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Researching Down Under

Dr. Michelle Mazur trains in infectious disease research for Ph.D.

"If you would have told me one year ago today that I would end up studying high-containment infectious diseases at a world-class laboratory in Australia, I would have called you crazy," Dr. Michelle Mazur wrote via e-mail from Geelong, Victoria.

Dr. Mazur already earned a DVM at K-State in May 2013 and then decided to continue her education through the DVM-Ph.D. program in the CVM. She is working on her Ph.D. under Dr. Bob Rowland.

For the past six months, Dr. Mazur has been working at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's Australian Animal Health Laboratory, more commonly known here as CSIRO's AAHL.

"My program of study is constantly evolving, but I've begun my Ph.D. in Australia through training in the laboratory," Dr. Mazur said. "I work in a biosecurity-level 3 environment, which means you change all your clothes to enter the lab – nothing leaves – and I take a shower on the way out. I have always been interested in high-containment laboratories, so I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to train in this environment."

While a DVM is already considered to be a graduate degree, the College of Veterinary Medicine offers additional graduate-level programs that allow students to earn a master's degree in veterinary biomedical sciences, a master of public health degree in infectious diseases and zoonoses, and a Ph.D. in either pathobiology or physiology. These advanced degrees provide training for careers in research laboratories and public health institutions.

"Veterinarians are fortunate to have many career options and a career in research is a path that many of our DVM students and



Dr. Michelle Mazur works at a key animal health laboratory in Australia for her Ph.D.

graduates are eager to pursue," said Dr. Frank Blecha, associate dean for research. "It's hard to imagine a more exciting Ph.D. program than the one that Michelle is pursuing. The collaborative project on African swine fever that Drs. Mazur and Rowland are conducting with our Australian colleagues at the AAHL in Geelong is an important part of our efforts to assist with workforce development for the National Bio and Agro-Defense facility that is being built next to our college."

"Through K-State's collaboration with the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, I have had the wonderful opportunity to study and train with world-class virologists and veterinarians," Dr. Mazur said. "Though I work hard during the week, I have also made a conscious effort to get out and explore Australia! After all, living in a foreign country is a chance of a lifetime."

Externships give four students an opportunity to experience shelter medicine across the U.S.

A little dog has given veterinary students at Kansas State University an opportunity to learn about shelter medicine from New York to California. As of this school year, the Clinical Sciences department in the College of Veterinary Medicine is taking advantage of a grant offered through a family foundation called Maddie's Fund.

"There are many benefits for students completing externships at high-quality, large-scale, adoption-guarantee shelter environments," explained Dr. Bonnie Rush, head of Clinical Sciences. "Externship training at a Maddie's Fund approved site creates opportunities for students to learn about community-based, non-profit organizations, small animal population medicine, and individual care for special needs animals. Students submit a brief essay outlining their understanding of an adoption-guarantee shelter program and their career goals in shelter medicine. If selected, the students complete their externships at an approved shelter."

Maddie's Fund was endowed by Dave and Cheryl Duffield in Pleasanton, California, after the family's beloved Miniature Schnauzer passed away in 1997. Their goal was to help provide support for animal welfare and no-kill shelters through grant giving, hands-on animal care, and research and education.

Fourth-year student Allison Nelson completed her externship at the New York ASPCA last December. Three third-year students, Caitlin Sullivan, Bailey Davis and Tracey Stonebridge, will complete their externships at different shelters in California in May, July and August, respectively.

"My externship experience at the ASPCA has shown me that a key to no-kill shelters' success is community support," Allison said. "Each community must focus on which issues are contributing to the euthanasia rates in



Third-year student Caitlin Sullivan, fourth-year student Allison Nelson and third-year students Tracey Stonebridge and Bailey Davis take a break at the annual SCAVMA barbecue. Each has an externship through Maddie's Fund.

their area. Shelter euthanasia rates can be decreased by addressing the issue before it starts with spay neuter programs or allowing animals that previously were viewed as unadoptable a chance for adoption with behavioral intervention."

Caitlin explained how the grant from Maddie's Fund will be used toward completing her externship at the Helen Woodward Animal Center, in Rancho Santa Fe, California. "The funds are helpful in assisting us with travel and living expenses during the two-week off-campus experience," she said. "I was interested in completing an elective rotation in shelter medicine to gain experience with spays and neuters and to understand the intricacies and challenges of practicing veterinary medicine in a shelter setting."

Bailey said, "One of my best experiences during my undergraduate degree was getting the opportunity to intern alongside a shelter veterinarian. Shelter medicine is often an overlooked area of veterinary medicine and few veterinary schools incorporate it into

the curriculum at all. I had planned on pursuing an externship at a shelter my fourth year, so I was very excited to learn about Maddie's Fund. I normally would not be able to travel due to the financial limitations of flying and finding a place to stay. I am looking forward to completing my shelter externship at Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation in Walnut Creek, California."

"I am grateful for the opportunity that this scholarship has afforded me to expand my veterinary knowledge by completing an externship," said Tracey, who will be at Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation. "The skills and knowledge that I will gain by assisting with the scheduled surgeries, sick visits and behavior consults will greatly benefit me as a new graduate. I have always been interested in Shelter Medicine, and was an officer in the Shelter Medicine Club here at Kansas State. I hope that my experience will only add to my desire to work within the field of shelter medicine in some capacity in the future."

Video Feature: Meet Dr. Jim Coffman, Alumni Fellow



Dr. Jim Coffman delivers an All-College Seminar as part of Alumni Fellows activities.

the faculty of the department of surgery and medicine from 1965-1969. After two years in private practice in Oklahoma

A Kansas native, Dr. Jim Coffman is retired from a career as an educator and veterinarian. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1960, DVM in 1962 and master's degree in pathology in 1969, all from K-State. After earning his DVM, he operated a private equine practice in Wichita from 1962-1965.

He served on

City, Dr. Coffman served as professor of equine medicine at the University of Missouri from 1971-1981. He also was director of the Equine Center there from 1973-1977. Dr. Coffman returned to K-State in 1981 as the head of the Department of Surgery and Medicine. This marked the beginning of his 28 year tenure at K-State where he has served as dean of the college of veterinary medicine from 1984-1987 and provost from 1987-2004.

Dr. Coffman also served as president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, and as member and chair of the AVMA Professional Liability Insurance Trust. He also served on numerous professional committees and task forces, recently chairing an AVMA task force on foreign veterinary school accreditation.

Watch excerpts from an interview with Dr. Coffman at Lifelines online: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1405.htm. The full interview will be posted at the KSUCVM YouTube channel.

CVM fields a team at 'Relay for Life'

This year an unusual "family reunion" was held on the K-State campus, and it included several members of the CVM family. The reunion was part of the annual "Relay For Life" event sponsored by the American Cancer Society to provide cancer research and relief. The relay took place April 25 at Memorial Stadium and consisted of games, activities, entertainment, food, fundraising and ceremonies.

This year's family reunion theme was especially poignant for many participants. Mal Hoover, the CVM's certified medical illustrator, helped organize a team from the college.

"The event is K-Staters helping K-Staters," Mal said. "I am a cancer survivor. I was diagnosed with Stage 3 colorectal cancer in 2003 and I underwent several surgeries, radiation and chemotherapy. The CVM family was amazing, and folks from all over the college helped me with shared leave, helped me with recovery and

kept my spirits up! Dani Goodband and Lisa Duer were instrumental with helping with meals, arranging to have my house cleaned (yowza!) etc., during my illness."

Kelly Ingalsbe, senior administrative specialist in the Veterinary Medical Library, had several reasons for participating.

"I got involved with the Relay because that dang cancer – I usually call it worse – has touched too many folks in my life," Kelly said. "My Dad fought colon cancer and is still going strong 20 years later. My sister-in-law is a breast cancer survivor. I lost my father-in-law to lung cancer in 2004 and my husband to adrenal cortical carcinoma in 2011. The Relay brings awareness of how many people have fought and survived



Willie the Wildcat hugs Mal Hoover, Raghu Amachawadi and Amoolya Prasad at the Relay for Life.

and unfortunately how many have lost the fight."

Because of the passion of all involved, this year's Relay has been very successful. The event website reports that the 36 teams and 291 participants were able to raise \$27,253.47.

AVC scholarships go to K-Staters

Two CVM students have each been awarded \$1,000 in scholarships as a part of the Academy of Veterinary Consultants (AVC) awards: Aaron Schaffer and Tera Barnhardt, who are both active in the Beef Cattle Institute.

Dr. David Sjeklocha, class of 1994 and staff veterinarian for Cattle Empire LLC, in Satanta, Kansas, was named 2013 AVC Consultant of the Year. Sponsored by Zoetis, Dr. Sjeklocha is the 28th AVC Consultant of the Year and the 7th K-Stater to receive the award since it began in 1986. Zoetis donated \$2,000 in Dr. Sjeklocha's name to the CVM to assist two students who are pursuing a career in bovine veterinary medicine.



Aaron Schaffer and Tera Barnhardt each received \$1,000 scholarships through the Academy of Veterinary Consultants.

CVM NEWS TICKER

Dr. Nora Schrag is the recipient of this year's Zoetis Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award.

Dr. Schrag is a clinical assistant professor in Agricultural Practices. She earned her DVM at K-State in 2006. This award was presented at the annual honors banquet on April 18.



Congratulations to **Dr. Mike Dryden**, who was named as the recipient of the 2014 Dr. William and Deanna Pritchard Veterinary Service and Outreach Award.

Several CVMers were recently published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association: **Nuth EK, Armbrust**

LJ, Roush JK, Biller DS. Identification and effects of common errors and artifacts on the perceived quality of radiographs. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2014;244:961-67.

Raghavendra Amachawadi, doctoral graduate in pathobiology, Mysore, India, was presented with the K-State Alumni Association's Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Academics. He served as the president for the Graduate Student Association in the CVM.

Students meet in Colorado for SAVMA Symposium



A group of 25 veterinary students traveled to Colorado for the annual SAVMA Symposium held in Ft. Collins and hosted by Colorado State University during this semester's spring break. From left to right, front row: Hannah Leventhal (second year), Mikaela Veters (second year), Colleen Geertsema (second year), Liz Bolan (second year), Jessy Prado (first year), Erika Hamman (first year), Katie Haukos (first year), Katie Stewart (first year), Krysta Janas (first year). Back row-Amanda Gasmann (second year), Cassie Schmidberger (second year), Vien O (first year), Mike Costas (first year), Brian Smith (second year), Sheryl Rejba (second year), Kyle Clymer (third year).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Commencement Exercises: May 16, 3:30 p.m., McCain Auditorium

76th Annual Conference for Veterinarians, May 31-June 3, Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center

AVMA Convention: July 25-29, Denver, Colorado

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