Oklahoma's First 100 Years of Veterinary Medicine

This year’s Vet Cetera celebrates Oklahoma’s first 100 years of veterinary medicine and the continuing role OSU veterinarians play in shaping the state’s history. In addition to this being the state’s centennial, the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) is celebrating its 100-year anniversary.

The history of the OVMA is described in the recently published monograph Organized Veterinary Medicine in the 46th State: The Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association, 1907 – 2006. The author is Dr. Sidney Ewing and copies of the monograph are available from the OVMA. Dr. Ewing’s factual history describes veterinary medicine in Oklahoma from the early days to current times.

Two other history books devoted to the College of Veterinary Medicine include Oklahoma Aggie Ambition by Sidney Ewing and A History of the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine by Eric Williams. All three books illustrate the importance of having a college of veterinary medicine located in Oklahoma and the impact the college has had on the development of organized veterinary medicine in our state.

Prior to statehood, Dr. Lowry L. Lewis, a member of the Oklahoma A&M College faculty, actively represented the profession, presenting seminars to the Oklahoma Cattleman’s Association and promoting the need for a professional school. Dr. Lewis’ attempts to establish a veterinary college at OAMC were not successful, but one of his colleagues, Dr. Clarence McElroy, did serve as dean when the school was founded in 1948.

Eleven of the 91 OVMA presidents since 1916 have been college faculty. The first was Clarence McElroy in 1940. Prior to 1960, none of the 43 OVMA presidents were graduates of our college. The first graduate to serve as OVMA president was Dr. Ray Henry, class of 1951, in 1960. From 1960 to 2007, 32 alumni have served as OVMA president compared to 15 non-CVHS graduates.

The OVMA Veterinarian of the Year Award officially began in 1980, and the first recipient was long-time faculty member Dr. Eric Williams. In 1981, Dr. Tony Thomas, class of 1961, was the first alumnus to receive the award. Since 1980, the award has been presented to 18 alumni of the college.

Over the years, the college has provided thousands of hours of continuing education to Oklahoma veterinarians. Currently, the OVMA and the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences cooperatively organize the summer seminar for veterinarians. More than 85 percent of Oklahoma’s licensed veterinarians are OSU graduates.

Many stories in this edition of Vet Cetera illustrate the college’s role in establishing and promoting veterinary medicine in Oklahoma and nationally. Next year is the CVHS’s 60th anniversary, and we are now planning several events to especially commemorate the previous decade of the college.

We need all alumni to stay connected with our college to ensure that we continue to build our history of professional excellence. I look forward to seeing you at fall conference or at one of our alumni reunions.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. LORENZ, DVM
CVHS DEAN
Welcome, New Cowboys!
CVHS continues its tradition of hiring the best.

Setting the curve
Faculty, students and staff are honored for performances that go well beyond the norm.

Reaching out
Professional lectures and symposiums, public education and client service are all part of what makes the CVHS the state’s veterinary center.

History Makers
OSU veterinarians have historically advanced the profession through research, teaching, clinical practice and organizational leadership.

What’s new?
Ross Joins the CVHS

Chris Ross, DVM, Ph.D., is the new associate dean for academic affairs at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. Ross comes to OSU from Kansas State University where he was on faculty from 1990 to 2007.

He grew up in a small town in northwest Missouri and graduated high school at Columbia, Mo., in 1970. He studied at the University of Missouri (MU) for two years and then left to manage the family farm. In 1975, he returned to MU, earning a bachelor’s in agriculture in 1977 and a DVM in 1981.

Ross practiced veterinary medicine in Fulton, Mo., for four years and then attended graduate school at MU, where he earned a Ph.D. in physiology in 1990.

His graduate work focused on the general area of angiogenesis or the formation of new blood vessels during wound healing and tumor growth. Through various collaborations, he developed an interest in blood vessel responses to inflammatory disease and host response to infection.

Most recently, Ross has been working with a small antibiotic peptide that helps protect epithelial tissues from infection. In general, his research focuses on the host response to invasion or damage.

“Although my path to veterinary medicine was not direct and came pretty late,” he says, Ross believes he can have a significant, positive impact on his chosen profession.

“I have been very pleased to find that everyone I’ve met at OSU is excited about where the veterinary center is going. The faculty thinks and acts as a team and things are very well organized,” Ross says.

“The chance to participate in veterinary education at an excellent institution like OSU is what excites me most.”

Dr. Meg Gross is a clinical associate professor of anesthesia. Her research interests concentrate on finding solutions for clinically-related problems.

Gross, who was born and raised in Oklahoma City, completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Oklahoma and earned her DVM degree from OSU. She finished an anesthesia internship at OSU before completing her residency and master’s degree at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Mike Finn is a clinical assistant professor of ophthalmology.

Finn, from Atwood, Kan., completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Notre Dame. He received his DVM degree from Kansas State University and completed an internship at Auburn University and a residency at Purdue University, where he also earned a master’s degree.

CVHS Welcomes New Faculty and Staff
Dr. Catherine Lamm, from Concord, Calif., is a clinical instructor at the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

Lamm earned a bachelor’s degree in microbiology and a DVM degree from the University of California at Davis. She also completed an anatomic pathology residency at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. Her research interest is primarily abdominal artery rupture in dairy cows.

Dr. Pamela Lloyd is an assistant professor in the physiological sciences department. A native of Kansas City, Mo., Lloyd earned a Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine, where she also completed postdoctoral training in the College of Veterinary Medicine. She then spent two years as a research assistant professor at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Ind., studying cardiovascular disease in Ossabaw swine.

Lloyd’s research focuses on blood vessel growth and remodeling, and how those processes are affected by diabetes and exercise training.

Jeff Cathey, new senior development director for the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, earned a bachelor’s degree from OSU’s College of Arts and Sciences in 1987.

As a previous owner of three horses, 25 chickens, two dogs, three goats and 11 farm cats, Cathey knows the value of veterinary medicine and is pleased to be part of the vet med team.

“The incredible advancement opportunities are exciting,” he says. “And when accomplished, they will have a major impact on the future of the veterinary center and the quality of animal care we provide.”
Dr. Rebecca Morton, veterinarian and microbiologist at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, retires this year leaving behind a distinguished record as both scientist and educator. While her work did not unfold as she predicted, she says the ability to change led to a rewarding career. “Often your career takes you on a different path than what you originally planned. I advise students to be very open-minded and flexible,” she says.

As an OSU veterinary student, Morton worked in the microbiology lab. “Everything was located in McElroy Hall,” she says. “The microbiology lab was merely a bench in the corner of a large laboratory on the second floor.”

When told by the professor in charge that everyone who worked in the position went on to graduate school, Morton thought, “Not me. I’m going to be a dog doctor.” And she did return to her home state of West Virginia to practice small animal medicine after graduation — and before coming back to OSU to earn her graduate degree in microbiology.

Morton changed directions again when she completed her graduate studies and the new Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (OADDL) opened and hired her as a microbiologist. She remained at OADDL for almost 12 years honing her diagnostic skills.

Initially, Morton had no interest in teaching. “I’m shy and I don’t like getting up in front of people,” she says. But that changed when she began work on a search committee to replace 30-year veteran microbiology professor Dr. Paul Barto.

“I realized I was more qualified to teach the material than the candidates who applied,” she says. “I resigned my position on the search committee, submitted my application and was hired.”

In addition to receiving numerous teaching awards during her 19-year teaching career, Morton distinguished herself as a researcher of tularemia and Francisella tularensis.

One of her most recent projects is a collaboration with Baylor College of Medicine to determine why an attenuated strain of Francisella tularensis used as a vaccine does not cause disease. Another is a collaboration with Drs. William Barrow and Ken Clinkenbeard under contract with the National Institutes of Health to develop and perform antimicrobial assays for a panel of bacteria that may cause severe disease in both humans and animals.

Since 2000 Morton has traveled and interacted with scientists from many countries to review proposals from former Soviet Union researchers for the National Academy of Science Committee. “It’s very rewarding,” she says.

But Morton hopes to be remembered as a teacher. “The biggest surprise about teaching is the interaction with the students and how much I enjoy it. It makes my day when a student comes up or calls to thank me for the role I played in his or her career.”

Top Scientist, Teacher Retires
Liu’s Research Honored

Dr. Lin Liu received the 2006 Regents Research Award for his work and leadership in the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences Lung Biology and Toxicology Laboratory (LBTL).

“I felt honored to receive this prestigious award,” says Liu. “The award is really for the whole LBTL family — it is the research programs that were recognized.”

Liu and his researchers explore physiological and pathological mechanisms of the lung. The team leads the field in investigating how small non-coding RNAs regulate lung function.

“Approximately 349,000 Americans die of pulmonary diseases every year,” Liu says. “My goals are to find cures for lung diseases, provide training for our students and establish a nationally and internationally recognized interdisciplinary research program.”

A Pathology Hero

Dr. Jerry Ritchey, associate professor of veterinary pathobiology, has been teaching for 15 years and is a two-time winner of the Regents Distinguished Teaching Award. He attributes his success to enjoyment.

“I try to make learning fun,” he says. “I concentrate on what’s important in the veterinary curriculum and present it in a way that makes it interesting, which could include games, music, videos and comedy routines.”

Ritchey teaches general pathology, systems pathology and necropsy. He says he entered the field of pathology because he was so impressed with his pathology professors here at OSU.

“I would like to think there are some students who are so impressed with my knowledge and excitement that they, too, become pathologists. I want to be someone’s pathology hero as Drs. Roger Panciera and Anthony Confer have been mine.”

Pfizer Award Goes to de la Fuente

Dr. José de la Fuente, pathobiology research professor, has received the 2007 Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research in recognition of his work in vaccine development.

De la Fuente has published more than 100 papers in refereed journals, authored four patents with co-workers Drs. Katherine Kocan and Ed Blouin and received multiple research grants including a large grant from Pfizer Animal Health.

Faculty members are nominated by their peers and selected by the College Research Advisory Committee. The winner is chosen based on the nominee’s publication records, ability to obtain external research support, presentation of research data, involvement in scientific organizations and training of graduate students and/or residents. 
Faculty and fourth-year students of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences named Kira Kautz recipient of the 2007 Dean Clarence H. McElroy Award. The award, the most prestigious award bestowed on graduates of veterinary medicine, is based on high academic achievement, leadership and outstanding clinical proficiency.

Kautz plans to enter private practice in her hometown of North Platte, Neb., as the third veterinarian in a mixed animal practice working mostly on equine, bovine and small animal cases.

Friendly, helpful communication with CVHS led Kautz to choose OSU. “When my grandpa and I came to visit, everyone was so helpful and really went out of their way to make us feel welcome,” she says.

“The faculty is very encouraging and helpful. The opportunity to communicate with and bond with some of the most intelligent people around is one of the greatest things about this school.”

Kautz was on the Dean’s Honor Roll, was active in several student organizations and served as an ambassador for the CVHS as well as the 2007 class representative. She also volunteered at the Tulsa State Fair and Highland Park Elementary School.

“I am so honored to be the recipient,” Kautz says. “Not only have I achieved my goal of becoming a veterinarian, I have done it in a wonderful program with fantastic people surrounding me. I am truly blessed.”

Kautz Receives Highest Veterinary School Honor

Far from Ordinary

Grateful clients started the Above and Beyond Award in 2006 to honor fourth-year veterinary students who excel in patient care and client communications. Faculty and staff at the teaching hospital select one award winner each semester.

Jennifer Howard is the summer 2006 recipient. During her shelter rotation, Howard exhibited self-motivation, initiative, service to colleagues and an excellent work ethic.

Angel Jordan is the fall 2006 recipient. Jordan was recognized for having a pleasant attitude, dedication, initiative and an outstanding work ethic.

The spring 2007 recipient is Kimberly Claus who is known for consistently going above and beyond in her patient care and client communication. She is proactive in helping others without being asked.
OSU Recognizes Staff Service

OSU honored several employees of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences at the 2007 Staff Awards and Recognition Day.

Janelle Ballard, animal technician in the animal resources department, received a distinguished service award in the trades/technical paraprofessional category. Ballard has worked for animal resources since May 2000 and has been serving as the lead technician since January 2001. She directs all full- and part-time technicians as they procure and care for animals at the CVHS.

Jean LeForce, animal caretaker foreman at the OSU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, received a distinguished service award in the service maintenance category. For almost five years, LeForce has been working with staff behind the scenes feeding and caring for large animal patients and keeping the large animal barns clean. Thanks to her excellent service, large animal clients can be sure that their animals are well taken care of.

Both Bruce Nance and Jim Hargrave were recognized as nominees in the administrative/professional category.

Hubbard Wins Stratton Award

Joan Hubbard, the sponsored programs specialist for the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, is winner of the 2007 Stratton Staff Award.

The Stratton award, created by Dr. Louis Stratton in 1989, honors outstanding CVHS staff members for their service and contributions. Fellow employees nominate candidates, and an ad hoc committee selects the recipient.

Hubbard has worked for 17½ years for CVHS and is responsible for the research administration of grants and contracts.

“It is certainly an honor to be recognized as this year’s recipient of the Stratton Staff Award,” Hubbard says. “CVHS is a wonderful place to work. Relationships with faculty, staff and students have been rewarding, and this has been a great place to call my home away from home.”

Joan Hubbard, 2007 Stratton Staff Award winner, left, receives her plaque from last year’s winner, Kelly McCracken, at the CVHS annual awards banquet.
The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences is fortunate to have many devoted, loyal employees. No one better exemplifies the level of employee commitment to CVHS than two 30-year veterans, Diana Moffeit, left, and Debra Hatter.

**Diana Moffeit** has spent the past 10 years working as assistant to the associate dean for research and graduate coordinator. Moffeit says she enjoys working with all her colleagues and interacting with the graduate and professional students.

Originally from Waterloo, Iowa, she grew up in Tulsa, Okla., and lived in Kentucky and Colorado before moving to Stillwater. Diana has attended Tulsa University, the University of Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University studying English and American literature.

In her spare time, Moffeit enjoys hiking, biking in the mountains, canoeing, whitewater rafting, traveling, cooking, gardening, movies and reading. She plans to take pottery classes in the near future.

**Debra Hatter** began her career caring for large research animals before moving to the Small Animal Clinic, where she is the small animal care foreman.

She has seen many changes during her tenure, including the move into the teaching hospital from McElroy Hall. She has witnessed employees become veterinary students and encountered many unique animals.

“I have enjoyed animals since I was a child on the farm. I enjoy working with client animals. They come in all shapes and sizes — some shy or frightened and others very friendly,” says Hatter, who grew up north of Coyle, Okla., on her parents’ farm.

“I try to give patients a little ‘TLC’ to make their stay in the hospital wards as comfortable as possible.”

She enjoys crocheting, cooking, baking and going fishing and hunting with her husband, Sam.
Dr. Robert W. Fulton says his new position, the McCasland Endowed Chair in Food Animal Research, will reinforce OSU programs to boost the Oklahoma cattle industry.

“I am honored to have been chosen as the recipient of the McCasland Chair and for the recognition it brings to my career in bovine infectious disease research,” Fulton says. “The financial support from this position and the veterinary center will greatly strengthen our programs to enhance the productivity and economic return for our Oklahoma cattlemen.”

Fulton’s research team is developing a vaccine for cattle that will help combat bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) infections, a leading cause of reduced production efficiency and economic losses to cattlemen.

“BVDV causes respiratory diseases such as ‘Shipping Fever’ pneumonias, abortions, neonatal calf losses and persistently infected (PI) calves. The PI calves, born to cows infected during pregnancy, are the most important reservoir of infection exposing susceptible cattle,” Fulton says.

There are at least three BVDV subtypes in U.S. cattle, BVDV1a, BVDV1b and BVDV2a. Fulton has found that the predominant antigenic type present in PI cattle entering the feedlot and in breeding herds with PI calves is BVDV1b — 78 percent as compared to 11 percent each for subtypes 1a and 2a.

However, none of the more than 160 vaccines licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture contain BVDV1b. These approved vaccines contain 1a alone or a combination of BVDV1a and 2a. Fulton intends to change that.

He has received a gap funding award for the project from the Technology and Business Assessment Group to develop a modified, live-virus vaccine using a BVDV1b strain.

“This project involves the use of the experimental BVDV1b vaccine in susceptible calves to determine its ability to induce antibodies to this strain,” he says. “We’ll also use a commercial vaccine that includes only BVDV1a and 2a strains to determine if the experimental vaccine is more effective at inducing immunity to the 1b strain.”

The information on the antibody response will improve the research team’s chances to collaborate with commercial veterinary biologics companies on vaccine development. “A better vaccine will provide protection to the state’s cattle and benefit cattlemen when their healthier cattle are marketed or sent to the feedlot,” Fulton says.
OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences opened its doors to the public March 30 and 31, 2007. This biannual open house provides the community and potential veterinary students a first-hand look at the services available at the state’s veterinary center.

The CVHS offered exhibits and live demonstrations both days and held a special “Teddy Bear Surgery” on the last day. The event gave children an opportunity to don surgical garments and assist a third-year veterinary student as he or she repaired torn stuffed animals to the delight of their young owners.

More than 2,000 visitors toured the facility and gathered healthcare information from the demonstrations and exhibits.

Pleased with the response, Dr. Michael Lorenz, professor and dean of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, says the open house gives visitors an inside look at the many educational and research programs integral to the veterinary center.

“Our students’ hard work and dedication make this exceptional community event possible,” he says. “This year we owe a special thanks to the student open house chairs, Gwen Jankowski, Katie Carpenter, Nicole Stec and Heidi Stricker.”

Building a Tradition of Excellence

The Oklahoma College Public Relations Association awarded OSU’s Phil Shockley, university marketing photographer, first place in traditional photography for his photograph of Kayla Elmenhorst riding Shiner on the cover of the 2006 Vet Cetera. Shockley likewise received first place for the cover shot of Grace Hunziker on the 2005 Vet Cetera, an issue that continued to garner honors in the fall of 2006.

In addition to taking first place in the four-color magazine category, the 2005 Vet Cetera received a “best of show” from the Oklahoma City Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America’s Upper Case Awards. The society selects its best of show from all the entries in the publications, writing and non-print public relations tactic division. This awards competition seeks to recognize the best in public relations programs and practices in the central Oklahoma region and throughout the state.

The 2005 Vet Cetera also received a platinum award from MarCom Creative Awards 2006 International Competition.
Neither Rain, nor Sleet …

While the university was officially closed on Nov. 30, 2006, approximately 40 students, faculty and staff braved wintry weather to attend the 2006 Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology.

Kendall B. Wallace, Ph.D., DABT, FATS, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Minnesota, presented “Mitochondrial Cardiomyopathy and the Compensated Metabolic State.”

Wallace’s presentation focused on the adverse side effects of drugs including anti-cancer agents. He discussed Doxorubicin (Adriamycin®), a widely used chemotherapeutic agent limited for prolonged clinical use by its toxic effects on the heart, and Doxorubicin-induced mitochondrial dysfunction as a cardiotoxic mechanism, including both the genomic and metabolic alterations that underlie adaptation to cardiac toxicity following doxorubicin exposure.

Understanding these adaptive changes in cellular metabolism in response to doxorubicin-induced cardiac cell damage may lead to the development of more effective anti-cancer drugs, Wallace says.

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences reports success in raising funds to convert to a fully digital radiography system and to enhance its special imaging capabilities.

As a result of the campaign launched in 2005, all small-animal radiology rooms are now digital, and equine and food-animal rooms are digital except for the larger rooms.

A new CT has been installed and soon an MRI will be in place. Both are DICOM 3.0 compatible and interface with CVHS’s digital PACS system to allow digital image sharing with referring veterinarians and clients.

The new four-slice helical GE Lightspeed QXi CT replaced an outdated, single slice non-helical CT. This new CT’s rapid image acquisition improves patient care by reducing the procedure time. For example, the brain of a 60-pound dog can be imaged in a matter of 10 to 20 seconds.

The software package with the new CT also provides for 3-D image reconstruction and vessel analysis.

In addition to these major imaging upgrades, the CVHS has upgraded the ultrasound machine to a newer HDI 5000 model, which is likewise DICOM 3.0 compatible and provides better and clearer images for abdominal and cardiac ultrasound studies.

The center also has enhanced student instruction with the purchase of medical grade monitors that provide exquisite detail for viewing digital films.

The CVHS recently acquired a digital scanner to scan regular radiographs into digital images that can be stored on a computer server in the PACS for future availability. Films of great teaching cases can now be scanned and accessed digitally.

The anticipated installation date for the MRI is early spring of 2008. The MRI is expected to be a 0.4 Tesla machine that will provide excellent studies of the nervous system and equine joints and tendons as well as many other tissues. Both the CT and MRI will be equipped with large animal tables so that horses and food animal patients can be imaged with either modality.

These imaging upgrades come with a large price tag. The total cost for the CT and its corresponding room renovations was $677,500. The anticipated cost for the MRI and its room renovation is $500,000.

“Without the support of various donors who have given generously to fund these projects, the dream of having this diagnostic imaging center would not have come to fruition,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean of the CVHS.

“The investments made by these donors will have a positive impact for years to come on the services we can offer to pet owners and on the training of tomorrow’s veterinarians.”

---

Dr. Kendall B. Wallace, presenter of the 2006 Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology, left, and lecture host Carey Pope, Ph.D., head of the physiological sciences department and Sitlington Chair in Toxicology, found an appreciative audience for the 2006 toxicology lecture despite inclement weather.
Dr. Edwin D. Fisher's leadership and dedication to veterinary medicine began in his hometown of Cushing, Okla., where in high school he was president of the local Future Farmers of America, a member of the state champion livestock judging team and a student council representative.

In 1952, he majored in animal science at OSU where he continued to receive recognition for his leadership. He earned his DVM degree from OSU in 1963 and was appointed the first president of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association.

Fisher practiced one year in a mixed-animal practice in Claremore, Okla., and one year at the Blue Cross Small Animal Hospital in Tulsa, Okla., before becoming a partner in a Winfield, Kan., mixed-animal practice where he continues to practice today.

He served on the city commission and as mayor of Winfield as well as serving 20 years on the Chamber of Commerce board of directors. He helped organize the Winfield Industrial Park and is active in various community organizations, including the Rotary Service Club where he holds a 40-year perfect attendance record.

He is a member of the board of directors for the H.L. Snyder Research Foundation.

Fisher, a dedicated alumnus and veterinarian, is a member of the OSU Alumni Association and the Dean's Development Associates. He has missed only one OSU College of Veterinary Medicine Fall Veterinary Conference and that was because a cow ran over him, breaking three ribs and rupturing his spleen.

Dr. James Brandt has practiced small-animal medicine in Florida most of his career. Brandt was born in McPherson, Kan., and graduated from Salem Community High School in Salem, Ill. He attended the University of Tulsa to complete his pre-veterinary education and earned his DVM degree from OSU in 1964.

Following graduation, Brandt entered business as a general small-animal medical and surgical practitioner at the Brandt Veterinary Clinic in Nokomis, Fla., where he practiced for 31 years before practicing another six years at the Venice Pines Veterinary Clinic in Venice, Fla.

Throughout his career, he has been very active in professional organizations. He has been a member of and served in leadership positions in the Southwest Florida Veterinary Medical Association, Sarasota County Animal Welfare Committee, Florida Veterinary Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Animal Hospital Association.

Brandt was named the 1993 Florida Veterinarian of the Year.

In addition to professional organizations, Brandt has actively served, frequently in leadership positions, in civic organizations such as the Venice Nokomis Rotary Club, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, Sunnyland Council Boy Scouts of America, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, First Florida Bank, Guaranty Bank of Southwest Florida, West Coast Guaranty Bank, Venice Hospital, The Venice Foundation, Venice Yacht Club, The Bank of Venice and the Mission Valley Country Club.

Dr. Robert Fulton has brought recognition to his alma mater through research, as well as service to national organizations and the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

Fulton earned his veterinary degree from OSU in 1966. After four years in the U.S. Air Force, he received his doctoral degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

He taught at Louisiana State University until 1982 when he joined OSU as a virology professor. He rose to interim-head of the veterinary parasitology department and later led the infectious diseases and physiology department. In 2000, he rejoined the faculty full-time studying bovine respiratory disease and mentoring graduate students. Last year, he was appointed to the McCasland Foundation Endowed Chair for Food Animal Research.

Leaders in his field have lauded Fulton for his work with bovine viruses. He was a prominent bovine interferon expert during the 1970s and 1980s who later studied the viral diarrhea virus and its role in shipping fever. His studies produced publications examining the roles new virus subtypes play in respiratory disease.

Fulton has worked as interim assistant director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station. Nationally, he chaired the board of governors and examination committee for the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. He worked on the AVMA Council on Research, USDA Regional Project on Bovine Respiratory Disease and Board of Scientific Reviewers for the American Journal of Veterinary Research.
The Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) has named Dr. Lyndon Graf the 2007 Oklahoma Veterinarian of the Year.

Graf, class of 1978, grew up on a dairy farm near Corn, Okla. Working with animals on the farm, he knew from an early age he wanted to be a veterinarian. He attended Tabor College studying a pre-veterinary curriculum before attending OSU in the fall of 1974.

After graduation Graf practiced one year in the Washita Veterinary Clinic in Cordell, Okla. He then launched his own business in Marlow, at the time one of the largest towns in Oklahoma without a veterinary clinic. He opened the Marlow Veterinary Clinic in 1980 and has operated the mixed-animal practice since then.

Graf has served in numerous leadership positions in his profession, including president of the OVMA in 2000, and is currently the president of the Southwest Veterinary Symposium.

Graf has also served his community through the years. He is president of the Marlow Lions Club and a director of the Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Marlow Ag Booster Club and the Stephens County Livestock Producers Club.

The Marlow chamber named him “Man of the Year” in 1996. Although passionate for his community and his profession, Graf’s greatest joy is his children. Dr. Tristan Graf is a 2004 graduate of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Gatz Graf will soon complete his DVM degree at OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences; and Diana Graf, a senior at Oklahoma Baptist University, has recently been accepted into medical school at the University of Oklahoma.

Graf says he is always interested in how he can improve professionally and how he can help the profession move forward. “I hope that at the end of my life, it can be said that I gave back more to my profession than I took from it,” he says.

At the annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, the Charles Louis Davis DVM Foundation honored one of the true legends in the field of veterinary pathology, Dr. John King, class of 1955.

In recognition of King’s 50 years in the profession and the scope and breadth of his contributions to veterinary pathology, the foundation inaugurated its highest-level award, the John M. King Award for Sustained Contribution to Veterinary Pathology. The award in his honor recognizes King’s dedication to pathology, his drive to educate, his acceptance of people from all countries and the positive impact he has had on many pathologists.

King has a personal collection of more than 20,000 kodachromes available through the foundation’s website at http://www.cldavis.org.

Dr. James W. Carpenter, class of 1974, has been elected president of the Association of Avian Veterinarians. Carpenter is a professor of zoological medicine at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

“This is a great honor for me,” Carpenter says. “I served as president of the Association of Zoo Veterinarians in 1998-1999 and never envisioned also being elected president of the Association of Avian Veterinarians.”

Carpenter is the only person to serve as president of both of these organizations. While both groups are based in the U.S., approximately 25 percent of each group’s membership is international.
Highly esteemed in his profession and the equine industry, Dr. Leroy Coggins is a true pioneer whose research has significantly improved the practice of veterinary medicine while saving equestrians billions of dollars.

Coggins began conducting research on viruses while a first lieutenant in the Army Veterinary Corps, which he entered after graduating with his DVM degree from OSU in 1957.

He became so intrigued with virus research he decided to go to Cornell University to obtain a graduate degree in veterinary virology. By 1963, Coggins was in Kenya, East Africa, studying swine fever for a U.S. Department of Agriculture project. He helped adapt the agar gel immunodiffusion test to the diagnosis of African swine fever, an experience that helped with his future work.

Five years later, Coggins returned to Cornell University from Africa to work on equine infectious anemia, a disease similar to human AIDS. Once infected, an animal remains infected for life. Even though there may be no obvious symptoms for an extended period, the animal can infect other animals if not isolated. Early detection became a critical weapon to combat equine infectious anemia.

Betty Benton Self’s 43-year career as a veterinarian almost didn’t happen.

It was the early 1950s when the Odessa, Texas, native first applied to Texas A&M’s veterinary program. And women were not admitted.

The university told her change was in progress and to try back later. But on her second attempt she still wasn’t accepted, even though she met all the criteria including a bachelor’s degree in pre-veterinary medicine.

“Texas A&M was not going to accept me,” Self says. “Not because of my qualifications, but because of my gender.”

A family friend took the issue to the Texas board of regents, which negotiated a contract with Oklahoma’s regents allowing her to attend OSU, where two years earlier June Iben had become the first female veterinary student.

“I was pretty happy about it and a little apprehensive,” Self says. “I didn’t know much about OSU.”

Self found most classmates and instructors to be supportive and encouraging, particularly Dr. Peterson and Dr. Friend. “My being the only female in the class was not an issue for my fellow classmates. Our class had lots of gatherings and was a close-knit group,” she says. They’ve remained close for 50 years, reuniting every five years.

She and classmate Leon Self married between their sophomore and junior years and worked together after graduation at a mixed-practice in Ada, Okla.

Class of 1957 Celebrates 50th Reunion

In May, 12 members and two widows representing the class of 1957 gathered at OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences to celebrate their 50th class reunion. Among those attending were Drs. Leroy Coggins, developer of the Coggins Test for Equine Infectious Anemia known worldwide, and Betty Self, the second female to graduate from the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine.
“It took 1½ years of modifications of the immunodiffusion test before I was able to get it to accurately diagnose equine infectious anemia,” Coggins says. The “Coggins Test,” as it came to be known, quickly became the test of choice among veterinarians and those in the horse industry. It is easy to set up, provides rapid results and is inexpensive and accurate.

In 1973, the Coggins Test was recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the official test for equine infectious anemia.

The Virology Committee of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians gave Coggins the 2006 Pioneers in Virology Award for his outstanding work. The award is merely the latest of many.

He also received the Harness Racing Meritorious Achievement Award in 1970, the American Association of Equine Practitioner’s Research Award in 1972 and the Alexander Humboldt Senior Scientist Award in 1976.

The OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences named Coggins the 1978 Distinguished Alumnus, and in 2000 the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases dedicated its 81st annual meeting in his honor.

When North Carolina established a veterinary college in 1980, Coggins left Cornell and moved to North Carolina to help start the school. He served as the head of the microbiology, pathology and parasitology department until he retired in 1994.

“Am I glad I was able to develop the test,” Coggins says. “My only regret is that I was unable to discover a cure for the disease. I tried for several years to produce a vaccine before retiring.”

DERINDA LOWE

“For more than 10 years, I was the only female veterinarian practicing in Oklahoma,” says Self, who specializes in small animals.

“I think women are perfectly capable of working in veterinary medicine,” Self says. “I was told I should not be there because I was going to get married, have children and not practice. I got married, raised three sons and practiced for 43 years. I am glad the mindset has changed over the years.”

Self says she was fortunate to work in a clinic with four other veterinarians who could share the workload and make flexible hours a possibility. “I worked every day, but I also could spend time with my family and do things like be a Cub Scout mother,” she says.

After 24 years in Ada, Self moved to Denton, Texas, where she practiced medicine another 19 years, retiring in 2000.

Based on her own experiences, Self would advise young women to avoid the futility of trying to be “supermom” and “supervet.” “You’ll get yourself lost in the process,” she says. “Veterinary medicine and motherhood can be done simultaneously. You just need to pace yourself.”

It’s also important that future veterinarians realize they may have to deal with abhorrent conditions. Self remembers an intern who left and never came back after seeing a dog’s rotting paw.

“It’s not for the faint of heart,” Self says. “If a job needed to be done, I just had to go about doing it. When there are problems, you have to solve them.”

Self also says she never anticipated the number of “pet” skunks and ferrets she would be asked to descent during her career. Even in a well-ventilated area and a gallon-jar of ether, “I usually ended up with scent on me,” she says.

Today she has two grandsons and two great-granddaughters and enjoys the slow pace of Robert Lee, Texas.

“If I had to do it over, I would choose veterinary medicine again. I enjoyed doing it,” she says. “It was fulfilling, and I enjoyed working with animals and being able to help them.”

JANET VARNUM
When she was a student at OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, Dr. Theresa Casey says she thought clinical medicine was the only career path for veterinarians. Now a brigadier general in the Air Force, her own career stands as an impressive example of the myriad career options available to graduates who are willing to explore the options.

Casey’s interest in the military began at home. Her father was in the Air Force, and the family moved frequently before settling in Guthrie, Okla., where Casey completed high school. Soon after, she began her military training as a reserve officer while attending veterinary college.

“I was commissioned a Reserve officer in 1979,” Casey says. “During summers and junior- and senior-year clinical rotations, I worked at an Air Force base veterinary clinic in the Air Force Academy Falconry Program and at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in the veterinary pathology division.”

After graduating from OSU in 1982, she entered active duty with her first assignment at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Okla. As chief of environmental health, Casey served as the health department director for the Air Force base. Her duties included zoonosis control, occupational health exam management and education for base employees, and food safety and sanitation, as well as public facility sanitation. She also managed disease outbreak investigation, control and prevention, and implemented base level HIV testing.

Casey completed assignments at Tinker Air Force Base in Okla.; Brooks Air Force Base in Texas; and Ramstein Air Base in Germany. In 1995, she was assigned to chief in public health and health promotions at the Office of the Command Surgeon for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

The Office of Command Surgeon is an intermediate headquarters that coordinates public health activities from six to 16 Air Force bases, sending reports to the Air Force surgeon general headquarters in Washington, D.C.

“I originally planned to fulfill my three-year commitment to the Air Force and return to civilian practice,” says Casey. “However, I enjoyed the challenge of managing community public health programs, particularly for emerging health issues such as AIDS, multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis, hepatitis C and biowarfare protection. So I stayed for the next assignment, then the next, and the next for almost 25 years.”

In 1996, she was assigned to chief in the medical operations division of the Office of the Command Surgeon Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. In 1998, Casey advanced to deputy commander of the 86th Medical Group at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and surgeon of the Joint Task Force Shining Hope in Einsiedlerhof, Germany, and commander of the 86th Air Expeditionary Group in Garoua, Cameroon.

In 2001, Casey moved to commander of the 82nd Medical Group.
at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas and in 2003 to commander of the 1st Medical Group at Langley Air Force Base, Va. Medical groups are responsible for human clinics or hospitals.

“The medical groups at Sheppard and Langley were community hospitals with staffs of 600 to 900 active duty Air Force, civilian and contract employees and volunteers,” Casey says.

In 2006 after a one-year assignment as deputy command surgeon of the Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Casey moved into her present position as assistant surgeon general for modernization in the Office of the Surgeon General, Falls Church, Va.

“As the chief of the Air Force Medical Modernization Office, I direct a staff of more than 200.

Our mission is to find or develop and apply the latest technology to improve the health of military members and their families. This can include finding commercial technologies suitable for routine use in stateside clinics and hospitals, such as teleradiology, as well as military unique applications like acoustic brain monitors for trauma patients in Iraq,” she says.

“We also ensure compliance with laws and Department of Defense policy regarding animal use in research and the protection of human research subjects. Our research initiatives focus on both individual and population health such as early detection and surveillance for avian influenza, improved chronic disease management (type II diabetes) and better protection against war trauma, particularly brain injury prevention and blast injury.”

She says the highlights of her career include humanitarian disaster relief operations in Rwanda, Zaire and Kosovo; space shuttle support missions in Morocco; and drafting foot and mouth disease outbreak response plans with the German government.

Casey advises veterinary students to explore career options.

“Veterinarians play a vital role in animal and human health. There is a dire need for our expertise in a variety of state and federal agencies,” she says.

“Private practice is very rewarding; however, public sector veterinarians can make a difference at the state, regional and national level.”

Fidler discovered that imatinib (Gleevec commercially) paired with paclitaxel (Taxol commercially) has the best results in treating drug-resistant prostate cancer in mice. While more trials will be made in a clinical setting, Fidler and his team are making great strides toward treating prostate cancer metastasis.
Dr. Roger Panciera — a graduate and emeritus faculty of the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences — was inducted as a distinguished member of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) at the 57th annual American College of Veterinary Pathologists meeting held earlier this year in Tucson, Ariz.

The designation places Panciera in an exclusive group. Currently, there are approximately 3,000 active ACVP members, but only 35 veterinary pathologists have been recognized as distinguished members. Panciera is the first pathologist from OSU to receive this honor.

“The honor of distinguished member is awarded to a select few diplomates who have truly made outstanding contributions to the scientific field of veterinary pathology and to the ACVP,” says Dr. Anthony Confer, head of the CVHS pathobiology department.

Panciera graduated from OSU with his DVM degree in 1953. He went on to earn a master’s degree and doctoral degree in veterinary pathology from Cornell University in 1955 and 1960, respectively. He joined the faculty at OSU in 1956 and has had a stellar career with more than 110 refereed scientific publications spanning a career in veterinary pathology that exceeds 50 years.

He is partly or wholly responsible for the original pathologic descriptions of several diseases known today, including Cryptosporidiosis of calves, hairy vetch poisoning in cattle, blister beetle poisoning in horses, canine hepatozoonosis, tularemia in cats, and Ehrlichiosis in dogs to name a few.

“Dr. Panciera has advanced the discipline of veterinary pathology by his leadership and has inspired several generations of veterinarians to enter the field of pathology,” says Dr. Jerry Ritchey, former student and colleague.

“Numerous OSU graduates have completed pathology training programs and, now, as members of the ACVP are distributed around the world in academia, research, industry and the armed forces. All have been positively influenced by Dr. Panciera and most have made pathology a career because of his enthusiasm, energy and love for the field of veterinary pathology,” Ritchey says.

Leaving an imprint nationally and locally, Panciera served on several U.S. Department of Agriculture grant review panels and has served the ACVP as a member of the examination committee and the editorial board of Veterinary Pathology, an international pathology journal.

He has also chaired many college and university faculty committees and served as a charter member of the advisory board for the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

Confer and Ritchey nominated Panciera, with supporting letters from numerous members of the ACVP, and presented the award to him. The ACVP council unanimously approved Panciera’s selection to distinguished member, and the membership gave a standing ovation in support of his selection.

“As an alumnus and former student, I am very proud of Dr. Panciera,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean of CVHS. “He is an icon among veterinary pathologists and one of the great teachers of veterinary pathology.”
He says travel is an enjoyable part of this tour of duty. “My family and I arrived in Turkey in July 2006. It’s hard to believe it’s been over a year. This is such a rich country for history — you could never see it all. I’m stationed in Turkey; my headquarters are in Italy; and I attend conferences in Germany. I recently attended a conference in Sicily and the next week I attended a class in Denmark,” Hawley says.

Following graduation from OSU, he reentered the military as Capt. Robert Hawley, DVM and was assigned to Redstone Arsenal, Ala., where he had a main clinic on base and two satellite clinics — one in Columbus, Miss., and the other at Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn. Hawley soon received orders to be assigned to Incirlik Air Force Base in Turkey.

As chief of veterinary services in Turkey, Hawley is responsible for the healthcare of 13 military working dogs and all privately owned animals on and off the base. He also is in charge of a large food inspection mission that covers the entire countries of Turkey, Cyprus, Greece and Bulgaria.

“The base veterinarian is the only show in town. When you are stationed in the U.S., you can always refer to another veterinarian. Here, there is no one to refer to,” Hawley says.

“You need to be a self-starter in the military. For the most part, no one is looking over your shoulder. You run your clinic and get your jobs done.”

But the responsibilities also bring opportunities for growth, he says. “I’m amazed at the freedom I have to try new things and programs. For example, I worked for two years at Redstone and became the first and only Army veterinary clinic to be certified with the American Animal Hospital Association. I’ve worked with local veterinary associations, state organizations and foreign veterinarians.”

He says travel is an enjoyable part of this tour of duty. “My family and I arrived in Turkey in July 2006. It’s hard to believe it’s been over a year. This is such a rich country for history — you could never see it all. I’m stationed in Turkey; my headquarters are in Italy; and I attend conferences in Germany. I recently attended a conference in Sicily and the next week I attended a class in Denmark,” Hawley says.

“I could not image doing anything else. I have had more fun, traveled the world, practiced veterinary medicine everywhere and worked with a diverse group of people.”

As for the future, Hawley plans to attend school to become board certified in laboratory animal medicine after his current assignment. He says he would like to teach or to work in that field for private industry.

But he has no plans to leave the military anytime soon. “This job as an Army veterinarian has been the hardest and most fun I have ever had. I would do it again in a heartbeat.”

STORIES BY DERINDA LOWE
First Kitao Scholarship Recipient Travels to Japan

Dr. Brian Loveless, class of 2007, was the first recipient of a new scholarship for an international externship. Although he could have chosen any country, Loveless selected Japan so he could personally thank the family responsible for the Kitao Family Endowment for International Study. What he experienced, he says, was extraordinary.

Takashi (Toc-a-shi) Kitao (Kit-ah-o) traveled from his home in Japan to do postgraduate clinical training at OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences in 1992. Appreciative of their son’s opportunity to study at OSU, his parents, Yoko and Satoshi (Sa-toe-shi) Kitao, established the endowment for a fourth-year veterinary student to study small animal medicine in another country.

“When I entered veterinary college, in my wildest dreams I never thought I would be traveling abroad as part of my veterinary medicine education,” Loveless says. “The trip was one of the highlights of my studies. It was amazing to be able to experience not only the veterinary medicine but an entirely different culture.”

He stayed with his benefactors, the Kitao family, part of the 3½ weeks he was in Japan. When he traveled to other parts of the country, accommodations were provided in a veterinary technician dormitory or with one of the veterinarians he visited.

“It was a once in a lifetime opportunity,” Loveless says. “They prepared an itinerary for me that included days off. On those days, a host would tour me around that city and show me the sights. I was very well taken care of and treated like royalty.”

He visited veterinary hospitals and private practices across Japan, where he was able to observe surgical procedures, sit in on appointments and tour various facilities. While at the Osaka Prefecture University, a veterinary college, Loveless met the dean and was able to talk with many of the professors.

Unlike the CVHS program that requires an undergraduate degree as a prerequisite for veterinary school, Japanese students go straight from high school to a five-year veterinary medicine curriculum.

“The veterinary graduates are very young and lack surgical experience. They begin by performing spay and neuter procedures and as their skills progress, they move on to more complicated surgeries,” Loveless says.

“At OSU, we have lots of hands-on experience in the teaching hospital and during our preceptor training. We also do residency programs and internships to enhance our specialty skills or further our experience.”

He says the technology used in Japan’s private practices is equal if not superior to that in U.S. private practices.

“They all had CT scanners. Most had ultrasound equipment and some had the capacity to perform MRIs.

“They rely more on technology to diagnose problems, whereas we learn the Problem Oriented Medical Record (POMR) method, a strategic process used to analyze a case by learning the history and performing a physical exam.

“As the first recipient of this annual scholarship, the Kitao family was very excited to meet me,” Loveless says. “They went out of their way to make sure I was exposed to all levels so I could learn as much as possible from Japanese veterinary medicine. And they truly enjoyed showing off the cultural wonders of Japanese living.”

Dr. Brian Loveless, class of 2007, was the first recipient of a new scholarship for an international externship. Although he could have chosen any country, Loveless selected Japan so he could personally thank the family responsible for the Kitao Family Endowment for International Study. What he experienced, he says, was extraordinary.
In 1951 when Dr. Luther Wilcoxson graduated in OSU’s first class of veterinarians, attending another future hooding ceremony at OSU was the furthest thing from his mind.

“I was concentrating on beginning my own practice in Shawnee and making a little money,” says Wilcoxson. “It had been a long road.”

He attended only one week at OSU before he was drafted. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and was unable to return to school until the spring of 1946 after World War II ended. This May, he returned once again to hood his grandson, Dr. Will Sims, class of 2007.

“I had already retired from practice before Will started his studies at OSU. He never really worked with me — unless you count the times I went to his family’s farm in Kansas and we worked cattle together and neutered a few cats,” Wilcoxson says.

“It was nice, though, to see Will do an internship at the clinic I started in Shawnee, which is now owned by Dr. Mike Steward, class of 1979.”

Wilcoxson says his grandson’s strong work ethic, discipline and scientific mind as well as his practical background from living on a farm will serve him well as he begins to practice veterinary medicine.

Sims says he likes veterinary medicine because it is both an art and a science. “You learn skills that few other people have and work constantly at improving those skills. When you’re in practice, you have the opportunity to serve the public with those skills. That’s the art of veterinary medicine,” he says.

“With the science, you gain a deeper understanding of how the natural world works, and as veterinarians, you learn to use that knowledge to help identify, treat and prevent disease in animals.”

Sims plans to go into mixed-animal practice for a few years to experience the practical side of veterinary medicine before selecting a specialty area to pursue further. Ultimately, he hopes to teach and do research at a university.

“I am extremely proud and happy to have been part of the graduation and hooding ceremony. Veterinary medicine is an honorable profession, and I am pleased Will chose this career path.”

Sims says it meant the world to him to be hooded by his grandfather. “I have admired him and his work for so long. He graduated into a world of veterinary medicine that was much different than the one I am going into today. Treatments and techniques were different, yet we share a common thread of both being educated by the same college,” Sims says.

“My grandfather hooding me is the continuance of a legacy and tradition that I am very proud to be a part of.”

A Legacy Continues
Better All the Time

When Dr. Charles Eisenhour, class of 1977, graduated from OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine, his mind was on starting a new business with his wife, Donna, and paying some bills. The young couple had discussed having children and wanted to be able to provide a good home life for them.

“It never occurred to me one of my children would become a veterinarian,” says Dr. Eisenhour. “As I performed the ceremonial hooding of my son Daniel, class of 2007, I was filled with a great deal of pride in his accomplishments.”

Following graduation, Dr. Daniel Eisenhour located in Dalhart, Texas, where he works in a mixed-animal practice.

“I anticipate this first year in practice will be very exciting and challenging,” he says. “I am eager to sharpen my skills, perfect my techniques and expand my knowledge base, so I can be the best veterinarian I can be.”

His father is confident Daniel will strive to do his best in providing patient care and client service. “He possesses good people skills and is very passionate about what he is doing,” the senior Eisenhour says.

“I believe Daniel has received a better education than I did. Whereas my education was more compartmentalized, his was more an integration of the different scientific disciplines drawing together around the clinical perspective,” says Eisenhour.

“Daniel has better clinical skills and diagnostic abilities, and he interacts with clients better than I did at graduation. I think OSU is doing a better job of producing a practice-ready veterinarian.”

Like Father, Like Son

In 1978 when Dr. James Posey graduated from OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine, he had no idea he would one day stand on the same stage with his son, Joshua Posey. Not only did he hood his son in May, but shortly thereafter Joshua also joined his father’s small-animal practice in Yukon, Okla.

Joshua’s goal is to become board certified by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners for Small Animal. “I enjoy the veterinary client-patient relationships, helping animals and their owners and having the ability to diagnose and cure animals,” he says.

“I am extremely proud of Joshua. He is independent, confident and yet, cautious. OSU prepares its students very well to enter private practice,” Posey says. “I am grateful to OSU for our veterinary medicine degrees.”

One of Joshua’s fondest memories of veterinary college is an addition to his family. “The birth of my daughter, Claire, made me more focused on the goal I set four years ago when I entered this journey,” he says.

“I would encourage anyone interested in veterinary medicine to pursue it. I believe they would like the lifestyle and the fulfillment that comes with it.”

Perhaps with the ever increasing number of female veterinarians, one day the young Dr. Posey will hood his daughter to follow in his footsteps.
A Good Decision

Even though his daughter did not choose to follow his career path as a doctor of osteopathic medicine, Dr. Terry Brackman was proud to hood his daughter at her graduation in May.

Since the age of 9, Dr. Rebekah Ford knew she wanted to be a veterinarian. “I am very pleased with her decision,” Brackman says. “Rebekah has a tremendous amount of compassion, is extremely intelligent and has great patience. With all of those attributes, her decision-making process is extremely good. I’m very proud of my daughter.”

“I’m so glad we, the class of 2007, have finally come to realize our goal,” Ford says. “It’s time to be home and also time to make some money!”

Most graduating veterinary students have educational loans exceeding $75,000. After spending the last four years studying at OSU, Ford was ready to be reunited with her husband. Ford joined Clovis Veterinary Hospital, a mixed-animal practice in Clovis, N.M., where she performs mostly small-animal medicine and surgery with some large-animal cases.

“One area I will focus on is canine breeding and dentistry. I would like to learn to perform canine chiropractic care and possibly acupuncture to incorporate into traditional medicine when the need arises.”

A Family Affair

Dr. Trace Kirkpatrick’s May graduation from OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine was a family affair. He joins his father, Dr. Doug Kirkpatrick, class of 1977, and his wife, Sarah Schwerdt-Kirkpatrick, class of 2006, as the fourth doctor in a rural mixed-animal practice in Elgin, Okla.

Doug Kirkpatrick and his wife, Beverly, own and operate the veterinary practice serving Elgin and the surrounding communities.

“We have worked together through almost 33 years of marriage and raised four children. Because this is such a huge part of our lives, I am very happy to keep family involved,” he says.

One of the initial reasons his son chose the veterinary medicine profession was the variety of clients and patients a veterinarian can serve.

“The variety is still intriguing, but it is also the most difficult,” Trace says. “Different therapies, pharmaceuticals, anatomies and so forth make the variety of a mixed-animal practitioner almost overwhelming. I will eventually focus more on large-animal medicine and surgery because that’s where the need is.”

For now, the young veterinarian will split his duties evenly between small- and large-animal practice. According to the senior veterinarian, Trace has always been able to understand situations, figure solutions and get results while showing a heart of compassion for those around him.

“We have a growing practice because we are able to serve appreciative clients,” says Dr. Kirkpatrick. “Dr. Trace will complement our practice as his wife, Dr. Sarah, already has.”

A Doctor in the House?

Anyone asking if there’s a doctor in the house at a Royse family gathering will need to specify what type of doctor. Dr. Robert Royse is an anesthesiologist who had the honor of hooding his son, Ryan Royse, in May as he graduated from the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine with a DVM degree.

“I am so proud of Ryan and all of his accomplishments,” says Royse. “Ryan’s strengths are his determination to do what he sets out to do and his love of animals.”

Ryan knew at a young age he wanted to be a veterinarian and has enjoyed learning new concepts and applying them in class during his time at OSU. “After graduation, I am going to do an equine internship for the 2007-2008 year here at the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences,” he says. “My goal is to specialize in equine internal medicine and surgery.”

The large animal clinic at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital treats approximately 3,190 equine cases a year. Ryan will have an opportunity to fine-tune his internal medicine and surgery skills with assistance from a host of board certified faculty.

“My wife and I are grateful to the veterinary college for all of their time and care of our son,” Royse says. “He has made friends among his classmates, and the professors and staff who work at the school will be lifelong friends, too. They really care about Ryan’s success.”

“Dr. Robert Royse

2007 Oklahoma State University 23
‘The Next Level’

The transition ceremony symbolizes a major shift in the education process of veterinary students at OSU. After completing the third year, students turn in the plain white coat given to them as they entered the program. During the transition ceremony, the coat is returned and now bears the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association insignias.

The white coat signifies they are one step closer to entering the profession of veterinary medicine. During this final phase of their veterinary education, the class of 2008 will receive hands-on training as they work through the fourth-year clinical rotations at the teaching hospital.

Looming Threat

This year’s Class of 1963 Endowed Lectureship featured Dr. David Swayne, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service — the USDA’s high biocontainment laboratory for research on the exotic (foreign) and emerging diseases of poultry.

Swayne, who has been studying avian influenza for more than 19 years, presented “The Changing Role of Avian Influenza on Global Health” and discussed what veterinarians need to know about bird flu and how that may affect human health. It is one of the foremost diseases with the potential to become a deadly zoonotic disease.

Rocky — A Real Fighter

For Dottie Witter, the miraculous recovery of her beloved Rocky is attributable to the determination of Dr. Mary Bowles, small-animal internal medicine at OSU, and, perhaps, some divine intervention.

When Rocky, the homeless cat Witter adopted in 1997, developed kidney cancer and tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), or feline AIDS, in 2005, his prognosis was not good.

“I was told he had maybe a week if we did nothing,” Witter says, “and with chemotherapy — if it worked — maybe three to five months.”

The usual remission time with chemotherapy is around six to nine months, but because Rocky’s condition was complicated by high calcium levels, renal failure and FIV positive status, a shorter remission time was considered the most likely outcome.

Bowles prescribed an aggressive protocol for Rocky including weekly chemotherapy. At home, Witter would administer sub-cutaneous fluids three times a week to improve his hydration and help maintain kidney function.

“The chemotherapy brought Rocky’s lymphoma under control but gave him unrelenting problems with respiratory infection due to his FIV positive status,” Bowles says. “This caused him to become debilitated.”

By the fall, Rocky was extremely anemic and weighed merely 4 pounds. Bowles stopped the chemo and recommended a feeding tube, which Witter refused.

“I decided it was time to pour my energy and my faith in God into saving Rocky. Under OSU’s direction, I purchased a nebulizer breathing machine, droppers, and anything else I needed to personally nurse him back to health,” Witter says.

“Dr. Bowles went beyond what is normally expected of a veterinarian to see that I had the information I needed to provide the best possible care for Rocky.”

That was in 2005. Today, Rocky is in remission. He is healthy, weighing more than 10 pounds and has a beautiful, thick coat. He is prone to upper respiratory infections but those are easily controlled with antibiotics.

“I am truly grateful for Dr. Bowles. She is extraordinary — just an exceptional veterinarian — and she is the main reason I have my Rocky today,” Witter says.

“I don’t think other veterinarians would have put in the time and effort that she did. She has called Rocky a miracle cat, and so do I.”
Veterinarian Team Saves Alpacas

Arriving two weeks premature, a baby alpaca, or cria, named Chinook, beat the odds, thanks to a team of OSU veterinarians and round-the-clock care from fourth-year veterinary students.

For the first time in 10 years of breeding alpacas, Steve Hull, co-owner of TimberLake Farms in Edmond, Okla., had a pregnant alpaca that needed a cesarean section. Dr. Charles Broaddus, resident in theriogenology at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, performed the emergency cesarean.

The dam, Chillota, recovered uneventfully from the surgery, but the 12-pound cria was not so fortunate. “These ‘dysmature’ crias can be very difficult to save and can only live with aggressive therapy,” Broaddus says.

Drs. Melanie Boileau, Robert Streeter, Katie Simpson and Broaddus were key to Chinook’s survival, Hull says. “He absolutely would have died and probably his mother, too, if it weren’t for their great teamwork.”

Chinook’s clinical situation went from bad to worse. The first few nights, the tiny alpaca, too weak to stand and nurse, had to be tube fed the dam’s colostrum every two hours. He then developed a lack of pulmonary surfactant, hypoxemia, an immature gut, failure of passive transfer, hypoproteinemia and then sepsis.

Eventually, Chinook responded to the feedings and constant nurturing. As his mother stood close by humming to her baby, his vital signs started to improve. At 6 weeks, Chinook had doubled his birth rate and was beginning to chew on hay and grass to help develop his cud as well as running and playing with the other crias in the herd.

Boileau says the young alpaca should not experience any long-lasting effects from the early medical problems.

“Chinook is quite a fighter. We discussed the fact that he had probably less than a 25-percent chance of survival. Hull wanted to give him every opportunity to live, so we pressed on,” Simpson says.

“Chinook’s survival is definitely one of those ‘miracle stories’ that none of us is likely to forget.”

Barbie’s No Frilly Filly

Nearly a year after being treated for a venomous snake bite, Red Bucks Muchacha Barbie, the daughter of Two Eyed Red Buck, a three-time world champion roping horse, is back home running and playing because she received treatment from a skilled team of attending veterinarians at OSU’s veterinary hospital.

Dr. Peggy Brosnahan, a resident in equine internal medicine, was assigned to Barbie’s case. Also working with her were equine internal medicine Drs. Lyndi Gilliam, who is researching snake bites in horses, and Todd Holbrook, who has a special interest in cardiology.

When the 2-year-old filly, owned by Janie and Bob Kaser, arrived at the teaching hospital, her head and neck were swollen to twice the normal size from a snake bite between her eye and ear. Three days later, a very large swelling appeared on the left side of Barbie’s neck.

Although a copperhead or water moccasin could be the culprit, based on the location of the Kaser home, Morris, Okla., and Barbie’s condition, the doctors suspect a pigmy rattlesnake. “Rattlesnake venom causes extensive tissue necrosis and sloughing,” Gilliam says.

The severe swelling caused breathing problems that required an emergency tracheostomy. Unable to eat or drink due to the massively swollen lips, Barbie was also quickly becoming dehydrated. When neck swelling prevented the insertion of a catheter, Holbrook used ultrasonography to help identify an access site and insert a vascular catheter to allow intravenous liquids.

Then an abscess broke open on the left side of Barbie’s neck, which spread, making her neck from chest to mandible an open wound. At the request of Barbie’s owners, Brosnahan researched and applied maggot debridement therapy, which consists of placing maggots on the wound for 48 hours, removing them for one day and re-applying for another 48 hours.

Brosnahan administered three rounds of maggot therapy and believes they had a lot to do with Barbie’s recovery rate. “Within 24 to 48 hours of the first maggot application, there was significant improvement in the condition of Barbie’s neck,” she says.

“It makes me cry when I think about Dr. Brosnahan,” Kaser says. “She has done more than provide medical care. She never gave up; she even slept with Barbie, which was beyond the call of duty. There are not enough words to express the appreciation and admiration we have for her. She is a wonderful veterinarian and a humanitarian — a true credit to her profession.

“It’s amazing Barbie is still alive, and we owe it all to OSU’s veterinary hospital, the entire staff and all those who prayed for Barbie,” Kaser says.
Staying Connected

As part of OSU’s Grandparent University, the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences hosted 38 participants—18 children and their grandparents who spent two half days at the center’s teaching hospital learning about small- and large-animal healthcare. Faculty members, veterinary technicians and veterinary students work with the children who range in age from 6 to 10 years. From Grandparent University to class reunions, CVHS alumni remain connected to their alma mater in 2007.

Class of 1961 members present for the 2007 reunion are, front row, left to right, Mike Podolin, Richard Blake and Tony Thomas; second row, William Strube, William McDowell, Philip Day and Gerald Hegreberg; and, back row, Jim VanBec- kum, Bill Kyser, James Graham and Jess Brewer.

Class of 1996 members present for the 2007 reunion are, front row, left to right, David Morales, Kristi Ritter-Conner and Kelly Pope-Cooper; and, back row, Timothy Snider, Merrijean Becker, Holly Holland-Ross, Jay Ross and Trent Marr.

Class of 1981 members present for the 2007 reunion are, front row, left to right, Rocky Bigbie, Renee Hammer, Lynn Freeman, Geni Thoni, Bronc Jackson, Jeff Tidwell; and, back row, Paul Welch, Kerry Steward, Tom Taggart, Mark Kopit, Bob Ables, Deena Gregory, Larry Barrett and Margaret Cates.

Ember Ennis, age 6 of Okmulgee, feels inside Dolly, a resident cow blood and rumen donor at the center’s teaching hospital. Dr. Jill Brunker demonstrates good dental care using Trevor, a 10-year-old Golden Retriever, while, left to right, Caleb of Edmond, Andrew of Oklahoma City and Alexis of Fargo, Okla., listen attentively.
Get Ready to Celebrate!

The OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences will begin celebrating its 60th anniversary in January 2008. Activities, planned throughout the year, will culminate with a celebration during our Fall Veterinary Conference, tentatively scheduled for October 2008. Watch for more news at http://www.cvhs.okstate.edu. We hope alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the veterinary center will join us as we celebrate this milestone.

Kirkpatrick Gift

Jump Starts Upgrade

The Kirkpatrick Foundation has donated a $200,000 lead gift for a $638,000 project upgrade of the small-animal critical care unit (CCU) located in the veterinary center’s teaching hospital.

The CCU is staffed and equipped to handle emergency and critical care cases around-the-clock and is the focal point for training veterinary and veterinary technician students in critical care and emergency technology and procedures. It is the only program of its kind in the state.

“The Kirkpatrick Foundation has a strong interest in veterinary education plus a deep concern for animal welfare. We appreciate the foundation’s generosity and the gift’s huge impact on our small-animal hospital,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

“The Kirkpatrick gift will allow the veterinary center to provide clinical instruction to our veterinary students in state-of-the-art facilities.”

Once the remaining funds are raised, the $638,000 upgrade will renovate the 1,205-square-foot facility, update equipment and provide videoconferencing to veterinary practitioners and veterinary technician programs in Oklahoma. The renovated CCU will significantly improve both veterinary education and veterinary patient care at OSU.

‘Racing’ to Improve Equine Care

A new $3 million equine critical care unit is under development at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

The equine critical care unit, located adjacent to the east side of the teaching hospital, will significantly improve the survival rates of critically ill horses and will enable the veterinary staff to focus on top-quality care by bringing the most progressive critical care to all equine patients.

The 4,600-square-foot facility will include two individual critical care stalls, four large mare and foal stalls with dividers, a large padded neuro stall and five neonatal intensive care foal stalls.

The unit will be fully enclosed and climate controlled with video monitoring systems and state-of-the-art intensive care equipment.

The Space to Do More

The Clinical Sciences Academic Center currently under development will serve the instructional needs of third- and fourth-year veterinary students.

Located on the west side and adjacent to the teaching hospital, the center will house the faculty and staff who currently reside in the hospital’s basement and will feature a multimedia-equipped auditorium with wireless networks to support student notebook computers as well as videoconferencing for courses delivered from distant sites.

The center will also include a 100-seat classroom, 40 offices for faculty and academic support staff and meeting space for conferences and seminars.

Welcome to the 2007 Dean’s Club

Dr. Kenneth Abrams
Dr. Rocky Bigbie
Tucker and Gina Bridwell
Carmichael Foundation
Dr. William Carson
Dr. John Chancey
Ray Corbitt Jr.
Dr. Nicholas Cross
Dr. Gary and Rosalind Detrich
Dr. Jean D’Offay
Dr. Jeffrey Ellis
Dr. John Goedeken
Dr. Renee Hammer
Dr. David Hille
Austin and Betsey Kenyon
Dr. Richard Killough
Dr. Michael and Pamela Kirlin
Joan Kirkpatrick
Dr. Michael and Velda Lorenz
Edwin and Mary Malzahn
David McMahon
Drs. Dianne and Nicholas Nail
Dr. Bob Shoup
(Catoosa Small Animal Hospital)
Dr. D.C. Smith (Veterinary Associates)
Dr. Daniel and Laura Stoddard
Dr. Richard S. Templeton
Dr. Steven Vonderfecht
Dr. Steve Weir
(Catoosa Small Animal Hospital)
Michael and Carol Wilson
Avis Winters
Bernadine Wold

Donations of at least $1,000 to the advancement fund qualify for membership in the Dean’s Club. Funds support activities of the CVHS Alumni Association, alumni receptions, faculty recruitment and other special projects. For information, contact the center’s development office at (405) 744-6728.
In Memoriam

Dr. Soloman “Jay” Gartman, class of 1951, died Sept. 14, 2006.
Gartman served in the Army Air Force during World War II. He was among the College of Veterinary Medicine’s first class and went on to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 32 years. He believed his greatest professional accomplishment was as veterinarian-in-charge of the screwworm eradication program at Moore Field in Mission, Texas.

Dr. Elizabeth Maureen Murphy, class of 1977, died on March 31, 2007.
Following her graduation from OSU, Murphy worked at the Oklahoma National Stockyards, where she certified cattle and pigs for intra- and interstate travel, in an emergency veterinary practice and a small-animal practice. In 1984 she went to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture where she worked in the food safety inspection services as a public health veterinarian for more than 30 years.

For 18 years, beginning in 1988, Murphy and her husband, Marvin, bred, raised, showed and produced AKC Champions in many breeds including whippets, Italian greyhounds and basenjis.

Dr. James F. Hughey, Sr., class of 1957, died on Jan. 21, 2007.
After graduating from high school, Hughey, a native of the New Hope section of Gastonia, N.C., served two years as a sergeant in the Army infantry in Italy during World War II.

Following his military service, he graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, N.C., and then earned a master’s degree in public health from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He earned a second bachelor’s degree in agriculture as well as a DVM degree from OSU.

He practiced small- and large-animal medicine in Gastonia for 32 years before retiring and beginning a new career as a real estate broker and developer. He also held the rank of navy captain in the U.S. Public Health Service Reserve.

Making use of a nickname given by a friend, Hughey produced a memoir for his children entitled, Tales and Tails of a Bald-Headed Chicken Doctor.

Dr. Ronald G. Geisert, class of 1965, died Jan. 2, 2007. He practiced veterinary medicine for more than 35 years and had recently retired.

Source: The Record (Stockton, Calif)

Blake, a native of Enid, Okla., attended Phillips University where he graduated before serving as a corpsman in the U.S. Navy for two years. When he returned to Oklahoma, he earned his DVM degree from OSU. During his successful 45-year career, he worked in a mixed-animal practice, worked for the USDA, taught classes and made home veterinary visits.

Blake was named the 2006 Oklahoma Veterinarian of the Year by the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA). He was a lifetime member of the OSU Alumni Association, Oklahoma Historical Society and the OVMA and worked with the Boy Scouts for 46 years, holding many positions and receiving countless awards including the highest council award, the Silver Beaver.

Dr. James M. McCallie, class of 1962, died on April 18, 2006, at Baxter Regional Medical Center in Mountain Home, Ark.
After earning his DVM degree from OSU, McCallie located in Kimball, S.D., where he owned a large-animal veterinary practice and was active in his community. He served on the local school board and supported 4-H, for which he received the Friends of 4-H Award. He raised cattle and quarter horses, which he also raced.

In 1977, McCallie returned to Arkansas where he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Oklahoma City native earned a bachelor’s degree in physiology and a DVM degree from OSU.

Jeffries, who practiced small-animal medicine, received the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association’s Young Practitioner of the Year Award in 2000. He belonged to several professional organizations and was instrumental in developing the veterinary medicine center at the Tulsa State Fair.

Dr. Dicky J. Hodges, class of 1971, died Jan. 17, 2006, in his hometown of Boise City, Okla.
He earned a bachelor’s degree in animal science from Panhandle State University and his DVM degree from OSU.

He owned and operated the veterinary clinic in Boise City for 34 years. A former mayor of Boise City, Hodges was active in the community and served as a county committee member on the Farm Service Agency. He was a lifelong Cimarron County farmer and rancher.
Congratulations, Class of 2007

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ class of 2007 joins a proud tradition of OSU Cowboy veterinarians. They 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 2011

Four hundred eighty-one applicants, 142 resident and 339 nonresident, competed for admission to the class of 2011. Fifty-eight of the students the CVHS selected are residents, and 24 are nonresidents. The core and cumulative grade point average for these students is 3.5, and their average GRE scores are 490 verbal, 633 quantitative and 591 biology. Sixty females and 22 males make up the class of 2011.

Don’t Forget to Write Home
Keep your college and fellow alumni informed of pertinent events in your life by sending your news to:

Vet Cetera
Center for Veterinary Health Sciences
308 McElroy Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078-2011

(405) 744-6740 PHONE
(405) 744-5233 FAX
derinda.lowe@okstate.edu EMAIL
Your family’s other doctor

1-405-744-7000

Get Connected – Stay Connected! Visit our website for more information: www.cvhs.okstate.edu

Oklahoma State University
Center for Veterinary Health Sciences
308 McElroy Hall
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078-2011