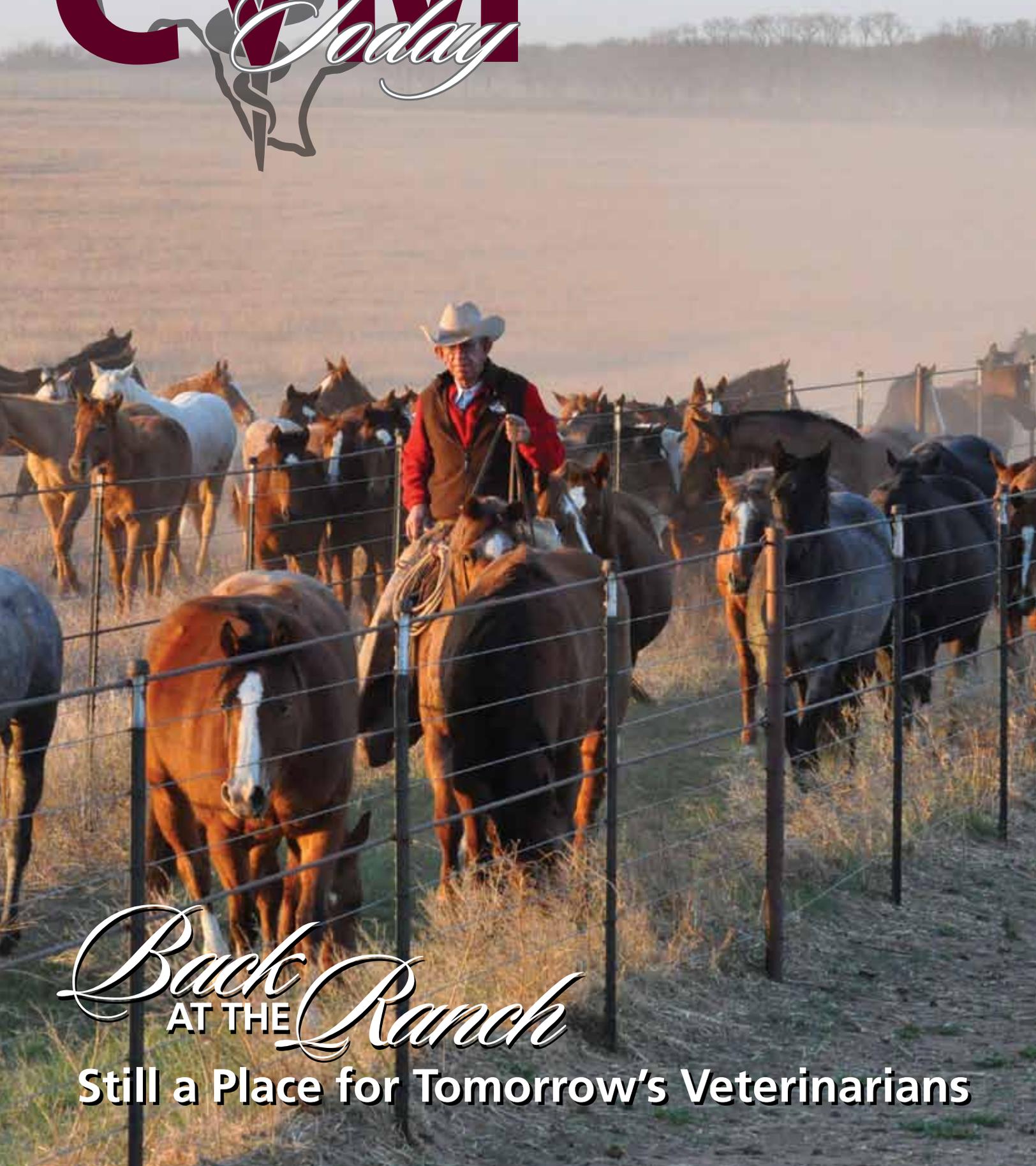


Fall 2011 • Volume 13, Number 1



**VETERINARY MEDICINE  
& BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**  
TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY

# CVM *Today*



*Back*  
AT THE *Ranch*

**Still a Place for Tomorrow's Veterinarians**

# Dean's Message

Last May, we graduated another class of veterinary students. The graduation ceremony served as a reminder of our primary purpose in a college of veterinary medicine, including our responsibilities to the students we have prepared and to the veterinary profession they will enter. Texas A&M CVM continues its strong culture of student centeredness. This CVM Today is loaded with examples of learning opportunities for our students. Their Effective Client Communication training begins on the first day of orientation and continues throughout their curriculum. As an integral part of the health care team in both the Small Animal Hospital and the Large Animal Hospital, they participate in advanced animal care delivered with remarkable compassion for patients and clients. Our students were integrally involved in the touching stories of Woody and Terry Wilson with Cayenne and of Natalie and John Rasmussen with Dash King.

Texas A&M students learn from award winning faculty. This issue highlights research, teaching, and mentoring awards earned by faculty, including Dr. Anton Hoffman, Dr. George Lees, Dr. Roy Pool, Dr. Dan Posey, Dr. Christie Sayes, Dr. Karen Snowden, Dr. Jan Suchodolski, Dr. Mark Stickney, and Dr. Kevin Washburn. Our students also have contact with leaders in the profession, like Dr. Bill Moyer, who is currently serving as AAEP President.

The awards do not stop with faculty. The Annual Staff Awards Ceremony is one of the most anticipated events of the year, because it gives us the opportunity to express thanks to some of our outstanding staff members who make our CVM better. We could not be as good as we are without them. The event is punctuated by the best emcee in the land, Dr. Kenita Rogers, who can always draw a crowd, and our own musical talent, the singing dentist, Dr. Bert Dodd, and our award-winning rehabilitation guru, David Sessum. Our staff members also contribute significantly to student education.

One of the goals of Texas A&M CVM is to reach all corners of Texas. One example is hosting the Pre-Vet Society from West Texas A&M. Some of these students are likely to return to the Panhandle area to serve rural areas, providing a valuable service to small communities and our livestock industries. Dr. Ginger Elliott '83 speaks to the importance and viability of the rural veterinarian in an article she wrote for Western Livestock Journal, which gave us permission to reprint in this issue. Our cover photo is of Tom Morehouse, one of the most photographed cowboys and manager of the historic Tongue River Ranch, where Dr. Elliott has worked.

At Texas A&M we know that teaching and research are inextricably linked. We engage students in research early, from undergraduate students in BIMS, to DVM students, to graduate students. In this issue we hear from award-winning students how valuable research experience is to them.

Our research programs are global in significance and reach. Three of the CVM research signature programs, genomic, toxicology, and infectious disease, are highlighted in this issue. Dr. James Derr is banking DNA samples from American Bison and African wildlife and is making a difference in wildlife conservation. Dr. Jan Janecka is contributing to a wildlife genetics lab in Bhutan in the Eastern Himalayas. Dr. Stephen Safe, a Distinguished Professor in CVM, continues to discover new information which changes our knowledge and treatment of cancer. Dr. Garry Adams, with a co-investigator at UC Davis, was awarded the top biology paper in the nation on a Salmonella study. Dr. Blanca Lupiani and her graduate student, Dr. Pam Ferro, are determining the presence of avian influenza viruses in migrating waterfowl.

There are many firsts in the CVM. Among them is the First Diagnostic Renal Pathology Center in Veterinary Medicine, established by Dr. George Lees. Dr. Lees also received two national awards this year, the Robert W. Kirk Award for Professional Excellence and the AVMF/AKC Career Excellence Award in Canine Research.

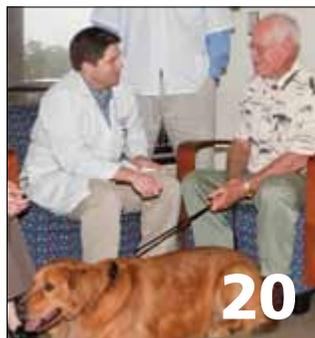
I encourage all to get to know the most recent addition to the development team, Chastity Rodgers. I have said many times that the state funds us to be good; funding for greatness is up to us. The CVM Development Team works every day towards that end. I thank them and the faculty, staff, and students who help us match passions with friends of the College.

Congratulations to the CVM alumni who have earned recognition for their excellence. Dr. Larry Kornegay '71 has completed his year as AVMA president. Found in this edition are the accomplishments of the 2011 CVM Outstanding Alumni, Dr. Albert Abdullah '57, Dr. Richard Adams '72, Dr. Glenn Blodgett '74, Dr. Dwight King '70, and Dr. Eugene Skidmore '56.

In closing, what a year! What a profession! What a place!



*Eleanor M. Green*  
**Eleanor M. Green, DVM, DACVM, DABVP**  
**Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine**



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All dates subject to change.

# 2011-12 SCHEDULE

## 2011 Conferences

November 4–6, 2011  
*13th Annual  
Small Animal Emergency Medicine  
& Critical Care Conference*  
Chair: Dr. Dorothy Black

November 11–13, 2011  
*7th Annual Clinical  
Neurology Conference*  
Chair: Dr. Jonathan Levine

November 20, 2011  
*GDV: Pre-, Intra-,  
and Postoperative Care*  
Presenters: Drs. Laura Peycke  
& Brooke Smith

December 2–4, 2011  
*15th Annual Equine  
Reproduction Symposium*  
Chair: Dr. Terry Blanchard

December 10–11, 2011  
*2nd Annual Oncology/  
Cytology Conference*  
Chair: Dr. Heather Wilson

## 2012 Conferences

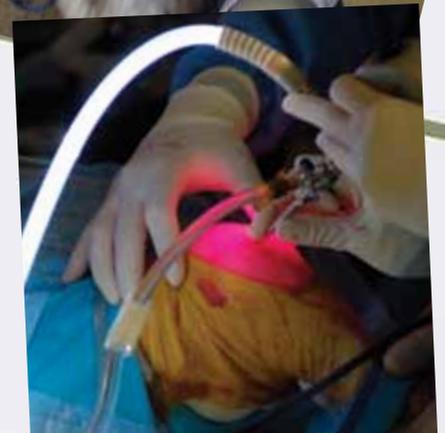
March 30–April 1, 2012  
*19th Annual Veterinary  
Technician Conference*  
Chairs: Dana Whitaker  
& Katrina LaCaze

April 27–29, 2012  
*16th Annual Feline  
Medicine Conference*  
Chair: Dr. John August

May 4–5, 2012  
*2nd Annual  
Laparoscopy  
Wet Lab*  
Chair: Dr. Mike Willard

May 19–20, 2012  
*3rd Annual Canine  
Para-Medicine Conference*  
Chair: Dr. James Barr

June 1–3, 2012  
*21st Annual Food  
Animal Conference*  
Chair: TBD



## A Debilitating Disease Strengthens the Human-Animal Bond



*Woody and Terry Wilson watch while David Sessum, registered veterinary technician, works with Cayenne on the submerged treadmill.*

Woody and Terry Wilson step into the Small Animal Hospital at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) with their grand English Mastiff, Cayenne, for her second rehabilitative visit of the week. As they enter the rehabilitation suite, they are warmly greeted by David Sessum, registered veterinary technician and rehabilitation specialist at the CVM, who has been working with the Wilsons since August 2010, when Cayenne was referred to the CVM.

"When Cayenne came in she was diagnosed with the following conditions: a torn cruciate ligament or injured knee, hypothyroidism, skin issues, and obesity," explains Sessum. "We decided that to alleviate the pain in her knee she needed surgery. However, prior to surgery she needed to lose about 20 pounds, and her skin disease needed to be treated to prevent additional problems during surgery."

The Wilsons have been willing to make the drive from Tomball, TX, two or three times a week for Cayenne's weight loss rehabilitation and other treatments to prepare her for surgery because she is more than their pet; she is a family member. Cayenne's love helped the Wilsons make it through the toughest time of their lives—when Woody Wilson was diagnosed with his own life-threatening disease.

On March 11, 2009, Woody Wilson was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The news was shattering to Woody and his wife, Terry. They knew they had to act fast, so Woody had surgery within a week and received treatment directly afterward. The odds were against him, as the life expectancy after diagnosis of his level of pancreatic cancer was three months. Woody has been in remission for more than two years.

"That was the most trying and painful time of my life," Woody said. "I made it through the battle through love and prayers. My family kept me alive because Terry and Cayenne were by my side 24/7."

Woody became emotional as he described the care Terry and Cayenne gave him during his treatment. They stayed by his bedside day and night to ensure that he had everything he needed for a proper recovery. Cayenne's unwavering support proved to Woody that emotional care spans all species.

"This experience has taught me a lot," Woody explained. "I learned that relationships are worth more than money. Many times I question the reason why God let me live. I now know that it is so I can take care of my family, because they put their whole lives into taking care of me."

"Dave and his staff were a godsend to us," Woody recalled. "They are teaching and training us how to keep Cayenne alive and healthy by providing her with the right nutrition and exercise habits."

Other than teaching the Wilsons proper exercise and nutrition habits for Cayenne, Sessum and Abby Rafferty, another registered veterinary technician at the CVM, incorporated state-of-the-art rehabilitative equipment into Cayenne's treatment.

The CVM is a national leader in rehabilitative services. For patient therapy, several services are incorporated into treatment, including the aquatic treadmill, therapeutic ultrasound, neuromuscular stimulation, thermal agents, and therapeutic exercise. In addition, the technicians provide individualized home exercise programs for every patient so that the owner and the patient can continue treatment outside the hospital.

Woody and Terry Wilson hold Cayenne while she is examined by Abby Rafferty, registered veterinary technician.



Cayenne is a frequent visitor to the aquatic treadmill, which has been the most beneficial for her weight loss and knee pain. The aquatic treadmill is the perfect therapy for Cayenne because it provides buoyancy, so the exercise doesn't cause any stress on her injured knee. It also helps her to lose weight and build muscle because of the water resistance, and the warm water assists with relieving her pain.

To date, Cayenne has lost 15 pounds. In addition, her skin condition was treated by Dr. Adam Patterson, clinical assistant professor in dermatology at the CVM, and Amanda Gordon, certified veterinary assistant at the CVM.

Sessum explained that because Cayenne is doing so well, the Wilsons have the option to proceed with surgery after the 20-pound mark, or they can forgo surgery if her knee pain becomes mild enough.

"Dave and Abbey treat us and Cayenne like we are royalty," Woody stated. "Without their help, Cayenne would not be the lively girl she is today."

"When Cayenne entered the hospital she was in a sling," Woody said. "Now she runs in and out of the hospital. Thanks to Dave and Abby, I still have my two baby girls: Cayenne and Terry."

The Wilsons not only represent a family brought together by a traumatic experience; they signify one of the hundreds of cases in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) every year that prove animals are vital members of the family. Through love and special care for the animal, families and members of the VMTH help to maintain the very strong human-animal bond that, in this case, might have been life-saving. 🌿



Cayenne walks on the submerged treadmill.

by Elizabeth Janecka



# ***Dash King:***

## **The Horse that Refuses to Lose**

**by Elizabeth Janecka**

Dash King, a retired racing Quarter Horse with the spirit of a champion, visited the Large Animal Hospital at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) for almost a year as Dr. Keith Chaffin, professor and equine internal medicine specialist at the CVM, worked relentlessly to keep him alive.

Natalie and John Rasmussen, of Tyler, Texas, had received Dash from an old friend several years earlier, and they knew that for them he would be more than just a horse with a history. At the peak of Dash's career in Orange County, California, he placed in the money 91 times out of the 104 races he ran. After joining the Rasmussens and their other two horses, Dash quickly became part of the family. He moved with them to an old farmhouse in Tyler in fall 2007.

Dash's racing track record proved he was a horse with great ambition and drive. So in January 2010 when Dash developed severe medical problems, the Rasmussens became concerned. They consulted their local veterinarian, who referred them to Chaffin.

"When I met Dash, he was in serious trouble," Chaffin recalls. "His initial symptoms were fever, anorexia, lethargy, colic, hemorrhage from both nostrils, labored breathing, and a number of other ailments. We quickly diagnosed pleuropneumonia. Both lungs were collapsed, and his lungs and chest cavity were infected and hemorrhaging."

"The first two weeks were very critical," Chaffin says. "I knew we had to act fast to stabilize his condition. The Rasmussens were committed and willing to fight for him, as he was part of the family."

Over the next few months, the expenses associated with Dash's medical treatment soared. The Rasmussens had been saving money to install central heating and air conditioning in their newly acquired farmhouse in Tyler. Instead, they used the money for Dash's medical bills. Chaffin and the Rasmussens fondly refer to Dash as their "air conditioner." To this day, they lack central heating and air conditioning.

Chaffin and his team started to establish a treatment plan for Dash's recovery.

"Initially we drained the chest of fluid and free air and evaluated the fluid," Chaffin says. "Dash stayed with us for the first three months. During those months, he had a total of 28 chest tubes in his chest to drain the fluid out on a daily basis. We discovered that two-thirds of his left lung was dead, and the bottom one-fifth of his right lung was also dead."

Once Chaffin and his colleagues discovered the dead lung tissue, they knew they would have to perform surgery to remove it. Before the surgery, they gave Dash's body time to strengthen and to wall off the dead lung and infected tissue from the healthy lung. Dash received antibiotics, and his chest cavity was drained and cleansed twice a day.

After three months, Chaffin sent Dash home on antibiotics to allow his chest some additional time to wall off the dead tissue. The Rasmussens supervised his treatment at home. He received antibiotics for five months, and each week the Rasmussens made the three-hour drive to College Station so Chaffin could drain Dash's chest and could test his readiness for surgery.

*Above: Dash King crosses the finish line first at the San Mateo Marathon Stakes in Bay Meadows, CA, on August 22, 1998.*



*Dr. Keith Chaffin and his team at the CVM examine Dash King.*

“This preparation period was crucial to the success of his surgery and recovery,” Chaffin explains. “If we operated too early, there would be a possibility of killing the horse by collapsing his remaining good lung, and the horse could hemorrhage severely.”

On August 13, 2010, Chaffin and his team determined that Dash was ready for surgery, as his body had properly walled off the dead lung tissue. Dr. Carolyn Arnold, assistant professor and equine surgeon at the CVM, and Chaffin performed an operation to remove the dead lung tissue on his left side.

They removed his left eighth rib in order to do so. They discarded enough dead lung tissue to fill a five-gallon bucket. Dash tolerated the procedure like a champion.

The clinicians planned to wait three days to operate on the right side. In the meantime, however, Dash developed a problem in his large colon from colic. Several days in the intensive care unit (ICU) were needed to resolve the problem. Although this setback was not life-threatening, it did cause a delay.

The operation on the right side of Dash’s chest was performed 10 days later. This surgery was a success as well. A volleyball-sized mass of dead lung tissue was removed.

After the operations, Dash had open surgical wounds on both sides of his chest. These wounds were cleansed twice a day. The goal was for the surgical sites to eventually close, and for the body to slowly shrink down the space where the dead lung tissue had been.

As both surgeries were successful and Dash was starting to recover, Chaffin considered letting Dash go home. However, two health problems arose that were unrelated to Dash’s chest.

After his second surgery, Dash went lame in his left hind leg. When the doctors reviewed videotape images from the ICU stall, they saw that Dash had fallen. Chaffin and his team inspected the damaged leg and consulted Dr. Kent Carter, professor and lameness specialist. Together they determined that Dash had torn some connective tissue on the back of his left hock.

As soon as this injury started to heal, another problem arose. Dash suffered a grand mal seizure, and despite therapy, he had five more seizures by the end of the night. Chaffin consulted Dr. Jonathan Levine, assistant professor and neurologist at the CVM, who found that Dash’s EEG was normal. Chaffin and Levine concluded that Dash’s seizures probably were related to the stress, anxiety, and pain he had been experiencing. Anticonvulsant therapy was begun, and Dash has not had any more seizures.

“Dash is like the Brett Favre of racing—104 race starts is similar to Brett’s consecutive starts as quarterback in the NFL,” Chaffin says. “Through his medical treatment, I’ve experienced his tenacity and will to win firsthand. He wants to live and has overcome many obstacles that would kill other horses. So far he has won every battle in this war. I’m not sure the war is over yet, but Dash is certainly on the road to a total recovery.”

Dash went home without further complications. The Rasmussens are continuing to cleanse his chest incisions until they close, and they continue to come to the CVM for regular follow-ups.

Dash’s spirit and spunk have made him a great favorite at the Large Animal Hospital. Every time he comes for a checkup, the word spreads fast, and all of the veterinarians, technicians, residents, interns, and students greet the Rasmussens and Dash like family.

The Rasmussens speak highly of the care Dash has received. “We are very pleased with everyone here at Texas A&M, and we are grateful and blessed for Dr. Chaffin and his staff and what they have done for Dash,” Natalie Rasmussen says. “Dr. Chaffin gave Dash his life back.”

“Dr. Chaffin has been wonderful throughout this whole process,” Rasmussen notes. “He has done a fantastic job to look at all of the options and to try and keep the cost down. We could not have asked for a better team to help save Dash... No one else could have accomplished this.”

Adds John Rasmussen: “Dash wanted to live. He is a champion, and a champion is a step above the rest. His heart has always brought him further than the racetrack.”

Chaffin praises the Rasmussens’ commitment to Dash. “They have sacrificed a lot for Dash. The beauty is they stayed with him through thick and thin. Dash does not have a career in breeding because he is gelded, but he certainly found a great place as a family member.”

Natalie Rasmussen put all of her faith into Dash. “Our faith and prayers helped us to hold on to hope for Dash as he pulled through this awful life-threatening condition. We are so grateful that everyone at the CVM also held onto the same faith and hope for Dash.”

John Rasmussen adds, “Dash deserves to live and he will. Everything he has done until now has been for someone else. He deserves the extra push. We will give him the extra push, because he never gave up on us and we will never give up on him.”

*John and Natalie Rasmussen with Dash King, Dr. Keith Chaffin, and the rest of the medical team outside of the Large Animal Hospital at the CVM.*



*Creating*

*opportunities for new knowledge,  
new therapies, & new learning*

*Jared Dabney collects DNA samples from a rhinoceros.*



## Africa's First Systematic Wildlife

# Conservation Genetics Program Established by CVM Researchers

Theodore Roosevelt and Ernest Hemingway often referred to Africa as “The Dark Continent” when re-telling their experiences of exploration and hunting in decades past. Today, traveling to Africa is easier than ever. Flights leave daily from three major United States cities, and after a few hours and a connection, an eager traveler can arrive in Johannesburg, South Africa. The romantic title of “The Dark Continent” has surely been lost to tourists’ cell phones and the Internet. However, until very recently, Africa’s wildlife conservation genetic research would have been appropriately described as “Dark” and limited to a few iconic species.

In an effort to change this, Dr. James Derr, professor in the veterinary pathobiology department at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), and Jerad

Dabney, one of Derr’s graduate students, have developed an innovative method using a simple DNA collection kit that empowers professional hunters to obtain high quality DNA samples from all species of captured or harvested wildlife across sub-Saharan Africa.

Derr is a world leader in the field of wildlife conservation genetics and has been called the “Godfather of the bison genome.” During the past 17 years, he and the late Dr. Joe Templeton, who was also a professor in the veterinary pathobiology department at the CVM, used their knowledge of genetics to develop new technologies to understand the recovery of the American Bison from near extinction in the early 20th century to an excess of 750,000 animals today. Derr’s lab currently houses more than 35,000 DNA samples from bison, which is the largest collection of DNA samples of any one wildlife species in the world. As Dr. Derr is quick to point out, “The hard work of a number of outstanding

by Becky Mahon

graduate and undergraduate students in my research program has resulted in American Bison being one of the most extensive genetically researched wildlife species in the world.”

“What we did, and continue to do, is document reasons why different conservation projects have worked in the past, so that we can implement the knowledge gained from those success stories and apply the same principles across sub-Saharan Africa,” Derr says.

Derr’s and Dabney’s project appears to be the first large-scale genetic study to be done on African wildlife. It is a comprehensive effort to catalog the biodiversity of different wildlife species across multiple countries.

In the past, conservation biology enthusiasts have tended to approach endangered species with the mentality of “we can spend these animals out of extinction.” Derr and Dabney say that taking a pro-active stance to researching species that might be at risk in the future is the key to sustaining wildlife populations for generations. They are working directly with multiple African nations where the animals reside in order to collect, catalogue, and preserve DNA samples of these at-risk and endangered species in an attempt to prevent extinction and to enhance restoration efforts.

Derr explains that the first obstacle the project faced became clear early on. The logistics of operating in Africa have always been a challenge for Western researchers. Financial limitations, time constraints, and access to remote regions have deterred many from pursuing African wildlife genetic studies. To address these issues, Derr and Dabney have partnered with the Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) and the Dallas Safari Club (DSC), both of which play active roles in wildlife conservation and hunter advocacy in Africa. Together they have fostered relationships within the professional hunting community and its associations as well as raised support and awareness for the project through the help of funding from the foundation. The partners have worked together for nearly three years, and with the help of SCIF the program is beginning to develop in areas of Southern and Eastern Africa as well as parts of South America.

“SCIF enjoys working with Texas A&M and Dr. Derr, as we share a common goal in furthering DNA research,” says Joe Hosmer, chairman of the SCIF conservation committee, who in 2009 appointed Derr as a member of this committee.

Using professional hunters has allowed Derr and Dabney to amplify their ability to collect samples. They are currently working with more than 70 professional hunters across five countries who are using their DNA collection kits. Unique advantages of this kit are that it does not require refrigeration, electricity, or modern lab technologies. The kit includes enough supplies for up to 100 different samples to be cataloged including FTA cards for the blood samples, cotton swabs, coin envelopes, and pliers. Professional hunters keep the kits with them for the entire season; in November they turn in their samples to their respective professional hunter organizations, which have agreed to serve as in country repositories for the samples.

These samples will be the foundation for conservation genomics studies around the world to develop new DNA fingerprinting technologies, to determine inbreeding statistics, to uncover genes that control behavior traits, to locate genes that influence body characteristics, and

to identify genes responsible for natural disease resistance in wildlife species.

“We want to change the paradigm of hunting so that in the future, collecting genetic material and assessing the overall health of harvested wildlife becomes standard protocol for hunters and sportsmen,” Derr says.

Derr continues to have a tremendous impact in the wildlife genomics field through training students, publishing papers, and doing extensive research. His passion for conservation genetics has led him to push the boundaries even further by way of this project.

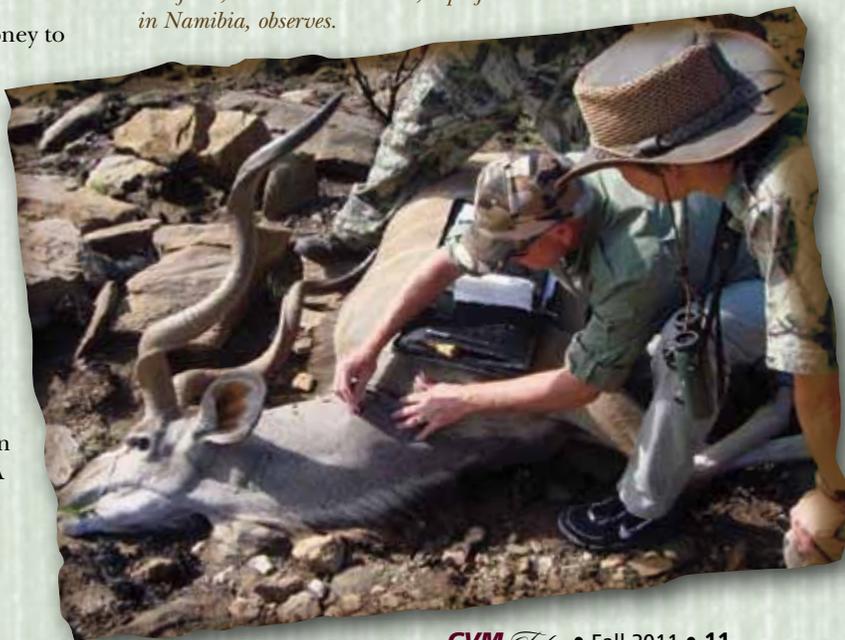
“For me this project is a professional multiplier that allows me to influence my chosen field maybe a thousand-fold more than I could with one single laboratory with my students and technicians,” Derr explains. “I wanted to be able to empower hundreds of other researchers around the world by providing them access to these DNA samples so that they can do all different types of research.”

Derr noted that this project would not be possible without partners in southern Africa, including the Professional Hunters’ Association of South Africa (PHASA), Namibian Professional Hunting Association (NPHA), Tanzania Professional Hunters’ Association (TPHA), African Professional Hunters’ Association (APHA), and the Zimbabwe Professional Hunters’ Association (ZPHA), who allow the team access to their hunters and wildlife resources.

“Now is the time for sportsmen across the world to recognize and support African wildlife conservation research because its goals are to ensure sustainable trophy hunting and wildlife resources for years to come,” Dabney says.

The project relies on support from private organizations such as SCIF and DSC, individual sportsmen and hunters, professional hunting associations, conservation organizations, private wildlife foundations, and the federal and state governments. If outfitters or hunting professionals wish to request kits from Derr or provide funding for the supplies in the kits, they can find information at [vetmed.tamu.edu/africanwildlife](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/africanwildlife) or contact Derr directly at [jderr@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:jderr@cvm.tamu.edu). 🦌

*Dr. James Derr collects DNA samples while on safari in Africa, while Isabella Fowie, a professional hunter in Namibia, observes.*



## Faculty Bring Teaching to New Level at the CVM

by Elizabeth Janecka

Every faculty member at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) takes pride in promoting teaching, research, and service. The CVM's devotion to teaching is evidenced not only by the awards received by the faculty members, but also by the caliber of the students graduating every year.

Two recent awards given to two members of the college are among the highest awards that can be received by any faculty member. Dr. Anton Hoffman, clinical professor in the Veterinary Integrative Biosciences department at the CVM, was honored with the Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence at Texas A&M University. Dr. John Edwards, professor in the Veterinary Pathobiology department at the CVM, was recently awarded a University Level Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in the category of Graduate Mentoring.

The Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence Award is among the highest awards that faculty members at Texas A&M University can receive. Each year, each college at Texas A&M University is asked to nominate one faculty member, and then a committee chooses two faculty members to hold this title. Hoff-

man was presented with this award by Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, president of Texas A&M University, as a part of the commencement exercises on Saturday, May 12, 2011. Along with the prestigious recognition that this award carries, Hoffman received a cash stipend of \$25,000.

When Hoffman entered the CVM in 1981 as a veterinary student, he fully intended to pursue a career as a practicing clinical veterinarian. After several years of intense class work and helping his peers grasp concepts outside the classroom, Hoffman realized that he had a knack for teaching and for helping to bring light to cryptic topics. After graduation, he pursued his initial interest and worked as a small animal veterinarian for two years in San Antonio, Texas. In 1987, he returned to the CVM as a veterinary clinical associate and taught while he pursued his PhD. The rest is teaching history for Hoffman, as he has built current anatomy courses to become some of the most educational opportunities a veterinary student experiences in the classroom setting at the CVM.

Hoffman's innovative approaches to teaching have helped students learn. He has facilitated student learning by developing computer software programs for teaching anatomy. One such item of his, titled Canine Radiographic Anatomy, has been



*Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Anton Hoffman, clinical professor, Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, President, Texas A&M University, and Dr. Karan Watson, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Texas A&M University, celebrate Dr. Hoffman's Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence honor at commencement exercises on May 12, 2011.*

published by the Texas A&M University Press. Also, as director of the department's Plastination Laboratory since 1994, he has developed plastinated models for teaching. Further, as a medical illustrator, he has contributed numerous anatomic illustrations to peer-reviewed manuscripts, books, book chapters, and presentations. Hoffman has also prepared anatomical illustrations for the courses he teaches to aid student learning, which has increased the student's knowledge of course material, as evidenced through the increased grade point averages over the years.

"I am incredibly honored and surprised to have received this award," Hoffman states. "I can honestly say that my teaching career has been more challenging, stimulating, and rewarding than I could have ever imagined."

"It is a joy to watch veterinary students grow and mature during their short time with us, both intellectually and personally," Hoffman says. "It is incredibly rewarding to me when my students come back to me after the third or fourth year or even after graduation and say 'thanks,' 'thanks for taking the time to help,' 'thanks for caring about whether I understood the material.'"

This award is a noteworthy addition to the string of teaching honors Hoffman has received. These include the Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award, the John H. Millif Award for Teaching, the Carl J. Norden/Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award (which he has won three times), the Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award for teaching (at both the college and university levels), and the student-led Award for Teaching Excellence.

"A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary" is one of Hoffman's favorite teaching quotes and one that defines his teaching philosophy. By not only imparting information but also teaching his students how to find information, learn on their own, and ask questions, Hoffman hopes that ultimately, his students will get along without him, not even noticing if he's not around.

Edwards' recent recognition, the University Level Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award, is presented to faculty throughout Texas A&M University who exhibit the highest standards of excellence. A total of 24 recipients were honored at an award ceremony in Rudder Theatre on April 27, 2011. Each recipient received a \$4,000 cash gift, an engraved watch, and a commemorative plaque.

"I was very surprised and humbled by the gesture from AFS when I received the news about this award," Edwards says. "I owe everything I have done to my wife and my children. They have made me the man that I am today."

Since an early age, Edwards has had a strong interest in science. He wanted to learn about life and understand what made things tick. Later he decided that a career in veterinary medicine would be the ideal fit for him because of his interests in all things related to science and his passion for learning.

"I enjoy people, and there is a person attached to every animal that comes into the clinic," Edwards notes. "Initially, I want to help the owners by treating their pets, and I can help by providing closure for a loss of their animal, or I can help prevent further losses in a herd from an accurate diagnosis. Each case is a puzzle to be solved. I think veterinarians appreciate people because of the way they love and care for their animals."

After completing a BA in microbiology at the University of New Hampshire, Edwards graduated with his DVM from The Ohio State University in 1974. While practicing, he found that the "books" were not always accurate, and he went back to school, where he discovered his passion for studying and teaching pathology. He received his PhD in veterinary pathology from Cornell University in 1983. Soon after receiving his board certification by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists,



*Dr. Linda Logan, department head of veterinary pathobiology, and Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine, present Dr. John Edwards, professor of veterinary pathobiology, with his University Level Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in the category of Graduate Mentoring.*

Edwards joined the CVM to educate future veterinarians, teachers, and researchers in the numerous veterinary disciplines.

After 28 years of teaching aspiring veterinarians at the CVM, Edwards still has his passion for teaching and learning from every situation. Edwards is a trilingual (English, Portuguese, and Spanish) world traveler, and before every lecture he broadens the classroom experience by telling about a personal global experience, often relating to the class topic. As he says, "It gets the students' attention."

Edwards regularly travels to slaughter houses to collect tissue for his presentations. He feels this gives an extra learning experience to students and makes the coursework applicable to medicine, even though his students may be in a conventional classroom.

Edwards credits his success to the help of his former mentor saying, "I'm just a former graduate lucky enough to have had a mentor who didn't give up on me."

Edwards hopes to instill into his students the same confidence and pleasure in learning that his mentor did. "You have to feel the students are like your own children, and each should be better than you are," Edwards states.

Edwards' goal in teaching might be different from that of many as he says, "I want to be the teacher that the students like once they get out into the real world. I treat every student as a colleague, but I expect them to make me proud to have been their teacher. I try to keep a two-way flow of conversation in the classroom, because as teachers we can all learn from students if we listen and hear their point of view."

"Everyone should take the time to learn one new thing every day to make life experience worth the daily price of admission," Edwards states. "Life and death are understood by close observation. Learn from experience, and as a teacher, you can give something back to society."

These two award recipients exemplify the learning experience that is prevalent at the CVM. In part holding a high standard for the students, the faculty produce a high quality professional that is well prepared to serve the respective professions and the community. 



# CVM Houses First Diagnostic Renal Pathology Center in Veterinary Medicine

Dr. George Lees, professor of veterinary internal medicine at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), established the prototype diagnostic renal pathology center (DRPC), called the Texas Veterinary Renal Pathology Service (TVRPS) housed at Texas A&M University. The TVRPS provides a place to advance research in kidney disease through the application of new technologies available for collaborative efforts among specialists around the world in the fields of veterinary nephrology and nephropathology.

During the 15-year process to eradicate hereditary nephropathy in English Cocker Spaniels, Lees realized there was a need for a renal pathology center in veterinary medicine. It was then he decided to capitalize on the expertise of his team and establish a center that would enable veterinarians to get thorough evaluations, including electron microscopy and immunostaining, as well as conventional histopathology, done expertly.

In January 2005, six pathologists and six nephrologists, including Lees, met in Utrecht, Netherlands, to submit a proposal to the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) to create a network of renal pathology centers worldwide. In March of the same year, Lees launched the world's first veterinary diagnostic renal pathology center.

Lees knew that to make the needed advancements in veterinary renal pathology, a centralized diagnostic lab that could serve all of North America had to be established. He also wanted it to be used frequently enough to maintain consistent quality.

"Using these methods and doing this research is like flying an airplane; it is the constant performance of tasks that maintains proficiency and competence," Lees explained. "You do not want to fly with me because I made a thousand landings long ago. You want to fly with me because I have made five landings a day for the last year. The same goes for renal pathology. You need a lab setup that is operating constantly to be able to confidently interpret the pathologic changes observed in the samples that are processed there."

The team at TVRPS consists of Lees as the director, Dr. Fred Clubb, Dr. Mary Nabity, Dr. Brian Berridge, Dr. Rachel Cianciolo, research assistants and student workers at the CVM.

For three years, the development of the TVRPS was funded entirely with Texas A&M resources. When the WSAVA realized that the pathology lab was a success, it sought sponsors to help cover the costs. Today, through the WSAVA, Hill's Pet Nutrition and Bayer Animal Health both help support the TVRPS. Their funds have paid for the digital pathology system that the center uses, and their continued funding pays for the pathologic evaluations of renal biopsies from dogs and cats that are enrolled in the ongoing WSAVA Renal Standardization Study.

The main contribution of this center, which previously was uncommon in veterinary medicine, is routine use of specialized examination methods, including electron microscopy and immunostaining, to evaluate renal biopsies from animals with kidney disease.

"A biopsy often shows the early stages of the disease," Lees said. "We are more readily able to pinpoint what was really going on.

In the past, the use of biopsies to look early into the disease, as well as the use of special examination methods, such as electron microscopy, was rare in veterinary medicine but very common in human medicine."

Specialists from more than 100 centers have sent biopsies to the TVRPS for evaluation. In five years, the TVRPS has examined about 550 cases.

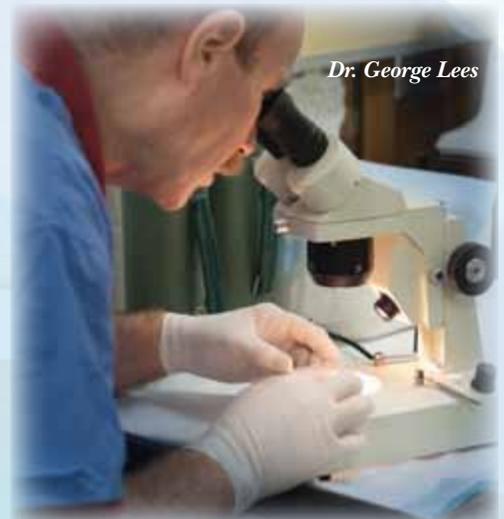
These cases are kept in the database so pathologists and nephrologists throughout the world can have access to the information, including all of the microscopic material, as digital images. This technology allows Lees and other members of the WSAVA Renal Standardization Study Group to hold worldwide online conferencing and review microscopic slides as clear pictures that can be viewed on any computer screen. Study group members with Internet access can sit in on the conference from anywhere in the world. If they cannot attend the conference, they can view it afterward, because all of the sessions are recorded and available online.

The long-term goal of the TVRPS is to provide distance education worldwide, as well as to give specialists a database and a way to routinely obtain more thorough pathologic evaluations of kidney disease in their patients. Currently, Lees and his colleagues in the WSAVA Renal Standardization Study Group are using the TVRPS to develop standardized criteria for the diagnosis of specific kidney diseases.

TVRPS was the world's first center dedicated to veterinary renal pathology. Now there is a second pathology lab in Utrecht, Netherlands, that was modeled after the TVRPS. It was launched in 2008.

"Without the help of WSAVA and our sponsors, we would not be able to make the progress that we have," Lees said. "It is amazing how we can share information on a daily basis with specialists around the world. With this type of technology now available in veterinary medicine, we can collaborate much faster and can use all of our resources to solve more problems than ever before."

The mission statement of TVRPS is "to improve health care for individual patients with kidney disease and generate new knowledge about renal diseases in animals by expertly performing thorough pathologic evaluations of kidney specimens obtained from dogs and cats, as well as other animals."



# Distinguished Professor Receives Grant from DOD

Dr. Stephen Safe, distinguished professor of toxicology at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) and the Institute for Biotechnology (IBT) at the Texas A&M Health Sciences Center, along with Dr. Mandip Sachdeva, professor of pharmaceutical sciences with the Florida A&M University College of Pharmacy, recently received a grant from the Department of Defense (DOD) – Army Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP). The title of the project is “The Role of Novel Substituted Diindolylmethane Analogues in the Treatment of Triple – Negative and ErbB2 – Positive Breast Cancer.” The grant is for \$1.4 million over four years.

The BCRP was initiated to promote research focused on eliminating breast cancer and to challenge the scientific community to develop innovative approaches in the battle against breast cancer.

According to the BCRP application, “The BCRP focuses its funding on innovative projects that have the potential to make a significant impact on breast cancer, particularly those involving multidisciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaborations and alliances. Under-investigated avenues of research and novel applications of existing technologies are strongly encouraged.”

Under this grant, Texas A&M University will serve as a mentoring institution to Florida A&M University. Florida A&M University is a predominantly black university, and the BCRP is listed under the agreement with the DOD and the Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI) Partnership Training Award. This award will help build new collaborations with members of the chemistry department from Florida A&M University and the CVM, as well as enhance current relationships. Dr. Robert Burghardt, professor at the CVM, and Dr. Weston Porter, associate professor at the CVM, are also on the Texas A&M faculty mentoring team.

Safe currently has four grants for his research on development of novel mechanism-based drugs for treatment of breast cancer,

colon cancer, lung cancer, and pancreatic cancer. Safe’s cancer research focuses on treatment of late-stage cancers that are highly aggressive and can undergo metastasis from their original location to other parts of the body. Through this research, his research group has made promising strides in the fight against invasive and metastatic cancer by developing novel drugs.

“I am very excited about this particular grant because it will allow us to expand on our current research on breast cancer, and this will involve training independent researchers at Florida A&M to collaborate in this research and to promote future independent research efforts on their own,” Safe says. “This grant is also very beneficial because of the involvement of scientists with expertise in chemistry, pharmaceuticals, molecular and cell biology, and this will facilitate development of clinically useful anticancer drugs.”



Dr. Stephen Safe

## Most Important Paper in Biology of 2010: “One Health” Approach Fosters an Amazing Finding

Dr. Garry Adams, professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), and Dr. Andreas Baumler, professor and vice chair of research at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) Health System, were recently awarded the top biology paper in the nation based on their research of enhanced growth of Salmonella in animals and humans.

In September 2010, Adams was part of the research team led by Baumler that published a paper in *Nature* titled, “Gut inflammation provides a respiratory electron acceptor for Salmonella.” Their study and paper was chosen by 1,000 top scientists in the nation as the “Most Important Paper in Biology of 2010” as stated in *The Scientist*.

By using mice and calves, Adams’ team discovered that Salmonella-induced inflammation in a mammalian gut stimulates a molecule called tetrathionate. Salmonella uses tetrathionate for respiration and increased growth under conditions where no oxygen exists inside the intestine. Prior to their research, most



Dr. Garry Adams

scientists thought that tetrathionate did not exist in mammalian hosts. They discovered that it does exist, and it is Salmonella’s secret weapon for respiration to out-compete resident microbes.

Salmonella is a bacterium that causes severe intestinal inflammation and diarrhea. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1.4 million cases of Salmonella infections are reported each year in the United States.

“Now that we know more about how Salmonella manages to survive in the hostile no-oxygen environment inside the gut, perhaps we can develop better strategies to fight it,” Adams says. “So, the more we know how it lives and thrives, the better chance we have to control it.”

“This was very much a team effort and a classic example of how the “One Health” approach of incorporating both veterinary and human medical research became successful, which was such an exciting part of the study for me,” Adams says.

“When you encourage team research between veterinary and human medicine, the end result produces fruitful findings with more possibilities of reducing the impact of today’s infectious diseases,” Adams explains. “We moved from competition to collaboration, and that is something we can all be enthusiastic about.”

# Back AT THE Ranch

Article reprinted with permission from *Western Livestock Journal*.  
Photos courtesy of Dr. Ginger Elliott and Dr. Eleanor Green.

## Still a Place for Tomorrow's Veterinarians

BY DR. GINGER ELLIOTT

On a recent visit to several large West Texas ranches, Dr. Eleanor Green enjoyed one of the perks often available to rural veterinarians—mixing business with pleasure.

A perfect spring morning lent itself for Green to relish her stay on one historic Texas ranch. But that morning also gave her an impromptu opportunity to utilize her training as a large animal veterinarian. As 50-plus ranch mares and foals were evaluated to decide which stud bunch they would be put in this spring, Green watched from the sidelines. Soon, she was asked to offer an opinion on a colt with crooked legs, a snake-bitten foal, and a mare with mastitis.

As a visitor, she valued the perfect spring morning, and the camaraderie and hospitality of the cowboys and their families.

As an equine veterinarian, she enjoyed being surrounded by ranch horses as well as lending her expertise regarding their health.

And as dean of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Green appreciated spending the day visiting an industry that affords work opportunities for veterinarians.

However, Green's visit was in a part of Texas that's seen a decline in numbers of veterinarians recently. The livestock industry would say that the Panhandle, south Texas, and West Texas are experiencing a shortage of rural veterinarians. And it's not for lack of work. Texas is one of the leading states in the nation in numbers of cattle, horses and sheep.

"The Texas cattle industry, along with the other livestock industries, has a significant positive impact on our economy," Green said. "There should always be jobs for large animal veterinarians across the state. Helping young people from ranching backgrounds successfully obtain their veterinary degrees and return to ranching areas is a multi-faceted process that depends upon a team of supporters. They must be properly encouraged early in life, as many of our youth decide their career paths before they are teenagers. They should be well-mentored by ranchers, veterinarians, guidance counselors and, of course, their families. Because of the rigors of the veterinary curriculum, they should develop strong study habits as

they continue to gain experience with animals. Texas A&M is very interested in having students with ranching backgrounds study veterinary medicine and return to the area where they grew up. We want to lead the way in producing veterinarians to serve the many, varied aspects of the veterinary profession."



*Dr. Ginger Elliott received her DVM from the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences in 1983. She completed her residency in large animal medicine at Oregon State University in 1989. In 1999, Elliott obtained her ABVP boards. She has practiced several different veterinary disciplines since graduation, including: rural, ranch, and mixed practice. Currently, Elliott has re-focused her practice and she now tells the stories of veterinarians as a journalist for Western Livestock Journal.*



*Tom Moorhouse, ranch manager, leading mares at Tongue River Ranch. Ranch employees gathered mares and foals from several different pastures and drove them to headquarters to evaluate each mare's foal.*



*Lottie Elliott and Gage Moorhouse, cousins and Tongue River Ranch employees, driving mares. After evaluation, groups of horses are turned out into pastures around the ranch to breed for next spring's foal crop.*

While waiting on the next lot of mares, Green visited with one of the hands working the gate. This young man will be graduating from high school in May and is considering a career in the veterinary profession. But at this juncture in his life, he's uncertain about committing seven or eight years of school pursuing that career. His hesitations? They come from firsthand knowledge of the job.

His mother is a ranch vet, so the young man was raised participating in some of the long days and short nights that come with the territory. At age four, he asked her, "Why do you always wait until it's dark to sew up horses?"

He has grown up working cattle and horses with his dad and knows the drill about the physical demands of that job, regardless of what Mother Nature dishes out.

Plus he's privy to talk about student loan repayments and discouraging salaries for some large animal veterinarians in comparison with other disciplines in veterinary medicine.

But this same "first hand" knowledge has given him personal insight into the great aspects that come with the profession. Every day presents new and different challenges. The work is enjoyable, fulfilling, interesting and rarely dull. He likes working with his family, friends and mentors in the ranching and veterinary profession. He likes the responsibility and the rewards of working with livestock and has experienced the pride and satisfaction that comes when he witnesses a sick horse improve after veterinary care or the sense of accomplishment when a calf gets up and nurses after a tough delivery.

An outdoorsman, he loves the opportunity to travel and work on different ranches, seeing new and different country. He knows that being a veterinarian is an occupation that defines who and what you are.

The ranch veterinarian's son is also familiar with resources available to help veterinarians attain much needed time off that include relief veterinarians, part-time associates, and shared call between practices. Ranch practice would allow him to raise his family in the same environment where he was raised and make a good living for them.

Green is attuned to these same pros and cons of veterinary practice. She has put in the same eight years of pre-vet and veterinary school required to obtain her degree and has seen how rural practice can, at times, include emergency work, physical demands, long hours, and compromises with family life. And there are loans being paid off with entry level salaries, which might not reflect anticipated earning potential over time.

However, Green knows the same factors are present with many professions and career choices. Evaluating the pros and cons are always involved with the decision-making process as young people plan their lives. What is ideal for one person may be the opposite for another. She also knows how quickly veterinary wages can increase, allowing loan repayment and good salaries. The positives in the veterinary profession far outweighed the negatives she knew might be ahead for her.

But in recruitment of prospective veterinary students, Green's message concerning career options is a positive one.

"I wouldn't change my career choice of being a veterinarian for anything!" Green said. "It has provided me a fulfilling professional life and meaningful experiences that have allowed me to look forward to going to work each and every day with enthusiasm. Now that is worth something. I believe deeply that veterinary medicine is an exciting, versatile profession that, with its seemingly limitless career opportunities, has something to offer almost anyone. In private practice, one can choose a focus on ranch practice, dairy, feedlot, mixed animal, small animal, equine, camelids, cervids, exotic animals, aquatic animals and even pocket pets. One can choose specialization, just like in human medicine, with opportunities in surgery, internal medicine, anesthesiology, reproduction, dermatology, cardiology, neurology, ophthalmology, dentistry and more. Careers in research can advance animal, human and ecosystem health with studies from cancer to emerging infectious disease to advanced reproductive techniques. A veterinary degree allows one to work in all parts of the country, and even on the international scene in today's world of global opportunities."

In recent years, Green has seen a shift away from rural practice to other opportunities within the profession. Her profession has taken her from ownership of a rural practice to teaching at veterinary schools where she went on to become director of one large animal teaching hospital at the University of Tennessee to chief of staff of another at the University of Florida. Two years ago, this past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP), and American Association of Veterinary Clinicians, moved to Texas to begin her new challenge as the first female dean of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Rural practice afforded Green the insight of her responsibility to her clients and their livestock, as well as to her family.



*Tom Moorhouse's left boot in stirrup. Moorehouse, manager of the Tongue River Ranch, participated in the annual sorting of mares and foals.*

She would eventually pass this knowledge on to the hundreds of veterinary students she has taught and mentored. Administrative positions leading large animal departments and large animal teaching hospitals afforded Green opportunities to work with the livestock industry and know their expectations from the veterinary profession. In large animal departments and hospitals, she had extensive exposure to job availability and placement of veterinary graduates.

During her tenures as AAEP president and ABVP president, two distinguished international veterinary associations, Green traveled extensively within the U.S. and internationally obtaining a valuable perspective on the needs of the veterinary profession, students and clients. As dean, she is continually evaluating the pulse of the livestock industry. The factors influencing the decline in rural animal veterinarians are complex and Green's extensive and diverse involvement with the profession certainly gives her the experience to help address the problem. She has heard the challenge by the livestock industries and the veterinary profession to address the decline in rural veterinarians and assure appropriate placement of new graduates in ranch and rural practice to meet the supply and demands of the industry.

"One of the beauties of rural veterinary practice is that it allows graduates an opportunity to return to the region where they grew up, or take their skill to similar areas across the United States, and provide their families a similar rural life experience," Green said. "The rural veterinarians can then help Texas A&M attract kids growing up in ranching communities to the veterinary profession by mentoring them, fostering their interest, encouraging them in studies, and taking advantage of many local resources, including school programs, FFA, and 4-H. The result could be that they eventually return to rural communities to practice."

The veterinary profession also wants these same messages sent out to a broader population of students evaluating career choices. And these students are not necessarily limited to rural areas.

"I've seen the scenario played out many times where students arrive at veterinary school having no previous exposure to large animals, but when they begin working with these animals, they embrace that aspect of the veterinary profession and make career choices that include large and mixed animal practice. As an example, I have seen veterinary students from highly populated urban areas become dairy practitioners after becoming excited by their dairy rotation in veterinary school. Those students need to be exposed to large animals to see if rural practice is their calling," Green added.

Texas A&M is addressing the complex problem of the shortage of rural veterinarians in a variety of ways. To help fully understand the needs of the industry, industry listening sessions are being held. They are also working with West Texas A&M University (WT) in Canyon, TX, one of the 11 schools in the Texas A&M System, to explore the possibility of mutually beneficial collaborative programs. Because WT lies in the heart of the Panhandle, home to one of the state's largest populations of cattle and ranch horses, it is a likely partner.

Green added that there is help at the federal level to attract veterinarians to rural areas and also address their student debt from veterinary school. The USDA's Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program will pay up to \$25,000 each year towards qualified educational loans of eligible veterinarians who agree to serve in designated veterinarian shortage situations for a period of three years.

So how does a prospective veterinary student on the ranch weigh the balance between a career that comes with some

personal sacrifices but has countless and wonderful rewards? It can be as simple as just spending time with large animal veterinarians and hearing them say at the end of the day, "I love my job... And I can't see myself doing anything different!"

And at the end of her visit on that West Texas ranch, Dr. Eleanor Green had the same words to say. 🌿



*Lottie Elliott, Tongue River Ranch employee, sorts mares. Mares at the ranch were sorted into four different stud bunches before turning them out to breed for a 2012 foal.*

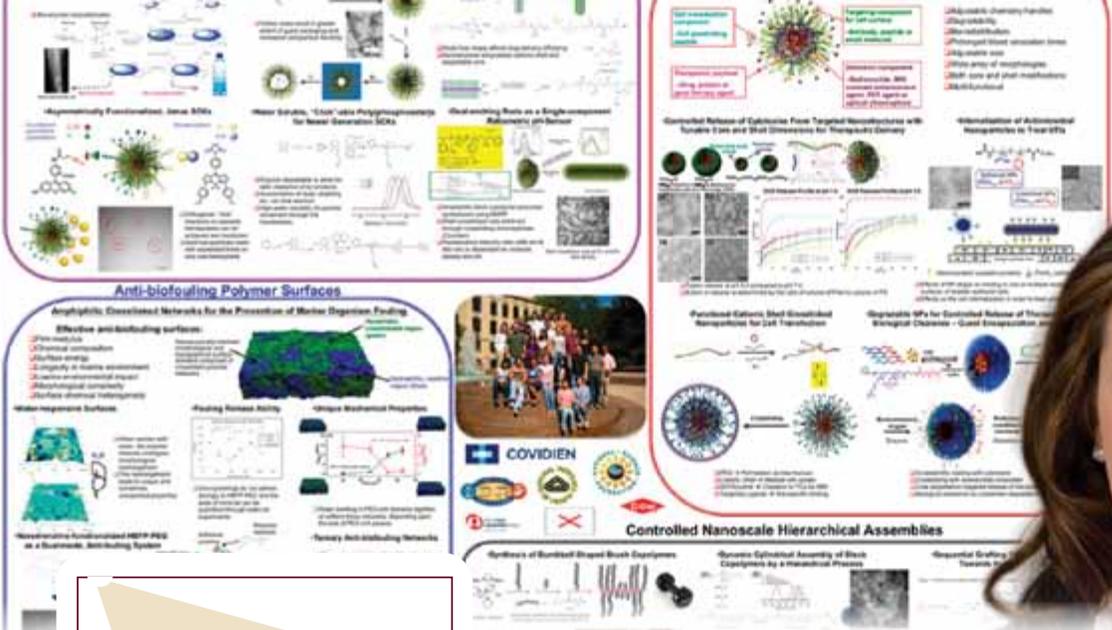
#### **Rural Veterinarian Statement from the Author:**

*My career in veterinary medicine has given me the opportunity to practice, live, and raise our children in a rural agricultural community. That has been very important as well as rewarding to me. I have also always enjoyed working in the outdoors.*

*Rural practice has allowed me the chance to work on many large historic ranches in Texas and New Mexico, seeing beautiful country, throughout my career.*

*In recent years, while working in different parts of the country, I have seen a decline in numbers of young veterinarians going into rural and ranch practice despite the need for their services being tremendous and job opportunities plentiful. I always encourage any young person that enjoys challenging work with animals, typically in the outdoors, and would like to locate in an agricultural community to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. My profession has blessed me with a career that has been a blessing to me and my family.*

Stephanie Florez with a poster describing the research she does in the chemistry laboratory of Dr. Karen Wooley



## Biomedical Sciences *Spotlight*

# BIMS undergraduates explore CVM research opportunities

“When I entered Texas A&M, I knew I had to give research a try. I wanted to know what being a scientist meant; and if they were all really crazy like in the bedtime stories my father used to tell me as a child,” Stephanie Florez joked. “Medicine has always been my passion, especially surgery and neurology.”

Florez, a Biomedical Sciences (BIMS) major with a Neuroscience minor, started her education at Texas A&M in 2008 and soon discovered her interest for research in a different field: chemistry. “When I took organic chemistry with Dr. David Bergbreiter and started research with Dr. Eric Simanek doing polymer synthesis, chemistry became a second passion, and ever since then I have enjoyed doing research in this department,” Florez says.

On the other hand, Christina Wilcox, also a junior BIMS major, asked Dr. Elizabeth Crouch, director of BIMS at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), “How am I supposed to get involved in research?” She recommended i.e., Dr. Gloria Conover because she was looking for a BIMS student to work in her lab for a course. Dr. Gloria Conover briefly told me the area of research I would be involved in, and that is what sold me on becoming a part of her lab group.”

Florez and Wilcox are two examples of dedicated undergraduate students who have decided to give research a try while finishing their majors.

“Each of these students has good stories of the extra activities they are doing. They are very smart,” Crouch says.

Originally from Bogota, Colombia, Florez currently does research in the laboratory of Dr. Karen Wooley, in the Texas A&M Department of Chemistry. Wooley’s group works on the design and synthesis of polymer materials and nanostructures with a wide range of applications.

“One of the foci of the lab is a special kind of nanoparticle, called shell crosslinked knedel-like nanoparticles, that can travel through the body, find a specific group of cells, and deliver therapeutic agents or genetic material for the diagnosis and treatment of various conditions,” Florez says. This research might have a great impact on the current treatments available for lung inflammation, providing a

selective therapy, minimizing drug side effects, and enabling the imaging of the sites of injury inside the lung.

Wilcox started in Dr. Conover’s lab last January.

“I was taking an independent study course,” Wilcox says. “After my course was finished, I decided to continue with the research project we were working on in the lab during the summer.”

Conover’s research focuses on the interaction between intermediate filaments in human muscle, particularly an intermediate filament called desmin, which when mutated or absent causes a muscle wasting disease called desminopathy. “I’ve learned in various classes about many muscle wasting diseases, and I’ve always felt it is an important area of research because of the impact it can make on the lives of those who are affected,” Wilcox says.

So far, both students acknowledge the enormous impact research has had in their lives.

“I would have never imagined all the benefits my research experiences have brought to my intellectual growth and professional skills,” Florez says. “When you do research, you learn concepts in a completely different way than you would normally do in a classroom, not only because you are actually applying them in your experiments, but because you are always challenging your analytical mind and creativity.”

Wilcox says, “I enjoy the process of discovering and thinking through things every time I’m in the lab. I get to ask questions and figure out the answer to them on my own. I recognize that I am constantly learning and feeling like I may actually be making a contribution to the science community and to those who suffer from desminopathy.”

Both say the program has had an important role in focusing their research interests. “It has allowed me to study many different ramifications of science in one curriculum, yet all having a particular focus on medical applications. This truly targets my specific interest in how I can apply the huge field of science into my future profession, which is medicine,” Florez says. “It’s a challenging major but very rewarding because it allows you to explore many fields and find your true passions.”

by Antonio Villarreal

# EFFECTIVE CLIENT COMMUNICATION

## AN ESSENTIAL SKILL FOR VETERINARIANS



*Students Leticia Cantú and Toby Conner observe Dr. Adam Patterson discussing Jacob II's condition with his owner, Jack Lungford.*



*Dr. Piper Norton, assisted by Jennifer Wier, veterinary technician, talks to Hiska's owner, Julee Kula.*

"I don't think that went very well," I said to myself. I justified it through my inexperience, thinking the miscommunication was their fault because of their circumstances. You know what I'm talking about, those tough cases with several long days of diagnostic work-ups, initial treatments with little success, owners' inability to see the inevitable, and then ending our interaction entangled in the stress of another euthanasia. I stood chute-side contemplating: "It's hard to pinpoint what really happened. I thought we were on the same page, and he just stopped talking!"

The ability to communicate is the most important skill that a veterinarian can learn to be successful in our profession, regardless of job description. There is an abundance of evidence that supports this idea—from the Brakke Management and Behavior Study to the AVMA–Pfizer business practice to the conclusions from the Association of American Veterinary Medical College's 15th Educational Symposium. We all know communication is an essential skill for success. Our communication skills can directly influence the success we have in interacting with the people in our practices and lives: developing new clients, increasing client loyalty, retaining clients, training and educating employees, defining employee expectations, negotiating care, and building relationships within our veterinary health team to reach out into the community we serve. We are defined by our ability to communicate.

Communication is very complex. We learn this skill through our own experiences, and this makes us a creation of those experiences. It starts early through our family experiences, is

reinforced through our interactions in our early school years, and is usually ingrained by the time we reach early adulthood. It is human nature for us to learn experientially. The result of this experiential process is we sometimes learn what works and what doesn't. The human trek in communication is marred by negative results that we know we shouldn't repeat and the positive results in our own communications interactions that are sometimes overlooked. I remember my first encounter with "James" on my first excursion on to the playground in grade school. He was a bully, and I had picked up his kickball. The negative reinforcement that resulted left an indelible mark on my communication experience, and I learned to steer clear of "James" or more importantly never play with his kickball. I don't remember the beginning of my friendship with "Jay" except it was a friendship of shared imagination and toys. We all have experiences like these. It is human nature to remember and concentrate on negative interactions; I won't do that again. We just don't contemplate "positive" results of communication because this is part of the human condition. The many nuances associated with good communication make it a difficult task to learn.

The second hurdle in learning effective communication is that we are all blinded by knowing that we are good communicators. Self-evaluation and assessment are essential to increase our effectiveness. We believe that we are good at this skill and rightly so. We have had success using our communication methods; we were selected into the veterinary professional program, we graduated and are now in an exciting profession that is based on communication. I am successful, so why should I work on these communication skills? The point is that we all can improve our ability to

BY DR. DAN POSEY

communicate with each other. This is the focus of our training of veterinary students in effective client communications.

The training of veterinary students in communication is a multifaceted process. It starts on their first day of orientation to veterinary school and continues through to their graduation day. The basis of most of the communication training is intertwined in courses like the professional development and correlates classes where communication skills are presented in lecture style, small group discussion, and practiced in a laboratory setting. All students have the opportunity to practice these skills in their small group learning in anatomy and physiology and have the opportunity to display good communication skills by explaining physiological events through an experiential model using real cases and actor participants. Events like these are used to increase students' awareness of how their communication skills are changing. Of course, most of the communication training still occurs in the fourth year during their clinical year, where attention can be individually focused. We at the CVM determined that this was no longer sufficient, and we needed to search within a crowded curriculum to carve out individual training time for each of our veterinary students.

Every third year veterinary student (3VM) is introduced to the clinical service by spending one day a week on different rotations, such as Small Animal Oncology, Equine Community Service, and Food Animal Ambulatory. 3VMs spend one of these service days in Effective Client Communication training. The focus of this training is binary. First is to explain the essential components of effective client communication and to offer experiential communication training. Second is to develop the student's ability to give and accept "balanced feedback" and to cultivate some self-assessment and self-evaluation abilities.

The Effective Client Communication training begins with each student investing time in increasing his or her knowledge base by reading articles from the Bayer Animal Health (BAH) Communication Project. Since 2002, this project has been steadfast in its commitment to address gaps in communication skills training within schools of veterinary medicine and in the practice community. The project team accomplishes this by establishing a "train the trainer" program; they have educated 210 faculty members from 36 schools of veterinary medicine in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Portugal. The faculty members spend five days in experiential learning where they are trained through 12 educational modules and interactive lessons on skilled-based communication topics. This has been a very influential program in our communication training effort for our students. Our veterinary medicine program currently has 21 faculty members trained in communication. These teachers use what they learned at BAH in various aspects of their teaching efforts, and it permeates our program through their everyday encounters.

*Student, Will McCauley, and Jennifer Wier, veterinary technician, assess Hiska while Julee Kula observes.*



*Student, Leticia Cantú, assists Dr. Adam Patterson and Amanda Friedeck, veterinary technician, in examining Jacob II while his owner, Jack Lungford, observes.*

The students then spend two hours in a small group session (5 to 6 students) discussing the four steps of effective client communication: 1) Engagement, 2) Empathy, 3) Education, and 4) Enlistment.

The training is centered on the premise that most of us are trained in our clinical service approach to "Find and Fix" the problem, whether that be a urinary infection in a cat or lameness in a horse. We are trained to discover the problem through excellent history taking and physical examination, followed by a well developed diagnostic and treatment plan. All of this can be accomplished better through acquiring the understanding of client interaction and developing improved communication skills. Our focus is to help students realize that good communication skills can be learned and basic clinical skillfulness can be enhanced by the early establishment of rapport with the client. The small group session explores how to engage a client—by investing time in the beginning of the relationship, how to display empathy for the plight of one's patient and client, how to use one's formal education and experience to educate the client on the process and assist them in their decision making, and lastly, how to use excellent client communication skills to enlist the client's help in the treatment of patients and increase their understanding and participation in prevention. Establishing rapport is the key to getting all this accomplished.

The next step in this day-long process is for students to meet with simulated clients (actors) and have them interact in a clinical setting. The goal of this training is two-fold: to engage well with the client and to establish rapport during the history-taking process. The goal is to strengthen techniques that different students use to establish rapport with their personalities and their understanding of the training. The central idea on rapport is to gain trust so that the client feels safe to openly discuss details of the history. We have all been there when we failed to establish rapport. We were not "in sync" with our client and their needs, which resulted in non-compliance or substandard care. When our students leave at the end of their communication training day, they know that this is just the beginning of their client service training, and it is their responsibility to learn by doing. We hope that we establish the foundation for continued communication skill-building through these efforts.

Communication is one of the most important aspects of our practice life. We need to continually invest our time in learning this important ability. Every time we encounter people, we have the opportunity to improve our abilities. Our days can be filled with an occasional incensed client, an employee who is not meeting expectations, a community leader who has asked for our help, or a family dispute. Our ability to meet these challenges stands on our ability to build our knowledge base in communication. 🌿

## Veterinary student Cecilia Montes wins poster award

Second year veterinary student at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), Cecilia Montes, was named a winner in the research poster competition while she attended the Meriel-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium located in Athens, Georgia.

At the symposium, veterinary medical students throughout the United States and Canada met to present their research findings and network with peers, veterinarians, scientists, researchers, and faculty members. The meeting was hosted by the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

More than 300 posters were presented, but only around a dozen awards were given, with Montes taking home one of them.

"I worked in the laboratory of Dr. Cristine Heaps last summer, and winning this award was the icing on the cake!" Montes said.

The poster that Montes submitted was titled, "Contribution of ETA receptor to the exercise training-enhanced ET-1-mediated constriction of collateral-dependent coronary arteries." It reported the research she worked on during the 2010 summer with others at the CVM: Juan Carlos Robles, research graduate assistant; Jeff F. Bray, laboratory technician; Mildred L. Mattox, associate research specialist; and Dr. Cristine Heaps, associate professor.

Montes participated in the Veterinary Student Research Fellows Program during the 2010 summer under the direction of Heaps.



Cecilia Montes

## West Texas A&M Group visits CVM

On Thursday, November 11, 2010, the Pre-Vet Society from West Texas A&M received their inaugural tour of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM). The tour was given by Joe Pluhar and Sarah Kline, two Vet Med Ambassadors (for more about the Vet Med Ambassadors, please see page 25). During the visit, the 15 students received lunch, listened to an informational session, and visited with veterinary students. The students included freshman to seniors; all hope to practice veterinary medicine. They enjoyed their visit so much that they decided to make it an annual event.



"I really enjoyed participating in the fellowship and I feel like I learned so much last summer about research, especially for someone who had never actually participated in research at all prior to last summer," Montes said.

Heaps' lab is currently looking at the effects of exercise training on collateral-dependent coronary arteries in pigs.

"Previous studies have shown that collateral-dependent arteries of exercise-trained pigs have an increased contractile response to endothelin-1 (ET-1), and the goal of this project was to assess the contribution of ETA receptors to this adaptation," said Montes.

Montes' mentor, Heaps, said that Montes was a wonderful addition to their laboratory as part of the Veterinary Medical Student Research Training Program.

"She approached the learning experience with great enthusiasm and dedication, and through the intensive nature of this 12-week program, Cecilia acquired a great deal of insight into hypothesis-driven research and the scientific approach," Heaps said.

Heaps added that the Fellows Program experience was mutually beneficial because Montes, who collaborated with the laboratory staff and students, performed a great deal of experimental troubleshooting as well as initiating data collection on studies that the team will continue to pursue. 🐾

## Students awarded at annual theriogenology conference



*John Brinkerhoff*

John Brinkerhoff and Holly Kana, fourth year students at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), attended the annual conference of the Society for Theriogenology, a branch of veterinary medicine focusing on reproduction, in Seattle, Washington, from August 31 to September 5, 2010.

They participated in the competitive 2010 Student Case Presentation program and were among the eight winners.

Brinkerhoff was awarded first place for his presentation titled, "Recovery of a stallion with a chronic scrotal hydro/pyocele and azoospermia." Kana was

awarded sixth place for her presentation, "Retrograde ejaculation in a stallion associated with tail-head trauma."

Theriogenology, with a special emphasis on equine reproduction, is Brinkerhoff's main research interest.

"It was an honor to be selected to represent Texas A&M at the annual conference. All of the student cases were noteworthy, and it was truly a privilege to be selected," Brinkerhoff said.

"The community of veterinary theriogenologists was very welcoming and encouraging. Many of the attendees congratulated me and expressed their desire to foster my interest in theriogenology," Brinkerhoff said. "I was able to sit next to some of the leading minds and learn from their experiences. It will certainly have a beneficial impact on my career."

Kana, who earned her bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&M, is also the president of the Student Chapter of the Society of Theriogenology as well as class secretary.

"This experience has been absolutely fascinating," Kana said. "Not only did I take part in an exceptionally informative conference, I also was able to travel to a beautiful new city. During the conference, we were able to attend lectures and social events, and I had the wonderful experience of meeting so many practitioners and experts in my field of interest. I feel that I made many new



*Holly Kana*

connections and really gained insight into the study of theriogenology, both from a scientific and a professional perspective."

Both students thanked the clinicians and residents in the theriogenology section at the CVM for their support.

"They were all incredibly patient and supportive throughout the long process of putting my abstract and presentation together, and I could not have done it without their help," Kana said.

Brinkerhoff declared, "Without their guidance and orientation, my participation would have been impossible." 🌿

## CE and AAEP team up with two 360° courses

The Continuing Education (CE) office at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Science (CVM) and the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) joined efforts on Tuesday, August 10, through Friday, August 13, 2010 to present two 360-degree continuing education experiences, featuring two topic choices—one on stallion reproduction and the other on equine dentistry. The 360-degree experience is an innovative approach to examine veterinary topics from every angle.

The AAEP was interested in having the continuing education efforts at the CVM because of the state-of-the-art facilities and world-renowned faculty available. Also, Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine,

was the 2008 AAEP president. Dr. William Moyer, professor and head of the Large Animal Clinical Sciences Department, became the AAEP president in December 2010.

The AAEP educational programs committee selected the content for this conference. Dentistry is a hot topic in equine practice, and it provides the opportunity to expand one's practice. Updated technology and knowledge of stallion reproduction have changed the breeding industry because of the artificial insemination programs and the new reproductive techniques.

Attendees received an in-depth educational experience emphasizing one-on-one instruction with the opportunity for hands-on experience. Instruction on topics was limited to a

small group of attendees so that every attendee could get the maximum benefit. The equine dentistry section was limited to 24 participants and the stallion reproduction section to 20 participants. Both sections sold out. Participants came from throughout the United States and Canada.

"This was not a small undertaking. However, it became apparent during the whole process that the staff from AAEP and our staff from the Office of Continuing Education are real professionals, as they have been up to the task to partner on the meeting," said Dr. Cleet Griffin, chairperson for the equine dentistry section of the conference and clinical assistant professor. 🌿

## Nestlé Purina donates veterinary kitchen to VMTH

Nestlé Purina PetCare and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) came together to open the recently donated state-of-the-art veterinary kitchen housed in the Small Animal Hospital. The program known as Nestlé Purina Center for Nutrition Excellence donated \$70,000 to make the small animal kitchen more accessible and safer for hospital staff.

Dana Heath, assistant hospital administrator, wanted to enlist the help of Purina to transform their kitchen. Heath worked with Dr. Nicholas M. Vaughan, Nestlé Purina regional sales representative to CVM, to make this happen.

“Purina decided to award the kitchen to CVM due to the excellence of its clinical medicine department and the progressive nature of the CVM to partner with different companies and different programs,” Vaughan explained.

The purpose of the newly renovated kitchen is give veterinary students and veterinarians easier access to food for the animals in the hospital and to help them see all options available for a patient in need. The room provides easy access to all of the dry goods, canned goods, and special dietary items neces-

sary for the animal’s well being. The kitchen will hold Purina products and other food brands to ensure that the patients’ nutritional needs are met. The expiration dates are clearly coded on every food item.

“Prior to the renovation we had some of the dry foods in accessible containers, but a lot of the dry food was wasted by opening bags that could not be closed or stored

properly afterward,” said Dr. Deb Zoran, associate professor at the CVM.

“We also didn’t have an effective way of storing canned foods to make them accessible. Now, it is much cleaner and a much more effective use of the space. There will be much less food wasted and we are very grateful for that.”

Purina has given back to the CVM many times. It has funded several resident proj-

ects, worked with clinicians to fund a medicine residency, and been an early benefactor to the small animal dental suite.

“I am very pleased with the new food storage and preparation facilities that have been provided through the generosity of Nestlé PURINA PetCare,” said Dr. Sandee Hartsfield, professor and department head of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at the CVM. “The kitchen area of Small Animal Clinical Sciences has become aesthetically pleasing and has been redesigned for efficiency and practicality in the handling of food products.”

“Proper nutrition is a vital component of the management of veterinary patients with medical and surgical problems,” Hartsfield noted. “The new kitchen area provided by Nestlé PURINA PetCare assures ready access to a variety of dietary products, allowing veterinary students and hospital staff members to efficiently procure and prepare the most appropriate meals for their patients.”



Holly Marriott; Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine; and Megan Ohlenforst in the new Purina Veterinary Kitchen. Marriott and Ohlenforst are Purina Student Representatives.



Reveille VIII was in attendance with her handler, Cody Guffey, a political science junior, to help open the new Purina Veterinary Kitchen.

## Business students learn through auditing the VMTH



Rachel Alldredge (left) and Sara Cousins (right), accounting majors from the Class of 2010, review office procedures with Lucy Wendt, Senior Customer Service Assistant in the Small Animal Hospital.

Fifteen years ago Charley Clark, associate vice president for risk and compliance and senior lecturer in the department of accounting at the Texas A&M Mays Business School, decided to give his internal-auditing class the chance to experience real-world audits by assigning auditing projects to entities within Texas A&M University. Since then, the large and small animal teaching hospitals and the pharmacy at Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) have been involved in the annual audit project and help to train future auditors.

The Large and Small Animal Hospitals are prime clients for Clark's class because they operate as real businesses. There are several risks involved in operating the hospitals, including dealing with money, drugs, and client confidentiality.

A group consisting of several students visits the Large Animal Hospital, and another group visits the Small Animal Hospital. They perform their assignments on-site, identify risks involved, and have a question-and-answer session with the top hospital administrators. The students then write a report and share their findings with the class and the hospital administrators.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to get an overall real world experience of auditing in the classroom," Clark said. "I have received amazing feedback from my students over the years concerning this project. The teaching hospitals at the CVM are prime opportunities for the students to

learn because of the risks involved, and so they can experience a part of

the university that they wouldn't normally see."

This class project has proved beneficial for both parties: the accounting majors at the Texas A&M Mays Business School and the CVM.

"I look forward to this project every year, because it helps to keep us on our toes," said Terry Stiles, hospital director at the CVM. "We are frequently audited by real agencies, and the students from Clark's class provide us with good practice to examine and respond to questions concerning possible risks the teaching hospitals may face."

Kaytlyn Krafska, Texas A&M junior accounting student, recently participated in the audit of the small animal hospital.

"I find auditing interesting but because it encompasses more than just theories, it's nice to be able to actually get some hands-on experience," Krafska noted. "It's also nice to learn about another part of Texas A&M. I hope we, as a group, can come up with a few ideas to help make the animal clinic better in some way." 

## Vet Med & Bio Med Ambassadors

Launched in fall of 2010, the Vet Med Ambassador Program represents a robust and dynamic student group that serves as the face of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. After the success of the first year, two Bio Med Ambassadors were added to the group for the 2011-12 school year to represent the undergraduate student body of the college. The Vet Med & Bio Med Ambassadors provide tours of the college and attend college, university, and state-wide functions on behalf of the CVM student body. The ambassadors also provide visitors with a fresh and realistic look into their lives through their twice-weekly blogs, "Student Perspectives," which are posted on the CVM website at [vetmed.tamu.edu/student-perspectives](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/student-perspectives) and on the college Facebook page.

The 2011-2012 Vet Med and Bio Med Ambassadors are seen in uniform below. They are from left to right, Joseph Hicks, Tess Whiteman, Alexandra Pruet, Anna Goodroe, Chace Butler, Jaime Rechy, Katrina Lindsay, Emily Murawski, Charlet Hubertus, and Joseph Pluhar.



## Ferro studies AIV in migratory birds on Gulf Coast

The Texas Gulf Coast provides a wonderful escape for migratory birds during the winter. Residents and hunters off the Texas Gulf Coast enjoy the waterfowls' annual visit, but people need to be aware of the impact waterfowl may have because of the viruses they carry. Dr. Pam Ferro, who received her PhD in veterinary pathobiology from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) in August 2010, spent five consecutive years studying avian influenza viruses (AIVs) in hunter-harvested waterfowl in the wintering grounds off the Texas Gulf Coast.

In North America there are four major flyways: the Pacific, the Central, the Mississippi, and the Atlantic. Ferro chose to study the wintering grounds on the Texas Gulf Coast of the Central flyway because they are the least studied of the four. The Texas Gulf Coast was an excellent place for

Ferro to focus, because approximately 90 percent of waterfowl use the Central flyway during winter in Texas.

The objective of Ferro's study was to determine the prevalence of AIV in waterfowl wintering grounds on the Texas Gulf Coast because waterfowl are considered the natural reservoir for AIVs. These viruses can be transmitted to humans and poultry because migratory waterfowl intermingle with resident wild species and they are also in close contact with poultry operations and humans, primarily hunters. The infected migratory birds shed the virus through their feces. Infection with influenza virus in humans and chickens results mainly in a respiratory disease.

"The migratory nature of many waterfowl species and the persistence of influenza in these populations present a vehicle for dissemination of influenza viruses globally," Ferro explained. "Understanding the migratory patterns of different waterfowl as well as identifying influenza virus subtypes within these populations is critical to our understanding of how influenza viruses persist in nature and evolve over time."

"The reason for the study was to see what kind of viruses are found on the Texas Gulf Coast because this area has not been well studied," Ferro said. "Throughout the study, we did not find any highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses. However, we isolated over 150 viruses of very different subtypes. Now we are interested in comparing viruses that we isolated on the Texas Gulf Coast to the viruses that were isolated in the breeding grounds up North to see if there are any similarities."

"We can't eliminate the virus from the waterfowl," Ferro said. "However, by knowing more about what occurs in nature we can develop control measures so these viruses won't be transmitted to humans or poultry. If we can narrow down certain viruses that are highly prevalent at certain times, we can enact bio-containment strategies on farms and surrounding areas to prevent infection."

Ferro's research was under the direction of Dr. Blanca Lupiani, associate professor in the department of veterinary pathobiology at the CVM, and associate dean of faculties for Texas A&M



Dr. Blanca Lupiani

University. Lupiani thought Ferro's research project was a success because of significance of the data obtained, as well as the collaborative effort that was present throughout the entire project.

Ferro collaborated with students from other colleges at Texas A&M University and enlisted the help of Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists and technicians as well as local hunters to make her research possible. Ferro and her team collected more than 7,000 cloacal swab samples from approximately 33 different potential host species.

"This was a wonderful research project," Lupiani said. "Pam brought a group of people together with such a variety of expertise to help understand a complex problem. Her interdisciplinary approach built great relationships, which resulted in great findings."

"This was an amazing experience," Ferro said. "It was a big learning curve for me since my background is not in ecology. I was able to get out in the field, work with a wide variety of individuals, got the chance to educate people about AIV in waterfowl, and I had the opportunity to experiment in the lab."

Ferro is currently a post-doctoral research associate at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study in Athens, Georgia.

This project was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Avian Influenza Coordinated Agricultural Projects (AICAP and AICAP 2). 



Pam Ferro works with hunter-harvested waterfowl off the Texas Gulf Coast. Her research focused on the avian influenza viruses.

## PEER's efforts plan to reach a national audience

Middle school students in rural Texas are now excited to learn about innovative science concepts in the classroom because of the Partnership for Environmental Education and Rural Health's (PEER) program called "The Veterinarian's Black Bag" developed at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM).

The recent success of PEER has allowed for all of rural Texas to receive the online "Veterinarian's Black Bag" program. PEER continues to grow and will soon reach a national audience of kindergarten through 12th grade students, parents, veterinarians, and teachers. The PEER program was recently awarded a \$133,000 supplement to its current five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through the Science and Education Partnership Award (SEPA) program in association with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to expand the reach of the program.

The PEER program exists to create an exciting platform where teachers can educate students and stimulate their interest in science by using unconventional teaching methods such as having a veterinarian visit or bringing in an animal into a classroom. This new supplement will allow the PEER program to disseminate its strategy nationally.

"To expand the promotion of science in rural America, we will collaborate with the clinical SEPA project at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio (UTHSCSA) and their partnerships with the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) and the National Primate Research Center to use lessons from animal and veterinary research and teacher training to promote science, mathematics, and health education," says Dr. Larry Johnson, professor at the CVM and principal investigator for PEER. "We will also expand collaborations on K-12 student instruction with the Children's Museum of Houston and will initiate collaborations with the TEA's agricultural veterinary assistance programs including 4-H, FFA, and Boy and Girl Scouts."

This initiative will promote two new science educational activities: clinical

SEPA, and the Children's Museum of Houston and TEA agricultural veterinary assistants program.

In the clinical SEPA collaboration, a middle school teacher will travel to San Antonio two or three days a month to interact with the clinical SEPA UTHSCSA group and the Southwest National Primate Center. The goals from this collaboration are to initiate ideas and to develop lesson plans and professional teacher workshops related to transforming original scientific articles into classroom-ready lessons for middle and high school students that can be disseminated to rural communities throughout the country.

"This collaboration will add clinical and translational information and application to our veterinary-related curriculum for middle schools as it strengthens the impact of both SEPA projects," Johnson notes.

For the second science educational activity, a middle school teacher will collaborate with veterinary students and the Children's Museum of Houston to modify the curriculum, displays, and hands-on activities for the veterinary students' presentations featured in the Kidtropolis exhibit at the museum. These collaboration efforts will develop and present materials for Boy and Girl Scout merit badges and patches on scouting day at the museum. The hired teacher will provide instruction to the veterinary students and coordinate the visits of the first year veterinary students to the museum. This program provides opportunities for veterinary students to use their knowledge as they increase their communication skills.

Also, in association with the TEA, the middle school curriculum in "The Veterinarian's Black Bag" program will be modified to match the need for materials for the agricultural veterinary assistant technical programs used by high school, 4-H, and FFA groups.

"The Children's Museum of Houston is very excited about the opportunity to

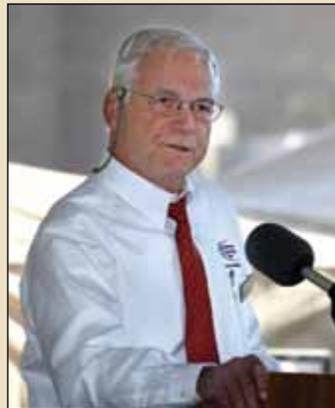
expand our partnership with the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences SEPA project," says Karen Milner, director of gallery programs at the Children's Museum of Houston. "The veterinarians and Sciences Partnership program and curriculum related very well to our Vet Clinic area within the Museum's Kidtropolis exhibit, which encourages children ages two to 12 to explore future career opportunities and role play important figures within the community."

"We are looking forward to working with partners at Texas A&M to develop new programming related to the Kidtropolis Vet Clinic," Milner says. "These programs may include routine Meet the Vet opportunities during weekends or special holidays, scout workshops, and professional development classes for teachers. By exposing visitors to experts within the field of veterinary medicine, we hope to promote a greater understanding of animal care and biomedical research as well as an appreciation for science and scientific careers."

Dr. Johnson adds, "We are excited to see the national impact this grant may have on classrooms in rural communities. Our goals for this initiative are to improve the quality of science education in public schools, to promote an understanding of the value of animal and clinical research, and to promote behaviors and create awareness in a younger society to reduce the risk of disease." 🐾



PEER staff work with middle school students.



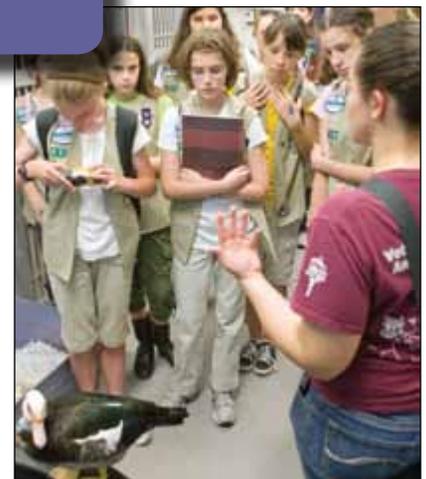


VET Launch Event · December 1, 2010



## Open House

April 9, 2011





**Parents' Day**  
April 2, 2011

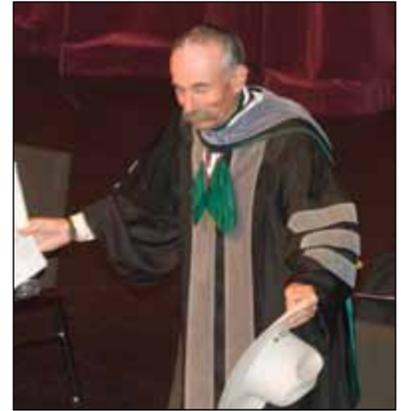


**White Coat Ceremony**  
April 1, 2011



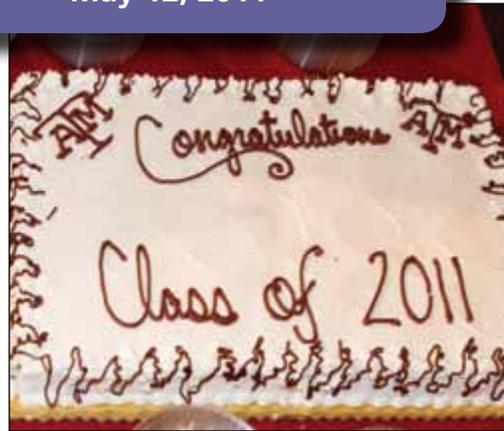
**Honors Convocation**  
April 1, 2011





## Commencement

May 12, 2011



## College Picnic

May 20, 2011





# Gentle Doctor Scholarship Luncheon

April 2, 2011



## 3rd Annual Legends Premier Stallion Season Auction

The holiday season is a time for finding bargains. While some are busy searching for great deals on electronics or clothing, others found their “steals” in the form of breedings offered through the Texas A&M University Legends Premier Stallion Season Auction. In addition to obtaining great buys, those who purchase breedings in the auction help to support stallion reproductive research at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM).

The Legends auction is an online auction to which stallion owners donate breedings or seasons. These seasons are then auctioned to mare owners, with the proceeds going to support equine reproductive research at Texas A&M University. The two years of the auction generated more than \$500,000, which has supported research projects

through Stallion Reproductive Studies at Texas A&M.

“We are so appreciative of the support that the industry has provided us,” said Dr. Dickson Varner, a stallion reproductive specialist at the CVM. “Proceeds from the Legends auction have been applied diligently to research and education in stallion reproductive studies at the CVM. As an example, 23 percent of invited research papers on stallion reproduction at the recent International Symposium on Equine Reproduction originated from Texas A&M University. This research would not have been possible without the support of the equine industry.”

The 3rd Annual Legends Premier Stallion Season Auction began on December 1, 2010. It consisted of three sessions, the last of which closed on February 18, 2011. Breedings to some

of the most elite stallions from the western performance, Quarter Horse racing, rail disciplines, and halter horse industries were donated to the auction this year, with more than 200 breedings available to bidders.

“We are committed to improving reproductive management practices within the horse industry,” Varner said. “We sincerely thank the stallion owners and agents, as well as the mare owners, for helping us fulfill this mission by participating in the 3rd Annual Legends Premier Stallion Season Auction.”

The 4th Annual Legends Premier Stallion Season Auction begins December 1, 2011. Visit [legends.cvm.tamu.edu](http://legends.cvm.tamu.edu) to register.

Contact the Equine Initiative offices at 979.845.6098 for more information. 🍀

~ Anna McNaught

## Gameday Continuing Education Series deemed a success

In the fall of 2010 for the first time, the Office of Continuing Education at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences offered a brand new opportunity that brought more than 160 veterinarians to Aggieland to get Continuing Education (CE) credits. The Gameday CE series, scheduled for Texas A&M home football game weekends, took advantage of the fact that many Aggie alums

are already in town for the game and typically must book a whole weekend at hotels to get a room. Held on Sundays for a half day, the series gave attendees 3 hours of CE credit per weekend. Both large and small animal topics were scheduled, with the seven programs that had enough registrants being the small animal programs.

“We’ve known for some time that many of our former students come

back to College Station for home football games,” said Beth Johnson, coordinator for continuing education. “We decided that since many of them were staying over until Sunday, we could offer them an opportunity to come to the college and earn a few CE hours while they were here.”

Overall, Johnson feels that the program was well received by attendees and counts it as a success for the college. A new course lineup for fall 2011 can be found on the CE website.

“We have tremendous expertise on our faculty,” Johnson said. “They are what makes continuing education programs so strong at our college. By striving to find ways to deliver quality CE programs with our world-renowned expertise in a convenient way for veterinarians, we can offer special opportunities such as the Gameday CE series and build on this first year’s success to make it even better and bigger this fall.”

The CE office will continue to have conferences throughout the year.

Contact the CE office at 979.845.9102 or visit [vetmed.tamu.edu/ce](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/ce) for more information. 🍀



## Posey named Food Animal Practitioner of the Year

Dr. Dan Posey, director of special programs and clinical associate professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), was recently recognized as the 2010 Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) Food Animal Practitioner of the Year by the TVMA Awards Committee.

Posey earned his DVM from the CVM in 1982. In 1985, he bought the Central Veterinary Clinic in Madisonville, Texas, where he had a mixed practice and enjoyed helping the community and his clients. During his years in practice he also focused on cattle producers in the area. In 2002, Posey joined the Large Animal Hospital at the CVM and worked with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to develop a partnership that gives the veterinary students hands-on learning experience through the state's prison system. In 2009, Posey became the director of special programs for the CVM, and he remains as a clinical associate professor at the CVM.

At the CVM, Posey has helped to enhance the learning experience for many veterinary students because of the programs he helped to initiate. He also ignites a passion in future veterinarians to pursue careers in their fields of choice, particularly in food animal practice, where there is a need.

With the help of Dr. Wesley Bissett, assistant professor at the CVM, and Dr. Jason Osterstock, former assistant professor at the CVM, Posey created the "Contemporary Issues in Animal Agriculture and Food Production" (CIAA) elective rotation to expose a few fourth year veterinary students to modern issues related to veterinary medicine, including animal welfare, bioterrorism, and media training. Posey is also heavily involved in the Food Animal Production Tour along with founder, Dr. Virginia Fajt, clinical assistant professor at the CVM. This tour introduces first and second year veterinary students to food supply veterinarian medicine and the veterinarians who provide these services. Posey also helps with the mentorship program founded by Dr. Kevin Washburn, associate professor at the CVM. For this program, where he serves as a mentor to first year veterinary students who are interested

in food animal medicine by discussing career opportunities and externships that will help them on their career path.

Posey was nominated for this award by Dr. William Moyer, professor and department head of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the CVM. Moyer's nomination was supported by letters from Posey's colleagues. His colleagues' respect for him is evident in the letters of recommendation that were featured in a story in *The Texas Veterinarian*, the official publication of the TVMA.

"I think he has a good understanding that it is important for food animal producers to produce a safe, wholesome, nutritious product for the consumer and that the animal's welfare is of the utmost importance," said Moyer in *The Texas Veterinarian*. "He was raised in production agriculture, and I think that laid the groundwork for what he wanted to do as a career."

Dr. Brandon Dominguez, clinical assistant professor at the CVM, said in *The Texas Veterinarian*, "I have known Dr. Posey as a student, a practicing veterinarian, and a colleague in the vet school. In every circumstance, his primary goal is to help veterinary students become the best veterinarians possible. He has been on the front lines of private practice, has had associates, and has seen the struggles that veterinarians and students go through; furthermore, he uses this understanding to prepare students for their practice careers. He is good at being a veterinarian, particularly a food animal veterinarian, because he is so passionate about what he does."

Dr. Allen Roussel, Jr., professor and interim department head of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the CVM, said in *The Texas Veterinarian*, "Dan has been an exemplary food animal practitioner in his private practice days, as a practicing clinician in the university system focusing on TDCJ, as a classroom teacher, as an educator and mentor, and as an active participant in orga-



Dr. Dan Posey

nized veterinary medicine including the TVMA Bovine Practice Committee. No one could be more deserving of the award than Dan Posey."

"We are very proud of Dr. Posey, and we are grateful to have him here at the CVM," Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine said. "Dr. Posey has an uncanny passion for his profession. With his recent appointment as director of special programs, he is helping a whole new generation of veterinarians of tomorrow become even more enthusiastic about their future in veterinary medicine."

Posey added, "My father's suggestion at an early age to become a veterinarian was the driving force for me to pursue my passion in veterinary medicine. I am very honored to have received this award from the TVMA because I respect and appreciate the TVMA and what it stands for: to preserve, promote, and protect the veterinary medical profession and to advance animal health for the well-being of animals and humans. Throughout my practice years, I hope that I have been able to help my clients, serve my community, and educate my students. My focus has always been to be able to help raise awareness about the importance of rural and food animal veterinarians and their role in society. I am grateful that I have been able to do what I love and what I am passionate about every day of my life and this never really feels like work to me." 🌿

## Logan appointed head of Department of Pathobiology

Dr. Linda L. Logan—a world traveler, former faculty member, and graduate of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM)—has returned to Aggieland to become head of the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology at the CVM. She replaces interim department head Dr. John August, professor of feline internal medicine at the CVM.

“I am very happy to announce the appointment of Dr. Logan to this position,” said Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine. “Her reputation as a leader in the profession is proven and she will have a positive impact in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology. I am confident that Dr. Logan will help the department reach the next level of excellence in the many diverse ways its faculty contributes to the CVM, the university, the profession, and the state of Texas. Her global experience is sure to enrich our research and education missions.”

After graduating with her DVM from the CVM in 1976, Logan helped initiate a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) TAMU contract on vector-borne diseases of livestock based in Bamako, Mali. After receiving her PhD from the University of California Davis in



Dr. Linda Logan

comparative pathology, she conducted research on tropical livestock diseases at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya. She gained further experience on livestock diseases and food safety research while the national program leader for Animal Health Research with the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Researcher Service from 1996 to 2000. She had a close working relationship with the Texas livestock industry while serving as the executive director of the Texas Animal Health Commission from 2000 to the end of 2002. From 2003 to 2004 Logan was

a clinical professor at the CVM in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology. Her experience in academia and regulatory medicine, and her research background place her in a unique position to contribute to building bridges with the Texas livestock industry and helping serve their research needs. Just before rejoining Texas A&M, Logan was a senior attaché for Africa and the Middle East with the United States Department of Agriculture—Animal Plant Health Inspection Service.

“I am very honored to have been selected as the new department head for veterinary pathobiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences,” Logan said. “I did not want to miss this unique opportunity to return to my alma mater, Texas A&M. I plan to invest my time in helping Texas A&M in the quest to become solidified as a top tier university and to gain more international recognition for its programs.”

“With my new appointment, I want to help strengthen the research program in infectious diseases, cardiovascular medicine, conservation medicine, and tumor pathogenesis,” Logan said. “I hope to foster more collaboration with the Texas livestock industry and other Texas universities and to build a stronger international program.”

## Dr. Christie Sayes receives DuPont Young Professor Grant

Dr. Christie Sayes, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), earned a prestigious 2010 DuPont Young Professor award and grant.

Sayes is a nanoscientist who does most of her research in her nanomaterials and nanotoxicology lab at the CVM. She has joint appointments in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Texas A&M University and the Department of Environmental Genomic Medicine at the Texas A&M Health Science Center.

“I feel elated and honored that the company recognizes my research program. There is research going on in toxicology at A&M that is outside of the traditional engineering fields but can

be applied to the industry, especially in the chemical industry,” Sayes said. “It is almost a sense of relief that my research is appreciated by not just what



Dr. Christie Sayes

is going on in the university, but also by the DuPont Company. This award and funding will allow me to continue conducting my environmental health and safety research.”

The DuPont Young Professor Program gives financial assistance for three years to promising young faculty who do research in areas that will benefit the long-term success of DuPont and its industries. The company’s top scientists, DuPont Fellows Forum, choose the winners every year. The candidate cannot be a tenured faculty member but must be a on a tenure track.

Sayes will use the grant money to further develop research on her focus: discovering the biological and environmental effects of mass producing nanomaterials. One example is zinc

*continued on page 37*

## Faculty recognized for teaching excellence by AFS



*Mr. Porter Garner, president of The Association of Former Students, Dr. Linda Logan, department head of Veterinary Pathobiology, Dr. Karen Snowden, professor of parasitology, and Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine*

Two outstanding faculty members at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM)—Dr. Karen Snowden, professor in parasitology, and Dr. Mark Stickney, clinical associate professor in general surgery—were recognized with the prestigious Association of Former Students (AFS) College-Level Teaching Award. The awards were presented at the CVM College Hour on September 2, 2010.

The award recipients are chosen by a combination of faculty members and students. Each honoree receives a plaque and a stipend.

Snowden has been with the CVM for 18 years. She has won several teaching awards, including the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Faculty Achievement Award in Teaching and the TAMU Montague Scholar Award from the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Snowden's award was presented by Dr. Linda Logan, professor and department head of veterinary pathobiology at the CVM.

"In my view, Dr. Snowden is truly a role model as a scholar and educator, and we are very pleased to see that she has been recognized by the Association of Former Students with this award for

distinguished teaching," Logan said. "She has served as a mentor for a number of students. She has received very positive feedback from her students, as some have made career choices based on the rotation that she teaches. I would like to thank Dr. Snowden for the contributions she has made."

Snowden said, "We focus on teaching, research, and service here at the college. It is very easy to stay motivated

because we have really great students. I would like to thank the Association of Former Students and the people in my department and the college who spent the extra time and effort to make this happen."

Stickney has been with the CVM since 2002. In 2009, students at Texas A&M nominated him to be a namesake at the annual Fish Camp. This is his first teaching award while serving on the faculty at the CVM.

Dr. Sharon Kerwin, professor at the CVM, presented Stickney with his award.

"Dr. Stickney is responsible for running our general surgery unit," Kerwin noted. "It is a very challenging job, and he runs an amazing service. He is a remarkable teacher who does an incredible job for the students, pets, and citizens of Texas."

Stickney said, "Teaching is where my passion is. It is the most rewarding aspect of my job, and it is an honor to be recognized for that. I want to thank the association, the committee that selected me, and the students that I made an impression on." 



*Mr. Porter Garner, President of The Association of Former Students, Dr. Sharon Kerwin, associate department head of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Dr. Mark Stickney, clinical associate professor in general surgery, and Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine*

*continued from page 36*

oxide, its properties and applications, and what effect an engineered material like this can have on a consumer over a short and long term use.

Due to economic conditions, DuPont did not give out the grants in 2009. Therefore, a record number of candidates applied in 2010. Only 12 grants were given worldwide, six in North America.

"The recognition from the award is great, but the grant money that comes into my lab from it is an additional validation that what I am doing is important," Sayes said. 

## Moyer served as AAEP president for 2010-11, Roussel became acting head of LACS dept.



Dr. William Moyer

Dr. William Moyer, professor and department head of the Large Animal Clinical Sciences (LACS) Department of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), became the next president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) in December 2010. While Moyer has been on administrative leave to fulfill his duties with the AAEP, Dr. Allen Roussel, professor and associate LACS department head, has been serving as the acting department head from September 1, 2010 until January 1, 2012.

"This is the greatest honor I have ever received," Moyer said. "I have been a member of AAEP since 1969. AAEP has set the groundwork for a lot of other organizations of its kind. It was the first to have a motto, and it is one of the only organizations that is very progressive in dealing with all issues of

*"Dr. Moyer's rise to the presidency of the largest, most influential equine veterinary organization in the world speaks volumes about his success..."*

*~ Dr. Eleanor Green,  
Carl B. King Dean  
of Veterinary Medicine*

the horse world. Personally, AAEP is my window to the world I work in. I am very grateful to Dr. Roussel for fulfilling the responsibilities of my current position while I execute my role with the AAEP."

AAEP's mission statement is "to improve the health and welfare of the horse, to further the professional development of its members, and to provide resources and leadership for the benefit of the equine industry." AAEP encompasses all aspects of the horse industry.

Moyer received his DVM from Colorado State University in 1970. He has been the department head of LACS for 17 years. He also holds memberships in the American Veterinary Medical Association, Association for the Advancement of Sports Potential, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, Association of Equine Sports Medicine, and Texas Veterinary Medical Association.

"Dr. Moyer's rise to the presidency of the largest, most influential equine veterinary organization in the world speaks volumes about his success as an influential leader and the regard in which he is held in the profession," said Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine. "The AAEP presidency is one of the greatest honors, opportunities, and responsibilities an equine veterinarian can achieve. We are all very proud of Dr. Moyer."

"As AAEP President, Dr. Moyer is working to advance both the AAEP and Texas A&M University," Green continued. "In recognition of the growing responsibilities and time commitment associated with AAEP Presidency, Texas A&M fully supports Dr. Moyer and encourages him to focus his talents and energies on his presidency during his term. So how can the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences continue to flourish during this period? Dr. Moyer also supports Dr. Allen Roussel in serving as acting department head. What speaks volumes about Dr. Moyer's selfless nature and his well-known advocacy for and faith in his faculty is that he has entrusted the department completely to Dr. Roussel. He

made it clear that he wants Dr. Roussel to lead the department as if he were the permanent department head until his return. He has demonstrated excellent leadership as associate department head and worked side by side with Dr. Moyer to prepare for the transition. Because of the unselfish dedication of both of these leaders, the department has not merely held together, it has continued to drive forward."

Roussel joined the faculty at the CVM in 1986, and his specialty is large animal internal medicine. He earned his DVM from Louisiana State University in 1977. He holds memberships and leadership positions in several organizations. He is currently serving as vice-president of the large animal specialty section of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and president elect of the Southwest Veterinary Symposium. He also is a member of the examining committee of the European College of Bovine Health Management.

"I have been excited about the opportunity to lead our department during these challenging times," Roussel says. "It's been an honor to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Moyer and help provide the time he needs to focus his attention on his role as president of the AAEP. I'd also like to thank my departmental colleagues who assumed some of my duties while I've served in this role." 🌿



Dr. Allen Roussel

## CVM's leadership proven in the equine industry

Texas has a larger horse population than any other state in the United States. Therefore, as the only veterinary medical school in the state, it is only natural that the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) has a strong presence in the equine industry. Whether through leadership positions in organizations or teaching efforts in the large animal teaching hospital, the faculty and staff of the CVM contribute to the equine industry every day.

Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine, was the first woman president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) when she served in 2008. Before her presidency, Green served in various capacities within the AAEP, including district director, chair of the Internship and Student Relations Committee, and chair of the AAEP Foundation's Student Scholarship Task Force. Green's former and current positions with several organizations have allowed her to advance and educate the public on the health and welfare of horses and to continue the mission of AAEP.

Dr. William Moyer, professor and department head of the Large Animal

Clinical Sciences department (LACS) at the CVM, was appointed 2010-2011 AAEP president. Over the years, Moyer has served in the AAEP as a presenter, table topic facilitator, moderator, laboratory instructor, committee member, chair and board member. As president he says there are many challenges facing the equine veterinary profession.

"There are several challenges that are quite obvious: horse and animal welfare issues; designing and/or creating educational experiences that are relevant; recruiting and training the next generation of practitioners to serve the horse world," Moyer says.

"Thus realistically it is my intent as president to not dwell on any one feature, but simply read and re-read the AAEP mission statement. My single goal is to work as hard as I can for the members."

Moyer also served as the first president of the Texas Equine Veterinary

Association (TEVA) in 2009. TEVA is "dedicated to providing the highest quality regional equine veterinary educational opportunities for practitioners." It states, "Entrusted

*"...It is my intent as president to not dwell on any one feature, but simply read and re-read the AAEP mission statement. My single goal is to work as hard as I can for the members."*

*~ Dr. William Moyer,  
2010-2011 AAEP President*

with the healthcare of the largest horse population of any state in the union, we believe it imperative to offer the most vital and timely information available anywhere today."

2010-2011 TEVA President Dr. Gary L. Norwood graduated from the CVM in 1965. His passion for continuing education and taking on challenges that face the equine industry sprouted during his time at the CVM.

"As an Aggie, I am very honored to have been selected as the president of the TEVA for 2010-2011 and to try to take on the challenges that face this organization in the future," says Norwood. 🍀



Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine, with Miss Rivum N Blues (left) and Lila Longstockings (right). Photo by Randy Batista

## Janecka helps develop Bhutan's first wildlife genetics lab

The kingdom of Bhutan, nestled in the Eastern Himalayas, has one of the most beautiful and untouched natural environments in the world. As Bhutan is starting to industrialize, Nawang Norbu, director of the Ugyen Wangchuk Institute of Conservation and the Environment (UWICE)—a government-based research and training institute fostering better stewardship of Bhutan's natural resources—wants to learn more about conservation efforts that can help the country develop in an environmentally friendly manner. Norbu enlisted Dr. L. Scott Mills, professor at the University of Montana, who invited a group of 12 scientists from throughout the world, including Dr. Jan Janecka, research assistant professor in the veterinary integrative biosciences department at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), to develop Bhutan's first wildlife genetics lab.

Janecka and his colleagues spent 10 days in Bhutan during May 2010 to instruct conservation leaders and specialists of Bhutan on the latest techniques used in wildlife conservation efforts. Another goal of the workshop was to produce a handbook of practical procedures for conducting wildlife research in remote rugged landscapes. The workshop included two days in a

classroom setting teaching the fundamentals of research and monitoring of wildlife. The participants then put the techniques into use. Janecka and his colleagues spent four days in the field training the specialists from Bhutan so the work could continue when they left.

Janecka specializes in genetic analysis of cryptic cats like the snow leopard, which is prevalent in Bhutan.

"Genetics is the foundation for many research and conservation initiatives, including describing species diversity, understanding the relationship among species, examining biology and ecology, and illuminating population demography," Janecka said.

The workshop taught the Bhutanese many concepts, including how to set up a DNA lab, conduct non-invasive DNA surveys, and extract DNA from tissue and scat (feces collected in the field).

"The DNA will be stored and later used to study specific regions of the genome that are of interest to researchers and conservation-

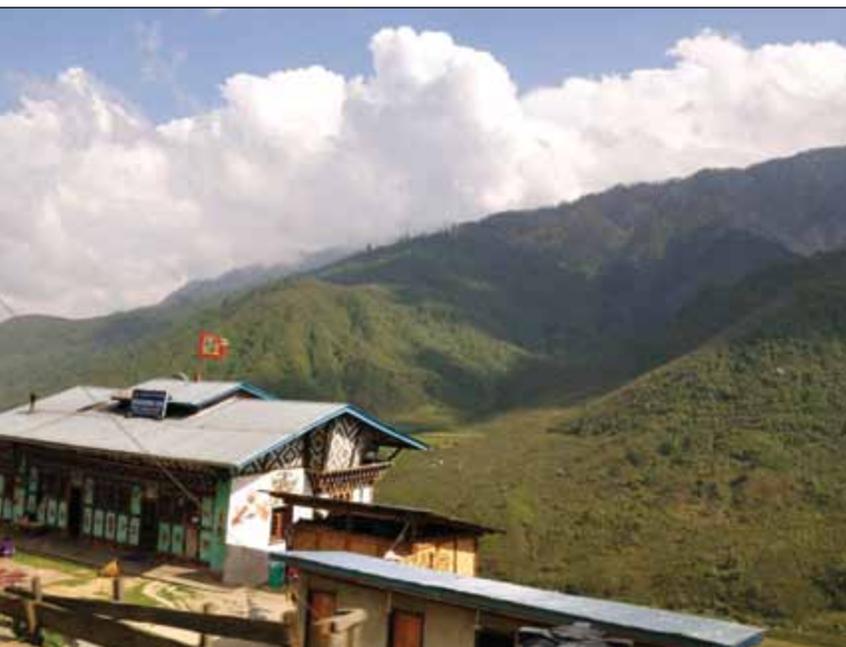


*Dr. Jan Janecka talks with scientists during the workshop.  
Photo by David Tallman*

ists," Janecka said. "By collecting and properly maintaining tissues and DNA samples in Bhutan, there will be a wealth of possible studies that can be initiated by Bhutanese scientists. These will greatly expand the information available for wildlife in Bhutan, facilitating sound conservation initiatives."

Janecka received his PhD in wildlife sciences in 2006 through a joint program of Texas A&M University and Texas A&M University-Kingsville. He is currently the genetics research program director for the Snow Leopard Conservancy. He is also a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Cat Specialist Group, and he has traveled and conducted research in Thailand, Laos, India, China, and Mongolia.

"It was an honor to be asked to go and share my knowledge in such a beautiful country filled with charismatic people who took our conservation efforts seriously," Janecka said. "The Bhutanese were so passionate about wildlife and conserving the environment. The potential to discover something in this remote area is great, and I am excited that I had the possibility to do so." 🍀



*The majestic mountains of Bhutan near the site of the newly established lab.  
Photo by Jan Janecka*

## Dr. Lees helps pet owner find answers, closure

Dr. George Lees, professor of veterinary internal medicine at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) and his team, along with Dr. Keith Murphy, former colleague at CVM, answered questions for a grieving pet owner as they discovered another form of hereditary nephropathy (HN), an inherited disorder that damages tiny blood vessels in the kidneys that help filter blood, in a canine breed—the English Springer Spaniel.

In 2007, after a 15-year development process, Lees and his team patented a genetic test to identify English Cocker Spaniels that are carriers of HN. Their efforts and research led to the eradication of this inherited kidney disease through selective breeding in English Cocker Spaniels.

In 2009, Katherine Perry, owner of two English Springer Spaniels, Ginger and Coco, was referred to Lees when her puppies showed signs of a kidney problem. Lees evaluated both dogs and quickly determined that they did have a similar disease that would shortly take their lives.

“What I learned from the first discovery of HN was that the end of the disease took their lives so quickly,” explained Lees. “HN is similar to an avalanche because it starts off slow, but the end is so fast and devastating.”

The dogs died shortly after the initial visit with Lees. Lees requested Perry’s permission to take their kidneys and DNA to conduct further research.

Perry allowed Lees and his team to do research on her dogs because she wanted her questions answered. She wanted to know why they died at such a young age—less than one year.

“I did get my answers,” Perry said. “Until this situation occurred, I never understood nor appreciated the detail and dedication involved in medical research. When I was first informed of the possibility of having the girls’ kidneys researched, I assumed that it was going to be a cold and calculated business agreement. Never did I imagine that this team would be so understanding, gentle, sincere, or compassionate. The needs of the girls were their priority. After the girls were gone, their focus was on finding out how this disease originated.”

“Initially we tested the dogs’ DNA for the abnormality that affects English Cocker Spaniels,” Lees explained. “But we found that the English Springer Spaniels did not have the same DNA abnormality as the English Cocker Spaniel, so we continued with our research. We finally discovered their specific mutation in about a year. Then we went to the dogs’ family to try to find a pattern of DNA abnormalities that was consistent with their inheritance.”

They found that the disease is recessive. There are many carriers, but few dogs have the disease. However, the results can be devastating for the affected dogs, as there is no cure and their lives are severely shortened.

“The cause of the disease is a condition that is known as Alport syndrome in people, but it is usually called hereditary nephropathy or ‘HN’ in dogs,” Lees said. “In both people and dogs, this disease is caused by defects in the genes that encode type IV collagen, which is a protein that is an important structural component of the parts of the kidneys (called glomeruli) that filter the blood.”

Armed with information provided by Lees and his team about the genetic status of related dogs, the breeders of the English Springer Spaniels that were affected have been able to breed their dogs selectively so that no other HN cases have occurred in their English Springer Spaniels.

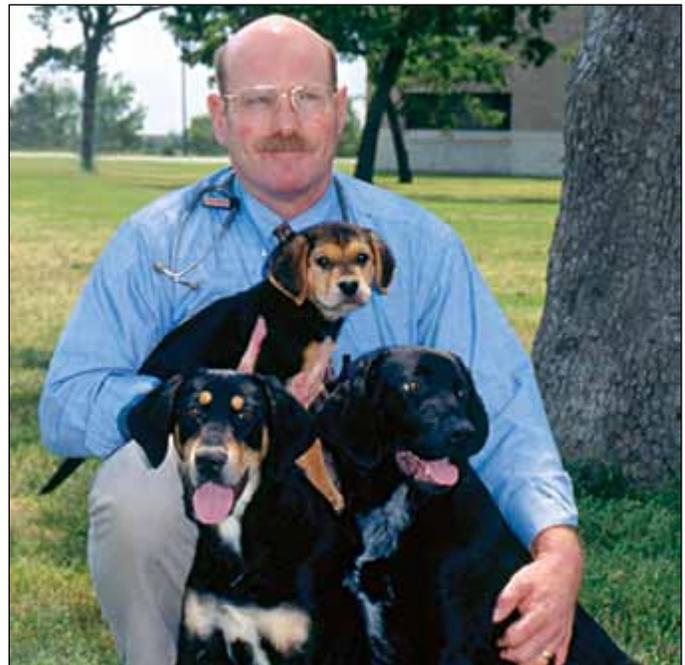
“I would highly recommend Dr. Lees and his team to anyone who has a sick pet,” Perry said. “Several months after the girls were put down, I received a package from the clinic with two hand-painted clay forms of the girls’ actual paw prints. This thoughtful gesture touched my heart in a way words could not convey. Lees and his team are an exceptional group of individuals—very caring and understanding.”

Lees explained to Perry the importance of understanding the

origin of the disease by conducting further research. Even though Perry was overwhelmed by the passing of her dogs and research that followed, she understood that she needed to allow the research to continue so that it could benefit other dogs in the future.

“It is important to develop an understanding of genetics and to conduct selective breeding to eliminate the problem,” Lees said. “When a dog gets sick, it takes time to do an investigation and to characterize the disease. Many diseases remain an unsolved problem. We, at CVM, set ourselves apart because we have the expertise and are able to spend the extra time needed to pursue problems like this to the point of understanding their root cause. This permits us to build a better future than would otherwise be possible.”

“I realized that Ginger and Coco were brought into our lives for a purpose,” Perry said. “At the time, I assumed it was because they were going to need a lot of extra tender loving care. I never dreamed my selfish search for answers would benefit other animals. I encourage anyone who has a pet with a terminal illness to find out what created the illness. By doing so you can prevent other animals from having to suffer.”



Dr. George Lees with (clockwise from top) Ike, Ethan, and Eddie.

## CVM recognizes college staff at 2010 awards ceremony

In August 2010, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) honored 11 employees at its annual staff awards ceremony for their continued excellence and commitment to the college.

Dr. Bert Dodd, clinical associate professor, and David Sessum, veterinary technician II in the Small Animal Hospital, provided the entertainment. Dr. Kenita Rogers, associate dean for

professional programs, was the master of ceremonies.

The first award, the 2010 Pearl Enfield Staff Leadership Award, was presented to Cheryl Chamblee, lead of office associate at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH). The 2010 CVM staff awards were presented to ten employees based on nominations by their colleagues and faculty. Recipients included Sandra Nunn, veterinary

technician III at the VMTH; Jimann Jones, senior customer service assistant at the VMTH; Jovanna Guillen, business assistant II in the veterinary integrative biosciences (VIBS); Deborah Daniel, business coordinator I in VIBS; Brandon Oyler, biowaste facility manager in veterinary pathobiology (VTPB); Sybil Camcho, business associate II in veterinary physiology and pharmacology (VTPP); Dana Whitaker,



*Galen Pahl presented a Staff Award to Sandra Nunn, veterinary technician III at the VMTH.*



*Dr. Kevin Washburn presented a Staff Award to Jimann Jones, senior customer service assistant at the VMTH.*



*Dr. Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni presented a Staff Award to Jovanna Guillen, business assistant II in veterinary integrative biosciences.*



*Dr. Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni presented a Staff Award to Deborah Daniel, business coordinator I in veterinary integrative biosciences.*



*Cheryl Chamblee presented a Staff Award to Brandon Oyler, biowaste facility manager in veterinary pathobiology.*



*Yvonne Kovar presented a Staff Award to Sybil Camcho, business associate II in veterinary physiology and pharmacology.*

veterinary technician II in VTPP; Cindy McGee, customer service associate at the VMTH; and Dawn Currin, senior medical transcriptionist at VTPB.

Dr. Eleanor M. Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine, congratulated the recipients at the staff awards as well as giving her thanks to all staff members at the CVM.

“Congratulations to all who earned awards this year,” Green said. “The descriptions of who you are, what you give to the CVM, and how you perform were both impressive and touching. We are so proud of you.”

“We at the CVM are clearly blessed,” Green said. “Since people make programs, there is no way we can fail. Thanks to each and every one of you

who makes us better every day and who contributes to an important CVM culture.”

Each recipient received a plaque along with a monetary award. 

*Photos by Matthew Crawley*



*Dr. Lisa Howe presented a Staff Award to Dana Whitaker, veterinary technician II in veterinary physiology and pharmacology.*



*Dr. Keith Chaffin presented a Staff Award to Cindy McGee, customer service associate at the VMTH.*



*Dr. Timothy Cudd presented a Staff Award to Raine Lunde, veterinary technician II in veterinary physiology and pharmacology, who was not present.*



*Dr. Roy Pool presented a Staff Award to Dawn Currin, senior medical transcriptionist in veterinary pathobiology.*



*Dr. John Edwards and Dean Eleanor Green presented the 2010 Pearl Enfield Staff Leadership Award to Cheryl Chamblee, lead office associate, at the VMTH.*



## CVM recognizes college staff at 2011 awards ceremony

The Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) honored 11 employees at its annual staff awards ceremony on Tuesday, August 16, 2011, for their continued support and dedication to the college.

The first award, the 2011 Pearl Enfield Staff Leadership Award, was presented to Linda Fillip, administrative assistant for the associate dean for professional programs. The 2011 CVM staff awards were presented to ten employees based on nominations by their peers and faculty. This year's recipients were Lessa Block, veterinary technician

III in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH); Dana Cornett, business associate I in veterinary pathology (VTPB); Betty Gaston, animal caretaker II in VMTH; Julie Harris, veterinary technician II in VMTH; David Kindt, animal caretaker II in VMTH; Jennie Lamb, graphic designer in Creative Technologies; Lynn Mayton, animal caretaker supervisor in VMTH; Carin Ponder, veterinary technician II in veterinary small animal clinical sciences; Rebecca Simmons, office associate in veterinary physiology & phar-

macology; and Vickie Weir, radiology laboratory supervisor in VMTH.

Dr. Eleanor M. Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine, congratulated the recipients of the staff awards. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude for all of the hard work they put in each day to help run the CVM.

"This is truly one of my favorite days of the year for a number of reasons," Green said. "Most importantly, we pause to acknowledge the staff, without which we could not be successful. Congratulations to all who earned awards this year."



*Lori Atkins presented a Staff Award to Lessa Block, veterinary technician III, at the VMTH.*



*Dr. James Derr presented a Staff Award to Dana Cornett, business associate I in veterinary pathology.*



*Lynn Mayton presented a Staff Award to Betty Gaston, animal caretaker II, at the VMTH.*



*David Sessum presented a Staff Award to Julie Harris, veterinary technician II, at the VMTH.*



*Galen Pahl presented a Staff Award to David Kindt, animal caretaker II, at the VMTH.*



*Michelle Kerr-Pankonien presented a Staff Award to Lynn Mayton, animal caretaker supervisor, at the VMTH.*

# Faculty/Staff Focus

“I would like to thank our wonderfully talented entertainers, Dr. Bert Dodd, James Sessum, RVT, and Amanda Mills, 4th year DVM student,”

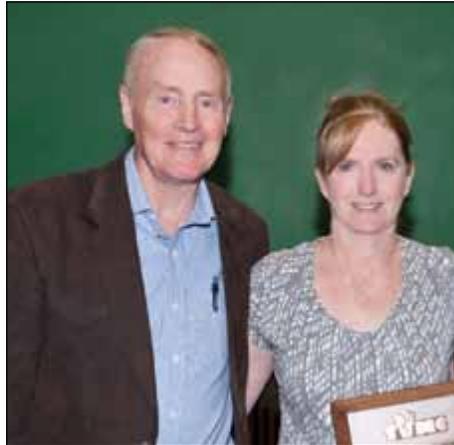
Green said. “I would also like to thank the amazing, creative, spontaneous, humorous, capable, and caring Dr. Kenita Rogers, associate dean for the

professional program, who was our emcee for the event.”

Each recipient received with a plaque and a monetary award. 🍀



*Dr. Sandee Hartsfield presented a Staff Award to Carin Ponder, veterinary technician II, in veterinary small animal clinical sciences.*



*Dr. Jon Hunter presented a Staff Award to Rebecca Simmons, office associate, in veterinary physiology and pharmacology.*



*Dr. Ben Young presented a Staff Award to Vickie Weir, radiology laboratory supervisor, at the VMTH.*



*VeLisa Bayer, Angela Clendenin, Jennie Lamb, graphic designer in Creative Technologies, Dean Eleanor Green, and Stacey Doreck, celebrate Jennie's Staff Award.*



*Dr. Kenita Rogers and Dean Eleanor Green presented the 2011 Pearl Enfield Staff Leadership Award to Linda Phillip, administrative assistant for the associate dean for professional programs.*



## Washburn named Food Animal Continuing Educator of the Year

Dr. Kevin Washburn, associate professor in food animal internal medicine at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), was awarded the 2010 Continuing Educator of the Year award in the Food Animal category from the Western Veterinary Conference (WVC).

The WVC is an annual continuing education conference held in Las Vegas, NV, that has been providing education for almost 83 years. One of the largest meetings of veterinary practitioners around the world, the conference focuses on six topics: small animal, avian and exotics, food animal, practice management, education for technicians, and equine. Each year attendees of the conference select a winner from each category to receive the coveted Continuing Educator of the Year award.

About 60 other professionals also spoke in the food animal division. Washburn's topic was small ruminant

medicine. He gave four presentations during the 2010 conference.

"I am humbled and honored to have been chosen as the lead educator of the food animal section," Washburn said. "This award came as a complete surprise to me. It is very special to me because it was chosen by my peers."

Washburn joined the CVM faculty in 2005. He received his DVM in 1993 from Oklahoma State University. Washburn holds numerous leadership positions in several organizations. He is a program committee chair for the Southwest Veterinarian Symposium as well as the interactive laboratory coordinator. He is also active in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, for which he has served as food animal program chair.

Washburn received this award at the Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, in February 2011.

"I have been asked to be a speaker at the Western Veterinary Conference in 2012," Washburn said. "I am excited to return because this year I had such a



Dr. Kevin Washburn

great experience. I saw a lot of former students, colleagues, and other professionals that I enjoyed connecting with. This conference holds a lot of tradition, and I am happy and proud to be a part of it." 🌿

## Pool bestowed honorary membership by the ACVP

The American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) bestowed an honorary membership on Dr. Roy Pool, director of the surgical pathology service and director of the osteopathology specialty service at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM).

This award—given only to a select few individuals—was given to Pool for



Dr. Roy Pool

his many important contributions to his professional discipline over his more than 40-year career as a veterinary musculoskeletal

pathologist. It was presented to him at the ACVP annual meeting on November 2, 2010.

Honorary membership is bestowed on a nonmember by a majority vote of the Council and confirmed by a majority vote of the membership of the College.

Over the years, Pool has contributed much to the understanding of the causes and pathological diagnosis of musculoskeletal diseases of domestic animals. His research has focused on the effects of the internal radioactive emitters on the bones and dental tissues of beagle dogs as a model for understanding the long-term effects of radioactive fallout on human skeletons; pathology and pathogenesis of veterinary orthopedic diseases; studies of the skeletal neoplasia of bones and joints of animals which were the basis for the World Health Organization Classification of animal bone tumors; and the pathogenesis of biomechanical lesions of bone, joints, tendons, and ligaments of athletic horses.

Pool is the last of the five original veterinary musculoskeletal pathologists

to still be active in academic practice in the United States.

Pool has taught many courses in several veterinary institutions across the United States and Europe. Sites have included University of California Davis, Cornell University, and Mississippi State University. His instruction has dealt with diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system of domestic animals, radiology, and lameness of athletic horses.

Over the years, Pool's knowledge has been passed down to more than 3,500 students, who are now veterinarians in most of the United States.

"My award is likely in part for my dedication to the training of veterinary pathology residents and graduate students in their preparation for the ACVP board exams and in part for my contributions to research involving bone, joint, and tendon/ligament diseases of animals," Pool said.

Pool was recruited by the CVM in 2002. In addition to his diagnostic duties, he gives lectures in his specialty to veterinary students. 🌿

## Dr. George Lees receives two national awards



*Dr. George Lees*

Dr. George Lees, professor of Veterinary Internal Medicine at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), has received two distinguished awards: The Robert W. Kirk Award for Professional Excellence from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF)/American Kennel Club (AKC) Career Achievement Award in Canine Research.

The Robert W. Kirk Award for Professional Excellence is an annual award that has only 21 recipients to date. The

award is given by the ACVIM to ACVIM Diplomates who have outstanding careers in veterinary medicine, with national and international recognition for their contributions and service in such activities as clinical medical practice, instruction, research, and/or public service.

The AVMF/AKC Career Achievement Award in Canine Research was established in 2009. Lees is the first recipient of this award, which recognizes individuals who have made long-term contributions to canine research.

"I am honored to receive both awards," Lees said. "The Kirk Award is especially significant to me because I have been an ACVIM member for most of my professional career and the ACVIM is composed of my peers. The AVMF/AKC Career Achievement award also means a lot to me because the selection was solely based on my CV."

"I know that I could not be in this position if it were not for my family, colleagues, and the department and college leaders who encouraged me to continue my research," Lees said. "My job is similar to that of conducting an orchestra. There is a wind section, a percussion section, and many other sections that are all great at what they do. Someone has to stand at the front

to orchestrate and pull things together. Science is a team effort."

Lees earned his DVM from Colorado State University in 1972. After graduation, he was a Captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps for three years (1972-75). He then completed an internship at University of California Davis (1975-76) and an internal medicine residency and MS degree at the University of Minnesota (1976-79). Then he joined the CVM faculty in 1980.

Lees' contributions to veterinary medicine include his work with hereditary kidney diseases in dogs. His efforts led to the eradication of an inherited disease in the English Cocker Spaniel. His groundbreaking efforts also include spearheading the establishment of the Texas Veterinary Renal Pathology Service to help improve and standardize the pathologic diagnosis of renal diseases in dogs and cats and to facilitate sharing and analysis of digital pathology imagery throughout the world.

"I have worked hard for many years," said Lees. "I am happy that my work is being recognized, but it is on behalf of a large group of people that I have accepted these awards." 🐾

### *Congratulations are in order...*

- **Dr. Tige Witsberger**, lecturer in Small Animal Clinical Sciences, passed the veterinary surgery board examination administered by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, making him a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. His scholarly interests include orthopedic surgery, fracture fixation, arthroscopy, minimally invasive surgery, and intervertebral disk herniation.

- **Dr. Sarah Israel**, former chief surgical resident at the CVM, recently passed the veterinary surgery board examination administered by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, making her a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Her scholarly interests include orthopedics, neurosurgery, and arthroscopic treatment of conditions of the canine stifle, elbow, and shoulder.

- **Matthew Durham**, financial manager at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, completed a three-year graduate program in Veterinary Practice Administration offered by Purdue University's Kran-

nert Graduate School of Management in cooperation with the American Animal Hospital Association.

- **Andrew Steelman**, postdoctoral research associate at the CVM, recently received a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society so he can continue to develop his work.

- **Dr. Peter Rakestraw**, clinical professor in Large Animal Clinical Sciences, was named the Equine Practitioner of the Year by the Texas Veterinary Medical Association. His scholarly interests include post-operative complications of equine colic, gastrointestinal motility, post-operative ileus, upper airway disease in horses, equine pharyngeal cicatrix syndrome, wound healing in horses, laparoscopy, and reproductive surgery.

- **Danilo Landrock**, assistant research scientist under the direction of Dr. Ann Kier at CVM, completed his master's degree and received a 2011 Association of Former Students Distinguished Graduate Award.

## Veterinarians hit the road for rescued donkeys

During summer 2010 the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) held a donkey and mule seminar from which a new relationship was spurred between Aggie veterinarians and the Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue team. Peaceful Valley's headquarters, formerly based in California, made the move to Texas. With locations across the United States, Peaceful Valley is the largest rescue organization of its kind.

Mark Meyers, executive director of Peaceful Valley, had an acquaintance with CVM anesthesiologist Dr. Nora Matthews, who has done previous research with donkeys. Matthews learned at the seminar that Peaceful Valley was interested in developing a relationship with the veterinary school in hopes of getting their donkeys castrated.

Dr. Peter Rakestraw, clinical associate professor in the department of large animal clinical sciences, teamed up with Dr. Justin McCormick, a resident instructor at the CVM, to set up a group of fourth year students willing

to make the trip for this large-scale castration. The doctors, along with Terry Stiles, director of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the CVM, agreed to move forward with the project, offering a discounted price, because of the vast number of donkeys and the exciting opportunity to help with the great cause to which Peaceful Valley is dedicated.

"The students perform the castrations under faculty guidance," says Rakestraw, "We wanted to get as many people as possible to participate from the college to increase the training available for them."

So far four trips have been made to Peaceful Valley. The doctors are joined on average by six to eight students each time and have castrated about 70 donkeys. Other doctors at the CVM assisting with the project include Dr. Carolyn Arnold, assistant professor, and Dr. Michael Martin, associate professor.

"The students are very keen on doing this, and are also happy to take time out of their Christmas break for the experience," Rakestraw said.

The donkeys healthy enough for surgery are selected and vaccinated before the veterinarians arrive. The next day McCormick stays behind with a couple of the students for follow-up sessions.

"At first they were going to bring the donkeys to Texas A&M," said Rakestraw. "Since they could only manage 10 at a time, we decided that it would be easier to take the students there where there are facilities to handle the job. We also can see some of the wilder donkeys that will still run through the chutes."

The veterinarians bring all of the equipment necessary for the castration



Dr. Justin McCormick

as well as the needed pharmaceutical supplies.

McCormick is currently working on a study comparing two ways to castrate donkeys using different equipment.

"One of them involves using an emasculator, which has been the standard in the literature for years," explains McCormick, "and the second way involves using the Henderson Castration Device, originally developed for cattle and previously used on horses but not yet reported in donkeys."

Texas A&M veterinarians are playing a vital role in these rescue efforts by offering their services. The goal is to adopt all of the donkeys out, and there is not much demand for intact animals. Therefore, having these donkeys castrated is an important step in giving them a chance at a new life.

To learn more about Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue and ways to help its efforts, visit its website at [donkeyrescue.donordrive.com](http://donkeyrescue.donordrive.com). To learn more about McCormick's research, send an email message to [JMcCormick@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:JMcCormick@cvm.tamu.edu).



Dr. Peter Rakestraw

## Suchodolski receives prestigious EEC Award

The European Emesis Council (EEC) presented Dr. Jan Suchodolski, clinical assistant professor and associate director of the Gastrointestinal Laboratory at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), with the award for 2009 Best Publication in Small Animal Gastroenterology for his research

article: "The effect of the macrolide antibiotic tylosin on microbial diversity in the canine small intestine as demonstrated by massive parallel 16S rRNA gene sequencing." The award was presented at the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine-Companion Animals (ECVIM-CA) Congress in Toulouse, France, on September

11, 2010. The award was presented to Suchodolski by EEC member Dr. Reito Neiger and Dr. Karine Savary-Bataille from Pfizer Animal Health, which supports the Council financially and administratively.

Suchodolski is the second recipient of this award since it was initiated in

*continued on page 49*

## Moyer named a charter diplomate of ACVSMR—now recognized as a veterinary specialty organization

The executive board of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) recently recognized the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation (ACVSMR) as a veterinary specialty organization. Dr. William Moyer, professor and department head of large animal clinical sciences at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), was recently named a charter diplomate for ACVSMR.

“As a charter member of the ACVSMR, I am thrilled at the possible impact this recognition will have for our specialty service,” Moyer said. “The natural role of animals as athletes has always been the case, and thus as the disciplines of sports medicine and rehabilitation in humans continue to develop it is a natural application in our animal world. The sports and activities that horses and dogs perform are often reasonably as varied as human sports, and thus risk, injury, and correction can vary among those activities.”

In the past decade, new and improved technology and knowledge have allowed these four-legged athletes approximately the same rehabilitative opportunities as their owners. Because animal participation in sports and services activities has increased



*Dr. William Moyer*

and rehabilitative medicine is a newer service, the ACVSMR exists to provide a platform for specialists to collaborate and expand their knowledge to optimize performance and treat injuries with rehabilitation.

“Veterinary medicine is always evolving and at the CVM we know that it is important to stay on top of new technology and new services,” said Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine. “I am delighted that the AVMA recently recognized the ACVSMR as a veterinary specialty organization. We are fortunate to have

knowledgeable faculty that provide solid leadership and keep us at the forefront of our profession. Through their efforts, we work to offer the latest in rehabilitation services to our patients so that we can have the best opportunity for successful recovery.”

“We are proud to have Dr. Moyer as a charter diplomate, as his efforts specifically in equine rehabilitation have brought this specialty service the recognition it has needed,” Green said. “He will take the experience and knowledge that he has from other organizations and he will prove to be an asset to the newly recognized ACVSMR.”

The ACVSMR was established in 2003 to create educational opportunities and to initiate research collaborations in the specialty field of rehabilitative medicine. Since its inception, the sports and rehabilitative industry has grown from a niche service to a mainstream service. The ACVSMR encompasses two species categories: Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation and Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation.

The American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS) currently consists of 21 recognized veterinary specialty organizations. 🌿



*Dr. Jan Suchodolski*

*continued from page 48*

2009. Criteria are reviewed by members of the EEC in all publications of small animal gastroenterology, and a piece is chosen based on the following: originality, clinical applicability, and pertinence to small animal medicine.

The winner receives free registration for the ECVIM-CA Congress.

EEC is a group of leading veterinary specialists from the European Union. The group meets several times a year to review and discuss current issues relevant to canine emesis. EEC’s goal is to contribute toward improved professional understanding of canine emesis because it is common in many health problems.

The purpose of Suchodolski’s study was to evaluate the effects of tylosin, an antibiotic that is successful in treating chronic diarrhea in canines, but the exact effects and mode of action of which remain unknown. Suchodolski notes that his results did not provide the answers he was looking for, but Suchodolski and his team discovered that the bacteria in the intestines are much more complex than was previously recorded.

“After doing the research we learned that every animal has an individual response to tylosin,” Suchodolski explains. “We used to look at bacteria using culture methods; however what we now know is that culture is underestimated to total bacteria counts. The more we studied, the more we realized that there is more to learn to understand gastrointestinal microbial ecology. Even though we did not find the result we had intended to, this research changed our perspective, and it helped us to re-focus our efforts so we can continue with a more specific approach.”

Suchodolski earned his DVM from the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, Austria, in 1997. He received his PhD in veterinary microbiology from Texas A&M University in 2005. Suchodolski joined the CVM as a research assistant in 1999. 🌿

## Jones uses her 'big heart' to work with 'little horses'

Over in the Large Animal Hospital at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), a sense of family can be observed and experienced daily. Whether it is a large animal surgeon operating on a steer or a customer service associate—like Jimann Jones—helping a client, there is a shared sense of caring and concern for all animals in the facility.

Every morning Jones makes the 45-minute drive to work from her ranch in Milano, Texas, "Whispered Prayers". The ranch is currently home to seven horses standing 14 hands or under.

"In the beginning, our intention was to just love on these animals that have not had much attention and get their confidence and gentle nature going and to find them a good home," Jones said.

Soon, the Joneses found that an impact was not just being made on the horses, but on the family's lives as well. Jones' daughter, Madeline, 17, has been showing these horses for six years and loves every minute of it.

"We have had regular-sized horses but decided to try Madeline out with a miniature so that we would not have to worry about her as much as a younger girl going out to work with or feed it on her own," explained Jones.

The bond between Madeline and her first miniature, Cash, is undeniable, and the two have been inseparable ever since that first day the family spotted him in a pasture off the road. Madeline shows Cash love and attention through working with him for competitions, parades, and the occasional visit to nursing homes.

"The beauty about horses is that they don't discriminate," Jones said.

"Cash will walk right up to the bed of an elderly person surrounded by machines...but all he sees is a person reaching his hand out for some love."

When shown love and attention, these little guys reciprocate it tenfold.

"We love bringing our horses here to Texas A&M, and the doctors are always so excited to see them," Jones said. "Any time we bring them in, they receive the same attention that we show them at home."

Madeline was introduced to showing through some friends at the CVM. After proving her dedication with Cash and expressing her desire to her mother about training, despite the doubts of others who told her that Cash was not "show material", the duo has gone on to win many awards and travel all over the country. Jones makes all of the outfits for the horses, from top hats to tuxedos.

"This experience has taught Madeline tremendous responsibility, and it is so rewarding to see her have a sense of accomplishment after all of the hard work and training she does with these horses," Jones said.

Jones explained the ranch's buy-back policy in the event that a new owner decides they no longer can care for the horse.

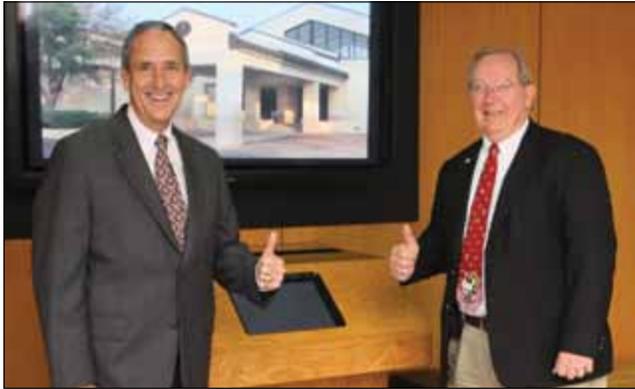
"If we can't take them in, we work to try to find them a life-long home because the last thing we want is to see them back at a sale somewhere," Jones said.

At Whispered Prayers Ranch, the Jones family works united in the belief that all little guys deserve to be loved by a child or a "child-at-heart." Just a little time can bring a lot of love to horses and people of every size. 🌿



Thunder Clouds Bit of Lightning and Jimann Jones

## Diagnostic Imaging & Cancer Treatment Center, student scholarships, and planned giving priorities



*Dr. Guy Sheppard, Director of Development, and Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek, Assistant Vice President for Development*

Construction of the Diagnostic Imaging & Cancer Treatment Center is complete. There were no construction delays, and the center had its grand opening on September 17, 2011. The highlight of this event was the Inaugural Paws to the Pavement Beat the Hell Out of Cancer Pet 3K Walk/5K Run, and it was a success.

At the center, the capabilities for specialized imaging, cancer treatment, and research for large and small animal species, as well as for human research, are almost limitless. The center is the finest in the land, and it sets a new standard for veterinary care in Texas. The best news is \$8.5 million of the \$10.5 million construction cost is in hand. If you or anyone you know has an interest in providing part or all of

the remaining \$2 million needed to completely equip the facility, please let us know. We would be happy to visit with you about the opportunities that are available.

As you may know, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recently recommended that the Texas A&M College of

Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) significantly increase the number of veterinary students that it produces. The Coordinating Board also recognized the fact that our lecture rooms and other academic space are currently at maximum utilization, so the Board further recommended that additional academic space be constructed. Texas A&M University has declared additional academic space for the CVM to be one of its highest priorities, and efforts to secure funding from the state legislature are under way.

An ever-increasing portion of the private funding support for the CVM is coming to us by what we call "planned giving." The primary form of planned giving is through the use of a will or bequest. There are, however, many

novel methods, such as charitable remainder trusts, life estates, and gift annuities, that have tax advantages and that also allow a donor the opportunity to see the results of their giving during their lifetime. Please let us know if you or any of your clients or friends have questions or interest in this area. We would love to show you some of the options available.

We have had another good year for development at the CVM. The graduates and friends of this great institution are so very generous with their financial support, and we are extremely appreciative. Please let us know if there is anything that we may do for you, and please stop by for a visit whenever you are in College Station.

*Please visit our website at [vetmed.tamu.edu/giving](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/giving).*

*O. J. "Bubba" Woytek*

**O. J. "Bubba" Woytek, DVM, '65**  
*Asst. Vice President for Development*

*Guy A. Sheppard*

**Guy A. Sheppard, DVM, '78**  
*Director of Development*

*Chastity Rodgers*

**Chastity Rodgers**  
*Director of Development*

## CVM welcomes Chastity Rodgers to Development team

Chastity Rodgers joined the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) Development Team on July 1, 2011, as Director of Development & Alumni Relations.

Rodgers is a Kentucky native and a graduate of the University of Florida. She was previously a development officer for Mays Business School at Texas A&M University, and she has also worked in development for the business school at the University of Tennessee. Most recently, she worked in development for the Humane Society of the United States.

Rodgers, a devoted and passionate animal owner, is very fond of her Harlequin Great Dane, Keightley. She also enjoys spending time outside, whether that be on the sidelines of a football game, learning how to become a skilled horseman, or training for a half-marathon. Rodgers is a great addition to the Development Team, and we welcome her to the CVM family! 🐾



*Chastity Rodgers, Director of Development, and Keightley*

## CVM accepts major gift from Simmons' Estate



Dr. Guy Sheppard, Director of Development, Dr. Alan Garrett (holding a portrait of Doris Simmons), and Dr. Eleanor M. Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Guy Sheppard, director of development, recently accepted a gift worth \$325,000 from the estate of Mrs. Doris

president for development, remembered their initial visit, when they brought their miniature horses into the Large Animal Hospital. He recalls they

Simmons on behalf of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM). The executor of the estate, Dr. Alan Garrett, presented the gift, which will be used to help the college in areas deemed necessary by Green and the executive council.

Mr. and Mrs. Simmons were world travelers who eventually resided in Corpus Christi, Texas. They had an admiration for all animals, especially their own. They had miniature horses, a variety of birds, and Chinese Tufted dogs.

Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek, assistant vice

were very impressed that the CVM took such interest in their horses and provided excellent care for them, leading to a lifelong friendship. The Simmons were very supportive of the college and were advocates of its mission.

"We are thrilled to receive such a valuable gift from such a wonderful advocate not only for the college but for animals as well," Green said. "These funds will be allocated appropriately to help build the college through education, teaching, and research efforts. Our donors help to make this college a top tier establishment, and we are truly appreciative of that."

Garrett, a CVM alumnus, was the Simmons' veterinarian for about 15 years. He catered to all of their animals, and he knew them very well.

"The Simmons were the gold standard of what good people should be," Garrett stated. "They lived a colorful life, and they loved their pets dearly. I am honored to be the executor of the estate for Mrs. Simmons, and I know that Dr. Green and the executive council will use her gift with the college's best interest in mind." ❧

## Research at the CVM offers donation opportunities

Our world-class Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital is made possible in large part by the world-class research that is conducted at the CVM. Although a great deal of research is conducted on a large variety of topics and purposes, and although it is hard to predict which research results will have the greatest utility, we would like to take this opportunity to point out a few of the more notable research projects that hold a great deal of promise for both humans and animals.

Collaboration in research efforts spans departments, colleges, universities, and institutes to draw on the expertise and talents of the brightest minds in various fields. Our most recent and notable collaborations involve cancer research efforts among investigators at the CVM, the MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital.

These organizations are conducting tests on new chemotherapeutic drugs to treat a particularly devastating brain cancer known as glioblastoma multiforme. This specific type of tumor is very similar in dogs and humans, and conventional medical, surgical, and radiation treatments offer little or no hope for improvement in any species that it affects. Dogs will serve as the model to test new treatments across multiple species.

CVM researchers and their collaborators also are testing the effectiveness of genetically altered "killer" lymphocytes in treating lymphoma and melanoma in animals and humans.

Reproduction scientists at the CVM are well known for their unrivaled feat of having cloned six species of animals. Out of this knowledge has come a research project to limit animal reproduction by addressing the large

populations of feral hogs in Texas and other states.

Through technology derived from cloning projects, a new herd of goats has been produced that can yield a malaria vaccine in their milk. The ultimate goal of the project is to raise goats that produce useful forms of malaria vaccine in their milk for the mass immunization of people in malaria endemic countries.

Production of food and work animal species with inherited resistance to diseases, as well as development of a clay substance to bind deadly toxins in grain supplies in developing countries, are further examples of projects that could have profound impacts on human health worldwide.

Contact the Development Team at 979.845.9043, for more information. ❧

~ Dr. Guy Sheppard

# What are the benefits of planned giving?

As Development Officers for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), we are often asked about the benefits of planned giving. Before that question is answered, it might be helpful to define planned giving.

We usually think of planned giving as gifts that are made in the future from one's assets and that are generally made after the donor's life. The most common method used to convey a planned gift is through the use of a will, and it is usually the simplest and most straightforward method of planned giving. Most of the planned gifts that are received by the Texas A&M Foundation for the benefit of the CVM are placed into endowments. Those who choose to share their treasure with us have worked hard to accumulate these assets, and an endowment allows the gift to remain in place and produce earnings that can support our mission and the interests of the donor in perpetuity.

A very innovative method of planned giving is called a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT). We like to refer to a CRUT as the gift that gives twice. An example is probably in order to illustrate the benefit of a CRUT.

If a person wanted to give their children a gift of \$1 million at the end of his or her life, a will could be used to make such a transfer. The gift would be made, and the children would have this sum of money to use as they choose. If, however, the donor decided to give the \$1 million to the Texas A&M Foundation (TAMF), the donor could then specify that the funds be used to set up a CRUT for the benefit of their children. The funds would be invested by the TAMF, and the earnings from the gift would be paid to the children of the donor. The donor establishes what percentage is paid out and for how many years. In this example, if 5% of the value of the CRUT is paid out annually for 20 years to the donor's children, then they will have received a total of \$1 million from this gift. They will receive more than \$1 million if the CRUT is set up to pay out for longer than 20 years, or if the percentage of the payout is set higher. In addition to the payout received by the children, the initial \$1 million gift is still alive

and well and continues to produce earnings that can be used to benefit the CVM after the trust expires. This is an outstanding way to multiply or leverage the assets that a person has accumulated in order to benefit one's family and the CVM.

CRUTs are versatile and can even be established before the end of a person's life. The earnings from the CRUT can benefit the donor for the rest of his or her life, and then a second generation of family members can benefit for the rest of their lives. Once again, when the trust is finally mature, the principal value of the gift remains to provide permanent benefit to the CVM. Another nice thing about a CRUT is that a donor can receive a higher rate of return on a CRUT than they are likely

receiving from their investments in this low interest rate environment, so it can be a very good method of increasing cash flow for people who are living from the income of their investments. Finally, creating a CRUT before the end of one's life has some significant tax advantages and can further leverage one's financial position by reducing the taxes paid on other sources of income.

Every situation is unique, but if you have ever considered making a planned gift to benefit the CVM, please let us know. We would be happy to work with you to show you the details of a plan worked out for your specific situation. 

~ Dr. Guy Sheppard

## Tired of low rates of return on your investments? Call about Texas A&M Foundation Gift Annuity Rates!

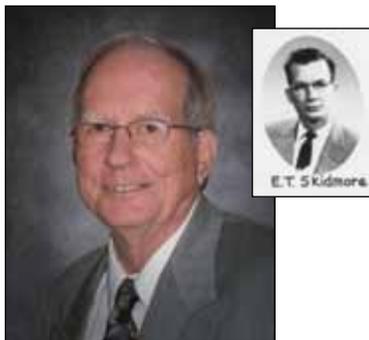
Age	Rate*
50	4.20%
55	4.40%
60	4.80%
65	5.30%
70	5.80%
75	6.50%
80	7.50%
85	8.40%
90+	9.80%
<i>*rates subject to change</i>	

# CVM Honors 2011 Outstanding Alumni

The Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) honored five Outstanding Alumni with a special reception and dinner at Miramount Country Club on the evening of Friday, April 1. The 2011 Outstanding Alumni are Dr. Eugene T. (Zeke) Skidmore, Class of 1956, of Hilltop Lakes, Texas; Dr. Dwight W. King, Class of 1970, of Wharton, Texas; Dr. Glenn P. Blodgett, Class of 1974, of Guthrie, Texas; Dr. H. Richard Adams, Class of 1966, of College Station, Texas; and Dr. Albert S. Abdullah, Class of 1957, of Dalhart, Texas.

## **Dr. Eugene T. Skidmore**

Dr. Eugene T. (Zeke) Skidmore, '56, has spent more than 50 years serving the nation and the veterinary profession as an inspection officer and a mixed animal veterinarian.



After graduation in 1956, Dr. Skidmore was commissioned by APHIS-ISDA as a livestock inspector. From 1956 to 1959, he worked for the United States Army Veterinary Corp, stationed in Copenhagen, Denmark. He also worked in Munich, Germany, inspecting food, beverage, and processing facilities for military personnel and their families. In 1960, he joined a primarily large animal practice in Gainesville, Texas. In 1963, he joined a mixed practice clinic in Mesquite, Texas, and in 1969 he moved to Fort Worth. For the next 10 years he supervised and inspected the Fort Worth Stockyards and the annual Fort Worth Stock Show. In 1979, he bought the Euless Animal Hospital, where he continues to run his mixed animal practice.

Dr. Skidmore is very involved in veterinary professional organizations. His experience started while he was at

Texas A&M as an active member in the student chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). He is a past member of the Dallas County Veterinary Medical Association, and he is a life member of the Tarrant County Veterinary Medical Association, where he has held several leadership roles, including president. He is an honor roll member of the AVMA. He is also a life member of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA), where he has served as the president and in several other leadership roles within the organization, including chairman of the Board of Directors, twice. He played an instrumental role in forming the Regulatory Board for parimutuel racing in Texas.

Always finding time to give back to his community, Dr. Skidmore has given several "career day" presentations at local public schools. He has been a 4-H leader as well as an FFA leader, and he is an honorary chapter farmer in Keller ISD and Grapevine ISD. He has also mentored several veterinary students.

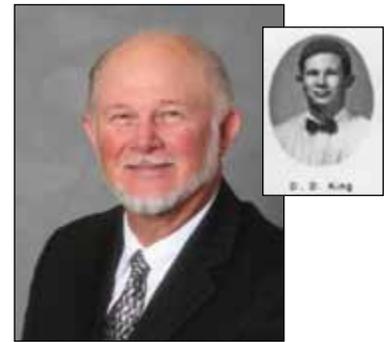
Over his career, he has received numerous awards including the Distinguished Achievement Award from the TVMA in 2002. He is an active Aggie alumnus, as evidenced by his status as a Mark Francis Fellow; a member of the George Bush Museum and Library Foundation, where he is named on the Wall of Honor; and a long-time member of the Association of Former Students Century Club.

Dr. Skidmore has been married to his wife, Shirley, for 53 years. They have two daughters (one of whom is veterinarian, Dr. Gena Viator, '85) and four grandchildren. When he is not practicing and serving his community, he enjoys traveling, learning to fish, working with horses, coin collecting, and spending time with family and friends.

## **Dr. Dwight D. King**

Dr. Dwight D. King, '70, has continued to serve the veterinary profession and the state of Texas for more than 40 years with the same work ethic he learned as a child living on a dairy farm.

After his graduation from veterinary school in 1970, Dr. King started practicing with Dr. Austin Weedon in



Houston. In 1974, he bought Alamont Veterinary Clinic in Wharton, TX. Later he added ranch management to his practice.

From 1986 until 2006, Dr. King was director and chairman of the board of Community State Bank. Banking exposed Dr. King to prudent financial management and led to the formation of K-Mana LLC, a business management company. Among the company's portfolio of clients are holdings in the ranching, banking, philanthropic fundraising, private foundation, mineral production, and property management industries.

Dr. King has served several local organizations, including the Rotary Club, Wharton County Youth Fair, the local Boys and Girls Club, Wharton ISD School Board, and the First United Methodist Church. In addition, his band, The Pot Lickers, has performed at fundraisers for more than thirty years.

Development of youth activities became his passion, and in 1997, he founded and became the president of Team Wharton, Inc., a nonprofit organization. Team Wharton, Inc. and affiliates have raised more than \$10 million over the past 15 years to build and fund operations for the Boys and Girls Club of Wharton. Dr. King was also instrumental in the formation of the Mary Louise Dobson (MLD) Foundation. The MLD Foundation is dedicated to permanently endowing the Boys & Girls Club operations.

Dr. King's service to the veterinary profession started in the early 1970s while practicing in Houston. He was active in the Harris County VMA and served as secretary. In 1990, he became the director of the Gulf Coast District of the TVMA. In 1995, he was

elected Chairman of the Board of Directors, and in 2000, he was elected TVMA president. During his years with TVMA, he was directly involved in the formation of the Southwest Veterinary Symposium and served as president for the first two years.

Since 1970, Dr. King has been a member of the AVMA. He has been a Group Health and Life Insurance Trustee (GHLIT) since 2006 and currently serves as treasurer. His motivation for serving as trustee is to provide quality, affordable insurance for AVMA members and their families. In 2010, Dr. King led the negotiation team that generated a new PPO provider contract that should save veterinarians more than \$33 million in medical insurance costs over the next three years.

Dr. King married Jamie Farley in 1968. They have two daughters and three granddaughters. Whether it is in regard to his passion for his family, his profession, or his community involvement, Dr. King endeavors to follow his personal motto: "Make It Better!"

### **Dr. Glenn P. Blodgett**

His colleagues, his profession, and his community recognize Dr. Glenn P. Blodgett, '74, as a leader in equine veterinary medicine.

After graduation, Dr. Blodgett joined Spur Veterinary Hospital, a mixed veterinary practice in Spur for two years. In 1976, he became self-employed at the Hansford County Veterinary Hospital in Spearman,



where he served primarily large-animal clientele for 6 years. In 1982, he joined Burnett Ranches, LLC (6666 Ranch) in Guthrie, where he is currently resident veterinarian and horse division manager. While at Burnett Ranches, Dr. Blodgett has grown the largest individually owned ranch property in Texas to an equine industry leader in

equine embryo transfer and artificial insemination. Under his leadership, the ranch has consistently produced and developed some of the most highly recognized racing and western performance Quarter horses worldwide, earning the ranch numerous awards and distinctions from the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA).

Dr. Blodgett's professional contributions are immense and encompass both veterinary medicine and the horse industry. He was a member of the Texas Racing Commission and also served on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. He currently serves on the board of directors of the AQHA. In addition, he is an active member of the Texas Equine Veterinary Association (TEVA), the Texas Quarter Horse Association (TQHA), the TVMA, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), and the Ranching Heritage Association.

Commitment to community service plays an important role in Dr. Blodgett's life. He served on the Guthrie Common School District as a board member for 24 years and was a member of the advisory board for Tarleton State University in Stephenville. He is currently chairman of the King County Tax Appraisal Board and is an active supporter of the 4-H and FFA.

Over his career, Dr. Blodgett has been recognized on numerous occasions for his contributions to the equine industry. In 1992, he received the Joan Pew Award from the National Association of State Racing Commissioners. He also received the AQHA Register of Merit Award in 1990. In the same year, he was named Equine Practitioner of the Year by the TVMA.

In 1994, Dr. Blodgett was awarded an adjunct professorship in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the CVM. He also teaches at Texas Tech University as an adjunct graduate faculty member. In addition, he mentors 25 to 30 senior veterinary students each year from throughout the country at the 6666 Ranch.

In honor of Dr. Blodgett's outstanding alumnus recognition and his contribution to the equine industry, the Burnett Foundation announced a \$2.5 million cornerstone gift to the Equine Initiative, establishing the Glenn Blodgett Equine Chair. This will aid in the Equine Initiative campaign, which is to include facilities, as well

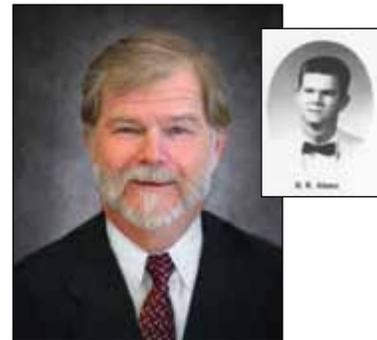
as endowments, for faculty positions, graduate students, research, and operations in an effort for Texas A&M to house the premiere equine program in the nation.

Dr. Blodgett and his wife, Karen, have two daughters, four granddaughters, and a new grandson. In his leisure time, he enjoys the outdoors, raising horses, exercising, and horseback riding. He also enjoys traveling with his family and photography.

### **Dr. H. Richard Adams**

As an exemplary biomedical scientist, an accomplished administrator, and dedicated teacher, Dr. H. Richard Adams, '66, has served higher education and the veterinary profession for more than 40 years.

After serving in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets for four years and graduating with his DVM in 1966, Dr. Adams served as a research veterinarian and captain in the United States Army at Fort Detrick, Maryland, for two years. He then received his PhD in pharmacology in 1972 from the University of Pittsburgh while also serving as research associate. In 1972, he became an assistant professor in the department of pharmacology at the University



of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. In 1975, he was tenured and promoted to associate professor. In 1984, he moved to the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine, where he became a professor and the chairman of the department of veterinary biomedical sciences.

While at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Dr. Adams held several leadership positions, including professor of pharmacology at the UM Medical School, associate director of the Dalton Research Center, and interim

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dean and then dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine from 1992 to 1998. In 1998, he answered the siren call of his alma mater and became the first Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine at the CVM. He is one of few who has served as dean at two separate Association of American Universities (AAU) institutions. He served as dean of the CVM until 2009 and continued as professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology until his retirement in 2010. He is now professor and dean emeritus at both the University of Missouri and Texas A&M University.

During his career, Dr. Adams received several outstanding teacher and research awards, most notably the prestigious Excellence in Education award in pharmacology from the University of Missouri-Columbia Medical School four times. In 1997, the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association named him the Missouri Veterinarian of the Year. In 1999, the University of Missouri-Columbia named a new building in his honor, the H. Richard Adams Multi-Purpose Conference Center. He was named an Honorary Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care and received the 2004 Distinguished Alumnus award from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Adams has been involved in many professional associations including the AVMA, Sigma Xi, American Academy of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology, American Society

of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, Shock Society, American Physiological Society, American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, Department of Defense Trauma Study Section, and American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care. Dr. Adams' bibliography lists more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, nearly 60 book chapters, and editorship of two editions of the textbook *Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics*. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Brazos Animal Shelter of Brazos County, Texas.

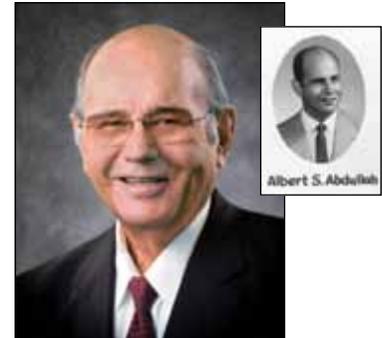
### **Dr. Albert S. Abdullah**

Dr. Albert S. Abdullah, '57, has served his country, his community, and the veterinary profession since 1957. He is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in four states: Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Kansas.

After graduation, Dr. Abdullah worked in the Dumas Animal Hospital. He was quickly commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve. He served in active duty from December 1957 to June 1958 in Fort Knox, Kentucky, after which he returned to practice in Dumas. In 1963, he started the Dalhart Veterinary Clinic in Dalhart, Texas, which was a mixed animal practice. During this time, he was an active reservist for seven and a half years, receiving an honorable discharge in June 1966. He continued to practice in Dalhart until 1995, when he sold his business.

A strong participant in his community, Dr. Abdullah is very involved in the First Presbyterian Church in Dalhart, serving as an Ordained Elder and a Sunday school teacher. In 2007, he originated the Homework Help Ministry to help third graders needing extra attention with their studies. He has volunteered for the Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and

was the director, vice president, and president of the Bi-County Fair Board for Dallam and Hartley counties. He has been a member of Rotary International for 49 years, serving on the



Board of Directors, as vice president and president, and a Rotary camp counselor. He also has had a Masonic affiliation since 1957.

Dr. Abdullah served on the Board of Directors with the Dalhart Area Chamber of Commerce and was named as the 1966 Citizen of the Year. He has served on the Board of Trustees for the Dalhart Independent School District for 13 years and as a mentor for HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) for 14 years. He was the rodeo arena veterinarian for XIT Rodeo and Reunion for 29 years and served on the Board of Directors for the La Rita Performing Arts Theatre for four years.

Commitments to professional affiliations in the industry are as important to Dr. Abdullah as his community ties. He has been a member of TVMA since 1957 and served on the Board of Directors from 1967 to 1969. Since 1957, he has also been a member of the AVMA. He, along with four of his veterinary colleagues, helped to found the Academy of Veterinary Consultants (AVC) in 1970, and he has served as vice president and president. Today, the organization has well over 750 members, and he hopes to live long enough to see it reach 1,000 members.

In addition to his involvement with numerous community and professional organizations, Dr. Abdullah is involved in several university alumni activities. In particular, he has memberships in the XTI A&M Club, The Association of Former Students, and the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.

Dr. Abdullah married his wife, Nancy Jane, on June 21, 1958. They have a daughter, a son, and three grandsons.

## 2012 CVM Outstanding Alumni Call for Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the 2012 Outstanding Alumni through December 16, 2011. Graduates of the CVM may be nominated for this honor. A resume, or curriculum vitae, that summarizes major career accomplishments and two letters of support are required, as well as any additional information or letters that may be helpful to the selection committee. Awards will be presented at the annual dinner to be held on March 23, 2012 at Miramont Country Club in Bryan, Texas, as part of the 2012 CVM Homecoming Weekend celebrations.

Nomination packets may be found online at [vetmed.tamu.edu/alumni](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/alumni), or by contacting Noell Vance, Development and Alumni Relations Coordinator, at 979.845.9043 or [nvance@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:nvance@cvm.tamu.edu).

## CVM alumnus completes term as AVMA president



*Dr. Larry Kornegay*

Dr. Larry Kornegay, a 1971 graduate of the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), has recently completed his term as president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). His election to this office came at the association's 147th Annual Convention in Atlanta on July 30, 2010.

In his acceptance speech at the convention before the AVMA House of Delegates, Kornegay outlined his platform and goals. His main goals

were to bring unity to the profession and to encourage diversity within the growing field. He said that as a veterinarian he has witnessed significant changes in the veterinary profession since he started his practice almost 40 years ago. Kornegay stated that female veterinarians now outnumber men and that he has hired bilingual employees at his clinic to accommodate more diverse clients.

"As veterinarians, we share a common bond, and I have worked during my presidency to strengthen this bond by welcoming everyone's input, by opening my mind to varied perspectives, by offering guidance when I could, and by helping build unity to mend those fractures," Kornegay said. "I worked tirelessly over the past year to welcome everyone to the table. While I am so proud of what we have accomplished, particularly when it comes to the great work our staff is doing to enhance diversity in the profession, you and I both know we can do more."

Kornegay has practiced companion animal veterinary medicine in Houston for 36 years. He has served in many leadership roles. In 1981, he became president of the Harris County Veterinary Medical Association, and

in 1991 he became president of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association. He has served on the AVMA Executive Board, representing Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. He has also been the Executive Board liaison to the Council of Communications, the Committee on Human-Animal Bond, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities, the American Board of Veterinary Specialties, the Member Services Committee, and the Council on Veterinary Services. In 2005, the CVM presented Kornegay with an Outstanding Alumnus award.

The AVMA was established in 1863 as a not-for-profit association structured to work for its members and to be a united voice for the veterinary profession. AVMA represents more than 80,000 veterinarians in all fields of the veterinary profession. Kornegay is the sixth Aggie to serve in this prestigious office.

Kornegay attended many CVM events during his term in support of the initiatives of his alma mater. The CVM family is grateful for the accomplishments during his presidency and his lasting legacy. 🍀

## Class of 1951 celebrates 60th reunion

The College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences was recently honored by a visit from members of the Class of 1951.

These esteemed veterinarians attended the annual Homecoming Weekend and celebrated the 60th anniversary of their graduation.

Attending the event were, from left to right, Dr. Clifton Pfeil, Refugio, Texas; Dr. Monte Swatzell, Cleburne, Texas; Dr. James Lamp, Bellville, Texas; Dr. Jack Duwe, Junction, Texas; Dr. Barry Allen, Old Glory, Texas; Dr. Bill Alexander, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; Dr. Charles Aiken, Georgetown, Texas; Dr. Thomas Matthews, Luling, Texas; and Dr. Don Williams, Colorado Spring, Colorado.

Not pictured: Dr. Chester Studdard, Gilmer, Texas.

Unable to attend: Professors Dr. Horace Barron, Taylor, Texas, and Dr. Bill Lumb, FT. Collins, Colorado; Class Members Dr. Joe Waidhofer, Stockton, California; Dr. E.B. Range, Big Spring, Texas; Dr. Chuck Deyhle,

Clarendon, Texas; Dr. D.J. McDermith, Summersville, Missouri; Dr. Tom Ryan, Kingsville, Texas; Dr. Bill Hancock, Ft. Dodge, Iowa; Dr. Jim Prine, Stayton, OR.; Dr. Jim Gandy, Brownwood, Texas. 🍀



# Mark Francis Fellows

The Mark Francis Fellows recognizes donors who have given \$1,000 or more to the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Donors are grouped into two alphabetical lists: New Members and Members Advancing to Higher Levels of Giving. The following donors are honored for their cumulative giving from September 1, 1991, through December 31, 2010.

## **New Members:**

Catherine O. Albert  
Dallas, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence T. Baron  
Columbus, TX

Donna Broder  
Terrell, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Jerry O. Brumlow  
Floresville, TX

Rebecca L. Burghardt  
College Station, TX

Edward J. Cakl  
Midland, TX

Gary S. Charlson  
Plano, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Cohen  
College Station, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cooper  
Waco, TX

Bonnie S. Cox  
Dallas, TX

Yong Culbertson  
Dallas, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin M. Cutler  
Paradise Valley, AZ

Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Fregelette  
Erie, CO

Dr. Scott M. Gilpatric  
Knoxville, TN

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Golding  
Cedar Rapids, IA

Dr. Sonya S. Gordon  
College Station, TX

Nancy Hall  
Purcellville, VA

Dr. Kristen M. Hassler  
Lantana, TX

Mr. and Mrs. David A. Jennings  
Dallas, TX

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Kempner  
Sugar Land, TX

Jackie Krshka  
Yukon, OK

Dr. and Mrs. J. Wayne Kyle  
Carthage, TX

Phillip J. Laas  
Plano, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Jock D. Lee  
Fritch, TX

John W. Lyons, Jr.  
Dickinson, TX

J. Kyle McNeely  
Cincinnati, OH

Lannie L. Mecom  
Avondale, CO

Dr. Stephanie L. Mont  
Landstuhl, Germany

Dr. Georgia E. Myers  
Odessa, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Norman D. Portner  
Leesburg, VA

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Resnick  
Friendswood, TX

Elizabeth L. Roberts  
College Station, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell G. Shelton  
Belleville, IL

Dr. and Mrs. Guy A. Sheppard  
College Station, TX

L. Joe Speed  
Edna, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Sullivan  
Humble, TX

Dr. Lori M. Teller  
Bellaire, TX

Noell Vance  
Bryan, TX

Alexander Harris Weisberg  
Washington, DC

Dr. and Mrs. Howard W. Whitford  
Hamilton, MT

## **Members Advancing to Higher Level of Giving:**

Dolly Bille  
Pearland, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Marvin S. Cannon  
College Station, TX

Dr. Laura B. Cauthen  
Gilmer, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Edge  
Dallas, TX

Dr. Barron P. Hall  
Fairfax, VA

Dr. Scott M. Henslee & Amy Gordon  
San Antonio, TX

Dr. and Mrs. James R. Holcomb  
West Lake Hills, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Larry Johnson  
College Station, TX

Dr. and Mrs. Ben F. Knotts, Jr.  
Cocoa Beach, FL

James C. Ledlow, Jr.  
Kingwood, TX

Dr. Joe D. Loftis  
Rockwall, TX

Carole McCann  
Fulshear, TX

Tara L. McNeely  
Houston, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Scott Osborne  
Melrose, TN

Irene Purcell  
Houston, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Simpson  
Houston, TX

Dorothy Thornton  
Edgewood, TX

David W. Wisdom  
Texarkana, TX

## Dr. Arden G. Kemler

A scholarship fund has been started in memory of Dr. Arden G. Kemler who was professor emeritus in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine. While at the CVM, he was a recipient of the Faculty Achievement Award and the Norden Award for Teaching. Kemler received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State University and his Masters of Science from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia.



Dr. Arden G. Kemler

*Gifts in his memory may be made payable to the Texas A&M Foundation under the "Arden Kemler Fund."*

### College Alumni

Col. USAF (Ret.) Norman Dale Heidelbaugh, 83, of Fairfax Station, VA, died Jan. 28, 2011.

### Class of 1939

Clinton D. Barrett, 94, of Victoria, TX, died Jan. 5, 2011.

### Class of 1941

Merida William Castleberry, 94, of Cherokee, KS, died Dec. 16, 2010.  
Edward A. Driscoll, 93, of Pasadena, TX, died on Mar. 20, 2011.  
Henry B. Mostyn, 92, of Magnolia, TX, died Dec. 4, 2010.  
Ole Henry Vernon Stalheim, 93, of Garretson, SD, died Nov. 15, 2010.

### Class of 1942

Dr. William W. "Doc" Merritt, 88, of Minneota, MN, died Jan. 25, 2007.

### Class of 1943

Dann E. Beckley, 91, of Tyler, TX, died Jan. 1, 2010.  
Warren A. Phillips of Pepperell, MA, died Aug. 4, 2010.  
Earl Stevens, 90, of Helena, TX, died Dec. 3, 2010.

### Class of 1944

Jack Dalton Tiner, 87, of San Antonio, TX, died Oct. 6, 2010.

### Class of 1945

Duard Desmond (Bill) Linam, 91, of Austin, TX, died Apr. 9, 2011.  
James "Jim" Elnarr Reed, 86, of Gastonia, TX, died Mar. 30, 2011.  
Donald L. Williams, 88, of Bryan, TX, died Oct. 21, 2010.

### Class of 1946

Walter F. Juliff Jr., 89, of College Station, TX, died May 30, 2011.

### Class of 1947

Henry Ash, 88, of Birmingham, AL, died Feb. 19, 2011.

### Class of 1948

Charles Michael Corbett, Jr., 83, of San Antonio, TX, died Dec. 15, 2010.  
Pierce Humble, 91, of Albuquerque, NM, died Nov. 8, 2010.

### Class of 1949

Richard Dix Howe, 82, of Fort Worth, TX, died Nov. 15, 2010.  
Roy Wilson, 86, of La Grange, TX, died Dec. 3, 2010.

### Class of 1950

James Edward Hoban, 86, of San Antonio, TX, died Sep. 21, 2010.

### Class of 1951

Paul Waddell Landrum, Jr., 87, of San Marcos, TX, died Aug. 10, 2010.  
Robert Lendol McDonald, 86, of Round Rock, TX, died Jan. 14, 2011.

### Class of 1952

Gilbert Dale Lindsey, 86, of Levelland, TX, died Feb. 24, 2011.  
Donald C. Pitts, 85, of Breckenridge, Texas, died Jul. 09, 2011.  
Gilberto Treviño, 86, of San Antonio, TX, died Mar. 28, 2011.

### Class of 1953

Dwayne L. Fitte, 80, of Marlin, TX, died Oct. 2, 2010.

### Class of 1955

Paul Raymond Durham, 82, of Port Arthur, TX, died Nov. 20, 2010.  
Jerry J. Hosek, 78, of Dallas, TX, died Feb. 26, 2011.

### Class of 1956

Joseph Robisheaux, 78, of Coraopolis, PA, died Feb. 12, 2011.

### Class of 1958

Frank M. Roach, 81, of Jonesboro, LA, died May 1, 2010.

### Class of 1959

Charles H. Garrett, 81, of San Antonio, TX, died Oct. 22, 2010.  
*Gifts in his memory may be made to the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, College Station, TX 77843.*

### Class of 1960

Asa "Bill" Childers, 75, of Mart, TX, died Jul. 21, 2011.

### Class of 1964

John W. Henley, 70, of Coleman, TX, died Oct. 15, 2010.

### Class of 1967

Allen Greer Hicks, 67, of Teague, TX, died Jul. 6, 2010.

### Class of 1970

Dorman "Mac" Warren, 77, Coryell County, TX, died Oct. 23, 2010.

### Class of 1971

Jack Moore, 62, Houston, TX, died Feb. 23, 2011.

### Class of 1973

Jack "Don" Rux, Jr., 63, of Olney, TX, died Jun. 18, 2011.

### Class of 1974

Sidney W. Hanslik, 60, of Big Spring, TX, died Mar. 24, 2010.

Odie Dan Wright, 59, of Menard, TX, died Jan. 23, 2011.

### Class of 1975

Gary Parker, 63, of Albuquerque, NM, died Jan. 12, 2011.

### Class of 1978

Kathleen Gay Parker, 57, of Chickasha, OK, died Jan. 12, 2011.

### Class of 1980

JoGayle Howard, 59, of Dallas, TX, died Mar. 5, 2011.

### Class of 1990

Susan Lea Fulton, 47, of Lubbock, TX, died Aug. 12, 2011.





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# *Parting Shot*

*by Larry Wadsworth*



*Dean Eleanor Green talks with Charles "Doc" Anderson, representative from the 56th district in the Texas House of Representatives, at a reception at the Hirshfeld-Moore House on February 1, 2011. This reception wrapped up Veterinary Day with the Texas Legislature, which was the first event of the CVM's year-long celebration of World Veterinary Year.*