



CVM Today

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Veterinary College Celebrates
90 Years of Growth

Summer 2006

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Happy Birthday

A Time for Reflection and Looking Forward

Please join us in wishing a happy birthday to your College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary throughout 2006. It is truly amazing to consider what Texas A&M University and the many students, staff and faculty have accomplished over the years since the founding of this college in 1916 by our beloved first dean Dr. Mark Francis.

Our 90th anniversary also gives pause to reflect on the major changes that have occurred to the veterinary medical profession during this time. The classical "horse doctor" mainly tended livestock in agrarian communities throughout much of the first three quarters of the 20th century. But today, in the 21st century, we have advanced into a highly skilled and medically qualified "animal physician" who provides state-of-the-art veterinary medical and surgical care. We also have many more veterinarians working with small companion animals that live with their owners in large metropolitan cities.

Not only is the veterinary profession following the human and animal demographic movements from the country to the city, it is experiencing a major shift from males to females. The first female DVM graduate from Texas A&M was Dr. Sonja Oliphant Lee, a classmate of mine in the DVM class of 1966. Throughout the 1980s, 1990s and continuing today, over 60 percent of our veterinary graduates are female. Both the shift to women veterinarians and the dominance of small animal practitioners are not unique to Texas. These major shifts in gender and practice type in our profession are occurring nationwide. I know of no state that is not seeking more veterinarians who would live in rural areas and practice food animal and/or mixed-species medicine. The siren call of the city encompasses emergency clinics for after hour referrals, and the logistical advantages of maintaining small animal clinics, along with the small animal practitioners receiving attractive and improving compensation packages. These benefits are proving difficult for new graduates to resist, even for many of our students who hailed originally from ranches and farms. These topics deserve greater discussion and will be addressed in future editions of CVM Today.

Your college has received several 90th anniversary additions to its teaching, clinical and research programs. We are moving into our new \$10 million necropsy building this summer. It contains a newly developed bio-digester as well as a new incinerator for carcass disposal; quite an improvement from our current 50-year-old necropsy facilities.

Thanks to help from campus administration, we are also drawing plans for an \$18 million addition to our research building that will add over 20 new research laboratories and almost 50 new offices and conference rooms. We have added a new state-of-the-art CAT scanner for large and small animals, and we are in the process of installing an MRI unit for small animals. Several regions of the small animal hospital are undergoing complete renovation, and our food animal section is experiencing a renewed surge of activity. Our faculty's diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities will be markedly enhanced in both the large and small animal hospitals, with

a corresponding increase in the quality of material for teaching our DVM clinical curriculum. The 90th anniversary year is a particularly great time to be a part of the Texas A&M veterinary college, that's for sure.

Our third Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction held in Reed Arena was a resounding success with almost 800 friends of the college in attendance. Remember, the proceeds from the GDBA are placed in an endowment for scholarships for veterinary students, and we are already approaching \$200,000 – clearly good news!

Well, there is also a bad news, good news story. The good news is that the new dean at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University is a Texas A&M DVM graduate. The bad news is that their new dean is our own Dr. Debbie Kochevar who is departing our college after 20 years of dedicated service as a faculty member and, more recently, Associate Dean for Professional Programs. Dr. Kochevar will be sorely missed here at Aggieland, but we send her hearty congratulations for being the first female Texas A&M veterinarian to be appointed dean of a veterinary college. Under Dr. Kochevar's leadership, Tufts veterinary school will achieve even greater accomplishments, of that you can be sure.

If you have a chance to drop by Texas A&M during 2006, the veterinary college's 90th anniversary year, stop by the dean's office for a chat – the coffee is always hot.

H. Richard Adams

H. RICHARD ADAMS

CARL B. KING DEAN OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



Dean H. Richard Adams



This year's Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction featured live and silent auctions and musical entertainment to help raise funds for scholarships for veterinary students.

Veterinary College Celebrates 90 Years of Growth

A Tradition of Caring and a Commitment to Excellence

From its humble beginnings with limited classrooms and professors to today's state-of-the-art facilities that produce research that affects the world, Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences turns 90 this year amid a world that is far different than its founders envisioned in 1916.

Today, Texas A&M remains the only veterinary college in Texas and one of the world's largest veterinary medicine schools—1 of every 10 practicing veterinarians in the United States has an Aggie diploma. The College of Veterinary Medicine (it added Biomedical Sciences to its title in 2004) produces world class researchers and its animal care programs continually draw praise from the international scientific community.

In recent years, the institution has become the cloning capital of the world—it is the only organization that has successfully cloned six species (cattle, swine, a goat, a horse, deer, and a cat). The college is also recognized for its leading research in animal diseases and most recently, work in bioterrorism issues.

It was not always so.

In 1888, Dr. Mark Francis was appointed as the first veterinarian to join the Texas A&M faculty, and in 1916 he became the first dean of the new school of veterinary medicine. Francis later wrote of those early days, "There were no laboratories or equipment for our work. We had no hospital. We had a room about 14 feet by 16 feet that served as office, classroom and laboratory. The adjoining room became vacant and was assigned to us as a classroom, and in this unsuitable place we toiled for 15 years."

Francis overcame the difficulties, cramped space and tight budgets to become one of the world's most famous veterinarians—he is often called the "father of Texas veterinary medicine"—and it was he who discovered that ticks



were causing Texas cattle fever that was wiping out herds all over the state. He would go on to develop effective inoculations to stem the disease.

The first veterinary class graduated in 1920, and it didn't take long to hand out diplomas—a whopping four students earned DVM degrees. The college now graduates an average of 125 students each year.

Mark Francis would hardly recognize the college today. It has an enrollment of about 500 veterinary students selected from a highly competitive admissions process, and about 2,250 students are enrolled in the undergraduate biomedical sciences program and 160 in the graduate program. The Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital is composed of a Large and Small Animal Hospital and a Wildlife and Exotic Animal Center. The facilities combined treat about 20,000 in-hospital cases each year. The teaching hospital is a state-of-the-art facility that rivals most human hospitals with its equipment, clinical services and medical specialists.

The VMTH employs more than 100 faculty members in disciplines ranging from behavioral medicine to diagnostic imaging, large and small animal dentistry to neurology and neurosurgery, and internal medicine to dermatology.

Surgical heart treatment, nephrology research, small animal rehabilitation and comprehensive testing at the gastrointestinal laboratory are just a few of the services available for ani-



mals through the VMTH, generating approximately \$10 million annually.

Also, the face of veterinary medicine has changed—literally. Today, about 70 percent of the college's professional students are female, a startling fact considering that the first woman veterinarian graduated only 40 years ago.

More than 26 percent of the 2005 graduating class was bound for post-DVM study in highly competitive residencies, internships or graduate training programs. The newest Class of 2009, has an overall undergraduate grade point average of 3.65 with nearly 13 percent of the class being from ethnic minorities underrepresented in the profession.

As testimony to the high caliber of students admitted to the college, the 2005-2006 president of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) was recent DVM graduate Travis McDermott, who represented 10,000 veterinary students across the U.S. as a delegate at AVMA functions. The veterinary college also hosted the highly successful 2005



The College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is one of the premier institutions in the world for education, research and patient care in veterinary medicine.



KEY DATES IN COLLEGE HISTORY

1953: The first Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital was built.

1963: The first woman was admitted; also the name was changed from the School of Veterinary Medicine to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

1966: The first woman graduated from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine.

1981: A new Small Animal Hospital was built.

1993: The Veterinary Medical Research Building and new Large Animal Hospital were constructed.

1999: Researchers cloned cattle, the first of six species to be cloned at Texas A&M and the most by any institution in the world.

Student AVMA Symposium, which was completely student managed and attracted more than 2,000 veterinary students from across the U.S. to College Station.

In addition to awarding DVM degrees, the college has a DVM and Masters of Business Administration dual degree program oriented toward business and leadership development in veterinary medicine. The DVM/MBA program was developed through the college's new Center for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medicine. The college also has a dual DVM/PhD program that is integral to the ongoing success of the college's teaching and research programs.

And while Francis and his fellow professors spent almost all of their time on animal care and diseases, today's veterinary professionals are internationally minded. They can be found working

in animal health fields related to bioterrorism, food safety and zoonotic diseases, public service, research and areas that were inconceivable in 1916.

The College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is one of the premier institutions in the world for education, research and patient care in veterinary medicine. Through innovative educational programs and strong research capabilities, the college continues to affirm its commitment to provide the best in health care for animal patients.

The advances made through the college's research, from basic animal anesthesia to cloning, continue to prove indispensable not only in the improved health and production of food, companion, sporting and service animals, but toward new medicines and procedures for the health of humans as well.

"The challenges facing veterinari-

ans today are changing faster than at any time in history with more global implications than ever before," says The Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine, H. Richard Adams, dean of the college since 1998 and a 1966 DVM graduate of Texas A&M University.

"Since that first graduating class, we have granted more than 6,200 veterinary medicine degrees. Today, Texas Aggie veterinarians work all over the world, and they serve the 19 million residents of Texas and their animals in roles dealing with private practice, but also in areas dealing with the military, industry, government and universities," says Adams.

"We've had a distinguished 90 years, but I can honestly say that our best and most exciting days are ahead of us. The veterinary medicine student of the 21st century will be the most highly trained in history."

First Female Aggie Veterinarian Marks 40th Anniversary

Dr. Sonja Lee Is a Part of Texas History

You may not be familiar with the name of Sonja Lee, but perhaps you should be. She is a small part of Texas history.

Lee became the first woman ever in Texas to get a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Texas A&M University, earning her diploma in 1966. And because Texas A&M has the state's only veterinary college, that means she is still the first female Aggie veterinarian in the state's history.

It's been 40 years since Lee, still a very active veterinarian at her clinic in Lubbock, walked across the stage to get her diploma, but sometimes she still thinks it was not that significant.

"I knew I was the first woman ever to graduate with a veterinary medical degree from Texas A&M, but to be honest, it wasn't that big a deal to me," Lee says from her Lubbock office.

"I was more concerned with graduating and completing the courses. The courses were not easy then, and I'm sure they aren't any easier today."

Lee said times were different then. Texas A&M, once an all-male military school, did not allow women to attend until 1963.

"I was the only woman in the vet school, but you could walk across campus in the mid-60s and not see very many women at all in any of the buildings," she recalls.

It does show how times have changed. Today, about 70 percent of the veterinary students in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences are women.

Lee, a native of Corpus Christi, says fellow students and her profes-

sors were highly supportive of her while attending school, but some other Texans were not.

"I got some letters that were pretty bad, mostly saying that a woman had no business trying to be a veterinarian," she recalls. "One letter said I was part of a communist conspiracy or something like that. But it didn't bother me very much."

Once she graduated and started treating animals, Lee said some of her clients who walked through the door were surprised to see a woman wearing a white lab coat.

"A few pet owners let me know that they did prefer that a man treat their animals," she says. "But most of my clients were nice about it. They kept coming back to me, so I guess they believed I knew what I was doing."

Lee was a classmate of current College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences Dean H. Richard Adams.

"Sonja adapted well to an all-male environment and excelled in her studies, thereby setting the stage for other women to follow in her footsteps," says Adams.

"In 2001, she received the Outstanding Alumni Award from our college."

Lee says she is not that surprised that so many women today want to be veterinarians.



Dr. Sonja Lee examines Zeke the cat at her veterinary medicine clinic in Lubbock. Lee became the first female graduate of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in 1966.

"It used to be rare to see a female medical doctor, and now they are everywhere. The same is true in law school and dental school and even business. Women are accepted now in every field of endeavor."

What has changed since she got her diploma 40 years ago?

"Technology, for one thing," she believes. "The medical equipment we use today has really improved since 1966, and there are many more medicines available. Also, the amount of money people are willing to spend on their pets has changed dramatically since then. Plus, pet insurance is fairly common today, and it certainly wasn't in 1966."

With decades of experience behind her, Lee says she has no intention of retiring. She still enjoys going to her clinic every day and meeting with people and their pets.

"There are new challenges every day. And what's funny is that now, some of my clients are grandchildren of my first clients. Every now and then someone will say, 'You know, my grandma says she brought her cat to you years ago.'"

"It's been a rewarding career and a fun career. I'd do it all over again in a heartbeat."

"It used to be rare to see a female medical doctor, and now they are everywhere. The same is true in law school and dental school and even business. Women are accepted now in every field of endeavor."

*– Dr. Sonja Lee
First Female Aggie
Veterinarian*

Prestigious \$10,000 P.E.O. Scholarship Awarded

Dr. (Captain) Tamara Gull Balances Education and Service to Country

A unique blend of scholarship and service to her community and country are the top reasons why Tamara Gull, a PhD student in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, received the highly competitive \$10,000 International P.E.O. Scholarship Award this year. Only 85 of these scholarships are awarded annually in the United States and Canada.

"It is indeed quite a prestigious award," says Ms. Jean Bergstrom, chairman of the P.E.O. Scholar Award project. "It is so exciting to have Dr. Gull receive this award. She was given this honor last year, but because her Reserve unit was deployed to Germany to relieve a unit sent to Iraq, she had to leave Texas A&M and return the scholarship."

P.E.O. stands for "Philanthropic Educational Organization" and there are more than 9,000 P.E.O. members in the State of Texas alone. "We have five international projects which help women with education and the P.E.O. Scholar Award is one of them," says Bergstrom.

"I think the main reason Dr. Gull was granted this award was her uniqueness in the type of work she is doing, her humanitarian service which she has done in Central America, and the fact that she is also serving her country while doing all of this," Bergstrom says.

A member of the U.S. Army Reserve (Veterinary Corps) since 2001, Gull, who now holds the rank of Captain, was plucked out of her unit to assist the 4220th U.S. Army Hospital out of Long Island, New York, which was short on veterinarians. This unit was mobilized from January 2005 to July 2006 to support the 64th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services), based in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

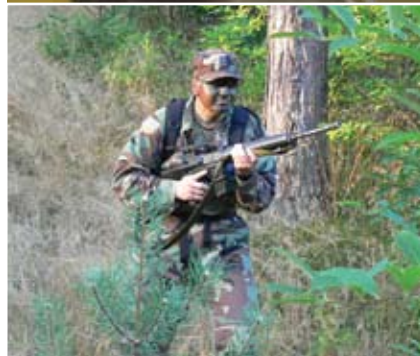
"My post was a satellite clinic in Spangdahlem, Germany, near the Luxembourg border," says Gull. "My duties included food safety, care of military working dogs and care of service members' pets. Of these, food safety was by far the largest component."

Food safety is so important because in every war up to Korea, more troops were lost to infectious disease than to battle injuries. "Diligent food inspection and monitoring has virtually eliminated foodborne illness from our troops, and that keeps our military ready for their mission," Gull notes.

The Army recognized Gull's humanitarian service in El



Top: Dr. Tamara Gull examines a service member's cat at the satellite clinic in Germany.



Bottom: Gull participates in a training exercise in Germany camouflaged as an OPFOR (opposing force) soldier sneaking up on American soldiers.

Salvador and Honduras by awarding her an Army Commendation Medal in 2003 and an Army Achievement Medal in 2004. "The humanitarian missions in Central America are a regular effort for Army Reserve and National Guard units from all over the U.S.," says Gull. "On the veterinary side, we treat anywhere from one to two thousand animals during a mission which is concentrated on preventative medicine measures such as vaccinations and parasite prevention."

Since most of the patients are farm animals, according to Gull, the veterinarians usually break away from the human medical treatment facility and drive from village to village to find the animals. "This can be quite exciting, as some of the roads are almost nonexistent and some of the areas have problems with bandits," she says. "However, it's enormously rewarding when you can save the horse or the ox that allows an entire village to get their crops to the market, or the village cow that provides milk for several families' children."

On her return to the U.S. in July, Gull plans to take time to get her life and house back in order and then get ready for fall semester. "When the semester starts, I will jump right back into my research on the pathogenesis of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.

I have one more class to take this fall, but I will spend the majority of my time in the lab refreshing my techniques and digging back into the benchwork," she says.

"I owe my colleagues a lot of time and assistance, as they took up my share of the work while I was away. My research advisor, Dr. Garry Adams, has also been extremely supportive of my deployment as well as continuing my project despite my hiatus."

Gull intends to stay in the Reserves, even knowing that she may be deployed again in three to five years. "Being deployed has certainly caused some upheaval in my education and career path, but I made the choice to participate in the Reserves. I can't complain about a single deployment to Europe when some of my fellow soldiers have deployed twice to the Middle East," she says. "The military really does provide experiences unavailable anywhere else, and thanks to the military I have seen parts of this world that I never would have imagined traveling to on my own."

It's a Match

Nearly 100 Percent of Applying Veterinary Graduates Awarded Competitive Internships

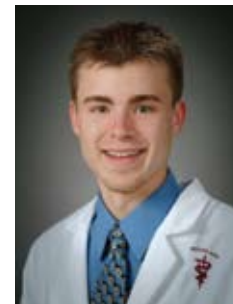
It was a match made in heaven for the newly graduated 26 or so veterinary medicine students who applied for prestigious internships across the country. This year marks a momentous achievement with almost 100 percent of these graduates awarded highly competitive internships at either a private practice or institution through the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians (AAVC) Matching Program.

"This is a very high percentage, so we're very fortunate this year," says Dr. Kenita Rogers, who assists with the internship and residency programs at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "It's extraordinary to have almost 100 percent matched."

The AAVC's matching program is computer-based and designed to analyze each applicant and match each to the practice or institution that they have ranked the highest. Each institution ranks the applicants according to its preferences, and the matching process takes into account the rankings of both the applicant and the institution or practice in the final match, explains Dr. Sandee Hartsfield, head of the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences. "So, it tends to work out pretty well. Not everybody gets their first choice every time, but generally we've probably gotten interns for Texas A&M that are ranked within the top 15 most of the time," says Hartsfield.

Students also have the option of applying directly, without going through the matching program, for internships at private practices or universities. "There is a growing percentage of private practices and universities that are going outside of the match system to select interns," says Dr. Peggy Marsh, who serves as the Large Animal internship coordinator for incoming interns. "I think this percentage is growing on both the large and small animal side because practice is changing and there are more referral centers," says Marsh.

What are the advantages of doing



Dr. David Allman

Dr. David Allman was awarded an internship in Small Animal Medicine & Surgery at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

an internship as opposed to going directly to work in a private practice or some other venture? "One of the biggest benefits is if they wish to later apply for specialty residencies—whether that is in surgery, cardiology, internal medicine, etc.—many of those require at least some other kind of training experience before they can start a residency," explains Rogers. "The second advantage is the experience of being under direct supervision of an experienced clinician who is often a board certified

I understand the University of Georgia contacted several of them by phone and they had very positive things to say about me."

Allman opted to pursue an internship right out of veterinary school because "I'm young, I'm single and I want to specialize in surgery," he says. "Without a combination of these three things I would have had a hard time justifying an internship and probably would have been better off pursuing a private practice job with a good mentorship program."

Interns as well as residents are an integral part of the college and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. "They really do a gargantuan amount of the work here, especially the emergency work," Rogers says. "They also play a big role in the teaching here—not only do we teach them, they teach students and each other."

On the other hand, interns are very useful in all kinds of veterinary practice settings, Marsh says. "They provide a lot of help at times when it's difficult to keep your staff at merry ends," she says. "Having interns there really helps them out."

Interns and residents also do a large part of the student teaching, especially assisting the students with hands-on treatment, according to Dr. Peter Rakestraw, assistant professor in Large Animal Clinical Sciences. "They bring ideas from other schools to the VMTH

"Internships get your career started on the right path."

*— Dr. Lynsey Smith
Class of 2006
Internship Recipient*

specialist."

New graduate Dr. David Allman believes that the letters from his clinical advisors were pivotal in his internship appointment in Small Animal Medicine & Surgery at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. "I believe that I had a good cover letter and curriculum vitae, and that may have sparked enough interest for them to look closely at my clinician letters," says Allman. "My clinician letters were from top-notch clinicians, and

and so enrich our thought processes,” he says. They do clinical research and so advance the knowledge of academic veterinary medicine.”

Dr. Misty Jordan accepted an internship with Weatherford Equine Medical Center, PC, in Weatherford, Texas. “I saw it on the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Avenues website for vet students and applied,” Jordan says. “It is going to work out well because my husband was relocated to that area and I feel that I didn’t get as much hands-on opportunities in certain areas during vet school, which I really think I need to make it in private practice.” She plans to pursue a residency in Large Animal Surgery after the internship.

Jordan says she feels the private practice was impressed with the fact that she worked all through veterinary school at an equine and mixed animal practice as a technician. “I already had several skills they were looking for in an



Dr. Misty Jordan

Dr. Misty Jordan began a one-year private practice internship with Weatherford Equine Medical Center, PC, in Weatherford, TX.

intern,” she said.

Red Bank Veterinary Hospital in New Jersey snatched up two new DVM graduates, Drs. Lynsey Smith and Adriana Mendoza, for one-year internships in Small Animal Medicine & Surgery. Smith hopes the internship will help her to be a more confident

and prepared veterinarian. “It’s a great opportunity to learn from the specialists as well as my intern classmates,” Smith says. “We have all heard that our first year out is the most important as far as molding us into the veterinarians we will become. Internships get your career started on the right path.”

Give Back to the Profession

You Are Always a Role Model to Someone, Says Dr. Sheppard

Dr. Guy Sheppard, president of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, urged veterinary medicine graduates to find ways to give back to their chosen profession and to remember the great responsibilities they have as animal care providers during Texas A&M University’s College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences commencement ceremonies.

Sheppard, who earned his DVM degree from Texas A&M in 1978 and has his own practice in San Angelo, told the 125 new Aggie veterinarians to “be sure and give back to others.

“I know that each of you has been a beneficiary of one or more mentors and encouragers. Please remember this when young people dreaming of a career in veterinary medicine approach you. And remember that you are always a role model to someone. Live your life so as not to disappoint an impressionable young person.”

Sheppard also urged graduates to get fully involved in their profession through service activities and volunteer work.

“As Dr. Elbert Hutchins, executive director of the TVMA, is fond of saying, ‘You have now been handed a profession that you did nothing to create. It was done for you by dedicated veterinarians who have gone before you.’ It is our duty to make sure that we are able to hand off a profession

to those who enter after us that is at least as good or better than that which we were handed.”

Sheppard added that the new veterinarians cannot hand off an “improved profession to your successors by simply viewing veterinary medicine as an occupation and a means to pay your bills. You have to see it as an heirloom, something to be treasured, protected and perfected, and it requires much effort to preserve.”

Sheppard reminded the graduates that they had some help getting their hard-earned veterinary medicine degrees.

“You did not get here by yourself,” he said, “and you will not progress very far with a ‘Lone Ranger’ mentality. You are surrounded by people who have given you all kinds of support including encouragement, love, inspiration, the freedom to seek your dreams, financial support and academic and technical support.

“Tell them ‘thank you’ with your words and actions, and don’t forget to say it often throughout your life. People love to hear these words, and if you say them often, you will also get to hear them in return.”



Dr. Guy Sheppard

Au-drenaline Rush

Residents Like Jennifer Au Play an Integral Role in Hospital Care

It's 3:00 A.M. and Dr. Jennifer Au's cell phone wakes her up. A dog has just been brought to emergency services at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) and needs surgery—stat.

Working odd hours and weekends, being on call for emergencies and low pay are just a few of the “perks” for veterinary residents like Au, who completes her 3-year surgery residency this summer at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. “I got an hour of sleep last night, because of emergency surgeries,” she says with a smile. “You almost have to be an adrenaline junkie to some degree.”

Au says her three years as a resident flew by. “It seems like I just got here. If I could sign up for another three years, I would do it in a heartbeat,” she says. “I've really enjoyed the people here. They're very interested in teaching. If I have a question or I have a problem, they are there even if I call them in the middle of the night.”

The faculty has an innate ability to know when not to help, says Au. “They know when to let you struggle a little bit, so you can break through your problem areas and it finally clicks.”

Coming out of veterinary college at Mississippi State University, Au knew she wanted to specialize. “I wanted to go that extra mile and challenge myself,” she says. “I was very into exotic animals and had a million different exotic pets. I did my first internship at the Animal Medical Center in New York and realized that I liked other things besides just exotics—I actually liked dogs and I liked cats and I liked surgery and I liked medicine—I liked a whole lot of things.”

So instead of jumping right into a residency, Au worked in emergency medicine for several years thinking that the fast pace would prepare her for a residency and give her time to explore what she really wanted to do. “I loved emergency medicine's fast pace and being able to do something to help an animal and see the results,” Au says. “And the same thing with surgery, I loved being able to fix an animal and get those instantaneous results.”

Au came to the conclusion that surgery was her biggest passion, and she went on to complete a surgical internship



Dr. Jennifer Au (right) examines a ferret with assistance from 4th year veterinary student April Guest.

at a private practice in Connecticut before coming to Texas A&M. “It was the best of all the things I was interested in—it allowed me to do exotics because exotics need surgery sometimes, and it allowed me to do emergency medicine because a lot of critical cases need surgery and follow-up care,” Au notes.

“I've done surgery on some lions, a tiger, a lemur, some birds, ferrets and snakes,” says Au. “It just keeps it interesting, to be able to do something in a cat's chest one day, and fix a dog's broken leg the next day, and remove a foreign body from a ferret the following day.”

Strict requirements dictate how surgery residents spend their time. “You have to do so many weeks with soft tissue, so many weeks with orthopedics, so many weeks with neurology,” says Au. “And then you do side periods in internal medicine, radiology, clinical pathology and anesthesia. You also have to perform a minimum of 400 surgical cases and main-

tain case logs in the various subsets—with a certain number in neurology, orthopedics, abdominal etc.”

As the senior resident, Au has additional responsibilities as schedule planner and peacekeeper. “I maintain the schedule not only for the surgical residents—but for the on-call, the emergencies—but for the medicine, cardiology and oncology residents and the interns,” she explains. “I'm also responsible for attending certain meetings involving intern/resident evaluations and selection, and dealing with any little tiffs or misunderstandings that come up with the interns and residents.”

Au was recently inducted into Phi Zeta, the veterinary honor society. She also received the Auxiliary to the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) Clinical Resident Award and the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation Johnson Memorial Award. The latter award recognizes exceptional merit and outstanding achievement in postdoctoral studies of veterinary surgery.

Au is definitely well prepared for the next step of her career, wherever that may be. “I'm sort of grappling with the next step,” she says. “I see benefits to private practice and I see benefits to academia.”

Wherever Au decides to pick up her scalpel, her varied experience and skills will certainly be an asset to any practice or university lucky enough to secure her talents.

“I've really enjoyed the people here. They're very interested in teaching. If I have a question or I have a problem, they are there even if I call them in the middle of the night.”

**– Dr. Jennifer Au
3rd Year Small Animal
Surgery Resident**

“I Wouldn’t Trade It for the World”

Plummer Describes Texas A&M As One of the Best Places in the Country for Surgical Residencies

“I’ve been here four years and I wouldn’t trade it for the world,” says Dr. Amy Plummer, who completed both her internship and Large Animal surgery residency at Texas A&M University’s College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

“It’s the people here—I think that’s what makes our program so great,” says Plummer. “All of our clinicians care about us, not only professionally but also personally. And our development so far as our communications skills, not just our surgical skills, is phenomenal.”

The college’s Large Animal surgery residency is one of the most sought after in the United States and probably the world, since it gets many foreign applicants, says Dr. Peter Rakestraw, coordinator of the Large Animal residency program and assistant professor in Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

“It has such a good reputation that we most often get our first choice of candidates through the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians (AAVC) Matching Program,” Rakestraw says. “Over the last 12 years, all of our residents have passed their surgery boards the first time.”

Plummer went to veterinary school at Ohio State University and came to Texas to visit her brother who was an intern at the veterinary college in 2000. “I fell in love with the facilities here, so when I applied for internships, Texas A&M was at the top of my list. Fortunately I matched,” she explains. “I did a rotating internship on the large animal side—so I did medicine, surgery, food animal and equine. I also had a month to do some elective blocks like field services work.”

It didn’t take long for Plummer to realize that surgery was her passion. “When I had to choose where I wanted to do my surgery residency, I knew I was already at the best place in the country,” she says. “So I ranked A&M at the top and somehow I matched. There have probably been some days



Top: Dr. Amy Plummer, center, and Dr. Peter Rakestraw look inside the nose of Gus, a 1,886 pound Belgian draft horse, owned by Chris Smith, in foreground. By using a flexible scope with a tiny camera, the doctors are able to view Gus’ sinus cavity on a video screen.



Bottom: Gus, known as the “Gentle Giant” by his many friends at the Large Animal Hospital, is escorted into the hospital by Dr. Plummer for his check-up.

they wished they hadn’t kept me another three years though,” Plummer exclaims with a laugh.

Her love for surgery began at an early age helping her uncle who was a veterinarian. “When I was growing up, I enjoyed helping my uncle with the surgical cases,” she recalls. “I also liked junior surgery a lot, but I wasn’t so sure I wanted to specialize until my very first surgery rotation in my 4th year. I just got that rush when I was in the operating room and realized that, wow, I really wanted to be a surgeon.”

The equine surgery program is second to none in the country, notes Plummer. “Our surgeons are phenomenal both on the orthopedic and soft tissue side. We get to see a large number of cases here at A&M and that really offers a big advantage to residents over other clinics and universities,” she says. “There’s a case log book we have to do for our residency requirements—and I was done with mine in year two.”

Plummer says the residency is very clinically based, offering many hands-on learning opportunities. “We’re on the clinic floor a lot and constantly

dealing with cases,” she says. “For me, that is the way I want to learn because I remember things better once I deal with a case as opposed to reading about it in a book.”

Growing up in Pennsylvania where dairy cows dot the countryside and doing her undergraduate veterinary studies at Ohio State, Plummer was around more cows than horses. “It has been fun and exciting for me to be exposed to a lot of new things here. I still got to do food animal while I was here, but just not as much,” she says. “My friends from undergrad totally think of me as a cow person, and all of my students here see me as an equine person. It’s amazing where life takes you!”

Plummer’s next phase in life is calling her back to Tennessee, where most of her family lives. “It was a very hard decision to make, but I’ll be going to the University of Tennessee to be one of two emergency critical care clinicians,” she says. “But the friendships I have made here will last forever, and I’ll always feel I can call on the faculty and they’ll be happy to help me if I need it—because that’s the kind of environment we have here.”

Exceptional Aggie Spirit

Travis Nichols, a rising 4th year veterinary student at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, is an exceptional Aggie. As an undergraduate, he served as Deputy Corps Commander his senior year in the Corps of Cadets, and is now excelling in his veterinary studies. But with all of his success, he is quick to thank his parents, Bruce and Patsy Nichols of Austin, who were honored with the university's "2006 Parents of the Year" award.

The award, which was given at the close of Parents' Weekend festivities, came as a surprise to the Nichols. "We were completely shocked and overwhelmed," says Mrs. Nichols. "We love A&M, and this is the most meaningful way Travis and Katy could have honored us as parents."

Travis and his wife, Katy, Class of 2005, nominated his parents because they have really embraced the Aggie spirit, says Nichols, who adds that his mom's license plate is "Gig Mom." "They didn't go to A&M but they have really become involved here," he says. "It's been neat for me to bring my friends home to meet them, or now for them to introduce me to Aggies that they have met."

Travis shares in his parents' delight and joy in winning the award. "It was a big honor to see them so elated and surprised after they have given me so much," says Travis. Nichols, who is an only child, says that his family has always been close. "They are very giving people who never ask for anything in return," says Travis. His parents, who own a bed and breakfast in Fredericksburg, are always willing to offer it as a place to stay for, as Mrs. Nichols says, "her children in Aggieland."

Bruce and Patsy Nichols both embody the Aggie spirit in all that they do. Patsy, a lawyer in Austin, and Bruce, retired from Motorola, have donated their time to many volunteer organizations such as the Austin Aggie Moms Club and Habitat for Humanity. In 2003, they started the "Nichols' Rising Leadership Conference" for sophomores in the Corps, which gives 35 students a chance to spend a weekend talking about leadership. Travis has become inspired by his parents' leadership qualities as well. "I am really excited about leading and empowering a veterinary staff one day," he says.

The Nichols are also excited about the chance to become further involved with Texas A&M and the veterinary college through this honor. "The graduate programs at Texas A&M are so wonderful and we are excited to learn more about them," says Mrs. Nichols. "We see this as a great opportunity to continue to support a place that we love so much."

The example the Nichols have set for their son continues to inspire him in his educational career. "More than anything, my parents have taught me to become involved in people's lives," says Travis.



The Nichols family: Travis, Bruce, Patsy and Katy.

Equine Embryo Research

"Up until 2000, little was known about early equine embryos because they are difficult to recover from mares before about seven days after ovulation, and standard *in vitro* fertilization doesn't work in the horse," says Dr. Katrin Hinrichs, "but with a technique called Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI), now we can start to unravel their mysteries."

ICSI (pronounced ick-see) is just one of several areas in equine embryo biology that Hinrichs and fellow researcher Dr. Young Ho-Choi are currently studying in the Equine Embryo Laboratory.

"We're looking at several different aspects of horse oocyte (egg) and embryo biology—because finally we can," Hinrichs says. The technique of ICSI is used because horse sperm will not fertilize eggs on their own in the lab. "With standard *in vitro* fertilization, the egg and sperm are combined in a Petri dish. The sperm are supposed to swim to the egg and penetrate the egg, just like *in vivo*, but unfortunately it doesn't work in the horse."

For reasons yet unknown, the sperm cannot seem to penetrate the outer layers of the mare's egg, so Dr. Choi uses an extremely fine pipette to pick up one sperm and inject it into the egg to achieve fertilization.

Because of the success of this technique, study of equine fertilization and embryo development in the laboratory is now possible. Hinrichs is evaluating the early embryos by many methods, including differential staining, which has never been done before in the horse.

"What we're ultimately interested in is finding a way to determine the health of those inner cells without having to transfer the embryo to a mare and wait 30 days to see if the embryo develops properly," says Hinrichs. "We want to know how to produce healthier embryos."

Hinrichs and Choi are also studying what happens to the sperm when it fertilizes the egg, and whether the egg changes the way the sperm's chro-

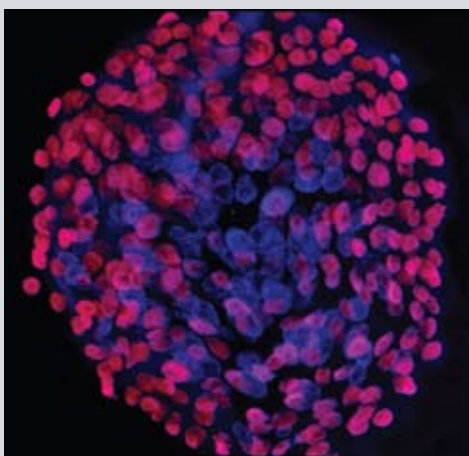
CLONING UPDATE

Hinrichs reports eight healthy cloned foals on the ground this year. Five of the clones were produced in Hinrichs' laboratory for Mr. Bill Freeman, syndicate manager of donor *Smart Little Lena*. "For the *Smart Little Lena* project, we transferred 13 embryos and ended up with five live, healthy foals," Hinrichs says. "That's a 40 percent success rate, which is higher than has been achieved in most other species."

The clone from another genotype, whose owner wishes

to remain anonymous, is healthy and living in north Texas. Two clones born in May at Texas A&M were from a third genotype.

Paris Texas, now almost 1½ years old, was the first cloned horse born in North America and was produced by nuclear transfer in Hinrichs' laboratory. *Paris* is thriving in Denmark with his owners, who plan to breed him when he comes of age.



Differentially stained equine embryo.



Left: Three of the five *Smart Little Lena* cloned foals produced in Hinrichs' laboratory (photo courtesy of Ross Hecox).

Right: *Paris Texas* at one year old.

matin (nucleic acid and proteins), is organized.

In another ongoing study, Hinrichs' lab is looking at a protein, Oct-4, that is a marker for a cell being able to produce all other kinds of cells. "We call that totipotency," explains Hinrichs. "We've been staining embryos for the presence of Oct-4 to determine the pattern of its expression during equine embryo development. We are trying to see how the cells organize themselves in the horse embryo and commit themselves to being a placental cell or a fetal cell."

The various parts of Hinrichs' research all intertwine and meld together. "We're looking at the development of the blastocyst—this early embryo with inner and outer cells," says Hinrichs. "Then Dr. Choi is trying to find out if we can take those totipotent inner cells, plate them and culture them, and continue to maintain them in a totipotent state as stem cells so they can still make all different cell types."

"If we could, it would really be useful in treating diseases in the horse such as cartilage and ligament damage."

Hinrichs Named First Patsy Link Chair

Following an international search, Dr. Katrin Hinrichs, professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology in Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, has been named the first Patsy Link Chair in Mare Reproductive Studies. The chair is part of an endowment established in 1995 by Texan H. Patsy Link to support equine programs at Texas A&M.

Hinrichs received her doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1978 from the University of California at Davis. She completed a residency and PhD at the University of Pennsylvania, and she was on the faculty at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine from 1988-1998 before she joined the faculty at Texas A&M. She holds a joint appointment in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences and is a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists. Her research centers on the physiology of the oocyte and fertilization in the horse.

Hinrichs is known internationally for her work in equine reproduction. In 2005, Hinrichs' laboratory produced the first cloned horse in North America—the third in the world. Named Theriogenologist of the Year in 2003 by the American College of Theriogenologists, Hinrichs currently serves on the biotechnology committee of the American College of Theriogenologists and on the International Equine Reproduction Symposia Committee. She is an active member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, Society for Theriogenology, International Embryo Transfer Society, and Society for the Study of Reproduction, and she has served on the Editorial Boards of the journals *Theriogenology* and *Animal Reproduction*.

"The college is extremely proud of Dr. Hinrichs' remarkable accomplishments in equine medicine and reproduction, which led to her being named the first recipient of the Patsy Link Chair," said H. Richard Adams, dean of the college. "Dr. Hinrichs is a tremendous asset to our college, the university, and the field of equine reproductive sciences."



Dr. Katrin Hinrichs

Blazing New Trails in Genetic Research

While making animals disease resistant is indeed a big story, the even bigger story according to Texas A&M University researchers Mark Westhusin and Charles Long is that they have developed the tools to explore the function of any gene in the livestock species, previously only possible in the mouse.

“Our results provide strong evidence that will be useful in producing transgenic livestock with potential resistance to a variety of diseases such as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease,” says Dr. Westhusin. “It also provides an effective strategy for suppressing gene expression in a variety of large animal models. This opens up a whole new territory in genetic research.”

Westhusin and Long, both professors of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, worked with fellow scientists Greg Hannon, Michael Golding and Michelle Carmel at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory to successfully utilize genetic engineering to produce a goat cell line in which the gene encoding for prion protein (PrP) was targeted for silencing by a process

known as RNA interference. They then used these cells to produce a cloned, transgenic goat fetus that showed a greater than 90 percent knock down of PrP, which is associated with neurodegenerative diseases such as BSE.



Drs. Mark Westhusin and Charles Long

“This new approach involving RNA interference is very useful, and could have a dramatic impact because it allows us to target the gene sequences of viruses such as influenza and foot-and-mouth disease for silencing,” explains Westhusin. “On the other hand, we can target genes that result in improved characteristics for the production of fiber, meat or milk products.”

Westhusin and Long are also studying ways to by-pass the cloning procedure to make the process more efficient. “We’re working on better delivery systems so we can use this technology directly with in-vitro fertilization,” says Long. “Scientific studies in our lab and others show that these techniques can be used in the unfertilized eggs of cattle.”

The researchers recently shifted their focus to targeting foot-and-mouth disease virus in a pig model, and increasing muscle growth in goats and cattle by silencing a regulator of muscle growth called myostatin.

Dental Disease Is No. 1 Dilemma in Adult Pets

Dentistry for small animals is an exciting new field in pet practice, says Dr. J.R. “Bert” Dodd, clinical associate professor and veterinary dentist in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Dodd recently came on board and is now offering full-time dental services for dogs and cats.

The oral problems have been present for a long time; however, they have gone undiagnosed because of inadequate dental education on the part of veterinarians, according to Dodd.

Dental disease is the number one disease entity affecting adult pets. In a study done by the American Veterinary Dental Society, more than 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats develop some degree of periodontal disease by

the age of three years. This could include gingivitis, periodontal disease, malocclusions, fractured teeth, oral tumors or painful cavity-like lesions. Fortunately, today most of these conditions are treatable.

Dodd offers routine cleanings as well as oral surgery, periodontal evaluation and treatment, endodontic therapy, restorations, orthodontics, oral evaluations and digital radiology. He is also available to veterinarians for dental consultations and as a resource regarding dental equipment.



Located in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital’s Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, the dentistry service can be contacted for appointment scheduling Monday-Friday at 979-845-2351.

Spotlight on Dr. J.R. “Bert” Dodd

A 1979 graduate of Texas A&M University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, Dodd opened the Hiway 620 Animal Hospital in Austin, TX, in 1981. He

is a Diplomate of the American Veterinary Dental College and is a past President of the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry. Teaching veterinary dentistry to other veterinarians, veterinary students and veterinary technicians is one of his passions as he lectures throughout the United States. In 2004, Dodd was chosen “Fellow of the Year” by the Academy for his dedication to teaching dentistry to his colleagues. His time is devoted to teaching students how to deal with dental problems in pets.



Dr. J.R. “Bert” Dodd

From Tibet to Texas

On a drive this spring to enjoy the Texas wildflowers, visiting editorial trainee Kang Min remarked on the rich farmland and advanced irrigation technology. The landscape in the Brazos Valley differs indeed from that in Kang Min's homeland of Tibet. But her two months at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences helped bridge international gaps, especially regarding scientific communication.



Dr. Christine Budke, who does epidemiologic research near Tibet, enjoys talking with Kang Min about her homeland.

Kang Min came to the CVM through the China Medical Board of New York editor training program, for which Dr. Barbara Gastel, associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, is United States coordinator and chief instructor. The program aims to increase publication of Chinese and other Asian research in the English-language literature by teaching biomedical writing and editing.

In the spring of 2004, Kang Min joined some dozen other editorial trainees for a 6-week intensive orientation course held in Beijing. The trainees then returned to their home institutions, where they began teaching a biomedical writing course designed by the program and continued their own studies through online lessons prepared by Gastel.

The program culminates in an editorial internship in the United States or Canada, generally at a university or

a journal. "Since editing is not my full-time job, a university seems a better place than a journal to meet my own interests," said Kang Min, who teaches English at Tibet University Medical College, is vice director of the international project office there, and does some editing for the Tibet Medical Journal.

At Texas A&M, Kang Min's activities included editing scientific papers and comparing her work with that by American editors, reading about editorial and other topics, attending class sessions in biomedical writing and medical literature, and watching faculty of the English Language Institute teach English to non-native speakers. She attended a variety of special lectures, including the University Distinguished Lecture "I Feel Sick"—The Biological Consequences of Sickness Behavior," by Dr. Ian Tizard, professor of veterinary pathology. In addition, she met with Dr. Christine Budke, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, who does epidemiologic research in an area bordering Tibet.

To maximize cultural exchange for all concerned, trainees in the China Medical Board program stay in American households. Kang Min's host household was that of veterinary student Stacy Lowery, who had previously hosted another trainee from the program. "Stacy's friendliness, helpfulness and maturity made her an obvious choice," Gastel said.

Kang Min also visited the Department of Scientific Publications at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Her internship ended with a trip to Tampa, Florida, for the Council of Science Editors 49th annual meeting—aptly titled "Working Toward a Sustainable, Equitable World."

Bovine Genome Research Goes Outback

Dr. James Womack, a distinguished professor and director of the Center for Animal Biotechnology and Genomics at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, recently visited four super-sized, million acre plus cattle breeding stations in Australia, components of a major industry that supports research in new cattle breeding technologies.

The land down under is one of several international contributors to the bovine genome project, the focus of Womack's current research. "I was invited to speak at a conference at the University of New England in New South Wales to kick off a \$30 million research project designed to develop new cattle breeding technologies for the beef industry," says Womack. "I talked about the bovine genome, sequencing the genome and the impact that the genome project will have on the future of the beef industry."

The bovine genome project has been under way since 1990. While in Australia, Womack visited with cattle breeders and several TV and radio stations to explain why the genome project is a good thing and to thank its supporters.

"This research means DNA markers for economically important traits for improved production factors such as disease resistance. We will have several hundred markers in several years," Womack says.

"Hopefully, this will mean more efficient production and cheaper beef of high quality. Eventually, we will be able to raise our cattle with fewer chemicals and generate beef in a cleaner environment."



Dr. James Womack

Kraemer Receives Pioneer Award for Embryo Transfer Innovations

Dr. Duane Kraemer of Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, was presented the Pioneer Award by the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS). This award recognizes early contributors to the development of embryo transfer technology and the embryo transfer industry.

Kraemer is a world leader in embryo transfer technology and reproduction and is an integral member of the research team at Texas A&M that has successfully cloned four species—cattle, goats, a deer and a cat.

A professor in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology, Kraemer has worked on various aspects of embryo transfer and related technologies since 1959. His early work on the development and testing of contraceptive agents and on embryo transfer in the baboon was the beginning of a long career of firsts in the embryo transfer industry. He is credited with performing the embryo transfers in the first purebred calves to be produced by a commercial embryo transfer company.

Kraemer established Project Noah's Ark in 1991 which uses advanced technology and research methods to collect

and preserve eggs, semen, embryos and DNA from endangered mammals, birds and reptiles.

A NEW FOCUS ON ANIMAL CONTRACEPTION: ONE OF DR. KRAEMER'S NEWEST RESEARCH INITIATIVES



Dr. Duane Kraemer

Most recently, Dr. Kraemer and colleague Dr. Mundhir T. Ridha have been focusing their efforts on animal contraception research. Although some strides have been made in the development of contraceptives for animals, overpopulation remains a serious problem for numerous species. Kraemer and Development Director Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek are reaching out to organizations, agencies and corporations to help fund this exciting research, with an estimated \$250,000 needed to fund the first year.

If you would like to contribute to finding a solution to this age-old and growing world dilemma, please make your check payable to: Texas A&M Foundation, and on the memo line, please indicate "Animal Contraception Research."

IN MEMORIAM

1938

Herschel D. Dorman of Sacul, TX, died Feb. 15, 1975
Emmanuel F. Coyle of Rumford, RI, died Oct. 5, 1989

1939

Vincent E. Greening of Cerritos, CA, died Nov. 13, 2004

1943

Kenneth J. DeLucia of Broken Bow, OK, died Jan. 6, 2006
William J. Kelber of Los Angeles, CA, died Apr. 10, 2006

1945

Leland C. Grumbles of College Station, TX, died May 4, 2006
Richard G. Knight of Fayetteville, NC, died Oct. 17, 2005

1946

Robert B. Nevin of Newport Beach, CA, died Mar. 31, 2006

1948

Robert P. McCoy, Jr., of Cameron, TX, died Feb. 9, 2006

1949

Charlie W. Edwards of Marfa, TX, died Feb. 14, 2006

1950

Alan Woods of Denton, TX, died Mar. 26, 2006

1951

Martin B. Marx of Georgetown, KY, died Nov. 10, 2005

1952

T.G. Carroll of Center, TX, died Nov. 13, 2005
D.B. Martin Jr. of Bossier City, LA, died Nov. 23, 2005

1954

Gerald Fuller of Mesa, AZ, died Feb. 7, 2006

1955

Seymour J. Smith, Jr. of Shutection, LA, died Nov. 13, 2005

1959

Bobby Jack Gross, of Fort Worth, TX, died April 29, 2006

1962

Jay Mac Tripp of North Zulch, TX, died Mar. 9, 2006

1966

Robert M. Hammatt of Oakdale, LA, died Dec. 18, 2001

1967

Richard N. "Fuzzy" Fussell of Houston, TX, died May 31, 2006

1969

Donald Watkins Doiron of Lafayette, LA, died Jan. 22, 2006

1971

Joe N. Stockett of Plainview, TX, died Jan. 19, 2006

1973

Don M. Lewis of Columbus, TX, died Jan. 8, 2006
William R. "Bill" Cox of Amarillo, TX, died Oct. 26, 2005

1976

Larry D. Mills of Post, TX, died in Aug., 2005

1985

Frances L. Brooks of Portland, TX, died Sept. 9, 2005

1986

Regine Chambard Klecka of Georgetown, TX, died June 28, 2005

1989

Real F. Ransom III of Harlingen, TX, died Sept. 17, 2005

1991

Jacqueline Rost of Catonsville, MD, died Dec. 9, 2005

Jaeger Named 2006 Piper Professor

Dr. Laurie Jaeger, associate professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University, has been named a 2006 Piper Professor, an award that carries with it a \$5,000 honorarium.

The award was established by the San Antonio-based Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation and annually recognizes and honors outstanding Texas college professors.

Jaeger, who joined the Texas A&M faculty in 1991 as an assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health, has earned numerous teaching honors and citations. Her honors include Texas A&M's Presidential Professorship for Teaching Excellence Award; the Center for Teaching Excellence Scholar Award for the College of Veterinary Medicine; The Association of Former Students College Level Distinguished Teaching Award; the Wiley Distinguished Teaching Professorship in Veterinary Medicine; and The Association of Former Students Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching.

Jaeger holds a bachelor's degree from Penn State University and a PhD and DVM from Purdue University.

The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation was organized in 1950 by Randall Gordon Piper and his wife, Minnie Stevens, the principal donors. The Piper Professors program was established in 1958 and honors professors for superior teaching at the college level, including at two- and four-year colleges and universities, both public and private.



Dr. Laurie Jaeger

Wasser Receives International Excellence Award

Dr. Jeremy Wasser has set a new standard for faculty involvement in study abroad programs at Texas A&M University. In recognition of his commitment to building an international dimension into the lives of students, Wasser received the 2006 International Excellence Award for Faculty from the university's International Programs Office.

An associate professor in the department of Physiology and Pharmacology in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Wasser is entering his third year as a faculty member on the Germany Study Abroad Program in Veterinary Medicine, a 5-week intensive, international experience for Texas A&M undergraduates in life science related programs. In preparation for leading his groups abroad, Wasser does a great deal of personal preparation. He has even taken on the challenge of learning to speak and write the German language.

"By learning the German language, I feel that I will be better able to provide the leadership that is needed in such a program," Wasser says. "It allows me to better prepare students to adapt to the German culture in order to fit in with host families and adjust to differences in lifestyles and customs."



Dr. Jeremy Wasser (first row, far right) is shown with students in the wine cellar of the Residenz Palace in Wurzburg, Germany.

As a further example of Wasser's commitment to the students, he introduced a new concept to Texas A&M faculty-led programs by offering a blog (web log) where students keep an online journal of their activities. The blog provides a medium for the students to communicate with parents, future participants, faculty and each other about their daily experiences in Germany.

Knappe Veterinary Clinic Named 2005 Aggie 100 Honoree

The Gulf Coast Large Animal Clinic, owned and operated by veterinarian Gregg Knappe, Class of 1977, and his wife, Cheryl, has been selected to the inaugural 2005 Aggie 100 list of fastest growing companies owned and operated by Texas A&M University former students.

The program was created by the Mays Business School's Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship to recognize the top 100 companies with the highest compounded annual revenue growth from 2002 to 2004. The honorees were recognized at a formal luncheon at The Zone Club on the university campus and were also featured in the November 2005 issue of *Texas Aggie* magazine, published by The Association of Former Students.

"We are pleased to honor our successful former students and highlight their accomplishments," said Richard M. Scruggs, director of the Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship. "Gulf Coast Large Animal Clinic has achieved a great deal in its history and we'd like to think that has a lot to do with work ethic, integrity and knowledge gained from Gregg and Cheryl Knappe's association with Texas A&M University."



The Knapes

Six More Months to Go!

With the end of the university's One Spirit One Vision capital campaign clearly in sight, we want to close the campaign here at the college with a final surge to the finish. As of the end of May, we had credit for more than \$68 million! That is almost 15 percent over our initial campaign goal! With a little luck and a bit more effort, perhaps we can attain our new goal of reaching the \$75 million mark.

Two of our alumni, LuAnn Ervin, DVM '84, and Charles Coconaugh, DVM '55, have truly demonstrated their generosity to the college during this capital campaign. Dr. Ervin has given one President's Endowed Scholarship; two endowed veterinary medicine scholarships to individually honor Drs. M.D. Richardson and Al Schwewecke, who were mentors of hers while she was obtaining her DVM degree; a \$250,000 insurance policy with the college as the beneficiary; and a \$10,000 cash gift to complete the Class of '84 Endowed Scholarship.

Dr. Coconaugh has given a total of four endowed veterinary medicine

scholarships, including a major contribution to the Class of '55 Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship was given in honor of Dr. Wayne Moore and the rest of Coconaugh's Class of '55 classmates.

Before the end of this year, we encourage all of our graduates—especially those

veterinary medical students enrolled here.

Be on the lookout for a maroon folder you will soon receive in the mail. It will contain information about how you can be a part of the Aggie tradition of supporting the institution that has enabled all of us to be the best we can become to help make this a better world for people and their animals.

Thanks to all of you, our friends of the college and our alumni, for your tremendous support over the years. For those of you who have not joined in our capital campaign, please call the college Development Office at (979) 845-9043 and learn more about how you can support the area of your interest at the college.

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

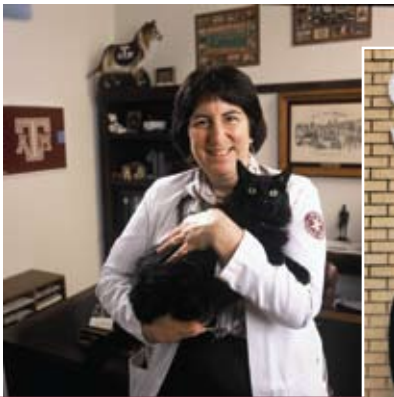


Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek

ONE SPIRIT A&M ONE VISION

THE TEXAS A&M CAMPAIGN

who graduated 20 years ago or more—to contribute to their class scholarships and also consider leaving a minimal bequest of \$25,000 in their wills to the college. All gifts, regardless of size, benefit our college, our important veterinary research and teaching programs and our outstanding



Left: Dr. LuAnn Ervin, Class of '84, recently donated one President's Endowed Scholarship; two endowed veterinary medicine scholarships to individually honor mentors Drs. M.D. Richardson and Al Schwewecke; a \$250,000 insurance policy with the college as the beneficiary; and a \$10,000 cash gift to complete the Class of '84 Endowed Scholarship.



Right: Dr. and Mrs. Charles Coconaugh, center, donated four endowed veterinary medicine scholarships, including a major contribution to the Class of '55 Endowed Scholarship in honor of Dr. Wayne Moore and the rest of Coconaugh's Class of '55 classmates. The Coconoughs are pictured with Dean H. Richard Adams and Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek.

Support Veterinary Class Scholarships

Former students of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University are encouraged to honor their graduating class by generously supporting current veterinary students through the Veterinary Class Scholarship program. The rising cost of a veterinary medical education has caused a tremendous financial burden on our students and every dollar makes a difference to these dedicated young men and women.

Once a class reaches the \$25,000 minimum required for an endowed scholarship, income from the endowment will provide an annual scholarship to a veterinary student in good standing. Classes that have reached the endowed level are the classes of '41, '51, '55, '65, '69, '70, '75, '84 and '02 and are recognized on the Endowed Class Scholarship plaque in the CVM Hall of Honor.

For more information on how you can join the spirit of giving through the Veterinary Class Scholarship program, please call the Development Office at (979) 845-9043.

Five Outstanding Graduates Named Veterinary Distinguished Alumni



Dr. Jock R. Collins



Dr. Thomas B. Hairgrove



Dr. Billy B. Hancock



Dr. D. Reid Patterson



Dr. Horace A. "Bud" Smith

Five outstanding alumni of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University have been honored at campus ceremonies for their professional achievements. The 2006 award recipients are Drs. Jock R. Collins of Houston, Thomas B. Hairgrove of Haskell, Billy B. Hancock of Fort Dodge, IA, D. Reid Patterson of Bonita Springs, FL, and Horace A. "Bud" Smith of Brenham.

The college annually recognizes former students who have contributed to society through the veterinary profession in a way that has brought recognition to themselves and, thereby, to the college and the university.

"Each of these alumni has represented the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the veterinary medical profession with great distinction," said H. Richard Adams, dean of the college. "We are proud to recognize their outstanding accomplishments."

Collins, Class of 1957, practiced medicine for almost 40 years after a short career as a federal regulatory veterinarian both in animal inspection and quarantine and as a USDA meat inspector. Collins was named the 1988 Outstanding Companion Animal Practitioner of the Year by the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA). Since his retirement from clinical practice, Collins has devoted much of his time to environmental concerns and the impending world energy shortage. His love of science, research and development has led to numerous patents for materials and energy saving devices and delivery systems, colleagues note.

Hairgrove, Class of 1974, is an active promoter of cooperative efforts between the veterinary medical profession and the beef industry. He was one of the first practitioners to embrace the Texas Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program. Hairgrove received the 2002 Veterinary Diagnostician of the Year Award from the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory and the 2004 Merit Preventative Medicine Award. He is a member of numerous veterinary associations and serves on several state and national committees that focus on animal disease and prevention.

Soon after graduation, Hancock, Class of 1951, joined

Fort Dodge Laboratories, where he assisted in the testing of the hog cholera vaccine and in developing important animal health drugs including Nolvasan. He obtained his MS in 1957 and PhD in 1960 while at Ohio State University and advanced to assistant professor. Throughout his career, Hancock has been involved with production and regulatory responsibilities related to the animal health industry as director of production for American Scientific Laboratories and then as vice president of production at Fort Dodge. Hancock has also served as an evaluator of national policies and procedures related to drugs for animal health.

Patterson, Class of 1969, has served in numerous high-ranking positions within global healthcare companies, managing as many as 400 professional and technical pharmaceutical specialists. He has broad international experience, including worldwide regulatory, scientific and managerial responsibilities for preclinical and metabolic issues. He received his PhD in 1976 in comparative pathology and is a board certified diplomate in three specialties; laboratory animal medicine (DACLAM, 1976), veterinary pathology (DACVP, 1978) and general toxicology (DABT, 1981). He now operates his own consulting business as a resource for companies that conduct pharmaceutical safety testing.

Smith, Class of 1966, has had multiple leadership roles in a wide variety of veterinary organizations and public interest entities. He joined the Brenham Veterinary Hospital in 1966 and practiced there until 1995. Smith was named the 1994 Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) Equine Practitioner of the Year and remains an active member of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), TVMA and American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP). He is involved with youth in his community and often gives talks to local 4-H and FFA groups. Smith was instrumental in formulating the strategic plan for the college's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. He also serves on the college's development council and on the Rural Veterinary Student Scholarship Fund committee.

"Each of these alumni has represented the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the veterinary medical profession with great distinction."

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

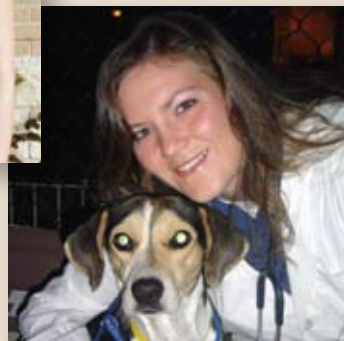
In Memory of Amber Hensarling, DVM Class of 2007, 1981–2006

Amber Hensarling died tragically in a motorcycle accident in Louisiana on March 25, 2006.

Amber was a friend to all she met. She loved her family, her friends, and her animals, but most of all she loved the time she spent with each and every one. Amber was always there to lend a helping hand, give a warming smile, share a piece of advice, or offer a listening ear. To some, Amber was an acquaintance, to some a friend, and to others she was considered family. Amber is and will always be a fellow classmate, friend, colleague, and spirit over all of us. She will forever be remembered and revered as a member of the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2007.

A scholarship in memory of Amber has been established with the goal of raising \$25,000 for an endowment for future veterinary students. Donations can be made to the "Texas A&M Foundation" with "Class of 2007" written on the memo line. Checks can be turned into Dr. Oscar "Bubba" Woytek in the Dean's Office.

...Softly call the Muster.



In Memory of Candace Schulz, DVM Class of 2007, 1979–2006



Candace Borchers-Schulz is a member of the Class of 2007 family at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine who will never be forgotten. She passed away unexpectedly on May 29, 2006, at her home in Bandera.

Candace's smile could light up a room and it would soon be followed by a laugh that was uplifting and contagious. Diving deeper into the world of Candace, one would discover her true love and devotion for her family and friends. Candace was as real as they come – a real wife, a real daughter, a real sister, and a real honest-to-goodness friend. She was proud of her roots, true to herself and to her faith. After talking with her for only minutes, one could surmise that Candace was a special person, unlike any other.

Candace was a ray of sunshine sent to us for only a short time, but long enough to light up our lives. This world is a better place for having experienced the glowing light that we all know is Candace. Every time we experience a beautiful sunny day, we know that Candace is shining down on us. We are better people for knowing Candace; she touched our hearts and souls and will be with us always and forever. A graciously beautiful and exuberant soul never dies, but continues to live infinitely.

Maroon and sparkles through and through – that's Candace Borchers-Schulz.

Written by: Nancy Agnese, Rachel Klett, Coalson Lacey and Lindsay Wellman



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