Vet Cetera

Saddling Up AND Riding Hard

Center for Veterinary Health Sciences
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY • 2006
The numerous candidates I’ve interviewed during the past year for faculty and staff positions are impressed with our ability to accomplish so much given our size and resources. I tell them we are willing to wear many different hats and we come to work every day prepared to “Saddle Up and Ride Hard.” In this edition of Vet Cetera, you will find evidence that this old western tradition is alive and well in the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

We are pleased to welcome three new members of our administrative team, Dr. Carey Pope, new head of physiological sciences, Dr. Mark Neer, director of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and Cathy Shuffield, associate vice president for development.

Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Charles MacAllister and the hard work of our clinical faculty, the teaching hospital had an excellent year. Our case load increased in all sections, and hospital income was nearly $500,000 more than last year. For FY 2007, our state appropriations increased $974,693, which was critical to the restoration of budget cuts that we incurred from 2001-2004. We were able to provide raises for our faculty and staff, cover all mandatory cost increases and restore unit funds lost during budget recessions.

Annual tuition for all veterinary students increased $585. We did not impose any new fees nor did we increase any fees charged by the CVHS. Our program continues to be one of the least costly veterinary medical educational programs.

We have implemented several capital improvement projects and later this year will begin to expand and renovate the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. The infectious diseases teaching laboratory is under renovation to create a modern biosafety level 2 facility. We’ve ordered new toxicology equipment, purchased new microscopes for students and upgraded the auditorium to handle teleconferencing.

We are developing plans to create additional research laboratories in the basement of McElroy Hall, a new facility to house classrooms and faculty offices for the veterinary clinical sciences department and a new biotechnology building that will allow expansion of our research program, which continues to grow and now lacks space for new faculty offices and research laboratories. We have entered into a contract for an energy conservation and management system for the CVHS.

This summer we implemented a new initiative called “Veterinarians for Rural Oklahoma.” The initiative has four phases.

The first, recruitment and mentoring of students from rural Oklahoma, has been implemented with assistance from the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.

The second, admission of students from rural Oklahoma, a long-term component of our admission’s program, gives special consideration to students with backgrounds in animal agriculture who are willing to work in underserved areas.

Phase three, currently underway, calls for a curriculum committee review of our veterinary curriculum and mentoring process.

Hiring and retaining graduates in rural food-animal practices is the fourth and most important phase and will be the most difficult to achieve. I believe we must consider alternatives to the current model of rural practice if we are to be successful long term. I know that the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association has interest in this as well. Incentives will be an important component.

This fall, in cooperation with Secretary Terry Peach and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture and Forest Resources, we will lobby the legislature to have the Oklahoma Rural Medicine Education Loan and Scholarship Fund expanded to include veterinarians. There should be considerable support for this change from commodity groups and veterinarians.

We are saddened by the passing of two iconic faculty members, Dr. Ralph Buckner and Dr. Duane Peterson. Many alumni had these men as teachers, mentors and friends and will not forget their legendary contributions to the development of our college.

I especially enjoy meeting our alumni. I hope you will attend our alumni receptions at national and regional meetings and take advantage of returning to Stillwater for Fall Veterinary Conference and your five-year class reunions.

Best wishes,

Michael D. Lorenz, CVHS Dean
The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences graduates competent, confident, practice-ready veterinarians — a tradition it has proudly carried forward since the day the veterinary college opened its doors 58 years ago.

Did you know? 2006 Norden Distinguished Teaching Award – Dr. Sandra Morgan (Physiological Sciences); 2006 Pfizer Research Award – Dr. Richard Eberle (Veterinary Pathobiology); 2006 Regents Distinguished Research Award – Dr. Lin Liu (Physiological Sciences); 2006 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award – Dr. Jerry Ritchey (Veterinary Pathobiology); 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award winners – Drs. Joe Howell (1972), Rebecca Morton (1972) and Tina Neel (1979).

In the 2005-2006 academic year, the CVHS awarded 162 scholarships to 105 students for a total value of $188,850. The CVHS leads the OSU System in National Institutes of Health funding and in return on investment of state dollars expended for research. In Homeland Security Research, the CVHS return on investment is greater than 5:1.

Please join us at the CVHS website: www.cvhs.okstate.edu. The OSU homepage is located at www.okstate.edu.

Vet Cetera magazine is a publication of the Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. Its purpose is to connect the college with its many alumni and friends, providing information on both campus news and pertinent issues in the field of veterinary medicine.

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Number One Fan

Cathy Shuffield, the new associate vice president for development for the CVHS, admits to a great affection for OSU, especially the vet center. Shuffield, who holds a bachelor's and master's degree from OSU, has spent her entire career working for her alma mater in academic program administration, alumni relations and development.

"Even as a small child, I always felt that people who took care of animals were good, kind people," she says, noting she has fond memories of Dr. Gene Niles, class of 1975 and veterinarian in her hometown of Konawa, Okla.

But the treatment of her beloved cat, Morris, diagnosed with cancer last year, cinched Shuffield's attachment to the CVHS. "Morris has been a patient of the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital for 14 years, where several veterinarians and countless students have provided excellent care for him over the years," she says.

Because of the compassion and help Morris and I received from Drs. Mike Lorenz, Mark Rochet, Katrina Meinkoth and Mary Bowles, I feel tremendous loyalty to the CVHS. I know that many other grateful patients feel the same way," Shuffield says.

"It's my privilege to be able to give back to the CVHS through my work as a development officer." 

Same Great Doctor, New Title

Most will recognize the new head of the physiological sciences department, Dr. Carey Pope, the Sitlington endowed chair in toxicology and, until recently, the interim head of the physiological sciences department.

Pope, who is also known for his research, received the 2005 Regents Distinguished Research Award honoring his outstanding and meritorious achievements.

EPA-supported studies in Pope's lab first demonstrated that the common insecticide chlorpyrifos was markedly more toxic to young animals than adults — findings that contributed to the subsequent withdrawal of all home and garden uses of chlorpyrifos in 2000 to prevent unsafe levels of pesticides in children's diets.

He has also studied etiological factors in unexplained illnesses sometimes referred to as "Gulf War Syndrome." Research supported by the U.S. Army allowed characterization of the effects of different types of stressors on the neurotoxicity of pyridostigmine, a drug used to protect against nerve agent intoxication. The findings supported its continued military use.

Pope's lab has also studied selective actions of different cholinesterase inhibitors. NIH-supported research demonstrated additional mechanistic actions of some organophosphorus insecticides that may eventually lead to more effective treatment strategies for insecticide and nerve agent intoxication. 

STORIES BY DERINDA LOWE
Dr. Dianne McFarlane is an assistant professor of physiology in the physiological sciences department. McFarlane, who was born in New York, received a bachelor’s in animal science from Clemson University, a master’s in molecular genetics from the University of Georgia, a DVM degree from the University of California-Davis and a doctorate in clinical pharmacology from the University of Prince Edward Island. She completed a large animal rotating internship at the University of Georgia and an ACVIM equine medicine residency at North Carolina State University. McFarlane’s research interests include aging and endocrine diseases of horses. She has authored or co-authored numerous publications and is currently studying equine Cushing’s disease and its similarity to Parkinson’s disease in humans.

Dr. Melanie Boileau, an assistant professor of food animal medicine in the clinical sciences department, is accepting referral cases at the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Boileau, who is originally from Quebec, Canada, received her DVM degree in 2000 and completed her internship in bovine medicine and surgery in 2001 from Montreal University Veterinary College. She completed her residency program in food animal medicine and a master’s degree in biomedical sciences at OSU in 2004. Boileau’s research interests include the management of dystocia using tocolytic drugs, clinical pharmacology, neonatology and camelid medicine.

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Dr. Katherine Williamson is a new research associate working in Dr. Mike Davis’ Comparative Exercise Physiology Laboratory. Williamson earned her bachelor’s degree from Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio, in 1990 and a DVM degree from Iowa State University in 1996. She spent six years in private equine practice, including two seasons as commission veterinarian at Canterbury Park and Prairie Meadows racetracks. Her research focus is the pathophysiology associated with strenuous exercise in extreme environments using horses and dogs as models of human problems. Along with Davis, Williamson studies the sled dogs that run in Alaska’s Iditarod.

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A Legacy in Parasitology

Dr. Joseph "Carl" Fox retired this year leaving behind a body of work that has changed the practice of veterinary medicine.

Fox, who began his tenure as a CVHS faculty member in August 1978, held a bachelor’s and master’s degree in zoology and a doctorate with post doctoral studies in parasites. As a professor of parasitology, he and his colleagues made up a formidable team.

“I loved my job here. I loved the teaching part of it. I enjoyed the diagnostic services we offered to the community,” Fox says. “With many colleagues over the years, I was able to be involved in joint research projects, which was very rewarding. All of it was rewarding — the outreach, the research, the services and the teaching.”

He says mentoring and assisting graduate students with their research and developing the first heartworm test were the major highlights of his 27-year career. He also counts among his greatest achievements chairing the committee responsible for hiring Dr. Susan Little to replace Dr. Ewing.

New heartworm tests exist now, but veterinarians used his test for many years. In addition, Fox discovered leishmaniasis in dogs, developed diagnostic tests and offered laboratory services to the community.

One of the diagnostic tests Fox developed was a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, which detects parasite DNA to determine if a dog is infected with a particular parasite.

Thanks to Fox’s work, OSU became known as one of the few places to perform Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM) tests to detect EOM, a nerve disease of horses. “The disease can cause many clinical problems including death,” he says. “We tested horses from all over the United States.”

An inaccurate report on leishmaniasis in the O’Colly led people to believe there was a disease outbreak that made their noses fall off, Fox says. He eventually appeared on television to calm the public but not before the story received national attention.

“If the word gets out wrong, sometimes there are consequences, but in this case the media attention resulted in Walter Reed Army Hospital contacting the college and coming to look at the dogs and our work,” he says.

“This was so important because this is the type of disease that is a threat to our soldiers abroad, including in Iraq today. Dogs in foreign countries can get infected with leishmaniasis and transmit it to our soldiers, many of whom have returned home with this disease.”

— Derinda Lowe
Toxinology Expert Retires

The end of 2005 marked the end of a 31-year teaching career for Charlotte L. Ownby, Regents professor of histology for the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. While at the CVHS, she made numerous discoveries through her research and held several positions that have allowed her to influence and educate many students.

Before joining the faculty as an instructor of histology, cytology and electron microscopy in 1974, Ownby graduated from the University of Tennessee’s pre-med program, obtained a master’s degree in zoology as a National Science Foundation research participant and earned a Ph.D. in veterinary anatomy from Colorado State University.

After four short years at the CVHS, she became the director of the OSU Electron Microscopy Laboratory and still holds this position today. In 1990, she became the head of the physiological sciences department, a position she held for five years before becoming the graduate program coordinator in 2002.

Ownby is a co-founder of the Oklahoma Microscopy Society and past president of the International Society on Toxinology. Until her retirement, she headed an internationally recognized snake venom research program.

“Since coming to OSU, I’ve been able to accomplish everything that I ever wanted to do academically,” she says. “I’ve been able to teach excellent students, do challenging research and serve as head of the department. I have had great support from the students, faculty and staff.”

Ownby has contributed much to the CVHS during her tenure. Her most recent accomplishment is acquiring a $750,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for a new electron microscope.

“This microscope has the latest technology in imaging and will allow us to view very small viruses, plants and animals as well as analyze their composition. It’s mind boggling,” she says.

The microscope is located in the OSU Microscopy Laboratory in Venture I at the Oklahoma Technology and Research Park in Stillwater. Ownby is director of the lab, which was completed in early 2006.

“The most memorable contribution I have made was realizing that by detailed analysis of snake venoms, you can obtain information that can lead to the improvement of snake bite treatment by improving the antivenom.

“The research that we’ve done and published on antivenom and its affects in humans and animals has led to the development of better antivenom and a better understanding of the type of damage that snake venom causes,” she says.

In Memoriam

Dr. Subbiah Sangiah, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, died Sept. 8, 2005.

Sangiah joined the CVHS faculty in 1981 after earning a veterinary medicine degree from Madras University, India, and a Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from Purdue University, where he also taught at the veterinary medicine school.

During his OSU tenure, he pursued various research interests that resulted in 75 refereed scientific publications and numerous presentations at national and international meetings. He was a co-inventor of five U.S. patents and served as a reviewer on a number of reputable scientific journals and a member of several grant review panels.

Honoring the memory of Dr. Subbiah Sangiah, Dr. John Otto, class of 1990, dedicated his new satellite clinic on April 29, 2006. The West Side University Animal Hospital is located on the corner of 36th and Main in Norman, Okla.

An excellent teacher who influenced many veterinary and graduate students and colleagues, Sangiah received three Outstanding Instructor Awards from second-year veterinary students and the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award, the college’s most eminent teaching honor. In 1996, the CVHS graduating class dedicated the yearbook in his honor.

He also made significant contributions to graduate education, serving as adviser and mentor for 14 graduate students, several of whom received Research Excellence Awards, and as a member on the advisory committees of more than 20 other graduate students.
Dr. Duane Peterson, retired CVHS faculty member, died May 31, 2006, at the age of 84.

Peterson graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in veterinary medicine in 1945. He joined the Department of Veterinary Anatomy at OSU in 1948, where he presented the veterinary school’s first lecture in March of that year.

During his 38-year teaching career at the CVHS, Peterson served as anatomy professor, department head, acting dean and Regent’s Service Professor. He was a gifted educator, teaching the disciplines of anatomy, poisonous plants, agronomics and biochemistry, and was revered by his students and honored by his peers.

He was named OSU Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1971 and Outstanding Teacher in the College of Veterinary Medicine four times. The Peterson Residence Apartments and the Peterson Centennial Garden are dedicated in his honor.

He developed the Peterson Eye Block Procedure and was a charter member of the American College of Veterinary Toxicologists. He served as president of the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association and was named OVMA’s Veterinarian of the Year in 1989. In 2001, the KSU College of Veterinary Medicine named Peterson “Most Distinguished Alumnus.”

Dr. Scott L. Price, class of 1986, died peacefully at his Louisville, Ky., home on Friday, March 31, 2006.

In 1987, Price relocated to Louisville where he accepted a position as a veterinary medical officer at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in the Animal Care Division. This division determines the standards of humane care and treatment of animals and achieves compliance through inspection and education.

Price and a team of veterinarians were instrumental in developing and implementing the Horse Protection Strategic Plan, which stemmed from the Horse Protection Act, which prohibits the abuse of horses, especially as it relates to abuse used to improve a horse’s gait for show purposes. He traveled around the country presenting workshops to educate interested parties about the Horse Protection Act.

Dr. Ira Olin Kliever, retired OSU researcher, died Feb. 28, 2006.

Kliever, a decorated World War II veteran in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, began working at OSU’s Pawhuska Experiment Station in 1946 and served OSU for 32 years until his retirement in 1978. He is remembered as a critical member of an important research team.

He worked with Drs. William Brock, Eddie Ritchey, E. Wynn Jones and Charles Pearson on cattle diseases — primarily Anaplasmosis, caused by Anaplasma marginale, and Pimpykee, caused by Moraxella bovis. In 1960, he earned a master of science degree from OSU conducting thesis research on “The in vivo and in vitro Susceptibility of Moraxella bovis to Selected Antibiotics and Sulfonamides.”

As an OSU faculty member and researcher, Kliever co-authored 11 scientific publications on the cutting-edge research that resulted in the first effective vaccine for Anaplasmosis. A Vaccine for Anaplasmosis written by Kliever, Brock and Pearson documents that landmark achievement. In 1966, they received the Men in Oklahoma Agriculture Award for their work, and OSU awarded Kliever an honorary degree from the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Daniel Holland, class of 1988, died May 18, 2006, at age 43 while serving his country in Iraq. He was on a humanitarian mission to help the Iraqis when killed by a roadside bomb.

Lt. Col. Holland attended OSU on an ROTC scholarship and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army in 1984.

The highly decorated Army veterinarian, who received medals for Meritorious Service, the Armed Forces Expeditionary, the Armed Forces Service and Humanitarian Service, was attached to the 4th Infantry Division as chief of the Public Health and Functional Specialty Teams for Civil Affairs.

“When I think of the saying ‘give you the shirt off your back,’ I think of Daniel Holland, a man who would do just that. Daniel was a person who was always eager to help the less fortunate or otherwise. I only recently learned he had loaned his car to a complete stranger who was stranded, I believe, during a holiday,” says Holland’s friend and classmate Dr. Kevin Buchanan.

“I think his son summed it up best when asked to describe his dad in one word. That word was ‘awesome.’"

Dr. George Burnett Meyer Jr., class of 1963, died March 24, 2006, in Fayetteville, Ark.

Meyer, a native of Mabelvale, Ark., was drafted into the U.S. Marine Corps in 1944. After his service, he attended the University of Arkansas on a basketball scholarship and the GI Bill. He graduated in 1950 with a bachelor’s degree in agriculture business and taught before entering the OSU veterinary school in 1957.

Following graduation, Meyer practiced in Batesville, Ark., Fayetteville and Hermosa Beach, Calif., where he practiced for 25 years. He was president of the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association and a member of the Veterinarian Medical Examiners Board for seven years. He was a founding member of the American Maine-Anjou Cattle Association.

Meyer retired to be with his family in Fayetteville in 1997.
Dr. Emil Kasik, class of 1962, died on Jan. 18, 2006. He owned Kasik Veterinary Hospital in Lincoln, Neb. Kasik served in the Coast Guard during the Korean War and was also a member of the American Legion. He was a life member of the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association. He is survived by his wife, Joan, a daughter and a son.

Dr. Elden D. Svec, class of 1963, died Aug. 3, 2006. He was born March 22, 1933, at the family farm near Schuyler, Neb., and graduated from Schuyler High School. He received his bachelor’s degree in animal science from the University of Nebraska. After graduating from the CVHS, he established his practice in Scribner, Neb.

Dr. Lincoln Ward, class of 1991, died at the age of 42 in a motorcycle accident in Owasso, Okla., on July 15, 2006. Following his graduation from OSU, Ward practiced in the Houston area for a few years before returning to Oklahoma. In 1993, he became a partner at the Eastside Veterinary Hospital, a mixed animal practice located in Collinsville, Okla.

Ward was raised in Chelsea, Okla., where a scholarship in his honor has been established at the Chelsea High School. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and three sons — 13-year-old twins, Cooper and Colton, and 7-year-old Conner.

Aaron Hofmeister, member of the class of 2006 and recipient of the McElroy Award, the highest honor a veterinary student at OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences can earn, was the first to greet President George W. Bush when he arrived on campus to give this year’s commencement address. Presented in memory of Dr. Clarence H. McElroy, the first dean of the college, the award recognizes scholarship, character and professional ability.

Top Teacher

Dr. James H. Meinkoth, professor in the pathobiology department, received the 2005 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award. The award, given to top teachers in each college, recognizes sustained excellence, dedication and innovation in teaching.

Meinkoth thinks a case discussion methodology best serves future veterinarians. “I believe teaching in a case discussion format engages students, making them more active in lectures,” he says.

“Case discussion demonstrates to students the clinical relevance and necessity of the information and requires them to function on an application rather than a memorization level.”

DOTTIE WITTER
Serving with Distinction

Tammy Henager won the OSU Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding work as an animal technician for the CVHS. Faculty and staff across the OSU-Stillwater campus submit nominations for this special annual award.

In presenting the award to Henager, OSU System C.E.O and President David Schmidly said, “Tammy has been tasked with various duties and has proven to be an exemplary employee admired by many. Tammy’s dedication shows through her commitment to her job.”

Henager says she was embarrassed receiving the award. “I’m not much on talking about myself. Although it was great to receive the award, just being nominated by the people I work with every day was an honor.”

Henager earned a bachelor’s degree in animal science from OSU in 1989. She takes care of animals and works with lab technicians at the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, where she has been an employee for 12 years.

She grew up on a farm in Yale, Okla., and has enjoyed being around animals her entire life. “I like working with dogs, cats, horses and even rats. Each animal requires different types of care.”

Joe Cobb

Rice Honored for His Work

The American College of Theriogenologists and the Society for Theriogenology honored CVHS emeritus faculty member Dr. Larry Rice at the organizations’ annual conference this summer. Rice received the 2006 David E. Bartlett Award rewarding distinguished theriogenologists who make important contributions to their field.

Rice is recognized for his efforts to “commercialize the skills, techniques and resources available to practitioners that applied theriogenology.” He also invented the Rice pelvimeter and has published extensively on heifer development and dystocia, cow and bull management.

He came to OSU in 1976 where he was responsible for teaching and research in primarily beef cattle reproduction. After retirement Rice continued his work on heifer development and dystocia, cow and bull management, artificial insemination and estrus synchronization.

Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean, presented the 2006 Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teaching Award to Dr. Sandra Morgan, associate professor in the physiological sciences department. Students and faculty vote by ballot to select the recipient of the annual Norden Award, which is sponsored by Pfizer.

Morgan, also a recipient of the Regents Distinguished Teaching Award, says she loves to teach. “It is my privilege to get to teach such highly motivated students. To get to know each of them, follow their careers and become their colleague is very enjoyable,” she says.

“The success of a student or former student is also a success for a teacher.”

Dr. Peter Chenoweth presents Dr. Larry Rice the Bartlett Award at the SFT/ACT conference in St. Paul, Minn.

Tammy Henager won the OSU Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding work as an animal technician for the CVHS.
AKANSAS HONORS THAMES
Dr. Michael D. Thames, class of 1976, was named Arkansas 2005 Veterinarian of the Year. Thames owns the Labahn Veterinary Hospital in Fort Smith, Ark. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association as well as the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association and is active in various veterinary associations and his community.

Last year’s award recipient, Marilyn Moffat administrative assistant at the teaching hospital, left, presents a plaque and $700 cash to the 2006 Stratton Staff Award winner Kelly McCracken, lab technologist II in toxicology at the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

The Stratton Award is particularly meaningful, McCracken says, because recipients are nominated and selected by colleagues. “It’s great to know your peers believe you’re doing a good job,” she says.

The CVHS instituted the Stratton Staff Award at the retirement of Dr. Louis Stratton, the first director of the Boren Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital, who wished to establish an award to recognize staff members’ outstanding contributions to the CVHS.

CROATULATIONS FACULTY
Dr. Subramanya Karanth has been promoted to research associate in the physiological sciences department.

Dr. Guang-ping Chen, associate professor of biochemistry and toxicology, received tenure this year. His research focuses on drug metabolizing enzymes including enzyme function, catalytic mechanism and gene regulation.

Dr. Robert W. Fulton was named to the McCasland Endowed Chair in Food Animal Research. For 24 years, Fulton has served as a professor of veterinary virology at CVHS, including 15 years as department head and two years as assistant director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. Since 1999, he has served as co-project director for grants from the Noble Foundation. The most recent grant supports research on bovine respiratory diseases or “Shipping Fever.” As the McCasland Chair, Fulton, a recognized authority on bovine virus diarrhea, will promote the CVHS research efforts to discover new vaccines to prevent diseases important to the beef cattle industry in Oklahoma.

A Lifetime of Achievement
Dr. Richard Blake, class of 1961, has been named 2006 Veterinarian of the Year by the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association. This is the 27th year the OVMA has given this award, and Blake is the 16th OSU alumnus to receive the honor.

Following his graduation from CVHS, Blake practiced large animal veterinary medicine in Cherokee, Okla., before moving to Sulphur Springs, Texas, to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a field veterinarian for the disease eradication division.

“I worked on the federal mandates to control certain diseases that pass from animal to animal and from animals to humans, such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, scrapie and scabies,” he says. “My territory covered 27 counties in northeast Texas.”

In 1965, he moved back to Oklahoma to join a small animal clinic in Oklahoma City and continues practicing small animal medicine today out of his home office. He has contributed countless hours to the profession in both service to clients and patients and in service to professional organizations, where he has held many leadership positions.

When asked, Blake says his greatest contribution to veterinary medicine is helping people take better care of their animals and instilling a greater appreciation for them.

He advises veterinary students, “Be more people-oriented; work on your bedside manner, so to speak. Don’t think of the animal as another statistic or case number. Remember that these animals are an integral part of the family.”

He also stresses the importance of including children in the clinic visit.

“If you forget to look over the side of the examining table to see those two eyes looking at you wondering what you’re going to do to their animal because they aren’t tall enough to see, you’ve missed the whole point of client communication,” he says.

“Take time to bend down and talk to the children. It is important that they feel a part of taking care of their animals, too.”

DERINDA LOWE
Dr. Rebecca J. Morton, class of 1972, of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine, has long been a leader in teaching and research. Following graduation, Morton practiced small animal medicine at the Charleston Veterinary Hospital in Charleston, W.Va., and then part-time at the Baker Animal Clinic in Stillwater when she returned in 1973 to work on her master’s degree in microbiology. She joined the OSU faculty in 1975 and has worked as an assistant, associate and now professor in the veterinary pathobiology department as well as a microbiologist in the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. In 1993, Morton received a doctorate in veterinary microbiology and is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

Morton is well-known as a clinical microbiologist and for her research in tularemia. For the past five years, she has served on a National Research Council committee to foster research collaborations between scientists in the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. The position allows her to visit the researchers studying infectious diseases in the laboratories of Russia and former Soviet Union countries.

She has authored or co-authored more than 40 scientific papers, presented scientific papers throughout the U.S. and received numerous fellowships and grants. A microbiology teacher since 1988, Morton has twice received the Norden Distinguished Teacher and the OSU Regents Distinguished Teaching Awards, as well as many other honors from veterinary classes.

For more than 25 years, Morton has been active in the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, American Society of Microbiology, American Veterinary Medical Association and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Joe Howell, class of 1972, is a companion animal practitioner and co-owner of the Britton Road Veterinary Clinic in Oklahoma City. He also consults for Hill’s Pet Nutrition and a large group of veterinary hospitals in Las Vegas, Nev.

Active in organized veterinary medicine, he has served as president, vice president and secretary of the Oklahoma County Veterinary Medical Association and on the executive board of the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association. He received the OVMA President’s Award in 1990. Howell also served on the Oklahoma State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, including three years as its president.

Howell served as the 2002-2003 president of the American Veterinary Medical Association and has chaired and served on the AVMA executive board. He has also served as Oklahoma’s alternate delegate in the AVMA House of Delegates.

While serving in AVMA leadership capacity, Howell gave presentations to veterinary associations in almost all 50 states as well as several international veterinary associations and many of the allied associations.

He has also worked with the Center for Disease Control and several government agencies dealing with potential bioterrorist activities that might involve using animal diseases to target humans or animals. He chaired the AVMA President’s Roundtable in Washington, D.C., interacting with government and military veterinarians and the deans of U.S. veterinary colleges.

Howell is an active alumnus, having served on college committees and the OSU Foundation board of governors, and an active civic leader who was honored with Leadership Oklahoma City’s Paragon Award for Leadership Skills.

Dr. Tina Neel, class of 1979, has practiced veterinary medicine in Oklahoma City for 26 years. Throughout her career, her husband, Sam Neel, has been her partner and business manager. Together they have searched for technological advances in veterinary medicine to improve their service to clients.

Neel has maintained practices with the most up-to-date technology available including in-house laboratory equipment, computerized paperless offices, laser surgery, IV pumps, computerized ECG’s and digital CR radiography. She also provides quarterly ultrasonography seminars for veterinarians and technicians and presentations on preventative health care.

In 1993, Neel began an innovative practice concept in the Oklahoma City metro area by founding the Animal Wellness Centers located in PetSmart stores. She maintained the centers until 1997.

In May 2000, Neel Veterinary Hospital opened its doors as a 24-hour, full-service, state-of-the-art facility. Complete with 10 full-time, around-the-clock doctors and staff, ultrasound, endoscopy, digital radiography and the first privately-owned underwater treadmill and physical therapy/rehab program in the state, the Neel Veterinary Hospital is the first of its kind in Oklahoma.

Neel mentors students, participates in the externship program and seeks to hire only OSU graduates. She has made many presentations to veterinary associations. Most recently she spoke on “paperless practice” at the 2006 AVMA national convention. She has also served as the moderator at Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society national meetings.

Neel’s extensive community involvement includes making veterinary presentations to middle school students and providing free assistance to animal rescue organizations.
Lecturer Focuses on Inhaled Chemicals and the Nose

Last November, the 2005 Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology featured Dr. David C. Dorman who presented “The Holes in Your Nose: Why Nasal Toxicology Matters.”

Dorman, a well-respected veterinarian, toxicologist and pathologist, is the animal care director and senior scientist in the biological sciences division at the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology.

His research focuses on the interactions of inhaled chemicals with neurons in the nose that are essential for smell, pheromone detection and nerve function. Dorman explained how some inhaled chemicals can be transported through the olfactory system, bypassing the protective blood brain barrier and leading to adverse effects in the nervous system.

Dr. Carey Pope, head of the physiological sciences department and the Sitlington endowed chair in toxicology, initiated the Sitlington Lecture series, now in its seventh year.

“By spotlighting toxicology research through the Sitlington Lecture series, OSU is helping to disseminate information on the adverse effects of chemicals on living systems — whether those living systems are cells, organisms or ecosystems,” Pope says.

The 2006 Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology will be held Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. in the CVHS auditorium. Dr. Kendall Wallace, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Minnesota and immediate past-president of the Society of Toxicology, will be the speaker. Wallace studies toxicant-induced oxidative stress and mitochondrial function.

Symposium Explores Antimicrobial Drug Resistance

The CVHS’s second Sitlington Infectious Diseases Symposium focused on antimicrobial drug resistance and attracted more than 70 doctors and health care professionals, veterinarians and research scientists to campus.

Hosted by the CVHS, this two-day seminar featured keynote speaker Michael Dunne, M.D., vice president of clinical development for infectious diseases at Pfizer Global Research and Development Headquarters.

Dunne used three common bacterial pathogens to illustrate the worldwide development of antimicrobial drug resistance and the impact of treating seriously ill patients. He described many factors that continue to affect emerging drug resistant infectious organisms.

Other speakers at the symposium, research scientists from both the academic and private sector, addressed mechanisms that result in drug resistance and the role that the normal bacterial flora may play in transferring drug resistant genes to pathogenic organisms.

During a luncheon dialogue, panelists discussed topics such as reducing the risk of antimicrobial drug resistance, impediments to the development of alternative preventative and treatment procedures, and the need for sensitive diagnostic tests to quickly identify drug resistant microorganisms.

Dr. William Barrow, Sitlington endowed chair in infectious diseases and coordinator of the symposium, presented “Structure-Based Drug Design for Anthrax Resistance,” describing a facet of his work.

Barrow leads a CVHS research team awarded a seven-year, $40 million contract by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to develop, validate and use in vitro screening assays to screen new compounds to combat known and emerging bacterial pathogens.

IN THE COMMUNITY

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences supported one of its own in two community March of Dimes events during the summer of 2005. The Noble County March of Dimes is dear to Mendi Cronister, unit administrative assistant and faculty support person for the veterinary clinical sciences department. Her 7-year-old son, Tyler, served two years as the local ambassador for this national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality.

The CVHS donated door prizes for a trail ride that raised $900 for the March of Dimes and also sponsored Pistol Pete in the third annual Noble County WalkAmerica, which raised a total of $17,000. Mendi says Tyler’s team had the most walkers with 50 and raised $2,761 of the total $17,000.

Pictured with Pistol Pete are Tyler Cronister with his parents, Richard and Mendi Cronister.
Wyatt Swinford of Okemah, Okla., is working under the guidance of Dr. John Gilliam at the CVHS summer program.

**Creating Interest in Rural Veterinary Medicine**

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences and OSU Extension veterinarians and agents teamed up to launch a pilot program this summer to encourage high school students to explore veterinary careers in rural communities where the need for food animal veterinarians is growing.

The top 12 high school applicants from Oklahoma rural areas, hosted by the CVHS admissions and recruitment team, spent three days in July participating in hands-on activities with various food animals. Faculty members Drs. Lionel Dawson, John Gilliam, Reed Holyoak, Larry Stein, D.L. Step and Bob Streeter provided instruction.

Funded by Dr. Michael Lorenz, CVHS dean, the *Veterinary Medicine in Agriculture Summer Exploration Program* aims to establish the first link in a chain of relationships that will support students as they meet with and are mentored by current CVHS students and the veterinarians in their communities. The program will continue to link students to the center as they go through their undergraduate degree program in preparation for veterinary college.

Providing More than Veterinary Care

When Amy Reck, class of 2009, graduates from the CVHS, she’ll be taking with her more than a degree in veterinary medicine.

In September 2005, the first-year student from Pittsburgh, Pa., was still adjusting to the move to Oklahoma when she helped Dr. Katrina Meinkoth at the Stillwater Humane Society. It didn’t take Reck long to find a new friend to help make the transition a little easier.

**Tululah**, 2½-year-old Labrador mix, had been a resident for about 1½ years, says Reck. “She had a hygroma (water filled cyst) on her elbow about the size of a golf ball, and she was thin. I think the growth might have been caused from lying on hard surfaces. Within two weeks, it went away.” She says Tululah has gained 20 pounds and is really happy.

When classes finished in May 2006, the shelter hired Reck to assist Meinkoth on her weekly visits to care for the animals. “We do blood tests, treat any sick animals and keep all vaccines up to date,” says Meinkoth. “The veterinary students who help me care for the animals usually manage to adopt something without any encouragement from me.”

Reck, too, is taking more than training from the experience.

“When I initially looked at Tululah, Maverick was her next-door neighbor,” Reck says. “When I saw he was still there, I knew there was no question that I would adopt him. They interact well, and he needed a stable home.”

Maverick, the longest resident at the Humane Society, had been there for two years waiting for someone to take him home. The 3½-year-old dog is a “Heinz 57” mix, Reck says. “I just know he’s a great dog whatever breed he is. Both dogs have adjusted well to living with me, and they have brought so much enjoyment to my life.”

**In addition to providing free veterinary services for the resident animals at the shelter for the past 15 years, the CVHS’s hospital now offers a free first office visit and examination for animals adopted from the Humane Society of Stillwater.**

Wyatt Swinford of Okemah, Okla., is working under the guidance of Dr. John Gilliam at the CVHS summer program.
Going the Extra Mile

“...we achieve more with less. Even though we receive the third smallest state appropriation in the nation, when comparing sponsored research per unit of state appropriation, we rank fifth of 28 nationally and first in the Big 12. We leverage our resources to maintain maximum efficiency and productivity. This amazing performance is achieved by high level teamwork, collegiality, dedication to excellence and a desire to exceed expectations. We go the extra mile at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.”

DEAN MICHAEL LORENZ

Clients Award Students for Extra Effort

Approximately 10,100 clients bring their pets or animals to the CVHS hospital for routine or emergency health care. Frequently they praise the staff and veterinarians for their clinical expertise and the high level of services they provide. And sometimes they want to do more to express their gratitude.

Jeff and Cathy Shaffer of Bartlesville, Okla., were so pleased with the clinical services the students and faculty provided their dog, diagnosed with cancer, they established an award to recognize students who go the extra mile for their patients and clients.

The Shaffers donated funds to establish the “Above and Beyond Award.” Each quarter, clinical faculty, staff and administrators will choose a deserving student who has exhibited behavior above and beyond what is normally expected in the course of his or her responsibilities. Each recipient, whose name will be placed on an award plaque, will receive a $250 cash award.

William Carter, class of 2006, received the first Above and Beyond Award at the April 2006 Honors and Awards Banquet.

Born 60 days early, the odds that the purebred Hereford bull calf would survive were slim. Calves don’t normally survive if they are born more than two weeks early, says Dr. John Gilliam, food animal medicine resident at the CVHS.

Norman, as the premature calf came to be known, weighed 26 pounds at birth, far from the normal weight of 70 to 80 pounds. Instead of a full coat, he had hair only on his head and feet.

Following the advice of his local veterinarian, Dr. Joseph DuBois, class of 2001, owner Monte Shockley of Poteau, Okla., transported the calf, barely 24-hours-old, to the CVHS large animal clinic where Gilliam was assigned to the case.

“We have no idea why he was born early,” Gilliam says. “He did not have any birth defects. He did have pneumonia, which we treated.”

Norman received 24-hour care the first three weeks he was at the veterinary hospital. Fourth-year veterinary students working clinical rotations stayed with him in shifts. For two weeks the newborn was on oxygen and intravenous nutrition and required a bottle feeding every six hours.

The first nine weeks, Norman had to be in a cage to control his movements because his bones were not fully developed and walking or running could have caused permanent damage. At 12 weeks old, he weighed 60 pounds.

Other than being slightly smaller than normal, Norman, discharged at 15 weeks old, should not experience any residual effects from his premature birth, Gilliam says. “He’s a little miracle. As many as 100 people from equine medicine to anesthesia to small animal ICU were involved with his care. They all contributed to his growth.”

And he has grown. Although he has still some growing to do to reach the normal weight of 1,800 to 2,000 pounds, Norman, now 1 year old, weighs 600 pounds.

“He grows by leaps and bounds,” Shockley says. “I’m thankful for Dr. Gilliam and his staff. I think anyone else would have given up, but they didn’t.”

DERINDA LOWE

Phil Shockley

Against All Odds

Phil Shockley
Equine Research Is on Track

Located just north of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences on Lakeview Road in Stillwater, the Equine Research Park is home to anywhere from 50 to 100 horses that are helping advance equine research.

The 40-acre research facility was established with funds from the pharmaceutical industry and the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission with matching funds from the OSU Board of Regents and the CVHS. Among the buildings are two research labs — one houses a force plate and the other is a biosafety level 2 laboratory for infectious disease and gastrointestinal research, which requires a controlled climate.

“Our primary research interests are equine gastric ulcer syndrome, equine pharmacology with emphasis on pain management and infectious diseases, especially equine influenza,” says Dr. Charles MacAllister, professor and head of the veterinary clinical sciences department.

Approximately one-half of the current 50-head herd is comprised of horses with chronic navicular syndrome, which makes them ideal for studying the pharmacodynamics of analgesic compounds. Navicular syndrome is a condition that affects the navicular bone and surrounding soft tissues within a horse’s hoof.

“Horses with this condition are the most stable naturally occurring lameness model to study,” MacAllister says. “If they are lame today, they will be lame next week, next month and next year. Using our force plate, we can test the lameness under different circumstances. First with no medication and then after the horse is given an analgesic compound, we can measure how much improvement we see in the lameness.”

The force plate, mounted in the floor of a concrete runway, helps detect lameness in a trotting horse. Trotting a normal horse at a controlled speed along the runway, the horse will strike the force plate with 100 percent of its body weight, plus or minus 4-5 percent with each forelimb. If a horse is lame, it will strike it with less weight — more like 50-90 percent depending on the severity of the condition. Once identified, lame horses can be given an analgesic compound and re-tested to study how well the horse responds to the compound and how much it resolves lameness.

Even though half of the herd has navicular syndrome, perhaps the most important research discovery has been made in the gastric ulcer arena.

“I have spent 25 years researching gastric ulcers in horses,” MacAllister says. “Approximately 90 percent of race horses, 50 percent of other performance horses and 50 percent of foals suffer from gastric ulcers. Until we had endoscopes long enough to reach a horse’s stomach, we didn’t know so many horses suffered from this ailment.”

He says the longer endoscopes, which allowed researchers to look inside a horse’s stomach, have been a huge plus in studying this condition. Once the diagnostic methods were established, his research focus switched to treating gastric ulcers.

“For 10 years or more, we tried to determine which pharmaceuticals developed for human use would be effective in treating this condition in horses,” he says. “None were found to be very effective until we worked with Astra-Hassler, a Swedish pharmaceutical company. Their compound, omeprazolae (similar to Prilosec that humans use) proved to be very effective in healing equine gastric ulcers.”

After identifying an effective treatment, he now focuses his research on why horses have so many gastric ulcers. Studies have shown that exercise or training, fasting, certain drug compounds and diet affect the formation of ulcers. MacAllister is searching for the key to lessen the frequency and accelerate the treatment.
Cardiology Unit Expands

The CVHS teaching hospital’s new ultrasound machine, weighing only 16 pounds, is the best portable machine available with color flow technology that allows a veterinarian to evaluate a horse’s heart and valve function. Its addition broadens the quality service CVHS provides its clients and patients.

“There are technically more advanced machines for echocardiography, but not in a portable model with color flow capabilities,” says Dr. Todd Holbrook, assistant professor of internal equine medicine. “New software is coming soon that will increase the distance the probe penetrates the horse’s chest from 27 centimeters now to 36 centimeters. The deeper we can look into a horse’s chest, the better chance we have of seeing the entire heart when it is enlarged secondary to disease.”

This ultrasound machine allows veterinarians to better evaluate horses with heart murmurs that can be due to congenital or acquired conditions.

“The color flow and other Doppler applications are useful to characterize valvular insufficiencies and other causes of abnormal blood flow patterns in the heart that cause murmurs,” he says.

“Based on these findings and evaluation of cardiac size and wall motion, we can predict possible performance issues.”

Correctly interpreting what is seen on echocardiography and accurately correlating this with the auscultation and other physical exam findings can be challenging, Holbrook says. Many normal horses have heart murmurs, and to further complicate the issue, the loudness of the murmur does not always necessarily correlate with its clinical significance.

“It typically takes advance training in internal medicine and equine echocardiography to acquire the expertise to obtain a good view of the heart and accurately interpret the ultrasonographic findings,” says Holbrook, who studied under one of the country’s best equine cardiologists, Dr. Ginny Reef.

“Equally important, the experience to apply these findings to the specific case — in light of its history and clinical signs — allows us to formulate a treatment plan as well as determine prognosis.”

To evaluate horses with heart rhythm disturbances, the CVHS also uses electrocardiography in conjunction with the ultrasound. When it is necessary to monitor a horse for a longer period, a Holtor monitor is used.

“The horse wears the Holtor monitor for up to two days. It records the heart’s electrical activity during the horse’s routine activity or while the horse is worked. This is helpful in identifying intermittent arrhythmias — heart rhythm abnormalities that may impact safety or exercise performance,” Holbrook says.

Stress echocardiography is used occasionally to further evaluate performance horses when heart problems are suspected but the initial examination does not reveal the abnormality. Typically, the horse is exercised in an arena or on a treadmill followed immediately with echocardiography to evaluate the horse’s heart when it is beating more than 100 beats per minute.

“Some recent studies have compared different cardiac medications to increase heart rate for these stress tests, similar to protocols used in human medicine. We may see clinical application of these protocols in equine medicine in the future,” he says. “This would potentially provide us a more controlled test method and allow us to perform stress echocardiography on horses that have concurrent lameness issues.”

Holbrook says it takes at least an hour to do a thorough cardiac examination including echocardiography and EKG to evaluate heart function and predict if the horse can do its job.

A Rare Opportunity

The CVHS recently said goodbye to a once almost extinct breed of donkey that was being treated for a fungal skin infection.

Glorieux, a Poitou donkey, was treated for Sporotrichosis, also known as Rose Gardeners Disease, which threatened to leave the jack sterile. “It’s not a very common disease, but we do see it occasionally,” says Dr. Lyndi Gilliam, lecturer, equine field services and internal medicine. “It is the second time this year we have treated it.”

The jack was brought to the CVHS by Leland and Shirley Luther of Great Bend, Kan., who raise endangered animals. The Poitou donkey originated in France and can be worth $35,000. In 1977, only 44 were alive; today there are approximately 200 purebred Poitou donkeys in the world. They are the largest and most recognizable breed of donkey, known for their shaggy coats that resemble dreadlocks.

The Luthers, one of only two registered breeders in the U.S., bought Glorieux and three others in 1996 after two years negotiating with the French government. Shirley read an article in a magazine asking for help to save the Poitou. They currently have 16 purebred donkeys all bred from the original four.

This is the couple’s second visit to CVHS where they say they’ve had good experiences. “We like how friendly and sincerely interested all the doctors are at the hospital,” Leland says.

Stories by Derinda Lowe
Care Not Even a Mother Can Give

Although the patients are very young and may be quite small, the skill and dedication of the CVHS Neonatal Foal Unit is sizeable.

Take Adam, for instance.

Born March 18, the paint colt weighed a mere 40 pounds. Normally a foal weighs 100 pounds. Tendons in the tiny horse’s front legs were so tight and contracted, he wasn’t able to stand. Conversely, his hind leg tendons weren’t tight enough, causing his hooves to “toe up.”

Because Adam wasn’t able to nurse or flee from danger, his owner, Calmer Sandvik of Tryon, Okla., moved him into the family’s living room where they could bottle feed and watch him. Colic prompted a visit to Dr. Jerry Woodall, class of 1983, who discovered the colt’s heart rate was high.

Woodall recommended the CVHS’ Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital where Adam could receive the round-the-clock medical attention necessary for his survival.

The colt arrived at the hospital at 2 days old and weighing 41 pounds and was assigned to equine resident Dr. Lyndi Gilliam and fourth-year veterinary student Erika Weigel.

An ultrasound revealed that the colt’s intestines were not moving. Gilliam placed the colt under a heat lamp, put him on intravenous fluids and medications and monitored him 24-hours-a-day.

Once his stomach was feeling better, Gilliam’s focus moved to the foal’s tiny legs. A splint was placed on each front leg to try to stretch his tendons. Shoes with heel extensions — or “Adam’s Nikes” as students referred to them — were placed on his hind legs to help him stand straighter and strengthen his loose tendons.

During his stay, Adam was routinely bathed in a bathtub. “It’s not a normal sight to see a foal in a bathtub,” Weigel says. “At first he wasn’t thrilled about the baths, but he was really good and would just stand there while we worked.”

Adam easily became attached to his caretakers and would follow them as they went about their daily routine of caring for other patients. He even “sat in” during morning rounds. “He would chime in with a little whinny whenever he had something to say, or when he was ready for his hourly feeding,” Weigel says.

The colt was discharged from the hospital nine days later. He was able to stand on his own and walk reasonably well without the splints. He has returned to the hospital on two separate occasions — once to have new leg splints fitted and once for swollen fetlocks. On his normal check-up in June, Adam weighed 75 pounds.

“Adam is doing really well,” says co-owner Kelly Butler. “He has been outside for a few months eating grass and hay. He runs and plays and we exercise him. His legs have strengthened, and he stands strong.

“I am impressed,” she says. And so are others. “People tell me they can’t believe he made it.”

But he did, thanks to the love and care of his owners and the intensive care he received in the CVHS Neonatal Foal Unit.
Keeping a Watchful Eye

The CVHS’ Neonatal Foal Unit successfully treated numerous foals during the last foaling season due in no small part to a team of dedicated students who worked round-the-clock to continuously monitor these critical patients.

This intensive nursing is essential for the survival of endangered foals such as the orphan that arrived at the CVHS when she was 3 days old. Rejected by her mother at birth, she was a “red bag baby” (the equivalent of a human blue baby) with a history of seizures. The filly, affectionately named Queso by the fourth-year veterinary students, was very sick and had difficulty standing.

Queso, who was started on intravenous fluids and fed through a feeding tube for approximately a week, slowly gained strength and was able to stand for short periods of time. She received a plasma transfusion and eventually began drinking her milk replacer from a pan. When her immune system didn’t respond to an infection, she contracted pneumonia but quickly recovered under the ever-present care of the students.

Queso still had very weak back legs and wobbled when she walked, but with the help of heel extension shoes with lateral supports, she was soon walking more upright and gaining strength in her back legs. The veterinary students worked with her daily.

It didn’t take long for the tiny foal to become a hospital favorite. Everyone who walked by her stall received an affectionate nicker as Queso begged for more attention. She often followed the students around the barn as they fed and watered the other horses.

Queso spent three and one-half weeks at the hospital. By discharge time, she had gained enough strength to run and buck outdoors — one of her favorite places to be. Two weeks after Queso’s departure, her owner called to report that the foal was doing very well in her new home.

As for the foal team, students are already assembling in preparation for the next foaling season.

Wave of the Future

Equine patients can now benefit from the latest technology in treating soft tissue injuries thanks to new equipment at the CVHS’s large animal clinic and the expertise of the equine section led by Dr. H. David Moll, professor and chief of equine surgery.

Using a private donation to the sports medicine program and matching funds from the CVHS, the equine section has purchased a Storz Medical Duolith SD1, the first combination shockwave therapy system produced. This state-of-the-art shockwave therapy unit is virtually noiseless, unlike older shockwave systems. Only a mild clicking sound is heard while the horse is being treated. Treatments usually require no more than 15 minutes per site.

Extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT), which applies high pressure waves to the affected tissue in a site-specific manner, has recently been introduced into equine practice as a treatment for musculoskeletal injuries in horses. While ESWT is new to the equine field, it has been used on humans more than 20 years to disintegrate kidney stones and to treat stress fractures, tennis elbow, heel spurs and non-union fractures.

Shockwave therapy uses pressure waves that travel through fluid and soft tissue. Their effects occur where there is a change in the interface of different tissues. Then the energy contained in the shockwaves is released and interacts with the tissue to relieve pain and accelerate healing. Because there appears to be an anesthetic effect, there is a risk to the horse (and rider) if the horse returns to normal activity before the injury is healed.

Even though arthritis is incurable, ESWT may be capable of extending the usefulness of an animal. Tendon and ligament conditions must be given ample time for proper healing and follow-up ultrasonography is necessary to assess healing. Before shockwave therapy is recommended, a thorough work-up is required on all patients.

These conditions may benefit from shockwave therapy:

- Suspensory desmitis
- Bowed tendons
- Bucked shins
- Stable stress fractures
- Back pain
- Sacroiliac pain
- Splints (interosseous ligament tears)
- Splint bone fractures
- Ring bone
- Bone spavin
- Caudal heel pain (Navicular syndrome)
- Curb (plantar tarsal ligament desmitis)
Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch ...

At the CVHS ranch west of Stillwater, fourth-year veterinary students receive specialized, hands-on training in animal reproduction. Funded by the CVHS and donations from faculty and private horse enthusiasts, the ranch provides educational opportunities for future veterinarians and clinical reproductive services for Oklahoma’s equine population.

Dr. Reed Holyoak, Bullock professor in equine theriogenology who heads the program, expanded its focus on thoroughbreds to include a more representative sample of Oklahoma’s horse population. “I believe it is very important for students to be exposed to all the assisted reproductive techniques available to the horse industry,” he says.

The barren mare program at the ranch is designed to breed problem mares. In addition to client stallions, the CVHS owns four stallions, a thoroughbred, a quarter horse, a paint and a Hanoverian. The students collect semen from the stallions and then either use it fresh during the breeding season or freeze it for use during the next breeding season. The semen of client stallions can be cool-shipped all over North America.

“The number-three reining quarter horse stallion in the nation was recently at the ranch, where we collected and froze his semen,” Holyoak says. “We also had the number-12 cutting quarter horse stallion on site for the same process. We were able to breed 30 client mares at the ranch to this horse and of those, 29 are pregnant.”

Assisted reproductive techniques can involve artificial insemination, cool-shipped or frozen semen, embryo transfer and in vitro fertilization. Veterinary students are exposed to the problem mare and deal with infertility and reduced fertility as well as artificial insemination and embryo transfer. (Staff reductions have forced the suspension of in vitro fertilization practices.)

“Part of the educational experience we offer students is the opportunity to track and foal out the mares,” Holyoak says. “We have 10 ranch mares and a number of client mares that come to the ranch for foaling. Each mare has an assigned student, and students and clinicians closely monitor these mares through foaling. Experiencing the birth process firsthand is one of the huge advantages of the ranch.”

Over the years, the demographics of veterinary students have changed. Now most students come from suburban communities and few have seen a cow or mare go through labor and the birthing process.

“The students see what normal is and sometimes they see what abnormal is,” he says. “Once they know what normal is, it’s easier to determine when the abnormal is happening. In a clinical setting, that factor is lacking. Cases in the clinic are abnormal because the animal is sick or injured. Breeding mares and birthing foals is not hospital-based. It’s farm-based, and the ranch is where students need to experience it.”

“The training I received at the ranch prepared me well,” says Dr. Shalyn Bliss, class of 2006, who is completing a theriogenology internship at Performance Equine Associates in Whitesboro, Texas. “I am at least one year ahead of the people who didn’t have the opportunities we had at the ranch.”

Classmate Dr. Chelsea Cohorn agrees, “It built my confidence coming into private practice.”

Holyoak hopes to build the program to manage the ranch’s 30 cattle as intensely as the horses. He estimates $3 to $5 million is needed to ensure the continued growth of the ranch programs, which he believes are essential in producing rural veterinarians.

“The ranch provides learning in a rural setting,” he says. “Oklahoma is a rural state, and the country is experiencing a shortage of veterinarians to service rural areas nationwide. We need well-trained rural veterinarians.”

DERINDA LOWE

DerinDa Lowe

Erika Contreras
Going the Distance

Dr. Hank Jann, CVHS associate professor of surgery, specializes in equine tendon injury and repair but moonlights as a long distance horse racer. In both his career and avocation, Jann is prepared to cover the distance with as much speed as possible.

Horse racing is a recent interest, but he’s been studying how tendons heal and how to best repair tendon injuries in performance horses for some 23 years.

The most common injuries, which are as career- or life-threatening as a fracture, are either a strain suffered on the race track or a cut to the leg that severs the tendon.

“A tendon injury is more challenging than a fracture in terms of returning the horse to competition,” he says. “If a person cuts a hand deep enough to cut the tendon, the surgeon can repair and bandage it so the person can’t use it. You can’t do that with a horse.”

Through multiple research projects and clinical cases, Jann has made real progress in refining repair techniques and rehabilitation protocols. “We have defined suture patterns that are more effective,” he says. “And we have outlined the healing patterns on how horse tendons heal. Now we are seeking National Institutes of Health funding for stem cell research.”

Jann believes stem cell research would really improve the diagnosis and is the next step in finding a cure for tendon injuries.

“We have done all we can do,” he says. “Stem cell research is the direction future research is going, and it’s expensive. With NIH funding, we would be able to seek the solution to making horses heal faster.”

Jann says he had no particular reason for taking up long distance horse racing.

He rides a purebred Spanish mustang named Copperhead, who’s a direct descendent of Hidalgo, the titular horse from Disney’s 2005 film Hidalgo.

Jann purchased Copperhead and another mustang, Tomahawk, from Bryant Rickman, who has a passion for the horses he inherited from Gilbert Jones, who dedicated his life to preserving the Spanish Mustang of which less than 5,000 remain.

Jones was raised by Frank T. Hopkins, the main character of the Disney film along with Hidalgo. Hopkins was at one time a dispatch rider for General Custer and competed in many long-distance horse races. These races continue today, though they are not as long and are strictly regulated.

“It’s one of the few equine competitions where the animal is examined by vets before he competes,” says Jann. “If there’s any kind of health problem, he’s not allowed to compete. And he has to be healthy at the end of the ride.”

So far, Jann has only ridden Copperhead in 25-mile races, one of which he won. “We went 25 miles in 2 hours and 38 minutes and won best-conditioned horse,” says Jann. The next closest competitor finished more than 20 minutes behind him.

“You try to go as fast as you can across rough terrain and have the animal not get injured and not be exhausted,” says Jann. “But you still want to get there before everyone else does.”

Long-distance horse racing events are held across the country. Most are organized through the American Endurance Ride Conference. Jann hopes to compete in the Tevis Cup in 2007.

“It’s the toughest one. It’s out in Nevada and California. You have to be tough just to show up for it,” says Jann. “It’s 100 miles across the desert and mountains. It’s like the Kentucky Derby of endurance racing.”

Cory Cheney and Derinda Lowe
Saving Sammy

On Feb. 19, Oklahoma wildfires destroyed 600 acres, three homes and two barns and nearly cost Sammy Toland his life. Sammy, a 3-year-old terrier mix dog belonging to David and Krystal Tolland of Braggs, Okla., suffered severe burns to 30 percent of his body.

The Humane Society of the United States offered to partially sponsor Sammy’s recovery and together with the CVHS teaching hospital launched a public campaign to help cover the cost of Sammy’s intensive care.

“The biggest challenge was keeping him stable the first four to five days,” says Dr. Jim Giles, small animal surgery resident. “We worked very hard to replace the fluids and protein Sammy lost through the massive burns on his back, shoulders, sides and thighs.”

The dog has undergone 11 different surgeries to remove dead skin, perform skin advancement procedures and receive skin grafts, which were taken from Sammy’s chest where more skin was available.

“Sammy’s skin was too weak around most of his wounds to advance it,” Giles says. “For his skin advancement, we used sutures to gradually move skin edges toward each other for delayed primary closure. The portions we could advance are healing well.”

Even if Sammy had somehow survived without assistance, his scarred, less pliant skin would have restricted his mobility, Giles says.

Dr. Kimberly Anderson, class of 2006, who as a fourth-year student attended Sammy, says despite the pain the dog was a model patient. “Every time we needed to change his bandages, we had to give him anesthesia because of the pain. He never once complained or snapped at anyone.”

Ren Survives Rattlesnake Bite

Life was good for Ren, a 14-year-old Jack Russell Terrier living in Guthrie, Okla., until one evening this past summer when he was bitten on the face by a timber rattlesnake and nearly died.

Owners Don and Shirley Coffin rushed Ren to Guthrie Pet Hospital, where he was stabilized and quickly referred to the CVHS teaching hospital.

When admitted into the ICU, his body temperature was dropping. He was in pain and semi-conscious. The snake venom had begun to affect his organs and damage his intestinal tract and muscles, including his heart.

Intestinal problems caused Ren’s protein levels to drop, and he developed pneumonia. Timber rattlesnake venom can affect the nervous system, and Ren showed signs of brain damage. Over the next two days, he developed swelling of his face and under his tongue. On the third day, he became jaundiced and his blood work showed liver damage. His body began to destroy its red blood cells and Ren became anemic.

His doctors treated Ren with antivenin and began pain medication. They placed him on a circulating water blanket covered with warm blankets and placed him in an oxygen cage. In addition to intravenous fluids and antibiotics, Ren received a synthetic fluid product to help substitute for his lost protein, an immunosuppressive medication to stop his body from destroying red blood cells and medications to treat the intestinal tract.

He was continuously monitored and required regular turning and bathing and physical therapy.
On day four, Ren lifted his head for the first time, and by day six, he started to drink and eat from a syringe. As Ren regained his strength, he was placed in a cart that allowed him to walk around while his weight was supported.

After two weeks, Ren returned home where the Coffins continued to help him build strength and coordination. He has made an amazing recovery and is now able to walk without the cart and to eat and drink on his own, and his blood values continue to improve.

“Ren was a brave patient and all of us at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences feel privileged to have met him and been a part of his remarkable recovery,” says Dr. Johanna Heseltine, assistant professor of small animal internal medicine.

“OSU is proud to be one of the veterinary hospitals in Oklahoma with the facilities and personnel to offer the level of care that Ren required.”

**Surgeon Saves Snickers**

Mary Kay Jennings, CVHS executive administrative associate to the dean and the associate dean for academic affairs, and her family were outside working on their farm, when they discovered Snickers, the family’s 1½-year-old basset hound/Norwegian elk-hound mix, had been shot with a hunter’s arrow.

“Snickers was covered in blood with an arrow sticking in her shoulder. The end of the arrow had broken off and blood was just flowing out the end of it,” Jennings says.

At the CVHS hospital Snickers underwent a thorough evaluation by intern Dr. Kevin Kunkel and Dr. Jude Bordelon, a resident specializing in small animal surgery.

“We see various types of wounds and injury mechanisms here at the hospital,” Bordelon says.

“We are always concerned with any penetrating foreign body injury, but after reviewing the diagnostics, we felt the prognosis for Snickers was good. She was extremely fortunate, considering the trajectory of the arrow, that the neurovascular structures to her thoracic (front) limb were not injured.”

Snickers’ surgery proceeded without complications. The internal damage to the dog was minimal with bruising, muscle and tissue damage. She was in the intensive care unit for a week following surgery and was then moved to another section for an additional week of recovery. She then returned home where she had an additional two weeks of medication and confinement to avoid further tissue damage.

“Thanks to Dr. Bordelon’s surgical skills and the great care she received at the hospital, Snickers is running around and exploring the farm like it never happened,” says Jennings. “We’re very grateful.”

**Vet ‘Seals’ Her Fate**

Although Dr. Monica Norman, class of 1994, is a busy associate at the Milton Veterinary Clinic in New Hampshire, when a friend told her about an organization that needed help, she didn’t hesitate.

“I walked into the Seals Rehabilitation Facility located in Westbrook, Maine,” Norman says. “I asked if they needed a volunteer veterinarian, and they did. I became a veterinary clinician and medical adviser, and later I became the chief veterinarian.”

The private, non-profit rehabilitation facility is run by the Marine Animal Lifeline, an organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured, sick and abandoned marine mammals. Its goal is to return all stranded animals back to their natural environment.

The seal rehab facility has several pools, both large and small, that have accommodated up to 68 seals during the summer season. The facility provides routine healthcare to seals that come ashore on the beaches of Maine and New Hampshire.

“The seals come to us suffering from dehydration, malnutrition and multiple physical wounds. We typically treat dehydration, bacterial and viral infections and repair injuries resulting from bullet wounds, dog bites, boat strikes and fishing net entanglements,” Norman says.

Other local veterinarians provide radiographs, ultrasounds and surgeries that include eye enucleation, repairing abscesses or removing rocks found in the stomach. (Winter seals eat ice. If no ice is available, they eat rocks.)

The Seals Rehabilitation Facility hopes to build a larger facility and hospital with anesthetic machines and radiographs within the next one or two years.

“In the summer we see baby Harbor seals and in the winter Harp or Hooded juvenile seals that originate in Canada. Baby Harp seals are known for their beautiful white coats.

“The babies, or pups, start on milk formula, she says. “Then they graduate to fish gruel. Next, we teach them to eat hand-fed fish. Finally, they learn to catch live fish that are placed in the pools, which is important in preparing them to survive in their natural environment.”

The entire process takes about three months. The pups must weigh more than 45 pounds before they can return to sea. Each year the facility releases more than 130 seals and that number grows yearly. As of August 2006, 56 baby seals had been released. At the end of summer, Norman stepped down as chief veterinarian but continues as medical adviser to the Marine Animal Lifeline, one of the most active marine mammal hospitals on the eastern seaboard and one of the largest rehabilitation facilities in New England. For information, go to http://www.stranding.org.©

STORIES BY DERINDA LOWE
Alumni Aid in the Aftermath

Jackson Lends a Personal and Professional Hand

In September 2005, Lt. Col. Carney Jackson, class of 1977, was deployed out of the 123rd Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard in Louisville, Ky., to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Jackson, a public health officer, and the two public health technicians who accompanied him were to ensure a healthy working environment and safe food for the troops and other workers.

“The Army and Air National Guards had deployed so many people to the area that when we first arrived, we spent time reporting who was working where. At the same time, we made sure they were eating good food and drinking good water so they wouldn't get sick,” Jackson says.

In addition, Jackson’s group inspected the packaged meals that were dispatched out of the Gulfport military training base to those in need. They made sure the preparation of the food was to code and that the base dining area met food code regulations.

“To add to the situation, when we arrived in Gulf Port, Mississippi, neither the base water nor the city water was potable,” he says. “We would check water tanker trucks to make sure the water they brought was safe for consumption before it was dispersed to the dining facility or to portable water tanks.”

Once the city water and base water were back online, the team checked for chlorine levels and any possible contaminants before declaring it safe for human consumption.

But Jackson’s work in Mississippi didn’t end with his required military duties. Jackson, an associate professor and pathologist at the University of Kentucky Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center, returned in June 2006 with a volunteer group of 11 youth from his church. They teamed up with another volunteer group from Lexington, Ky., to help Youth for Christ replace floors or clean up fallen trees for area residents.

“We spent five days running chain saws or ripping up ruined floors,” he says. “There were about 35 of us all together. We stayed at a local Methodist Church and each day we were sent out to different jobs to help the local people get their homes and lives back in order.”

He says the cleanup is still ongoing but reaching completion. The slow process of rebuilding has begun — a process Jackson has helped move forward through his professional and personal contributions.

Hurricanes Spin DVMs’ Careers 360 Degrees

Dr. Zach Ricker, who graduated from the CVHS in May 2005, went to Texas A&M University for a small animal medicine internship. What he experienced was something he never expected.

Following Hurricane Rita, Texas A&M’s large animal clinic became a human healthcare facility. The size of the animal hospital, as well as its freezer capacity to store bodies in the event of a natural disaster, made the university a logical choice for providing medical care to humans.

“When attending OSU veterinary college, I absolutely never expected to work on humans,” Ricker says. “You realize you have a good medical education, and if you had to apply it to people, you could, but you never imagine actually doing it.”

Dr. Kevin Washburn, class of 1993 and former CVHS professor, also received his first experience attending human patients.

“The whole experience of going from having animals in our hospital to having about 650 human patients in our stalls and in our barn aisles within 24 hours was pretty surreal,” says Washburn, Texas A&M assistant professor in food animal medicine. “It wasn’t like anything I have ever seen in my life. You go to work and your entire emphasis has changed 360 degrees.”

In preparation for the new patients, staff cleaned and sterilized everything in the large animal clinic. The veterinary hospital was converted into wards with human hospital beds and the medical instrumentation necessary to treat humans. The animal pharmacy was stocked with human medications.

Before the National Guard arrived, medical doctors, medical students and veterinary students volunteering in the clinic helped manage patients that ranged...
from the elderly to children with equally diverse problems.

While Washburn did not administer any medical treatment to patients, many of the others did because the patients arrived before the support staff to treat them was on site. Ricker was one of the veterinarians who offered assistance.

“I had a lady arrest on me. We started CPR and called for a crash cart and defibrillator. Luckily the paramedics arrived relatively quickly,” Ricker says. “And hopefully, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

During the ordeal, veterinary students did everything from changing diapers to monitoring vital signs to assisting physicians.

“I believe the veterinary students were much more clinically prepared to deal with the situation than the medical students,” says Ricker, who is a small animal surgery resident at CVHS. “I think this is because so many of the veterinary students grow up in a veterinary practice and are pre-exposed to clinical situations.”

Rescuing Rudy

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans Animal Control rescued a Doberman pinscher in the St. Bernard Parish of New Orleans, La. Rudy, as he became known, was found swimming in five feet of water.

Although it would take a couple of weeks, eventually the injured Rudy made his way to Oklahoma, where Dr. Mike Jones, class of 1991, and Dr. Mark Rochat, professor of small animal surgery, would save Rudy a second time.

“When we have no idea how long he had been swimming or who owned him,” says Marcia Cowen, member of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America disaster relief team and director of the Doberman rescue group located in Tulsa, Okla.

Rudy was found in one of New Orleans’ hardest hit flood areas. Cowen says the dog stayed at animal control several days before arrangements could be made to transport him. Animal control officials reported that the dog “had something wrong with him.” She arranged for Rudy to go to a foster home near New Orleans but out of the flood zone.

“Rudy’s foster family took him to a local veterinarian who told them the dog’s pelvis was in terrible shape and there was nothing he could do at his clinic,” Cowen says. “We sent the X-rays to several Houston veterinarians, but no one would touch the case. Then I sent the X-rays to one of my board members in Tulsa, Dr. Mike Jones, hoping he could help.”

Jones, who owns and operates a small animal practice in Tulsa, volunteers as a veterinary adviser for the Doberman rescue group helping to diagnose and treat diseases or injuries of the rescued Dobermans. He referred Rudy’s case to the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and small animal surgery section chief Rochat.

Cowen, who made the arrangements to transport Rudy, says Jones was instrumental in saving the injured Doberman.

More than two weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit, Rudy arrived at the CVHS teaching hospital. He had sustained multiple pelvic fractures that had gone untreated for almost three weeks. Rochat, one of the best orthopedic surgeons in the country, was willing to try to repair the damage.

Assisted by Dr. Jude Bordonel, the senior small animal surgical resident, Rochat and his surgical team performed the two-hour surgery without incident. Overcoming the healing that had already occurred and the problems it created was the most difficult aspect of realigning Rudy’s pelvis, Rochat says.

The dog’s broken pelvis significantly narrowed his pelvis canal making normal bodily functions and walking difficult. The surgeon re-broke the pelvic fractures for proper realignment using the latest in bone plating technology.

Laura Curtin, fourth-year veterinary student, came in contact with Rudy during his post-operation recovery. “I would see Rudy during rounds, and we hit it off right away,” Curtin recalls with a smile. “One day I noticed he wasn’t there and I asked about him. Staff told me he had been released to a foster family. I contacted the Doberman rescue group right away.”

When his foster family, decided not to keep Rudy because of worries about his physical therapy needs, Curtin applied to adopt the dog and was approved. Although he was listed as 2 years old, Curtin says examinations indicated Rudy was less than a year at the time he was rescued.

Curtin’s veterinarian background was beneficial to Rudy during his three-month recovery when he needed special care to prevent re-breaking his pelvis. Curtin had to keep him in a crate to limit his activity, exercise him on a leash only and provide regular physical therapy.

With the expertise of his doctors and the loving care of his veterinarian owner, Rudy suffers no ill effects from his ordeal. “He’s a special boy,” Curtin says. “I’m glad I was able to open my home to him. He sure has opened his heart to me.”

STORIES BY DERINDA LOWE
Research Expenditures Past Five Years

CVHS R&D Expenditures—all sources
(all dollars are in thousands)

The CVHS’s 2005 fall conference featured a keynote address by Dr. Stephen Sundlof, director of the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Veterinary Medicine. His address is the first in a series of lectures made possible by the Class of 1963 Endowed Distinguished Lectureship.

The endowed lectureship is the way the class of 1963 chose to give back to the college, says Dr. Michael Lorenz, CVHS dean. “Prominent lecturers on campus provide national visibility for our program and enhance the experience of our students, faculty and alumni registrants. Because we now have an endowment to support it, the lectureship will occur every year at fall conference, giving a new dimension to our conference activities.”

The speakers for the distinguished lecture series will be leaders from across North America with national and international reputations in biomedical research, veterinary science and medicine.
Facility Upgrade

CVHS plans a facility upgrade that will significantly reduce harmful pollutant emissions while saving $340,000 in annual energy costs, $9 million over the next 20 years.

Johnson Controls Inc., based in Milwaukee, will upgrade multiple aspects of the facility, including among others, replacing windows, improving mechanical, lighting and plumbing technologies, installing sensor controls, updating air-handling units and incorporating water-conservation measures.

Dr. Michael Lorenz, CVHS dean, says the improvements will reduce the amount of fossil fuel used to produce electricity and steam and lower pollutant output by some 12 million pounds, a reduction equivalent to the energy consumption of 207 single-family homes.

The agreement with Johnson Controls guarantees energy reductions and financial savings, Lorenz says, noting the benefits to students, the community and taxpayers will extend well into the future.  

Wyoming Honors Thorne

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission renamed the Sybille research unit and Johnson Creek Habitat Management Area to the **Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille** and the **Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Habitat Management Area**.

Thorne, class of 1967, worked as a veterinary biologist for the Game and Fish Department for 35 years. He and his wife, Beth Williams, a veterinarian and professor at the University of Wyoming, compiled a long list of scientific accomplishments, projects and research that were groundbreaking in the field of wildlife disease research.

The couple died in a car crash in December 2004.

Speaking of Covers

CVHS sends a special thank you to Kayla Elmenhorst, equestrian team herd supervisor, and Shiner, models for the cover of this issue of *Vet Cetera*, and to Larry Sanchez, equestrian team head coach, and Kitty Story, equestrian unit assistant, for their help in coordinating the photo shoot with photographer Phil Shockley.

REMEMBER LAST YEAR’S COVER?

The Oklahoma College Public Relations Association awarded OSU’s Phil Shockley, university marketing photographer, first place in traditional photography for his cover photograph of Grace Hunziker on the 2005 *Vet Cetera* and Paul Fleming, university marketing graphic designer, first place in cover design for the 2005 *Vet Cetera*.

Comprehensive Planning

Faculty members in the veterinary pathobiology department have developed a blueprint to move forward an already acclaimed parasitology program.

The process involved determining the program’s existing strengths to find areas for improvement. They found quality teaching, extensive service resources and eminent faculty to be the program’s key strong points.

Numerous teaching awards and student interest in parasitology attest to teaching excellence. The CVHS is a leading national parasitology diagnostic reference laboratory that provides a comprehensive treatment consultation service. The CVHS is also a leader in tick-borne disease research.

Parasitology faculty members are at all stages of career development from emerging leaders to established professors to emeriti. The faculty’s publications numbered 61 in 2005, and its funding exceeded $900,000.

Members of the faculty are also leaders in national and international parasitology, holding officer positions in their professional associations, including the president, both past and current, of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitology.

Areas for improvement in the program’s comprehensive plan include establishing an outstanding web presence to document achievements, building the graduate program and expanding the services offered from the clinical parasitology lab.

The department’s plans to enhance graduate course offerings and recruit top graduate students are already underway, and faculty are currently engaged in the process of identifying the needs of veterinary clinicians and practitioners in order to implement frameworks to best meet those needs.

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Class Celebrates 50th Reunion

Celebrating its 50th-year reunion in May, the class of 1956 was honored at the hooding ceremony for the class of 2006 and at a reception following graduation. Six members of the 32-member class returned for the reunion, traveling from as far away as Palmer, Alaska. Thirteen are deceased. Members in attendance are, from left, Drs. Paul Long, Leslie Johnston, Melvin Worth, Anna Cress (widow of classmate Max Cress), Dr. James Ferneau and Dr. Charlie Wulz.

Members of the class of 1953 reunited in March to reminisce about their college days and hear an update from Dr. Michael Lorenz, CVHS dean. Dr. Bob Williams, Moline, Kan., and Dr. Roger Panciera, CVHS professor emeritus organized the celebration.

“We decided to get together while we could,” Panciera says. “Of the original 30 graduates, only 17 are still living. We met for our 50th reunion in 2003 and didn’t want to wait until 2008 for our 55th year anniversary.”

Eight classmates and ten spouses and guests joined the celebration. They traveled to Stillwater from all over the United States—Arkansas, Connecticut, Kansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas. Pictured first row, left to right, are Drs. Roger Panciera, John Gambardella, Sam Morrison and Morris Hill; second row, Drs. Jonathan Friend, emeriti faculty, John Walker, Robert Williams, T.A. Byrd and Clyde Kirkbride.
OSU’s annual Grandparents University gave alumni and their grandchildren an opportunity to be students together for two days at CVHS. A total of 12 children and 12 adults learned how to care for their pets’ ears and teeth, how to properly bandage a wound and how to care for horses. They also learned how to detect equine respiratory problems and resuscitate a dog, as demonstrated by ICU technician Natalie Clawson using Jerry, a life-like dog model.

The Class of 1965 — Pictured at the class of 1965 reunion in October, attendees are, from left, Drs. L.D. Barker, Richard E. Bailey, Darrell Allison, William R. Roberson, Tom Coffin, Talmage Brown, Dianne Nail, John C. Doyle, Carl Ward, Delbert Whitenack, Starling Miller, Wade Markam and John Kirkpatrick.

The class of 1970 — Pictured at the class of 1970 reunion in October, attendees are, from left, Drs. Eric Munson, Lyndon Tate, Coleman Scott, Babette Simms, Bruce Simmons, Susan Gardner, Lawayne Nusz, O’Hara Tyler, Richard Hanshu, Stanley Kosanke, Art Wills, Ronnie Kiehn, Jon Southerland, Tom Shroyer, Bill Clay, Mike Andrews, James Richardson, Harmon Smith, D.C. Smith and Larry Endersby.

The Class of 2000 — Shown from left, Drs. Troy Thompson, Rob Shuman, Sarah Bradley, Yolanda Patterson-Burton, Sarah Parks-Cottle and Joel Cottle attended the class of 2000 reunion in October.
Shared Vision

Thanks to a $1 million gift from the Presbyterian Health Foundation, the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences has a new facility for biodefense and emerging infectious diseases research.

The new Presbyterian Health Foundation Veterinary Medical Research Laboratory, one of only four such facilities in the region, is a resource for scientists at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and others across the region.

The foundation’s commitment to our shared vision for the future of Oklahoma and the region positions the CVHS among the nation’s leaders in animal and human health research.

Campaign Supports Recruitment, Expanded Activities

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences conducts an annual solicitation each fall for donations to the Advancement Fund, which supports activities of the CVHS Alumni Association, alumni receptions, faculty recruitment and other special projects.

In 2005-2006, donations to the fund totaled more than $81,200. Deeply appreciative of all donations made to the Advancement Fund, CVHS Dean Michael Lorenz says, “These funds were critical to our success in faculty and student recruitment and our ability to expand alumni activities.”

Donations of at least $1,000 to the Advancement Fund qualify individuals for membership in the Dean’s Club. We are especially grateful for the following individuals who joined the Dean’s Club in 2005-2006:

CATHY SHUFFIELD

Dr. Delia M. Burchfield
Dr. Joe Carter
(Oklahoma Equine Hospital)
Dr. Billy R. Clay
Dr. Phillip Day
Dr. Alan Donnell
(La Mesa Veterinary)
Dr. Jeffrey Ellis
Dr. John and Mrs. Nina Gambardella
D. Richard Hansen
(Solidtech Animal Health, Inc.)
Dr. David Hille
Dr. Kenneth K. and Mrs. Norlyne B. Keahey Kirkpatrick Foundation
(50th Anniversary Award)

Dr. Joan Kirkpatrick
Dr. Michael and Velda Lorenz
Ed G. and Mary E. Malzahn
Drs. Nick and Dianne Nail
Drs. Carey and Jing Pope
Dr. Bob Shoup
(Catoosa Small Animal Hospital)
Dr. D.C. Smith
(Veterinary Associates)
Dr. Jack Taylor
Dr. Richard S. Templeton
Dr. and Mrs. Steven L. Vonderfecht
Dr. Steve Weir
(Catoosa Small Animal Hospital)
Congratulations, Class of 2006

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences is proud to present the talented class of 2006. They join the tradition of OSU cowboy veterinarians who begin their careers as practice-ready veterinarians dedicated to the wellness and clinical care of animals and as biomedical researchers committed to the control and eradication of emerging infectious diseases.

Welcome, Class of 2010

Four hundred applicants, 132 resident and 268 nonresident, vied for a position in the class of 2010. Of the 80 selected, 56 are Oklahoma residents and 24 are nonresidents. The core and cumulative grade point average for these students is 3.5. Their average GRE scores are for the verbal 476, quantitative 601 and biology 571. The class is comprised of 56 female students and 24 male students.
**The Other Family Doctor**  Chances are, the doctor who cares for your companion animal graduated from the STATE’s veterinary college—the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. Of the state’s 1,815 veterinarians, 1,319 are OSU alumni.

Get Connected – Stay Connected! Visit our website for more information: [www.cvhs.okstate.edu](http://www.cvhs.okstate.edu)