Dear Alumni and Friends,

This edition of Vet Cetera focuses on the service of veterinarians and the veterinary profession to society. As you will read, alumni, faculty, staff and students have a rich history of service to our profession and the many disciplines represented in veterinary medicine.

At the veterinary center, we approach our service obligations with the professionalism and dedication to do the best job possible — including clinical case management, diagnostic testing, continuing education, military service and public health.

The motto for Rotary International, Service above Self, applies quite well to our service programs.

Despite the serious downturn in the U.S. economy, we have had a good year at the veterinary center. For fiscal year 2009, we escaped serious budget reductions. For 2010, the state reduced our base state allocation about 7.2 percent ($885,037), but one-time federal stimulus funds replaced this reduction. We received $355,534 in additional funds for mandatory cost increases that will allow us to keep tuition and fees at last year’s rates.

Future budgets for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 are uncertain unless the Oklahoma economy begins to rebound later this year. Stimulus funds have provided protection this year and Oklahoma’s Rainy Day Fund can provide some protection in 2011. However, there is no protection in 2012. To mitigate these budget reductions, we are implementing novel programs that will permit enrollment increases in two to four years. When fully implemented, the tuition revenue will largely restore the budget recession.

In March 2010, the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association will be on campus for our accreditation site visit. For the remainder of this year, we will be conducting a self-study and updating our strategic plans. We are fully accredited and I expect that to continue following the site visit next year.

We have had a good year in development despite negative publicity instigated by animal rights organizations. I want to thank our alumni, practitioners, friends and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association for your many expressions of support and your letters praising the quality of an OSU education or the great service received from the teaching hospital.

This support leaves no question that Oklahomans love the veterinary center and are very proud of the service we provide the state’s animals. The public trusts us, and we work hard in our research, service and teaching to remain worthy of that confidence.

I hope you enjoy the articles and stories in our award winning publication. I am impressed with the accomplishments of our alumni, faculty, staff and students. I am looking forward to Fall Conference 2009 and I hope to see many of you there or at other alumni receptions.

Go Pokes!

MICHAEL D. LORENZ, DVM
CVHS DEAN

Dean Michael Lorenz holds his camera-shy 12-year-old cat Mo.
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 61 years ago. Please join us at the CVHS website: www.cvhs.okstate.edu. The OSU homepage is located at www.okstate.edu.

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44 ORANGE BREW
A sampling of the myriad opportunities for alumni who wish to stay in touch with OSU include the Dean’s Club and the Alumni Association.
New Faces at the Center

**Dr. Tamara Gull**, assistant professor in veterinary pathobiology, is originally from Chicago by way of Florida, California, Massachusetts, Georgia, Texas, Guam and various overseas locations.

Gull earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago, a DVM degree from Tufts University and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. Her research interests include infectious disease, especially bacterial respiratory diseases of cattle.

She instructs the bacteriology and mycology course taught to second-year students, participates as an instructor in the first-year immunology course and provides consultation to fourth-year students with clinical medicine cases in equine and food animal species.

Gull is a major in the U.S. Army Reserve Veterinary Corps attached to the 994th Medical Detachment in Round Rock, Texas.

**Dr. Chelsea Makloski**, an assistant professor of theriogenology in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department, is from Trinidad, Colo. She earned her undergraduate degree at New Mexico State University and OSU.

She earned a master’s and a DVM degree at OSU. Following graduation in 2006, Makloski completed a rotating hospital internship at Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Ky., and a theriogenology residency at OSU.

Makloski’s research interests are mare infertility, canine infertility and canine brucellosis.

**Dr. John Gilliam** is a clinical assistant professor in food animal production medicine and field services.

Gilliam, originally from Macomb, Okla., is not new to OSU. He earned his bachelor’s degree, master’s and DVM degree at OSU as well as completing a residency in food animal medicine at the veterinary center.

He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners.
PHOTO / PHIL SHOCKLEY  
ALL PHOTOS / GARY LAWSON
**Dr. Dustin Devine** is an assistant professor of equine surgery originally from Weatherford, Okla. He earned his bachelor’s degree at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and his DVM degree at OSU in 2002. Following graduation, Devine completed an internship at Peterson and Smith Equine Hospital, a master’s degree and a surgical residency at OSU.

Devine is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and is interested in clinical investigation as well as minimally invasive surgical techniques.

**Dr. Lesa Staubus** is a veterinary clinical sciences lecturer for shelter medicine and junior surgery. Staubus, originally from Oklahoma City, has spent time in the Virgin Islands and south Florida. She earned a bachelor’s degree in zoology at the University of Oklahoma and her DVM degree from OSU in 1990.

**Joe Fusco**, who was born in Vermont and raised in Tulsa, Okla., is the new information technology supervisor at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. He earned a bachelor’s degree in radio and television from the OSU School of Journalism and Broadcasting and has lived in Stillwater for the last 20 years.

He has worked for OSU as a media production specialist for Audio Visual, as a computer technician for the College of Arts and Sciences and as email postmaster for CIS/Information Technology. He has also worked with a few companies outside OSU, including, most recently, Dell in Oklahoma City.
A ‘Grammy’ for Confer

Dr. Tony Confer keeps a notepad in his car because he never knows when inspiration might strike — ideas that helped him earn the 2008 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award.

Aerosmith’s “Sweet Emotions” could become “Sweet Rancid Odor.” Johnny Cash’s “Folsom Prison Blues” could be “Vet School Prison Blues” and “Sweet Home Alabama” could become “Sweet Lesions of Pneumonia.”

Perhaps a song about cattle blackleg disease doesn’t have the same ring as a classic ode to love and affection. But students would definitely remember it, says Confer, who parodies rock songs and works them into his lectures.

It started back in 2004, when fellow pathologist and guitar picker Dr. Jerry Ritchey approached him about the idea, wanting to do a version of Creedence Clearwater Revival’s “Proud Mary” for one of his classes.

“And, I’m going, ‘OK, this guy’s smoking something,’” Confer says. “It turns out, he puts these lyrics about how white blood cells gain access into the tissue during inflammation. He’d been covering that in class. So, we came up with ‘rollin’... rollin’ through the ves-sel ....’”

The songs got more morbid as they went further. They later covered antifreeze toxicity through Lynyrd Skynyrd’s “Free Bird” and bowel examination using Van Halen’s “Runnin’ with the Devil.”

Confer says he still talks to former students who tell him they remember his teachings through the songs. The songs are so infectious he admits he can’t get his and Ritchey’s versions out of his head when he tries to remember the originals.

“Some may think we’re nuts. But, if so, it’s fun to be nuts,” Confer says.

They have a band now with Ritchey handling vocals and rhythm guitar. Ed Harris, an education professor, plays the drums. The group plays vet college functions, much to the chagrin of older alumni, Confer laughs. YouTube has Ritchey’s song about edema (fluid buildup), blood clots and infarction (tissue death) to the tune of Black Sabbath’s “Paranoid.” Just like a usual vet class, stomach-churning images flash on the screen providing examples.

Confer’s wit is backed up by experience. He graduated from OSU’s veterinary school in 1972. After getting his master’s degree at Ohio State University, he spent two years in the U.S. Air Force, and finished his doctoral degree at the University of Missouri in pathology.

He taught at LSU for a while before coming to Stillwater in 1981. He started working with Drs. Richard Corstvet, who later left the university, and Roger Panciera. Confer took over and made a name for himself studying shipping fever, getting regular funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He spent more than 16 years as head of his department, veterinary pathobiology, but he tired of administrative work and gave it up several years ago.

These days when he’s not doing his research he teaches general pathology for first-year students, third-year neuropathology and urinary pathology courses as well as fourth-year students in the diagnostic pathology rotation. He prefers teaching and approaches his courses hoping he’ll keep students interested and their minds open.

“I never believe in playing games with students,” says Confer, who initially started his college career thinking he wanted to be a mechanical engineer. “I say, ‘Here’s what I want you to know. Learn it, and you’ll get an A. If all of you get A’s, that’s great!’”

MATT ELLIOTT

Dr. Tony Confer, recipient of the 2008 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award
Peers Honor Johnson

Brent Johnson received the Stratton Staff Award at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences annual awards ceremony in April.

Johnson received the award for his work as an analytical toxicologist at the veterinary center’s Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. His peers, who nominated Johnson, know him for his calm demeanor, intelligence, motivation and work ethic.

As the lab manager of toxicology, Johnson is responsible for running and maintaining the many different machines used to analyze tissue samples. By using chemical methods, his laboratory is able to identify many toxins present.

“He is always looking at ways to improve our laboratory whether it’s obtaining a new test kit or learning a different way to run a test,” says Sandra Morgan, DVM, and Johnson’s supervisor.

“I can depend on him to do it right, which gives me complete confidence in the test results we submit to veterinarians, animal owners and often courts of law.”

The Stratton Staff Award, named after Dr. Louie Stratton and established after his retirement in 1989, fulfills Stratton’s wish to honor outstanding veterinary center staff members for their dedicated service and many key contributions.

“I had no idea,” says Johnson, who has worked at OSU for 19 years. “I wasn’t even at the banquet. I was very surprised and honored to receive this award.”
Davis Runs His Own Race

There’s a black horsehair-covered futon doubling as a couch inside Dr. Michael Davis’s office just off his exercise physiology lab floor. A pillow is at one end, and a blanket at the other, as well as a host of books and papers.

That might explain why he won OSU’s Regents Distinguished Research Award in 2008, the latest in a string of accolades for the professor whose exercise research has appeared in more than 30 publications and been profiled in everything from MSNBC.com to The New York Times.

“I spend more nights on that thing than I should,” admits Davis, reclined in a chair behind his desk. That dedication pays off, though, and that shows in the Regents award.

“It means that my peers have acknowledged the fact that I’ve been doing well,” Davis says. “But, to a larger extent, it provides a gravitas with the university, which has limited resources, and can’t be everything to everybody.”

Since 2000, his work has carried him from the wilds of Alaska to the equine treadmill in the center of his veterinary college lab, studying everything from cold weather exercise stress on dogs to horses’ diets and their effects on endurance. His goal is to help the animals but also affect how we understand the same things in humans.

Organizations such as the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency have funded his work to the tune of more than $5 million.
He conducts research each winter in the Alaskan wilderness during the region’s two 1,000-mile sled dog races, Yukon Quest and Iditarod, and events he sets up with mushers and his team of researchers from Purina Mills and Michigan State, North Carolina State and Texas A&M universities.

During races, the researchers will sled, fly and ride between checkpoints and remote hamlets monitoring the animals to collect the best data possible while dodging massive winter storms.

One of the biggest developments from that work is his team’s groundbreaking research into gastric ulcers, painful complications from which dogs often die during the races. Starting in 2002, Davis’s team studied giving the dogs Prilosec, an over-the-counter indigestion drug for humans, but discovered the dogs’ stomachs needed to be empty for the medicine to work. In an athlete that eats and burns up to 12,000 calories per day, an empty stomach is difficult to find.

They coordinated the dogs’ feeding schedules with mushers who were helping fund the research. Then, the team gave the dogs the drug, and not one had complications from gastric ulcers during the following race.

“We’ve got to give it another year or two, and if that remains the story, I think we might have whipped this one,” Davis says.

Last September, the paper chronicling those findings was still under review for publication in the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

Davis holds a doctoral degree in physiology from Johns Hopkins and has been a licensed veterinarian for 21 years with a veterinary medicine degree from Texas A&M. Other awards include the Pfizer Award for Research Excellence and a guest lecture spot last May at the University of California-Davis.

In 2009, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine awarded him its first Hero in Medicine award. He has been at OSU since 1998.
Dr. Jim Lish, assistant professor in the physiological sciences department, has earned several honors this past year, beginning with the 2009 Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award.

For eight years, Lish has shared his love of veterinary medicine. He teaches first-year veterinary students anatomy and the elective avian biology course to second- and third-year students.

The Pfizer award recognizes Lish’s dedication to advancing veterinary medical education and to preparing the next generation of veterinarians. This is the second time he has received the Pfizer award.

Lish, who holds a nine-month teaching appointment at the veterinary center, also received the promotion to associate professor with tenure.

The class of 2012, casting a ballot vote for their top three teachers, selected Lish as the 2009 Outstanding Instructor in the first-year curriculum. Lish has won the award seven of the eight years he’s been teaching at OSU.

Emma Ryan, class of 2012, credits Lish’s teaching success to the support and confidence he gives students. “On top of that, he puts in considerable time outside of class holding review sessions or going one-on-one with students until it is clear they understand a topic. That level of patience is really impressive,” she says.

Ryan’s classmate Kimberly Jungermann agrees. “Dr. Lish took the time, even before the semester began, to learn everyone’s name, and throughout this semester, he has taken the time to get to know each one of us. It really shows that he cares about us,” she says.

“I’m proud to know him and to have had the opportunity to learn from him.”

Dr. Jim Lish, recipient of the 2009 Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award and the designation as 2009 Outstanding Instructor in the first-year curriculum, conducting research on wild Golden Eagles at the Raptorview Research Institute in Lincoln, Mont.
The lab’s priorities are the early diagnosis of disease and the development of disease therapeutics. The current focus is on three of the pulmonary diseases — respiratory distress syndrome, bronchopulmonary dysplasia and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

Supported by National Institutes of Health funding, Liu’s research team has been studying molecular mechanisms of lung surfactant release from lung cells for the past 15 years. Recently, they have discovered one compound that stimulates surfactant release and preliminary trials in an animal model using this compound show promise.

In addition, many laboratory projects focus on microRNA, small RNAs that regulate gene expression. Soon Liu’s team will work on a research project to identify microRNA biomarkers in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients.

Recognizing Liu’s Innovative Research

Dr. Lin Liu, Lundberg-Kienlen Professor of Biomedical Research and newly appointed Regents Professor, received the 2009 Pfizer Award for Research Excellence.

Pfizer Animal Health established the award in 1985 to foster innovative research by recognizing outstanding research effort and productivity. This is the second time Liu has received the award.

Liu directs the Lung Biology and Toxicology Laboratory where graduate students and postdoctoral fellows train to become lung biologists. The lab has transitioned from a technology-driven laboratory to a disease-oriented lab with the research goals to improve human and animal health.

Dr. Lin Liu, Lundberg-Kienlen Professor of Biomedical Research, Regents Professor, director of the Lung Biology and Toxicology Laboratory and recipient of the 2009 Pfizer Award for Research Excellence.
State’s Vet of the Year

Dr. John Kirkpatrick has always enjoyed interacting with his colleagues, students and clients. He never was much for the spotlight. So naturally, he was the most surprised person in the room when they called his name as Oklahoma Veterinarian of the Year during the state veterinary medical association’s annual convention in Oklahoma City last February.

“There are a lot of men and women out there who do a lot for our profession,” says the class of 1965 alumnus. “To be thought of as being in that line of peers is pretty humbling.”

He was the 19th OSU alumnus to win the award in its 28 years.

The veterinary bug bit Kirkpatrick, the former director of OSU’s Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, when he was a kid growing up in Shattuck, a small farming town in the flat and empty expanses of western Oklahoma. His parents worked in the retail and wholesale oil business, ranching and farming.

The family had pets, and of course, they took them to the local vet for checkups.

“I was intrigued by what the veterinarians did and how they did such things as surgery and delivering calves. They always seemed to enjoy what they did,” he says.

He graduated from high school in 1958 and left town for OSU, where he enrolled in pre-veterinary science. He had a rare sense of direction from the beginning, studying mostly animal science while also taking classes in agricultural economics and accounting.

“I was very intrigued with the ability and the desire to teach that some of my professors had,” he says. “They planted a seed in me that never left.”

When he finished his undergraduate work in 1963, he had already plunged into veterinary medicine courses. Meanwhile, he had married his high school sweetheart, Donna, and they had their first of their three sons before he finished vet school.

Then, he headed to private practice in Ardmore with Drs. Charles Love and Louis Nightengale (OSU ’62). He spent seven years there, getting the best first-work experience a young veterinarian could find.

“It was a tremendous learning experience. They were good veterinarians. They were good businessmen. They were dedicated.”

He then moved back to Shattuck, where he opened Ellis County Animal Hospital, the only one in the county. He took as clients people he’d known all his life. His boys grew up with the children of his high school friends.

He often hosted students at his hospital, including Richard Prather (OSU ’86), to whom he would later sell his practice.

Kirkpatrick practiced in Shattuck for 20 years, until he took a job as an instructor at the veterinary college in Stillwater. By then, the boys were adults with careers of their own in the energy, pharmaceutical and education fields, so he took a chance at teaching, something he’d wanted to do since he was at OSU.

He taught third- and fourth-year students in food animal medicine. He eventually rose to head the teaching hospital, from which he retired in 2005. He still gives guest lectures on campus where he remembers how much he enjoyed working with students.

“They all had a desire to learn. That energizes you immensely,” he says.

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MATT ELLIOTT
Orr Award Winner
Among First Vets at NIH

Jered Wendte received the Dean Harry W. Orr Award in April. The award, established in honor of the college’s second dean, recognizes Wendte’s high academic achievement during the first two years of the professional veterinary curriculum.

But Wendte, who graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor’s degree in zoology, did not attend the awards banquet. He is one of four veterinary students from across the United States who has spent the last year in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute-National Institutes of Health Research Scholars Program.

This is the first time the program, established in 1985 for human medicine and dental students, opened to include veterinary students. Designed for students interested in biomedical research, the program pairs an NIH investigator with each student.

“My main project is characterizing an outbreak of the parasite Sarcocystis neurona in southern sea otters,” says Wendte, who works with Michael Grigg, Ph.D., in the Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Md.

“I developed a set of genetic markers to characterize parasite isolates from the outbreak and compare them to other isolates.”

Since the sea otters are a threatened species, understanding factors leading to disease in this species is important for guiding conservation efforts.

“We are looking at sea otters as a model system to study pathogen flow in nature. Hopefully, the results can provide clues not only as to why disease is occurring in these otters, but also give some insight to general underlying trends of disease epidemiology in the natural world.

“I have discovered that I can learn a lot from the human medical field,” he says.

“Most of the other students in the program are medical students, but overall, their backgrounds and interests are diverse. Each one approaches problems from a slightly different angle, and being able to discuss our research in the context of several different disciplines provides new insights.”

He says the stimulating environment makes the challenge of learning how to think like a researcher exciting.

The yearlong program means Wendte anticipates graduating in the summer of 2012 rather than with his original class of 2010. He has opted to stay at NIH to complete a dual DVM and Ph.D. degree under the NIH Graduate Partnership Program, through which NIH and OSU collaborate to provide the degree requirements. OSU is the degree granting institution.

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Lacey Sullivan, class of 2009, had a very good year.

Not only did she receive the highest honor a veterinary student can receive at OSU, the Dean Clarence McElroy Award, but she also received funds through the Kitao Family Endowment for International Study for a three-week small-animal clinical rotation in Japan.

Receiving the McElroy signifies a true vote of confidence by Sullivan’s class members and faculty who select the recipient based on scholarship, character and professional ability.

For Sullivan, who graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in forensic science from Baylor University, the McElroy honor capped one of the most exciting trips of her life.

“I visited clinics in Osaka, Fukuoka and Tokyo,” says Sullivan. “I saw several small exotic animals as well. Some of the small-animal clinics employed board-certified specialists although most of what we saw were general practice cases.

“Many of the aspects of veterinary medicine are similar in Japan. The overall goal is the same — to do what is best for the patient to fix the problem. But the techniques to accomplish the goal are different,” she says, citing anesthesia protocols, methods of fluid therapy, pain control, methods for collecting samples and methods for spays and castrations.

“To me Japanese medicine relies more heavily on diagnostics, whereas American medicine focuses more on the physical exam.”

Sullivan was able to do some sightseeing in each of the cities she visited as well as see some of the countryside near Kyoto, Japan. She even caught a glimpse of Mt. Fuji from the train as she traveled from Tokyo to Osaka.

“While I thoroughly enjoyed getting to experience veterinary medicine in Japan, I think my most memorable times came during the evenings when I spent time with the host families really experiencing authentic Japanese culture,” she says.

“The hospitality of the Japanese people is unbelievable!

“My trip to Japan was a once-in-a-lifetime experience I would recommend to anyone. I am extremely lucky to have seen the differences and similarities between Japanese and American medicine,” Sullivan says. “Hopefully, I will be able to use these experiences to be a better practitioner.”

DERINDA LOWE

Sullivan’s Blockbuster Year

PHOTOS / COURTESY

Lacey Sullivan, class of 2009, recipient of funding from the Kitao Family Endowment for International Study and recipient of the Dean Clarence McElroy Award
Dr. John King, DVM, is an icon of veterinary pathology. He has had a long and productive career in academia as well as a stint in industrial pathology at the Carnegie Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh, Pa., where he worked from 1962–1968.

He has practiced pathology as a diagnostician, author and national and international educator serving veterinary students, pathologists and the wildlife community. King journeyed to Taiwan, Europe, Africa, Australia, South America and the Mid-East. He has attracted many domestic and foreign veterinarians to a career in pathology.

A Boston, Mass., native, King earned his DVM degree from OSU in 1955. He practiced veterinary medicine in Tulsa, Okla., for 79 days and is unsure of his record for the shortest career as a veterinary practitioner.

He earned his doctorate in veterinary pathology at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., in 1963 and later became a professor in veterinary pathology.

King was also a research fellow in pathology with the U.S. Public Health Service in 1960. From 1960-1962, he worked as an assistant professor of pathology at Washington State University. Beginning in 1962, King served as a pathology consultant with the Animal Medical Center in New York, N.Y., for six years.

He remained active in professional societies and organizations including, among others, the American Veterinary Medical Association, New York Academy of Pathologists, International Academy of Pathology, and the American Institute of Biological Sciences. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

King is the first author of a book on necropsy technique and interpretation, which is now in its fifth edition, and he has developed a website that contains more than 20,000 images and commentary of pathologic specimens that are widely used gratis by the world’s veterinary and comparative pathologists.

In 2005, the Roth-Johnson Foundation established a yearly scholarship in King’s name at OSU. The Charles Louis Davis DVM Foundation, a publicly supported charity for the advancement of veterinary and comparative pathology, awarded him the inaugural John M. King Award for Sustained Contribution to Veterinary Pathology. The Kenneth Gumaer Foundation at Stuyvesant, N.Y., endowed a veterinary pathology residency fellowship in King’s name at Cornell University in 2007.

Dr. George Patrick (“Pat”) Mayer, DVM, graduated from Coalgate High School and attended OSU. He graduated with his DVM degree in 1954 and opened a general veterinary practice in Coalgate, Okla.

He operated the practice in his hometown until he became an ambulatory clinic instructor in veterinary medicine and surgery at OSU in 1956. He returned to his practice in 1958.

In 1962, Mayer accepted a faculty position with the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Veterinary Medicine where he established a research program to study calcium phosphorous homeostasis in cattle.

From 1962 to 1972, he held the position of research fellow in medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Mass., and visiting lecturer on medicine at Harvard. He received a U.S. Public Health Service Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases for 1962-1964 and the U.S. Public Health Service Research Career Development Award for 1968-1972. He earned a master’s of medical science degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1968.
He joined the OSU faculty in 1973 as a professor in the physiological sciences department, where he continued his research. His work contributed significantly to nutritional management of dairy cattle in prevention of parturient hypocalcaemia — milk fever. He and his co-workers also focused on the restriction of dietary calcium during gestation as a preventive measure for this metabolic disorder.

Mayer was a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Zeta, John Morgan Society, the New York Academy of Sciences, Physiological Society of Philadelphia, American Association of Veterinary Physiologists and Pharmacologists, and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

In 1976, he served as acting head of the physiological sciences department. In 1977, he received the 34th Annual Borden Award for his outstanding research contributions to dairy cattle disease control and his publication of results in scientific journals.

His work on calcium metabolism and parathyroid physiology is regarded as a classical contribution to the world veterinary literature.

Although Mayer became critically ill with Lou Gehrig’s disease, he continued to work and publish his research. He gave all that he could to the profession of veterinary medicine until his premature death in October 1979.

Dr. Louie G. Stratton, DVM, Ph.D., graduated from OSU with a doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1955, and he earned a doctorate from OSU in 1972.

Stratton went into private practice in Siloam Springs, Ark., from 1955 to 1968. He was a member of the Arkansas Veterinary Practitioners Association and the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association, serving a term as president in each.

From 1968 to 1971, he was a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Trainee in the Department of Physiological Sciences at OSU. In 1971, he became a research associate and later in the year a temporary assistant professor for the department.

Stratton returned to Arkansas in 1972 to work as an assistant professor in the University of Arkansas’ Department of Animal Sciences and in 1973 returned to his alma mater as associate professor in the Department of Medicine and Surgery, where he became a professor in 1977 and continued until 1988.

From 1978-1979, he was also the acting coordinator of veterinary research, and from 1979-1980, he was the coordinator of animal disease research. He served a short time as director of research in addition to his duties as professor.

In 1980, President Reagan appointed Stratton to serve as the first veterinary member on the Joint Committee for Food and Agriculture Research of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ordered by Congress, this committee was composed of individuals from private industry, universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and charged to produce a report on the future role of the USDA.

In 1980, appointed its first director, Stratton brought the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital online. He continued as director until 1988 when he wound down his career as assistant dean of OSU’s College of Outreach.

CONTINUES
During his OSU tenure, Stratton took on many academic responsibilities, including numerous committees. He was active in several professional organizations including the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association, serving a term as president.

Stratton, a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenology, received the OVMA’s Oklahoma Veterinarian of the Year Award in 1991.

**Dr. Charles Montgomery** attended Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton for two years before he graduated from OSU with a bachelor’s degree in agriculture in 1961 and a DVM in 1963.

From 1963 to 1966, he owned and operated the Alpine Veterinary Clinic, a general veterinary medicine and surgery practice in Tulsa, Okla., that provided services for small, large and exotic animals.

He held positions in veterinary pathology and comparative medicine-related areas for the U.S. Armed Forces including posts in Long Binh, Vietnam, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C., National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md., National Toxicology Program in N.C. and the Center for Comparative Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, to name a few.

Today Montgomery is the president of Com-Path, a consulting practice located in Jay, Okla. His services include toxicology, toxicologic pathology, comparative pathology and comparative medicine for clients in academia, government and industry. He also provides histopathology services for research in infectious diseases, agents of bioterrorism, oncology, gene therapy and nanoscience.

He has found time to be active in many professional organizations including the American Veterinary Medical Association, United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, American College of Veterinary Pathologists, American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, and several others.

He holds the Outstanding Service Medal (Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences), Meritorious Service Award (Armed Forces Institute of Pathology), National Defense Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Association of Military Surgeons Medal to name but a few of his military awards and honors.

Montgomery received the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science’s Charles A. Griffin Award for outstanding accomplishments in improving the care and quality of animals used in biologic and medical research. Eastern Oklahoma State College inducted him into its Hall of Fame, and he received OSU’s Distinguished Alumnus Award.

He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. He has authored too many publications to list.
Known worldwide for his investigative pathology, research and dedication to veterinary pathology, Panciera has contributed to the education of veterinary students and pathology residents as well as mentoring faculty. He currently serves as an emeritus faculty member at the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, where he continues his pathology research.

Following graduation from OSU, Panciera earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in veterinary pathology from Cornell University. He also holds diplomacy in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. He joined the OSU faculty in 1956.

Panciera is a “triple threat faculty member,” according to his colleague and friend of almost 50 years, Dr. Sidney Ewing.

“Land-grant institutions are charged with the responsibility for teaching, research and service,” Ewing explains. “Roger won teaching awards repeatedly. He reported newly discovered diseases in the scientific literature, and he constantly fielded questions from veterinarians — including fellow faculty members like me — as well as the animal-owning public.”

Panciera’s classmate Dr. T. A. Byrd says he’s heard many compliments for Panciera but his favorite is “He taught me to think.”

Byrd says he and Panciera have been friends for 40 years, and yet they had never discussed politics or religion. “I don’t know if he’s a Democrat or Republican, nor do I know if he’s Catholic, Jew, Protestant or atheist. But I do know this, like Gunga Din, he’s a better man than I.”

Although he retired in 2000, Panciera continues his veterinary pathology work. He still teaches, still publishes research findings, and he still fields questions from professionals faced with challenging animal disease problems.

“His greatest legacy is to excite people about what he does,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean of the veterinary center. Dr. Panciera has influenced many OSU veterinary graduates to follow a career in veterinary pathology, a legacy that will continue for many years to come.”

**Hall of Fame Inducts Panciera**

Awarding him its highest honor, the OSU Alumni Association inducted Dr. Roger Panciera, class of 1953, into the OSU Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009.

**“His greatest legacy is to excite people about what he does.”**

**Dr. Roger Panciera**, emeritus faculty member at the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences and 2009 inductee into the OSU Alumni Hall of Fame, is shown in 2009, above, and in 1957, left.
A Matter of Trust

The OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences celebrates the confidence many place in our abilities to heal, to train practice-ready, caring veterinarians, to engage in innovative research ... to advance veterinary medicine.

Support for the center comes from individuals who bring critically ill or injured animals to the veterinary hospital, from donors and industry partners who help build our resources, and from academic partners who engage in collaborative research and shared programs.

The following stories testify to the trust implicit in these relationships.

One of a Kind

The veterinary center officially launched the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology (NCVP) in February and hosted the first advisory board meeting in May 2009. The only one of its kind in the United States, the center is the brainchild of Susan Little, DVM, Ph.D., Dipl. ECVP and Krull-Ewing Endowed Chair in Veterinary Parasitology.

“THE BENEFITS BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY WILL BE MANY FOLD.”

The newly renovated NCVP laboratory is located on the lower level of McElroy Hall, the cornerstone of the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. Graduate studies will begin at the new parasitology center in 2010.

“The benefits both nationally and internationally will be many fold,” says Little. “We are grateful to our industry partners and their commitment to advance veterinary parasitology and support it into the future.”
Novartis Animal Health pledged $225,000 as the first industry partner to support the NCVP followed by Bayer Animal Health for an equal monetary contribution and industry partnership. The Kirkpatrick Foundation established a gift of $100,000.

The advisory board met to prioritize needs to get the NCVP up and running, to develop the student training program, identify the research focus and to determine the service focus and how the NCVP will address unmet diagnostic needs.

Activities included a tour of the NCVP designated laboratory and office space, reviewing blueprints and renovation plans, and identifying additional facility needs. Advisory board members also toured the OSU Tick Lab and discussed plans to teach collaboratively an online course through the veterinary center.

The mission of the NCVP is to further the many advances made in controlling parasitic diseases of animals through integrated programs of applied graduate and residency training, targeted current research initiatives and a diagnostic and consulting service that serves the veterinary profession worldwide.

“In the last several years there has been a decline of veterinary parasitology training in the U.S.,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean. “The NCVP is an opportunity for us to continue training in the discipline of veterinary parasitology and to provide a source for national diagnostic testing.”

Little will serve as the director of the NCVP.

The members of the national center’s advisory board, in addition to Little, are Drs. Byron Blagburn, Auburn University; Dwight Bowman, Cornell University; Mike Dryden, Kansas State University; Christian Epe, Novartis Animal Health; Doug Hutchens, Bayer Animal Health; Michael Lorenz, dean, Oklahoma State University; Craig Reinemeyer, East Tennessee Clinical Research; and Anne Zajac, Virginia Tech. The OSU Tick Laboratory is the major supplier of live ticks to researchers worldwide, shipping out hundreds of thousands of adult ticks each year.
For the Love of Horses

The Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences treats about 1,600 equine in-hospital cases per year. Currently, doctors have no centralized facility to place critically ill horses and foals that should be isolated from other animals due to their compromised resistance to infectious disease agents.

But all that is about to change thanks to the generous $1 million gift from the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation, which Edward and Thelma Gaylord established in 1994 to support a wide range of charitable activities.

The Gaylord Foundation gift launches a campaign to fund a $3 million equine critical care facility adjacent to the teaching hospital at the east entrance.

“The establishment of a specifically designated equine critical care unit will help us provide the most progressive care possible to all equine patients and allow us to thoroughly educate and train veterinary students in equine care using the most advanced procedures,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, professor and dean of the veterinary center.

“The critical care facility will help advance the health of horses well into the future and have a positive impact on Oklahoma’s horse industry.”

With more than 214,000 Oklahomans involved in the horse industry as owners, service providers and employees or volunteers, the economic impact of the equine industry for the state of Oklahoma is approximately $189 million per year.

“We have long recognized the excellence of OSU’s Veterinary Health Sciences Center,” says Christy Gaylord Everest. “The equine area is of particular interest to us because of our family’s love of horses and longtime involvement with the horse industry.

“We are very pleased that through the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation, we can help make the critical care facility a reality for Oklahoma.”

A generous gift from the Gaylord Foundation has jump-started the campaign to fund the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences equine critical care unit, shown here in the architect’s rendering.

DERINDA LOWE

Edward and Thelma Gaylord
The veterinary center’s involvement in the American Institute for Goat Research — the largest goat research facility in the United States — at Langston University started on an as-needed basis.

When a goat was sick, Langston called Dr. Lionel Dawson or one of the available field service clinicians at the veterinary center’s Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital responded to the emergency.

“For the first 14 years, we took care of their sick animals,” says Dawson, associate professor in veterinary clinical sciences who has been with OSU’s veterinary center for 27 years. “In addition to the goats, Langston University has approximately 20 dogs that protect the goats from coyotes and other predators and help to keep the herd together.”

In 1998, the veterinary center took a new approach and a beneficial partnership formed between Langston University and OSU.

“We discussed with the American Institute for Goat Research (AIGR) at Langston the possibility of funding part of my salary,” recalls Dawson. “They agreed, and since then, I have had a 25 percent appointment with Langston.”

That collaboration allows veterinary students to receive beneficial hands-on experience working with small ruminants and opens some research opportunities for Dawson.

“The program at AIGR started with 30 dairy goats in 1984. Later with new scientists hired, it branched off to meat and fiber goats. Today, they have close to 1,600 animals, averaging about 1,000 on the property at one time.”

Goat breeds at AIGR include Alpine, mainly a dairy breed, Angora, primarily a fiber breed, and meat breeds such Boer’s, Spanish and Tennessee Stiff Legged (Fainting) goats.

“The 100 dairy goats are milked twice a day from April to August,” Dawson says. “The creamery at AIGR makes milk products like cheese, yogurt, ice cream and soaps. Scientists research, among other aspects, the quality, safety and shelf life of the milk products.”

The institute also conducts goat meat research on feed efficiency, average daily gain on various feed sources, mineral supplementation, and nutritional requirements for different age groups as well as grazing comparisons on different pastures.

Boer, a South African goat breed, is bigger and produces substantially more meat than local meat breeds in the U.S., so scientists at the institute perform research on their nutrient requirements, digestibility of different feed sources, carcass quality and dressing weight of meat.

CONTINUES

Dr. Lionel Dawson, associate professor in veterinary clinical sciences at OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences and at Langston University, works at the American Institute for Goat Research, the largest goat research facility in the U.S.
The scientists at Langston University also conduct grazing trials on different grasses and perform trials to decrease methane production from these animals, thus helping the environment.

“Another benefit the goats provide is brush control,” says Dawson. “Working with various Native American groups in Oklahoma, the institute provides 40 to 60 goats with GPS tracking monitors that are taken to specific areas of land to control brush, or convert the area into grazing land for cattle or crop land.”

A group of goats with a dog, moved periodically to control brush, remain in an area for three to four months before the institute relocates them. Scientists use the tracking devices to locate the animals. They check them once a month.

Dawson travels from the OSU veterinary center to Langston to check on the goats once a week.

“Fourth-year veterinary students accompany me during their field service rotation,” he says.

“We drive from pasture to pasture checking on each herd. We look at any sick animals and talk to the herdsman to see what is happening. Students administer vaccinations, deworming and venipuncture, and they trim feet, castrate and perform routine surgeries such as caesarian section, and rumenotomy.”

The students also examine the dogs for various ailments, give routine vaccinations and neuter and spay the dogs if necessary.

“This gives students an opportunity to administer anesthesia, perform supervised surgery and monitor patients post-op,” Dawson says.

In addition, freshman veterinary students dehorn, castrate the kids and vaccinate some 50 goats per year. This provides many of the freshmen students their first opportunity to work on a live farm animal. On weekends in spring, the sophomore students often accompany Dawson to perform pregnancy ultrasound exams, trim feet and help collect blood samples from the animals.

If Dawson is participating in a specific research project, he visits Langston more frequently to monitor the animals. Research focuses on nutrition, genetics, meat and milk products, and parasite control. Dawson often collaborates with Langston researchers on all their projects. He also conducts clinical trials on parasite control and reproductive management of goats.

“The AIGR program is mainly funded by federal grants,” he says. “Normally they receive one or two grants a year to sustain the program. Scientists at the institute have a tremendous pressure to obtain funding every year and to conduct research on the animals at the institute.”

According to Dawson, this institute averages six postdoctoral international students who come to Langston to study for one to three years. Upon the completion of their program, they return to their native countries, taking with them valuable knowledge they can implement in programs back home.

“I enjoy working with the goats and the people at Langston,” he says. “It’s a great experience for our veterinary students, and I like talking with the herdsman and monitoring the animals’ health. Another plus is the international work this program has allowed me to experience. I have traveled with Langston on several research projects that have taken me to Armenia, Egypt and Ethiopia.”

Dawson, a native of India, earned his veterinary degree at Madras Veterinary College in Madras, India. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists. He completed a graduate program in swine reproduction and a large-animal internship at Iowa State University and a residency in theriogenology at the University of Missouri before coming to OSU.
“I ENJOY WORKING WITH THE GOATS AND THE PEOPLE AT LANGSTON. IT’S A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR OUR VETERINARY STUDENTS, AND I LIKE TALKING WITH THE HERDSMEN AND MONITORING THE ANIMALS’ HEALTH.”
At 1 year of age, Millie Stuart was no lightweight.

The Bernese mountain dog, described by owners Jon and Dee Dee Stuart of Tulsa, Okla., as a “gentle giant,” weighed 90 pounds.

“We purchased Millie from a Texas breeder,” Dee Dee says. “All her papers were in order and the breeder was very proud that there was no sign of any hip dysplasia, which many large breeds are prone to have.”

However, Millie developed a slight limp as she grew. Concerned, Millie’s veterinarian, Dr. D.C. Smith, took radiographs at his clinic and confirmed hip dysplasia.

Smith referred the Stuarts to Dr. Mark Rochat, the small-animal surgery section chief at the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

In early December 2008, Millie underwent surgery to correct the problem. Under Rochat’s tutelage, Dr. Zachary Ricker, a resident in small-animal surgery, performed a triple pelvic osteotomy (TPO) on Millie’s left side. The procedure lasted three to four hours with the actual surgery taking about two hours to complete.

As with all of its cases, the veterinary teaching hospital assigned Millie fourth-year veterinary students. Fourth-year students spend a three-week rotation in every aspect of veterinary medicine at the hospital to gain hands-on experience.

“The students were wonderful,” Dee Dee says. “Jennifer Mead and Erica Reinman both spent their three-week rotations with Millie. They researched how to do her rehab. They called me twice a day with updates on Millie’s progress and spent many hours working with her so she could walk again. I can’t say enough about how much they helped her to recover.”

“Even though Millie managed to pull the screws partially out of the bone on the back part of her TPO site, the acetabular cup remained rotated like it is supposed to,” Rochat says. “As long as the TPO continues to stabilize Millie’s left hip, she will be fine.”

Millie returned home after a short recovery period, but until she healed completely, she had to remain on a leash with no running or jumping. However, as the saying goes, “It’s hard to keep a good dog down.”

“On New Year’s Day, I was out with Millie. She was on a leash but somehow was able to lunge at a bird, dislocating her right hip. Dr. Smith was able to relocate it, but within 24 hours, it was out again,” Dee Dee says.

On Jan. 2, 2009, the Stuarts checked Millie back into the veterinary hospital where Rochat performed a total hip replacement on her right side.

“We’re glad the Stuarts were able to stick it out through the long haul,” Rochat says. “They were wonderful to work with and the improved function Millie received is so important for such a young dog. Within two to three months of this last surgery, Millie was back to running and jumping like normal.”
Gigi Recovers: Another Success Story

Gigi Strathe is a 13-year-old Bichon Frise dog. Her owners, Marlene Strathe and John Lowthian of Stillwater, Okla., noticed on Saturday, Feb. 28, that Gigi was not putting any weight on her right hind leg.

They immediately took Gigi to the emergency room of the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital located at the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. Within minutes she was examined and diagnosed with a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), which means one of the ligaments crucial to the stability of her knee was damaged.

“She was given medication for the pain and to reduce the inflammation,” Strathe says. “Monday morning, I called to schedule her surgery. Luckily for us, they were able to work her in on Thursday, March 5.”

Dr. Mark Rochat, small-animal surgery section chief, assisted by Dr. Brent Newcomb, resident in small-animal surgery, and Jennifer Jarvis, fourth-year veterinary student, conducted Gigi’s surgery.

“I can’t say enough about Drs. Rochat and Newcomb, and Jennifer,” says Strathe. “I received a call immediately after surgery telling me how it went and what Gigi’s pattern of care would be. After that, I received one or two calls a day.

“Jennifer has been wonderful in terms of the care she has provided Gigi. She called me to see when I wanted to visit following Gigi’s surgery and was willing to meet me anytime that was convenient for me, even on the weekend.”

According to Dr. Rochat, Gigi’s prognosis for returning to her normal function is very good.

Gigi stayed at the veterinary hospital for two weeks, receiving daily physical therapy, individualized exercise regimens, ice and pain management and lots of loving care before returning to her family and Cody, a 7-year-old Bichon Frise.
Tavarish Owes His Life to OSU

When the premature foal arrived at the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, he was unable to rise, nurse, or even sit up alone.

The foal, born two weeks premature in March to a first-time mother, Star, belongs to Lee Manuel of Gravette, Ark.

“Star is a 10-year-old thoroughbred mare,” Manuel says. “She has been shown in cross country and dressage. Since the sire is a Russian Holsteiner, we decided to name the foal Tavarish, which means comrade in Russian.”

When he realized Tavarish had serious medical problems, Dr. Marion Harris of Country View Animal Care Center in Gravette referred Manuel to OSU’s veterinary center.

“About six years ago, I had a horse that developed a septic joint shortly after birth. He spent 10 days at the veterinary hospital having his joint flushed. He’s now my big dressage horse,” Manuel says. “That was a great success story, so we knew we could count on OSU.”

At the center’s Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, Drs. Lyndi Gilliam, assistant professor in equine internal medicine, and Heath Qualls, resident in equine internal medicine, coordinated a team of round-the-clock care for Tavarish. Sarah Gordon, fourth-year veterinary student was part of the team assigned to the foal’s case.

Among the challenges the foal faced were an umbilical infection, aspiration pneumonia and diarrhea. Due to lack of maternal antibody transfer, he needed three liters of plasma. He underwent surgery to remove the infected umbilicus.

“Tavarish had tendon laxity in his left front leg,” says Qualls. “We placed a splint on it to keep it straight. He didn’t receive enough oxygen in the birth canal, so he was a little slow to learn to nurse.”

The team had to use a feeding tube to feed Tavarish approximately 10 days after he arrived. He then learned to drink from a pan, and eventually he learned to nurse from the mare.

“The foal team volunteered in either two- or four-hour shifts. Even through Spring Break we were able to provide 24/7 care for Tavarish,” Gilliam says.

When he began to nurse from the mare, the OSU team noted that Tavarish coughed and aspirated a little milk when he nursed, which prompted an endoscopic examination of his throat to explore the cause of this aspiration.

“We discovered that Tavarish has a dorsally displaced soft palate, which renders it nonfunctional,” says Gilliam. “This caused him to aspirate and get fluid in his lungs if he tried to nurse. Since he did not aspirate when drinking from a pan, he had to be pan fed.”

Thanks to Gordon, who earned Star’s trust, milking the mare was possible.

“When we brought Tavarish home, we had to milk the mare every two hours and feed him from a bucket,” Manuel says.

“We had to separate him from his mother since he could not nurse. He had to wear a muzzle to be with her, and it did not look like he would ever be able to nurse so we went ahead and weaned him,” she says, noting he still had his “bucket brigade”— those who carried milk to him every few hours the first weeks he was home.

“He has some neurological damage. His tongue has been a little clumsy, and he was slow to start eating pellets. But he seems happy and energetic and is growing fast and grazing well,” she says. “After spending the first two weeks of his life at OSU, he has had no major setbacks. He really shouldn’t have lived. But thanks to OSU, Tavarish has a future.

“We cannot thank the folks at OSU enough,” Manuel adds. “They were there waiting for us and gave us daily updates on Taverish’s problems and progress. They really worked with us and seemed to care as much as we did about saving him. I am a health care professional, and I think the quality of care ‘T’ got was equal to any I have seen in any human hospital — and superior in some ways.

“I still email Drs. Gilliam and Qualls when I have questions about Tavarish’s care, and they have been great about responding to help me to this day,” she says. “I would recommend OSU to anyone looking for the best veterinary care available.”

DERINDA LOWE

PHOTO / DERINDA LOWE

PHOTO / DERINDA LOWE
The premature foal, Tavarish, who arrived at the center’s Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital unable to stand or feed, survived the ordeal thanks to a round-the-clock medical team.

Owner Lee Manuel says thanks to OSU, Tavarish is thriving.
Studying a Worldwide Health Issue

Tom Oomens, Ph.D., assistant professor, veterinary pathobiology, studies human respiratory syncytial virus (HRSV). He is the principle investigator on a grant sponsored by the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST).

“HRSV infects virtually every person on the planet and presents a serious, worldwide disease burden,” Oomens says. “There is no vaccine, and available therapies are not adequate. In order to improve antiviral therapies, a better understanding is needed of the virus life cycle.”

HRSV infects humans of all ages, but its main impact is on infants and the elderly. It is the single largest viral cause of pediatric bronchiolitis and pneumonia in the world and leads to an estimated 125,000 infant hospitalizations per year in the U.S. alone.

There are related animal counterparts, the best known of which is Bovine RSV that causes similar symptoms in cattle. For now, Oomens is concentrating on the human virus with plans to expand later to the animal side.

“A highly contagious virus, HRSV infection does not confer protection,” he says. “Unlike measles where you get it once or are vaccinated and you’re good for life, re-infections of HRSV occur throughout your life. While this often results in only cold-like symptoms in adults, the virus poses a threat to the elderly, especially in care facilities. In addition, HRSV can cause asthma-like recurrent wheezing later in life.”

Research indicates that a live attenuated (weakened) virus will give a more effective immune response than inactivating a virus and using it as a vaccine. However, there are problems in making a live vaccine because it is difficult to produce high amounts (titer) of this virus and, once made, the virus is highly unstable.

“The goal is to have a high titer vaccine. However, the unstable nature of the virus makes it difficult to store and transport the vaccine stocks,” Oomens says. “Even if you are successful in producing the virus, it must be stored at -80° Celsius or below to maintain infectivity. In developing countries, there is often no access to regular freezers let alone ultra-low ones.”

Oomens’ project aims to overcome the obstacles by gaining a better understanding of the virus life cycle.

“We look at the molecular mechanisms that appear to be at the source of the vaccine-related difficulties — in this case the processes of virus assembly and virus exit from the host cell — and examine the roles of specific viral proteins therein,” he says.

“If we can better understand these processes and the mechanisms involved, we will have a much better chance at discovering what it takes to interrupt virus spread and contribute to lowering the impact of HRSV-related disease, which is the ultimate goal.”

Three people work on the project with Oomens: Pradyumna Baviskar, Ph.D. graduate student; Ruchira Mitra, Ph.D., post-doctoral fellow; and Darshna Patel, research specialist. OCAST funding provides $100,000 a year for three years.

“We started this project about one year ago and have spent most of that time building our experimental system. This year we begin to apply our system and should see some new developments,” Oomens says.

A number of scientists around the world are working on HRSV. Many of them are immunologists working with a mouse model to determine why HRSV infection does not result in an immune response sufficient to prevent later re-infections.

“We’re looking at the molecular biology of the virus in cell cultures. We’re looking at individual proteins and at how the virus replicates. We’re asking some fundamental questions about the assembly — how the virus puts itself together in a cell and spreads to infect neighboring cells,” he says.

“If we can better understand these processes and the mechanisms involved, we will have a much better chance at discovering what it takes to interrupt virus spread and contribute to lowering the impact of HRSV-related disease, which is the ultimate goal.”

DERINDA LOWE

Center for Veterinary Health Sciences
Tom Oomens, Ph.D. and assistant professor of veterinary pathobiology, studies human respiratory syncytial virus (HRSV) with the ultimate goal of interrupting virus spread and lowering the impact of HRSV-related disease.

"WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOK-OUT TO SEE IF WE CAN MAKE VACCINES IN A NEW WAY."
Hope for Cats with Diabetes Mellitus?

Jill Brunker, DVM in the veterinary clinical sciences department, is conducting a clinical trial on the effectiveness of exenatide in treating cats with diabetes mellitus. Exenatide is used to treat people with type 2 diabetes. It stimulates the pancreas to increase insulin production.

Diabetes mellitus is common in cats, and the feline disease shares several common features of human type 2 diabetes. The number of cats diagnosed with diabetes mellitus has increased in the last 15 years from 1 in 400 to about 1 in 50 cats, but to Brunker’s knowledge, there have been no studies published thus far using exenatide in cats.

Since the drug helps people with type 2 diabetes, she thinks it may be useful in diabetic cats as well.

Assisting Brunker with the study are Lisa Gallery, registered veterinary technician; Dianne McFarlane, DVM, Ph.D. and assistant professor of physiological sciences; Lara Maxwell, DVM, Ph.D. and associate professor in the physiological sciences department; and Teresa Seyfert, DVM and resident in small animal internal medicine.

The American Association of Feline Practitioners is funding the clinical trial. Thus far, the owners of seven diabetic cats have agreed to participate in the clinical trial.

“In a clinical trial, one-half of the animals receive exenatide and the other half a negative control,” says Brunker, who is a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

“I don’t know which cats are getting exenatide and which ones the control. We evaluate the cats every two weeks for three months. At the end of the three-month trial period, we will find out which cats received the drug.

“If the drug works, we will be able to lower the cat’s insulin requirement. The ultimate goal is to eliminate the cat’s requirement for insulin injections,” she says.

The drug should make the cat produce more of its own insulin. It also makes the cat feel fuller so that it eats less. Weight control is an important aspect of treating diabetes in cats.

“Diabetes affects middle age to older cats, so it’s important for the cat’s overall health to keep its weight down,” Bunker says, “just as it is unhealthy for people to be overweight, the same holds true for animals.”

Another benefit of the drug is that it will not cause the cat’s glucose level to drop below normal concentrations.

“This is a potentially attractive and safe therapeutic option for cats with diabetes, since insulin injections commonly create hypoglycemic episodes,” she says.

“The results of this study have the potential to help a multitude of diabetic cats. If exenatide therapy can improve glucose control, fewer cats with naturally-occurring diabetes would be euthanized due to treatment failure with insulin and diet.”

DERINDA LOWE

THE RESULTS OF THIS STUDY HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO HELP A MULTITUDE OF DIABETIC CATS.”
Center Gets New Alpaca Chute

Thanks to the generosity of the Oklahoma Alpaca Association, the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences received a new alpaca chute in July for use in the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital’s Food Animal section.

The association is donating the chute in recognition of the superb care provided by the clinicians, technicians and students for their members’ alpacas. The addition of this equipment will enhance the patient care our clinicians provide to alpacas and llamas.
Turning the Corner

Four years ago the Center for Veterinary Health sciences established a new tradition called the “transition ceremony.” The occasion 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 125 parents, friends, faculty and staff attended the transition ceremony for the class of 2010.
Going Green

In 2008, the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences completed upgrades to five buildings in anticipation of realizing approximately $9 million in energy savings over the course of a 20-year performance contract with Johnson Controls Inc.

At the end of the first year, the veterinary center saved $400,000 it would have previously spent on utility costs.

The veterinary center upgraded lighting systems and mechanical, plumbing and electrical technologies.

“We’ve replaced building windows, installed motion detectors and updated air handling units,” says Jim Hargrave, facilities manager for the center. “Even with the added expenditures of purchasing new equipment, we were still able to avoid spending 26 percent of what we would have spent had we done nothing.”

At the same time, the veterinary center is lessening its carbon footprint by reducing the amount of fossil fuels needed to produce electricity. In less than two years, the amount of energy saved by the project is equivalent to what 175 single-family homes would consume. The amount of water conserved could fill 18 Olympic size swimming pools.

“The veterinary center has a commitment to sustainability that is grounded in our basic purpose to leave the world a better place,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean. “Our performance contract with Johnson Controls has helped us take a fiscally-responsible step in that direction. The project is a win-win for OSU and Oklahoma taxpayers.”

Under the terms of the contract, the expected savings over 20 years will outstrip the initial capital expenditure to implement the facility upgrades. If the savings do not meet an agreed-upon threshold, Johnson Controls will compensate OSU for any shortfall.

Since the project began, the total cost avoidance as of March 2009 is $694,857. For more information on how the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences is doing on “going green,” visit http://www.cvhs.okstate.edu and click on the sustainability symbol in the lower right corner.

OSU was well represented at the 2008 American College of Veterinary Pathologists meeting held in San Antonio, Texas. Attending were, left to right, Drs. Charles Qualls, class of 1973; Ron Tyler, Jr., class of 2004; and from the class of 1977, Rob Moeller, Carney Jackson, Dale Thurman and Ron Tyler, Sr.

Three of the four classmates, Jackson, Moeller and Thurman, all completed pathology residency training at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology while they were stationed at Ft. Detrick U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Frederick, Md.

Jackson is an associate professor and pathologist at the University of Kentucky Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center. Moeller is a pathologist in the California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System at Tulare, Calif.

Qualls is at Amgen, Inc., in Thousand Oaks, Calif., and Thurman is a pathologist with AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP in Wilmington, Del. The younger Tyler is a third-year pathology resident at Virginia-Maryland Regional College while his father is retired and living in Harlingen, Texas.

All but Ron junior studied under Dr. Roger Panciera during his 44-year-tenure at OSU.
How Does Manganese Affect Your Brain?

2008 Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology

Michael Aschner, Ph.D., presented “Manganese Neurotoxicity: From Worms to Neonates,” at the 2008 Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology.

Aschner is the Gray E.B. Stahlman Chair in Neuroscience and Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

“Aschner is a widely recognized expert in neurobiology with a wide range of research interests,” says Dr. Carey Pope, Regents Professor, head of the physiological sciences department and Sitlington Chair in Toxicology. “He incorporates in vitro, rodent, primate and worm (C. elegans) models in his work to understand mechanisms of environmental toxicant-induced disease.”

According to Aschner, manganese is required for many processes within the body such as the metabolism of proteins and fats, regulating blood sugar levels and supporting blood clotting. Some people, such as welders, have particularly high exposures to manganese.

However, through his research, Aschner has learned that high levels of manganese can destroy dopamine-containing neurons that alter nervous system function. The changes that can occur include loss of olfactory senses and decreased motor function similar to the changes seen in Parkinson’s disease.

Pope organizes the annual lecture bringing in distinguished scientists from across the country. Aschner’s expertise in the toxicity of heavy metals is important in this era of food chain contamination and concern about various preservatives and drugs.

Class of 1963 Distinguished Lectureship

Dr. Larry Barrett (’81) is the director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Plum Island Animal Disease Center. He presented the keynote address at the 2008 OSU Fall Veterinary Conference sponsored by the Class of 1963 Distinguished Lectureship.

His presentation, “Plum Island Animal Disease Center: Protecting the Nation’s Livestock,” focused on the important work that takes place at Plum Island center, including supporting the USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and the Agriculture Research Services located there.

In addition, under his stewardship, DHS is working in partnership with USDA and industry in developing vaccines for high threat foreign animal diseases for prevention and control should an outbreak occur. Barrett also shared news of a new foot and mouth disease vaccine under development that provides many improvements over the current killed vaccines.

“Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is the most contagious disease known,” Barrett says. “There is nothing like it in human medicine. If it ever were to enter the United States, it could spread rapidly and cause billions of dollars in damage to the cattle industry, affecting cattle owners and feed and equipment suppliers, not to mention incurring a major reduction of a vital food source.

“It could also adversely impact our swine and sheep industries, as well. We’re excited to be working on this new FMD vaccine that can be manufactured in the U.S.”

Barrett is also a retired colonel with the U.S. Air Force Reserves and a member of the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine staff with a specialty in zoonoses and foreign animal diseases.

Dr. Larry Barrett, class of 1981 and the director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Plum Island Animal Disease Center, gave the keynote address at the 2008 Fall Veterinary Conference.
Congratulations, Faculty

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ reputation for outstanding service, education and research comes through a faculty of dedicated, skilled professionals. In recognition of their contributions, the center awarded promotions to several accomplished faculty members during the past year.

- **Dr. Jim Lish** promoted to associate professor with tenure in the physiological sciences department
- **Dr. Susan Little** reappointed to the Krull-Ewing Endowed Chair in Veterinary Parasitology in the veterinary pathobiology department
- **Dr. Lin Liu**, who holds the Lundberg-Kienlen Professorship in Biomedical Research, promoted to Regents Professor in the physiological sciences department
- **Dr. Lara Maxwell** promoted to associate professor with tenure in the physiological sciences department
- **Dr. Jerry Ritchey**, class of 1991, promoted to professor in the veterinary pathobiology department
- **Dr. Theresa Rizzi**, class of 1998, promoted to clinical assistant professor in the veterinary pathobiology department
- **Dr. Carey Pope**, physiological sciences department head and Regents Professor, reappointed to the Sitlington Chair in Toxicology
Dr. Reed Holyoak, who holds the Bullock Professorship in Equine Theriogenology, promoted to professor in veterinary clinical sciences

Dr. Cathy Lamm promoted to assistant professor in the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Pam Lloyd reappointed to assistant professor in the physiological sciences department

Dr. Mark Rochat promoted to Cohn Family Endowed Chair for Small Animals

Dr. Mason Reichard reappointed to assistant professor in the veterinary pathobiology department

Dr. Todd Holbrook promoted to equine section chief in the veterinary clinical sciences department

Dr. Jean d’Offay promoted to professor in the veterinary pathobiology department

Dr. Mary Bowles promoted to associate professor and small-animal section chief in the veterinary clinical sciences department

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Round ’em Up

To complete a yearlong celebration of our 60th anniversary, the veterinary center hosted an “OSU Cowboy Roundup” at the Payne County Expo during our Fall Veterinary Conference.

More than 550 people attended — conference attendees and speakers, alumni, faculty, students, staff, legislators and special guests.

Dr. Scott Sturgeon, class of 2004, catered a mouthwatering barbeque with entertainment provided by AC/VP and the Pneumo-Sistas and Native Blue Stem.

Students hosted auctions to raise money for scholarship funds. Omega Tau Sigma, veterinary students’ professional fraternity, held a silent dessert auction raising $660. OSU’s Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA) held silent and live auctions raising $8,500.

Thanks to our generous auction participants, 18 students each received a $500 SCAVMA Services Scholarship at this year’s awards banquet.

Alumni gathered to celebrate special year reunions: class of 1953, 55 years; class of 1968, 40 years; class of 1983, 25 years; and the class of 1988, 20 years.

“The OSU Cowboy Roundup gave us a great opportunity to bring everyone together to celebrate the successes of our veterinary center,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean and professor.

“We’re going to make this an annual event and encourage more of our alumni to return to Stillwater each year at this time.”

Class of 1953

Eight of the 16 living members from the class of 1953 celebrated their 55-year reunion at the Cowboy Roundup. They are, front row, left to right, J. Mack Oyler, Roger Panciera, John Gambardella, Samuel Morrison and, back row, left to right, Kenneth Huffman, Robert Williams, John Walker and Thomas Byrd.
Class of 1968

Nineteen members from the class of 1968 celebrated their 40-year reunion in Stillwater. They are, seated from left, Richard Killough, Gerald O’Mealey, H. Ellen Whiteley, Kenneth Isom, Adrienne Ruby, Arch Sheets; middle row from left, Willard Sodowsky, John Hamil, William Foster, Keith Hand, Roger McMillan, Earl Gene Frie; and back row from left, Clay Freeny, Danny Denham, Henry Randazzo, George Mike Thomas, John Howarth, Michael McCreight and Daniel Leon Merkey.
Class of 1988

While they were few, eight members of the class of 1988 gathered at the Cowboy Roundup to mark their 20th reunion since graduating from OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine. Those who attended are, seated from left, Katrina Meinkoth, Stephen Iulo, Angela Rose, Kay Keck-Bruno and, back row from left, George Renison, David Harrison, Martin Neher and James Kunkel.

Class of 1983

Eleven members from the class of 1983 gathered in Stillwater to celebrate their 25th reunion. Those who attended are, seated from left, Deborah Fimple, Jean Graff, Beverly Osteen and Kenneth Kirlin; and back row from left, Kenneth Waldrup, Jeffrey Sample, Stephen Richard Hopkins, Mike Lynn Richey, Michael Sealock, Stanley Elvin Smith and Terry Turner.
Those who attended the class of 1959’s 50-year reunion are, pictured from left, Dr. Robert Gengler, Mel Pearson, Robert Whitney, Jerry Woodall and Byron Behring. Not pictured is Dr. Boyd Mills.

Class of 1959, 50th Year Reunion

In 1959, 38 graduated from the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Today, 28 remain scattered across the United States, including one living in Hawaii. In conjunction with the 2009 hooding ceremony in May, six returned to Stillwater to celebrate their 50th year reunion.

Their careers vary and span from fully retired to still working part-time in a veterinary practice.

Dr. Byron Behring began his career by getting married immediately following his State Board Examination. After developing an allergy to alcohol disinfectants, he went to work as a field veterinarian for the U. S. Department of Agriculture APHIS Veterinary Services.

Dr. Robert Gengler will remember graduation as the day his wife began labor during the ceremony, giving birth the next day to their youngest son. They live in Enid, Okla., where he had a mixed-animal practice.

Following graduation Dr. Harold Kimble moved to Minnesota, where he resides today, to open a mixed-animal practice that was mostly dairy in the early years.

Dr. Jack Miller practiced in Arizona for years and enjoys fly and salt water fishing and traveling to the Bahamas, Belize, the Yucatan and Baja peninsulas of Mexico, Laguna Madre of Texas, the Florida Keys and southern California.

Dr. Clay Posey started a general practice in Arizona and worked nights as a greyhound track veterinarian. As his equine practice grew, he designed and built an equine hospital, which is still going strong today.

Dr. Alfred Renfroe worked as a mixed-animal veterinarian and then for the USDA Poultry Division in Arkansas.

Dr. Randell Wells was a U.S. Army reservist while at OSU and reported to active duty in the Veterinary Corps after graduation. He served 40 years as an active Army reservist and established a mixed-animal veterinary practice in Durant, Okla.

After graduation, Dr. Robert Whitney served as a first lieutenant in the Army Veterinary Corps and remained in uniform for the next 34 years — 12 in the Army followed by 22 in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service.

In 1992, Whitney became the Deputy Surgeon General of the U.S., and in 1993 he served as Acting Surgeon General of the U.S. — the only veterinarian to hold this position. In 1994, he received AVMA’s most prestigious award — the AVMA Animal Welfare Award for his dedication to the welfare and care of animals.

Dr. Jerry Woodall started his veterinary career in South Dakota, but a few months later, he was drafted and stationed at West Point, N.Y. Upon his discharge, he worked at a small-animal practice in New Jersey and then entered a meat inspection position in Kansas. He later traveled to parts of Oklahoma, Missouri and finally Texas, where he resides today.

Dr. Mel Pearson started in a mixed-veterinary practice in Shawnee then moved to Tulsa, Okla. He built a small-animal clinic and treated some equine cases.

Dr. Dr. Mel Pearson
Dr. Robert Whitney served as a first lieutenant in the Army Veterinary Corps and remained in uniform for the next 34 years — 12 in the Army followed by 22 in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service.

In 1992, Whitney became the Deputy Surgeon General of the U.S., and in 1993 he served as Acting Surgeon General of the U.S. — the only veterinarian to hold this position. In 1994, he received AVMA’s most prestigious award — the AVMA Animal Welfare Award for his dedication to the welfare and care of animals.

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Dr. Boyd Mills works part-time at his son’s veterinary practice in Durant, Okla. His son, Dr. Boyd D. Mills, graduated with his DVM from OSU in 1986.
What’s Brewing in Your Life?

Keep your college and fellow alumni informed about the important 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

For the center’s latest news, go to http://www.cvm.okstate.edu

Ties That Bind

If you spent four years of veterinary school, not to mention the prior four years, at Oklahoma State University, you already have strong ties to OSU — ties that bind you with others within the state, nation and the world.

Acknowledge your connection, and stay connected through membership in the OSU Alumni Association. The benefits are many, including its most prestigious, the awards program that recognizes OSU veterinarians who have made great contributions to the veterinary medicine profession.

Being a member of the OSU Alumni Association is not required to be eligible to receive the Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Awards, but membership makes it easier to trace the ties to find you.

Join the OSU Alumni Association today. For more information, visit https://www.orangeconnection.org or call the OSU Alumni Association at 1-800-433-4678 or (405) 744-5368.

Welcome to the 2009 Dean’s Club

Dr. Lloyd D. and Mrs. Alta Barker
Dr. John J. Black
Dr. William J. Carson, Jr.
Dr. James D. Conklin
Mr. Ray Corbitt
Dr. Jeffrey F. Ellis
Dr. Beverly Fritzler
Mr. David McMahon
Dr. Ronald T. Molitor
Dr. Thomas M. Mowdy
Drs. Nicholas & Dianne M. Nail
Mr. Lynn R. and Mrs. Ava Osborn
Ms. Barbara K. Pass
Drs. Carey and Jing Pope
Dr. Anthony C. Thomas
Dr. Steven L. Vonderfecht
Dr. John A. and Mrs. Wynn Walker
Drs. Susan E. Little and Rodney Will

Donations of at least $1,000 to the advancement fund qualify for membership in the Dean’s Club. Funds support activities of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences Alumni Association, alumni receptions, faculty recruitment and other special projects. For membership information, contact the center’s development office at (405) 744-6728.
We honor those who have served the profession, our distinguished colleagues and friends.


Breshears, 74, lived in his hometown of Pine Bluff, Ark., where he graduated from Pine Bluff High School in 1953. He earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from the University of Arkansas in 1957 before earning his DVM degree from OSU.

Following graduation from OSU, he began his practice with Dr. Sam Cheesman, class of 1958, at Oak Park Animal Hospital. Their partnership, spanning 48 years, was the oldest veterinary partnership in Arkansas.

In addition to veterinary medicine, Breshears and lifelong friend, Dr. Harry Ryburn, were co-owners of the Little Try and Find It Hunting Club. Breshears spent countless hours hunting, fishing, farming and maintaining the club.

In later years, he wrote various articles for professional and wildlife magazines. In 2003, Veterinary Forum magazine featured him on the cover. In 2004, Arkansas Wildlife published an article about his experiences gar fishing in the 1950s.

Breshears also enjoyed horse racing. In 1969, he partnered with a good friend to buy his first race horse and went on to buy numerous race horses from 1969 to 1995. Most notable were stakes winners Dr.’s Enjoy Dollars and Bold Kabota.

He was an Eagle Scout, a 48-year member of the First Presbyterian Church, and member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Dr. Danny Cary, class of 1986, of Bixby, Okla., died at age 50 on July 13, 2009.

Born in Tulsa, Okla., he was a 1977 graduate of Jenks High School before earning his DVM degree from OSU.

He owned Cary Animal Hospital in Glenpool, Okla. His clients speak highly of him noting his caring nature, his willingness to work after hours to help a pet, his honesty and his friendship among Cary’s many attributes.

Cary served on the Glenpool Chamber of Commerce and was an active member of the Quality Deer Management Association. He started a local branch called the QDMA of Green Country.

Dr. Ralph Eugene Doutey, class of 1960, died Aug. 31, 2008, at his home in Yukon, Okla.

A native of Yale, Okla., he earned a bachelor’s degree in animal science from OSU and received a commission in the U.S. Army. After his release from the Army, he returned to OSU and earned his DVM degree.

Doutey, 77, owned and operated the Alfalfa Veterinary Clinic in Cherokee, Okla., for 30 years. He was involved in many school activities while raising his three children.

In 1998, he moved to Yukon where he was a member of the St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church. He was also a lifetime member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Bob Clements, class of 1972, of Ocala, Fla., died peacefully surrounded by his family on July 23, 2009.

Born in Arkansas, Clements, 70, practiced veterinary medicine for more than 40 years and was an avid horseman.

The community knew him fondly as “Doc.”

He was a member of Living Hope Community Church. Clements was buried in a family plot in Ravenden, Ark.

Dr. Brian Espe, class of 1961, of Belle Vista, Ark., died on July 23, 2008, at his home.

The Chicago, Ill., native earned his DVM degree from OSU and a master’s degree in microbiology from the University of Wisconsin in 1967.

He served as the veterinarian for Blue Ribbons Downs, Sallisaw, Okla., for seven years. He was a scoutmaster for 15 years with the Boy Scouts of America and a member of several veterinary organizations and the Oklahoma Western History Club.

At the time of his retirement, Espe was the federal veterinarian in charge for the state of Oklahoma and an adjunct professor at OSU.

In 2004, he moved to Bella Vista from Oklahoma City. Espe, 71, was a member of the Bella Vista Community Church and served on the Bella Vista Animal Shelter Board of Directors.


He grew up in Cushing, Okla., and graduated from Cushing High School. He earned a bachelor’s degree in animal science as well as a DVM degree from OSU. He was appointed the first president of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association.

Fisher practiced one year in a mixed-animal practice in Claremore, Okla., and one year at the Blue Cross Small-Animal Hospital in Tulsa, Okla., before moving to Winfield, Kan., where he became a partner in a mixed-animal practice that was 85 percent large animal cases.

CONTINUES
He spent the next 42 years providing animal healthcare to the Winfield community and was still practicing veterinary medicine at the time of his death. A large, angry bull attacked Fisher who was transported by helicopter to St. Francis Hospital in Wichita, Kan., where he underwent surgery. While waiting in the intensive care unit for additional surgery, he suffered multiple strokes leading to his death.

During his lifetime, Fisher was heavily involved in veterinary professional organizations and community activities. He had 39 years of perfect attendance with the Rotary Club. He was also an active member of the First United Methodist Church and an avid fan of OSU sports and activities.

Friends sharing in the family sorrow commented, “He exemplified the rural veterinarian.”

“The world was just a better place because Dr. Fisher was in it.”

Dr. Dan Goodwin, class of 1955, died on April 26, 2009, in his Stillwater home after a long illness.

Goodwin, 81, was born in Durham, Okla. He joined the U.S. Navy on his 18th birthday. After an honorable discharge, he attended Panhandle State University earning a bachelor’s degree within three years and then entered Oklahoma A&M College’s veterinary program.

Following graduation, Dr. Goodwin practiced in Chelsea, Okla. He then went to work as ranch veterinarian for Sen. Robert Kerr and then Gov. Rockefeller improving their beef cattle herds in both cases.

In 1968, Goodwin returned to OSU where he earned his doctorate in animal reproductive physiology in 1972. He was then appointed to serve as first director of the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, which included planning the building and equipping it.

Goodwin retired from this position in 1991 and spent considerable time giving back to the Stillwater community volunteering.

Dr. June Iben, class of 1955, died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008, at her home in Smock, Pa., after a brief illness.

Iben, 81, was born in Monaca, Pa., and graduated from Monaca High School. She earned a bachelor’s in biology from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa., and a master’s degree in bacteriology from the University of Kentucky.

She was the first female to graduate from Oklahoma A&M College’s School of Veterinary Medicine. During her 50th class reunion in 2005, June expressed her gratitude for OSU. “Few other veterinary schools were accepting women, but Dean McElroy accepted me and welcomed me, and the older students who were World War II vets took me under their wing.”

From 1955-57, Iben was a member of the teaching and research staff at the Department of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State School in Pullman, Wash. She worked for Dr. John Shrader in Irwin, Pa., from 1958-1963 before building and establishing her private veterinary practice — Mosside Animal Clinic — in Monroeville, Pa.

Known for her love of large cats, Iben hand-raised two lions, four bobcats, a margay, a cougar, many large breed dogs and one domestic cat named “CC” for common cat. She traveled to Africa in 1971 to study with George and Joy Adamson (of Born Free fame).

He earned his DVM degree in 1945 and was employed as a state veterinarian for North Dakota.

He held a similar position with the state of Oklahoma, and in 1947-48, he was a member of a veterinary practice in Odessa, Mo.

On Sept. 1, 1948, he joined the faculty of the newly founded School of Veterinary Medicine at Oklahoma A&M College where he spent the next 38 years molding generations of veterinarians. Friend is beloved by OSU veterinarians for his gentle nature and dedication to student teaching and learning.

During his professional career, Friend belonged to many honorary and professional organizations on a local, state, national and international level. He was twice the recipient of the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award. When he retired, former students established the Jonathan D. Friend Library Endowment, and in 2000, a residential hall on campus became Friend Hall in honor of Jonathan and Dorothy Friend.

(Sources: The Winfield Daily Courier and the CaringBridge website)
She was included in the first edition of Who’s Who in American Women in 1958–59, and in 1976, Calhoun and Houpt cited her in their History of Women in Veterinary Medicine.

She received many honors including the Public Service Award of Merit from the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association in 1999 for her work rescuing large exotic cats. Monaca’s Community Hall of Fame inducted Iben in 2005.

Iben closed her private practice in 1998 at age 71 and took a part-time position with Dr. William Sheperd, owner of Camelot Veterinary Clinic in Uniontown, Pa. She lived on the premises of Sheperd’s Western Pennsylvania National Wild Animal Orphanage in Smock to help care for rescued lions, tigers, cougars and other exotic cats.

She said she loved “going to sleep at night listening to the purring of a cougar and the roar of lions” just outside her windows.

Iben was a member of the Pleasant View Presbyterian Church in Smock where she played saxophone and clarinet in the church band and bells in the church bell choir.

Contributions in her memory can be made to the OSU Foundation (place “CVHS — Dr. June D. Iben Scholarship” on the memo line) c/o Mr. Jeff Cathey, Sr. Director of Development, Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, 308 McElroy Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078-2011. The scholarship will be used to help a veterinary student interested in zoo, exotics and wildlife medicine.


Born in Jennings, Okla., he served in the U.S. Army during WW II as part of the medical branch stationed in India.

Lauener, 86, was a lifetime member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association.

(Source: NewsPress)


Born in Oklahoma, McCallon, 79, grew up on a ranch. He worked for the Department of Agriculture’s Animal Health Division, first in the field and then as chief staff officer for cattle diseases in Washington, D.C. He earned a master’s of economics from the University of Maryland and did advanced studies in epidemiology at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Md.

During his career, McCallon revamped the now successful Brucellosis eradication program in the U.S. Brucellosis was causing abortions in cattle and fever in humans, placing an economic burden on the cattle industry. He also helped develop the rapid card test for anaplasmosis, which is used today. McCallon worked for the U.N. from 1978 until 1985 doing economic analysis for cooperative animal health projects around the world.

In 1986, after making a trans-Atlantic crossing, he sailed his boat into St. Augustine, fell in love with the town and stayed.

In addition to loving animals and sailing, McCallon was an avid bridge player, considered by many to be an expert in duplicate bridge. During his lifetime, he earned nearly 12,000 master points and became a Platinum Life Master in 2005.

(Source: The St. Augustine Record)


Porter, 87, was born in Tully, N.Y. His family moved to Long Beach, Calif., when he was 7 years old. During World War II, he served in both the U.S. Army, 1941-1944, and the U.S. Army Air Corps, 1944-1946.

Following graduation, Porter returned to California where he spent his career as a large-animal veterinarian for Los Angeles County. He also earned a master’s degree in public health with an emphasis in epidemiology.

He was an active member of the Palmdale United Methodist Church for 50 years and was associated with Friends of the Palmdale Public Library, the Red Cross, Sheriffs Boosters, Kiwanis and the Antelope Valley Board of Trade.

Porter was an amateur inventor, holding several patents, and had a lifelong interest in aviation. He greatly enjoyed reading the books of Louis L. Amour about life on the American frontier.

(Source: Palmdale United Methodist Church)

**Dr. William “Bill” Taylor, class of 1959**, died peacefully at home in Ames, Iowa, on May 26, 2009.

Taylor, 73, was born in Woodford, Okla. He spent his entire professional career working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 2004, he retired with 43 years of service, most recently at the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories where he was an animal pathologist.

He was an auto-racing fan and enjoyed reading about sports cars. In his youth, he did freelance photography of rodeos and bull riding. He loved listening to music and dancing and often attended shows at People’s, Papa’s Corner and several places in Des Moines, Iowa, and Iowa City, Iowa.

(Source: The Tribune – Ames Tribune)
Meet Wallace, a six-week-old Golden Retriever, owned by Joseph McCann, Ph.D. and associate professor in the center’s physiological sciences department. McCann and his wife Dr. Maria DiGregorio, class of 1992, own Baker Animal Clinic, Stillwater, Cleveland Veterinary Clinic, Cleveland, Okla., and RockErin Kennels LLC, east of Stillwater, where Wallace was born. The couple has been breeding and training field-bred Golden Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers for 24 years. Their Golden Retrievers are standouts due to their field ability as hunting dogs and field-trial competition dogs, suitability as family companion animals, red-to-dark color and their health and longevity.
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

Congratulations, Class of 2009

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ class of 2009 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 2013

Eighty-two students comprise the class of 2013 — 20 males and 62 females. The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences selected 58 Oklahoma residents and 24 nonresidents from an applicant pool of 452 students. The core and cumulative grade point averages for these students are 3.5 and 3.6 respectively. Their average GRE scores are 477 verbal, 628 quantitative and 560 biology.
Veterinary Education.
Veterinary Care
Oklahomans Trust