First-year student receives special award from Phi Kappa Phi

‘Eleven has been quite a year for Leventhal... Hannah Leventhal. She joined two other recipients in being selected for a special award from the national honor society Phi Kappa Phi: The 2011 Love of Learning Award.

Recipients receive a $500 award to help fund their graduate studies or career development. Hannah is a first-year veterinary student and graduate student in animal sciences and industry. The other recipients were Ashley Gleiman, doctoral student in adult and continuing education, and Christopher Nichols, a 2007 master's graduate.

Carol Shanklin, dean of the university’s Graduate School, said the Love of Learning Awards recognize these past and present students’ commitment to enhancing their professional careers as well as their excellent performance as graduate students and alumni.

“Receiving national recognition from honorary organizations and professional associations highlights the quality of K-State's graduate students and the recipients’ use of their education to advance their careers,” Shanklin said. “We are proud of Ashley, Hannah and Christopher and their professional accomplishments.”

Hannah is specifically focusing on equine nutrition. She said she was honored to have been chosen for the Love of Learning Award out of so many well-qualified candidates, and believes it was due to her combination of graduate and professional studies.

“Not many of my veterinary classmates choose to pursue a master’s degree while completing veterinary school,” Leventhal said. “I keep quite busy in both programs, but thoroughly enjoy what I do and know I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to pursue both degrees. If anything, my chosen fields of study reflect my true love for learning and challenging myself.”

After completing veterinary school, Leventhal hopes to pursue her passion for horses through a residency program, focusing on either equine internal medicine or equine surgery. Her ultimate goal is to become a board-certified specialist and practice at an equine specialty hospital.

Leventhal was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi in fall 2010 as a senior undergraduate student, and said she plans to use the award funding for her graduate studies.

Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society.
Abaxis-Kansas State partnership boosts Kansas economy

Kansas State University’s partnership with Abaxis Inc., a national medical device manufacturer, is expanding veterinary medicine technologies and returning revenue to the state’s economy.

The agreement with Abaxis was recently sealed with the university’s Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and the Kansas State University Institute for Commercialization.

“Abaxis is a great addition for the university because it complements our expertise in animal health and it confirms what is possible when you combine education with industry,” said Dr. Kirk Schulz, Kansas State University president. “The partnership will also aid Kansas State University in becoming a top 50 public research university by 2025.”

The Kansas State University-Abaxis relationship pairs one of the oldest veterinary medicine schools in the U.S. with a global animal health company. Abaxis is known for its point-of-care blood analysis laboratory systems. These portable systems are designed to provide essential rapid blood measurements for the medical and veterinary fields. It requires little training and performs numerous tasks. The systems also provide all of the necessary equipment required to perform 14 medical tests and 13 veterinary tests at a rate comparable to a clinical laboratory.

The Kansas State University Institute for Commercialization works with the startup and development of intellectual properties and acts as the university’s marketing and licensing agent. The partnership with Abaxis benefits Kansas State University and the Manhattan, Kan., community, said Kent Glasscock, president of the Institute for Commercialization.

“Abaxis and similar private sector endeavors will serve to create increased sponsored research, opportunities for students and faculty, and a strong economic return back to the university and regional economy,” Glasscock said. “Such partnerships will help create an even longer global reach for Kansas State University, while at the same time generating returns that will serve to advance the vision of its 2025 goals.”

Collaborating with Abaxis led to developing an innovative full-service commercial laboratory in Olathe, Kan., that’s available to veterinarians throughout the nation. The Abaxis Veterinary Reference Laboratory, or AVRL, has all of the latest technology and is equivalent to a large-scale clinical laboratory.

In addition to enhancing the field of veterinary medicine, approximately 100 jobs will be created in the area during the next 10 years as the lab becomes fully operational.

BRI and the NBAF’s Research and Workforce Training Initiatives

New York’s aging Plum Island Animal Disease Center, a major biosafety level 3 animal disease research facility, is preparing to be phased out by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, NBAF, currently being built in Manhattan, Kan. While NBAF is not projected to be fully operational until 2018, the pathogen work at Plum Island will not stop. Instead much of it will transition to Kansas State University’s Biosecurity Research Institute at Pat Robert’s Hall before eventually transitioning to NBAF.

Dr. Stephen Higgs, research director at the Biosecurity Research Institute, or BRI, and the associate vice president for research at the Kansas State University, spent two weeks at Plum Island in September 2011, in part to discuss the Plum Island-BRI transition process.

“Essentially the BRI is going to be a springboard to get NBAF research going as soon as possible after it opens,” Dr. Higgs said. “As Plum Island ramps down, we are making sure that there is not a drop-off in research and training on these pathogens. That’s important because we cannot afford to have a period where there’s not work being done on these diseases should one of them happen to come to America.”

Although no definitive date has been set for when projects will begin transferring to the Biosecurity Research Institute.
VMTH radiology resident creates holiday decorations

by Dana Avery

Art heals the soul. Art also has the ability to take on many different forms: it is not limited to one particular canvas. This holds true for third-year radiology resident Dr. DesChene Brochtrup. She uses her talents to create portraits, paintings and even holiday decorations such as jack-o-lanterns and Christmas ornaments.

“I did art in high school just for fun,” said Dr. Brochtrup. “I started painting portraits and used them to decorate my home. When I’d have people over, they’d see them and ask me to paint them a portrait or I’d sell them one.”

One day, the idea to create Christmas decorations came from an unexpected visitor.

“We had a man from Butterfly Energy Works working in our house, and he saw some of my work,” she said. “He thought it looked great and asked if I could make animal Christmas ornaments for his staff. After that, I started making them into Christmas gifts for family and friends.”

Dr. Brochtrup started making Christmas ornaments in 2006. She has tried people portraits, but she prefers creating animal decor.

“It usually takes about an hour to paint an ornament,” she said. “I have made some for clients in memoriam of their pets and I have also sold some to veterinary students. Unfortunately, I haven’t gotten the opportunity to paint my own pets yet.”

Dr. Brochtrup has taken her talents to other forms of holiday decoration as well. During Halloween time, she will take pictures of animals and convert them to jack-o’-lantern designs. Dr. Brochtrup tries to do this every year, but was unable to for last Halloween.

During her residency, Dr. Brochtrup’s time for art has been limited. She said she is fortunate she uses acrylic paint instead of oil based paint because the paint dries faster and allows her to start and stop at her own leisure. Dr. Brochtrup looks forward to completing her residency in July. She plans on moving to St. Louis after graduating.

Furthering education at the Bull Management Conference

Dr. Meredyth Jones goes over some examination procedures during the Jan. 6 Bull Management Conference. A full video report from the conference is featured at Lifelines Online: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1201.htm

Lifelong learning is a theme at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The college’s Continuing Education events, such as the Bull Management Conference on Jan. 6 brings in accomplished speakers and up-to-date, practical information.

“The food animal faculty at the College of Veterinary Medicine decided a number of years ago that we wanted to provide some really good continuing education for our beef cattle clients and veterinarians,” said Dr. Robert Larson, executive director of Veterinary Medical Continuing Education. “This year, we scheduled a conference where we can focus on the bull side of calf and cow production for Kansas and Midwestern herds.”

The conference features speakers from the College of Veterinary Medicine as well as the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

For more in-depth coverage, check out the video report at: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1201.htm
Dr. H. Morgan Scott was named president of the Association for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine (AVEPM) for the next two years.

Tristan Strege, agriculture technician, passed her AALAS Laboratory Animal Technician certification exam. This is the second of three levels of certification specializing in lab animal for technicians.

Dr. Yongming Sang, research assistant professor, presented at both the International Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Symposium and the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases in Chicago. His presentation was titled, “Antiviral regulation underlying the activation status of porcine monocytic innate immune cells.”

Ashley Likes
Administrative Assistant, A&P

Hometown: Rose Hill, Kan.

Family Information: My mom, Daina, my dad, Steve, my husband, Andrew, and my soon-to-be son, Aiden.

Pets: My parents have a golden doodle. I helped pick him out and name him so he kind of belongs to me. His name is Soleil.

What’s your favorite way to spend a day off during the holiday season? My husband and I like to visit our families who live here in Kansas. We like to soak in as much family time as possible since they don’t live here in town.

What will you remember most about 2011? The event that I will remember the most is finding out my husband and I were expecting. It’s pretty big news!

What is the most memorable/surprising gift you have given or received? For my 15th birthday my dad bought me a car. It was pretty great because I had no idea I was getting a car for my birthday. It had a big red bow on it. I’ll never forget seeing that car in the driveway.

Alumnus travels to Cotton Bowl

Dr. Russell Hardin, DVM 1946, takes some questions from Mark Janssen, writer for K-State Sports Extra. He traveled from his home in Florida to Dallas to watch the Cotton Bowl. He was on the football team in 1944 and 1945. Dr. Hardin is currently the oldest living alumnus of the football team. He ran a mixed animal practice in Indiana for 37 years before retiring.