

Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Healing Hands



**CVM Researchers
Discover Non-controversial
Source of Stem Cells**



Volume 2 Issue 1
Winter 2006

Also in this issue:

Exotics Team
Takes On Unique
Zoo Cases

Teaching Hospital
Renovations
Near Completion

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About the cover: Drs. Deryl Troyer and Mark Weiss are researching newly-discovered stem cells found in human and animal umbilical cords. They are exploring the therapeutic benefits of the cells in diseases such as Alzheimer's and cancer. Cover photo by Dave Adams.



Message from the Dean

Dear alumni and friends,

Allow me to pose a question: Could you successfully conduct your veterinary practice or business the way you did 10 or 20 years ago? I doubt if many people in today's world could. The College of Veterinary Medicine is no exception. I passionately believe that if we maintain the status quo, the world will quickly pass us by.

When I came to the college nearly eight years ago, almost 60 percent of our budget was funded by the state. Today, the state only covers about 25 percent. At the CVM, we recognize that we must be willing to change, take calculated risks, and find better ways to operate.

This issue of "Healing Hands" demonstrates several ways in which the college is changing and progressing. Our stem cell researchers have discovered possibilities that we never knew existed. You will read about a true entrepreneur in A.J. Scribante, a perfect example of someone who has taken calculated risks, worked hard and been successful. He and his wife, Sunny, have a passion for animals and have shared their success with us. You will see how our teaching hospital is undergoing its largest renovation ever so we can enhance clinical learning and service.

We are also interfacing with private and public agencies such as the Kansas Biosciences Authority to enhance our strengths in comparative medicine, disease surveillance, and animal health and productivity, particularly related to the beef industry. We are striving to position K-State as the nation's leader in food safety, biosecurity, and agro-security. We are actively supporting the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act - pending federal legislation that is designed to better meet the nation's public health, food safety and research needs.

One of the greatest areas of change in the veterinary profession is the unprecedented number of specialists going into private practice. Recruitment and retention of clinical educators and maintaining clinical teaching caseloads are some of the biggest challenges facing veterinary education today. If we continue to function as we have, our teaching caseload will dwindle away as private specialty hospitals meet local demands and cases are no longer referred to Manhattan, Kan. To help address those challenges, at the invitation of nearly 40 Omaha-area veterinarians, we will open a satellite referral hospital in Omaha, Neb. The MidWestVET specialty hospital for companion animals will allow us to expand our clinical teaching program and our students will have opportunities for rotations there.

As you can see, we are not conducting business like we did decades ago, nor can we afford to. We are drawing on the heritage of the Land Grant system while being an entrepreneur in veterinary education, research and outreach.

I invite you to be a part of the future by sending us aspiring veterinarians, providing job opportunities for our graduates, contributing to our fund-raising efforts, participating in alumni activities, and coming "home" to visit whenever you can.

Sincerely,

Ralph C. Richardson, DVM
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

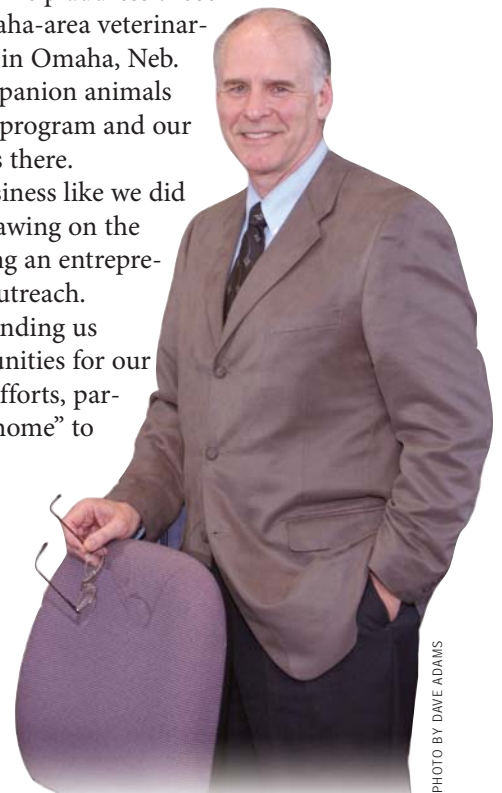


PHOTO BY DAVE ADAMS

Planning For Your Pets' Future



K-State offers long-term options should something happen to you

By Sarah Erskine

If an owner was suddenly unable to care for a beloved pet, options for the animal can be limited. If a relative can not care for the animal or the owner does not want it to be placed in a shelter, the animal's future can be uncertain.

However, the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) offers an alternative option for pet owners concerned about the future of their animals. The Perpetual Pet Care Program allows pet owners the unique opportunity to make arrangements for continuous care of their animals should their pets outlive them.

Provided For In Perpetuity

The endowment program finds a suitable home for the animal and provides complete medical care for the rest of the animal's life.

Finding a stable, loving home for the pet once the owner is unable to care for their animal is one of the most important aspects of the program. Unless the owner has identified an adoptive home, trained veterinary students and clinical specialists at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) attend to all the needs of each pet until an appropriate adoptive home is located through an extensive screening process. This adoption ensures the pet will bond with one owner. After the animal is adopted and lives out the rest of its life with its new family, the remainder of the bequest goes to an initiative within the college as designated by the original owner.

"The unique thing about our Perpetual Pet Care Program is we find a permanent home for the animals outside of the hospital and college," said Chris

Gruber, acting director of development for the CVM.

Other institutions with similar programs typically do not adopt out the animals to homes, instead, the animals are housed together for the remainder of their lives.

"Another element that makes our program different is we do not have space limitations on how many animals we can take in," Gruber said. "The animals are adopted as soon as the screening process is completed. Our goal is to replicate the living environment as close as possible to what the animal is accustomed to."

A Cat Love Connection

Peggy Potter, a business manager at the CVM's business office, is a concerned pet owner. She's made long-term plans for her five cats and dog in the

event that she passes away or is suddenly unable to care for them.

In her bequest, Potter has set up the KATLUV Fund, which will help establish an animal compassion home for all feline members of the Perpetual Pet Care Program while at the veterinary school during the transitional phase.

“My pets are my children and have always been. They are an important part of my life and a great commitment,” Potter said. “Once I heard about the Perpetual Pet Care Program, I knew it was not only something I wanted to be a part of, but I also wanted to contribute to its success.”

The compassion home will be a separate building located on the CVM campus that will feature a comfortable, home-like setting.

Potter is one of the 18 families who have a combined total of 65 pets enrolled in the program.

Saving Setters, Securing The Future

Robin and Becky Roeckers, Berryton, Kan., have enrolled their two miniature horses, two cats and five dogs. They have established a scholarship fund for a veterinary student and the remainder of their bequest will go to the area of greatest need in the teaching hospital. “We want to help a student who shares the same views about helping animals. That is why we set up the scholarship,” said Becky, a biologist in the Waste Water Division Laboratory of Topeka.

The Roeckers have always been concerned about the safety of animals. They are members of an Irish setter rescue program called “Save Our Setters” that helps rescue and place abandoned setters in foster homes across the country.

“We see so many



PHOTO BY DAVE ADAMS

Peggy Potter at home with her Persian, Charity.

abandoned dogs through our rescue program, and we didn't want to see that happen to our animals,” said Robin, a procurement officer for the City of Topeka. “Because we don't have any children and our relatives are unable to take our pets, we wanted to be sure our pets have a secure, healthy, loving environment if we were gone,” Becky added.

In Their Own Backyard

The Roeckers searched the country for a program that would provide for

the long term needs of their pets, but the ideal program was closer than they thought. During a visit to the VMTH with their two miniature horses for a routine check up, the Roeckers saw a brochure for the Perpetual Pet Care Program in the waiting room. The standard of care their animals have continually received at the VMTH helped support their decision to get involved with the program.

“We had been looking for a way to provide for them, should something happen to us, but I could not find anything,” Becky said. “When we found the Perpetual Pet Care Program we knew that it was the type of program we wanted.”

“We like the program because we know our animals will receive the best care, and this program has a strong foundation,” Robin said.

Gruber said the cost of enrollment ranges from \$25,000 for small animals to \$50,000 for large animals and up to \$100,000 for special needs animals. The enrollment fees may come in the form of land, life insurance, annuities, and/or securities or estate gifts such as land or property donations.

For more information on the Perpetual Pet Care Program, contact Chris Gruber at (785) 532-4378 or e-mail cgruber@vet.k-state.edu. Visit the web at: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/perpet/index.htm



PHOTO BY BRENNAN ENGLE

Left: Becky and Robin Roeckers on a visit to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital with their two miniature horses, Sunny and Stormy. Opposite page: the Roeckers with their Irish setters, Kieran and Reilly, in the waiting room at the VMTH.

Innovative Renovation



Walls have been torn down, floors removed and new plumbing is being installed in the future ICU.



Modifications are made to the area where the ICU's central work station and adjacent isolation room will be located.



Concrete is poured for the new floor in the ICU.

Several different areas around the CVM are currently under renovation or have been renovated. The most significant is the expansion of the Small Animal Intensive Care Unit and renovation of the emergency/discharge area in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH). This is the largest remodeling project to ever take place at the VMTH.

The ICU is being moved across the hall and will triple in size. It will occupy the space that has housed the cardiology, anesthesia and exotics rooms. For the first time, the isolation unit will be located adjacent to the ICU. This will allow hospital staff and students to monitor patients in both areas through special barrier windows, and there will be a pass-through box to allow for the safe transfer of medicine to prevent cross contamination.

To maximize traffic flow, the overall design of the ICU will be open and organized with two entrances and a central work station. Placed near the workstation will be

mobile equipment carts and treatment tables. There will be 18 cages for small animals, four large runs for dogs weighing more than 45 pounds and an area to wash animals. Near the ICU an existing laundry facility has been redesigned to accommodate physical therapy and an underwater treadmill.

“The new plan was designed around having better access to patients and closer proximity to supplies,” said Dr. Rose McMurphy, professor of anesthesiology. “The students will still receive the highest quality of education. These improvements will reinforce that education while providing the best environment for the patient.”

The current ICU area will undergo changes once the renovated space is operational. It will be divided in half with a new endoscopy suite on one side and a state-of-the-art Pfizer Dental Suite on the other. The area currently occupied by dental service will become a surgical suite for exotics.

Underway at the CVM



With the office area enlarged, new windows under construction in the emergency/discharge area.



The emergency/discharge area on its first day in operation after construction is completed.



Cinder blocks go up for the discharge window.



New sliding glass security doors separate the discharge area from the emergency waiting room.

The other area of major construction is the remodeling of the emergency room waiting room, office and discharge area. The emergency window has been enlarged and a doorway was converted into a window for discharging patients. Finally, a wall was taken down in the emergency/discharge office area to allow for better access to patient records and more efficient traffic flow.

Another construction project begun in the college is the renovation of the Practice Management Center and library on the fourth floor of Trotter Hall. Seating space is being enlarged and enhanced projection equipment is being added to the room. It will be re-named the “Mara Conference Center” after Dr. Jack Mara, a long-time friend of the college who passed away in 2003.

“I feel fortunate that the people who planned our three buildings had the foresight to envision facilities that are still accommodating our needs, even today,” Dean Ralph Richardson said.

“The buildings are nearly 30 years old, yet still very functional and adaptable to meet the needs of our students, faculty, staff and clients.”

Outdoor renovation includes transforming the cement stepped area known as the “outdoor classroom” into the Centennial Plaza. Preparation for the installation of personalized granite pavers and plaques has begun. The plaza will commemorate the first 100 years of the CVM celebrated in 2005. Granite bricks will also pave the walkway and surrounding area.

A space near the Centennial Plaza will become the “Whispering Garden.” This project, initiated through the college’s Pet Trust Program, will feature stone risers that will be lined with stainless steel panels displaying the photographs of companion animals. A total of 69 panels will complete the Whispering Garden. The area will also be landscaped to create an atmosphere for reflection on animal companions past and present.

The Faces of Exotic Animal Medicine



From bears to gorillas and everything in between, the K-State exotics team is busy at work treating wild animals from area zoos

By Brennan Engle and Sarah Erskine

The dental condition of a North American grizzly bear and the ovaries of a genetically unique gorilla may not seem to have much in common, that is unless you're an exotic animal veterinarian at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH).

The zoological medicine program at K-State provides advanced specialty care to animals at three area zoos. Animals from the Topeka Zoo and Rolling Hills Zoo are treated on a referral basis. The Sunset Zoo in Manhattan has a contract for routine medical and surgical services ensuring each of the 300 animals at the zoo get annual examinations.

Sometimes the exotics service must call on other specialists from the VMTH to assist on specific cases. A

prime example of such a team effort occurred last fall when specialists combined their skills to treat Brownie, a grizzly bear at Sunset Zoo.

A Very Old Bear

Although his precise age isn't known, it is the opinion that Brownie is likely the oldest bear in the world. He's been a permanent fixture at the zoo since the 1960s and before that had a career as a circus bear. "We're not entirely sure of his birth date, but we're convinced that he's in his 50s," said Dr. Jim Carpenter, professor of zoological medicine. "Some bears make it into their late 30s or early 40s, but that's usually about as old as they get, so he's very old."

During a recent routine exam, veterinarians discovered that Brownie was suffering from an infected canine tooth

with nerves exposed from an eroding gum line. Dr. Carpenter said it can be difficult to determine how much pain a wild animal is experiencing.

"Exotic animals, including wildlife, generally conceal signs of pain, because if they were in the wild and showed the signs, it's likely they would be attacked by a predator," he explained. Dr. Carpenter said a combination of signs can reveal how much pain the animal is in. In Brownie's case, zoo caretakers reported changes in his attitude, activity, food consumption, and the manner in which he ate.

Not Leaving Anything to Chance

The risks and benefits of any major medical procedure on an animal of advanced age must be weighed carefully. It was determined that if Brownie

was not treated he would have to live in constant pain. A major concern about an extensive dental procedure was whether the bear could tolerate the anesthesia. Generally when a large exotic animal requires surgery, it is anesthetized and brought to the teaching hospital; however, it was decided that transporting Brownie was too risky.

“We would have to give him fairly heavy doses of tranquilizing drugs to the level that would be adequate for transport from the zoo to the teaching hospital,” said Dr. Diane Mason, associate professor of anesthesiology. “With his advanced age, we just didn’t want to take a chance.”

A Collaborative Effort

The time of year also has to be taken into consideration because extreme weather conditions can add stress to recovery. The surgery was scheduled for a mild day in early November. To extract the canine, the expertise of Dr. Matt Riegel, assistant professor of small animal dentistry, was called on.

Brownie was darted in his enclosure with an anesthetic agent and fitted with an oxygen mask, which also delivered an inhalation anesthetic agent during transport. It took the exotics, dental and anesthesia teams, zoo staff and group of students to move the 600-pound bear on a large net to a truck that transported him to the surgery room at the zoo.

Every attempt was made to anesthetize Brownie as conservatively as possible. Dr. Mason said once he was brought to the operating room where he could be closely monitored, the level of

confidence increased. “Once we got him into the exam room and got him intubated, we knew we had really good control over him. From that point on, it was just a matter of supporting him well,” she said.

Brute Strength

Dr. Riegel spent more than an hour and a half extracting the canine, something he is not accustomed to with the dogs and cats he treats. “I always emphasize to my students proper technique and not so much brute strength. But it took all of my strength to get this tooth out,” Dr. Riegel said. “The periodontal ligament that holds the tooth into the bone is very thick and just has to be broken down.”

Zoo staff reported that Brownie responded well to the inhalation anesthesia and recovered from the surgery quickly. Within an hour of being returned to his cage, he was up and walking - his shortest recovery time ever.

Dr. Carpenter said despite some natural effects of aging such as arthritis, Brownie still remains in good health.



PHOTO BY BRENNAN ENGLE

Dr. Connie Ketz-Riley places the anesthesia mask on Brownie, the oldest bear in captivity. Assisting are zoo curator Ryan Gulker, left, and Drs. Diane Mason and Gretchen Cole.

Preserving Valuable Genes

Another example of a cooperative effort occurred at the Topeka Zoo. A team of seven doctors and veterinarians came together to retrieve the eggs from Tiffany, a 37-year-old Western lowland gorilla. The objective was to transplant her oocytes into a different gorilla to propagate her valuable genes.

Tiffany’s genes are significant because they are not represented in the captive population. She is the daughter of wild-born parents, who was hand-raised without regular contact with other gorillas during her formative years. Therefore, she never learned essential group behavior, and her lack of behavioral skills prevented her from taking a mate.

Because of the link to her parents who lived in the wild, her genes are unique to those in the captive population. True “wild” genes are not introduced into the zoo population for obvious ethical reasons. “Tiffany’s genes are important to help prevent a genetic bottleneck of the genes already over-repre-

K-State Exotic Animal Veterinarians



Dr. Jim Carpenter
Professor of zoological
medicine



Dr. Connie Ketz-Riley
Assistant professor of
zoological medicine



Dr. Gretchen Cole
Intern, zoological
medicine

sented in the captive population,” said Dr. Connie Ketz-Riley, assistant professor of zoological medicine.

A genetic bottleneck occurs when similar genes are continually propagated in numerous offspring, which can cause deformities in subsequent offspring.

Because of her valuable genes, Tiffany was listed as a potential egg donor to participate in a unique conservation research and breeding project initiated by the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb. The goal of this project was to obtain eggs from female gorillas which are not able to reproduce. The eggs are then fertilized transplanted into other female gorillas that have produced and reared offspring.

The K-State exotics team coordinated this complex and groundbreaking project. Due to changes in Tiffany’s menstrual cycle, Dr. Ketz-Riley suspected that she might have uterine or ovarian cancer. It was decided that to minimize the incision sizes, a laparoscopic surgery would be performed to remove the uterus and ovaries.

A Diverse Team

Preparations for the project began more than two years earlier. Tiffany had to be trained to receive hormone injections, which would help the eggs mature before they were removed. She received only two hormone injections instead of the standard regimen of 10 or 11.

To perform the operation, Dr. Ketz-Riley enlisted a team of doctors from both human and veterinary medicine including a human surgeon, an OB/GYN and two anesthesiologists. “This was a well-established team,” Dr. Ketz-Riley said. “We had worked together on two other primate procedures previously.”

During the initial stages of the surgery, doctors discovered that Tiffany did in fact have uterine cancer. She also had adhesions from a previous appendectomy that required a larger incision to remove the ovaries and uterus.

The team was able to retrieve mature viable eggs; however, when fertilization was attempted, Tiffany’s eggs did not



PHOTO BY BRENNAN ENGLE

Dr. Matt Riegel examines Brownie’s infected canine tooth before performing an extraction.

develop into embryos. The doctors cited Tiffany’s advanced age and previous reproductive problems as likely causes. Before this procedure, veterinarians had attempted in-vitro fertilization at different times throughout her life, unsuccessfully.

“Although Tiffany’s eggs did not develop into embryos, it was a success in that she was able to produce more than 20 mature, viable eggs,” Dr. Ketz-Riley said. “This showed us that we are able to do this project, and with younger animals we will have a greater chance of success.”

The Value of Proper Care

The clinicians who treated both Brownie and Tiffany express a common

sentiment about treating wild or exotic animals: they always find the experience exciting. However, with these unique cases comes a certain amount of inherent risk, and the animal must be respected as wild, despite age or how tame it seems. This requires increased attention to detail and carefully following precautionary measures.

The fact that Brownie and Tiffany have lived so long and remain in good health is a testament to both the skills of the specialists who administer comprehensive medical care and to the zoo staff for providing quality care to the animals. In turn, these animals play a vital role in conservation education to veterinary students and zoo visitors alike.

Investing in the Future

By Brennan Engle

A.J. and Sunny Scribante are a couple passionate about supporting causes that are important to them. Some of those interests include animals, K-State and the Republican Party.

The Scribantes are supporting an effort to build a state-of-the-art Equine Medical Center at K-State.

The Scribantes, of Sanibel Island, Fla., recently made a significant financial commitment toward the future Equine Medical Center (EMC) at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The EMC will be a world-renowned center for equine service and research at K-State.

The Scribantes have become strong supporters of the College of Veterinary Medicine and other K-State organizations over the past 10 years.

A.J., a 1956 graduate of the College of Business Administration, grew up in the small town of Osage City, Kan. After graduating from K-State, he embarked on a career in sales, founding a marketing information company that supplies advertising information to the grocery industry. In a recent book entitled, "Shelf Life," A.J. tells the story of how he turned his \$500 dollar investment into a \$65 million company called MAJERS Corporation.

In the mid-1990s, A.J. became re-acquainted with his alma mater when he returned for the 75th anniversary of his fraternity. On the same trip, he was invited to deliver the



Donors to the College of Veterinary Medicine, A.J. and Sunny Scribante, with their Yorkshire Terrier, Annie, at the K-State Alumni Center.

keynote speech at the College of Business Administration's commencement ceremony. "We started to develop a new sense of pride about Kansas State University. Since then it has just grown," A.J. said.

Around that time, the Scribantes made their first visit to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) after their thoroughbred race horse suffered a slab fracture in his knee. "American Duke," was special, and the Scribantes were not ready to part with him. He was sired by the famous "Seattle Slew," the only undefeated Kentucky Derby and Triple Crown winner.

"We had been told we may have to put him down, so we sent him to K-State and they operated on him. Thanks to the doctors there, we didn't have to put him down," Sunny said. Although he would never race again, the Scribantes were elated that American Duke would comfortably live out the rest of his days in Texas.

This began a long relationship with the clinicians at the teaching hospital and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Since then, Sunny travels to K-State any time one of her

A.J. Scribante, right, with Dean Richardson during a visit to the CVM. Accompanying them are Scribante's daughter, Chloe, and her dog, Stewie, a service dog for handicapped children.



PHOTO BY BRENNAN ENGLE

animals requires the care of a specialist. “When a medical situation arises with one of our animals, we *always* come to K-State,” Sunny said. “Not only that, but so do all of our friends now. We feel secure knowing our animals are going to get the best care possible.”

On a recent trip to the teaching hospital, clinicians discovered that Sunny’s 11-year-old Yorkshire Terrier, Annie, had developed gum disease and decided some extractions

were necessary. “Annie had some teeth removed and she’s doing wonderful now and feels great,” Sunny explained.

Sunny developed an affection for animals at an early age on her family’s ranch in Weatherford, Texas. Her father was a strong backer of many Republicans and encouraged Ronald Reagan to run for president.

Sunny has carried on the family tradition. She has had an extensive history of civic involvement, including several

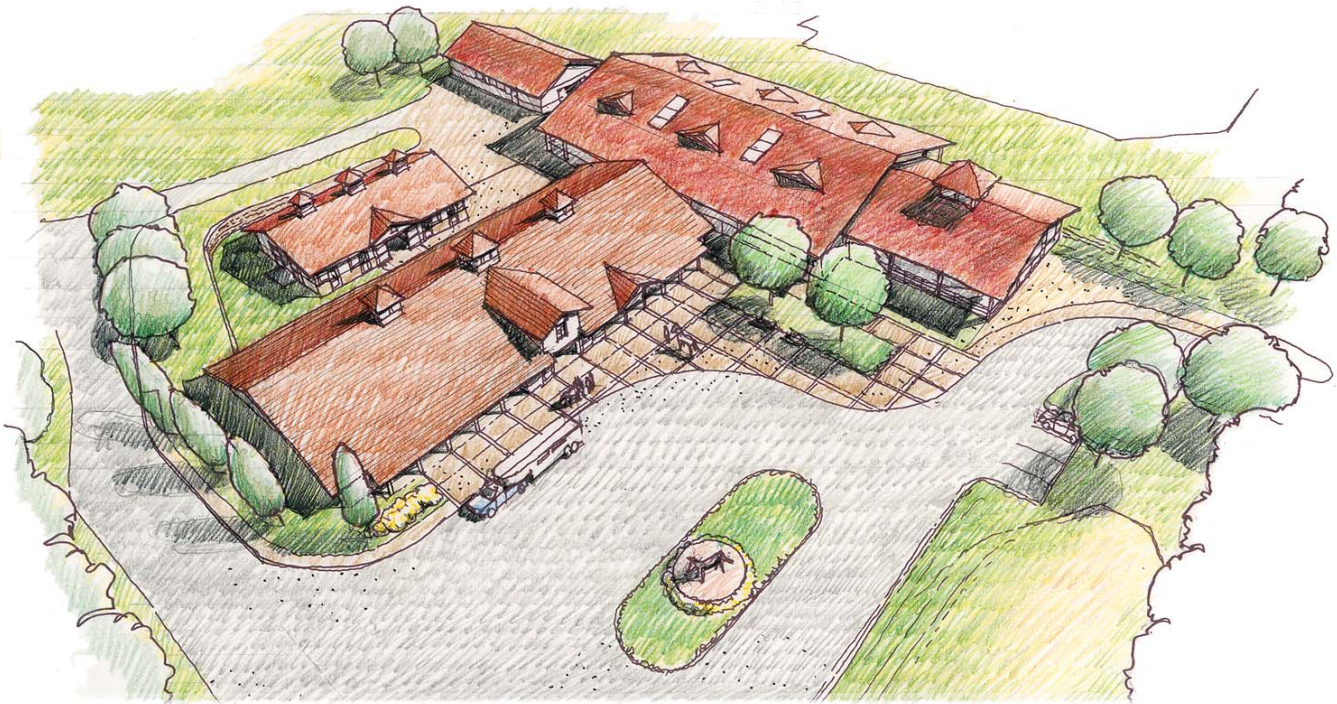
Presidential appointments. She was appointed by President Reagan to serve on the President’s Commission on Medical and Biomedical Ethics, the body that wrote the “living will,” which was adopted by all 50 states. “I feel very honored and privileged to have the opportunity to serve my country. It’s truly wonderful being an American,” Sunny said.

She currently serves on the board of trustees for the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. The board is responsible for directing scholarships in science and mathematics. She is quick to point out the K-State has had more Goldwater Scholarship recipients than any other state university.

PHOTO BY BRENNAN ENGLE



A proud Sunny stays close while Annie gets a thorough examination by Dr. Marjory Artzer, right, and fourth-year veterinary student, Maria Ramirez-Gorton.



The future Equine Medical Center at K-State will be a state-of-the-art facility focused on diagnosing and treating lameness in horses.

It was their love for animals and admiration of the high standards of the college that prompted the Scribantes to make a gift to the EMC. Their gift will play a major role in funding the equine holding barn and consultation room in the second phase of the project. This facility will be used for horses that are brought to the clinic on an outpatient basis.

The \$6 million equine center will include three other buildings including the clinical building, indoor/outdoor riding arena, and research/diagnostic facility. It will be a facility designed to evaluate performance horses with an emphasis on lameness.

“It will have a therapeutic focus as well as a diagnostic focus,” said Dr. Bonnie Rush, equine section head and associate dean of career development.

The 100-by-150-foot riding arena will feature a 60-foot lunging circle where horses can be evaluated in hand and under saddle, something that is not currently possible at the VMTH. “It will be a place where we can tack-up horses or put them on a lung line, even during bad weather,” Dr. Rush explained.

In the diagnostic facility, investigative research and day-to-day analysis will be conducted in the diagnosis of lameness, airway function and lung pathology. It will also house a large treadmill with overhead safety harness and suspension equipment. Adjacent to the treadmill will be a computerized data collection center.

The main clinical building will feature a state-of-the-art digital imaging suite that will offer magnetic resonance imaging, shockwave therapy, ultrasonography, digital radiography and endoscopy services. This building will also house a farrier station, laboratory, waiting and examination rooms, holding stalls and receiving area.

Dr. Rush said the EMC will complement the skills of K-State’s renowned equine clinicians while providing cutting-edge technology and services to horse owners in the Midwest. “We have an experienced faculty who are broadly trained,” she said. “We need all of the tools available to maximize their abilities they have to diagnose and treat horses.”

Dean Ralph Richardson said the Scribantes and other donors

will be pivotal in helping the EMC vision become a reality. “The Scribantes were very generous in making their gift, and we hope it will encourage others to give. The project isn’t going to happen overnight; it will happen brick by brick,” Dean Richardson noted.

Undoubtedly the standards of the clinicians at the VMTH along with and the compassion and professionalism with which they treat animals will prompt others to get involved as well.

“We’re very proud to be a part of the equine project,” Sunny said. “We hope other people will get involved, visit the school and see what extraordinary facilities the veterinary college has. To me, it’s so special to be part of the school because that’s where our hearts are: with animals.”

“We hope other people will get involved, visit the school and see what extraordinary facilities the veterinary college has.”

Umbilical Cord Stem Cells



K-State scientists illuminate the possibilities of a new discovery

By Brennan Engle

When Dr. Deryl Troyer asked his colleague Dr. Mark Weiss if he could borrow a microscope to look at some cells, a unique collaboration was born.

What Dr. Troyer saw under the microscope and showed to Dr. Weiss appeared to be neural brain cells like the one above. "I'll never forget the expression on his face when he looked into that microscope," Dr. Troyer recalled. He had captured Weiss' attention because the cells they observed were derived from a stem cell taken from the umbilical cord of a pig.

Five years later this small, but unique collaborative effort has resulted in the formation of a stem cell institute and positioned K-State at the forefront of stem cell research.

The Discovery

This new type of stem cell research occurring at K-State is based on the pioneering work of Drs. Troyer, Weiss and Kathy Mitchell at the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Duane Davis in the College of Agriculture. Dr. Mitchell has since gone to the University of Kansas.

These scientists discovered an abundant source of primitive stem cells in the cushioning material, or matrix, within the umbilical cord known as Wharton's jelly. These cells can be easily obtained in large numbers and have been shown to possess promising therapeutic effects.

This finding could dramatically change the scientific and social land-

scape regarding stem cell research because few other researchers have been able to find a non-controversial, virtually inexhaustible source of stem cells that can be acquired at low cost.

The initial discovery was made in the laboratory by Drs. Troyer and Davis, who had some experience working with bovine and pig bone marrow stem cells. They noticed Wharton's jelly had some interesting properties. "We had worked with stem cells and knew these looked and acted like stem cells. It turned out they were," Dr. Davis said. "It's one of those discoveries that you don't anticipate, but when it happens it's really amazing."

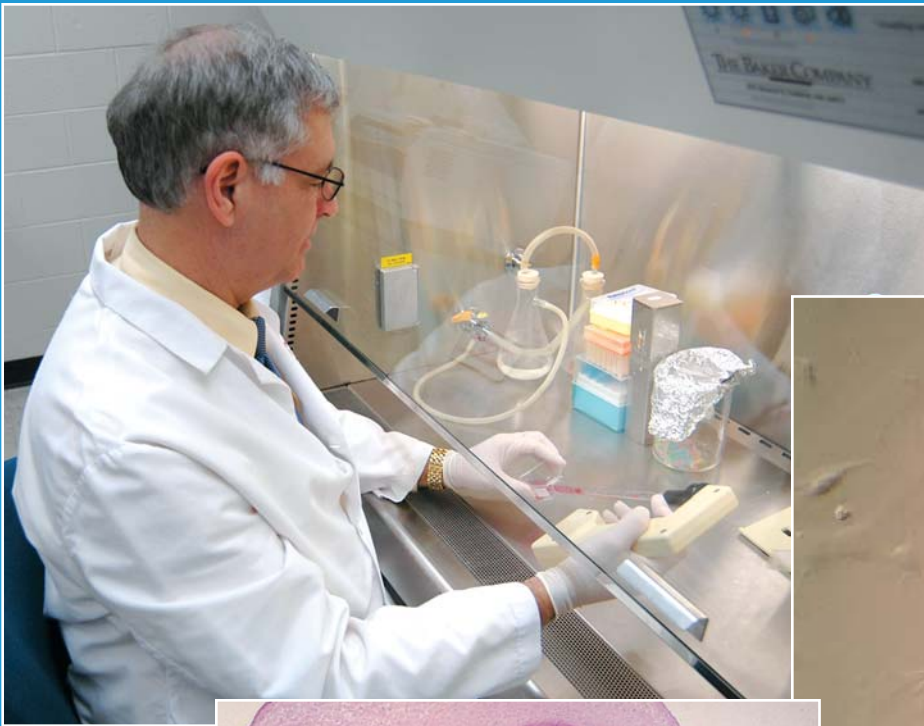
Matrix cells - found in the umbilical cords of both human and animals -

exhibit the characteristics of all stem cells: the ability to become a specific type of cell and to divide and renew themselves.

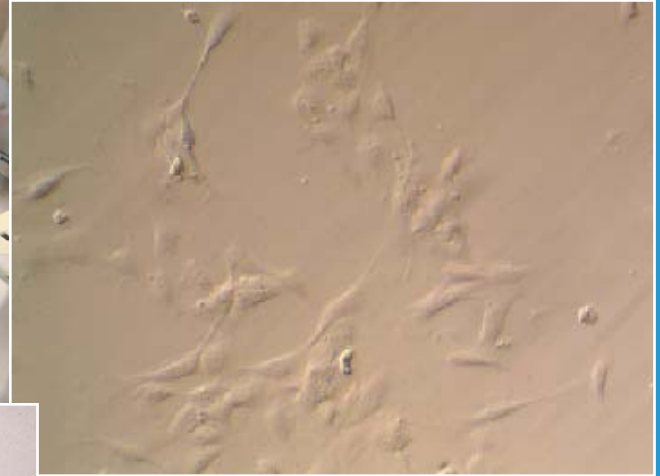
Waste Not

Matrix cells have been proven to differentiate into neural cells and all cells of the three germ layers. "We now realize that the umbilical cord and placenta are important sources of stem cells. No longer are they seen as biological waste material following birth," Dr. Weiss noted.

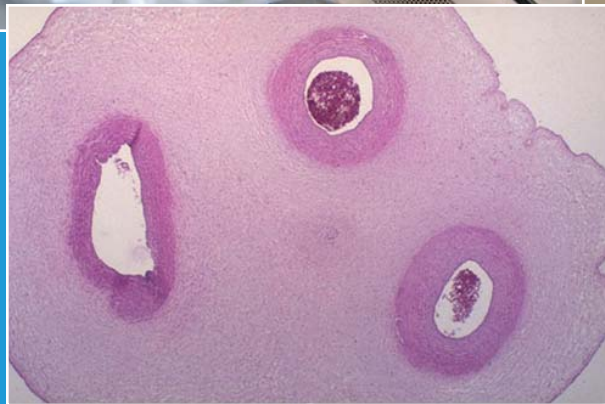
The researchers knew they had uncovered something fascinating but needed to determine exactly what kind of stem cells they were dealing with. Dr. Weiss took a year sabbatical to study



Dr. Deryl Troyer adds new growth media to a flask of umbilical cord matrix stem cells. The cells have been shown to differentiate into neural, bone, fat and cartilage cells.



Matrix stem cells after isolation from the umbilical cord. This virtually inexhaustible supply of stem cells are present in humans and animals.



A cross section of an umbilical cord shows the Wharton's jelly, or matrix, between the blood vessels where the stem cells are found.

Below: In his hands, Dr. Mark Weiss holds the future of stem cell research. Dr. Weiss and the stem cell team have successfully treated rats with Alzheimer's disease.

matrix and other stem cells at the National Institutes of Health.

The team found that matrix stem cells are very similar to mesenchymal stem cells, generally found in bone marrow. Although matrix cells are adult stem cells - as opposed to those derived from embryos - they are primitive. Dr. Weiss said this is beneficial because it means the younger cells are more stable, can be divided more times and are easier to extract.

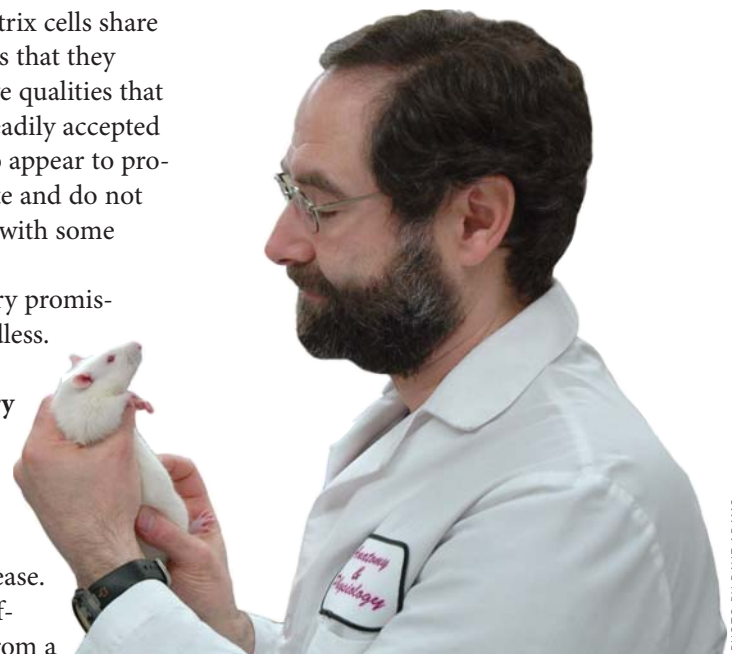
"Traditionally, in order to collect stem cells from the body, you have to drill into the back of the hip bone. It's invasive, painful, and you don't get a large number of cells. With these stem cells we have been able to avoid those problems," Dr. Weiss said.

Another similarity matrix cells share with mesenchymal cells is that they have immuno-suppressive qualities that allow them to be more readily accepted by host tissues. They also appear to proliferate at a controlled rate and do not form cancers, a problem with some embryonic stem cells.

Everything seemed very promising...the possibilities endless.

Saving Existing Circuitry

Drs. Weiss and Troyer made their first major breakthrough in 2004 during an experiment on rats with Parkinson's disease. In laboratory trials, undifferentiated matrix cells from a



human umbilical cord were transplanted into the brains of rats with Parkinson's disease. Over the course of a few weeks, between half and three-fourths of the rats showed a reduction in Parkinson's symptoms, and one rat experienced a 90 percent reduction in symptoms. Analysis showed that the matrix cells were doing something to save the rats' dying neural brain cells.

"Our cells are not making new neurons and forming new connections; they are doing something to rescue existing neurons," Dr. Troyer explained. "We're enamored with this idea because it's much easier to restore function to cells before they die because the circuitry is already in place."

The researchers hope this will provide the first step in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, spinal cord injury and stroke.

Matrix Cells and Cancer

They are also conducting experiments to find out if the cells could have an effect against cancer.

Dr. Troyer is trying to see if matrix cells could be the "magic bullet" for cancerous tumors by engineering them with a gene that makes anti-cancer proteins. "The idea is that the cells could act as mini-pumps to home specifically to the tumor and deliver a therapeutic payload that otherwise would be toxic to normal cells," Dr. Troyer said.

Although that research is still preliminary, the cells have been sent into lung tumors in mice without spreading into healthy tissue.

Dr. Weiss is pursuing a slightly different avenue with cancer and stem cells. He believes the cells may have some natural benefits in treating leukemia when bone marrow transplants are needed.

This idea is based on the fact that the closely related mesenchymal stem cells are known to interact well with blood-forming stem cells. Dr. Weiss hopes matrix stem cells and blood-forming stem cells can be co-transplanted to repopulate healthy bone marrow cells in Leukemia patients.



PHOTO BY DAVE ADAMS

Using a microcentrifuge, Dr. Duane Davis separates matrix stem cells from culture medium.

There are other areas where the researchers are confident matrix cells could be useful, such as tissue and bone healing. "The cells seem to facilitate the body's own reparative mechanisms," Dr. Troyer said. "And since we can collect them in large numbers, they should be perfect for that."

The vast quantity of matrix cells could also lend to their potential use as "feeder layers" on which blood-forming stem cells and bone marrow cells could be grown, expanded and banked. "That's something that begs to be explored because it could be an immediate application that would have major implications," Dr. Troyer said.

Dr. Davis is working with the cells on the animal sciences area, hoping they can be used to prevent disease in livestock, create more effective vaccines and increase efficiency of food production. He's also trying to track down and learn more about the precise origins of the matrix cells in food animals. Dr. Davis maintains that in modern science, understanding cell-based processes will be just as important as genetic engineering.

"Recent progress in understanding gene functions has been tremendous, but the cell is almost becoming more prominent because to get genes to function, they have to be in cells. The cell

has to respond to signals in the right way," Dr. Davis said.

Creation of a Stem Cell Institute

Collaboration among researchers and institutions will be an important part of the success of the research advancing to the point of clinical trials, which will hopefully lead to treating human and animal disease.

The magnitude of the stem cell discoveries caught the attention of university administrators. Last fall the office of the research vice provost together with Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture at K-State joined forces to establish the Midwest Institute for Comparative Stem Cell Biology. The institute will help further stem cell research and discovery through education and commercialization. It consists of 25 scientific collaborators from K-State, the University of Kansas and the KU Medical Center.

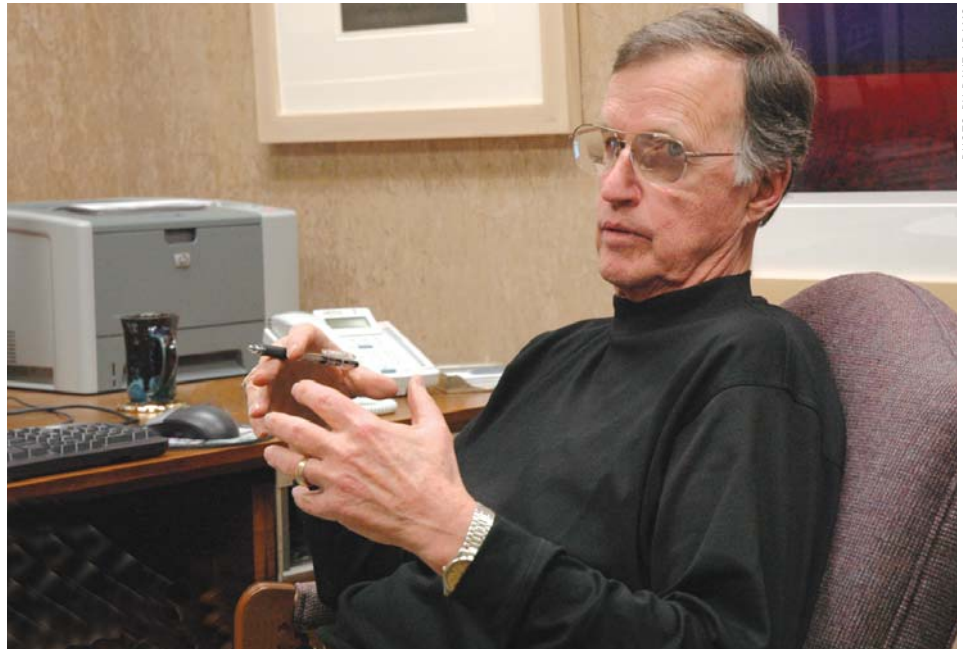
"Having the entrepreneurial, research and educational efforts under one umbrella will provide for a more coherent framework in which to further stem cell research," said Dr. Jim Coffman, former K-State provost and interim director of the institute.

Finding Resources

One major hurdle facing the institute will be to find strong sources of funding to take research to the next level. "The institute needs to get enough seed money together for more initial research that will put us in a better position to get more substantial federal money from places like the National Institutes of Health," Dr. Coffman said.

The research so far has been conducted on a very limited budget through a smattering of small grants and departmental funds. Although this is a testament to the ease with which the cells can be worked, the team is beginning to feel the frustration of limited resources. "You can have the fastest car in the world, but if you can't fill the tank with gas, you're not going anywhere," Dr. Weiss noted.

Kansas Senator Sam Brownback



Dr. Jim Coffman, interim director of the Midwest Institute for Comparative Stem Cell Biology, discusses strategies to further stem cell research through collaboration and partnerships.

introduced a \$2.5 million appropriation in the 2006 federal Budget for stem cell research at K-State, but it became victim of the heated debate over the size of the proposed budget. Senator Brownback is expected to re-introduce the appropriation next year.

In the meantime, traditional grants will be applied for and the researchers are hoping to find private donors willing to step forward to help the science. They recently had their first small private donation. "We are very grateful for this gift. It will contribute to needed

laboratory supplies," Dr. Troyer said.

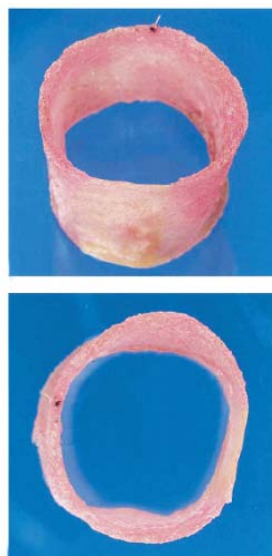
The private sector is also taking notice of the matrix cells and is becoming eager to license the use of the cells for various applications. Two use-specific licenses have been issued to commercial entities to date, one in human medicine and one in equine medicine.

Scientists in a laboratory in Switzerland are using the matrix cells in a tissue engineering study. The matrix cells have been grown on artificial scaffolding to create a new heart valve.

Changing the World One Cell at a Time

The researchers believe that even though stem cell research is in its infancy, the future of finding cures for cancer, neuro-degenerative diseases, and heart disease will lie with stem cells. Dr. Weiss likens current stem cell research to the discovery of antibiotics in the early 1900s.

"Antibiotics began as a lab idea that bacteria could be killed on a plate with mold. I think we could be at that same place with stem cells," Dr. Weiss said. "We're learning how to use these cells and take that next step to save lives. I think in 20 years we'll look back and wonder what life was like before stem cell therapies."



These two views show how stem cells have been grown around an artificial scaffolding to create a new blood vessel.

A Pioneer in Veterinary Medicine

PHOTO BY BRENNAN ENGLE



Left: Dr. Ordella Geisler at her home in Lincoln, Neb. Inset: Dr. Geisler in anatomy and physiology class at K-State in the 1940s.

PHOTO COURTESY ORDELLA GEISLER

By Brennan Engle

Dr. Ordella Geisler was one of the first female graduates in veterinary medicine from K-State and in 1947 became the first woman licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Nebraska. She has set an example of dignity and professionalism for generations of veterinarians.

“Giz,” as she is referred to by friends and family, broke tradition by pursuing a career in veterinary medicine at a time when there were virtually no women practicing in the profession. Although it wasn’t always easy, the road Dr. Geisler chose led her to a successful and rewarding 40-year career.

She grew up the second oldest of five children in the small town of Hebron, Neb., where her father was the sheriff. Times were lean, but Dr. Geisler’s work ethic and an intense desire to learn served her well. Although she had no career in mind, she began taking college classes at Hebron Junior College during the 1930s and transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1940. Dr. Geisler could not afford to go to college full time, so she worked part-time as a bookkeeper for Dr. Grant Ackerman’s veterinary clinic in Lincoln.

This event would shape the rest of her life. “That was serendipitous because I had no interest in veterinary medicine,” she recalled. “I just needed a job, any job. That was still partially during the depression and the drought.”

Over time, her duties in the clinic expanded from bookkeeping to administering anesthetic to the animals and preparing them for surgery.



PHOTO COURTESY ORDELLA GEISLER

Dr. Geisler with retired thoroughbred cavalry horse “Romany” in Lincoln, Neb., circa 1940.

Dr. Ackerman encouraged Dr. Geisler to pursue higher education and was willing to schedule her hours around her classes. “His primary concern was that I get an education. That was very important to him,” she said.

In 1943, at the age of 27, she applied to the two veterinary schools closest to Nebraska, Iowa State University and K-State. She soon realized the challenge she was up against. “Iowa State wouldn’t even look at my transcript. They just didn’t take women at all,” Dr. Geisler said.

The veterinary program at K-State had accepted women since 1928. Dr. Geisler began veterinary school there in May, 1944. There were 41 men and three women in her class.

She got along well with her classmates and professors; however, there was one well-known instructor, Dr. Edwin Frick, who believed she was wasting the resources of the publicly-funded university. “He said to me, ‘Ordella, you’ll never repay the taxpayers,’” Dr. Geisler recalled. Fortunately, those comments did not deter her from achieving her goals and may have even been inspirational.

The curriculum was accelerated dur-

ing the years of World War II so students took three semesters of classes each year. Dr. Geisler remembers taking 27 hours of laboratory class one semester in the summer months with no air conditioning. It seems she encountered many extremes while in veterinary school. One winter Burt Hall caught fire and destroyed the area where classes congregated each day. "It was February and we ended up sitting outside in the middle of winter getting our orders so we could treat the animals," she said.

In February 1947, Dr. Geisler received her DVM and returned to Lincoln to join Dr. Ackerman as an associate.

She treated mainly small animals while the men handled large animals. She has many memories of unique cases that she handled over the years. One involved a farmer whose cow was down one night with a mineral deficiency, or "milk fever." When Dr. Geisler arrived to treat the animal, the farmer told her she was "a hell of an excuse for a veterinarian" because she was female. But she held her ground. "I said to him, 'It's Saturday night, and I don't know where you can do any better,'" Dr. Geisler recalled. She treated the cow and it made a full recovery.

She refers to the techniques of her early practicing years as "old fashioned medicine." That was before the advent of modern anesthetics, vaccines and



Dr. Geisler at her hospital, 1972.

PHOTO COURTESY ORDELLA GEISLER

antibiotics. "It was a godsend when antibiotics came on the market, you just can't imagine what we did without them."

Over the years she learned to treat a variety of exotic animals for three zoos in the Lincoln area. Whether it was performing a cesarean section on a chin-chilla, alleviating ulcers in a snake's mouth, or treating a kangaroo with frostbitten ears, she always found this work challenging and exciting.

In 1972, Dr. Geisler purchased the hospital from the Ackermans and renamed it the "Geisler Animal Hospi-

tal." Each day brought different animals and unique cases. "I enjoyed it very much. It was hard work but very satisfying. There were never any dull days."

In 1978, at the age of 62, Dr. Geisler married Wendell Hoffman, an award-winning CBS news cameraman. Five years later, Dr. Geisler retired and sold her practice after 40 years in the veterinary field. They were mar-

ried for 20 years before Hoffman passed away in 1998.

Today Dr. Geisler looks back on her veterinary career with a deep sense of pride and an unassuming humility. "I was just doing my thing. It didn't realize I was being different. It was just work and I loved it."

In March, Dr. Geisler celebrated her 90th birthday. She lives in an apartment in Lincoln where she enjoys cooking, sewing, reading and collecting art. She still attends class reunions at K-State to reminisce with friends. It was at one such reunion several years ago that she ran into her former instructor, Dr. Frick, when he was in his nineties. He acknowledged the error in his prediction made years earlier. He told Dr. Geisler she had in fact repaid the taxpayers.

Just as others had encouraged Dr. Geisler to pursue her dreams, she has been a mentor to younger people. Dr. Rebecca Arnold, CVM '90, a veterinarian and owner of the "All-feline Hospital" in Lincoln, cleaned kennels and prepared equipment for Dr. Geisler in the early 1980s. Dr. Arnold remembers Dr. Geisler's work ethic and high standards, which inspired her to go to veterinary school.

"She was a role model for me because she was the first woman veterinarian in Nebraska, and one of the very few women veterinarians who owned her own practice, which is what I wanted to do. And she did it well," Dr. Arnold said.

During her lifetime, Dr. Geisler has seen significant changes in attitudes toward women in her profession, especially as veterinary care progressed in the area of companion animals. Today, two-thirds of veterinary students at K-State are female, which further punctuates the contributions made by the first women to enter the field. She says she has no regrets about her life or the career she chose.

"I certainly have had a good life. It really has been wonderful," she said. "I am fortunate that I have been happy and healthy, and I'm still living a good life."

PHOTO BY PATRICE SCOTT



Dr. Rebecca Arnold (left) visits with her mentor and friend, Dr. Ordella Geisler, at a reception at the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association's conference in January. Dr. Geisler was honored at the reception by the CVM for her outstanding career.

Dr. Lisa Freeman Named Dean of Research

Dr. Lisa C. Freeman has been appointed associate dean for research and graduate programs at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

A faculty member in the Department of Anatomy and Physiology since 1994, Dr. Freeman was named to the position on Sept. 15.

Dr. Freeman earned her DVM and master's degree in reproductive physiology from Cornell University in 1986 and a doctorate in pharmacology from The Ohio State University in 1989.

She has served as a research mentor and role model for post-doctoral students, clinical residents and young faculty members. In 2002, she was named Outstanding Woman Veterinarian of the Year by the Association of Women Veterinarians.

In 2001, she became director of Mentored Training, which included administering the Research Scholars Program at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Her efforts were instrumental in obtaining funding for the

program through the National Institutes of Health and Merck-Merial Foundation.

Dr. Freeman believes researchers from K-State can play an even larger role in the research of diseases that affect humans and animals. "The veterinary college will be a major contributor to the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute initiatives in companion animal health and food animal production," Dr. Freeman said.

She said collaborating with other research and health institutions will be a crucial step for the College of Veterinary Medicine to meet the needs of a changing society.

"This is a time when K-State can also become a major player on the national scene in research. The ability to create connections and collaborations in a horizontal fashion will be vital in conducting research during the next couple of decades," Dr. Freeman said.

She plans to improve the recruitment, training and retention of students pursuing research careers in biomedical sciences.



PHOTO BY DAVE ADAMS

CVM Student Wins College Challenge

A K-State veterinary student won the annual Nestlé Purina College Challenge in January at the North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC) in Orlando, Fla.

The champion, Shelly Adrian, Class of 2007, won \$3,000 in prize money and a \$3,000 matching donation to K-State's Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA).

She competed against 25 student delegates from each of the veterinary colleges, chosen by their deans to attend the conference. The Challenge format was similar to a quiz bowl with competitors amassing points through four rounds of questions until two contestants faced off in the fifth round.

Questions ranged from topics on small and large animals



to anatomy and critical care, and incorporated material covered in all four years of veterinary school.

Adrian, who competed last year, attributes her win to the knowledge she has gained during the past year. "Between your second and third year you learn so much, and it all becomes relevant," she said. "Some of the questions were easy, but the majority of them were really tough."

Adrian said she enjoyed the competitive spirit among the dele-

gates who became good friends. "All the representatives knew each other from last year, and we just had fun cheering each other on," Adrian said. "But the money was nice too."

Along with the competition, the student delegates work a booth at the NAVC and promote the NAVC at their respective schools through out the school year.

68th Annual Conference for Veterinarians

The 68th Annual Conference for Veterinarians will begin a new century of excellence for our college. Join us for a flurry of activities including continuing education sessions, alumni reunions, veterinary medical trade show, scholarship golf tournament, wellness screening, vaccination clinic, contests, auction, dinners, as well as camaraderie with colleagues.

Last year we focused on the college's centennial celebration. June 2006 finds us preparing to unveil the Centennial Plaza and Whispering Garden. We are also planning for the celebration of 100 years of graduating veterinary medical classes in 2007.

Calendar of Events

June 3rd begins with K-State class reunions for the classes of graduating years ending in 1 and 6. The alumni affairs office is busy working with class representatives in organizing these reunions as well as tours of the campus and college.

June 4th kicks off with:

- Alumni/conference brunch
- K-State welcome from Dean Ralph Richardson
- Keynote presentation from Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald from Animal Planet's "Emergency Vets."
- Other activities include continuing education sessions, evening dinner and entertainment
- Recognition of the new Centennial Plaza and Whispering Garden

June 5th

- Concurrent small animal, exotics, equine and food animal sessions
- Wet labs will be offered too
- Vendor trade show
- Twelfth annual scholarship golf tournament
- Wellness screening and vaccination clinic
- Auxiliary events
- Heritage Evening dinner
- Veterinary Medical Alumni Association awards

June 6th

- Conference continues with educational sessions and labs
- Vendor trade show will conclude in the afternoon
- A luncheon recognizing referring veterinarians
- Sandwiches and ice cream social
- Practitioner Practice Tips

June 7th

- Buffet breakfast followed by educational sessions.
- Sharpen your skills on historical veterinary instruments for the "Name That Instrument" contest. There will be a first place prize!
- Conference officially adjourns at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, contact:

(conference) Linda Johnson, johnson@vet.k-state.edu, 785-532-5696
(alumni reunions) Cheri Ubel, ubel@vet.k-state.edu, 785-532-5643
(golf tournament) Chris Gruber, cgruber@vet.k-state.edu, 785-532-4465



RESEARCH TIPS & ASSISTANCE

by Carol Elmore

Animal behavior is a topic that interests veterinarians as well as animal and non-animal owners.

With the rise of pets as substitutes for children, many people are dealing with animal behaviors in their homes and apartments that are not always in the best interest of either the animals or their owners.

The Veterinary Medical Library at K-State has materials that can aid in searching for answers to why animals act the way they do. A new book by Temple Grandin entitled, "Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior" provides revealing insights into the animal mind.

We currently have 396 entries in our library catalog under the subject heading, "Animal Behavior." These entries range from highly scientific works to popular titles that can be read by children as well as adults.

If zoo animal behavior is of interest, a title such as "Beastly Behaviors: A Zoo Lover's Companion" by Janine Benyus might provide entertaining reading.

Many of our materials are in non-print formats such as videos, CDs, or DVDs. Periodical or journal indexes such as the National Library of Medicine's free PubMed database at www.pubmed.gov can be searched from your home computer.

Animal-human information can also be found at www.medlineplus.gov, which is a free consumer health index from the National Library of Medicine. If visiting our library is not a possibility, public libraries can often provide similar titles through their collections or through their interlibrary loan services.

http://www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/library/research_services.htm

VETERINARY MEDICAL LIBRARY
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
408 TROTTER HALL

Alumni Class News

1952

Dr. Dan Upson received the Lifetime Service Award from the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association at the annual KVMA conference on Jan. 22, 2006.

1961

Dr. Cap Dierks received the Nebraska Rural Radio Association Service to Agriculture Award. Dr. Dierks spoke on politics in Nebraska agriculture at the NRRAs annual meeting, Nov. 14, 2005.

1971

Dr. William Brown, Wamego, Kan., was awarded the Howard Dunne Memorial Award by the American Association of Swine Veterinarians. The award, presented at the association's annual meeting in Toronto, Canada, recognizes an AASV member who has made important contributions and provided outstanding service to the association and the swine industry.

1987

Dr. Eric Weigand was installed as president of the California Veterinary Medical Association on June 25, 2005 at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel in Anaheim, California. The installation took place during the CVMA's 2005 Annual Conference.

1986

Dr. Curt Mann was named USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety.

1994

Dr. Todd Burnett: "Although my practice and several in the Pensacola area have survived the recent hurricanes please remember those non-KSU alumni that practice along the Gulf Coast and their patients. Our animal shelters and rescue groups are overloaded with pet family members and need more support than ever."

1997

Dr. Chad Johannes accepted a position as assistant professor of small animal internal medicine at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

2000

Dr. Jeff White recently moved back to Kansas City. He has a 1-year-old daughter named Kate.

2001

Dr. Matt Steven Wright and his wife, Laura, welcome their new baby daughter, Madison Leigh on Jan. 12, 2006.

2003

Dr. Philip Martin has completed two years of Anatomic Pathology Residency training at the University of California, Davis and will continue his residency and Ph.D. training at the National Institutes of Health Molecular Pathology Post-Doctoral Training Program at the National Cancer Institute.



Save-the-Date for the

Sam Kelsall Memorial Hunt

Mark your calendar to attend the fourth annual Sam Kelsall Memorial Hunt, Oct. 29-30, at Ringneck Ranch in Tipton, Kansas. If interested in attending, contact Chris Gruber at the College of Veterinary Medicine at 785-532-4465 or e-mail cgruber@vet.ksu.edu.

Dr. David Franz CVM's 2006 Alumni Fellow

Dr. David Franz, CVM '69, '70, was the College of Veterinary Medicine's 2006 Alumni Fellow. On Feb. 27, Dr. Franz addressed the college in a lecture entitled, "Veterinary Medicine: A World of Opportunities."

Dr. Franz is director of the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University.

As Chief Biological Scientist of Midwest Research Institute, he develops business activities in the areas of biodefense, non-proliferation, cooperative threat reduction and biosafety.

Dr. Franz served in the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command for 23 years. He also commanded the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID). In the 1990s, he was chief inspector for United Nations biological warfare inspection missions to Iraq and served as technical advisor on long-term monitoring. Dr. Franz was also a member of the first two teams that visited Russia in



Dr. David R. Franz

Dr. Franz holds an adjunct appointment as professor for the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology at the CVM and serves on the Dean's Advisory Council.

support of the Trilateral Experts' Committee for biological weapons negotiations. During these missions Dr. Franz visited cities in Russia where team members learned of the existence of undisclosed biological warfare facilities.

Dr. Franz said collaboration with other countries will be crucial in preventing disease outbreaks in the future. "The rest of the world is learning that we've got to work together across the species," he said.

Dr. Franz said he has found that science can be a "common language" in bringing people from different nations together to engage in peaceful negotiating.

He advised CVM students to volunteer for things they wouldn't normally because it will open up new opportunities to them. "I think that is something that has done more for me than anything," he said.

In Memoriam

Henry J. W. Osterholtz, DVM 1934, Greenwood, Mo., died June 16, 2005

Irvin P. Irwin, DVM 1937, Rockport, Texas, died Oct. 8, 2005

Glen S. Remsberg, DVM 1939, Arkansas City, Kan., died March 2, 2005

Richard W. Swart, DVM 1941, Rock Round, Texas, died April 5, 2005

Stephen J. Roberts, MS 1942, Bath, N.Y., died Jan. 21, 2005

Max S. Sheehy, DVM 1943, Tyler, Texas, died May 26, 2005

Clyde E. Brown, DVM 1944, Danville, Calif., died May 28, 2005

John P. Woodbridge, DVM 1946, Pierson, Iowa., died Oct. 31, 2005

Alvah R. McLaughlin Jr., DVM 1947, Madison, Wis., died Dec. 3, 2005

Joseph T. McGinity, DVM 1949, Columbia, Mo., died April 10, 2005

Lester J. Barger, DVM 1950, Merced, Calif., died June 26, 2005

Busch Meredith, DVM 1951, Olathe, Kan., died Oct. 27, 2005

James J. Lewis, DVM 1952, Saint Paul, Neb., died May 24, 2005

Joseph F. Lyons, DVM 1953, Concord, Calif., died Feb. 5, 2005

Joanne F. Pfeffer, DVM 1953, Jacksonville, Ill., died June 29, 2005

Winston K. Goering, DVM 1954, Nampa, Idaho, died Oct. 8, 2005

Melvin U. Pettit, DVM 1955, Wymore, Neb., died April 17, 2005

Eugene Rizek, DVM 1955, Hebron, Neb., died Dec. 10, 2005

Raymond L. Ganoung, DVM 1958, Hoisington, Kan., died July 16, 2005

Farrel R. Robinson, DVM 1958, West Lafayette, Ind., died Aug. 6, 2005

Ronald N. Dale, DVM 1959, Ithaca, N.Y., died April 25, 2005

Gordon L. Rasberry, DVM 1959, Kenesaw, Neb., died May 1, 2005

Roy M. Craig, DVM 1959, Lebanon, Ore., died Jan. 20, 2006

Robert F. Torrence, DVM 1961, Topeka, Kan., died Sept. 16, 2005

Richard J. Connell, DVM 1961, Harper, Kan., died Nov. 18, 2005

Raymond D. Askey, DVM 1965, Tucson, Ariz., died Jan. 1, 2006

Edward P. Miller, DVM 1966, Oskaloosa, Kan., died Nov. 21, 2005

Mark Williams, DVM 1969, Omaha, Neb., died Feb. 15, 2006

Supriya Ganguli, Ph. D. 1976, Springfield, Ill., died Aug. 16, 2005

Deborah Barber-Axthelm, DVM 1979, Hillsboro, Ore., died Aug. 28, 2005

College of Veterinary Medicine's

Dr. Alfred Poindexter ('45) a Kansas City, Mo., native, attended the Kansas State Teachers College at Pittsburg, Kan., and received his DVM from K-State in 1945.

Before his retirement in 2004, Dr. Poindexter was the oldest practicing African American veterinarian in the United States.

In 1947, he became a professor and university veterinarian at Prairie View A&M University in the College of Agri-

culture and Human Sciences. Dr.

Poindexter held this position for 59 years until his retirement.

During his time at Prairie View A&M, Dr. Poindexter taught classes on anatomy and physiology, diseases and sanitation, animal health, animal breeding and reproductive physiology.



In 1947, Dr. Poindexter became one of the first two African American members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association. In 1992, he was selected by the Texas commissioner of agriculture as one of the four most outstanding black agriculturalists in the state.

In 1996 he received the George Washington Carver Award for Public Service from Tuskegee University. Also that year, he was inducted into the Texas Heritage Hall of Honor.

Dr. Dale Sorensen ('46) has had a long and distinguished career as a professor and specialist in large animal infectious disease.

He earned his DVM from K-State in 1946 while serving as a private first class in the United States Army.

From 1946 to 1947, he was a veterinary consultant for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Dr. Sorensen has been principal

investigator, or co-principal investigator, in research projects involving bovine and murine leukemia, hog cholera, and various bovine diseases.

Dr. Sorensen also conducted investigations on large animal disease problems in the state of Minnesota.

In 1959 he began a 34-year teaching



career in veterinary medicine at the University of Minnesota. He held several department head positions and eventually attained the rank of associate dean for academic affairs and research, a post he held from 1980 to 1987.

In the 1960s, Dr. Sorensen was a member of veterinary medical teams that evaluated the state of veterinary medical education and service in the Philippines, Denmark, Malaysia and Taiwan.

Dr. Marvin Samuelson ('56) earned his DVM from K-State in 1956 and entered the United States Army Veterinary Corps as a food safety officer. Stationed at Ft. MacArthur, Calif., his unit helped maintain the safety of the food supply of the armed forces.

Following his military career, Dr. Samuelson owned a small animal practice in San Pedro, CA., from 1958-1973.

A chance encounter with Dr. Jake Mosier, a long-time professor at the

CVM, led him back to K-State for a 15-year teaching career. Dr. Samuelson served as head of the small animal section at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and taught classes on dermatology.

In 1987 he took a position at Texas A&M University as director of the teaching hospital and assistant dean for public



programs. Five years later, Dr. Samuelson returned to Kansas where he opened a referral-only clinic in Topeka called Animal Dermatology and Allergy Associates.

In recent years Dr. Samuelson has been a consultant for the Veterinary Allergy Reference Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., as its Midwest affiliate.

In 1998, he took his part-time consulting business on the road as he traveled the country for seven years.

Dr. Sam Graham ('59) joined the United States Army Veterinary Corps, after receiving his DVM in 1959. He served as the officer in charge of the animal colony's division of laboratory and surgery at the Army Chemical Center in Maryland.

In 1961, Dr. Graham returned to Kansas where he operated a large animal veterinary practice in Kingman for 27 years.

Since 1988, Dr. Graham has been

employed by the Kansas Department of Animal Health. As a state field veterinarian, he is responsible for investigating reports of livestock disease and works with county officials to quarantine and eliminate the disease.

He received foreign-animal disease training at Plum Island, New York,



where he studied major livestock diseases.

During Dr. Graham's tenure with the Kansas Department of Animal Health, the three primary animal diseases – brucellosis, tuberculosis and pseudorabies – were eradicated from the state.

Dr. Graham is also the editor of a quarterly newsletter informing state livestock producers of regulations relating to the industry on state, national and international levels.

'05-06 Alumni Recognition Awards

Dr. Jay Merriam ('69) graduated from K-State with a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1967 and his DVM in 1969.

He was an instructor of equine surgery at K-State, the University of Missouri and Auburn University. In 1974, he began providing his surgical services to horse racetracks in Rhode Island. At the time, his practice was the only equine surgical facility in southern New England.

Fifteen years ago, Dr. Merriam became involved in international relief work, a passion that he pursues today. While serving as president of the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association, Merriam felt outreach was needed to other parts of the world. To meet this need, he created an outreach program called



“Project Samana.” Through this program, Dr. Merriam and others have taken veterinarians and students to a small jungle community in the Dominican Republic to provide medical and surgical services to thousands of large and small animals.

Dr. Merriam's current practice, the Massachusetts Equine Clinic, treats show horses, event horses, jumpers and sport horses. Many of his clients have participated in the Olympics.

Dr. Alexander Hogg ('50), a native of Borgue, Scotland, immigrated to the United States in 1926. After high school he joined the United States Navy and served in World War II. With the help of the G.I. Bill, Dr. Hogg attended Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, graduating with his DVM in 1950.

Dr. Hogg was a Nebraska Swine Extension veterinarian and a professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

During his time there he was internationally recognized as an expert in swine diseases and presented at many conferences in Europe. Dr. Hogg initiated exchange programs with several European universities and other institutions.



He also developed state-wide Extension programs like “Problem Pig Clin-

ics” and “Farrowing Schools for Women” that were important in delivering science-based information that helped producers resolve health and production issues on thousands of farms.

Dr. Hogg retired from teaching in 1990 and became a technical services consultant for MVP Laboratories in Ralston, Neb.,

He was also instrumental in eradicating hog cholera from the United States.

Dr. Ordella Geisler ('47) or “Giz” as she is referred to by friends and family, has enjoyed a long, unique, and rewarding career as a veterinarian.

Dr. Geisler entered the veterinary profession at a time when there were virtually no practicing female veterinarians.

She graduated with her DVM in 1947 and returned to her home town, Lincoln, Neb., where she became the first woman licensed to practice veteri-

nary medicine in Nebraska.

She worked as an associate in Dr. Grant Ackerman's animal hospital until purchasing the practice in 1972 and renaming it the Geisler Animal Hospital. She treated mainly small animals and a variety of exotic animals for the three zoos in the Lincoln area.



During her career, Dr. Geisler has seen significant changes in attitudes toward women in her profession, especially when veterinary care progressed in the area of companion animals.

Dr. Geisler also served as secretary/treasurer of the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association from 1950 to 1952 and from 1959 to 1960.

In 1983 she sold her practice and retired after an extraordinary 40-year career in veterinary medicine.

Dr. Bruce Keene ('65) has had a career in small animal veterinary medicine spanning 40 years.

Dr. Keene graduated with a bachelor's degree in animal nutrition from the University of Arkansas in 1961 and received his DVM from K-State in 1965.

After graduating from K-State, he moved to Miami, Fla., to work at the Yarbrough Animal Hospital, one of three clinics in the city. In 1968, along with a colleague, Dr. Keene opened the

Howell Branch and Lake Howell Animal Hospitals. He still practices at Lake Howell Animal Hospital today.

More than thirty years ago, Dr. Keene, along with 15 veterinarians, started the Veterinary Emergency Clinic of Central Florida. This was the first clinic of its kind in the area and is now one of the



largest in the country.

Dr. Keene is a Pet Fair judge for an annual fundraiser benefiting the Orlando Science Center. During this event he brings in veterinarians from around the state to give health examinations to companion animals. Dr. Keene uses the event to promote community education in veterinary medicine.

In 1980, he served as co-chair for the Florida Veterinary Medical Association Convention's 50th anniversary.

Frey Family Honored at KVMA Reception

The Frey family was presented a 2006 Alumni Recognition Award by the College of Veterinary Medicine and its Veterinary Medical Alumni Association at the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association's gala brunch on Jan. 22, 2006, in Topeka, Kan.

The family tradition of veterinary medicine began with Dr. Jesse Frey, who graduated in 1914. Jesse moved to California and was instrumental in eradicating anthrax, bovine tuberculosis and foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in the 1920s. He also had a 30-year career with the Golden State Milk Company. Jesse passed away in 1987 at 93.

Jesse's nephew, Dr. Russ Frey, received his DVM in 1952 while serving in the U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corps. He returned to K-State in 1963, where he taught for 40 years including 15 years as head of the Department of Anatomy and Physiology. Russ retired from teaching in 2001 and passed away in 2003. He is survived by wife, Patricia, of Manhattan.

Russ' brothers, Merwin and Martin, who are twins, earned their DVMs 1956.

Merwin worked as a livestock inspector for the USDA and in the U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corps. In 1966, Merwin became a professor at the Veterinary Medical Research Institute at Iowa



The Frey Family was honored at the annual conference of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association at K-State's alumni brunch, Jan. 22. Six members of the Frey family have earned their DVMs from K-State.

State University. He later taught at Oklahoma State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Merwin and wife, Jo Ann, reside in Story City, Iowa.

Martin served as an instructor at Oklahoma State until 1963. He and wife, Demarious, also a veterinarian, opened a private practice, which they moved to Padre Island, Texas, in 1972. Now retired, Martin and Demarious Frey live in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dr. William Griffing, another of Jesse Frey's nephews, graduated from K-State

in 1944. Dr. Griffing worked in a private practice in Indiana and later as a veterinary pathologist for Eli Lilly and Company Pharmaceuticals, where he pioneered study in electron microscopy. Dr. Griffing resides in Greenfield, Ind, with wife, Ann.

Dr. Robert Hentzler, a cousin of the Frey brothers, graduated in 1943. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve and was co-owner of Hentzler Packing Company in Topeka. Dr. Hentzler passed away in 2003. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne, of Topeka.

Development Director Takes Principal Gifts Post

Tim Chapman, senior director of development, is leaving the CVM but he is not leaving Kansas State University. Chapman has taken a position at the K-State Foundation as senior director of principal gifts.

He will be working with the top donors of the university and will be instrumental in the fundraising process. He will manage relationships with top-level donors by serving as prospect manager or working with other professional staff assigned to these donors.

Chapman has been with the CVM since 1999.

"For the past six years it has been my privilege to work with the staff, administration, faculty and clinicians. It is through their dedication and friendship that my experiences here at the college were absolutely the best," Chapman said.

"I would like to thank all of the alumni and friends I have met and had the opportunity to get close to. I'm thrilled



Tim Chapman

that my new position at the Kansas State University Foundation will enable me to continue to work with the College of Veterinary Medicine and with many of you on a personal level."

During Chapman's tenure at the CVM, a capital fundraising campaign was initiated to raise \$35 million for the CVM. That goal is expected to be met within the next calendar year, before the campaign ends in 2008.

The search to fill Chapman's position is under way. Chris Gruber will serve as acting director of development until a replacement is found.

Message from VMAA President McCracken

Dear Alumni,

It's been an exciting year at our alma mater, and there appears to be no end in sight to the progress the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Medical Alumni Association continues to make.

Not only has our university become a leader in veterinary medicine for the Midwest, but we are recognized as a leader in veterinary medicine and research throughout the nation as we continue to serve the profession. For these reasons, coupled with the

outstanding performance of our past alumni presidents, I am humbled to assume the president's chair. I'm calling on the life blood of the VMAA – our alumni – to become active participants in our growth by joining myself and the rest of our alumni board in actively supporting our vision.



Dr. Todd McCracken

There's never been a better time to become an active alumnus. A long journey begins with a single step, and I'm hopeful that I can continue to assist our university on that journey towards greatness. We have multiple opportunities for you to interact with K-State and the veterinary college that have served so many well. Please take time to join us in collegial fellowship as we enter a new year. It promises to be an exciting time. It seems like only yesterday that I started my service with the alumni board. I've learned many things and made many new friends during that time. I've learned that our alumni have gone on to accomplish great things both personally and professionally, and it is that legacy of excellence that will sustain us as we continue to strive to meet the goals that have been set before us. You, as a K-State alumnus, will be instrumental in helping me and the rest of the alumni board facilitate the meeting of those goals. I welcome your input and thoughts.

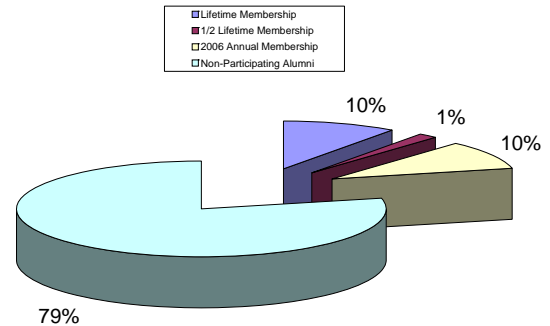
My door is always open to you, although, since I travel frequently, you may find that door to be on an airplane headed toward some remote section of the country. You may also need to discuss your thoughts with me on a bleacher at a softball complex. That is normally where you will find me, watching my daughters play the game they love. Either way, I want to hear from you. I'm honored to be a member of the board and an alumnus of K-State. Please join me in the coming year and enjoy our centennial and all that comes with it.

- Dr. Todd McCracken CVM '93
Veterinary Medical Alumni Association President

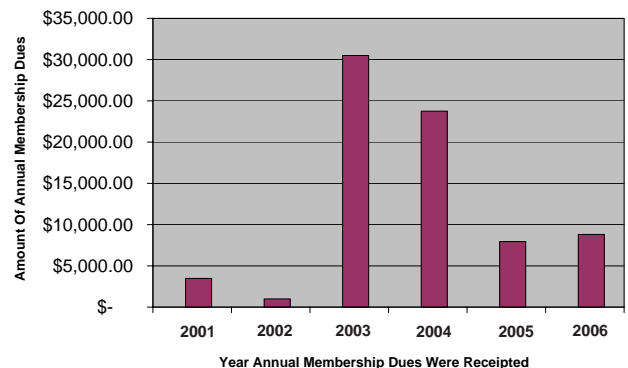
The Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (VMAA) membership dues were incorporated into the association by-laws and constitution in 2000.

The executive board of the VMAA established an endowment in February of 2003. Money from association membership dues are placed in this fund to generate earnings that support alumni events, initiatives and activities in perpetuity. The VMAA endowment currently has \$161,251 in its principal balance.

Veterinary Medical Alumni Association Membership Participation



Veterinary Medical Alumni Association



VMAA Board Members

President

Dr. Todd McCracken CVM '93

President Elect

Dr. Richard Mohney CVM '74

Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Howard Erickson CVM'59

Members At Large

Dr. Alan Lewis CVM '72

Dr. William Brown CVM '71

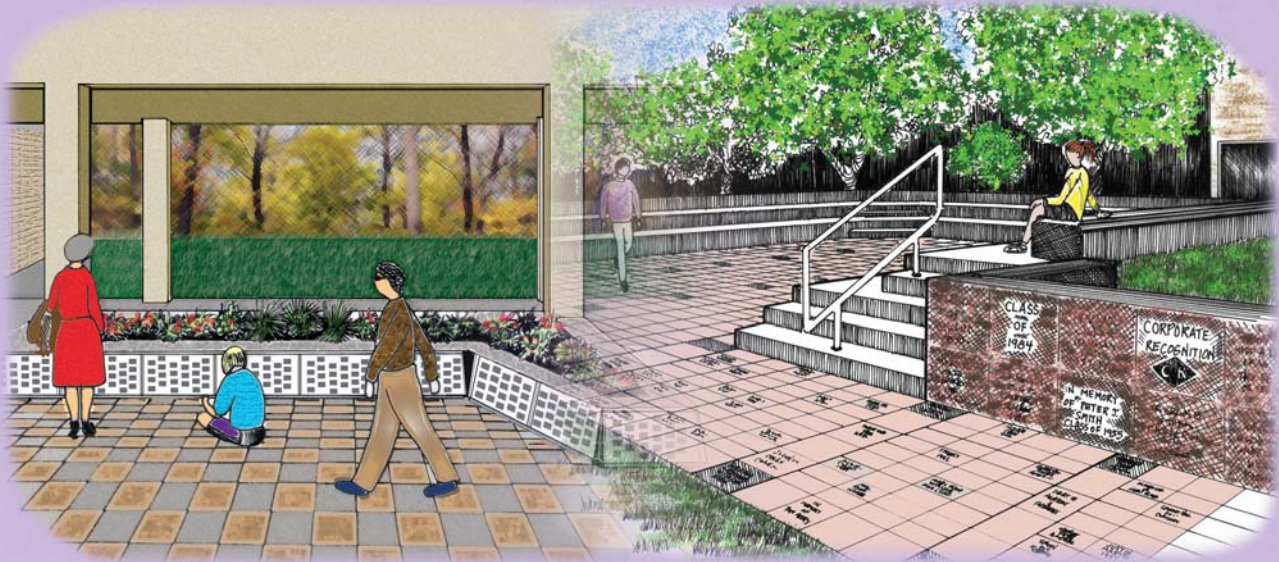
Dr. Michael Moore CVM '68

Dr. Gregory Bogue CVM '91

Dr. Pete Sherlock CVM '80

The College of Veterinary Medicine is the place to be June 4-7

68th Annual Conference for Veterinarians



The Whispering Garden will honor animal companions past and present with stainless steel panels displaying the photos of many beloved pets.

To commemorate the first 100 years of veterinary medicine at K-State, the Centennial Plaza will feature personalized granite plaques and pavers

Don't miss the dedication of the Whispering Garden and Centennial Plaza between Trotter and Mosier Halls on the CVM campus

For complete details on the conference and a list of scheduled activities, see page 21.

Development and Alumni Office

College of Veterinary Medicine
Kansas State University
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