Biosecurity Institute Named for Senator Pat Roberts

The Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI) was recently dedicated to a man whose influence helped bring the facility to K-State.

The building was named for United States Senator Pat Roberts in a special dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 27.

The $54 million state-of-the-art biosafety level three facility will provide K-State scientists a secure location to research threats to U.S. crops, livestock and citizens. It is the only biocontainment facility in the country to integrate plant pathology, food safety, entomology, veterinary medicine and molecular biology.

Researchers from veterinary medicine and other disciplines will have the capability to study pathways by which pathogens can spread, issues related to countermeasures and animal carcass disposal after a potentially catastrophic event.

Roberts has been a prominent voice for better protection of the nation’s agriculture during his two terms in office. As chairman of the influential Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, he addressed Congress prior to 9/11 about the possibility of an attack on America’s farms and food supply.

“The outstanding foresight of Sen. Roberts is why this building will be appropriately named,” Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said. “Without Pat’s vision and without him making sure this happened here in Kansas, we wouldn’t have this facility.”

Roberts worked with K-State President Jon Wefald in 1999 to develop a food safety and security program at the university. This program recognized the national need for additional biocontainment research facilities. With Roberts’ help and investment from the state of Kansas, the BRI became a reality.

“This Biosecurity Research Institute building is categorically the first building at K-State that is vital for America’s national security,” President Wefald said. “This building will make a difference not only in Kansas, but all over America.”

The building houses special air filtration systems that filter all the outgoing air, preventing the release of materials from the research space and all waste will be processed to destroy existing organisms. The researchers will be required to complete training programs to work in the facility and could possibly research diseases such as avian influenza, brucellosis, soybean rust, salmonella and E. coli.

At the dedication, Roberts was joined by government officials along with campus administrators and K-State researchers. “The fact that the BRI at my alma mater will carry my name is both an honor and a privilege,” Roberts said. “This institute represents the culmination of years of vision, hard work and perseverance, and many deserve credit.”

Government officials and campus administrators joined Sen. Pat Roberts, third from right, in cutting the ribbon in front of the BRI.

Sen. Pat Roberts and his family attended the dedication ceremony after a tour of the facility.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 7  Dean’s Brown Bag Lunch - noon in Frick Auditorium
Dec. 8  Last day of classes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd year students
Dec. 11-15 Final exams for 1st, 2nd & 3rd year students
Dec. 15  All CVM Faculty Meeting - 3-5 p.m. in 301 Trotter
Dec. 19  Holiday Open House
CVM Voices Concern at City Breed Ban Meeting

Pit bulls and other “violent” dogs may no longer be allowed in Manhattan. Following popular trend, the Manhattan City Commission addressed a possible breed-specific dog ban at its Nov. 14 work session.

After an incident in September where two pit bulls were found loose near Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School, a group of citizens asked the city to re-examine the current ordinance. The main concern is that a dog is not declared dangerous until an incident—such as a bite—occurs.

Students, faculty and staff from the CVM attended the meeting to urge the City Commission not to approve a breed-specific ban. Beth Gallagen, veterinary technician in Pet Health Center, addressed the commission and was quoted in The Manhattan Mercury saying the dangerous dog issue boils down to responsible and irresponsible owners.

Also at the meeting, Dean Ralph Richardson cited the American Veterinary Medical Association’s position that questions the wisdom of “singling out one or two breeds for control,” saying it could result in “a false sense of accomplishment.”

The current city ordinance, adopted in 1998, states that a dog is dangerous if it has a propensity or tendency to attack, cause injury, or endanger the safety of others. Additionally, the owner must have been aware of the dog’s dangerous propensities in order for the city to prove a violation.

City administrators researched other communities in Kansas that have regulations and came up with three possible options. The first is to adopt a breed-specific ban that prohibits certain breeds. The second is to create an ordinance that declares certain breeds “dangerous,” and enforces leash laws and muzzling. The third option is to amend the existing ordinance to better enforce current policy.

If a ban is approved, Manhattan would join 12 other Kansas cities that have a breed-specific dog ban.

Another work session and public forum opportunity discussing this issue will be held on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m.

Positive breeds to be banned:
- American Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- American Pit Bull Terrier
- Bull Terrier
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Argentine Dogo
- Cane Corso
- Dogo de Bordeaux
- Dogo Cubano
- Dogo Sardesco
- Fila Brasileiro
- Perro de Presa Canario
- Wolf hybrids

Kansas cities that have some type of breed ban:
- Overland Park, Kansas City, Topeka, Shawnee, Salina, Junction City, Leawood, Prairie Village, Liberal, Pittsburg, Parsons, and Fort Scott

**Message from Elliot Stevens, SCAVMA President**

Hello All,

As president of the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA), I would like to update you on the many great activities our organization is coordinating this year.

Doug Richey, of Graduate Leverage, spoke at the November SCAVMA meeting. Doug spoke about the student loan options and helped to bridge some of the disconnect associated with student loans. The vice president of the AVMA, Dr. Charles Hendrix, will speak at the next SCAVMA meeting on Dec. 4 at noon in Frick Auditorium.

This year SCAVMA will pay hotel and registration for veterinary students to attend the symposium at North Carolina State University, March 15–17. Please register through Joan Talbott, third year student, at jtalbott@vet.ksu.edu. If you will be staying in the hotel, please sign up for a room in the third year lab on the bulletin board. Registration and sign-up will close on Dec. 15. If you’ve never been to the symposium, I encourage you to attend and have some fun.

In other SCAVMA news, we had another strong response for the finals care packages. If you have not provided Jamie Warren and Amanda Beck, third year student, or Sarah Weber, second year student, with an address, please do so. You never know who might send you a care package.

At our November meeting, we elected Stephanie Schneider, first year student, to be the SAVMA Freshman Delegate.

November marked another first for SCAVMA by appointing Chelsea Kunst, second year student, as the SCAVMA Wellness Chair. Chelsea has already organized a weekly yoga class and much more is on the horizon.

In light of the strong showing by the student body to provide over 680 Yoplait yogurt lids at the request of Chris Potanas and Kayla Rawalt, first year students, to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, SCAVMA has matched the amount of money raised by their efforts. If you see Chris and Kayla, congratulate them on their hard work.

Congratulations are in order for Krista Adamovich, second year student, and Carly Waught, first year student, for winning the “What is SCAVMA” and “What is SAVMA” essay contests, respectively. Both Krista and Carly will receive a $175 scholarship for their winning entries.

On behalf of the SCAVMA executive board, good luck with finals, and have a great holiday season!

~ Elliot
Students and Veterinarians Meet for Mock Interview Session

The K-State colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Business Administration brought food animal practitioners and veterinary students together for a Veterinary Career Opportunities Workshop on Nov. 3-4. The goal of the event was to help practitioners and prospective associates find job matches for future success.

Food supply veterinary practitioners from seven states and current veterinary students participated in the conference. Presentations from both colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Business Administration faculty were given. Participants also had the opportunity to put new techniques into practice through facilitated interactions. Food animal veterinarians who attended the conference were interested in investing over $1 million in hiring new associates for their practices.

Practitioners learned about meeting job seeker expectations, the legal aspects of interviewing, fair benefits packages and appropriate associate recruitment techniques.

“The incorporating of a solid business foundation into the practice of food supply medicine can help this essential piece of veterinary medicine continue to thrive,” said Dr. Kevin Gwinner, College of Business Administration marketing department head.

Veterinary students learned interviewing techniques. The event was a valuable networking opportunity for students, and attendees were linked to numerous employment and internship prospects.

All conference attendees participated in a mock interview activity. Practitioners and students visited one-on-one for five minute interviews in a round-robin style event. Prospective employers and new associates discussed career expectations and made a number of viable contacts in a short period of time.

“Veterinarians and students have varied goals and aptitudes. This conference was successful in helping both groups identify methods to find the right new job or associate for their situation,” said Dr. Brad White, assistant professor of production medicine at the CVM.

Bayer Animal Health, Schering-Plough Animal Health and Intervet helped support this event.

Conference organizers were pleased with the outcome and plan to make this workshop an annual event.
New Professorships

These faculty members were recently awarded professorships.

**Jones Professorship: Dr. Dan Thomson.** This appointment is in honor of W.S. and E.C. Jones and recognizes excellence in food animal production medicine and epidemiology.

**Upham Professorship: Dr. David Biller.** This appointment is in honor of Dr. Roy Walter Upham and recognizes senior leadership in the CVM.

**Pet Trust Professorship: Dr. Sue Nelson.** This appointment recognizes and honors a faculty member who has demonstrated exemplary role-modeling of client communications, compassionate patient care, respect for the human-animal bond, outstanding clinical teaching, professionalism and leadership.

**Frick Professorship: Dr. Michael Dryden.** This appointment is in honor of Dr. E.J. Frick and recognizes a faculty member with a national and international reputation.

Other current professorships and endowed chairs:

- **Jarvis Chair in Small Animal Internal Medicine** - Dr. Greg Grauer
- **Coleman Chair in Food Animal/Production Medicine** - Dr. Bob Larson
- **Doughman Professorship in Small Animal Surgery** - Dr. Jim Roush.

CVM News Ticker

Dr. Rose McMurphy, Clinical Sciences, recently passed her board exams for emergency and critical care.

Dr. Rachel Allbaugh, Clinical Sciences, was featured on 49 ABC News on Nov. 16 about Wilbur, a pig from the Sunset Zoo that had cosmetic surgery.

Dr. Orn-usa Suwitheechon, Clinical Sciences graduate student in Dr. Thomas Schermerhorn’s laboratory, successfully defended her masters thesis on the “Intracellular localization of feline hepatic glucokinate” on Oct. 17th.

The **Sam Kelsall III Hunt**, held Oct. 29-30 at the Ringneck Ranch, raised more than $3,500 for the Sam Kelsall III Endowed Scholarship.

Dr. Philine Wangemann, A&P, was selected to receive a 2006-2007 Commerce Bank Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award. The award will be presented at the Graduate School commencement on Dec. 8. For winning, she is invited to give a public lecture to the K-State community next academic year.

Dr. William Fortney, DM/P, presented 12 hours on small animal geriatrics to the Annual Finnish Veterinary Conference held in Helsinki, Finland, in October. He also presented 10 hours on small animal geriatrics at the inaugural Central Veterinary Conference West, held in San Diego, Calif.

Marla Pyle, research assistant in Dr. Deryl Troyer’s lab, was awarded the Making a Difference Award sponsored by the Women in Engineering and Science Program. The award is given to a person who made a difference for an undergraduate female majoring in science, engineering or mathematics. She was nominated by Amber McBride, senior in biology.

Chili Cook-Off

The Christian Veterinary Mission Fellowship held its annual chili cook-off fundraiser.

Ali Tracey, third year student, won best chili overall, called “Ali’s Boyfriend’s Chili”; Dr. David Anderson, Clinical Sciences, won most unique chili, called “Five-by-Five Chili”; and Susanne Renberg, Dr. Renberg’s wife, won best chili presentation, called “Renberg’s Fuzzy Chili.”

Other contestants were Jeff Bottger, Nathan Kotschwar, Chris Payton, Michelle Jude and Emily Cummings.

Judges for the chili contest were Associate Dean Ronnie Elmore; Dr. Meredith Jones, Clinical Sciences; and Kent Nelson, Instructional Technology Center. Students and faculty enjoyed a delicious meal, trying everyone’s chili.

DM/P Seminar Series

Dec. 7: **Dr. Masaki Tamura**, Dept. of Animal Science and Industry
Dec. 14: **Dr. Jahangir Alam**, DM/P