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Dr. Nagaraja receives Iman Award

Faculty research award includes \$5,000 prize



Dr. Ron and Rae Iman congratulate Dr. T.G. Nagaraja for his distinguished research with microbiology.

Dr. T.G. Nagaraja, university distinguished professor of microbiology in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology (DM/P) recently received a \$5,000 Iman Outstanding Faculty Award for Research at the K-State Alumni Association. This was one of two different awards given to outstanding faculty at K-State.

Joining the K-State faculty in 1980, Dr. Nagaraja's research program has focused primarily on microbiology of the gastrointestinal tract of cattle, particularly of the rumen, the first of the four compartments of the complex stomach. His research program is geared toward supporting the beef industry in Kansas, contributing primarily to the in-feed use of antibiotics, causes and preventions of digestive disorders, such as acidosis, bloat and liver abscesses. In the past 10 years, his research has focused on preharvest food safety, particularly of the Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in beef cattle.

His nominator, Dr. M.M. Chengappa, university distinguished professor and DM/P

department head, said,

"Dr. Nagaraja is an exceptional scholar and recognized both nationally and internationally for the caliber of his research and expertise. He brings enormous visibility not only to the department and college, but also to the university and the state of Kansas."

The recipient of the Iman Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching is Andrew Barkley, agricultural economics professor in the College of Agriculture. Barkley teaches courses in agricultural economics and public policy. He is a frequently requested speaker on the topics of motivation, teaching, higher education and agricultural and public policy.

"We are so pleased to honor these outstanding K-State faculty members," said Amy Button Renz, president and CEO of the K-State Alumni Association. "They are certainly worthy of this special recognition. We also are grateful to Ron and Rae Iman for their generous commitment to make these awards possible."

Past CVM winners of the Iman Award include Drs. Dan Marcus (Anatomy and Physiology) for research and Derek Mosier (Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology) for teaching. Both of these awards were announced in 2009.

The Imans live in Albuquerque, N.M., and are life members of the K-State Alumni Association and serve as KSU Foundation trustees. The annual Dr. Ron and Rae Iman Outstanding Faculty Awards are sponsored by the K-State Alumni Association and are made possible through the generosity of Dr. Ron and Rae Iman.

Dr. Dan Thomson nabs APLU teaching award

A K-State CVM faculty member, Dr. Dan Thomson, is one of six professors throughout the country to win a 2012 Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Regional Teaching Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

The award recognizes outstanding faculty members on the basis of their ability as classroom teachers, use of innovative teaching methods, scholarship and service to students and their profession.

“My philosophy is to motivate and transfer usable knowledge to students so they will walk out of my classroom wanting to continually learn new ways to improve animal well-being, food safety and animal health,” said Dr. Thompson.

K-State is first in the nation in terms of teaching awards received, with a combined total of 13 national and regional awards.

Dr. Thomson has been recognized for his teaching before when he received the Kansas State Novartis Excellence in Teaching Award in 2005 and 2009, and also when he was named teacher of the semester at Texas Tech University’s College of Agriculture in 2000.

“This may be an individual award,” Dr. Thomson said, “but I couldn’t do this job without the aid of others along the way.”

The Regional Teaching Award is sponsored by the APLU, USDA and American Association of State Colleges and Universities.



Dr. Thomson teaches courses in feedlot production medicine, animal welfare and clinical nutrition.

Third-year student takes rescue training course in Nicaragua



By Rebecca Martineau

Disasters across the world compromise the welfare of both humans and animals in the area. The World Vets organization works to secure veterinary aid in these situations. The first step for World Vets volunteers is a Technical Animal Rescue course to prepare both students and professionals. Laura Schurr, a third year student, took this one week program over Thanksgiving break as an alternative mentorship requirement. Laura was the only veterinary student at the training, among two other Americans and four Nicaraguans.

“It was interesting to see what goes into disaster planning and where my role would be,” Laura said. “I found that my skills would probably be most useful in triage, away from the actual disaster.”

The FEMA-certified course takes place in Granada, Nicaragua, and focuses on preparing interested participants to be called upon by World Vets in the event of a disaster. The sessions include practice with basic rescue skills, such as anchor systems, hydraulics training and restraint techniques. Participants also focus on the flow of disaster relief, organization and planning in high stress events. They also receive surgical training within the Granada community, helping to spay, neuter and de-worm local dogs.

World Vets programs can be found in 36 countries around the world. When these disaster situations arise, such as the Thailand tsunami or Haiti earthquake, the program deploys volunteers to that area. These volunteers can be veterinary professionals, students or simply interested individuals. However the technical rescue course is a requirement for interested volunteers.

Laura hopes to be deployed with the program in the future, recommending both the course and the World Vets organization as a whole.

To see a video of Laura’s training from World Vets, visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OKgoK-hrOI

Top: Third-year student Laura Schurr works with others to practice restraint techniques. Bottom: Participants of the course provide local pets with routine spay/neuter surgeries. (Photos by: William McKee/Murrow College of Communications)

CVM partners with Topeka's Helping Hands Humane Society

By Rebecca Martineau

For nine weeks during the fall semester, 230 dogs from the Topeka's Helping Hands Humane Society and other organizations are admitted to K-State's College of Veterinary Medicine to be spayed or neutered. Third-year students learn surgical techniques while Kansas State faculty who are board certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons supervise the surgeries. The students learn blood collection, physical examination, anesthesia, tissue handling, suturing and post-surgery monitoring. The students work in groups of four, rotating responsibilities weekly to broaden their experience.

"This is the first time in the curriculum that students use what they learned in class and apply it to a hands on experience," said Deb Skaggs, veterinary technician, describing the nine-week collaboration as an excellent educational experience.

"There are very few opportunities afforded to veterinary students that allow us to show and realize our aspirations to help animals during our education," said another third-year student, Tera Rooney. "This program epitomizes why we are here and why we should remain motivated in order to make a true difference in the lives of animals."

The program is a win-win situation for both the CVM and the Humane



Third-year students learn physical exams while prepping the dogs for surgery. Left: Anna Pees and Jennifer Engel. Right: Kellie Lewis and Melissa Watts.

Society. Because Kansas state law requires animals to be spayed or neutered at adoption, the service greatly improves the efficiency of the adoption program from the Topeka Humane Society. Undergraduate veterinary students at the CVM have the opportunity to learn surgery under the guidance of professionals, while practicing other vital clinical skills. Both parties are invested in student education and the well-being of the dogs that pass through the system. Soon-to-be-adopted pets are also vaccinated, dewormed, and may have other beneficial health procedures performed during their stay.

"The program is a great way to accomplish something great for both of us," said Bill Acree, director of the

Helping Hands Humane Society. "We love collaborating with K-State to benefit animal welfare and education."

Before and after the surgery, the students spend time interacting with the dogs, socializing them before their return to Topeka. Students often teach basic commands to the dogs. As a result, bonds are formed between the students and their patients, resulting in many student adoptions of these dogs.

"It's hugely rewarding, teaching skills that students will use every single day in the veterinary profession, as well as providing a service to the community and a better chance for the dogs to get healthy and adopted," Skaggs said. Skaggs is also the proud owner of Emmy, a corgi adopted through the program.

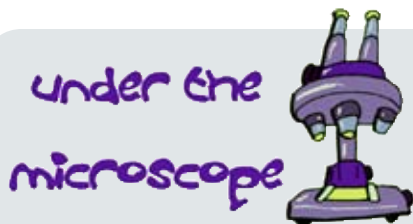
Faculty researchers partner on swine genome project



A video created by the College of Veterinary Medicine addresses recent discoveries of two K-State researchers: Dr. Yongming Sang and Dr. Frank Blecha. The pair helped successfully map the genome of the domestic pig.

The sequenced genome gives researchers a genetic blueprint of the pig. Once all of the genetic information is understood, scientists anticipate improvements to the animal's health as well as human health, as pigs and humans share similar physiologies.

To watch the video, and learn more about the project, visit: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1212.htm.



Rhonda Coffman

Diagnostic Laboratory Office
Supervisor



Hometown: Quenemo, Kan.

Family: Myself and three children.

Pets: I have three horses, a dog, four cats and a goat

What is your favorite holiday song? "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." I used to Christmas carol with my 4-H group, and this was one of my favorites.

What is one memory from 2012 that stands out to you? I remember June 1, because it was the day my son came home from serving in Africa in the Peace Corps for 27 months.

If you could be fluent in another language what would you pick? I would study French. I had several years of French in high school, and it is a beautiful language and an international language. I have been to France before and would love to return.

What is your favorite way to spend your time off? I ride my horses every chance I get and this fall has been wonderful for doing just that. I run several days a week and work outside on my farm. I also am an avid reader.

CVM NEWS TICKER

Dr. Hong Wang, instructional technologist/coordinator of Instructional Technology and Design, presented at the International Convention of Association for Educational Communications and Technology. Her presentation title is "Connecting a Community of Learners with Modeling Design."

Dr. Antje Anji, research assistant professor, received a research grant from the Johnson Cancer Center. Her proposal is entitled: "Do epigenetic changes in the promoter region of GluN2B gene contribute to the development of esophageal cancer following chronic ethanol exposure?"

Congratulations to **Dr. Nathan Canada**, equine intern, and his wife, Lauren, for the birth of a baby girl on Nov. 17 named Lauren Peighton Canada. She was born at 11:07 am. She is 6 lb. 5 oz., and 18 3/4 in.

Dr. Douglas Powell of diagnostic medicine/pathobiology led an invited workshop for the Australian Institute of Public Health in Sydney on Nov. 26. The key topics were improving food safety culture through new media, new messages and access to information to improve public health.

The Development and Alumni Office would like to thank the VMAA Executive Board and all the participants of this season's Cat Town tailgates. The host organizations include: Exotic Animal Medicine Club, Canine Club, the student chapter of AABP, Christian Veterinary Mission Foundation, Theriogenology Club and the student chapter of AVMA. Sponsors of the tailgate include: Novartis, Cox Bros BBQ, MS Biotech, Merck, Elanco Animal Health and Curtin Property Company.

KLF awards large animal scholarships



Kelsey Schnoebelen (class of 2015) and Michelle Colgan (class of 2013) have been chosen to each receive a \$1,500 Ralgro Wheels for Bucks scholarship from Merck Animal Health and Kansas Livestock Foundation. This award recognizes Kansas State University veterinary school students with a career goal of being a large animal veterinarian. Both hope to work in rural Kansas after graduation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 18 Dean's Office Holiday Open House, 2:30- 4:00pm.

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