

Healing Hands

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New App to
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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

RALLYING AROUND A FALLEN COMRADE

VECTORING IN ON DISEASES

PONYING UP FOR EQUINE CENTER

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Veterinary Medicine

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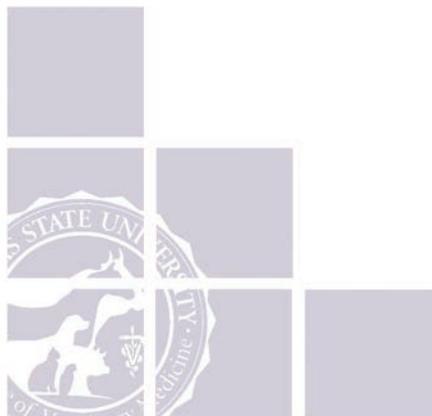
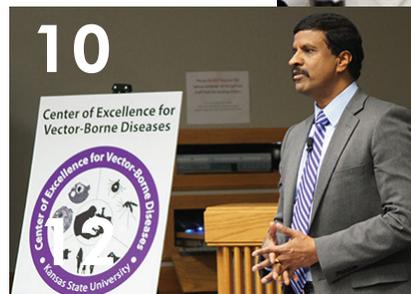
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About the cover: Dr. Nora Schrag, clinical assistant professor (center), pulls up test results from the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory using its new app downloaded on a tablet, while teaching fourth-year students Brian Smith and Amanda Duvall. (Photo by Audrey Hambricht)

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Visions for Excellence

Looking forward to an exciting future for the college

Greetings to our K-State veterinary alumni and friends.

The first semester as the new dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University has gone by very quickly, and I am still learning a lot about our college. I have been making as much time as possible to go around the college to meet with our students, faculty and staff. I'm also taking every opportunity to meet with our alumni. We really appreciate those of you who come to our receptions at national veterinary conferences as well as all of you passionate K-State fans who visit with us at Cat Town during home football games and others who get together at the Liberty Bowl and other sporting events.

I want to extend my thanks to Dr. Ralph Richardson for being such a great friend and resource for learning about the college and the responsibilities that are involved with being the dean of the college. I also congratulate him on being the interim dean and CEO of the K-State Olathe campus. He has tremendous commitment to the university and he continues to be a great friend and resource for the college.



As you will see in this issue of Healing Hands, the College of Veterinary Medicine has many recent successes to highlight. Our faculty, students and alumni are some of the best I have ever had the pleasure of working with. In this issue, you will read about many of them and their outstanding achievements. Other changes taking place within the college include leadership transitions in the Beef Cattle Institute, Veterinary Health Center and Department of Anatomy & Physiology. I want to thank Drs. Brad White, Bonnie Rush, and Bruce Schultz, respectively, for stepping up as interim directors and department head for the VHC and the college. We are also in the process of performing a national search for a new associate dean for academic programs. For the past 25 years, Dr. Ronnie Elmore has done an outstanding job in this role, while also serving as associate dean for admissions and diversity programs, positions in which he will continue to serve as we move forward.

Last fall saw the kickoff of the Innovation and Inspiration campaign at Kansas State University, which has a \$1 billion goal to help drive K-State's future toward our 2025 Vision: to become a top 50 public research university by the year 2025. Thank you to all the donors who have already given so generously to the College of Veterinary Medicine. You will see one story in this issue of Healing Hands about the groundbreaking ceremony for our new Equine Performance Testing Center. Private support helps makes things like that happen. Your support is also very essential when it comes to creating scholarships that help reduce the financial burden for students, and for supporting faculty chairs and professorships that allows us to recruit and retain the top notch faculty needed to become a top public research university. I hope you will be part of building the future for the college.

We invite to you keep in touch with the college, and I look forward to meeting more of you at upcoming functions and events. This is an exciting time for our college and profession, and I look forward to what the future brings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Tammy Beckham".

Tammy Beckham, DVM,
Dean



CEEZAD trains students

While the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) is under construction, the

training of future transboundary animal disease researchers is happening now. This past summer, the Center of Excellence for Emerging and Zoonotic Disease, or CEEZAD, introduced 10 students from Kansas State University and six other institutions to high-containment laboratory research in a two-week program at Kansas State University's Biosecurity Research Institute.



PHOTO BY JOSEPH CHAPES AND KENT NELSON

See this story on YouTube:



www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Xylqr0sISc

Reunion for U.S.-China Program

The CVM's U.S.-China Center for Animal Health welcomed special guests in September:

senior executives of the Consulate General of China in Chicago, American Veterinary Medical Association, Zoetis, Banfield Pet Hospital and a representative from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, as well as deans from five partnering veterinary colleges in the U.S., Europe and China as part of its second annual reunion event.



PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY

Dean Tammy Beckham, right, visits with some of the new pre-vet students from China who are attending K-State as part of the U.S.-China Joint DVM Program.

RVT Christine Hackworth discovers new tapeworm parasite

A tapeworm parasite more typically found in domestic dogs and cats has been discovered in a Maned Wolf from Manhattan's Sunset Zoo. The discovery, thought to be the only known incidence of the parasite in a Maned Wolf, was made not by a faculty veterinarian or researcher, but by a vigilant registered veterinary technician in the Veterinary Health Center at Kansas State

University's College of Veterinary Medicine: Christine Hackworth. This class of tapeworm parasites are called Mesocestoides.

Hackworth works in zoological medicine and dermatology services in the Veterinary Health Center. Her work was notable enough that she wrote up the finding in the September 2015 issue of the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine.

"I happened to come across it in a fecal sample submitted for testing," Hackworth said. "I dissected a tapeworm segment that was present on the feces. This is the first reported case in a live captive animal, so it was just by luck that I found it, but I knew it was something worth pursuing."

COURTESY PHOTO



Registered Veterinary Technician Christine Hackworth makes a rare discovery while working with a Maned Wolf at Manhattan's Sunset Zoo.

Dual-degree scholarships go to dynamic student duo

PHOTO BY AUDREY HAMBRIGHT

A pair of DVM students are reaching for the next level by working on a concurrent graduate degree. The CVM helps out through a scholarship program offered for students who qualify.

Recipients are Jacob Hagenmaier, fourth-year veterinary student, and Jordan Gebhardt, a first-year veterinary student.

Hagenmaier is pursuing a doctorate in pathobiology. His focus is beef cattle research. Originally, his aspirations of becoming a food animal veterinarian were centered exclusively on private, rural practice.

"It wasn't until I enrolled at Kansas State University and began working part time assisting with research projects for the Beef Cattle Institute that I fully knew the different career routes that the veterinary medicine profession had to offer," Hagenmaier said.

Hagenmaier said this program opened new doors.

"My doctoral research has been an extraordinary tool for networking and exploring job opportunities within veterinary medicine, and it has served as a springboard into understanding the process of research and development



First-year student Jordan Gebhardt and fourth-year student Jacob Hagenmaier, have each qualified for the CVM's dual-degree scholarship.

of veterinary products and services," he said.

Dr. Bruce Schultz leads A&P

PHOTO BY KSU PHOTO SERVICES



Dr. Bruce Schultz

The CVM has announced the appointment of Dr. Bruce Schultz as interim head of the Department of Anatomy and Physiology. The previous head of the department, Dr. Mike Kenney, accepted a position as associate dean for research in the College of Science at the University of Texas, El Paso, after serving 23 years on the faculty in the college.

Dr. Schultz has been at Kansas State University since 1997. He joined the graduate faculty for the Graduate Biochemistry Group in 2009, and he was elevated to the rank of full professor the same year.

BCI tabs Dr. Brad White

PHOTO BY KSU PHOTO SERVICES



Dr. Brad White

Dr. Brad White was named as the interim director for the Beef Cattle Institute, which was founded in 2007 to create an important connection with the beef cattle industry. Under the previous leadership of Dr. Dan Thomson, a world-renowned beef cattle expert, the Beef Cattle Institute (BCI) grew to become an international resource for educational tools and outreach and an entity that works closely with the beef cattle industry to address critical challenges. Dr. White has also worked as a consultant for Professional Beef Services LLC since 2003, and for Missouri Verified Beef LLC from 2000 to 2010.

Third-year student Cynthia Davidson takes a break while working in a temporary clinic set up in a high school at San Carlos, Arizona. She was on an externship with Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) and the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA).



Reaching Out

Externship gives third-year student Cynthia Davidson a special experience to help provide aid to underserved areas

By Joe Montgomery

A special stipend is helping students reach out for new opportunities. Last fall, third-year student Cynthia “Cyndi” Davidson, was awarded with the Underserved Population Externship stipend from the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) for her participation in a trip to San Carlos, Arizona, earlier in the year with Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) and the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA).

Cyndi said she learned about it from an email sent to the College of Veterinary Medicine from SAVMA’s Public Health and Community Outreach Committee, which awards eight \$500 stipends each year to SAVMA members who reach out to populations that are underserved in terms of veterinary care. Members of the committee review each application and make a decision based on the applicant’s merit.

Participants are required to give a presentation during the externship to local students about opportunities in veterinary medicine. They are also asked to write and submit a brief, but detailed summary article for publication in the SAVMA Vet Gazette after completing the externship.

“I’m very passionate about community service, so when I learned about the RAVS program during first year, I knew right away it was something I wanted to do,” Cyndi recalled. “This past summer was my second RAVS trip, and having the opportunity to mentor a young animal enthusiast this time around made the trip even more fulfilling.”

The San Carlos community is in the mountains east of Phoenix, Arizona, with limited access to veterinary care because of distance and poverty.

“The 30 student volunteers slept on the floor at one end of a school gym with the clinic set up at the other,” said Dr. Paul Breckenridge, a staff veterinarian. “Though they were actively engaged in clinic duties 14 to 18 hours a day, in a very real sense the student volunteers are on duty or on call 24 hours a day for the duration of the clinic. At San Carlos, ehrlichiosis is endemic, parvovirus frequent, and transmissible venereal tumors common enough that we see two or three at most clinics. Because we are the only option for care for much of the community, we accept patients to surgery most private practices would never consider due the nature of the surgery or the condition of the animal.”

Cyndi’s article for the Vet Gazette is pending publication. “This whole experience has reaffirmed my goal of making community outreach a standard practice in my veterinary career,” she said. 



COURTESY PHOTOS ABOVE AND OPPOSITE PAGE

Top: Cyndi performs a surgery with help from Dr. Sue, one of the team veterinarians. Bottom: Cyndi preps Erin, a young animal enthusiast, with surgical apparel with help from Kara Miller, a veterinary student in the class of 2017 at Purdue University.

Breaking Ground



For the Equine Performance Testing Center

PHOTOS BOTH PAGES BY TOMMY THEIS K-STATE PHOTO SERVICES

Supporters and faculty prepare to break ground with special K-State shovels. From left: Colleen and Dr. Steve Hodes '79, Dr. Beth Davis, equine section head, Kate Fowler, Dr. Frank Blecha, associate dean for research, Karen Hale Young and Frances Dudley.

By Joseph Chapes

Donors and faculty recently gathered at the Veterinary Health Center in November to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Equine Performance Testing Center.

THE NEED

Provide state-of-the-art facilities for students.

TO HELP

Make a gift by calling 785-532-4378.

“We are not celebrating today without your help and we really appreciate that and we are really excited about what we’re about to build,” said Dr. Bonnie Rush, head of the Clinical Science department. “We want our students and our horse-owning public and our horses to be evaluated in a world-class facility with state-of-the-art technology and that’s what you are going to allow us to do.”

“ We want our students and our horse-owning public and our horses to be evaluated in a world-class facility with state-of-the-art technology.

— Dr. Bonnie Rush ”

During the celebration, attendees were introduced to the Equine Performance Testing Center’s service and education areas. The building will feature a covered riding area and trot-up areas with asphalt footing. It will have a covered loading/unloading area, open exam area with holding stalls, a radiograph and imaging room and consultation area. The facility will also have the ability to be used for special events and education sessions. Groundwork on the building is set to start this fall and to be completed within a year.

“The groundbreaking indicates that we’re moving forward with this project,” said Dr. Beth Davis, equine section head. “We’re going to build an indoor facility where we can evaluate horses under-saddle. We can teach veterinary students regardless of weather conditions. So it’s going to enhance the service we provide to horse owners as well as the service we provide our veterinary students.”

Though the ground has been broken on the project, there are still opportunities to help complete the building and purchase important equipment (see list on the next page). 🐾

INNOVATION & INSPIRATION

THE CAMPAIGN FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Veterinary Health Center faculty show donors the new equine CT table, which is a tremendous asset for the hospital. With it, the VHC can now perform CT scans on its horse patients' legs and head.



Every Donation Counts!

The Equine Performance Testing Center will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology to better serve our clients. We need your help! Gifts for facilities and equipment help support Innovation and Inspiration: The Campaign for Kansas State University that will raise \$1 billion to advance K-State toward being recognized as a top 50 public research university by 2025. Contact the Development Office at 785-532-4378 or email debbiek@found.ksu.edu.

Digital radiograph machine, \$90,000

A digital radiograph machine will provide the equine section with contemporary imaging capability to effectively radiograph horses.

Overground endoscopy, \$35,000

Endoscopy is a vital diagnostic tool when examining performance horses. An over-the-ground unit will provide efficient and accurate diagnostic capability when examining the upper airway in working horses.

Equine Ultrasound, \$28,000

A portable ultrasound system to provide advanced imaging capabilities for equine patients.

Compact Utility Tractor, \$20,000

A utility tractor is necessary to maintain the grounds and provide transportation of feed and equipment between the EPTC and the VHC.

Arena Harrow, \$8,000

A specifically designed rake to provide the best possible working surface for the arena.

Golf Cart Transportation, \$5,000

An electric, four-person golf cart would be used to shuttle clients and supplies from the main hospital to the Equine Performance Testing Center.

VECTORIZING IN ON DISEASES

At the new Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases



PHOTO BY TOMMY THEIS, K-STATE PHOTO SERVICES

CEVBD Director Dr. Roman Ganta, right, reviews DNA images with team members Dr. Huitao Liu and Dr. Laxmi U.M.R. Jakkula.

By Joe Montgomery

The College of Veterinary Medicine has bolstered its efforts

to support Kansas State University's 2025 vision of becoming a top 50 public research university by adding a new center of excellence that will focus on helping to control infectious diseases in both humans and animals. The Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases (CEVBD) was launched under the guidance of Dr. Roman Ganta, professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology. The CEVBD is an interdisciplinary research center with a mission to combat vector-borne diseases with a focus on pathogenesis, surveillance and disease prevention.

"The CEVBD will prepare us well to build a nationally and internationally recognized program to combat the emerging threats of vector-borne diseases in the USA, including bacterial, parasitic and viral diseases," Dr. Ganta said. "The center will also strive to synergize with the soon-to-be-established federal facility in Manhattan, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF)."

Goals of the center also include establishing a tick-rearing facility to support the research needs of Kansas State University and other academic institutions and industry in the United States.

"We have already started rearing *Amblyomma americanum* and *Ixodes scapularis* ticks," Dr. Ganta explained. "Further, we have developed a network to build research programs to promote strong collaborations among K-State faculty who have shared interests, as well as faculty and researchers at other academic institutions and industry in the U.S. and abroad."

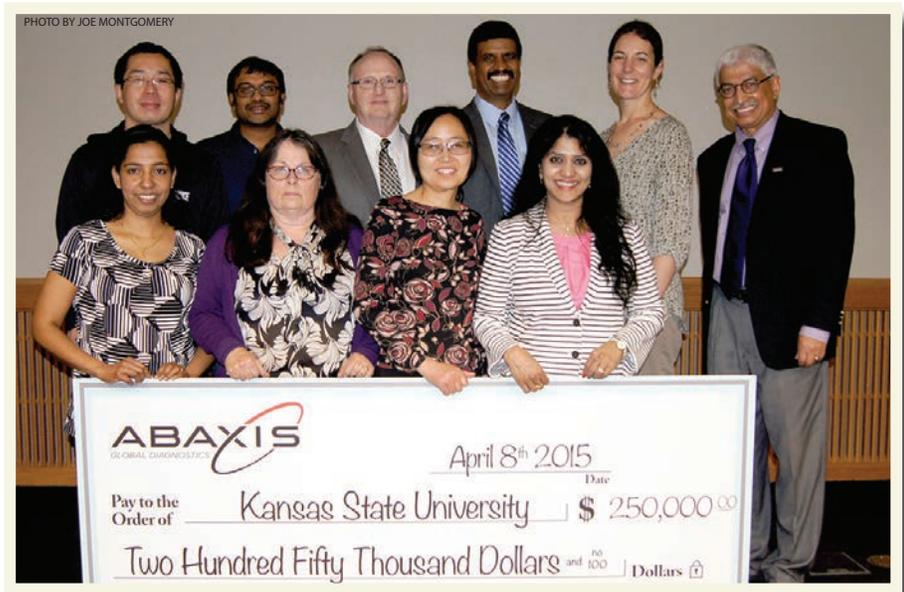
The center will also develop programs to prepare future generations of scientists with expertise on vector-borne diseases, offering continuing education workshops, and in developing resources, such as a repository to maintain culture stocks of vector-borne pathogens.

"The long term-goal is to make the CEVBD a highly sustainable, reputed and one-of-a-kind center in the U.S.," Dr. Ganta said.

Not long after launching, the CEVBD received two major gifts. The first was a \$250,000 gift from Abaxis, a company that develops, manufactures, markets and sells portable blood analysis systems for use in veterinary or human patient-care settings to provide clinicians with rapid blood constituent measurements.

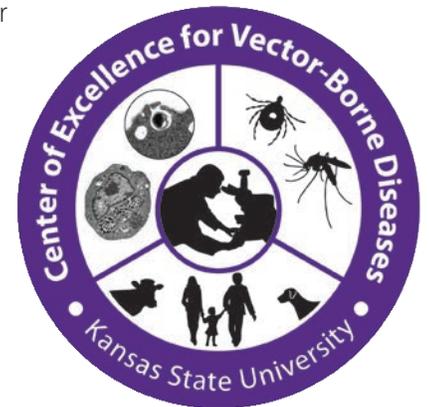
"We at Abaxis are honored to be able to provide support for the new Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases," said Dr. Dennis Bleile, senior director, R&D at Abaxis. "We have followed the excellent work of Dr. Ganta and his group in their pursuit of understanding vector-borne diseases — including the pathogens' evasion mechanisms and hosts' response to these infections. His group brings together molecular biology, immunology, animal models, and cell culture systems to pursue its goals."

The CEVBD also received a sustaining annual gift of biosecurity-level-2 laboratory space from Midwest Veterinary Services and Central States Research Centre of Oakland, Nebraska, and its CEO, Dr. Kelly Lechtenberg, who is a 1987 K-State DVM and a 1988 Ph.D. alumnus.



Abaxis presents a \$250,000 check to the Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases. Front row, from left: Dr. Arathy Nair, Dr. Deborah Jaworski, Chuanmin Cheng, and Suhasini Ganta. Back row: Dr. Huitao Liu, Dr. Laxmi U.M.R. Jakkula, Dr. Dennis Bleile, senior director of research and development at Abaxis, Dr. Roman Ganta, CEVBD director, Dr. Jodi McGill and Dr. M.M. Chengappa, head of the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology.

"We are pleased to assist Dr. Ganta and his team to continue their very important work with vector-borne diseases," said Dr. Lechtenberg. "Roman and the rest of the CEVBD team are passionate about their work and have an 'urgency of mission' that makes this project bound for success. I am confident that we will see this team contribute greatly to our knowledge of disease transmission and be instrumental in developing interventions that make outdoor life safer for people, their pets and the livestock entrusted to their care."



The center is active in developing a network to build research programs focused on tick and other vector-borne diseases of importance to human and animal diseases, including foreign animal diseases, to promote strong collaborations among K-State faculty who have shared interests, as well as faculty and researchers at other academic institutions and industry in the U.S. and abroad. 



Recovery TEAM

Topeka veterinarians rally to keep Dr. Leon Conner's practice going after devastating accident

By Joe Montgomery

PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY

March 3, 2015

It was a typical Tuesday morning for Dr. Leon Conner, except maybe for the inconvenience of driving a rental car. Thanks to the bad luck of hitting a deer a few days earlier, his pickup truck was at the body shop for repairs. In its absence, he rented a Nissan Versa, which is a very small car by comparison. But it seemed nice. It only had 13 miles on it.

Dr. Conner got himself adjusted as he sat in the Versa and thought about the cases he would see that day. As the owner of the Animal Care Center of Topeka for nearly 26 years, he had a very well-established practice with a large client base. He was told when he tried to buy the practice from Dr. Bill Bracken that this wasn't a good part of town. Dr. Conner had grown up in New Jersey and practiced in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for a couple of years before returning to Kansas. He chuckles thinking about how he had to find a bank outside of Kansas that would help him buy the practice, but years later, there had only been a couple of break-ins. Not so bad at all.

Topeka, it turns out, had been a good place to live and work. With a population just over 125,000, the community was able to support several animal clinics and veterinarians, most of whom were K-State alumni like Dr. Conner, who earned his DVM in 1988. Dr. Bracken, the previous owner of the clinic was a 1955 grad.

Being the capital city, Topeka is the home of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association's headquarters. Topeka also has its own city veterinary medical association, and Dr. Conner has been active in both organizations. He had served as president of the TVMA on different occasions and felt very much accepted by his peers. It was a nice life and these kinds of things are so often taken for granted.

Dr. Conner pulled up to the end of the driveway in the RV park where he lives. His ex-wife didn't appreciate the appeal of living in a recreational vehicle, but Dr. Conner had very fond memories from his childhood from when his family would go on vacations in an RV. It's really great having the option to just get in the RV and get out and go wherever you

Dr. Leon Conner (crutches) hosts a thank-you dinner for those who have helped him. Back row: Drs. Robert Trupp, Tommy Mah, Mike Esau, Jacob Thomas and Robert Shipman. Middle row: Kate Shipman, Dr. Ginger Birtell, Sharon Mah, Pat and Dick Banks, and Dr. Heidi Bradford. Front row: Dr. Leon Conner, grandson Kasey and daughter/vet tech Ashley Covert.

want, whenever you want. But, this wasn't one of those days to do that. It was a work day, and Dr. Conner certainly had plenty of work that day.

He pulled into the street like he did any other day so many times before.

"I didn't have enough time to put my seat belt on," Dr. Conner recalled.

It wouldn't have mattered.

The front end of the Nissan was swallowed by an oncoming Ford F-250. Head on.

Impact

The sound of the crash startled the neighborhood, waking up a woman in the RV park who alertly called 911.

Dr. Conner says now he only has a flash of a memory — a moment when his body was pulled from the wreckage. And then — nothing.

His next memories are from being in the hospital. But all the memories since the wreck are sparse, in part, resulting from head trauma. He suffered a broken femur in his right leg and a broken tibia and fibula in his left leg, plus broken ribs. The next several months would include surgeries, pain, rehab and — a very long recovery process.

"The doctors plated my femur, but they just used an external fixator on my left leg," Dr. Conner says. "I remember waking long enough to be told I was being taken into my second surgery and after that I remember being taken down to rehab. The way the doctors at the KU medical center worked — had this been 10 years ago — I'm pretty sure I wouldn't have a leg. But the doctor wound up putting in some plates and fastening bone parts to the plates. There are two plates and everything's tied together, and so far everything is mending its way back."

Rehab had its own set of difficulties.

"The problem was I wasn't allowed to put any weight on my feet," Dr. Conner explains. "They wanted me to slide onto a wheelchair to go out and work on machines, but I couldn't lift myself up. As I started to slide over, the chair moves, and all I could see was doing a face plant, so they got a sling to put me in the chair. I was down for all that time, and you lose all your strength. We worked on that for a month or so and finally got to the point where I could slide into the wheelchair on my own."

Home Away From Home

At that point of his recovery, he was released from the hospital, but he had to find some place to live that didn't have steps. A set of friends who were originally clients, Dick and Pat Banks, offered to let Dr. Conner stay with them.

"He's been a family friend for 10 years," Dick said. "His kids grew up with ours. What really inspired us is Dr. Conner is a really unique individual, but he was hurt so bad.

We have a handicapped daughter who's 42, and we take care of her so there's always one of us at the house. There was talk of putting Dr. Conner in a nursing home, but that was not an option."

"The Banks live in a duplex, and there's just one step on the back of the house," Dr. Conner said.

"They rearranged their house, put their bedroom down in the basement and gave me their bedroom, so I had the whole upstairs to be able to get around and basically live. They were angels."

At first he had in-home therapy and graduated to using a walker and then crutches to get around. At that point he could begin outpatient therapy. Eventually he moved back into his RV.

"It's more of a challenge," Dr. Conner said. "I have steps on which I have to go up and down, but things are close enough inside I don't need to use my crutches to walk around. I can just grab something to lean on."

“ There was talk of putting Dr. Conner in a nursing home, but that was not an option.

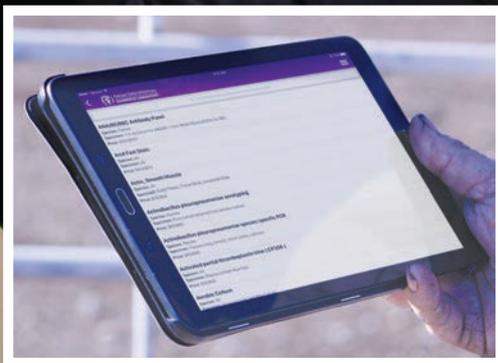
— Dick Banks ”

CONTINUED | See Conner, page 22

Cover story

Dr. Melissa Luke, DVM class of 2010 and veterinarian with Solomon Valley Veterinary Hospital, reviews diagnostic results on a tablet with veterinary technician Darien Bellows by utilizing a brand new app developed by the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The app allows veterinarians to track results as soon as they are received in the lab.

Inset: A close-up of how the app looks on a tablet device.



MobileACCESS

Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory launches new mobile device app so clients can track progress on diagnostic samples for animal patients



Kansas State Veterinary
DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

By Joe Montgomery

Diagnostic results are now within touch at the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory — thanks to the launch of a brand new app for mobile devices. The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory anticipates the new app will improve customer service and efficiency at delivering results to veterinarians across the country.

Dr. Gary Anderson, director of the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University, said the new app is a significant step forward in helping to deliver fast, accurate results.

“This is a major advancement in being able to provide diagnostics to practicing veterinarians out in the field,” Dr. Anderson explained. “Traditionally, we have used a variety of methods of delivery from snail mail, telephone, fax and email. This app will give veterinarians a way to track the results as soon as they are received here in the lab. It will save time for everyone involved and is a real win-win for veterinarians and their clients who are seeking the best in medical care for their animals.”

Dr. Gregg Hanzlicek, director of Production Animal Field Investigations said that the app was specifically designed to meet client needs.

“We meet with so many of our veterinarians at conferences and events, and they have really prompted the demand to get results quicker and more easily,” Dr. Hanzlicek said. “We’re very excited we were able to figure out a way to merge the technology in our lab with the type of programming needed to create this type of an app for mobile devices. We’re breaking new ground because there wasn’t really anything else like this for us to emulate. We’re fortunate to have the right people in our college to develop the application and test it for reliability.”

Justin Wiebers is the director of client connections in the CVM.

“Nobody else on campus was building apps with this level of complexity,” Wiebers said. “We studied what our veterinarians needed and looked at how the best mobile apps in other areas delivered on those types of needs. Then our programmers here in the college went to work. Our team learned how to send push notifications to veterinarians when their samples arrive in the lab and when their test results are ready. They can view and share those results wherever they happen to be working. It’s a very intricate system to get information from our diagnostic lab database to the individual clients who are using a variety of Android, iPhone, and iPad devices. We’re very excited to be helping our veterinarians be more productive while breaking new ground in the field of mobile apps for K-State.”

“**We studied what our veterinarians needed and looked at how the best mobile apps in other areas delivered on those types of needs.**

— Justin Wiebers ”

The app is available on the App Store and at Google Play; just search for “KSVDL Mobile.” Clients can get more information about the app by contacting the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at clientcare@vet.k-state.edu, 866-512-5650 or visit <http://www.ksvdl.org>.



PHOTO BY AUDREY HAMBRIGHT

Dr. Kenneth Moeller, DVM class of 1990 now with Solomon Valley Veterinary Hospital, uses his cell phone to access the KSVDL app while out in the field.

Mentoring for Discovery

By Joe Montgomery

Research Assistant Professor Dr. Bonto Faburay mentors Maira Cotton-Caballero, an undergraduate student at K-State who plans to pursue a Ph.D. in the CVM.



PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY

Discovery is an exciting part of being an undergraduate student.

At Kansas State University, the Developing Scholars Program offers high-achieving, serious-minded, underrepresented students research projects in their field of study with faculty mentors, including mentors in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Bonto Faburay, a research assistant professor of microbiology in the CVM's Department of Diagnostic Medicine/ Pathobiology has worked for the past two and a half years with Maira Cotton-Caballero, a senior in animal sciences and industry. Maira has been exploring different options from pre-vet to doctoral studies in science.

Last summer, Maira spent two weeks in Thailand helping animals and learning hands-on what it's like to be a veterinarian. Traveling with the Boston-based Loop Abroad, Maira was part of a small team that volunteered giving care at a dog shelter and then spent a week working directly with rescued elephants at an elephant sanctuary. Of her trip, Maira said, "An experience that was unforgettable and humbling".

But working in Dr. Faburay's laboratory during the fall semester has been very inspiring to Maira. Much of the current work in his lab is focused on Rift Valley Fever virus.

"As of now, I'm planning to go into graduate school after I earn my bachelor's degree and work on my Ph.D.," Maira said. "I really see myself as being a scientist like Dr. Faburay." 



Maira works at an elephant sanctuary and below at a dog shelter in Thailand while on an externship. She has mentored at the CVM under Dr. Bonto Faburay, a researcher in the CVM who studies pathogens, such as Rift Valley Fever virus. He has worked on projects funded by the CVM's Center for Excellence for Emerging and Zoonotic Animal Diseases (CEEZAD).



COURTESY PHOTO

AAVMC
Association of American
Veterinary Medical Colleges

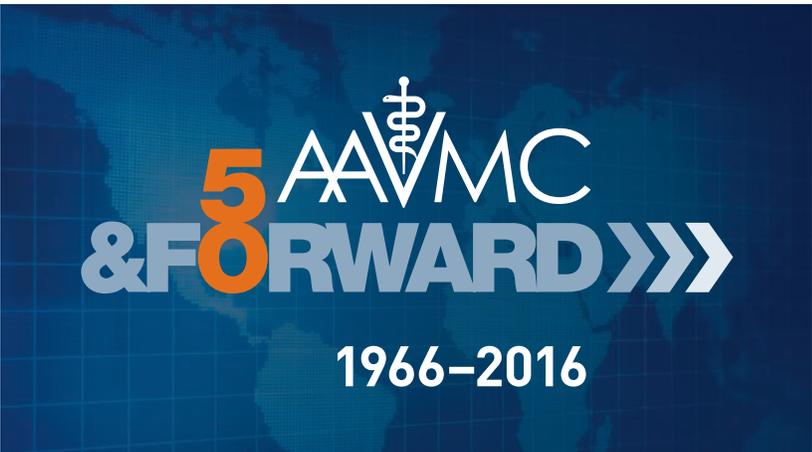


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more bits

five • faculty • feats

Royal Entomological Society of London names Dr. Dana Vanlandingham as a new Fellow

Dr. Dana Vanlandingham, assistant professor of virology in K-State's Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI), has just been named as a Fellow by the Royal Entomological Society of London. She was nominated by Dr. Anthony A. James, distinguished professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at the University of California, Irvine, and member of the National Academy of Sciences.

COURTESY PHOTO



Dr. Dana Vanlandingham

AAVP presents Dr. Mike Dryden its top award

The American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists presented the 2015 AAVP-Merial Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist Award to Dr. Michael W. Dryden, University Distinguished Professor of veterinary parasitology, on July 11 in Boston, Massachusetts, at the society's 60th annual meeting. This is the society's highest award and honors the outstanding contributions of an AAVP member to the advancement of veterinary parasitology.

COURTESY PHOTO



Dr. Mike Dryden and wife Joan

Dr. Deryl Troyer teams up on patent for preclinical cancer detection test platform

Dr. Deryl L. Troyer, professor of anatomy and physiology; Dr. Stefan H. Bossmann, professor of chemistry; and Dr. Matthew Basel, postdoctoral fellow in anatomy and physiology, developed a nanoplatform technology to detect human cancer cells and tumors in the beginning stages.

PHOTO BY KSU PHOTO SERVICES



Dr. Deryl Troyer

Dr. Steve Stockham receives 2015 ASVCP Educator Award

Dr. Steve Stockham, professor of veterinary clinical pathology, has been named as the recipient of the 2015 ASVCP Educator Award from American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology. The award is recognition of Dr. Stockham's contributions to clinical pathology education, which were cited as "diverse and far-reaching," and will be presented at the society's business meeting in Minneapolis in mid-October.

PHOTO BY KSU PHOTO SERVICES



Dr. Steve Stockham

Dr. Mike Apley joins White House council

The U.S. departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture and Defense have appointed Kansas State University's Dr. Mike Apley, professor of production medicine and clinical pharmacology, to the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. 

PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY



Dr. Mike Apley

PHOTO BY KSU PHOTO SERVICES

CURTAIN CALL

Dr. Bonnie Rush
Head of Clinical
Sciences Department
and award presenter.

Dr. Joshua Rowe
2015 Merial Teaching
Excellence Award
in recognition
of outstanding
instruction of
first-year veterinary
students.

Dr. Butch KuKanich
2015 Bayer Animal
Health Second Year
Award in recognition of
outstanding instruction
of second-year
veterinary students.

Dr. Warren Beard
2015 Third Year
Teaching Excellence
Award in recognition of
outstanding instruction
of third-year veterinary
students.

Dr. Mike Kenney
Former Head of
the Department
of Anatomy and
Physiology and
award presenter.

Whispering Garden honors special animal companions

Nestled between Mosier and Trotter Halls is a special place called the Whispering Garden. It is an element of the long-running Pet Tribute Program. Overseen by an independent board of veterinarians, the program uses contributions made in honor or memory of animal companions to help fund research, scholarships and other needs at the College and the Veterinary Health Center.

With a contribution of \$75 or more, you can honor your loved ones (pet) in the Whispering Garden with a picture on a high-gauge aluminum plaque that features 69 animals per panel. Also, the donor will receive a replica color laminate photo as a keepsake. More recently, animal companions can also be recognized with a specially engraved granite paver in the Whispering Garden. Learn more about the Whispering Garden and the Pet Tribute Program, contact the College of Veterinary Medicine development office at pettribute@vet.k-state.edu or 785-532-4013. 

See this
story on
YouTube:



[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=JEGyHjdYnYQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEGyHjdYnYQ)

Alumni Class News



PHOTOS BY DAVID MAYES, COURTESY K-STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Dr. Russell Hardin, DVM 1946, was chosen to be Grand Marshal of the 2015 Homecoming Parade held Oct. 16, prior to the K-State football game versus the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Hardin is shown above on the sideline of the football game with K-State President Kirk Schulz and K-State Alumni Association President and CEO Amy Button Renz.

Dr. Bruce Wren, DVM 1958

In October, the Western Veterinary Conference announced the naming of its Food Animal Incentive Awards after W. Bruce Wren, DVM, Ph.D., who has been involved with WVC's Annual Conference for decades serving as the food animal, equine and exotics program chair, in addition to serving on the Food Animal Incentive Awards Committee. The Dr. W. Bruce Wren Food Animal Incentive Awards recognize recent graduates in the fields of food animal education and research, aiming to encourage veterinarians to enter the food animal practice. Recipients receive expenses-paid travel and registration to the 2016 WVC Annual Conference, March 6-10, as well as a \$1,000 stipend. To learn more about the Dr. W. Bruce Wren Food Animal Incentive Awards, visit wvc.org/faia.

Dr. Les Wiley, DVM 1968

A New Mexico newspaper reported the Alamogordo Animal Hospital was awarded the contract to provide veterinary services for the Otero County Animal Shelter. Dr. G.L. "Les" Wiley will be in charge of providing medical care for the Otero County Animal Shelter's animals. After serving two years in the U.S. Air Force at Holloman Air Force Base, Dr. Wiley established

the Alamogordo Animal Hospital in 1971. Prior to opening his clinic, after getting out of the military, Dr. Wiley worked with Dr. Leslie Sr. of the Leslie Animal Clinic and also worked at the Alamogordo Primate Facility at Holloman Air Force Base.

Dr. Terry Wollen, DVM 1972

The AVMA gave Dr. Terry Wollen its XII International Veterinary Congress Prize during the Global Health Reception at the 2015 AVMA Convention in Boston. The award recognizes outstanding service by a member of the AVMA who has contributed to international understanding of veterinary medicine. Dr. Wollen spent 20 years with Bayer HealthCare before moving into nongovernmental organizations. He worked in Armenia for the United Method Committee on Relief in Asia and the United States for Heifer International, and primarily in Africa for the U.S. Agency for International Development. He retired in 2014, but still serves on assignments to strengthen livestock practices in developing countries.

Dr. John Boyington, DVM 1982

For his dedication and service to rodeo livestock, Dr. John Boyington, Phillipsburg, Kansas, was selected as the 2015 Zoetis PRCA Veterinarian

of the Year. For the last 25 years, Dr. Boyington has served as the on-site veterinarian for Kansas' Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg. As a contestant in 1978, Dr. Boyington won the Phillipsburg Rodeo steer wrestling title, only to put his



rodeo career on hold to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. Dr. Boyington continually demonstrates his commitment to rodeo livestock by going above and beyond the call to provide veterinary care. Nomination letters received on behalf of Dr. Boyington included Kansas' Biggest Rodeo Vice President J.D. Shelton, Phillipsburg City Mayor Fred E. Robinson, PRCA Stock Contractor Rhett Beutler and rodeo contestants. These letters spoke of Dr. Boyington's commitment to the sport of rodeo, dedication to the welfare and treatment of rodeo livestock and his community involvement. Dr. Boyington was honored at the PRCA Contract Personnel Banquet Dec. 2 at the South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Zoetis PRCA Veterinarian of the Year Award was created in 2010 to recognize the dedication of veterinarians across the country to the health and welfare of rodeo livestock.

Dr. Erik H. Topping III, DVM 1988



Dr. Erik H. Topping III was promoted to brigadier general and appointed as chief of the U.S.

Army Veterinary Corps on Oct. 29, 2015. Brig. Gen. Topping is the 26th chief of the Army Veterinary Corps, which comprises more than 700 veterinarians, 80

warrant officers and 1,800 enlisted soldiers on active or reserve duty. He is also assuming the position of deputy commanding general for the Army Regional Health Command-Atlantic (Provisional), located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Dr. Barry Pittman, DVM 1991

The Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, LuAnn Adams, named Dr. Barry Pittman as Utah's state veterinarian in October 2015. As a public health veterinarian, Pittman oversaw consumer protection standards, developed federal animal and herd health emergency response procedures, as well as worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to protect the human population from animal diseases. "I am excited about this opportunity to bring my background in animal health and consumer protection to the Department of Agriculture and Food," Dr. Pittman said in a prepared statement.

Dr. Trent Glick, DVM 2010

Dr. Trent Glick was a member of the first class to be a part of the Veterinary Training Program of Rural Kansas (VTPRK), a loan repayment program for service in rural Kansas. For the program, he spent part of a summer training with USDA Foreign Animal Disease in Washington, D.C., and another with CDC Disease Outbreak in Atlanta, Georgia. Upon graduation, he was awarded the Wempe-Luckeroth Family Award for demonstrated proficiency in mixed animal practice. After graduation, Glick practiced at Countryside Veterinary Clinic of Oberlin and Hoxie, Kansas. In September 2010, he took a position with Northeast Kansas Veterinary Service to run the Wetmore Clinic and then purchased the practice in 2013. Currently the practice is made up of approximately 75 percent beef cattle, 20 percent small animal and 5 percent dairy cattle clientele.

Dr. Jami Grace, DVM 2013

A Topeka, Kansas, TV station featured Dr. Jami Grace in an unusual story about a cat that was shot and left for dead in a bag by the Kansas river. An alert fisherman found the bag and alerted Topeka's animal control office, who brought the cat to Helping Hands Humane Society, where Dr. Graci is a part-time veterinarian. With treatment, that cat survived and later delivered a litter of kittens. The story can be seen online at: <http://www.kmvt.com/content/news/?article=320499042&article=320499042>.



Dr. Irv Schwalm, DVM 1957



Dr. Richard Knewtson, DVM 1968, and wife, Janice

The Kansas Veterinary Medical Association hosted its annual awards luncheon last June in Manhattan. Several K-State alumni and one faculty member were honored:

Dr. Irv Schwalm, Hiawatha – 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Nels Lindberg, Great Bend – 2015 Veterinarian of the Year

Dr. Richard Knewtson, Iola – 2015 Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Beth Davis, CVM Equine Section Head and then-KVMA president was presented with the KSU Distinguished Service Award by Dr. Bonnie Rush, Clinical Sciences Head.



Dr. Nels Lindberg, DVM 2001



Drs. Beth Davis and Bonnie Rush, CVM faculty

Conner | Recovery TEAM

What About the Practice?

Dr. Conner was told he would not be able to get back to work for at least six months to a year after the accident. His associate, Dr. Naomi Lavelle, who earned her DVM at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California, in 2013, was going to be on maternity leave, which meant someone else would need help to keep the practice going.

Dr. Conner's daughter, Ashley Covert, had been a veterinary technician in the practice since 2009, but her role changed in her father's absence in terms of helping to manage the practice. The wives of a couple of Topeka veterinarians, Kate Shipman (Dr. Robert Shipman, DVM class of 1977) and Sharon Mah (Dr. Tommy Mah, DVM class of 1981) stepped in to help.

"I had called Dr. Joe Kamer earlier, who is a very good friend of Dr. Conner, and he had concern for the

continued from page 13

situation," Kate recalled. "He expressed concern that Dr. Lavelle was going on maternity leave. I said, 'You know, I bet we could get enough people to volunteer time that we could have regular practice hours and keep everything going continuously while Dr. Lavelle is gone, with no gap whatsoever.'"

Kate enlisted her husband, and then started calling other veterinarians in Topeka to see if they could volunteer their time until Dr. Lavelle returned from maternity leave.

"There was no hesitation on anyone's part," Kate remarked. "They just said, 'When — let me know when.' We worked it out on a schedule so everyone would have a certain morning or afternoon. They would work from open to noon and then a different veterinarian would come in from noon to close. Everything was seamless."

The volunteers included several K-State alumni and a non-alumnus too: Drs. Larry Fischer (1971), Heidi Bradford (1989), Joe Kamer (1989), Richard Kitterman (1984), Robert Trupp (1993), Ginger Birtell (1979), Mike Esau (1984), Jacob Thomas, Debra Anderson (1979) and Richmond Aarstad (2001).

“ I bet we could get enough people to volunteer time that we could have regular practice hours and keep everything going continuously ...

— Kate Shipman ”

In addition to helping see clients, there was also a need to help with day-to-day operations.

"The first time my husband worked at the Animal Care Center, he saw Ashley was overwhelmed, so he said, 'You've got to go over there and help her,'" Sharon explained. "Having owned a clinic for so long and being the office manager, I just stepped in and have been helping with day-to-day operations ever since."

Ashley recalled, "I didn't know where to start. If I didn't have these guys, I don't know what I would have done."

Overall, the team effort was a huge success.

"They kept the practice running for nine weeks and they didn't charge the practice at all for their time," Dr. Conner gushed. "They are just amazing, amazing people. None of the perceptions you hear people throw out like 'veterinarians are all money-grubbing thieves' — things like that — when you look at people, guys do things like this to help out a colleague on their own time — money is not the biggest thing in their lives — that's for sure!"

Dr. Trupp said it was no problem to make the decision to help out. "I just came in on my day off," he said. "Topeka's such small town, you can get anywhere in 10 or 15 minutes, so there was nothing that made this inconvenient. We just wanted to help however we could."

A Round of Thanks

In June, Dr. Conner was asked to present an award in Manhattan at the 77th Annual Conference for Veterinarians — the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association's Spouse of the Year Award. This presentation was very personal as it was a dual award for both Sharon and Kate.

"His speech brought me to tears," Sharon said. "I had no idea we would be qualified for something like that."

"The other veterinarians deserve the credit," Kate said. "All of the vets jumped in. No one's arm was twisted. It was very easy. And they all showed up."



PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY

Dr. Leon Conner surprises Sharon Mah (left) and Kate Shipman by nominating and presenting them with the KVMA's Spouse of the Year Award.

She added she was proud of all who helped and emphasized how special veterinarians are.

"This is what you strive for in veterinary medicine," Kate said. "To be compassionate. To see the big picture. To quickly be able to assess this is one heck of a mess. We've got this situation sorted out the way a veterinarian takes care of a patient."

As Dr. Conner's caregiver while he recovered, Pat Banks complimented the veterinarians who helped take care of the practice.

"The veterinarians didn't worry about how long it took," she said. "No one gave him a time limit and said he needed to be healed in three months or whatever. I was so impressed with that."

"I wanted everyone to know what good people there were around here," Dr. Conner said. "I hope the public understands what great people the veterinarians are that they have working for them. They don't know how great a Dr. Kamer or a Dr. Mah is. Your veterinarian is a lot more cool than that." 🐾

In Memoriam

1943

Dr. Dennis Donahue

Charlotte, North Carolina
May 9, 2015

Dr. Bob Handel

Napa, California
May 2, 2015

1944

Dr. Orville Gernand

Anderson, Indiana
June 17, 2015

1946

Dr. Alex Stone

Rock Island, Illinois
Sept. 13, 2015

1949

Dr. Glenn Rea

Salem, Oregon
Aug. 25, 2015

Dr. Kenneth Strong

Grand Island, Nebraska
April 28, 2015

1950

Dr. Bill Kirkeminde

Palo Alto, California
Oct. 11, 2015

1951

Dr. Charles Hall

Bryan, Texas
Nov. 11, 2015

1952

Dr. Bob McCaustland

Manhattan, Kansas
Dec. 1, 2015

Dr. Ross Mosier

Spalding, Nebraska
Oct. 3, 2015

1954

Dr. Charles Early

Harlan, Iowa
Aug. 7, 2015

Dr. Otto Shill Jr.

Mesa, Arizona
March 11, 2015

1955

Dr. Robert Featherston

Tulsa, Oklahoma
July 30, 2015

Dr. Dave Kvitle

Lincoln, Illinois
May 22, 2015

Dr. Richard Sambol

Omaha, Nebraska
July 19, 2015

1957

Dr. Vic Van Camp

Topeka, Kansas
April 1, 2015

1958

Dr. Wayne Fitzgerald

Lewisville, Texas
June 28, 2015

Dr. John Kugler

Port Orange, Florida
June 2, 2015

1959

Dr. John Breithaupt

Baldwin City, Kansas
July 30, 2015

Dr. Fred Erwin

Russell, Kansas
May 18, 2015

1960

Dr. Tracy Clark

Ames, Iowa
Sept. 10, 2015

1961

Dr. Cliff Hulse

York, Nebraska
July 24, 2015

Dr. Evret Newman

El Paso, Texas
May 22, 2015

1962

Dr. Donald Mosier

Cedar Rapids, Nebraska
Oct. 31, 2015

Dr. George Pierson

Fort Myers, Florida
May 24, 2015

1963

Dr. John Austerman

Mooreland, Indiana
Sept. 3, 2015

Dr. John Buser

Crete, Nebraska
July 29, 2015

1966

Dr. Roger Lukens

Medicine Lodge, Kansas
May 12, 2015

1968

Dr. Jerry Burkey

Lincoln, Nebraska
June 8, 2015

1971

Dr. Wally Cash

Manhattan, Kansas
June 29, 2015

Dr. Robert Cody Jr.

Williamsport, Maryland
May 4, 2015

Dr. Peggy Shughart

Topeka, Kansas
Dec. 6, 2015

1982

Dr. Elizabeth McGhee

Oxford, Michigan
Nov. 10, 2015

1984

Dr. John Swanson

Kansas City, Kansas
July 11, 2015

1998

Dr. Jason Simpson

Chetopa, Kansas
Sept. 4, 2015

Awards from the 77th Annual Conference for Veterinarians

2015 Distinguished Alumnus Award

Dr. Thomas Ksiazek

Dr. Thomas G. Ksiazek, Galveston, Texas, is currently director of high containment laboratory operations for the Galveston National Laboratory at the University of Texas Medical Branch. He is also director of the National Biodefense Training Center and a world-renowned virus expert with 40 years of experience on the front lines of some of the worst outbreaks the world has ever seen. In August 2014, he led the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Ebola outbreak control operations, assisting the government of Sierra Leone in Africa. Dr. Ksiazek earned his DVM from K-State in 1970, and then spent a year as associate veterinarian at the Adirondack Animal Hospital in Glensfalls, New York. He started his military career when he joined the U. S. Air force in 1971, holding a position that year as base veterinarian at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.



Dr. Thomas Ksiazek with his wife, Shirley.

2015 E.R. Frank Award

Dr. Michael Dryden

Dr. Michael W. Dryden, Manhattan, Kansas, earned a bachelor's degree in 1982 and a DVM degree in 1984, both at Kansas State University. He later earned a master's degree in 1988 and a Ph.D. in 1990, both from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. He currently is a University Distinguished Professor of Veterinary Parasitology in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology. Dr. Dryden is head of a research team that has been involved in three areas: 1) biology and control of fleas and ticks infesting dogs and cats, 2) investigations into the interactions and disease transmission between urban wildlife, domestic pets and humans and 3) epidemiology and control of gastrointestinal parasites of dogs and cats. He has published or currently has in-press more than 130 scientific manuscripts and review articles, nine book chapters and one pictorial atlas of parasitology.



Dr. Mike Dryden with his wife, Joan.

2015 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

Dr. Sara Beth (Emanuel) Mullaney

Dr. Sara Beth (Emanuel) Mullaney, Fort Collins, Colorado, earned a bachelor's degree in animal science in 2001 at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and her DVM from K-State in 2005, graduating summa cum laude. After graduation in 2005, she completed an internship in large animal medicine and surgery at the University of Georgia. Upon completion of the internship, Dr. Mullaney joined Blackstrap Hill Veterinary Clinic in Cumberland Center, Maine. She was in practice for two years where she worked primarily with equine patients, but saw llamas and alpacas as well. Looking for a change of pace in 2008, Dr. Mullaney joined the United States Army Veterinary Corps. Her first duty assignment was in Charleston, South Carolina, as the officer in charge of the veterinary treatment facility at Charleston Air Force Base, and the Naval Weapons Station food inspection service. She is working on a Ph.D. in epidemiology at Colorado State University



Dr. Sara Mullaney with her husband, Ciaran.

Alumni Recognition Awards 2015



Dr. Sam Rivera (1996)

North American Veterinary Conference

Dr. Sam Rivera, Canton, Georgia, was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and earned a bachelor's degree in microbiology in 1992, and a DVM and master's degree in veterinary pathobiology in 1996, all at K-State. He is now employed as the senior veterinarian at Zoo Atlanta. He is board-certified in avian medicine by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Dr. Rivera did preceptorships at the St. Louis Zoo and Bronx Zoo during his studies at the CVM. He moved to Atlanta in 1996 and joined a busy small animal and exotics practice until 2005. He joined Zoo Atlanta as a part-time veterinarian in 1999 and has served as a full-time veterinarian since 2005.



Dr. Lawrence Pultz (1973)

North American Veterinary Conference

The late Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Oliver Pultz, Winter Springs, Florida, was the founder of the Town and Country Veterinary Clinic in Oviedo, Florida, and was well-known in eastern Seminole County, where for 30 years he took care of dogs, cats, horses, cows, peacocks, turtles — and any other animal that needed help. He was born in Puerto Rico and grew up on the island's now-closed Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, attending a base school from kindergarten through 12th grade. His father was a civilian employee. Dr. Pultz, who spoke both English and Spanish, earned a bachelor's degree and DVM at K-State in 1971 and 1973, respectively. He passed away July 23, 2014.



Dr. Douglas Schwenka (1988)

Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association

Dr. Douglas Schwenka, Hastings, Nebraska, was born in Minden, Nebraska. He earned his DVM at Kansas State University in 1988 and has been in a four-person mixed practice called Animal Clinic, serving Hastings and the surrounding communities since 1989. In 2009, Dr. Schwenka was presented with the Veterinarian of the Year Award by the NVMA. Dr. Schwenka is the past-president of District V and a member of the board of directors of the NVMA. Dr. Schwenka is a member of the AVMA, AABP and AAHA.



Dr. Michael J. Gilsdorf (1974)

American Veterinary Medical Association

Dr. Michael J. Gilsdorf, Sykesville, Maryland, earned a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1972 and a DVM in 1974, both from K-State. In 1981, he completed the criteria and was awarded a Master's in Veterinary Microbiology from Iowa State University. Dr. Gilsdorf has held positions over the last 33 years as a VMO, an AVIC, a VMO at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory, a senior staff veterinarian in headquarters, and a VMO working in international animal health programs. He is currently executive vice president of the National Association of Federal Veterinarians in Washington, D.C. and is considered to be an expert on brucellosis.

Dr. Dennis “Denny” E. Hausmann (1971)

Western Veterinary Conference

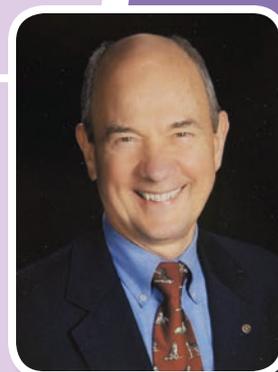
Dr. Dennis “Denny” E. Hausmann, Erie, Colorado, was born in Mitchell, South Dakota, and grew up in Bonesteel, South Dakota. He attended South Dakota State University from 1963 to 1965. He later attended Kansas State University where he earned a DVM in 1971. From 1971 to 1987, Dr. Hausmann was in private clinical practice in South Dakota. In 1987, he moved to Colorado and conducted equine appraisals for Rocky Mountain Equine Appraisal until 1989. From 1989 to 2012, Dr. Hausmann was involved in technical services with various nutritional and pharmaceutical companies. During that time Dr. Hausmann had the opportunity to speak in several foreign countries. He retired from Merck Animal Health in June 2012. Although retired, Dr. Hausmann is currently consulting part time for several companies.



Dr. Vern Otte (1975)

Central Veterinary Conference

Dr. Vern Otte, Leawood, Kansas, originally from Great Bend, Kansas, earned a bachelor's degree in 1964 and a DVM in 1975, both at Kansas State University. After graduation, he practiced at Raritan Hospital for Animals (Edison, New Jersey) until 1977. He then owned and practiced at the State Line Animal Hospital, Leawood, from 1977 to 2014, at which time he sold the practice to his associate, whom he now works for. Dr. Otte has been a trail veterinarian for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race for eight years. He has been an active member of the AVMA serving on its PAC for eight years, including one year as chair. He has also been a member of the KVMA, KCVMA and AAHA. In 2000, Dr. Otte was named the Kansas Veterinarian of the Year.



Dr. Billy Joe La Rue (1956)

Central Veterinary Conference

The late Dr. Billy Joe La Rue, Chanute, Kansas, was born in Iola, Kansas, and grew up just north of Chanute, Kansas. He graduated from Chanute Senior High School in 1950, and attended Chanute Junior College (now Neosho County Community College) before transferring to Kansas State College, Manhattan, in the summer of 1951. He married Barbara Ann Ebert in 1953 in Chanute and graduated from K-State in 1956 with both Bachelor of Science and DVM degrees. Dr. La Rue was named Veterinarian of the Year by the KVMA in 1998 and received the KVMA's 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award. He was a lifetime member of the AVMA, the Southeast Kansas VMA, the K-State Alumni Association, and the VMAA. Dr. La Rue served as an Cubmaster for Cub Scout Pack 100 for many years, and his involvement as an adult leader in Scouting lasted for more than 30 years.



Read more about these recipients and awards online at www.vet.k-state.edu/alumni/awards/recognition



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**Five-Year
 Class Reunions**
 June 3-5, 2016

We hope you and your family are able to return to your alma mater and attend your reunion. Plan to be in town Saturday morning when we officially kick off the Alumni Weekend. We will have a light breakfast, remarks from Dean Beckham and tours of campus.

Watch our website for more info:
www.vet.k-state.edu/alumni/

Mark Your Calendars!
 June 4-7, 2016
**78th Annual Conference
 for Veterinarians**

Kansas State University and the College of Veterinary Medicine invite you to heighten your knowledge about issues most prevalent in veterinary medicine. This year's conference is designed to provide Continuing Education (CE) opportunities for the entire veterinary team. The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center.

www.vet.k-state.edu/annual-conf16