The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences graduates competent, confident, practice-ready veterinarians — a tradition it has proudly carried forward since the day the veterinary college opened its doors 63 years ago. Please join us at the CVHS website: www.cvhs.okstate.edu. The OSU homepage is located at www.okstate.edu.

Vet Cetera magazine is a publication of the Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. Its purpose is to connect the college with its many alumni and friends, providing information on both campus news and pertinent issues in the field of veterinary medicine. Oklahoma State University © 2011

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WHO’S NEW
The center adds six new members to the faculty.

HONOR ROLL
OSU veterinarians and students earn respect.

IN THE NEWS
Headline work of center veterinarians and timely topics.

THE FUTURE
The center improves the future for animals and humans.

CONNECTIONS
Celebrating the past and helping the future.

IN MEMORIAM
Honoring those who have served the profession.

EPILOG
The new foals are here.

COVER: A university veterinarian recommended Berlin, a shepherd mix who was a patient in the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences shelter medicine program, for adoption (p. 32). Berlin is moving forward with a kick — as CVHS is doing under the leadership of a new dean.

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY / PHIL SHOCKLEY

This Siamese-mix cat, Belle, survived a life-threatening condition thanks to the steady hand of surgeons and the persistent effort of staff at the OSU veterinary hospital. See full story page 30.

PHOTOGRAPHY / PHIL SHOCKLEY
Farewells from the Dean

Being Thankful

I have served OSU Center for Veterinary Health Science as dean and interim dean since 2001. It has been a good ride and I am grateful to the many faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends that helped me over the last 10 years. During that time, many good things and some not so good things transpired. We have accomplished most of our goals and objectives, but there are several capital improvement projects still to be completed. I look forward to finishing my career as clinician and teacher.

I want to thank the staff that reports directly to the dean. Mrs. Mary Kay Jennings has been my assistant since I joined the faculty in 1997 as associate dean for academic affairs. Like the dean, Mary Kay loves our students and she is a great ambassador of good will for our college. Marilyn Wilson is manager of Fiscal Affairs. Her staff does an outstanding job with budget and personnel issues. Our business office has the reputation on campus as being the best.

Jim Hargrave is facilities manager and he oversees maintenance and capital improvements. He is an expert on the construction and maintenance of research laboratories. Brad Barnes is manager of Information Technology and oversees a myriad of functions and facilities. His expertise has greatly expanded our IT capabilities.

Derinda Blakeney is director of Public Relations, Marketing and Alumni Affairs. She does the work of three individuals. Several Vet Ceteras published under her watch have won state awards. Sharon Worrell serves as development assistant and she has done an excellent job with developing scholarship and Cohn shelter endowments.

My associate deans are student centered and great team players. Dr. Sidney Ewing graciously served our college as interim associate dean for academic affairs until Dr. Cyril Clarke was appointed to that position. Sidney is a class act and always available for wise counsel. Dr. Jerry Malayer was appointed associate dean for Research and Graduate Education early on. He has done an outstanding job with our research program, and under his leadership we have added several biological safety 3 laboratories, a BSL 3 animal facility and other research facilities.

Dr. Cyril Clarke served as associate dean for academic affairs before his appointment as dean of veterinary medicine at Oregon State University. Cyril is the architect of our core elective curriculum. Dr. Jim Meinkoth served as interim associate dean prior to the appointment of Dr. Chris Ross. Jim is the architect of our academic standards policies and procedures. He is currently serving as interim head of veterinary pathobiology. Dr. Chris Ross is our current associate dean for academic affairs. He implemented our early admit program and is the architect of our transfer program.

I want to thank my department heads and directors for their excellent service and wise management: Dr. Charles MacAllister, veterinary clinical sciences; Dr. Carey Pope, physiological sciences; Dr. Jim Meinkoth, veterinary pathobiology; Dr. Mark Neer, hospital director, and Dr. Bill Johnson, Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory director.

In closing, I want to recognize our students. It is well known that the dean and the students have immense respect for each other. Students would walk through fire for the dean and he for them. We have faced some adversity together, but we never lost our integrity. Well done students!

Dr. Jean Sander took over the deanship on Aug. 1. Dr. Sander will do an excellent job and I hope you will give her the same support that I have enjoyed. We will teach her the OSU chant (the left hand is up on the S), the meaning of Go Pokes, and the significance of Orange Socks United.

You all take care and I look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

Dr. Michael D. Lorenz, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM
FORMER DEAN AND PROFESSOR
New Faces at the Center

Dr. Danielle Dugat joins OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences as a lecturer in the veterinary clinical sciences department.

Originally from California, Dugat earned her DVM degree from OSU in 2007. She then completed a small-animal medicine and surgery internship followed by a small-animal surgery residency, both at OSU. In May 2011, she earned her master’s degree in veterinary biomedical sciences from OSU.

Dugat’s research interests focus on intramedullary arterial density of the feline tibia and implications in fracture healing.

In her spare time, Dugat likes to do scrapbooking, play softball and enjoy any free time with her family.

Dr. Andrew Hanzlicek is an assistant professor of small-animal internal medicine.

He is from Caldwell, Kan., and earned his bachelor’s in agriculture, master’s in biomedical sciences and his DVM from Kansas State University. Hanzlicek is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

His research interests focus on small-animal nephrology, gastroenterology and hematology.

In his spare time, Hanzlicek enjoys any outdoor sport and spending time with his wife, Carey, and their 3-year-old son, William.
Dr. Todd Jackson is a clinical associate professor and the laboratory animal resources director.

From Lafayette, Ind., Jackson earned his DVM degree at Purdue University and then joined a mixed-animal practice in southern Indiana. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in comparative medicine at the University of Michigan. He then went to the University of Cincinnati, where he would become director and attending veterinarian for multiple programs. His most recent past position was director of veterinary sciences for Bristol-Myers Squibb’s research and development program in Mount Vernon, Ind.

Jackson is an active member of multiple professional organizations and has been a reviewer for multiple journals in the field of comparative medicine. He has co-authored a book on caring for dogs in laboratory settings and a training manual for laboratory animal technologists.

Dr. Kimberly Reeds is an assistant professor of oncology.

She is originally from Newcastle, Okla., and earned her bachelor’s degree in animal science and DVM degree from OSU.

Her research interests focus on nanoparticle and stem cell therapies.

In her spare time Reeds enjoys spending time with her husband, Pat, baking, reading, shopping, and watching or attending OSU athletic events. She also confesses she would be lost without her label maker.
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 Alumni 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. Joseph H. Carter Jr. owns and operates the Oklahoma Equine Hospital in Washington, Okla.; is a partner in the McGee Street Animal Hospital in Norman, Okla.; serves as the consulting veterinarian and surgeon at the Wildcare Foundation in Noble, Okla.; and performs 150 to 200 orthopedic surgeries a year on raptors while overseeing a caseload of approximately 2,000 to 3,000.

Carter earned two degrees from OSU, a bachelor’s in agriculture in 1981 and a DVM in 1984.

During veterinary school, Carter worked for Dr. Louie Stratton, class of 1955, at the teaching hospital, Dr. Katherine Kocan in the anaplasmosis lab, and weekends at the Covington Sale Barn with Dr. Bob Smith. He served as the national president of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association and was the national editor and publisher of the organization’s newspaper, INTERVET.

After graduation, Carter completed an internship at the Littleton Large Animal Clinic in Colorado, then moved to California and worked in private practices before returning to Oklahoma and opening his own practice in 1988.

Carter was named the Oklahoma Equine Practitioner of the Year in 1995. He served as Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association president in 1998 and Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Foundation president in 1999. For 2000 to 2002, he received the Distinguished Service Recognition Award from the Wildcare Foundation. He also is a past member of the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission, and is active making sure veterinarians voices are heard by the Oklahoma Legislature.
Dr. Michael Lappin is an American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Diplomate and a professor of small-animal internal medicine at Colorado State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Lappin graduated from OSU with a DVM in 1981, then completed a rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the University of Georgia. He next spent two years in a Los Angeles small-animal practice before returning to Georgia and completing a small-animal internal medicine residency and a doctorate in parasitology.

Lappin studies feline infectious and immune-mediated diseases and has written more than 200 primary research manuscripts and book chapters. Principal areas of interest include prevention of infectious diseases, the upper respiratory disease complex, infectious causes of fever and diarrhea, and cat zoonoses.

Lappin is on the editorial board of Feline Medicine and Surgery and Compendium for Continuing Education for the Practicing Veterinarian and is the editor of the textbook, Feline Internal Medicine Secrets. He is the Kenneth W. Smith Professor in Small Animal Clinical Veterinary Medicine and the assistant department head for research at Colorado State. He also is the director for the Center for Companion Animal Studies.

Lappin has served as chairperson of the American Association of Feline Practitioners panels on feline zoonoses and boronella. Lappin received the Beecham Research Award in 1988, the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award in 1991, the 2008 European Society of Feline Medicine International Award for Outstanding Contribution to Feline Medicine and the Winn Feline Research Award in 2009.

Dr. Eva Sartin is a pathobiology professor at Auburn University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. She received her DVM from OSU in 1979.

Following graduation, Sartin completed a three-year residency at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Veterinary Medicine. She joined the pathobiology department at Auburn in 1982, and while doing a residency and instructorship, finished a doctorate in pathology.

Sartin directs the histopathology laboratory and actively participates in the diagnostic pathology service. Using video recordings of gross pathology rounds, she is developing a webpage for weekly teleconference sessions with veterinary classes at St. George’s University in Grenada, West Indies.

She was editor-in-chief for Veterinary Pathology from 2004 to 2007 and has served as an associate editor and editorial board member.

Sartin’s recent research efforts have involved collaborative studies ranging from wound healing and reproductive pathology studies to mammary cancer in dogs and case studies of various conditions. Her chief research interest is the use of immunohistochemistry as a tool in cancer diagnosis.
James Michael Rogers received the highest honor a veterinary student can achieve at OSU, the 2011 Dean Clarence H. McElroy Award.

“It is a tremendous honor and very humbling to be selected by my classmates and faculty to receive the prestigious Dean McElroy Award,” Rogers says.

“I owe a great deal of gratitude to my wife, Alisha. I could not have made it through veterinary school without her help and support,” Rogers says. “I also have outstanding mentors in Drs. Reed Holyoak and Chelsea Makloski, who have offered tremendous guidance both professionally and personally.”

After graduation, Rogers planned to begin an internship with Oakridge Equine Hospital in Edmond, Okla., and then with the Lazy E Ranch in Guthrie, Okla. After completion of his internships, he may seek to return to OSU to complete a residency in theriogenology. He eventually plans to go into practice with Alisha, a class of 2014 veterinary student at OSU.

“The summer before I started veterinary college I worked at OSU’s veterinary ranch with Drs. Holyoak and Makloski,” Rogers says. “Over the last three years, Alisha and I have lived and worked at the ranch. It was this experience that helped guide me toward equine practice with an interest in theriogenology. My involvement with the local and national American Association of Equine Practitioners chapter has sparked my passion to be an equine veterinarian.”

Rogers is the son of Cindy and Jimmy Rogers and grew up in Madill, Okla., helping his grandpa tend cattle. His grandma unexpectedly died last year.

“The last time I saw her, she told me that she was coming to my graduation even if she had to bring a wheelchair,” he says. “She passed away unexpectedly on New Year’s Eve. She wasn’t able to physically attend graduation, but I know it is the work ethic and manners that she and my grandpa, as well as my parents, instilled in me that have helped me all along the way.”
Humble Honoree

Third-year veterinary student Jason Duell won the Dean Harry W. Orr Memorial Award for his high academic achievement.

“I always feel so humbled and fortunate to receive any sort of recognition,” Duell says.

“My wife and I were talking the other day,” Duell says, “and I told her, as tough as veterinary school is, there’s not a whole lot that’s more rewarding than getting to preserve life. There aren’t many people who get to be involved in that each day.”

Duell, who studied animal science as an undergrad at OSU, decided on veterinary medicine his sophomore year. The seed was planted as a child working on his grandfather’s beef and wheat farm outside of Hennessey, a small town about 60 miles north of Oklahoma City.

Duell, 25, received the Orr award during the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences annual awards banquet in April at the Wes Watkins Center. The $2,500 scholarship is named for the College of Veterinary Medicine’s second dean, who led the college from 1953 until his death in 1956.

The Orr award is one of many Duell has received for academic accomplishments at OSU. His presentation on how ticks and tick-borne diseases affect horses took top honors in the Basic Science or Applied Research category at Phi Zeta Research Day in April. Duell is a member of Phi Zeta, veterinary medicine’s honor society.

Duell says he is looking forward to his fourth year, when he’ll apply in a clinical setting what he has worked so hard to master in a classroom.

“It’ll be a fun transition to see how much all of us can remember and see how we can put it to use,” he says.

Duell, class of 2012, would eventually like to work in private practice somewhere in west central Oklahoma near where he grew up.

He is married to Dana Duell, a dental hygiene student from Chickasha, whom he met when he was an undergraduate.
For 33 years of her 35-year OSU career, Marilyn Wilson has been the fiscal affairs director for the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. This year, she adds the title of 2011 Stratton Staff Award recipient.

“What I like about my job is the people,” Wilson says. “The people and the relationships I have established over the years. My job is challenging and demanding, but very rewarding.”

Wilson was surprised to hear her name announced as this year’s Stratton award recipient.

“Absolutely surprised – mainly because there are so many good, dedicated staff who work here.”

This year’s other nominees were Patti Anderson, Teresa Blakley, Ann Govek, Jim Hargrave and Carey Warner.

“That is such a distinguished list of staff and all of them very deserving,” Wilson says. “Because of the position I hold, I often get credit for an activity when in actuality it was a team effort.”

Wilson notes Dorothy Scarborough, the college’s fiscal officer, started just days before she did; Verlynda Beane has been with the college for 30 years and serves as administrative associate; Joan Hubbard, sponsored program specialist, has worked for the college for 22 years; and Bobbie Sue Bower, senior accounting specialist, started in 2006.

Established in 1989 upon Dr. Louie Stratton’s retirement, the award honors staff members for their service and contributions. Nominations are accepted from center employees and a committee selected by the dean picks the winner.

“Marilyn has done an outstanding job for the veterinary center and is very deserving of this award,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, former dean. “She has survived three deans and trained two of them on budget and personnel policies and procedures. I have appreciated Marilyn’s honesty and integrity and her attention to detail and accuracy. I wish her the best.”

“She has survived three deans and trained two of them on budget and personnel policies and procedures. I have appreciated Marilyn’s honesty and integrity and her attention to detail and accuracy.” — Dr. Michael Lorenz
Happily Dedicated Technologist Wins Award

Teresa Blakley’s smile and dedication are two big reasons she is such an important cog at the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and a recent recipient of an OSU Distinguished Service Award.

“This has all been such a surprise,” Blakley says. “I’m very honored to receive this award, and I thank John Thomas and Drs. Brenda Love and Sandra Morgan for nominating me.”

A 17-year employee with the veterinary center, Blakley has worked at the diagnostic lab for the past 10 years. Four years ago, she moved into her current position in the bacteriology/mycology section.

“We help save lives and help the veterinarians diagnose the problems at hand,” Blakley says. “It’s a very fulfilling job.”

Blakley helps work up cases looking for disease caused by pathogens such as salmonellae, E. coli, streptococci and pasteurellae. She sets panels to determine which organism is present and to identify what drug will best eliminate the organism. She then reports back to the submitting veterinarian.

“Teresa goes beyond the minimum job requirements and takes on the responsibility of training new, younger employees, students who work on the weekend, clinicians at the veterinary hospital and more,” Love says. “And she does this every day with a smile and a sense of humor that makes my day. She is undoubtedly the most deserving person to receive this award that I have ever met.”

OADDL technologist Teresa Blakley’s dedication is on display daily and earned her an OSU Distinguished Service Award for being, as one professor says, “the backbone of my laboratory.”
Rite of Passage

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences held a transition ceremony this spring for the class of 2012. The tradition, established six years ago, marks the beginning of clinical rotations and signifies an important step forward for third-year students.

Taylor Tillery receives his new white coat from Dr. Katrina Meinkoth, the recruitment manager, as Dean Michael Lorenz emcees the ceremony.
A drug being tested in mice has shown to be effective in treating Respiratory Syncytial Virus, a contagious viral disease almost everyone is stricken with as a child, Dr. Sadis Matalon told a group of OSU veterinary medicine faculty, researchers and students during an annual lecture.

While most cases clear up on their own in a week or two, some can lead to asthma and, in severe cases, respiratory failure, according to information presented by Matalon during the second Lundberg-Kienlen Lectureship in Biomedical Sciences.

According to Matalon, young children with other severe medical conditions and older adults with weakened immune systems are more likely to face severe complications from the respiratory disease.

There is no vaccine or specific treatment for the viral disease, says Matalon, an internationally recognized leader in the field of acute lung injury. In addition to the cases affecting children, RSV accounts for 10,000 adult deaths a year.

Yet, Matalon says, a Food and Drug Administration approved drug for another condition is effective in treating RSV in infected mice. More clinical trials are needed, but preliminary findings show the drug maintains normal lung function and enables the lungs to clear fluid at the normal rate in mice a day after becoming infected with the virus.

Matalon’s lecture focused on how the virus impacts the ability of lung epithelial cells to transport fluid and clear fluid from the lungs.

Professor Lin Liu, who holds the Lundberg-Kienlen Professorship in Biomedical Research and is the director of the Lung Biology and Toxicology Laboratory at the veterinary center, hosted the lecture given in the McElroy Hall Auditorium at OSU.

Matalon is the Alice McNeal Professor and vice chairman for research in the Department of Anesthesiology and director of the Pulmonary Injury and Repair Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s medical school. His awards include the National Institutes of Health MERIT Award, the Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishment from the American Thoracic Society, the American Lung Association’s Career Investigator Award. He also received the Argus Society Award for Instructional Excellence and the Joint Health Sciences Presidential Teaching Award, both from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

DERINDA BLAKENEY

What is Respiratory Syncytial Virus?

RSV causes the hospitalization of 75,000 to 125,000 children younger than age 1 every year.

**Symptoms:** RSV can cause coughing, sneezing, runny nose, fever and a decrease in appetite. In very young infants, irritability, decreased activity and breathing difficulties may be the only symptoms.

**Who is at risk:** Premature infants, children younger than age 2 with congenital heart or chronic lung disease, and children with weakened immune systems due to a medical condition or medical treatment are at highest risk. Adults with compromised immune systems and those 65 and older are also at increased risk.

**When is risk greatest:** RSV infections generally occur in the United States from November to April. However, the timing of the season may differ among locations and from year to year.

**SOURCE:** CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
After a decade of fighting for the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, Dr. Michael Lorenz steps out of the ring.

Dr. Michael Lorenz looks more like a “dog doctor” than a prizefighter.

Yet, when Lorenz stepped down as dean of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences in July 2011, Dr. Roger Panciera, who spent 44 years at the center, likened his former student and boss to the tenacious boxer Muhammad Ali.

“He can talk the talk and walk the walk,” Panciera says.

Lorenz, class of 1969, made a name for himself stepping into the ring for the vet college and its students. He fought to raise faculty members’ salaries to the Big 12 average, hire more researchers, expand research programs, improve its facilities and modernize the veterinary education curriculum.

Lorenz stepped down but will continue to teach in the clinical sciences department before beginning a gradual retirement. That keeps him connected to his first love, teaching, and his chosen specialty of neurology.

CONTINUES
Dean Michael Lorenz laughs as Megan Beavers, class of 2012, watches Atticus, a blood-donor dog at the veterinary hospital, nibble at the professor’s ear.
“I LIKE SEEING THE LIGHT GO ON. DESIRE TO BE A GOOD TEACHER IS NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN DEVELOP. I THINK YOU’RE BORN WITH IT.”

— MICHAEL LORENZ
“I’m still a pretty good dog doctor,” Lorenz says. “I spent a good part of my life working with people, being mentored and trained to be a good practicing veterinarian. That drive is still there.”

In recognition of his contributions to veterinary medicine and his skills, the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association named Lorenz the 2011 Veterinarian of the Year. In praise of his service to OSU, the OSU/A&M Board of Regents at a meeting in July named Lorenz a Regents Service Professor.

The first alumnus to serve as dean, Lorenz started at OSU in 1997 as associate dean for academic affairs. He was appointed interim dean in 2001 after Dean Joe Alexander left the veterinary college. Alexander would go on to lead OSU’s Center for Innovation and Economic Development. Lorenz was promoted to dean in 2004.

Panciera and other college luminaries say Lorenz was one of the top leaders in the college’s 63-year history. Among key changes under Lorenz’s leadership was the college’s name change to the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. The name reflects a broader commitment to comparative medicine, the practice that pursues commonalities between animals and humans to improve both organisms’ lives.

“The reasoning behind that was we were the only college on campus that operated a hospital and a facility like our Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory,” Lorenz says. “Our operation was similar to OSU Center for Health Sciences. Our budget was just smaller. So the title includes the college, the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.”

Lorenz also led the college through a tumultuous period for veterinary medicine. After Sept. 11, fears of bioterrorism, such as anthrax attacks, made zoonotic disease research a hot-button, national defense priority.

OSU established a special biosafety level 3 lab, the Presbyterian Health Foundation Veterinary Medical Research Laboratory, which helped put the vet school at the forefront of the fight against dangerous and infectious diseases.

The accomplishment occurred during a time of declining state funding for higher education and an economic recession.

“We don’t measure greatness by bigness,” Lorenz says. “We measure it by how we use what we have. I think you see that in our graduates, too. That goes back to what the faculty members teach them.”

Lorenz grew up in Kremlin, a small farming town about two hours north of Oklahoma City. His family was involved with dairy and beef cattle. He raised pigs in the local 4-H Club chapter. Over time, he came to know a local veterinarian whom he admired, exposing him to veterinary medicine as a possible career.

“I’d given a lot of consideration to med school at the time,” he says. “I decided I didn’t want to go to school that long and pay that much money.”

Lorenz graduated high school in 1963 and enrolled in OSU’s pre-veterinary medicine program in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. He married his high school sweetheart, Velda Clark, his second year of college. He graduated with his DVM in 1969 and took a residency at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., where he met his mentor, Dr. Robert Kirk, a godfather of modern small-animal medicine.

While Lorenz was at Cornell, new research into medical diagnosis had emerged, causing many to believe the old method, which requires the learner to absorb a huge amount of information, might not be best for everyone. Research by Vermont physician Lawrence Weed found doctors usually adhered to the same mental shortlist of diagnoses they accumulate over their careers.

“If your problem is on that shortlist, then lucky you. If not, it won’t be discovered, and you won’t get good health care,” Lorenz says.

Weed’s revolutionary solution, the Problem-Oriented Medical Record, has since been taught to most medical students. It helps students make informed diagnoses without memorizing reams of information. Committed to working in academia, Lorenz wanted to help introduce the method in veterinary medicine, but Cornell officials were not interested.

“I was on the faculty there my final year but had decided to move to the University of Georgia, where I knew they were interested in this problem-oriented approach,” he says.

Lorenz started at Georgia in 1972. He would stay on until 1988, helping implement Weed’s system. He was an award-winning instructor and professor in the university’s departments of medicine and surgery, small-animal medicine, physiology and pharmacology. He also worked as an administrator, spending six years as the vet school’s associate dean for academic affairs.

He left Georgia to be dean of Kansas State University’s veterinary college. He continued teaching in clinical sciences and for a time headed the college’s small-animal medicine section at its teaching hospital. He pushed through several school improvements, including its reaccreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Council on Education. Before stepping down in 1994, he oversaw efforts to diversify the faculty and re-energize its research programs through new hires and laboratories.

Lorenz was content to teach clinical medicine until he received a call from a group of OSU alumni. They wanted him to apply for the college’s associate dean for academic affairs position.

“OSU’s search wasn’t going anywhere. Some alums got in touch with me. They laid a guilt trip on me. They said, ‘You’re an alum. You need to come back. You owe us.’

CONTINUES
“I decided maybe they were right. The college’s faculty members were doing some things that made me extremely proud – as few and as resource poor as they were. They were out in front of that curve.”

Returning to OSU seemed like a good idea. Comparative medicine was catching on. He saw the opportunity to expand the teaching hospital. He looked forward to working with OSU students. He accepted the position and, later, his role as dean.

“I’m a decentralized person,” he says. “I prefer to put the resources out in the departments, letting their leaders make the decisions on how to use them. That worked very well at OSU.”

As dean, he improved the college’s connections with alumni and private practitioners, arranging town hall-style meetings all over the state. He tried to be visible and accessible to eliminate the college’s isolated image at the time.

Dr. John Kirkpatrick, class of 1965, says those efforts have far-reaching consequences. Lorenz’s background as a clinician showed in his support of the veterinary teaching hospital and vet students’ clinical training.

“It also makes us alumni feel we are a part of the university,” Kirkpatrick says. “I’d always held OSU in high esteem as my alma mater, but my allegiance was not as great as it is now. Dr. Lorenz displays and definitely encourages that kind of camaraderie.”

At conferences and fundraisers, Lorenz relishes running into graduates and hearing of their accomplishments. Meanwhile, his abilities as an instructor have earned him respect among the college’s faculty.

“Students don’t appreciate teachers that are popular and have low standards,” Lorenz says. “They see through that pretty quickly. I like seeing the light go on. Desire to be a good teacher is not something you can develop. I think you’re born with it.”

Dr. Sidney Ewing, one of the college’s most lauded faculty members, worked for a time under Lorenz as associate dean of academic affairs. He commends the former dean for his fairness, frankness and efforts to keep the college connected to the OSU community.

“We both worked together very effectively, and I enjoyed it a great deal,” Ewing says. “He’s willing to tell you why he thinks the way he does.”

Lorenz also is an accomplished writer. Panciera praises the dean for two textbooks, the Handbook of Veterinary Neurology, in its fifth edition, and Small Animal Medical Diagnosis.

One of the college’s most important traditions, the white-coat ceremony, began under Lorenz’s leadership. With their parents in attendance, first-year students receive the lab coats they’ll use while in the program. Third-year students exchange those for coats embroidered with their names for use in the clinic during their fourth year.

“Those are little things, but they have a large impact in developing fond memories as well as camaraderie,” Kirkpatrick says.

In the future, Lorenz hopes the college uses the video cameras installed in classrooms to let instructors record their courses. That could turn into online courses the college could offer other universities lacking course offerings in certain areas.

“Not every veterinary school can hire someone to teach every little thing,” Lorenz says, “but they can sure get that expertise from us at a low cost.”

His only regret is failing to generate enough funding for a new building to improve clinical faculty offices and to provide much needed instructional space. The recession of 2008 nipped that and other projects in the bud, including a deal with the University of Arizona that would’ve sent students to OSU to finish their degrees.

Lorenz says he’ll miss leading the college, but he is comforted knowing he’ll be working as a clinician and teaching amidst a community of scholars he respects. He plans to remain in Stillwater, work in consulting and spend his free time in the community and with his grandchildren.

“I’m looking forward to continuing to associate with our practitioners and our alumni, as well as our incredible faculty members and students within the vet college,” Lorenz says. “Our motto is ‘Though we be small, we be fierce.’”

Lorenz is working with Rains, left, and Beavers, center, who are doing their clinical-skills training. Although Lorenz is no longer dean, he continues to work with students.
Lorenz Honored

The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine — Specialty of Neurology designated Dr. Michael Lorenz an honorary diplomate. The presentation was made at the annual forum of the ACVIM.

Lorenz is a diplomate of Small Animal Internal Medicine and has spent a major part of his career in the discipline of small-animal clinical neurology.

Drs. Joan Coates, Joe Kornegay and Natasha Olby presented Lorenz the award for his contributions in advancing the discipline of small-animal neurology and his dedication in teaching neurology to veterinary students.

A Tribute and Friendly Competition

OSU veterinary alumni have set up two scholarships.

As a tribute to the career of Dr. Michael Lorenz, the class of 1969 and the class of 1960 created the Dean Michael D. Lorenz Endowed Scholarship. Gifts made to this scholarship are eligible for the Pickens Legacy Scholarship Match, making the $74,149 cash and pledged donations equal to $222,448 when matched.

The Alumni and Friends Endowed Scholarship Fund also was established encouraging 1,000 alumni and friends to each donate $1,000. Cash gifts and pledges also may qualify for the Pickens Match. A non-OSU graduate faculty member challenged faculty, staff and the Veterinary Administrative Council to raise more than the alumni. As of Sept. 1, alumni, staff and friends had raised $136,688. The council, faculty and staff had donated $10,000 of that.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT AMANDA DAVIS OR SHARON WORRELL AT 405-744-5630 OR EMAIL SWORREL@OKSTATE.EDU.

2011 Oklahoma State University
The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences welcomes Dr. Jean Sander as its new dean. Sander began her duties on Aug. 1 and also will be a pathology professor.

Sander comes to OSU from Ohio State University where she was the associate dean for academic and student affairs and a professor at the veterinary medicine college.

“I am very excited about the opportunity to join the OSU family,” Sander says.

“I was made to feel welcomed and found the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences to have many great faculty and staff,” she says. “Dean Lorenz has positioned the college to be successful under the leadership of a new dean, and I am appreciative of his accomplishments. I hope to take the veterinary center to the next level with the assistance of an outstanding leadership team.”

Sander earned her bachelor’s degree from Elmhurst College in Illinois and her DVM from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Prior to Ohio State, Sander was a professor at the University of Georgia, where she earned a master’s in avian medicine.
The 8-week-old puppy named Cuda was clumsy, but it’s hard not to be when you have such big feet.

“I noticed he had a tremor but put it aside as a puppy thing,” says Deborah Fouraker of Fort Worth, Texas. “He was clumsy, but his feet were so big I put that off as just being a puppy.”

Cuda is a Beauceron, a French shepherd breed known for being a large and athletic working dog. As a puppy he won Deborah and Michael Fouraker’s hearts as soon as they got him.

“He was instantly part of our family,” Deborah says. “He has such a great personality.”

Six months later, Cuda still had not grown into those large feet. Then Cuda turned 1 year old, and by November 2010 the Fourakers knew Cuda’s clumsiness could no longer be associated with puppyhood.

The Fourakers took Cuda to the Center for Veterinary Specialty Care in Fort Worth, where he underwent an MRI. Veterinarians found a cyst on top of the spinal cord between the second and third cervical vertebrae. Veterinarians told the Fourakers surgery was the only option. It would be a delicate procedure with significant risks and an unknown long-term prognosis.

“The surgery described to us was pretty intense,” Deborah says. “We wanted a second opinion before proceeding with such a risky operation.”

The couple was referred to OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. They were told a staff member there wrote the book on small-animal neurology.

Michael Fouraker, executive director of the Fort Worth Zoo, contacted Michael Hyatt, the treasurer of the zoo’s board of directors and an OSU alumnus, to see if he could recommend the best person to contact.
IN THE NEWS

Hyatt, who is on the OSU Foundation board of governors, has known Dr. Michael Lorenz for several years. Hyatt contacted Lorenz, the senior author of The Handbook of Veterinary Neurology, now in its fifth edition. Michael Fouraker had met Lorenz before but didn’t realize he was an expert in neurology.

Lorenz reviewed the MRI and a videotape of Cuda’s gait. He consulted with Dr. Mark Rochat, a small-animal surgery professor and section chief at OSU’s veterinary hospital; and Dr. Joan Coates, a neurology professor at the University of Missouri’s veterinary college.

The team advised the Fourakers to bring Cuda to OSU.

“Knowing Dr. Lorenz was a leading expert in this field and that we wanted the best of the best, it made sense to get Cuda to OSU for a referral,” Deborah says. “Cuda is such a big part of our family. We had to give him the best chance to have a normal life.”

It was the Fourakers’ first visit to OSU’s veterinary hospital.

“It was a wonderful experience from beginning to end,” Deborah says. “We were so happy to get a second opinion.”

Based on findings of an MRI, OSU anesthetized Cuda and performed tests suggesting the dog’s condition was complicated by additional abnormalities in the cervical vertebrae that may cause future problems.

Cuda at home in Fort Worth, Texas, is happy and healthy after the intervention of OSU veterinarians referred to the Beauceron’s owners by an OSU alumnus.
“We really don’t know what caused these changes or potential problem,” Rochat says. “I think it’s far more likely they occurred due to a traumatic incident that happened to Cuda when he was very young rather than something genetic or congenital.”

In May, Cuda underwent a laminectomy and Rochat removed the cyst.

Within a day of surgery, Cuda’s clumsiness was less severe.

“The surgery helped alleviate the initial problem,” Deborah says. “Knowing that he may have problems with his vertebrae, we will be able to watch him carefully and act quickly if anything looks out of the ordinary.”

The Fourakers say OSU went above and beyond in the diagnosis and care of Cuda. Every patient treated at the veterinary hospital is assigned a faculty member, either a resident or an intern and a fourth-year student. In Cuda’s case, the student was Jason Duell of Hennessey, Okla.

“We felt comfortable leaving our baby in OSU’s hands,” Deborah says. “We had to leave him there from Wednesday until the following Tuesday. Jason called on a regular basis multiple times a day. If he didn’t know the answers to our questions, he found the answers and relayed the information to us. We felt good about everybody who was taking care of Cuda. They all had Cuda’s best interest in mind.”

Cuda is about 2 years old, and Deborah reports he is doing well: “The surgery definitely helped improve his health. We’ll keep an eye on him, but right now he is doing great.”

Lorenz says the veterinary center is pleased Cuda is doing well. “I am delighted that the Fourakers were very satisfied with our expertise and service. Combining high tech with high touch is a definite practice builder for our veterinary hospital.”

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A Lead Worth Following

STORY BY DERINDA BLAKENEY

As veterinarian, theriogenologist, researcher, mentor and friend Dr. Gregor Morgan retires, he will be missed. But, the trails he blazed and the foundations he laid at OSU will continue to benefit students, colleagues and animals.
As a child growing up in New Zealand, Gregor Morgan worked the family dairy farm alongside his parents, his brother and his sister. Before school, Morgan fed the cows. After school, Morgan fed the cows.

Still it wasn’t until he was a teenager he began to think about being a veterinarian, Morgan recalls. “My mother told me I should be one,” he says. “She wanted us to do something besides grow up to be dairy farmers.”

The two veterinarians in the area encouraged Morgan by often describing diseases as they treated the family’s animals. But Morgan still wasn’t sure he wanted to be a veterinarian when he boarded a train headed to New Zealand’s Massey University.

“The first year my grades were good enough to be accepted into veterinary school,” Morgan says. “I thought about medical school and decided against it. At that time, the government paid for a portion of the costs, so when I graduated I was ready to earn a living.”

Before he was done at Massey, Morgan earned a master’s degree and doctorate of veterinary medicine. He then left his birth country and headed to Stillwater in 1979 to complete a three-year residency in theriogenology.

A time of great influences

At OSU, Morgan met the man who would be the greatest influence on his career.

“Dr. Larry Rice and I shared an office. He was board certified in theriogenology. Larry influenced me the most,” Morgan says.

Morgan furthered his studies at OSU by earning a doctorate in reproductive physiology specializing in swine. And, like his mentor, Morgan became an American College of Theriogenologists diplomate in 1983.

While at OSU, Morgan met someone else who would be an even greater influence in his life, Sandra Gilbert. The couple has been married for 29 years. Sandra Morgan earned her DVM from OSU in 1980. She teaches toxicology to third-year veterinary students and works at the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

The Morgans have two sons. Seth teaches math at Guthrie High School and coaches junior high football and basketball. Sean is on a basketball scholarship at Northern Oklahoma College in Enid. They likely got some of their athleticism from their father, who played rugby for Massey and coached OSU’s rugby team for years.

The Morgans own land in Mehan, Okla., just southeast of Stillwater. Morgan refers to farming and their beef cattle operation as “stress relief.”

CONTINUES
An influence on others

Morgan, 59, spent 32 years teaching at OSU’s veterinary center, serving as food animal section chief for 22 years.

“I got a lot of success from teaching,” Morgan says. “There weren’t too many mornings when I walked through the door that I wasn’t feeling good.” That feeling made his colleagues’ jobs easier.

“Gregor is a very caring individual. I never saw him get angry, and he was able to control faculty and staff issues in our section very amicably,” says colleague and friend Lionel Dawson, DVM. “He kept our unit as a close-knit family.”

Morgan is a dairy cattle specialist and a pillar in the field of theriogenology, and he is not shy about mentoring others, colleagues say.

“When I came to OSU more than 10½ years ago, it was Gregor Morgan who welcomed me,” Dr. Reed Holyoak says. “He gave me space in his lab, introduced me to a group of collaborators, put his arm around me and held me up until I got my feet under me. That arm has never loosened its grip and continues to hold me up and be a comfort to me.”

Morgan has a long list of firsts attached to his name. According to Holyoak and Dawson, Morgan was the first person in Oklahoma to have a successful equine embryo transfer, was one of the first clinicians to hold both a veterinary and doctorate degree and participated in producing the first and only in vitro fertilized calf at OSU.

About 15 years ago, Morgan turned down a chance to return to Massey and teach because, he says, “I really like Stillwater and the veterinary school has come a long way.”

Morgan’s impact at the center, in Stillwater and beyond will be felt long after he retires.

“He is a patient mentor; a patient instructor,” says Dr. Chelsea Makloski, assistant professor of theriogenology. “He has given me a great learning experience and has been a tremendous mentor to me.”

Adds Holyoak: “Dr. Gregor Morgan is a man among men and a true exemplar for those of us who have long followed his lead.”

Three things to know about Dr. Gregor Morgan

In retirement, Morgan plans to travel some and work his farm.

Morgan’s favorite thing about being on the OSU faculty is the opportunity to teach and practice veterinary medicine at the same time. “I had a lot of good times; one is not more special than another,” he says.

Morgan works and teaches by his motto: “I may be a reproductive specialist, but I’m a veterinarian first.”

“DR. GREGOR MORGAN IS A MAN AMONG MEN AND A TRUE EXEMPLAR FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE LONG FOLLOWED HIS LEAD.”

— DR. REED HOLYOAK
During 2011, the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences bid farewell to faculty and staff who have long supported its mission.

**Carole Muchmore, Ph.D.**

MUCHMORE was a lecturer in parasitology and veterinary pathobiology. She had 30 years with the center. Since earning her Ph.D. in parasitology from OSU, Muchmore has served the college by teaching parasitology courses. She has also provided diagnostics service to OSU clinicians and state veterinarians through the clinical parasitology lab.

**Ed Blouin, Ph.D.**

BLOUIN was a research associate professor of parasitology and veterinary pathobiology and was with the center for 22 years. He has had a distinguished research career with a focus on ticks and tick-borne diseases. He has served on many graduate committees and will continue to serve as secretary-treasurer for the Society of Tropical Veterinary Medicine.

**Ann Govek**

GOVEK was an administrative support specialist I in the dean’s office. She was with the center for 20 years. Govek assists in administrative and coordination responsibilities for veterinary extension and continuing education programs for the center. “I enjoyed working with veterinary students and organizing seminars,” she says. “Veterinary medicine is a great place to work.”

**Kathy Phillips**

PHILLIPS was an administrative support specialist II for physiological sciences. She spent 30 years with the center. Phillips was an overall resource for information about all policies and procedures for the departments she served, the college and OSU.

**Norma Williamson**

WILLIAMSON was senior secretary for veterinary pathobiology and was with the center for 21 years. Williamson has been responsible for processing the biopsy and necropsy reports generated through the diagnostic pathology service, maintaining all case records and handling the departmental travel needs.

**James Breazile, DVM, Ph.D.**

BREAZILE was a professor of physiological sciences and was with the center for 37 years. Breazile has been an outstanding researcher, teacher and colleague during his tenure at OSU, receiving numerous awards including the Regents Distinguished Teaching Award and the President’s Service Award.

**Marilyn Wilson**

WILSON was director of fiscal affairs in the dean’s office. She was with the center for 33 years. Wilson provides direction for the development, operation and coordination of all activities within fiscal management for the center. “I like the people and the relationships I have established over the years,” she says. “My job is challenging and demanding but very rewarding.”
Neurotoxicologist Stephanie Padilla delivers her presentation on using zebra fish to test for toxicity during the 11th Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology.
The 11th Sitlington Lecture in Toxicology featured Stephanie Padilla, Ph.D. — a neurotoxicologist in the Integrated Systems Toxicology Division of the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Research Triangle Park, N.C. — and zebra fish.

Padilla’s topic, “Using Zebra Fish to Screen for Developmental Toxicity,” focused on exploring methods to screen for developmentally neurotoxic chemicals using 6-day-old zebra fish behavior.

Chemical Abstracts lists more than a million different chemicals, yet the toxic potential of the vast majority of them has not been evaluated. The EPA is developing approaches to screen and prioritize large numbers of chemicals for their ability to induce developmental toxicity.

Padilla’s studies look at visual thresholds, changes in locomotion and behavioral changes in the zebra fish that may be indicators of a chemical’s effect in higher organisms.

“Developing approaches for screening large numbers of chemicals for developmental neurotoxicity potential, using this relatively simple animal model, could be instrumental in protecting children’s health in the future,” says event host Carey Pope, Ph.D., head of the physiological sciences department, Regents Professor and Sitlington Chair in Toxicology.

Padilla has received numerous awards including the EPA’s Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards and the Silver and Bronze Medals for Commendable Service.
“I went back to the hospital where I work and told them that if we took care of our patients like they treated their animals at the veterinary hospital, we would be an awesome place.”

—Gayle Little

Saving a ‘Belle’
Gayle Little loves cats. She has 17 of them — seven which stay indoors.

“My mother, Vashti, and I live at the edge of town and people must think it’s a good place to drop an adult cat or a litter of unwanted kittens because that’s how we came to have so many cats,” says Little of Shawnee, Okla. “I take them in, get their shots and spay or neuter them. I am here to take care of the little ones.”

Vashti Little rescued Belle, a Siamese mix, from a dog when the cat was 8 weeks old. Belle, who is now 10 and is one of the elite that live indoors, began having chest problems in 2009.

Belle’s regular veterinarian, Dr. Trenton Marr, class of 1996, at Shawnee’s Dogwood Veterinary Clinic, prescribed medication to clear up the fluid in her chest. The treatment worked for a month or two. When it recurred, Marr referred Belle and Gayle Little to OSU.

“This was our first time to visit OSU’s veterinary hospital,” Little says. “It was awesome.”

“Belle had an accumulation of chyle in her chest,” says Dr. Kelci McKeirnan, a small animal surgery resident at OSU’s Veterinary Hospital. “Chyle is absorbed from fats in the diet through the small intestine and travels through numerous lymphatic ducts (channels similar to veins) to a main duct, the thoracic duct, which eventually ends in a large vein in the chest.”

The fluid can leak out of the thoracic duct and settle in the chest between the lungs and the ribs.

“We performed a full workup on Belle to rule out tumors, heart disease or anything else that might be causing the problem,” McKeirnan says.

Belle’s final diagnosis was idiopathic chylothorax, meaning the cause of the fluid accumulation is unknown. Dr. Mark Rochat, the small-animal surgery section chief, and McKeirnan performed surgery on Belle in December 2009 to remove part of the pericardium, the sac that surrounds the heart, in an effort to decrease pressure that can cause the chyle to accumulate. They also tied off the thoracic duct.

The ordeal wasn’t over. One month later the chyle buildup in her chest was back and Belle returned to OSU for a second surgery in January 2010.

“Basically, there is a place in the abdomen that serves as a central meeting point for the lymphatic ducts. We removed that central meeting place, hopefully stopping the flow of chyle into the chest,” McKeirnan says. The surgeons also moved tissue serving as a natural drain in the abdomen into the chest to act as a drain for any remaining fluid.

“The surgery took about two hours,” McKeirnan says. “Belle had significant scarring on her lungs and we were glad she came through the surgery so well.”

Doctors discharged Belle and told Little to keep the cat as quiet as possible.

“It was hard to keep her quiet,” Little admits.

Doctors discovered an infection and performed a third surgery removing a portion of two ribs.

“Now she is fine,” Little says. “She’s not as playful as she was, but she’s doing well. I’m so thankful for the care she received at OSU.”

When Little returned to her job as a hospital benefits administrator, she bragged about the care OSU gave to Belle.

“After our second visit to OSU, I went back to the hospital where I work and told them that if we took care of our patients like they treated their animals at the veterinary hospital, we would be an awesome place,” Little says. “It’s not that we treat people poorly, the veterinarians, staff and students at OSU have a different quality of care. Animals can’t complain, so you don’t know where it hurts. At OSU they have to be very thorough and account for everything.”

Dr. Mark Rochat, left, and Dr. Kelci McKeirnan, right, performed three surgeries on Belle before clearing up the cat’s problem. Gayle Little, center, was referred to the OSU veterinary hospital by her veterinarian in Shawnee, a Center for Veterinary Health Sciences alumnus.
Saving Berlin

STORY BY DERINDA BLAKENEY

There just seems to be something special about a boy and his dog. Evan Grether and Homer were no different. Grether’s favorite childhood memory growing up on a farm was his Irish setter.

“Best companion I ever had,” says Grether, 24. “And when he was gone, that created a gap.” But that is a story of something missing, and this story is about filling that gap with a dog named Berlin — who, by the way, can sit, stay, ride a skateboard and is learning to speak.

“I HIGHLY RECOMMEND ADOPTING A DOG FROM A SHELTER. IT IS ONE THING TO FIND A DOG YOU LIKE AND BUY IT, BUT IT IS SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TO SAVE A DOG. IT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD.” — EVAN GREther
Finding the Right Dog

Grether moved into a house off-campus when he was a junior at OSU. Having a pet became an idea he couldn’t get out of his head.

Grether’s mother, Sharon Worrell, the development assistant at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, suggested her son talk with Dr. Lesa Staubus, who runs the Shelter Medicine program at the veterinary hospital. Grether and Worrell ran into Staubus at a hardware store.

“When I hear someone say they want a dog, I immediately start listing off questions they need to answer first — what breed do they prefer, long or short hair, what sex, do you want a puppy or an adult dog that you can see how it looks and acts?” Staubus says.

The shelter medicine program has partnerships with 11 area animal shelters performing spay and neuters on shelter dogs and cats.

“It gives our veterinary students an opportunity to hone their surgical skills while we provide a service to the shelters at no charge,” Staubus says.

Grether asked Staubus to be on the lookout for a dog he could take home.

Grether’s order was pretty straightforward: “Anything that might be German shepherd; a mixed breed would be okay.”

He preferred a female. “They are a little more submissive and less likely to try to dominate your house.” And he wanted a young dog he could train to be obedient.

Order Up

About two weeks after talking with Staubus, Grether received a phone call.

“When I called Evan, I wasn’t sure if this would be the dog for him. She was a mix and would be significantly smaller than a full shepherd,” Staubus recalls. “Mixed-breed dogs often have some of the positive attributes of the breed but hopefully without some of the problems typical to that breed. The dog was so cute I thought he might bend a bit on the full shepherd idea. It was obvious he was instantly in love.”

Grether grins and says his first thought was “that is not a German shepherd, but I am taking that dog home.”

The puppy was black with tan. A local animal shelter had brought her in to be spayed.

“I highly recommend adopting a dog from a shelter,” Grether says. “It is one thing to find a dog you like and buy it, but it is something entirely different to save a dog. It makes you feel good.”

Grether taught his puppy the basics: sit, lay, stay, rollover, little bark, big bark.

“She will come when she’s called, so she knows her name,” he says. “Each trick has a motion or a gesture that accompanies the command. She can do them all without a word. She learns really quickly. She is a very smart dog.”

Berlin is extremely healthy and gets plenty of exercise — on four paws and four wheels.

“I have been skateboarding for years,” Grether says. “It is a good way to get through campus quickly and get to class on time. I ride on my skateboard while Berlin runs alongside on her leash.”

The more familiar Berlin became with the skateboard, the more she seemed to like it.

“When I would get out the skateboard, she would get excited. So I started showing her the board, putting her on it, and then she climbed on it by herself and that gave me an idea.”

Evan set out to teach Berlin to ride his skateboard.

“It took me from one Sunday to the next Sunday to teach her to ride it and push herself down the street with her paw while staying on the board. She picked up on it quickly. She has blown every expectation I have ever had.”

Continues
A Good Match

“We have found some of the best owners imaginable, matching approximately 30 dogs and cats,” Staubus says. “We encourage people to let us know when they are looking for a pet and we keep an eye out for that special animal. Eventually the perfect one will cross our tables. Hearing how the bond between Evan and Berlin has developed really makes my day.”

Berlin is not done learning new tricks.

“I am working on getting her to say ‘hello’ and ‘I want my mama.’ It is a work in progress. I’m trying to get her to use her vocal cords in a way she is not used to,” Grether says.

“I am running out of things to teach this dog. I love this dog like she was my own cub. I can’t imagine getting a better dog than Berlin. If I ever plan to get another dog, I will go through the same process and get a dog from a shelter. It’s a great way to save a dog.”

Grether and Berlin enjoy a nice day skateboarding on campus.
A panda bear playfully nips at Jennifer Lu, who traveled to Australia and China with the help of the Kitao Family International Externship Award.
A koala bear in Australia at the Melbourne Zoo, where Lu got a chance to treat some of the animals.
Before graduating with her DVM degree in May, Dr. Jennifer Lu had a chance to treat koalas, hippos and pandas thanks to the Kitao Family International Externship Award.

As the 2010 award recipient, Lu was able to travel earlier this year to Australia and to the land of her ancestors, China, where she came face to face with a world-famous panda bear.

But before visiting China, Lu, whose special interest is ophthalmology, first stopped in Melbourne, Australia. She spent three weeks with the head ophthalmologist at the Melbourne Zoo.

“We removed a benign adenoma on the eyelid of an African hippo,” Lu says. “And we worked on some koala bears that had cataracts. It was awesome.”

From Australia, Lu flew to Cheng Du, China.

“I spent three weeks at the Cheng Du Research Base of Giant Panda Bears,” Lu says. “It’s the No. 1 breeding site and largest reservoir for panda semen.”

Lu says China’s tightly regulated policy regarding pandas, which are native to China, allowed her to meet American-born panda Mei Lan, named an Earth Hour ambassador by the World Wildlife Fund.

Any panda located outside of China is on loan from the Chinese government for 10 years at $500,000 a bear. Four U.S. zoos have pandas on loan — San Diego, Atlanta, the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and the zoo in Memphis, Tenn.

Babies born to those on loan must be returned to China by the time the cub reaches 3 years old. Mei Lan was born at the Atlanta zoo and returned to Cheng Du in 2010 with great fanfare.

“What was really funny about Mei Lan is that they had to hire a translator for her because she doesn’t ‘speak’ Chinese,” Lu says.

“The panda trainers and handlers would give her commands in Chinese and she had no clue what they expected of her. They brought in a translator to say the commands in English, which is what the cub has heard since her birth three years ago in Atlanta.”

While at the panda research base, Lu worked with the veterinarians on parasite management after an outbreak of heartworm killed nearly 60 percent of the baby pandas. Lu helped base veterinarians deworm the bears and perform daily physicals. As a 99.9 percent consumer of bamboo, the panda digestive system is delicate and requires a constant intake of food and close monitoring.

“It was a wonderful experience,” Lu says. “One of my goals is to open opportunities for future OSU students to do externships in China. It is my hope that by my being a good ambassador and making a good impression, the Chinese would welcome future OSU students.”

Lu, who is the daughter of Ben and Margaret Lu of Edmond, Okla., will spend the next year at Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine as a rotating small-animal intern.

The Kitao Family International Externship

Satoshi and Yoko Kitao, of Japan, established the award. The couple was thankful their son could study veterinary medicine in the U.S. and wanted to afford an OSU veterinary student the opportunity to experience veterinary medicine abroad. The scholarship provides up to $2,000 to help fund the recipient’s international travel.

Lu also had the chance at the zoo to treat an African hippo with an adenoma on its eyelid.
Importance of Animal Research

The public should know the important role of humanely using animals for biomedical research in providing advances in human and animal health, Paul McKellips opined during his Class of 1963 Distinguished Lectureship presentation at the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences 2010 Fall Veterinary Conference.

McKellips’ keynote address, “Public Opinion on the Use of Animals in Biomedical Research,” presented the case for the humane use of animals in research in the face of dwindling public support.

“The veterinary community, the medical community and the biomedical community have been silent too long,” McKellips says. “Lab animals see a veterinarian more often than humans see a doctor. The improvements we have made to human and animal health is beyond our imagination thanks to animals in biomedical research.”

Between 2004 and 2008, public support for such research fell from 64 percent to 54 percent, says McKellips, executive vice president at the Foundation for Biomedical Research.

FBR has launched a national campaign called “Research Saves” geared to stabilize falling public opinion and ultimately reverse the unfavorable trend. Practically every present-day protocol for the prevention, treatment, cure and control of disease, pain and suffering is based on knowledge attained through research with laboratory animals, according to FBR.

“The future of biomedical research tomorrow will enjoy greater potential when the public supports our work now,” McKellips says. “Oklahoma State University is uniquely positioned to play a key role in the future health of both humans and animals. I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to join OSU for this event.”

McKellips has been a communications professional for his entire career and has been with FBR since 2007. Previously he worked with the State Department and was embedded with Iraqis at a combat outpost as a media trainer and war correspondent. This year, he accepted an assignment as NATO public affairs planner and will spend three to six months in Afghanistan.
Dr. Harry James grew up about five miles outside the rural northern Oklahoma city of Pond Creek. As a young man, he raised turkeys. Because there wasn’t a veterinarian in the area, he had to take them to the OSU veterinary college when there was a problem.

“I took my turkeys to the vet college two or three times,” James recalls.

“I saw Dr. Albert Malle, who was the poultry doctor at that time. He was always able to make a diagnosis and help me with the problem,” James says. “I didn’t realize it then, but looking back, that played a large part in my decision to go into veterinary medicine.”

Fifty years after getting his DVM, James, a 1960 graduate of the OSU veterinary college, is still based in Pond Creek and continues to care for animals in northwest Oklahoma.

The OSU veterinary school James attended was led by Dean Duane Peterson and vastly different from today.

“There were only 37 in my graduating class and we were a close group,” James says. “I didn’t have the debt load coming out that today’s graduates have. I used the money from raising turkeys as well as working as a counselor in the dorm, which earned me free room and board — of course, tuition wasn’t as high as it is today. … I’m proud to say I worked and paid my way.”

After graduation, James returned to Pond Creek and set up a practice. “I came to give it a try and never left,” he says.
Back then Pond Creek was a bit more bustling than it is today. When James began his practice, there were no buildings to rent or buy.

“For three months, I was set up in the front of a chicken hatchery on Main Street. I had a hand-painted paper sign in the window, a $14 refrigerator and a sink that drained into a 5-gallon bucket — I was in business,” he says. “One and a half years later, I built a building on the west side of town and moved my practice there. Fifty years later, I’m still there. We have had the same phone number all these years, and I have been answering it day and night.”

When James first went into practice, there were not very many haul-in veterinary facilities. Trucks were small and trailers were scarce. Most of the work was done at farms and ranches.

“It took me a while to convince people that bringing their animals to the clinic was the way to go,” James says. “Even then, I drove many miles doing far more work on the farm than at the clinic.”

While James has practiced in Pond Creek for more than five decades, his influence reaches further through mentoring veterinary students at his practice. James remembers many assigned by OSU to his clinic who have gone on to become excellent colleagues and friends: Drs. Dick Shawley (class of 1969), Charles Freeman (1973), Ron Mollet (1974), Lyndon Graf (1978), David Panciera (1982) and Eric Stair (1990).

“There are too many more to name, and each is just as important to me.”

James belongs to the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the Academy of Veterinary Consultants. He served on the boards of the OVMA and AABP.

James received the Food Animal Practitioner of the Year Award in 1995 from the OVMA and the OVMA President’s Award in 2005.

In 1968 James married Hannah Nusz, a nurse’s aide working in Enid, Okla. The couple had two children, Stephanie and Mark.

One of James’ greatest pleasures has been practicing veterinary medicine with his daughter, who graduated from OSU in 1998.

“When I didn’t find my ‘ideal’ job, I temporarily came back home,” Stephanie Slaving says. “I soon met my husband, a fourth-generation farmer/rancher, and realized I was going to stay.”

She sees the small-animal patients while her father treats the large animals.

“Veterinary medicine pushes me to be my very best. It challenges me to do things I didn’t realize I was capable of doing,” Slaving says. “I knew what being a veterinarian was going to be like, by growing up and watching my dad do it. However, I had no idea it would be so hard trying to be a good wife, mom and veterinarian. It is a daily struggle to balance everything.”

CONTINUES
James works at his clinic in Pond Creek, out of which he helps clients within a 30- to 45-mile radius.
Pond Creek Veterinary Clinic has grown over the years to encompass a 30- to 45-mile radius, with clients from Enid, Alva, east of Lamont and southern Kansas. James and Slaving have the only veterinary clinic in Grant County.

“I was lucky in that when I started, most of my clients already knew me and took me on trust,” James says. “Today I serve third- and fourth-generation clients.”

James and Slaving are looking for some help, but finding someone who wants to live in a small town and be in a rural practice is difficult. But, having a rural practice is a challenge James has always enjoyed.

“In my career, I’ve seen a lot of things: hog cholera, brucellosis, tuberculosis, screw worms and scabies. I even had a dipping vat to treat cattle for scabies. These are diseases that came and were eradicated during my 50 years. Today’s veterinarian won’t see them outside of a text book.”

Hundreds of clients, family and friends gathered at the Grant County fairgrounds building in May 2010 for a surprise 50th anniversary celebration and dinner organized by Slaving, who showed a 20-minute video recounting the five decades of James’ practice.

In the same month, the Oklahoma Senate designated May 2010 as “Doc James Month” in recognition of his long career in northwest Oklahoma.

“I wanted to be a veterinarian, I wanted to have my own practice and once I got started, I worked day and night. I’ve loved it and lived it for 50 years and I plan to keep doing it as long as I am able.”

Pond Creek Facts
Located in Grant County, about 20 miles south of the Kansas border.

Population over the years:
1907: 1,155
1950: 1,066
1990: 982
2000: 896
2010: 856

SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU; OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sandy, Sarah & Kids

Sandy Sides-Ekiss took her pregnant pigmy goat, Sarah, to several veterinarians. “There is nothing we can do for her” Sides-Ekiss repeatedly heard.

Then she brought it to OSU’s veterinary hospital having spent the last two days with a vaginal prolapsed as a complication of late-term pregnancy, a potentially life-threatening situation.

“It was obvious when Sandy and Sarah arrived that Sandy is very close to her pet goat,” says Dr. Kendra Rock, a theriogenology resident at OSU’s veterinary center. “Sandy was prepared to lose the babies to save Sarah — our objective was to save them all.”

Sides-Ekiss began raising goats as a hobby on her three acres in Bixby, Okla. “I have two females and one male,” she says. “Sarah lost her first kid because it was too big. I thought its size was the problem and didn’t realize anything else was wrong. About a month before she was due, I knew Sarah was in trouble and I started making phone calls. Finally, one of the veterinarians I spoke with referred me to OSU.”

The team assigned to Sarah’s case included Rock, fourth-year veterinary student Kristin Vickrey, food animal internal medicine resident Dr. Suzanne Genova and Dr. John Gilliam, a clinical assistant professor and a diplomate with both the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Large Animal and the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners.

“We replaced the prolapsed and performed an ultrasound,” Rock says. “I believed there were two babies, which were doing fine. We didn’t want to induce her labor. We tried to hold her in pregnancy until she could go into labor naturally.”

The next day, Rock discovered a third fetus, which is a little less common in a pigmy goat but nothing out of the ordinary. Goats typically have two to three kids at a time.

Sarah’s team monitored her closely. She developed pregnant toxemia, which affects her nutritional state.

“Both Sarah and the kids were at risk,” Rock says. “We stabilized her and on the fifth day after her arrival, Sarah showed signs of labor. She delivered all three babies within 20 minutes, coming through delivery with flying colors. Instantly, Sarah was a great mom.”

Mom and kids are doing fine weeks later, Rock says. “I am glad I had the opportunity to bring Sarah to OSU,” Sides-Ekiss says. “OSU gave me an option that was affordable and safe for Sarah and her babies. Since Sarah was able to give birth, I thought I might sell the babies to help cover some of Sarah’s veterinary bills. However, my grandchildren are already naming them.”

From left, Kristin Vickrey, class of 2011; theriogenology resident Dr. Kendra Rock; and goat owner Sandy Sides-Ekiss with Sarah and newborn kids.

Sarah chews some hay with her kids during their stay at OSU’s veterinary hospital.
After raising horses for 14 years, owner Tim McCay knew there was a problem when his newborn filly was slow to get up.

He contacted his Collinsville, Okla., veterinarian, Dr. Michael Alexander, class of 1994. Together they helped the foal stand and nurse.

But when Alexander checked on the foal later in the day, he immediately told McCay to take the foal to OSU.

“I knew OSU had a foal team that provides 24-hour care,” Alexander says. “OSU could offer more intensive treatment and do more diagnostics quicker than I could.”

McCay drove for about 90 minutes from Collinsville before arriving at the OSU veterinary hospital about 8 p.m.

“I kept pulling over to put syrup in her mouth to keep her going,” McCay says. “She was wrapped in horse blankets because she was cold and it was a very cold night. She was hypothermic. She hadn’t nursed enough. … Everything you don’t want to hear.”

When McCay arrived at OSU, the filly was unable to rise, her body temperature was low and she was non-responsive.

“When we arrived, the large animal clinic ran like an ER,” McCay says.

CONTINUES
Following the initial plasma transfusion, the filly still had low antibodies, so an additional plasma transfusion was administered,” Banse says. “Within 24 hours of admission, the foal was standing and drinking pan fed mare’s milk.”

On her mother’s milk, the foal gained strength and by the fourth day, she was nursing at her own will.

But more perils lay ahead for the foal.

“Sodium levels rose, urine output decreased and peripheral and pulmonary edema developed,” Holbrook says. “Even though the pulmonary and peripheral edema responded to treatment, edema of the right hind limb remained. An ultrasound confirmed a blood clot in a major vein in this leg, which was treated aggressively with anticoagulants.”

On the eighth day of hospitalization, the filly became lame in her right hind limb with a wound over her joint.

“Over the next several days of hospitalization, multiple similar wounds were identified along all four limbs, which we treated with antibiotic ointments and bandages,” Holbrook says.

On day 15 of the foal’s hospital stay more challenges arose.

“The foal had an episode of marked rapid breathing. Even though she was bright and active, her nostrils were flaring,” Banse says. “Echocardiography revealed the presence of a 1-by-2 cm immobile thrombus, or blood clot, in the right ventricle. This is the first report of multiple thrombi in a foal. While you hear of blood clots in the limbs, it is rare to find one in the heart.”

The murmur was still present and may have been associated with the blood clot. Again, doctors administered anticoagulants.

After 24 days of hospitalization, McCay took the filly and her mother home. Twenty-five days later, Holbrook, Banse and Raynor drove to McCay’s home to check the foal’s heart.

“The echocardiography revealed no abnormalities,” Holbrook says. “The intracardiac thrombus had resolved. She should have no long-term effects from her shaky start.”

“This foal should have died multiple times,” McCay says. “Most foals would have rolled over and died, but she had the heart and gumption to overcome all of that. While I raise horses to sell ... she won’t be sold.”

McCay is sold on OSU’s veterinary hospital.

“I think that for livestock and animal owners of any type, OSU Veterinary Hospital is the best kept secret in Oklahoma,” he says. “I don’t think people understand what expertise is available at the veterinary hospital. To have board certified veterinarians in equine internal medicine on staff is phenomenal. It’s like having a Mayo Clinic of equine medicine in your backyard. I am definitely very impressed.”
Critical Care Unit Needed

Success stories like that of Tim McCay’s foal are limited because of OSU’s current facilities. The veterinary hospital does not have an area designated for equine critical-care cases. Critically ill animals are not isolated and are at increased risk of infection.

Plans to build the **Equine Critical Care Unit** await funding. The 4,600-square-feet unit would include two critical stalls, four large mare and foal critical-care stalls with dividers, a large padded neurology stall and five neonatal intensive-care foal stalls. The fully enclosed, climate controlled unit with video monitoring systems would have the latest in critical and intensive care equipment.

With a lead gift of $1 million pledged from the **Gaylord Foundation**, the veterinary center plans to raise the additional $2.5 million needed to complete the project. Naming opportunities range from $1.5 million to name the exterior to $500 for a tribute brick. Once constructed, the Equine Critical Care Unit would be available to serve horse owners and the horse industry, which has an annual economic impact of $189 million in Oklahoma.
Developing Chronic Disease Cures

STORY BY MATT ELLIOTT

The team investigating the use of adult stem cells to treat chronic diseases. Front row, from left, Lin Liu, Sivasami Pulavendran and Pamela Lloyd. Back row, from left, Eyayu Belay, Myron Hinsdale and Rohan Varshney.

Center for Veterinary Health Sciences researchers have formed OSU’s first scientific team to investigate using adult stem cells to treat chronic diseases.

The team is led by three researchers from the physiological sciences department: Myron Hinsdale, Lin Liu and Pamela Lloyd.

“Traditionally, labs work separately, but one laboratory cannot do all this,” says Liu, director of OSU’s Lung Biology and Toxicology Lab.

The trio began collaborating two years ago and recently received three $72,800 grants from the Oklahoma Center for Adult Stem Cell Research. The $218,400 is to study adult stem cells’ uses in treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a common and usually fatal disorder in which the lungs lose their function over time.
What is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease?

**There are two types:** chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

It’s the fourth leading cause of death in the United States.

It’s common among smokers and former smokers.

**SOURCE:** AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

More about Adult Stem Cells:

Cousin of the more widely known and controversial embryonic stem cells.

Adult stem cells have been used in bone marrow transplants for more than 40 years.

Found in a variety of organs, the cells can assume the form of certain cell types and heal damaged tissue.

**SOURCE:** NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Using adult stem cells against the disease requires a bigger toolkit than one area of medicine can handle. Liu, Hinsdale and Lloyd bring different specialties to the project, which requires giving mice the disorder and using the cells to treat the animals.

Hinsdale, a veterinarian, focuses on cells’ surfaces and how diseases affect them. He also takes care of the project’s mice. Lloyd, a physiologist, is an expert in blood vessels, diabetes and cardiovascular maladies. Liu, a biochemist, is an expert in lungs and their diseases.

“We didn’t specify a lung project initially,” Lloyd says, “but we ended up finding that COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) was a hugely relevant problem to study, and using the tobacco settlement funds seemed very appropriate.”

The project is in its early stages, gathering information on how best to encourage the cells’ work. The group meets regularly to discuss results and refine their efforts, Hinsdale says.

“We’re trying to make this an interactive group,” he says. “That’s the strength of this project.”

Helping research the cells are three much-needed postdoctoral fellows: Rohan Varshney, Sivasami Pulavendran and Eyayu Belay.

An engineer, Varshney has a doctoral degree in bioengineering from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Belay obtained his doctoral degree in biomedical sciences and a molecular biology master’s degree from Belgium’s Catholic University of Leuven. Pulavendran has a master’s and a doctoral degree in biotechnology from India’s Bharathidasan University and the University of Madras.

The three say they came to OSU because of the project. A native of India along with Varshney, Pulavendran says they started their work in February.

“I feel like this has been a great environment for further developing my skills in research as well as in academic areas,” Pulavendran says.

Belay, who is from Ethiopia, agrees.

“I think working in the adult stem cell focus group provides a great opportunity to be a part of an interdisciplinary team,” Belay says. “What makes it unique is that I’m being mentored by three professors from three different labs and backgrounds.”

Liu hopes to attract more researchers and students to the focus group. The group’s goal is to establish itself as a nationally recognized center for adult stem cell research, competing for millions of dollars in government grants.
Grateful Clients

Couple’s gift pays for upgrade to the small-animal theriogenology lab.

Before, during and after the update on the Vickie and James Cupps Small Animal Theriogenology Lab.
It all started when Vickie Cupps and Sharon Wilson wanted to mate their Samoyeds, Kodi and Sonya.

When Wilson’s dog Sonya couldn’t conceive, they tried artificial insemination, but veterinarians found it impossible to collect semen from Kodi.

That’s when OSU veterinarians entered the picture and collected Kodi’s semen and artificially inseminated Sonya. (Photos of the resulting five healthy Samoyed puppies appeared in last year’s Vet Cetera.)

Vickie and her husband, James Cupps, were so appreciative they established a $50,000 endowed veterinary student scholarship, which was awarded for the first time in April 2011. They also listed the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences in an estate plan. Their generosity didn’t stop there.

The Cupps donated $30,000 to renovate the theriogenology laboratory.

“We didn’t have the equipment nor the space to do everything in one place,” says Dr. Reed Holyoak. “Thanks to the Cupps, we can now do both our examinations and procedures right here in this well lit and updated laboratory.”

The hospital installed better lighting and ventilation, more storage space, and up-to-date microscopes and equipment. The Vickie and James Cupps Small Animal Theriogenology Laboratory was dedicated on June 10.

“This looks incredible,” Vickie Cupps says. “We had tried five different veterinarians to no avail before coming to OSU. This was our last hope. We are forever grateful to OSU.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY
Detecting a Costly Disease

A veterinary center team led by Dr. Brenda Love is researching the effects of post-collection handling of samples taken when testing for bovine trichomoniasis, a venereal disease of cattle that can result in early abortions and infertility.

“Trichomonas foetus, the microscopic parasite that causes the disease, is relatively fragile,” says Love, assistant professor at the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. “It needs to be stored at just the right temperature — not too cold and not too hot. In Oklahoma, that can be challenging, especially at the sale barns in mid-July and August.”

An increased number of cases in mid-central states alerted Oklahoma regulatory agencies, which changed testing requirements as of Jan. 1. Now any bull changing ownership in Oklahoma must have a negative test for trichomoniasis. As a result, more bulls testing positive for trichomoniasis in Oklahoma are being detected.

In March, Love’s team received an OSU Research Advisory Council grant to investigate several aspects of the testing process.

Losses for the State of Oklahoma due to trichomoniasis exceed $5.4 million, according to conservative estimates by the OSU Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.

“Knowing the financial implications of misidentifying a positive animal would be costly to the cattle industry, we felt it was important to do this study,” says Love, who earned a DVM from OSU in 1990 and Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis, in 1997.

“If an animal or semen from an unidentified infected bull were to cross borders, international trade would also be negatively impacted.”

Infection detection can be difficult, says Dr. Eileen Johnson, clinical parasitologist on the research team.

“Infected bulls appear and act normally,” says Johnson, who earned from OSU a DVM in 1974 and a Ph.D. in 1989. “Only testing will confirm the disease causing protozoa. Once infected, there is no cure for a bull. There is a vaccine for cows that can help reduce the effects of the disease, but that has not been approved for bulls.”

Additional veterinary center members on the team include Emily Cooper, an OADDL assay developer; Dr. Bill Johnson, OADDL director and pathologist; and Dr. Grant Rezabek, OADDL clinical assistant professor. Love estimates her team will have preliminary results later this year.

“The important thing to do is to keep the disease out of your herd,” Love says. “It could cause a several-year lag in conception rates to clean it up, and that means lost revenue to cattle producers. Our goal with this study is to make recommendations on how to collect samples from bulls and test for trichomoniasis in the most effective way.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY

What the team will investigate:

How does handling of the sample pouch after collection affect the result?

How many organisms need to be inoculated into a pouch in order to effectively test DNA for disease-causing viruses and bacteria?

Are collections the same from one day to the next? If a positive bull is collected on several consecutive days, will organisms always be present?

Is collecting the sample by using a glass slide comparable to collecting with an infusion pipette?

Dr. Brenda Love, center, supervises as Dr. Eileen Johnson, left, and Veterinary Research Scholars Program student Stacy Blaylock, class of 2014, work on bovine trichomoniasis research.
Parasitologist Receives OSU’s Highest Promotion

Dr. Susan Little is one of OSU’s newest Regents Professors.

OSU veterinary pathobiology’s Dr. Susan Little, a renowned expert in tick-borne diseases, was recently promoted to Regents Professor, the university’s highest promotion for professors.

Little, the Krull-Ewing endowed chair in veterinary parasitology, says she was humbled.

“It’s a great honor and a bit overwhelming,” Little says. “I’m speechless, really.”

Professors win the promotion after their peers nominate them.

Little has been with the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences since 2005. Her research focuses on the organisms that cause Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis and other tick-borne maladies.

Little oversees OSU’s National Center for Veterinary Parasitology established in 2008. The only one in the nation, the center added a third corporate partner, the animal health company Merial, in January. The center also recently hired two researchers.

“We’re very excited with how that’s moving forward to advance medical training and research,” Little says.

It’s part of an effort to produce much-needed parasitologists. Changes in habitats and how humans use them have caused parasites such as ticks to spread to areas where they weren’t as common before. Plus, experts have been retiring, creating a shortage of qualified personnel.

“We also have problems with drug resistance in parasite groups, in addition to expansions in the number of parasites due to climate changes and other environmental factors,” she says.

She led a 14-veterinary school study presented in June at the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine’s annual forums in Denver. The study, funded by the medical firm IDEXX, examined common types of ehrlichiosis, a flu-like disease in humans that is dangerous to dogs in the southeastern United States.

The research group found dogs had more antibodies for Ehrlichia ewingii than other species when the prevalence of the disease was not well understood. Little’s OSU veterinary medicine colleague Dr. Sidney Ewing discovered the organism, carried by several types of ticks, and Little’s research showed it was most common in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri.

Little’s promotion to Regents Professor was the latest accolade in a distinguished career. A noted instructor, she won the college’s Pfizer Distinguished Teaching Award in 2010. She came to Stillwater after nearly a decade teaching at the University of Georgia in Athens, where she obtained her doctoral degree in parasitology. She holds a veterinary medicine degree from Virginia Tech.

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, and the executive board of the Companion Animal Parasite Council for Veterinary and Medical Professionals.
Accomplished Faculty

OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences faculty members are among some of the most distinguished in their fields, as even a brief look at the stories within Vet Cetera shows. This past year several faculty members have received promotions or reappointments.

Dr. Melanie Boileau, a food animal clinician, received a promotion from assistant professor to associate professor with tenure in the veterinary clinical sciences department. A diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Large Animal, Boileau focuses on small ruminants and camelid medicine, bovine ophthalmology, clinical neurology and food animal obstetrics and neonatology.

Dr. Lyndi Gilliam, an equine internal medicine veterinarian, was reappointed assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Gilliam is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Large Animal. Her research interests focus on the toxic effects of rattlesnake venom in horses.

Dr. Timothy Snider, a faculty member in the veterinary pathobiology department, received a promotion from assistant professor to associate professor with tenure. Snider is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. He teaches pathology courses and a zoonotic diseases course; provides diagnostic necropsy and surgical biopsy service; participates in collaborative and independent research; and has participated in veterinary and interdisciplinary education and development projects in Bolivia, Paraguay and Mongolia.

Dr. G. Reed Holyoak, a theriogenologist in the veterinary clinical sciences department, was reappointed to the Bullock Professorship in Equine Theriogenology. Holyoak is a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists and a certified veterinary acupuncturist. His research focuses on infectious diseases of large-animal reproduction.

Dr. Lyndi Gilliam, an equine internal medicine veterinarian, was reappointed assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Gilliam is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Large Animal. Her research interests focus on the toxic effects of rattlesnake venom in horses.
Dr. Bradley Njaa was reappointed to associate professor with tenure in the veterinary pathobiology department. Njaa is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and the residency training coordinator for anatomic pathology. His research interests focus on spontaneous disease of domestic animals and diseases of the ear.

Dr. Melanie Breshears received a promotion from assistant professor to associate professor with tenure. Breshears, a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, teaches first- and third-year veterinary students in the classroom and fourth-year veterinary students on the necropsy floor. Her research interests are varied and focus on providing pathology expertise for collaborative projects.

Dr. Tamara Gull was reappointed as assistant professor in the veterinary pathobiology department. Gull is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Large Animal and a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. A United States Army Reserve major, Gull is currently serving in Kuwait.

Dr. Lionel James Dawson received a promotion from associate professor to professor in the veterinary clinical sciences department. Dawson, a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists, works primarily with farm animals, specializing in small ruminant production medicine, male infertility in farm animals, obstetrics and swine production. He travels and conducts research in third world countries like Ethiopia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and India to help improve sheep and goat production.
A Round for the Doctor

Known for her engaging teaching style —
such as a lesson using home-brewed beer —
Dr. Melanie Breshears won a Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award

After success as a student and young faculty member at OSU, Dr. Melanie Breshears is continuing her history of laudation as the university’s most recent recipient of the 2011 Carl Norden-Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award.

Not bad for someone who wasn’t always sure about what career path she wanted to pursue.

“Following graduation, I spent a year working nights in the large animal clinic as a veterinarian, and during the days working at St. John Catholic Church, trying to decide if I wanted to pursue a religious vocation,” Breshears says. “I decided to stay with veterinary medicine and returned to OSU to start on my Ph.D. in veterinary biomedical sciences. At the same time, I completed my pathology training.”

Breshears began teaching at OSU’s veterinary center in 2003 as a lecturer. In 2005 she was promoted to assistant professor and became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists – Anatomic Pathology.

Drawn to pathology by Dr. Roger Panciera’s infectious diseases class, Breshears realized she was “into figuring out diseases and not so much into the clinical part.”

Breshears teaches veterinary histology and general pathology to first-year students, and she has started teaching a third-year elective on systemic pathology case studies.

“I like seeing the light bulb go on, or the eureka moment, when things start to come together for students,” she says. “That’s what I liked best about being a student, so it’s fun to see that now.”

Breshears has excelled at many levels, including as an FFA and rodeo participant in high school in Mustang, Okla. While a student at OSU, she received the Dean Clarence McElroy Award before obtaining her doctorate of veterinary medicine in 1998.

Breshears credits her success as a teacher to the good examples she had while in school.

“Dr. Roger Panciera and Dr. Anthony Confer — my pathology teachers — were a big influence on me. Dr. Jerry Ritchey was my mentor during my graduate program,” Breshears says.

According to those who have been taught by Breshears, her teaching style engages students and helps them excel.

“Dr. Breshears’ teaching style really stood out to me after the first day she lectured in histology,” says Katy Bailey, class of 2014. “The enthusiasm and patience that she employed in delivering that day’s lecture material greatly enhanced my learning experience and helped me to better comprehend the material.”

Brooke Washington, class of 2012, agrees: “Dr. Breshears’ lectures are very detailed and organized. Yet, she presents material in a way the students can grasp, often by using very humorous analogies.”

Breshears incorporated a unique facet into one of her lectures this year.

“One of my favorite hobbies is home-brewing beer,” Breshears says. “It’s a nearly perfect combination of science experiment and cooking project, with a refreshing product as a bonus. In class I used the many different styles of beer to illustrate the various types of effusions (escape of fluids from anatomical vessels) that occur in some disease processes. It was a really fun lecture and the students seemed to enjoy the unique spin on pathology.”

Breshears’ ability to help students understand difficult concepts is one reason she was named OSU’s Pfizer Distinguished Teacher, an award presented annually to a faculty member at each North American veterinary college. OSU recipients are selected by ballot of faculty and students.

“She is a very warm and welcoming person who encourages questions and class participation. She always makes things relate to something we know,” says Helen Wick, another class of 2014 member. “She genuinely cares for all her students.”

Says student Bailey: “I thoroughly enjoyed having her teach in multiple classes and could not think of a more deserving person to win such an award.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY
“DR. MELANIE BRESHEARS (PICTURED) PRESENTS MATERIAL IN A WAY THE STUDENTS CAN GRASP, OFTEN BY USING VERY HUMOROUS ANALOGIES.”
— BROOKE WASHINGTON, STUDENT

“I LIKE SEEING THE LIGHT BULB GO ON, OR THE EUREKA MOMENT, WHEN THINGS START TO COME TOGETHER FOR STUDENTS.”
— MELANIE BRESHEARS
A Center for Veterinary Health Sciences researcher and world-renowned expert in shipping fever received the Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence.

Dr. Anthony Confer, a Regents Professor and the Sitlington Endowed Chair in Food Animal Research, was honored for his work with bacterial pneumonias and the fever, also known as bovine respiratory disease. The research is leading to an improved vaccine for which Confer and veterinary college molecular microbiologist, Dr. Sahlu Ayalew, recently received a patent.

“Without Ayalew, I would not be active in this world of research,” says Confer, who defers the award and all praise of his work to Ayalew, an OSU alumnus who returned to his alma mater after working at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, N.Y.

“I’d probably just be doing diagnostics and teaching if it weren’t for Dr. Ayalew. I don’t have the time to do everything he does in the lab.”

Their vaccine was derived from a special protein found to be effective against the bacteria Mannheimia haemolytica found in cattle with pneumonia. The disease costs the cattle industry millions of dollars each year.

An award-winning teacher as well, Confer is a 1972 graduate of OSU’s veterinary college. He has a master’s and doctoral degree in pathology from Ohio State University and University of Missouri, respectively. He is board-certified in veterinary pathology and was a faculty member at Louisiana State University before coming to Stillwater in 1981.

At OSU, Confer teaches first-year students in general pathology, third-year neuropathology and urinary pathology courses, as well as fourth-year students during their diagnostic pathology rotation.
Pathologists are some of OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences most distinguished faculty (See the previous two stories about award-winners Drs. Melanie Breshears and Anthony Confer). That’s part of what makes veterinary pathology a signature program at the center.

Pathologists trained at OSU have worked all over the world, in fields such as academia, military service, pharmaceuticals, diagnostic laboratories, research and more.

Career highlights of OSU-connected pathologists:

- “Serving my country and using my great Oklahoma training — thanks OSU CVM!” — K. Lance Batey, LTC, U.S. Army
- “Seeing students develop and make a difference in the world.” — Charles Qualls
- “For me and for many of my colleagues in pathology, Dr. Roger Panciera was a motivating and inspiring force to make pathology a career choice.” — Steven Vonderfecht
- “DVM degree that has led to six very different, challenging careers so far.” — Dana B. Walker
- “Resident training with Drs. Jim Meinkoth and Rick Cowell, who made a challenging experience fun.” — Sylvia Beaudin
- “Seeing students I have trained become clinical pathologists.” — Denise Bounous

There are 143 pathologists tied to OSU:

- 87 are OSU graduates
- 12 were or are OSU faculty
- 28 came here to complete a residency program or a combined residency and M.S. degree or Ph.D.
- 16 came here to complete a Ph.D.
- 8 came here to complete a M.S. degree
- 97 are diplomates in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists

To show the extent and excellence of our pathology program, data is being collected from OSU graduates who went on to pathology and from those who completed residency training, masters or PhD programs in pathology at OSU or were on faculty here training future pathologists.

If you would like to be included in the permanent listing, please provide the following information along with an electronic photo: Name, current title, current location, degree, year and institution, point of interest and career highlight. Information can be emailed to derinda@okstate.edu.
Repeated Excellence

Dr. Sandra “Sam” Morgan received the 2010 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award. It’s the second time regents have given the award to Morgan, a toxicologist and associate professor in the physiological sciences department.

“The main memory I have is just what an excellent teacher she was,” former student Dr. Jerry Ritchey says.

“She always sought to make a teaching opportunity out of anything,” says Ritchey, class of 1991, a pathology professor. “If the opportunity arose, she would tell us about mistakes that she had made. It was more important for her that we did not make the same mistakes rather than protecting her ego, which I think is non-existent.”

Eleven different times students have voted Morgan the Outstanding Year Three Instructor. She first received the Regents Distinguished Teaching Award in 2001. She also earned the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award in 2001 and 2006.

Morgan earned her doctor of veterinary medicine degree from OSU in 1980 and spent the next year as the sole practitioner working at the Blackwell Animal Hospital in northern Oklahoma.

In 1981, Dr. Larry Rice offered her a job in the food animal section of OSU’s Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. She began a teaching career at OSU as an ambulatory clinician.

With about 300 cows at the OSU dairy, Morgan says, she spent valuable time teaching students how to deliver calves and treat routine problems.

“I wanted the veterinary students to be as well prepared as possible when they graduated, in case they ended up running a practice by themselves like I did,” she says. “I let them do every possible procedure, under my supervision. My ambulatory rotation was well known as very hands on.”

Eleven different times students have voted Morgan the Outstanding Year Three Instructor. She first received the Regents Distinguished Teaching Award in 2001. She also earned the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award in 2001 and 2006.

“Driving to and from farm calls was filled with conversations about important practical matters — I don’t ever remember hearing any trivia from Sam,” he says.

“From the student perspective, the most fulfilling thing was performing a procedure from start to finish,” Ritchey says. “When you went on farm calls with Sam, it was the closest experience as a student that it could be to being the veterinarian.”

Morgan also remembers the fun times: “Jon Remer (class of 1984) probably made me laugh more than anyone. I remember having to stop the truck on the side of the road because I was laughing so hard my eyes were watering.”

During her time as an ambulatory clinician, Morgan took a 3½-year leave of absence to work as a toxicology resident under Dr. William Edwards at the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

Since July 1998, Morgan has been a veterinary toxicologist at the lab and a toxicology professor for third-year veterinary students at OSU.

“Everybody in my class loved her,” Ritchey says. “I try to mimic her teaching style in my own.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY

Dr. Sandra Morgan spends significant time at the center’s Toxic Plant Garden. She tends to plants such as water hemlock, which can cause violent convulsions if cattle drink water contaminated by the plant’s toxins. Recently named a 2010 Regents Distinguished Teacher, Morgan teaches such toxicology to third-year veterinary students.
Making a Healthier Food Supply

Dr. Robert W. Fulton received the 2010 Regents Distinguished Research Award in recognition of his achievements at OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

Fulton, a Regents Professor and the McCasland Endowed Chair for Food Animal Research, was selected based on his record in bovine infectious disease research and the national and international recognition he has received.

“I am thankful for the college of veterinary medicine and my department heads I have worked with for providing me an opportunity to do the research,” Fulton says. “I appreciate the support from deans, such as Dr. Michael Lorenz, who have supported clinical research as well as basic research.”

Fulton, a faculty member since 1982 in the pathobiology department and a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, is known for his efforts to help Oklahomans in the cattle business and to make the food supply healthier. He works with animal health companies and collaborates with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Fulton has done bovine respiratory disease research since 1982, bovine viral diarrhea virus research since 1992 and recently began studies on bovine corona virus. In 1995, Fulton’s team found several viruses involved with bovine respiratory disease in sick cattle with previous vaccinations. The team found bovine viral diarrhea in cattle with relatively good vaccination histories. The biggest source of the virus was persistently infected calves.

“The (persistently infected calf) results when the pregnant cow is exposed during pregnancy,” Fulton says. “The current vaccines were not optimal. We did a lot of work to find the role of the (persistently infected) animal as the source of the virus.”

OSU’s involvement in the project included diagnostic tests to identify the persistently infected calf. Fulton and his collaborators discovered different bovine viral diarrhea virus subtypes that were not in the vaccine.

“Having the right strains in the vaccines is like having the right strain of influenza virus in vaccines for humans,” Fulton explains. “Our virus represents 75 percent of the strains, yet the current vaccines have only 25 percent of the strains in the U.S.

“We hope the strains we have will provide better protection to the cattle,” he adds. “Better vaccines mean less illness for the cattle. Healthier animals make a healthier food supply.”

A Noble Foundation grant for $2.4 million made it possible for Fulton and Dr. Anthony Confer to study bovine respiratory disease from 1999 to 2007. Several commercial grants have helped continue the research since, Fulton says.

“We have an excellent group of colleagues who are committed to food animal research, veterinarians, and farmers and ranchers,” Fulton says.

“Our research will benefit Oklahoma and the nation’s cattlemen,” Fulton adds. “If the vaccine keeps the cattle healthier, that lessens the cattle producers’ costs. Healthier cattle mean a healthier food supply and that benefits U.S. consumers and other people all around the world. Not bad for a day’s work.”

DERINDA BLAKENEY
“BETTER VACCINES MEAN LESS ILLNESS FOR THE CATTLE. HEALTHIER ANIMALS MAKE A HEALTHIER FOOD SUPPLY.”
— ROBERT FULTON
Congratulations, Class of 2011

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences class of 2011 has 82 members and is the largest class to graduate since the college opened its doors in 1948. The class members 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.

Meet the Class of 2015

Eighty-three students, 21 men and 62 women, comprise the class of 2015. The center chose 58 Oklahoma residents and 25 nonresidents from a pool of 364 applicants to begin the fall 2011 semester. The core and cumulative grade point averages for these students are 3.460 and 3.473 respectively. Their GRE scores are 484 verbal, 623 quantitative and 4.0 analytical writing.

This is the second class that includes Early Admit Program students (7 residents and 3 nonresidents). EAP strives to aid academically talented, committed students in their veterinary medical career development.

To be eligible for the program, seniors in high school must have an ACT score of 28 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 semester while completing their bachelor’s degree and the pre-veterinary course requirements.

During this time, students are teamed with veterinary college faculty to provide guidance and mentorship. Drs. Melanie Breshears, Anthony Confer, Robert Fulton, John Gilliam, Todd Holbrook and Jerry Ritchey mentored these students.

EAP students in the class of 2015 had an average core GPA of 3.749 and an average cumulative GPA of 3.836.
Where your story began

Perhaps the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ open house in March will be the beginning of this youngster’s OSU story. Many affiliated with the center say their stories began at such a young age. OSU’s Homecoming 2011 theme is “Where Your Story Began,” and certainly there are many compelling stories from veterinary college alumni that should be told. The OSU Alumni Association invites you to tell your story by emailing mystorybegan@okstate.edu. Be sure to include your name, class year, degree and major. Photos may also be attached.

COME BACK FOR HOMECOMING 2011 ON SATURDAY, OCT. 29, WHEN OSU PLAYS BAYLOR AT BOONE PICKENS STADIUM.
Alumni Carry On OSU Cowboy Veterinarian Tradition

The 82 members of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine class of 2011 are the largest class since the college opened its doors 63 years ago.

“OSU has a long history of graduating competent, confident, practice-ready veterinarians,” says Dr. Michael Lorenz, former dean. “We are proud of our alumni and equally proud of these new veterinarians knowing they will make a positive mark on the lives of humans and animals alike as they pursue their veterinary medicine careers.”

Among those who graduated in May with DVM degrees were the husband and son of two previous graduates returning to OSU for the hooding ceremony.

Husband and Wife

Dr. Katie Carpenter, class of 2009, hooded her husband, Dr. Brant Carpenter. Brant and Katie met in undergraduate school at OSU.

“In a lifetime you meet thousands of people, but at some point you meet one person who makes a difference. Brant is that person, not only for me but for others as well,” Katie says. “We have been married six years now, all with either me or Brant in veterinary school. It’s been challenging.”

When he was 8 years old, Brant helped his grandfather pull a calf.

“I knew that feeling of helping an animal in distress was something I wanted to continue,” he says. “Katie has supported me from every exam to being my best consultant.”

Before graduation, Brant said his most memorable moment was being coated by Katie at the beginning of his fourth year.

After graduation, the Carpenters began working together at the Cactus Clinic, a rural mixed-animal practice in Saint Jo, Texas.
Father & Son

Dr. James Stock, class of 1978, hooded his son, Dr. Brad Stock. Brad and his mother often helped his father in his Kingfisher, Okla., veterinary practice.

“I’ve been working with my parents at the clinic as long as I can remember,” Brad says.

Wanting to keep his options open, Brad started as a business major in undergraduate school but learned that his interests were more science oriented.

“I majored in biology and minored in microbiology and zoology. When I took some animal classes through the animal science department, I quickly realized that I indeed wanted to become a veterinarian,” he says.

James Stock was excited and proud when his son decided to follow his footsteps.

“I have watched him grow as he took on the challenges on the road to obtaining his degree,” James says.

After graduation, Brad Stock stayed in Oklahoma and began working with Dr. Larry Wyckoff, class of 1980, at Blackwell Animal Hospital.
Several classes returned to Stillwater in 2010 to celebrate reunions held along with the center’s fall veterinary conference. More than 325 alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends attended the 3rd Annual OSU Cowboy Roundup.

Silent and live auctions raised $3,255 for veterinary student scholarships and Omega Tau Sigma held a silent dessert auction raising $428 for student scholarships. In honor of Dr. Michael Lorenz’s service to OSU and the profession of veterinary medicine, his classmates made a surprise announcement establishing the Dean Michael D. Lorenz Endowed Scholarship.

Dr. Scott Sturgeon, class of 2004, provided a delicious meal while Dr. Dustin Devine’s, class of 2002, band provided music for the evening. Mr. Gregg Pickens of Stillwater volunteered as auctioneer. Cowboy Partner Sponsors were Boehringer Ingelheim and Merial.

Rounding up Food, Music, Memories and Support

CLASS OF 1961: Members of the class of 1961 who attended the 50-year anniversary are, seated, left to right, Drs. William McDowell, William Kyser, Mike Podolin and Phillip Day; and back row from left, Drs. Gerald Hegreberg, James Graham, Marvin Denny and Tony Thomas. Also attending but not pictured are Dr. Jess Brewer and Mrs. Barbara Blake, widow of Dr. Richard Blake.

Celebrating 50 Years

Of the 21 living graduates of the class of 1961, nine members and one widow returned to Stillwater to celebrate the class’s 50-year reunion held in May. Half a decade after graduating, some of the 34 class members are still working full time, some do relief work, while others are traveling and enjoying retirement. Their career paths are just as varied. Several served in the U.S. Armed Forces before or shortly after earning their DVM degrees. Most are active in the American Veterinary Medical Association, their state veterinary associations and their communities.
Dr. Richard Blake (deceased) practiced small-animal medicine in Oklahoma City and was involved with the Boy Scouts of America for 41 years.

Dr. David Breshears (deceased) practiced in his hometown of Pine Bluff, Ark., with Dr. Sam Cheesman, class of 1958, for 48 years.

Dr. Jess Brewer practiced in Enid, Okla., treating everything from rabbits to elephants. He retired in 1996.

Dr. Donald Campbell settled in Hobart, Okla., running a mixed-animal practice for 39 years.

Dr. Phillip Day worked as the director of the Lab Animal Resource Facility at the University of New Mexico, Health Science Center School of Medicine. He was involved with a medical research project that developed a programmable insulin pump.

Dr. Marvin Denny was a partner in the Canadian Valley Animal Clinic in El Reno, Okla., and a veterinarian for the National Finals Rodeo and the International Finals Rodeo. He was named the 2008 Oklahoma Veterinarian of the Year.

Dr. Brian Espe (deceased) worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services, retiring in 2004 as the Veterinarian in Charge for Oklahoma.

Dr. Robert Fischel dealt with biological warfare during his post DVM degree service in the U.S. Army. He went on to build and run his own small-animal clinic in Hagerstown, Md.

Dr. Jerry Gillespie pursued a Ph.D. in comparative pathology and taught at the University of California, Davis. He left to become the director of Kansas State University’s veterinary hospital and head of veterinary clinical sciences.

Dr. James Graham opened his own veterinary clinic in Oklahoma City where his practice continues.

Dr. Gerald Hegreberg went into private practice and then joined Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine. After 22 years he retired and moved to Cincinnati and established a lab for advanced pathologic techniques in avian medicine.

Dr. William Kyser was in private practice for 42 years. He was presented with the 12th International Veterinary Congress Award at the National AVMA Meeting in 1994. He continues to offer relief services to veterinarians in the Tampa Bay, Fla., area.

Dr. William McDowell owned a practice, joined the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine and then returned to private practice until 1986, when he became the Missouri representative for the National Association of Federal Veterinarians. He retired in 1999.

Dr. Michael Podolin worked briefly in Tulsa, Okla., before heading back east and opening his practice in his hometown, Stratford, N.J. After 35 years he retired, but occasionally does relief work for the veterinarian who bought his practice.

Dr. Richard Rissler joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Health Division. He transferred in 1979 to operational support at Veterinary Services Headquarters in Maryland. He retired in 1998.

Dr. Robert Stewart returned to his hometown of Morgantown, W.Va., and opened a private mixed-animal veterinary practice. Over the years, the large-animal portion of his practice gave way to small animals and exotics. He still practices.

Dr. Russell Tate opened a mixed-animal practice in North Carolina one year after graduation. For the past 15 years, he has worked only on small animals. His son manages the clinic while he tends to the veterinary medicine.

Dr. Tony Thomas went to work at Midwest Veterinary Hospital in Midwest City, Okla., and still works there full time. He was named the OVMA 1981 Oklahoma Veterinarian of the Year and the 1999 American Animal Hospital Association Practitioner of the Year. He served on the Oklahoma State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.
CLASS OF 1965: Nine members from the class of 1965 returned to Stillwater to celebrate their 45-year reunion. In addition to attending the Cowboy Roundup, the group enjoyed dinner together at Joseppi’s. Seated, left to right, are Drs. John Kirkpatrick, Barbara McAbee, Dianne Nail and Paul Frith. Standing, from left, are Drs. Darrell Allison, Joseph Buxton, William Carter, Thomas Coffin and Ronnie Roberson.

CLASS OF 1980: Sixteen members of the class of 1980 reunited for their 30-year reunion. After the Cowboy Roundup, the group continued socializing with an open house at the Holiday Inn. Seated, left to right, are Drs. Ronald Laughlin, Charles Reavis, Randy Lewis, Allison Shassere-Patchell, Susan Hossenlopp-Bloss, Bruss Horn, Steven Hunholz and Fred Lehman. Standing, from left, are Drs. Lynn Norman, Robert Morris, Larry Wyckoff, Terry Hargis, Joel Lenz, Leldon Locke, Charlie Jones and Steven Weir.
CLASS OF 1970: Twelve members from the class of 1970 gathered for their 40-year reunion. Before the Cowboy Roundup, the group toured the veterinary center and reunited for a class dinner and meeting. Seated, left to right, are Drs. Babette Humphrey-Simms, Susan Faulkner-Gardner, James Richardson, Lyndon Tate, Thomas Shroyer and Billy Clay. Standing, from left, are Drs. Donnie Gardner, Stanley Kosanke, Larry Nolen, J. Harmon Smith, Ronny Kiehn and Larry Endersby.
CLASS OF 1995: Seven members of the class of 1995 celebrated their 15-year reunion at the Cowboy Roundup. The group also enjoyed a picnic the following day at Ski Point on Lake Carl Blackwell. Seated, from left to right, are Drs. Susan Watson-Infante, Betty Lawson and Patricia Chism. Standing, from left, are Drs. Mitchell Spindel, Tracy Turner, Justin McCrary and Rodney Auffet.
CLASS OF 1985: Twenty-two members of the class of 1985 were in Stillwater to celebrate their 25-year reunion. After the Cowboy Roundup, they continued celebrating at Dr. Greg Campbell’s home. In the front row, left to right, are Drs. Leslie Sauber, Sally Ford-Henderson and Heather Cobb. Middle row, left to right, are Drs. Charlotte Krugler, Kathy Dunaway, Judy Roberds, Jeff Sarchet, Bruce Omohundro, Randal Burris, Harry Taylor and Linda Coenen. Back row, left to right, are Drs. Eddie Taylor, Gordon Gathright, John Summar, Greg Campbell, Nita McNeil, Sharon Redman, Tommy Shelton, Eric Wynn, Kelley Ray, Roy Million and Ken Abrams.

CLASS OF 2000: Eleven members of the class of 2000 attended the Cowboy Roundup to celebrate their 10-year reunion. Seated, left to right, are Drs. Rachel Reeves, Kristin DeArmond-Trerise, Yalonda Patterson-Burton and Jennifer Moore-Schoonover. Standing, from left, are Drs. Reginald McIntyre, Troy Thompson, Kevin Paskowski, Matthew Schwert, Jeff Reeves, Martin Trerise and Michael Schoonover.
COWBOY ROUNDUP:
Fundraising and Visiting Classmates & Other Friends
Welcome to the 2011 Dean’s Club

Dr. James Conklin, SHERIDAN ROAD VETERINARY CLINIC
Dr. Ray Corbitt
Dr. Lee Darch, NORTH WAKE ANIMAL HOSPITAL, INC.
Dr. Mark Elwell
Dr. Steva Hardcastle
Dr. Michael and Mrs. Velda Lorenz
Mrs. Nicholas and Dianne Nail
Ms. Barbara Pass
Mr. Tim and Mrs. Tina Ridley
Dr. Chris Ross
Dr. William Ryan
Ms. Carolyn Sue Sanders
Dr. Bob Shoup, CATOOSA SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL
Dr. Steven Vonderfecht
Dr. John A. and Mrs. Wynn Walker
Dr. Steve Weir, CATOOSA SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL
Mr. Mike and Mrs. Carol Wilson, CARMICHAEL FOUNDATION

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.
How life changed one veterinarian’s career path

It would have been difficult for Dr. Delana Taylor McNac to envision her future after receiving her DVM from OSU in 1985. “It was an unexpected road to travel,” she says, “from pulling calves in a creek bed in Virginia to helping patients transition through the end of their lives.”

The peculiar path between those two points took McNac from rural Virginia, to a lab and seminary training in Dallas, to ground zero after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and finally back to her home state of Oklahoma.

It’s in Oklahoma where McNac works to combine her knowledge and love of animals with her work as a hospice chaplain.

“I witnessed a patient’s end-of-life experience take a dramatic turn for the worse as a result of his pet-loss grief,” McNac says.

The man’s story is offered as her explanation behind establishing Pet Peace of Mind, now a national program to give comfort to terminally ill patients in hospice care.
Learning and Caring Along the Path

After graduating from OSU, McNac relocated to rural Virginia and went to work at a veterinary practice. In 1989, she attended Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and completed a pathology residency. She became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and moved to Dallas to take a job as a surgical pathologist.

The lab lost a lucrative contract because of a corporate buyout. McNac decided to take another turn on her path. She attended seminary and focused on counseling, specifically pet-loss grief counseling.

While attending a Native American church in Dallas, McNac went to New York City in November 2001.

“The Red Cross gave us emergency chaplain training and a group of us went to ground zero to counsel police, firefighters and rescue workers involved in Sept. 11,” she says. “It was a life-changing experience for me.”

McNac graduated seminary, completed chaplain training in Dallas and moved back to Oklahoma.

Pet Peace of Mind

Working as a hospice chaplain and with her veterinarian experience, McNac took note of the special relationships between terminally ill people and their pets. She tells the story of the man who worsened after losing his pet.

“While under our care, he was moved to a facility where he couldn’t keep his dog. He became deeply depressed over the loss and declined rapidly, despite our attempts to support him emotionally and medically. I am convinced that if hospice could have intervened and helped him maintain the relationship with his dog, his life would have ended differently. I wanted to do something to prevent that situation from happening again.”

McNac went to the hospice leadership to establish Pet Peace of Mind, which provides trained hospice volunteers for in-home pet care and foster homes for patients’ pets. Pets are taken to visit patients in facilities when needed.

“The program started in 2007 with donations from two individuals,” McNac says. “Later, I approached Banfield Charitable Trust with a grant proposal to maintain the program. They liked it so much, they adopted our model, and in 2009, Pet Peace of Mind became a national program. Today, there are 23 states with at least one hospice location with Pet Peace of Mind.”

McNac is the national program manager and travels across the country to train hospice staff.

“We’re trying to change the face of hospice care,” she says. “We know that the culture has changed and that pets are like family members. Terminally ill patients need the love and companionship of their family members, including their pets.”

The program works with the patient’s veterinarian to provide free routine care. Volunteers transport pets to veterinary appointments and groomers and offer pet exercise services.

Pet Peace of Mind also works with potential adoptees to find a home for pets that become homeless upon a patient’s death.

“I try to look at it from the pet’s point of view,” McNac says. “Can you imagine giving the best part of your life as a faithful companion only to find yourself looking out a shelter cage door, not knowing where you are, grieving the loss of your owner, and not knowing if you will ever have a home again?”

McNac is especially excited about the Stillwater program, a partnership with Judith Karman Hospice and OSU’s veterinary center. Dr. Michael Lorenz, professor and former dean, is serving as the veterinary consultant to the hospice program.

“We hope to match other veterinary colleges with hospices located in their towns using Stillwater and the OSU veterinary center as a model.”

You can donate to Pet Peace of Mind through Banfield Charitable Trust or volunteer at a Pet Peace of Mind Program at a hospice near you.
We honor those who have served the profession, our distinguished colleagues and friends.

Dr. Hubert Goins, class of 1951, died on Jan. 3, 2011, in Berryville, Ark. He was 84.

Goins graduated from Green Forest High School in Arkansas in 1944. He served in the Navy during World War II, marrying his high school sweetheart, Helen “Jean” Wisdom, upon his return. He graduated in the first class of veterinarians from the then Oklahoma A&M College School of Veterinary Medicine.

“...it was an honor for him to be in the first graduating class,” recalls his wife. “He took pride in all the progress in the veterinary school since then.”

With his veterinary degree, the couple returned to Green Forest where Goins opened the first veterinary clinic in Carroll County, Ark. In 1959, he became a U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector at Ocoma Foods and then at Tyson Foods until he retired in 1986.

Goins was a member of the United Methodist Church, Berryville Lions Club, Green Forest American Legion, Carroll County Cattlemen and Arabian Horse Club, assisting in 4-H Horse Club training. He was also a Boy Scout leader in 1960, which he continued to do for nearly 50 years.

Goins is survived by his wife, four children, 11 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, a sister, in-laws, nieces and nephews and many friends and loved ones.

Dr. William Jamieson Chandler, class of 1952, of Broken Arrow, Okla., died March 2, 2011. He was 83.

Chandler was born in Trinidad, Colo. He served in the Army, teaching swimming and life-saving skills to recruits before they deployed to Europe. After his honorable discharge, he attended OSU and graduated in the second class of veterinarians.

Following graduation, Dr. Chandler completed a summer internship at the Chapman-Barnard Ranch north of Pawhuska, Okla. He then moved to Broken Arrow opening his own veterinary clinic. For the next 25 years, Chandler provided veterinary services for Tulsa and Wagoner counties.

With his brother, Chandler also is known for founding the first junior high basketball team for Tulsa Public Schools. He coached and taught basketball for more than 15 years and published a book on basketball.

Chandler also enjoyed playing tennis and entertaining Oklahoma friends and family at his home in Colorado. Chandler, a great story teller, loved being a veterinarian, a coach, a family man and a loyal friend.

Chandler is survived by his wife, Doshie, a son, a daughter, two step-sons, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Dr. Charles Eugene “Gene” Doyle, class of 1952, died April 8, 2011, after a brief illness and surrounded by his family and his “darling daughters.” Doyle, of Oklahoma City, was 83.

A native of Oklahoma City, he attended Central High School until he quit during World War II to enlist in the United States Navy. He served as an Electrician Mate 3rd Class in the Pacific Ocean.

Upon his return home, Doyle enrolled in Oklahoma A&M College School of Veterinary Medicine. In June 1950, he married Joan Bizzell and graduated with his DVM degree with honors. The Doyles moved back to Oklahoma City and Dr. Doyle opened Northwest Animal Hospital in Warr Acres.

Doyle was beloved by his clients; he never hesitated to go back to the clinic to handle an emergency. When he closed Northwest, he became a licensed real estate broker and also sold motorcycles. His love of animals prompted him to open Central Animal Hospital in Oklahoma City, from which he retired in the 1990s.

Doyle loved his family, fishing, golf, restoring old cars, and searching for a bargain. He also became a master brewer and baker.

He is survived by two daughters, a niece, four grandchildren and members of the Bizzell family.

Dr. Bertis Lamon Glenn, class of 1952, died Nov. 4, 2010, after a long battle with cancer.

Glenn, 88, of Stillwater, Okla., was born in McPherson, Okla., and was the youngest of seven boys and two girls. After graduating from high school, Glenn served from 1942 to 1946 in the U.S. Army during World War II. He then attended OSU (then Oklahoma A&M) and earned his DVM in the second class to graduate from the veterinary school.

After a short time in private practice in southwest Arkansas, Glenn joined OSU’s faculty at the veterinary college teaching clinical pathology. In 1964, he was credentialed as a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathology. In 1985, he retired from OSU as professor emeritus.

While working at OSU, Glenn met and married his wife, Helen Elizabeth “Betty” Gregg. The couple did not have any children and after 45 years of marriage, Betty died in June 1999.

Glenn was a member of the Sunnybrook Christian Church and enjoyed riding his motorcycle and gardening.

Glenn is survived by a brother, a cousin, a brother-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

(Source: Chapel Hill Funeral Home at dignitymemorial.com)

(Source: Broken Arrow Ledger)

(Source: Chapel Hill Funeral Home at DignityMemorial.com)

(Source: Strode Funeral Home)
Dr. Lloyd “Doc” Skow, class of 1952, died on Oct. 26, 2010, in Menard, Texas, was 92.

When Skow earned his DVM he was among the second class to graduate from the then Oklahoma A&M College School of Veterinary Medicine.

Before moving to Menard, Skow lived in Raton, N.M., where he served as a member of the school board for 12 years, six as president; a member of the Kiwanis club for 40 years, three times as state president; the Raton Little League, four years as president; more than 20 years as State Veterinarian for the New Mexico Racing Commission; and many years as a consultant to both the American Veterinary Medical Association and Arabian Horse Show Association. He was recognized twice by the AVMA as National Veterinarian of the Year.

Skow is survived by five children.

(Source: The Raton Range)

Dr. Claude Gillette Jr., class of 1959, died March 4, 2011.

Gillette, 81, of Hazen, Ark., was born in Stuttgart, Ark., graduated from Tulane University in 1952 and served in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant junior grade. After graduating from OSU, he went on to practice veterinary medicine for 45 years.

Gillette was a member of the Partners of the Americas and made five teaching trips to Bolivia. Gillette was on faculty at Universidad Autonoma Gabriel Rene Moreno in Bolivia, where he taught and worked with native farmers.

Gillette also was a member of the Hazen First United Methodist Church and sang in the church choir and taught Sunday school.

Gillette is survived by his wife of 58 years, Betty, three daughters, two sons and nine grandchildren.

(Source: Stuttgart Daily Leader)

Dr. Harold B. Kimble, class of 1959, died on May 18, 2011. Kimble, of Mantorville, Minn., was 81.

Born in Parsons, W.Va., Kimble attended Morgantown High School, graduating in 1947. He entered West Virginia University studying pre-medicine and zoology. In 1953, he married Barbara Pritchett. Following the wedding, he served in Korea with the U.S. Army. He was a first lieutenant with the 25th Infantry Division and earned the Combat Infantry Badge. When he returned to the U.S., he attended OSU and obtained his DVM.

Following graduation, the Kimbles moved to Kasson, Minn., and established the Carriage House Animal Hospital. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association.

In Kasson, Kimble spent time on the City Council and served as mayor from 1967 to 1970. He was also involved in the Festival in the Park and the Dodge County Fair. He is a 50-year member of the Kasson United Methodist Church. His hobbies included refurbishing antique cars, refinishing furniture and fishing.

Kimble was a member of the Kasson Masonic Lodge, the Rochester Scottish Rite and the Osman Temple Shrine. He attained the rank of 33 degree Mason and held various offices in that organization.

Kimble is survived by his wife, Barbara, two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren.

(Source: Family of Dr. Harold B. Kimble)

Dr. Michael “Mickey” G. Walsh Jr., class of 1959, died Jan. 24, 2011. Walsh, of Southern Pines, N.C., was 78.

Walsh was born in Flushing, N.Y. He attended Belmont Abbey College, where he was valedictorian, and received his bachelor’s in agriculture from North Carolina State University before earning his DVM from OSU.

He became one of the first veterinarians in Southern Pines to establish his own practice, Southern Pines Veterinary Clinic. He also began a satellite clinic in Robbins, N.C., where he worked every Tuesday and Thursday evening for more than 15 years.

For years, Walsh was one of two large-animal veterinarians in the area handling all of the horses at the Pinehurst Trotting Track as well as caring for his father’s racehorses in Southern Pines. Later in life, he transitioned into caring for small animals and worked side by side with his beloved wife, Marion, who preceded him in death by seven months. Marion established and ran the Tail Wag’n Inn beside his veterinary clinic. The couple retired in 2007.

Walsh is survived by three daughters, two sons and two grandchildren.

(Source: Madison.com)

CONTINUES
**Dr. Harold Miller, class of 1960**, died July 12, 2011, in Midwest City, Okla., after a short illness. Miller, of Shawnee, Okla., was 78.

Born in Calvin, Okla., Miller served in the Korean War before attending OSU and receiving his DVM degree. Shortly after graduation he married Jean.

Miller joined the Shawnee Animal Hospital from 1960 to 1976 and was part owner in the business until he sold his share in 1979. He completed a residency at the University of California at Davis and became a diplomate in the American College of Theriogenologists. Miller was a professor at OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine from 1979 to 1981. He then became self-employed in dairy herd management.

Miller was awarded the 1993 Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association Food Animal Practitioner of the Year and the 2000 Oklahoma Veterinarian of the Year. He was a 32 degree Mason.

House was a dedicated, well-respected public servant. He served two terms as mayor of Ayden, served on the Foundation Board of Pitt Community College and was a long-time member of the Greenville Rotary Club. He was also a member of the Ayden United Methodist Church.

House is survived by his wife, Melody Taylor House, a son, a daughter, two stepsons, a stepdaughter, a grandson and a step-grandson.

(Source: The Daily Reflector)

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**Dr. William Ridenour, class of 1960**, died May 16, 2011. Ridenour, of Flemington, W.Va., was 76.

“Doc” Ridenour graduated from West Virginia University before earning his DVM from OSU. He owned Ridenour Animal Hospital in Bridgeport, W.Va., retiring in December 2006.

He was an avid farmer, a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, past chairman of the Southwestern Water Board and a 32 degree Mason. He also was a member of the Bridgeport United Methodist Church.

Ridenour is survived by his wife, Wanda Clark Ridenour, five daughters and seven grandchildren.

(Source: Mountain Statesman (Grafton, W.Va.))

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**Dr. Michael Lucas, class of 1962**, died suddenly on Dec. 10, 2010, from a massive heart attack. Lucas, of Savannah, Ga., was 76.

Lucas was born in Tulsa, Okla. He earned his undergraduate degree and DVM from OSU.

From 1954 to 1957, he served in the United States Army. After earning his DVM, Lucas practiced veterinary medicine for many years throughout the Midwest. In 1985, he and his wife, Wanda, relocated from Staples, Minn., to Savannah, Ga.

A long-time resident of Savannah, the community knew Lucas for his generosity and contributions. He briefly taught science and math at St. Vincent’s Academy.

In 1991, the couple began fostering children. Through the years, they fostered about 25 children. In 1994, they decided to adopt two of their foster children. In 1998, they again adopted three more foster children.

Lucas is survived by his wife of 55 years, Wanda Parrish Lucas, one son, one daughter, 12 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

(Source: Smith & Kerrie Funeral Directors)

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**Dr. Michael House, class of 1961**, died Aug. 13, 2010. House, of Ayden, N.C., was 73.

A native of Pitt County, N.C., he earned his undergraduate degree from North Carolina State University and his DVM degree from OSU. He served in the U.S. Army for two years before he practiced in Wilson, N.C., and later with Batman Animal Clinic in Greenville, N.C. He opened The Animal Hospital in the mid-1970s and was still actively practicing veterinary medicine. For a number of years he also operated a satellite clinic in Ayden.

(Source: Fox and Weeks Funeral Directors)

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**Dr. Don Crow, class of 1965**, died Aug. 15, 2010. Crow, of Greenville, S.C., was 78.

Born in Wheeling, W.Va., Crow served in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman. He attended West Virginia University, earning a bachelor’s degree in biology and a master’s in biochemistry before attending OSU and receiving his DVM.

Crow practiced in Huntington, W.Va., for 30 years. He was an active member of Faith Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., and was named “Father of the Year” on Father’s Day in 2004.

Crow is survived by his wife of 53 years, Eleanor, a son, three grandchildren and a sister.

(Source: Woodlawn Funeral Home)

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**Dr. Alton Spencer Jr., class of 1962**, died on Feb. 1, 2011, at Martin General Hospital. Spencer, of Oak City, N.C., was 84.

Spencer retired from the Department of Agriculture. He was a member of the Hamilton United Methodist Church, the Eastern Star and Skewarkee Lodge No. 90 AF&AM.

Spencer is survived by his wife of 41 years, Virginia, three daughters, one son, 12 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

(Source: Walker Funeral Service)
Dr. Delbert Whitenack, class of 1965, died on Feb. 10, 2011. Whitenack, of Stillwater, Okla., was 80.

After marrying Gwen Blakesley in 1950, Whitenack attended OSU earning a bachelor’s degree in agricultural education in 1954. That summer, the couple traveled to Jimma, Ethiopia, where Delbert taught science and Gwen was the nurse for students and faculty.

In 1960, they returned to the U.S. He enrolled at OSU and earned his DVM. After graduation, he accepted a position in the Veterinary Pathology Department at Michigan State University. In 1975, he joined OSU as a pathologist at the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory until he retired 20 years later.

Whitenack was an exotic-animal specialist, having done his share of necropsies on pachyderms, giraffes, rhinos, big cats and countless other animals. He worked closely with the Tulsa and the Oklahoma City zoos and the Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville, Okla. He once helped stop the spread of a virus that was killing hoofed animals at an Oklahoma zoo.

He was a member of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, American Veterinary Medical Association, Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and Phi Zeta.

Whitenack is survived by a son, a daughter, three grandchildren and a brother.

(Source: Strode Funeral Home and Tulsa World)

Dr. Judd I. Giezentanner, class of 1967, died Sept. 19, 2010, at Northwest Medical Center in Springdale, Ark.

Giezentanner, 77, of Springdale, Ark., was born in Ponca City, Okla. Giezentanner served in the U.S. Army. He graduated from the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Ark., and later earned his DVM from OSU.

Giezentanner owned Gravette Animal Clinic in Gravette, Ark., for many years, serving clients in Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Later he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture traveling worldwide as a federal veterinarian in the International Inspection Division.

In 2003, Giezentanner retired and he and his wife returned to northwest Arkansas, where they had raised their family. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Springdale.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Priscilla, two sons, a daughter, four grandchildren and a brother.

(Source: Sisco Funeral Chapel)

Dr. James Andrew Jackson, class of 1973, died on Feb. 8, 2011. Jackson, of Stillwater, Okla., was 86.

Jackson was born in Wynnewood, Okla. Following his high school graduation, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Luzon Campaign. When he returned to the U.S., he met and married his wife, Lena Cox.

In 1960, the Jackson family moved to Ponca City, Okla., where James worked as a medical technologist. In 1969, the family moved to Stillwater. He worked first as a technician and later a faculty member in what was OSU’s parasitology, microbiology and public health department.

Jackson earned his master’s in 1973. He was one of the veterinary center’s early minority faculty members. He earned his doctorate in 1978 and became an assistant professor in 1982, retiring in 1986.

(Source: Stillwater NewsPress and Dr. Sidney Ewing, professor emeritus and historian)

Dr. Jim Rose, class of 1982, died on March 2, 2011. Rose, of Ringling, Okla., was 55.

Rose graduated from Ringling High School and married Cindy Chapman in December 1973. He earned his bachelor’s degree at Cameron University and then his DVM from OSU.

Rose loved his veterinary medicine work with animals, the outdoors and being with his family. One of his favorite things to do was ride his four-wheeler with his granddaughter, Justice.

Rose is survived by his wife, Cindy, a daughter, a son, one granddaughter, and several other family members and friends.

(Source: The Daily Ardmoreite)
Dr. Todd Holbrook, equine section chief at the veterinary hospital, owns 15 quarter horses, a pony, a donkey, and four new foals. The foals are bred to be reining horses — a western discipline, similar to dressage, in which the horse is guided through a pattern of circles, sliding stops and spins. The broodmares are all National Reining Horse Association money earners or American Quarter Horse Association point earners. The foals are by leading industry stallions and most are for sale.

Holbrook’s daughter, Emma, competes in youth classes (ages 14 to 18) and he and his wife compete in rookie and non-pro classes. Emma is also an officer in the state association.
Here’s Something to Bark About. Two scholarship funds have been established. The classes of 1960 and 1969 established the Dean Michael D. Lorenz Endowed Scholarship, and the Dean’s Development Associates leaders have established The Alumni and Friends — the 1,000 giving $1,000 Endowed Scholarship Fund. Gifts made to these scholarships qualify for the Pickens Legacy Scholarship Match.
Veterinary Education and Care Oklahomans Can Trust, Today and Tomorrow

OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences