Hill’s Pet Nutrition partners with CVM to enhance primary care education

Primary care for pets has a bright future at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University thanks to a generous sponsorship by Hill’s Pet Nutrition.

With this gift - the largest corporate gift in our history – the veterinary college will renovate three strategic areas in Mosier Hall to provide approximately 16,000 square feet of new space dedicated for clinical training, classroom teaching and research. The Pet Health & Nutrition Center will be named in honor of Hill’s Pet Nutrition.

“This private-public partnership will enhance our educational capacity in small animal nutrition and client communication, to strengthen the preparation of our graduates for success in private practice. We are grateful to Hill’s for their tremendous generosity and investment in our students,” said Dr. Bonnie Rush, interim dean of the college. “This integrative partnership enhances the educational experience for K-State veterinary students through shared resources and expertise. The new experiential learning environment will strengthen our training program in nutrition and primary care, and will attract student externs from colleges of veterinary medicine across North America.”

“Kansas State is an important partner for Hill’s Pet Nutrition,” says Jesper Nordengaard, vice president and general manager, Hill’s US, “as it harbors one of the most important veterinary schools in the Midwest of the US. We are proud to support the Pet Health and Nutrition Center as we believe that it fits seamlessly in our vision to help enrich and lengthen the special relationship between people and their pets.”

“By renovating the space and expanding resources, students will have the opportunity to care for their clients in a private practice environment,” Dr. Rush added. “While pet health faculty will have the capability to operate with more autonomy, specialty services remain available when clients’ needs arise.”

This renovation will create 3,400 square feet of space on the first floor of Mosier Hall for the new Hill’s Pet Health & Nutrition Center. This project will also allow the addition of 5,000 square feet research suite on the second floor.

Read more about the project in Lifelines online.

Cultivating collaborations in South America

Veterinary experts at Kansas State University recently participated in projects in Paraguay and Argentina in an effort to initiate a three-way collaboration with two other universities toward the creation of a tick-borne disease research program; present research updates at an international conference; and promote a working relationship with a governmental agency in Paraguay.

“There are many new diseases in South America impacting the health of animals and people,” said Dr. Roman Ganta, director of K-State’s Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases (CEVBD). “The spread of tick-borne and other vector-borne diseases are expanding their ‘boundaries’ in both North and South America’s and in Central America.”

Dr. Giselle Cino, a pathologist at the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, is helping facilitate the collaborative project through her connections in Paraguay. Read more at Lifelines online.

Lifetime award for Dr. Steve Stockham

Dr. Steve Stockham, professor emeritus of veterinary clinical pathology, has been selected for a 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology. The award is in recognition of Dr. Stockham’s 40-year national and international contributions to the profession of veterinary clinical pathology as a teacher, scholar, leader and mentor, especially recognized is his co-author contributions to the highly respective textbook, “Fundamentals of Veterinary Clinical Pathology.”

The award was presented at the society’s annual meeting Nov. 5 in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Melinda Wilkerson, adjunct professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology and current chair of pathology at St. George’s University in Grenada, nominated Dr. Stockham for the award.

“I have known Dr. Steve Stockham since 1986, when I was a sophomore veterinary student and he was assistant professor at the CVM at the University of Missouri,” Dr. Wilkerson said. “I personally benefited from his mentoring and successfully passed the AVCP board exam in clinical pathology in 2003.”

Dr. Wilkerson, who nominated Dr. Stockham, noted 10 current and former K-Staters at the ASCVP award ceremony to show their support, including Balaz Szladovits, Brad Galgut, Mehndad Ameri, Rachael Holicky, Adi Wasserkrug Naor, Mark Morton and Yvonne Wikander.

Dr. Steve Stockham accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award from ASVCP President Dr. Lindsay Tomlinson.

Dr. Steve Stockham

Read more at Lifelines online.
By Adrian Austin

According to its mission, the Animal Welfare Assessment Contest aims to provide a unique educational experience while strengthening student vocabulary and reasoning skills. The competition teaches students to assess the welfare of animals in a variety of settings using science-based methods and reasoning. Students are given the opportunity to weigh evidence and present sound evaluations. This contest ensures tomorrow’s leaders in the animal industries develop strong communication skills and acquire enhanced knowledge of animal welfare.

The contest is open to veterinary students, undergraduates and graduate students. A limited number of veterinarians also take part each year as non-competitive participants.

Dr. Viscardi said K-State veterinary students held their own and represented the college well with their success throughout the two-day event.

“Cassandra Kroncke, one of our first-year veterinary students, placed as the Highest Scoring Individual in the Live Assessment for the Veterinary Division,” Dr. Viscardi said. “The undergraduate team did not place in the top five, but it will be interesting to see where they fell in comparison to the other teams when we get the full results back. They all did a really great job and I could not have been more proud!”

Dr. Jürgen Richt new AAAS Fellow

A K-State veterinary infectious disease researcher and a late biology professor have been named 2018 fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, or AAAS.

Drs. Jürgen Richt and James Guikema are among 416 fellows chosen this year. Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon association members by their peers. The association’s fellowship program recognizes individuals whose efforts toward advancing science applications are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished.

Dr. Richt, who is a Regents distinguished professor and director of the university’s Center of Excellence for Emerging and Zoonotic Animal Diseases, or CEEZAD, was nominated on the basis of his distinguished research and advisory contributions to the field of zoonotic diseases, particularly for his pioneering role in the development of the One Health paradigm.

An international partnership between K-State and China is taking new steps forward for veterinary educational opportunities for Chinese students to attend college in the United States.

A group of faculty members from the CVM recently attended the Veterinary Education Forum at Nanjing Agricultural University, held Oct. 20 in China, for the U.S.-China Joint DVM Program. The event was highlighted by a signing ceremony for a new Memorandum of Understanding for the U.S.-China Joint DVM Scholarship Program between Kansas State University and Qingdao Yebio.

The annual Willie’s Pet of the Week contest wrapped at the end of football season. Pet owners submitted pictures from the start of the season through Oct. 28. K-State Athletics shared some of the pictures at home games on the jumbotron. Friends and fans were invited to vote for their favorite pet pictures on Facebook. The top 10 pictures receiving votes out of 431 entries were then judged by the VHC to select a grand prize winner, second, and third-place winner, with each receiving a gift basket from the VHC and special prizes for football or basketball tickets. Grand Prize goes to Bailey Ambrosie, Kansas City, Missouri, for her dog, Decker (left). Second place went to Eryn Raye Woofler, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, for her dog Lucky, middle. Third place went to John Casidos, Louisburg, Kansas.

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