

# Healing Hands

## Meeting Needs

Kansas program helps steer Dr. Jessica Winter toward her own rural practice

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE**

**A CORE FOR OUTCOMES RESEARCH**

**MEASURING STRESS IN VETERINARY STUDENTS**

**SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM GOES MOBILE**



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**KANSAS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

College of Veterinary Medicine

# Contents



5 Introducing Dr. Beckham

8 Going Mobile

10 Student Well-Being

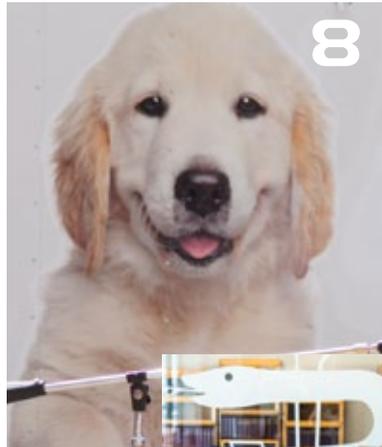
12 In the Center of it All

14 A Home in Hillsboro

16 Higher Learning

18 Four Ways to Give

19 True Appreciation



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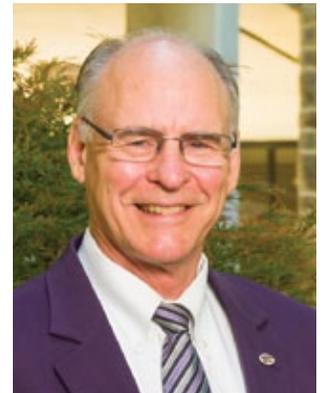
**About the cover:** Dr. Jessica Winter bought a mixed practice in Hillsboro, Kansas, in 2014. She graduated from K-State in 2010 as a participant in the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas. (Courtesy photo)

# Foreword — progress

## Reflecting on 17 special years of working with great people

**Greetings alumni and friends! It has been a distinct pleasure serving as the dean** for your College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University for the last 17 years. About a year ago, I announced my plan to step down this summer and it's now my privilege to welcome Dr. Tammy Beckham as our new dean. Please join me in helping her feel welcome, just as you did me when I stepped into this role.

In looking back over my time as dean I can honestly say these years have been some of the most rewarding of my life, both personally and professionally. When I took this job in 1998, it was a homecoming for me that has been more exciting than I ever dreamed it would be. At the time, the college's facilities seemed new to me, even though they were more than 20 years old. These buildings weren't here when I went to school and graduated with my DVM in 1970. To come back to the place where my wife, Bev, and I met and started our life together has been very special. She has been a part of my career every step of the way and I could not have done what I've done without her. In addition to returning to our alma mater, our parents were still living in the state and to be able to be around them was extra special.



### A proud set of accomplishments

There's no question that our alumni, friends and people in this college have made this job rewarding beyond my wildest dreams. We have a wonderful team of passionate, caring individuals who have helped define and enhance our areas of strength and make us international leaders. It's always fun to be recognized for doing things well and the people have been the engine that has driven our success. I have enjoyed being a cheerleader every step of the way.

The secondary reward that comes from having supportive alumni and friends as well as productive faculty is reflected in how we have grown the budget of the college. It has, over time, reached a level that's much more respectable compared to our peers. This has led to stronger programs and better pay for our faculty and staff. It has also led to larger numbers of faculty and staff. That funding growth has been generated through research, the revenue from the Veterinary Health Center and the KSVDL, the tuition that our students pay, generous gifts, and support from the state of Kansas.

Another thing I'm proud of is our interdisciplinary effort. I am convinced collaboration with our sister colleges at K-State and beyond is the pathway to the future. Working with my fellow deans and the programs across campus has really been delightful. Collaboration is stronger than it's ever been. Examples of interdisciplinary work include our Masters of Public Health (MPH) program, along with our centers of excellence such as the Beef Cattle Institute (BCI), the Center for Outcomes Research and Education (CORE), the Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases (CEVBD), the Institute for Computational Comparative Medicine (ICCM) and the Nanotechnology Innovation Center of Kansas State (NICKS). We've reached beyond the university with our US-China Center for Animal Health and have impacted animal health in other parts of the world. If we had tried to do this alone, we wouldn't have gone nearly as far as we have.

Another area we've tried to grow in terms of investing college funds is the DVM-Ph.D. program and scholarship support for that initiative. It's early on, but I think this program is going to have a huge positive impact on the profession. This, along with the other dual-degree programs such as the DVM-MPH and the DVM-Master's Degree programs, is having a really powerful influence on the way society views veterinary medicine.

I'm proud of and thankful for the relationships we have with our alumni, our student body and our friends. We have the very best students possible and we have passionate alumni and friends, not just from the donor perspective, but from the perspective of people who simply care about the college and want to have the right kind of things done for the profession.

We have been a "pace setter" as we've built satellite clinical training facilities in Omaha, Nebraska, and at the Sunset Zoo in Manhattan. We've boldly expanded our diagnostic laboratory reach through a satellite facility at the K-State Olathe campus and we have aggressively engaged in public/private partnerships to grow diagnostic laboratory services on a national basis. These initiatives were not "traditional academic programs" as we knew them, but they have stretched us and made us more relevant to society.

Being associated with the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, the American Royal and K-State Olathe is another very powerful step for our college. It has been important



for us to interact with the animal health and nutrition industries that are focused in Kansas City. Working with my brother Dan (KSU CVM '77) as he helped build the K-State Olathe campus and being able to link Kansas State University more solidly to the greater KC region was just an absolute delight. Another joy has resulted from being engaged and involved in the American Royal — education for youth who may go into agriculture or food sciences or veterinary medicine. Being on the boards of directors for the American Royal and the Animal Health Corridor was very rewarding as far as relationship building was concerned. And those friendships will continue.

I'm also very proud of Kansas and our role in two important state programs: the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas and the Pet Friendly license tag sales. The Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas is a debt forgiveness program for our students. We feature one of the graduates of that program in a special profile in this issue of Healing Hands. The Pet Friendly license tag program is making a huge impact on shelter medicine in Kansas. The state has embraced this program and it is now turning a revenue stream into support for our veterinary students who get training in shelter medicine and serve small communities in Kansas.

## Dealing with challenges along the way

There's no question that funding is an ever-present challenge, day in and day out, trying to find adequate resources to hire and support the kind of people and programs our students deserve. We want our graduates to have been immersed in a top-tier education, research and outreach setting. Finding resources to support those programs is a continuous challenge, but it's a day-by-day opportunity as well.

We have done a pretty good job keeping our facilities modern and we've been able to renovate space as needed. But, as successful as we've been with renovations and fundraising, the fact is that we have outgrown our physical space. I think there is light at the end of the tunnel in regards to diagnostic lab and research facilities. As I step down from my role as dean, I'm excited about the potential for a much-needed, new diagnostic laboratory. Although it hasn't happened yet, I'm optimistic we'll have a new lab soon. This is going to give us a tremendous leap ahead and get us out of our rental space and the overcrowded laboratories in our existing facilities.

It's been a delight to see us grow and do the things we've done. We'll never "arrive" at a final destination, but I'm pleased with the journey we've been on and the direction we're going. Just like growing up or maturing, it's a continual process that will never come to a close. I am a firm believer that we should always be hungry for doing things better. If we're not growing, we're probably falling behind.

## The future of the college

The future is bright! Kansas State University is already perceived as the premier college of veterinary medicine relative to livestock production and animal health. We are being viewed more and more as a One Health nexus, particularly when combining our public health and graduate programs, the DVM program and the federal laboratories for infectious and zoonotic diseases such as the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) and the Arthropod-Borne Animal Disease Research Unit (ABADRU). Add in the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, the Biosecurity Research Institute and the medical and pharmacy schools in the region, and you have all of the elements for a very bright future, particularly in comparative/translational medicine — animal models for human disease. Geographically and expertise-wise, we are going to be so well-positioned that we'll be the envy of the world.

Finally, I hope we'll continue to build on the legacy established by Drs. Jake Mosier, E.J. Frick, E.R. Frank, Embert Coles, Donald Trotter, Harry Anthony, Russ Frey, Dan Upson and the many long-term clinicians and other faculty members who have dedicated their lives to our college. The DVM curriculum is just so special! I hope that, under my leadership, we have continued the legacy that was built before us. That is the foundation that has allowed our graduates to be sought by so many employers.

As I leave this position, I invite you to keep in touch and continue to be part of our future. While I will no longer be serving as dean, I plan to have an active part in the college and look forward to seeing as many great friends as I can when the opportunities arise. I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful accomplishments and activities in this issue of Healing Hands.

Sincerely,



Ralph C. Richardson, DVM, Dipl ACVIM (Oncology, Internal Medicine)  
Dean

# Introducing Dr. Tammy Beckham

## Kansas State University names Dr. Beckham as the new dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine



**Following a national search,** Kansas State University has named Dr. Tammy Beckham as its next dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, effective Aug. 2.

Dr. Beckham is currently the director of the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases, or IIAD, a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence in College Station, Texas. Since 2010, she has led the IIAD's efforts to perform research and develop products to defend the nation from high-consequence foreign animal, emerging and zoonotic diseases.

Dr. Beckham also has served as director of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, or TVMDL, an agency of the state of Texas and member of the Texas A&M University System. She has provided leadership for TVMDL's two full-service laboratories and two poultry laboratories, and directs one of the highest volume animal diagnostic labs in the country.

"I am excited to welcome Dr. Beckham as the 12th dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine," said April Mason, Kansas State University provost and senior vice president. "She is recognized as an international expert in the diagnosis of foreign animal diseases and will be a tremendous leader to help guide us toward our goal of becoming a Top 50 public research university by 2025."

Previously, Dr. Beckham was director of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York. Her responsibilities included managing the diagnosis of animal diseases, overseeing diagnostic test development for a nationwide animal health diagnostic system, and coordinating efforts with the Department of Homeland Security, the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and other entities.

Dr. Beckham succeeds Dr. Ralph Richardson, who has served as the College of Veterinary Medicine's dean since 1998. Dr. Richardson will transition to a faculty position in the college.

"The positive momentum at Kansas State University is very exciting," Dr. Beckham said. "I am honored to have been chosen to be the next dean, and I look forward to leading the College of Veterinary Medicine as we leverage that momentum to serve our stakeholders and work to become a Top 50 public research university by 2025."

A magna cum laude graduate of Auburn University, Dr. Beckham earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1998. She also holds a Ph.D. in biomedical science from Auburn, received in 2001 while she served as a captain in the U.S. Army. She served at the Army's Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases in Frederick, Maryland, where she helped develop improved techniques for detecting deadly pathogens such as Ebola and Marburg viruses.

Dr. Beckham is chair of the Foreign and Emerging Disease Committee of the United States Animal Health Association and has served on many committees within animal health and veterinary diagnostic associations throughout the United States. She also has been an adjunct professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Beckham has authored numerous publications, including those appearing in the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*, *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, *Journal of Comparative Pathology* and *Laboratory Investigation*, among others. She routinely acts as a subject matter expert at international meetings and maintains partnerships with international scientists and world reference laboratories. 

## Willie's Pet of the Week contest lights up social media



The Veterinary Health Center partnered with K-State Athletics last fall in a campaign that was hailed as the most popular photo campaign of its kind in the nation. Third party, ThinkSocial, generated the platform and

compiled the results as fans submitted photos and voted daily for their favorite Willie's Pet of the Week.

The overwhelmingly successful campaign led to the creation of a Willie's Pet of the Week calendar in which proceeds were donated to the hospital development fund. The top 10 pictures were determined by the fan-voted contest on K-State Athletics' Facebook page. Celebrity judges included Willie the Wildcat, head football coach Bill Snyder, President Kirk Schulz and Dr. Roger Fingland, who then decided the top three winning photos.

Congratulations to Jodi and Sophie Schendel, Cheney, Kansas, and their dog, Ruby, on being chosen as the winner. The second- and third-place winners were, respectively, Jackie Burden, Benton, Kansas, for her dog, Bruno Mars, and Andrea Beyer, Ft. Worth, Texas, for her dog, Frisco.

## A look at equine bandaging

While colic surgery in horses is a common procedure at the Veterinary Health Center, patient care after the operation can be a topic of debate. To help remedy this situation, a team from the VHC started a line of research to examine benefits bandages might provide following abdominal surgery.

"After surgery, horses have to go into a recovery stall where they are laying down on their incision and they often lay down in their stalls after surgery, which makes for a less than sanitary environment," said Dr. Warren Beard. "So many people try to put bandages on the horse's abdomen after surgery for two purposes: 1) to keep it clean and; 2) to keep pressure on the incision to try to limit the amount of edema that forms from the trauma of the surgery."



PHOTO BY JOSEPH CHAPES AND KENT NELSON

See this story on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4uAZ-JxUFU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4uAZ-JxUFU)



## Dr. Dan Thomson picks up BQA Educator of Year Award

Dr. Dan Thomson, Jones Professor of Veterinary Medicine and director of the Beef Cattle Institute for the College of Veterinary Medicine, was recently honored as the 2015 National Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Educator of the Year.

Dr. Thomson has worked throughout his professional career as a practicing veterinarian and as an educator, to deliver the BQA message to beef producers throughout Kansas and the entire United States.



COURTESY PHOTO

*Josh White, NCBA executive director of producer education, presents the BQA Educator of the Year Award to Dr. Dan Thomson.*

## Next-generation sequencing



PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY

**Dr. Benjamin Hause uses next-generation sequencing to identify and characterize viruses and bacteria.**

Dr. Benjamin Hause, an assistant research professor at the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, used a new technique he brought to K-State to identify a rare virus: porcine enterovirus G.

“We had isolated a virus in cells, but didn’t know what it was,” Dr. Hause said. “We used next-generation sequencing to identify it, and it turned out to be porcine enterovirus G, which had been described before, but had never previously been found in North America.”

## Microscopy validates model



**Dr. A. Sally Davis**

PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY

Dr. A. Sally Davis is a new faculty member who provides pathology support to the Center of Excellence for Emerging Zoonotic Animal Diseases. Using electron microscopy and immunofluorescence confocal microscopy, she has helped validate a human primary cell line used for modeling human influenza infections. Dr. Davis said she will present guest lectures and assist in collaborative research projects using the microscopy facilities. Dr. Davis enjoys working with and mentoring students.

## New model explores impact of an FMD outbreak

A research project presents the largest model to date for evaluating the impact and control of a potential outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in livestock. Dr. Mike Sanderson, professor in Diagnostic Medicine/ Pathobiology, and his former graduate student, Dr. Sara McReynolds, published their results in the December issue of the journal, Preventive Veterinary Medicine.

They developed simulation models to assess the impact of livestock herd types and vaccination on FMD outbreaks using the North American Animal Disease Spread Model. In this study,

potential FMD virus outbreaks in the central region of the U.S. were simulated to compare different vaccination strategies to a depopulation-only scenario. Based on data from the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, a simulated population of 151,620 livestock operations characterized by latitude and longitude, production type and herd size was generated. Data for the study was generated by surveying livestock producers in Kansas and Colorado in order to determine the rate of contact between herd populations.

“The results of this study will provide information about

the impacts of disease-control protocols, which may be useful in choosing the optimal control methods to be used by the livestock industry and animal-health professionals to meet the goal of rapid effective control and eradication,” Dr. Sanderson said. “The challenge behind this project is that you don’t want to destroy the livestock industry in the process of trying to destroy the virus.”



STOCK PHOTO

**This new study looks at vaccination strategies to control FMD.**

# Going Mobile

## Shelter Medicine program launches Mobile Surgery Unit

By Joe Montgomery



### THE NEED

Equipment to provide quality care.

### TO HELP

Purchase needed equipment by calling 785-532-4378.

**The CVM is truly going to the dogs — and cats — and other shelter pets.** On April 13, the college dedicated its brand new Shelter Medicine Mobile Surgery Unit.

The Department of Clinical Sciences recently purchased the mobile surgical unit to allow students and faculty to perform on-site, pre-adoption spay/neuter procedures and provide medical care to enhance the health and adoptability of shelter animals. Agreements have already been established to provide services for nonprofit and municipal animal shelter organizations in Manhattan, Junction City, Ottawa, Emporia, Topeka, Lawrence, Salina and Clay Center.

The mobile surgical unit complements the college's shelter medicine program, which is a service-learning course for fourth-year veterinary students to get hands-on experience under the supervision of a shelter medicine faculty member. Most shelter organizations in Kansas do not have a veterinarian on staff nor do they have on-site surgical facilities. The success of the program is dependent on developing strong, sustainable relationships with regional shelters. Sixty-six students from the class of 2016 (fourth-year students) are scheduled to complete this elective two-week rotation.

**"We believe students will develop a strong appreciation for the magnitude of the homeless pet population and will be prepared to volunteer and advocate for shelters in their communities after graduation,"** said Dr. Brad Crauer, a clinical assistant professor who was recently hired to direct the shelter medicine program. In addition to individual animal care, Dr. Crauer also provides consultation services for regional shelters on infectious disease control and behavior assessment.

The Shelter Medicine Mobile Surgery Unit was made possible by a bequest from Mark Chapman and Cheryl Mellenthin. Cheryl dedicated the mobile surgery unit in memory of her late husband and the late Chris Gruber, director of development.

"The partnership, in the new Helping Hands Humane Society Veterinary Educational Center, with the Kansas State Veterinary students, Dr. Brad Crauer and the HHHS veterinary staff is a great opportunity to teach students shelter medicine and sterilization while helping the shelter prepare the animals for adoption," said Deb Skaggs, RVT, director of HHHS Veterinary Services in Topeka.

The first rotation for providing service to regional shelters will begin in May. These students are projected to perform 2,800 to 3,500 spay/neuter procedures in the first year. Communities participating in the shelter-medicine program are encouraged to look for a large purple vehicle that says, **"Future Vets Helping Future Pets."**

**Cheryl Mellenthin takes a moment to reflect. The mobile surgery unit was dedicated to her late husband, Mark Chapman, and the CVM's late director of development, Chris Gruber.**



Dedicated to the Memory of:  
**MARK A. CHAPMAN**  
**CHRIS S. GRUBER**



PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY

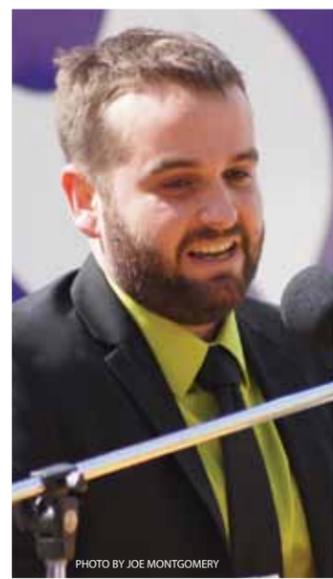


PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY



PHOTO BY AUDREY HAMBRIGHT

*Far left: Third-year student Justin Jones accepts the new Mellenthin-Chapman Shelter Medicine Scholarship.*

*Near left: Dr. Brad Crauer, director of the Shelter Medicine program, explains to Katya Leick, KSNT-TV reporter, how he will be driving the mobile surgery unit to participating community animal shelters in order to provide spay-neuter surgeries and preventative medicine.*

# Stress Relief

CVM STUDIES SUGGEST VETERINARY MEDICAL STUDENTS HAVE ELEVATED SIGNS OF ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

By Kelly L. Smith

**“Veterinary school is hard,” said Dr. Mac Hafen.**

While this might seem to be an obvious statement, what isn’t obvious is how the stress of veterinary college contributes to an unusually high percentage of individuals who score above the clinical cut-off score for depression and anxiety. As a counselor and therapist for the CVM, Dr. Hafen has conducted research indicating veterinary medical students at K-State routinely score higher on average than other population groups — including human medicine students.

“In real numbers, one out of every three veterinary students struggle to the point where some sort of clinical intervention would be appropriate and beneficial,” Dr. Hafen said. “Compared to the general population, these levels are typically around 10 to 15 percent — about 1 in 10 — and in human medical schools, it’s around 20 percent, or 1 in 5 students who score above the cut-off for depression. Veterinary student depression and anxiety are consistently elevated compared to students studying human medicine.”

## Long-term investigation

Dr. Hafen’s research on the well-being of veterinary students began about 10 years ago when he was first hired at K-State.

“We developed a longitudinal study to follow four classes through their entire four years,” Dr. Hafen said. “Students completed a survey in the fall and spring semesters to evaluate depression and anxiety and specific stressors (e.g. academics, personal relationships)



***Dr. Adryanna Drake and Dr. Mac Hafen employ intervention strategies based on long-term research they conducted into the well-being of K-State veterinary medical students.***

experienced by students. We asked students to fill the survey out during week eight — in the middle of the semester — to be fair and avoid times that are already known to be stressful, such as during finals when it’s crunch time.”

Three main factors emerged as being connected with the higher depression scores: physical fitness, the perception of fitting in with classmates and homesickness.

“If students experience difficulty fitting in or finding time to take care of health (healthy diet, sleep, exercise), we encourage them to focus on goals to improve in these areas. We know progress in these areas translates to a stronger academic performance,” Dr. Hafen said. “We encourage getting involved, making connections and having a balanced life.”

Dr. Hafen has published five different articles about student well-being research in the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education. The research was conducted with co-investigators Dr. Bonnie Rush, head of the Clinical Sciences Department, Dr. Adryanna Drake, counselor at the CVM, and Dr. Allison Reisbig, an associate professor at the University of Nebraska who earned her master's degree and Ph.D. at K-State's College of Human Ecology.

"Dr. Rush has been very supportive and has helped with the logistics of access to students and implementing the protocols," Dr. Hafen said. "It's nice we have two in-house counselors to help students who are experiencing challenges. Drs. Drake, Rush and I are planning interventions in advance that will hopefully make a difference. We are targeting physical health and information-sharing with students to help plan for future well-being."

"The knowledge we gain from research allows us to serve veterinary medical students with interventions that are specifically tailored based on their needs," Dr. Drake said. "We have clearly identified that reaching out to others and taking care of one's physical health are very important for student well-being. Cultivating the ability to reach out to others and to take care of one's health will be helpful during veterinary training and as new professionals, because isolation and poor self-care are also associated with poor outcomes for veterinary medical professionals."

### **Class results are not static**

The studies showed some differences between the stress levels depending on which class year the students are in.

"If you look across years, the depression levels are lower in the first and fourth year than in the second and third year," Dr. Hafen said. "Anxiety is also higher in second and third year. In terms of content and academics, the second and third years are challenging and can lead to higher depression. Graduation is too far away at that point, so students don't see any light at the end of the tunnel yet."

Dr. Hafen said this research at K-State is fairly unique and has only been replicated so far at Iowa State University where the results were very similar. He said the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges has created a health and wellness conference during the last two years, and in the most recent conference, he was an invited speaker to present an overview of his research on the well-being part of the studies. Having in-house counselors at K-State is also relatively unique.

"More and more schools have an in-house counselor," Dr. Hafen said. "I was invited to Oregon State University in March to talk about well-being, and they really liked the idea of having an in-house counselor."

### **Counseling and more**

Drs. Hafen and Drake offer services to faculty and staff and to clients of the Veterinary Health Center who are dealing with the loss of companion animals, but that's not all they do.

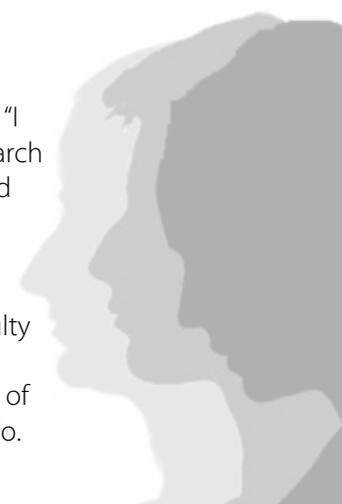
"Dr. Drake and I perform a number of different activities for the college in addition to counseling," Dr. Hafen said. "We have classroom interactions with the third-year class, and in fourth-year, we work with Dr. Susan Nelson and the Pet Health Center to help students with communication skills. Every student is required to film themselves with an actual client and then meet with us twice to review the client-student-patient interactions. Our focus is on making adjustments and reinforcing good communication skills."

Dr. Hafen plans to continue working on well-being of students.

"Veterinary college is a stressor, and I don't think we are not going to get away from that," Dr. Hafen said. "These are not average population stressors. We are working to improve the well-being of the students, so we are going to continue to do our part to facilitate healthy adjustments to stressors." 

**“... reaching out to others and taking care of one's physical health are very important for student well-being.”**

*— Dr. Adryanna Drake*



**Findings indicate as many as 1 in 3 veterinary medical students at K-State score above the clinical cut-off score for depression.**

## Dr. David Renter directs the new Center for Outcomes Research and Education and puts animal health ...



**The Center for Outcomes Research and Education celebrates a \$250,000 gift from Zoetis. From left: Dr. Annette Bouwer, associate director of outcomes research for Zoetis; Dean Ralph Richardson; Sabina Gasper, global head of outcomes research for Zoetis; Dr. David Renter, director of the CORE; Dr. Rob Holland, director of outcomes research for Zoetis; and Dr. Frank Blecha, associate dean of research.**

# In the Center of it All

By Joe Montgomery

**Centers of Excellence play an important role in advancing** the mission of the CVM. This February a new center was launched — the Center for Outcomes Research and Education or CORE.

CORE is the brainchild of veterinary epidemiologist Dr. David Renter and his colleagues. With a goal of improving effectiveness and efficiency in animal health care and its associated impacts on human health, the CORE will focus on demonstrating the value of animal health interventions — including treatment, prevention or diagnostic activities intended to improve health.

“By providing structured, applied research and educational programs that explicitly define and incorporate the societal and economic values inherent to health interventions, the CORE will be a unique resource for the veterinary profession and others focused on enhancing animal health,” said Dr. Renter, who

is a professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology and the director of the CORE. “The CORE will provide leadership and infrastructure for effective collaboration among practicing veterinarians, industry partners, government agencies and others in academia, so we can determine optimal animal health approaches for different situations. This type of outcomes research approach is already well integrated into some human health programs, but a center like this is new in animal health.”

### Zoetis steps up to the CORE

“Our CORE group has been very fortunate to have developed partnerships and support through a variety of private and public sources,” Dr. Renter said.

In February, a \$250,000 gift was made by Zoetis as a foundation gift.

“Supporting CORE aligns with our vision and strategy for Outcomes Research,” said Clint

Lewis, executive vice president and president of the U.S. business for Zoetis. “As the leading animal health company, we are committed to demonstrating both the clinical and economic value of therapies and services to veterinarians, producers and pet owners.”

“This is an exciting opportunity to expand Outcomes Research to the global animal health community,” said Sabina Gasper, global head of outcomes research for Zoetis. “By supporting the creation of the CORE, K-State has clearly demonstrated their commitment to veterinary medicine and animal health and we are pleased to be at the forefront of this effort.”

### What is Outcomes Research?

The discipline of outcomes research involves applied clinical- and population-based research that seeks to study and optimize the end results of health care practices and interventions in terms of benefits to the patient and society.

Often there is a focus on the evaluation of economic factors, comparative clinical effectiveness, and health-related quality of life assessments. “We will generate and synthesize evidence on health interventions and train

### THE NEED

Research on the clinical and economic benefits of animal health interventions.

### TO HELP

Invest in research and scholarly activity. Call 785-532-4378 for more information.

**“The CORE will be a unique resource for the veterinary profession and others focused on enhancing animal health.”**

— Dr. David Renter

people on how to best utilize that evidence to influence health care decisions,” Dr. Renter said.

The CORE will involve several faculty at Kansas State University with existing collaborative programs, as well as experts at other institutions.

“We have world-class faculty already working together on these types of issues,” Dr. Renter said. “The CORE will allow us to enhance that work, increase our visibility, provide more focused leadership, and be much more responsive to stakeholders in the animal health community.”

The CORE research and training activities will be funded through a variety of sources, including private sector support and federal grants through agencies such as the USDA. Developing and enhancing public-private partnerships is a key part of CORE’s strategic plan. As an example, Dr. Renter noted Kansas State University’s connections with the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, a consortium of more than 200 animal health and nutrition companies whose leadership controls more than one-third of the world’s animal health business.

Dr. Renter explained the CORE helps support Kansas State University’s 2025 Vision of becoming a top 50 public research university. 



COURTESY PHOTOS - BOTH PAGES

# Dr. Jessica Winter: Making a HOME in Hillsboro

Veterinary Training Program helps  
dreams come true in Rural Kansas

Story by Joe Montgomery

"Parts of this story have been reprinted with permission from the Hillsboro Star-Journal and Hoch Publishing Co. Inc."

**Five years ago, veterinary practice was a low priority** for Dr. Jessica Winter. She had just graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine at K-State, but her career was going to be on hold for a while. She was due to have a baby that August. While that may have been a scary proposition with student loans soon-to-be-due as well, Dr. Winter had some peace of mind knowing her educational expenses would be covered through the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas, or VTPRK.

**“ The VTPRK program was not what gave me the desire to serve in a small/rural/in-need community, but it was what made it possible to do so. ”**

— *Dr. Jessica Winter*

“The VTPRK has allowed me to pursue my career as well as my dream of raising my family in a small community like my parents did for me,” she said.

The VTPRK was passed by the state legislature in 2006 to provide a financial incentive to bring new veterinarians to rural areas. VTPRK participants are eligible for up to \$20,000 in loans per year to pay for college expenses and advanced training. Upon completion of their DVM, each student is required to work in a full-time veterinary practice located in any of 91 Kansas counties with less than 35,000 residents. For each year the student works in rural Kansas (up to four years), \$20,000 worth of loans will be forgiven by the state.

## Helping a homegrown Kansan

Dr. Winter is from Latham in Cowley County and she had hoped to return close to home. She began her career as a mixed animal practitioner in Lyons, Kansas, with a focus on providing quality medicine to both companion animals



***Dr. Jessica Winter maintains a feeling of home throughout her practice, whether working with large or small animals. She tells clients they will most likely be seeing her daughters Adalynn and Alaina chute-side or in the exam room. Her husband, Scott, occasionally lends a hand too.***

and production animals; knowing that each is an integral part of a rural practice.

“At the time, I sent resumes to a 90-mile radius from where my Mom and Dad live,” Dr. Winter said. “It’s great to be able to be close to home and have the financial assistance from the VTPRK, but it’s also very nice to know I’d be serving an area that needs it. The VTPRK program was not what gave me the desire to serve in a small/rural/in-need community, but it was what made it possible to do so. The debt forgiveness and loan repayment make it possible to look into jobs right out of veterinary school that do not pay as well as jobs in urban areas.”

### **Buying her own practice**

Dr. Winter began working at Hillsboro Animal Clinic with Dr. Norman Galle, DVM class of 1972, in the fall of 2013. Her husband, Scott, is a Hillsboro native, so it turned out to be a great homecoming opportunity. The Winters purchased the practice in June 2014 from Dr. Galle, who was retiring, and were eager to continue to provide high quality cutting-edge rural veterinary medicine.

“Owning our own business has always been the desire of my husband and me,” Dr. Winter said. “The most exciting part is the potential for growth and providing a needed service to the agricultural industry. The very month we purchased the clinic an opportunity to serve

a neighboring community came available, without hesitation I jumped in my truck and started driving. Where there is a need there is a way!”

The Winter family now includes two children — Adalynn and Alaina. Dr. Winter tells clients they will most likely be seeing her daughters chute-side or in the exam room.

“Maintaining a balance between work, family and community is hard when you are first starting out in ownership, but when you own the clinic, you get to decide just how ambitious you want to be,” Dr. Winter said. “Ambition is the key — however, it can also be the challenge. We have recently added an associate veterinarian and are able to expand our services even more.”

### **Paying it forward as a mentor**

As part of being a community, Dr. Winter was recently recognized by her local newspaper for helping to mentor a local teenager named Valerie Klassen. Hillsboro Star-Journal reporter Oliver Good wrote that Dr. Winter lent Valerie

#### **■ THE NEED**

Scholarships create opportunities and allow students to follow their passion.

#### **■ TO HELP**

Establish a scholarship by calling 785-532-4378.

**CONTINUED** | See Winter, page 23

# Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine Higher Learning

The Veterinary Medical Library on the fourth floor of Trotter Hall has recently been renovated. Please consider helping to sustain a great learning environment and study space for our students.

By Joe Montgomery



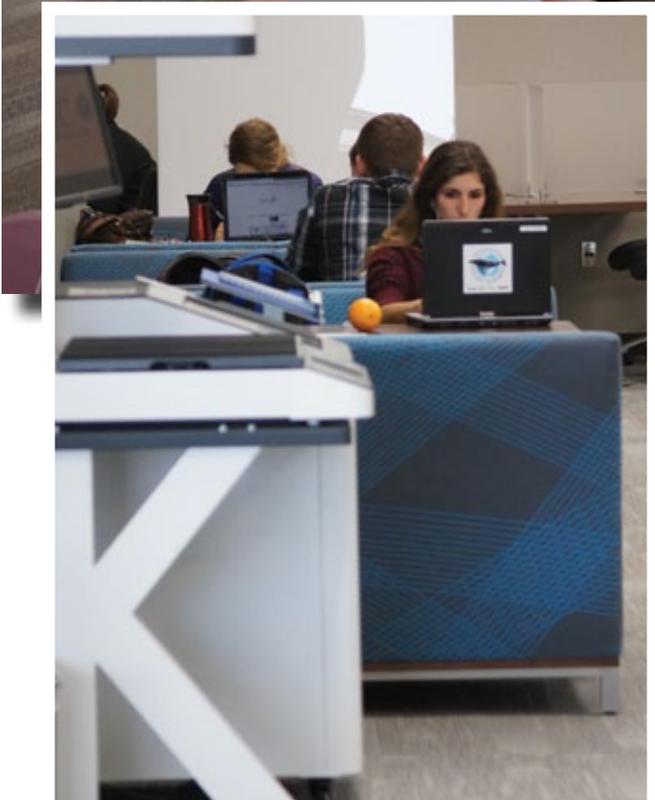
## **The Veterinary Medical Library first opened**

on the fourth floor of Trotter Hall in 1973. The majority of the space was filled with stacks for thousands of books and journals. In May 2014, the first complete renovation of the library space began, and the library reopened in January 2015. In planning the renovation, the veterinary students were always uppermost in allocating types of space based on how students study and learn.

The Veterinary Medical Library serves a larger clientele including faculty and students from the CVM and other disciplines across campus, veterinary practitioners, allied health professionals and clients in corporations and industry.

As a physical place, the library continues to grow in the number of students who use the space. It is the library's intent to be financially poised to anticipate and/or respond to the needs of the veterinary students, now and in the future.

You can help ensure this outstanding, state-of-the-art library today will meet the needs of future generations of veterinary students and clientele. 



***Study space is a new emphasis in the Veterinary Medical Library. Upon completion of a total renovation in January, the library now includes social spaces, group study areas with moveable chairs, collaboration rooms, individual study carrels, booth seating, tables for groups and a large quiet study room with 23 individual carrels and three recliners. Veterinary students also have access to a 24/7 room equipped for their needs.***

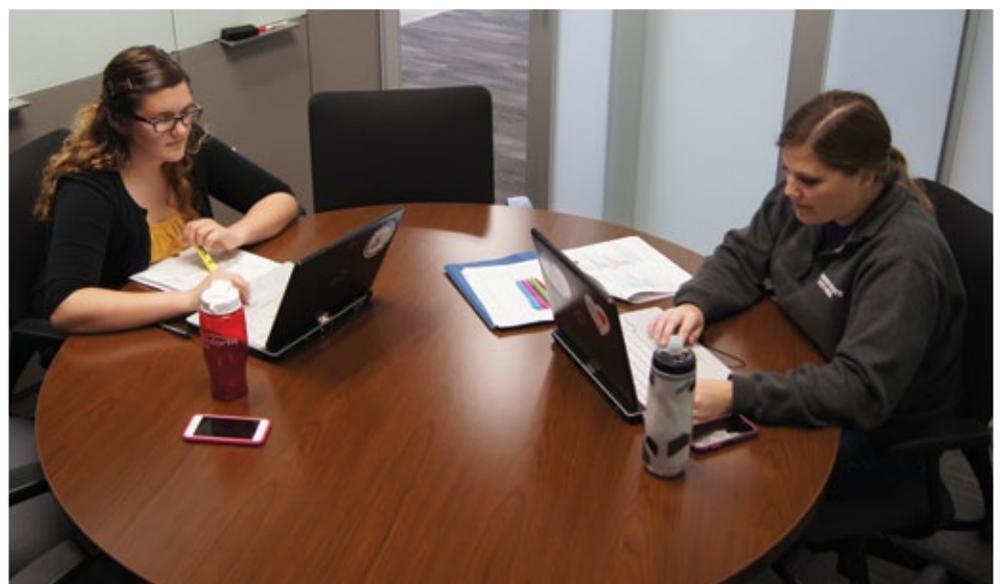
***As the College of Veterinary Medicine moves forward to provide state-of-the-art learning spaces, you can play a significant role to help the library sustain lasting excellence and a legacy for the students and practitioners of today and the future.***

**THE NEED**

Maintaining state-of-the-art equipment and study space for students.

**TO HELP**

Make an annual gift to the library or endow a space. Call 785-532-4378 to learn how.



# 4 Easy Ways to Give

## to the College of Veterinary Medicine

Story by Hayli Morrison, KSU Foundation



PHOTO BY KRISTIN LOVING

### **It's exciting to envision Kansas State University**

a decade from now with more robust research and outreach programs, updated facilities, more nationally competitive faculty members and an even better student experience. But what does the financial picture look like in 2025 and beyond? While that's a little harder to predict, there are four easy ways you can provide today for K-State's financial security tomorrow.

### **Endow your gift**

With an endowment, each fund retains its separate identity and purpose, but all funds are combined in the endowment pool for purposes of investment. The pool operates much like a mutual fund. Today, great things are happening at K-State with support from endowed gifts made decades ago. If you're planning to support K-State, an endowed gift is truly one of the simplest ways to make a lasting impact.

### **Plan a gift in your will or trust**

After loved ones are provided for through estate and financial planning, many K-Staters choose to include a gift to the university in their will or trust. If you'd like to support your favorite area of

K-State in this way, the veterinary medicine development office can provide the language to include in your legal documentation. Working with the veterinary medicine development office while you're arranging your gift allows K-State to thank you properly and help ensure your gift is used exactly as you intend.

### **Create a gift annuity**

With a charitable gift annuity (CGA), you can help K-State change lives while protecting your own financial security. By giving an asset like securities to K-State, you benefit from the asset throughout your lifetime by receiving annual income for life. In addition to a guaranteed, fixed income stream for you, CGAs also provide tax benefits and the satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference at K-State.

### **Designate assets you no longer need**

If you have an individual retirement account (IRA) or a life insurance policy, you have an easy way to support K-State. If you no longer need these assets to provide for loved ones after your lifetime, you can designate K-State as a beneficiary. The veterinary medicine development office can help you document which area of K-State you would like those funds to support. If you're ready to make a difference now, you can even provide K-State with a distribution from your IRA. It's an easy, quick way to help the people, places and programs of Kansas State University.

If long-term gift options appeal to you, talk to your financial planner and the College of Veterinary Medicine development office about how they might fit into your estate plans. Visit [k-statelegacy.org](http://k-statelegacy.org) or call 785-532-7889 for more information. 

# True Appreciation

Client honors her veterinarian, alumnus Dr. Steve White '85, through scholarship gift to the CVM Story by Marisa Larson, KSU Foundation

**"Dogs are not our whole life,** but they make our lives whole." Roger Caras, wildlife photographer, writer and former host of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show said this, but Marilyn McCahon lived it. She and her dog, Maddy, were inseparable friends for 15 years. During that time, veterinarian Dr. Steve White cared for Maddy through regular checkups, her diagnosis of epilepsy and ultimately her life-ending illness.

Grateful for his compassionate care of her surrogate daughter, Marilyn has honored Dr. White by creating a scholarship in his name for future veterinarians studying at K-State.

"To be able to help a future small-animal veterinarian is an honor," Marilyn said. "The scholarship for someone in the spirit of Dr. White's practice as an excellent, hands-on clinician and a caring, compassionate human being."

Marilyn hopes the students receiving the scholarship will realize that pet owners regard their pets as family members and loved ones.

She said, "With good, caring clinicians, both pet owners and pets enjoy a wonderful, treasured friendship."

Dr. White graduated from K-State with his DVM in 1985 and practices at Fairway Animal Hospital in the greater Kansas City area.

"I was very surprised to hear about this scholarship, because it had been about 14 years since I had last cared for Marilyn's dog, Maddy," Dr. White said. "I have many fond memories of our relationship. I guess we often fail to realize the impact we can have on people as we go about performing our jobs as veterinarians."

The scholarship provides much-needed tuition support to veterinary students who are burdened with ever-growing costs to their education.

"Acquiring a veterinary education today requires a substantial financial investment," Dr. White said. "I hope this scholarship may help lessen the significant financial debt these students are facing when they graduate."

Dr. White was given an opportunity to help determine how the scholarship would be awarded. The recipients can be either a fourth-year or third-year student.

"When I was asked to establish some criteria for the scholarship, I wanted to recognize the student who may not be at the very top of his/her class, but had a passion for learning, truly cared for their patients and showed professionalism toward their clients and colleagues," Dr. White explained.

Gifts such as Marilyn's help alleviate the debt burden so students may start practices of their own someday, helping many other pet owners take care of beloved pets.

"Marilyn is a very compassionate person who loved her dog very much," Dr. White said. "She is so generous in wanting to show appreciation for the care her beloved dog received. I was both humbled and honored, as I never imagined receiving this kind of recognition for simply doing what I do. A scholarship provides a truly meaningful way to demonstrate your passion." 



COURTESY PHOTO

**Dr. Steve White says he hopes a new scholarship in his name will help lessen the significant financial debt the recipients face when they graduate.**

## more bits

# Professors produce patents

### Pain relief for cattle

A U.S. patent was awarded last fall for technology created by CVM researchers to improve the health and welfare of beef cattle and other ruminant animals suffering from lameness and following castration, dehorning and other painful but necessary management procedures. U.S. Patent No. 8,791,105, "Methods for Alleviating Chronic Pain and Improving Performance of Cattle Undergoing Dehorning or Castration," was awarded to the Kansas State University Research Foundation, a nonprofit corporation responsible for managing technology transfer activities at the university.

The patent is for research conducted by former faculty member Dr. Hans Coetzee, now a professor of clinical pharmacology at Iowa State University, and Dr. Butch Kukanich, associate professor of anatomy and physiology.

The patent covers administering meloxicam alone or administering a combination of meloxicam and gabapentin to help alleviate acute and chronic pain and improve the performance of cattle. Researchers found that combinations of meloxicam and gabapentin improved the welfare of cattle by reducing the severity of lameness. Meloxicam alone improved weight gain after dehorning and reduced the incidence of bovine respiratory disease after castration.

"Once meloxicam was orally administered to beef cattle prior to these common procedures, the cattle gained more weight and had lower incidence of bovine respiratory disease because it allowed them to be more comfortable and less stressed," Dr. Kukanich said. The patent is available to license.

### Cancer-fighting compound

A patent has been issued for a series of synthetic compounds developed at K-State that have applications for treating cancer and other diseases that affect cell communication in both animals and humans. The compounds, called quinolines, can restart communication between adjacent cells in the body if those communication channels have become closed from a disease. U.S. Patent 8,809,368, "Compounds Affecting Gap Junction Activity," was awarded last fall.

The patent is for research conducted by Dr. Duy Hua, university distinguished professor of chemistry; Dr. Thu "Annelise" Nguyen, associate professor of toxicology; and Dr. Dolores Takemoto, professor emeritus of biochemistry.

Based on computational modeling with the quinolines, the compounds could affect gap junction activity in cells.

"By reopening these channels, we can once again have cells functioning normally," Dr. Nguyen said. "The cells are able to regulate themselves once again with biological markers that tell cells when to die. This function is necessary for the body to function normally." 

PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY



**Dr. Butch Kukanich works with Dr. Hans Coetzee, below, to help relieve pain in cattle.**

COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO



**Dr. Annelise Nguyen displays a copy of the patent she helped develop.**



# Delivering at the State Fair

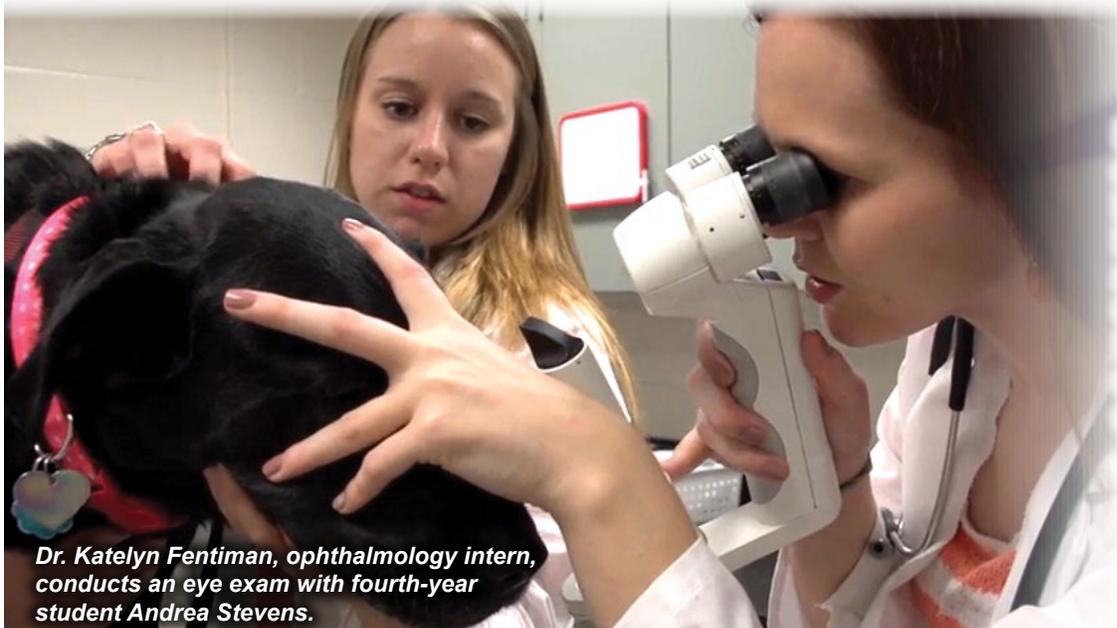
*Dr. Dave Rethorst pulls a calf with fourth-year student Daina Iman at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson in the CVM's Birthing Center. The Beef Cattle Institute (BCI) purchased a dystocia simulator cow and calf to help teach and demonstrate the birthing process. Developed by Veterinary Simulator Industries and the University of Calgary in Calgary, Canada, the simulator pair was purchased with the initial goal to create a simulation lab for teaching students working towards their veterinary degrees. The simulator has been used at multiple education events across the state including Ag in the Classroom and joint 4-H/FFA meetings. It is also a feature in Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Regional Training meetings conducted by the BCI. Those interested in requesting use of the model dystocia pair can contact the BCI.*

## Eyeing a treatment for canine diabetes

See this story on YouTube:



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKJKtSSPu3Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKJKtSSPu3Y)



*Dr. Katelyn Fentiman, ophthalmology intern, conducts an eye exam with fourth-year student Andrea Stevens.*

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

The disease can cause blindness through cataracts in the dog's eye.

See our full video report at the KSUCVM YouTube link above. 

# Alumni Class News

## **Dr. Steve Henry, DVM 1972**

Iowa State University named Dr. Steve Henry, DVM, as the 2014 Science with Practice Award winner at the ISU Swine Disease Conference in November. Dr. Henry is president and partner with the Abilene (Kansas) Animal Hospital and is an adjunct professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology. The award was presented by Dr. Alex Ramirez, associate professor in Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine at Iowa State.

“Dr. Henry is a highly recognized and respected practitioner,” Dr. Ramirez said. “He is one to always ask questions yet takes the time to try and find the needed answers. He is always eager to share his knowledge and findings with anyone. He truly is focused on evidence-based clinical practice and enjoys every opportunity he has to help mentor many. Many students have been through his well-respected practice.”

## **Dr. Charles Massengill, DVM 1979**

The Missouri Veterinary Medical Association gave Dr. Charles Massengill, California, Missouri, the 2015 William A. Wolff Volunteerism Award for his many years of service to veterinary medicine in Missouri and his dedicated work with the Missouri Volunteer Veterinary Corps. Dr. Massengill is presently with CRM Veterinary Consulting, and also presently serves as director of the Missouri Volunteer Veterinary Corps. He is also a member of the Emergency Management & Public Health Committee and Missouri Stocker Feeder Quality Assurance Program.

## **Dr. Richard Cockerill, DVM 1980**

The Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association gave Dr. Richard Cockerill, Omaha, Nebraska, the 2015 NVMA Veterinarian of the Year Award in January 2015. Following graduation from K-State, he started practice working for Drs. Dick Johnson and Larry Dearing at the Central City Veterinary Clinic. In 1985, he relocated to Albion, Nebraska, and started the Town and Country Vet Clinic. He owned the practice for 23 years and then continued working part time for another five years before retiring in 2014.

## **Dr. Shan Hullman, DVM 1987**

## **Dr. Becky Funk, DVM 2007**

## **Dr. Trent Fox, DVM 2011**

## **Dr. Jessica Laurin, DVM 1993**

Several K-State alumni were selected to serve with the Academy of Veterinary Consultants at the spring meeting in April. Dr. Shan Hullman, Dr. Becky Funk and Dr. Trent Fox were all appointed to the Board of Directors for the AVC. Dr. Jessica Laurin was elected to serve as the new president. Congrats to all!

## **Dr. Lindy West, DVM 2012**

Deworm your horse and win big? That's what happened for Dr. Lindy (Schirado) West, Hettinger, North Dakota (see photo on opposite page). She was the lucky winner of a trip for two to Las Vegas and two tickets for a premier equestrian event, as part of the “Go With the Gold Sweepstakes” from Merial. Dr. West's entry was drawn from a pool of names of people who had either purchased ZIMECTERIN® Gold (ivermectin/praziquantel) or watched an educational video about equine deworming. Dr. West comes from a rodeo family and has competed in team roping since the eighth grade. She currently practices at West River Veterinary Clinic. Growing up around horses and studying veterinary medicine in school, she was commended for knowing how a comprehensive health care program, including deworming, is critical to horses' well-being and ability to perform.

## **Dr. Donald C. Robertson, Ph.D., professor emeritus**

The Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases recognized Dr. Donald Robertson at its annual Chicago meeting in December 2014. After earning his doctorate in biochemistry from Iowa State University in 1967, Dr. Robertson joined the Department of Biochemistry at Michigan State University for a postdoctoral fellowship focused on purification and characterization of proteins. In 1970, he moved to the faculty in the Department of Microbiology

at the University of Kansas, where he remained until taking a position as head of microbiology and biochemistry at the University of Idaho in 1992. Six years later, Dr. Robertson accepted a position as associate director of research and extension in the Idaho Experiment Station. In 2000, he moved to K-State as associate dean for research and graduate studies and professor of microbiology in the veterinary college. Dr. Robertson returned to full-time research and teaching from 2005 until his retirement.

### **Dr. Stanley Dennis, former CVM faculty member**

Dr. Stanley Dennis passed away peacefully on April 1 at the age of 90 at his home in Topeka, Kansas. Dr. Dennis was professor and head of the Department of Veterinary Pathology at Kansas State University from 1966 to 1992 when he retired. He helped establish and administer the Veterinary Medical College at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria. After retiring from K-State, Dr. Dennis served as the founding dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of West Indies in Trinidad, and as dean at Ross University in St. Kitts, British West Indies. He left retirement for the third time when he became dean at the College of



***Dr. Lindy West, middle, wins a sweepstakes for a trip to Las Vegas. She is pictured here with her husband, Steven, and Merial representative, Debby Myers.***

Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the American University of Antigua for 2 years. His family asked that memorial contributions be made to the Kansas State University, College of Veterinary Medicine.

## **Winter | Home in Hillsboro**

veterinary books from her personal library and provided her with learning exercises. She also had Valerie practice how to suture an incision by using two folded T-shirts and the same type of needles veterinarians use.

“As a mentor, Jessica is just awesome,” Valerie said. “She explains why things go wrong and tells me why she does the things the way she does. We used a laser on one of the first cats we spayed, because it reduces bleeding risk and also cauterizes the wound.”

“Mentoring is something that I strongly believe in,” Dr. Winter said. “I am sure that this stems from the fact that I grew up having wonderful and inspiring mentors. My mother and father raised me on a dairy farm where work was the way of life, and it just so happens that

continued from page 17

black and white cows was our form of work. They always put the animal first, well second after God only! During that time I also worked alongside many veterinarians that were always willing to let me jump right in. I will never forget putting on an OB glove for the first time and palpating a cow — who knew what was inside of there would be so interesting!”

Next year, Valerie wants to be an animal science major with a pre-vet option at Kansas State University. She also plans to apply to the early acceptance program for veterinary medicine in September. Valerie said she would enjoy being able to return to Hillsboro to practice alongside Dr. Winter, and if so, it will be an added measure of success for the VTPRK program. 



**CORRECTION:** In the Fall 2014 issue of *Healing Hands*, we incorrectly identified 2004 alumnus Dr. Jamie Fisher (far right) by misspelling her first name. We regret the error and strive for accuracy. Dr. Fisher is pictured here with Drs. Sarah Christiansen and Cindy Koons who are former classmates.

## In Memoriam

**1946**

**Dr. William Winchester**

Dana Point, California  
Jan. 20, 2015

**Pat Noordsy**

(spouse of late Dr. John Noordsy)  
Marion, South Dakota  
Jan. 9, 2015

**1949**

**Dr. George Chaffee**

Huron, South Dakota  
Aug. 25, 2014

**Dr. Harold Mersky**

Nashville, Tennessee  
Dec. 6, 2014

**1950**

**Dr. Ralph Barrett**

Burlington, Kansas  
April 14, 2015

**Dr. John Gamby**

Chadron, Nebraska  
Aug. 24, 2014

**1952**

**Dr. Arthur Beat**

Elkhorn, Nebraska  
March 3, 2015

**1953**

**Dr. Clinton Hughes**

Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Jan. 1, 2015

**Dr. Paul Strom**

Perryville, Kentucky  
April 1, 2014

**Dr. Max Swartz**

Sulphur, Oklahoma  
March 14, 2015

**1954**

**Dr. Norman Luckereth**

Lawrence, Kansas  
Feb. 3, 2015

**1956**

**Dr. Richard Hartkopf**

Mountainside, New Jersey  
Jan. 13, 2015

**Dr. Bill LaRue**

Chanute, Kansas  
March 8, 2015

**1957**

**Dr. Harold Brecheisen**

Fort Collins, Colorado  
Sept. 28, 2014

**Dr. Joseph Coyle**

Gothenburg, Nebraska  
Nov. 8, 2014

**1958**

**Dr. Harold Brune**

Ankeny, Iowa  
Feb. 9, 2015

**Dr. Everett Coon**

Knoxville, Tennessee  
Feb. 16, 2015

**Dr. Keith Rhoades**

Carvallis, Oregon  
Oct. 10, 2014

**Dr. George Roggendorff**

Round Rock, Texas  
Sept. 9, 2014

**Dr. Dean Sharp**

Council Grove, Kansas  
Dec. 11, 2014

**Dr. Keith Sherman**

Chanute, Kansas  
April 2, 2015

**1959**

**Dr. Billy Walker**

Woodbury, Tennessee  
Oct. 21, 2014

**1960**

**Dr. Jerome Regier**

McPherson, Kansas  
June 26, 2014

**Gertrude Dressler**

(Spouse of Dr. Gene Dressler)  
Wagner, South Dakota  
May 19, 2014

**1962**

**Dr. James Walker**

Concordia, Kansas  
Nov. 26, 2014

**1964**

**Dr. Martin Robl**

Bristow, Virginia  
Dec. 31, 2014

**1965**

**Dr. Harry Mussman**

Houston, Texas  
Nov. 7, 2014

**1966**

**Dr. David Lodge**

Batesville, Arkansas  
Aug. 25, 2014

**Dr. Bill Randle**

Norman, Oklahoma  
Jan. 11, 2015

**1967**

**Dr. George O'Neill**

Winthrop, Minnesota  
Jan. 19, 2015

**1979**

**Dr. David Haver**

Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
Nov. 3, 2014

**1988**

**Dr. Sharon Courtney**

North Kingstown, Rhode Island  
Nov. 18, 2014

**2007**

**Dr. Ashley Peterson**

College Station, Texas  
July 14, 2014



# Alumni FELLOWS



## Dr. Tara Donovan, '98

Dr. Tara Donovan is an on-staff veterinarian and vice president of Health Management for the HANOR company headquartered in Spring Green, Wisconsin. HANOR has operations in seven states that produce 1.2 million market pigs each year.

Dr. Donovan oversees the company's preventive health care programs. Her responsibilities include animal caregiver training, oversight of the company's animal well-being and quality assurance programs, pharmaceutical management and compliance and on-farm swine health practices.

"We're very proud of Dr. Donovan, especially with her emphasis on working in food animal medicine," Dean Ralph Richardson said. "She was featured a few years ago in a short video as part of the Veterinarians On Call series. We showed

this video at our official Birthing Center at the State Fair in Hutchinson and on our video-display signs in the College of Veterinary Medicine, so she has already served as a role model for our students, even though she may not realize it. Her rise into leadership within the profession and the agricultural industry comes as no surprise, and we look forward to seeing her career continue to flourish."

Dr. Donovan joined the HANOR Company in 1999 as a herd veterinarian in Oklahoma. In 2002, she moved to the company's headquarters in Spring Green where she was promoted to director and then vice president of Health Management.

Dr. Donovan has been an active member of veterinary organizations throughout her career. She has been a member of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians since 1994 and served as the association's president in 2012. She has been a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association since 1998 and currently serves as the alternate delegate for the AASV on the AVMA House of Delegates. Tara is also a member of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, the Wisconsin Pork Association and the National Pork Producers Council.

Dr. Donovan earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1995 and her DVM from K-State in 1998. Dr. Donovan completed a food animal medicine internship at K-State from 1998-1999 before joining the HANOR Company. She graduated from the University of Illinois College Of Veterinary Medicine's Executive Veterinary Program in 2009.

Dr. Donovan's husband, Dirk, is also a veterinarian, DVM class of 2000, and is a private food animal practitioner in Richland Center, Wisconsin. Tara and Dirk have two children: Gus, 12, and Tekla, 9. 

# Alumni Recognition Awards 2014



**Dr. Robert Ridgway (1971)**

## **North American Veterinary Conference**

Dr. Robert Ridgway, Orlando, Florida, was born in Dodge City, Kansas, earned a bachelor's degree at Fort Hays State University in 1962, a second bachelor's degree at K-State in 1969 and his DVM in 1971. Dr. Ridgway completed a residency in internal medicine at UC, Davis. After graduation, he worked for a short time at a veterinary hospital in Topeka, Kansas, before entering the Army Veterinary Corps, where he became director of the Animal Medicine Division in Okinawa, Japan. He was the first officer to be in charge of the DOD Military Dog Veterinary Service at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio and received a master's degree in international management from the University of Maryland in 1999. After the Army, Dr. Ridgway worked at Covance Laboratories, Banfield Pet Hospital and Orange County Animal Services in Orlando. He has authored two books, "How to Treat Your Dogs and Cats with Over-the-Counter Drugs" in 2011 and "The Truth about Dog and Cat Treatments and Anomalies" in 2013



**Dr. Missy Gerard-Lemons (1988)**

## **Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association**

Dr. Melissa "Dr. Missy" Girard-Lemons, Grand Island, Nebraska, was born and raised on a poultry, swine (farrow to finish) and cash-crop farm in Osceola. She attended undergraduate school at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she held several offices in campus organizations: Pre-Vet Club, Mortar Board, College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources, Student Government and Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Dr. Girard-Lemons earned a DVM at K-State in 1999. She has practiced more than 14 years in Grand Island with the Animal Medical Clinic. In 2005, she purchased the practice and built a new building in 2007.



**Dr. Jerry Doornbos (1975)**

## **Western Veterinary Conference**

The late Dr. Jerald "Jerry" Doornbos, Scott City, Kansas, was born Aug. 31, 1938, in El Dorado, Kansas. A lifetime resident of Scott City, he was a veterinarian, farmer and stockman. He graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in 1960 and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1962. Dr. Doornbos was active on the board of directors for Farm Credit of Southwest Kansas, Garden City, for more than 20 years. He served on the advisory board for both the K-State Alumni Association and Ahearn Club. He was also a member of the Kansas Livestock Association, Farm House Fraternity, the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association and Scott City Investors Club. He passed away Jan. 7, 2014, and was preceded in death by his wife, Mary, who passed away in June 2013.

## Dr. Clinton George (1996)

### American Veterinary Medical Association

Dr. Clinton George, Aberdeen, North Carolina, earned a bachelor's degree in BioVeterinary Science at Utah State University in 1996 and his DVM at Kansas State University in 2001. He has spent his veterinary career in the military on multiple deployments and assignments globally. Dr. George is a member of the Veterinary Medical Associations in North Carolina and Virginia. In 2001, he received the Col. George Richard Lynch Leadership Award and the AVMA's Outstanding Student Leadership Award. In 2003, he received the Junior Veterinary Officer of the Year Award. He has earned his Expert Field Medic Badge, Combat Medic Badge and Master Parachutist designation. He is board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.



## Dr. Jay Hedrick (1972)

### Central Veterinary Conference

Dr. Jay Hedrick, El Dorado, Kansas, practiced in Wichita for one year before joining a mixed practice in Glasgow, Montana. He then relocated to Bridgeport, Nebraska, in 1975 joining a mixed practice on the edge of the Sand Hills. Dr. Hedrick returned to Kansas in 1978 where he established the Bluestem Animal Clinic in El Dorado. After 25 years of practice ownership, he sold the clinic in 2003 and now does a limited amount of relief work in eastern Kansas. Dr. Hedrick was appointed to the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners in 1998. He served on the examining board for eight years — the last four years as president. He was elected to the board of directors of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) in 2003 and served as its director, treasurer and president (2007-2008).



## Dr. Larry Bramlage (1975)

### American Association of Equine Practitioners

Dr. Larry Bramlage, Georgetown, Kentucky, is originally from Marysville, Kansas. He earned a master's degree from the Ohio State University in 1978. After graduation he worked in academia at Ohio State and as a surgeon to the Sterlingbrook Equine Center in Pittstown, New Jersey. Since 1989, Dr. Bramlage has been a partner, co-owner and surgeon for the Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky. He has been the on-call veterinarian for the AAEP at the Kentucky Derby and a television media consultant during the Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup. In 2001, Dr. Bramlage was recognized by K-State as an Alumni Fellow for the College of Veterinary Medicine.



**Read more about these recipients and awards online at [www.vet.k-state.edu/alumni/awards/recognition](http://www.vet.k-state.edu/alumni/awards/recognition)**



**Development and Alumni Office**

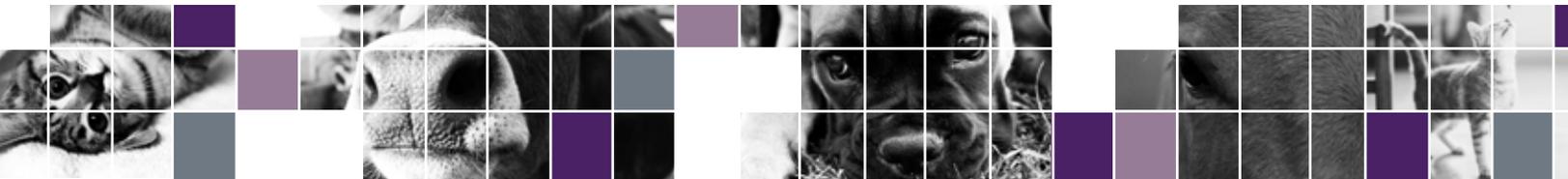
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Visit the Class Activities page for a complete schedule:  
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**785-532-4528** or [vmce@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:vmce@vet.k-state.edu).  
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