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Distinguished Microbiologist of the Year

ACVM tabs Dr. M.M. Chengappa with its highest honor

Dr. M.M. Chengappa, University Distinguished Professor and head of the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University, has been named as the 2013 recipient of the prestigious Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist of the Year by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM). This award was presented at the ACVM's annual meeting held Dec. 8 in Chicago. Dr. Chengappa is a Diplomate of the ACVM.

"It's a great honor to be recognized with such a prestigious award, being the only award of this kind given to an individual in the U.S. and Canada," Dr. Chengappa said. "I'm honored and humbled by this recognition, and I'm quite thankful to the organization for recognizing me. I'm also thankful to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State and to Dean Ralph Richardson for giving me the opportunity to lead and work with a fine group of people in the college. I'm also thankful to Dr. T.G. Nagaraja for nominating me for this award."

"Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist is the highest recognition accorded to an individual by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists," said Dr. Nagaraja, University Distinguished Professor of microbiology in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology. "I nominated Dr. Chengappa for this prestigious award not just because he has had a



Dr. M.M. Chengappa, left, accepts the 2013 Distinguished Microbiologist of the Year Award from Dr. Jim Fahey, president of the ACVM.

distinguished career and has made significant contributions in all aspects of veterinary microbiology — research, teaching and diagnostic services, but more importantly, because of the profound impact he has had in the academic careers and lives of a number of veterinary students, graduate students and faculty in the department."

Dr. Chengappa's primary research interests are to study and understand the pathogenesis of important infectious diseases of animals, and to develop strategies to protect animals from these diseases. Identification, molecular characterization and functional analysis of antigens/toxins of *Streptococcus suis*, *Mannheimia haemolytica*, and *Fusobacterium necrophorum* are his primary research focuses. He also coordinates and teaches a course in veterinary microbiology for sophomore veterinary students.

Trio of faculty and alumni earns Top 15 distinction



Dr. Michelle Fleetwood (yellow jacket) examines a beluga whale at the Vancouver (Canada) Aquarium. This 1999 alumna and current professor at the University of New Hampshire was named a Top 15 Marine Veterinary Professor by VetTechColleges.com.

Two faculty members and one alumna from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University have been recently named on three separate lists of Top 15 veterinary professors by VetTechColleges.com.

Dr. Mike Apley, professor and section Head for Agricultural Practices in the Department of Clinical Sciences and Veterinary Health Center and a 1987 veterinary alumnus from K-State, was named to the list of Top 15 Large Animal Veterinary Professors. He was recognized because he is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pharmacology with nearly 20 years of teaching experience in the field of large animal medicine. In 2007, Bovine Veterinary Magazine named Dr. Apley one of the most influential veterinarians in the cattle feeding industry for his years of research and dedication.

Unusual Marine Mammal Mortality Events. She has had shared research published in the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine and Veterinary Pathology.

Dr. Dan Thomson, Jones Professor of Production Medicine and Epidemiology, Assistant Dean for Outreach, and director of the Beef Cattle Institute, was named to the list of Top 15 Veterinary Nutrition Professors. In 2012, he received the National Excellence in Teaching Award from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. He has more than 50 peer-reviewed papers published, as well as 73 proceedings, 204 abstracts and four book chapters. He is also host of "Doc Talk," a nationally aired veterinary television show that

Dr. Apley is also a contributing editor to Beef Magazine. In September 2013, he was named on a list of 20 influential beef and dairy veterinarians by BovineVetOnline.com.

Dr. Michelle Fleetwood, a 1999 veterinary alumna and current professor at the University of New Hampshire, was named to the list of Top 15 Marine Veterinary Professors. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. She investigated marine mammal strandings as part of the Joint Working Group on

has a viewership in more than 45 million homes. Dr. Thomson was also named on the same list of 20 influential beef and dairy veterinarians as Dr. Apley above.

"We're extremely proud to have faculty and alumni who are frequently and consistently recognized for excellence in their specific fields of veterinary medicine," said Dr. Ralph C. Richardson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Thomson added, "It takes a lot of people and support to be able to receive this kind of recognition for teaching. The people in our college have all played a role in paving the way, and in this case, I just got to carry the ball."

Inclusion on the Top 15 lists is determined in part by the criteria of possessing both a DVM and Ph.D., membership in professional organizations and having been published in academic journals. VetTechColleges is operated by Sechel Ventures through its educational-publishing division. On VetTechColleges.com, the Sechel editorial team gives voice to professors, working veterinarians and veterinary technicians in one-on-one interviews, and goes behind the scenes to shed more light on the offerings at featured colleges, and the different career paths and specializations available to those interested in taking their first step toward a veterinary career.



VetTechColleges.com says Dr. Mike Apley and Dr. Dan Thomson (right) are in the Top 15 of large animal and veterinary nutrition professors, respectively.

Video Feature: Novel surgery at VHC saves Vida's Vision

Due to the success of an operation never before performed at the Kansas State University Veterinary Health Center, one lucky dog's eyesight and quality of life has been saved.

Jurinda Juno's dog, Vida, from Garden City, Kansas, had previously been treated for a limbal melanoma, or cancerous growth, on the eye. Despite this earlier surgery, Juno noticed signs of the growth's return during the summer of 2013.

"We were looking at a more novel, maybe even a little bit more aggressive means by which to try and address the recurrence of the tumor to try and be more successful long term and that led us to investigating some alternative options," said Dr. Jessica Slack, assistant professor of ophthalmology in the Clinical Sciences department.

To learn how Vida's vision was successfully saved, watch this month's video report at Lifelines online: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1401.htm



Dr. Jessica Slack examines Vida's eyes with help from Jurinda Juno (left), Vida's owner.

MPH Program has record year for number of grads

Kansas State University is racking up the numbers in its interdisciplinary Master of Public Health program. December 2013 brought eight new graduates of the program, bringing the total graduate count for the 2013 calendar year to a record 32.

The Master of Public Health program was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents in January 2003 and admitted its first students that fall. The mission of the program is to provide education, research and service across multiple disciplines of public health, impacting human, animal and community health locally, regionally and globally.

Students are required to take 42 semester credit hours to complete the program with specific courses in one of four areas of emphasis: food safety and biosecurity, infectious diseases and zoonoses, public health nutrition and public health physical activity. The program involves Kansas State University's colleges of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Human Ecology and Veterinary Medicine.

Graduates of the program seek jobs in public health at all levels — from local to international — and are finding much

success, said Dr. Michael Cates, director of the university's Master of Public Health Program and the James B. Nichols Professor of Veterinary Medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Alumni of the program include Svetlana Cotela, who became the deputy minister for the Ministry of Health and chief medical officer of the Republic of Moldova in July 2013. Cotela received her Master of Public Health with an emphasis in public health nutrition from Kansas State University in 2011.

Other graduates are now working at many local, state, federal, international and private health-related agencies. The program also has attracted many students who have earned their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or are in the process of doing so.

"We want to thank the 20 different faculty members who served as major professors for one or more of these 32 graduates in 2013, as well as the



Dr. Jami Grace gets her white coat in this file photo from 2012. She was one of a record number of graduates in the MPH program this year. She has both a DVM (class of 2013) and a master of public health with an emphasis on infectious diseases and zoonoses (December 2013).

36 faculty members who served as committee members for one or more of these students," Dr. Cates said. "This year has really demonstrated the interdisciplinary nature of our program and its partners. These major professors and committee members were from 10 different departments in the four academic colleges."

Second-year student wins \$1,500 scholarship

Fourteen scholarship winners for the 2013-14 school year were recognized during the annual Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) Convention Dec. 6 in Wichita, Kan., and a total of \$16,000 was presented by the Kansas Livestock Foundation (KLF).

Douglas Shane, a second-year student at the College of Veterinary Medicine was chosen to receive a \$1,500 Ralgro Wheels for Bucks scholarship from Merck Animal Health and KLF. This award recognizes K-State veterinary school students with a career goal of being a large animal veterinarian. Douglas is the son of Scott and Beverly Shane from Louisburg, Kan. He said plans to establish his own practice focused on food animals.

KLF was established in 1983 to operate solely and exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes. KLA is a trade organization protecting the business interests of independent ranchers, feeders and dairy farmers. Members of the association are involved in all segments of the livestock industry, including cow-calf production, backgrounding, cattle feeding, swine, dairy and sheep.



Douglas Shane with Krieger, Hubert and Bastin.

CVM NEWS TICKER

Dr. Patricia Payne reports that Champagne has returned to KSDS on Jan. 6 for further training. Learn more about the organization online: <http://www.ksds.org/>.

Dogs of all ages needed for fluorophotometric evaluation of the effects of age on the blood aqueous barrier in dogs. Please contact Dr. Jessica Slack (jslack@vet.k-state.edu) or Dr. Amy Rankin (arankin@vet.k-state.edu) for additional information and to enroll your dog in the study.

Stem cell study - call for patients: The enrollment period is still open for an IACUC approved clinical study evaluating the use of injectable stem cells for treatment of osteoarthritis. Candidates will need to have an initial screening by the doctors to ensure that they qualify. The study has been generously funded, and all candidate dogs will have their initial exam and subsequent procedures and visits fully funded. If you are interested or have further questions please e-mail Dr. Upchurch (upchurch@vet.ksu.edu) or call 785-532-5690.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CEEZAD Seminar:

Dr. Gusti Ngurah Mahardika will present, "Rabies Outbreak in a Global Major Tourism Area of Bali-Indonesia: Unclear Origin and Future" Jan. 21 at 3:30 p.m. in Mosier N202

North American Veterinary Conference - Orlando, Fla., Jan. 18-22

K-State Alumni Reception, Sunday, Jan. 19, 7 pm- 9 pm, Grand Ballroom 7A, Orlando World Center Marriott. Dr. Robert Ridgway will receive the a 2014 Alumni Recognition Award.

Holiday fare brings festive delights



The dean's annual Holiday Open House provides a festive atmosphere and plenty of treats for CVM staffers and fourth-year students.

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