Greetings from the Dean

Welcome to our award-winning publication, Vet Cetera.
The well-attended 2010 hooding ceremony included 22 members of
the class of 1960 who returned to campus for their 50th anniversary
reunion. We graduated 75 new Cowboy veterinarians. They are
an impressive group performing with a 100 percent pass rate on
national board examinations and headed to jobs all over the world.

Unprecedented cuts in Oklahoma higher education reduced FY 2010 state
appropriations $834,032. The FY 2011 was reduced $674,376 and increases in
health insurance and other areas will add $348,159 to our budget, causing a
gap of $1,022,735.

We have few alternatives to fund the gap other than not filling open
faculty and staff positions, increasing enrollment in years two and three
and increasing tuition along with strategic one-time expenditures from
college reserves. With the anticipated additional state budget reductions, the
FY 2012 outlook is not good. Currently state appropriations comprise 30 to 32
percent of the veterinary center budget.

The university has entered a $1 billion capital campaign called Branding Success. Our goal is
$30 million ($7 million for student scholarships and fellowships, $5
million for chairs and professorships, $10 million for facilities and $8 million
for program support).

To date we have raised $14,958,629 or nearly 50 percent of our goal. A
$100 million deferred gift from Boone Pickens will match two dollars for every
dollar donated and 1.5 dollars for every dollar pledged in excess of $50,000 in
endowed scholarships. Funds must be
given or pledged by Feb. 26, 2011 to be
eligible for the match. Matching funds
are based on a first-come, first-matched
basis. About 70 percent of the Pickens Legacy Match funds have been matched
to date.

Leadership of our veterinary alumni
association has established a goal
for a $1 million scholarship endowment
called The Alumni and Friends
Endowed Scholarship Fund — “The
1,000 Giving a $1,000 Campaign.” The
goal is for 1,000 alumni or their friends
to give or pledge $1,000 to the fund.
These funds, equaling or exceeding
$50,000, qualify for the Pickens Legacy Match if received prior to Feb. 26, 2011.

Following a site visit by the Council
on Education of the American Veteri-
nary Medical Association in March, our
program received full accreditation for
up to seven years.

We have received notice that the
Association for Assessment and Accredi-
tation of Laboratory Animal Care
approved our application for certifica-
tion. Following a site visit this summer,
we received full accreditation.

Increasingly, economic conditions
will force veterinary colleges to operate
more and more like private institutions.
There will be more reliance on self-generated revenues, private giving
and novel educational approaches to
improve student hands-on training.

We have an excellent program to
assure that our students receive the
knowledge and technical skills to be
outstanding primary care veterinarians.
While our hospital still needs to develop
areas of specialization, we have been
very careful to emphasize primary care
across all animal species.

Our shelter medicine program is a
tremendous asset in developing student
surgical skills and exposing students to
common dog and cat diseases. This year,
students will perform more than 4,000
surgical procedures and numerous
other clinical procedures.

I have announced my desire to enter
a program of phased retirement as soon
as the center can appoint a new dean.
I have enjoyed being dean of veteri-
nary medicine, and I have especially
appreciated the support of faculty, staff,
students, alumni, practitioners and
friends of the veterinary college. I plan
to finish my career working in our
hospital as I continue to be a strong
cheerleader for our college and veteri-
nary medicine in general.

Go Pokes

MICHAEL D. LORENZ, DVM, DIPLO. ACVIM
DEAN AND PROFESSOR
New Faces at the Center

Dr. Kimberly Carter is a lecturer in animal shelter medicine in the clinical sciences department. She earned her doctor of veterinary medicine degree from OSU in 1989.

Following graduation, she worked more than a year as a test barn veterinarian at Ross Meadows Downs, Ada, Okla. For the next six years, she worked as a relief veterinarian and, later, as the solo practitioner with VET-FARE, a mobile veterinary practice.

Before joining OSU this spring, Carter supervised the veterinary program for the Oklahoma City Animal Welfare Division.

Dr. Lara Sypniewski is a clinical assistant professor in the veterinary clinical sciences department. She works in the small animal community practice at the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Sypniewski earned her DVM degree from Purdue University and then completed a small animal rotating internship at Georgia Veterinary Specialist in Atlanta.

While working 12 years in private small animal practice, she became a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Canine and Feline Practice.

Prior to joining OSU, Sypniewski worked as a veterinary medical officer at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base near Tucson, Ariz.
Dr. Jared Taylor is an assistant professor of veterinary epidemiology and public health in the veterinary pathobiology department.

He earned his DVM degree from Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, a master of public health degree from the University of Iowa and a doctorate from OSU.

Taylor is also a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Large Animal and a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.

Licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Missouri and Oklahoma, he spent one and one-half years as an associate veterinarian in the Animal Clinic of Monett, Mo.

While earning his master’s, Taylor spent a year working for the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University.

He then completed a three-year residency in food animal medicine and surgery at OSU while lecturing in the veterinary pathobiology department and working on his Ph.D. in veterinary biomedical sciences.

Who Is A Distinguished Alum?

If you’ve ever wondered how someone receives a Distinguished Alumnus Award, you should know that the first thing it takes is to be nominated.

Any OSU College of Veterinary Medicine graduate can nominate a candidate for the Distinguished Alumnus Award. The CVM Alumni Association Officers and Executive Board then select the recipients.

To be considered for a Distinguished Alumnus Award, a veterinarian must be a graduate of the college and possess a 20-year or more career record. He or she must have contributed significant service to OSU, the CVM and its Alumni Association, society, the profession and the community.

The nomination must include a vita or background information and class year.

It’s an easy process, and we encourage you to recognize your colleagues’ accomplishments and commitment to veterinary medicine. Whether in academia, research or private practice, we are proud of our OSU Cowboy veterinarians and are ready to honor them publicly.

However, first you must nominate them.

Nominations for each year are due by June 1 of the current year. Nomination forms are available at www.CVHS.OKSTATE.EDU in the “Alumni” section.
Dr. Robert S. Hudson is an emeriti professor in large animal surgery and medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University. He earned his DVM degree from OSU in 1955, when he received the Dean Clarence H. McElroy Award, the highest honor a senior veterinary student can achieve.

He earned a master’s degree in reproduction from Auburn University in 1970 and became a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists in 1972.

Hudson worked as ranch veterinarian at Hull-Dobbs Ranch in Fort Worth, Texas, from 1955 to 1957 and served in the United States Air Force the following two years. The next year he worked as ranch veterinarian at the Turner Ranch in Sulphur, Okla.

He was in private veterinary practice in Duncan, Okla., for seven years before accepting a faculty position in large animal surgery and medicine at Auburn. During his tenure there, he served on no less than 29 graduate committees and received several teaching awards, including twice receiving the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award.

Hudson is a member of the American and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Associations, serving on the state association’s executive board, the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the Society for Theriogenology. He was also a charter member of the Society for Study of Reproduction.

His career includes innumerable publications and presentations as well as national and international recognition for his work, particularly his contributions in Theriogenology.

Dr. Anthony W. Confer is a Regents Professor in the veterinary pathobiology department and holds the Walter Sitlington Chair for Food Animal Research. Confer did prevet studies at Arkansas Tech and OSU and earned a DVM degree from OSU in 1972.

He earned a master’s degree in veterinary pathology from Ohio State University in 1974 and a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Missouri – Columbia in 1978. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Confer is recognized internationally for his research, especially his work focusing on bovine respiratory disease with emphasis on the bacterial pneumonias. He has a reputation for studies on the pathogenesis and immunity to Mannheimia haemolytica and Pasteurella multocida, both significant causes of shipping fever.

In his career, he has received millions of dollars in research funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, private foundations and commercial companies with veterinary biologies.

In addition to his research, Confer is an accomplished teacher receiving the Norden (now the Pfizer) Teacher of the Year Award in 1987 and in 2002. In 2003, he received the highest award an OSU faculty member can receive, the Eminent Faculty Award. From multiple nominations, OSU selects only one faculty member per year to receive the honor. In 2008, Confer received the Regents Distinguished Teaching Award.

His refereed scientific publications number more than 180, and he recently served as panel manager for the USDA Cooperative Research Education and Extension Service National Research Initiative grant program.

Confer is active in many professional organizations including the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Society of Microbiology and the Veterinary Comparative Respiratory Society.
Dr. James W. Carpenter is a clinical sciences professor at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Carpenter, known internationally as a clinical and research veterinarian in exotic animal, wildlife and zoo animal medicine, earned two degrees at OSU, a master’s in wildlife ecology in 1970 and a DVM in 1974.

He worked for 15 years with endangered species at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and then went on to develop an internationally recognized program in zoological medicine at KSU. He has trained 33 interns and residents and countless veterinary students in this specialty, many of whom have become leaders in the field.

Among many accomplishments, Carpenter has authored 350 scientific papers, book chapters, and proceedings articles and edited two books on exotic animal medicine. He is the former editor of the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine and the present editor-in-chief of the Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery.

The International Conference on Exotic Animals named Carpenter the Exotic DVM of the Year in 2000, and in 2001, KSU awarded him the Edwin J. Frick Professorship in Veterinary Medicine in recognition of his national and international reputation.

In 2004, he received the Emil Dolensek Award from the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians for exceptional contributions to the conservation, care and understanding of zoo and free-ranging wildlife.

Carpenter is the past president of both the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and the Association of Avian Veterinarians and is the current president of the American College of Zoological Medicine.

He is actively involved in many other professional organizations and activities designed to promote the care of zoo, exotic and wild animals — all a testament to his dedication to this growing specialty.

Dr. Gary L. White serves as director of comparative medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, principal investigator and program director of two National Institutes of Health research resource grants and director of the OU Fort Reno Research Park. He also holds the academic rank of professor in the department of pathology at the OU Health Sciences Center’s College of Medicine.

White earned his bachelor’s degree in 1966 and his DVM degree in 1968, both from OSU. Following a residency and post-doctoral fellowship in laboratory animal medicine and pathology at Tulane University School of Medicine in 1971 to 1973, White earned a master’s of medical science degree from Tulane in 1973.

He served both active and reserve duty in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps and retired as a colonel. In 1970, he received the Bronze Star Medal for his service during the Vietnam Conflict, the U.S. Army Commendation Medal in 2002 and the Legion of Merit in 2003. He received membership in the U.S. Army Order of Medical Military Merit in 2004.

He is active in professional organizations including the NIH Comparative Medicine Directors Group and the Association of Primate Veterinarians.

White is a strong proponent of collaborative research programs and presently collaborates with four faculty members at OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

He has served on 13 national review committees for the NIH and numerous academic affairs committees. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific papers and abstracts and has been the principal investigator of 14 NIH grant awards funded for more than $35.5 million.

In 2008, he received the senior vice president’s (provost) Senior Faculty Award for Research at the OU Health Sciences Center.

White has achieved success in many aspects of veterinary medicine — as a clinical veterinarian, as an academic faculty member and as a military officer.
Each year the veterinary center awards the Dean Clarence McElroy Award to a senior student selected by faculty and fourth-year students based on high academic achievement, leadership and outstanding clinical proficiency. The annual award is the highest honor a veterinary student can earn at OSU.

As Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean of the veterinary center, began to announce the 2010 McElroy Award winner, this year’s recipient, Troy Herthel of Los Olivos, Calif., was merely curious to see who would be top student.

“I wasn’t thinking that I’d be considered for this award. When I heard Dr. Lorenz say that the person played quarterback in high school, I knew the list narrowed immensely, but I was still very surprised to receive the McElroy Award,” he says.

“There are a lot of very deserving students in my class, so I feel all the more fortunate and honored to have been selected.”

Veterinary medicine has always been a part of Herthel’s life since he grew up helping his father, an equine veterinarian. Even as an elementary school student, Herthel knew he would pursue medicine, and in high school, he narrowed his pursuit to veterinary medicine.

His parents are the biggest influences in his life, Herthel says. “They taught me early on the importance of honesty, integrity and compassion, as well as having a strong work ethic and moral fiber. I was also fortunate to have been mentored by several equine veterinarians including Drs. Mark Rick, Ed Hamer, Greg Parks, and Carter Judy (all of Los Olivos) as well as Dr. Joe Carter of Washington, Okla.”

Herthel says his memories of his four years at OSU focus on the tremendous people he has met.

“Whether it was a practical joke being played on one of my classmates, an evening sitting around the barbecue with friends, or seeing patients recover against all odds and then go home to their owners, I have made many memories that I will always cherish.”

Herthel advises young people considering a career in veterinary medicine to “do whatever it takes to pursue your dream.”

Perseverance and determination will help overcome the roadblocks, he says, “I have had the great honor of working with a number of tremendous veterinarians, and for the most part, they all say veterinary medicine is not their job — it’s their passion.”

After graduation, Herthel started a yearlong internship at Weatherford Equine Medical Center in Weatherford, Texas, where he works with lameness, surgery, medicine and equine reproduction primarily on cutting horse bred quarter horses.

He plans to enter an equine surgical residency program after the internship. His ultimate goal is to become an equine surgeon and work with his father back home in California.
Kathy Phillips came to the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences in November 1981. During her 29 years, she has seen two reorganizations of the basic science departments, and she has served five department heads and witnessed four dean changes.

“Through all of those chaotic times, the departments’ staff worked together and made it happen,” she says.

It is that ability to get the job done that won Phillips the 2010 Stratton Staff Award. Named after Dr. Louie Stratton, the award recognizes outstanding staff members for their dedication, service and contributions.

Phillips is currently an administrative support specialist II in the physiological sciences department.

Her responsibilities include interaction with human resources, personnel paperwork, travel arrangements, meeting and event planning, budget preparation and tracking, and many more tasks too numerous to list.

Phillips has a reputation for meeting deadlines, conducting herself in a professional, congenial manner, giving the CVHS her best and for her dedication to the job.

“She’s the glue that holds our department together,” colleagues say. “She serves as a resource for faculty, postdoctoral candidates and graduate students. If you want to know information about how the department, college and university operate, Kathy is your person.”
In recognition of his high academic achievement during his first two years of veterinary college, Michael Rogers, class of 2011, received the Dean Harry Orr Award.

Rogers decided to pursue a career in veterinary medicine during his senior year of high school. “I based my decision on growing up feeding cattle with my grandpa and my experiences in the Madill, Okla., Future Farmers of America program,” says Rogers.

But that decision didn’t last long. While an OSU undergraduate, Rogers changed his major to agricultural education. And that decision didn’t stick either.

“In my junior year at OSU, I met my wife, Alisha,” says Rogers. “She rekindled my passion for veterinary medicine and helped give me the confidence to apply to veterinary school.”

After his first year in veterinary school, Rogers and his wife moved to the veterinary center’s ranch just west of Stillwater, where they take care of the ranch at night and on weekends and assist the veterinarians and ranch manager whenever needed.

“This experience has sparked a tremendous interest in equine theriogenology for me,” Rogers says. “I would like to pursue a career in therio with an emphasis on horses.”

Following graduation and an internship, he would like to return to OSU for training to become a board certified theriogenologist.

Since his wife is a member of OSU’s Vet Med class of 2014, returning to OSU would also allow the couple to be together after Rogers graduates.

After Alisha graduates, the veterinary duo will likely start their own private practice with an emphasis on Therio and ambulatory services.
The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences held a transition ceremony this spring for the class of 2011. The tradition, established five years ago, marks the beginning of clinical rotations and signifies an important step forward for third-year students.
Oklahoma’s Veterinarian of the Year
The Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association named **Dr. Larry Woods Oklahoma Veterinarian of the Year**. The Edmond veterinarian and class of 1977 graduate is the 21st OSU alumnus to receive the award since 1964.

Woods, along with partners Drs. Steve Quillin and Rosemarie Strong (class of 1989), operates the small-animal practice, Memorial Road Pet Hospital. He called the OVMA award one of the greatest achievements of his 33-year career that includes serving as the association’s treasurer from 1994 to 1998 and its president in 2002.

“That’s my colleagues saying they value who I am as a veterinarian,” Woods says. “I have a huge amount of accountability to make sure I represent the profession properly. There’s a certain amount of responsibility you accept when you are given this honor.”

Woods grew up in the small panhandle town of Woodward, Okla., where his dad was a superintendent for an oil-drilling contractor while many of his relatives farmed outside of Wayne, a small town near Oklahoma City. After his dad received a promotion, the family moved there during his senior year to farm. That experience gave him an early interest in agriculture and ranching, which led to his love of veterinary medicine. It’s also where he met his wife, Marcia Kelly.

In 1969, the two married and went to Murray State College in Tishomingo, and he transferred to OSU where, after one year, he was accepted into the College of Veterinary Medicine. After graduation, the couple and their new son, Kelly, moved to Ardmore where Woods worked in a mixed-animal practice.

He later bought the practice, Westwood Veterinary Hospital, in 1980. By 1989, he had sold it to another OSU graduate, had another son, Casey, and accepted a temporary position in the Department of Medicine and Surgery at the College of Veterinary Medicine at OSU.

“Teaching veterinary students is one of the things I had the most fun doing,” Woods says. “The relationships I developed with the faculty and staff at OSU are invaluable to me.”

In 1992, after teaching at OSU, Woods and his wife opened the Memorial Road Pet Hospital practice in Edmond.

“Teaching vet students was very rewarding, but staying in practice has given me the chance to interact with pet owners and help their animals live healthy lives. I still enjoy practicing, especially surgery, but if I enjoy anything, it’s interacting with people. That is a big part of what I do. I’m glad to be a veterinarian over any other profession, and it has been very good to me.”

In 2007, after 36 years of marriage and more than six years of fighting a debilitating illness, Marcia died. Six weeks later, Woods lost his father to cancer. He has emerged from those tragedies rich in faith, grateful to family and friends, and thankful for a fulfilling career in veterinary medicine.

His two sons are doing well. Casey, the youngest, recently married Sarah Pugsley. He is an OSU alumnus and a hospital administration graduate student at the University of Oklahoma. Meanwhile, Kelly is involved with his dad’s cattle and ranching operation near Wayne.

Woods remarried two years ago. He and his wife, the former Anne MacEwan, live in Edmond.
The ‘Veterinary Practitioner’s Consultant’

Dr. Dee Griffin, class of 1975, received the prestigious 2009 Academy of Veterinary Consultants’ Consultant of the Year Award sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health. Griffin is described as the “veterinary practitioner’s consultant.”

He works with consultants and practitioners on many levels both directly and through continuing education opportunities. Griffin advises many local, state and national cattlemen’s associations on important current issues, and he has introduced many veterinary students to beef food animal medicine.

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Griffin maintains a relationship with many packers in the beef industry, which makes him a positive liaison between practicing veterinarians and the commercial sector of the industry. His work on the Beef Quality Assurance Program is legendary.

Currently, Griffin is a professor at the Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center in Clay Center, Neb. Following his graduation from OSU, he earned a master’s degree in veterinary pathology and animal science from Purdue University.

Griffin is a past president of the Academy of Veterinary Consultants, and he has received numerous prestigious industry awards. 

TIES THAT BIND

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.

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@okstate.edu EMAIL
This year’s Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology featured toxicology expert Dr. William Slikker Jr., Ph.D., director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s National Center for Toxicological Research located in Jefferson, Ark.

Slikker’s topic, “The Impact of Pediatric Anesthetics on the Developing Brain,” focused on his ongoing studies using rodent and monkey models that indicate prolonged exposure to anesthesia agents can lead to neuron cell death. This can ultimately affect learning, memory and other higher order processes in the nervous system.

Slikker also noted that the timing of exposure increases susceptibility. In rodents, the most vulnerable time for exposure is from birth to 14 days, but in monkeys, it is from gestation to 2 months, and in humans, from gestation to 2-3 years of age.

It is especially important for veterinary clinicians to keep anesthetic agent exposure in animal patients to a minimum during the critical developmental periods.

Dr. Carey Pope, Ph.D., head of the physiological sciences department, Regents Professor and Sitlington Chair in Toxicology, organizes the annual Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology.

“We welcomed Dr. Slikker to OSU for the 10th Annual Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology,” says Pope. “The overall goal of this lecture series is to increase awareness of the importance of toxicology research in human and animal health, both on and off the OSU campus.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY
A Chance for Bella
Tori Henderson wanted to be home for Christmas. A native of Tulsa, Okla., she and her boyfriend, Scott Foster, had been living in Phoenix, Ariz., while Henderson attended Arizona State University, where she earned a degree in supply chain management. As they were moving back with their two dogs and a U-haul in tow, things took a turn for the worse.

“It was December 23,” recalls Henderson. “As we were crossing an overpass, we were sideswiped by a tractor trailer. We spun around and the Jeep Liberty flipped over. I’m not sure when it happened, but the dogs, who were in the closed cargo area in the back of the Jeep were ejected from the vehicle.”

Sadly, their black Labrador retriever died in the accident. Henderson and Foster had bumps and bruises but nothing serious. However, Bella, their 1-year 8-month-old female German Shepherd, wasn’t as lucky as her owners.

“We found Bella standing in the middle of the road on three legs holding her broken leg up. It just hung there with multiple fractures,” says Henderson. “We put a tourniquet around her leg to stop the bleeding. It was so cold I just held her by the side of the road trying to get her warm.”

They took Bella to a veterinarian in Amarillo, Texas, who stabilized Bella’s leg and kept her overnight.

“The next day was Christmas Eve, and the veterinarian was closing for the holiday. We had to pick her up. By then Scott’s dad, Toby Foster, had borrowed an Expedition to come get us,” Henderson says. “We picked up Bella and headed to Stillwater in a snowstorm to bring Bella to OSU.”

Bella arrived in the emergency room at OSU’s Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital on Christmas morning. Dr. Todd Yeagley, rotating small animal medicine and surgery intern, was waiting at the hospital for triage upon Bella’s arrival. Assigned to her case were Dr. Danielle Pawloski, second-year resident in small animal surgery, Melissa Kehl, fourth-year veterinary student, and Dr. Mark Rochat, Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and chief of small animal surgery.

“Bella had road rash on her chin with a laceration and road rash on all of her knuckles on her left front leg,” Pawloski explains. “Both the radius and ulna were fractured on her right front leg, and the fracture was exposing the bones and muscle and tendons surrounding the bone to the environment.”

According to Pawloski, this type of injury to a fractured leg is a degloving injury.

“Basically the skin gets removed off of the underlying tissue, leaving no skin to cover the large open fracture. The veterinarian in Amarillo bandaged the fracture to protect it from the environment,” she says, “but because they were delayed by closed roads related to bad weather, Bella’s fracture was two days old when she arrived and still contained a large amount of gravel and debris from the accident.”

Pawloski informed the owners that repairing the fracture, cleaning the soft issues, flushing out dead tissue and debris, and closing or grafting the skin would require multiple trips to the operating room. Henderson and Foster agreed to give Bella a chance.

“Christmas morning we placed a bone plate and screws on the radius and an intramedullary pin inside the ulna to repair Bella’s fractures. After we cleaned the soft tissues and removed dead issue, we bandaged the wounds to provide a barrier for the fractured bone and new plate,” Pawloski says.

“Keeping the plate protected from the environment is extremely important to prevent any infection from developing due to exposure.”

They monitored Bella for pain in the hospital’s newly renovated Kirkpatrick Foundation Small Animal Critical Care Unit. Due to the holiday schedule, the team transferred Bella’s care to Dr. Brent Newcomb, third-year resident in small animal surgery. Under his care, Bella made six more trips to surgery to have the skin treated and finally closed.

“We were able to close the skin without having to do any skin grafts,” Pawloski says. “We are thankful that we had the opportunity to perform such extensive surgical procedures to make Bella feel better.”

This is the first time Henderson used the veterinary services available at OSU, and she couldn’t be more pleased. “The level of expertise and customer service has been amazing and has far exceeded our expectations,” she says. “Bella is expected to make a full recovery.”

An energetic Bella returned to OSU with Henderson to have her staples removed and a check up.

“She has been crate most of the time to keep her from putting too much pressure on her broken leg,” Henderson says. “She is definitely excited to be out. She is so much better, and I am so happy. I was really worried about her for awhile. Thank goodness we were able to get her to OSU!”

DERINDA BLAKENEY
Mercy was born May 29, 2009, on Linda Ellis’ Lady Justice Alpaca Ranch in Norman, Okla. That September, Ellis found the 4-month-old registered cria with swollen eyes and marked shortness of breath. Her veterinarian was out of town, so Ellis wasted no time transporting her to the one place she knew would help — OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

“I have used OSU’s veterinary hospital services before. Dr. Hank Jann (equine surgeon) once performed a knee surgery on Oliver, one of my nine alpacas. I had confidence they could help Mercy,” Ellis says.

“When the cria arrived at the hospital, she had severe facial swelling and difficulty breathing,” says Dr. Katie Simpson, a food animal internal medicine clinical instructor on staff at the center’s Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

“Mercy responded favorably to the treatment but then displayed clinical signs of the inability to clot blood and became persistently hyperglycemic,” Simpson says. “We gave her a blood transfusion and initiated insulin therapy. These abnormalities resolved, but a severe ulceration of the entire oral cavity ensued, necessitating the use of intravenous nutrition and aggressive pain management.”

The young cria spent 17 days in the care of OSU’s faculty, staff and fourth-year veterinary students.

“It was touch and go. I almost reached the point where I thought I would have to euthanize her because she was having trouble breathing,” Ellis says. “Dr. Simpson handfed her anything she thought Mercy might eat just to get her to eat something. She even slept with her some nights to make sure Mercy was all right.”

Simpson gladly reports that the cria’s oral lesions healed, and by the time Mercy left, she was nursing well, eating solid feed and gaining weight.

“I was going to show her this year but not now with the fancy haircut Dr. Simpson gave her,” Ellis laughs. “I’m just thankful that Mercy will have a chance to be shown next year thanks to the work of Dr. Simpson and others at OSU’s veterinary hospital.

“It’s great to know these knowledgeable veterinarians and this facility are here when you need them.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY

PHOTO / DR. KATIE SIMPSON

Healing Mercy

Mercy, 4-month-old registered cria from Linda Ellis’ Lady Justice Alpaca Ranch in Norman, Okla., arrived at OSU’s veterinary hospital with a swollen face and difficulty breathing.

Dr. Katie Simpson, left, handfed Mercy and even slept with her some nights to make certain the cria was surviving.

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“It’s great to know these knowledgeable veterinarians and this facility are here when you need them.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY
It started out as a 14-day visit to Haiti for Dr. Keith Flanagan, class of 1978, who was working with classmate Dr. Lyndon Graf in Marlow, Okla. Next thing he knew, Flanagan was asking his wife, Jan, what she thought about living in Haiti.

“I started working with Christian Veterinary Mission,” Flanagan says. “I planned to work for a couple years and straighten things out in Haiti. You know, set up some programs, train people in animal healthcare and then come back to the states. Twenty-three years later we’re still here. We make headway in some areas, and then more doors of opportunity always seem to open.”

French and Haitian Creole are the official languages of the 10,714-square-mile Caribbean island located southeast of Florida. Some of the veterinary challenges include vaccinating all dogs and cats against rabies, controlling new diseases that appear, and training and maintaining an ample supply of veterinarians.

“Last year we diagnosed Porcine Teschovirus, which is killing Haiti’s pigs in large numbers,” Flanagan says. “This disease was eradicated in Eastern Europe several years ago, so they stopped manufacturing the vaccine more than 15 years ago. It would cost about $1 million to start the vaccine process so we’re looking at other alternatives to produce it.”

When the 2010 earthquake rocked Haiti, the Ministry of Agriculture, with whom Flanagan works closely, was in the middle of Haiti’s annual rabies vaccination program, which abruptly halted.

“We had already vaccinated about 75 percent of the estimated population of dogs and cats in the areas hardest hit by the earthquake, which was a real break for us.”

Flanagan reports that initially everyone scrambled to take care of personal problems — getting shelters made, injured people treated, and helping people leave the capitol for safer ground.

CONTINUES
The veterinary mission saw the need to encourage a partnership with the U.S. Military Veterinary Corps and the Minister of Agriculture to continue the rabies vaccination program. Dr. Max Millien, the Haitian chief veterinary officer, was excited about the offer.

Among those deployed was Dr. Ryan McCollum, class of 2009.

“I was mobilized with the 43rd Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) in the days following the earthquake,” McCollum says. Our initial task was to take care of the large number of military and civilian search dogs that were looking for survivors in the Haitian rubble.

Unfortunately, McCollum says, it took more than one week to get air transport into Port Au Prince, the capital of Haiti, where the quake struck.

“By the time the unit arrived, most of the working dogs had gone home. We were then assigned a mission in northern Haiti to continue distributing and administering rabies vaccine,” he says.

“Ryan’s unit and other Army personnel were able to administer about 9,500 doses in 18 days in some very remote parts of the country,” says Flanagan. “The military’s support to the rabies vaccination program was very helpful and a real morale boost to the Haitian veterinary profession.

“It took pressure off our local system at a time when those resources could be used elsewhere to help with the earthquake relief effort. Some of that vaccine was about to expire, so we needed to give as many doses as quickly as possible. The military made that possible. Nationwide, more than 412,000 dogs and cats were vaccinated.”

With the rabies program under control, Flanagan will focus on training and keeping veterinarians in Haiti and working productively.

“I never get bored working here,” Flanagan says. “I have been able to do training, clinical work, public health work, research — different facets of veterinary medicine. That’s what I like about veterinary medicine — it’s a varied profession within the profession, and I have been able to stay involved in a lot of those different areas.”

And he says the impact of what he does reaches further than it would in the U.S.

“Recently I took a boy to a local hospital to get fitted for an artificial arm. The hospital receptionist recognized me. I had helped her mother take one of their pigs to market more than 15 years ago. We started loading pigs at 2:30 a.m. so we could leave by 4:30 a.m. and arrive in Port au Prince by 7 a.m. before it got hot.

“The money from the pig sale bought tin to cover the family’s house,” he says. “That’s having an impact on people’s lives without realizing the extent of your involvement at the time. When I helped that woman sell her pig 15 years ago at a premium price, I had no idea what it meant to that family.”

Next on the horizon for Flanagan is eradicating classical swine fever in Haiti. For the past six years, he has worked with Millien as the co-director of the national classical swine fever eradication program.

“We hope to accomplish that in the next five to ten years,” he says.

“And we’re implementing a new program to help keep young veterinarians in Haiti. They only earn between $300 and $400 a month. Christian Veterinary Mission is buying 70 motorcycles. Each veterinarian who signs a contract to work for a year will get to keep the motorcycle.

“We’re also providing them with a small generator that will fit on the back of the motorcycle, a laptop computer and a PowerPoint projector. That way, they can travel to the farmers in various communities and train them on animal care and other important community development topics. Other organizations can hire them to train Haitians in their programs, which will bring the young veterinarians additional income,” Flanagan says.

“Hopefully that will keep the veterinarians in Haiti where they are so needed. Not only will the veterinarians benefit, but the animal owners will also. Recently, some missionary friends who live in a very remote area called me to have a dog neutered. I was able to refer them to a young veterinarian who had participated in a surgery training we’d held. My friends were very pleased with the result,” he says.

“I pray that one day when I am gone, these programs and this work will keep moving forward.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY

Mobilized following the Haiti earthquake, the 43rd Medical Detachment helped distribute and administer rabies vaccine in northern Haiti. Nationwide, veterinarians vaccinated more than 412,000 dogs and cats. From left, Drs. Jason Crawford, Kelly Crowdis, Keith Flanagan and Ryan McCollum, class of 2009 and a member of the 43rd Medical Detachment, worked together to make Haiti’s rabies vaccination campaign a success.
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Alum Aids Gulf Coast Wildlife

Danene Birtell, Dr. Heather Nevill and Dr. Erica Miller, left to right, rinse a brown pelican after bathing it to remove the oil.
Dr. Erica Miller, class of 1989, has been with Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research Inc. in Newark, Del., for more than 16 years. She has multiple roles at Tri-State including head of research, staff veterinarian and oil spill response veterinarian.

“As oil spill response veterinarian, I oversee the health of animals we care for during oil spill responses,” says Miller. “I participate in the medical aspect of contingency planning for spill responses, training volunteers and colleagues to respond, and developing and improving techniques for the care of oiled wildlife.”

So when the Gulf Coast oil spill occurred in spring of 2010, it was no surprise Miller was called in to help.

“Our organization has done considerable training and contingency response planning with BP, so when the spill occurred, they contracted us to care for any wildlife that might become contaminated,” she says.

“Because this is such a large event potentially impacting all of the states surrounding the Gulf of Mexico, we brought in International Bird Rescue Research Center, which is another organization with expertise in caring for oiled wildlife. Combined staffs are running temporary facilities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.”

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asked Tri-State to care for resources entrusted to it, primarily wild birds and terrestrial animals. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and National Marine Fisheries Service asked other organizations to care for the marine mammals and sea turtles entrusted to their care.

Miller’s initial work involved converting an empty warehouse into a wildlife hospital.

“We set up a medical area, wash area, ICU, commissary and housing for oiled birds and clean birds, as well as outdoor aviaries with pools.”

Tri-State teamed up with U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel to catalogue any dead birds. They retrieved carcasses from the field to prevent predators from contamination through consumption.

“We catalogued dead birds to track which species have been affected, where they were impacted and to what degree they were oiled,” Miller says.

“The carcasses can also be helpful in evaluating the overall health of the wild population before the spill occurred, detecting pre-existing conditions, for example.”

As of July 23, Miller reports receiving 1,128 oiled birds and 149 non-oiled birds at Tri-State’s site.

“These birds have been stabilized, washed and provided on-going medical and nutritional care as needed. Some have been released and others are awaiting release.”

During every spill response, teams out searching for oiled birds inevitably find non-oiled, injured birds as well, Miller says.

“In this response, we are stabilizing the non-oiled birds and sending them to the wildlife ward at the veterinary school at Louisiana State University for additional diagnostics and continued care.

“In addition, Dr. Candy Akers [class of 2009] joined us for almost three weeks of work, which she spent assisting at all four of Tri-State’s response sites along the Gulf Coast.”

Miller anticipates having staff on-site until several weeks after the leak has stopped or until they are reasonably certain no additional wildlife will become oiled from this source. Once back in Delaware, Miller’s other Tri-State roles will resume.

“As staff veterinarian, I oversee the health of birds brought to our wild bird hospital — more than 2,500 a year. I perform the majority of orthopedic surgeries, develop and improve medical protocols, assist with volunteer training and help with general bird care and facility maintenance,” she says.

“I also manage our externship programs for fourth-year veterinary students and veterinary technician students in addition to our one-year veterinary intern program. I co-teach two elective Wildlife Medicine courses at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine as well.”

As head of research, Miller supervises various staff and student-run research projects, which include new techniques for cleaning oiled birds, evaluating new diets for hand-rearing birds, avian influenza surveys, medication dosing assays and retrospective studies on topics such as the incidence of lead poisoning in raptors or conjunctivitis in finches.

“Most rehabilitators can’t afford extensive veterinary care for their patients nor do they have the medical training and equipment to do so. I would encourage all veterinarians to assist wildlife rehabilitators whenever they can,” Miller says.

“Most rehabilitators are extremely knowledgeable in the natural history and general care of the species they handle and can be a great source of information for veterinarians. Working with wildlife rehabilitators allows veterinarians the opportunity to treat some really fascinating animals and give back to both the community and the environment.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY

Duane Titus, field coordinator with International Bird Rescue Research Center, at left, and Dr. Erica Miller discuss the oil impact to this immature brown pelican.
“MOST REHABILITATORS ARE EXTREMELY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE NATURAL HISTORY AND GENERAL CARE OF THE SPECIES THEY HANDLE AND CAN BE A GREAT SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR VETERINARIANS. WORKING WITH WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS ALLOWS VETERINARIANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TREAT SOME REALLY FASCINATING ANIMALS AND GIVE BACK TO BOTH THE COMMUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT.”

For more information about Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research Inc. and their veterinary student exchange externship program, visit www.tristatebird.org.
Serving His Country, His Profession

"MY UNIT’S PRIMARY MISSION WAS PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE FOR THE MILITARY WORKING DOGS ... I CAN’T THINK OF ANYTHING MORE REWARDING THAN TAKING CARE OF MY SOLDIERS."
Dr. John Coatney knew from the time he was a junior in high school that he wanted to be a veterinarian. “I spent a day shadowing a veterinarian for extra credit in my anatomy class,” says Coatney. “I got a job at a veterinary clinic the following week and knew that vet med was what I wanted to do.”

Inspired by Dr. Jill Peale, class of 1995, Coatney studied hard, earned admittance and enrolled at OSU in the fall of 2001. However, one thing he didn’t plan on was joining the military. “When the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003, I realized there would be a need for Veterinary Corps officers,” he says. “I was anxious to serve, to give back, and I wanted to help our soldiers.”

Immediately following his graduation in 2005, the Army assigned Coatney to a small Army base 20 miles west of Venice, Italy, for the next three years. Part of his mission was to perform food safety and public health services. “Any time the Department of Defense procures food to send to soldiers, sailors, airmen or marines — whether in the United States or abroad — the Army Veterinary Services has to inspect that food system to make sure it is safe for them,” says Coatney. “It is different than merely walking in to a supplier and inspecting the meat locker. The entire food process involved in producing and delivering the food has to be evaluated before the food is dispensed to service members.”

Coatney’s responsibilities took him to Bosnia, Romania, Turkey and five countries in Africa during his deployment in Italy. His next assignment was to perform food safety and public health services.

“Leaving my new bride behind was the hardest part of my deployment,” says Coatney. “Luckily, I didn’t see any combat while I was serving in Iraq. The most challenging part for me was being away from Kristen.”

In Italy and Chicago, the Army assigned Coatney to the installation support mission, which did not involve deployable units.

In Iraq, he served with the 28th Medical Detachment Veterinary Medicine, which was part of the 64th Medical Detachment Veterinary Service under the command of OSU alumnus David Galloway, both deployable veterinary units.

Coatney worked at the military’s central veterinary hospital in Iraq with a small-animal surgeon and two veterinary technicians.

“My unit’s primary mission was providing medical care for the military working dogs or other government-owned animals. When Veterinary Corps officers elsewhere in Iraq needed to MEDEVAC their dogs, they came to us.”

“I was basically a ‘do everything’ veterinarian in Iraq,” Coatney says. “I would inspect food and bottled water facilities, make sure incoming food was safe, make sure military working dogs received appropriate medical treatment including emergency medical care, control the stray population on base, and consult on any zoonotic disease cases — animal bites, for example — that the human hospital saw.”

He was required to travel throughout north-central Iraq to provide veterinary support to outlying sites, which usually involved a Blackhawk helicopter flight.

CONTINUES
“Flying in the Blackhawks was a real eye-opener, especially in the summer. All that hot, dry air whirling around — it was like flying in a convection oven,” he says.

“In Iraq, we saw the usual working dog issues — ear and skin problems, broken teeth, gastric-dilatation and volvulus. There were a few orthopedic injuries during training and occasionally out on a mission. I did see some dogs that received combat injuries.

“In Italy we saw Leishmaniasis occasionally. We learn about it in veterinary school, but it’s rare in the U.S.”

After completing his Iraq deployment in September 2009, Coatney returned to Naval Station Great Lakes and Chicago, where he will remain through the summer of 2010.

“I haven’t decided yet how long I plan to stay on active duty,” Coatney says, when asked about the future. “I intend to pursue a career in veterinary public health, and the Army is a great place for that particular career path.”

While he likes being in the Army Veterinary Corps, Coatney says he’s in the process of evaluating whether his family and career goals will fit with the Army.

“The variety of species we work with and the different aspects of medicine and surgery we see are phenomenal. And I’ve developed a great appreciation for the public health services we provide,” he says.

“I can’t think of anything more rewarding than taking care of my soldiers. And the travel has been tremendous. In the four years I’ve been on active duty, I’ve been to more than 15 countries in an official capacity.

“I absolutely recommend it on a person-to-person basis. The Army is not for everybody; however, I don’t think enough people realize their potential to do great things as a Veterinary Corps officer.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY

PHOTO / PHIL SHOCKLEY

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Center for Veterinary Health Sciences

IN THE NEWS

Honoring Those Who Serve

The OSU Army ROTC Cowboy Battalion raised the American flag during the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ dedication of a new Military Veterinarian Honor Court in November 2009.

The center built the new Honor Court to recognize the many OSU veterinarians who have served in the military during their careers. Since the veterinary college opened its doors in 1948, 400 of its graduates have served in the armed forces with 30 Cowboy veterinarians currently serving.

Approximately 50 people attended the dedication ceremony honoring OSU Cowboy veterinarians, including Lt. Col. Daniel Holland, class of 1988, killed by a roadside bomb near Baghdad while serving in Iraq.

“We are extremely proud and grateful to the OSU veterinarians who serve our country,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean.

“Military veterinarians are responsible for ensuring public health, safe food and biomedical research, caring for military working dogs and developing animal health programs for foreign countries.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY

PHOTO / PHIL SHOCKLEY

THOSE WHO WISH TO HONOR AN OSU VETERINARIAN WHO HAS SERVED OR IS SERVING IN THE MILITARY MAY PURCHASE AN INSCRIBED BRICK TO PLACE IN THE MILITARY VETERINARIAN HONOR COURT.
Kenneth Adler’s work shows that a discovery derived from basic research can make a big difference in improving human and animal life.” — Lin Liu

“I think anyone who does medical research in any shape or form is doing this for a reason, and that reason is to help sick patients.” — Kenneth Adler
Help for Patients

What started as an idea he was kicking around on a night out with friends could turn into a drug to help millions of people who suffer from debilitating lung diseases, Kenneth Adler told a crowd of OSU veterinary medicine faculty, researchers and students last September.

Adler, a professor at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, spoke as part of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ first Lundberg-Kienlen Lectureship in Biomedical Research. His life’s work has been the study of what controls the secretion of mucus within the lungs, too much of which can lead to maladies such as chronic bronchitis and cystic fibrosis.

His big breakthrough, he told the crowd, came in 2001, when the Journal of Biological Chemistry published a study he co-authored detailing the role of a protein, MARCKS, in regulating mucus production at the cellular level. Adler later found that the MANS peptide connected to the protein seemed to limit mucus production.

Animal models have since reinforced the findings, which have appeared in the lay press as well as scientific publications, and NCSU recently licensed the chemical, he told the audience. The university started a company to test and eventually sell the compound to a pharmaceutical company.

“I think anyone who does medical research in any shape or form is doing this for a reason, and that reason is to help sick patients,” Adler said. “The fact that an actual drug might come from something that I thought up in a bar one night with some other scientists is really amazing and would be more of a reward for me at this stage of my life than anything financial.”

He said the company, BioMarck Pharmaceuticals, is testing the chemical’s drug derivative, dubbed BIO-11006, in patients suffering from chronic bronchitis as part of its second phase of testing. The first phase consisted of in vitro and lower animal model tests and tests on human volunteers to ascertain safety.

Working with the company “brought me into a whole different world,” said Adler, whom BioMarck’s website lists as a cofounder and chief scientist.

“Those of you with any experience in doing this sort of thing know that the language is different. The goals are different. The people you talk to are different. They’re not interested in science. They’re interested in results, drugs and how much money they can make.”

OSU Professor Lin Liu, who hosted the talk, says Adler’s lecture was encouraging to faculty and students.

“His work shows that a discovery derived from basic research can make a big difference in improving human and animal life,” Liu says. “Also, it shows that collaboration is important in biomedical research.”

Adler will continue his work toward a better understanding of the pathogenic mechanisms associated with airway inflammation. His NCSU lab uses special cultures of human tracheobronchial cells maintained in a way that mimics the cells inside the human body, making them better models for use in research. The National Institutes of Health and pharmaceutical companies fund his research.

Adler, whose doctoral degree is from the University of Vermont, has won numerous national awards for his work, including a Method to Extend Research In Time Award from NIH, the Oliver Max Gardner Award for Service to Humanity, the Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishments from the American Thoracic Society and the Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal for Excellence.

He is editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology and serves on the editorial boards of eight other journals. His work has appeared in dozens of journals, including Nature Medicine.
Tigger’s Case, ‘the Only One’

The zoo, exotic and wildlife department at OSU’s Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital treated a 6-month-old female ferret with a rare condition.

Referred by their veterinarian, Dr. Maria Di Gregorio, class of 1992, of Baker Animal Clinic in Stillwater, ferret owners Donna and Jay Becker brought their young ferret, Tigger, to the center’s veterinary hospital. Tigger was showing signs of urinary incontinence and urine scalding around its genitalia and tail area.

“You could tell the ferret was in pain when we palpated it,” says Dr. Cornelia Ketz-Riley, head of the hospital’s zoo, exotic and wildlife service. An abdominal sonogram revealed several enlarged lymph nodes and an apparent intravesicular blood clot in the urinary bladder. Excretory urography revealed a left ureter that extended well beyond the normal entrance into the urinary bladder.

It progressed to enter either the distal urethra or vagina consistent with the diagnosis of a left extramural ectopic ureter. A complete blood count and a serum biochemistry panel were normal.

“We initially treated the ferret with oral amoxicillin-clavulanic acid and topical silver sulfadiazine ointment for the dermatitis,” Ketz-Riley says. “Surgery to correct the ectopic ureter was postponed for two weeks to allow the abdominal skin to heal.”

When it came time for the surgery, the owners elected for a nephroureterectomy, which is the removal of the left kidney and ureter.

“The reimplantation of the out-of-place ureter into the bladder was very challenging due to its size,” says Ketz-Riley. “This could have caused impaired function of the ureter and later damage to the kidney, which would have then required removal of the kidney in a second surgery. The owners didn’t want to take that chance, so we did it all in one operation.”

The surgery was successful, but Tigger was still showing incontinence.

“Incontinence due to reduced bladder sphincter function is fairly common in dogs. We prescribed medication for the ferret to increase bladder function that should alleviate this problem altogether.

“Urinary incontinence is a rare anomaly in domestic ferrets,” she says.

“Ectopic ureters are the most common cause of congenital urinary incontinence in dogs and cats, not ferrets. Usually, urinary tract disorders seen in ferrets include urolithiasis, cystitis and renal cysts.

“To my knowledge, this is the first report of a defective ureter in a domestic ferret.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY
"I WAS ABLE TO PLAY A FEW CHUKKERS (TIME PERIODS OF PLAY) OF POLO AND RIDE THE HORSES THROUGH THE ROBINSONS’ GAME FARM. THEY HAVE HERD ANIMALS SUCH AS Diker (Doe Like), Bushbucks, Sable, and Eland (All Various Types of Antelope). The Countryside Is Beautiful And Being Able To See These Animals In Their Natural Habitat Was A Definite Perk Of My Trip."
Dr. Bekki Watts realized her dream in May when she graduated with her DVM degree.

Since her father worked for Amoco, the Houston native lived much of her earlier life overseas. During the four and one half years the family lived in Africa, her mother, who volunteered at the local zoo, brought chimpanzees home for care.

Helping the chimps inspired Watts to become a veterinarian. Helping her reach her goal is the Kitao Family International Externship Award, which provides funds to support up to six weeks of study abroad for a fourth-year veterinary student.

Watts, who received the award in spring 2009, spent her first three-week rotation in Townsville, Australia, where she worked mainly with equine patients in an equine surgery center located next to a small-animal clinic.

“Townsville is a big Thoroughbred horse racing community located on the Great Barrier Reef,” says Watts. “We treated lameness, performed ultrasound and worked on a lot of feet. When the equine center wasn’t busy, I would go next door to the small-animal clinic and help. I actually performed an enucleation, teaching a new grad how to perform the surgery.”

Watts says the atmosphere at the small-animal clinic was very relaxed. Veterinarians didn’t wear white coats and went by their first names.

“It seemed like a more intimate exchange between veterinarian and client regarding the treatment of their pets,” says Watts. “There doesn’t seem to be much worry over lawsuits in Australia. The veterinarians love what they do, and they have fun doing it.”

Another difference Watts noticed was that Australians don’t dress up their animals or treat them like their children. Instead, she says, “they treat them like their animals.”

Watts’ next rotation was in April when she traveled to Zambia, Africa.

“I earned my bachelor’s degree in animal science at Texas A&M University. One of my friends, who graduated with her DVM degree from Texas A&M, invited me to stay with her and her husband to help her work on polo ponies,” says Watts, who was on the Texas A&M polo team and was eager to reconnect with the young veterinarian.

“Leslie Robinson, DVM, owns a comprehensive ambulatory equine veterinary practice in Mazabuka, Zambia,” Watts says. “She is the first veterinarian in the area to provide services such as ultrasound, radiology and many surgical procedures.”

The area is populated mostly by sugar cane farmers and families involved in playing polo. Because each polo player needs a string of horses, each player has 10 or so horses, Watts says.

“Since Leslie hasn’t built a clinic yet, all the veterinary medicine we performed was out in the field. The first morning I was there, we castrated one of Mr. Robinson’s colts in their front yard.

“The next three weeks, Leslie allowed me some hands-on experience. I was able to perform more than 40 dentals, multiple castrations, hernia, sarcoid and squamous cell surgeries, reproductive ultrasounds and joint injections,” she says.

The duo served as veterinarians at a polo tournament in Mazabuka where they treated some lameness cases, many of which resulted from the horses being trimmed and shod inappropriately.

But it wasn’t all work for Watts.

“I was able to play a few chukkers (time periods of play) of polo and ride the horses through the Robinsons’ game farm. They have herd animals such as diker (doe like), bushbucks, sable, and eland (all various types of antelope). The countryside is beautiful and being able to see these animals in their natural habitat was a definite perk of my trip,” she says.

“I plan on visiting Leslie a few times a year so we can continue working together from time to time.”

After graduation, Watts moved to Pemba, Mozambique, Africa, where her husband works for an oil company, and she is starting her own ambulatory small-animal practice.
When an OSU groundskeeper noticed one of the ducks at Theta Pond was not standing or eating, he took it to OSU’s zoo, exotic and wildlife veterinary medicine department at the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Dr. Cornelia Ketz-Riley and her team began treating “Rudy” the duck.

“Rudy was lethargic; his beak was pale, and he couldn’t stand on his own,” says Ketz-Riley. “We drew a blood sample and discovered Rudy was anemic. So the first thing we needed to do was give him a blood transfusion.”

Since there is no blood bank for ducks, they turned to a Theta Pond mate as a source for Rudy’s transfusion.

“Once he was feeling better from the increase in red blood cells, we examined him further and found some acorns lodged in his crop — the sac in the esophagus where they store food,” she says.

“We then scoped Rudy and diagnosed a severe yeast infection in his crop and esophagus. We removed another acorn and began a 10-day anti-fungal treatment.”

Two weeks later, thanks to antibiotics and some tender loving care, Rudy was able to return to his home at Theta Pond.
Center Hosts Open House

The veterinary center opened its doors to the public on Saturday, April 3, 2010. Students, who coordinate and host the annual event, were proud to show the 750 visitors the many different facets of their profession.

The events included guided tours of the teaching hospital, mini lectures, live animal demonstrations that featured miniature horses and police dogs, teddy bear surgery and dog and cat shows, spotlighting beauties such as Lucca, pictured at right with fourth-year veterinary student Shana Watkins.
King, Distinguished Lecturer

Dr. Lonnie King, doctor of veterinary medicine and the former director of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne and Enteric Diseases at the Center for Disease Control, was the Class of 1963 Distinguished Lecturer at the center’s 2009 Fall Veterinary Conference.

King’s presentation, “One Health: New Opportunities for Veterinary Medicine,” discussed the reasons new diseases are emerging and how they affect animals.

Some 16 zoonotic epidemics have occurred over the last 15 years. The number is not surprising, he says, given that approximately 1 billion people cross international borders yearly and an organism can move faster than its incubation period.

Two-thirds of the 1,415 known human pathogens occur in non-human species, and 75 percent, 175, of the recently emerged human diseases are zoonotic.

Animal and human health are part of a continuum of causality and events requiring an integration of strategies, he says. “One Health” is the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines — working locally, nationally and globally — to attain optimal health of humans, animals and our environment.

King currently serves as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University, where he earned his bachelor’s and DVM degrees. He earned his master’s degree in epidemiology from the University of Minnesota.

Approximately 250 veterinarians and veterinary technicians attended the annual Class of 1963 Distinguished Lectureship.
“What’s the future, Doc?”
A New Model

“Increasingly, economic conditions will force veterinary colleges to operate more and more like private institutions. There will be more reliance on self-generated revenues ...” — DR. MICHAEL LORENZ, DEAN, CENTER FOR VETERINARY HEALTH SCIENCES

CONTINUES

Dr. Guangping Chen
A health sciences center biochemist has accomplished a rare feat in science. Dr. Guang-ping Chen, Ph.D., landed two large National Institutes of Health grants in addition to several other government projects during the last five years.

Chen has used the $1.1 million in NIH project funding to examine the role a little-studied enzyme, sulfotransferase, plays in the human endocrine system, drug metabolism and many diseases. He also leads a $530,000 American Cancer Society grant studying the relationship between cancer drugs and the enzyme.

Chen works in the veterinary center’s physiological sciences department where he runs a lab devoted to the enzymes as well as drug and hormone metabolism. He is an expert in sulfotransferases and how the enzymes act as catalysts for certain hormones and other substances, including neurotransmitters (the chemicals that relay “signals” from nerve cells to other cells) during stress conditions associated with disease.

His work, which looks at how drugs and food components act as regulators over the enzymes, could yield a new opening in the fight against everything from cardiovascular to Parkinson’s diseases.

“My teaching and my laboratory are mainly focused on drug-metabolizing enzymes,” Chen says. “When I started my research, I wanted to focus on human diseases, so I focused on human sulfotransferase because my first projects were in that field and the enzyme is not well understood. It was first purified in the 1980s with new types such as progesterone sulfotransferase discovered just four or five years ago.”

He brought his first NIH grant with him to OSU when he arrived from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock in 2001. He continued that work, also in sulfotransferases, with other grants including a $135,000 project from the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology to study the metabolism of certain cancer drugs and $100,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to look at phenolic acids in vegetables and their effects on sulfotransferases.

He also recently worked as a co-investigator on a $100,000 U.S. Army project using nanotechnology and light in a new type of therapy to fight ovarian cancer.

Chen’s work in the future will continue toward developing a new stress model for toxins and diseases and how they affect other organs.

“We want to develop some new stress models, some new disease models to see what happens to sulfotransferase in different organs,” Chen says. “And these include the endocrine glands and nervous system.

“For example, in one project, we’re trying to work on an OCAST grant in psychostimulants because we want to see how neurotransmitters like dopamine — the chemicals amphetamines act upon to create their euphoric effects — are related to sulfotransferase. Also, we’re looking at how those psychostimulants like methamphetamine regulate sulfotransferase.”

Chen, who also teaches a graduate level course in biochemical and molecular toxicology, began his career in 1985 as a lecturer and research group director at Peking University Health Science Center in Beijing. He holds a master’s degree in medicinal chemistry from that university’s pharmaceutical school and a biochemical doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

At UT, he was the last doctoral student to work with Daniel Ziegler, one of the top enzymologists of the 20th Century. Ziegler, who died in 2005, discovered the Ziegler Enzyme, or flavin-containing monoxygenase, enzymes used to detoxify chemicals the body excretes as waste.

Ziegler shared his passion and acumen with Chen, who has spent his career studying how the body’s natural enzymes interact with drugs and toxins connected to diseases.
Understanding Neurodegenerative Disease

As the concept of “one health, one medicine” continues to grow, Dr. Dianne McFarlane, OSU assistant professor of physiological sciences, uses a horse model as she investigates the pathogenesis of neurodegeneration.

McFarlane strives to better understand the biological changes that accompany aging and the age-related factors that promote risk of neurodegenerative disease.

“If we can understand what causes the degeneration in horses, by extension we can hopefully determine what is going on with other degenerative diseases in people like Parkinson’s, Huntington’s and Alzheimer’s,” she says.

“It is well known that the number-one risk factor for this condition is age. What is not well understood is exactly how age predisposes to neurodegeneration. Is it due to a lifetime accumulation of damaged cells or cellular components, a failure of some critical cellular function, or the depletion of a limited body resource?”

“If we understood how age contributes to the risk of neurodegeneration, we would have an opportunity to develop strategies to prevent or delay onset of these devastating diseases.”

McFarlane, whose research goals include developing better tests and implementing preventative strategies than can ultimately be transferred to humans, recently completed the third year on a five-year National Institutes of Health grant.

Her research project, “Initiating Factors of Neurodegeneration,” focuses on what causes the neurons to degenerate. Neurons are sensitive to a number of injuries, and similar processes seem to underlie neurodegeneration in many diseases.

Accumulation of non-functional, misfolded proteins, accumulation of damaged organelles, injury from oxidative stress or inflammation are all considered likely contributors to the neurodegenerative process in Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, ALS and Huntington’s disease.

McFarlane grapples with what initiates these injuries and what makes certain individuals more susceptible than others to develop the disease.

“Currently, we are characterizing the type of changes that occur in the dopamine-producing neurons in equine pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (a neurodegenerative disease of old horses referred to as PPID) to see just how similar those neuron injuries are to those that occur with Parkinson’s disease,” she says.

Dopamine is an important chemical in regulating the horse’s production of hormones from the pituitary gland, says McFarlane, who has been studying PPID for more than 10 years.

But horses with PPID lack available dopamine, and as a consequence, hormone production from the intermediate lobe of the pituitary goes unchecked, resulting in very high blood concentrations of hormones. This, in turn, leads to the wide array of clinical signs in horses with PPID, McFarlane says.

“The same types of neurons degenerate in humans with Parkinson’s disease. However, they are located in a different part of the brain, a region that regulates movement. Consequently, people with Parkinson’s disease have motor disorders such as muscle tremors and difficulty initiating movement. So while the diseases don’t look alike, the primary cause or causes of the disease may be very similar.”

Why study old horses? To McFarlane’s knowledge, PPID is the only naturally occurring degenerative disease of dopamine-producing neurons, other than Parkinson’s disease.

“Aging horses give us a naturally occurring model in which to study this condition. It has the advantage over an experiment-induced model of allowing us to investigate firsthand how the body and systems within it change during aging and disease development.”

“Classically, experimental models for studying neurodegeneration involve administering high doses of chemicals or drugs that are toxic to the specific neurons of interest. We have learned a lot from these models, but clearly the vast majority of people and animals that spontaneously develop neurodegenerative disease are not exposed to high doses of these unusual drugs or chemicals,” she says.

“A naturally occurring disease model lets us ask such questions as ‘What causes the disease,’ and ‘Why did this animal or person develop the disease, while another did not?’”

Another advantage to the horse model is that PPID is very common among aged horses. About 15 to 20 percent of all horses will develop this disease, whereas in humans, Parkinson’s disease is relatively rare. Only 1 to 3 percent of seniors will develop Parkinson’s disease. The high prevalence of PPID facilitates population-based studies.

There has long been a concern that environmental factors, such as exposure to agricultural chemicals or heavy metals, may increase the risk of Parkinson’s disease. “Studying the relationship of agricultural chemicals, neurodegeneration and PPID may help answer this question,” McFarlane says.

“We hope to gain valuable insights to improve quality of life for humans and animals. It’s well worth the investment when the end result can benefit so many.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY

PHOTO NEXT PAGE
“If we understood how age contributes to the risk of neurodegeneration, we would have an opportunity to develop strategies to prevent or delay onset of these devastating diseases.”

— Dr. Dianne McFarlane
“This year, students will perform more than 4,000 surgical procedures and numerous other clinical procedures .... There will be more novel educational approaches to improve student hands-on training.”

— DR. MICHAEL LORENZ, DEAN, CENTER FOR VETERINARY HEALTH SCIENCES
When Libby Gutting and Kyle German, both class of 2010, were juniors, their surgery lab looked a lot different than the one Michael Rogers and Lee Talbott, class of 2011, experienced this year.

As juniors, Gutting and German had one live animal anesthesia experience followed by a total of two spays and two neuters in the fall of the year. Rogers and Talbott had the benefit of a revised program, focusing on more hands-on experience using a graduated approach.

“The veterinary center has partnered with seven area animal shelters to perform spay and neuters on shelter dogs and cats,” explains Dr. Lesa Staubus, lecturer in surgery and shelter medicine at the center’s Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

“This provides an opportunity for our third-year veterinary students to begin to hone their surgical skills under the close supervision of faculty aided by veterinary assistants.”

According to Staubus, making an incision on a live animal for the first time can be an intimidating experience. Multiply that by 39 veterinary students in one room and things can get hectic.

CONTINUES
“Looking back, it seemed more stressful when I went through it than it is now,” says Gutting. “With the new program, third-year students start by scrubbing and gowning-in, performing at least six surgeries as the ‘assistant surgeon’ for fourth-year students or clinicians before they perform a spay or neuter by themselves. Then, the juniors perform at least six surgeries as the ‘primary surgeon’ giving them more experience with live animals.”

The revisions include having smaller numbers of juniors operating at one time, providing more one-on-one interaction with clinicians and/or fourth-year students.

“This program also gives juniors a chance to become more skilled at catheter placement and intubation,” adds German.

“A real bonus for juniors is that all the animals are from Oklahoma shelters. That means an animal may not have had basic wellness care,” says Gutting. “In addition to the surgery, the third-year students have an opportunity to practice giving vaccinations, dewormings, skin scrapings and more. It’s a real win-win situation because the shelters get a service they often can’t afford and as students, we have a great learning experience.”

The shelters also report to Staubus the positive results they have gained from the program. “Guthrie Animal Control tells us their adoptions have increased. Since the animals are neutered in advance, people can adopt them with no waiting for the animal to have surgery,” Staubus says.

“Cimarron Valley Humane Society reports increased adoptions, too. Because of cost savings associated with the new program, they have lowered their adoption fees, resulting in more animals placed in homes.”

“The program is well matched to the variety of student skill levels,” Talbott says. “Veterinarians were always present and available to assist if necessary; however, students were given the freedom to make their own surgical decisions where they felt comfortable. The veterinary assistants were patient and very committed to the program, ensuring that we stayed organized and kept the pace needed to complete all scheduled surgeries for that day.”

“Since completing the new program, I feel much more confident in my small-animal handling and blood collection, induction and anesthesia maintenance and surgical skills,” Rogers says.

“Seeing your patients post-op was also very beneficial. It gives you a chance to judge your tissue handling skills and see how the tissue reacts and heals — that was particularly cool for me.”

All in all, the revised program benefits OSU veterinary students and the many animal shelters they serve as well as playing a positive role in reducing pet overpopulation.

DERINDA BLAKENEY
Relying on Friends

“Increasingly, economic conditions will force veterinary colleges to operate more and more like private institutions. There will be more reliance on … private giving.” — DR. MICHAEL LORENZ, DEAN, CENTER FOR VETERINARY HEALTH SCIENCES
Sharon Wilson of Claremore, Okla., and Vickie Cupps of Sand Springs, Okla., work with therapy dogs, share a passion for Samoyeds and have become great friends over the years.

For two long years, Wilson and Cupps worked toward a common goal — their wish for Wilson’s dog Sonya to give birth to puppies sired by Cupps’ dog, Kodi.

Today, five energetic Samoyed puppies keep them hopping, thanks to the expertise of OSU theriogenologist Chelsea Makloski, DVM. In appreciation for turning their wish into reality, Vickie and her husband, James Cupps, are helping fulfill dreams for others through a gift to OSU.

“We have been trying to breed these two dogs for a few years. First Kodi had a torn ACL that we had to treat. Then Sonya had an infection that needed attention,” Cupps says.

When Sonya failed to conceive, Catoosa Small Animal Hospital veterinarians, all OSU graduates — Drs. Bob Shoup, ’82; Steve Weir, ’80; Sarah Smith, ’07; and Laura Embry, ’03 — recommended artificial insemination.

“Then we had difficulty finding a veterinarian who could collect Kodi’s semen. I had taken my Kodi to five different veterinarians, and none was able to collect it,” says Cupps.

“Then my veterinarian, Dr. Micah Hartwig, also an OSU graduate, referred me to OSU for theriogenology services. Dr. Makloski was able to collect Kodi on the first try.”

Makloski, a 2006 OSU graduate with advanced training in animal reproduction and obstetrics, is an assistant professor working at the center’s Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. She is one of 25 board certified specialists working in multiple areas of veterinary medicine at OSU.

“Dr. Makloski performed a vaginoscopy/endoscopy after discovering Sonya had a vaginal septum. She then did an exploratory surgery to assess the severity since Sonya was given a transvaginal artificial insemination in May and didn’t get pregnant,” Wilson says.

According to Makloski, a vaginal septum is a developmental abnormality Sonya was born with that she may or may not pass on to her offspring. Due to the severity of Sonya’s vaginal septum, natural breeding and whelping would be impossible.

Makloski artificially inseminated Sonya and later ultrasound confirmed five puppies. Because of Sonya’s condition, natural birth was not viable, so Makloski scheduled a caesarian section.

“We prepped Sonya as much as we could before we put her under to reduce her exposure to anesthesia,” Makloski explains. “Drs. Danielle Pawloski and Heather Towle performed the enblock c-section while Dr. Tina Olivieri and I, along with a team of veterinary students and technicians, stood by to revive the puppies.”
Olivieri, ’09, is a theriogenology intern, Pawloski, ’07, is a resident in small animal surgery and Towle is a visiting surgeon at the veterinary hospital.

“Dr. Makloski is such a good teacher,” says Cupps. “Sharon and I must have asked her a thousand questions and she answered every one of them. She’s more than a veterinarian to us — she’s a teacher and a friend.”

In gratitude, the Cupps are establishing a $50,000 scholarship, which the Boone Pickens’ Legacy Match will double.

“We want to help future students like Amber offset the increasing cost of getting a degree in veterinary medicine.”

Dr. Mark Neer, director of OSU’s veterinary hospital, says he’s delighted that OSU veterinarians were able to help bring to life the five adorable puppies, three males and two females, on March 30, 2010.

“We really appreciate it when clients recognize the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff and students,” Neer says. “Knowing that our students face debt in excess of $100,000 upon graduation, we are equally grateful for gifts that benefit our student scholarship fund.”

Wilson chose a female puppy, and Cupps picked a male.

“His name is Dozer because Samoyeds have a natural tendency to dig. My husband built Kodi a 3,000-pound sandbox to dig in, so we could save our yard. Now Dozer can have at it, too,” Cupps laughs.

“Truthfully, we wanted to better the breed, and we both wanted a puppy,” she says. “Both dogs are champion Samoyeds. They have great genes. Kodi has a great personality, and Sonya is a beautiful, smart dog. Sharon even taught her to dance.

“This is the first time I have had a dog sire a litter of puppies. I’m so excited. Sharon and I are both so excited!”
“TRUTHFULLY, WE WANTED TO BETTER THE BREED, AND WE BOTH WANTED A PUPPY.”

“DR. MAKLOSKI IS ... MORE THAN A VETERINARIAN TO US — SHE’S A TEACHER AND A FRIEND.”
“KNOWING THAT OUR STUDENTS FACE DEBT IN EXCESS OF $100,000 UPON GRADUATION, WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS THAT BENEFIT OUR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND.”
We’ve Lost a Good Friend

Joan Kirkpatrick was well known in the community for her volunteer work, her many talents and her quiet, very active philanthropy. As chair of the Kirkpatrick Foundation, she gave countless donations to the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

A true friend of the center, Kirkpatrick died on Aug. 4, 2009, before she could see the foundation’s latest gift come to life — the Kirkpatrick Foundation Small Animal Critical Care Unit.

Before Kirkpatrick came to its aid, the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, completed in 1981, was in dire need of a new, expanded critical care unit for small animals.

“We really needed these improvements,” says Dr. Mark Neer, veterinary hospital director.

“We operate a 24/7 small-animal critical care unit 365 days a year. We serve clients in Oklahoma and adjacent states, including southern Kansas, seeing approximately 1,400 critical care patients a year — this translates to 3,300 critical care patient days — and our caseload is steadily increasing.”

Using private funds, the center completely renovated the small-animal critical care unit, completed in August 2009, thanks to generous donors such as the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

“We enlarged the main treatment room, built four large runs for large dog breeds, created a separate feline ward and a ‘quiet room’ for patients recovering from anesthesia,” Neer says.

Donors also provided funding for specialized equipment to aid the recovery of critically ill animals. The equipment includes two oxygen cages, a telemetry unit and a ventilator machine for patients who need help breathing.

Over the years, the Kirkpatrick Foundation has funded digital radiography, digital fluoroscopic radiographic equipment, a laser laboratory, color flow ultrasound equipment, flow cytometer and a scintigraphy unit.

In addition, the Kirkpatrick Foundation has funded bovine respiratory disease research, the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology, the Kirkpatrick Foundation Veterinary Technician Program, and zoo, exotic and wildlife care.

Thanks to her love of animals and support of the veterinary center’s mission, Joan Kirkpatrick’s generosity will live on for many years and benefit future veterinarians, patients, their owners and the veterinary medical profession.

DERINDA BLAKENEY

Joan Kirkpatrick with her grandson, Blake Keesee, from the Kirkpatrick Foundation’s 2009 Annual Report.
Thank You, Donors

Private donations turned the dream of renovating the nearly two-decade-old small-animal critical care unit into a reality for the OSU Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Thank you to all who have contributed.
Bobby J. Alexander
Bob J. Bahr
Lawrence R. Barrett
Vic R. Boyer
Paula Buehne
Jeff S. Carthey
Michael E. Chieppo
Donna J. Chiswell
Dan Christian
Marion Copley
Ray Corbitt
Courson Family Trust
Alice D. Cox
Katherine F. Daley
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Rosemarie A. Strong
Beth A. Stropes
Stuart Family Foundation
Jack and Joyce Stuteville
Cheryl A. Thompson
Elizabeth Tippin
Michael R. Tygart
Lynda P. VanAntwerp
Virginia R. Weatherman
Steve Weir
Virginia L. Williams
Michael Wilson
Accomplished Faculty

“Our academic accreditation by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association gave us academic accreditation for up to seven years ... the site team’s verbal report was positive, praising our faculty’s strong commitment to teaching and providing research opportunities for our students.” — DR. MICHAEL LORENZ, DEAN, CENTER FOR VETERINARY HEALTH SCIENCES

Dr. Brenda Love, Ph.D. and DVM, class of 1990, received reappointment as assistant professor in the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, where she is responsible for the bacteriology and mycology section. She and her team culture samples for bacteria and fungi to determine if animals have an infectious disease.

Dr. D.L. Step, a food animal research, extension, and production medicine specialist, received a promotion from associate professor to professor in veterinary clinical sciences. Step, a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, focuses on herd animal health and production as well as bovine disease research.

Dr. Robin Allison received a promotion to associate professor with tenure in the veterinary pathobiology department. Allison is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (Clinical Pathology). Her professional interests include diagnosis of infectious and neoplastic diseases in blood and cytologic specimens, educating veterinarians about the importance of blood film evaluation as quality control for automated hematology analyzers, teaching veterinary students and training pathology residents.

Dr. Myron Hinsdale, DVM and Ph.D., was recently reappointed as assistant professor in the physiological sciences department. He is one of three members of OSU’s Stem Cell Focus Group formed to study adult stem cells and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD). He is investigating how extracellular matrix proteins such as proteoglycans affect bone marrow-derived stem cell behavior in post injury repair in COPD.

Dr. D.L. Step, a food animal research, extension, and production medicine specialist, received a promotion from associate professor to professor in veterinary clinical sciences. Step, a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, focuses on herd animal health and production as well as bovine disease research.
Dr. Dianne McFarlane received a promotion to associate professor with tenure in the physiological sciences department. McFarlane is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She studies equine pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID, also known as Equine Cushing’s Disease), a disease with pathologic similarity to Parkinson’s disease. (Related story on page 45)

Dr. Ken Bartels received reappointment to the McCasland Clinical Professorship in Biomedical Laser Surgery. Bartels, a small animal surgeon, is in the veterinary clinical sciences department. He also holds the Kerr Chair in Laser and Biophotonics Research. Bartels’ research and clinical emphasis is the use of laser light for surgery and diagnostic purposes in medicine.

Dr. Jill Brunker received reappointment as assistant professor in small-animal internal medicine in the veterinary clinical sciences department. She is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She is conducting a clinical trial on the effectiveness of exenatide in treating cats with diabetes mellitus.

Dr. Tom Oomens, Ph.D., received reappointment as assistant professor in the veterinary pathobiology department. Oomens’ research specialty is molecular virology. He focuses on the mechanisms by which viruses enter and exit host cells and how to exploit these mechanisms for vaccine and therapeutic purposes. His current efforts concern the human respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), which has a huge medical impact on infants and the elderly and for which there is no vaccine.

Dr. Robert Fulton, class of 1966, received reappointment to the McCasland Chair in Food Animal Research in the veterinary pathobiology department. Fulton, Regents Professor and a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, researches viral diseases of cattle, including bovine viral diarrhea and bovine respiratory disease.

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Kocan Awarded for Research Excellence

Dr. Katherine Kocan is on the editorial board of *Experimental and Applied Acarology*, *Animal Health Research Reviews* and *Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases*. Her undergraduate alma mater, Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio, recently awarded Kocan the J.J. Turner Alumni Award for her outstanding work in veterinary science research.
Dr. Katherine Kocan received the 2010 Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence, an honor bestowed each year after a vote by veterinary college faculty members.

Kocan, a Regents Professor in the pathobiology department, just completed 36 years at OSU where her research has focused on many aspects of ticks and tick-borne pathogens — an area of interest to both Oklahomans and cattle producers.

She made her first research breakthrough in 1978 when she identified a pathogen in ticks, *Anaplasma marginale*, described the complex developmental cycle and defined tick transmission patterns.

This organism causes bovine anaplasmosis, an important tick-borne disease of cattle in the U.S. and worldwide. The research garnered her “Visiting Scientist” designation in Kenya and South Africa where she identified the agent of the cattle disease, heartwater, in ticks and described its developmental cycle.

Because researchers could only grow the organism in ticks or cattle, Kocan focused her next research goal on developing a cell culture for A. marginale.

She recruited Dr. Ed Blouin, who had acquired extensive cell culture experience as a Research Scientist at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute, South Africa. Kocan and Blouin teamed with researchers from the University of Minnesota, Uli Munderloh and Tim Kurtti, who developed cell lines from ticks, and during the 1990s, Kocan and Blouin, working with their Minnesota colleagues, developed the first cell culture system for A. marginale.

CONTINUES
The cell culture system, now used worldwide, allows for experimental manipulation of these pathogens and greatly reduces the need for animals in research. This system also allowed Kocan and her team to discover the molecule required for *A. marginale* to adhere to and infect tick cells — an important part of the pathogen’s life cycle.

Her laboratory then undertook the challenge of developing vaccines for tick control. Dr. José de la Fuente, a molecular biologist who earlier developed a cattle tick vaccine in Cuba, joined Kocan and Blouin in 2000.

Their teamwork has resulted in over 130 publications.

“Tick vaccines are needed because ticks have become resistant in areas where chemicals are heavily used, and it is likely that this will become more of a problem in the future,” Kocan says.

The team developed and is currently testing a prototype vaccine for the lone star tick, a major pest of Oklahoma cattle. “Based on this model,” she says, “tick vaccines could easily be developed for other important tick pests.”

The researchers extended the tick vaccine research when they discovered that the experimental vaccines also reduced the ability of ticks to transmit pathogens. Now their goal is to produce “dual target” vaccines that will both control ticks and prevent transmission of pathogens.

“If you bring in the right people with a wide range of expertise, the research opportunities are huge,” Kocan says, admittedly proud of the team she assembled. “And it has been great fun to work together.

“Overall, I would like to see our research result in a vaccine that would contribute to a solution for tick and tick-borne pathogen problems.

“I’m happy to receive the award because it acknowledges our team’s research contributions, and we appreciate that our research is recognized by our peers. I’m fortunate to have landed at OSU where tick and tick-borne research is a priority,” she says.

“It has been an exciting and fulfilling career.”

MATT ELLIOTT
The Lancaster, Ky., native holds a doctoral degree in parasitology from the University of Georgia, a veterinary medicine degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and a bachelor’s degree in biology from Cornell University.

Author of more than 100 publications, Little’s work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, Bayer Animal Health, the Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis and Pfizer. She is on the editorial boards of Veterinary Parasitology and Veterinary Therapeutics.

MATT ELLIOTT

The only thing that gets Dr. Susan Little more amped than talking about parasites is talking about how much she loves teaching.

“It’s incredibly rewarding,” says Little, who won OSU’s 2010 Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award. An expert in everything from ticks to parasitic worms, she adds that she recently received an email from a former student of more than a decade ago exclaiming he still uses his notes from her introductory parasitology course.

“And he told me so do his classmates,” she says. “I like the fact that I teach something they’re going to use daily, and they’re aware they’re using it, too.”

Each year vet college faculty and students vote for the best teacher in the college, and the results determine who wins the prize. For Little, the award is just the latest accomplishment in a stellar career at OSU, where last year she started the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology.

In addition to running the center, she teaches second-year veterinary students’ clinical parasitology, a class that is often students’ first experience thinking as clinicians. She works with them at critical points in their careers as they begin learning about parasites, the diseases they cause, and how to treat animals.

“It’s an exciting moment. Parasites in particular are threats to the health of all kinds of animals. Veterinarians spend a huge amount of time managing animals for intestinal parasites, fleas, ticks, heart worms and other parasitic organisms.”

Little came to Stillwater in 2005 after nearly a decade teaching at the University of Georgia in Athens. At OSU, she is the Krull-Ewing Endowed Chair of Veterinary Parasitology, a position of some prestige due in part to the college’s many renowned parasitologists, including Drs. Wendell Krull and Sidney Ewing. In addition, the college has a rich history of great instructors in a variety of disciplines, a fact that humbles her more today when she thinks about this achievement.

“To receive the highest teaching award that the veterinary college bestows is incredibly humbling, even more so because of the caliber of faculty members who have been recognized with this award in the past.”

Part of a Great History

The Lancaster, Ky., native holds a doctoral degree in parasitology from the University of Georgia, a veterinary medicine degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and a bachelor’s degree in biology from Cornell University.

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MATT ELLIOTT
Exceptional Teacher and More
Dr. James Breazile received the 2009 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award. A professor in the physiological sciences department, he teaches physiology to first-year veterinary students.

“Dr. Breazile has dedicated his life to the training of veterinary students and serves as a mentor for both students and faculty,” says Dr. Carey Pope, department head.

One of his students, Desiree Poore, says Breazile goes beyond what one would normally expect of a teacher.

“Not only does Dr. Breazile introduce students to basic physiological mechanisms that will serve as the base of their future professional skills, he goes out of his way to encourage students to come by his office and get to know him as ‘another family member,’” says Poore, class of 2010.

“During a recent telethon to raise funds for the veterinary center, I spoke with many alumni. The fact that alumni 20 years later ask about Dr. Breazile and can still recount stories he told to drive home teaching points stands alone as a testament to his impact on students.”

A native of Missouri, Breazile earned his bachelor’s degree in agriculture and DVM degree from the University of Missouri. He went on to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and a master’s degree in adult education from Loyola University in New Orleans, La.

Breazile’s research interests focus on neurophysiology; neuroanatomy; cardiovascular, respiratory and renal physiology; and humane euthanasia.

According to the former dean of the veterinary college, Dr. Patrick Morgan, “Breazile is the only professor I know who can teach any course in the basic science curriculum and teach it very well. He runs a very tight classroom. The men don’t wear hats, and both men and women pay attention or they leave. And the students are not resentful of him.”

But there is more to this man than just teaching. He has served as mayor of Pilot Grove, Mo., filled in for a city judge, served as an ordained Roman Catholic deacon and referees basketball games. In spite of having had four heart attacks, he keeps on going — teaching the next generation of OSU veterinarians.

DERINDA BLAKENEY
“We anticipate nearly $1.2 million budget reductions in FY2011. Increases in health insurance and other areas will add $350,000 to our budget causing a gap of $1.5 million. We have few alternatives to fund the gap other than not filling open faculty and staff positions, increasing enrollment in years two and three and increasing tuition ….”

— MICHAEL D. LORENZ, DEAN
Inspiration can take on a life of its own, as 7-year-old Jacob Dobson of Wichita, Kan., clearly demonstrates. While those who planned and presented the 2010 Grandparent University certainly hoped to inspire their attendees, no one anticipated young Dobson’s unbridled enthusiasm.

He and his grandmother, Barbara Dobson, university mailing services employee, were among the 36 OSU alumni and their grandchildren, ages 7 to 11, who came to the center to learn more about the world of veterinary medicine.

Under the direction of faculty and staff, the attendees performed a sonogram on a stuffed dog in theriogenology, surgically repaired lacerations on stuffed animals in teddy bear surgery, learned about heart health in cardiology, identified specific bones in anatomy and studied radiographs.

They looked through microscopes at various parasites, examined cultures of swabs from everyday things such as a sneeze, a water faucet and a soccer ball, and they conducted a hand washing exercise to emphasize the importance of thoroughly washing away germs and bacteria.

Dobson closely attended the lessons and carefully applied them when he returned home. In fact, he hung his shingle on his bedroom door along with his posted fee, and wearing a white jacket and his surgery gear from Grandparent University, he went to work. He borrowed a needle and thread from his mother and sewed up a stuffed pet’s leg, wrapped it in an Ace bandage and wrote out a prescription.

On his handmade chart, he noted the “dogy had an enjery.”

OSU’s veterinary center welcomed 36 attendees, alumni and their grandchildren, ages 7 to 11, to the 2010 Grandparent University.

Seven-year-old Jacob Dobson, left, posts his fees on his bedroom door, below. While he may wish to become a veterinarian, the reduction in public funding will require OSU to raise tuition rates, pushing a veterinary education farther out of reach for many. For others, the rising costs will impose a financial burden for future veterinarians like Dobson — despite his plan to start charging fees early in his career.
Congratulations, Class of 2010

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ class of 2010 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. “We graduated 75 new Cowboy veterinarians. They are an impressive group performing very well on national board examinations and headed to jobs all over the world.” – MICHAEL LORENZ, DEAN.

Meet the Class of 2014

Eighty-two students, 13 males and 69 females, comprise the class of 2014. The center chose 58 Oklahoma residents and 24 nonresidents from a pool of 478 applicants to begin the 2010 fall semester. The core and cumulative grade point averages for these students are 3.593 and 3.575 respectively. Their average grade GRE scores are 501 verbal, 622 quantitative and 591 biology.

This is the first class to include Early Admit Program (EAP) students (3 residents and 1 nonresident). The Early Admit Program strives to aid academically talented, committed students in their veterinary medical career development.

To be eligible for the EAP, seniors in high school must have an ACT score of 27 or higher and be enrolled in a comprehensive university in Oklahoma. Students can be admitted to the program during the first year of their undergraduate education. Early Admit Scholars must maintain a 3.5 GPA each academic year while completing their bachelor’s degree and the pre-veterinary course requirements.

During this time, students team with veterinary college faculty to provide guidance and mentorship. Drs. Robert Bahr, Ken Clinkenbeard, Lyndi Gilliam and Mark Rochat mentored these students. These clinicians took extra time with these students, and we applaud their dedication to the future of veterinary medicine.

EAP students in the class of 2014 had an average core GPA of 3.987 and an average cumulative GPA of 3.993
Even before he graduated with his DVM degree in May 2010, Joe Max Freeman was no stranger to veterinary medicine.

“Growing up I never knew any other life than that made up of animals and veterinary medicine,” says Joe. “With my father being a veterinarian and the clinic in such close proximity to our home, I was at the clinic daily nearly from the time I could walk. I have always thought about and wanted to be a veterinarian.”

Joe’s father, Dr. Charles Freeman, who graduated from OSU in 1973, is proud that his son chose veterinary medicine and his alma mater.

“It makes it just a little bit special when your children get a degree from the same university their parents attended, and especially since all five of our children have done so. My wife, Betty, and I as well as Joe’s brother and three sisters are all very proud to have another veterinarian in the family,” he says, noting how honored he was to hood his son at the May ceremony.

“My father has had a huge influence on my career choice,” says Joe. “From the time I was old enough to follow my father, I accompanied him on farm calls helping out — or getting in the way. Animal husbandry was a mainstay of my life. If I weren’t helping out at the clinic, I was working cattle at the family farm or with my own show cattle.”

“Joe has a natural ability to work with all animal species, and being very strong, he will be able to physically handle the large-animal aspect, which he plans to pursue. He will be a great asset in a rural practice where veterinarians are stretched very thin,” Charles says.

Although his father always involved Joe as much as possible around the clinic, he says the greatest lesson his father taught him is not related to medicine.

“He taught me to always take pride in what I do, work hard, and treat people with honesty.”

Following graduation, Joe plans to pursue a general mixed-animal practice.

“I am going to practice in Altus, Okla., with my father at Western Prairie Veterinary Hospital. I will be one of three veterinarians in the practice along with Michael Didier, one of my classmates.”

His greatest area of interest lies in bovine reproduction, and he hopes to be able to spend time learning more and working in that area.

“My favorite experiences in veterinary school were the trips with Dr. Lionel Dawson down to the Stringtown Prison to run pregnancy checks on cows for the Department of Corrections,” Joe says. “You could always be guaranteed an interesting day of work and some good Italian food at Krebs.”

As Joe prepares to leave four years of veterinary school behind him, he offers this advice to those considering a career in veterinary medicine.

“Do not let anyone discourage you from pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine. If you are determined — or just plain stubborn enough — you can make it through school. Don’t limit yourselves by immediately choosing an area of veterinary medicine to pursue.

“The possibilities of what you can do with a DVM are truly endless. You may find out that an area that was totally unknown to you is an area of interest.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY

At May graduation, Dr. Charles Freeman of Western Prairie Veterinary Hospital in Altus, Okla., hooded his son Dr. Joe Freeman, who earlier in the spring received a $500 Ethicon-Novartis Large Animal Surgery Scholarship in recognition of his outstanding surgical skills.
Rebecca “Becca” Dietz discovered veterinary medicine at an early age. In 1984, when she was one year old, her parents, Richard and Charlotte Detch Dietz, DVM, class of 1969, purchased Brandon Animal Hospital, a small-animal practice, in Roanoke, Va.

Rebecca spent her early childhood at the animal hospital, often in a playpen in the exam room, or sitting on the counter, where to the delight of clients and her mother, she “supervised” the examinations of the patients.

As soon as she was old enough, Becca began working at Brandon Animal Hospital and continued there during holidays and summer breaks throughout high school, college and veterinary school.

“I didn’t officially decide to become a veterinarian until I was in college,” says Becca. “However, it has been at the top of my list of ‘things to be when I grow up’ for as long as I can remember.”

In May 2010, Dr. Charlotte Dietz had the pleasure of hooding her daughter as she graduated with her DVM degree from OSU.

“It’s interesting how history sometimes repeats itself,” says Dr. Dietz. “When I graduated in 1969, I never dreamed I would have a daughter who would follow in my footsteps, become a veterinarian, and graduate from my alma mater. I’m very pleased and proud.

“I’ve always been appreciative of the opportunities afforded to me by OSU that allowed me to fulfill my dream to become a veterinarian, and now, I’m most appreciative that OSU gave Rebecca the same opportunities to fulfill her dream and become a veterinarian,” Dietz says.

“I have no doubt that Rebecca will succeed. Not only has she received a good education in the basics of veterinary medicine from OSU, she is generally patient, has a lot of practical common sense and is not afraid of the hard work and long hours that are a part of veterinary practice, particularly large-animal veterinary practice.

“I’ve always been somewhat amazed at Rebecca’s enthusiasm and willingness to embrace what others see as hard work.”

She cites Becca’s work as kennel attendant at Brandon Animal Hospital, her long hours in the saddle as a wrangler at the Laramie River Ranch, and her work as overnight foaling attendant for the approximately 150 mares at the Lazy E Ranch, where her work hours were 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., six days a week for months.

“Some of my fondest memories of veterinary college are the trips we took to Remington Park with AAEP,” says Becca, who was active in student organizations at OSU, such as the student chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

“It was a great opportunity to meet and socialize with students from other years, all while enjoying the fun of a day at the races.”

Rebecca wants to work at a mixed-animal practice with a focus on equine veterinary medicine and has her sights on joining a small mixed-animal practice located in the Colorado and Wyoming area.

“However, nothing is official yet,” Becca says. “If that doesn’t work out, then I will most likely return to Virginia to work in my mother’s practice for a short time.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY

Dr. Charlotte Detch Dietz, class of 1969, traveled from Roanoke, Va., to hood her daughter, and Rebecca Dietz, who began her own journey in veterinary medicine from a playpen at her mother’s practice.
Filling Big Shoes

Tom Shoemaker is stepping into his grandfather’s shoes — Dr. Thomas W. Shoemaker is the only veterinarian in Sullivan County, Pa., where the younger Shoemaker grew up. Of Dr. Thomas Shoemaker’s 14 grandchildren, his namesake is the only one pursuing a career in veterinary medicine.

“I knew I wanted to do something with animals, and the DVM degree gives me an opportunity to pick and choose how I want to interact with them,” Shoemaker says. However, he was in college before he decided on veterinary school.

The young Shoemaker chose his grandfather to hood him at his graduation in May.

“It was a natural choice. He’s always supported my decision and me. We’re the only two veterinarians in the family, so we have a natural bond. He’s written letters and stayed in touch with me through my four years of veterinary school, and he often tells me about how it was in his day,” Shoemaker says.

His grandfather earned his veterinary medicine degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1950. He opened a mixed-animal practice and now, 60 years later, is still treating animals. During his career, he served as the regional district veterinarian for two years and taught science and biology for six years. Since 1966 he and his wife, Stefana, have owned and co-published the weekly county newspaper, the Sullivan Review.

“Over the years, Tom has spent time at my clinic. He’s a hard worker,” says the 88-year-old veterinarian. “What I learned in veterinary college is ancient history today. Anyone going into veterinary medicine now needs to work hard and be dedicated to succeed.”

Shoemaker says he has some fond memories of the last four years. “Things that stand out are the palpation trips we took to Stringtown Prison with Dr. Lionel Dawson (associate professor, veterinary clinical sciences) to check cows for pregnancy and to help incoming freshmen with goat castrations.

“It was a casual atmosphere at the prison, where you could get a lot of work done. The hands-on experience in both cases improved my skills. Outside of the classroom, I liked playing sports with and getting to know my classmates.”

Shoemaker, who says he’s thankful for the friendship of his classmates, also enjoyed his preceptorships. He spent four, three-week rotations at different veterinary practices of his choice.

“I am really interested in marine mammals. So I scheduled most of my preceptorships in Hawaii to get the opportunity to work with marine mammals,” he says.

“However, the community where my grandfather lives in Pennsylvania would like to see me return there to work. We really need more generalists, so at this time, I don’t think I’ll pursue further training in a specialty.”

— Derinda Blakeney

Dr. Thomas W. Shoemaker, the only veterinarian in Sullivan County, Pa., traveled to OSU to hood his grandson Tom Shoemaker at the May 2010 ceremony.
Reliving Old Memories, Making New Ones

Several classes returned to Stillwater in 2009 to celebrate special reunions held in conjunction with the center’s fall veterinary conference. Alumni, faculty, staff, students and guests gathered at the Payne County Expo for the center’s OSU Cowboy Roundup, where silent and live auctions raised $9,000 for the Annual Veterinary Student Scholarship Fund.

OSU Cowboy Roundup is one of the ways the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences encourages its graduates to stay connected to each other and to the veterinary center. Hosted by the center and sponsors, the annual Cowboy Roundup gives classmates an opportunity to socialize and reconnect.

For alumni convenience, the center holds Roundup in conjunction with its annual Fall Veterinary Conference where veterinarians hear about the latest developments, techniques and trends in veterinary medicine as well as earning continuing education units.

Celebrating 50 Years

Of the 33 living members of the class of 1960, 21 men and one widow returned to Stillwater to celebrate the class’ 50-year reunion in May. They came from Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, North Carolina, Tennessee and from various locations within Oklahoma.

Their career choices include military service, academia, private practice, U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, dog racetrack veterinarian and corporate veterinary medicine and pharmacology. These veterinarians have advanced specialty training in Theriogenology, veterinary pathology and more.

As time marches on, three have watched their children also graduate from OSU with veterinary medicine degrees — Mike Major ('85), Eric Stair ('90) and Stephanie James ('98). Stephanie practices with her father Dr. Harry James, handling the small animals while her father treats the large animals.

Their hobbies include everything from being a community mayor to collecting Model-A Fords, master gardening, running their own cattle operations and traveling the world.

CLASS OF 1960: Members of the class of 1960 who attended the 50-year anniversary are, seated, left to right, Drs. E. L. Stair, William Munson, Charles Heaton, Cyril Brown, Billy White, William Knighten and Howard Whitmore; middle row from left, Drs. Kent Fletcher, James Shmidl, William Carter, Gerald Appelgate, David Haviland, Harry James and Rhodye Butler; and back row from left, Drs. Gene White, William Terry, Harold Miller, Donald Morrow and Larry Major.
CLASS OF 1954: Six of the 14 living members from the class of 1954 were in town to celebrate their 55-year reunion. The group took a tour of the veterinary center marveling at the many changes since they attended what was then Oklahoma A&M College School of Veterinary Medicine. Pictured, left to right, are Drs. Ken Stinson, Richard Orr, Donald Holmes and Wade Lyon. Not pictured are Drs. Joseph Bruce and Charles Hales who also attended the reunion.

CLASS OF 1969: Members of the class of 1969 gathered to celebrate their 40-year reunion. Dr. Michael Lorenz is the first OSU graduate to serve as the center’s dean. Seated, left to right, are Drs. Michael Lorenz, Charlotte Dietz, Nancy Pate and Richard Shawley. Standing, from left, are Drs. Gary Wallis, Don Heise, John Goedeken and Robert Poteet.
CLASS OF 1979: While the class of 1979 had at least 16 class members attend various 30-year reunion activities, only nine attended the Cowboy Roundup. Seated, left to right, are Drs. Martyn Goodbary, Suzanne Barry and Danny Glover. Standing, from left, are Drs. Charles Beall, Carl Propp, Terry Lehenbauer, Robert Davis, Mike McGuire and Stuart George.
CLASS OF 1989: Twenty-one members of the class of 1989, nearly 31 percent, returned to Stillwater to celebrate their 20-year reunion. First row, left to right, are Drs. Robert McLaughlin, Ramona Walkingstick, Barbara Dunn, David Fleming and Doug Nightengale. Second row, from left, are Drs. Kristi Darrow, Cheri West, Doug Parker, Rosemarie Strong, Billy Womack, Diane Cooper, Carolyn Williams and Shawn Blood. Third row, from left, are Drs. Tammy Jones, Joseph Roder, Paul Carroll, Rodney Robards, Craig Kuchera, Elizabeth Baca, Jeffery Nightengale and John Calhoun.
CLASS OF 1999: Eleven members from the class of 1999 reunited to celebrate their 10-year reunion. Seated, left to right, are Drs. Chris Carter — who also served as the auctioneer for the SCAVMA live auction — Matthew McGee, Lori Trahan, James Dye and Clint Gardner. Standing, from left, are Drs. Angela DuBois, Suzanne Caruso-Brown, Kristina Fisher, Jennifer Ennis, Patricia Orth and Dana Gill.

CLASS OF 2004: The class of 2004 had three members in attendance celebrating their 5-year reunion. They are, from left, Drs. Scott Sturgeon — who catered a mouthwatering barbecue for OSU Cowboy Roundup attendees — Christina Causemaker and Jason Risley.
Entertainment,
A Bit of Socializing,
Some Friendly Fundraising
“I KNEW MY HUSBAND BEFORE HE WAS KNOWN BY ANYONE ELSE. HE WAS SKINNY WITH A FLAT TOP AND NOT VERY IMPRESSIVE ... HE WAS 13 YEARS OLD.”
Velda Lorenz, the Woman Behind the Dean

Velda Lorenz has known Dr. Michael Lorenz, professor and dean, for 50 years and been married to him for 45 of those years. She is often by his side at veterinary center functions and is always willing to lend a hand. Faculty, staff, students and donors like her.

But what does it mean to be the wife of the veterinary center’s dean? Are there special duties that come with the territory? Velda Cetera spent some time with Velda to find out.

Dr. Lorenz has spent the last 15 years as a dean — interim dean and now dean of the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences for nine years and before that, dean at Kansas State University’s veterinary college for six years. According to Velda, the expectations are different now.

“Deans’ wives used to be the social hostesses for the veterinary college but not so much anymore. It was usually expected that the dean’s wife would belong to the state veterinary organization and the national organization’s auxiliary, as well as being involved with the student chapter’s auxiliary,” she says.

When Lorenz first came to OSU, Velda served as an advisor to the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA) Auxiliary. Today, that group merely has a president and sponsors one scholarship funded by money raised years ago.

“The Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association Auxiliary disbanded about eight or nine years ago. The AVMA Auxiliary is in the process of changing,” she says. “We have tried to open up our membership, but the numbers are decreasing because so many spouses work outside the home.”

She says she had good teachers for her role. “The dean’s wife at Cornell University’s veterinary college, Edie Poppensiek, wore high heels and was very formal. She would try to have some function with every department at the veterinary college at one point during the year, and the dean’s wife at Georgia’s veterinary college would host 300 to 400 people at their home every year for an outdoor barbecue.

“At Kansas State when Mike was first appointed as dean, we invited a group of key faculty to our home. We made homemade ice cream and visited. After a little while, one of the more senior faculty members looked at his wife and announced it was time to go. As he stood to leave, so did everyone else. I’ve never seen a mass exit like that before,” she says.

Velda has seen the atmosphere of the university change. Today active Alumni Associations and Foundations are taking over many of those duties that once fell to the dean’s wife.

“I miss some of the old things we used to do. I feel like I don’t get to know as many people, which I think is important. Mike still feels that way, too. It’s not considered ‘mandatory’ that a spouse go to campus activities anymore. But if he asks me to go somewhere, I usually do.”

In addition to supporting her husband at veterinary center events, Velda has enjoyed helping faculty and students’ families over the years. “I have always liked children. They keep me young. In Georgia, we had some good friends who had three boys the same ages as our three children. When we would travel, they would watch our children, and when they traveled, we would do the same for them,” she says.

“When we came to OSU, I fell into watching children, and I loved it. I still keep in touch with all of them. I’ve watched children of students, faculty and others outside the veterinary college. We still see Cameron, one of the boys I kept. We’re like a set of grandparents to him.

“I think it’s important for little ones to have older people in their lives. If I can have some impact on them, I think that is really important.”

Velda has many talents, and among them is a knack for quilting and sewing.

“I’ve made so many OSU things. I’ve made lots of quilts — quilts for Mike, quilts to auction at student fundraising events, decorative quilts for Mike’s office. I have also made OSU aprons, a fleece-lined jacket for Mike, a vest for myself, purses and more.

“I also love to read, study history. I like politics, and I love to travel. We have been all over the world. It’s fun to watch programs on television, recognize places and be able to say, ‘I’ve been there.’ We have been to Japan three times, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Italy, the Caribbean Islands and Mexico.”

When asked what advice she would give to the wife of a newly appointed dean, Velda says, “Be a good sounding board. Be like Caesar’s wife, and play it close to the vest. Keep your comments to yourself, and don’t share everything you hear. Get to know faculty and students. Participate — there are many opportunities to participate in whatever your spouse is involved in.

CONTINUES
In 2006, veterinary center dean Michael Lorenz and his wife, Velda, established the Lorenz Family Scholarship, an endowed scholarship awarded each year to two veterinary students.

“I knew my husband before he was known by anyone else. He was skinny with a flat top and not very impressive,” she says. “He was 13 years old. We graduated high school together in Kremlin, Okla. There were 27 in our graduating class.

“When our first daughter was born in Enid, Okla., we were 19. Back then, they closely monitored who visited new mothers — only parents or a husband usually. Mike looked so young they wouldn’t let him in the hospital to visit me!”

Mike and Velda have three grown children — two daughters living in Kansas and one son living in Minnesota — along with three grandchildren, two in Kansas and one in Minnesota.

In 2006, the Lorenzes established an endowed scholarship, the Lorenz Family Scholarship, which two veterinary students receive each year.

The Lorenzes both “bleed orange” and attend many OSU events in addition to those at the veterinary center.

DERINDA BLAKENEY
“**I HAVE ANNOUNCED MY DESIRE TO ENTER A PROGRAM OF PHASED RETIREMENT AS SOON AS THE CENTER CAN APPOINT A NEW DEAN. I HAVE ENJOYED BEING DEAN OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, AND I HAVE ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED THE SUPPORT OF FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, ALUMNI, PRACTITIONERS AND FRIENDS OF THE VETERINARY COLLEGE. I PLAN TO FINISH MY CAREER WORKING IN OUR HOSPITAL AS I CONTINUE TO BE A STRONG CHEERLEADER FOR OUR COLLEGE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE IN GENERAL.**”

— MICHAEL D. LORENZ, DEAN

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**Welcome to the 2010 Dean’s Club**

Dr. Stanley Acree  
Dr. William Carson, BILD ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
Dr. Anthony Confer  
Dr. James Conklin  
Dr. Ray Corbitt  
Dr. Lee Darch  
Dr. Beverly Fritzler, ROSE ROCK VETERINARY HOSPITAL & PET RESORT  
Dr. John Goedeken  
Dr. Keith Hand  
Drs. Don H. and Sybil Heise  
Dr. James B. and Mrs. Georgia Hensley  
Dr. Doug and Mrs. Susan Herthel, ALAMO PINTADO EQUINE CLINIC INC.  
Dr. P. Jack Hoopes  
Dr. John and Mrs. Donna Kirkpatrick  
Dr. Michael and Mrs. Velda Lorenz  
Mr. David McMahon  
Dr. Ronald Molitor  
Dr. Thomas Mowdy  
Drs. Nicholas and Dianne Nail  
Dr. Robert Poteet  
Mr. Tim and Mrs. Tina Ridley  
Dr. Ted A. Schupbach  
Dr. Kenneth and Mrs. Carolyn Sims  
Dr. Anthony Thomas  
Dr. Bruce Turner, CORNERSTONE VETERINARY SURGICAL  
Dr. Steven Vonderfecht  
Dr. John A. and Mrs. Wynn Walker  
Dr. Ryan Williams

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) 744-5630.
Dr. Jack Bostwick was one of 26 who graduated in the first class, the class of 1951, of the Oklahoma A&M College School of Veterinary Medicine. Following graduation, the young Dr. Bostwick went to Fairview, Okla., to practice veterinary medicine. He was the only veterinarian in Major County. It was here that he met Laura Bostwick.

“He met a woman at church who was recently divorced with five children all under the age of 7,” says Stoddard. “On their first date, he asked her to marry him and on the second date, she said, ‘Yes.’ I was 2 years old and by the time I turned 3, he had adopted all five of us. He was just a uniquely wonderful person.”

Stoddard describes her father as a man devoted to his family and his community.

“For 25 years, he announced the high school football games. And for more than 25 years, he directed the Methodist Church choir. He had a beautiful tenor voice. He loved music and started a barbershop quartet called the S’Wheat Notes.”

Stoddard goes on to say that one night as a small child, she was awakened to listen to the quartet on the radio. They were singing in the state final competition. They lost to the Buffalo Bills, the group that went on to sing in The Music Man.

Being the only veterinarian in the county, Bostwick treated everything from cats and dogs to cattle, rodeo bulls and broncos, and even a camel from the nearby Sahara Desert show.

“He was on call 365 days a year. Often he would be called out of church to help a cow that had been down for three days.

“One form of discrimination that I will be forever grateful for is that the girls were never called out in the middle of the night,” Stoddard laughs. “The boys would get up at 2 a.m. and go help Dad deliver a calf and still get up for school in the morning. But we all would go with him on call from time to time.”

On one particular day, the children had given Mrs. Bostwick enough challenges for one day and according to Stoddard, her mother sent all five of them to the veterinary clinic nearby.

“Dad was busy dehorning calves. The owner also wanted to leave his dog at the clinic to be spayed. Dad said he couldn’t take him right now and asked the owner to put the dog in the cage, and he would get to it later. Meanwhile, the five of us are running around the clinic entertaining ourselves.
“A few minutes later, the man returned, and Dad just looked at him annoyed. He said, ‘I told you to put the dog in the cage. I can’t do it right now; I’m busy with these calves.’ The man just looked at him and said, ‘I would, but your son is locked in it.’ One of us had locked him in there while playing and hadn’t gone back to let him out,” Stoddard says.

All the Bostwick children worked in the veterinary clinic whether cleaning cages or helping with administrative tasks. Nobody escaped being a part of the veterinary practice.

Bostwick, who was also involved in local and national veterinary organizations, served as the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association president in 1974 and on the executive board of the American Veterinary Medical Association from 1976 to 1982, serving as the board’s chair from 1980 to 1981.

“Dr. Bostwick dedicated his term as president of the OVMA to the ‘Ethics of the Medicine’ that James Herriot wrote about in *All Creatures Great and Small*. Every day my father wore a shirt and tie to work. He was a professional, and he believed you should look and act like one,” Stoddard says.

Later in his career, he left Fairview and went to Kansas State University to teach at their veterinary college. Bostwick served as an associate professor in the department of surgery and medicine in field services and in the animal resource facility on an as-needed basis.

Stoddard recalls that he insisted the men wear a tie to class and out in the field and the women a nice blouse.

“He loved teaching,” she says. “He was very excited that by the 1980s more and more women were coming into veterinary medicine.”

Bostwick’s veterinary graduating class was male. It wasn’t until four years later that the first woman, Dr. June Iben, graduated from Oklahoma State. Then it was two years before another woman completed the program. Today, 75 percent of OSU veterinary graduates are women.

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“He loved teaching,” she says. “He was very excited that by the 1980s more and more women were coming into veterinary medicine.”
Bostwick went on to earn a master’s degree in surgery techniques and then developed a surgical technique to stop premature ejaculation in bulls.

He died prematurely, suffering a stroke at the age of 57.

In 1991, Stoddard and her brother, Chris Bostwick, helped their uncle, Don Bostwick, establish the Dr. Jack Bostwick Scholarship. The scholarship awards $1,000 each year to a second-year veterinary student based on high academic achievement and financial need. Now, Stoddard and her husband, Daniel, are establishing an estate gift in her father’s memory.

Their gift establishes a Professorship to Honor Dr. Jack Bostwick at the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. The person awarded the professorship will have prior veterinary practice experience and be interested in food animal medicine.

According to Stoddard, one of the things Bostwick talked about was the need for professors of veterinary medicine to have experience in veterinary practice.

Stoddard goes on to say her dad encouraged anybody who came to him with an interest in veterinary medicine.

“I think over the years there were at least six young men from Major County who expressed an interest in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine. Dad encouraged them, had them work in the clinic, and they went on to pursue their DVM degrees.”

“We chose OSU for our gift because that’s where my Dad went. My Dad loved OSU. He loved OSU football. He had a ticket stub from every OSU vs. OU game where OSU won from 1953 through 1983 — there were three of them.”
“When I was in junior high we got a new pastor in the Methodist Church who was an OU fan. Dad did not like that. As choir director, Dad sat on one side and the pastor on the other. After the next bedlam game, which OSU won, my father led the choir with his back to the church, and as he sat down across from the pastor, he made sure he parted his black suit jacket and crossed his leg showing a bright orange vest and orange socks!

“On one Thanksgiving, someone brought a little car with a trailer all decorated in OU colors to Fairview. They parked it under the one traffic light in town and played Boomer Sooner from the trailer all day. When my Dad had had enough, he called the OSU Alumni Association and begged them to send Pistol Pete,” Stoddard remembers.

“Since it was Thanksgiving break, all the students were gone. So my Dad told them to bring him the costume, and he’d wear it. As the Thanksgiving parade is starting and the high school cheerleaders are riding in the OU trailer, my Dad comes out as Pistol Pete, shooting Pete’s cap gun and waving them to leave. Next thing I know, the OU vehicle turned around and drove right out of town.”

Stoddard’s uncle, Don Bostwick, is an OSU graduate too. Two of Stoddard’s siblings also attended OSU, giving the family a strong connection to OSU.

Stoddard describes Bostwick as a country veterinarian who quietly took off in his career and did some outstanding work and who was loved by his students and by his customers back in Fairview.

“He was amazing. In this small town, a rural veterinarian advanced to chairman of the AVMA and developed a surgical procedure talked about the world over among veterinarians and cattle breeders.”

Although her husband never met Stoddard’s father, she says Daniel grew up on a dairy farm and appreciates what she has told him about Bostwick and his work.

“At the end of the day, I wanted to do something in honor of the man who came into our lives and had such an influence on us. I truly believe that he really was unique,” she says. “Dad was especially committed to doing whatever he could do — whether it was in the middle of the night, in a snow storm or during church.”

To make a gift to the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences in honor of or in memory of someone who has touched your life, contact the development office at 405-744-5630.
We honor those who have served the profession, our distinguished colleagues and friends.


Adams, 89, was born in Mannsville, Okla. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as a sergeant in the 48th Depot Repair Squadron stationed in the China-Burma-India theater during World War II. He received the Good Conduct Medal and the American Defense Service Ribbon.

Adams married Betty Jo Vaughn Feb. 17, 1943, at Urbana, Ill. Following his graduation from OSU, he practiced veterinary medicine in Chickasha, Okla., and Oklahoma City before becoming a veterinarian with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A longtime resident of Ardmore, Okla., he was a 32nd degree Mason with Ardmore Lodge 31 AF&AM and a member of the First United Methodist Church and the “2 Left Feet Dance Club.”

A son, grandson and granddaughter survive Adams.
(Source: Star-Telegram, March 21, 2010)

Dr. Daniel A. Woesner, class of 1953, died Sept. 16, 2009, in Lawton, Okla.

Woesner, 83, was born in Lawton, Okla., and graduated from Lawton High School in 1944. After graduation, he joined the Navy and served during World War II. He received the Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal and the U.S. Navy Sharpshooter Certificate.

He earned a bachelor’s degree from OSU in 1949.

Woesner was a member of the Boy Scouts of America from 1938 until 1985, attaining the level of Eagle Scout. He also served as scoutmaster from 1958 until 1962.

He served on the board of directors for the Junior Chamber of Commerce and was a member of Rotary International, the Lawton Chamber of Commerce and the American Legion Post 29.

Woesner was also a member of the Comanche County, Oklahoma and the American Veterinary Medical Associations and the American Academies of Veterinary Dermatology and Veterinary Cardiology.

He was a guest lecturer for Boy Scouts on veterinary medicine, geology, gemology, history of ancient Egypt, diamonds and precious gems and for Cameron University on anatomy, kinesiology, chemistry and physiology.

Woesner served on the U.S. Air Force admissions board and the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine admissions committee.

His hobbies included stamp collecting, jewelry making, lapidary, restoration of Packard automobiles, and mining in his Colorado gold mine.

Those who knew him remember Woesner as someone who taught people how to respect others, how to be respected and how to do the right thing in life. Friends say he was a good friend and colleague whose kindness and inspiration will long be remembered.

His wife, Pat, a daughter and two grandchildren survive Woesner.
(Source: Becker Funeral Home Inc.)

Dr. J. Mack Oyler, class of 1953, died at his home in Grove, Okla., Dec. 31, 2009.

After earning his DVM degree, Oyler, 83, operated a general veterinary practice in Grove for 12 years. During that time, he took a year to oversee the breeding program and herd health at the Fair Oaks Ranch in Boerne, Texas. He also spent one year at the University of Arkansas teaching animal hygiene to agriculture students and managing the university’s herd health program for herds and flocks.

He earned his Ph.D. in physiology from OSU in 1969 and held teaching appointments at OSU, the University of Georgia and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. In 1985, he served as dean of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences at OSU.

Oyler was a life member of the American and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Associations and served as OVMA president in 1988-1989. OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine named him Distinguished Alumnus in 1998.

Colleagues and friends will remember him as a true friend to veterinarians and veterinary medical education and a man of integrity who loved his profession, his family and his faith.

His wife, Mary, a son, a daughter and seven grandchildren survive Oyler.
(Source: Luginbuel Funeral Home)


Harmon, 81, of Highfill, Ark., received honorable discharges from both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army. He opened a mixed-animal private practice in Broken Arrow, Okla., following his graduation from OSU.

In 1968, Harmon began working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, retiring in 1990 as a senior executive services regional director.

He enjoyed dirt track car racing, steer roping, gardening and needlepoint. He raised Charolais cattle and was a master carpenter and a commercial poultry grower.

His wife, a son, four daughters, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren survive Harmon.
(Source: Sisco Funeral Home Inc., Pea Ridge, Ark.)
Leatherwood also installed the first Surge Milking Machine in the area at Paul Bier's dairy farm and introduced bovine artificial insemination technology to area cattle owners.

Throughout his career, he was active in veterinary organizations including the American, Missouri, Central, North Central and Intermountain Veterinary Medical Associations, the Bovine and the Porcine Practitioners Associations and the Livestock Feeders Association.

He helped found the American Society of Agriculture Consultants, serving as secretary/treasurer from 1964-67 and as executive director in 1975. He served on the MVMA’s legislative, swine disease and beef disease committees.

He was a charter member of the MVMA's Academy of Veterinary Medicine and a member of Missouri’s veterinary medicine board. In 2007, he received his 50-year pin from the MVMA.

Leatherwood also found time to serve the First United Methodist Church, the Salisbury Kiwanis Club and the Salisbury Boy Scout Troop Committee. He chaired the annual Salisbury Horse Show, the Men’s Division of the Salisbury Centennial and the Centennial Farms committee for the Chariton County Historical Society.

He was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Salisbury Masonic Lodge, Huntsville Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite Temple, Little Dixie Shrine Club (past president) and the Ararat Shrine Temple in Kansas City, where he served as the District VI Ambassador and a Provost Marshall.

Dr. Thomas E. Messler, class of 1956, died Aug. 21, 2009, in Tulsa, Okla.

Messler, 86, was born in Little Rock, Ark. He served as a second lieutenant with the 8th Air Force in England for three and one half years during World War II.

He was an Honor Roll Member of the American Veterinary Medical Association for 54 years. He earned three patents for his inventions.

He was a member of the Oil Capital Rod and Gun Club, the NRA, the Oklahoma Rifle Association, the American Legion and the Windycrest Sailing Club. He enjoyed rifle shooting and sailing his MC Scow on Keystone Lake and traveling.

His wife, Ruth, a daughter, a grandson, a granddaughter and a sister survive Messler.

(From: Tulsa World)


Leatherwood, 77, of Salisbury, Mo., was born in Paint Rock, Texas, and graduated from high school in Eden, Texas, where he participated in track, baseball, football, tennis and Future Farmers of America. He was a member of the state’s high school football championship team and was named to the all-district football team. He was also the 1950 state tennis champion.

While earning his bachelor’s degree at OSU, he met and married his wife, Bette. After graduating with his DVM degree, he bought a practice in Salisbury, Mo., and expanded it into one of the largest large-animal hospitals in the state.

He was passionate about shooting sports and gun collecting. He annually attended the Winchester Gun Show and Buffalo Bill Days in Cody, Wyo.

In 1963, the Chariton County Sheriff appointed Leatherwood deputy. In 1997, he assumed the duties of acting sheriff, and upon the sheriff’s death, served as sheriff until a new one was elected. After the election, he was re-appointed deputy and served in that capacity until his death. He also served as the Chariton County coroner for 20 years from 1981-2001.

Leatherwood also loved all sports, especially football. He and a group of local men brought organized football to the Salisbury school system. He helped organize the Salisbury Quarter-Back Club and served as its first president.

In 2002, the Salisbury school honored him for being the high school football team’s No. 1 fan for 30 years. In 2004, the school’s athletic department honored him for 33 years of support to the football teams.

He was also named special friend to the 4-H, honorary chapter farmer and honorary state farmer for his support of 4-H and FFA.

His wife, Bette, three sons, a daughter, 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive Leatherwood.

(Source: Summerville Funeral Home)

Dr. Gus Thornton, class of 1957, died Jan. 24, 2010, at his home in Medfield, Mass., after a long illness.

Thornton, 77, grew up on a farm outside Bartlesville, Okla. After graduating from OSU, he left for Boston, where he accepted an internship at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals’ Angell Memorial Animal Hospital. (The MSPCA is the second oldest humane society in the U.S.), In 1966, he became chief of staff and held that position for 23 years.

While he was at Angell, Thornton is credited with quadrupling its veterinary staff, instituting a residency program and building the country’s first veterinary intensive care unit. When he stepped down as chief of staff in 1989, he assumed the presidency of the MSPCA-Angell.

Thornton went on to advance the nonprofit’s many causes including spay/neuter campaigns, trapping and animal abuse legislation and stronger pet shop regulations.

During his tenure, he also increased the MSPCA’s participation in international animal protection work. The MSPCA provided funding and supplies to build sanctuaries for rescued dancing bears in Pakistan, Turkey and India; to equip anti-poaching patrols protecting Siberian tigers; to deliver orthopedic surgical equipment to a wildlife rehabilitation center in Colombia; and to rescue wild and domestic animals caught in earthquakes, oil spills, fires, floods, volcanic eruptions and war zones.

CONTINUES
Thornton served a two-year term as president of the World Society for the Protection of Animals, a prime beneficiary of the MSPCA’s assistance. At the end of 2002, he retired as president of the MSPCA.

Many consider Thornton to be among the most influential veterinarians of his generation.

Never a person to seek the limelight, he is noted for saying, “There’s no end to what can be accomplished if it doesn’t matter who gets the credit.”

That is how he lived his life, conducted his practice, managed the hospital and led one of the finest humane societies in the world.

His long-time friend and colleague and current MSPCA president Carter Luke said, “He was a great veterinarian and humanitarian, a true leader in both fields, nationally and internationally.

“But I think his friends and colleagues will remember him most for his heart. He cared so very deeply about animals and people. He was a kind and generous person, and he spent his life helping others. The world is a better, kinder, more humane place because of our dear friend, Gus Thornton.”

His wife, Joyce K. Sullivan, a son, a daughter, two stepsons, four grandchildren and two brothers survive Thornton.

(Source: MSPCA-Angell and the Boston Globe)


Peckham, 75, of Raleigh, N.C., was born in Enid, Okla. In addition to his DVM, he held a master’s and a doctorate in veterinary pathology.

After graduating from OSU, he worked at Experimental Pathology Laboratories Inc. and later as a vice president of Diabetes Management Solutions, which is the home of “the Diabetes Bus Initiative.”

He was a member of the North Raleigh United Methodist Church, where he was a Stephen Minister leader, facilitator and teacher. He enjoyed reading and painting.

His wife, Elizabeth, four sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren survive Peckham.

(Source: The Duncan Banner)

Dr. Zane Grey Bowles, class of 1963, died at his home in Albemarle, N.C., on Oct. 10, 2009.

Bowles, 82, attended North Carolina State University before earning his DVM degree at OSU. He moved to Albemarle in 1966 and began the Stanly Animal Clinic, where he served the Stanly County community for more than 40 years.

He was a member of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

His wife, Geraldine, a daughter, a son, five stepchildren, 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, sisters and brothers survive Bowles.

(Source: The Stanly News and Press)

Following graduation, he practiced for a year and a half in Wichita, Kan., moved to Tahlequah for two years and finally moved to Duncan where he established his veterinary practice and worked until he retired in 2004.

Perkins enjoyed painting, classical music, jazz and writing his personal memoirs.

Betty, his wife of 52 years, seven children, 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive Perkins.

(Source: The Duncan Banner)

Dr. Robert Perkins, class of 1962, died at his son’s home in Elmer, Okla., Oct. 28, 2009.

Perkins, 80, of Duncan, Okla., was born in Shawnee, Okla., where he graduated from high school. After studying business for two and one half years at the University of Oklahoma, he decided to return home to work with his father at Perkins-Cook Motors.

In 1951, Perkins joined the U.S. Army serving in several locations during three years of service. He returned home, worked for his father as a mechanic and decided to go back to school to become a veterinarian.


Robinson, 74, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at age 18. In 1997, he retired as a lieutenant colonel after receiving numerous decorations and medals.

After earning his DVM degree, he established the Animal Clinic of Leesville in 1974. He maintained his active veterinary practice while serving as a veterinary officer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1992-1993.

Robinson was a member of the American Angus Association, Vernon Parish Cattleman’s Association, Louisiana Cattleman’s Association (president 2001-2002) and executive board member with the National Cattleman’s Association.

In February 2007, the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association honored Robinson with the 2006 Distinguished Service Award. He was very active in his community where he was a member of the Leesville Lions Club for many years.

Two daughters, two sons, four grandchildren and his best friend, T.B. Porter, survive Robinson.

(Source: The Town Talk Alexandria, La.)
Dr. Nolan Gross, class of 1966, died Dec. 4, 2009, after a short and courageous battle with cancer.

Gross, 68, of Tulsa, Okla., was born in Oklahoma City and graduated from Moore (Okla.) High School, where he lettered in track and field and was active in Future Farmers of America showing sheep and pigs.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from OSU. After graduating with his DVM degree, he served two years as a captain in the U.S. Army.

In 1968, Gross founded the Mingo Road Veterinary Hospital, where he was still practicing until four weeks before his death. In the 1980s he and his wife, Ginger, began Southern Agriculture, a pet supply store known for its yellow-and-green wallaby logo. There are seven locations, including Owasso and Broken Arrow, and will soon be eight.

Gross served on the Oklahoma Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners for many years. He was a past president of the Tulsa County Veterinary Medical Association, the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

He was a loyal and true OSU Cowboy sports fan and avid angler, taking every chance to go fishing with grandson Cooper.

His wife, Ginger, a son, a daughter, five grandchildren, his mother, two brothers and a sister survive Gross.

(Source: Tulsa World)


Cassini, 58, of Oklahoma City, Okla., moved to Massachusetts and married Edward Augustyniak following her graduation from OSU. To escape the cold northeast winters, the couple moved to south Florida, where she raised their two daughters and Tennessee Walking horses.

She was a dedicated volunteer in many organizations including Moton Elementary and the Dawn Center. She was also an active member of the First Baptist Church of Brooksville, Fla., where she served in the Helping Hands Ministry and compiled the church history.

Her daughters, her father, four sisters and four brothers survive Cassini. Following a divorce from Augustyniak, she took her grandmother’s name, Cassini, as her legal name.

(Source: Smith & Kerrike Funeral Directors)


Powell, 62, of Stillwater, Okla., was a native of Ada, Okla., where she graduated from high school. She attended Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton and Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla.

After graduating from OSU, Powell practiced veterinary medicine in Enterprise, Okla., and later in Ada. She was a member of the Catholic Church and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association.

Her husband, Carl R. Powell, preceded Powell in death. A daughter, two grandsons, one sister, two brothers and many nieces and nephews survive Powell.

(Source: King & Shearwood Funeral Home)

Dr. Mark Brent Sherrill, class of 1989, died Nov. 19, 2009, at the McAlester Regional Health Center, McAlester, Okla.

Sherrill, 45, of McAlester, Okla., was born in Oklahoma City and later moved with his parents to the McAlester area. He graduated from Savanna High School and married Twylia Baker of McAlester.

From 1989 until 1991, Sherrill worked at Windsor Animal Clinic in Coalgat, Okla., and then returned to McAlester, where he and his two sisters ran market operations at the McAlester Stockyards. From 1995 to 2000, he also handled market operations for the Ada Stockyards. Sherrill was also a rancher and did order buying of cattle.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of McAlester, a 32nd degree Masonic member of the South McAlester Blue Lodge No. 96 and the McAlester Scottish Rite Consistory. He was also a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association and past president of the Pittsburg County Cattlemen’s Association.

He was an avid outdoorsman enjoying hunting, fishing, snow skiing and vacationing with his family.

Friends remember him as a smart, fair and honest man of high integrity. In veterinary school, classmates say he was a joy to work with and to learn from, turning the most difficult job into an adventure that made everyone smile. Many will miss his kind and generous spirit and his leadership in the veterinary profession.

His wife, Twylia, two daughters, a son, two grandchildren, his parents and two sisters survive Sherrill.

(Source: McAlester News-Capital)
Meet Falafel, the daughter of Guinness and Tequila, shown in the background, and owned by Dr. Cornelia J. Ketz-Riley, head of OSU’s zoo, exotic, and wildlife medicine service (ZEW). Tequila became a resident of the teaching hospital’s ZEW service in 2009 to provide company to Guinness, a longtime ZEW resident. ZEW uses the Guinea pigs to teach veterinary students about proper husbandry and nutrition, as well as aspects of veterinary care, such as restraint, physical examination, birth control and treating reproductive or other problems that may occur. Guinea pigs have a long gestation time of 58-70 days. They give birth to fully developed young that are already furred, have their eyes and ears open and their second set of teeth. They are ready to follow their parents around and consume solid food from the first day of life, but they still enjoy their parents’ pampering and continue to nurse until about 6 weeks old. The ZEW service’s young Guinea pigs are usually up for adoption to good homes once they reach 8 weeks of age.
Here’s Something to Chew On. Leadership of our veterinary alumni association has established “The Alumni and Friends Endowed Scholarship Fund—1,000 Giving a $1,000 Campaign.” The goal is for 1,000 alumni or friends of the veterinary center to give or pledge $1,000 each to a scholarship endowment fund. The Pickens Legacy Match will maximize donor gifts. Cash gifts received before Feb. 26, 2011, are eligible for a 2:1 match; donations paid within 5 years receive a 1.5:1 match; and planned gift pledges made prior to the February deadline will be matched 1:1.
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