

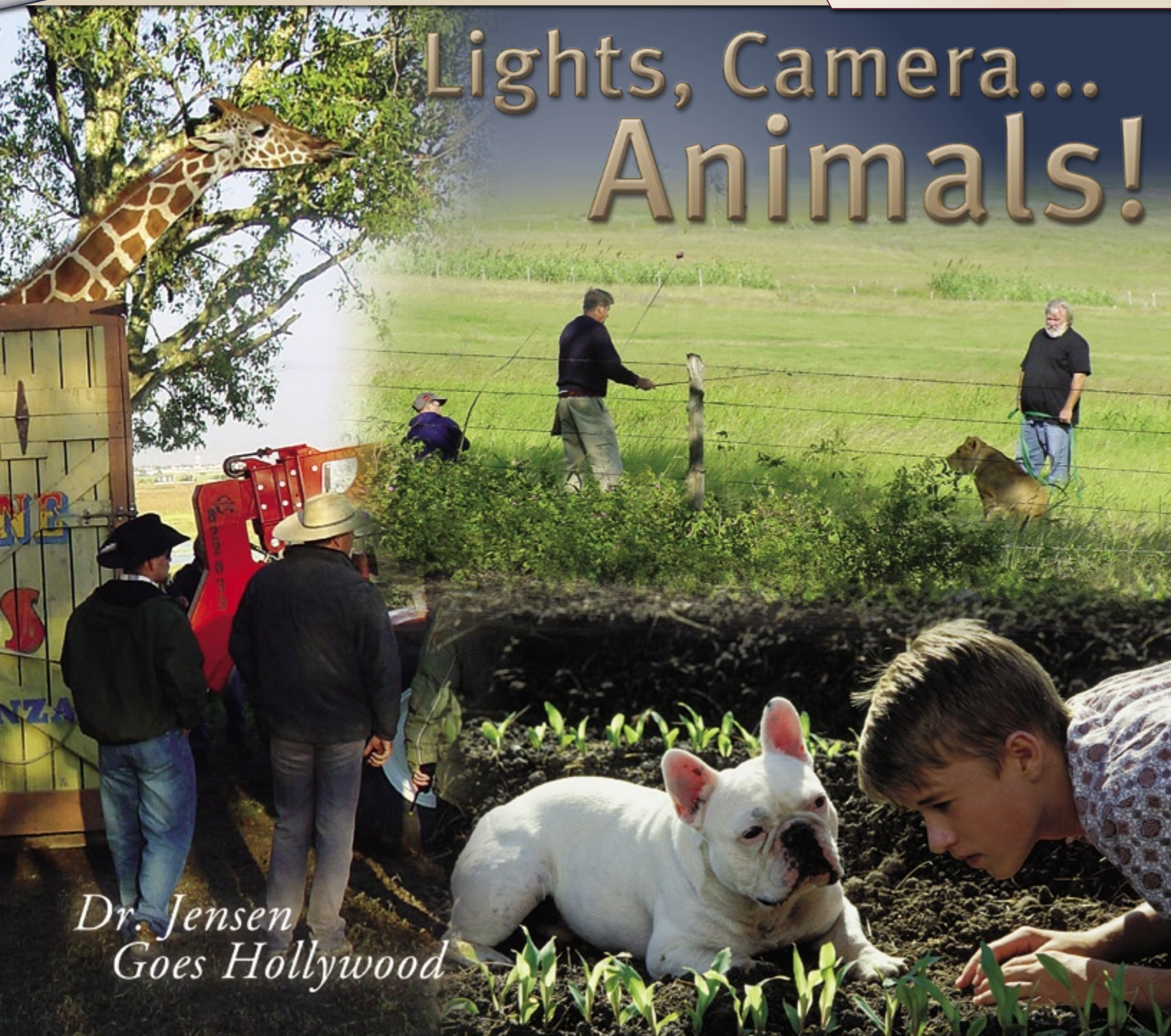


# CVM Today

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

Winter 2003 ♦ Vol. 5 No. 2

## Lights, Camera... Animals!



*Dr. Jensen  
Goes Hollywood*

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



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# Building the Future

*Unprecedented Growth and a Commitment to Excellence*

On August 20th I stood before 131 first-year professional veterinary medical students and welcomed the Class of '07 to the College of Veterinary Medicine. I congratulated them for achieving the first milestone in what will be a challenging and rewarding educational journey, leading them to their ultimate goal of graduating with the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree. What impressed me most, besides the students' enormous potential and immeasurable enthusiasm, was that in many respects this moment marked the beginning of one of the most profound times in the history of your College of Veterinary Medicine.

Throughout these students' four-year educational program they will witness unprecedented expansion of the college's faculty, facilities, and technologies. We are literally building the future through a number of bold, new initiatives designed to further elevate the veterinary medical education of our students, the clinical and research programs of our faculty, and our service to the citizens of Texas and the nation.

## FACULTY

In an unparalleled move, Texas A&M University's president, Dr. Robert Gates, announced that the university will add over 400 tenured and tenure-track faculty over the next five years. This bold initiative will improve the quality of the student experience at this institution and help grow our teaching, research, and clinical programs. This is an extraordinary step forward in establishing Texas A&M University as a Top 10 institution by the year 2020.

Just a few short months ago, as the Texas 78th Legislative Session was beginning, I was losing sleep worrying about how the college would absorb a projected \$4 million reduction in our annual recurring state budget. However, through our campus leadership



Dean H. Richard Adams

working with local legislators, and the support of the entire state legislature, we instead will receive a \$3.3 million increase in our budget allocation for recruiting additional faculty during the next four to five years.

At a time when other veterinary schools are experiencing major budget reductions, your College of Veterinary Medicine will be recruiting over 40 new faculty in strategic areas identified as Signature Programs. We believe that by building on our current clinical and research strengths in Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases, Biomedical Genomics, Cardiovascular Sciences, Neurosciences, Reproductive Biology, Toxicology and Environmental Health Sciences, and Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medical Edu-

cation, we can advance from our status as the fifth highest ranking veterinary college in the nation all the way to number one!

The advancement of our college in national rankings will further support Texas A&M University's Vision 2020 goals as well as enhance our ability to better serve the animal owners of the Great State of Texas.

## FACILITIES

The College of Veterinary Medicine has seen tremendous expansion and renovation of our facilities over the past few years. We have added a state-of-the-art Small Animal Emergency Medicine and Intensive Care Unit, the Equine Pavilion, and a new food storage facility, and implemented major renovations throughout college classrooms and lecture halls. A few months ago we broke ground on a much-anticipated necropsy teaching theater that will also contain a totally new and environmentally friendly technology for carcass disposal.

## TECHNOLOGIES

Veterinary medicine is constantly changing owing in large measure to rapid advancements in technology. The college continues to invest in state-of-the-art equipment and employs the latest technologies when possible and when resources are available. For example, sophisticated human-health grade

*...continued on page 2*



Completion of the necropsy teaching theater and biological waste management facility is scheduled for Fall 2004.



## Future

...continued from page 1

laboratory analyzers for blood chemistry, ventilators with graphics capabilities and other instruments comparable to that used in cutting-edge medicine and surgery in human hospitals are currently in use in the Large and Small Animal Clinics for patient care and teaching.

However, we have set our sights even higher and we are working toward having an MRI installed in our Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. This has been a tremendous need for some time, and we are looking to our alumni and friends to help us find the means to accomplish this goal.

As we build for the future, it is imperative we include our students in the opportunities that are ahead. Therefore, I wish to announce a new fund-raising approach to provide financial assistance to our professional students. The "Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction" will be held annually and provide future scholarships to ease the burden of increasing tuition costs.

I would like to invite each of our alumni and friends to the College of Veterinary Medicine's First Annual Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction on Saturday, April 3, 2004, at Reed Arena in College Station, Texas. This benefit will provide an enjoyable evening for all, while helping to build an endowment in support of our student's education and the future of our profession.

This is truly an exciting time at our university and College of Veterinary Medicine. I hope to see you soon and please, don't hesitate to share with me your perspective and comments regarding how the college may better serve our students and citizens of Texas.

Sincerely,



*H. Richard Adams*

**H. RICHARD ADAMS**  
DEAN

## Secondhand Lions

*Dr. Jensen Goes Hollywood*

The 1,400 miles separating Hutto and Hollywood seemed a bit shorter when New Line Cinema brought Michael Caine, Robert Duvall, Haley Joel Osment, and a menagerie of four-legged actors to the Central Texas town to film their recent release, *Secondhand Lions*. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for Dr. James Jensen, associate professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine & Surgery, who was hired by the production company as a veterinary consultant.

Jensen was on hand in case a veterinary medical emergency occurred while Kelsey, the giraffe making a cameo appearance in the movie, was on the set. Fortunately for Kelsey and her owners, Wayne's World Safari of Mathis, Texas, no emergencies arose.

In this heartwarming comedy, Walter, an introverted 14 year-old boy (Osment) finds himself spending the summer with two cranky great-uncles (Caine and Duvall) on their remote Texas ranch. In one scene, the eccentric, shotgun toting, adventure seeking brothers take delivery of a lion that they ordered for a home-grown big game hunt.

The scene opens as the distant silhouette of a stately giraffe appears on the horizon. The giraffe is loaded on the back of an approaching flatbed truck which steadily moves toward the old farmhouse. As it turns out, Kelsey is just along for the ride while the delivery men drop off the lion.

"While filming this scene we went back to the monitors to see what the cameras were picking up and the owner of the giraffe and I dropped our jaws when we saw the image come over the horizon, it was gorgeous," Jensen said. "I thought it might get cut out of the movie, but to my surprise it was in the movie's trailer!"

Jensen's off-camera role required that he have capture equipment; capture drugs and basic supplies that would be needed if there were an emer-

gency with Kelsey during the three days that she was on the set.

"The producers collectively felt that if they were going to have a giraffe on the set they were also going to need a veterinarian who could immobilize and treat the animal in the event of an accident," Jensen said. Although Kelsey didn't need his services, Jensen did treat a few other four-footed actors.

The cast of *Secondhand Lions* included six supporting canines, and while on location Jensen was asked by one of the dog trainers to examine the ears of two bloodhounds that also starred in *Sweet Home Alabama* (2002).

"When the trainer asked me to examine their ears, I told her that although I was a zoo veterinarian, I could certainly look at a dog's ear," Jensen said. "They each had a very common, mild ear infection, which was successfully treated."

Although Jensen did not meet any of the human actors, he did have a front row seat to observe the animal training that is involved in the filming process.

"I always thought that in the movies, when there is an animal relaxing, it is just like my dog who will lay down and go to sleep when things get quiet," Jensen said. "But each one of these animals are constantly coached even if they are just laying down."

Now that Jensen has worked on a major movie production, will he be heading to Hollywood?



Off-screen trainers coach animal actors whenever they are in a scene.

# Canine Kidney Research

*Renal Disease Studies Benefit Both Humans and Animals*



Kelsey only made a brief appearance in the movie, but during break time she stole the show.

"I think I'll stay right here," Jensen said. "I could go to Hutto again, but I'm okay here."

The movie, which opened in theaters on September 19, 2003, was written and directed by Tim McCanlies who also wrote and directed *Dancer, Texas* (1998).



Researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine are looking for new ways to slow down or halt the progression of chronic renal failure in humans and animals. Dr. George Lees, a professor in the Department of Small Animal Medicine & Surgery, was awarded a National Institutes of Health grant to look at this condition in canines.

Since 1992, Lees has been studying the effects of canine hereditary nephritis, a disease that causes the juvenile-onset of chronic renal failure in affected dogs within specific breeds. This condition is caused by genetic defects in type IV collagen, which is an essential structural protein found in the filters within the kidney.

Others currently involved in the project include Texas A&M University assistant professors Dr. Anne Bahr, in the Department of Large Animal Medicine & Surgery, and Dr. Keith Murphy, in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology. Murphy is the director of the Canine Genetics Laboratory at Texas A&M University, and his students recently identified the genetic mutation responsible for X-linked hereditary nephritis in some mixed-breed dogs.

In addition to local collaboration, Lees works with physicians and veterinarians interested in Alport syndrome research in Minnesota, Nebraska, Indiana, and Georgia, as well as in Stockholm, Sweden.

This disease is of particular interest because it is analogous to the renal disease that occurs in humans with Alport syndrome, which usually causes affected individuals to have renal failure in their late teens or early twenties. "We are looking for ways to slow down or stop the processes that destroy the kidneys. If successful, this strategy would permit patients that have the disease to delay or avoid experiencing kidney failure," said Lees.

Although the basic genetic cause of hereditary nephritis is known, how the



Dr. George Lees with several canine partners from his research project.

disease actually works remains a mystery. "In humans and dogs, this disease is most often inherited as an X-linked trait (due to a defect on the X-chromosome) or as an autosomal recessive trait," Lees said.

Lees and his research team were the first to characterize dogs with both genetic forms of the disease, which typically causes affected dogs to have kidney failure between the ages of six months and two years.

Lees began his canine hereditary nephritis research with studies of an autosomal recessive form of the disease that occurs in English Cocker Spaniels. The studies, now focused mainly on identifying the cause behind gene mutation and developing a genetic test for carriers, are ongoing because dogs that are carriers of this disease trait cannot yet be readily identified before they have offspring.

Additionally, dogs with the X-linked form of the disease are being studied because carrier females and affected males can be accurately identified shortly after birth. Studying the colony assures access to affected dogs for investigations of the pathogenesis and treatment of this disease.



# Madam President

2004 AVMA President-Elect Dr. Bonnie Beaver

Nationally known animal behaviorist Dr. Bonnie Beaver of Texas A&M University has been elected president-elect of the American Veterinary Medical Association for 2003-2004, becoming only the second woman in the history of the organization to fill that office.

Beaver, who was unanimously elected to the post by AVMA delegates at the annual meeting in Denver, will assume the duties of president of the 69,000-member AVMA in July of 2004.

"We have a long way to go and much to do," said Beaver. "The continuity of several programs and initiatives by former AVMA presidents will be part of my vision as well. I intend to continue working hard to represent the needs of all veterinarians."

The veterinary medical profession has expanded greatly to include various aspects of public health such as food safety and bioterrorism, placing veterinarians on the front-line of our nation's defense.

"We realize that veterinarians will be among the first responders in a bioterrorism attack so all veterinarians need to understand the implications of the profession relative to public health and safety." Educating veterinarians about their broader role and supporting the veterinary medical profession are major goals of the AVMA.

"One of the things that we have been focusing on for the past several years is the globalization of veterinary medicine. Veterinarians in the United States are global leaders in the clinic and in the laboratory. We have a responsibility to educate and lead our colleagues around the world while

maintaining the high standards of our profession," Beaver added.

Beaver specializes in animal behavior and is a key source in the Behavior Referral Service at the Small Animal Clinic, helping owners of animals that are experiencing unusual behaviors and disorders, such as aggression or anxiety in their pets.

A native of Minnesota, Beaver holds three degrees from the University of Minnesota, where she also taught. Beaver came to Texas A&M University in 1969 and since 1986 has been a professor in the Department of Small Animal Medicine & Surgery.

Beaver is board certified and a charter diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and is also a certified applied animal

behaviorist. A past chair of the executive board of the AVMA, Beaver has chaired many committees including the human-animal bond task force and the euthanasia panel. Beaver has held many volunteer positions in the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, including serving

as past president.

Beaver definitely believes in taking action. "When I was growing up my parents told me that if I didn't like something, I should become involved in order to facilitate change. Complaining doesn't accomplish anything—it takes involvement for progress to be made," said Beaver.

"My niche has primarily been with veterinary organizations, but I believe that every veterinarian should have a commitment for some type of service. Whether it is a service organization, your community, or your profession,



Dr. Bonnie Beaver will begin her term as AVMA president in July of 2004.

the important thing is to give something back."

Beaver has been published in numerous academic veterinary medical journals and has been named in American Men and Women of Science, The Dictionary of Distinguished Americans, 500 Leaders of Influence, Foremost Women of the 20th Century, Men and Women of Distinction, Outstanding People of the 20th Century, Outstanding Young Women of America, 1000 World Leaders of Scientific Influence and many others.

"We are very proud of Dr. Beaver," said Dr. H. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "Her dedication to our profession and the leadership that she has provided have made an indelible mark on veterinary medicine."

**"We are very proud of Dr. Beaver. Her dedication to our profession and the leadership that she has provided have made an indelible mark on veterinary medicine."**

*— H. Richard Adams  
Dean of the  
College of Veterinary Medicine*

## AVMA Facts

- Established in 1863
- Represents over 69,000 veterinarians
- Members work in private and corporate practice, government, industry, academia and in uniformed services
- Organizational mission is "Improving Animal and Human Health, Advancing the Veterinary Medical Profession"

# New Veterinary Medical Education Programs

## *DVM/PhD and DVM/MBA Degree Tracts*

**T**exas A&M University has announced the implementation and first student enrollments in two exciting new educational programs as initiatives in the new Program for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medical Education, which was established in 2002. The Veterinary Medical Scientist Training Program is a combined DVM/PhD degree program designed to prepare highly motivated students for career leadership roles as the next generation of scientists in experimental biology and biomedical sciences.

The program provides advanced, rigorous research and clinical training that will lead to career opportunities in academia, industry, clinical practice, and government. The program can be completed in seven to eight years. The first three students, Tanya Gustafson (Class of 2006), Virginia Snell (Class of 2005), and Quynhtien Tran (Class of 2007) were first enrolled this past academic year. Gustafson is a recipient of a Howard Hughes Fellowship, being selected as one of only 47 students nationally from more than 2,000 applicants.

"I was interested in a combined DVM/PhD program because it provides more options for using my veterinary medical education in practice, industry, or in academics," said Gustafson. "I contacted Dean Adams and Dr. Gage and they really helped me realize my goal here at Texas A&M University."

The second new program is the DVM/MBA Program wherein a DVM professional student may take deferment between the second and third or third and fourth years of the professional curriculum and complete the MBA coursework in one year and then return to the DVM curriculum. Another option would be to complete the DVM degree and immediately

matriculate the MBA coursework in the Texas A&M University Mays School of Business. The first four students enrolled are Amber Williams (DVM Class of 2005) and Dana Boehm, Erin Mitchell and Shawna Walters (DVM Class of 2003). These students are preparing for leadership roles in many areas of veterinary medicine and business with MBA training in leadership, management, human resources, teambuilding, communications, marketing, business, finance and accounting.

"I don't have any farm animal experience, but I am interested in a food animal practice or working in industry. I thought that having the business education might make me more competitive in this area," said Amber Williams.

Erin Mitchell agrees, "I would like to know more about the business side of veterinary medicine because one day I hope to own my own practice or group of practices. Hopefully, someday, I'll be able to share what I am learning in the MBA program with other veterinarians either through consulting or continuing education courses."

The Program for Executive Leadership in Veterinary Medical Education is directed by Dr. E. Dean Gage, holder of the Charles and Mildred Kruse Bridges Chair in Veterinary Medical Education. Gage stated, "We are excited to implement these two



DVM/PhD students Tanya Gustafson and Virginia Snell are expanding their options through this new degree program (DVM/PhD student Quynhtien Tran not shown).

new programs which reflect our commitment to graduate veterinarians who are not only highly competent from the scientific and technological perspective, but who also have enhanced skills to be the real leaders of tomorrow. We owe this to the profession and are very proud of these outstanding students who are paving the way for others to follow."

"The importance of the new program in executive leadership and its degree plans for students seeking broader applications for their veterinary medical education can't be over-emphasized," said Dean H. Richard Adams. "The future of veterinary medicine is dependent upon an evolving curriculum which will engage students to their highest potential and prepare them to achieve excellence and a leadership role in their field."



DVM/MBA students Erin Mitchell, Amber Williams and Dana Boehm look forward to applying the business knowledge they are acquiring from this new degree program to their veterinary medical career (DVM/MBA student Shawna Walters not shown).



# A World of Difference

*Global Leadership in Food Safety and Security Issues*



**D**r. Leon Russell, professor of Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health, knows the importance of thinking globally. In over 35 years of service to the State of Texas, Russell's contribution to public health extends far beyond the borders of the Lone Star State.

Russell received his veterinary training at the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine and received his DVM in 1956. Graduate degrees were received from Tulane University (MPH, 1958) and from Texas A&M University (PhD, 1965). With his professional interests in epidemiology, food toxicology and mycology, Russell entered academia as a teacher and researcher in veterinary public health, medical microbiology and immunology as well as food science and technology.

His academic training and professional interests prepared him for leadership roles in the Texas Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Russell held multiple positions in these organizations culminating with President in 1984-1985 and 1993-1994, respectively.

Having served in veterinary leadership positions at the state and national

levels, Russell was encouraged to represent his profession internationally. His name was submitted by the AVMA Executive Board to represent the United States at the World Veterinary Association (WVA). He was elected WVA Vice President in September 2002 and became the WVA's Liaison Officer to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The World Veterinary Association is engaged in the effort to advance veterinary medicine globally including making recommendations to ensure food security and food safety. The WVA formalized their working relationships with a number of global organizations and recently appointed Russell as a liaison to represent veterinary medicine at international meetings of the WHO, Office International des Epizooties (OIE), and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

"The world is coming to us everyday; it is right there on your plate," says Russell. "Food products including fresh and canned meats, fish, poultry, fruits and vegetables, cheeses and other items are imported and exported around the world."

Russell notes that world culture, religion, and politics must be taken into consideration when enacting international health and food safety trade standards.

The WVA is the only international veterinary non-government organization routinely in the WHO and the Codex Alimentarius. "We try to represent the global veterinary medical profession as well as possible." The fields of food safety, antibiotic resistance, animal health, animal welfare and the responsible and sustainable use of our natural resources receive particular attention.

"As the liaison to the WHO from the WVA, I am invited to attend all meetings that seat non-government organizations." Only individuals representing a member nation, a non-government organization, or those invited to present an expert paper are permitted to attend these meetings.

"As a representative of a non-government organization, I can speak to any topic on the table unless the chair expressly prohibits us from doing so—which only happens occasionally."

With the WVA and Dr. Russell providing input on international food safety and security issues, veterinary medicine is making a world of difference at dinner tables around the globe.



Dr. Leon Russell (far left) with colleagues at an international meeting in Mexico.



# Critically Thinking

*Advancing Large Animal Critical Care and Emergency Medicine*

There are no new buildings to dedicate, but the Large Animal Clinic's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the College of Veterinary Medicine has undergone significant changes this year. With the arrival of new faculty, the new student rotation, and upgraded equipment, the large animal critical care and emergency unit has set a new standard.

Dr. Joanne Hardy, an assistant professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine & Surgery joined Dr. Peggy Marsh, a lecturer in the same department, this summer after spending ten years with The Ohio State University Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Hardy is board certified in large animal emergency critical care and will share responsibilities with Marsh for the ICU critical care unit within the Large Animal Clinic.

Shortly after Hardy arrived, a stand-alone, 24-hour, large animal emergency clinical rotation was added to the fourth-year veterinary curriculum.

"It's a lot of work for students in a two-week period with very rough hours," Marsh said. "But there are many benefits, including the ability to monitor their cases throughout the time they are here and more interclass interaction which improves their communication skills."

Through this rotation, Hardy and Marsh are hoping to better prepare students for emergency cases and increase their comfort in tense situations.

"We also hope to offer specialty training for students wanting to go into large animal emergency and critical care," Marsh said.

To continue providing the best large animal emergency care and the best learning environment for students,

acquiring new equipment became a top priority.

"The recent upgrade has provided better monitoring equipment that allows us to measure different chemistry parameters from one central location," Hardy said.



Dr. Peggy Marsh (right) and ECC Technician Beth Scallan check the progress of their patient.

**"We're pretty much equipped to handle anything and everything."**

*— Dr. Peggy Marsh, Lecturer  
Large Animal Medicine & Surgery*



Dr. Joanne Hardy answers questions for students during their large animal emergency clinical rotation.

The Large Animal Clinic's ICU facility includes many of the same items that a human emergency room contains, only on a much bigger scale including: ventilators and fluid pumps; facilities equipped for neonatal, neurological, intensive care and surgical capabilities. The clinic has six indoor stalls for critical care patients, six stalls in an isolation unit (for animals with infectious diseases), and another 30 stalls in the Equine Pavilion.

"We're pretty much equipped to handle anything and everything," adds Marsh.

While Marsh and Hardy head the ICU area, they are supported by other faculty members, house officers and technicians. In September of 2003, a devastating barn fire in College Station sent five horses to the critical care unit

highlighting the importance of teamwork in emergency care.

"The unit is obviously made up of more than just Dr. Hardy and myself. One of the most satisfying aspects of working here is that there is a really good system of helping each other," Marsh said.

The Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital continues to lead the herd as one of a few colleges with board certified veterinarians in large animal emergency medicine and critical care with a stand-alone 24-hour large animal emergency clinical rotation.

"We are really excited about the new direction we are taking," Marsh said. "This is something relatively unique in that we are having a new rotation for the students with specially trained clinicians and the continued support of the rest of our department."

# The Best Defense

*Researchers Part of NIH's Regional Center of Excellence*

Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine will partner with the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston for biodefense research as part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) effort to combat a possible bioterrorism attack.

The NIH recently announced the creation of eight Regional Centers of Excellence (RCE) for bioterrorism research and awarded \$350 million over five years for the centers to detect and find ways to combat bioterrorism acts. The new RCEs provide a coordinated and comprehensive mechanism to support the varied research that will lead to new and improved vaccines, therapies, diagnostics and other tools against the threat of bioterrorism.

Dr. Garry Adams, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Veterinary Medicine, will help coordinate the research at Texas A&M University and work closely with the UT-Medical Branch.

Drs. Thomas Ficht, also in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Rene Tsolis, professor of microbiology and immunology in the Health Science Center, will also be instrumental in the effort, along with

Dr. James Samuel in the Health Science Center.

Texas A&M University will receive \$2.6 million over a five-year period to conduct its bioterrorism research activities, Adams said.

"Our primary goal is to develop human brucellosis and Q-Fever vaccines, which are somewhat similar diseases." Tsolis will work on brucellosis vaccines while Samuel will concentrate on Q-Fever, Adams added.

"Both diseases have been weaponized as terror agents by several countries, so the threat already exists. Both diseases are rarely fatal, but they make a person very sick with flu-like conditions and cause high fever. Both are difficult to cure, and with brucellosis, once you have it, you usually have it for the rest of your life."

The eight Regional Centers of Excellence for bioterrorism research are Duke University; Harvard Medical School; New York State Department of Health; University of Chicago; University of Maryland; University of Washington; Washington University in St. Louis; and the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

About \$48 million will be designated for bioterrorism research

**"Both [brucellosis and Q-fever] have been weaponized as terror agents by several countries, so the threat already exists."**

*— Dr. Garry Adams  
Associate Dean for Research  
and Graduate Studies*



Dr. Garry Adams inspects specimens in his laboratory.

at UTMB, according to figures from the National Institutes for Health. The centers will study infectious diseases, develop vaccines, antibiotics and other methods to combat biological terrorist attacks from such substances as anthrax, smallpox and other deadly diseases.

Specifically, the centers will develop new approaches to blocking the action of anthrax and other toxins; develop new vaccines against plague, brucellosis, Q-Fever, anthrax, smallpox, Ebola and others; develop new antibiotics and other drug strategies; study bacterial and viral disease processes; design new diagnostic approaches for biodefense and for emerging diseases; conduct immunological studies of diseases caused by potential agents of bioterrorism; and create new immunization strategies and delivery systems.

"The simple explanation of our work is that we want to be able to detect a bioterrorist disease," Adams said. "We all know the threat of a bioterrorism attack is very real. That's why this work is so important, and why we have to come up with the best possible defense against a public health crisis."



## United We Stand

As the first Director of the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Centers, US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Maryland, Colonel Gerald Parker, Jr., DVM, is developing a new model for countering biological terrorism. The 1977 Texas A&M University, College of Veterinary Medicine graduate is advising the White House's Transition Planning Office for the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Vice President.

Parker recently discussed governmental structures and procedures currently in place to protect citizens with members of the Texas branch of The American Society for Microbiology in

College Station.

"The threat of terrorism is not going away," said Parker. "In response to that reality the White House created the Department of Homeland Security."

Not only is the creation of a new department monumental, so is the rapidly merging disciplines of veterinary and human medicine.

"The importance of zoonotic diseases and their impact on human health make it apparent that the merge is not occurring fast enough. We must implement the "one medicine concept" [prevention of disease in animals leads to protection in humans] as quickly as possible," Parker said.



Colonel Gerald Parker, Jr. DVM '77, Director of the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Centers.

## Students Go to Washington

It was "Washington, D.C. or Bust" for Heather Engleking and Lindsey Holmstrom, second-year veterinary students at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, as they made their way to the nation's capital on June 16th for a two week fellowship program exploring opportunities in veterinary public policy.

From animal health to homeland defense, the veterinary profession is an integral thread in the fabric of national and international events. The University of Maryland is helping to weave a broader view through its "Summer Fellowship Program in Science, Technology and Public Policy: Implications for Veterinary Medicine."

A desire to explore additional opportunities in veterinary medicine led Engleking and Holmstrom to Dr. Gale Wagner, a professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology.

"We spoke with Dr. Wagner on a number of occasions about our interest in the political aspect or policy side of the veterinary profession and he thought the fellowship would be a great program for us to attend," said Engleking.

Under the direction of Dr. Ted Mashima, associate director of the Center for Government and Corporate Veterinary Medicine, the fellowship attracted eleven veterinary medical students from colleges throughout the United States. These students shared an interest in the public health aspect of veterinary medicine as it relates to bioterrorism, agroterrorism and homeland security.

"The variety of students participating in the fellowship program allowed us to see different aspects of the profession and help us consider different ideas," Engleking said. "It was

nice to be around other students who enjoyed discussing public health or policy issues in addition to the everyday veterinary clinical practice."

Engleking and Holmstrom were given the opportunity to tour the Biosafety Level 4 Lab at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, the Pentagon, the AVMA headquarters, Nutramax Laboratories, Inc., the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety, the Food Safety and Inspection Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and to observe a congressional hearing.

Additionally, Engleking and Holmstrom had the opportunity to interact with veterinary professionals from all areas of public practice.

"Dr. Mashima did a great job of setting up a dynamic group of individuals for us to meet. There were veterinarians from a variety of specialties within public practice, which helped us see the possibilities. It was a professional experience, but in an environment that facilitated networking," Holmstrom said.

"A program like this benefits veterinary medicine as a whole because it keeps us more open-minded about what we can do with our degree," Engleking added.

Engleking and Holmstrom both agree that even if they become involved in public practice, they will always be veterinarians first.

"Someday, even if I do work in public practice, I'll probably still have a neighbor or two who will ask me about their sick pets," Holmstrom said. "And that would be fine with me!"



Heather Engleking



Lindsey Holmstrom

## In the Cards

It was in the cards for Dr. Gene Williams to become a veterinarian. The year was 1951 and the game was poker. Williams, and his wife Sally, were playing cards with another couple when the subject of veterinary school came up.

Williams mentioned that at 33 years of age, he guessed that he'd never fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming a veterinarian. "Why not?" asked Sally. "You can go back to school if you want to." That little bit of encouragement was all it took.

After serving his country during World War II, working as a brand inspector for the Southwest Cattle Raisers Association, being employed by the Texas Animal Health Commission, and working as an officer for the Harris County Sheriff's Office, Williams set a new course for his career, and entered the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University in 1952.

"We bought a house in College Station for \$25 a month, and we both worked hard to get me through veterinary school," remembers

Williams. "Being a veterinarian was all that I ever wanted to be." Growing up in the Texas Hill Country was the perfect setting for Williams' love of animals to develop.

"I grew up riding horses and working with livestock, and I always knew that I wanted to be a veterinarian," said Williams. Today, the Houston suburbanite is the oldest practicing veterinarian in Texas and has a thriving mobile equine practice at the age of 84.

"Everything I need to treat a horse is on that truck," Williams says. The white, long-bed Ford pick-up truck is equipped for performing everything from vaccinations to field surgery. "I get a call, and then I go wherever I am needed."

After graduating from veterinary school in 1957, Williams moved to Houston. "We lived with Sally's mother and daddy and opened up a mixed veterinary practice over on Katy Road called the Alamo Veterinary Clinic."

Although Williams began his veterinary medical career practicing in a clinic, he soon chose a different path, becoming an exclusively mobile veterinarian in 1964, traveling from one horseracing track to another. "Being a mobile veterinarian means you don't have all that overhead and there is less paperwork," Williams points out. "Even in my practice, treating large animals meant that I had to leave the clinic to see my patients anyway."

Although no longer on the race-track circuit, Williams treats pleasure, rodeo, and racehorses in the Houston area and has a steady client list that keeps him very busy. "Mostly, my clients have been with me for a long time, but new clients hear about me through word of mouth."

Williams, a deep-voiced, soft-spoken man credits his wife for his long, successful veterinary career. "Sally helped me through school. I wouldn't be doing this if it weren't for her." Sally also handles the bookkeeping for Williams' practice.

"I like what I do and I like the people that I work with," says Williams. And, after more than 45 years of practice, this octogenarian says that one thing that isn't in the cards is retirement.

"I suppose I'll retire when they bury me." Until then, "Doc" Williams, as he is called by most of his friends and clients, greets each day with enthusiasm, working in the profession that he loves, with Sally by his side.



At age 84, Dr. Gene Williams has been recognized as the oldest practicing veterinarian in Texas.

## The Road Less Traveled

After accomplishing everything in life except her dream of becoming a veterinarian, Pat Ryan figured it was time. So at 51 years of age, she chose a road less traveled in pursuit of her DVM degree.

Ryan, 55, is a third-year veterinary student at the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), Texas A&M University. She is the oldest student in her class, and, since oral history on this subject has been lost, we can only confirm that Ryan is the oldest entering student in recent recorded CVM history (according to computer records existing since 1992).

"In 1983, when I was diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, I didn't know if I would survive—let alone be able to achieve my dream of becoming a veterinarian," Pat Ryan remembers. "But that period provided me with three positive gifts—patience, focus, and best of all, absolute assurance about the path I should take."

Ryan's CVM application essay is quite poignant. "I have waited twenty-five years to write this essay. The path leading to this moment has been slow but steady, deliberate and determined. At fifty-one, I bring a half century of life experience to the table, a background varied as a patchwork quilt, and a resumé described by one friend as 'Renaissance woman gone mad!'"

When Ryan was 25 she began pre-veterinary studies at Drexel University and then Bryn Mawr and volunteered in the emergency clinic at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. "As fate would have it, my first daughter, Emily, arrived one month into Physics, followed just over a year later by her sister, Elizabeth. These joyous events altered my life and I felt committed to being at home with my children. Veterinary school was postponed, but with optimism."

In 1981, Ryan moved to Houston with a renewed interest in animals as a volunteer with the Houston SPCA. In the 1990's, as her daughters were progressing through college, Ryan resumed her own undergraduate





At age 55, Pat Ryan is the oldest student admitted to Texas A&M University's veterinary professional program in recorded history.

studies. Within four years she graduated, completed the Graduate Record Examination and was accepted into the DVM program.

The transition from stay-at-home mom to student has been challenging but rewarding.

"I tire quicker than my classmates and I have reading glasses everywhere," says Ryan. "But, it has been a wonderful experience—challenging, frustrating, but fun, and classmates accept me as their peer, not their grandma." For Ryan, her CVM experiences and the camaraderie have forged lasting friendships and memories.

Ryan notes that life as a student is simpler now than when she first began her academic journey. "I don't hang out in bars and I'm not worried about whom to go out with on the weekend." Ryan's weekends are a special time, divided between her very supportive family, friends, and her studies.

Ryan is quick to appreciate the college's faculty and staff. "At first, things can be intimidating, but we are always encouraged. After a while, what may have seemed impossible is not."

After graduation, Ryan relishes the thought of a one-month vacation with her family before working in a veterinary practice. At 51 years of age, she chose a road less traveled, and for her, that has made all the difference.

## Oh, Deer!

In what is believed to be the first success of its kind, researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University have cloned a white-tailed deer. A fawn named "Dewey" after one of the researchers, was born to "Sweat Pea," a surrogate mother, on May 23, 2003.

The fawn is believed to be the first successfully cloned deer, making Texas A&M University the first academic institution in the world to have cloned five different species. Previously, researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine cloned cattle, goats, pigs, and a cat.

The announcement of the successful deer cloning was delayed until DNA analysis could be performed to confirm genetic identity.

This breakthrough in deer cloning was a joint project with Viagen, Inc. and may be useful in conserving endangered deer species including the Key West deer of Florida.

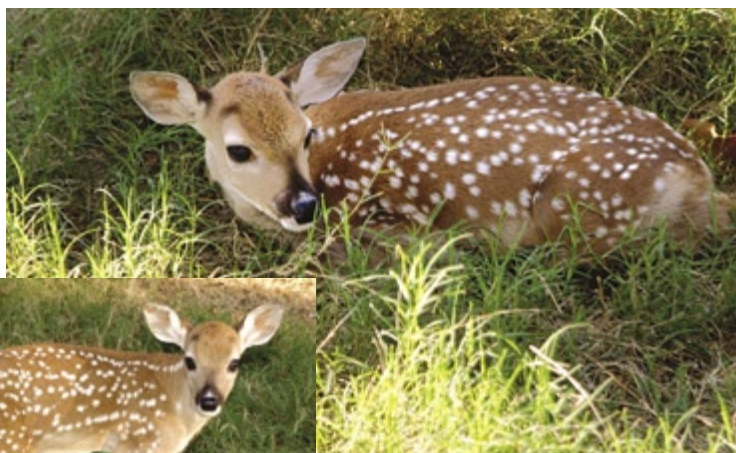
"Dewey is developing normally for a fawn his age and appears healthy," said Dr. Mark Westhusin, who holds a joint appointment with the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture and Life Sciences and is the lead investigator on the project. "DNA analysis confirmed that Dewey is a clone, meaning a genetic copy of the donor. Future scientific advances resulting from the successful cloning of the deer are expected."

The clone was produced using fibroblast cells which were isolated from skin samples derived from a deceased white-tailed buck, expanded in culture, then frozen and stored in liquid nitrogen. Dr. Taeyoung Shin performed the nuclear transfer procedures with Drs. Duane Kraemer, Juan Morano and Alice Blue-Mclendon assisting with transfer of the cloned embryos into the surrogate mother and delivery. Dewey is under the medical care of Blue-Mclendon, a veterinarian at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University.

"With each new species cloned, we learn more about how this technology might be applied to improve the health and reproduction of animals and of humans," said Westhusin.

**"With each new species cloned, we learn more about how this technology might be applied to improving the health of animals and humans."**

*— Dr. Mark Westhusin  
Associate Professor  
Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology*



Dewey, the first deer clone, was named after Dr. Duane "Dewey" Kraemer, a researcher working on the project.

## 4 + 1 = Opportunity

The undergraduate Biomedical Science Program (BIMS) at the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), and the School of Rural Public Health (SRPH), part of The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, signed an agreement providing early admissions between the two programs.

The Pilot 4+1 Agreement between BIMS and the SRPH was signed by Dr. H. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Ciro Sumaya, Dean of the School of Rural Public Health, on August 6, 2003.

"We are pleased to forge this agreement," Dean Adams said. "We are always looking for ways to update our system and look forward to working

with the SRPH and further developing our program. This is a tremendous opportunity for undergraduates who are ready to map out their academic program leading to a professional career in rural public health."

The unique program name (4+1) comes from the integration of a traditional four-year undergraduate degree and two-year MPH graduate degree into a five-year (4+1) degree program. As such, the 4+1 program facilitates the admission of students from the BIMS program into the SRPH program and ensures a seamless, integrated transition.

BIMS students considering the program must have a cumulative 3.5 GPA, take a collection of directed electives specified by the department

and complete the requirements necessary for graduate school admission to The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health including letters of recommendation.

"We are pleased to create an expressed linkage between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the School of Rural Public Health," Dean Sumaya said. "We currently participate in joint research projects, and some of our faculty hold dual appointments. Many of our top students have come to us from the BIMS program, and we expect the numbers to increase and envision an increase in joint collaborations between the SRPH and the CVM."

The Pilot 4+1 agreement began in the Fall of 2003.



Dr. H. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Ciro Sumaya, Dean of the School of Rural Public Health, close the deal with a smile.



F.H. "Skip" Landis, PhD, director of the Biomedical Science Program at the college, discusses the new 4+1 endeavor with administrators from the School of Rural Public Health.

### Continuing Education College of Veterinary Medicine Texas A&M University

*"Advancing Veterinary Medicine  
through Continuing Education"*

TVMA Mid-Winter Meeting  
February 27-29, 2004

Annual Feline Symposium  
March 13-14, 2004

CVM Homecoming CE Short  
Program  
April 4, 2004

11th Annual Veterinary Technician  
Conference  
April 23-25, 2004

New World and Old World Camelid  
Seminar  
May 21-22, 2004

Annual Food Animal Conference  
June 5-6, 2004

NAVCA – North American Veterinary  
College Administrators  
September 26-29, 2004



## Veterinary Medical Symbols

Although few may be able to differentiate between the aesculapius and caduceus, they have significantly different meanings with the aesculapius being the most frequently used to represent veterinary medicine today.

The word caduceus originates from the Greek “karykeion,” derived from “karyx,” meaning a herald’s badge or staff. In Latin, the word, “caduceum” has a similar meaning. The caduceus was worn by official messengers and displayed by military emissaries to signify that the battle had ceased. Roman surgeons also wore this symbol.

The origin of the caduceus relates to the Greek god Hermes (the Roman god Mercury), messenger of the gods, inventor of incantations, conductor of the dead and protector of merchants and thieves.

Many medical organizations use the caduceus as their symbol, with its short rod intertwined by two snakes and topped by a pair of wings. Although the World Veterinary Association still uses the caduceus, the American Veterinary Medical Association’s symbol is the aesculapius.

The Staff of Aesculapius personifies the art of healing. Aesculapius was most probably a skilled physician who practiced in Greece around 1200 B.C., and he is described in Homer’s “Iliad.” Eventually, through myth and legend, he came to be worshipped as Aesculapius, the Greek god of Healing.

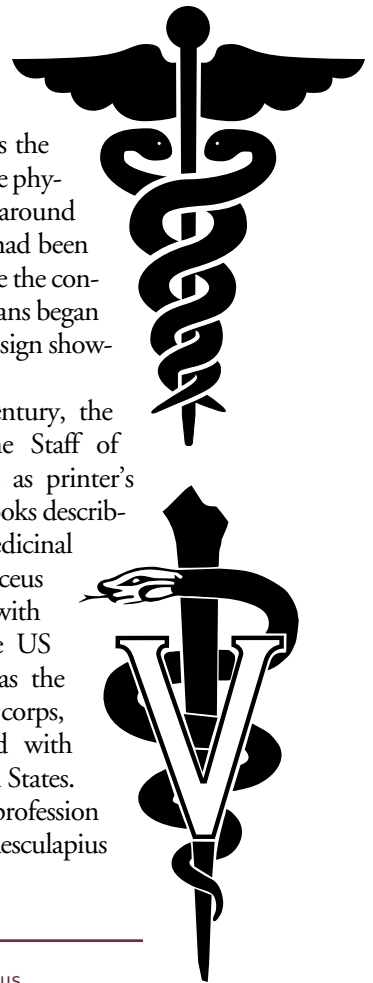
The Staff of Aesculapius has a single serpent encircling a staff, classically a rough-hewn knotty tree limb.

The probable medical origin of the single serpent rod stems from an ancient malady. A filarial worm known as “the fiery serpent” crawled around in the victim’s body, just under

the skin. Physicians treated this condition by cutting a slit in the patient’s skin, just in front of the worm’s path. As the worm crawled out of the cut, the physician carefully wound the pest around a stick until the entire animal had been removed. It is believed that since the condition was so common, physicians began advertising their services with a sign showing a worm on a stick.

In the 17th and 18th century, the caduceus of Hermes and the Staff of Aesculapius were widely used as printer’s marks, especially to decorate books describing drugs, chemicals, and medicinal preparations. Thus, the caduceus of Hermes became associated with medicine. In 1902, when the US Army adopted the caduceus as the official symbol of its medical corps, it officially became associated with human medicine in the United States.

The veterinary medical profession adopted the single serpent aesculapius thirty years ago in 1972.



Top: Medical Caduceus

Bottom: Veterinary Staff of Aesculapius

## Veterinary Enrichment Camp



Lonny Yu, Michelle Ratcliff, Kelly Patrick and Kate Lassig listen to an anatomy lecture at a camp session in 2002.

This summer, 86 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors will travel to Texas A&M University’s College of Veterinary Medicine to learn firsthand what it is like to be a veterinary student by participating in the college’s Veterinary Enrichment Camp.

Campers enroll in one of two four-day camps where they attend faculty lectures and demonstrations on subjects including: rabies, veterinary anatomy, environmental health science, and large and small animal medicine. The students tour the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Texas A&M University campus.

In addition to gaining valuable insight into veterinary medicine, students will get a glimpse of “college life” by staying in college dorms, eating in campus dining halls and attending a special presentation titled, “What It Is Like Being a Student at Texas A&M University.”

Applications for the 2004 Veterinary Enrichment Camp will be available online at <http://www.cvm.tamu.edu> beginning December 1, 2003. Deadlines for applications will be posted on the Web site.

The cost of the program is \$275 and includes room and board at campus facilities for the four-day camp. Some scholarships may be available. For further information, contact Lyndon Kurtz or Dr. Elizabeth Crouch at (800) 874-9591 after December 1, 2003.

## Distinguished Achievement Awards

Drs. Robert Kennis, assistant professor, and Kenita Rogers, co-chief of medicine and professor, both with the Department of Veterinary Small Animal Medicine & Surgery, were presented The Association of Former Students College-Level Distinguished Achievement Awards for 2003.

"We are so proud of these individuals and pleased that this special recognition went to two outstanding faculty from our department," said Dr. Sandee Hartsfield, Interim Department Head for Veterinary Small Animal Medicine & Surgery.

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



Dr. Robert Kennis



Dr. Kenita Rogers

## Congratulations!

Dr. Jeffrey Musser, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, was named a Montague Center for Teaching Excellence Scholar. Musser received a \$5,000 grant to research and develop innovative teaching techniques.

"I plan to use this award to develop interactive multimedia modules to enhance learning opportunities for students," said Musser. "These modules will be used mainly in the course Great Diseases of the World, which reviews the impact of infectious diseases on populations, history and literature and their social and medical consequences."

The center's objective is to stimulate the development of innovative teaching strategies and technologies at Texas A&M University and to recognize excellence in teaching early in a faculty member's career.



Dr. Jeffrey Musser

## Back to School

The College of Veterinary Medicine welcomes back Dr. Linda Logan!

Logan is a 1976 graduate who spent two-and-a-half years with the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) as the Executive Director and the Texas State Veterinarian.

Logan ventured back into academia to both conduct veterinary research and teach. She serves the college as a professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology and interfaces between agencies and faculty on issues of agricultural biosecurity and foreign

animal diseases.

Logan continues to work with the TAHC on various agricultural issues affecting Texas and hopes that her understanding of regulatory medicine will help bridge the gap between the college and state and federal agencies that are engaged in safeguarding animal health.



Dr. Linda Logan

## Hiring New Faculty

Bucking the trend of state universities responding to budget constraints by downsizing faculty, Texas A&M University is moving forward with plans to hire nearly 450 new faculty over the next five years, announced President Robert Gates.

Gates said the university has plans to hire 447 new tenured or tenure-track faculty by the year 2008. Almost 40 of the new positions will be in the College of Veterinary Medicine to improve the institution's faculty-student ratio, enhance the faculty and improve the students' educational experiences.

The hiring program will also simultaneously allow concentration in particular areas of research, scholarship, and clinical programs that will significantly advance the university's contributions and reputation.





## Kudos

Dr. Gerald Bratton, professor of Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health, was presented The Association of Former Students' "University-Level Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching, 2003." The Association honors faculty members for their dedication, knowledge and accomplishments.

This award is among the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a Texas A&M University faculty member. Bratton was presented \$4,000, a gold commemorative watch and a framed certificate. This year's awards bring the total awards presented since the program was established in 1955 to 673.



Dr. Gerald Bratton

## Award of Excellence

Dr. Steven Wikse received the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) "Award of Excellence." The AABP has only awarded this five times since 1969. Wikse was honored for his contributions to teaching and research. Of special note were his efforts to develop and implement Texas Beef PEP, a program for producers. Wikse is recognized nationally and internationally for his contributions in the beef cattle industry.



Dr. Steven Wikse

## New Biological Waste Facility and Necropsy Teaching Theater

The Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital's growing number of clinical cases and the costly maintenance of two aging natural gas fired incinerators necessitated that a new biological waste management facility be built. Currently under construction, the new

facility will include a biological waste management facility with appropriate cold storage for carcasses, a tissue digester, a new gas-fired incinerator for the disposal of pathological waste, and a state-of-the-art necropsy teaching theater.



The college's new necropsy teaching theater with a biological waste management system will be among the most advanced in the nation.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Class of '39

**Clifford Enge** died Aug. 17, 2003

### Class of '40

**Porter Coble** of Loami, IL died Sept. 17, 2000

### Class of '42

**Victor Michaels** died May 20, 2001  
**Melvin Parker Roberts** of Ferndale, TX died Jan. 15, 2003  
**William Thomas** died Feb. 2, 1989  
**Millard Tierce, Jr.** died Nov. 7, 2001

### Class of '43

**Thomas Coffey** died Nov. 29, 2000

### Class of '48

**Harold Hurst** died January of 2003

### Class of '49

**Royal Dunlap** died July 31, 2003

### Class of '52

**Herbert Schoonover** of Arlington, TX died Dec. 23, 2002

**James Mullins** of College Station, TX died Apr. 14, 2003

**Rogers Daniels** of Pasadena, CA died Apr. 22, 2003

### Class of '55

**Eugene Rowe** of Richmond, VA died Nov. 11, 2002  
**William Rupert Stevens** of Tyler, TX died Jan. 18, 2003

### Class of '59

**Charles Eddie Payne** of Bryan, TX died May 18, 2003  
**Raymond Cook** of Waco, TX died June 3, 2003

### Class of '62

**Austin Davies** died Oct. 31, 2002

### Class of '65

**Mack Brittain** of Dallas, TX died July 7, 2003

### Class of '76

**James Smith** of San Antonio, TX died Dec. 8, 2001

## 2004 Homecoming and Outstanding Alumni Events Moving to Spring

We will be moving the 2004 Homecoming Weekend events to coincide with the Veterinary College Parents Weekend and the "Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction" on April 2-4, 2004.

Friday night we will have our Outstanding Alumni reception and dinner at the beautiful George Bush Presidential Library Conference Center. (All nominations are due by January 9, 2004.) Saturday will be devoted to free time for golf, breakfast with students and parents, tours of the college, etc.

Saturday evening everyone can attend the "Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction" where classes can sit and visit together, enjoy dinner, listen to good music, and bid on fishing and hunting trips, art, vacation weekends, etc. All classes are welcome to participate in college events, but especially the five year anniversary classes are encouraged to come back to Aggieland and celebrate the memories and friendships that were established here years ago.

Over 400 hotel rooms are reserved,

(at regular prices, not football weekend prices). I recommend you make reservations early so classes can stay in the same hotels, if desired.

On Sunday morning we will have a C.E. program on bioterrorism and our college faculty's involvement with the Department of Homeland Security.

Call our office for more information, if needed. Let's make this the best Homecoming Weekend ever!

### "WALK OF HONOR" BRICK PROGRAM

We have included the new "Walk of Honor" brochure in this issue. At this time of year, what better gift could you give someone than to honor them with a brick in the entryway of the college, and help support the college as well. Out of the total \$250 purchase price, \$50 covers the brick cost, leaving \$200 to be directed toward class scholarships, research, or any college program you wish to support. A beau-

tiful certificate is sent to the honoree to inform them of your gift.

### ONE SPIRIT ONE VISION

The Capital Campaign is going well. Our college has reached 60% of its goal of \$60 million thanks to you, our friends and alumni. Please continue to help identify individuals, companies, and foundations that are interested in our education of future veterinarians and researchers to make this a better world for us and our animals.

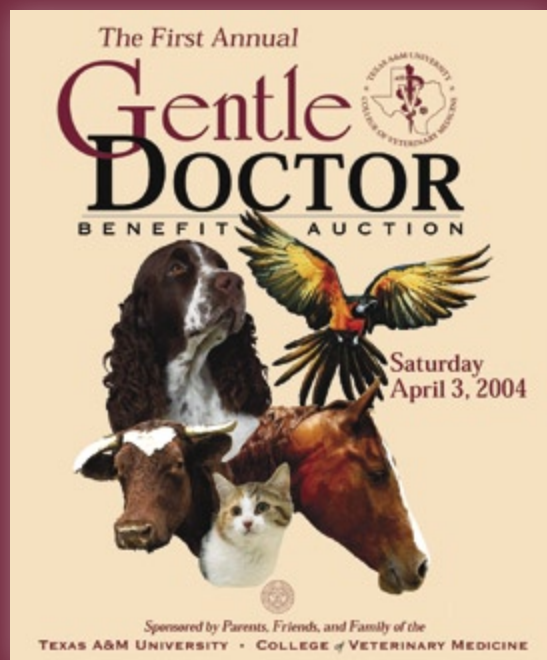
From all of us here at the College of Veterinary Medicine, we wish you a Blessed Holiday Season and a Prosperous and Happy New Year!

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



Dr. O.J. "Bubba" Woytek

## Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction



Join us April 2-4, 2004 for the  
College of Veterinary Medicine's...

Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction  
•  
Alumni Homecoming  
•  
Outstanding Alumni Awards Banquet  
•  
Parents' Weekend

Outstanding Alumni Awards will be given in the spring this year; therefore, nominations are due January 9, 2004, with the awards banquet on Friday, April 2nd. Nomination forms are available at <http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/alumni>.

For information, please contact:  
Office of the Dean – College of Veterinary Medicine  
(979) 845-5051 – e-mail: [dnigliazzo@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:dnigliazzo@cvm.tamu.edu)



## 2003 Outstanding Alumni Award Recipients Honored



Dr. Joseph Blair



Dr. Ray Dillon



Dr. Joe Kornegay



Dr. Gilberto Trevino

The College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, honored four Outstanding Alumni at a ceremony on August 30, 2003, at the George Bush Library Conference Center.

Dr. Joseph Blair, (DVM) Class of '57, is co-founder and current vice president of a food safety organization, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Consulting Group. Blair spent almost 33 years in food safety under the U.S. Department of Agriculture and over 16 years in the Washington, D.C. office of the Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS). Blair has a broad and diverse background ranging from crisis management to automated data systems.

Dr. Ray Dillon, (DVM) Class of '73, is the first recipient and current holder of the Jack O. Rash Chair in Internal Medicine and serves as professor and Head of the Medicine Section at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dillon is an accomplished research scientist with a part-time appointment at the Scott-Ritchey Research Center where he has served two terms as the Chair of General Faculty.

Dr. Joe Kornegay, (DVM) Class of '73, currently serves as Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Prior to his appointment, Kornegay served as director of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and as a professor and chairman of the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. Kornegay also spent 11 years at North Carolina State University and remains an adjunct professor in companion animal and special species medicine.

Dr. Gilberto Trevino, (DVM) Class of '52, is a former college professor and former director of the Institute of Tropical Veterinary Medicine. He was also a dedicated member of the armed forces in three influential conflicts, including the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945, the Korean War in 1952 and the Vietnam War in 1959.

"Each of these alumni have represented the College of Veterinary Medicine and the veterinary medical profession with great distinction," said H. Richard Adams, Dean of the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine. "We are proud to recognize their accomplishments."



Texas A&M University's "Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction" is patterned after a similar, successful event at the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine whose festivities are shown here. Items similar to those above will be auctioned.

# You Ain't Lion

*Handling Exotics Is Nothing Out of the Ordinary at the CVM*

**Top:** Malaki, a two-and-a-half year old male lion, receives medical care, directed by exotic animal veterinarian Dr. James Jensen, for osteochondritis dessicans—a degenerative joint disease that has been affecting Malaki's right shoulder.

**Bottom:** Dr. Todd Bowsher (DVM 1983), a reproductive specialist from the Dallas Zoo, and Dr. Jenifer Chatfield (DVM 2001), from the Brownsville Zoo, assisted Jensen with Malaki's examination. Bowsher also drew a blood sample from Malaki to submit to the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska, for use in preservation efforts.



## College Highlight Calendar

SPRING SEMESTER 2004

January 5	First Day of Spring Semester Classes
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday for 1VM, 2VM and 3VM
March 15–19	Spring Break
March 27	CVM Open House
April 2	CVM Honors Convocation
April 2–4	CVM Homecoming & Parent's Weekend
April 2	Outstanding Alumni Awards Dinner
April 3	Gentle Doctor Benefit Auction
April 5–17	NAVLE and State Board Examination
April 23	Last Day of Spring Semester Classes
April 26–30	Spring Semester Final Examinations
May 3	First Day of New 4VM Clinical Year
May 7	DVM Commencement at 2:00 P.M. in Rudder Auditorium
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday



**CVM Today**  
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