



CVM Today

News from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University

Winter 2002 | Vol. 4 No. 2



The Road to Morocco

Four-Legged Drive

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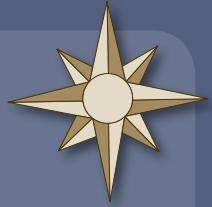


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ONE SPIRIT
A&M
ONE VISION
THE TEXAS A&M CAMPAIGN



Contributors

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Mosquito photographs courtesy of Dr. Jim Olson, Professor, Department of Entomology, TAMU (pg. 4)

Drs. Johnson and Wolf photograph courtesy of Peggy Hemus (pg. 6)

Drs. Herman and Scott photograph courtesy of Dr. Morgan Scott, Asst. Professor, Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health, TAMU (pg. 6)

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LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Looking to the Future

Veterinary medicine is going through what you might call a Renaissance period. Evidence of this “rebirth” within our profession includes astounding advancements in veterinary medical technologies, a growing sophistication of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures performed in veterinary clinics and referral hospitals, and the heightened awareness of veterinary medicine in public health and national security. All of the above advancements, to mention just a few, are contributing to ever-broadening career opportunities available to those with veterinary medical degrees.

Both the progressive evolution of our profession and some of the positive challenges that lie ahead are reflected in articles included in this issue of *CVM Today*. To meet these challenges, a number of initiatives have been undertaken to ensure that your College of Veterinary Medicine continues the tradition of excellence in veterinary medical education begun under Dr. Mark Francis’ leadership eighty-six years ago.

One extremely important initiative is the “renaissance” of the emergency medicine and intensive care unit of the small animal side of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Phase one of this project includes the addition of triage facilities for emergency medical cases and renovation of almost 3,000 square feet for a state-of-the-art intensive care unit. Phase one is complete. Phase two, including dedicated space for anesthesia as well as a clinical endoscopy laboratory, is nearing completion. The addition of faculty and staff with expertise in emergency medicine and critical care will ensure that the college



Dean H. Richard Adams

meets the growing demand for veterinary graduates with experience in this clinical specialty area.

We also have witnessed revitalization of veterinary medical extension since the infamous day in September 2001. Biosecurity was a word that until a year and a half ago wasn’t much in the public’s vocabulary; it is now used to describe a considerable part of the work of our veterinary extension faculty and other food animal practitioners. Texas Cooperative Extension recently recognized two of our veterinary extension faculty, Drs. Buddy Faries and Bruce Lawhorn, for their outstanding contributions in this particularly challenging time.

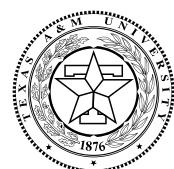
As we learned from our history books, progress is made only through a tremendous investment towards advancement. The college is dedicated to practicing “continuous quality improvement”. To that end, planning for the 78th legislative session is underway to ensure that veterinary medical education remains a high priority in the state’s budget. With state and federal resources stretched to

their limit, we will need your help so that the great State of Texas’ only College of Veterinary Medicine is prepared to meet the challenges that are ahead.

Through participation in the “One Spirit One Vision” capital campaign now in its private or “quiet phase,” the college will look to graduates and friends to help support funding initiatives in three critical areas. First, we recognize that we must continue to update equipment and facilities in our Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital if we are to continue to educate and graduate the very best qualified veterinarians. Second, we need to recruit and retain the very best clinical and basic science educators and investigators to maintain our edge of excellence in teaching, service and discovery. Finally, we must recruit and assist the brightest and most dedicated and prepared veterinary medical students by providing financial aid through scholarships. There are many opportunities for supporting these initiatives, and in the next several issues of *CVM Today* we will highlight many options for your thoughtful consideration.

Please accept our sincere appreciation for all you do to help us best serve the citizens of Texas and their animals. Personally, I send my best regards and best wishes for the New Year and hope that you’ll be able to venture back to Aggieland to visit your College of Veterinary Medicine. My door is open and the coffee is hot!

Sincerely,



H. Richard Adams
H. RICHARD ADAMS
DEAN

The Road to Morocco

In a land where donkeys stand hoof to hubcap with other modes of transportation, Dr. Nora Matthews, Professor in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, saw first-hand how important these unique equids are to people in developing nations.

Matthews traveled to Morocco in April to work shoulder-to-shoulder with veterinarians from around the world, as part of the Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa's (SPANA) initiative to improve standards of animal care while assisting the working poor by offering free veterinary care for their animals. For people who depend on what they grow to live, the health of their pack and plow animals is critical to their survival.

"Like most Americans, I had no international awareness of donkey usage outside this country," Matthews said. "I learned that 50 to 55 million donkeys and mules are used primarily for packing and transportation in every country around the world except the United States and United Kingdom."

There are about four million donkeys and mules in Morocco, and SPANA has ten veterinary hospitals. "I went there to get more experience working with donkeys, and I did, but also ended up providing a lot of anesthesia for dogs and cats as well, because the need was so great."

"In Morocco, donkeys and mules are everywhere and used extensively for work, their economic importance has only recently been recognized," she said.

Matthews began working with donkeys in 1989 when she and Dr. Tex Taylor, a professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, collabora-



Dr. Nora Matthews' appreciation of donkeys has grown since she began working with them in 1989. She adopted a donkey of her own in 2002.

rated on a research project comparing the effects of anesthetics on donkeys and horses. The idea for the project developed when a group of about ten donkeys had been given to the college.

Matthews and Taylor realized at the time that little information was available on how or if donkeys differed physiologically from horses. Throughout their studies, they learned that there were some very important differences between the horse and donkey.

"One main difference is the size and angulation of the hoof. In Morocco, horseshoes are often forced onto donkey hooves causing pain and an improper fit."

Another important difference may be that donkeys have a higher metabolic rate than horses. Usually, the dosage given to a horse is not suitable for a donkey because

they tend to metabolize drugs more quickly than horses.

"So, where you might give a donkey a dose three times a day, you may only need to give a horse the same dose once or twice a day," Matthews said. "It is important to remember that a donkey is not just a small horse."

Donkeys differ from their equine counterparts in several ways, but they are easily trained, generally require less care, tend to live longer than horses and are relatively safe for children.

"Donkeys can be a wonderful alternative for children to get the horse experience and pick up animal handling skills," Matthews said. "I've worked with horses since I was 14 and thoroughly enjoy the unique aspects of working with both horses and donkeys."

What the Doctor Ordered

With the old critical care area bursting at the seams with patients, doctors, technicians and students, a newly expanded facility is just what the doctor ordered. On Monday, September 10, veterinarians and members of the media got a “Sneak Preview” of the Small Animal Clinic’s new state-of-the-art critical care and emergency medicine unit.

It was a rare opportunity to see the facility because once patients are admitted to the unit only veterinarians, technicians, and fourth year medical students working in emergency medicine and critical care will be permitted to enter.

Staffed by experts in veterinary critical care and emergency medicine, the newly renovated facility includes sophisticated equipment such as a human-health grade laboratory analyzer for blood, a new state-of-the-art ventilator with graphics, monitors for vital signs, defibrillators, syringe pumps and other emergency room instruments. The equipment is comparable to that used currently for cutting-edge medicine and surgery in human hospitals.

“This new facility reflects the rapid advancement in veterinary medicine over the past ten years,” said Dr. Maureen McMichael, Director of the Emergency Medicine and Critical Care Program. “Now, veterinarians have access to some of the same technologies that human practitioners use.”

The new equipment and larger facility will help veterinarians at the Small Animal Hospital to better diagnose and treat a variety of emergency conditions including massive trauma, neurological conditions, toxicities, renal failure and emergency referral cases from veterinarians.

Expanded areas include intensive and intermediate care, anesthesia preparation and a much-needed endoscopic procedure room. “We hope that our growing critical care and emergency medicine service will support veterinarians not only in Texas, but throughout the Southwest,” added McMichael.

In addition to McMichael, Dana Heath, Assistant Hospital Administrator and the President of the National Organization of Critical Care Technicians; Lori Atkins, Critical Care Coordinator; and other clinical specialists

will staff the new critical care and emergency medicine facility.

The College of Veterinary Medicine’s Small Animal Hospital serves as one of the most sophisticated veterinary medical teaching laboratories in the nation where fourth year students in the professional program can learn the art and science of veterinary medicine. The expansion in critical care and emergency medicine facilities and staff is anticipated to increase the skills of graduating veterinarians in this growing specialty.



Top: Sherry Workman from the VMTH tours the new facility with her son, Brandon.

Bottom: ICU technician Aimee Day answers questions from Girl Scout Troop #1046 during the “Sneak Preview.”

The Best Defense

Texans joined the nation in facing a new threat as West Nile encephalitis spread to animals and humans. According to Dr. Jim Olson, a researcher in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University, West Nile encephalitis stands to be a year-round problem for Texas.

"There are at least two primary vectors in Texas for West Nile virus, the southern house mosquito which primarily feeds on birds and occasionally on other animals in the summer, and the grassland culex mosquito, which feeds on birds and other animals in the winter." With a wet Texas summer or a mild winter, populations of these mosquitoes could soar posing a consistent threat throughout much of the State of Texas.

Dr. Bruce Lawhorn, a professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery and Texas Cooperative Extension, has worked to ensure veterinarians and residents are aware of the damage the virus can cause.

West Nile encephalitis in the United States was first identified in 1999 by Dr. Tracie McNamara at New York City's Bronx Zoo. When the zoo began to

have sick and dying exotic birds, McNamara noticed an unusually high number of dead birds near the zoo's facilities. Her observation resulted in identifying West Nile encephalitis as the presence of an old disease posing a new threat to animals and people in our homeland.

West Nile encephalitis is believed to have entered the United States by way of infected mosquitoes and/or birds. Since that time, the virus has spread across the country causing approximately 146 human deaths and more than 2,000 confirmed cases of the illness.

The virus threatens Texans in many ways. Humans, horses, donkeys, mules and numerous species of birds are affected. Lawhorn and his team of extension specialists have distributed fact sheets, videos and given presentations discussing the threat of West Nile and how horse owners can protect their animals.

The West Nile virus was first discovered in horses in New York City in 1999. Initially, it was thought to be Equine Protozoal Myelitis, a disease that causes similar symptoms such as stumbling and poor coordination.

"Many equine diseases that cause encephalitis look like West Nile encephalitis," Lawhorn said. "Rabies is an example, but unlike West Nile encephalitis, rabies can be transmitted directly to humans through infected horses and is virtually 100 percent fatal."

West Nile encephalitis, however, cannot be transmitted directly to humans by horses or from horse to horse and is only fatal in 25-30 percent of cases. Other symptoms of the disease include weakening or paralysis of hind limbs, impaired vision, staggering gait, head pressing, aimless wandering, convulsions, inability to swallow, circling, extreme excitability or coma. Owners should contact their veterinarian immediately if symptoms such as these are observed.

"The best defense is for horse owners to reduce exposure to mosquitoes and vaccinate each animal." Lawhorn said. "It is important that we don't underestimate the potential of this disease."

Veterinarians administer the vaccine twice, at three- and six-week intervals. Adequate protection begins four weeks after the second injection or about seven to eight weeks from the first vaccination. During this time, horse owners should minimize mosquito exposure by housing animals inside stables from dusk until dawn, when the insects are most active. Approved sprays should also be used to repel and kill mosquitoes. Birds and bird nests should be removed from stable areas and a periodic examination of property for dead birds, shallow standing water, used tires, burn piles with cans and containers, manure storage pits and drainage areas should be conducted to eliminate mosquito breeding areas.



Top: The grassland culex (*Culex salinarius*) frequents open grassland in the winter and feeds on birds and other animals.



Bottom: The southern house mosquito (*Culex quinquefasciatus*) primarily feeds on birds in the summer. Illustration by Alice Prickett, University of Illinois

At Home and Abroad

Which is harder, passing a bill through congress or passing a camel through the eye of a needle? Jay Griffin, a third year veterinary student, might be able to answer that question after spending part of his summer working with politicians in Washington D.C. and camels and other animals in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia.

With the help of Dr. Jeffrey Musser, a lecturer in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, Jay traveled to Washington D.C. to serve as a student extern with the American Veterinary Medical Association Governmental Relations Division (AVMA-GRD). Griffin joined other colleagues to build support for the Veterinary Health Enhancement Act (H.R. 1943/S. 1836). The act, if passed, would encourage students (by way of possible student-loan forgiveness) to practice veterinary medicine in rural areas, perhaps alleviating the perceived shortage of large animal veterinarians and placing more professionals on the front-lines of foreign animal disease identification and control.

Detecting a foreign-animal disease's spread into rural areas might prove difficult and delay the implementation of control measures. The Veterinary Health Enhancement Act is intended to increase the number of veterinarians in these areas, resulting in increased awareness and shortened response time.

"There are tremendous potential problems in rural areas that may not have access to veterinarians. A potentially devastating disease, such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), could spread like wildfire before we even know we have it," said Griffin.

While in Washington, Griffin contacted most of the Texas



Jay Griffin and friend on a summer's day in Mongolia.

representatives and both Texas senators to familiarize them with the bill. "One of the things I learned is that legislators really do care about their constituents when making political decisions. It was very obvious that they had a genuine concern for the problems I presented," said Griffin.

Representative Jim Turner (D), 2nd Congressional district of Texas, is a cosponsor of the bill. If Griffin and his colleagues rally enough support, the act will either move through Congress as a free-standing bill or be attached to a larger piece of legislation, such as the Farm Bill, which comes up for reauthorization every few years.

Continuing his travels, Griffin found himself in a different part of the world when he visited Mongolia; there he taught English and basic grammar to adults and young children. The trip was made possible through the Christian Veterinary Mission and Central Baptist Church of Bryan.

"The contrast was amazing. To go from Washington, D.C., the hub of America and home to the most powerful political officials in the world to Mongolia where horses and camels are still used to transport people and

food," Griffin said.

Mongolia isn't a crop-producing country, cattle and livestock are the agricultural products. This is why veterinarians from more developed nations are in such great demand to assist the Mongolian people.

"Being a student in veterinary medicine presents numerous opportunities to help." We really made a difference, and it's a rewarding experience to do something you love and help others at the same time," Jay said.

While Griffin was in Mongolia, an outbreak of FMD occurred. Seeing the devastating effects it had on the livestock industry enhanced Griffin's awareness of the veterinarian's role in public health and strengthened his commitment to support the Veterinary Health Enhancement Act as it moves through the U.S. Congress.

For the time being, Jay's travels are finished, and we are pleased to have him back for his third year in the professional program. Griffin is hopeful that the legislation will pass in the near future, and as for passing a camel through the eye of a needle, anything is possible.

Love Birds

If birds of a feather *really* do flock together, then it should come as no surprise that their veterinarians do as well. The College of Veterinary Medicine, not unlike peer institutions across the nation, has several married couples working to advance veterinary medicine in a variety of clinical and research areas.

"The pursuit of a veterinary medical profession brings individuals together often and for long periods of time," said Dr. Robert Bergman, a neurologist in the Small Animal Hospital. "My wife, Sara, and I met at the University of Georgia while we were in veterinary school."

Robert was hired into a faculty position in neurology and Sara began her residency in radiology. "About four months after we arrived at the college our daughter, Catherine, was born. Sara made the difficult decision to resign her residency to stay home with our beautiful daughter." Although Bergman

and his wife met when they were both veterinary students, that isn't always the norm.

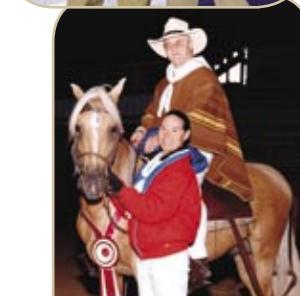
"Terry was a surgical resident at Ohio State and I was there completing my cardiology residence," said Dr. Matthew Miller. Dr. Theresa Fossum, Matt's wife, is a general and soft tissue surgeon specializing in cardiovascular surgery which means that they sometimes have the opportunity

to work together. "Sometimes, our best chance to catch up with each other is in between patients or on the way to meetings where we're both speaking."

Newlyweds Drs. Daniel and Michelle (McDonald) Mertens met in small animal radiology at Cornell University during their surgical residencies. "I was doing an external rotation from my residency in Guelph, Canada," said Michelle, "and we met discussing radiographs of a dog." The couple began dating shortly thereafter and were married in Nova Scotia on September 7, 2002.

There are at least ten married veterinary couples on faculty with more than a dozen additional faculty-staff medical duos working throughout the college and related agencies. With women increasingly keeping their maiden names after marriage for professional reasons, these special connections are sometimes masked.

However, it seems as though wherever veterinary professions intersect there is the probability that long-term relationships, and maybe even marriage, will result. For Texas A&M University, the veterinary medical duos add depth to the program and perhaps even strengthen the bond between the university and those employed here when reporting to work becomes a "family affair."



Top: Drs. Morgan Scott and Cheryl Herman (both VAPH)

Middle: Drs. Alice Wolf (VSAM) and James Johnson (VLAM)

Bottom: Drs. Daniel and Michelle Mertens (both VSAM)

The CVM's First Lady

At the risk of shining the spotlight on someone who embraces her supporting role as the "First Lady of the College of Veterinary Medicine," your editor has discovered that the Dean and Mrs. Adams are also a medical duo. Only instead of veterinary medicine, Mrs. Adams is a colleague from the human health field.

Mrs. Adams, better known to her associates in human medicine as Dr. Janet Parker, can be found welcoming alumni, faculty, and friends to special events that are held at the College of Veterinary Medicine throughout the year. But, a short walk through the tunnel connecting the veterinary college with the medical school leads Dr. Parker to her other role as a professor in the Department of Medical Physiology at the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center.

Parker received a BS in Biology with minors in Math and Chemistry in 1969 from North Texas University. She earned her MS and PhD in Cardiovascular Physiology from Michigan State University in 1972 and 1975.

Her post doctoral training in Pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Southwestern Medical School was completed in 1977. Parker made her move to the Texas A&M System Health Science Center in 1998 where she has teaching and research responsibilities.

Research in Parker's laboratory involves cardiovascular pathophysiology and chronic adaptive responses of the heart and vasculature to stress. Parker was awarded a five-year, \$1.8 mil-

Chromosome Analysis

lion grant by the National Institutes of Health in October 2000 and is currently studying the benefits of chronic exercise training on coronary artery disease using a swine model.

In addition to teaching and research, Parker also volunteers as a faculty mentor in the Undergraduate Fellows program to aid students in gaining work experience in a field that they may want to pursue as their profession.

Throughout her career, Parker has received numerous awards and honors including the Excellence in Medical Education Award from MU School of Medicine, the Best Mentor Award in 1995 and the Third Annual Education Day for Teacher Recognition. She is an active member of the Texas Pharmacologists Society, the American Heart Association Circulation Council, and many other professional organizations.

Like the college's other medical duos, Dean Adams and Dr. Parker are working to advance human and animal health through their respective disciplines to improve the quality of life for all creatures, great and small.



Dean H. Richard Adams and his wife, Dr. Janet Parker.

Down's Syndrome (an extra chromosome 21) and Turner's Syndrome (one missing X chromosome in females) are well known defects in humans that are attributed to chromosome abnormalities. Such abnormalities are found not only in humans, but also in livestock, pet and wildlife species. Chromosome abnormalities can have varying effects on the viability and fertility of the animals. For example, they are a major cause of pre-natal death and are also a source for developmental defects and disorders seen at birth or later during life. Additionally, they have a major impact on reproduction and fertility, which is a matter of primary concern to many animal owners.

One of the easiest ways to check whether chromosomal abnormalities are attributed to any of the afore-mentioned problems is to conduct a cytogenetic test on the animal. The Molecular Cytogenetics Laboratory at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, has recently launched a cytogenetic analysis service to help identify animals that are possible carriers of chromosome abnormalities. This service, unique in North America, is available to all clinical cases within mainland USA and Canada (export permit required) on a "cost-share" basis.

About 3-5 ml blood collected in sterile sodium heparin tubes is required to obtain cells that are cultured in special media for three days. Chromosome preparations are obtained by the fifth day and

final results are available within 10-14 working days. Analysis reveals the chromosome number in each cell which is compared with the normal number for that species. For example, a horse must have 64 chromosomes. If it is a male, one X and one Y chromosome must be present while if it is a female, two X chromosomes must be present. Similarly, in dog, cat, cattle, pig and donkey, the number should be 78, 38, 60, 38 and 62, respectively. Any deviation from these numbers is a clear sign of abnormality. Additionally, abnormalities can also be found in the structure of the chromosome.

Using special approaches currently available in the Molecular Cytogenetics Laboratory, these defects can be identified.

Fertility is one of the major concerns for any animal breeder or owner. Several breeding associations in different countries have made it mandatory to get all potential breeding animals screened for chromosome abnormalities early in life. This prohibits the propagation of the abnormality to future generations and saves breeders millions of dollars by identifying animals with chromosome defects prior to breeding. The Molecular Cytogenetics Laboratory is currently receiving samples from various states in mainland USA as well as Canada. For more information contact Dr. Bhnu Chowdhary, Associate Professor, Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX-77843. (979) 458-0519.

Team Effort

The 2002 Superior Service Team Award, the highest honor awarded in the team category by the Texas Cooperative Extension was presented to Drs. Floron "Buddy" Faries, Jr. and Bruce Lawhorn. Faries is a professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery and extension program leader, Texas Cooperative Extension, and Lawhorn is a professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine and an extension swine veterinarian, Texas Cooperative Extension. They were recognized for their efforts to educate extension agents, veterinarians and the public on the risks associated with foreign animal diseases. The team award was given to six professionals, four of whom are communications specialists in Texas A&M University's Agricultural Communications.

"Education is the primary goal of extension, and it seeks to promote and communicate preventive health concepts and strategies at the producer and veterinary practitioner levels through presentations, consultations, and print and electronic publications," Lawhorn said.

Extension's research-based information provides options for the prevention and control of diseases and disorders and the reduction of food borne diseases in beef/dairy cattle and swine populations.

Last year, the Extension Program emerged to become the frontrunner in biosecurity through education

ing livestock owners and the public on the importance of early detection and rapid reporting of threatening zoonotic diseases including foot-and-mouth, chronic wasting and others.

"This team acted quickly, worked very hard, and did more to answer the myriad of questions from both livestock owners and the public than any other in our country," said Dr. William Moyer, professor and

head of the Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery. "Texas, through this team effort, took the lead in providing much needed information in the face of a public awareness crisis."

Throughout the year, extension team members

worked to develop the Texas Cooperative Extension Emergency Management Plan for Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD). They held 70 extension agent and veterinary training sessions on FAD and distributed fact sheets, news releases, articles and videotapes nationwide and created a web site.

"Individually and collectively, this group has played a large role in ensuring the Texas Cooperative Extension's internal processes are adequate in case of a catastrophic animal emergency. But more importantly, they have been leaders at the state level to ensure the livestock industry of Texas can be as prepared as possible to respond and recover from any untold events," said Dr. Dee Ellis, Texas Animal Health Commission Area Seven director.



Drs. Floron "Buddy" Faries and Bruce Lawhorn

Extension of Excellence

Dr. Floron "Buddy" Faries, a professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery and extension program leader for the Texas Cooperative Extension, received the 2002 Superior Service Award, the highest honor given in the specialist category from the Texas Cooperative Extension.

Over the past five years, Faries has given 228 individual extension presentations and 119 invitational presentations throughout Texas and bordering states. He has averaged 28,000 miles a year responding to in-depth training session and presentation requests for more

than 20,000 participants. Last fall, when concerns about bioterrorism began to arise, Faries conducted 28 county programs and 8 district sessions addressing foreign animal diseases.

"I have found Dr. Faries to exemplify the very epitome of the extension specialist," said Rebecca H. Parker, county extension agent for Denton County. "He is renowned for his speaking ability and a master at presenting technically challenging information to an audience with varying degrees of understanding of the subject."

Faries received his bachelor's



Drs. Floron "Buddy" Faries and Chester Fehilis, Jr.

degree in 1964 from Texas A&M University and his doctorate of veterinary medicine in 1965 from the College of Veterinary Medicine. Following graduation, Faries worked in university teaching and in private practice before returning to the college in 1983 as an extension specialist.

Aggie Born and Bred

As a 1991 Texas A&M University graduate and the granddaughter ('38), niece ('64), and wife ('00) of Aggie veterinarians, you might say that Dr. Elizabeth Crouch was born and bred for her position as the new Associate Director of Biomedical Science at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Crouch settled into her new position on Sept. 2, providing undergraduate students with academic advising for unofficial degree audits, registration and course planning. She coordinates the department's efforts in recruiting targeted high school students into the Biomedical Science (BIMS) program and developing and conducting high school recruitment programs including the popular Veterinary Enrichment Camps.

Crouch began working with BIMS in 2001 as an academic advisor assisting underclassmen with course selection and university rules and regulations. She is currently a liaison for BIMS students at the Study Abroad office at Texas A&M University, where she provides students with the opportunity to complete courses and internships overseas.

She has also assisted with oversight of the International Certificate Program with a focus in Spanish for BIMS students working toward a certificate of proficiency in a foreign language.

"We are very proud to have Dr. Crouch as our new associate director, and we look forward to working with her to advance the college's undergraduate educational goals," said Dr. F. H. "Skip" Landis, Director of Biomedical Science.

Crouch received her bachelor's degree in Biomedical Science in 1991 and a doctorate in genetics in 1996 from Texas A&M



Dr. Elizabeth Crouch clarifies an assignment for student David Sosa.

University. Following graduation, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center where she later became a research associate.

Following her work at M.D. Anderson, Crouch moved to Boise, Idaho where she served as an adjunct professor of Biology at Boise State University and later as a science teacher at Maranatha Christian School.

She returned to Texas A&M University in 2001 as a genetics lecturer in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health and shortly afterwards as academic advisor in the Biomedical Science Department.

"As an advisor and teacher, I hope to facilitate students' professional development as they complete the BIMS program. Advisors and mentors can be very important as students consider the myriad of options available to them today," said Crouch.

Bragging on BIMS

In the fall of 2001, graduates of the Biomedical Science (BIMS) Program at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine comprised almost 45% of the Aggies admitted to medical schools, over 60% of the Aggies admitted to dental school in Texas and 26% of the students admitted to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The program's non-restricted freshman enrollment averages 20% ethnicity—one of the highest percentages of academic majors at Texas A&M University, and over 65% of the program's students are women.

In the Biomedical Science Program, students rise to the expectation of the program's rigorous curriculum. The average GPA of BIMS students in the Fall of 2001 was 3.018, compared to the university's average of 2.859.

Through the program's 2+2 articulation agreements with select community colleges throughout the State of Texas, transfer students meeting extremely high academic standards are guaranteed admission to BIMS.

An active recruiting process targeting 300 individual high schools across the State, coupled with the 2+2 articulation agreements, result in a geographically diverse student population that is academically strong.



Students attending a BIMS 101 lecture

There's No Place Like Home

Everyone who attended the College of Veterinary Medicine's (CVM) Homecoming this year had a great time. Start making plans now to attend in 2003 so you don't miss out on the fun!

It all begins Friday night, August 29, 2003, with the recognition of our 2003 Outstanding Alumni at a reception and dinner held at the Bush Presidential Library. Join us in honoring your colleagues and classmates for their accomplishments in advancing the veterinary medical profession.

We have reserved Saturday morning for individual classes to plan a breakfast, golf or other activities for classmates to "catch up" with each other. On Saturday afternoon, you can walk down memory lane with a tour of the college. Don't be surprised if the many expansions, renovations and additions to the facilities provide you with a broader perspective of your school. As one alumnus said "It's the same grand place—only better!"

Following the tour, join us for a hearty pre-game meal, which will be held at the college at least two hours before the A&M and Arkansas State football game. Buses will leave the college parking lot to take you to Kyle Field for the first home game of the season. The buses will bring you back after the game so there is no need for you to fight game-day traffic to get there.

Watch your mail this spring for a registration form with a complete schedule and listing of hotels which will have rooms blocked for the CVM's 2003 Homecoming.

It's great seeing classmates at regional and national meetings, but there's no place like Aggieland! If you have any questions about the 2003 College of Veterinary Medicine Homecoming, please call the development office at (979) 845-9043.



DVM Class of 1957

BBQ, Bond and Biopsies

They traveled 6,682 miles to eat some barbecue, debate which actor portrayed James Bond most effectively, and to learn more about the diagnosis and treatment of diseases in older cats and dogs.

On a hot day in August, a delegation of 25 Japanese veterinarians and veterinary students, sponsored by the Japanese Small Animal Veterinary Association (JSAVA), concluded their eight-day trip to the United States with a continuing education seminar at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Following a tour of the Small and Large Animal Clinics, Drs. Joan Coates, Daniel Mertens and Polly Peterson presented six hours of lecture to the group. The title of Dr. Coates' presentation was *Case Presentations: Common Neurologic Diseases in Geriatric Dogs and Cats*, Dr. Mertens' presentation was titled *Canine Osteosarcoma*, and Dr. Peterson delivered two presentations, *Management Strategies for Chronic Progressive*

Renal Disease in Cats and Systemic Hypertension in Cats.

"All of our attendees have been very impressed with the seminar and the heartfelt hospitality at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A & M University," said the tour coordinator, Mr. Takuhei Kanaazawa, President of Nichiyo Air Service, Inc. After a brief tour of the Memorial Student Center, the delegation enjoyed dinner at the Faculty Club restaurant high atop Rudder tower.



Dr. Joan Coates speaks with members of JSAVA



Making new friends at the Small Animal Clinic

The success of this first international seminar through the college's Office of Continuing Education has opened the possibility for similar seminars in the future.

"The first question our friends with JSAVA asked me was 'Can we come back next year,'" said Dean H. Richard Adams. "As I told them, we are always pleased to share information with colleagues and look forward to seeing them again here in Aggieland."

Food Safety

For humanity, the difference between feast and famine has been the ability to keep the food supply pure and preserved. The time-honored techniques of drying, pickling, canning, freezing and pasteurization have comprised the food safety arsenal for decades, but food irradiation is making great strides in advancing food safety technology.

"Food irradiation has come a long way since it was first introduced in the late 1950s," said Dr. Asa B. Childers, a veterinarian at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University. "In the beginning, processors used radiation levels far above what was necessary, leaving residual radiation in the food and altering the taste, texture and nutritional content. Modern methods, however, are fine tuned to leave food safer, fresher and more appealing."

With heightened concern for protecting our nation's food supply from intentional contamination, food irradiation is again being considered.

"There are two primary ways in which food is irradiated today. One is through the use of cobalt, a radioactive substance traditionally used in food irradiation. The other is called 'electron beam' processing, a method in which electrons are used instead of gamma rays to reduce the pathogens in food," said Childers. "These methods drastically reduce the likelihood of consumers being harmed through the introduction of Salmonella and other contaminants, intentionally or otherwise."

For now, foods processed using these methods must be labeled as "irradiated." This may



Dr. Asa Childers verifies the results

soon change, however. Foods processed using electron beam technology may eventually be labeled "cold pasteurized," a term that is both more accurate and consumer-friendly. Foods labeled as "organic" are not irradiated.

"Just as consumers were slow to accept pasteurized milk when it

of implementing irradiation and the residual public fear due to the earliest food irradiation practices, Childers estimates that less than one percent of today's meat and poultry products are irradiated. Fruits and vegetables, which are more likely to be eaten raw, are good candidates for irradiation.

"While it is still not widely used, consumers can expect to pay an estimated one to four cents per pound more for irradiated foods," said Childers.

"Eventually, however, a longer shelf life and reduced waste may translate to lower prices at the consumer level."

Childers believes there is relatively little to worry about when it comes to terrorist attacks on our nation's food supply. "The difference is one of mass destruction versus mass distraction," he said. "It would be difficult to introduce harmful substances into the food supply in large quantities, but it only takes a few cases of death or illness to incite fear into the public."



was first introduced, people have also been cautious about irradiated foods and their nutritional value," said Childers. "However, as with pasteurization, irradiated foods are now fortified in advance with vitamins that are depleted in the process."

Because of the startup costs

COLLEGE NEWS

A Win-Win Proposition

Advancing veterinary medicine through a gift to Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine is good business—for you and the college!

The charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a perfect example of how the tax laws provide special ways for you to accomplish two objectives with one asset. With low returns on most investments in today's economy, the CGA makes it possible to receive attractive returns on an asset for the remainder of your life.

The gift annuity ultimately results in a charitable contribution. So, while receiving attractive annuity payments, you may receive a charitable tax deduction of between 30% and 60% of the amount of the gift. An added benefit is that a portion of the annuity income, usually between 30% and 60%, is income tax free!

It is easy to see why this is a "win-win proposition." You can make a gift to the college in cash



or appreciated equities, receive an attractive income for the remainder of your life, a portion of which is tax free, while qualifying for a charitable gift deduction on your income taxes.

The following table gives the various payout rates, which are determined by the age of the owner at the time the gift is made. The minimum is \$10,000 for a CGA.

| <u>Age of Donor</u> | <u>Payout Rate</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 60 | 6.4% |
| 65 | 6.7% |
| 70 | 7.2% |
| 74 | 7.7% |
| 78 | 8.4% |
| 82 | 9.4% |

To learn more about this unique giving opportunity, contact the college's development office (979-845-9043). We would be happy to visit with you about this "win-win proposition."

Well Done!

Dr. Dickson Varner, Professor and Chief of Theriogenology, and Pin Oak Stud Chair of Stallion Reproduction was named "2002 Theriogenologist of the Year." Varner was honored by the American College of Theriogenologists at an award ceremony in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in conjunction with the 2002 Annual Conference of the Society for Theriogenology.

The award was presented by the American College of Theriogenologists. This specialty college consists of approximately 350 board-certified diplomats from North America and countries around the world. The award is sponsored by Monsanto Corporation, and has been presented annually for each of the past three years. It was developed to recognize outstanding achievement in the field of clinical animal reproduction (theriogenology). The recipient receives international recognition for endeavors in theriogenology, along with a glass sculpture and monetary honorarium.



Dr. Dickson Varner

Veterinary Continuing Education

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www.cvm.tamu.edu/vtce

COLLEGE NEWS

Highest Standards

Each year since 1982, the Texas A&M University Association of Former Students has recognized two faculty members from the College of Veterinary Medicine for teaching excellence. The college is pleased to announce this year's recipients, Drs. Joseph R. Joyce, professor, and Steven E. Wikse, associate professor, both in the Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery.

Dr. Joseph Joyce has taught and mentored hundreds of veterinary students since joining the college as faculty in 1969. Although individuals in each class differ, the assessment of Dr. Joyce has been consistent. "He brings an excitement about the veterinary profession every time he enters a class room," said one former student. "He is a motivated individual with a true talent for teaching," said another.

Dr. Steve Wikse began his teaching at the college in 1988 and is known by faculty, staff, and students as an "extraordinary teacher." Described as being kind almost to a fault, one student explained, "For a production veterinarian, you'd think he was just too nice to work with cattle. He is a master of the trade, and he trans-

fers that information to the students so effortlessly that you don't even realize it's happened. Wham! You just learned something and you weren't even trying!"

The College Level Distinguished Achievement in Teaching awards recognize, encourage and reward superior classroom teachers. Each honoree receives a framed certificate and a cash award.

Dr. Peter Rakestraw, Assistant Professor, also in the Department of Large Animal Medicine & Surgery, was recently named a Montague Center for Teaching Excellence Scholar. Dr. Rakestraw

received a \$5,000 grant to research and develop innovative teaching techniques. The center's objective is to stimulate the development of innovative teaching strategies and technologies at Texas A&M University and to recognize excellence in teaching early in a faculty member's career.

"These men love to teach, and it is reflected in the respect and admiration that the students have for them," said Dr. William Moyer, Department Head of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery. "As you might guess, this department is pretty proud of their accomplishments."



Dean H. Richard Adams and Kelli Hutka from the Association of Former Students with Drs. Joseph Joyce (left, in center) and Steven Wikse (right, in center).

The Results Are In!

Dr. James E. Womack, a distinguished professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, was elected to a second term as President of the International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG).

The ISAG's focus is on basic and applied research within the field of immunogenetics, biochemical genetics and molecular genetics. The society's mission is to encourage the study of genetically influenced characters of animal tissues and fluids and to facilitate the exchange of ideas and materials among researchers.

Womack holds a joint academic appointment in the Department of Medical Biochemistry and Genetics and is the director of the Center for Animal Biotechnology and Genomics.

Womack serves as the coordinator of the USDA-CSREES National Cattle Genome Project and is the Executive Vice President of the American Genetic Association. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences USA and a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Dr. James Womack

Womack is also the 2001 recipient of the Wolf Prize in agriculture with research interests including comparative genomics, mapping the bovine genome and the study of the genetic basis of disease resistance in mammals.

COLLEGE NEWS

Bright Eyes

Zoe, a colobus monkey at the Houston Zoo, can see more clearly now thanks to a lens replacement performed at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, on March 19, 2002. The surgery was performed by Dr. Joan Dziezyc, a veterinary ophthalmologist at the college.



Zoe receiving anesthesia before surgery

"The procedure involved administering anesthesia, removing the damaged lens via ultrasound and replacing it with an artificial intraocular lens," said Dziezyc. "It is expected that this new lens will serve Zoe for the rest of her life."

"Zoe was born at the Houston Zoo in 1994 and was diagnosed with this cataract in July 1997. The cataract caused a blindness that made routine interactions very difficult. By undergoing this procedure, we can expect to see a marked improvement in her quality of health and life," said Dr. Shirley Llizo, the monkey's veterinarian at the Houston Zoo.

"Zoe returned to the Houston Zoo that same afternoon. It became evident very quickly that her eyesight was greatly improved. She was more observant of her surroundings and, in fact, stared at her reflection in her water tub for about 10 minutes," said Dena Strange, Senior Keeper of Primates.

"Over the next week we saw changes in her activity level. Previously, she would rarely jump from prop to prop. Finding scattered food and forage was always a challenge, with a lot of hand patting on the ground to find anything. Now, Zoe jumps and moves around more frequently and with confidence. She is also finding her food by sight and not by touch," added Llizo.

Alcon, a company committed to the research, development, manufacture, and marketing of ophthalmic products, donated the human artificial lens used to replace Zoe's damaged lens. Dr. Bill Marr, of Marr Eye Center in Bryan, Texas, provided some instruments and collaborated on the techniques used.

Lead On

Mrs. Sheila Simmons began serving as Chair of the College of Veterinary Medicine Development Council last spring. Her Vice Chairman is Mr. Malcolm Ferguson. Both of these volunteers reside in Austin and have been making the drive to College Station to attend council meetings for several years. Sheila is married to architect Al Simmons.

Mal's lifetime partner, Lynn, passed away last year. The two have been friends for a long time, so Mrs. Simmons was delighted when Mr. Ferguson agreed to assist in leading the council. It was actually Mrs. Ferguson who was the council's chair for several years before she died.

Mrs. Simmons' sees the role of the Development Council as

Bravo!

Dr. David Williams, Professor and Head of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, has been awarded the 2002 Bourgelat Award, the primary recognition given by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) for outstanding international contributions in the field of small animal practice. Williams received the award for his work in advancing the understanding of pancreatic disease and measurement of trypsinlike immunoreactivity (TLI).

Williams developed the canine TLI test for diagnosis of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency in dogs, along with other new tests that aid in the diagnosis and management of companion animals with gastrointestinal tract diseases.

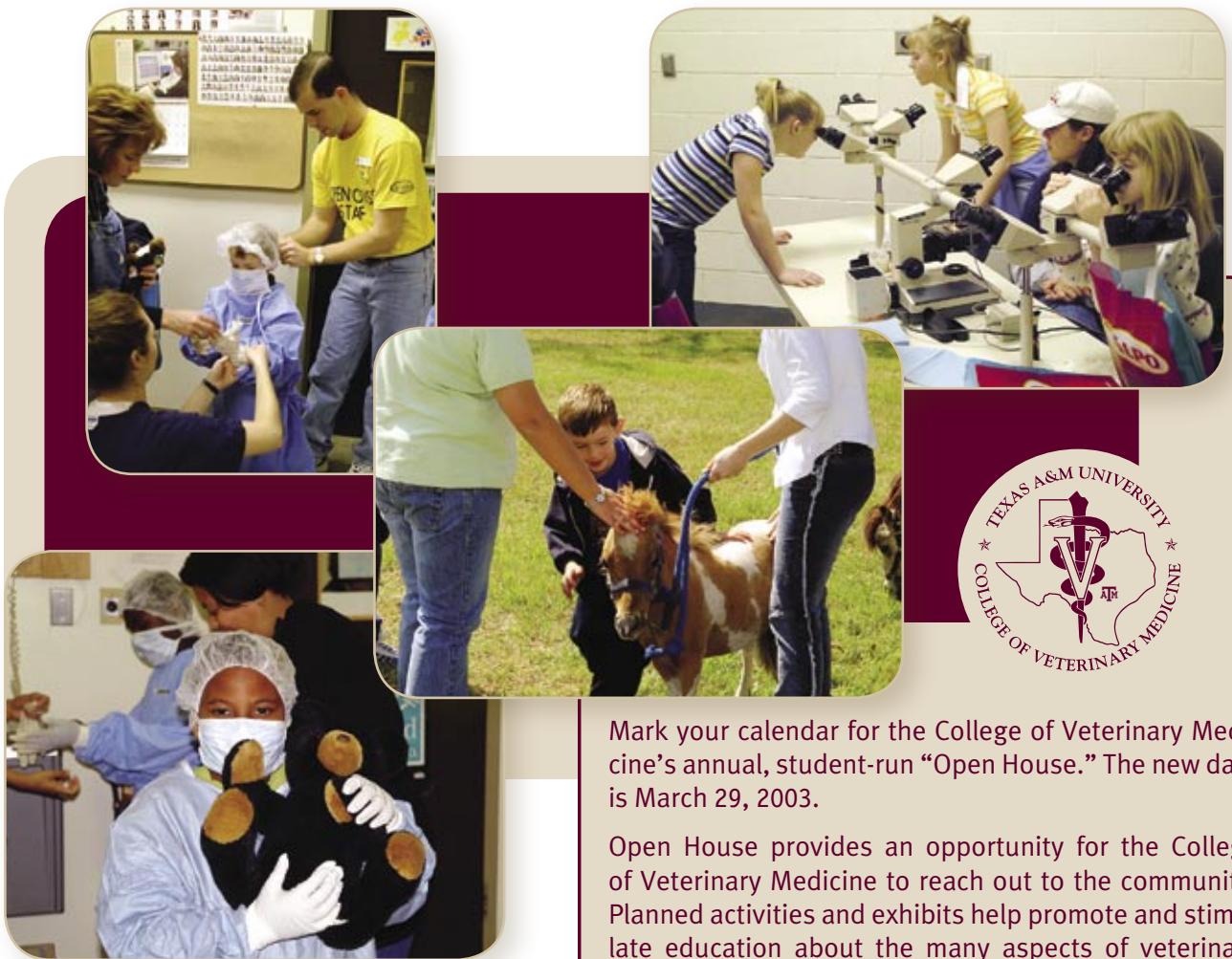
"This award testifies to the international significance of Dr. Williams' work and his unwavering commitment to advancing veterinary medicine," said H. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University. "Our congratulations to Dr. Williams for this prestigious recognition."



Dr. David Williams

a "working" one. She and Mr. Ferguson are finding tangible ways to benefit the college, by seeking projects to assist in the fundraising process. We appreciate their help and leadership. If you have projects or suggestions to help the college, please contact Mrs. Simmons or Mr. Ferguson through the Development Office.

COLLEGE NEWS

New Date Set for 2003 Open House

Mark your calendar for the College of Veterinary Medicine's annual, student-run "Open House." The new date is March 29, 2003.

Open House provides an opportunity for the College of Veterinary Medicine to reach out to the community. Planned activities and exhibits help promote and stimulate education about the many aspects of veterinary medicine, public health and the roles of animals and veterinarians in society.

IN MEMORIAM**Class Year****1939****Lt. Col. Charles T. Luker**

Luker, of Stephenville, died July 24, 2001

Jean J. Black

Black, of New Orleans, died Mar. 22, 2002

1941**Howard E. Ingram**

Ingram, of Plano, died Aug. 16, 2001

1942**Jefferson D. Wilcoxon**

Wilcoxon, of Lexington, MD, died Dec. 22, 1986

1945**James T. Williams**

Williams, of Sulphur Springs, died Dec. 4, 2001

1946**Walter L. Roots, Jr.**

Roots, of Taft, died Aug. 20, 2001

1950**Saunders M. Thomas, Jr.**

Thomas, of Gladewater, died Feb. 27, 2002

1952**Miles U. Johnson**

Johnson, of Corpus Christi, died July 30, 2001

1955**Thomas J. Galvin**

Galvin, of Paris, died Aug. 21, 2001

1956**John W. Holcombe**

Holcombe, of Wagoner, OK, died Apr. 1, 2002

1960**Sammy M Halley**

Halley, of Cookville, died June 29, 2002

1962**Max Weldon Hagler**

Hagler, of Anson, died Sep. 9, 2002

Malcolm B. Strole

Strole, of Channelview, died Jan. 18, 2001

1971**James W. Quast**

Quast, of Comanche, died Dec. 26, 2001

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Capital Campaign Update

As another year comes to a close, we want to again thank our friends and graduates who have worked to support the college, our students and programs. With the economy down, tuition and operating costs on the rise, and legislative funding struggling to meet increased demands, there has never been a more urgent need for private and foundation support of the College of Veterinary Medicine's critical mission in veterinary medical education, research and service.

I am pleased to report that the College of Veterinary Medicine has been credited with over \$20 million thus far in the "One Spirit One Vision" Capital Campaign, which will be publicly announced on March 28, 2003. However, in order for the college

to meet its goal of \$60 million by the end of 2006, we will need your continued help and support.

Thanks to Dr. Max Pachar of Orange, Texas, who has helped us get a matching gift of \$300,000 to support the construction of the new ICU area. Thanks also to Dan and Judy Francis of Waco

for encouraging their close friends to leave their estate of over \$1 million to support the college programs. It is alumni and friends of the college such as these who are making a difference for the future.

We had another successful Homecoming, and information is available for next year's 2003 event. Any class that would like to participate, please contact our office so we can assist you in planning for next year's festivities.



THE TEXAS A&M CAMPAIGN



Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek

Over half of the credit we have received thus far in the capital campaign has come from planned gifts. All of you who have designated a minimum gift of \$25,000 or more in your estates, please contact our office so you can be recognized, and we can include you as supporters of the college.

Thanks again to everyone for your time and your support of the College of Veterinary Medicine, its students and its programs. We wish you and your family a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

—Dr. O. J. "Bubba" Woytek,
Senior Development Officer
DVM '65

Show Your Class

Hopefully you are all aware of the program initiated this year with a goal of each graduating class from the College of Veterinary Medicine endowing a scholarship for veterinary students over the next five years. Each endowed scholarship requires a minimum of \$25,000. This is an attainable goal that many classes are tackling with good, old-fashioned "Aggie Pride." Please consider joining your classmates in "giving back" to your college through the class scholarship program!

Memorial Gifts and Honorariums can easily be directed to your class scholarship fund. This is an excellent way to help a veterinary student and future colleague, and to provide grateful clients with an opportunity to express their appreciation.

Your contribution can be a one-time gift or in the form of a pledge over a period of up to five years for the One Spirit, One Vision Capital Campaign.

Please help your classmates reach the "Top Ten List" by establishing one or more endowed scholarship. Criteria for selection of recipients will be based upon need with a preference given to descendants of class members that have an endowed scholarship.

TOP TEN LIST BY CLASS

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1951..... | \$111,799 |
| 1941..... | 27,026 |
| 1975..... | 18,958 |
| 1968..... | 14,925 |
| 1965..... | 14,366 |
| 1970..... | 13,460 |
| 1969..... | 10,584 |
| 1962..... | 10,335 |
| 1954..... | 8,615 |
| 1957..... | 7,790 |

**Join
in the
Spirit
of
Giving**



Dr. Ted Franklin with the Class of '41 scholarship recipient, veterinary student Melanie Forster

2002 Outstanding Alumni Awards



Dr. Jerry Payne



Dr. Alfred Moore



Dr. Douglas Bronstad



Dr. Raymond Hander



Dr. Henry Harrison, Jr.

Congratulations to the College of Veterinary Medicine's 2002 Outstanding Alumni Award recipients.

Dr. Jerry B. Payne, (DVM) Class of '64, is a founding member and president of American Animal Health, Inc. and American Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics, Inc. Payne successfully developed the first freeze-dried avian encephalomyelitis vaccine to be licensed in the United States. In 1998, he founded and later became president of the Association of Veterinary Biological Companies.

Dr. J. Alford Moore, (DVM) Class of '67, founded the Eastex Veterinary Clinic in 1970. Since then, five more locations have been added with 13 veterinarians and over 70 employees. Moore is currently chairman of the TVMA's Historical Committee and co-chairman of the TVMA's

Centennial Task Force.

Dr. Doug Bronstad, (DVM) Class of '72, is co-owner of the Animal Diagnostic Clinic, in Dallas, Texas. He served as Staff Veterinarian at the Animal Hospital of Plano and owned and operated the Cedar Ridge Animal Clinic in Duncanville, Texas. In 1994, he received the Texas Academy of Veterinary Practice Clinical Referral and Consultation Award. Bronstad is a co-founder of the Veterinary Referral Center of North Texas.

The late Dr. Raymond T. Hander, (DVM) Class of '38, served as president of the Panhandle Veterinary Medical Association and was selected by Southwestern Veterinarian as Outstanding Practitioner of Texas in 1952 for his untiring efforts in the advancement of the veterinary profession, his leadership ability,

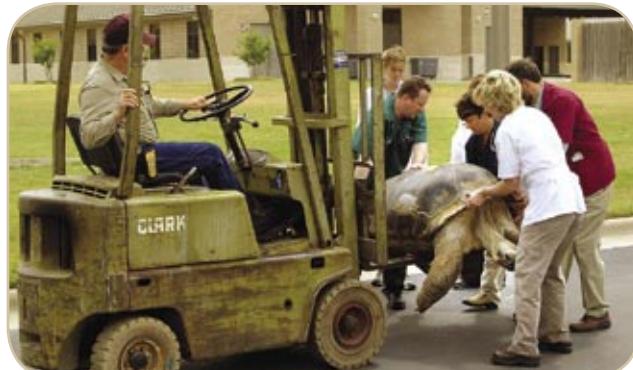
and participation in numerous civic activities such as the Boy Scouts. Hander purchased the Childress Veterinary Hospital in 1947 and was a member of the TVMA and the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

The late Dr. R. Henry Harrison, (DVM) Class of '20, was the first graduate from the College of Veterinary Medicine and helped set the standard of excellence that continues today. He was a stand-out quarterback for the undefeated Aggie football teams of 1919 and 1920. He worked for the State of Texas as a veterinarian for four years before furthering his study at Baylor College of Medicine where he received his MD. Following graduation, Harrison returned to Bryan, Texas, where he practiced until his retirement in 1958 and served as team physician for the Aggie football team.

Reunited

What started out as a veterinary visit turned out to be a reunion between old friends. Elvis, a Galapagos tortoise from the El Paso Zoo, was brought to Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine for observation. His caretakers were concerned when his eating habits had changed.

Dr. James Jensen, the veterinarian in charge of Elvis' case at the college, noticed that his shell had been repaired. When Jensen mentioned to a student that he remembered a Galapagos tortoise at the Oklahoma City Zoo as having a similar repair, the student reviewed the animal's chart and discovered that Elvis and Jensen had been at the zoo at the same time. Elvis and Jensen got reacquainted before the magnificent tortoise returned to his home at the El Paso Zoo.



Every precaution was taken to transport Elvis safely outdoors on a daily basis which had a positive impact on his recovery. The forklift was the most efficient means to carry Elvis out to a grassy field where he could graze and enjoy the sunshine.

Governor Perry and Lucy

Texas Governor Rick Perry shares a moment with Lucy, his dachshund puppy. Lucy was at the Small Animal Clinic recently. The Governor and his wife, Anita, stopped by to visit Lucy during her stay before she was released from the clinic with a clean bill of health.

You've Got Mail!

Keep in touch with
classmates from the
College of Veterinary



Medicine by joining the e-mail list created specifically for your DVM class. The unmoderated list will bring old friends together, facilitate class activities at homecoming and other events and provide better communication between the college and all graduates. To sign up for this free service, go to the college's alumni website at:

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



College Highlight Calendar

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Dec. 7, 2002 | Annual Exotic Pets Conference-Emergency, Critical Care and Current Therapy of Wildlife and Exotic Pets |
| Dec. 13-15, 2002 | Annual Equine Reproduction Symposium for Veterinarians |
| Feb. 28-Mar. 2, 2003 | 2003 TVMA Mid-Winter Meeting (College Station) |
| Mar. 29, 2003 | College of Veterinary Medicine Open House |
| Apr. 5-6, 2003 | Annual Feline Symposium |
| Apr. 11-12, 2003 | Honors Convocation and Parents Weekend |
| Apr. 25-27, 2003 | 10th Annual Veterinary Technician Seminar |
| May 9, 2003 | College of Veterinary Medicine Commencement |
| May 24, 2003 | Dermatology-Ophthalmology Conference |
| May 31-June 1, 2003 | Annual Food Animal Conference |



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