A Future filled with options
Multiple Opportunities, Indispensable Contributions
The Need for Veterinarians
... we have an opportunity to be the national leader in producing mixed animal and food animal veterinarians ...

This edition of *Vet Cetera* focuses on the varied careers of our alumni and their contributions to society. Interest in the valuable roles veterinarians play in homeland security and biodefense has grown since Sept. 11, 2001. Though less known to mainstream America, veterinarians are among the best biomedical scientists and diagnosticians of zoonotic diseases. Our theme to explore contributions that go beyond our historical roots in private practice will perhaps enlighten others and lead to the appreciation veterinary medicine has earned over the years.

Currently, there is a shortage of veterinarians in public practice careers, including regulatory medicine, public health, diagnostic veterinary medicine, biomedical research and academia. There is also a need for veterinarians to service food animal and rural practice. Of the 64,867 veterinarians listed by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) in 2004, only 1,500, or 2 percent, are specialized in public health and preventative medicine.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts more than 28,000 openings for veterinarians by the year 2012. To meet that need, the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, with the full support of the AVMA, has developed a plan for federal funding, the “Veterinary Medical Education and Workforce Development Act.” If enacted, the bill would amend the Public Health Service Act to create a competitive grant program for schools to increase training capacity and high-capacity research capability in bioterrorism and emergency preparedness, environmental health, food safety and security, regulatory medicine and biomedical research.

Our core-elective veterinary curriculum has served Oklahoma State graduates very well. Our educational approach is to offer a balanced core curriculum that emphasizes comparative medicine of the major domesticated animal species. In addition, we provide elective courses that permit students to have more in-depth training in areas of primary interest. We are recognized for training competent, confident, practice-ready veterinarians. To achieve our goal, we will need discipline-trained veterinarians on our faculties to teach, guide and mentor our students.

Many factors impact the number of graduates entering mixed animal or food animal practice. First, the veterinary applicant pool is increasingly urban, and many applicants have no background or appreciation for animal agriculture and veterinary medicine’s role in it. Secondly, many graduates change from food animal to predominately small animal practice within one to five years of graduation. Most mixed and food animal practices are located in rural communities with limited spouse employment opportunities. Long hours and constant on-call duties become frustrating. Intellectual isolation, lower salary and fewer fringe benefits are additional issues. Students now graduate with considerable debt, and servicing that debt is problematic when both spouses are not gainfully employed.

I am confident we can address many of these issues through admissions, curriculum, clinical experience, and caseload and assessment outcomes. Given our heritage and bovine case load plus our location in a state whose cattle industry is its largest agricultural industry (Oklahoma ranks fifth nationally for cash receipts from the marketing of cattle), we have an opportunity to be the national leader in producing mixed animal and food animal veterinarians, including food animal faculty members. After all, we are Cowboy Veterinarians, and it is no accident that our nickname includes the word “Cow”!

I look forward to receiving your comments and your help.

Michael D. Lorenz, DVM
Dean
Did you know? The 2005 Norden Distinguished Teaching Award was presented to Dr. Kevin Washburn (Veterinary Clinical Sciences); 2005 Pfizer Research Award winner was Dr. Michael Davis (Physiological Sciences); 2005 Regents Distinguished Research Award was presented to Dr. Carey Pope (Physiological Sciences); 2005 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award winner was Dr. Jim Meinkoth; 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award winners were Drs. Clyde Kirkbride (1953), John Hamil (1968) and D.C. Smyth (1970).

In the 2004-2005 academic year, the CVHS awarded 171 scholarships to 108 students for a total value of $164,900.

The CVHS leads the OSU System in National Institutes of Health funding and in return on investment of state dollars expended for research.

Please join us at the CVHS website: www.cvm.okstate.edu. The OSU homepage is located at www.okstate.edu.

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 57 years ago.

Excellence Rewarded
CVHS students, faculty and alumni garner professional honors.

Off-Campus
From interaction with school children to ranchers to peers, CVHS reaches out to the community.

12 The Family Circle
The CVHS family welcomes new members and says goodbye to some of its best.

14 Which Path?
The many career options for doctors of veterinary medicine provide opportunities to achieve professional success and contribute to society.

18 Making a Statement
Veterinarians in corporate, military and governmental positions, including that of the U.S. surgeon general, have raised the profile of veterinarian contributions.
Thank You, Donors

CVHS Awards Students $163,900

Thanks to our donors’ generous contributions and continuing support of our scholarship and awards program, 108 students received approximately $163,900 in scholarships and academic achievement awards at the 2005 CVHS awards banquet. Here are some of the awards issued:

- The top senior student received the prestigious $2,500 McElroy Award.
- Seven students received $1,000 Austin W. and Audrey B. Weedn Foundation Scholarships.
- Six students received $1,000 Robert G. and Karen F. Beach Scholarships.
- Five students received $1,000 Ethel Peters Memorial Scholarships.
- Fourteen students received $1,000 Salsbury Scholarships.
- Ten students received $1,000 Sitlington Scholarships.

This year’s recipient of the McElroy Award, CVHS’ highest student honor, is Heath Qualls, left, class of 2005, who plans to specialize in equine medicine. Dean Michael Lorenz, DVM, at right, is also a McElroy Award recipient and the first OSU graduate to become dean of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

Dr. Jerry Malayer, professor of physiological sciences and associate dean of research at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, received the 2004 Regents Distinguished Research Award for his record of continued research excellence at OSU. Malayer’s research, which focuses on developing probes for the detection of bacteria, has been essential to the success of biosensor research within the CVHS. His research is supported by state and federal grants amounting to several million dollars, and his service as co-principal investigator or co-investigator on most of these projects provides critical expertise and leadership in the area of molecular biology.

Dr. Rebecca Morton received the Regents Distinguished Teaching Award in 2000 and again in 2004. As lead bacteriology teacher, Morton helps prepare OSU veterinary and graduate students to confront constantly evolving infectious disease causes that are becoming more difficult to diagnose and more resistant to treatment. “One way to help students become lifelong learners is to make them understand that no matter how old you are or what level of your profession, you still read, look up answers to questions and keep up the best you can,” Morton says.
Kathryn Bradford, class of 2006, received second place in the American Veterinary Medical History Society essay contest for her paper highlighting the work of veterinarian, anthropologist and author Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence, a student in the 1950s who made significant contributions to veterinary medicine and anthropology. “I found Lawrence interesting because she traveled through several careers during her lifetime,” says Bradford, noting she learned more about the variety of careers in her profession through the three-month research and writing exercise. “This has broadened my vision and will be helpful as I work toward graduation.”

20-Year Employee Honored

Brad Barnes has been a CVHS “team player” for the past 20 years.

As manager of technical resources for the CVHS complex, this self-taught computer expert is responsible for everything from slide projectors to accounting information systems. This year, however, he received an OSU Distinguished Service Award for his service to OSU staff.

In addition to his job responsibilities, Barnes is a key member of the Flexible Compensation Benefits Committee. He worked with a team to develop a new retirement program for the OSU System, which included acceptance and implementation by the Oklahoma state legislature. He also worked with another team to develop a cyber security plan for the OSU System.

CVHS is lucky to have a dedicated and competent employee in Brad Barnes who is willing to go beyond what is expected of him. Congratulations, Brad, on 20 years with CVHS and on your OSU Distinguished Service Award!

Distinguished Service

Congratulations to Lisa Gallery, registered veterinary technician and recipient of the OSU Staff Advisory Council’s Technical Paraprofessional Distinguished Service Award.

Each year faculty and staff members across campus submit nominations for this special recognition of quality service to OSU’s customers — whether they be prospective students, fellow employees or paying clients.

Gallery earned a bachelor’s degree in wildlife ecology from OSU in 1993. She works in small animal internal medicine at the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, where she has been employed the past four years. While working full time at the hospital, she graduated from Cedar Valley College’s Distance Education Veterinary Technician Program with an associate of applied science degree in veterinary technology in December 2004.

Gallery describes her job as a “little bit of everything. We work closely with the fourth-year veterinary students doing clinical rotations,” she says. “We also see patients, take care of diagnostics and manage animal health care for clients and everything else involved with veterinary medicine.”

Lisa Gallery works with a patient at the CVHS teaching hospital.
Birch Receives Prestigious Award

Sharla Birch, veterinary student and graduate student, received the American College of Veterinary Pathologists Young Investigator Award for her doctoral research in testicular degeneration in stallions.

The ACVP gave first-, second- and third-place awards in each of four categories: diagnostic pathology, experimental disease, natural disease and toxicologic pathology. ACVP Diplomates, representing several specialty groups, judged the abstracts.

Birch placed third in the natural disease category, competing with 50 other graduate contestants. “I believe I was the only one competing who was in veterinary school and grad school at the same time,” she says.

Dr. G. Reed Holyoak is Birch’s graduate adviser, and Dr. Uriel Blas-Machado, pathologist, assisted with the histopathology involved in her research.

DERINDA LOWE

The CVHS can boast of currently having on campus three winners of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners Amstutz Scholarship, a national award given annually to an outstanding student who plans to enter a career in bovine veterinary practice: Bret White, fourth-year class, left; Meredyth Jones, 2002 class, a food animal resident; and Derek Pridey, third-year class.
Our Distinguished Alumni

When alumni of the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences met to select the 2004 Distinguished Alumni they were not wanting for nominations. Although the College is just over 50 years old, an impressive number of alumni have already made a name for themselves and their alma mater. The CVHS Alumni Board selected three of these eminent veterinarians as the 2004 Distinguished Alumni, Dr. John Hamil, Dr. Clyde Kirkbride and Dr. D.C. Smith. Each agreed the honor is a milestone in his career.

**Dr. John Hamil**, the owner of Canyon Animal Hospital in Laguna Beach, Calif., graduated from OSU in 1968 after completing his bachelor’s degree in zoology at North Carolina State. Following his service as a captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, he worked at several animal hospitals in California before becoming a partner in 1989 in the Moulton Pet Clinic in Laguna Hills and opening his own hospital in 1997.

The past president of the California Veterinary Medical Association and the Orange County Animal Shelter, Hamil currently serves on the CVMA’s Board of Governors and House of Delegates. He is also a former member of the American Veterinary Medical Association Animal Welfare Committee and former chairman of the ASPCA Western Regional Advisory Board.

Hamil’s many professional honors include being named the American Animal Hospital Association’s Western Regional Practitioner of the Year in 1999 and the Southern California VMA’s 2001 H. Don Mahan Memorial Award winner.

Hamil, who authored *Your Aging Cat and Hands-On Dog Care*, has served as a member of the Bluebell Foundation for cats, the American Bloodhound Club and the Friends of the Sea Lion Marine Mammal Rehabilitation Center and is active in the California Council of Companion Animal Advocates.

He recently received the Hills Animal Welfare and Humane Ethics Award, an honor presented annually to an individual who has advanced animal welfare through extraordinary service or by furthering humane principles, education and understanding.

**Dr. Clyde Kirkbride** opened a mixed practice in Mountain Grove, Mo., after graduating from OSU in 1953. He subsequently joined the faculty at Kansas State University in 1963 where he became well-known for his expertise on the effects of milking machine malfunction on udder health. Later, he joined the faculty at South Dakota State University where he also earned a master’s degree in microbiology.

Kirkbride taught courses in animal diseases and their control for more than 20 years. The professional organizations he has served include the American Veterinary Medical Association, Western Veterinary Conference, American Leptospirosis Research Conference, the National Mastitis Council and the U.S. Animal Health Association.

He is an honorary lifetime member of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and the South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association and an honorary Diplomat of the American College of Theriogenology.

An authority in the field of livestock and disease management, Kirkbride has presented scientific papers in the U.S., Canada, South America, New Zealand and Europe. He authored the *Control of Livestock Diseases* textbook and more than 70 scientific papers on the diagnosis and cause of miscarriages in livestock and also edited and authored several sections of *Laboratory Diagnosis of Abortion in Food Animals*.

Gamma Sigma Delta named him the 1986 Researcher of the Year, and in 1989 the South Dakota VMA named Kirkbride Veterinarian of the Year. He retired from South Dakota State in 1989.

**Dr. D.C. Smith** graduated from high school in Jet, Okla., and Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva before completing his DVM at OSU in 1970. He then completed an internship in surgery and ophthalmology at Colorado State University before beginning practice at the Highland Park Animal Hospital in Tulsa.

In 1974, Smith and two other veterinarians opened Veterinary Associates in Tulsa. He currently serves as CEO and majority stockholder of the practice that now employs six veterinarians and 25 additional staff members.

Smith’s professional activities include serving as president of the Tulsa County Veterinary Medical Association in 1983 and 1987 and as president of the Oklahoma VMA from 1989 to 1990. He also served as the OVMA’s contact for the state’s Republican congressional members.

He is an active member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Animal Hospital Association and the Ophthalmology Society. Smith has served as an AVMA alternate delegate from 1991 to 1996 and as a delegate from 1997 to the present.

In 1993 he founded the O Foundation and served as trustee from 1995 to 1999.

Smith, a frequent speaker at educational conferences, is a well-known authority on small animal medicine and for several years has served as an OSU Junior Surgical Practicum instructor and as a member of the OSU Veterinary Medicine Admissions Committee.
More than 160 ranchers, cattlemen, veterinarians and representatives of animal health companies from various states attended the Stocker Health Symposium held in January at the Chisholm Trail Expo Center in Enid, Okla. The symposium, sponsored by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, focused on newly arrived stocker cattle and offered the latest practical tips for managing animal health.

“Every other year we host this symposium to present current research data on numerous health issues and options available to help Oklahomans maintain the most cost-effective production management,” says Greg Highfill, area extension livestock specialist and symposium organizer.

“This year was another excellent conference. Each of the presenters did an outstanding job giving producers information on receiving cattle.”

Dr. D.L. Step, associate professor and extension veterinarian with the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, presented “Processing Newly Arrived Cattle,” providing participants with valuable information on handling and processing stressed cattle. Key topics included vaccinations and deworming programs and castration and dehorning procedures. He also gave a presentation on “Receiving Stocker Cattle: Selection of Antibiotics,” covering antibiotic evaluation for stressed stockers.

Dr. Anthony Confer, Regents professor and head of the veterinary pathobiology department, presented “Understanding the Shipping Fever Complex.” Bovine respiratory disease, or shipping fever, is a lower respiratory system infection that results in severe pneumonia and is the major cause of clinical disease and death in Oklahoma’s stocker and feedlot cattle.

Dr. Robert Fulton, virology professor in the veterinary pathobiology department, gave a talk on “Bovine Virus Diarrhea: Diversity and Adversity” (BVDV), one of the most important viruses involved in shipping fever. His presentation concentrated on the importance of eliminating calves persistently infected with BVDV because they are sources of infections to susceptible cattle.

“Vaccinations for BVDV are encouraged, but the producer needs to monitor for persistently infected cattle and eliminate them,” Fulton says.

He encouraged use of the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory to properly identify cattle with BVDV.

“Feed intake decreases by greater than 50 percent in cattle with bovine respiratory disease,” Krehbiel says. “Research has shown that it can take up to 10 to 14 days before intake returns to normal.”

Dr. Dan Thomson, extension veterinarian at Kansas State University and an expert in ruminant nutrition, presented “An Evidence Based Approach to Bovine Medicine” and reviewed over 10 years of receiving cattle data.

Participants also heard from Dr. Jeff Ko and Mark Rochat from the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences and residents, interns and technicians from the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Fourth-year student Mary Spears organized this annual community service activity.

This spring 27 freshman veterinary medicine students dissected cow eyeballs and taught the anatomy and function of the eye to second graders at Sangre Elementary School in Stillwater, Okla. Sangre teacher Kristy Dickey organized the education program.

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An important part of the OSU Legacy Program is Grandparent University, an Alumni Association program in which a grandparent can “enroll” with a grandchild to attend a one-and-a-half-day program in apparel design, architecture, aviation, physical training or veterinary medicine.

Dr. Carolyn MacAllister, associate professor at Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, hosted the first Grandparent University at CVHS. Eleven adults and 12 children between the ages of 7 and 10 years old attended, representing 19 percent of this year’s 123 participants university-wide.

“We set up five stations in the small animal clinic where attendees learned about eye care, small animal healthcare, microscopic views of diseases, radiogram technology and dental care,” MacAllister says.

“At the equine clinic, we were able to demonstrate how we examine a horse’s stomach with a video-endoscope and echocardiography of the heart with our new ultrasound equipment. At both clinics, we had a lot of hands-on activities for the children and their grandparents to share.”

Other activities at the large animal clinic included checking a horse’s teeth and filing any sharp edges, looking at the heart, learning where foals come from and watching an unborn foal in a pregnant mare using an ultrasound machine.

Alumni from all over the country traveled to Stillwater to experience this educational opportunity with their grandchildren.

“I’m amazed at how many different states people came from,” says Sheryl Underwood, class of 1970. “I traveled from Guthrie, Okla., with my 9-year-old granddaughter, Baylor Nelson, but I’ve talked with folks here from Florida, Texas and Virginia. It’s very well organized.”

This was the first time David Helmer, class of 1964, and his wife attended, traveling from Roanoke, Va., with their 9-year-old granddaughter, Madeline Pelgrim.

“This is something for our granddaughter to see,” Helmer says. “We’ve taken her to many OSU sporting events throughout the years. This brings the depth of the educational aspect of OSU to life for her.”

“I’ve been to Grandparent University for the past three years. It’s great,” says Joe Ann Vermillion of McAlester, who earned two degrees at OSU, a bachelor’s in 1966 and a master’s in 1972.

“I’ve gone to a different college each year and try to bring a different grandchild each year. My grandson, Louden, came last year but really wanted to come again this year, so I brought him and his cousin, Courtney. I like the time we spend together. The programs are really geared toward the kids.”

The children agree. “It’s very interesting to see and learn about everything here,” Courtney says.

DERINDA LOWE

Dr. Margi Gilmour, CVHS associate professor of ophthalmology and one of two board-certified veterinary ophthalmologists in Oklahoma, presented “Common Eye Problems of Small Animals” for CVHS’s 2005 Pet Care Seminar series. The monthly seminars are open to the public at no charge.
Keeping Dogs (AND THEIR OWNERS) Fit

Inspired by her own experiences exercising with her 11-year-old golden retriever, Mason, OSU veterinary medical student Brooke Lewis created “Lean Dogs, Happy Owners, Healthy Lives,” a walking program for area residents and their pets sponsored by the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences and Nestlé Purina.

“Lean Dog” participants may walk alone with their pets or in groups at set locations. “We mapped nine different routes throughout Stillwater so participants can get together,” Lewis says. “The paths vary from three-fourths of one mile to three miles, and they are all well-lit and safe.”

The program includes monthly meetings at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences where they receive human and animal health information and the dogs are weighed. Participants who sign up earn incentives based on the duration of their walks. The walking program is open at no charge to area residents of all ages and their pets.

The Dean’s Development Associates serve the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences as a development committee and an advisory group to Dean Michael Lorenz, back row, far right. Attending the group’s charter meeting in April 2005 are, front row from left, Patty Whitecotton, trustee, Bank of America Private Bank in Oklahoma City; Dr. Dianne Nail, class of 1965, Broken Arrow, Okla.; and Dr. Tony Thomas, class of 1961, Midwest City, Okla.; back row, Melinda McAfee, CVHS director of development; Dr. Eddie Fisher, class of 1963, Winfield, Kan.; Dr. Kenneth Kirlin, class of 1983, San Antonio, Texas; and Dr. John Kirkpatrick, class of 1965, Stillwater.

Lecture Spotlights Toxicology

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ 2004 Sitlington Lecture focused on toxicology and genomics. Featured speaker Kenneth Olden, director of both the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Toxicology Program within the National Institutes of Health, presented “Toxicogenomics: New Tools for Studying Pathways to Disease.”

Olden’s lecture, hosted by Carey Pope, Sitlington chair in toxicology at the CVHS, included information on understanding and mapping the genes of different species and the comparative gene changes that occur in response to environmental chemical exposures.

The human genome sequence presents many exciting opportunities for toxicologists, such as investigating the role of gene and environment interactions in the development of complex diseases, Olden told approximately 75 attendees. Studies of this nature are critical to establish a causal association between particular genotypes, specific environmental exposures and complex toxic injuries.

“Dr. Olden is a leader in toxicology, both through his own research in environmental factors contributing to cancer and as NIEHS director,” Pope says. “By spotlighting toxicology research through the Sitlington Lecture series, OSU is fostering the dissemination of information on the adverse effects of chemicals on living systems — whether those living systems are cells, organisms or ecosystems.”

Now in its sixth year, the Sitlington Lecture series was initiated by Pope and made possible through Oklahoma rancher Walter “Bill” Sitlington.

The 2005 Sitlington Lecturer will be David Dorman of CIIT Centers for Health Science, Research Triangle Park, N.C.
Infectious Diseases Symposium

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences launched the inaugural Sitlington Infectious Diseases Symposium on the OSU campus this spring with a cast of leading experts in the field.

“Biodefense, Bioterrorism & Emerging Infectious Diseases” featured Richard Preston, (above left) author of *The Hot Zone*, *The Cobra Event* and *The Demon in the Freezer*. His non-fictional and fictional works about viral and bacterial epidemics helped spur the federal government in the 1990s to assess the nation’s bioterrorism preparedness.

Preston kicked off one-and-a-half days of presentations by epidemiologists, microbiologists, virologists, veterinarians and other doctors, researchers and health professionals, including Dr. Tracee Treadwell (middle photo), OSU alumna and chief of the bioterrorism preparedness and response program within the National Center for Infectious Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Also pictured with Preston are Drs. Nancy and Gerald Jaax (above left), veterinary faculty at Kansas State University and the real-life characters in Preston’s *The Hot Zone*.

Dr. Kristy K. Bradley (above right), Oklahoma’s interim state epidemiologist and State Public Health Veterinarian, and Dr. David Walker from the Department of Health and Human Services Region VI, the Western Regional Center of Excellence in Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases, also spoke at the symposium.

The symposium was the brainchild of Dr. Bill Barrow (middle photo), Sitlington Chair in Infectious Diseases in the CVHS veterinary pathobiology department. It provided an overview of biodefense issues related to emerging infectious diseases, introduced research and health care officials to personnel and institutions involved in biodefense activities in the DHHS Region VI and fostered collaborative research within the region.

**Research underway at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences** is good news for Oklahoma, which ranks fifth for cash receipts from cattle marketing. Department of Pathobiology researchers are using a large grant provided by Pfizer Animal Health, Inc. to develop a vaccine to help control ticks and tick-borne pathogens in cattle. From left, Edmou F. Blouin, associate professor; José de la Fuente, professor and team leader; visiting professor Consuelo Almazán; and Regents professor Katherine M. Kocan have teamed up to improve a tick vaccine de la Fuente developed before joining the CVHS, a vaccine used today in concert with integrated control strategies that generally involve pesticides. Fuente’s team is working to increase the effectiveness of tick vaccines and reduce the environmental and food contamination that can result from pesticide use. The research demonstrates the new vaccine will likely be able to control many tick species. Now in Phase III of the research project, the CVHS team and Pfizer will begin cattle vaccine trials in spring 2006. Once the tick vaccine is developed, the team hopes to combine it with a vaccine that they have been developing for control of bovine anaplasmosis, a disease transmitted by cattle ticks.
Dr. David Russell, class of 1997, and Sherril Stone, who graduated from OSU with a doctorate in experimental psychology in 2001, are partnering to teach a dog-bite prevention course to Tulsa elementary students.

Stone, who teaches the class, had a problem housing the dogs while she worked on campus as assistant professor and director of research in the Department of Family Medicine at the Center for Health Sciences.

“Dr. Russell will get his chance to work with more exotic animals when we begin the pet therapy sessions because I will need a place for Pringles, my potbelly pig, and Pixie, my pygmy goat. Along with the dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pig, Pringles and Pixie are a hoot and are always loved by everyone who meets them,” Stone says.

“I came to the Open House in 1999 during my freshman year in college, and becoming a vet was no longer a question for me after that because I was hooked,” says Valerie Case, a third-year veterinary student and chairwoman of the Open House publicity committee.

In conjunction with the CVHS Admissions and Recruiting Office, the veterinary student coordinators of Open House extend invitations to public schools within a 100-mile radius of Stillwater, as well as those that have previously attended. They reach out to students in middle school and older, but the entire public is welcome.

“The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences 2005 Open House, a biennial recruitment and public outreach event almost as old as the veterinary medicine program itself, was themed “Veterinarians … the Other Family Doctor.”

More than 60 veterinary students officially enlisted to help with the initial planning and coordination of the Open House, with many more participating. Events included a purebred dog show, a cat show, exhibits, tours of the teaching hospital and hands-on activities detailing the veterinary profession and its impact on the lives of animals and people.
Charles and Daniel Eisenhour

By the time Charles Eisenhour, class of 1977, was in the seventh grade, he knew he wanted to be a veterinarian. “Following graduation, I joined a private mixed animal practice in El Reno, Okla., and I’ve been there ever since,” he says. “You work with all kinds of animals in a mixed practice — both small and large,” Charles says. “It keeps things interesting. It’s good to know my training and experience have allowed me to help others.”

“As a kid, I was always going on calls with my dad,” Daniel says. “I guess since high school, I figured I would probably be a vet. I thought about being a pilot or an ag engineer. When I started taking animal sciences classes in college for my undergraduate degree, I really liked it.”

For Daniel, it’s the unlimited choices veterinary medicine offers that drew him into the field. “Veterinary medicine has a lot of freedom. There are so many different things you can do,” Daniel says. “With a wide variety of opportunities available, you can pick your specialty.”

Charles is pleased Daniel is studying to be a veterinarian. “Of course, it would make me happy if he joined me in this practice, but it’s his decision. He helps out quite a bit here at the office. He’s a hard worker, sharp and pretty intuitive. Daniel doesn’t miss much,” he says.

Doug and Trace Kirkpatrick

For Doug Kirkpatrick, class of 1977, the decision to join the veterinary medicine profession came a little later in life. “I think I was a junior or senior in high school when I decided on becoming a veterinarian,” he says. Doug, who has a mixed animal practice in Elgin, Okla., says he finds the work very gratifying.

“I enjoy the contact with the people. I like working with the pets or animals they make their livelihood from,” Doug says. “It’s rewarding to help them.”

It was after high school when Trace made the choice to study veterinary medicine. “I worked for my dad at his practice over the years,” he says. “I liked it, so it wasn’t a giant leap for me.”

“It’s the variety that makes being a vet so appealing to Trace.”

“I like that you get to deal with clients and patients,” he says. “You interact with a wide range of people. The change of pace keeps it interesting.”

“I hope he will go into practice with me,” Doug says. “It’s kind of like owning a farm. You farm, and if you have kids, you hope one of them will grow up and take over the farm. Otherwise, what do you do with it? Our veterinary practice is an extension of us. Maybe he won’t immediately join me after graduation but at some point, I hope he does.”

James and Josh Posey

James Posey, class of 1978, wasn’t even planning to become a veterinarian. “I started out studying plant genetics,” James says. “Sometime during college, I decided to switch to veterinary medicine. I had worked on farms and had family in the cattle business, so I had been around animals all my life. It was a natural choice.”

James, who has a small animal practice in Yukon, Okla., says he is glad he chose his career path. “It’s not the same any two days in a row. You get to problem solve and see results. It has also provided a good family life for us.”

Josh also started out majoring in biology and chemistry at OSU before switching to animal science. He says it’s the interaction between him and his clients that attracts him to the profession. “It seems like people look at you differently when you’re a veterinarian,” he says. “As a veterinarian, they look at you and see a hometown guy they respect. Everyone treats you like you are a friend, a neighbor, and I like that,” he says.

James is taking a very active role in Josh’s veterinary training, assigning him at least one project a day, whether it is something to research or a procedural question to solve. “He knows enough now after two years in veterinary college, that he brings something to the table,” James says. “He questions me. I am very proud that Josh has chosen to be a veterinarian.”

Following in Their Footsteps

Other than being members of the Class of 2007, Daniel Eisenhour, Trace Kirkpatrick and Josh Posey have at least one more thing in common. All three of their fathers are also OSU DVM graduates. When asked what drew them to veterinary medicine, the three father-son teams expressed some common themes as well.
While the coordinator of public relations, marketing and alumni affairs may be new to OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, she’s not new to the world of animals. Derinda Lowe, who is accredited by the Public Relations Society of America, grew up on a farm in the beautiful rolling hills of upstate New York.

Working full-time and caring for a house and family that included two small children, Lowe went to college part-time to earn her bachelor’s degree in business administration and then a master’s degree in public relations from Syracuse University, one of the top communications schools in the country.

“I like setting goals and reaching or exceeding them,” she says. Her determination to succeed is a welcome addition to the CVHS team. Michael Lorenz, dean of CVHS, plans to expand marketing efforts to cover all that the center encompasses.

“Derinda’s background in marketing will help us do a better job of ‘selling’ our program to individuals nationwide,” Lorenz says.

Lowe came to OSU from a small private public relations firm in Oklahoma City where she worked for one of the nation’s largest not-for-profit health organizations raising awareness about tissue donation and implementing strategies to maintain volunteer blood donations.

“If through my public relations work here, we are able to continue to teach young people to be good, honest, responsible veterinarians who care for the animals they treat and the people who own them, I’m glad to be part of the team,” Lowe says.

Robin Wilson recently joined the CVHS team as manager of admissions and records, but she is not a newcomer to OSU.

In addition to working on campus the last six years in OSU’s business and education colleges, Wilson is an OSU alumna holding a bachelor’s degree in marketing and management and a master’s in adult and continuing education with a minor in counseling.

Wilson joined the CVHS when 17-year veteran manager Pat Stormont retired.

Admissions and recruitment staff collect and process approximately 400 applications a year. “We work with all prospective students. We walk them through the entire admissions process,” Wilson says.

“We also help students and their families once they are admitted. This position requires strong organizational skills and attention to detail. We prepare statistical profiles and reports. We work closely with the Admissions and Professional Standards Committees.”

Dr. Katrina Meinkoth, manager of recruitment, says Wilson understands students’ needs. “She enjoys counseling potential students, and her familiarity with many of the departments on campus is a definite asset. Her pleasing personality, business and management skills bring a fresh perspective to the Admissions Office.”

“I’m glad to be part of the CVHS team. I owe the ease of my transition to my colleagues, Tina Meinkoth and Cathy Hanson. They have both been very helpful. The work can be challenging at times, yet it is very rewarding,” Wilson says. “You get a real sense of satisfaction when you call a student and congratulate him or her on being accepted into the program.

“My goal is to continue to provide quality customer service and to streamline the Admissions Office to make it as efficient as possible,” she says.

Dean’s Office Welcomes New Staff

JOHNSON AND LITTLE JOIN CVHS

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences is proud to introduce two new faculty members who have joined the CVHS Team — Dr. Eileen Johnson and Dr. Susan Little.

Johnson joined CVHS as lecturer in veterinary parasitology and chief of clinical parasitology in the pathobiology department. From OSU, she earned a DVM in 1974, a master’s in veterinary parasitology in 1983 and a doctorate in veterinary parasitology in 1989. Johnson has practiced small animal veterinary medicine in both Grove and Chelsea, Okla. She has also worked as a graduate teaching associate at OSU, a staff research associate in parasitology diagnostics at the University of California, Davis, and as a visiting assistant professor in OSU’s microbiology and molecular genetics department in the College of Arts and Sciences.

She has authored 23 scientific publications on a wide variety of parasites and parasitic diseases of domestic and exotic animals.

Little joined the pathobiology department as the Krull/Ewing Endowed Chair in Veterinary Parasitology. She is an internationally known researcher in tick-borne diseases of wild and domestic animals and a nationally recognized teacher of parasitology.

Little earned a BS in 1989 from Cornell University, a DVM in 1993 from Virginia Tech and a doctorate from the University of Georgia in 1996. She has practiced wildlife veterinary medicine and has also worked as both assistant and associate professor at the University of Georgia.

Little has received numerous awards including being a two-time winner of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association national award for teaching excellence.

Little and Johnson follow in the footsteps of Wendell Krull, who was founding head of veterinary parasitology at OSU in 1948. They will continue a tradition of teaching, service and research conducted by Helen Jordan, Alan Kocan, Carl Fox and Kathy Kocan, among others, all of whom built on a foundation of excellence in OSU veterinary parasitology begun by Krull more than half a century ago.
Dr. E. Tom Thorne, class of '67, and his wife, Dr. Beth Williams, also a veterinarian, died in a snowy-weather crash in northern Colorado in December 2004.

Thorne joined the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as a wildlife veterinarian in 1968. For 29 years, he supervised wildlife research projects and provided on-site veterinary help with wildlife trappings and relocation projects throughout Wyoming.

He became the services division assistant chief and was later promoted to division chief in October 1999. In May 2002, Gov. Jim Gerlinger named him acting game and fish director, a job he held until his retirement in March 2003.

Shortly after retiring, he rejoined the Game and Fish Department as a wildlife disease consultant. He was a prominent expert on brucellosis in bison and elk, chronic wasting disease in deer and elk and other wildlife diseases.

Williams was also well known for her expertise with wildlife diseases, including chronic wasting disease.

Thorne and Williams, leaders in the efforts that saved the black-footed ferret from extinction, dedicated their professional lives to solving wildlife problems. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission renamed their facilities the Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Shell and the Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Habitat Management Area in their honor.
Multiple Opportunities, Indispensable Contributions

Graduating from OSU’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences with a doctorate in veterinary medicine opens the door to a variety of possible career choices. A veterinarian may choose to work in private practice, academia, a corporation, the military or in state or federal agencies. The reasons for choosing one path over another are as varied as the individuals themselves, but one thing is certain. Wherever they choose to work, veterinarians are a positive, influential force impacting every aspect of society.

The Private Practice Option

Dr. Robert Davis, class of 1979, Dewey, Okla., has owned and operated a mixed animal practice in his community for 24 years. “The greatest reward is in providing a service to the community and its animals,” Davis says. “I have clients who are children of my first clients. My team and I like to see what we can do to help an animal whether it is ill, injured or giving birth. I also enjoy helping animal owners increase their extended family members’ lives through preventive measures.”

Davis also finds the variety of a mixed practice the spice of life. “No two days are ever the same,” he says. “Recently, for example, I started the day very early performing surgery on a horse. By the day’s end I had worked on bison, cats, dogs, horses, cattle and goats.”

He finds that the greatest challenge of a mixed practice is keeping abreast of advances in animal health. “I think our veterinary college provides its graduates with a solid footing from which to practice,” Davis says. “OSU does an excellent job providing a well-rounded education. The extensive case load of large animal, small animal and everything in between was invaluable in preparing me for practice in the real world.

“Veterinary medicine is a field, however, where one needs to be continually learning. Things are happening very quickly in the year 2005. In one year, we have as much technology and new developments as we did in the past 10 years,” he says.

For the veterinarians of tomorrow, Davis offers this advice, “There are many different opportunities in veterinary medicine. I encourage students to remove the blinders and really consider all areas of the profession.”

Dr. Greg Emmert, class of 1998, owns one of several small animal practices in the Norman, Okla., area. “Until four years ago, I was working in a large animal practice. Switching to small animal was no problem,” he says. “OSU prepared me for both with a good general background in veterinary medicine. I received initial experience dealing with clients and very good tutelage on pursuing answers.”

Emmert says he enjoys interaction with those who use his services. “There seems to be a lot of owner appreciation for what I do for my clients. They want the best possible treatment they can get, which allows me to practice the best veterinary medicine and surgery I can to take care of ill or injured animals.”

“With several veterinary practices in the community, the individual impact by any one of us is not as great as the total impact of our local profession,” he says. “Together, we all make Norman’s pet population very healthy overall.”

Before Dr. Laurin Patton, class of 1964, began his small animal practice in Ada, Okla., he practiced several years in a mixed animal practice, taught at East Central University and spent a few years with the U.S. Kerr Research Laboratory. “I’ve spent 41 years in the business,” Patton says. “I take satisfaction in being able to help pets and, in turn, do my fellow man good. As veterinarians, we spend time talking with the client as well as treating the patient.

“When I graduated from OSU, I had a lot of hands-on experience,” he says. “We had contact with real patients in the clinic, which was good experience.”

Patton advises upcoming veterinarians to realize that practicing veterinary medicine is not a nine-to-five job. “If you work hard and are honest with your clients, you will succeed in this business.”

According to Patton, being named the OVMA 2005 Veterinarian of the Year was a total shock. “I try to serve the clients in the community, and it’s been a good living for my family. Those things combined make it worthwhile. It’s been a life-long process for me,” he says.
PATTON NAMED VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR

Dr. Laurin Patton, class of 1964, is the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association’s 2005 Veterinarian of the Year.

Patton, honored for his 40-plus years in veterinary medicine, was nominated by Dr. Harold Miller of Shawnee, Okla., and supported throughout the years by his wife, Virginia, and by his mentor Dr. Don Williams.

Since 1964 Patton has been in a small animal practice in Ada, Okla., where the community, through a newspaper’s annual survey of local businesses, has selected him for more than 12 years as the Preferred Small Animal Practitioner.

He has been an active member of the OVMA and American Veterinary Medical Association since 1964, was a leader in the former Southeast Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association and has served as OVMA director as well as executive board member. He was recognized as OVMA Companion Practitioner of the Year in 2002.

In addition to being active in his church, local civic organizations and city and county projects, he was instrumental in obtaining an endowment to the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences in excess of $500,000.

Patton was influential in founding the City/County Rabies Vaccination Program that has vaccinated hundreds of animals that might not have been vaccinated otherwise.

"Dr. Patton is a wonderful example of the successful, competent, confident, practice-ready veterinarians who graduate each year from the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences," says Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean of CVHS.

"Congratulations, Dr. Patton, for your dedication to your community, your clients and patients, and to the veterinary medicine profession."

STORIES BY DERINDA LOWE

Breaking New Ground

Dr. Lester Naito, class of 1959, made his choice to become a veterinarian because he wanted a career that would allow the freedom to enjoy family life as well as conduct a successful medical practice.

Naito, who remembers a childhood surrounded by pets and other animals, studied for two years as a pre-med major at Marquette University in Milwaukee. He chose to further his education at OSU because the pre-veterinary requirements closely matched his pre-med course work.

"I needed one semester and a summer to fulfill the other courses required for successful application. Fortunately, I was accepted in that fall’s class of 1956. The administration accepted two students each from North Carolina, West Virginia, Arkansas and Texas," he says. "Somehow they allowed an out-of-state student from Hawaii."

Naito and his wife, Grace, are native Hawaiians who married after the doctor returned home to develop his veterinary private.

"Veterinary medicine has been a gratifying profession because we are able to offer modern veterinary medicine and surgery for all animals," he says. "It has provided our family with income to educate our four children, have a home, make investments and have a good quality of life."

Naito refers to veterinary medicine as the happy profession. "Pet owners have an option whether to have a pet or not," he says. "It is a happy occasion or choice to have a pet. Being a veterinarian has enabled me to meet many pet owners and have many wonderful experiences with pet health care. I have never regretted being in this profession."

In 1990, Naito established the first 24-hour veterinary hospital in Hawaii and its ensuing five satellite clinics that serve as a model system for successful small animal clinics. He retired from clinical service and assumed the role of hospital administrator 10 years ago.

"I am fortunate to have had an excellent veterinary education and training at OSU. It provided a foundation that helped me start a successful group practice and continue to provide modern veterinary medical care for patients," Naito says.

He advises today’s veterinary medicine students to develop people skills, keep up with new developments in medicine and technology and prepare for the business aspect of veterinary health care.

At the 2005 Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas, Naito attended the administrative practices sessions. "I have to keep up with what’s new," he says. "I am always learning."

MELINDA MCAFEE
The First of Her Kind

Fifty years ago when June Iben became OSU’s first female graduate in veterinary medicine, it was a phenomenon that many people weren’t ready to accept.

Today, approximately 75 percent of the 80 students admitted annually to OSU’s veterinary medicine program are women.

“We’ve come a long, long way,” Iben said during the class’ 50th reunion at OSU in May. “There’s no such thing as a self-made person. We’re all products of those who have helped along the way with a kind deed, thought or word of encouragement. We got an excellent education here at OSU as well as hands-on experience that paid off in our profession.”

Iben dedicated 35 years to her own private practice in Pennsylvania and continues to work part time for two veterinary clinics. She lives on the premises of the Western Pennsylvania National Wild Animal Orphanage for rescued lions, tigers and bobcats, providing medical care for the animals, producing a newsletter and helping coordinate educational programs for the public.

In 1999 Iben was awarded the Public Service Award of Merit by the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association for her contributions to society and animals.

Iben’s classmates are proud of her contributions to the field of veterinary medicine, and they are glad to have been part of the historic class.

“We teased Iben because she was the only girl,” said classmate John King, now professor emeritus of veterinary medicine at Cornell University. “She took our ribbing — until one day when she got fed up and told us all we could go to wherever,” King said. “But every one of us would back her up outside of vet school — because she was one of us.”

Iben said the men in the class and their wives made her feel like part of the OSU family. “If not for their teasing, I wouldn’t have made it through.”

“We teased Iben because she was the only girl,” said classmate John King, now professor emeritus of veterinary medicine at Cornell University. “She took our ribbing — until one day when she got fed up and told us all we could go to wherever,” King said. “But every one of us would back her up outside of vet school — because she was one of us.”

Iben said the men in the class and their wives made her feel like part of the OSU family. “If not for their teasing, I wouldn’t have made it through.”
King said competition for one of the limited spots in vet school was strong, especially among war veterans. “We all worried about the tests to get in, the tests to pass certain classes, the tests to graduate and then the state board exams.”

Another classmate, Doug Hawkins of Oklahoma City, said the class of ’55 was small and close-knit. Only 31 of the original 40 admitted made it to graduation.

“June says she considered us her brothers,” said Hawkins, who has spent most of his career working in Oklahoma City, including two years as Oklahoma’s state epidemiologist.

After graduation from OSU’s veterinary medicine program, Harold Kopit, another of Iben’s classmates, worked with mink in Wisconsin and then as a poultry meat inspector in California before opening two veterinary clinics in California.

Today, three of his four sons are veterinarians and two received their DVM degrees from OSU (Mark, class of 1981, and Todd, class of 1986).

“OSU helped me like you can’t believe,” Kopit said. “OSU took me to its heart. Dean Morgan and Dean McElroy were so good to me.”

By the time Kopit applied to vet school, all of his GI Bill had been spent on his undergraduate degree. “But OSU took me in,” said Kopit, whose wife, Phyllis, worked at the university’s infirmary.

Later when son Todd wanted to attend OSU’s veterinary college, Dean Morgan stepped in again. Because of the elder Kopit’s legacy, Morgan petitioned for special permission to allow Todd to be admitted despite his status as a non-resident.

“It still chokes me up,” Kopit said. “Everyone from the class of ’55 has special memories about OSU and the difference that faculty, staff and fellow students made in their lives.

Iben said she’s thankful OSU and Dean McElroy were willing to give her a chance. “Few other schools were accepting women,” Iben said, even though she held a master’s degree in bacteriology and her research included some of the first blood-typing on thoroughbred horses.

“Dean McElroy accepted me and welcomed me, and the older students who were World War II vets took me under their wing.”

Refuting critics who said women shouldn’t be allowed the coveted spots in vet school because they would just end up leaving the profession to raise a family is one reason Iben is still active as a veterinarian at age 78.

“I never felt like I worked a day in my life because I have loved it,” said Iben, who for half a century has shared her home with rescued dogs and large felines such as lions and cougars. “That’s why I keep working today — that, and to feed my big cats.”
Veterinary Medicine in the Corporate World

Dr. Jill Peale, class of 1996, is the regional operations director of VCA Animal Hospitals in Tulsa, Okla. VCA Animal Hospitals is a national corporate group of full service, stand alone, small animal veterinary hospitals.

VCA has almost 400 animal hospitals located in 37 states and employs approximately 1,200 veterinarians and 180 board certified veterinary specialists. Peale manages 16 VCA hospitals working with about 60 veterinarians.

“I make sure our team members have the resources, continuing education and skills they need,” Peale says. “I impact more animals than I could as one doctor in a single practice.”

Peale has always been in corporate medicine. Following her graduation, she started as an associate with a corporate group and has moved up throughout her career.

“I love OSU. I walked out the door of the veterinary college and into the working world just one week after graduation. I began doing advanced surgeries and practicing medicine and felt confident to do so,” she says.

“Students need to make the most of every minute of veterinary school because they will be using that same information 30 to 40 years into the future.”

Dr. Gary White, class of 1968, associate professor of pathology and director of animal resources at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, Okla., spends most of his time conducting research.

The path he traveled to arrive at the lab included a well-rounded education and a variety of jobs that prepared him for the work he does today.

“I have worked here for 31 years. However, after graduation, I went in the Army for two years,” White says. “It was there I was exposed to research while working on diseases of military dogs. I was also able to operate on military dogs that required that level of care.

“Thanks to the small classes at OSU, which led to lots of firsthand clinical experience, I had performed surgeries on live animals and was very prepared to handle the task at hand,” he says.

Because veterinary medicine is a broad field, White says students need to remain open-minded about their careers. “I do what I do today because I was open to all possibilities,” he says.

A career in academia and interest in toxicologic pathology led Dr. Charles Qualls, class of 1973, to his present position in the pharmaceutical industry.

Following graduation, Qualls completed a Ph.D. and residency at the University of California, Davis. He joined the faculty at Louisiana State University in 1977, and in 1982, he joined the faculty in OSU’s pathology department.

He took a sabbatical from teaching to work at GlaxoSmithKline, Research Triangle Park, N.C., helping to set up the toxicogenomics area in the safety assessment department. Then came the opportunity for Qualls to take a different course using his veterinary medicine education.

“In 1999, I accepted a position at GlaxoSmithKline,” he says. “I think it’s an important job. I am involved in establishing the safety, or lack there of, of drugs that will ultimately be used in humans. We make a risk assessment to determine if a drug is safe for initial testing on humans.

“One must be a veterinary pathologist to do this job,” Qualls says. “As a pathologist I use my expertise to evaluate the acute and long-term effects of drugs and how they relate to human risk. It is our broad understanding of biology and other medical sciences that gives a veterinary pathologist an expanded perspective in understanding the overall processes in animals as well as humans when it comes to a drug.”

Qualls says there are abundant opportunities for specialists to work in specific areas such as pharmaceutical development.

“There is a huge shortage of veterinary pathologists. We are a very valuable part of the pharmaceutical industry and sorely needed to help discover safe drugs that will prevent, cure or manage animal and human diseases.”

DERINDA LOWE
Serving Our Country Through Veterinary Medicine

Some might think the U.S. military is an unlikely place to find a veterinarian. But to members of the profession, military service is considered one of several options open to graduates with a degree in veterinary medicine. The Army is the Department of Defense executive agent for all the government service animals, for the food defense and pets of military personnel. Wherever there are working dogs or horses, there are Army vets to take care of them.

According to Dr. Kenneth Bartels, 22-year CVHS faculty member and former commander of the North Atlantic Region of the U.S. Army Veterinary Command, the past two commanders of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps have been OSU graduates — Drs. Tom Poole and Charles Kelsey. Quickly moving toward second place, OSU ranks third for the number of young, high-ranking members of the Corps.

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences has a long-term, health-training program with the Army. “As adviser of the program, I make certain that when they leave, they have the credentials they need to sit for their specialty boards and for their graduate degrees,” Bartels says.

Maj. Jim Giles, class of 1998, exemplifies how the program works.

“As far back as when I was in the single digits, I wanted to be a veterinarian,” Giles says. “I like working with animals and the challenges of working on different species.”

To him the most enjoyable aspect of veterinary medicine is surgery, which is why he just completed year one of a three-year small animal surgical residency at the CVHS Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. But Giles wasn’t always a veterinarian. Before he earned his DVM, he was serving his country.

“I chose the Army in 1989 because I wanted to be part of the Special Forces. I was on active duty for two years for Special Forces training and then returned to the Reserves,” he says.

Giles stayed in the 20th Special Forces Group Air National Guard Unit while attending undergraduate and veterinary school at OSU. He rose to staff sergeant while serving in the Guard.

As a Special Forces veterinarian, his basic responsibilities included serving with the group surgeon as public health adviser for the commander and training Special Forces medics.

In addition to human medical skills, these medics are required to have dentistry and veterinary training. Their veterinary skills include animal care and husbandry, humane killing and preparation of game/livestock and food safety. Much of their trauma training, which Giles helped facilitate, is done on animal models.

Giles says the relationship between Army physicians and veterinarians is good. “We work well together. Most of the physicians relate veterinary medicine to pediatrics,” he says. “We both have patients that can’t tell us what is going on. We have to figure it out without much guidance from the patient.”

Giles was often deployed to different areas of the world. On foreign humanitarian assistance missions, the veterinarian offers veterinary advice and services to the host nation. “This is a huge component of the Army’s work abroad,” he says.

“So many of these countries depend on livestock for food and economic stability. By helping them maintain healthy animals, we can positively impact a family’s economic status in addition to building good will on behalf of the United States.”

On a humanitarian mission to Honduras following Hurricane Mitch, Giles helped the dentists perform dental extractions. “The first patient was rather surprised I was pulling teeth as I had treated his cattle earlier in the day,” he says.

“There is something for almost everybody in the Veterinary Corps. Opportunities range from public health to clinical specialties, pathology, lab animal medicine and basic sciences,” Giles says. “Depending on what you want to do, you could be working in a laboratory or be deployed to a foreign country with a Special Forces group.”

Maj. Jim Giles, class of 1998, deployed on foreign humanitarian assistance missions, vaccinates a cow in Thailand in 2003, above, and, at left, with the help of a Special Forces medic performs dental float on a horse in Honduras in 1999. Giles says helping people who depend on livestock for food and economic stability positively impacts families and builds good will on behalf of the U.S.
As the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s representative for Oklahoma, Dr. Burke Healey, class of 1984, is charged with ensuring state producers comply with federal regulations dealing with livestock and animal issues.

Before accepting the federal position in December 2004 as Oklahoma area veterinarian in charge, Healey spent nine years as the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture’s state veterinarian and 11 years in private practice in Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma.

Healey’s department certifies and endorses health certificates for Oklahoma animals and animal products leaving the United States, advises travelers of animal disease outbreaks outside the state and inspects state facilities to ensure requirements for international trade are being fulfilled before administering the USDA seals necessary for transportation.

As an outgrowth of homeland security measures, Healey also is responsible for the inspection and certification of laboratories that work with organisms classified as potential terrorist agents.

“If an Oklahoma research facility wants to do anthrax research, for example, it must be certified and monitored by the government,” Healey says. “So we do the inspections and make sure the labs are meeting the regulations and storing the organisms correctly.”

Healey says both the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, from which he earned a bachelor’s in animal science in 1980, were instrumental in preparing him for his various career paths.

“The professionalism of the OSU faculty and the openness of the university to show us the different avenues and aspects of the industry gave us a broad, general academic background,” he says. “And OSU emphasized the importance of problem-solving, which is an integral part of my job every day.”
When he graduated from the CVHS in 1959, Dr. Robert Whitney made a choice that became the first step in a multifaceted career that led him to one of the top positions in the federal government.

“I chose to enter the Army Veterinary Corps as an officer rather than be drafted as an infantry buck private,” Whitney says.

During the time the draft was in effect, many veterinarians were exposed to career options they may not have considered before, such as pathology, public health, microbiology, lab-animal medicine and many more.

The Army sponsored additional training in laboratory-animal medicine and pharmacology for Whitney.

In 1970, Whitney commanded a veterinary detachment with a rabies diagnostic laboratory in Danang, Vietnam. He resigned following his tour in Vietnam and, keeping the same rank, entered the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

He spent the next 20 years at the National Institutes of Health where more than 70 veterinarians worked in the various institutes that comprise the NIH. “Before leaving NIH for the surgeon general’s office in 1992, I was serving as director of the National Center for Research Resources,” Whitney says.

In the last two of his 34 years of federal service, he was deputy to U. S. Surgeon General Antonia Novello and later served as acting surgeon general who recognized for contributions to society. One thing is for sure. None of that would have happened without the veterinary degree and the background that comes with it. Thanks OSU!”

Dr. Solomon Gartman, class of 1951, graduated from OSU’s first veterinary medicine class. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1944-1946, and like all but one of his 26 classmates was returning from military service in World War II.

Gartman, now retired and living in Pharr, Texas, originally planned to develop a private practice in Oklahoma’s panhandle, but a job in the Bureau of Animal Industry for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which he intended as preparation for his goal, guided him to a career in research instead.

At that time USDA’s disease eradication targeted brucellosis, tuberculosis, hog cholera, foot-and-mouth disease, cattle fever and African red tick diseases as well as diseases of chickens, sheep and goats among others. The USDA conducted meat inspection as well.

“Our laboratories in Long Island, N.Y., were home to foot-and-mouth disease research and a quarantine station. This was my line of work until the problem of screwworm flies became of interest to me,” Gartman says.

The female screwworm fly laid eggs on animal wounds, and when hatched out, the larvae consumed the animal tissue and serums that were in the wound. Some animal infestations were so severe the animal died.

Gartman and other USDA researchers solved the problem by sterilizing male flies with irradiation and releasing them from airplanes. “The eradication of screwworm flies was phenomenal and the most successful program in the history of the Agriculture Department,” he says.

“I believe my 30 years of federal service in the department contributed to the quality of life for the American public and especially the cattle industry. My part in the screwworm eradication program has been very satisfactory. I continue to hear from ranchers across the southern part of the United States whose very livelihood was threatened because of the screwworm infestation.”

In January 2005, Dr. Becky Brewer-Walker, class of 1984, became the first woman Oklahoma appointed as state veterinarian and director of the Animal Industry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF).

Brewer began working as an ODAFF veterinarian in 2003. Prior to accepting this position, she and her husband, Dr. James L. Walker, 1982, owned and operated a mixed-animal rural veterinary practice in Chickasha, Okla.

As state veterinarian, Brewer is responsible for enforcing all animal health laws. Her responsibilities include interstate and intrastate animal movement, animal disease surveillance and protecting the state’s beef, dairy, swine, poultry, sheep/goat and aquaculture industry as well as control and containment of disease outbreaks.

Her office is also involved with emergency preparedness for outbreaks of endemic and foreign animal disease as well as the ongoing project to maintain a stable agricultural environment and protect the U.S. food supply from agroterrorism.

“arrest or take the animal to its source heard or flock within 48 hours.

Brewer says her role as state veterinarian is not different from her role as a private practitioner. “All that has changed is the clientele,” she says. “Previously my clients were the residents of Grady County. Now they are the citizens of the state of Oklahoma.”

In the same way, her goals remain unchanged. “Veterinary medicine is problem-solving. My mission is the same — to identify and solve problems affecting the animal stakeholders of the state of Oklahoma.”
While attending the CVHS, Dr. Mike Talkington, class of 1979, and Dr. George Badley, class of 1971, had no plans to work for a state agency. However, their careers took a different path.

**Dr. Mike Talkington**, director of laboratory services, Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry in Oklahoma City, opened his own mixed animal practice, working mostly on large animals, when he graduated from the CVHS. The education he received at OSU prepared him well for the clients and patients he served, he says. What he wasn’t anticipating were the responsibilities that came with owning his own business.

“I loved working with the clients and animals. The management side was the headache for me,” Talkington says. “After being in practice for five years, I joined an equine clinic, which was still pretty demanding.”

Talkington then learned of openings for state veterinarians and was hired to work in the field to eradicate brucellosis disease, then in the lab on water quality issues and finally as the laboratory director. He manages two labs in Oklahoma City and one in Tulsa. The work covers food safety, state pesticide testing, label compliance in animal feed, testing feed lots and more.

“You don’t have to be a veterinarian to be in my position, but the educational background and training in veterinary school helps. The most important things I learned were how to relate to people, how to maintain integrity in difficult situations and how to present myself in a way that represents me and the profession well,” he says.

“At our reunion, it was interesting to see how many were no longer in private practice — they were teaching, working in laboratories, doing research,” Talkington says.

“As a state agency, we have an important role in bioterrorism, specifically with the food safety and pesticide testing we do. In an emergency, this agency will sample the food to determine what the problem is,” he says. “Our work allows us to serve agricultural interests in Oklahoma as well as the people in our state.”

**George Badley**, Arkansas state veterinarian and member of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission faces bioterrorism related challenges among others.

“I have attended seminars about the possible diseases that might be used in a bioterrorism attack, such as foot-and-mouth or avian flu, and continue to keep abreast of foreign diseases and other possible threats to animal welfare in Arkansas and the country as a whole,” he says.

After graduation, Badley entered a mixed animal practice in Oklahoma and later in Arkansas. It was here that his well-rounded education led to his current job. “If I had been working in just small animals or just large animals, I wouldn’t have had this opportunity. I got this job because I was still doing a mixed animal practice,” he says.

“Veterinary work is very rewarding. It’s the kind of work you would do for free if you could afford to.”

In addition to his 32 years of practicing veterinary medicine, Badley cites his clinical experience as a very valuable asset in his job. “Every day I get calls from Arkansas citizens who want answers to health questions about their animals. My experience helps me when I talk with producers about their animals,” he says.

“Veterinary work is very rewarding. It’s the kind of work you would do for free if you could afford to.”

**DERINDA LOWE**
Dr. James Carpenter, class of 1974, was a master’s and post-master’s degree student with the Oklahoma Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit in the OSU zoology department and one of the first CVHS students to have an interest in wildlife. Following graduation, he practiced small animal medicine in Norman, Okla., before accepting a position with one of the largest wildlife research centers in the world, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Maryland, which conducts research on endangered species, migratory birds and environmental contaminants.

“I spent 15 years working at the PWRC,” Carpenter says. “It gave me an opportunity to head a program on the propagation and reintroduction of endangered species and to have an impact on the preservation of these animals. I conducted research on a variety of species including whooping cranes, Andean condors and black-footed ferrets.”

Since 1990, Carpenter has been a professor of zoological medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University where he teaches exotic animal, wildlife and zoo animal medicine and has trained 27 interns and residents. In 2000, he was named the Exotic DVM of the Year.

“The most rapidly growing area in veterinary medicine is in exotic animal medicine,” he says. “There is an incredible amount of student interest, and there are increasingly more opportunities in this field as well.”

Carpentar says his passion is educating students about exotic animals and having the opportunity to influence their careers.

“I appreciate all the training and support I received at OSU, especially from the Center of Veterinary Health Sciences. I am highly indebted to Drs. Jordan, Ewing, Panciera and others. I wouldn’t be in the zoological medicine field today if it weren’t for the training and encouragement I received at OSU!”

He may tell you he’s “a cow doctor,” but Dr. Dee Griffin, class of 1975, is much more. In veterinary medicine circles, he is known for his work in cattle and feedlot management. In addition to improving the safety and economy of beef cattle production, Griffin instituted a program to train people in production medicine.

After graduation, Griffin pursued a graduate degree in nutrition and pathology at Purdue University. He then taught clinical medicine at OSU, leaving to open a practice specializing in feedlot production and cattle herd management. In 1991, Griffin assumed his present position at the University of Nebraska Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center.

“I teach feedlot production management, which involves pathology, nutrition, economics and price-risk management. We also conduct several environmental research projects as well as food safety research,” he says.

“If you ask 100 people who know me, they would probably talk about beef quality assurance — not about my teaching or my abilities as a veterinarian,” Griffin says. “The number of residue found in beef will be zero if I have anything to do about it.

“When you are working with hundreds of thousands of cattle in feedlot management, you don’t make small mistakes.”

“Drs. Johnson, Panciera, Rueben, Brazzile and many others had a positive and lasting impact on my life. I have special memories of how important they were to me, and I’ve found making the same kind of commitment to others to be very appealing,” he says.

Griffin tells his students to examine the opportunities in veterinary medicine because there is something for everyone, whether fighting the next generation of diseases or opening a veterinary practice in a small town.

“We are in a profession that offers many different ways to serve the public and make a living at the same time,” he says.

When Dr. Michael Lappin, class of 1981, graduated, he went straight to the University of Georgia to study small animal medicine and surgery. He then gained hands-on experience working two years in a general practice in Los Angeles before returning to Georgia for a residency in small animal internal medicine, during which he also completed his Ph.D. work in parasitology.

In 1988, Lappin, a board-certified small animal internal medicine specialist, joined the faculty at Colorado State University’s teaching hospital.

“I was interested in small animal medicine, and knew I wanted to be a specialist. Academia seemed like a good place to do that,” he says, adding that he has found academia rewarding, particularly the interaction with veterinary students, animals and their owners.

Lappin has discovered new diagnostic tests, new treatments and new methods of infectious disease prevention in cats. “My main focus has been on toxoplasmosis, a feline parasite; bartonella, a cat-scratch disease; and giardia, a parasite of both pets and people,” he says.

“You work really hard for 20 years and you hope it has helped,” Lappin says. “I am just excited to be able to train people to be veterinarians and to make scientific discoveries that will improve pet health.”
Shaping the Future of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Mary Ann Nieves, class of 1984, joined a mixed animal practice after veterinary school, then completed a one-year surgical internship and went to work for a high volume, private small animal practice. Nieves’ interest in surgery took her to Iowa State University for a surgical residency, where she has remained. Today, Nieves is the director of Iowa State University’s veterinary teaching hospital and an associate professor in the veterinary clinical sciences department. “I like working with colleagues, residents and the students. It makes you stay on the cutting edge,” Nieves says. “You’re always challenged to develop new ways to look at diseases and surgeries.”

“If students feel they only want to do one thing, they stand in the way of their own education. They can’t appreciate the breadth of veterinary medicine and the opportunities that their institution may provide them.”

As an educator, Nieves says she tries to teach and mentor students concerning the ABC’s of veterinary medicine as well as how to take care of patients and communicate with clients — all of which students must master to be successful. She credits OSU with giving her well-rounded, hands-on experience.

“Throughout my career I have had to work in some capacity with large animals and exotics or wildlife, and I draw on that knowledge base OSU provided to me. I feel proud that my education was well-rounded,” she says.

Nieves cautions her students not to narrow their studies. “If students feel they only want to do one thing, they stand in the way of their own education. They can’t appreciate the breadth of veterinary medicine and the opportunities that their institution may provide them. “They shouldn’t limit themselves,” Nieves says. “We never know which way life will take us.”

Like many veterinarians, Dr. David Panciera, class of 1982, likes the variety his job brings. He has practiced in the field, conducted research and contributed to shaping future veterinarians through teaching small animal internal medicine.

Following graduation, Panciera accepted a one-year internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the University of Missouri. After working in a small animal practice for one year in New Jersey, he entered a residency in small animal medicine at the University of Wisconsin. From there he went to teach at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada and then returned to the University of Wisconsin in 1989 as a faculty member in small animal internal medicine. From there he went into private practice in Denver, Colo., and in 1998 joined Virginia Tech.

Panciera teaches small animal internal medicine at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, better known as Virginia Tech. The research he conducts focuses on small animal endocrinology, primarily in the diagnosis of canine hypothyroidism.

“I like the variety of things that I do — clinical work, teaching and research,” he says. “It’s nice to have three different things going — hopefully not at the same time.”

“Clarke Atkins and Mark Neer and other OSU faculty got me excited about understanding the pathophysiology of diseases in small animals,” Panciera says.

Now, through his teaching, he strives to excite students, interns and residents about small animal internal medicine.

“By the time I see students, they are committed to veterinary school. I try to instill in them that the profession is wide open and there are many career paths they can take,” he says. “Veterinary medicine can be a very rewarding career providing they approach it as a profession and a career, rather than just a job.”

Dr. Robert Kenney, class of 1954, had no idea he would become one of the top experts in equine fertility and infertility when he graduated from OSU. His interest in cattle led him to an internship at Cornell University, and from there he moved to a cattle practice in Vermont.

“I liked it, but I had to sacrifice too many animals because of lack of suitable treatment or lack of funds to pay for treatment,” Kenney says. “So, I went to graduate school at Cornell University, got a Ph.D. in cow reproduction and accepted a position at the University of Pennsylvania.

“I wanted to do cattle research, but I was not able to obtain sufficient funding. There were, however, plenty of funds for horse reproduction research, which I began doing,” Kenney says.

He established the use and interpretation of endometrial biopsy in mares that is still in use today — the same methods, the same criteria developed by Kenney. Many of his contributions are now standard techniques and concepts within the field.

Kenney, one of two veterinarians who have significantly impacted the development and training of equine practitioners, received a Distinguished Educators Award from the American Association of Equine Practitioners for his efforts as an educator and mentor.

He has been influential in training more than 60 residents, graduate and postdoctoral students in equine reproduction. Many of the currently recognized reproductive experts and reproductive faculty in veterinary schools around the country are products of his training program.

“I developed several techniques for reproductive specialists working with equine fertility and infertility that turned out to be very good, and I went on to train some very good students who are carrying things forward,” Kenney says.
Perhaps the shortest practicing veterinary career of a CVHS alumnus belongs to Dr. John King, class of 1955.

“I practiced veterinary medicine for 79 days in Tulsa,” King says. “From there I went to Cornell University to train in pathology.”

King went on to teach pathology at Cornell University for many years. The professor emeritus says he enjoyed teaching because students have open minds. He also says he is concerned that the number of students in the field is declining.

“Pathology is changing so much in that it’s all going to molecular. There are not many young people going into pathology. I’m not happy about that; there is a shortage of pathologists,” King says.

“OSU is very good. They still have a strong pathology department and are teaching real veterinary skills.”

In addition to a good education, King urges students to carry a digital camera with them when they treat animals. He says photos of the animal and its environment can reveal things one might otherwise overlook.

“I have the largest private collection of veterinary photographs, some 22,000 photos, available on the Internet. They are open to everyone, free of charge,” he says.

King’s photographs are available at http://w3.vet.cornell.edu/nst/ for others to view and learn from — which is just one more way King continues to prepare the veterinarians of tomorrow for service to clients and patients.

Dr. Mark Neer, class of 1976, accepted a small animal internal medicine and surgery internship at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, Mass., following graduation and then an internal medicine residency at Kansas State University. By 1979, Neer had an opportunity to join the OSU faculty as an assistant professor of internal medicine. Two years later, he became board certified in internal medicine.

“I enjoyed teaching veterinary students, and still do, because watching them grasp a clinical concept or gain a physical examination skill based on my teaching approach is very rewarding,” says Neer.

Neer returned to practicing veterinary medicine in the field in 1982, moving to Fort Lauderdale where he had a specialty referral practice in internal medicine. However, he didn’t stay away from academia long.

In 1984, Neer accepted the position of assistant professor of internal medicine and neurology at the School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La., where he has been a professor for 13 years.

LSU has also afforded Neer the opportunity to perform clinical research of ehrlichiosis, an infectious disease that primarily affects dogs.

“From year one through year four at OSU, veterinarians taught almost all my classes. I still remember concepts and principles they taught me,” he says. “I look back, remember the big impact these individuals had on me and use those same concepts in teaching my students today.

“I believe that by being a small part of developing quality veterinarians who will then go into practice and provide quality veterinary medicine for the community, my role as an educator is serving the profession the best I can,” Neer says.
“Academia has given me the opportunity and freedom as an experienced orthopedic pathologist to provide veterinary clinicians, orthopedic surgeons and oncologists optimal diagnostic support.”

Dr. Roy Pool, class of 1964, is perhaps the most outstanding bone pathologist in the United States. According to his critics, Pool, who has spent most of his career at the University of California at Davis, is an excellent teacher and known internationally for his work.

Pool briefly practiced veterinary medicine while waiting to enter a residency and pathology training program that would launch a career in academia. For more than 30 years, he has taught and continues to teach courses related to the musculoskeletal system in the veterinary professional curriculum.

“Academia has given me the opportunity and freedom as an experienced orthopedic pathologist to provide veterinary clinicians, orthopedic surgeons and oncologists optimal diagnostic support,” Pool says.

“At the same time, I am pursuing clinical research on spontaneous bone and joint disease cases as the opportunity presents itself.”

Pool’s equine research on the pathogenesis of musculoskeletal diseases of athletic horses and of navicular disease, osteochondrosis and suspensory desmitis has provided a basis for prevention and treatment.

As a musculoskeletal specialist in academia, Pool has had the opportunity to travel all over the world sharing his expertise with international colleagues on every continent except Antarctica and Asia.

In small animal research, his clinical experience and research on bone and joint disease has clarified the pathogenesis of osteochondrosis and elbow dysplasia of dogs. It has also provided the basis for the histogenetic classification of bone tumors of animals used by the World Health Organization.

Encouraged by Dr. Sidney Ewing to pursue graduate studies and by Dr. Roger Panciera to become a pathologist, Pool advises veterinary students to enter whatever area of veterinary medicine they enjoy.

“Use your knowledge, skills and energy to become the best that you can be. Always be a good colleague. Encourage and help professional students and junior members of the profession.”

Dr. Donald Patterson, class of 1954, is proud to note he was a member of the fourth graduating class from OSU’s veterinary college. A medical geneticist, he is a pioneer in veterinary cardiology.

After graduation, Patterson opted for an internship at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, Mass. At that time, it was among the first formal clinical internships offered in veterinary medicine.

When he completed the internship and was waiting to be assigned to a tour of duty in the U.S. Air Force, Patterson took a temporary teaching position at OSU in small animal medicine and surgery.

“This was my introduction to being an academician and set me on the path I would follow for the rest of my life.”

In the military, he was able to participate in aerospace research, focusing on animal and human tolerance to deceleration. “It was this deceleration research I was involved in that was responsible for establishing the standards for seatbelts and shoulder harnesses now used in aircraft and automobiles,” Patterson says.

In 1958, Patterson became an instructor in cardiology at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Veterinary Medicine in Philadelphia.

“Through one of the first National Institutes of Health grants awarded to a veterinary college to study naturally occurring diseases in companion animals, we screened 5,000 dogs presented to the Penn veterinary hospital to see if they had heart disease. Many of the heart diseases we found turned out to be genetic, as was evident from their tendency to aggregate in particular breeds,” he says.

“The research set the stage for systems-based clinical specialization in veterinary medicine and was one of the factors that later led to the development of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and board certification in veterinary clinical specialties.”

During his career, Patterson founded the first academic section of clinical cardiology, as well as the first section of medical genetics in a school of veterinary medicine.

Although Patterson is retired from full-time teaching and research, he is currently working on a book and computerized database on genetic diseases of dogs, which will be published by Elsevier in 2006.

“One of the most attractive features of veterinary medicine as a career is that the basic education is founded in the biological sciences and is very broad, with the potential to lead to a wide variety of career pathways,” Patterson says.
The Transformational Gift

In the world of philanthropy, when American universities conduct billion dollar campaigns, taking their institutions to the “next level” every five to seven years, it is no surprise some schools attract mega-gifts termed “out of this world.”

During the Association for Veterinary Advancement Professionals meeting at American Veterinary Medical Association’s national convention in July, a new buzz word emerged. Some veterinary schools are receiving transformational gifts.

So what is a transformational gift? A $50 million gift to endow research flasks would not fit the description, although the amount is astronomical enough. However, a $50 million gift to endow the operational budget would truly transform a school’s ability to advance its plans. Transformation, however, is in the details. What would one expect from all that money? More annual scholarships? More faculty chairs and professorships? More of what?

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences knows what it needs to transform the future.

- $50 million would endow the college’s operational budget and name the Center after the donor;
- $30 million would build a new academic center;
- $30 million would endow the teaching hospital’s operational budget and would name the area of campus that includes the teaching hospital and the diagnostic laboratory:
  - $10 million to endow the Equine Hospital Area
  - $10 million to endow the Small Animal Hospital Area
  - $10 million to endow the Large Animal Hospital Area

Philanthropy could transform Oklahoma State University. Just ask us about the plan! We think that would be out of this world.
What Do Racehorses, Asthmatics and Meatpackers Have in Common?

Research in the Department of Physiological Sciences at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences may lead to the development of cures for asthma and related diseases.


When people exercise or work outside in winter, the dry feeling at the back of the throat indicates the cold air has irritated it. Data from racehorses shows they share a similar experience indicating that exercising in sub-freezing air causes mild airway injury.

The research, funded by the National Center for Research Resources, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Thoroughbred Charities of America, suggests these kinds of experiences may be the beginning of a chain of events leading to more serious conditions later. Winter athletes, sled dogs, meatpackers and even fisherman are capable of being affected.

Similarly, both athletes and horses seem susceptible to infection after strenuous activity such as races or marathons. Exercise physiologists and others have long thought over-exertion might open a window of susceptibility for sickness.

The research team at CVHS reports that their “data are the first to provide a specific mechanism for the exercise-induced open-window effect as a local pulmonary phenomenon.”

The Center for Veterinary Health Sciences uses an equine treadmill for research and diagnosing problems in non-productive racehorses.
Kincaide’s ‘Kids’ Check in Regularly

Serving as coordinator of admissions, Charlotte Kincaide was like a mother to thousands of OSU veterinary medicine students.

“Oh, yes, they were all like my kids. I tried to provide a shoulder to cry on, a sympathetic ear and words of encouragement when a student felt overwhelmed,” Kincaide says. “I also made sure my candy jar was always full.”

Although retired after 19 years at OSU, she values the connections she made from 1972 to 1991 doing the job she loved. She corresponds regularly with a number of former students and always attends the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) meetings in Tulsa, where she particularly enjoys the “Old-Timers” luncheon.

Kincaide is justly proud that in 1988 the OVMA presented her with the very first Distinguished Service Award. “I’ll never forget how stunned I was,” she says.

Also stunning to her was the class of 1985’s dedication to her of the Aesculapius. “I was just doing the work I loved. That’s all the reward I needed,” she says.

Fond memories of all her students bring smiles to her face every day. She says she felt privileged to be the person who telephoned the successful applicants to tell them the good news and hear their joyful, and sometimes comical, responses.

One of her most poignant memories concerns a young man who had just begun first-year classes in 1990 when he was called to serve in the Gulf War. “He came into my office distressed and worried that he would lose his place. I reassured him and told him to go home, spend as much time as possible with his family before he was deployed and not to worry about it because he would have a place when he returned,” she says.

“The next I heard from him was a phone call from the desert in Saudi Arabia. He returned in the fall of 1991. I lost track of him after he graduated, but recently I received a sweet letter from him, reminding me of what I had said to him and telling me what it meant to him.”

It’s the dedication of employees like Kincaide that makes OSU’s CVHS stand out above the rest. “Charlotte is an extraordinary person who had a real passion to serve those young veterinary hopefuls,” says J. Mack Olyer, emeritus associate dean. “She was their confidante and their greatest supporter. I am also the beneficiary of her generosity, dedication and meticulous attention to detail. All of us are fortunate to have her as a friend.”

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DON’T FORGET TO WRITE HOME
Keep your college and fellow alumni informed of pertinent events in your life by sending your news to:

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Center for Veterinary Health Sciences
308 McElroy Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078-2011
(405) 744-6740 PHONE
(405) 744-5233 FAX
derinda@okstate.edu EMAIL

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STILL CHEERING FOR THE COWBOYS …

Members of the class of ’83 gather at the home of, from left, Pamela and Kenneth Kirlin for a 2004 Alamo Bowl pre-party. With them are Mary Beth and David Von Turgel; Mike and Sonia Sealock; and Kit and Anne Kamp-schmidt. Go Pokes!
The Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital has implemented the **first phase of a three-phase conversion to paperless medical records** through digital technology, thanks to college funds and private donations from the Galie Mae Koch Trust and the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

The installation of small and large animal digital diagnostic imaging equipment earlier this year takes the hospital from film to instant filmless images, allowing for faster and more accurate diagnoses, decreased exposure to radiation, reduced cost and improved service.

The **Instant Image Campaign** has attracted $167,000 in gifts toward the $704,335 goal and is now seeking private funds for phases II and III.

Persons interested in supporting the campaign can contact the OSU Foundation at [www.osuf.org](http://www.osuf.org) to make an online contribution or contact:

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