Dr. Walter C. Cash, has been selected as the new recipient of the Dr. Roy Walter Upham Endowed Professorship in Veterinary Medicine. The Dr. Upham professorship was established in 2002, under the Kansas Faculty of Distinction program. It is awarded in the College of Veterinary Medicine to faculty who exemplify senior leadership. This is a three-year appointment and was previously held by Drs. David Biller and Howard Erickson.

Dr. Roy Upham was a native of Junction City, Kan. He graduated from Kansas State College with a doctorate in veterinary medicine in January 1943. He was the director of Food, Drugs and Dairy for the Illinois Department of Public Health from 1966-1983. He passed away in 1999.

“This is quite an honor,” Dr. Cash said. “I was born after Dr. Upham attended K-State, so I didn’t know him of course, but it is interesting that we both have common backgrounds through K-State and the state of Illinois, where I had previously been in private practice.”

Dr. Cash was born in Wichita, Kan. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in biological sciences in 1969, DVM in 1971, and Ph.D. in anatomy, physiology and pathology in 1982, all from K-State. From 1971 until 1974, Dr. Cash was in private veterinary practice in Rockford, Ill. Dr. Cash returned to K-State in 1974 as a temporary instructor, but stayed on, eventually becoming a full professor in the Department of Anatomy and Physiology. Dr. Cash has been a member of more than 15 graduate student committees and has authored or co-authored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Cash has received the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teaching Award in 1980 and in 2000, Merial Award for Teaching Excellence in the First Year in 2005 and 2009, and Professional Performance Award in 2007. In June 2010, he received the E.R. Frank Award from the College of Veterinary Medicine and the K-State Veterinary Medical Alumni Association.

Dr. Cash is a charter member of the Sigma Chapter of Phi Zeta and a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Gamma Sigma Delta. He is also an active member of the AVMA, KVMA, American Association of Veterinary Anatomists, American Association of Anatomists, World Association of Anatomists, Society for Neuroscience, and the American Association for the Advancement for Science. Dr. Cash and his wife, Trisha, have one daughter: Caitlin.
Professors reap USDA grant for education enhancement project

A group of faculty in the CVM has recently been selected to receive part of USDA Higher Education Challenge (HEC) grant for their project, “Food Systems Veterinary Medicine for the 21st Century.” This represents a multi-institutional grant headed by Dr. Scott Hurd at Iowa State University and including the University of Arkansas. Principal investigators at KSU include Drs. David Anderson, Robert Larson and Brad White in the Department of Clinical Sciences. The overall grant is for $331,000, while K-State’s portion is $99,000.

The objective of this project is to develop a new method of teaching concepts of food animal medicine and food safety by changing the framework, curriculum and delivery mechanism of that information. These new methods will transform the mindset and skill set for veterinarian’s tasked with safely feeding the world. Dr. David Anderson, professor and section head of Agricultural Practices, explained that “A continuing and serious shortage of veterinarians to ensure a continuing and serious shortage of veterinarians exists in the USA. This creates a great need for experts to work in complex farming, food production, and processing systems to help with sustainability, respond to societal changes, and maintain consumer confidence.”

Dr. Anderson explained that veterinarians have an import role in food systems. Veterinarians working in the food-supply chain must understand the implications of decisions throughout the food, environment and public health systems. He said, “By understanding the ‘systems approach’ to problem solving, students will develop a holistic view of the elements and processes working together to produce a desired result.”

HEC grants are administered through the USDA’s Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. The HEC grants program encourages innovative teaching enhancement projects with the potential for regional or national impact to serve as models for other institutions.

“Adding new learning objectives to the veterinary curriculum education is difficult because students are currently overloaded with information” said Dr. Bob Larson, professor in Production Medicine. “Students do not have time available for more courses, labs or rotations. To provide new content without increasing course load, innovative methods in this project are to 1) modify existing food animal topics to provide the current content while imparting the systems methodology and 2) to apply systems engineering teaching and learning principles to veterinary students through partnership with the engineering college.”

Dr. Brad White, associate professor in Production Medicine, added, “One focus of this project is developing materials that provide participating faculty with the tools necessary to implement systems teaching. A trainer will be established at each collaborating university who will work with selected faculty to modify some of their existing lectures. The revised lectures will include the original content while setting the information into systems based examples.”

This HEC grant will be conducted by a team of educators in food animal medicine including Drs. Matt Miesner, Shelie Laflin, Michael Apley and Mike Sanderson. These faculty provide a broad base upon which to build concepts in medicine, production medicine, herd health, pharmacology and reproduction of food animals.

Helping students ‘see’ how to serve disabled clients

Toni Eames has been blind since birth. She and her guide dog, Keebler, are at the head of the classroom. Toni tells students how to work with disabled clients and their assistance dogs.

“The message is the same, disabled people are the same everywhere,” Toni said to Dr. Ronnie Elmore’s class, “Practicing in a Multicultural Society” in September. “Many clients are going to be disabled, so veterinarians need to know how to react to disabled clients and empower them. Know the specific disabilities so you can make the client feel comfortable. Know if the dog is a working dog. Know all about how the dog functions. What a dog does for a living is very important for the best veterinary decision for that treatment.”

Whether it’s students or practicing veterinarians, Toni emphasizes the importance of understanding their clients’ disabilities.

“One of the things we want people to realize is that I do things differently from you,” Toni said. “For example: I can’t read print, but that doesn’t mean I can’t read. I have lots of alternatives to reading print.”

In addition, Toni gives different examples of what students need to know about how to work with working dogs as it relates to the disabilities of their partners.
BCI gives beef cattle veterinarian of year award to Dr. Norton

Dr. Randall Norton, left, accepts the honor of Beef Cattle Veterinarian of the Year from Dr. Dan Thomson, director of K-State's Beef Cattle Institute.

Dr. Randall Norton is the 2010 recipient of the Beef Cattle Veterinarian of the Year award from the Beef Cattle Institute at K-State's College of Veterinary Medicine. The honor was presented at the 2010 American Association of Bovine Practitioners meeting, Aug. 18-21, at Albuquerque, N.M. Nearly 200 K-State veterinary alumni and students attended.

“It is an honor to see someone of such work ethic and integrity receive an award from our university,” said Dr. Dan Thomson, director of the Beef Cattle Institute.

Dr. Norton is a native of Ness County, where he was raised on the family farm. He attended Fort Hays State University before transferring to K-State to complete his pre-veterinary course work. He graduated from the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine in 1989. He then practiced in Albion, Neb., for a year before returning to the family farm. He opened a mobile veterinary practice while farming with his father.

Dr. Norton married his veterinary school classmate, Dr. Judy Harper, in 1992. They opened Walnut Fork Veterinary Service in 1995 in Utica. Dr. Norton continues to farm, run a beef cow herd and practice veterinary medicine.

As a K-State alum, Dr. Norton has given back to his alma mater. He has served on the interview committee for potential veterinary students at the CVM. He has provided many mentorship experiences in his practice to first- and second-year K-State veterinary students.

Check it out at the Library

“Meet Jeff Gauss, Information Specialist”

One of the goals of the Veterinary Medical Library is to provide efficient service to our many diverse library users. To help facilitate this we have designated our information desk as the first point of contact for information and library service requests coming through walk-in, phone, or email inquiries. Our newest library staff member, Jeff Gauss, who is located at the front of the information desk, personally directs requests to the appropriate resource or person. He also supervises our student workers and instructs them to also provide this service. Jeff’s title, information specialist, is indicative of the role that he will play in streamlining our services. He is especially interested in increasing the library’s use of all available technologies and resources to provide exceptional information service.

Jeff started working at the VML this summer. He comes to us most recently from the Miami area. His academic credentials include a B.A. in psychology from the University of Northern Colorado, an M.A. in library and informational science from the University of Missouri-Columbia, as well as an M.A. in Historical Archaeology from the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. In previous library positions Jeff has created website content and classroom instruction materials; delivered reference, reader’s advisory, and circulation services. He has suggested policies, procedures and purchases related to automation and provision of electronic information services as well as the coordination, facilitation, and management of K-State Information Technology Services projects from concept to completion.

Several previous positions held by Jeff have been at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va., the American Optometric Association Library, St. Louis, Mo., the Richardson Library at the St. Louis Art Museum and public library work in Virginia. He has two 4-year old domestic gray cats which he rescued from Second Chance in Columbia, Mo., and he especially enjoys boating on Tuttle Creek Reservoir in his spare time. Stop by the library and meet Jeff, our new information specialist.
Please welcome Christie Gabel, the new development officer for the College of Veterinary Medicine. She will be under the supervision of Chris Gruber, the director of development. Gabel, originally from Eaton, Colo., graduated from K-State in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry. While a student, she competed on the K-State Livestock Judging Team and was a member of the Collegiate CattleWomen.


Dr. Elizabeth Davis presented two seminars: 1) Equine Metabolic Syndrome and 2) Dealing with equine laminitis, where are we now? at the Colby (Kan.) Community College Vet Tech Program, Oct. 1.

Dr. Shirley Arck was elected to be president of the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy at the September meeting in Wichita.

How does our Whispering Garden grow?

Panel No. 13, added in September, completes the south face of this section of the Whispering Garden (between Mosier and Trotter Halls). A minimum $50 contribution gives donors the unique opportunity to honor animal companions in the Whispering Garden. Donors also receive replicas of submitted photos as keepsakes.