



Also inside this issue of *lifelines*:



Frontier's field trip to Nebraska. See page 2



K-Staters among 25 to watch. See page 3



CVM joins 150 year celebration. See page 3



Mal Hoover goes Under the Microscope. See page 4

Serum testing the black rhinoceros in Africa

Unusual project gives Sue Chavey a wild experience before retirement

What's an exciting way to finish one's career? For Sue Chavey, former medical technologist in the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, this meant traveling to the Kruger National Park in South Africa this past October to establish a ferritin assay for black rhinoceros at the Veterinary Wildlife Unit near Skukuza Rest Camp. The assay for rhinoceros ferritin was developed at Kansas State University more than twenty years ago while Sue was working with former professor Dr. Joseph Smith.

"Captive black rhinoceroses have problems with iron overload (hemochromatosis), and free-ranging black rhinos were unable to be studied, since they are an endangered species and importing serum samples into the United States is a complex and expensive endeavor," Sue said.

Sue worked on this project under Michele Miller, DVM, Ph.D., director of conservation medicine at the Palm Beach Zoo in West Palm Beach, Fla., who received a grant for travel expenses, reagents and equipment needed for the assay to be transferred to South Africa. Dr. Miller has traveled to South Africa numerous times and is the black rhino veterinary adviser for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in the U.S.

"We successfully trained two technologists at the Veterinary Wildlife Unit to test the black rhinoceros serum samples for ferritin," Sue said. "The Veterinary Wildlife Unit had several hundred black rhinoceros serum samples that had been collected over the last six years. The samples are stored frozen until they can be tested."

Sue traveled with her husband Tom and stayed at Camp Waswitshaka near the Veterinary Wildlife Unit. Their home for two



Above: Sue Chavey, center, trains Jenny Joubert and Khosi Mathebula, veterinary technologists at Kruger National Park in South Africa. Below: Wildlife Services staff pull arterial blood.



weeks was a thatched roof duplex in a gated community. The gate was needed to keep out large wild animals.

"The first week we were there, we were able to see the darting of four young white rhinoceros, which were living in a large Boma (corral)," Sue said. "This was part of a research study of 5-year-old white rhinoceros before they would be sold to large animal reserves. The money received from the sale of the young rhinoceros is used to help support Kruger National Park."

The rhinoceros were darted from a catwalk above the Boma by Dr. Peter Buss, manager

See CHAVEY, page 4

Field trip fuels Frontier with food for thought

North – to Nebraska – this is the direction taken by the Frontier program on a field trip in December. This is a state where corn is king and plays a vital, global role in terms food, feed and fuel.

Dr. Justin Kastner, associate professor of food safety and security, said this was the 19th trip in the history of the Frontier program.

“We try to give students an in-person experience with the complexity of the food system and international trade,” Dr. Kastner said. “On this most recent trip, we did just that by looking through the lens of the commodity of corn, which is why we went to Nebraska.”

He said Frontier provides experiential learning opportunities for students at K-State, New Mexico State University and other universities affiliated with the University of Minnesota’s National Center for Food Protection and Defense, which is a center of excellence under the Department of Homeland Security. Nine K-State students participated along with students from North Carolina AT&T, University of Kentucky, North Dakota State University, University of Nebraska and University of Wisconsin.

“We went to an ADM corn processing plant [in Columbus, Nebraska] involved in processing corn for food, feed and fuel,” Dr. Kastner said. “We also met with officials from Samson LLC, a company involved in certifying beef for export to Europe. This was a good trip because our students are interested in learning about international trade.”

After returning, Kassie Curran, senior in food science and industry, said, “There is a deeply complex relationship between the corn and cattle industries. By visiting with people who are involved in these industries in different ways, we were able to



Mark S. Fulmer, president and official agency manager for the Lincoln Inspection Service, speaks to Frontier students about the critical role played in our food system by the Federal Grain Inspection Service.

understand some of this complexity and begin to uncover just how connected they are.”

On the second day in Nebraska, the group toured the Federal Grain Inspection Service in Lincoln. They also had guest speakers: Dr. Tamra Jackson-Ziems, an extension plant pathologist who studies diseases and pathogens that threaten corn, and Dr. Galen Erickson, a professor at the University of Nebraska who works with beef feedlots.

Dr. Kastner said the Frontier program organizes at least four field trips each year. The trips are funded in part through the National Center for Food Protection and Defense and also in part through Department of Homeland Security Career Development Grants (CDGs) obtained by Frontier, which helps pay travel expenses. For more information, visit the website: <http://frontier.k-state.edu/>.

Veterinary Medical Library provides personalized research services

Today’s practicing veterinarians and other public health specialists need the latest information and medical research. The Veterinary Medical Library at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine is a valuable source for this material. Alumni, practitioners and other researchers can order documents from this collection through the Library’s Research Services.

“Library Research Services is a service that we provide to people who are not currently with the university,” said Carol Elmore, research services librarian. “In other words, they’re not faculty, staff or students, and they need library materials.”

This fee-based service provides database searching, document delivery and reference assistance. Clients will

receive copies of full-text articles found in the Veterinary Medical Library’s extensive veterinary and agricultural collection and online resources such as PubMed.

“When I do literature searches in databases, primarily what you get are citations,” Carol said. “A lot of these have abstracts, but you really don’t get the full text of the articles. There are a few articles that are out there, open-access articles, but to get the full-text of an article, you need to go through some library so you can get access to the full document.”

The service is open to veterinary practitioners, industry, corporations and anyone interested in research assistance.

Watch the full video about Library Research Services at: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1301.htm.

Two K-Staters make list of 25 veterinarians to watch

K-State fans have been growing accustomed to seeing K-State in the top 25 rankings, but this time, instead of sports, the list is veterinary-related. Two K-Staters, an alumnus and a current veterinary student, were identified by Veterinary Practice News on a list of the top 25 veterinarians to watch in 2013.

The publication decided to try to identify 25 up-and-coming veterinarians based on skill, talent and perseverance, and being “poised to do great things for veterinary medicine.” This process was based on soliciting suggestions from the veterinary community.

Following is the rationale given for each of the two choices as published in the Dec. 21 issue of Veterinary Practice News (reprinted with permission).

Dr. Micah Kohles, earned his DVM from K-State in 2001. He is the technical services director at Oxbow Animal Health, Murdock, Neb.

“A flair for the exotic plus veterinary medical and administrative knowledge makes an interesting package, and he’s named Dr. Micah Kohles.

“A member of the first AVMA Future Leaders program, Dr. Kohles graduated from Kansas State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and also works

in private practice at Nebraska Medical Center in Lincoln. Besides directing technical services at Oxbow, an exotic animal food and supply company, Dr. Kohles lectures regularly on exotic animal topics at veterinary schools and conferences in and out of the U.S.

“Oh, and if your guinea pig should develop a swollen index finger, Dr. Kohles will make the time to analyze the case in his ‘Vet Speak’ column on Oxbow’s website. Or catch him at the Lincoln Children’s Zoo, where he volunteers.”

Second-year student Michael White was among three veterinary students making this list.

“Animal welfare and rights is a topic that continues to generate heat. It would be hard to find a more balanced, reasoned view of the issues than Michael’s winning essay for the Society of Veterinary Medical Ethics. Asked to expound ‘On the Question of “Human Exceptionalism” and Its Bearing upon Veterinary Medical Ethics,’ Michael bested 87 other entries and waxed eloquently on the importance



Dr. Micah Kohles, DVM 2001, and second-year student Michael White are listed by Veterinary Practice News as two of “25 veterinarians to watch” in 2013.

to veterinarians of the animal rights movement:

“Some change is inevitable. For this reason, we must become involved with pet owners and work to assure that such legal change does not put veterinary medicine out of business by saddling it with enormous insurance costs of the sort that have plagued human medicine. As veterinarians, we are privileged in that we can actually do much good for those creatures that we count on as friends and as providers of food, fiber, and pleasure, as well as for those that give their lives for science.”

CVM joins K-State in celebrating its sesquicentennial year



The class of 1919 poses in front of Veterinary Hall, later renamed Leasure Hall in honor of Dr. E.E. Leasure, dean from 1948-1964.

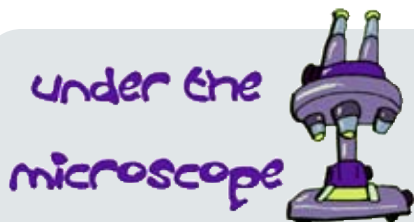
The year 2013 marks a milestone for Kansas State University. The CVM is joining the university in celebrating 150

years of excellence with a birthday bash on Feb. 14 at Ahearn Field House, along with activities and features to continue throughout this sesquicentennial year. This will be a celebration of the past, present and future for America’s first land grant institution and Kansas’ first public university.

The sesquicentennial will be a time for friends, alumni, students, faculty and staff to honor the proud history of the university and look to the future. It’s no wonder Kansas State has become an international leader in teaching, learning, service and research. The

founders started the university with a vision for innovative education, and the university opened in 1863 with 52 students as the first fully operational land-grant university in the country.

K-State invites the entire family to celebrate its achievements and its Wildcat spirit. Visit <http://www.k-state.edu/150/> for a full calendar of activities and events. Watch upcoming issues of Lifelines and Healing Hands as we will help by celebrating the CVM’s proud role at K-State.



Mal Hoover

Medical Illustrator/Graphic Design
Specialist
Instructional Technology and Design



Hometown: Manhattan, Kan.

Family Information: Husband (30 plus years) two sons and a granddaughter

Pets: Spike (9-year-old Jack Russell terrier), Slate (new gray kitten), Toby and Maggie (12-year-old sister kitties)

How are you spending the holidays? I am working on one of the Wildcat March sculptures (part of the 150 year celebration of K-State).

If you had a time machine, would you go into the past or the future? I would go back to Ireland in the 1700s to meet my ancestors.

As a child, what was your dream job? Being an animator at Disney Studios! I thought hand painting the cels (celluloids) would be the best job ever!

What do you do for creative inspiration? Sit outside and observe everything around me. Squirrels are always a source of inspiration!

Chavey | Serum testing in South Africa

continued from page 1

of the Veterinary Wildlife Services for Kruger National Park, then roped, and gently lowered onto their side where they were tested. A coordinated team of 30 people measured blood pressure, heart rate, oxygen level, CO₂, temperature and respiration. A fecal sample, and both arterial and venous blood samples were taken. They also weighed each rhinoceros using a large metal box, which required a truck with a crane to lift.

Sue and Tom drove several hours each day at the park in a rental car to see the wildlife, including hundreds of elephant, zebra, Cape buffalo and antelope.

Sue Chavey earned a bachelor's degree in medical technology from K-State in 1985. She worked for Dr. Joseph Smith from 1988 to 1998, and then for Dr. Gordon Andrews, professor of veterinary pathology in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology, until her retirement on Dec. 4, 2012. She was with the veterinary college for more than 24 years.

CVM NEWS TICKER

Susan Rose will be a featured artist at South Wind Gallery in Topeka, Kan. They will be featuring her "Birds of the Mid-West" series. The opening reception will be during Topeka's First Friday Art Walk, Feb. 1.

Pet Friendly license tag launches



Dean Ralph Richardson and his wife Bev purchase the first Pet Friendly license tag in Riley County from its treasurer, Eileen King. Proceeds will support education for spaying and neutering in Kansas and veterinary student externships at animal shelters in Kansas. For information, call 1-855-269-7387 or e-mail petplate@vet.k-state.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Instructional Technology and Design Workshops
Jan. 17: Re-Using K-State Online Courses: Tips and Tricks, by Gina Scott
Jan. 30: Camtasia Relay and DyKnow in the Classroom, by Gina Scott and Dr. Hong Wang,
Feb. 15: Using Adobe Connect to Enhance Teaching and Learning, by Dr. Hong Wang, Gina Scott, Dr. David Renter and Dr. Matt Miesner

Continuing Education

Feb. 9: KSVDL's 2nd Annual Conference on Animal Diagnostics and Field Applications: Food Animal Medicine

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