Once would be fine, but twice is extra nice, as the College of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Health Center were featured on two different television programs at the end of October and beginning of November.

Last spring, a video crew from KTWU-TV’s program “Sunflower Journeys” visited the VHC to shoot footage for a profile on the veterinary medicine program and care for animals. The footage was aired for the first time on the evening of Oct. 30 in the first of three animal-related segments on the program.

The next day, a video crew from the ESPN sports network arrived for a scheduled visit to shoot “billboard” footage for the Nov. 1 broadcast of the K-State vs. Oklahoma State football game. The VHC was one of three billboard segments featuring programs at K-State. The other two were the rodeo and skydiving clubs.

Links to the footage are posted at Lifelines online: www.vet.k-state.edu/development/lifelines/1411.html
Iman research award goes to CVM’s Dr. Jürgen Richt

Dr. Jürgen Richt was one of two Kansas State University faculty members chosen this year to receive a $5,000 award in recognition of outstanding research and teaching. The award was presented at a ceremony Oct. 30 at the K-State Alumni Center.

Introduced in 2007, the annual Dr. Ron and Rae Iman Outstanding Faculty Awards are sponsored by the K-State Alumni Association and are made possible through the generosity of Ron and Rae Iman.

Dr. Richt, Regents Distinguished Professor, University Distinguished Professor and Kansas Bioscience Authority Eminent Scholar in the College of Veterinary Medicine, received the Iman Outstanding Faculty Award for Research. The recipient of the Iman Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching was Swinder Janda, Professor of Marketing and the Robert M. Edgerley Chair in Global Business in the College of Business Administration.

The research award recognizes faculty members who have distinguished themselves in their chosen professions and who have contributed significantly through research to improve the betterment of the educational experience, or whose research has had a significant impact on their area of study.

Bats seen at Halloween this year may not be quite as scary as they appear – at least when it comes to the spread of specific viruses.

A research project conducted in part by a team of researchers in the CVM suggests influenza viruses carried by bats pose a low risk to humans.

“Bats are natural reservoirs of some of the most deadly zoonotic viruses, including rabies virus, Ebola virus, Henipaviruses and SARS coronavirus,” said Dr. Wenjun Ma, an assistant professor of virology in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology. “Recently, sequences have been discovered in bats that resemble influenza viruses that are uncultivable. This made us curious as to whether those viruses exist and what impact that might have on humans.”

Dr. Ma collaborated on this project with Dr. David Wentworth from the J. Craig Venter Institute in Rockville, Maryland, to carry out the research. Their study, “Characterization of Uncultivable Bat Influenza Virus Using a Replicative Synthetic Virus,” was published in the Oct. 2 issue of PLOS Pathogens and can be read at http://bit.ly/1thM9n9.

“The goals of our study were to characterize the bat influenza virus using noninfectious approaches by synthesizing the complete viral genome, then generate a replicative virus and use it as a model to better understand bat influenza viruses,” Dr. Ma said.

The team used a variety of techniques, including synthetic technology, reverse genetics, next-generation sequencing and mini-genome polymerase activity assays.

“While our data suggest that the bat influenza viruses are authentic viruses and provide new insights into the evolution and basic biology of influenza viruses, the results also indicate that they pose little, if any, pandemic threat to humans,” Dr. Ma said.
The answer to a common question is 1492, but this isn’t just when Columbus sailed the ocean blue. It happens to be the number of miles between Manhattan, Kansas, and Warwick, Rhode Island, where Clinical Sciences Professor, Dr. Greg Grauer, recently reached a personal milestone of having delivered CE conferences in every state in the U.S.

Dr. Grauer is the Jarvis Chair of Small Animal Internal Medicine in the Department of Clinical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine. While in Warwick, he delivered a lecture entitled, “Staging and management of chronic kidney disease: A tale of two cats.” He gave the presentation at a dinner meeting in Warwick and in Manchester, New Hampshire, both sponsored by Vetoquinol, a veterinary pharmaceutical company.

“Part of our educational mission is to provide public education, which our faculty members deliver on a global scale,” said Dr. Bonnie Rush, head of Clinical Sciences. “Dr. Grauer has also presented lectures in 16 countries. We have other faculty members in our department and in the college who have presented on virtually every continent, except Antarctica. Our faculty are nationally and internationally recognized and are in high demand for continuing education and scientific presentation.”

Dr. James Carpenter, professor of zoological medicine, has spoken in 43 states and 16 countries, some on multiple occasions. Dr. David Biller, professor and section head for diagnostic radiology and ultrasound, has been to 39 states and 20 countries. Dr. Michael Dryden, University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, has been to 44 states, one U.S. territory and 21 countries.

“When traveling for a continuing education seminar to a foreign country there are always potential problems that may be related to travel, language or equipment,” Dr. Biller said.

Health care information is frequently sought to determine what might work to treat human diseases or conditions. Often it is hard to know if one health care intervention works better than another or if it might cause more harm than good. Due to constant reports on the news and social media of new research for health care, it is often confusing for consumers to make sense of all these reports. The Cochrane Library - http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/view/0/index.html - available from KSU Libraries provides access to objective information on medical treatments that can help determine the most effective interventions. The Cochrane Library is a subscription service available to faculty, staff and students of Kansas State University that contains a collection of evidence-based medicine databases, including the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR). A systematic review as defined in the Cochrane Glossary is “a review of a clearly formulated question that uses systematic and explicit methods to identify, select, and critically appraise relevant research, and to collect and analyze data from the studies that are included in the review. Statistical methods (meta-analysis) may or may not be used to analyze and summarize the results of the included studies.” Two types of documents that are included in the CDSR are Cochrane reviews which are full-text systematic reviews, which provide an overview of the effects of interventions in health care, and Cochrane Protocols, which provide information about reviews which are in progress.

The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), another database in the Cochrane Library, contains articles on controlled trials and other studies of health care interventions from bibliographic databases, mainly MEDLINE and EMBASE, and other published and unpublished sources that are difficult to access. The Database of Abstract of Reviews of Effects (DARE) contains quality-assessed abstracts of non-Cochrane reviews. Three other databases contain technical information on methodology, assessment and economic evaluations. Next month, specific ways to search for personal health topics will be discussed.

Staff at the Veterinary Medical Library can help with questions about using either of these resources as well as provide help with any of other many resources on human and animal health available through the library.
Video Feature: Ophthalmology treatments for diabetic dogs

Diabetes is a common disease in dogs that can have a significant impact on the pet's quality of life, including vision loss. An ongoing study at the Veterinary Health Center at Kansas State University is examining how different topical ocular treatments affect diabetic dogs.

The disease can cause blindness through the formation of cataracts in the dog’s eye.

See our full video report in this month’s online version of Lifelines, posted at:

www.vet.k-state.edu/development/lifelines/1411.html

CVM News Ticker

Dr. Jim Riviere, University Distinguished Professor of pharmacology and director of the Institute of Computational Comparative Medicine, was presented the John Doull Award for contributions of an outstanding member to the discipline of toxicology. Dr. Riviere presented the lecture “Trials and Tribulations of Discovering Biologically-Relevant Quantitative Nanomaterial Models for Realistic Interspecies and In Vitro- In Vivo Extrapolations.”

Dr. Abhilash Sasidharan, postdoctoral fellow under the direction of Dr. Nancy Monteiro-Riviere in the department of anatomy and physiology, received the best postdoctoral oral presentation award. This also provides a travel award for Dr. Sasidharan to attend the National Society of Toxicology meeting in San Diego in March 2015.

On Oct. 1, Dr. Meena Kumari presented a seminar entitled “Beta subunit of alpha glucosidase II caught moonlighting” at the Department of Pharmacology University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio.

Fourth-year student Michael White was picked as a 2015 AVMA Governmental Relations Division veterinary student extern.

Student worker Ryan Weber recently sat for and passed his licensing exam to become a Certified Pharmacy Technician.

Open House for ICCM and NICKS

The CVM holds an open house for the new Institute of Computational Comparative Medicine (ICCM) and Nanotechnology Innovation Center of Kansas State (NICKS). Welcoming K-State President Kirk Schulz are Dr. Jim Riviere, Dr. Nancy Monteiro-Riviere and Dean Ralph Richardson.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 10: Upson Lecture Series - Bruce Vincent, 7 – 8 p.m., Forum Hall, K-State Student Union.

Nov. 18: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. — Creating Assessment and Managing the Gradebook in Canvas, 104C Trotter Hall