaster.”

A New Perspective

Four stories and four different perspectives on veterinary medicine, science, and our place in the world. Indeed, as the world continues to become our neighborhood, the education provided outside the walls becomes an important enhancement to that received inside the classroom. With a faculty committed to graduating the best and the brightest, the opportunities to explore our world and bring back a fresh perspective to classroom learning will continue to develop. In many ways, by increasing participation in programs such as these, or by taking advantage of teaching opportunities outside the classroom, the CVM’s impact on the future of the veterinary medical profession gets deeper and more pronounced. 🍷

~ Story by Angela Clendenin

Hurricane Ike (Image courtesy of NASA)



Michelle and LeRoy Clifton, with their son and dog, Heather, from Galveston, TX.



Hardy, Wigington honored for service to university

The College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences was well represented at the 2008 President's Meritorious Service Awards Ceremony on December 1. Vince Hardy, research associate in the veterinary integrative biosciences department, and Sam Wigington, large animal clinic manager were among 25 recipients honored.

"I am thankful for the time and effort of those who wrote letters on my behalf," said Hardy, "and I am grateful to have received such an award." Hardy has worked at the CVM for 20 years.

Wigington has worked at the CVM for 36 years and has been fortunate to have a job that he has enjoyed every day.

"It's an honor to be recognized for my effort," said Wigington of receiving the award. "I realize how very lucky I am to be in a position where I look forward to coming in to work each day."

Funded through the generosity of the Association of Former Students, the President's Meritorious Service Awards began in 1986. Currently, these awards are presented to recognize 25 outstanding staff employees and one outstanding team for their meritorious service to the University.

Awards are presented at the President's Holiday Coffee in December. Each individual recipient receives a \$700 cash award, a commemorative plaque, and a lapel pin. The team will be recognized with a plaque for

departmental display. Each member of the team receives a cash award of \$200 and a framed certificate of recognition.

"It is truly a statement about the quality of our staff to have these two deserving employees recognized for their efforts," said Dr. H. Richard

Adams, Carl B. King dean of veterinary medicine. "Their longevity and commitment to the college have made a tremendous impact on everyone around them, and we are proud to join with the rest of the university community in applauding them for their service." 🌿



Vince Hardy and Sam Wigington

CVM receives donation of VS2 analyzer for the VMTH

Christmas came early for the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital this year when Abaxis donated a Vetscan VS2 point-of-care chemistry analyzer to the college supporting the care of animal patients in the hospital.

"The new equipment will be especially helpful with the work we do with birds through the Schubot Center for Exotic Bird Health," said Dr. Sharman Hoppes, a lecturer in the small animal clinical sciences department. "As an addition that will be used exclusively at our Tambupata research facility in Peru, it will have a big impact

on our work with parrots as well as our conservation efforts."

The chemistry analyzers will allow clinicians to complete blood chemistry analysis at the patient's side in less than 12 minutes with the precision and accuracy equivalent to a traditional clinical laboratory analyzer. Previously, testing would take much longer and require more time for results.

In addition to providing faster results, the Abaxis Vetscan system also allows for successful testing on a 50% smaller blood sample, which is especially important for small exotics,

and small kittens and puppies where the blood draw is limited.

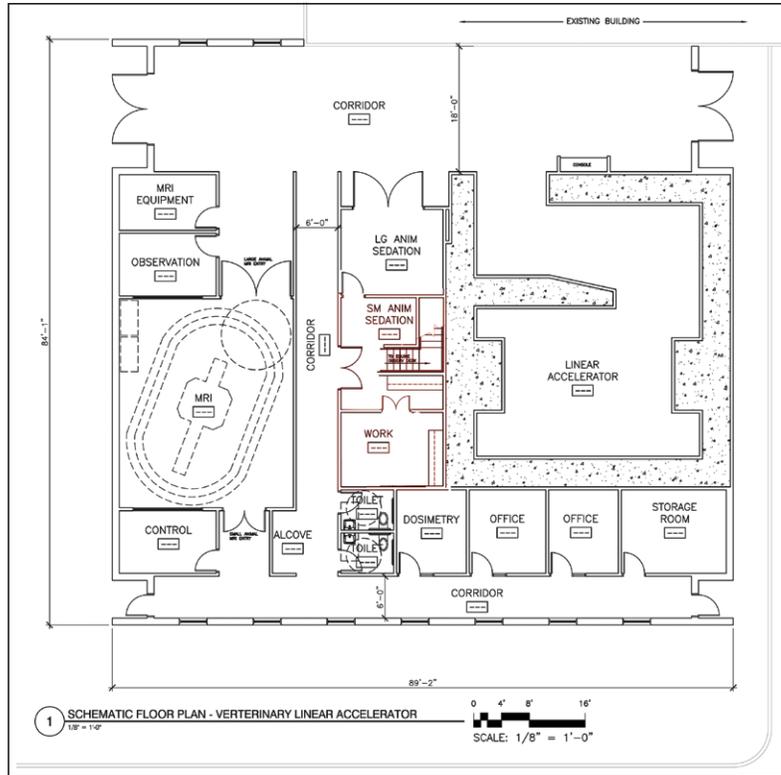
"As a leader in veterinary medical research, it is important that we keep pace with new technology," said Dr. H. Richard Adams, Carl B. King dean of veterinary medicine. "To do this often requires the generosity and support from outside sources. We are very appreciative of the generous donation that Abaxis has made to the college, and will utilize its capabilities to further expand our mission." 🌿

Imaging and Cancer Center moving forward

The Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences continues to move forward with plans for the Veterinary Imaging and Cancer Treatment Center. The center, which will include rooms for a specialized linear accelerator, a MRI and a CT, will be designed to accommodate both small animals and horses, and realizes a long-time dream of Dean H. Richard Adams.

A primary step in the process is the equipment selection for the new facility. One of the most exciting pieces of equipment that the project committee is considering is a specialized radiation therapy machine called TomoTherapy®.

The TomoTherapy® unit provides an advanced state-of-the-art cancer treatment option. It combines CT imaging with the radiation therapy of a linear accelerator into one machine (“image guided radiation therapy”).



the TomoTherapy® unit impressed us the most.”

The TomoTherapy® unit would replace the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital’s obsolete cobalt-60 radiation therapy equipment. If Texas A&M University purchases this new technology, it would become one of only two colleges of veterinary medicine in the world providing TomoTherapy® cancer treatments to animals.

The project team is also currently working with the University Facilities and Planning Department in developing a program of requirements for the building. Five Architecture/Engineering firms have been interviewed for the project. The top firm has been selected and is currently in negotiations for the job. The building construction is scheduled to begin August 2009.

Periodic updates will be provided as this exciting new project becomes a reality. 🌿

This process ensures accurate tumor localization for a 360-degree delivery of “intensity-modulated radiation therapy”.

“This technology would not only greatly enhance the oncology services we could provide for our patients, but it would also enhance our teaching and research capabilities,” stated W. Terry Stiles, hospital director. “In our investigation of linear accelerators



Department Head Spotlight: Dr. Tiffany-Castiglioni

Dr. Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni—Dr. ETC to her staff—has been the head of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences (VIBS) since 1999.

This soft-spoken scientist joined the Aggie family in 1982 as an assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy. In 1987, Dr. Tiffany-Castiglioni achieved tenure and became an associate professor, and in 1994, she became a professor in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health (renamed VIBS). At the request of Dean Richard Adams, Dr. Tiffany-Castiglioni became the interim head of this department in 1998. At the time, she was already assistant dean (now, associate dean) for undergraduate education and did not expect to become a full-time administrator. A successful neurotoxicologist, Dr. Tiffany-Castiglioni was happy in her laboratory studying the toxic effects of lead on brain cells. However, when the search for a permanent head for the department was unsuccessful, she continued in the role.

Since becoming department head of VIBS, she has hired around 20 new faculty members who have strengthened the CVM's signature programs in veterinary medicine and biomedical research.

Dr. Tiffany-Castiglioni aims to make the CVM the best in the country. Her strategy is simple: Hire the best possible faculty.

"I try to hire the best and use our limited resources to produce the best results," she says.

For each faculty search, Dr. Tiffany-Castiglioni sets up an advisory committee comprising dedicated faculty to recruit a pool of strong and diverse applicants. She interviews the candidates herself to arrive at a mutual "good match," i.e., a candidate whose research, teaching, and career goals fit with the department, college, and university programs. One of her personal goals is to ensure that every person hired into a tenure-track position will succeed in getting tenure and promotion.

"I do not believe in letting someone [a new faculty member] sink or swim. I try to provide them with an environment in which they can thrive," explains Dr. Tiffany-Castiglioni.

To this end, she ensures that faculty members have a supportive operational environment (adequate personnel to attend to ancillary needs such as the ordering of equipment/chemicals and arranging travel); that there is mentoring of junior faculty by senior faculty members; and that all faculty members have at least adequate, space and equipment.

She has also started a competitive program that provides faculty members with seed money to apply for research grants. Outside support is key to research, and Dr. Tiffany-Castiglioni notes with a hint of pride that almost all the new faculty members in the tenure track in her department have received competitive extramural federal grants.

Communication and transparency are encouraged as well. Individual meetings are held with faculty members to discuss their progress and needs. All faculty members, regardless of rank or length of service, have equal voice in her faculty meetings.

"My door," says Dr. Tiffany-Castiglioni, "is almost always open. If a problem can be solved immediately, I prefer that [approach]." This, despite having a daily schedule packed with meetings and administrative duties.

Time management is just one of the challenges she faces. Bigger challenges include managing space in the rapidly growing CVM. One practical solution



Dr. Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni

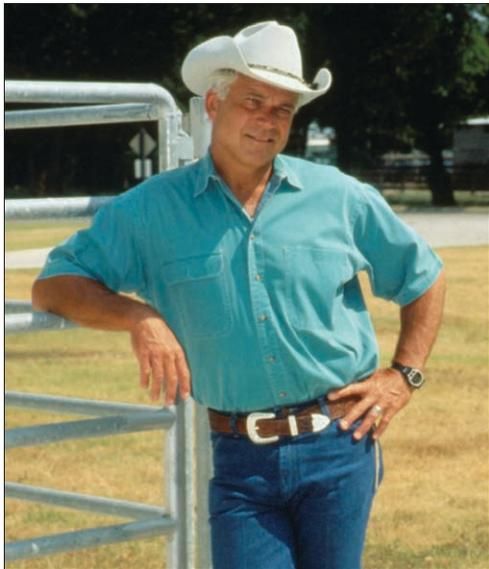
she used in the past was the strategic hiring of faculty: When bench space was unavailable for open positions, the department hired scientists whose work was theoretical or field-based and who did not require large labs. Construction on a large research wing for the college is also underway, and Dr. Castiglioni hopes it will alleviate some space shortages in her department.

"I hope to help the department become stronger still, so that we can continue along our current upward trajectory in faculty achievement. This includes grant dollars, high-impact publications, and national and international recognition," she says.

Dr. Tiffany-Castiglioni envisions a bright future for the department. Her future plans include obtaining endowed chairs and laboratories in the department, continuing to build the department's key research strengths, maintaining a cadre of outstanding teachers, and supporting the department's engagement in science education in Texas. 🌿

~ Story by Marissa Doshi

Moyer named AAEP vice-president for 2009



Dr. William Moyer

William Moyer, DVM, Professor of Sports Medicine and head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, was named the 2009 vice president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP).

Moyer will join the Executive Committee next year and then serve as AAEP president in 2011.

"AAEP has given and provided me and others more than can be repaid and thus it is an honor to serve in a leadership role in the hopes of being a positive factor in the future," stated Moyer.

Moyer has been an active AAEP member, most recently serving on the association's board from 2001 – 2004. He chaired the Equine Insurance Committee for three years and has been a member of the Educational Programs Committee. Moyer also co-facilitated the Equine Dentistry Forum held during the annual convention.

"AAEP has been my most consistent source of information, ideas and friends over nearly four decades," noted Moyer. "It was one of the very first organizations that I was aware of that had a mission statement - "To improve the health and welfare of the horse, to further the professional

development of its members, and to provide resources and leadership for the benefit of the equine industry" and, most importantly, it lives by and up to the statement."

Moyer's career began at Texas A&M in 1993 following more than two decades on faculty at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

Recognized for his expertise in equine lameness, Moyer has authored or co-authored several textbooks, including *A Guide to Equine Joint Injection and Regional Anesthesia* and *A Guide to Equine Hoof Wall Repair*. His research also has appeared in numerous refereed journals, and he has been an invited speaker at continuing education meetings worldwide.

A 1970 graduate of the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Moyer completed both an internship and a residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He also is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Texas Veterinary Medical Association. 🌿

Epidemiology Society recognizes Cohen

The American Veterinary Epidemiology Society recognized Dr. Noah Cohen, professor of large animal clinical sciences at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), as an honorary diplomate at the annual convention of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

Cohen has been involved in epidemiology and infectious disease research since receiving his PhD in epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University in 1988. He received his VMD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1983 and spent two years in private equine practice. After completing a residency at Texas A&M in 1991, Cohen was offered a position as assistant professor in equine internal medicine.

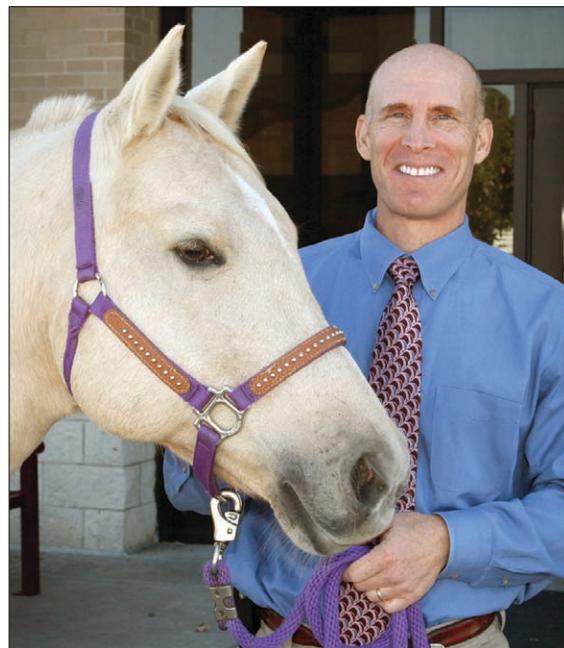
"This is a special honor for me because I have focused my epidemiology research efforts on horses," remarked Cohen. "The prestige of being honored by an organization of such esteemed and accomplished members for work that is at the periphery

of their mission is very gratifying."

Cohen has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career, the most recent of which was the 2008 Schering-Plough Animal Health Applied Equine Research Award that he received at the World Equine Veterinary Association (WEVA) congress in Moscow, Russia.

"Dr. Cohen has made significant contributions to equine medicine and the field of epidemiology," stated Dr. H. Richard Adams, Carl B. King dean of veterinary medicine. "We are proud that he has been recognized for his accomplishments."

The American Veterinary Epidemiology Society principally focuses on the intersection of human and animal



Dr. Noah Cohen

health. Founded by the venerated veterinarian Dr. James Steele, former Assistant Surgeon General, the Society promotes epidemiology and public health activities by veterinarians. 🌿

Finding Opportunities to Give Back

These are exciting times at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Students are back in the full swing of the semester, and the pace of operations is full speed ahead. It is truly a wonderful thing to observe as young people work so hard to obtain the education that will prepare them for a long career in this great profession.

This issue of *CVM Today* highlights the exciting projects that are underway: the Imaging and Cancer Treatment Center, the Equine Lameness Arena, the innovative research projects, and the scholarship initiatives. You can be very proud that the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is at the forefront of advancing the animal and human health care fields.

We want to remind veterinarians who are reading this publication that you are our vital link to benefactors for our great institution. The majority of your clients are people who care deeply about animals and ways to benefit them. A few of your clients also probably have the financial means to have a great impact on the profession that does so much for the animal kingdom. You, the practicing veterinarian, are our best tool for cultivating the outside financial support that is vital to the college. As you discuss animal care and welfare with your devoted clients, you may identify people who want to have a greater impact on helping our animal friends. We would be very pleased to visit with such individuals about the opportunities available to them and to customize their efforts to suit their areas of interests and means. We are also very happy to offer tours of our amazing facilities to you or your clients at any time.

Please keep in mind, as we approach the end of this year, that any gifts made to the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences prior to January 1st are tax deductible in the 2008 tax year. We would also be very happy to discuss with you the variety of options with you concerning planned gifts that can provide tremendous benefits to the donor, the donor's descendants, and the college.



Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek and Dr. Guy A. Sheppard

Please let us know if we can assist you with more information.

We in the Development Office are your link to the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. We like to think of our office as the "front door" to the college. If there is anything we can do to be of service to you, our graduates and supporters, please do not hesitate to call on us.

O. J. "Bubba" Woytek
Senior Director, Development
and Alumni Relations

Guy A. Sheppard
Director, Development
and Alumni Relations

Did You Know?

IRA contribution law extended

If you are age 70 or older, you probably know that you are required to take taxable distributions from your IRA account. What you may not know is that Congress has extended a previous law from 2007 that allows persons age 70 years and older to give up to \$100,000 in IRA distributions annually for tax years 2008 and 2009 without paying income taxes on the amount of the gifts. Gifts from one's IRA distributions to the College of Veterinary Medicine through the Texas A&M Foundation will qualify for this tax exemption. If you would be interested in taking advantage of this limited time provision, please give us a call in the Development Office at 979-845-9043, and we would be happy to discuss the opportunities available to you.

Palmers endow chair at CVM for the fight against cancer

Cancer is one word that strikes fear in people's hearts, but thanks to the generosity of Dr. Fred and Vola Palmer of Granbury, TX, the fight against this disease that plagues humans and animals alike has found a unique source of support with the \$ 1 million endowment of the Dr. Fred A. and Vola N. Palmer Chair in Comparative Oncology at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

"As a veterinarian, I have long witnessed the devastating effects of cancer in animals," said Palmer. "Many of the cancers that occur spontaneously in animals are the same or similar to those that appear in humans. By using these animal cancers as models for future research, we can make great strides in defeating a disease that affects millions of people and animals each year."

The CVM has been working to establish collaborations with researchers at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for the purpose of working jointly to study specific types of cancer and new therapeutic concepts.

"The generous support from the Palmers will directly impact our growing oncology program," said Dr. H. Richard Adams, Carl B. King dean of veterinary medicine. "We will be able to continue recruiting renowned oncology specialists that enhance the expertise that we already have on our team and through our collaborations, adding to the creation of new knowledge that directly benefits animal and human health."

Additionally, plans have been unveiled for the construction of a veterinary cancer and imaging center to be located on the CVM campus. When complete, the facility will house imaging and radiation treatment equipment that is able to be used on both large and small animals.

"By helping the college to develop the comparative oncology program," added Mrs. Vola Palmer, "we are laying the groundwork for a major compo-



Dr. Fred A. and Vola N. Palmer

ment of future research that may lead to discoveries that benefit humans as well as animals."

With continued support from friends of the college, it is expected that the oncology program with the veterinary cancer center will become not only the nation's premier destination for treatment of animals with cancer, but the site of groundbreaking research in the ongoing battle to find a cure.

"We are very excited about the commitment the college has made to the oncology program," added Palmer. "Serving as chairs of the CVM Development Council this past year, Vola and I realize the importance of outside support for the college to continue its mission, as well as the significance of giving back and participating in such a promising program from the beginning. It not only impacts the education of future veterinarians, but also

the future of the veterinary medical profession."

Dr. Palmer received a BS in Wildlife Science from Texas A&M in 1959. After six years with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and a tour of duty with the U. S. Army, Palmer returned to Texas A&M, receiving a BS in Veterinary Science in 1968 and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1969. Palmer practiced veterinary medicine for more than 25 years until 1994, when he sold his practice in Bedford, TX. In addition to his support of the CVM, Palmer has also been a true Aggie by serving in many leadership positions through Texas A&M, the 12th Man Foundation, the Association of Former Students, and the Fort Worth/Tarrant County A&M Club. He and his wife Vola now enjoy whitetail deer ranching outside of Granbury, TX. 🍷

CVM endowed class scholarships help to keep it in the “family”

At Texas A&M everyone becomes a part of one big family. The bond shared by Aggies is inexplicable. Being a member of such a tight knit group can have its benefits, just ask Jordan Speir CVM '11, and her family.

Jordan is in her second year here at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. She is the daughter of Dr. John D. Speir CVM '69 and Dr. Sherry Knopp CVM '80. After hearing about her parents' experiences from their time spent here in the CVM Jordan knew A&M was right for her.

“Going to vet school at A&M is like a part of my family’s heritage, it was my obvious choice. I didn’t even apply anywhere else; I knew this is where I wanted to be,” Jordan proudly states. At the time of her decision, the Speir family was unaware that by choosing Texas A&M Jordan would be eligible for the CVM Class of 1969 Endowed Scholarship. Not only was Jordan eligible, she had preference over all other candidates because her father is a graduate of the class of 1969.

“Each graduating class of the CVM starts a fund towards their endowed class scholarship. Over time the alumni of that class give what they can. When the account reaches \$25,000 it becomes endowed,” explains Dr. Guy Sheppard, the Director of Development for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. “After reaching \$25,000, the scholarship fund will also generate a profit on its own. The endowments usually generate a return of 8 to 12 percent each year. Based off the amount of the return, 5 percent is used for the scholarship and the rest is added to the original investment.”

Because of the increase in return, once a class scholarship reaches the endowed level; the members are still encouraged to donate money to the fund. Depending on the size of the endowment, a class can be able to give more than one scholarship.

For each endowed scholarship, the student that receives the award must



CVM Class of 1969 co-class agents Dr. Fred Palmer and Dr. Sonny Presnal present Jordan with her scholarship.

fit the criteria of that class’s gift agreement. A gift agreement is an understanding between the donor and the foundation that states certain requirements the recipient of the scholarship should meet.

“Mostly all of our class endowed scholarships include the ‘Direct Descendant Clause’ in their gift agreement. This clause states that if a direct descendant of a member from the class whose endowed scholarship is available applies for that scholarship, they have preference over other candidates,” notes Sheppard.

A few of the much older class endowed scholarships do not have the ‘Direct Descendant Clause’, however it has become something that is now included in every class’ gift agreement. The ‘Direct Descendant Clause’ is

what made Jordan stand out for the recipient of the CVM Class of 1969’s Class Endowed Scholarship. Every year veterinary students are asked to fill out an information sheet that is put in the CVM scholarship database.

“There is a section on the information sheet where you list any family members that graduated from the Texas A&M CVM, from that they can match you with any class scholarships from family member’s classes,” explains Jordan.

Thus far, the occurrence of a direct descendant receiving their family members class endowed scholarships has been limited. If there is not a direct descendant to receive the scholarship, another recipient is chosen in accordance to the stipulations cited in that class’ gift agreement. 

Naming opportunities bring prestige; benefit school, faculty, and students

You may have noticed that institutions of higher education bear the names of others on many of its component parts. Names are commonly applied as an expression of gratitude for extremely generous gifts that significantly benefit the institution. You may have noticed that the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences can also lay claim to a number of named entities within our organization. Most commonly, you will notice certain names which have provided endowed faculty chairs, professorships, fellowships, and scholarships. The gifts from these generous donors are placed into an endowed fund, and the income produced from the endowment is utilized to support the teaching or research efforts of the endowed faculty member in perpetuity. A faculty chair can be endowed for the sum of \$1,000,000, a professorship is endowed at the \$500,000 level, a fellowship requires a contribution of \$100,000, and a scholarship endows at the \$25,000 level.

Entire colleges can also be named, but only one college of veterinary medicine in the United States bears



The Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center named for Mrs. Madlin Stevenson.

a person's name. As you can imagine, the gift that named that college was a very significant gift. Facilities within the college also offer naming opportunities. The headline facility at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences that offers the most immediate naming opportunities is the new Imaging and Cancer Center that is featured in another article in this publication. The building construction of the facility, the imaging and treatment equip-

ment housed within the building, and operations funding all present opportunities for naming the center or any of the various component parts of the facility. Naming rights for facilities and equipment are at the discretion of the Texas A&M Board of Regents, but should you or someone you know have an interest in supporting any of the efforts mentioned in this article, we at the Development Office would be very happy to discuss the possibilities with you. 🏥

University-wide scholarship initiative to focus on BIMS



In October of this year, Texas A&M University launched its university-wide endowed scholarship initiative campaign in an effort to increase the number of endowed scholarships. The income from these funds will provide scholarships for students forever without reducing the amount of money invested in the endowment.

The professional students at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences benefit from a large number of endowed scholarships that have been provided through the generosity of a great number of supporters and donors. In addition to providing funds to numerous 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year veterinary students, our current endowment level has allowed us to give every 4th year veterinary student a scholarship of some amount.

A special focus of this year's scholarship initiative is to cultivate endowed scholarships for the Biomedical Sciences Department. Some may tend to forget that the official name of our organization is the College of Veterinary Medicine -& Biomedical Sciences, and we are also charged with the education of this group of students as well as those in our professional and graduate programs. Biomedical Sciences (BIMS) is currently the largest single degree-granting program on the Texas A&M campus and in the state of Texas. BIMS graduates have distinguished themselves in many career areas, but this is especially true in the health care fields, including human and veterinary medicine.

Similar to the program already in place to encourage veterinarians to give back to their alma mater through contributions to class scholarships, BIMS graduates will be contacted this fall to provide them with the same opportunity. We will encourage each class of BIMS graduates to rally together in an effort to create an endowed scholarship honoring their class, and the income from the endowed scholarship can be used to support a BIMS major.

VMTH Wish List

As the year draws to a close, many people start reviewing opportunities to give. In the spirit of the holiday season, the clinicians and technicians at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) have put together a “Wish List” of things they need to continue providing high quality care to clients. When reviewing your end of year donation options, please consider supporting our programs by contributing towards the purchase of this much needed equipment. Remember, giving not only feels good, but it is also tax deductible! The VMTH faculty, staff and students thank you for your generosity.

For more information on how to help with our wish list, please contact the Development Office at 979-845-9043.

Small Animal Hospital

Critical Care Unit ~ \$2,500.00

Rigid endoscope ~ \$4,495.00

Fluid pumps ~ \$ 4,500.00

Table top anesthetic machine ~ \$2000.00

Endoscope Instruments: Biopsy forceps ~ \$570.00, Scissors- \$595.00

Large Animal Hospital

Large Flat Screen Monitor ~ \$4500.00

Hydraulic Surgery Table ~ \$4000.00

Syringe Pump ~ \$4000.00

Nebulizer ~ \$5000.00

Patient Physiological Monitor ~ \$5000.00

Vet-client connection helps to ensure future of animal health and students



Dr. Mark Van Ness worked with Nicole de Roumefort (pictured in background) to set up a scholarship fund.

“A long time ago, an aristocratic French woman walked into my clinic with a mutt she’d rescued,” veterinarian Mark Van Ness recalled, “and I knew this lady was all heart.”

Over the next 25 years, Nicole de Roumefort brought all her dogs to Mark. Oil portraits of Vicomte Doliver and Baron Toufou adorn his clinic’s walls.

“Fancy names for mixed-breed orphans,” Mark reflected, “Nicole always said these were the ones that really needed her love.”

Many years later, in failing health herself, Madame de Roumefort consulted with Mark on how to use her estate to help animals. They agreed on funding veterinary scholarships since, as Mark said, “producing more vets will help dogs forever.”

Nicole and Mark contacted Dr. O. J. “Bubba” Woytek, the Texas A&M Foundation’s development officer for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, and with his help established the de Roumefort-Van Ness Scholarship Fund.

The French lady with the big heart is gone now, but soon her fund will support its first veterinary students, carrying on her love for dogs.

Nicole de Roumefort’s generosity, inspired by Dr. Mark Van Ness, is now part of A&M’s future. 🍀

Thank you, Pet Memorial Program contributors!

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many veterinary hospitals that contribute regularly and generously through the Pet Memorial Program. Their commitment to this program has provided great financial support to student scholarship funds, veterinary fee assistance programs, and research funds for use in the cardiology, oncology, and feline medicine programs. The steadfast commitment of these donors has allowed the Pet Memorial Program to become one of the major means of support for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Adams Mill Veterinary Hospital

Archer Road Animal Hospital

**Babcock Hills
Veterinary Hospital**

**Babcock North
Veterinary Hospital**

Banfield, The Pet Hospital

Bay Glen Animal Hospital

Blanco North Animal Hospital

Berry Street Animal Hospital

Boerne Veterinary Clinic

Brenham Veterinary Hospital

Brookhollow Animal Hospital

Burleson Equine Hospital

Carson County Veterinary Clinic

**Central Expressway
Animal Hospital**

Community Pet Health Center

Companion Animal Hospital

Coryell Veterinary Clinic

Crossroads Veterinary Clinic

Countryside Veterinary Clinic

Dacula Animal Hospital

East Rockaway

Veterinary Hospital

Echo Lane Animal Clinic

El Dorado Animal Hospital

**Emergency Animal Hospital
of NW Austin**

EquiPLEX Veterinary Hospital

Equine Veterinary Associates

Family Pet Clinic

Foothills Animal Clinic

Friendswood Animal Clinic

Fry Road Animal Clinic

Great Plains Veterinary Clinic

Greenway Animal Clinic

**Guadalupe Valley
Veterinary Clinic**

Highway 30 Veterinary Clinic

Highway 620 Animal Hospital

Highway 71 Veterinary Hospital

Hill Country Animal Hospital

Ingram Park Animal Hospital

Just Cats Veterinary Hospital

Katy I-10 Animal Clinic

KT Trail Animal Hospital

Lakeline Animal Care

Lilburn Animal Hospital

Little Animal Hospital

Lone Star Veterinary Hospital

Loop 410 Veterinary Hospital

Mission Veterinary Hospital

**North Boulder
Companion Animal Hospital**

Northwest Veterinary Hospital

Nueces Veterinary Hospital

**O'Conner Road
Animal Hospital**

Oak Hills Veterinary Hospital

Park Cities Animal Hospital

Parker Road Animal Hospital

Parkview Veterinary Clinic

**Pat Booker Road
Animal Hospital**

Pearland Animal Hospital

Pet Medical Center of Katy

Richardson Veterinary Clinic

River Oaks Animal Hospital

Rosehill Veterinary Clinic

**San Antonio Veterinary
Referral Specialists**

Shelley Drive Animal Clinic

South Bosque Veterinary Clinic

Southside Animal Hospital

**Southwest Hills
Veterinary Clinic**

Starnes Animal Clinic

Steeplechase Animal Hospital

Taylor Veterinary Clinic

Temple Veterinary Hospital

Tender Paws Animal

The Feline Medical Center

Valley Animal Hospital

Valley Ranch Pet Clinic

**Veterinary Hospital
of Leon Springs**

Village Veterinary Clinic

Walnut Creek Animal Hospital

Waxahachie Veterinary Clinic

Cassandra Scott



On July 27, 2008, the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences lost one of our own when Cassandra Scott was killed in a car accident. Scott was committed to her veterinary medical education and was very active in many organizations within the college. She was passionate about orthopedics, her friends, and her cat, Gatsby, who was also lost in the accident.

A fourth year veterinary medical student, Scott would have graduated with her DVM in May 2009. During her time at the college, Scott served as president of the Student Chapter of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association and the Feline Practitioners group. She also was in charge of the orthopedic/rehabilitation room during the college's annual Open House for the past two years. Scott touched many lives while at Texas A&M as both an undergraduate and as a veterinary medical school student, and will be missed by not only her family, but also the entire college.

In honor of her memory, her fellow students have established the Cassandra Scott Memorial Scholarship fund within the College of Veterinary Medicine. Donations can be made by check payable to the Texas A&M Foundation with "Cassandra Scott Scholarship" included on the memo line. Checks/donations should be mailed to: College of Veterinary Medicine, Office of the Dean, 4461 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4461.

Class of 1937

John F. Melton, 97, of Dallas, TX, died August 21, 2008.

Class of 1939

Homer Henry Greenlee, 93, of Coleman, TX, died July 30, 2008.

Harold Boswell "Bob" Mills, 90, of Midland, TX, died September 28, 2008.

Class of 1943

Earl G. Bailey, Jr., 87, of Dexter, MO, died July 27, 2008.

Harry J. Magrane, Jr., 88, of Mishawaka, IN, died November 8, 2008.

Class of 1944

Claude Henry Richey, Sr., 83, of Austin, TX, died May 9, 2007.

Class of 1945

Leonard L. Mortimer, 85, of Honolulu, HI, died August 23, 2008.

Class of 1948

Floyd Merl "Doc" Ward, 86, of Angleton, TX, died October 2, 2008.

Class of 1950

James L. Massey, 87, of Beaumont, TX, died December 4, 2008.

Class of 1953

Leonard Dalovisio, 81, of Lake Charles, LA, died August 30, 2008.

Class of 1954

Everett Dickman Besch, 84, of Baton Rouge, LA, died August 27, 2008.

Class of 1964

Gerald J. Fisher, 73, of San Antonio, TX, died September 10, 2008.

Class of 1971

Kenneth Charles Bleichner, 68, of Biloxi, MS, died October 23, 2008.

Class of 1994

Brian Joseph Hablinski, 39, of Conroe, TX, died October 14, 2008.



MARK FRANCIS FELLOWS

The Mark Francis Fellows recognizes donors who have given \$1,000 or more to the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. The following donors were honored on October 17th for their generous contributions. Donors are grouped into two alphabetical lists: New Members and Members Advancing to Higher Levels of Giving.

New Members:

John and Sherry Adams
College Station, TX

John Bache
Rossford, OH

Dr. Joseph L. Blair
Annadale, VA

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Blum
Camden, ME

Dr. Janice D. Boyd
Slidell, LA

Ardeth Cardwell
Elgin, TX

Brenda Cardwell
Elgin, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Kent Carter
Caldwell, TX

Gen. Michael and Linda Cates
San Antonio, TX

Joan Chatterton
Hockessin, DE

Tracey Coryell
Gig Harbor, WA

Dr. John E. Cozad
South Padre Island, TX

Mr. and Mrs. David M. Doll
Houston, TX

Esther Drourr
McLean, VA

Dr. and Mrs. Billy B. Dunn
Garland, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Lane Easter
Whitesboro, TX

Dr. Eileen M. Egan
Bellaire, TX

Wendi G. Fidler
Spring, TX

Frank and Elon Foster
Houston, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby J. Frantom
Spring, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Marc Fratessa
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Dr. Dean and Kathy Gage
College Station, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Garceau
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Dr. William M. Haglund
Houston, TX

Dr. James A. Hall
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Mr. James C. Ledlow, Jr.
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Harris A. Lewin
Urbana, IL

Mr. and Mrs. Arnol L. Lindorfer
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Allan A. Marburger
Paige, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Murrah
Houston, TX

Dr. and Mrs. John E. Oliver
Bogart, GA

Mr. and Mrs. David Pagel
Wharton, TX

Kelly Heape Parsons
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Dr. and Mrs. F. David Prentice
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Dr. William A. Roach
Georgetown, TX

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Houston, TX

Raquel E. Sheldon
New York, NY

Dr. Russell B. Simpson
Hondo, TX

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Charles E. and Cindy Still
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Kevin L. Swenke
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Dr. Thomas R. Thedford
Basic

Dr. Gerald L. Van Hoosier
Edmonds, WA

Helen F. Wadsworth
Nokesville, VA

Mr. and Mrs. Donald O. Wheeler
Quinlan, TX

Gail Zeck
New Waverly, TX



BG Michael Cates, Dr. Guy Sheppard, Dr. Fred Palmer, Dr. Tom Vice, and Dr. O. J. Woytek at the 2008 Mark Francis Fellows Luncheon.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Zimmer
Amarillo, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Terry M. Perkins
Richardson, TX

Dr. and Mrs. James R. Saunders
San Antonio, TX

**Members Advancing
to Higher Levels of Giving:**

Phoebe S. Perry
Dallas, TX

Dr. Joe E. and Carrie West
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Burton M. Barkin
Schertz, TX

Dr. James R. Prine
Slayton, OR

Dr. and Mrs. John A. Wood
Lufkin, TX

Mary C. Broussard
Houston, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Mark D. Quick
Dallas, TX

For more information about the Mark Francis program, please contact the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences Development Office at 979-845-9043.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey R. Farish
Kempner, TX

Jeni Michelle Rod
Montgomery, TX

Jan Grice
N Somerset, United Kingdom

2009 Outstanding Alumni: Call for Nominations

Marguerite Gupton
Richmond, TX

The Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences Outstanding Alumni Awards have been presented since 1980 to recognize graduates of the college who have reached a level of success in their professional careers that brings credit to both the individual and the CVM. Outstanding alumni exemplify the ideals, character strengths and principles of conduct that make the veterinary medical profession one of the highest callings.

Dr. and Mrs. Richard J. Habbinga
Austin, TX

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2009 College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences Outstanding Alumni. Graduates from Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences may be nominated for this honor. Nominations are welcome through January 9, 2009. For each nominee, a resume or curriculum vitae that summarizes major career accomplishments, and two letters of support are required, as well as any additional information or letters that may be helpful to the selection committee. Awards will be presented at the annual reception and dinner to be held April 3, 2009, at Miramont Country Club in Bryan, TX.

Donna Keeling
Elgin, TX

Susan H. Mancuso
Metairie, LA

Dr. and Mrs. Taber Meyers
Morgan Mill, TX

Thomas B. and Patsy Nichols
Austin, TX

Dr. Fred A. and Vola N. Palmer
Godley, TX

Nomination packets can be found on our web site at <http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/alumni> or you may call Noell Vance at (979) 845-9043 to receive one by mail.

PARTING *Shot*



Equine Lameness Arena



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