

## Russian Veterinary Scholars Visit CVM as Part of Exchange



**Three CVM faculty and guests from two Russian veterinary schools took a short break from their busy three-week visit for a photograph.**

**Left (left to right): Dr. Thu Annelise Nguyen, DM/P; Dr. Chris Ross, A&P; Nina Shestakova; Kirill Dernov; Dr. Denis Odnoshevskiy; Alexey Zlotin; Dr. Alexander Sidorchuk; Mariya Bunyakina; Dr. Justin Kastner, DM/P.**

**Below (left to right): Drs. David Franz, Alexander Sidorchuk, Dan Thomson and Justin Kastner at Red Square in Moscow during the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in 2005.**

Two instructors and four students from Russian veterinary colleges recently spent three weeks at the CVM observing and learning about veterinary education at Kansas State University.

The visit was part of an exchange that began last year when Drs. David Franz, Justin Kastner and Dan Thomson from the CVM visited the Moscow State Academy of Veterinary Medicine and the Novirsibirsk State University Veterinary Academy in Siberia.

The goal of the exchange visits is to create cooperation in veterinary education and to build relationships among the two countries. The idea for the project was born out of a friendship between Dr. Franz, director of the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center at K-

State, and Dr. Nikolai Vlasov, the deputy chief of Russia's veterinary service. Dr. Franz served as biological weapons negotiator in Russia during the 1990s and has forged strong connections with veterinarians in other countries.

"This is an age where we're all concerned not only about emerging disease, but we're concerned about the misuse of biology in biological warfare," Dr. Franz explained. "The best way to deal with diseases, intentional or naturally occurring, is to have good communication and have

colleagues around the world."

While here, the Russian guests toured nearly all of the CVM facilities, met with all department heads and administrators and were hosted at several social functions, both on campus and at the homes of CVM faculty. Their broad experience also included visits to the Hills Pet Food plant, attending the

spring K-State football game and even touring the Oz Museum in Wamego.

"They're extremely accommodating, fun and they're also very competitive, much like Americans," Dr. Thomson

said of the Russians.

"A lot of people in this veterinary school spent time with them. It was fun for all of us."

Dr. Thomson said some collaboration between the CVM and Russian universities will happen soon, while other initiatives will develop later. "In the short term, I think we'll see student and faculty exchange between our schools. I see them having an infusion of some of our curriculum and training in their veterinary schools down the road."

Dr. Franz said the concept of working closely with the Russians is a process that he does not envision having an end point. "The *process* of working together on problems around science, infectious disease or medicine is worth it because of the relationships that are built," Dr. Franz said.



# Students Receive Incentive to Practice in Rural Kansas

The Kansas State Legislature recently passed a bill that will benefit veterinary students and rural Kansas communities. The bill, signed into law by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius on May 10, establishes the "Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas" at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

This program will provide opportunities and incentives for students pursuing a DVM at K-State to locate their veterinary practice in rural Kansas communities and serve the livestock industry.

A maximum of five stu-

dents can be enrolled in the program each year, starting in their first year of veterinary college. Each student will receive \$20,000 a year for up to four years, to cover tuition and training expenses. In turn, the students will practice veterinary medicine full time in any county in Kansas that has a population of 35,000 or less. The amount of loan forgiveness is determined by how much assistance was received. For each \$20,000 a student receives, they will be required to spend a year working in the rural community.

"Other states have passed

legislation for a debt forgiveness program; but to my knowledge, Kansas is the first state to pass legislation and appropriate funds for this sort of program," said Ralph Richardson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

K-State is committed to being a cutting-edge institution in large animal veterinary care, animal science, bio-security and food safety. This bill is one part of a larger undertaking to remain at the forefront of this effort.

Dr. David Andrus, a professor of marketing in the College of Business

Administration, recently published an in-depth study on the shortage of food supply veterinarians. Andrus identifies 18 possible solutions to the problem based on panel surveys conducted. The first solution on Andrus' list involves debt repayment and scholarship programs for students going into food animal medicine.

"We are dedicated to supporting the livestock industry," Richardson said. "This legislative act removes educational debt as a stumbling block for those who wish to make their homes in rural Kansas."

## FACULTY PROFILE: DR. THOMAS SCHERMERHORN



**Dean Ralph Richardson presents Dr. Schermerhorn with the 2006 Norden Distinguished Teaching Award. Accompanying Dr. Schermerhorn was his wife, Jennifer.**

Dr. Thomas Schermerhorn, assistant professor of small animal internal medicine, received the CVM's 2006 Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teaching Award.

"Recipients of the Norden Award are a prestigious group of the most influential veterinarians of my generation," Schermerhorn said. "To be considered part of that group is a great honor."

Dr. Schermerhorn joined the CVM in 2001. His teaching duties include a clinical appointment working with senior veterinary students on internal medicine rotations at the VMTH.

Students working with patients at the teaching hospital say Schermerhorn's mentoring has been helpful.

"Dr. Schermerhorn is a very caring clinician not only to the owners and their pets, but also to the students on

the cases," said Ashley Feinberg, a senior veterinary student. "He wants to know that you are learning something from your cases. He challenges you to come up with diagnoses on your own in a way that makes you respect him."

Helping students hone their education, skills and talent to be veterinarians is something Dr. Schermerhorn said he takes pride in. "There are many things that factor into every decision you make as a veterinarian," he said. "Our students learn the science in textbooks during the first three years of veterinary school, but putting it into practice is where the art of veterinary care comes in."

After receiving his veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1990, Dr. Schermerhorn completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the South Shore Veterinary Associates in

Weymouth, Mass., and a residency in small animal internal medicine at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. From 1994 to 2001, he pursued research training at Cornell.

His research at K-State involves metabolism of glucose in cats and insulin secretion from the pancreas in both dogs and cats. He said the areas of research and clinical practice are natural extensions of each other.

"I enjoy taking the problems that I find in the clinical setting and researching them in the lab to learn more," Dr. Schermerhorn said. "We don't really look at research projects coming to an end; we look at one phase of a project ending and another beginning."

Dr. Schermerhorn and his wife, Jennifer, have three children Jake, Lucy and Sam.



By Carol Elmore

One of the best things about the Veterinary Medical Library (VML) is the service that our staff provides to our academic community and one of our staff, Mary Girard, excels in providing these services to our faculty.

Girard's service to the CVM was recently rewarded when she was named one of the CVM's 2005 classified

employees of the year.

Mary has worked for K-State for 30 years and has spent 26 of them in the VML. Currently she coordinates our faculty services program in the library. Service requests include checking references, providing copies of journal articles, or performing one of those crucial searches or requests that are needed. Our faculty who use the program on a daily basis can attest that the level of service exceeds most

of their expectations.

Mary is continually striving to improve the level and quality of the service that she provides. Many of our faculty and staff have received one of her "stress pops" and know that she will always cheerfully listen and quickly respond. Faculty requests include checking references, providing copies of journal articles, or performing one of those crucial searches or requests that are needed.

Mary worked in her early years at the veterinary college as a medical technician and is a great animal lover who shares with everyone great stories about her own dogs and granddogs.

In the words of our library director, Gayle Willard, "Mary has taken a job and transformed it into a career."

We are truly fortunate to have her as our staff member and friend. For faculty services, Mary can be contacted through e-mail at [facultyservices@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:facultyservices@vet.k-state.edu) or by phone at 532-6006.

## Dr. Marcus Named University Distinguished Professor



Dr. Daniel Marcus

CVM professor Dr. Daniel Marcus was recently named a University Distinguished Professor, a lifetime title that represents the highest honor K-State can bestow on a faculty member. University distinguished professors are appointed following a university-wide competition held by the provost.

Dr. Marcus, professor in the Department of Anatomy and Physiology, has received

more than \$7 million in research support from the National Institutes of Health and is principal investigator of an \$11 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health's Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence program (COBRE).

"These COBRE grants are only available in 'idea' states and Kansas is one of them," said Dr. Lisa Freeman, associate dean for research and graduate programs. "Dr. Marcus gathered all the needed materials to apply for the grant in a very short amount of time."

The COBRE grant created the Center for Epithelial Cell Function at K-State, of which he is the director. This center in conjunction with University of Kansas and KU Medical Center,

focuses on epithelial cell physiology or pathophysiology and provide a strong foundation for transitional research.

"I am extremely happy to receive this award and recognition," Dr. Marcus said. "I owe this to many people with in the college and university who helped COBRE happen. The support I and my colleagues have received here at K-State is absolutely outstanding and allows all of us to reach the fullest of our potential, and for that I am very thankful."

Dr. Marcus is internationally known for his research on the physiology of inner ear epithelial cells. Functions of these cells are essential for healthy hearing and balance.

He has received numerous awards including the Pfizer Research Excellence Award and honorary membership in

Society of Phi Zeta, Sigma Chapter, an organization to recognize and promote scholarship and research pertaining to the welfare and diseases of animals.

Dr. Marcus joined the K-State faculty in 1998 as an associate professor in the department of Anatomy and Physiology. Previously he had professional experience at Creighton University, Washington University in St. Louis and Boys Town National Research Hospital. His master's and doctorate degrees are in electrical and biomedical engineering from Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. He has a bachelor's degree in physics is from Antioch College in Ohio.

Dr. Marcus will receive a \$10,000 salary supplement and will be honored at fall commencement ceremonies in December.

## Pet Trust Ice Cream Social



*The Pet Trust, a CVM program that honors the human-animal bond, held its annual ice cream social on May 5 for all students, faculty and staff.*

*"The purpose of the ice cream social was to make people aware of the Pet Trust program and the good it does for animals and the people who love them," said Sharon Greene, Pet Trust coordinator.*

*This year, the Pet Trust gave \$100,000 to help fund the small animal intensive care unit renovation. It also granted 13 scholarships totaling \$19,000 to students and designated \$10,000 for research designed to better understand the unique human-animal bond and relieve the suffering of companion animals.*



## In Memoriam

A veterinarian from the class of 1942 and a constant supporter of K-State and the CVM recently passed away in Manhattan, Kan.

Dr. William P. Johnson, a native of Manhattan, entered into the U.S. Army after receiving his DVM. He also owned a veterinary practice, and worked for the American Cyanamid Company until his retirement in 1981.

During his career, Dr. Johnson authored or co-authored 14 professional publications. He was listed in the "Who's Who of Veterinary Medicine" and served on the executive board of the AVMA from 1970 to 1976.

After his retirement, Dr. Johnson created and managed an endowment fund for K-State from the class of 1942. He also vacationed at his home in Beach Haven, N.J. Dr. Johnson moved back to Manhattan in 2003.

Dr. Johnson is survived by his wife and four children, along with 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

## NEW ARRIVALS

Amy Lowe - DM/P  
Douglas Powell - DM/P  
Alicia Foley - A&P

## RECENT DEPARTURES

Richard Pannbacker - DM/P  
Beverly Nichols - Dean's Office  
Dr. Brenda Salinardi - VMTH  
Dr. Barret Bulmer - VMTH  
Sharon Smith - Business Office  
Angie Marchant - VMTH  
Katie Strifler - VMTH  
Justin Stuart - VMTH  
Jennifer Ackeroyd - DM/P  
Pam Say - A&P  
Sarah Torkelson - ARF  
Milton Bird-Velez

## CVM News Ticker

Sue Chavey and Audree Gottlob, DM/P, attended the Kansas Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Spring Conference "A Patchwork of Knowledge" April 5-7 at the Overland Park Marriott.

Mohammad Al-Wabel, Ph.D. student in DM/P, and his wife welcomed a son, Niaz, on April 30.

Dr. Mac Hafen, CVM counselor, and his wife, Meagan, welcomed a son, Tyler, on May 6.

In the first softball/wiffle ball tournament held on April 29, the **seniors** beat the **faculty/staff** team by one run.



2006 Employee of the Year Awards were presented to (front row left to right): **Rita Dole**, Clinical Sciences; **Neil Wallace**, DM/P; **Debra Wilcox**, DM/P; (back row) **Amy Juracek**, VMTH; **Bob Lynch**, ITC; **Mary Girard**, Veterinary Medical Library.