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Veterinary ambassadors to China



Left to right: Dr. Youling Jia, president of the Chinese Veterinary Medical Association, Dr. Jishu Shi and Dr. Frank Blecha, KSUCVM, Dr. Jinxiang Li, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and Dean Ralph Richardson.

A recent trip to China helped a team of CVM members take the next step in a partnership to improve veterinary medicine education and create business opportunities for Kansas animal health companies. The CVM team included Dean Ralph Richardson, Dr. Frank Blecha, interim associate dean for research and head of anatomy and physiology, and Dr. Jishu Shi, associate professor in anatomy and physiology and director of the U.S.-China Center for Animal Health (USCCA).

"This is a continuation of the previous trip," Dr. Shi said, referencing his visit to China in March (first reported in the May 2010 issue of *Lifelines*). "The focus is to work on an agreement with the China Scholarship Council (CSC) to bring DVM students to the U.S. Ideally, this would be about five or six pre-veterinary students per year who would attend K-State before enrolling at K-State and other veterinary schools. To help obtain funding for this project, we had several meetings with the CSC deputy general secretary and the executive director for American and Oceanian Affairs in Beijing. The CSC is committing \$20,000 per student per year, which covers half of the tuition. We're

working with the China Ministry of Agriculture, Chinese Veterinary Medical Association and China Agricultural University to help fund the other \$20,000 per student that would be needed. Our goal is to help China train 50 DVM students in the next 10 years."

This was also a return visit for Dr. Blecha, "We have a number of former students who have done

very well in China and in the United States," he said. "They are working for the government, in the animal health sector, or for themselves in private business. It sure felt like a homecoming for me, seeing all of the former students, colleagues and post docs."

This was a first-time trip for Dean Richardson, "I gave a presentation on veterinary public health and an overview of Kansas State University to the Pfizer China Veterinary Consortium," Dr. Richardson said. "I also gave some presentations on continuing education and accreditation to the China-U.S. Forum on Cooperation for Veterinary Education and the Forum for Deans of Colleges of Veterinary Medicine in China, both of which were co-sponsored by the USCCA and CVMA. We participated in the Kansas Department of Commerce Trade Show that took place in association with the CVMA meeting. Then Dr. Blecha, Dr. Shi, and I had an opportunity to visit with some of the Chinese veterinary colleges. We talked about how we might work together to recruit some high-end students into our training programs. All four of those activities were very exciting for me."

Veterinary student balances being a band manager and in school

More than 300 students march for the Pride of Wildcat Land marching band. Approximately two dozen ladies dance for the band, better known as the Classy Cats. Little over a dozen more students wave flags for the band. Two ladies twirl for the band and three drum majors lead the band. These are the people who take the field during halftime on game days. Yet there are several students who don't take the field or perform with the band and usually go unnoticed. These students consist of managers and staff for the band. One of these managers is also a veterinary student: Todd Askren.

Todd is a second-year student who has been in the band for seven years. This is his second year as a manager. Staff and managers usually meet on game days about an hour before the percussion and tubas arrive, which is approximately two hours before the band rehearses. His duties mainly consist of getting water for the band, loading and unloading the equipment truck, setting up the field for rehearsal and taking care of any other things that

need to be done. Todd says that he is proud to be a part of this group.

"The camaraderie of being with a group of people that know what to do and how to get it done, it is something I really enjoy," Todd said. "It's nice to experience things that no one else gets to do."

Being a veterinary student and in the band presents a challenge. Todd considers time his biggest challenge. His weekends are usually set aside for band, and then he uses Sundays to catch-up on his homework. Todd says he would like to have more time to study, but considers it nice to have something other than school.

"I have a lot of great memories from band," Todd says. "One of my best memories (when I was still playing) was running out on the field and being one of the first people on the field. It's exciting to perform in front of the crowd."



'Wabashing' on game day: Todd Askren, third from the left, joins the other band managers for a break to enjoy the football game.

At this point, Todd is unsure whether he will continue to be a band manager throughout his veterinary school career. That is something that he hasn't decided yet.

"I keep thinking that this will be my last year but you never know. It's something about the group, that you keep getting drawn back in and you enjoy every minute of it," he said.

Dr. Temple Grandin gives inaugural Upson Lecture



Dr. Temple Grandin, the lecture series' first speaker, talks with the students after her presentation.

Dr. Temple Grandin, a world-renowned animal behaviorist and a person with high functioning autism, was introduced as the first Upson Lecture speaker. The Upson Lecture series is a new lecture series that was launched in honor of

Dr. Dan Upson, K-State professor emeritus of anatomy and physiology. Food for Thought, a student group, has been the driving force in making this lecture series a reality.

"The goal of Food for Thought is the students that are from a rural background and have interest in agriculture are basically teaching their friends that have no

understanding of agriculture about what actually goes on on the farm," adviser Dr. Dan Thompson said.

At the premiere of the Upson Series, it featured speaker Dr. Temple Grandin. She addressed the university, as well as the veterinary students and faculty. In

her speech, Dr. Grandin covered her personal and professional life. When she was originally diagnosed with autism, her parents were told that she should be institutionalized. Instead Dr. Grandin overcame the disability and developed a way to think in pictures and see through the animal's perspective. Members of the group consider Dr. Temple Grandin the perfect way to start the lecture series.

"It was just really exciting to get Food for Thought name out there and get the Upson lecture series kind of kicked off with a bang," said Tera Rooney, first-year student.

New this month: See a full video report online at www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1012.htm

Dr. Lila Miller visits CVM

She addresses shelter medicine and diversity



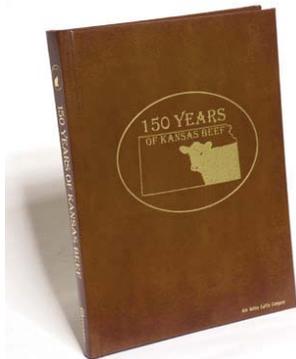
Dr. Lila Miller is all business. As the vice president for veterinary outreach for the ASPCA, she gets right to the point in addressing important issues in shelter medicine. As a veterinarian who also happens to be African American, she is very blunt in sharing her experiences. In November, she gave lectures on both subjects to K-State veterinary students.

“When I came out of veterinary school there was no such thing as shelter medicine,” Dr. Miller said. “When I went to work for the ASPCA, it was essentially because we were warehousing animals and maybe 10 percent of the animals got adopted, and the vast majority were euthanized. Essentially the population management program in most shelters in the country was euthanasia. So when I came along, it was to say, ‘We can do better than that – there is another way.’”

With a career spanning 33 years, Dr. Miller recognized there was not a lot of educational material available, so she put together a textbook to address shelter medicine.

“We’re working on the second edition of this textbook,” she said, “It’s an expansion on shelter medicine for veterinarians and staff. This book came out in 2004, which means the manuscript was essentially prepared between 2002 and 2003, so there is a lot more information we can provide now. We’ve expanded it greatly.”

K-State announces ‘150 Years of Kansas Beef’



The state of Kansas turns 150 years old on Jan. 29, 2011. As part of Kansas’s sesquicentennial events, Kansas State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, Beef Cattle

Institute, and Frontier program proudly announce the upcoming release of a coffee-table-styled book called “150 Years of Kansas Beef,” which is being

dedicated to longtime Kansas rancher Jack Vanier, whose wife, Donna, made the project possible.

With chapters reaching as far back as the great cattle drives of the 19th century, this historical and photograph-rich book will take readers through the challenges and triumphs of the Kansas beef industry over the last century and a half. Dozens of families have contributed ranch histories, photographs and other paraphernalia to the project, some of which are described in an online podcast series available through the Beef Cattle Institute (<http://www.beefcattleinstitute.org>).

“We are grateful to these families for their contributions,” said Dr. Justin Kastner, director of the “150 Years of Kansas Beef” project and co-director of the Frontier program, an historical studies research program in the college’s Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology.

The book can be ordered online at www.vet.k-state.edu/features/beef.htm, and will be printed by Donning Company Publishers and delivered in summer 2011.

Students complete Veterinary Research Scholars Program

Fourteen students from the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine have completed the 2010 Veterinary Research Scholars Program.

The selective and research-intensive program runs from mid-May to mid-August. Students are paired with faculty mentors and conduct research projects. The National Institutes of Health and Merck, a worldwide animal health company, fund the program with grants. Students receive a monthly stipend for their work, which concludes with attendance and participation at the National Veterinary Scholars Symposium.

Dr. Elizabeth Davis, associate professor of clinical sciences-equine and co-director of the Veterinary

Research Scholars Program at K-State, said selecting the right students for the program is important.

“We look for students who want employment for the summer, and who want to be challenged and work in a research setting,” she said.

Students are eligible for the program after completing their first or second year in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The program usually selects around 13 students each year. That number is based on funding sources and the number of investigators who have appropriate research for the program. Research projects vary from clinical to biological.



Allison Jordan Bryan, second-year student, was one of 14 students selected to participate in the program.

Under the microscope



Lesya Reves

Agriculture Technician, VMTH

Hometown: Leonardville, Kan.



Family Information: My wonderful husband of 19 years, Rob; our precious teenage sons Sheridan and Morgan; and our angel daughter Mariah in heaven.

Pets: Kaden our “I am so happy to see you” rat terrier and farm cats Gigi, Purr-Purr, Figaro, Dusty and Tiger Stripes.

Do you have any special Thanksgiving traditions? We get together with my mom’s side of the family at noon for a bountiful meal and family time. This year will be different as this is the first Thanksgiving without my mom who died earlier this year.

What is the most unusual thing that you have come across while working at the College of Veterinary Medicine? A male camel who lost a fight with another male camel.

What are you most thankful for? My precious family and friends!

CVM NEWS TICKER



Dr. T. G. Nagaraja was recognized in November with a prestigious Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Award. Four awards, each named for former leaders of the KU Endowment, are presented annually to honor outstanding accomplishments in research by faculty members at Kansas Board of Regents institutions. Dr. Nagaraja was given the Irvin Youngberg Award for Applied Sciences for his research on the effects of high-starch feed additives on lactic acid accumulation in feedlot cattle.

Mal Hoover, Veterinary Medical Library graphic designer and medical illustrator, was recently featured in the November issue of “Simply Knitting.” Mal’s knitting hobby uses alpaca yarn from the K-State alpaca herd.

A big thanks goes to K-State Federal Credit Union for hosting the fall staff luncheon on Nov. 16.

Dr. James Coffman and his wife Sharon unveil Coffman Commons. Dr. Coffman served as the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine from 1984 to 1987 and as provost from 1984 to 2004.



CVM Awards its Top Teachers



Congratulations to: Dr. Cheryl Herman, Teva Animal Health first-year teaching excellence award; Dr. Howard Erickson, Merial first-year teaching excellence award; and Dr. Sanjeev Narayanan, Bayer Animal Health second-year teaching excellence award. Not pictured: Dr. Heather Towle, Novartis third-year teaching excellence award.

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

Jan. 14 - Conference on Reproduction, Calving and Calf Care in Cow-Calf Herds

Feb. 5 - Canine Care Workshop

For more information, check out:

<http://www.vet.ksu.edu/CE/Conference.htm>

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