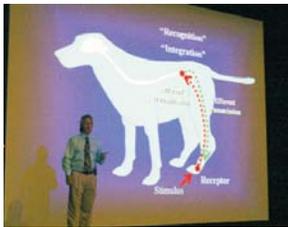




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Mother of four meets challenges to earn DVM

by Dana Avery

Walking across a stage at graduation brings a lot of emotions for many students. For one veterinary student, this day meant overcoming the challenge of balancing school and family responsibilities.

Melanie Summers earned her DVM this year. She is a wife and a mother of four (Braxton, 7, Sienna, 5, Aspen, 3, and Taylin, 11 months).

“I always wanted to be a veterinarian,” she said. “When I told people I wanted to go to veterinary school, they were surprised. I didn’t hear it while I was in school. But when I was done with school, people would come up and tell me how they were surprised I graduated. I didn’t let people’s doubts discourage me from going after my dreams. I used it as motivation.”

Though having a family did come with some challenges in itself, Melanie felt that balancing time and studies was always the biggest obstacle. There were days when the kids would get sick and her husband, Clint, would take off work when he could. When Clint couldn’t take off work, Melanie would take the children to school with her.

“There were times when my kids would come to lectures with me because something would come up,” Melanie said. “They would either color or play with electronics while I was listening to the instructor.”

Melanie says she felt she was limiting her children because they couldn’t be involved in extracurricular activities due to her school



Excited to be done, Dr. Melanie Summers celebrates graduation with her husband and four children. Back row: Taylin, Clint, Aspen and Melanie. Front row: Sienna and Braxton.

work. She hopes to change that in the upcoming year. Melanie said she is grateful for her education at K-State because the clinicians were really good about working with her. To her, family was the most important thing and the clinicians understood. This carried over into a scary situation for Melanie when her daughter Sienna became sick.

“I was working at an externship when I found out my daughter had E. coli,” Melanie said. “She was in the hospital for about a week. The doctors didn’t know what caused it, but I was scared that I was the reason for it. I was working around cattle at the time, and I didn’t know if I had brought something home with me.”

“I didn’t let people’s doubts discourage me from going after my dreams. I used it as motivation.”

- Dr. Melanie Summers

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73rd Annual Conference for Veterinarians Recap

The 73rd Annual Conference for Veterinarians was held June 5-8. The conference offered opportunities for veterinarians to listen to other professionals discuss a variety of topics for both small and large animals. There were also wet labs for participants

to meet with specialists to go over techniques and discuss a range of topics. The Kansas Veterinary Medical Association held a vendor trade show for visitors to check out between times.

Dr. Scott McVey, supervisory medical officer of the Arthropod-Borne Animal Disease Research Unit, gives the keynote address at the conference welcome session



K-State adjunct professor and Abilene veterinarian, Dr. Lisa Tokach (center), presents the Companion Pet of the Year Award along with some help at the KVMA luncheon.



Dr. Sarah Kaufman, Lawrence, Kan., examines radiographs in one of the wet labs.



Conference attendees enjoy ice cream at the end of the Tuesday sessions.

Several reunions were held in conjunction with the 73rd Annual Conference for Veterinarians. Classes going back each five years got together at different locations. Our video crew tracked the class of 1981. Check out the video report at www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1106.htm

Award recipients receive honors at Heritage Evening

The 73rd Annual Conference for Veterinarians offered a night to remember with its tradition: Heritage Evening. This year's award recipients were honored at the banquet.

The 2011 Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to Dr. Jim Coffman. Dr. Coffman earned his bachelor's degree in 1960, DVM in 1962 and master's degree in pathology in 1970, all from K-State. Dr. Coffman had a 28 year career at K-State serving the roles of head of the Department of Surgery and Medicine, director of the Teaching Hospital, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and K-State provost for 17 years. For the past two years, he has worked as a volunteer with K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, helping in the development of an equine-assisted therapy program. With his successful career, he

has been the recipient of many awards including: the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award, an Alumni Recognition Award by CVM, the Iverson Bell Award from the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and the E.R. Frank Award.

This year's E.R. Frank Award was presented to Dr. Fred Oehme. Dr. Oehme earned his bachelor's degree and DVM in 1958 from Cornell University. After receiving his DVM, he worked at a private practice in Maryland. While earning his master's degree at K-State, he worked as an assistant and associate professor in clinical medicine. He received his master's degree in toxicology and medicine from Kansas State University in 1962. During his time at K-State, Dr. Oehme was a visiting



Dr. Jim Coffman



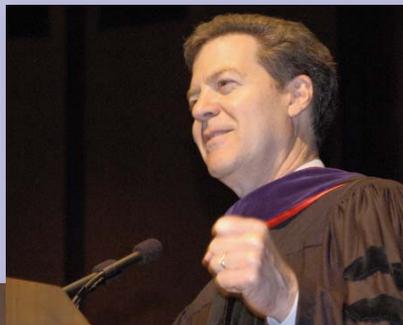
Dr. Fred Oehme

professor at the Justus Liebig University located in Giessen, Germany. In 1966, Dr. Oehme went to the University of Missouri for three years to earn doctorate in toxicology. He returned to K-State in 1969 as the director of comparative toxicology laboratories and as a toxicology professor until his retirement in 2009.

Hats off to the Class of 2011!

On May 13, 107 students earned their DVMs. Commencement was held in McCain Auditorium. Congratulations class of 2011!

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback gives the commencement address.



Dr. Kirby Joy, DVM 1975, hoods his daughter, Dr. Sarah Joy, during commencement.

Provost April Mason presents Dr. Louis Anderson his DVM.



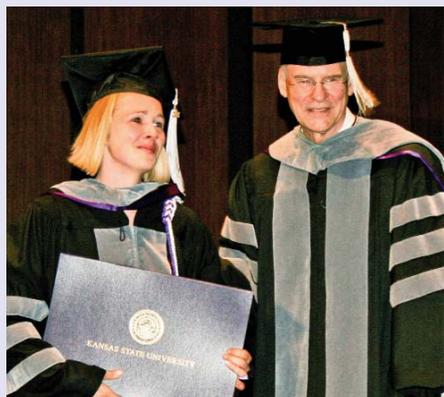
A thank-you to the CVM

A graduate says, "Thanks!" – written by Dr. Kimberley Hosking, class of 2011:

"I just wanted to say thank you. The path to becoming a DVM is a long and, at times, a very trying road. Somehow, through smiles and tears we made it, but we would not be where we are today without the help and support of all of you. I remember first setting foot in Manhattan, and K-State, for my veterinary school interview and calling my husband to say 'I just have a good feeling about this place.' Those words still ring true today. I didn't come here a K-State fan, but I leave bleeding purple. I am so proud and honored to call myself a graduate of KSU CVM. This pride and honor is born through your hard work and dedication to make us better than we think we can be. To push us just a little past the 'breaking' point until we get it together and realize 'I do know this and I can do that.' I thank you for all your time, beyond what is required or expected by your job, as this dedication benefits us to no end. I leave here with the goal of making you proud and showing everyone else what it means to be a Wildcat. I am a better person and a doctor because of you and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please remember that what you do is invaluable, and is very much appreciated, even though at times it may not show. I wish you all the best and I hope to keep in touch. Thank you again, these are years I will NEVER forget (for good reasons, not bad!)."

Summers | meeting the challenges to earn DVM

continued from page 1



Dr. Melanie Summers receives her DVM from Dean Ralph Richardson.

As the school year wrapped up, Melanie said this marked a big sigh of relief for her. Graduation meant she could spend more time with her children and watch them grow up; she would no longer have to worry about who would pick up the kids; she could spend time with family; and she had fulfilled her dream of becoming a veterinarian.

"Graduation was really emotional for me," she said. "There were times when it was hard and I kept wondering if it was ever going to come. I am so thankful for everything I have. I get to be a veterinarian and I have my family."

Melanie will be working at a mixed animal practice in Atchison, Kan., with three other veterinarians including fellow student Chris Hansen. She was excited for the opportunity, but wants people to realize anyone can accomplish his or her dreams while working through personal challenges.

"Realize you can do anything despite what the issue may be," she said. "You can push yourself. The challenge might not be kids, but it might be something else that people don't know about. It's important to follow your dreams and not give up."

Under the microscope



Yaritxa Quiñones-Rodriguez



Ophthalmology Veterinary Technician, VMTH
Hometown: San Juan, Puerto Rico

Family Information: Married to Kenneth Rodriguez. I have a sister, Doris Quiñones, and one handsome nephew, Diego Jose Caraballo.

Pets: I have two cats, Leonidas and Camila. They own the house, they just let us live in it.

What are some words of advice for the students who graduated?
Never forget that to be a professional you have to act like a professional, but always remember where you came from, what you learned, and strive for greatness no matter where you are.

What is something that you would like to do over the summer?
I want to learn a lot more about photography, so I can speak my husband's language.

Who are the people you honored on Memorial Day?
All those soldiers who have given their lives so that every person in America can enjoy their freedom, and those who still do so.

CVM NEWS TICKER

Dr. Annelise Nguyen, assistant professor of toxicology, was elected president elect/vice president of the Central States - Society of Toxicology (CS-SOT) for the 2011-2012 term.



Sheridan Reves, son of Rob and Lesa Reves, agricultural technicians, graduated with honors from Rock Creek High School on May 21. Sheridan will be attending Project SEARCH this fall,

located at the K-State Union. SEARCH is a career training and placement program for young adults with special needs. This will be the first year for Project SEARCH.



The VMTH had two teaching assistants from Argentine universities observing theriogenology services during the month of May. Left to right: Dr. Maria Ferrer, Dr. Teresa Larrosa and Dr. Julieta Farias. They both work in equine reproduction in Argentina. Dr. Larrosa visited VMTH for two months and Dr. Farias visited for two weeks. Dr. Farias is currently visiting Texas A&M and Colorado State University.

K-State dedicates World War II Memorial



On Memorial Day, K-State held a special ceremony for the unveiling of its World War II Memorial. The statue was designed by former CVM development director Tim Chapman. He served as director from 1999 to 2006. Currently, Tim is president and CEO at the Fort Hays State University Foundation. The memorial is located between McCain Auditorium and Fairchild Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 19 - 5th Annual Conference Care of Llamas and Alpacas*

Continuing Education Events, visit:
<http://www.vet.ksu.edu/CE/Conference.htm>

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