Vet Cetera

60 years and still growing

Center for Veterinary Health Sciences

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY • 2008
Dear Alumni and Friends,

This edition of Vet Cetera marks the 60th anniversary of our college. From that modest beginning in 1948, we have developed into a veterinary medical center that embraces the land-grant mission of teaching, research and outreach.

Specialists in a variety of disciplines staff our hospital, and primary care of multiple animal species and hands-on experience for our students continue to be major features of the veterinary curriculum. We believe the veterinary profession has great need for graduates who communicate effectively, have confidence in their ability and are competent as primary care veterinarians. While I am hopeful that more of our graduates will pursue academic careers in teaching and research, it is important that we continue to make our students aware of all careers involving veterinary medicine and adequately prepare them for post-DVM training.

We are currently exploring cost-efficient ways to expand enrollment and generate revenue. I do not anticipate state funding to keep pace with increased mandatory costs, but constantly raising tuition to make up the difference will result in a veterinary medical education that is too expensive for many Oklahoma residents. Thus, finding innovative ways to grow enrollment and increase revenues can offset tuition hikes.

During the past 10 years, the college has stressed the importance of basic, translational and clinical research. That emphasis required a major commitment to infrastructure that was largely nonexistent prior to 1995. Although we have made many improvements, we still lack adequate space to house some components of the program. We will need new space for laboratories and faculty offices. We have also strengthened our relationships with the biomedical community in Oklahoma City, which will provide additional opportunities for comparative biomedical research.

The college continues to reach out through the diagnostic and therapeutic services offered by the veterinary hospital and the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. In addition, the college offers several continuing education programs for practitioners as well as extension programming for Oklahoma livestock producers. More recently, our outreach program has expanded to animal shelters in surrounding communities. This extensive and growing shelter medicine program provides an excellent hands-on teaching environment for our students.

The most dramatic change in academic veterinary medicine has been the move from state support to state assistance. Currently, about 30 percent of our budget comes from state appropriations, and the remainder is self-generated. More and more we are dependent on private gifts. For instance, all funds to renovate the small-animal intensive care unit came from private donations. This year, we have established two new endowed professorships ($1 million each) and one new endowed chair ($2 million). Several planned gifts have been established that will be of tremendous value to our college in the future.

Enjoy our college highlights in this issue of Vet Cetera, and please take the time to visit the veterinary center. I think you will be impressed and pleased with our progress and our direction. Yet I suspect you will find many of our traditions still active throughout the veterinary center.

Best wishes,
Mike

Dr. Michael D. Lorenz, class of 1969

Dr. Michael D. Lorenz, DVM
CVHS Dean
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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 60 years ago. Please join us at the CVHS website: www.cvhs.okstate.edu. The OSU homepage is located at www.okstate.edu.

Graduating highly skilled practice-ready veterinarians and offering top-notch veterinary service depends on hiring outstanding faculty.

Honors awarded alumni, faculty, staff and students reflect the caliber of OSU veterinary education and training.

The combination of skill, determination and dedication proves a powerful force in turning difficult cases into successful case studies.

Sixty years has brought expanded career and research opportunities and built up the state’s access to veterinary medicine — all without diminishing the Cowboy veterinarian’s time-honored devotion to excellence.

From the proper way to burn socks to class reunions, the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences offers various means for alumni to renew connections to OSU.
When Dr. Nicole Ponzio joined the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, the teaching hospital gained a vital new service. Ponzio, a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, is Oklahoma’s only veterinarian specializing in cardiology.

Ponzio, originally from Ossining, N.Y., earned her bachelor’s degree in biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1998 and her DVM from Cornell University in 2003.

She completed a one-year small-animal medicine and surgery internship at OSU in 2004, and she recently completed a three-year residency in cardiology while earning a master’s degree at The Ohio State University.

In addition to providing emergency treatment, Ponzio analyzes EKG and ECG tests, screens for congenital defects and performs complete ultrasounds. She also implants pacemakers, a skill greatly appreciated by the owners of Barney, an 8-year-old mixed breed dog.

“The surgery is very similar to pacemaker implantations in humans,” Ponzio says. “In fact, the devices are the same as those manufactured for human use.”

Ponzio implanted Barney’s pacemaker, which took approximately one and a half hours, by inserting the pacing lead into the jugular vein, guiding it into the heart, attaching it to the heart muscle and then connecting the other end of the lead to a generator implanted under the skin in Barney’s neck.

The generator contains the battery and all the components necessary to program the pacemaker to accommodate Barney’s activity. When he exercises, the pacemaker increases his heart rate accordingly.

Ponzio reports, “Barney is doing wonderfully.”
Bradley Njaa, DVM, MVSc  
Associate Professor, Veterinary Pathobiology

Dr. Bradley Njaa, associate professor of pathology and graduate coordinator of anatomic pathology residency training, comes to the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

He earned a master’s degree in anatomic and clinical pathology and a DVM from Western College of Veterinary Medicine, a part of the University of Saskatchewan.

Njaa’s interests include ruminant pathology, ocular pathology and avian pathology, and he is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Brenda Love, Ph.D., DVM  
Assistant Professor, Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Brenda Love is an assistant professor and section head of bacteriology at the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

Love came to the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences in June 2007 from Penn State, where she worked as a research associate in the animal diagnostic laboratory.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from East Central University in Ada, Okla., a doctorate in philosophy from the University of California-Davis and a DVM from OSU. Love took a special interest in veterinary pathogens while a veterinary medicine student working in the OADDL bacteriology lab.

Her research areas include the development of antimicrobial resistance by bacteria, especially salmonella and E. coli; salmonellosis and Johne’s disease in dairy cattle; SE infection of poultry and contamination of eggs; and the emerging field of molecular diagnostic testing used to identify and detect harmful bacteria.

Tom Oomens, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, Veterinary Pathobiology

Dr. Tom Oomens, assistant professor of virology, was a research instructor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, before joining the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ pathobiology department.

Oomens earned his master’s and doctorate in virology from Wageningen University, the Netherlands, where he worked on the molecular biology of baculoviruses with the ultimate aim of using them to control plant damage caused by caterpillars such as the gypsy moth.

For his post-doctorate work, Oomens specialized in a family of viruses called the paramyxoviridae. This family contains a large number of human and animal pathogens, such as measles, parainfluenza, Newcastle disease and canine distemper viruses.

Assembly and entry of RNA viruses and virus-host cell interaction are his fields of interest. His most recent work focuses on the human form of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a major worldwide health problem for infants and the elderly.
Myron Hinsdale, DVM, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Physiology

Dr. Myron Hinsdale, assistant professor of physiology, received a bachelor’s degree from Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Mont., in 1983. He received a DVM from Colorado State University in 1987 and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama-Birmingham in 1994.

His current study, funded by an NIH grant, focuses on the modifying effects of proteoglycans on epithelial and extracellular matrix interaction in inherited polycystic diseases of the liver and kidney.

His research group has also studied the role abnormal lipid metabolism has in the development of atherosclerosis using gene-targeted replacement and duplication mouse and transgenic mouse models.

A new area of concentration is the role matrix proteoglycans have in organ function and disease, including lipoprotein particle clearance.

Cornelia Ketz-Riley, DVM
Clinical Assistant Professor of Exotic Pets and Zoological Medicine

Dr. Cornelia Ketz-Riley joined OSU’s veterinary clinical sciences as a clinical assistant professor of exotic pets and zoological medicine in March of this year.

Ketz-Riley, who was born in Switzerland and raised in Switzerland and Germany, graduated from the University of Zurich in veterinary medicine and completed her doctoral thesis in Zurich, Switzerland, and Berlin, Germany.

She was a clinical instructor in exotic and zoo medicine at the University of Bern, Switzerland, from 1994 until 1998 when she accepted an internship with Kansas State University. She went on to complete a two-year residency with OSU and the Oklahoma City Zoo.

In 2001, Ketz-Riley became the head veterinarian at the Topeka Zoo and assistant professor of zoological medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University.

Justin D. Thomason, DVM, DACVIM
Assistant Professor, Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Dr. Justin Thomason received his DVM degree from OSU in 2002.

He completed a small animal medicine and surgery internship at the University of Missouri and a residency in small animal internal medicine at the University of Georgia. He earned his specialty board certification in internal medicine in 2006.

Following his postgraduate training, Thomason became a member of the faculty at the University of Georgia’s College of Veterinary Medicine before he returned to OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences as an assistant professor in the clinical sciences department.

His clinical and research interests involve cardiology, nephrology and urology.
Jason Arble, DVM  
Assistant Professor, Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Dr. Jason Arble, originally from Las Cruces, N.M., earned his bachelor’s degree from New Mexico State University in 1997 and his DVM from Louisiana State University in 2001.

Arble practiced small-animal veterinary medicine for two years in Las Vegas, Nev., and one year in Phoenix, Ariz., before entering his radiology residency at The Ohio State University.

In 2007, he completed his residency and simultaneously earned a master’s degree in veterinary clinical sciences. Later the same year, Arble, OSU assistant professor in veterinary clinical sciences, passed his board examinations to become a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiology.

Lyndi Gilliam, DVM  
Assistant Professor, Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Dr. Lyndi Gilliam earned her DVM degree from OSU in 2001 and returned to her alma mater two years later to complete a residency in equine internal medicine.

After obtaining her board certification in large-animal internal medicine in 2006, she worked in private mixed-animal practice for two years in Dalhart, Texas. She joined the faculty of OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences this year as an assistant professor of equine medicine in the veterinary clinical sciences department.

Gilliam studies the effects of rattlesnake venom on horses’ hearts.
Retired veterinarian **Dr. Marvin Denny** has OSU to thank for his degree. But, he credits the Oklahoma City Wesley United Methodist Church for keeping him off the street as a boy.

After the family was “starved off” an Oologah, Okla., farm in 1948, Denny moved with his mother to Oklahoma City. “We lived in a house on the corner of Reno and Lee avenues in a rough part of town,” he says.

Instead of getting into trouble, he frequented the local YMCA, Police Boys Club and the church where he met his future wife, Norma Jean Lynch. He credits the mentoring he received as a big part of the reason the Oklahoma Veterinary Medicine Association recently named Denny the **2008 Oklahoma Veterinarian of the Year**.

He started school at OSU in 1953 but later joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and married in 1954. When he completed his military duty, he returned to OSU and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 1959. By then, although he initially wanted to be a rancher, Denny knew he wanted to be a veterinarian.

“It dawned on me during my first year of college that the way to become a rancher is to marry into it or inherit it,” he says. “Since both of those weren’t in my future, I decided the person who gets to spend as much time on a ranch as anybody is a veterinarian.”

He earned his veterinary medicine degree in 1961 and took a position at a practice in McAlester, Okla. A year later, after a short stint in Yukon, Okla., Denny moved to the Canadian Valley Animal Clinic in El Reno, Okla. He soon became a partner in the busy practice, but he always took time to mentor veterinary students.

More than 30 years later, he retired after hearing loss and a back injury took their toll. He sold his part of the practice to his partner, OSU alumnus Dr. Charles Eisenhour, and started a 12-acre horse farm just yards away from the practice. These days, he minds his 27 horses and tends another 400 acres damaged by summer flooding in 2007.

Denny, who served as the Oklahoma association’s president in 1985, the same year his wife headed the auxiliary wing, says he was surprised and humbled to receive the veterinarian of the year award. “I know there’s a world of veterinarians out there better than me. I really appreciate the honor.”

“I’m sure glad I’m a veterinarian,” he says, “because this ranching business is a tough row to hoe.”
Dr. James W. Lish evaluated and adopted an assortment of teaching practices to become an accomplished educator. In testimony to his effectiveness, OSU presented him the 2007 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award.

The assistant professor in the Department of Physiological Sciences says he borrowed what he thought to be the most effective methods and characteristics of his teachers and then emulated the approaches that tended to compliment his personality.

“I later came to realize that this was teaching at its best — the teacher as a conduit for the transfer of knowledge, a catalyst for learning, a role model and mentor for the potential apprentice teachers who sit unidentified in the classroom.”

Lish, who earned his bachelor’s and master’s in wildlife ecology and his doctorate in zoology from OSU, joined the faculty as a lecturer in 1999 and became an assistant professor in 2003. He taught in OSU’s zoology department for eight years before teaching at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences six years ago.

He teaches comparative anatomy, which is essentially large-animal anatomy, to first-year veterinary students and an elective in avian biology for veterinarians to second- and third-year students.

Another key factor in his success, Lish enjoys teaching. “I like veterinary students,” he says. “I like their youthful enthusiasm, particularly during their freshman year. They are excited and a lot of fun to work with.”

DERINDA LOWE
Barrow Wages Quiet War

Bill Barrow and OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences are partners in an arms race, but they’re not interested in the kind of weapons that fire bullets. With a biodefense contract from the National Institutes of Health, his team is on the front lines, testing new drugs for use in the fight against disease-causing bacteria.

The $40 million, seven-year contract netted Barrow the 2007 Regent’s Distinguished Research Award, honoring the work that has consumed much of his professional life since he won the contract in 2003.

Barrow’s test subjects are the bacteria that cause a wide variety of infectious diseases, making it an environment in which researchers have to don helmets and suits to conduct the work in the safest possible manner. The study employs robotics to expose bacteria to the drugs.

Researchers send their test results up the chain to other institutions tasked with other portions of the work, pushed to greater prominence today due to outbreaks of drug-resistant superbugs such as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus.

“That’s why drug resistance and emerging infectious diseases are so important,” says Barrow, seated in his office off one of the veterinary college’s winding hallways.

Modern drugs follow the same chemical plan of action against bacteria, he says. Outbreaks of antibiotic-resistant strains have shown the obsolescence of some of those plans.

“Where are we going to be when we run out of drugs that we currently have available for treatment of infectious diseases,” he asks.

Barrow, the Sitlington Chair in Infectious Diseases, has spent his life studying infectious organisms. He came to OSU in 2001 from the Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, Ala., where he studied the organisms that cause diseases including tuberculosis and leprosy.

He didn’t realize his passion until his graduate work at the University of Houston, where a professor invited the Midwestern State University graduate to work on a microbiology project. In 1972, he had a master’s degree and, six years later, a doctoral degree in research microbiology from Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

From there, his road took him to the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver, Colo., and a post-doctoral fellowship to study leprosy. That began a career studied with fellowships at the National Cancer Institute, the world-famous L’Institut Pasteur in Paris, France, and the L’Institut Pasteur in the French West Indies.

His work for the French, conducted with Nalin Rastogi, won him the AIDS and Related Illnesses Collaboration Award from NIH’s Fogarty International Center. During that time, from 1980 to 1994, he still found time to teach at the University of North Texas’s Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas.
A Decade of CVHS Milestones

1998
- Surgical Laser Laboratory established with Sarkeys Foundation grant
- Willard Sparks Beef Research Center opened

1999
- Force plate lab established with gift from John and Betty Stambaugh
- Established veterinary biomedical sciences graduate program

2000
- Noble Family gift ($1.5 million) for the Wendel Wallace Bovine Research Park
- Drs. Katherine Kocan and Ed Blouin develop new vaccine for anaplasmosis
- Teaching Hospital installs CT scanner with an equine table

2001
- Canine underwater treadmill and Aqua Cow implemented
- Leica SP2 confocal microscope on-line

2002
- Kirkpatrick Foundation donates funds for Technicare Omega 500 Gamma Camera
- Robert and Karen Beach donate “Angie’s Room,” a sunroom for cats, at the Cohn Shelter
- Dr. Kay Backues, first resident in the Zoological Medicine Residency program at the CVHS, becomes Oklahoma’s first board certified Diplomate in the American College of Zoological Medicine

2004
- Galie Mae Koch donates gift for fluoroscopy unit
- Presbyterian Health Foundation gift ($1,000,000) for biosafety level 3 animal facility
- Partner with Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture to expand the OADDL
- Onyx Pet Park dedicated

2005
- Inaugural Sitlington Infectious Diseases Symposium

2006
- Inaugural Class of 1963 Endowed Lectureship
- Case of 60-day-premature calf’s survival makes international news

2007
- Kirkpatrick Foundation donates $200,000 for the small animal critical care unit
- Digital imaging completed in the veterinary teaching hospital and new CT installed
- Maggot therapy makes international headlines

2008
- Dr. Harold Ivie, 1952, $10 million trust estate gift
- Dedication of the Duane R. Peterson Anatomy Learning Center
Throughout an illustrious career in the military and in private practice, Dr. Anton Kammerlocher has positively affected many lives — both human and animal.

Born to legal German immigrant parents in Mooreland, Okla., where he graduated from high school, Kammerlocher studied pre-veterinary medicine at Oklahoma A&M College with the help of a Sears Roebuck and Co. scholarship. He entered the veterinary medicine school in 1953. While a student, he served as the school’s senator and as vice president and president of the student association.

After graduation in 1957, Kammerlocher joined the U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corps. Commissioned a first lieutenant, he was the base veterinarian at Larson Air Force Base in Moses Lake, Wash.

During his military career, he received many commendations, medals and honors for applying his veterinary medicine knowledge and skills to assist others in various areas of the world. He established a mosquito-control district that stopped a western encephalitis outbreak in Air Force personnel. He organized and maintained dairy activities with Azorean farmers, including a farmer-owned milk-processing plant so troops and families had a safe milk source.

Kammerlocher taught and conducted research at the Imperial Ethiopian College of Agriculture and was the attending veterinarian at the Friends of Lepers Facility in Ethiopia. He successfully discovered three effective compounds to stop strongoledes congolesis, a fungus infection in the skin of African cattle.

He worked as a veterinarian at the Albritt Animal Hospital in Amarillo, Texas, for one year while he recovered from his third bout of malaria and second round of black water disease and studied how to operate a veterinary practice. In 1965, he established Anton’s Animal Hospital in Norman, Okla., where he practiced until he retired in 2001.

He has always supported his community and his profession. He organized a Rotary Club in Moore, Okla., and served 10 years, three as president, on the Newcastle (Okla.) School Board. He serves as the College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 1957 representative and is an honor roll member of the American Veterinary Medicine Association and a lifelong member of the Oklahoma Veterinary Medicine Association.

Living with his wife on a small cattle ranch outside Norman, Kammerlocher is also recognized for his sculpture, photography and poetry and has been commissioned to create a BAH Relief of the Heartland Chapel for the Oklahoma City Bombing National Memorial.

Dr. Lee Simmons turned an early interest in herpetology to a distinguished career as an acclaimed zoo veterinarian internationally known for conservation.

Born in Tucson, Ariz., Simmons moved to Choctaw, Okla., in 1951. Volunteer work with the reptile department at the Oklahoma City Zoo sparked his career interest in zoo work. He graduated with his DVM in 1963 and accepted the position of mammal curator at the Columbus Ohio Zoo where he soon held the positions of veterinarian and assistant superintendent.

He joined the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo as staff veterinarian in December 1966. He became director in October 1970 and holds that position today.
Whitley receives McElroy award

Derick Whitley received the 2008 Dean Clarence H. McElroy Award.

This prestigious award, begun in 1954 in honor of the first dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, recognizes the top graduate based on high academic achievement, leadership and outstanding clinical proficiency.

The Doorly Zoo’s management and research team participate in teaching, technology transfers, consulting and master planning in over 30 countries. Each year, the zoo hosts approximately 150 live-in undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students from around the world in the areas of veterinary medicine, reproductive physiology, genetics and nutrition.

Simmons has authored or co-authored 28 publications and serves or has served on 25 boards and university appointments. He has served as president of Nebraska Academy of Veterinary Medicine and the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians.

He and his wife, Marie, have worked and traveled in 43 countries and the Antarctic. He also designs and manufactures a number of immobilizing guns and devices used in zoos and in the field.

He has received numerous honors and awards, including two honorary doctorates at both Creighton University and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, plus Nebraska’s Veterinarian of the Year Award and the State of Nebraska Prestigious Vision Award, to name only a few.

Nebraska honored his contributions to the Henry Doorly Zoo and his global conservation efforts with a statewide celebration of “Dr. Lee Simmons Day.”

Under Simmons’ direction, the Henry Doorly Zoo consistently ranks among the top 5 or 10 best zoos in North America by numerous rating entities.

According to Simmons, the conceptualization, design and implementation of innovative exhibits, management facilities and conservation programs are among the most challenging, rewarding and pleasurable of a zoo director’s activities.

He and members of the Henry Doorly Zoo staff are active in many conservation organizations such as the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, Species Survival Plans, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, World Zoo Association, International Species Information System, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group and more.

For the first time since alumni established the Class of 1963 Endowed Distinguished Lectureship in 2005, the speaker was one of the class’ own members.

Dr. Lee Simmons, director of Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and international conservationist, gave the keynote address detailing his experience in zoo medicine and wildlife conservation.

Each year this endowment provides the funds for the keynote speaker at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ Fall Conference.

Whitley earned his bachelor’s degree in biology at East Central University in Ada, Okla. He graduated with his DVM in May and then joined Hilltop Animal Health located in Davis, Okla., a mixed-animal clinic owned and operated by Dr. Cade Coppenbarger, class of 2004.

“It’s been a dream of mine to get back to that area and be close to my family in Ada,” Whitley says. “I enjoy rural veterinary practice where I get to go on field calls and meet good people.”

Class Brings Back One of Its Own

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At the Head of the Class

This has been a good year for third-year student Lauren Cunningham, class of 2009.

High academic achievement earned Cunningham the Dean Harry W. Orr Award, named in honor of the veterinary college’s second dean and awarded to third-year veterinary students.

Cunningham is also one of 17 recipients of the Salsbury Scholarship, which recognizes third-year students’ scholastic success. Additionally, the Nu Chapter of Phi Zeta, OSU’s chapter of the veterinary honor society, inducted her into its ranks.

Her grandmother’s kindness to neighborhood strays influenced Cunningham to become a veterinarian. She says she too wants to care for animals that don’t have a voice of their own.

Fulton Recognized for Research

Dr. Robert W. Fulton, professor in veterinary pathobiology, received the 2008 Pfizer Animal Health Research Award recognizing his research in viral diseases of cattle.

Fulton’s research focuses on Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) infections, which cause respiratory diseases, abortions, neonatal calf losses and persistently infected calves, all of which leads to major losses for Oklahoma’s cattle industry.

A nominee’s publication record, ability to obtain external research support, presentation of research data, involvement in scientific organizations and training of graduate students and residents are all determining factors in selecting the recipient of this annual award.

Going Farther

Grateful clients established the Above and Beyond Award to recognize behavior that exceeds what is expected from fourth-year veterinary students during their clinical rotations at OSU’s Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Clients, clinical sciences faculty, administration and support staff at the hospital can nominate potential recipients for the Above and Beyond Award.

Congratulations, Faculty

Recent faculty promotions include Dr. Michael Davis, physiological sciences, from associate professor to professor; Heather K. Moberly, College of Veterinary Medicine Library, from associate professor to professor; and Dr. Todd Holbrook, veterinary clinical sciences, from assistant professor to associate professor, an action granting tenure.
Richardson Named Top Staffer

Aaron Richardson received the 2008 Stratton Staff Award, the top honor bestowed on a Center for Veterinary Health Sciences staff member. The award, established upon the retirement of Dr. Louie Stratton in 1989, recognizes outstanding employee contributions and service.

Richardson, information technology supervisor, graduated from the OSU Spears School of Business with a bachelor’s in business administration and a minor in marketing in May 1999 and began working at the veterinary center the following September.

According to Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean of the center, faculty and staff respect Richardson’s helpful attitude, his ability to solve computer issues and his talent in designing and implementing the center’s website.

“I was completely overwhelmed that people here thought enough of my work at the veterinary center to nominate me. Then to actually win was over the top,” Richardson says. “I haven’t stopped smiling yet.”
The Department of Homeland Security selected Dr. Lawrence Barrett, class of 1981, director of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in 2007. *Vet Cetera* recently had an opportunity to go one-on-one with the new director.

**Q** Were you striving for the directorship or did it just develop as your career played out?

**A** As a colonel in the Air Force Reserves, I worked with the Surgeon General’s office. When Homeland Security was established, I was working on a food defense project for the Air Force. Using an operational risk management tool created for security at the Department of Defense, I developed an operational risk management model for food safety, which became the Air Force standard. The Food and Drug Administration heard about the program and contacted me. As a result, the FDA developed new programs for food security based on operational risk management, and I received an FDA director’s degree.

**Q** What position did you hold prior to coming to Plum Island?

**A** I worked in the California Department of Health Services as the state veterinarian for public health, most recently serving as division chief for food, drug and radiation safety. Those positions worked closely with the University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. I supported student residents, served on the curriculum committee, was an adjunct instructor and a founding member of the Western Food Safety and Security Institute. I am also an Air Force Reserve colonel following three years of active duty in the Air Force as a base veterinarian and public health officer.

Dr. Kenneth Bartels received the 2007 Visionary of the Year Award at the Southwest Veterinary Symposium held in Fort Worth, Texas, last fall. The award honors a person who is actively engaged in the private, public or corporate practice of veterinary medicine and esteemed by the profession.

Bartels is the McCasland Professor of Laser Surgery, the Cohn Chair in Veterinary Medicine, director of the Sarkeys Surgical Laser Laboratory and colonel in the Veterinary Corps, U.S. Army Reserve. Through memberships and positions held in various organizations too numerous to list, he has elevated the standards and goals of veterinary medicine as well as contributed to the Stillwater community through his long-term involvement in civic organizations.
Southwest Elects Woody

At its 2007 conference, the Southwest Veterinary Symposium elected Dr. Tim Woody, class of 1971, vice president beginning in October 2008.

Woody practiced mixed-animal veterinary medicine in Siloam Springs, Ark., for 25 years after graduating from OSU. In 1996, he opened his own small-animal practice, the Pet Protection Clinic, located in Fayetteville, Ark., where he continues working in the veterinary medical profession today.
Corkey Jo, an 8-month-old, truly “bit off more than he could chew” when he ate two quarters and a penny, a meal that cost more than $4,500 and could have cost him his life if not for his dedicated owners and the OSU Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

He ingested the coins unbeknown to his owners, Randy and Wanda Berry of Springdale, Ark. “He was vomiting, and you could tell he didn’t feel well,” says Wanda. “We took him to the Animal Emergency Clinic of Northwest Arkansas.”

At the clinic, Dr. Kyle Shaw ordered blood work and took a radiograph that showed the coins in Corkey’s stomach. Shaw, who suspected zinc toxicity from the coins, administered a blood transfusion to the anemic Corkey. From there, the Berrys took Corkey to the family veterinarian, Dr. Kristen Westhoff of Rose Animal Clinic, for a possible endoscopy.

“When I saw it, I knew I could not get it out with the endoscope I have,” Westhoff says. “Rather than risk surgery, I recommended the OSU’s Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital for the foreign body removal and after care. I included Dr. Shaw’s suspicion of zinc toxicity in the case referral.”

By the time Dr. Emily Medici, a resident in small-animal internal medicine at the veterinary hospital, saw Corkey, he was jaundiced from the zinc. “He looked very sick,” she says.

The OSU veterinary team gave a transfusion to treat the Shih Tzu’s anemia and a radiograph to confirm the coins had not shifted during transport. They then performed an endoscopy successfully removing the coins from Corkey’s stomach.

But the little puppy’s troubles were far from over.

The zinc toxicity caused pancreatitis, and his body began to go into disseminated intravascular coagulopathy, a condition that prevents blood clotting. Medici ordered a plasma transfusion and a whole blood transfusion the next day. By the fourth day, when the Shih Tzu’s kidneys started shutting down, the team treated him for renal failure.

The Berrys drove four hours, approximately 400 miles, to visit Corkey on four separate occasions. During one visit, the couple considered euthanizing their beloved puppy.

“I told them Corkey looked a little brighter that morning, so they decided to stick it out a while longer. They are extremely dedicated owners,” Medici says. “That’s when Corkey turned the corner and started slowly improving.”

Two weeks after arriving at OSU’s small animal clinic, Medici released the young Shih Tzu armed with antibiotics and stomach protectants.

“If we had not removed the penny, the anemia could have killed him. If the anemia didn’t kill him, the renal failure or the pancreatitis could have for sure. I’m glad we were able to help Corkey,” Medici says.

“We have to continue to monitor his kidney values, but his kidneys should be able to recover the majority, if not all, of their function. Even if his kidneys do not completely recover, he should still have enough function to have a good quality of life for an extended period.”

According to the Berrys, who also have a female Shih Tzu, Corkey is doing well. “He’s fine,” Randy says. “In fact, we think he might be a proud father before long.”
A Determined Team Saves Dinky

Dinky is a small, white and black kitten with dark brown eyes owned by Dell Livsey and Barry Ball of Stillwater. At barely 6 months old, Dinky came down with a parvovirus, even though she had been vaccinated for prevention.

Parvovirus primarily attacks the lining of the intestinal tract, causing internal ulceration and ultimately total sloughing of the intestinal epithelium that results in dehydration, malnutrition, anemia and death 60 to 90 percent of the time. Dinky’s severe condition required hospitalization in the small-animal intensive care unit for more than two weeks, during which many people helped her recover.

Early Dec. 19, Livsey rushed Dinky to the hospital where Dr. Paul DeMars immediately started aggressive treatment continued by Dr. Jennifer Peters, who made sure Dinky had every chance to be cured, Livsey says.

Wendi Johnson, the fourth-year veterinary student assigned to the case, and Peters called Livsey at least twice a day with updates on Dinky’s condition. When a subsequent infection attacked the inside of Dinky’s mouth, Peters and Johnson did everything possible to keep the pain level down and feed the kitten with minimal discomfort.

“They treated Dinky with kindness, compassion and love as if Dinky were their own pet. Their hard work and determination to save my kitten extended through the holidays when we all knew people’s thoughts are far away from work,” Livsey says, noting that the veterinarians and staff rotated shifts during the holidays to keep the hospital open around-the-clock.

Dinky then developed serious neurological signs requiring the consultation of Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean and professor at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

“The concurrent history of clinical signs and findings suggestive of feline distemper were of great interest since the viral agent usually does not infect the brain or spinal cord in cats of this age,” Lorenz says.

When tests did not confirm spinal cord or brain infection, Lorenz theorized Dinky may have developed hemorrhages in the central nervous system as result of the primary disease. Regardless of the cause, he says the kitten should have good functional recovery from her neurological disease.

During this part of her hospital stay Dinky encountered fourth-year veterinary student Billy Hendrix. “His compassion went far above and beyond the call of duty. Billy spent much of his own time hand-feeding Dinky to be sure she got enough food,” Livsey says.

“Dinky has lost some ability to coordinate her back legs but has learned to adapt to her disability. I expect her to remain this way or even slowly improve over time,” DeMars says. “The aftereffects of her illness should in no way shorten her life or limit her quality of life.”

Dinky is improving every day, Livsey says. “None of this would have been possible without the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine, its faculty, staff and students. I have never known a group of people who worked together in such a heroic effort to save a young cat.”

DERINDA LOWE
Josh is an 11-month-old potbelly pig. He lives at Hamalot Farms, a potbelly pig rescue organization in Sand Springs, Okla., owned and operated by Tracy McDaniel. He shares his pen with two sows, one gilt and 11 other piglets.

But at 8 weeks old, Josh was far from thriving. Although he’d been vaccinated, he became ill two weeks following castration. “He had a stiff-legged gait,” McDaniel says. “He was unable to right himself after falling, and he would assume a ‘dog-sitting’ posture.”

The piglet began to exhibit seizure-like activity, paddling all four limbs, respiratory difficulty and frothing at the mouth.

McDaniel’s local veterinarian, Dr. Lou Anne Wolfe, class of 1999, treated Josh for seizures, but when Josh showed no improvement, she referred him to the OSU teaching hospital, which assigned Josh’s case to Sharla Birch, class of 2008, along with Dr. Katie Simpson, food animal medicine and surgery resident, and senior clinicians Drs. Robert Streeter and John Gilliam.

Josh, who weighed 9.1 pounds, couldn’t sit upright, was over responsive to external stimuli and was having muscle spasms and difficulty breathing, Simpson says.

She ordered a blood count, a complete chemistry panel and a urinalysis to rule out other diagnoses, but the team began treating Josh for tetanus, a diagnosis they later confirmed. They opened Josh’s castration incision, flushed it with hydrogen peroxide and chlorhexidine diacetate, and left it open to drain.

“We gave Josh IV fluids, nasal oxygen, a mask and ear plugs, and put him in a dark room,” Simpson says. “We closed the door and allowed minimal visitation to decrease auditory stimuli as much as possible. We fed him by tube and gave ice and alcohol baths to bring down his temperature. Every four hours, we turned him from side to side while he rested.

“Once Josh was past the critical stage, we began performing physical therapy on him multiple times per day and started feeding him soft food from a syringe. He really likes canned pumpkin,” she says.

They used a supportive sling designed to help Josh walk with assistance, and Birch worked with him daily.

“It was exciting to see the little improvements Josh made each day,” she says. “Tetanus in a pig is rare to see and successful treatment of one is even rarer.”

Some 19 days later, the little 2-month-old potbelly pig was well on his way to a full recovery.

“He’s fabulous and growing,” McDaniel says. “Josh weighs more than 60 pounds and is almost 3 feet long.”

“I think he will probably weigh close to 180 pounds when grown — a potbelly pig will grow until it is 3 years old. Most of the pigs we have at Hamalot are not pure-bred. My smaller pigs average between 120 and 230 pounds,” says McDaniel, who currently has 48 pigs. She has placed 80 pigs and has had as many as 66 pigs at one time.

“It all started when I won a potbelly pig in a raffle,” she says. “Five years ago, someone gave me a second pig. Then people started calling saying things like ‘I have a potbelly pig, and I’m getting a divorce and I can’t take care of it anymore. Can you take it?’ There’s no place for them to go in Oklahoma, so I decided to fill the void.”

DERINDA LOWE
Gift, a miniature horse filly born nearly six weeks early, arrived at OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences teaching hospital with severe breathing problems. She needed help if she were going to make it.

“When the premature foal arrived as an after-hours emergency, she was in severe respiratory distress,” says Dr. Todd Holbrook, assistant professor, equine internal medicine. “Breathing normal room air, her arterial oxygen level should be close to 100. Even after putting her on oxygen, her oxygen level was reading 50.”

When patients check in, the hospital assigns a veterinary student to each case, along with a resident, an intern and a supervising faculty member. Fourth-year veterinary students experience hands on clinical training and interns and residents receive additional training at the teaching hospital. Assigned to Gift’s case were student Renee Mead and equine medicine intern Dr. Ryan Royse.

“In a case like this, many people help care for the patient,” says Holbrook. “Dr. Dustin Devine, Dr. James Hart and a senior student on emergency duty helped when Gift was admitted, while Renee, other veterinary students, our technical staff, the foal team, Dr. Royse and I were all involved in Gift’s intensive care. It’s a team effort.”

Gift had about a 10 percent chance of survival. The team placed a feeding tube, started her on steroids for acute respiratory distress and placed her on antibiotics for aspiration pneumonia. In addition to the oxygen, Gift had to have nebulizer treatments several times a day.

“The owner named her Gift as she is certainly a special girl,” Mead says. “Gift required 24-hour ICU care and that’s what we gave her.”

After one week, the team removed the feeding tube and taught Gift to drink from a bottle. After nine days on oxygen, the little foal was able to maintain her blood oxygen adequately breathing room air.

“We fit Gift for shoes to help her fetlocks, which were dropped due to tendon laxity associated with her premature birth,” Holbrook says.

The foal was able to go home after two and a half weeks.

According to Holbrook, little Gift should not suffer from any long-term affects because she will be someone’s pet and not a competitive racehorse.

According to her current caretakers, Gift has a very strong will to live despite all the odds against her. Her post-veterinary hospital visit shows her lungs clear, and she is gaining weight and strength daily.

Thanks to Holbrook, Royce, Mead and the rest of the staff who provided their loving 24-hour care, Gift is a much loved filly kicking up her heels to show how much better she feels.
Students in the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences are studying anatomy in a new learning center, named most appropriately the Duane R. Peterson Anatomy Learning Center in honor of beloved professor Dr. Duane R. Peterson.

He taught the first class at the School of Veterinary Medicine 60 years ago and subsequently dedicated nearly 40 years to OSU students of veterinary medicine.

“He taught the first class at the School of Veterinary Medicine 60 years ago and subsequently dedicated nearly 40 years to OSU students of veterinary medicine.

“Many veterinary graduates revere Dr. Peterson for his excellent teaching of anatomy, agronomics, clinical techniques and biochemistry,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean and professor.

Peterson earned his master’s and DVM degrees at Kansas State University. He served as a livestock inspector in Illinois and was engaged in general veterinary practice in Colorado and Kansas. He then served as an anatomy instructor at Kansas State University and an assistant professor in the department of physiology at the University of Missouri.

He had only one month to prepare for the first OSU veterinary school lectures before classes began on Monday, March 1, 1948. Although he was younger than most of his students, he was named head of veterinary anatomy in 1948, and he became the acting head of veterinary pathology in 1953.

Upon Dean Harry Orr’s sudden death in 1956, Peterson was named acting dean until the appointment of Dean Glenn Holmes later that year.

“Dr. Peterson’s legacy is permanently etched in the College of Veterinary Medicine. It lives on in the many students he inspired, the buildings he helped plan and construct, and in the curriculum he planned and implemented,” Lorenz says.

“We celebrate his legacy by dedicating the anatomy laboratory in his honor. It is fitting that the dedication ceremony coincides with the 60th anniversary of the first lecture given in our college.”

Dr. Bert Glen’s photograph, below, taken before 1952, shows Dr. Duane Peterson with one of the charts he drew by hand using colored pencils to distinguish the various parts. The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences has the original charts.

A typical anatomy lab, bottom, in the early days of the school’s history.
Students in the class of 1980 observe Dr. Duane Peterson from the anatomy laboratory gallery, better known as "the rack." (Centennial Histories Series)
Certainly today’s equipment is more plentiful and far more sophisticated than that available in 1948. New buildings underscore large infrastructure changes as well, while the growing need for additional office and laboratory space will continue to alter the face of OSU’s veterinary medicine.

As the tools and the needs of veterinary medicine have grown more complex, the center has added specialists in a variety of disciplines. These additions strengthen hands-on instruction for students and expand the hospital’s available services.

The Center’s Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, certified by the American Animal Hospital Association, now provides the public with routine and specialized 24-hour emergency care for small and large animals.

The emphasis and extent of research have grown in importance along with the increase in bioterrorism and food safety issues and antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Likewise, the opportunities for comparative biomedical research are expanding.

Growing, too, are the veterinarian’s career opportunities that reach from private practice to corporate to military to state and federal government. Today’s travel and practice abroad occur to an extent unheard of in 1948.

And, of course, OSU has trained the majority of Oklahoma’s veterinarians, and with a 60-year history, the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences is now training multiple generations within families.

A proven history awards OSU veterinary medicine a tradition that does not change over time. OSU, yesterday and tomorrow, is committed to graduating veterinarians prepared to meet the needs of the state, nation and the world.
The subject usually comes up when Dr. Lara Maxwell, a pharmacologist in OSU’s physiological sciences department, talks about her research.

“People are often surprised that the same drugs are used in both human and veterinary medicine,” says Maxwell, whose projects include using dogs to test the correct dosage of cancer drugs.

“Lay people will often say something like, ‘but that’s a human drug. You must use different drugs in veterinary medicine.’”

But that’s what’s known as comparative medicine research, and it’s an important drive among veterinary colleges nationwide. The research yields benefits for humans as well as animals, and, as sled dog researcher Dr. Mike Davis says, it hauls in big grants compared to smaller veterinary studies.

Although that wasn’t the case about 50 years ago, comparative medicine research is rare outside of veterinary schools due to its cost and logistical complications. Using higher animals can complicate matters further because reviewing agencies are used to rat and mice-based studies, Davis says.

OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine excels at the research because it already has the necessary infrastructure and trained personnel.

“Comparative medicine research has been around in some form for a long time,” says Dr. Jerry Malayer, associate dean for veterinary research and graduate education.

“A lot of veterinary medicine is comparative biology because our faculty and our students are trained in multiple species — livestock, of course, but also birds, dogs and cats. A lot of the information is transferrable, but there are critical differences that must be understood, and it’s important to the research to have this understanding.”

PHOTO © JEFF SCHULTZ/ALASKASTOCK.COM

Dr. Mike Davis, a physiological sciences professor and director of OSU’s Comparative Exercise Physiology Lab, studies cold weather injury to the respiratory tract in higher animals.
That human angle can be an added raison d’être for scientists who want to improve quality of life for humans as well as their companion animals. That’s part of what drives Maxwell, who studies, among other things, how dogs process Cisplatin, a chemotherapy drug.

Although it’s too early to draw conclusions, she says her work suggests kidney-eliminated drugs such as Cisplatin can be dosed according to the organs’ size, the rate at which they filter blood and other functions. It’s a new way to examine how to improve the way doctors dose some of the most toxic medicines.

“This is an area where you really need the best dosing accuracy you can get,” she says. “If you’re too high, the drug side effects are unacceptable, even lethal. And, if you’re too low, you may lose control of your cancer, and it may become resistant to drug therapy.”

If scientists don’t receive grants, they sometimes end up footing the bill to keep their research going, as was Davis’s case before his team received a million-dollar government grant.

Davis, a physiological sciences professor who directs the Comparative Exercise Physiology Lab, studies cold weather injury to the respiratory tract in higher animals. His work has found that dogs and human athletes have the same problems with their airways while exercising in cold weather.
The metabolism findings from Dr. Davis’ research with Alaska sled dogs have led to the development of a new exercise regimen for U.S. soldiers and new ways to fight gastric ulcers.

In 2000, he began his work in Alaska studying sled dogs with a team that included scientists from Texas A&M, Ohio State, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Oxford, the National Institutes of Health and Stanford. They arranged with a group of veterinarians to study dogs’ lungs, the secret behind their legendary stamina and their gastrointestinal tracts for research in gastric ulcers.

Davis describes the project, profiled in a May New York Times article, as a series of “homeruns” that led to new ways to fight ulcers as well as a greater understanding of their stamina, and lungs.

The metabolism findings, that the dogs somehow slow their calorie burning down during strenuous exercise and prevent fatigue, eventually led to a $1.5 million grant in 2003 from the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to develop new exercise regimens for soldiers.

Before the grant, Davis says his research “was funded a little bit with OSU money and quite a bit from everybody’s pockets.”

“We just put airfare and hotels and stuff on our credit cards. The DARPA project came along at the right time because we were sitting there, staring at depleted savings and a home equity loan. My wife was saying, ‘We’ve had a lot of good fun, but we can’t keep doing this,’” admits Davis, who estimates he spent $50,000 to $60,000 of his own money before the grant came.

In 2007, his partners at Texas A&M received a second grant for $300,000, but the work has been done and the money is spent, he says. He is working on getting more money with a new set of research goals.
An Emergent Force in Vet Med Research

Manoj Bhaskaran finished his doctoral degree at OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine last summer. Then, he had five post-doctoral fellowship offers. His list of suitors included Stanford, Yale and Baylor.

Bhaskaran, who eventually chose Tulane’s renowned National Primate Research Center, says what made him a hot commodity was the top-notch education and trial-by-fire research experience he received in Stillwater.

He wasn’t surprised at the offers. When researching OSU before he came in 2003, recent graduates told him it was a stellar choice, especially Dr. Lin Liu’s Lung Biology and Toxicology Laboratory that holds a rare trio of National Institutes of Health grants.

“Funding-wise it was pretty strong, so I didn’t have to worry about getting kicked out in the middle of my program,” says Bhaskaran, a native of Kerala, India, who chose Tulane because it offered a residency at LSU in Baton Rouge and a rare opportunity to do research in primates.

“In any Ph.D. program, you look for how much you contribute to the existing body of knowledge,” he says.

Graduate students such as Bhaskaran have been a part of the college almost since its founding in 1948, says Dr. Ken Clinkenbeard, professor and veterinary biomedical sciences graduate program coordinator. Graduate students, such as Heidi Stricker, a postdoctoral fellow and veterinary medicine student, and Manoj Bhaskaran, a doctoral student now at the Tulane National Primate Research Center with a postdoctoral fellowship, gain experience conducting research in Dr. Lin Liu’s Lung Biology and Toxicology Laboratory.
He says the number of students varies each year from about 45 to 50, about 20 of whom are doctoral students. Some are simply following up their undergraduate education. Others are in their clinical residencies at the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. “That’s fairly typical,” Clinkenbeard says. “Almost all of the veterinary colleges have graduate programs. Ours is probably a bit larger than other colleges our size.”

He adds that graduate programs grew when departments merged master’s and doctoral degree paths into a college-wide program in the early 1990s. The number of graduate students also increased when officials appointed Dr. Jerry Malayer, now associate dean for research and graduate education, as the first coordinator of the program that Clinkenbeard now oversees.

“The graduate program has grown significantly since I’ve come here,” says Liu, an eight-year veteran whose lab hosts six doctoral students and a smattering of undergraduate and graduate students. “Graduate students are a major force in our research programs. They’re also motivated and highly productive.”

In Liu’s lab, they work in three groups. One focuses on lung surfactant, a chemical that allows lungs to inflate properly, while the other groups focus on cell differentiation and fluid transport.

Post-doctoral fellows, graduate students and undergraduates make up each group. Liu directs their work through regular meetings. The results bring in new research experience and publications for all students involved, he says. Bhaskaran, who studies a lung condition in premature infants, says other members of his group helped him hone his skills in molecular biology.

The students develop a rapport that prepares them for research later in life, says Heidi Stricker, a postdoctoral fellow and veterinary medicine student. She says, through Liu’s lab, she’s improving her grant writing while learning to be a better principal investigator. With another veterinary student, Tisha Posey, Stricker published a paper last year detailing how arsenic exposure affects lungs, finding a link between the naturally occurring carcinogen and precursors to tumors.

That type of cooperation doesn’t exist everywhere. She says graduate students at other schools don’t have as much contact with other students, but students at OSU share the same resources, which among other things helps break down social barriers.

That spirit of cooperation and the graduate program’s growth since the 1990s — thanks to stellar research, dedicated faculty and talented students — bodes well for research during the veterinary center’s next decade.
All Species Face Exposure to Toxic Chemicals

When he needs a refresher course on why he chose this line of work, OSU toxicologist Dr. Carey Pope need only reflect back more than 30 years to a college lab assignment. That’s when, as a graduate student, he watched one of his classmates at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, wrangle cockroaches to map their nervous system.

His classmate lured the unsuspecting insects with a slice of apple into a Vaseline-smeared glass jar. Then, he’d capture them, anesthetize them and inject a dye into a nerve. Pope chose to study pesticides keeping in mind how he would explain his decision to his father.

“If I had told him, ‘I’m studying how the cockroach nervous system works,’ he would probably have said, ‘Why in the world are you studying that?’ But by telling him, ‘I’m trying to figure out how organophosphate insecticides work,’ he understood why I was interested,” Pope says.

Pope, working with his wife, research scientist Dr. Jing Liu Pope, examines the effects of the pesticides in use today — some 50 million pounds per year, he says, despite the stricter regulations of 1996.

Their toxic effects with acute exposures are identical to those of nerve agents such as those used in the Iran-Iraq War and those found on munitions and destroyed in Iraq after the Gulf War, Pope says. But, less is known about their long-term effects.

Pope and his team study the long-term effects of these types of chemicals, and recently they’ve focused on a possible link between the chemicals and disorders including depression and anxiety. Other research includes studies of drugs that may be more effective than the common antidote for organophosphate poisoning, atropine.

Atropine is widely stocked in hospitals throughout the country, but he believes it may actually exaggerate the long-term effects of...
You Can’t See Them, but They Can Be Toxic

A nanoparticle is less than 100 nanometers — too small for the naked eye to see. Yet these minuscule particles exist and can be harmful to humans and animals alike. The properties of nanoparticles and the adverse health effects of exposure to them was the topic of the 2007 Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology.

Guest speaker Dr. David Warheit presented “Health Effects Related to Nanoparticle Exposures: How do we assess the hazards?” to more than 75 faculty, staff and students. He shared findings from his research comparing the toxicity potency of substances as you move down the scale from “fine,” larger-sized particles, to “ultrafine,” or nanoparticles, primarily focusing on effects in the lungs.

Warheit graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor’s in psychology and from Wayne State University School of Medicine with a doctorate in physiology. He works at the DuPont Haskell Laboratory in Delaware where he developed a pulmonary toxicology research laboratory.

Dr. Carey Pope, Sitlington Chair in Toxicology and head of physiological sciences, hosts the Sitlington Lecture each year.

Pope, who says he’s found a good home in OSU, is a Regents Professor, the Sitlington Chair in Toxicology and head of the physiological sciences department. He started the Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology, a research seminar series to feature prominent toxicologists and promote toxicology research at the university. He also finds time to teach in both the professional and graduate programs.

“Our vet school has had a long history of toxicology expertise,” he says. “Domestic species — dogs, cats, cattle — all get exposed to chemicals. Toxicology is an important field for veterinary medicine.”

Pope, who holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of Texas, began his postdoctoral career in 1985 at Baylor University Medical Center in Houston. His work then took him to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in North Carolina’s Research Triangle Park.

In 1989, he joined the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where he taught in the College of Pharmacy and directed its toxicology division. He came to OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences in 2000.

these chemicals. He is studying cannabinoids, which are chemicals similar to the active ingredient in marijuana, as a possible key to blocking the pesticides’ toxicity.

Pope, who holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of Texas, began his postdoctoral career in 1985 at Baylor University Medical Center in Houston. His work then took him to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in North Carolina’s Research Triangle Park.

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OSU alumnus Dr. Stanley Pope grins at a local joke while his son, Corey, urges a snake-bit calf into a chute for a water treatment at their veterinary practice.

Down a dirt and gravel road north of US 70, Pope operates a small- and large-animal clinic, Boswell Animal Kare, with his wife, Donna, their two children, Drs. Corey and Stanna, and his daughter-in-law, Dr. Megan McElroy Pope.

“This is Vatican Road out here,” jokes Pope, as an old dog ambles by. He started the practice 22 years ago in a small 30- by 40-foot building. Boswell Animal Kare has grown into the only one of its kind for 30 miles around, and he takes pride in his family’s role serving clients from all over the region.

He grew up on a family subsistence farm nearby and learned to be a jack-of-all-trades — farmer, welder, hay bailer and a general fix-it man. Working around animals sparked his love for veterinary care, and he went to vet school at OSU in 1980 after studying at Durant’s Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He graduated in 1984 with every intention of returning to his 700-resident hometown, 15 miles north of the winding Red River that separates Oklahoma from Texas.

He moved into the family farmhouse on a pine-ringed corner of his 620-acre cattle farm. He built his practice in a red metal outbuilding a stone’s throw from his front yard, where chickens and guinea hens scratch in the dirt and grass. It became a family business with his wife, Donna, and their kids helping as he made “farm calls” and saw patients at his office.

“We grew up out here, so we were around it all our lives,” Corey Pope says. For him and his sister, helping their dad feed their lifelong dreams of becoming veterinarians. That led to veterinary school at Oklahoma State, where Corey and Megan met and married after graduating in 2004. After a stint at a practice in Sulphur Springs, Texas, the couple moved to the family business.

Megan says her dad always wanted her to become a dermatologist, but she developed a love for animals while growing up on the family farm in Snyder, Okla., west of Lawton. In Boswell, Megan focuses on small-animal and equine medicine.

“I really and truly love everything about it,” says Stanna, a 2005 graduate whose interests lie in small-animal medicine and canine reproduction. “I can’t think of anything else I’d rather do. Growing up, this is exactly what I wanted to do. I wanted to come back home and go into practice with my father.”

The lobby is a tight squeeze. Customers throng on weekdays, clutching pets while the family’s mascot, an aging Boston terrier named Maggie, waddles in and out of the lobby.

Customers praise the veterinarians for their personal service, dedication and care they give their animals.
“I like the people, and I like the doctors,” says Donna Mobbs, who owns a Yorkshire terrier kennel near Atoka. “We’ve had to fight a bad case of kennel cough, and they’ve helped me get through that.”

The family believes OSU instilled these qualities in them, as well as a desire to serve small communities that lack medical care for livestock. Part of what they love about their jobs is that each day they face something new.

Stanley is often at their satellite clinic in Antlers, Okla., or on clients’ land performing ambulatory services while Stanna, Corey and Megan work the Boswell office.

“We eat together every day at noon,” Megan says. “That’s the best part of the day. We share a family meal. Donna cooks lunch for us. That’s our business meeting every day.”

They also take time for mentorship. Stanna and Megan visit area high schools to urge students to pursue careers in rural veterinary medicine. The Popes will be hosting an OSU student from nearby Hugo this fall and plan to host more. That helps students gain direction and a life mission to go with their careers, Stanna says.

That dedication is part of the Popes’ overall mission, not just as veterinarians, but as human beings who root their lives in faith and family. That came through, customer Faye Russell says, one Sunday when Stanley and Stanna drove to Russell’s farm to care for a mare that had cut its leg on a barbed-wire fence.

“They’re good with animals, and they’re friendly,” Russell says. “They’re sweet people.”

MATT ELLIOTT
That’s not what Dr. Vic Boyer expected when he enrolled at OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine in 1978, but that’s what happened.

Boyer, a Fairland, Okla., veterinarian, has ridden his career from the wilds of Alaska, checking sled dogs during the Iditarod, to missionary work with the Miskito Indians in the steamy, impassible jungles of Nicaragua.

After graduating from OSU in 1982, he and his wife, Brenda Munson, set up his private practice in Fairland, where he’d lived as a teenager.

Adventure set its hooks in him when he learned of a chance to work the Iditarod sled race. Four years later, he was on the Iditarod trail, inspecting and treating hundreds of sled dogs and filling in as an emergency bush pilot during the 17-day, 1,150-mile race that takes place each March – often during blinding snow storms, biting cold and gale-force winds.

“I ate a lot of moose,” says Boyer, an avid elk hunter who hunted with local Indians and learned he didn’t like the taste of caribou. He worked the trail in 1986, 1987, 1989, 1995 and 1996, while on vacation from his booming practice, which expanded into Miami, Okla., after his final year on the trail.

Also in 1996, he worked a lesser-known Alaskan race, the Kuskoquim 300, one that introduced him to “real cold,” where temperatures plunged to 30 below while 30 mile-an-hour wind raged making the wind chill an unbelievable 100 degrees below zero.

The Skills to Travel
Become a veterinarian. See the world.
“Man nor beast can hardly take it,” he says of that race, which was shut down for a day due to weather.

He and his wife, who works with him at his practice, raised three kids. Busy with work, he took a few years off from adventuring until he decided to accompany his friend Steve Bakos on a January 2005 missionary trip to Nicaragua. He made the trip again last January and plans another trip next year.

The missionary work seems right out of National Geographic. His group couldn’t drive to the villages, located along the wild Rio Coco, due to the dense jungle. Instead, for several hours, he and Bakos motored 55-foot canoes from the town of Waspam on a muddy river with eddying currents and alligators sunning themselves on the banks.

Once they arrived at a village, Boyer would tend the Indians’ livestock, mostly emaciated cattle that suffer from ailments ranging from intestinal parasites to udder infections and hoof problems due to the monsoons.

“The education I took away from there is foremost. You learn friendship, commitment, dedication to life. Obviously you can’t go through vet school without having some of those traits.”

Matt Elliott

“Then, of course they have calving problems, so you can explain to them how to do a few things,” he says. “But the veterinary work just gets us in the front door. They’re dying for information. They want all they can get because they don’t get anything,” adding that the principal goals of the work are to evangelize and help others.

Despite his adventures in exotic locales, he looks back fondly on his time at OSU. It’s where he learned the skills that allow him to do things most people only read about.

“The education I took away from there is foremost. You learn friendship, commitment, dedication to life. Obviously you can’t go through vet school without having some of those traits.”

Matt Elliott
There’s a New Group in Town

The Loyal and True Order of Orange Socks, ostensibly established by Pistol Frank Eaton July 8, 2006, has steadily increased in membership since its rather auspicious beginnings. As well as official documentation — including a proclamation and rules for ceremonies, duties and responsibilities — the association now has 20 members.

It’s a select, and rather exacting, membership made up of College of Veterinary Medicine alumni and honorary members “willing to give their last ounce of blood for the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.”

Members do have to meet some rather stringent requirements:

- Always uphold the spirit and traditions of Orange Friday
- Proudly wear and display orange socks at all alumni meetings and OSU athletic events whether home or away
- Greet all “Orange Sockies” with the traditional “O — Orange, S — Socks, U — United” and then proudly display your orange socks
- Correctly wear the orange socks with the OSU emblem facing out
- Gently wash your orange socks without chlorine bleach and never mix with any item that is red or crimson
- Never wear any socks that are red or crimson or any shade thereof

Dean Michael Lorenz is the Grand Pooh-Bah in recognition of his support of the Orange Sock Spirit. His responsibilities include inducting new members and conducting the solemn initiation ceremony and the sacred Orange Sock Incineration Ceremony (more about these ceremonies cannot be said).

For more information about The Loyal and True Order of Orange Socks, please contact the Grand Pooh-Bah, also known as Dean Lorenz, at www.cvhs.okstate.edu.
Welcome to the 2008 Dean’s Club

Dr. William Carson, Jr.
Dr. Joe Carter
Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Anita Cathey
Dr. John and Mrs. Lori Chancey
Dr. Anthony and Mrs. Carolyn Confer
Dr. Lee Darch (North Wake Animal Hospital)
Dr. Jeffrey Ellis
Drs. Harry and Beverly Fritzler
Dr. John A. Goedeken
Dr. Renee H. Hammer
Dr. Kenneth and Mrs. Norlyne Keahey
Mrs. Joan Kirkpatrick
Drs. Susan Little and Rodney Will

Dr. Michael and Mrs. Velda Lorenz
Mr. Edwin and Mrs. Mary Malzahn
Merial Limited
Drs. Dianne and Nicholas Nail
Oklahoma State University Foundation
Ms. Barbara Pass
Dr. Carey Pope
Dr. William E. Ryan
Dr. Bob Shoup (Catoosa Small Animal Hospital)
Dr. Richard S. Templeton
Dr. Steven Vonderfecht
Ms. 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 Veterinary Center’s Alumni Association, alumni receptions, faculty recruitment and other special projects. For information on joining, contact the Center's Development Office at (405) 744-6728.

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences encourages all graduates to get connected and stay connected through membership in the OSU Alumni Association. Many of you spent not only your four years of veterinary college here at OSU but the prior four years earning your undergraduate degree. You have strong ties to OSU — ties that bind you with others within the state, the nation and around the world.

There are many benefits to membership (too many to list) including alumni programs, online services and more. The awards program is probably one of the most prestigious benefits. Many OSU veterinarians have gone on to make great contributions to the veterinary medicine profession. You deserve to be recognized. To be eligible for Oklahoma State University Distinguished Alumni Awards and/or Hall of Fame Awards, membership in the OSU Alumni Association is not required; however, it is definitely preferred.

Show your ORANGE and your pride in OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. Join the OSU Alumni Association today! Single or joint memberships are available along with monthly, quarterly, yearly or life payment plans. For more information, visit https://www.orangeconnection.org or contact the OSU Alumni Association at 1-800-433-4678 or (405) 744-5368.

Grand Pooh-Bah of The Loyal and True Order of Orange Socks, Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, relaxes at his desk after presiding over a particularly strenuous, and memorable, Orange Sock Incineration Ceremony.
The March of Time – History determines the present in the same way the present shapes the future. The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences is a force in veterinary medicine today because of its leaders and visionaries of the past and the present. From the veterinary school’s inception, those who came before set the pace for the next generation of veterinarians as surely as OSU’s first class led to today’s successes.

Where Are They Now?
An Update on Emeriti Faculty

Their job was to teach, to use their vast knowledge and experience to prepare each class that came through the doors of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences to become the next generation of veterinarians. Some were on nine-month assignments, others for 11 or 12 months. Many participated in research activities as they mentored veterinary and graduate students. However, most did so much more.

Known for their personal commitment to their students, the faculty members at the veterinary center take pride in seeing students progress through the four-year curriculum. They offer encouragement and guidance long after students leave the hallowed halls of McElroy Hall, the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Here’s where 38 emeriti faculty are located:

**Dr. Selwyn Barron** — retired to his native land, New Zealand

**Dr. George Burrows** — retired to Utah, teaches twice a year at St. Georges, spends plenty of time in the mountains fishing, four wheeling and horseback riding

**Dr. James Creed** — resides in Missouri, is the 2008 program chair for the AVMA Annual Convention and served as Companion Animal Program Coordinator for the Western Veterinary Conference from 1997–2005

**Dr. William Edwards** — resides in Stillwater, assists at the OADDL, teaches fourth-year veterinary students and gives guest lectures to third-year students on petroleum toxicity

**Dr. Ray Ely** — travels frequently and resides in Stillwater

**Dr. Sidney Ewing** — remains very active in veterinary history and resides in Stillwater

**Dr. Lloyd Faulkner** — retired to Ohio

**Dr. Carl Fox** — resides in Stillwater, caring for his ailing wife, travels, does woodworking, is learning welding and enjoys spending time on his five acres

**Dr. Ray Ely** — travels frequently and resides in Stillwater

**Dr. Don Holmes** — resides in Stillwater and participates in some Life Long Learning courses offered by OSU

**Dr. John Homer** — resides in Stillwater, collects old jeeps and restores them, has sheep and does some gardening

**Dr. Bertis Glenn** — resides in Stillwater and enjoys reading and gardening

**Dr. Dan Goodwin** — resides in Stillwater and faces many health challenges

**Dr. Jonathan Friend** — resides in Stillwater and participates in many veterinary center activities. Professor Friend, a member of the veterinary school’s first faculty, taught OSU vet med students from 1948 – 1986. In celebration of the 60th anniversary, Friend led the May 2008 hooding ceremony in Gallagher Iba.
Attending the dedication of the Duane R. Peterson Anatomy Learning Center are, from left, Rep. Ron Peterson, Duane R. Peterson’s son; his wife, Janet Peterson; and their other son, Russell Peterson. The veterinary center named the new learning center in honor of Professor Peterson, who dedicated 40 years to the college.

Dr. Billy Hooper — retired to Indiana
Dr. James Jackson — retired to Michigan
Dr. Lester Johnson — resides in Stillwater, does genealogy and collects Native American art, hopes to do some traveling
Dr. Helen Jordan — resides in Stillwater, enjoys pottery and painting, is on the board of Friends of Multi-Arts, does gardening and yard work, sits on the Emeriti Association and was recently appointed to the board of the American Veterinary Women’s Foundation
Dr. John Kirkpatrick — resides in Stillwater and still does consulting work
Dr. Leslie McDonald — resides in Oklahoma City and faces health challenges

Dr. Tom Monin — lives on a small farm in Tennessee, raises meat goats, does some gardening, rides horseback as much as possible, and is active in regional VMA
Dr. A. W. Monlux — lives in an assisted living center in Stillwater
Dr. Patrick Morgan — resides in Stillwater and works part-time at St. Georges University in the Caribbean
Dr. Rebecca Morton — resides in Stillwater, plays tennis, serves on some graduate committees, is involved in an elective and continuing education activity, participated in some Life Long Learning Institute courses and very active at home and in her church
Dr. Fayne Oberst — lives in Florida taking life easy, does some yard work and “messes with the dogs”
Dr. Charlotte Ownby — director of the OSU Microscopy Facility at Venture I in Stillwater

Dr. Roger Panciera — resides in Stillwater and remains very active in pathology research and activities. Professor Panciera, who taught from 1956 – 2000 and “did a hell of a good job at it, too,” he says, continues providing some one-on-one instruction.

Dr. Mack Oyler — resides in Grove and remolds old houses
Dr. Art Quinn — resides in Sand Springs and does consulting work
Dr. Larry Rice — lives in Texas, travels when possible and spent one month in Italy and a week in Costa Rica in 2008, reads and does a little yard work
Dr. Richard Shawley — resides in Stillwater and enjoys farming
Dr. Everett Short — resides in Perkins and works an Angus cattle ranch
Dr. Robert Smith — resides in Stillwater and does feedlot consulting
Dr. E. L. Stair — resides in Stillwater and faces health challenges

Dr. Louie Stratton — lives in his hometown, Cookson, on a small acreage and enjoys woodworking
Dr. Donald Swartz — resides in Sperry
Dr. Tom Thedford — resides in Stillwater, involved in small ruminant herd management and teaches a class on small ruminants
Dr. Ronald Welsh — resides in Stillwater and regularly attends House of Lords and Ladies gatherings
Dr. Delbert Whitenack — resides in Stillwater

Many of the widows of emeriti faculty meet frequently for lunch including Mrs. Janet Peterson, Mrs. Jacque Buckner and Mrs. Mary Williams, who still volunteers at the Stillwater hospital.
Class of 1958 Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Eighteen of the 25 living members of the class of 1958 traveled to Stillwater to celebrate their 50th year reunion. They came from Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas and West Virginia.

In addition to updates and tour of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean of the center, introduced each member as part of the hooding ceremony for the class of 2008.

Lorenz summarized the outstanding careers of these veterinary pioneers to illustrate to the young graduates the variety of opportunities and the many successes that await them in veterinary medicine.

The Al-Hummadi Gift Extends Opportunities to Others

Dr. Abdul Amir Al-Hummadi is one of 18 members from the class of 1958 who returned to Stillwater in May 2008 to celebrate the class’ 50-year reunion. Born in Iraq, he’s sometimes amazed that his life took this path.

“When you finished the sixth grade, ninth grade and high school, you were tested on all subjects,” explains Al-Hummadi. “If you passed, you went on. If you didn’t, you didn’t go to school anymore.”

He later qualified to study abroad, and in 1952 he and another young man named Murtadha El-Hashimi were sent to Northeastern A&M College in Miami, Okla., for veterinary training. It was only later they realized they were enrolled in a junior college pre-veterinary program.

“By the time we applied to Oklahoma A&M, there were 300 applications for 40 openings,” he says. “Our government thought we would be studying veterinary medicine, so there was a dilemma. And we were caught in the middle.”

The young men didn’t know all the particulars but OSU’s veterinary college expanded its program from 40 to 42 to accommodate the two international students, whose grade point averages exceeded the required 3.5 for admission.

“We just happened to meet some good people who took care of us,” Al-Hummadi says.

According to Al-Hummadi, veterinary college changed his way of thinking. He had never met people who cared so much for strangers, and now he was learning how to care for animals.

Following graduation, he returned to Iraq to teach veterinary medicine at the University of Baghdad. “I had to translate my veterinary books into Arabic,” he recalls. “At that time, these resources were only available in English.”

In 1963, when the Iraqi government was overthrown, Al-Hummadi faced a concentration camp. With help from the American Embassy, he returned to America and went to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Department of Food Safety and Health. He spent the next 39 years working for the USDA.

In 1967, the USDA selected Al-Hummadi to be its veterinary medical officer at a new chicken plant in Carthage, Texas. He, his wife and four children moved to Carthage, where he resides today. In 2006, the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and today they have eight grandchildren.
Pictured, from front row left, are Drs. Joe Jolliffe, Louis Heavner, Abdul Al-Hummadi, Sam Cheesman, Clem Cottom, Kermit Minton, and Paul Kunneman; and, from back row left, Drs. John Rust, Lawrence Erwin, Tom Lathan, Harold Rinker, Alfred Robinson, James Sewell, Rex Every, George Lester, Wayne Stout and Tom Byrd. Dr. Jack Peterson, who also attended the reunion, is not pictured.

In appreciation of the opportunity he received, Al-Hummadi and his wife, Veronica, have established a planned gift of a percentage of their estate to fund a scholarship endowment to support diversity in student enrollment at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The award will be given to an Iraqi or Middle Eastern veterinary student to help defray the costs of veterinary college. If there are no Iraqi or Middle Eastern students, an American student will have the opportunity to study abroad in Iraq.
Dr. William C. Carter, class of 1951, died at his longtime residence in Hamilton, N.J., on June 11, 2008.

Born in Pueblo, Colo., Carter received his bachelor’s degree in agriculture from Cornell University. He was among OSU’s first class to graduate with a DVM degree. He also earned a master’s degree in public health from Columbia University and was a diplomate of the American Board of Public Health.

He was a U.S. Coast Guard World War II veteran, serving aboard the USS Joyce D.E. 317, where he earned commendations for rescuing survivors of U-Boat attacks.

In 1959, Carter established the Mercerville Animal Hospital in New Jersey. Clients refer to the late veterinarian as “compassionate, caring and dedicated.” He also served as a consultant for the Hamilton Township Animal Shelter and the Animal Control Officers for several years.

He retired in 1976 from the state of New Jersey, Department of Health, where he specialized in zoonotic diseases and arboviruses. He pioneered research into the causes and transmission of Eastern and St. Louis encephalitis outbreaks that occurred in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Excerpts of his scientific research are written into congressional records.

His sons, William and Patrick, along with his grandson Bill, followed in his footsteps as veterinarians. In 2006, Carter and his sons attended the OSU hooding ceremony to hood the newest family veterinarian, Dr. Bill Carter.

(Source: Saul Funeral Homes)

Dr. C. Mark Wilson, class of 1951, died on Dec. 30, 2007, in Owasso, Okla., at age 86.

He was born in Broken Arrow, Okla., on Dec. 11, 1921, one of four sons in the Wilson family. He and his three brothers served in four different branches of the service. Although he was attending college before World War II, Wilson left to join the U.S. Marines. He flew a Corsair plane as a fighter pilot stationed on Leyte Island in the Philippines.

When he returned to the U.S., he attended OSU. After graduation, Wilson moved to Wagoner, Okla., where he opened Wagoner’s first licensed veterinary practice.

He was a member of the Wagoner Lions Club, the First United Methodist Church and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association.

(Source: Wagoner Tribune)

Dr. Anton Yanda, Jr., class of 1953, died Jan. 5, 2008. Yanda graduated from high school as Best All-Around Student in his hometown of Yukon, Okla. He spent one year on scholarship at Northwestern University of Wisconsin at Madison before he returned to Yukon to help on his father’s farm and to work at Yukon Mill and Grain Co.

Drafted into the Army Air Corps in 1942, Anton served five years, obtaining the rank of staff sergeant and receiving the Good Conduct Medal. After the war, he returned to Yukon and worked for Armour Company before deciding to study veterinary medicine. After earning his DVM he opened a mixed-animal practice in Yukon.

After graduation, Clefisch moved to Minnesota where he practiced large-animal veterinary medicine, primarily dairy cattle with some small-animal work for a number of years.

He also worked for a drug company as a salesman and trouble shooter before moving to Clinton, Wis., as a partner in the veterinary clinic there. He then went to work for the FDA as a meat inspector covering North Platte, Neb., and eventually Berryville, Ark.

He and his wife, Betty, were living in Berryville when he retired. For the next 16 years, he served as the veterans service officer for Carroll County, coordinating services for veterans provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(Source: Betty Clefisch)

Dr. Thomas Ritchie, class of 1951, died on Oct. 21, 2007, losing his battle with cancer. After serving his country in the Navy during World War II, he was one of the 26 men who graduated from OSU’s first veterinary medicine class.

For 55 years, he owned and operated the Ritchie Animal Clinic in Sapulpa, Okla., the first veterinary practice in Creek County. For 16 years, he and his son, Jimmy, ran the R&R Ranch, a working cattle operation in Kiefer, Okla.

Their interest in continuing education led Richie and his wife, Catherine, to develop an annual freshman scholarship fund for a deserving Sapulpa High School senior.

As the devoted father of 10 Sapulpa High School graduates, Ritchie was instrumental in the growth of Sapulpa’s athletic programs. Through coaching tennis, basketball and other sports, he touched the lives of many young men who grew to love and respect him.

Ritchie served as Sapulpa city commissioner, Sacred Heart Catholic School athletic director and was a member of the Jaycees and Kiwanis organizations. He was also a member of Rancho-ros Visitadores, Sacred Heart Men’s Club and the OSU Alumni Association.

(Source: Tulsa World)

Dr. Glen Clefisch, class of 1952, earned a bachelor’s degree in bacteriology from South Dakota State College. He then served in the U.S. Army. Following his military service, he attended OSU where he graduated with his DVM and his master’s degree in bacteriology.

When he returned to the U.S., he attended OSU. After graduation, Wilson moved to Wagoner, Okla., where he opened Wagoner’s first licensed veterinary practice.

He was a member of the Wagoner Lions Club, the First United Methodist Church and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association.

(Source: Wagoner Tribune)

We honor those who have served the profession, our distinguished colleagues and friends.
In 1959, Yanda and his wife, Helen, became licensed funeral directors, opened the Yanda Funeral Home and started an ambulance service that later became known as Yukon EMS. Also a farmer, he retired from veterinary medicine in 1982 and continued to enjoy farming until the age of 90.

Yanda served on the Yukon Board of Adjustments, was a past president of the Yukon Lions Club, past member of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce, past president of WFLA Lodge No. 86 and a member of St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church.

(Source: Yukon Review)

Dr. Elmer A. “Red” “Doc” Barce, class of 1954, died on July 24, 2007, at age 83. He was born in Middleton, Mass., graduated from Brockton (Mass.) High School and then joined the U.S. Army Air Force.

Following his military service, he attended Newman Prep School in Boston and then studied pre-veterinary medicine at Centre College in Danville, Ky. After he graduated from OSU, Barce did an internship from 1954 to 1955 at Pine Tree Veterinary Hospital in Augusta, Maine.

In 1955, he oversaw the construction of his clinic, Dr. Barce’s Animal Hospital in Randolph, Mass., which he owned and operated from 1956 until he retired in September 1994.

He wanted to be a veterinarian since he was a young boy and loved working with animals and developing friendships with their owners.

He was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association.

(Source: Randolph Herald)

Dr. Robert M. Kenney, class of 1954, of Kennett Square, Pa., died on May 27, 2008, at age 83.

He was born in Providence, R.I., served in the U.S. Navy from 1941 to 1943 and graduated from the University of Rhode Island before earning his DVM. He also earned a doctorate in veterinary pathology from Cornell University in 1963.

He was an assistant professor at both the University of Pennsylvania and then New York State Veterinary College. He joined the University of Pennsylvania’s New Bolton Center where he was an associate professor, chief of the section of reproductive studies and a professor in the department of clinical studies from 1975 until he retired in 1992.

He was one of the founders of the Society for Theriogenology and served on its executive board for six years. He was inducted into the University of Kentucky’s Equine Research Hall of Fame in 1990 and was given the Society’s David E. Bartlett Award in 1991. In 1993, he received an OSU College of Veterinary Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award.

As a reproductive pathologist, Kenney developed the concept, scientific basis, technique and interpretation of uterine biopsy in the mare. The scale relating the histological changes in the equine endometrium to the potential for pregnancy is still referred to as the “Kenney biopsy scale.”

He has researched, lectured and published extensively on fertility evaluation in stallions, pharmacological manipulation of sexual behavior, and semen collection and storage techniques. In collaboration with his associates, he developed the phantom mare used for mounting stallions during semen collection.

Kenney was active in many professional organizations and activities, including the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Society for the Study of Reproduction, the Society for Theriogenology, the American Dairy Science Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the International Equine Reproduction Symposia (on the board of directors since its 1974 inception).

In 1986, he received a special diploma and the Professor Ladilai Bielanski Award from the Academy of Agriculture in Krakow, Poland, as a symbol of appreciation of close ties and cooperation.

(Source: University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine)

Dr. John Luther Azlin, class of in 1955, died on May 25, 2008.

Azlin practiced in Midwest City, Okla., for 52 years — first at Midwest Veterinary Hospital and then Azlin Veterinary Clinic. The Midwest Veterinary Hospital is a Midwest City landmark and has been a stepping-stone for new graduates.

“He was a mentor for many of us and will be remembered for the lessons he taught,” says Dr. Jim Jorgensen, class of 1981.

Azlin was an honor roll member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association and the Oklahoma County Veterinary Medical Association.

(Source: The Oklahoman and OVMA notice)


He graduated from the Ben Lippen Boys School in Asheville, N.C., and attended Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., before arriving at OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

Following graduation, he practiced veterinary medicine in Clinton for the next 50 years. He served the people of Sampson, Duplin, Bladen, and Cumberland counties following his father, Dr. J. I. Weeks, in the practice of veterinary medicine.

He was a member of the North Carolina Veterinary Association and served on its board of directors for six years. He was an honorary member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, a charter member of the American Association of Swine Practitioners and a member of the North Carolina Hampshire Swine Breeders Association. He also served on the board of the North Carolina Hereford Association.

Weeks, a veteran of the U.S. Army, served as director and president of the Clinton Lions Club and on committees to promote a veterinary school at North Carolina State University.

(Source: The Sampson Independent)

Continues
Dr. Robert Spragg, class of 1958, of Rogersville, Mo., died April 19, 2006, in Cox Walnut Lawn, Springfield, Mo., at age 82.

Born in Fairview, W.Va., Spragg earned a bachelor’s degree from West Virginia University before earning his DVM at OSU.

After graduation, he moved the family to Rogersville and established the Spragg Veterinary Clinic in 1959, providing small- and large-animal veterinary care for the community and surrounding area.

(Source: South County Mail, Rogersville, Mo.)

Dr. Truman Hudson, class of 1962, died on Dec. 24, 2007, at age 72.

He was a well-known and much loved longtime Duncan, Okla., veterinarian. He was known for his humor, his love of family and his commitment to providing the best veterinary care for his clients’ animals.

(Source: The Duncan Banner and Grantham Funeral Homes)

LaVerne Jones, veterinary college librarian, died on June 30, 2007, at age 83. She wasn’t a graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine; however, she had a huge impact on veterinary students.

In 1965, her late husband, Dr. Eugene (Gene) Jones, DVM, accepted a position at OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine, and the family moved to Stillwater. Now that she no longer was responsible for assisting with her husband’s veterinary clinic, she returned to college, earning a master’s degree in library science.


(Source: NewsPress)

Dr. Lawayne Nusz, class of 1970, died on Nov. 7, 2007, at Israel Family Hospice House after a heroic five-year battle with cancer.

Nusz, 68, of Ames, Iowa, was born in 1939 outside Hitchcock, Okla. He attended Arapaho Country School and graduated from high school in Okeene, Okla., in 1957. He earned a bachelor’s degree in animal husbandry from OSU in 1961. He then served as a first-class hospital corpsman in the U.S. Navy for two years before returning to OSU.

He began his veterinary career in New Jersey. His interest in livestock led him to northeast Iowa to start his own practice, Town and Country Veterinarian Clinic, which he owned and operated for 14 years.

After his career in private practice, he began a career in public service with the state of Virginia as a regional veterinary supervisor in Harrisonburg, Va. He ended his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Animal Disease Center.

After 15 years of federal service as a supervising veterinarian in animal resources, Nusz retired in 2006. His veterinary career took him around the globe to New Zealand, Russia, Sweden and Uzbekistan.

(Source: Mid-Iowa News)

Dr. Elizabeth Ann Cochran, class of 1973, died in Bossier City, La., on Sept. 10, 2007 at age 67. She was born in Keithville, La.

She earned a degree in medical technology from the University of Arkansas in 1962 graduating with honors. She also graduated with honors from OSU, where she was on the Dean’s Honor Roll every semester and received many honors including the Pfizer Veterinary Scholarship in 1972. She later served on the college’s Committee of Education Innovation.

In 1980, she established the Alvarado Veterinary Clinic in Fallbrook, Calif., where she practiced until 1997. After retiring she returned to Arkansas and later moved to Keithville.

(Source: Shreveport Times)

Dr. Paul Peterson, class of 1974, died on March 1, 2008, in Luther, Okla.

He was born in Thunderhawk, S.D. and served in the U.S. Navy. Peterson settled in Norman, Okla., after the U.S. Navy stationed him at the Navy base there.

Later, after graduating from OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine, Peterson began a large-animal veterinary practice in Norman. In 1993, he moved to Luther, where he established a mixed-animal veterinary practice.

(Source: The Oklahoman, March 7, 2008)


He was a native of Woodward, Okla. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force as an air rescue medic.

He earned a master’s degree as well as his DVM at OSU. Following graduation, Pickard practiced veterinary medicine for more than 30 years in Tulsa.

He was a member of All Saints Procathedral, where he served in many capacities, most notably as senior warden, master craftsman and a member of the Bishop’s standing council.

Pickard had many interests in life and was most passionate about his veterinarian work. He was a consummate craftsman, and the fruits of his labor adorn the homes of family and the church.

(Source: Tulsa World)

Dr. Linda Clark, class of 1974, was born in Tulsa and reared in Claremore, Okla., where she graduated from Claremore High School in 1966.

She then attended William Woods and later OSU. Clark went on to earn doctorates in toxicology, epidemiology and psychology from the University of Minnesota with extensive studies in book editing.

When Clark returned to Oklahoma, she settled in Tulsa and most recently resided in Norman, Okla. She was a long-time member of the Boston Avenue United Methodist Church.
Dr. Jerry Cates, class of 1975, died suddenly at Newport Hospital, Newport, R.I., on Oct. 8, 2007.

Cates was born in Okmulgee, Okla., where he graduated from high school. After attending junior college, he served his country for four years in the U.S. Navy.

In 1976, he moved to Aquidneck Island, R.I., and began his career as a veterinarian. In 1987, he opened Cates Animal Clinic in Middletown, R.I. to serve the residents of Newport County.

He also donated his time to various organizations, particularly the Robert Potter League for Animals. He was known in his community as a “great vet, a compassionate and generous man who was dedicated to the animals.”

He was an accomplished bowler, bowling more than 30 sanctioned 300 games in his career. He traveled extensively to participate in tournaments and found time to coach bowlers of all ages.

(Source: The Oklahoman)


Jackson was a volunteer fireman, a member of the United Methodist Church, a 13-year member of the board for Lindsay Public Schools and president of the Lindsay Chamber of Commerce.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge since age 21 and an active member of the Royal Order of Jesters. He envisioned and organized the building of the Griffith Sports Complex in Lindsay and was instrumental in building the Lindsay skate park.

(Source: The Newport Daily News)

Dr. Marlys Easton Forrester, class of 1977, died on May 19, 2008.

Forrester, 62, was born and reared in Stillwater, Okla. In addition to her DVM, she earned a bachelor’s in zoology and a master’s in natural science from OSU.

In the mid 1980s, she opened her own veterinary practice in Midwest City and worked there until 2007. She dedicated herself to the care of animals and made many friends during the course of her practice. The last one and a half years of her life, she volunteered her time and skills to the care of animals at the Safe Haven Clinic.

She and her husband, John, both played in the church orchestra and enjoyed participating in the various musical programs.

(Source: The Oklahoman)

Dr. David W. Henderson, class of 1984, died on April 11, 2008 in Houston, Texas, after battling cancer. He was born Feb. 22, 1937, in Borger, Texas. He lived in Russellville, Ark.

Following graduation from OSU, he practiced in Russellville for 20 years and owned Parkway Animal Hospital. Of the condolences offered to the family, there was a common theme — Henderson was a kind, generous, giving man who cared deeply about his patients and their owners.

He was a member of the River Valley Dirt Riders Association, the OSU Alumni Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association.

(Source: The Courier, Russellville, Ark)

Dr. Gretchen LaRue Benavidez, class of 1986, died after a lengthy battle with cancer on Aug. 20, 2005, in Albuquerque, N.M., at age 46.

Born a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma in Chickasha, Okla., Benavidez grew up in Norman and Tulsa, after the family returned from Fairbanks, Alaska, in 1962. It was apparent early on that she was called to be a guardian to animals from the numerous dogs, cats and birds she rescued during her childhood.

In 1977, she graduated from Thomas Alva Edison High School in Tulsa and attended summer courses at Glendale Community College in Phoenix, Ariz., before entering the University of Oklahoma where she earned a bachelor’s degree in zoology in 1981.

Prior to attending OSU, she lived in Gaithersburg, Md. While in veterinary school, she was editor of the school’s yearbook and pursued her lifelong hobby of photography.

Benavidez practiced in Augusta, Ga., and Rogers, Ark., before purchasing the Valencia Animal Clinic in Belen, N.M., in 1992. She and her husband built a home and farmed in Bosque, N.M., and she continued to provide veterinary services for animals in need until her health forced her retirement.

(Source: The News-Bulletin)

Dr. Tamara George, class of 1993, died on Feb. 21, 2008. George, 47, was born in Stillwater, Okla. She attended elementary school in Cheyenne, Okla., and high school in Weatherford and Hobart, Okla. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from OSU.

For a number of years, she practiced veterinary medicine in Blackwell, Okla., where she will be missed by many. In remembrance, one person wrote, “I have never dealt with a vet who was actually in it for the animals. But you could look in her eyes and see the love she had for them.”
Indeed, the Times They Are A-Changin’

The class of 1951 was the first to graduate from OSU’s veterinary college. There were 26 graduates, all men. The class of 1952, the second class of veterinarians, was a 36-member all-male class. Today’s class size at the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine averages between 80-85 students. The class of 2011 is 72 percent female and 28 percent male.

Reaching A Milestone

Three years ago the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences established a new tradition called the “transition ceremony.” The ceremony is a rite of passage for third-year students signifying their achievement, marking the beginning of clinical rotations and reminding them what it means to serve the veterinary medical profession. Some 400 parents, friends, faculty and staff attended the transition ceremony for the class of 2009.
Congratulations, Class of 2008

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ class of 2008 joins the 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 2012

Four hundred thirty-six applicants, 130 resident and 306 nonresident, competed for admission to the class of 2012. The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences selected 58 Oklahoma residents and 24 nonresidents. The core and cumulative grade point average for these students is 3.4, and their average GRE scores are 479 verbal, 608 quantitative and 572 biology. Sixty-three females and 19 males make up the class of 2012.

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

Chances are, the doctor who cares for your animal graduated from Oklahoma’s veterinary college — the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. Of the state’s veterinarians, over 70 percent are OSU alumni.

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website for more information:
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