Conference Provides Entertainment, Education, Fellowship

The College of Veterinary Medicine’s 68th Annual Conference for Veterinarians was held June 4-7, 2006 at the K-State Student Union. Practitioners, speakers, faculty, staff and students comprised the 543 participants representing 26 states.

Speakers included Drs. Kevin Fitzgerald, Helen Power, Ronald Schultz, Sophia Yin, Don Evans, Barry Pittman, Karen Clark, Lloyd Fox, Mike Whitehair, K-State CVM faculty and practitioners.

The conference began Sunday with the conference/alumni brunch followed by Dean Ralph Richardson’s State of the College address and a virtual tour of CVM updates. Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, a veterinarian on the Animal Planet’s “Emergency Vets” television program, gave the keynote address “Who Needs to Laugh More Than Us?”

Concurrent educational sessions and tours of the K-State campus and the College of Veterinary Medicine, including the newly unveiled Centennial Plaza and Whispering Garden, filled the afternoon. Sunday evening activities included a country harvest buffet, dinner music by the band “Bluegrass Prairie,” and the songs and antics of comedian Jolly Demis.

Monday morning brought the official opening of the 2006 KVMA Veterinary Trade Show. Drs. Ralph Richardson and Steve Joseph, KVMA President, gave opening remarks and symbolically placed the CVM and KVMA plaques in a representation of the Centennial Plaza. Also on Monday morning, the scholarship golf tournament was held at Colbert Hills Golf Course. Fifty six alumni participated in the tournament.

The Monday luncheon featured a presentation by K-State men’s basketball Coach Bob Huggins followed by the KVMA semi-annual business meeting.

The Heritage Evening reception and dinner was held Monday evening. The dinner program featured the presentation of the Dr. E.R. Frank Award to Dr. Howard Erickson and the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Dr. Bob Smith of Stillwater, Okla.

Tuesday sessions continued with a continental breakfast in the vendor trade show followed by concurrent educational sessions throughout the day. A pizza luncheon honored K-State VMTH referring veterinarians.

Tuesday marked the KVMA Auxiliary silent auction finale which included many wonderful items including a basketball autographed by Coach Bob Huggins and a football signed by new football Coach Ron Prince. Practitioners shared time-saving practical tips at the popular Practice Tips sessions Tuesday evening.

Conference corporate sponsors included Bayer, Merial, Novartis, Iams, Pfizer, Royal Canin, Payne Financial Services, Intervet, IDEXX, Hill’s, ProCopy, MyVetsMeds, Campbell Pet Company and AllTel.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year’s conference, June 3-6, 2007!

See more conference photos on page four.
Gamma Camera is Latest Addition to Radiology

The Nuclear Medicine Gamma Camera is now operational in the radiology department of the VMTH. This new equipment detects localization of radiation emitted from a patient that has been given a radioisotope. Nuclear scintigraphy is used in both small and large animals. Common studies include bone scans, thyroid scans, and detection of portosystemic shunts.

The machine serves a different function than other methods of diagnostic imaging, said Dr. Laura Armbrust, assistant professor of diagnostic radiology. “Other imaging modalities are most useful for defining anatomical structures, while nuclear scintigraphy provides physiological information. For example, nuclear scintigraphy is much more sensitive than radiographs for detecting bone turnover, which allows earlier detection of bone disease,” Dr. Armbrust said.

Dr. Schultz receives the Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence from Dr. Lisa Freeman.

Nuclear scintigraphy also helps specify the area where radiographs may need to be taken. “In a horse we may know there is a lameness but not be able to localize the site of pain. A bone scan can be performed to localize the problem so radiographs can be made at a specific site.”

“This machine allows the VMTH to stay on the cutting edge,” Dr. Armbrust said. “Significant improvements in motion correction and lesion detection software are part of this new equipment, which will translate to improved imaging.”

The 2006 Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence was presented to Dr. Bruce Schultz, associate professor of physiology. This award is given to a faculty member who advances veterinary medicine through exemplary research.

Dr. Schultz has been a professor at the CVM since 1997 and splits his time between teaching and four areas of research.

“There are two reasons outside of his research that Dr. Schultz received this award,” said Lisa Freeman, associate dean for research and graduate programs. “First he is very interested in moving the innovation from his lab into society and secondly, he is an excellent mentor to the students.”

After receiving a bachelor’s degree in animal science and a master’s degree in veterinary physiology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dr. Schultz received his Ph.D. in pharmacology from Cornell University in 1991. He pursued post-doctorate work at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and worked at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School before coming to K-State.

Dr. Schultz’s major research focus is on cystic fibrosis, a disease of salt transport. In an effort to help treat symptoms of the disease, he looks for ways to manipulate or replace a peptide that malfunctions in cystic fibrosis patients. This research will lead to new pharmaceutical agents that might hold promise in treating symptoms. In a second area of research, Dr. Schultz works with Dr. Dan Marcus looking at salt transport in cells in different areas of the body. A third area focuses on salt transfer across mammary tissue to understand and treat mastitis. Dr. Schultz also works with Dr. Donald Robertson to determine how an E. coli toxin, EAST-1, affects anion transport in the intestine.

Dr. Schultz said there are complex differences in how various organs are affected by cystic fibrosis although there is a common underlying problem cellular level. Analyzing the cells in the intestine, reproductive duct, or mammary gland and how they cause symptoms helps focus on treatments that could affect many tissues in the body. “The gap in our understanding is still substantial, and to make that gap smaller would be a great achievement,” Dr. Schultz said. “To be recognized for my efforts to help close this gap is an honor.”

Dr. Schultz and his wife, Kathy, have two children, Sara and Christian.
Food Safety and Security - From the ‘Jungle’ to the Plains


June 30, 2006, marked the 100-year anniversary of the adoption of the U.S. Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act.

First in 1904 as part of a weekly serial and later as the book “The Jungle,” socialist activist Upton Sinclair unveiled working-condition and food-safety atrocities in Chicago beef packing plants. Sinclair’s expose provided political room for President Teddy Roosevelt to sign food safety legislation in 1906. Sinclair gave the U.S. food protection, some conclude.

However, the annals of U.S. food protection also include events and institutions elsewhere -- on the plains, not just in “The Jungle.”

Forty years before Sinclair’s report, Texas longhorn cattle were being driven across Kansas, trampling crops and spreading Texas Fever to Kansas livestock. Kansas cattle, unlike their southern counterparts, were extremely susceptible; four out of five infected with Texas Fever died.

The governor of Kansas signed in 1865 a law prohibiting, with few exceptions, the driving of Texas cattle into Kansas. The law -- the seriousness of which was underscored by its provision for $1,000 fines and one-year prison sentences -- was later loosened and, in 1867, followed by a plea to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for disease-control advice.

Texas Fever was “seriously affecting the interests” of America’s livestock industry, the Kansas Legislature stressed. Kansas was fast becoming a major trading center for cattle being sent by rail to markets in Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago. Train depots in places like Abilene, Kan., became the means by which livestock farmers could secure access to eastern markets.

The USDA responded and in 1868 Dr. John Gamgee, a British veterinary consultant, was hired to investigate. Gamgee’s study overturned misconceptions concealing other threats to agricultural biosecurity and food safety.

Agricultural biosecurity concerns (e.g., rumors, later dispelled, about foot and mouth disease in Neosho Falls, Kan., in March 1884) and food safety problems surfaced. As reports and rumors surfaced, European countries restricted imports of U.S. livestock and meat. To ensure the continuation of profitable trade flows of livestock and meat through Kansas and Chicago, the U.S. adopted a series of animal disease and food safety laws. Meat inspection acts in the 1890s provided for the inspection of animals for disease prior to slaughter, examination of carcasses for signs of disease, and even the microscopic inspection of pork.

This all happened before Sinclair and the 1906 Federal Meat Inspection Act.

Prior to 1906, the international food trade and its economic stakeholders in Kansas had already awakened the U.S. government to issues of food protection.

U.S. food safety and security progress has roots in both the plains and “The Jungle.”
Conference coordinator Linda Johnson talks with a conference attendee looking over samples of Centennial Plaza merchandise for sale.

Continuing education sessions consume a majority of attendees’ time at the conference. Veterinarians could earn a total of 24.5 contact hours.

Guitarist and comedian Jolly Demis entertained veterinarians on the first evening of the Conference in Forum Hall at the K-State Union.

The “Poor Sticks of 1959” golf team consisted of Drs. Howard Erickson, Sam Graham, Jim Smart and John Yatsook. They were one of 14 teams that played in the scholarship golf tournament at Colbert Hills.

Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald of the Alameda East Veterinary Clinic in Denver, Colo., shares his humorous insight on veterinary medicine and human nature. Fitzgerald can be seen frequently on the Animal Planet’s “Emergency Vets.” This was Dr. Fitzgerald’s second appearance at K-State.

The class of 1946 was recognized for the highest participation of annual giving. From the class of ’46 are Drs. John Noordsy (seated) and Russell Hardin.
Student Receives ASLAP Award

Fourth year student Dan Righter (second from right) is presented with the Veterinary Student Award from the American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP) by Dr. Bart Carter. The award was in recognition of Righter’s background and experience in laboratory animal medicine. Righter was nominated through an externship he completed in laboratory animal medicine at the University of Michigan Medical School. Also present were Dean Ralph Richardson and Dr. Lisa Freeman.

Veterinarians get “coached”

K-State basketball Coach Bob Huggins delivers a speech at a luncheon during the Conference for Veterinarians at the Student Union. Also at the event, Coach Bill Snyder (foreground) was given an honorary membership to the KVMA.

NEW ARRIVALS
Erin Thomas - Clinical Sciences
Michelle Conrad - Development Office
Christia Linsenmeyer - A&P
Simir Ruiz - A&P
Elena Tacheva - A&P
Kyle Horlen - DM/P
Angela Baker - DM/P
Jeffery Anderson - CATS
Shawnalea Frazier - A&P
Tricia McAtee - VMTH
Allison Herman - VMTH Business Office
Kris Silver - Clinical Sciences

RECENT DEPARTURES
Sylvia Osborn - DM/P
Ryan Carlin - A&P
Jason Simon - DM/P
Shelley Zipperle - A&P
Sara Lindbloom - Clinical Sciences
Christy Jenkins - VMTH
Peggy Potter - Business Office
Tao Wu - A&P

CVM News Ticker

Dr. T. G. Nagaraja, professor of microbiology, was chosen by the Faculty Senate to be a “Professor of the Week.” He will be featured on the jumbotron during the Iowa State football game on Oct. 28.

The Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine Association (EBVMA) was formed at the second EBVMA symposium held in Starkville, Mississippi on June 14-15, 2006. Charter members of the association include Agricultural Practices faculty Drs. Mike Apley and Bob Larson. Dr. Larson was elected president of the organization and will serve a two-year term.

Dr. Kristin Patton, DM/P, received a fellowship for participation in the Wakonse Conference on College Teaching May 25-30, 2006 in Shelby, Mich., at Camp Minawaca. She also received Parallel Paths award to travel to Cornell University for June 12-16, 2006 in order to collect teaching material and form collaboration in equine reproductive pathology.

Christy Jenkins, radiology administrative assistant, and her husband, Rob, welcomed a son, Isaac Wynn, on May 31.

Lisa Bryant, ICU technician, welcomed a son, Colton Anthony, into the world on June 17th.