



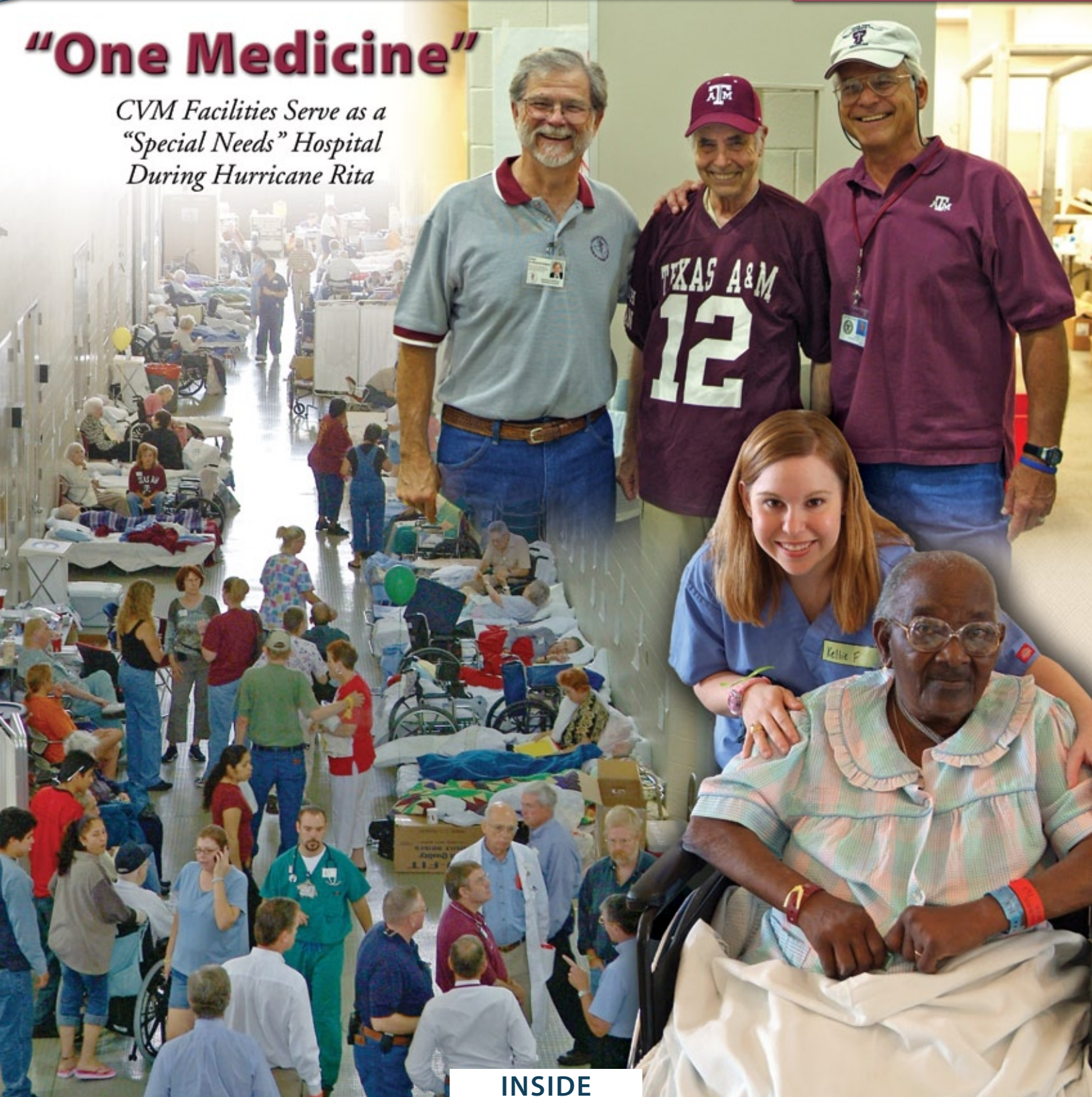
CVM Today

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

Winter 2005 ♦ Vol. 7 No. 2

"One Medicine"

*CVM Facilities Serve as a
"Special Needs" Hospital
During Hurricane Rita*



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A Family of Aggies ♦ Beyond Our Borders ♦ Students "Get Their Hands Dirty"

Winter 2005

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



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Rising to the Challenge

Helping Those in Need

On September 9, 2005, in his State of the University Academic Convocation address, President Robert Gates stated, "This great university has risen to the challenge of helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina... This entire campus has opened its arms and its hearts."

President Gates couldn't have known that by September 23 the university would be offering shelter to evacuees from a second storm, Hurricane Rita, including nearly 300 special needs patients who would live in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences' (CVM) Large Animal Hospital for several days.

The CVM rose to Rita's challenge in an unprecedented way with an outpouring of volunteerism that overwhelmed our "guests" as well as health professionals from FEMA, CDC, and the Public Health Service who were sent to our college to assist in hurricane relief. At the same time that human patients were being cared for in the Large Animal Hospital, volunteer workers from across the Brazos Valley, including a large contingent from the CVM, tended nearly 900 displaced animals at the university's Pearce Pavilion and at large-animal field service stations. CVM students, staff and faculty worked with other health professionals and university staff to form a dedicated, effective team that clearly rose to Rita's challenge. The college sincerely thanks all those who helped in the hurricane relief effort and wants volunteers to know that they have a special place at the CVM.

While most of us found the excitement of Hurricane Rita sufficient for at least the fall semester, Dean H. Richard Adams was destined for even more adventure. While traveling to South Africa to participate in a special program with wildlife and conservation specialists, Dean Adams was taken ill with an inflamed appendix. After undergoing an emergency appendectomy and several weeks of recuperation, the dean returned to work part-time at the end of November. The college is delighted to have him back and looks forward to his full recovery.

Not too long before Hurricane Katrina arrived in Louisiana, 132 new first year veterinary medical students arrived in College Station. The Class of 2009 is 75 percent female with an average age of 21.5 years and a mean overall

grade point average of 3.65. Nearly 13 percent of our class is from ethnic minorities underrepresented in the profession. The Class of 2005 graduated in May with students finding employment in small animal exclusive or predominant (45%), large animal or equine exclusive or predominant (15%) and mixed (14%) practices. More than 26 percent of the graduating class was bound for post-DVM study

in highly competitive internships or graduate training programs.

The college continues to add new faculty in what is now the third year of a five year faculty reinvestment program. Facilities renovations and additions across campus, many related to the reinvestment effort, include an addition to the Veterinary Medical Research Building that was approved by the Board of Regents in October 2005, renovations to the Small Animal Hospital, and planning for a new equine arena. The university is in the detailed planning stage for a \$100 million interdisciplinary life sciences building, the largest single investment in teaching and research in the university's history.

In this upcoming 90th anniversary year, the college encourages old friends and new to visit the CVM and meet our faculty, staff and students. This year, more than ever, there is a strong sense of CVM pride in what we have accomplished and a sense that there are many good things to come. Remember to mark your calendars for the BIG weekend, March 31–April 1, when we will host the Homecoming and Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner, the professional program Awards and Honors Convocation, the White Coat

Ceremony for VM1 students, Parents' Weekend and the Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction!

Best Regards,



DEBORAH KOHEVAR,
ASSOCIATE DEAN, PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS
WILEY CHAIR, VETERINARY MEDICAL EDUCATION



Dr. Deborah Kochevar



"The college sincerely thanks all those who helped in the hurricane relief effort and wants volunteers to know that they have a special place at the CVM."

– Deborah Kochevar
Associate Dean,
Professional Programs

“One Medicine”

CVM Facilities Serve as a “Special Needs” Hospital During Hurricane Rita

Human lives and buildings were transformed at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University during six days in September, 2005, when everyone in College Station prepared for the wrath of an unwanted and dangerous visitor named Hurricane Rita.

When Texas A&M was asked by Brazos County Health Department and the Texas State Health Department to convert the large animal hospital into a facility to care for several hundred “special needs” patients from Houston and Galveston, the concept was not a new one to the college, according to H. Richard Adams, dean of the college.

In fact, a few months before Rita, retired Lieutenant General Paul Carlton, MD, former surgeon general of the U.S. Air Force and now a member of the TAMUS Health Science Center, partnered with retired Marine Colonel Chuck Vrooman, CVM Assistant Dean for Finance, to start working on a model for how the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) could possibly be converted into a human “special needs” hospital in case natural or unnatural disasters were to overwhelm the capacity of local or regional hospitals.

“The model was still conceptual, but had been presented to the CVM Executive Committee and authorized for continued development. Plans were for the model to be submitted to the TAMU provost and president for approval and then presented to the Board of Regents,” explained Dean Adams. “It was a concept, frankly, we thought and hoped would never be needed. And then came Rita.”

The surge concept, an ideal blending of human medicine and veterinary medicine into a “one medicine” hospital developed by Dr. Carlton and Mr. Vrooman, was adopted immediately to help patients evacuated from Galveston and other coastal communities, according to Dean Adams. Assistance soon

followed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Army, Federal Emergency Management Services (FEMA), and others including local human hospital staff members and physicians.

The hospital was emptied of animals, sanitized and converted to human use in less than a day thanks to the extraordinary efforts of many people, said Dean Adams. By the evening before the hurricane was due to make landfall, the huge facility housed some 650 people—patients, families and caregivers. The 350 patients included a number of badly burned children from Shriners Hospital in Galveston, geriatric patients from nursing homes and physically handicapped children.

Under the direction of Dr. Carlton, who was responsible for all aspects of patient care and coordinating all of the medical support teams, the VMTH became a human hospital in almost the blink of an eye. “Dr. Carlton’s control of this challenge was exceptional,” said Dean Adams. “And Chuck Vrooman served as the logistical go-to man who directly assisted Dr. Carlton.”

Working side by side with Dr. Carlton was Dr. Bill Moyer, head of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. “Dr.

Moyer was responsible, along with his team, for providing all logistical support and facilities management of the nascent ‘special needs’ human hospital,” Dean Adams said.

Incident command system training equipped key TAMU leaders with the skills they needed to plan and implement the human surge concept, according to Moyer. The system is taught in many places, including the National Emergency Research and Rescue Training Center at TAMU.

“Veterinarians are becoming more and more acknowledged as a part of any first response for a national disaster because animals play an important role,” said Dr. Dee Ellis of the Texas Animal Health Commission, who is



incident commander in Texas for animal issues during disasters. "It's valuable that veterinarians understand incident command structure because that's the system that is used at the national, state and local levels by other first responders."

The teamwork that developed among the diverse health care professionals was truly impressive. Medical personnel, veterinarians, nurses, veterinary students and staff joined together to provide the best in patient care,

"It was a concept, frankly, we thought and hoped would never be needed. And then came Rita."

**– Dr. H. Richard Adams
Dean of the College of
Veterinary Medicine &
Biomedical Sciences**

daily, ensuring that safety and security issues were handled properly, processing laundry for the masses and maintaining accurate patient medical records.

"Accolades go to virtually all of Bill's departmental faculty and staff

...continued on page 4

under the supervision of physicians.

In addition to the enormous medical demands, there were the seemingly endless tasks of unloading huge trucks packed with hospital supplies, feeding hundreds of people



Above: Dr. Paul Carlton gives patient care instructions.

Top Left: Military briefing in lecture hall.

Middle Left: Military personnel check-in for duty.

Below: President Nancy Dickey (Health Science Center), Dean Chris Colenda (College of Medicine), Dr. Carlton and Dean H. Richard Adams (CVM) discuss "special needs" hospital operations.

Bottom Left: Dr. Carlton coordinates support teams.

Bottom: University President Robert Gates, front, is updated by veterinary and human medicine officials.



Top: Patients arrive by bus.

Above: Dr. Bill Moyer briefs volunteers on procedures.

Left: Preparing cots and sleeping areas.

Bottom Left: Hospital supplies were unloaded onto pallets behind the Large Animal Hospital.



“One Medicine”

...continued from page 3

who spent countless hours caring for our new two-legged patients,” said Dean Adams. “It was truly a unique event in the history of the TAMU CVM and possibly among all other CVMs around the country.”

Senior staff members at the CVM and many, many others worked tirelessly coordinating people and tasks in their new roles in the surge hospital model. The College of Medicine’s dean, Dr. Chris Colenda, along with TAMUS HSC president Dr. Nancy Dickey, were lock-step involved in this new role for the VMTH. Dr. Dickey donned her medical scrubs and spent the whole first night caring for patients. “Probably the first physician to spend the night in an animal hospital in many years,” Dean Adams said. “Dean Colenda likewise did a splendid

job, jumping right into the middle of this new responsibility for Texas A&M University, Aggieland.”

A whole range of emotions filtered through the towering hallways of the Large Animal Hospital those six days in September—from sorrow and joy to courage and hope. A gentler side of those sometimes “tough” exteriors were exposed as veterinarians worked diligently to care for their weak, injured and elderly patients. Faculty members used their special talents, like accomplished harpist Dr. Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni, head of the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences at the CVM, to entertain and soothe patients’ fears, especially those of the post-burn recovery children. Dr. Castiglioni’s music was so

well received by the burn patients that Shriners Hospital is working with her to develop a harp music therapy program at the hospital.

Unquestionably, the varied talents and team spirit of all the Aggie volunteers—faculty, staff and students—who responded to Rita’s potential wrath created a seamless blending of human and animal medicine that resulted in a truly unique and highly successful “one medicine” hospital.

(This is a modification of an article entitled “One Medicine” that is in press with the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education (JVME), 32(4): 562, 2005. Portions of the present article were used verbatim, with permission, from JVME.)



Above: Dr. Nancy Dickey conducts a media briefing.



Top Right: The Food Animal Ward was also used for housing patients.

Right: Pharmacy technician Davida Scanlin shares a laugh with a new friend.



Bottom: Special bonds were made between volunteers and their patients.



Far Right: Dr. Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni, head of the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, entertains and soothes patients’ fears with her music.



A Family of Aggies

All Five Receive Their Doctorates from the CVM

On a small dairy farm in Sulphur Springs, Texas, a young widowed father went about his business of raising three daughters. Dr. Rick Willingham knew it would be hard work, but hard work is in his blood. After all, that's why he decided to become a veterinarian.

More than 20 years later, all three girls will have received their doctoral degrees from the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University, following in the footprints of their parents, both 1975 DVM graduates. And all five family members completed their undergraduate degrees at Texas A&M—possibly a unique occurrence in the history of Aggieland.

Willingham can take great pride in the accomplished, well-grounded young ladies they are today. Alexis, 27, is a veterinarian at a mixed practice in Sanger, Texas; Kate, 25, just received her PhD and is doing breast cancer research at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Bastrop, Texas; and Callie is in her third year of veterinary school.

Willingham was faced with raising three daughters on his own after losing his wife, Jackie (Rudel) Willingham, at a young age to illness. "It may sound trite, but I took it day to day. And I had a lot of help from the grandmothers," he said. "As they were growing up, I just tried to teach them that 'right is right' and 'wrong is wrong,' and encouraged them to develop their own abilities to make the right decisions."

Willingham's strong work ethic served as a positive example to his children. "Dad is really dedicated to the profession and he loves the work," says Callie. "I think that's kind of how it is with Alexis and myself. That's why we decided to go into veterinary medicine."

"Dad always expected good grades, and we all did that," Callie notes. "We always knew we were going to college, but Dad never pressured us to be veterinarians or anything else. He encouraged us to think for ourselves, look at different



The Willingham family: Kate, Alexis, Rick and Callie.

schools and explore all of our options. We all did and decided on A&M."

The girls share fond memories of growing up on the farm with plenty of animals, from cats and dogs to hamsters and peacocks, and going fishing with their father. "Living on a farm, the girls showed dairy heifers and sheep through 4-H," recalls Willingham. "Alexis and Kate were on their school's

drill team and Callie was involved in UIL math tournaments. Being only about 22 months apart in age, there was always a little healthy competition among them."

They also took great pleasure in jumping in their Dad's truck and going on herd calls or working at the veterinary clinic. However, Kate says her sisters enjoyed the clinic a little more than she did. "I just didn't like the needle thing. I don't even like trimming my dog's toenails," she says with a giggle. "Alexis or Callie do that for me."

Kate found her niche in genetic research, where she fit in immediately and excelled, according to Dr. Keith Murphy, an associate professor in Veterinary Pathobiology. "Kate has always been very responsible and extremely mature," Murphy says. "Even when she first started working in my lab as an undergraduate at age 19, her poise really struck me."

"Kate's skills as a scientist developed very quickly and we depended on her a lot," notes Murphy. "I sent her all over the country to work with other people. She was up at Cornell University for a few weeks working with them."

Kate is very comfortable taking a leadership role or she can be part of a team, says Murphy. "Either way, she never got her feathers ruffled—she's very even keeled. Kate was at ease whether it was washing dishes or talking to professors."

Willingham is exceptionally pleased that his daughters are doing so well professionally. "As a parent I am extremely proud of their accomplishments," he says. "Even more importantly, I think they are happy in life."

"We always knew we were going to college, but Dad never pressured us to be veterinarians or anything else. He encouraged us to think for ourselves, look at different schools and explore all of our options. We all did and decided on A&M."

**— Callie Willingham
3rd Year Veterinary Student**

Beyond Our Borders

International Component Benefits Students

Internationally-minded is a phrase that could describe one aspect of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University.

“More and more veterinarians are beginning to understand their roles in global animal health, and we feel this is terribly important to integrate into the curriculum for our veterinary students,” says Dr. Gale Wagner, professor and coordinator of International Programs. “I would venture to say that we are one of the most internationally-minded colleges in the United States.”

Many CVM faculty and administrators have observed how beneficial an international component to the curriculum can be for professional students. Dr. Deborah Kochevar, Associate Dean for Professional Programs, says, “An increasing number of students are traveling to one or more international schools of veterinary medicine as observers. By visiting international veterinary medical programs, students gain insight into the similarities and the differences in veterinary training around the world. As economies and diseases that affect those economies continue to globalize, students need to understand the importance of working with their international colleagues.”

The college has a very good reputation across the world, according to Wagner. “This is a very attractive school. The instruction and research that goes on are very well known. So students from all over the world are attracted to us,” Wagner says.

The scope of veterinary medicine is changing with the growing threat of bioterrorism, and students are becoming keenly aware of how the United States and other countries handle their animal health issues. “We all have the same objectives—safe food, safe trade in animals and biosecurity,” Wagner says, “and I think that brings us together more than anything else.”

Wagner has coordinated the international programs at the CVM for the



Matteo Pilla, a 5th year veterinary medical student from Padova, Italy, conducts a canine examination under the supervision of Dr. Sharon Kerwin in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences. Pilla recently completed a 3-month small animal externship with clinical rotations in oncology, neurology, orthopedics and critical care.

“The biggest difference with veterinary schools in Italy as compared to here is that we get very little practical experience. We can see surgery but we do not practice. I loved working at the teaching hospital...I improved my skills and saw so many cases. The practical work was what I enjoyed most.”

**– Matteo Pilla
5th Year Italian
Veterinary Student**

past 20 years, garnering grant support of well over a million dollars from the U.S. government for student exchange programs. Grant money has been awarded mainly from the Departments of Education, Agriculture, and Defense

and the National Science Foundation. “It’s been very good. I think without question, we’re one of the more successful programs in the U.S.,” says Wagner. “I like to think we’re number one.”

The programs funded by the U.S. government are exchange programs of one kind or another. “Most of the programs are reciprocal exchange, so for every student we send, the grant says we should receive one back,” says Wagner. “Usually at the end of the year, reports show that we sent more students than we received, but the ones we do get are very, very good. And if we send students to Spain, a relationship will develop, and before you know it, we have students coming here from Spain.”

Students from other countries are often here as graduate students. “They’re veterinarians first and then they decide to pursue an advanced degree. So, at any one time we have several veterinarians here,” Wagner explains. “We assume that these students are going to be in charge of all animal health

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Students “Get Their Hands Dirty”

TDCJ Rotations Build Confidence and Skills

In a few months, fourth year veterinary students will lose the “safety net” of veterinary school and will be out practicing on their own. Through their participation in a two-week rotation at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), senior veterinary students are given a chance to “get their hands dirty” and practice the skills they will need to be successful practitioners.

For nearly 40 years, a unique inter-agency agreement between Texas A&M University and the TDCJ has afforded more than 4,000 veterinary students the opportunity to hone their veterinary skills by working on large volumes and varieties of animals including beef cattle, horses, swine and dogs.

“The rotation provides us with countless numbers of animals to work with, which helps develop our skills and confidence over a short two weeks,” comments veterinary student Patricia Burbano. “It provides real-world routine situations that we will be experiencing daily in practice.”

Senior veterinary student Robert Conley concurs. “When you are new in practice and trying to manage that first emergency colic, it is not the time to be passing your first stomach tube in a horse,” he emphasizes. “The prison rotation allows us the opportunity to gain the experience we need to be confident in our abilities as veterinarians.”

Dr. Daniel Posey, clinical assistant professor and chief of the Food Animal Medicine Section, says, “This is the largest living laboratory used to teach veterinary students in the United States and perhaps the world.” Posey, along with faculty veterinarian Dr. Bud Dinges, works closely with the students on rotations. They are assisted by 13 to 16 other faculty members who take an active role in the educational program at the TDCJ. The faculty and students receive counsel and are clinically and administratively supported by Dr. Derry Magee, clinical associate professor and TDCJ staff veterinarian.



Top: Patricia Burbano and “Duke,” a security dog at TDCJ, share a hug and a heartbeat during rounds.

Right: Amanda Grba, Chrissy Hatley and Dr. Dan Posey conduct equine exams at the TDCJ facilities.

Bottom: Dr. Lafy Saha, a Class of 2005 graduate, passes a stomach tube to deworm a horse.

The students’ training at the TDCJ is believed to be one of the best “real life” exposures in the veterinary medical education world. “The strength of the program is that it offers a low student to teacher ratio, which gives the student a very personal, interactive and intense educational opportunity,” according to Magee.

When working with beef cattle, students learn about population medicine, the dynamics of animal behavior, the beef cattle industry and herd health issues. In the equine service, students focus on routine health needs of the prison’s livestock and security horses, training that could be useful in a general large animal or exclusive equine practice.

The large canine population of security dogs at the various prison locations gives students the opportunity to provide routine veterinary care similar

to treatment given in general and small animal practices. When working with the swine population, students take an active role in solving production, animal husbandry and management problems.

“I am unaware of an educational experience that even closely mirrors the exposure to ‘in the field’ veterinary medical practice that our Texas A&M students are afforded,” says Dr. William Moyer, department head of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. “It is important to note that this interagency arrangement has survived decades of change in veterinary medical education, funding and social change. Any practice, academic or private, that is able to maintain a trusting relationship with a given client for that period of time is rare. It is a tribute to the TDCJ, our faculty and the quality of our students to continually make it work.”



Dr. Joe Arosh

Dr. Joe Arosh, Assistant Professor

Veterinary Integrative Biosciences

Education: DVM and PhD from Madras Veterinary College, Madras, India

Research: Endocrine oncology; molecular endocrinology; reproductive physiology



Dr. Wayne Corapi

Dr. Wayne Corapi, Lecturer

Veterinary Pathobiology

Education: BA from University of Colorado, DVM from Colorado State University, PhD from Cornell University

Research: Diagnostic pathology; infectious diseases of domestic animals, particularly viral diseases; immune response to viral infections; animal welfare



Dr. Sakhila Banu

Dr. Sakhila Banu, Assistant Professor

Veterinary Integrative Biosciences

Education: BSc, MSc, MPhil, DTh, PhD from University of Madras, India

Research: Molecular endocrinology; endocrine oncology; toxicology; reproductive endocrinology; thyroidology



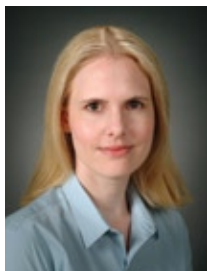
Dr. Mary Crist

Dr. Mary Crist, Lecturer

Veterinary Small Animal Clinical Sciences

Education: DVM from Texas A&M University, certified by the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society

Research: Anesthesiology; analgesia; acupuncture



Dr. Christine Budke

Dr. Christine Budke, Assistant Professor

Veterinary Integrative Biosciences

Education: BA from Colgate University, DVM from Purdue University, PhD from University of Basel

Research: Epidemiology; burden of disease indicators; zoonotic diseases; transmission dynamics of parasitic diseases; international veterinary medicine and public health



Dr. Tracy Cyr

Dr. Tracy Cyr, Assistant Professor

Veterinary Pathobiology

Education: AS from Crafton Hills College, BS from University of California – Riverside, MS from Washington State University, PhD from University of Missouri

Research: Medical and veterinary entomology; effects of Lyme disease on dairy cattle; RNAi technology to achieve post-transcriptional gene silencing in the cattle fever tick



Dr. Fred Clubb

Dr. Fred Clubb, Professor

Veterinary Pathobiology

Education: DVM from Auburn University, MS and PhD from University of Alabama

Research: Comparative cardiovascular and renal electron microscopic pathology; evaluation of implantable cardiovascular devices



Dr. Virginia Fajt

Dr. Virginia Fajt, Clinical Assistant Professor

Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology

Education: BA from Kalamazoo College, PhD from Iowa State University, DVM from Auburn University, DACVCP

Research: Clinical pharmacology; antimicrobial therapy/regimen design; food animal therapeutics



Dr. Robert Cole

Dr. Robert Cole, Clinical Assistant Professor

Veterinary Large Animal Clinical Sciences

Education: BS and DVM from Auburn University, DACVR

Research: Radiology and Nuclear Scintigraphy – Portal



Dr. Don Hong

Dr. Don Hong, Assistant Professor

Veterinary Pathobiology

Education: BS from Korea University in Seoul, Korea, PhD from Oregon State University

Research: Genetic basis of retinal degeneration; molecular and cellular basis of pathogenesis

Medical Sciences New Faculty Profiles



Dr. Ivan Ivanov

Dr. Ivan Ivanov, Assistant Professor
Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology
Education: MS from Sofia University in Bulgaria, PhD from University of South Florida
Research: Genomic signal processing and mathematical modeling of genetic regulatory networks



Dr. Brandy Porterpan

Dr. Brandy Porterpan, Lecturer
Veterinary Small Clinical Sciences
Education: DVM from Louisiana State University, Board Qualified – ACVIM
Research: Internal medicine; emergency/critical care medicine



Dr. Elizabeth Jeter

Dr. Elizabeth Jeter, Lecturer
Veterinary Pathobiology
Education: BS, MS and DVM from Texas A&M University
Research: Shelter medicine



Dr. Terje Raudsepp

Dr. Terje Raudsepp, Assistant Professor
Veterinary Integrative Biosciences
Education: BS, MSc from Tartu University, Estonia, PhD from Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden, Postdoctoral Associate at The Royal Veterinary & Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark
Research: General and molecular cytogenetics; chromosome evolution; physical gene mapping in mammals/birds; comparative genomics



Dr. Jonathan Levine

Dr. Jonathan Levine, Clinical Assistant Professor
Veterinary Small Animal Clinical Sciences
Education: BS and DVM from Cornell University, DACVIM
Research: Neurology; neurosurgery; spinal cord injuries; neuromuscular disease



Dr. Paul Samollow

Dr. Paul Samollow, Professor
Veterinary Integrative Biosciences
Education: BA from University of California, San Diego, PhD from Oregon State University
Research: Comparative mammalian genomics, with an emphasis on marsupial genomes; evolutionary/genetic processes in natural populations; genetics of variation in human thyroid hormone phenotypes



Dr. Charles Love

Dr. Charles Love, Research Associate
Veterinary Large Animal Clinical Sciences
Education: BS from University of Missouri, DVM from University of Missouri, PhD from University of Pennsylvania, DACVT
Research: Equine reproduction



Dr. Ashley Saunders

Dr. Ashley Saunders, Clinical Assistant Professor
Veterinary Small Animal Clinical Sciences
Education: DVM from Texas A&M University, DAVDC, Board Certified – ACVIM
Research: Congenital heart disease and arrhythmias



Dr. Waithaka Mwangi

Dr. Waithaka Mwangi, Assistant Professor
Veterinary Pathobiology
Education: BS from University of Nairobi, Kenya, PhD from Washington State University
Research: Vaccine effectiveness in outbred species such as cattle; antigen and DNA processing by dendritic cells; molecular processes involved in the development and regulation of innate immunity



Dr. Kevin Washburn

Dr. Kevin Washburn, Assistant Professor
Veterinary Large Animal Clinical Sciences
Education: BS and DVM from Oklahoma State University
Research: Ruminant pharmacology (pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics); ruminant lentivirus and swine nutritional supplements

Top Executives Discuss Veterinary Leadership

Top veterinary executives from corporate, professional and academic entities gathered at Texas A&M University on October 28 for the second meeting of the External Advisory Council for the new Center for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medicine.

The External Advisory Council consists of top leaders from various corporate and professional sectors in veterinary medicine, many of which are international and multinational in scope. "I decided that since these executives are giving their time and spending their money to come here and give us counsel, I wanted to give something back," explained Dr. E. Dean Gage, director of the center. "On Friday morning, I had Dr. Len Berry from the College of Business, who is one of the world's leading authorities on service excellence, to speak to the council on building a strong services brand. Then I asked Dr. Arvind Mahajan with the Mays Business School to speak to them about 'Foreign Exchange Risk and Its Management.' These were two topics I could give to them for what they have given us."

One of the major priorities identified by the advisory council was to find ways to integrate more leadership, business management, communication and team-building education into the current veterinary curriculum. "Those skill sets are the ones we are systematically integrating into the four years without adding hours to the curriculum or taking away from any of the science," explained Gage. "We are going to train the faculty on how to incorporate these skills into their classes."

Bayer Animal Health has stepped up to the plate and has offered its training expertise and resources to assist with the faculty development program.



Members of the External Advisory Council for the Center for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medicine

"Bayer has probably the best training programs and videos in this whole area of any institute available to us," Gage said. "We are going to take full advantage of this opportunity and we're in the process of nominating at least six faculty members to go to the Bayer Animal Health Communications Institute and be trained."

Dr. Garry Adams, associate dean for Research & Graduate Studies, talked about the DVM/PhD program and got a commitment from several of the

corporate council members, including Pfizer, Merial and Schering-Plough, to help support some of the DVM/PhD graduates. "The corporations are also dealing with a huge shortage of DVM/PhDs, just as the colleges are," Gage said. "Their support in this area is crucial to us and

our need to keep DVM/PhDs in our teaching and research programs."

President and CEO of Hill's Pet Nutrition, Justin Skala, addressed the council about several of Hill's leadership initiatives. "Just recently, six of our DVM/MBA students flew to their corporate headquarters in Topeka, KS, and gave a two-hour presentation to Hill's corporate executives on a business con-

sulting project that was done in our own teaching hospital. The project examined standards of care and Hill's market share of the pet foods that are used at our hospital," Gage explained. "Mr. Skala told me that Hill's was very impressed with the quality, maturity, professionalism and leadership in our students."

Skala also discussed Hill's Leadership Programs and its desire to hire DVM/MBAs graduates for leadership roles. Gage said, "He wasn't talking about field representatives or technical people—they are looking for, as he stated, 'young men and women who can come in and be leaders in their company.'"

Hill's is also putting together a new two-year leadership program where it will pay for a graduate to work in a top quality, high volume veterinary practice for one full year. "Hill's will pay the practitioner the graduate's salary for a full year, and in the second year they will bring them to headquarters and rotate them through all of the different corporate areas," said Gage. "At that point they will be looking at them for a leadership role with the company."

The Center's goal is to become the nation's leading program in DVM leadership development and to provide model leadership programs for other colleges.

The next meeting of the External Advisory Council will be held in conjunction with the Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas in February, 2006.

"Mr. Skala told me that Hill's was very impressed with the quality, maturity, professionalism and leadership in our students."

**— Dr. E. Dean Gage
Director of the Center for
Executive Leadership in
Veterinary Medicine**

The Making of Leaders



Savannah Craig, 3VM



Dr. Taryn Eaton



Dr. Monica Janacek



Dr. Sandra Ontiveros



Dr. Bobby Williams

Top corporate executives with Hill's Pet Nutrition sat up and took notice during a recent business consulting presentation made by five students in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences DVM/MBA program, an initiative of the new Center for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medical Education at Texas A&M University.

"Justin Skala, president of Hill's Pet Nutrition, serves on the External Advisory Council for the Center and is very supportive of our veterinary leadership development program," explained Dr. E. Dean Gage, executive director of the Center. "As a result, Hill's funded the required MBA business consulting project which was conducted by our DVM/MBA students in our own veterinary medical teaching hospital. The students looked at standards of care to measure compliance at the hospital, gaps in standards of care and also information on Hill's market share of the pet foods that are prescribed in our teaching hospital. These findings will be very important for both the TAMU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and Hill's."

Hill's flew Taryn Eaton, DVM, Sandra Ontiveros, DVM, Monica Janacek, DVM, Bobby Williams, DVM, Savannah Craig, 3VM, and Gage to their corporate headquarters in Topeka, KS, where the students gave a two-hour presentation to the company's top corporate leaders. "Mr. Skala said they were very impressed with the professionalism and leadership skills shown by our students," Gage said proudly. "Mr. Skala also expressed an interest in continuing to support additional business consulting projects in the future. It's my understanding that there may be some job offers that come from these visits."

The students took tours through every segment of Hill's operation. "Company representatives talked to them about marketing, sales and their overall corporate philosophy," said Gage. "They also went over their research and development program and gave them a tour of their state-of-the-art, 120-acre research facility. They are at the forefront in nutritional research and animal care."

The Eyes Have It

Researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences are seeing more clearly the relationships between nutrition and visual performance in puppies.

They are studying correlations between dietary intake of docosahexaenoic acid, commonly known as DHA, and its effects on visual stimulus response in canines.

Dr. John E. Bauer, the Mark L. Morris Professor of Clinical Nutrition, and his associates in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences have recently published an article in the *Journal of Nutrition* concerning the effects of omega-3 fatty acids on neural development in puppies.

Bauer's research focuses on dietary lipid (fat) metabolism because some fatty acids like DHA cannot be synthesized by animals, including humans, and must therefore be ingested. Bauer explains, "There is evidence in non-human primates and premature infants that omega-3 fatty acids help the overall development and functional capacity of the nervous system as measured by response to non-invasive visual stimulus."

The team's three-and-a-half year study, funded in part by Nestlé-Purina PetCare, involved analyzing the visual performance of dogs fed diets with different fat types. Bauer's team provided the nutritional specifications, and Nestlé-Purina's pilot plant in St. Louis, MO, supplied the DHA-enhanced food for the study.

Bauer's team analyzed electroretinogram (ERG) responses from a test group of 56 twelve-week-old puppies that were administered clinically safe levels of DHA from the point of gestation, throughout lactation and at the time of weaning. The team found significant improvements in visual performance with puppies on DHA diets not only in terms of perceptual intensity but also in regard to response time, retinal tissue efficiency and low-light sensitivity.

Bauer says this nutrition research will have far-reaching effects on companion animal nutritional guidelines, especially puppy formulas and dietary supplements. He says, "This type of research will change the way we feed dogs in the future—both for gestation and puppy growth."

Similar research is already benefiting human infant nutrition since the FDA recently approved the use of DHA in infant formula. For example, Bauer says that further comparative veterinary medical research may eventually lead to creating optimal food blends that benefit other sensory functions in companion animals, such as smelling or hearing, which may play an important role in raising and training service dogs.



Dr. John E. Bauer with a few of the puppies from his nutritional research project.

Safe Travel—World-Class Researcher and Frequent Flyer

When you're a world-class researcher, you're wanted all over the world. That pretty much describes Dr. Stephen Safe, who holds the rank of "Distinguished Professor" at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and in the Institute of Biosciences and Technology in the TAMU Health Science Center.

He is approaching his three millionth mile of travel since coming to the university 24 years ago. In fact, he may be the most traveled faculty member in the school's 129-year history.

A conference in Cairo, a seminar in Seoul, a meeting in Melbourne—it's all in a day's work for him. Safe has earned his wings—he crosses time zones the way most people go around the block.

It's safe to say, so to speak, that this Safe is one very, very frequent traveler.

"Most of the travel is enjoyable, but some of it—well, let's just say I can't wait to get home," Safe says from his CVM office, one of two he maintains in College Station and Houston.

Safe has been involved in numerous research projects the past few years, most of them dealing with cancer. His work in toxicology has drawn critical acclaim from researchers all over the world, and he has recently been investigating the development of new lines of cancer drugs.

His work has won him dozens of international awards and is on such a high level that he is invited to give lectures and seminars from Bangor to Bangkok. The key word here is invited—all of his expenses are paid by the hosting orga-



Dr. Stephen Safe

goes on and on.

His favorites? "Two places," he says. "One is Cairo and getting to see the Great Pyramids. The other is India and the Taj Mahal. I'd like to see both again—they're fantastic, better than advertised."

Since he travels up to 100,000 miles every year, the frequent flyer miles do add up. Safe says he often gives the miles to relatives, friends and others who need them. One who doesn't care for the extra flying miles is his wife of 40 years, Lorna. When the couple travels together, it's usually behind a wheel, not at 30,000 feet. She would rather take four tires on asphalt.

"She's not that crazy about flying," Safe laughs. "She prefers car trips."

nizations inviting him to speak, which include health centers, universities, government agencies and other groups.

He admits he has learned a few tricks along the way—he is likely one of the few frequent travelers in the world who can claim he's never made a trip to the island of lost luggage.

"I learned many years ago that it's best to take one bag, and I always keep it with me," he explains. "So I can proudly say I've never had to worry about lost luggage."

Safe has been to every major American city many times, and you can name a foreign city and Safe has been there or close to it. France, Japan, Mexico, Australia, England, Canada, Holland, Thailand, Korea—the list

Beyond Our Borders

...continued from page 6

in a particular country in their career, so we make sure they have a very broad education."

Wagner says the international aspect of education is extremely important to a college's program. "An example of this is when a professor here is giving a lecture and a student who has been to Brazil says 'I know what you are saying, but in Brazil they do it differently,'" Wagner says. "You are getting internationalization of the curriculum and that is vital."

Understanding world-wide animal movement, disease incidence in other

countries, and our vulnerabilities in the U.S. are very important, according to Wagner. "Students need to know the history of diseases in the U.S. and why it is so difficult to eradicate a disease such as Foot and Mouth disease from South America," he says. "Students also need to understand the economics of disease and why some countries have certain diseases and others do not."

With the grants obtained by the college, about 15 students have traveled abroad this year. "We have had students working in Spain, Italy, Belgium, France, Brazil and Mexico," says Wagner. "Some will stay several months, while some may stay just three

weeks depending on the program.

"If a student is interested in pursuing a clinical rotation similar to ours to see the differences in surgical procedures on small animals in Italy as compared to the U.S., then we try and set up a program so that's exactly what they do," Wagner explains. "They participate as an Italian student would."

International programs are everybody's business, according to Wagner. "We're fortunate at our college to have an excellent group of world veterinarians, meaning they well understand the importance of teaching students that veterinary medicine may be practiced differently in other countries."

Russell Is First American Elected WVA President

Dr. Leon Russell, a professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and an internationally recognized expert in animal public health, became the first American to be elected president of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) during the 28th World Veterinary Congress in July.

Over the next three years, Russell, whose candidacy was endorsed by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), will head the world's oldest international professional veterinary organization, comprising almost a hundred member countries.

The WVA works closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organization (WHO) and similar organizations on matters of food safety, food security, antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare and zoonotic diseases.

"A visionary leader and authority in both veterinary medicine and food safety, Dr. Russell is an extraordinary ambassador for organized veterinary medicine at the international level," said Dr. Bonnie Beaver, immediate past president of the AVMA and veterinary professor at Texas A&M.

According to Russell, "The WVA should be the primary authoritative source of advice for international organizations such as the WHO, FAO and

OIE on food safety and toxicology, and for zoonotic diseases such as rabies and avian influenza."

He has spent a lifetime working in the area of food safety and toxicology and has given scientific presentations on current food safety problems throughout the world. Russell has also dedicated many years to zoonotic disease education and research.

Russell has been an active member of the WVA's Veterinary Education Committee from 1994-1999, a Council member from 1999-2002 and Vice-President from 2002-2005. In addition, he has served as President of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Association and American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians.

Russell holds both a veterinary degree and a PhD, and is a board certified diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. His outstanding contributions to international understanding of veterinary medicine were recognized with the 12th International Veterinary Congress Prize in the year 2000.



Dr. Leon Russell

A Gentleman and a Gentle Man

Dr. Michael Walker has been presented the 2005 Dean's Impact Award (Faculty) in recognition of his long-term sustained impact on radiology services at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, according to H. Richard Adams, dean of the college.

Walker is a 1972 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University. He has been an assistant professor in radiology at Ohio State University and served in various capacities including Radiology Section Head at the University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine before returning to Texas A&M in 1989 as a radiology professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"Dr. Walker has been instrumental in keeping radiology on board during some tough times, always working to ensure the highest quality of teaching instruction for our students. In addition, he goes above and beyond the call of duty to keep our radiology service competitive and successful in an ever-changing climate," said Dean Adams. "We are extremely proud to present Dr. Walker, who is both a gentleman and a gentle man, with this well-deserved recognition."



Dr. Michael Walker, left, receives the Dean's Impact Award from Dean H. Richard Adams.

The stars must have been aligned just right on July 19, 2005, because for a period of about 20 hours, the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences had three Aggies in key veterinary leadership positions simultaneously.

Dr. Leon Russell, a professor at the college and an internationally recognized expert in animal public health, became the first American elected president of the World Veterinary Association (WVA). Travis McDermott, a fourth-year veterinary student, is serving as president of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) until March, 2006; and Dr. Bonnie Beaver, a professor in Small Animal Clinical Sciences, became immediate past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) the day after Russell was elected.

"To have three individuals representing our college and Texas A&M University in key world-wide veterinary leadership positions at the same time is quite a distinct honor and rare occurrence," said Dean H. Richard Adams. "This is testimony to the high caliber faculty and students we have at the college and we are extremely proud of their achievements."

Crème de la Crème of Teachers

Drs. Mark Johnson, assistant professor, and R. Bruce Simpson, professor, both with the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, were presented The Association of Former Students College-Level Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching for 2005.

This award recognizes, encourages and rewards superior classroom teachers whose command of their respective discipline, teaching methodologies, pervasive caring, communication skills and commitment to the learning process exemplify the meaning of teaching and mentoring in the highest sense.

"Dr. Johnson's consistently high expectations for students and his teaching abilities set him apart. His lecture style keeps students' attention and makes even the most esoteric subject interesting and understandable," said Thomas J. Palvino, DVM Class of 2006.

In support of Simpson's nomination, veterinary student Amber Jennings said, "Instead of merely quoting from a textbook, Dr. Simpson goes out of his way to show us photos and videos of the afflicted animals and makes them accessible on the class website. He is also able to put concepts into simple terms, making the information more clinically practical."

Each award recipient received a cash gift and a framed certificate.



Dr. Mark Johnson



Dr. R. Bruce Simpson

Scholarly Excellence

Dr. Daniel Posey, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, has been named a Montague Center for Teaching Excellence Scholar. Posey received a \$5,000 grant to research and develop innovative teaching techniques.

The grant money will be used in the further development of a fourth year clinical rotation entitled "Contemporary Issues in Animal Agriculture and Food Production." The rotation is offered to senior veterinary students who are interested in food animal production.

"There are six areas that we are taking an innovative approach to teaching by studying such timely issues as bioterrorism, alternative food production, food safety, environmental health, regulatory medicine and animal welfare," said Posey. "The students will also participate in field trip experiences, interactive data management and a problem-solving simulation. They will also be given a pre and post test assessment." Posey said the rotation will be used to develop an outcome assessment model for use in a clinical setting.

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. "Dr. Posey is a great teacher who is offering incredible leadership in helping students understand the business of agriculture," said Dr. Bill Moyer, professor and head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences.



Dr. Daniel Posey

IN MEMORIAM

1939

Robert D. Lozo of San Antonio, TX, died Nov. 17, 2002

1940

K. Maynard "Doc" Curts of Lenexa, KS, died June 9, 2005

1942

Minol "Doc" Ota of San Jose, CA, died Aug. 14, 2005

1943

John M. Hejl of Alexandria, VA, died Apr. 13, 2005
Samuel J. Liggins of Jennings, LA, died Jan. 26, 2005

1946

John H. Gutteridge of Canton, MA, died Jan. 21, 2003

1948

William L. Jones Jr., of Houston, TX, died July 28, 2005

1950

Dan J. Albright of Pauls Valley, OK, died June 9, 2005

1951

William Lee Murray of Springdale, AR, died May 18, 2005

1953

Guy T. Moore of Durham, NC, died Sept. 1, 2005

1958

Alton William Perry of Houston, TX, died Oct. 11, 2004

1959

Aaron H. "Buddy" Long of Junction, TX, died Aug. 23, 2005

1962

Malcolm Crawford Smith of Baytown, TX, died June 3, 2005

1962

Don R. Smith of Paris, TX, died Aug. 16, 2005

1964

Brazos Joe Varisco of Bryan, TX, died Oct. 8, 2005

1964

Robert D. Lozo of Boerne, TX, died July 26, 2005

1970

Haskell Lynn Yandell of Seminole, TX, died May 30, 2005

1970

James Albert Wilson of College Station, TX, died July 7, 2005

1975

Grady R. Ellis of Jacksonville, TX, died Aug. 31, 2004

1981

Glynis Jan Roth of Southlake, TX, died Oct. 28, 2005

Another Great Year and Looking Forward to the Next!

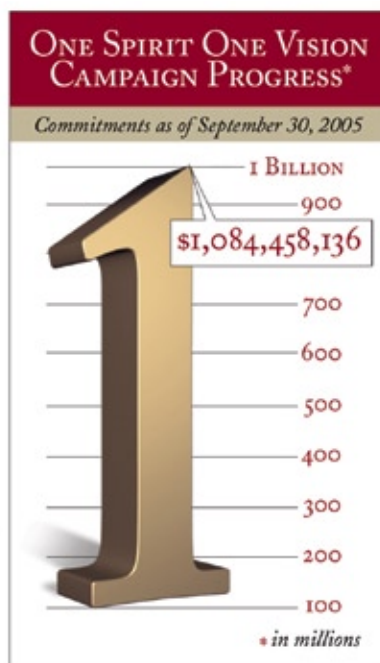
It has been another great year for development here at the college, and next year is going to be even better! Achieving our \$60 million college goal one-and-a-half years before the end of the capital campaign is a credit to our faculty, students and alumni. Thank you for your tremendous support and interest in the future of our College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

This year is still not over, so if you've had a great year it is not too late to support your area of interest. We have just hung the fourth Mark Francis Fellows plaque, so we have plenty of room to recognize your involvement.

Next year is going to be a very special year because it is the 90th anniversary of the CVM. It will also be the final year of the One Spirit One Vision Capital Campaign. We plan to focus on and celebrate an area of interest each month. If there is something special you would like us to direct our attention to, please don't hesitate to contact my office. If we all work together, we will truly make 2006 the best year ever.

We will be recognizing our outstanding alumni on Friday evening, March 31, at our annual dinner at the beautiful Bush Presidential Library and

Conference Center. It is still not too late to nominate a fellow veterinarian or classmate. If you would like a nomination packet, please give my office a call at (979) 845-9043, and we will



mail you one. All nominations must be received in our office no later than January 6, 2006.

The 3rd Annual Gentle Doctor Benefit and Auction will be held on April 1. This is the perfect time to

get together with friends and classmates, so start planning your reunions now. We encourage the five-year anniversary classes to come back to Aggieland and celebrate the memories and friendships that were established here years ago. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved, and I recommend you make your reservations early so classes can stay in the same hotels, if desired. We will always be happy to assist you with any arrangements that you might need.

I want each of you to know how much your contributions are appreciated and the difference you make in the health and well-being of all animals, great and small. From all of us here at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, we wish you a blessed Holiday Season and a prosperous and Happy New Year.

– Dr. O.J. “Bubba” Woytek,
Senior Development Officer
DVM '65



Dr. O.J. “Bubba” Woytek

Join in the Spirit of Giving with Veterinary Class Scholarships

Our college provides students with an advanced veterinary medical education that utilizes the finest in modern technologies. However, with advances also come growing costs. To help ease the financial burden students face while enrolled in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, you have a unique opportunity to contribute to the future of this noble profession. Former students can honor their graduating class by generously supporting veterinary students through class scholarships.

Veterinary Class Scholarships also provide opportunities to honor a veterinarian who has made a difference in your life or the life of a beloved pet. Memorial donations can be made in honor of deceased classmates. Clients and friends may honor a veterinarian for outstanding service by donating to the respective class scholarship fund.

Once a class reaches the \$25,000 minimum required for

an endowed scholarship, income from the endowment provides an annual scholarship to a veterinary medical student in good standing, based upon need established by the TAMU Department of Student Financial Aid. Descendants of college class members whose class has an endowed scholarship, and who meet all of the qualifications, may be given preference in the awarding of these scholarships.

When a class endows a scholarship, the class will be recognized on the Endowed Class Scholarship plaque in the college's Hall of Honor. When 40 alumni classes reach this minimum goal of \$25,000, it will increase the college endowment by \$1 million, demonstrating that the Spirit of Aggieland shines bright in the hearts of CVM graduates.

If you are interested in contributing to your veterinary class scholarship and would like more information, please call the Development Office at (979) 845-9043.



College Bids "White Coat Doctor" Farewell

Dr. Jeanne Fairweather may not have graduated from Texas A&M University, but she formed a bond with the university as close as any former student. Fondly known at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences as the "White Coat Doctor," she lived a full life of service to others.

Fairweather died June 24, 2005, but her spirit lives on through an endowment she left behind to support future veterinarians. Scholarships are provided through the endowment and every student who has completed the rigorous first year of the DVM professional program is presented a professional clinical coat.

Kris Schoeffler '03 helped coordinate the thank-you notes his veterinary class sent after receiving its white coats. "They are a symbol that the first year, which is a very difficult one, is finished. It's a really nice closure," said Schoeffler, who noted he will wear his coat throughout his professional life. He added, "Dr. Fairweather had a genuine love of animals, which she showed through her support of the veterinary students at A&M."

Born in Connecticut, Fairweather graduated from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio in 1950 and the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston in 1954. She was committed to medicine, travel and community service and also worked in refugee centers and was a charter member of the American Research Center in Egypt. She worked for nearly 30 years at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

It was there that a mutual friend introduced her to Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek '65, senior development officer for the CVM. They developed a relationship that enriched both of their lives for over a decade.

"We became good friends," Woytek said. "She was always interested in what the students were doing to make the world a better place for animals. And she left a legacy here at the college that fit with her whole life: helping other people. The college's vet-

erinary medical students will benefit from her generosity for many years to come."

In one correspondence to students, Fairweather wrote, "It is so important to always be professional in appearance and actions. Putting on the white coat today should remind you of the honor and privilege you have to become part of the veterinary profession and part of the CVM legacy."

In the 10 years Fairweather assisted the college's veterinary medical students, Woytek said her admiration for future Aggie veterinarians never diminished. "The students always called and sent letters, and some went by to visit with her. Parents would write her letters. She had a great deal of appreciation for their gratitude. Her life was about other people. She was a very special lady," he said.

Fairweather rarely slowed down, even in retirement. An enthusiastic traveler and former president of the Southwest Texas Archeological Society, she pursued a life-long passion for archeology in visits to Europe, the Far East, Egypt, the Holy Lands and Mexico. Fairweather left her two beloved Boxers to a friend in San Antonio to care for them after her passing in June. She believed the human-animal bond was a gift from God and a significant part of life.

In a letter she wrote to the veterinary Class of 2006 thanking them for the notes and calls that kept her informed of their progress, she offered this encouragement: "Your studies are hard but worthwhile. There are so many wonderful things you will be able to do all the rest of your life for God's creatures and their human families. I know you will succeed. At times you will be very tired and discouraged—say a little prayer, put on your white coat and you will do well."



Dr. Jeanne Fairweather with her beloved Boxers, "Gregory" and "Diane."

About Charitable Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity is a legal contract under which an individual, in exchange for his or her gift to a qualified charity, receives fixed payments for life. The charity uses the interest and part of the original principal to make payments to the donor.

You can receive a financial return from your gift by funding a charitable gift annuity with the Texas A&M Foundation. A charitable gift annuity requires a transfer of at least \$10,000 in cash or securities to the foundation and establishing a simple, two-page contract that guarantees you, or another beneficiary, a fixed annual payment for life.

If you are interested in establishing a charitable gift annuity with the college, please call the Development Office at (979) 845-9043.

New and Advancing Mark Francis Fellows Honored

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 at the annual Mark Francis Appreciation Luncheon held on September 30, 2005.

New Members

Laura R. Bailey
Santa Ana, CA

Mr. and Mrs. Mark W. Calaway
Bastrop, TX

Dr. and Mrs. John A. Canning
Carbondale, CO

Dr. Robert H. and Dr. Betsy O. Carpenter
Bastrop, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Jock R. Collins
Houston, TX

Mary E. Couzens
Menominee, MI

Dr. Thomas M. Craig and Dr. P. Lea Diamond
Wheelock, TX

Dr. Clifford Davis
Corpus Christi, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Edwards, Jr.
Marfa, TX

Ted and Mary Grace Eubank
Lantana, TX

Congressman and Mrs. Jack Fields
Humble, TX

Dr. David A. Fisher
Albuquerque, NM

Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Halamicek, Jr.
LaGrange, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Hammaker
Burke, VA

Mr. and Mrs. Bradley M. Holmes
Cypress, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Don F. Houston
Duncanville, TX

Dr. James Harvey Johnson
Bryan, TX

Kenneth H. and Ann Jones
Ft. Worth, TX

Donna Keeling
Elgin, TX

Dr. and Mrs. James E.T. Laningham
Southern Pines, NC

Penny Leach
Karnack, TX

Dr. Walter and Jean Legg
Flower Mound, TX

Dr. James C. Love
Paris, TX

Col. and Mrs. William L. Lumpkin
San Antonio, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest R. Mach
Yukon, OK

Dr. Kahla R. Malinsky
Mendham, NJ

Dr. and Mrs. Stewart McConnell
College Station, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Franklin S. Moffett
Dilley, TX

Dr. and Mrs. John M. Morton
Athens, TX

Nancy K. Nelson
Newport Beach, CA

Dr. and Mrs. Yawei Ni
College Station, TX

Dr. Ronald J. Orrell
College Station, TX

Dr. John and Diane Oswald
College Station, TX

Betty Perry
Rockwall, TX

Dr. James R. Prine
Slayton, OR

Jack Reed
Austin, TX

Kathy L. Rice
Houston, TX

Dr. Mark E. Rigby
Magnolia, TX

Dr. Paula J. Runte
Houston, TX

Dr. Loren C. Skow
College Station, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Horace A. "Bud" Smith
Brenham, TX

Dr. Helen Stehouwer-Stein
Friendswood, TX

Ray and Marilyn Thompson
Tyler, TX

Stacy R. Ticsay
Chicago, IL

Richard Tullis
Buford, GA

Martin E. Walker
Dayton, OH

Dr. Rick Wall
The Woodlands, TX

Dr. Christi Warren
Tucson, AZ

Dr. Alan and Didi Weinblatt
San Antonio, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Whitley
Houston, TX

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

Members Advancing to Higher Levels of Giving

Dr. Louise C. Abbott
Bryan, TX

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College Station, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Alan M. Buie
Mansfield, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Charles M. Cocanougher
Decatur, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Andrew K. Currie
Hempstead, TX

Dr. Dean S. Folse
Galveston, TX

Dr. Billy B. Hancock
Ft. Dodge, IA

Dr. Fred J. Hander
Ft. Smith, AR

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kellam
Dallas, TX

Dr. Ann B. Kier
Wellborn, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Wallace L. Kleb
Houston, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Bob Knauss
Burton, TX

Dorothy Rose Lala
Houston, TX

Dr. and Mrs. James D. McCrady
Bryan, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Osborne
Melrose, TN

Linda S. Schmuck
Houston, TX

Dr. Margaret R. Slater
College Station, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Thibodeaux
Trinity, TX

Terry and Mary Capper Thompson
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Donald Vanderpool
Dallas, TX

Dr. Joe E. and Carolyn K. West
College Station, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Ron E. Whitley
Houston, TX

The Purr-fect Companion Book for Feline Medicine

Dr. John August, a professor and internal medicine specialist in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, has unveiled his new book, *Consultations in Feline Internal Medicine: Volume 5*.

Published by Elsevier Saunders, the book addresses subjects that are important for the progressive small animal practitioner in 2006 and beyond. It is the fifth volume in the series and contains all new subject matter. "We try not to duplicate information, and each volume builds upon the others," says August.

Sporting a sleek new design with color images, the book features 10 sections on topics ranging from feline dermatology to health issues of cats in groups. "Each section is organized by a specialist in that particular subject area," notes August.

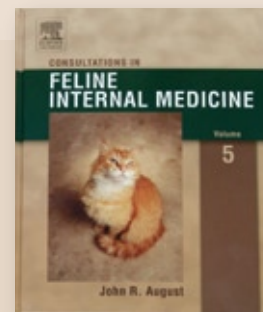


Dr. John August

More than a hundred people were involved in this endeavor from all corners of the globe, says August. "The book features authors from Europe and Australia, but most are from the United States.

Experts from Texas A&M University are well represented among the section editors and authors. Publishing a book like this is a huge team effort," he says.

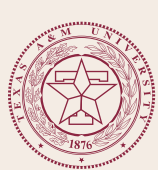
August, who served as editor-in-chief, says this was the first time the book was developed electronically. "I was a little worried about it at first, but then I realized how much easier it was," notes August. "The ability to send a manuscript to Australia one day and get it back edited the next morning is extraordinary."



College Highlight Calendar

SPRING SEMESTER 2006

January 9	First Day of Spring Semester Classes
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday for 1VM, 2VM and 3VM
February 3-5	TVMA Winter Meeting
March 16-18	Spring Break
March 31	Honors Convocation
March 31	Outstanding Alumni Dinner
March 31-April 2	Homecoming and Parents' Weekend
April 1	3rd Annual Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction
April 8	Open House
April 10-22	NAVLE Examinations
May 8	First Day of New 4VM Clinical Year
May 11	DVM Commencement at 2:00 P.M. in Rudder Auditorium
May 29	Memorial Day Holiday



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