



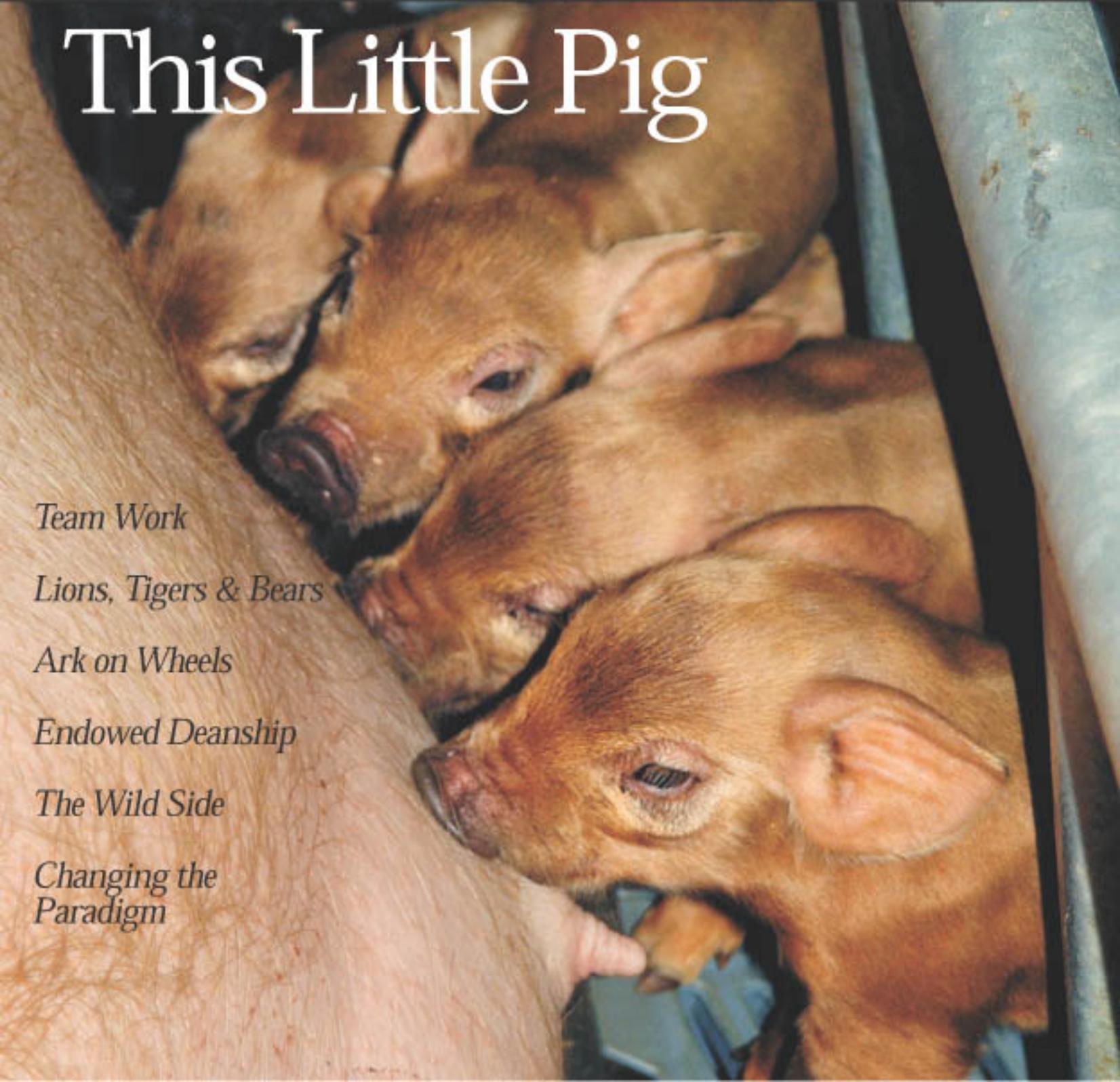
CVM Today

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

Winter 2001

Volume 2 Number 4

This Little Pig



Team Work

Lions, Tigers & Bears

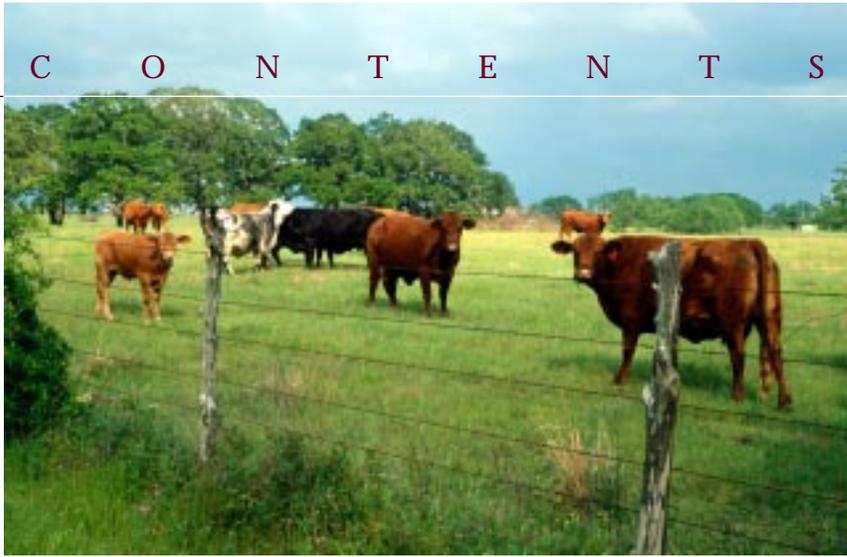
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In Times Like These

Often, people remember where they were and what they were doing when first learning of a historical tragedy. On September 11th, 2001, I was preparing to drive to Dallas on college business, thinking about why veterinary student debt is so high upon graduation from the professional program. I happened to be watching the Today Show as the newscasters described the uncertain origin of the first incident, when suddenly a second airliner intentionally flew into the South Tower. Such a horrendous event was difficult to believe despite my witnessing it on the television screen. The horror of the attacks on the World Trade Center Buildings and the Pentagon, and later the anthrax assaults, are unspeakable tragedies that will surely “live in infamy.”

This issue of *CVM Today* presents a broad perspective of veterinary medicine and its role as a front-line defense in bio-security, infectious diseases, foreign animal diseases, and caring for the service animals that search through rubble for victims.

Veterinary Medicine has a vitally important role in addressing many critical issues facing us in the twenty-first century. The future lies in part with the young men and women who are diligently working to become veterinarians so they may contribute to the health and well-being of both animals and humans. In light of the challenges that lay before us, it seems fitting to address the issue of veterinary student debt.

In short, student debt is high upon graduation because the cost of a veterinary medical education, coupled with the time demands of class and study, leave veterinary students without significant time to earn funds towards tuition or to defray living expenses. Students in the first three years of veterinary school spend an average of 27 hours per week in formal classrooms or laboratories. Studying and involvement in professional student organizations round out their very busy schedules.

The estimated budget for in-state veterinary students graduating in 2001, including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, travel, and miscellaneous living expenses over a four-year period is almost \$90,000. The estimated average debt upon graduation is over \$53,600. Approximately 90% of the college's veterinary students receive financial aid

either through loans, state and federal grants or scholarships. Clearly, the majority of our students rely on loans to pay for their veterinary medical education.

State and federal grant dollars are becoming more difficult to garner because of shrinking governmental budgets. Currently, the average scholarship awarded to veterinary medical students is only \$1,420. This amount almost covers the cost of books and supplies for one year.

The need to support our students through additional scholarships has never been greater. Given student debt load, a sagging U.S. economy, and the future impact of layoffs and business failures due to the terrorist attacks, we anticipate student financial need to increase.

This is a serious time in our nation's history requiring complex solutions in response to growing challenges. Many of these solutions will come from veterinarians working on the front-line in animal and public health. Consider Dr. Tracie McNamara at the Bronx Zoo who first noticed an unusually

high number of dead birds near her facilities. Her observation of this abnormal avian mortality resulted in identifying West Nile encephalitis as the presence of an old disease threatening animals and people in our homeland.

A significant way to strengthen veterinary medicine is through supporting future generations. Contributing to class scholarships will help reduce student debt and assist the college in recruiting the brightest students into the program. I would like to challenge all College of Veterinary Medicine graduates to contribute to their class scholarships.

And, in the mean time, your college will continue its efforts to improve the health and well being of all creatures great and small, including humans. I believe you will find the accompanying articles informative about what is happening at your college.

Your perspective and comments regarding how the college may better serve our students and all Texans are always appreciated. Gig 'Em, and God Bless America.



Dean H. Richard Adams

H. Richard Adams

This Little Pig



Cloned Piglets

Researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University have recently cloned a litter of pigs, becoming the first academic institution in the world to clone three different animal species. Texas A&M researchers have successfully

help increase cloning efficiency and support the development of genetically modified cloned swine for use in medicine and agriculture," added Dr. Piedrahita.

On March 29, 2001, Second Addition, a cloned Boer goat, was born. The donor was an 8-year-old Boer Champion doe and a top producer in Ewing and Donna Downen's breeding program in Early, Texas.

Second Addition, nicknamed Megan, has similar color markings to the donor, and according to the Downens is also quite similar in attitude and disposition.

In 2000, researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine successfully cloned what was believed to be the first animal specifically cloned for disease resistance, "Bull 86 squared" In 1999, college scientists became the first to successfully clone a calf, "Second Chance," from an adult steer, which was also the oldest animal ever cloned – a 21-year-old Brahman.

cloned cattle, goats and, most recently, pigs and are aggressively working to clone dogs, cats, and horses.

"The first of five litters of piglets were born on August 12" said Dr. Jorge Piedrahita, who holds a joint appointment with the College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and is the lead investigator on the project.

The swine cloning project was a collaborative effort involving scientists from the Center for Animal Biotechnology and Genomics (CABG). The CABG includes researchers from the College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The Texas Agriculture Experiment Station, The Health Science Center, and the George Bush School of Public Policy.

"Our research in cloning swine will

"Our research in cloning swine will help increase cloning efficiency and support the development of genetically modified cloned swine for use in medicine."

"With each successful cloned species, we learn more about cloning procedures and how to make cloning more effective. The potential benefits to the livestock industry and medical science could be immense," said Dr. James Womack, Director of the CABG.

Bull 86 squared, piglet, Megan, Second Chance



CDC Sleuth

Dr. Kristy Murray Lillibridge, DVM class of 1998, from the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, is helping to save human lives. Lillibridge is a Veterinary Medical Officer at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Division of Global Migration and Quarantine in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lillibridge examines emerging infectious diseases in animals and humans and works with quarantine stations throughout the United States. She is responsible for setting up ways to prevent infectious diseases from entering the U.S. while developing techniques for screening animals and humans at each quarantine station.

Lillibridge's main focus is zoonotic diseases that are transferred from animals to humans. She is developing a technique for screening animals that could be carriers of disease without showing any symptoms until after they enter the U.S.

"Initially, we will conduct research for a better understanding of what's coming in, how it's coming in, and how long it's staying here," Lillibridge said. "We need to figure out the best way to track emerging infectious diseases from animals to humans."

Before Lillibridge began her career in disease prevention, she planned to become a veterinarian specializing in small animal medicine and even practiced for a short while. However, while doing fieldwork for the CDC as part of her post-doctoral fellowship, she was attracted to the excitement of public health service.

"Working in public health is very different from practicing veterinary medicine," Lillibridge commented. "I still use my



Bangladesh Refugee Camp

knowledge, only in a different way. I am helping lots of people all at once rather than one patient at a time."

Lillibridge recently completed her term as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer, serving in the CDC's Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program. Her job as an EIS officer was to isolate the cause of a disease outbreak, prevent its spread, and get public health messages out to people who could have been exposed.

Before settling into her new position in 1999, Lillibridge was on her way to New York City to investigate an unknown illness that later turned out to be West Nile encephalitis.

Lillibridge's detective work helped public health authorities determine that the West Nile virus was transmitted through mosquitoes, prompting officials to take steps to control the mosquito population.

Lillibridge helped to establish a surveillance system to track West Nile virus, focusing on early-warning signs such as increased fatalities among birds and horses.

Even though Lillibridge is not practicing clinical veterinary medicine per se she believes the education she received from the College of Veterinary Medicine has been indispensable to her line of work.

"I love what I do, it's a great job!" Lillibridge said. "I think it is very beneficial having a different background and working here. I feel like I add something because of my knowledge of animal and human medicine."



Bangladesh Refugee Camp

Team Work



Dr. Maureen McMichael and Dr. Debra Zoran with Patrick Gilliland and Pepe

Canine trainers know from experience that man's best friend provides more than just companionship; dogs can help save lives and recover victims.

On September 17, the Texas Task Force I, Urban Search and Rescue team was deployed to New York City to assist with the World Trade Center (WTC) rescue and recovery mission. The task force included a team of specially trained search dogs that are routinely deployed to natural disaster sites in urban areas. The team emphasizes locating and freeing disaster

victims trapped in confined spaces and trenches due to structural collapse. These canine rescue workers spent many long, hard hours at ground zero searching for signs of life.

"The dogs are specifically trained for disaster environments," said Billy Parker, the Urban Search and Rescue Program Coordinator. "They are especially unique because they run independently from their handlers. But as the dogs work the scene, they are often exposed to hazardous situations that may cause injury."

That is where the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University has stepped in to help. Veterinarians from community practice provide treatment and medication as needed for the dogs that deploy with the Bryan/College Station team.

"Besides treating injuries that may occur when they are in the area, we perform pre-deployment health exams to ensure the dogs are in good physical condition and have no problems that would hinder their effectiveness," said Dr. Debra Zoran, a veterinarian at the college.

Zoran performed complete physicals on the four dogs that were sent to New York City, focusing on the cardiovascular,

neurological and musculoskeletal systems. Triage and carrying kits consisting of basic medicine and surgery supplies, bandage materials, first aid materials and fluids were provided by the College's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital to supplement supplies that were to be provided at the New York City triage center.

"Rescue dogs are an important part of many search and rescue missions, and this is our small way of helping the effort in New York City," said Zoran. "Since I don't have a background in human medicine, I can't attend to the people, but I can help make sure that the dogs participating in the effort are in top physical condition."

"The success of each rescue

"The team includes wilderness, trailing and tracking, water, cadaver, and disaster dogs that are trained to detect live-scents under rubble piles."



mission depends on a joint effort from human and animal team members alike," Parker said.



Lions, Tigers and Bears

Lions, tigers, and bears – oh my! Effective September 1, 2001, Texas neighborhoods should be a little safer, thanks to the passage of a bill by the state legislature. House Bill 1362 will prevent the ownership of dangerous wild animals without a permit.

Dr. James Jensen, an Associate Professor of Zoological Medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University and an Executive Board member of the Exotic Wildlife Association, believes the bill will establish guidelines for ownership of wild animals.

“The new bill will provide extensive conditions for housing, nutrition, and protection,” Jensen said. “It will actually require owners to invest a lot of time in the well-being of the animal.”

Texas residents have been vulnerable to animal attacks and escapes in their hometowns often without even knowing of the danger. West Arlington residents recently experienced sightings of a large sleek black cat roaming their neighborhood, and a Lubbock resident is still recovering from a head injury caused by a pet Bengal tiger. A boy in Houston was in surgery for nine hours to reattach his arm following a Bengal tiger attack.

These occurrences may become even more rare because of the new law.

Similar bills have been defeated in the legislature, in part because of fear that the government would infringe on the ownership rights of exotic game farmers and organizations. However, the bill does not limit the rights of zoos or other exotic animal owners, but rather it attempts to restrict ownership to a small, qualified group of individuals and organizations, explained Jensen.

Currently the bill restricts the ownership of lions, tigers, ocelots, cougars, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, bobcats, lynx, servals, caracals, hyenas, bears, coyotes, jackals, baboons, chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas, and any hybrid of these animals.

Prospective owners of any of the specified animals must obtain a one-year, nontransferable certificate of registration for the animal from an established animal registration agency. The certificate must be displayed at all times in the area where each animal is kept, and the owner



will be required to allow routine animal, housing, and registration inspections by the registration agency or by a licensed veterinarian.

The designated agency is authorized to establish and charge fees for the application, issuance, and renewal of the certificate; however, fee limits are set under the bill. There are also standards in place concerning license denial, revocation, and the appeal process.

Jensen is confident the act will prove beneficial in the future and terminate the need for certificates. This will occur after the bill has been in place for some time, causing exotic trade activity to slow down and making it difficult for irresponsible owners to obtain exotic animals.

“For those who have done things right, I would not want to see them harmed by this new legislation,” Jensen said. “Most exotic animal owners have a great awe for the animals and take care of them.”

“The new bill will provide extensive conditions for housing, nutrition, and protection.”

An estimated 2,300 captive tigers live in Texas

Ark on Wheels



Inside the Mobile Lab

Dr. Duane Kraemer, Director of Project Noah's Ark, recently unveiled The Mobile Reproductive Genetics Lab. The work of Project Noah's Ark includes the collection and preservation of eggs, semen, embryos and DNA from endangered mammals, birds, and reptiles. "The Mobile Reproductive Genetics Lab is the first facility of its kind," said Kraemer. "It enables scientists to take the most advanced genetic technology into the field, minimizing the stress of the animals when the genetic tissue samples are collected."

The 28-foot rolling laboratory was funded by the Trans Pecos Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration Society, the

In Biblical times, Noah herded animals onto the Ark two-by-two to save them from certain extinction in the flood. Thousands of years later, a new Noah's Ark has arrived – this time on wheels with a modern-day Noah trying to save endangered creatures one DNA sample at a time.

College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. State-of-the-art surgical, anesthesia and ultrasound equipment, as well as microscopes and lab supplies, can be taken through forests, across streams, and parked temporarily in the middle of a specie's habitat.

Genetic material collected by Project Noah's Ark will be saved for potential use in reintroducing the species. Reintroduction may be accomplished by in vitro fertilization, nuclear transplantation, or embryo transfer into a different, yet compatible, species. These techniques and procedures could help rebuild populations of vanishing animals, alleviating the problem of captive animal inbreeding that often produces breeding deficiencies.

Animal extinctions have occurred naturally throughout time; however, the process is accelerating due to human influence on the environment. It is estimated that two thousand species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphib-

ians will become extinct during the next one hundred years.

"What we are doing in collecting the genetic materials is simply a safety net, in case a species does become extinct. We must collect the material now, before the species loses its genetic diversity."

"The Mobile Reproductive Genetics Lab is the first facility of its kind,"



Mobile Reproductive Genetics Lab

Changing the Paradigm

While the nation's armed forces are engaged in battle, many veterinarians were also called into America's new war. The war requires that veterinarians help protect the country as the first line of defense in establishing a biosecure nation.

Dr. G. Gale Wagner, a professor of Pathobiology with the College of Veterinary Medicine and former microbiologist for Immunological Investigations at Plum Island Animal Disease Center in Green Port, New York, thinks that it is time to change the paradigm that is so pervasive in the media, from bioterrorism to biosecurity.

In light of the events of September 11, there has been a sudden interest in bioterrorism and what to do if it happens. Many fear that a biohazard may be introduced into the water supply or released into the air. Although possible, this may prove difficult. A more plausible and subtle attack could take aim at our food animal supply through the introduction of a virus or organism via feed, water or insect vectors. Under these circumstances, veterinarians become the first line of defense because of their frequent contact with food animals. Likewise, if a broad biohazard attack targets a human population, small animals may experience abnormalities, growths or sudden death, signaling a potential bioterroristic event. Instead of planning what to do when an event occurs, one must consider all the possibilities of attack, which is biosecurity, Wagner said.

"If we sit back and wait for an 'attack' - if that's what bioterrorism is - then we may not be able to react in time. To be pro-active, we must try to predict what might happen and then use that knowledge to develop a biosecure environment," Wagner said.

Wagner urges practicing veterinarians to increase their awareness and globalize their thinking. "Veterinarians practicing in small towns may be their community's only source of knowledge concerning bioterrorism. They must reassure residents that they understand the potential threats

and are keeping their eyes open."

One example of increasing awareness is by examining West Nile Encephalitis (WNE). Until recently, WNE only affected various regions of Africa, West Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In 1999, the first cases of WNE were found in New York when a veterinarian noticed a number of dead birds and took steps to alert disease control officials. WNE is not believed to have been purposefully introduced, but is thought to have occurred naturally through the introduction of infected mosquitoes. This is an example of the heightened awareness that veterinarians will need to exhibit in the future.

"Veterinarians must assume responsibility for alerting officials that something may be wrong. Diseases are often not found by those searching for them, but by the individual that works daily with animals and sees the abnormalities first-hand," said Wagner. "Biosecurity is a reality in the United States, and we are increasingly vulnerable,"

Wagner said. "However, our main areas of strength are our veterinary knowledge and the assurance that our Emergency Medical System is second to none."



Dr. G. Gale Wagner

"To be pro-active, we must try to predict what might happen and then use that knowledge to develop a biosecure environment."



Feed lot

Fume Busters



Anatomy Lab

The first day of school this fall ushered in new students, new classes, and, at the College of Veterinary Medicine, a newly renovated gross anatomy lab.

The official opening of the lab was marked by a ribbon cutting ceremony held during the first few minutes of Dr. Anton Hoffman's Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health (VAPH) 910 class. Students

Pavilion

The College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, is growing again! The grand opening of the new Equine Pavilion, located north of the existing large animal hospital, is scheduled for March 2002.

The addition of the new equine facility is the latest step in providing students with a state-of-the-art veterinary medical education and patients with the best veterinary medical care possible. The product of design architect Jim Holster, the new facility includes over 18,000 square feet of additional stalls, breeding rooms and treatment areas.

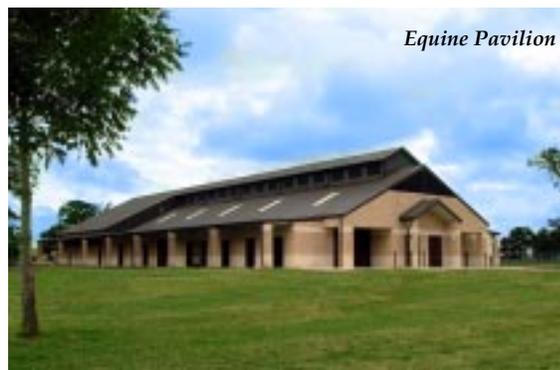
Two important features of the Equine Pavilion are the breeding area and equine reproduction laboratories. With the use of these new facilities, the college aims to further the understanding of equine reproduction and maximize reproductive efficiency. A focus on the diagnosis and treatment of reproductive disorders, semen collection/preservation, oocyte transfer and evaluation services will strengthen the equine program, which is already internationally known for excellence.

In addition, new technologies will be utilized, including

sat quietly as they listened to VAPH Department Head Dr. Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni's opening remarks and laughed as Dr. Colin Young read a poem from "Gunga Din" rewritten as "Gunga Dean" especially for Dean H. Richard Adams by Castiglioni, describing the journey to refurbishing the lab.

The Clean Air 2001 Project began a year and a half ago when faculty members were called to create the VAPH Fume Busters Brigade to combat the poor air circulation and lighting in the lab. The team developed a budget of almost \$2 million, analyzed architectural plans, and consulted physical plant personnel and safety engineers. Construction began July 9, 2001 and was completed in time for the first day of classes.

Members of the VAPH Fume Busters Brigade were Dr. Anton Hoffman, lead instructor for VAPH 910, Dr. Gerald Bratton, lead instructor of VAPH 913, Dr. Lynn Ruoff, lead instructor of VAPH 305, Dr. Laurie Jaeger, lead instructor of VAPH 912 and project coordinator, and Mr. Chuck Vrooman, Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration. The Fume Busters extend special thanks to Dean Adams whose continued support made the project a success.



Equine Pavilion

computerized spermatozoal motility analysis and fluorescent probes for evaluating spermatozoal viability. The application of these new technologies in a state-of-the-art facility will support future collaborations between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Animal Science faculties in solving equine reproductive problems.

The College of Veterinary Medicine would like to thank the Patsy Link Estate and the Fondren Foundation for their generous support of the College of Veterinary Medicine's new Equine Pavilion.

Network Traffic Jam

The College of Veterinary Medicine provided the Educational and Communications Resources (ECR) unit \$367,000 for computer technological advancements throughout the college.

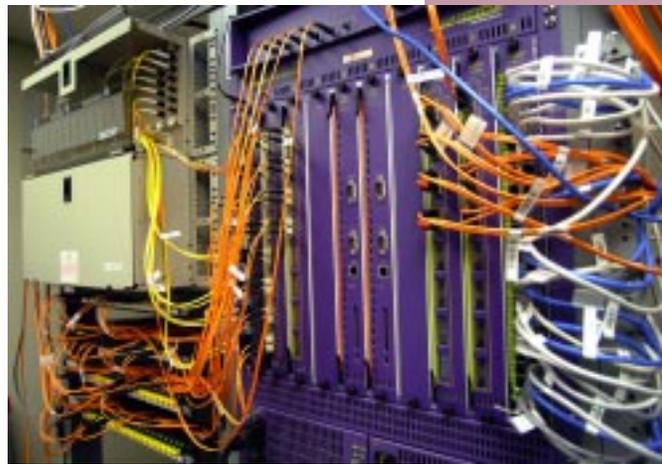
"The funds have helped us to deal with the frequent bottleneck experienced with increased information traffic," said Dr. Jim Snell, Information Systems Manager.

In previous years, the ECR used cabling that allowed 72 computers to share a single 10MB space; however, this system no longer supports the large number of system users. In the past ten years the number of workstations connected to the college increased dramatically from 100 to 1500, with 400 to 500 people logged-in at any one time. Audio and video streaming, workgroups, peer networking, and Veterinary Medical Information System hospital database downloads have stressed the system, creating congestion that affects all system users.

"The technology has served the college well over the last seven years, but with the steady increase in high bandwidth applications, it is apparent that the existing infrastructure will not continue to meet our needs or support the college's growth," Snell said.

The ECR unit has installed fiber optic cables that provide users with more network space and room to work freely during peak hours. Traffic from each workstation is taken to its destination without interfering with other system users.

The expansion will fully accommodate the increased demand posed by the VMIS system and provide equal access for all faculty, staff, and students of the college.



College connections

Endowed Deanship

The College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, is pleased to announce the establishment of the Carl B. King Deanship in Veterinary Medicine. This is the first endowed deanship in veterinary medicine in a public university and only the second nationally after The University of Pennsylvania.

The Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation of Dallas, Texas, pledged a \$1 million gift to the College of Veterinary Medicine. Matching funds from Texas A&M in support of the University's Vision 2020 program will be allocated, creating a \$2 million endowment in support of the Deanship. Distributions from this endowed fund may be used at the discretion of the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, in accordance with university guidelines, in support of the numerous teaching, research, service, and professional development activities performed at the college each year.

"We are grateful for this generous gift from the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, and it is wonderful to have the first dean's position endowed at Texas A&M," said Dr. Ray M. Bowen, President of Texas A&M University.

"These funds will be used to strengthen and support our research and clinical activities at the College of Veterinary Medicine, which has an outstanding international reputation," added Bowen.

"I am truly honored to be the first steward of the exceptional resources afforded by this endowed deanship," said Dr. H. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University.

The Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation was established in 1966 and provides support to agencies in the fields of arts and culture, education, community improvement, and health and human services.

"As an institution of higher learning, we are privileged to receive such a generous donation from the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation," Adams said.

"The College of Veterinary Medicine would like to thank the donors for their contribution to the advancement of veterinary medicine at Texas A&M University."



The Wild Side



De antlering a buck

Housed on 16 acres of land and home to more than 12 exotic animal species, including ostriches, Fallow deer, and Oryx antelopes, the Wildlife and Exotic Center at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University is one of only three university facilities nationwide dedicated to providing veterinary students with “hands on” experience in animal husbandry and veterinary care of exotic animals.

Dr. Alice Blue-McLendon, a Veterinary Clinical Assistant in the Department of

“The Center operates as both a teaching and research facility providing opportunities for professional students to learn the basic husbandry of exotic animals, and providing college veterinarians the opportunity to conduct research on exotic animals.”

Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology is the Veterinarian in Charge at the center, and Jennifer Stanton, is the center’s full-time Animal Care Technician. “The Center operates as both a teaching and research facility providing opportunities for professional students to learn the basic husbandry of exotic animals, and providing college veterinarians the opportunity to conduct research on exotics,” said Blue-McLendon.

DVM students utilize the teaching portion of the center during their first year husbandry rotation. The Veterinary Medicine - Interdisciplinary (VMID) 912 Clinical Correlates I rotation allows students the opportunity to work in groups and select two animals - an ostrich, horse, or cow to learn about. About two-thirds of the first year class choose to learn about ostriches and visit the center weekly. Students participate in wet labs and preventive health care including vaccinations, heartworm treatments, anesthesia monitoring, egg incubation and other veterinary procedures.

“This rotation provides excellent experience for students and teaches them about exotic animal medicine and the normal day-to-day behavior of the animals,” said Blue-McLendon. “By the end of the rotation students have a working knowledge of ostriches at the center.”

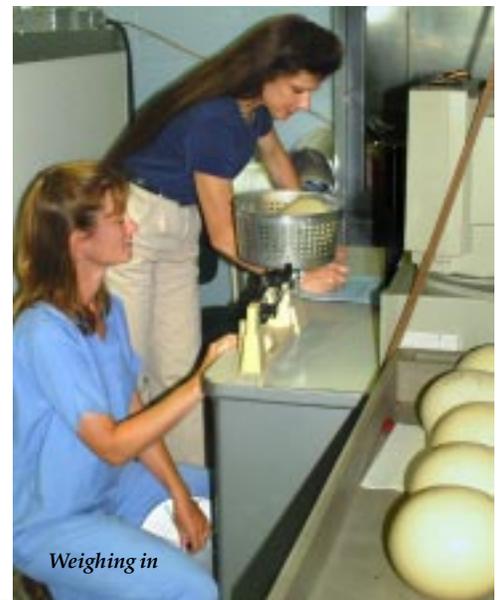
Baby Ostriches

After weeks of incubating, monitoring, weighing, and candling, twelve baby ostriches made their appearance through tiny holes pecked on the surface of their eggs at the Wildlife and Exotic Center.

Students at the center played an important role in the 100 percent survivability of the new babies by assisting in the daily care of the chicks through cleaning, feeding, observing, and vaccinating them.

“When baby ostriches are young they require constant attention and care,” Blue-McLendon said. “After a couple of weeks, they do not need as much monitoring, and night checks are sufficient.”

Today, the chicks are doing fine, only they are not little chicks anymore. Although it will take them between 10 and 12 months to reach the size of their adult counterparts, the babies are gaining weight at about one pound a day.



Weighing in

Globe Trotters

Students at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, are going global, applying their skills and knowledge to the Global Veterinary Leadership Program.

Drs. G. Gale Wagner and Isabel Carbajal, with the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, developed the program in response to the changing career goals of veterinary students. Dr. Corrie Brown, with the Department of Pathology at the University of Georgia, has developed a matching program. In the past, graduates usually went straight into general veterinary practice. However, today there is a growing number of students who are unsure of which direction to take, but they know that the DVM degree will be an asset to their career. Through the success and high visibility of current research and education programs, most veterinary colleges are well positioned to incorporate industry, government and university leaders into the programs that increase the flow of new ideas and talent throughout the world.

“The program will allow us to engage a few of our students in a process that makes them aware of the vital role they can play in protecting public health, and it will better equip them for a successful career in the world community,” Wagner said.

The program is geared toward incoming first-year veterinary students. Each student accepted into the college’s DVM program is sent a letter describing the Global Veterinary Leadership program and given the opportunity to apply. The four to six students selected participate in a preliminary leadership seminar held outside the United States before starting the fall semester.

At the conclusion, Wagner provides students with the opportunity to evaluate the seminar and decide if they would like to continue. Those continuing with the program will complete 12-18 hours of directed electives in addition to those required for the DVM degree.

Students will also complete either a full-time 9-12

month internship or a 4-12 week externship involving some aspect of veterinary medicine related to food safety and international livestock trade. The assigned internship/externship is company directed and requires the student to respond to practical yet challenging projects and exposes them to international career opportunities. At the conclusion of the internship, the student will receive a master of science degree in Veterinary Medical Science; students participating in the externship will receive an international certificate, added to the DVM degree, expressing the graduate’s knowledge of international veterinary medicine, Wagner stated.

Dr. Wagner is developing corporate support for the

program and hopes to create a pool of leading international companies that are shaping the world’s food supply and are interested in fostering a relationship with U.S. veterinary colleges. The network of corporate partners will help support the program by providing up to eighteen

students per year with internship and externship opportunities. The participating students will come from a network of several U.S. veterinary schools that have expressed interest in participating in the program.

“Selected veterinary students will enter externships with multinational companies that operate within the sphere of food safety and the international livestock trade,” said Lynn Fondon, a consultant for Brakke Consulting Inc. “The Global Veterinary Leadership Program combines a global orientation, leadership training, language study, with access to study and work opportunities that will prepare veterinary students for the expanding global demand for veterinary medical expertise.”



Isabel Carbajal

Outstanding Alumni Awards

Congratulations to the College of Veterinary Medicine's 2001 Outstanding Alumni Award recipients.

Dr. Wallace Cardwell (DVM, 1951) established a practice in Elgin, Texas and served Bastrop County for ten years as the town's only veterinarian. Dr. Cardwell served as President of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) and is a Life Member of both the TVMA and the American Veterinary Medical Association.



Dr. Wallace Cardwell



Dr. Eugene Williams



Dr. Joe West

Dr. Donald Eugene Williams (DVM, 1951) is a founding member of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and worked to promote preventative medicine in feedlot operations in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

Dr. Joe Earl West (DVM, 1956) served 22 years in military service (retiring as Colonel) and became an Associate Professor at Mississippi State University, where he helped to establish their College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. West also served as a Clinical Pathologist at the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

Dr. Sonja Faye Lee (DVM, 1966) became the first woman graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine and is a charter and founding member of the Southwest Association of Western Horsemen.



Dr. Sonja Faye Lee

Stud Chair



The College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Dickson D. Varner as the first Pin Oak Stud Chair in Stallion

Reproductive Studies. The Abercrombie Foundation of Kentucky established the endowed chair to help bridge the gap in research between the mare and stallion.

Varner received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in 1976 and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1978 from the University of Missouri. He completed residency training in animal reproduction at New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania, in 1983, and served as lecturer for an additional 2 years. He began his career at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, in 1986 as an assistant professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery. In 1990, he completed a Master of Science in Veterinary Anatomy at the college, and was promoted to professor in 1997. Throughout his distinguished career, Varner's work has been instrumental in the field of equine reproduction with a special emphasis on the stallion.

Varner is a professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery with a joint appointment in the Department of Animal Science. He is Chief of Theriogenology in the Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery and a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenology. He is the 1990 recipient of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Research Award for outstanding research scientists and the Richard H. Davis Faculty Teaching Award for early career faculty members who show an outstanding ability, interest, and promise as a teacher.

He has served as the principal investigator on 24 of 66 funded research projects in areas dealing with stallion reproduction, equine pregnancy, and genetics.

Varner has published over 100 refereed journal articles for a number of prestigious publications including: *Theriogenology*, *The American Journal of Veterinary Research* and *The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. He has also authored 12 general and 62 non-refereed articles in publications such as: *DVM News Magazine* and *The Quarter Horse Journal*. Varner has published three textbooks and contributed material to numerous others.

"The College is truly proud to have someone of Dr. Varner's stature in equine medicine and reproduction as the college's first Pin Oak Stud Chair," said H. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University.

Varner states, "Research in equine reproduction has traditionally emphasized the mare, even though the stallion is an equally important part of the equation. Texas A&M has emerged as an international leader in the discipline of stallion reproduction, because of the strong compliment of faculty here that is dedicated to research and clinical involvement regarding breeding stallions. The Abercrombie Foundation, located in Kentucky, elected to assist in our endeavor to advance the discipline of stallion reproduction by providing funding for a Chair in Stallion Reproductive Studies," said Varner. Ms. Josephine E. Abercrombie is also owner of Pin Oak Stud, Inc., hence the name attached to this Chair. "Such a Chair will greatly strengthen our ability to make strides regarding fertility enhancement of stallions, because it will permit perpetual funding for the program. We are elated by this gift and deeply appreciative of Josephine Abercrombie and the Abercrombie Foundation for making this Chair possible. We also owe abundant gratitude to Ms. Alice Chandler, Mill Ridge Farm, Lexington, Kentucky, and Dr. Stuart E. Brown, II, Hagyard-Davidson-McGee, Associates, Lexington, Kentucky, for serving as champions of our cause, and helping bring this endowment to fruition," added Varner.

The Pin Oak Stud Chair will support advancements in the field of veterinary medicine as well as in the basic understanding of mammalian reproduction, and will help in the development of an innovative clinical, teaching, outreach, and research programs and provide leadership in equine reproductive studies.

The Results Are In!



Dr. Bonnie V. Beaver, professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, was elected Executive Board Chair for the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Dr. Beaver's election to the post was announced during the board's annual meeting on July 24 in Boston.

As AVMA Executive Board Chair, Dr. Beaver's duties will include providing leadership in day-to-day decision-making and working closely with other organization officers. Dr. Beaver explained her reasons for running: "The board chair has an opportunity to contribute to the AVMA and AVMA members in a way that an Executive Board member cannot."

Since becoming an AVMA member in 1964, Dr. Beaver has been an active participant and leader in many special issues committees, particularly education. Her continued commitment to the work of the AVMA is illustrated in her service as a liaison to nine other organizations and her participation in several committees since joining the board in 1997.

In addition to her work with the AVMA, Dr. Beaver is extensively involved in numerous other professional organizations. She is a charter diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and serves as executive director and past president of the or-

ganization. Dr. Beaver is also an active member of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association and has served as president and on the board of directors. Included among Dr. Beaver's many honors are recognitions in *1000 World Leaders of Scientific Influence* (2001), *2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 20th Century* (2000), *Five Hundred Leaders of Influence* (2001) and most recently, she received the 2001 Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian Award.

"We are proud to have Dr. Beaver as the Executive Board Chair," said Dr. H. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "Her leadership in the college, the TVMA and the AVMA has made a lasting contribution to veterinary medicine."

Pet Talk

Cats, horses, reptiles and pets of all kinds depend on their owners for food, shelter and their general well being. Pet owners depend on veterinarians to provide quality medical care and information regarding a pet's health. As a service to pet owners across Texas, and to heighten the awareness of the veterinary profession, the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, distributes "Pet Talk."

"Pet Talk" is a weekly newspaper column published in forty-plus publications throughout the state. In the column, various college faculty are interviewed on topics ranging from choosing a pet to fit a particular lifestyle to specific medical concerns. All species with pet potential may be covered. The primary emphasis of each column is to provide general information on a specific topic and to direct the reader to their local veterinarian if additional information is needed.

The column is available free of charge to any Texas newspaper that requests it. If you would like to see this weekly column in your hometown paper, please have the editor of your local newspaper contact Keith Randall, Texas A&M University Relations, phone (979) 845-4644, or e-mail at kr@univrel.tamu.edu.

Highest Standards

Each year since 1982, the Texas A&M University Association of Former Students has recognized two faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine for teaching excellence. The college is pleased to announce this year's recipients, Drs. Randy Stewart and Anton Hoffman.

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

Dr. Randy Stewart has been working as a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology since 1999. His students describe him as a teacher who creates an atmosphere of "open discussion and free thought", an observation also made by his colleagues when they point to the line of students outside his door.

Dr. Anton Hoffman has also made a lasting mark in the minds of his students. In nomination letters received from students, Dr. Hoffman is repeatedly described as a "great listener, excellent artist and extraordinary professor".

Dr. Hoffman has been with the College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health since 1987, and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1998.



Dr. Randy Stewart



Dr. Anton Hoffman

Answering the Call

On April 5, 2001, Governor Rick Perry established the "Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Working Group." The FAD Working Group consists of more than 30 state agencies, including the College of Veterinary Medicine, that are charged with the prevention of, preparation for, and response to the potential threat of foreign animal disease. The Texas Animal Health Commission and the Division of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety, are the coordinating agencies.

The college's specific responsibilities as set forth in Appendix 4 to Annex H in the state's plan are to:

Assist TAHC in FAD operations and actions.

Provide training to faculty and other veterinarians in FAD diagnostics and operations.

Serve as a repository of up to 120 qualified veterinary diagnosticians for deployment as requested by TAHC.

Disseminate educational and training materials through the Trans-Texas Video Network (TTVN) and via the web, print media, professional organizations, and official government channels.

Assist TVMDL, as required, in performing modern molecular biology diagnostic procedures to type and geo-reference the FAD organisms in incidents by DNA fingerprinting procedures.

Conduct official continuing education seminars in concert with TEEX and/or TAHC to train private and academic veterinarians and veterinary students in FAD diagnostic procedures and on-site and off-site incident management operations and procedures.

Provide information to TAHC and TVMDL relative to risk assessment, diagnostic data, and geo-referencing incidents, which may be useful for predicting future FAD occurrences.

Facilitate pre-emptive storage of frozen semen and fibroblasts from irreplaceable livestock for gene banks and subsequent cloning at private companies and academic institutions.

Provide epidemiological support to field operations.

Texas is the first state to develop a comprehensive foreign animal disease emergency response plan. The plan was tested on June 26, 2001 with a *simulated* outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Brazos County. The plan, although not perfected, was found to be highly functional.



Dr. Karen Russell

Teaching Excellence

Since 1991, each academic college annually selects one tenure-track developing faculty member as its Montague Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) Scholar. The College of Veterinary Medicine is proud to announce Dr. Karen Russell as its CTE Scholar for 2001-2002. Dr. Russell has served as an Assistant Professor, Clinical Pathology, in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology since 2000.

CTE Scholars demonstrate outstanding ability and interest in the teaching of undergraduates and receive a \$5,000 grant toward the research and development of innovative teaching techniques. Those techniques are made available to other faculty through the Center for Teaching Excellence, which helps to develop role models in teaching to improve the overall teaching standards at Texas A&M University.

The family of the late Kenneth E. Montague '37 has generously supported this award to encourage and recognize high standards of teaching excellence.

Veterinary Professorships

Drs. Gerald Bratton and Sandee Hartsfield, professors at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, were recently awarded the Earline and A.P. Wiley Endowed Veterinary Professorship in recognition of their teaching excellence in basic and clinical science.

Candidates for Wiley Professorships are selected in July by the Master Teacher Panel and must carry the title of associate professor or greater and have a full time appointment in a department within the college. For their outstanding contribution to teaching, Dr. Bratton and Dr. Hartsfield will be awarded \$5,000 each year for three years in support of their proposed projects.



Dr. Gerald Bratton



Dr. Sandy Hartsfield

What's New?

Keep your college and fellow alumni informed by sending your news to:

CVM Today
Texas A&M University
College of Veterinary Medicine
College Station, TX 77843-4461
fax: 979-845-5088 or
e-mail: editor@cvm.tamu.edu

Research Honor

Dr. Randy Stewart received the Microcirculatory Society Award for Excellence in Lymphatic Research. Stewart is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology.

This national award is given by the Microcirculatory Society once a year and was presented to Stewart at the 2001 Experimental Biology meeting in March 2001. The award is the result of a manuscript submitted entitled "Flow in Lymphatic Networks: Interaction between Hepatic and Intestinal Lymph Vessels." In receiving this award, Stewart thanked his research mentor, Dr. Glen Laine, Professor and Head of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology and Director of the Michael E. Debakey Institute, whose "ideas were crucial to this research."

Class Year

1942

Ernest E. Remington, DVM

Remington, of Graham, died May 2, 2001

1943

Edward G. Streetman, DVM

Streetman, of Port Arthur, died February 10, 2001

1944

George E. Grimes, Sr., DVM

Grimes, of Fort Worth, died August 20, 2001

1945

Sterling Vernon Dietz, DVM

Dietz, of Mission, died April 22, 2001

1949

Jack M. Brundett, DVM

Brundett, of Irving, died March 1, 2001

1951

Maxie C. Harkins, DVM

Harkins, of Crockett, died May 11, 2001

1983

Joseph R. Stautner, DVM

Stautner, of Dallas, died June 2, 2001

Veterinary Class Scholarship Fund

Memorials in honor of deceased classmates can be made to:

Veterinary Class Scholarship Fund

c/o Dr. O.J. Woytek

Office of the Dean, MS #4461

College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU

College Station, TX 77843-4461

Please make checks payable to "Texas A&M Foundation."

Indicate "Class Scholarship", the honoree's name and CVM class year in the memo section.

Dr. Fred D Maurer 1909-2001



Dr. Fred D. Maurer

Dr. Fred D. Maurer, former Associate Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, died in the presence of his family June 5, 2001. Dr. Maurer joined the College of Veterinary Medicine as Associate Dean and Distinguished Professor of Biology in September of 1964 after retiring as Colonel from the U. S. Army Veterinary Corps where he served for 23 years.

Dr. Maurer was born in Moscow, Idaho, May 4, 1909. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business from the University of Idaho in 1934, followed by a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Washington State College in 1937 where he graduated with highest honors. Dr. Maurer was called into the U. S. Army Veterinary Corps in 1941, which interrupted work

on a second doctorate at Cornell University specializing in pathology and bacteriology. Dr. Maurer was able to complete the requirements for his PhD at Cornell University through work at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

Dr. Maurer's life work was the study of exotic diseases. During his tenure with the U. S. Army Veterinary Corps, Dr. Maurer's roles as researcher and administrator led him across the U. S. and into Asia, the Middle East, South America, Canada and Africa. His interest and initiative in the study of exotic diseases were instrumental in the recognition, understanding and control of foreign animal diseases such as rinderpest.

After coming to the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, in 1964, Dr. Maurer continued his study of exotic diseases and helped to establish the Institute of Tropical Veterinary Medicine, for which he was the first director. A tribute to Dr. Maurer's work, the Institute has contributed much to its field while collaborating with various South American countries in research and

graduate studies. Because of his contributions to animal disease research, Dr. Maurer is credited with helping to bolster food production and livestock conservation in many underdeveloped countries with the vaccines developed in connection with his research.

In 1977, Dr. Maurer was named Professor Emeritus for the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University.

Dr. Maurer was preceded in death by his wife, Irene Haworth Maurer, who passed away June 19, 1999. He is survived by his daughter, Linda Maurer Coyne, and son-in-law, John C. Coyne; son, Allen Dry Maurer; niece, Elia Haworth; and grandsons, Ian Maurer Coyne and Eric Hay Day Maurer.

"Dr. Maurer was a dedicated scholar and visionary whose influence was an invaluable asset to every organization to which he belonged," said Dr. H. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University. "He exemplified a true, personal commitment to veterinary medical research, the results of which have benefited animals and people the world over."

One Spirit One Vision

Veterinary Class Scholarship Initiative



Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek

The new \$1 billion Capital Campaign to benefit Texas A&M University was announced this month at the university's 125th Anniversary celebration. One of the veterinary college's highest priorities is scholarship support for our students.

Enclosed is the new Veterinary Class Scholarship brochure that I ask each of our alumni, both young and old, to review. Please consider making a commitment to support your future colleagues who are now struggling with an average debt upon graduation exceeding \$5,000. Friends of the College, some among your own client base, are

also encouraged to help our students by making a gift and/or pledge to honor their veterinarian through his/her class scholarship fund. The holiday season would be a great time to do this!

If each former student who graduated since 1968 would pledge \$50 annually for five years, it would result in 33 new \$25,000 endowed scholarships, which would total \$825,000! For the older graduates who have smaller classes, if \$100 would be pledged for five years, the

majority of the pre-1970s classes would attain the \$25,000 minimum endowment goal. This would result in another 25 scholarships totaling \$625,000. As we all know, there is power in numbers, and if everyone gives a small amount, the sum total would be in excess of \$1,000,000 and over 50 new scholarship endowments!

You can ask the classes of '41 and '51 how proud they are of their scholarships. They now challenge each class to raise \$25,000 over the next 5 years to join them in assisting students here at Texas A&M.

The Class of 2002 has already begun working on its class scholarship. They began when their classmate Heidi Hopps was tragically killed by a hit-and-run driver in June of this year. If any of our friends of the college would like to support this class scholarship, it would be most appreciated.

In this holiday season of sharing and giving, please consider helping your classmates as we all work to help those who follow in our profession.

From all the family here at the College of Veterinary Medicine, we hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Gig 'em! Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek DVM '65

CVM Today is published to keep you informed about Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine. If you have a comment, question or information to share, please take a moment to fill out this form and return it to us at the college. Thank you.

First name _____ Last name _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone number _____

Daytime phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Check here if: New home address
 New business address

I have a comment/question/information: _____

Yes, I want to help.

Here is my donation to Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine.
Please refer to the enclosed brochure.
(Make checks payable to the Texas A&M Foundation)

Please contact me about making a gift to Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine.

I'd like to know more about making an estate gift (trusts, life insurance, bequests).

I'd like to know more about giving opportunities in the following area(s):

- Research
- Small Animal Medicine & Surgery
- Large Animal Medicine & Surgery
- Capper & Chris Save-the-Animals Fund
- Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital
- Stevenson Life-Care Center
- Scholarships

Other: _____

You can contact
Texas A&M University
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A circus act made an unexpected detour to the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, to seek veterinary attention for one of their stars. Drs. H. Phillip Hobson, a Professor in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, and James Jensen, an Associate Professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, worked furiously to get Zazu, the six-year-old male lion back in the act.

Zazu was diagnosed with having a cancerous mammary tumor that had ruptured the skin, leaving an open wound.

Dr. Hobson, assisted by Randy Wiltshire, a fourth year veterinary student, removed the football-sized tumor in a three-hour procedure. Zazu was released the next day on his way to full recovery.

Texas A&M University
College of Veterinary Medicine
2001 - 2002
Highlight Calendar

Fall Semester 2001

December 24-
January 2

TAMU closed for
holiday break

Spring Semester 2002

January 7 First day of spring classes

January 25 White Coat Ceremony
1st year Students

March 11-15 Spring Break

March 23 Open House
College of Veterinary
Medicine

April 12 Honor's Convocation

April 13 2nd Annual CVM
Parents Weekend

May 10 Commencement



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