Revamped Sunset Zoo clinic bears new name

Dr. Jim Carpenter receives a surprise at annual ‘Wine in the Wild’ event

Manhattan, Kansas’ Sunset Zoo now has a new facility bearing a familiar name from the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. At the annual Wine in the Wild fundraiser on June 1, a newly renovated and expanded James W. Carpenter Clinic was unveiled, named for the longtime professor of zoological medicine. The opening of the clinic is the latest development in the long-standing partnership between the College of Veterinary Medicine and Sunset Zoo.

Scott Shoemaker, director of the Sunset Zoo, said, “That program, or that partnership, really took a step up about 23 or 24 years ago when Dr. Carpenter came to Kansas State University. They provide all of our vet care, so for about 24 years now, it’s been a really active partnership between the two facilities.”

Previously, the space available for animal care at the zoo was limited.

Discussions to improve the medical center began after a new education and administrative building was unveiled in 2012, creating the opportunity to expand the veterinary facilities at the zoo.

The Friends of Sunset Zoo, the City of Manhattan and the Veterinary Health Center helped provide financial support for the project.

Watch a full video report about the naming of the clinic at Lifelines online: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1306.htm.

K-State 150: African-American students at the CVM

Learn about Dr. John William Brown, K-State’s first African-American veterinary graduate, the CVM’s connection with Tuskegee University and the role of a fraternity in helping develop a foundation for African-American veterinary students at K-State in the online version of Lifelines: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1306.htm
The start of summer often brings throngs of people together in darkened auditoriums, eager to see the latest blockbuster. The star of this feature attraction was a deadly swine disease, and the director of the presentation was Dr. Bob Rowland, a virologist and professor of diagnostic medicine/pathobiology in the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

The surprise twist is that the packed house was in Beijing, China. Dr. Rowland teamed up with Dr. Hanchun Yang of the China Agricultural University and a committee of PRRS experts from around the world for an event entitled International Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) – China.

“This meeting, which I have organized for more than eight years, was an incredible success that exceeded all expectations,” Dr. Rowland said. “We planned for 500 attendees – set up the meeting for 600 – and ended up with 700.”

The attendees came from 25 different countries, and there were 151 abstracts submitted and presented as poster presentations. The symposium featured 40 talks with three keynote addresses, 18 oral presentations of the abstracts and 19 invited speakers.

“The Beijing meeting is recognition that PRRS is a transboundary disease that needs transboundary solutions,” Dr. Rowland said. “The collaborations that emerge from this type of meeting have a global impact.”

The symposium included 22 travel fellowships awarded to graduate students and postdocs from seven different countries. Xiangdong Li, a Ph.D. student at K-State was one of those who attended on the David A. Benfield Travel Fellowship. Dr. Benfield, a professor in food animal health at The Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine, is credited as a co-discoverer of the cause of PRRS. His donation provided for the travel fellowship.

“It’s very exciting to be able to share data with our peers,” said Xiangdong, who works in a research laboratory under Dr. Jishu Shi, the director of K-State’s U.S.-China Center for Animal Health. “Being able to attend the symposium helps us share information with the swine industry and gives us an opportunity to broaden our research. We are the first lab in the U.S. to work with the Chinese strains of PRRS that have caused great economic losses for Chinese swine producers.”

Xiangdong was one of 16 recipients of the travel fellowship, which included researchers from Canada and Europe as well as another K-Stater, Andrew Suddith, who is on the staff of the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Dr. Yongming Sang, an assistant research professor in Immunophysiology at K-State, presented at the conference.

Dr. Rowland indicated that one of the goals of the symposium is to help find vaccines to control the spread of PRRS and porcine circovirus (PCV2). While the numbers were very good, the reviews have given this blockbuster symposium an enthusiastic two thumbs up. The next PRRS symposium will be in Ghent, Belgium, in 2015, and the host will be Hanchun Yang of the China Agricultural University and Dr. Hans Nauwynck, who teaches at the University of Ghent.

Ph.D. student Xiangdong Li attends the PRRS symposium in China through a David A. Benfield Travel Fellowship he won.
Annual Conference for Veterinarians relocates to new site this year

SCAVMA picnic raises funds and fun for Landon Schrader family

Second-year student Trenton Schrader takes the honor as official pie thrower at the annual SCAVMA picnic and barbecue held in May on the lawn by Trotter and Mosier Halls. Dr. Ronnie Elmore, right, joined Dr. David Poole and SCAVMA President Kyle Clymer as the recipients of the pie toss, which was used to help raise money for Trenton and his wife Karen, whose son, Landon, is suffering from a developmental subdural hygroma after his birth April 16.

Class of 2013 goes through commencement exercises

Lauren Bodenhamer, Jennifer Booth and Teresa Borys recite the Veterinarian’s Oath at commencement exercises for the Class of 2013 on May 16. There were 108 graduates in this class with about 50 students planning to go into a small animal or mixed practice. An exit survey revealed that 40 graduates from this year’s class plan to go into an internship or residency. See more pictures from commencement in the online version of Lifelines.
Amanda Hedrick
Administrative Officer, Dean’s Office

Hometown: I was born and raised in Cottonwood Falls, Kan.

Family Information: In my house, there’s just the two of us, my very patient and loving husband of 4 years, Nathan, and me.

Pets: We have two rescue dogs. Zed is a 2-year-old miniature Australian shepherd and Tilly is a 4-year-old shaggy mutt.

When was the last time you surprised yourself at doing something you didn’t know you could do? I fostered a 6-week-old puppy for the Riley County Humane Society for three weeks and didn’t end up keeping her.

What is something you collect that your co-workers might not know about? I don’t really have a “collection” per se. What I end up collecting and when depends on the project I am working on. Currently I am collecting colored glass to recycle in a mosaic.

What do you like most about working or living in a college town? The “perks” that the college offers such as theatre performances, guest lecturers and exhibits. We don’t attend these nearly enough, but it’s nice to have the options.

Kramer and Wyatt retire from CVM

The CVM says farewell to two of its longtime employees who both retired in May. Noel Kramer, left, was the custodial supervisor in the Department of Facilities and had worked with the CVM for 18 years. On the right, Dr. Carol Wyatt, retired after 13 years with the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology. She was an associate professor and she was the associate director of the flow cytometry facility. She is pictured with her husband, Steve, at a retirement reception.

CVM News Ticker

Congratulations to the recipients of Veterinary Medical Alumni Association Awards presented at the Annual Heritage Evening Banquet on June 2.

Dr. Ronald J. Marler, Scottsdale, Ariz., is the recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Alumnus Award. Dr. Marler received his bachelor’s degree in 1971 and DVM in 1973 from K-State. He joined the Mayo Clinic in 2004 and is part of their executive-on-loan program.

Dr. Polly R. Schoning, Manhattan, Kan., is the recipient of the 2013 E.R. Frank Award. Dr. Schoning earned her bachelor’s degree in 1962, DVM in 1964, master’s degree in anatomy in 1970 and her Ph.D. in pathology in 1979, all from K-State. She retired in 2003 and is now professor emeritus in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology.

Dr. Copper Aitken-Palmer, Fort Valley, Va., is the 2013 recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. Dr. Aitken-Palmer earned her DVM and a master’s degree in clinical sciences, both from K-State University in 2003. She is currently the chief veterinarian for the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

Dr. David S. Hodgson, Manhattan, is the recipient of a 2013 Distinguished Service Award. He obtained his DVM degree from Kansas State University in 1968. Dr. Hodgson is an anesthesiologist in the Clinical Sciences department of the CVM.