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# *lifelines*

News from the  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
at Kansas State University

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*Dedicated to  
Shelter Medicine*



Dr. Brad Crauer, clinical assistant professor in shelter medicine, listens as philanthropist Cheryl Mellenthin talks about her passion for rescuing animals. A bequest from her late husband, Mark Chapman, provided support for a new mobile surgery unit.

On April 13, the College of Veterinary Medicine held a dedication ceremony for its brand new Shelter Medicine Mobile Surgery Unit.

The Department of Clinical Sciences recently purchased the mobile surgical unit to allow students and faculty to perform on-site, pre-adoption spay/neuter procedures and provide medical care to enhance the health and adoptability of shelter animals. Agreements have already been established to provide services for non-profit and municipal animal shelter organizations in Kansas including Manhattan, Junction City, Ottawa, Emporia, Topeka, Lawrence, Salina and Clay Center, and in Beatrice, Nebraska.

The mobile surgical unit complements the college's shelter medicine program, which is a service-learning course for fourth-year veterinary students to get hands-on experience under the supervision of a shelter medicine faculty member. Most shelter

organizations in Kansas do not have a veterinarian on staff nor do they have on-site surgical facilities. The success of the program is dependent on developing strong and sustainable relationships with regional shelters. Sixty-six students from the graduating class of 2016 (fourth-year students) are scheduled to complete this elective two-week rotation.

"We believe students will develop a strong appreciation for the magnitude of the homeless pet population and will be prepared to volunteer and advocate for shelters in their communities after graduation, said Dr. Brad Crauer, a clinical assistant professor who was recently hired to direct the shelter medicine program.

The Shelter Medicine Mobile Surgery Unit was made possible by a bequest from Mark Chapman and Cheryl Mellenthin. Cheryl dedicated the mobile surgery unit in memory of her late husband and the late Chris Gruber, director of development.

## Inside this issue of *lifelines*



**Library holds  
dedication.**

See page 2



**Where in the  
'world' is Wolfe?**

See page 3



**Research award to  
Dr. Hardwidge.**

See page 4

## Veterinary Medical Library holds ribbon-cutting ceremony



The official ribbon-cutting ceremony was held April 24 for the newly renovated Veterinary Medical Library. From left to right: Director Gayle Willard, first-year class president Dustin Renken, second-year president Chris Eckert, third-year president Shawna Cikanek, fourth-year president Alyson Post and Dean Ralph Richardson.



Dr. Tara Donovan visited campus April 15-17 as the college's 2015 Alumni Fellow. Part of her visit included an All-College Seminar where she talked about her career as a veterinarian and vice president of health management for the Hanor Company headquartered in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Hanor has operations in seven states that produce 1.2 million market pigs each year. Dr. Donovan oversees the company's preventive health care programs.

Dr. Donovan has a bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and earned a DVM from K-State in 1998. She completed a food animal medicine internship at K-State before joining The Hanor Company in 1999 and also is a 2009 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine's executive veterinary program.

Watch an interview with Dr. Donovan at Lifelines online or at our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGOSGNKUzY>

## New Dean Announced; Meet Dr. Tammy Beckham

Following a national search, Kansas State University has named Dr. Tammy Beckham as its next dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, effective Aug. 2.

Dr. Beckham is currently the director of the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases, or IIAD, a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence in College Station, Texas. Since 2010, she has led the IIAD's efforts to perform research and develop products to defend the nation from high-consequence foreign animal, emerging and zoonotic diseases.

Dr. Beckham also has served as director of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, or TVMDL, an agency of the state of Texas and member of the Texas A&M University System. She has provided leadership for TVMDL's two full-service laboratories and two poultry laboratories, and directs one of the highest volume animal diagnostic labs in the country.

Previously, Dr. Beckham was director of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York. Dr. Beckham succeeds Dr. Ralph Richardson, who has served as the College of Veterinary Medicine's dean since 1998.



## CVM collaborates with UC Davis and Iowa State University to select Four Chinese Students for Joint DVM program

The U.S.-China Center for Animal Health in the CVM has now announced the selection of four students to attend K-State next fall for pre-veterinary studies in the U.S.-China Joint DVM Program. The students were selected after interviews were conducted in China in early March.

“For the first time in this program, we invited representatives from the University of California, Davis and Iowa State University to assist us in interviewing the Chinese students,” said Dr. Ralph C. Richardson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. “Each interview lasted about 45 minutes, so each of us had a chance to ask questions designed to help identify the students who will have the best chance of succeeding in one of our Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree programs.”

The admitted students are Zhe Wang, Xiaotong Wu, Feng Yu and Yipping Zhu who are from Nanjing Agricultural University, China Agricultural University, North-West A&F University and South China Agricultural University, respectively. These four were selected from an initial group of 14 junior or senior undergraduates from eight agricultural universities who applied, which also included Huazhong Agricultural University, Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, Zhejiang University, and Northeast Agricultural University. Nine candidates from the fourteen applicants were selected for the interview based on their GPAs, TOEFL (English proficiency test) and GRE (graduate school admissions test) scores, as well as their application essays and school recommendation.



The selection committee for the U.S.-China Joint DVM Program interviews a prospective candidate. Members of the committee are (from left to right) Dr. Lei Wang, manager of education programs for the U.S.- China Center for Animal Health; Dr. Jishu Shi, director of the USCCA; Dr. Ralph Richardson; Dr. Sean Owens, associate dean at UC Davis; and Dr. Qijing Zhang, associate dean at ISU.

Dr. Jishu Shi, director of the USCCA explained there were five members on the committee who interviewed applicants at the South China Agricultural University College of Veterinary Medicine: himself, Dr. Lei Wang, USCCA, Dean Richardson, Dr. Sean Owens, associate dean at UC Davis, and Dr. Qijing Zhang, associate dean at ISU. The students were chosen through a collective decision by the interview committee and the China Scholarship Council.



Hillary Wolfe, right, works with a dolphin trainer.

A month in Florida is just what the doctor ordered, so to speak, for fourth-year student Hillary Wolfe. She completed a month-long externship at SeaWorld Orlando in March. While there, she was able to participate in medical procedures on a wide variety of species including sea lions, dolphins, manatees, sharks, sting rays and penguins.

“Day-to-day tasks included annual physical exams, blood draws, exams and radiographs on rescued sea turtles and wild birds, and any special medical procedures that may have been planned,” Hillary said. “Some of the major procedures I was involved with included a manatee caesarian section, a penguin endoscopy, and a wing amputation. I was also able to attend a release where we placed Streak, a manatee who was successfully rehabilitated after undergoing cold stress, back into the wild.”

During the manatee C-section, Hillary was able to monitor anesthesia for the majority of the procedure with Dr. James Bailey, a boarded anesthesiologist who works with aquatic animals.

“Dr. Bailey taught me about blood gases and maintaining proper ventilation in manatees undergoing anesthesia,” Hillary said. “This externship helped remind me how much I really love exotic animal medicine, and in the near future I plan to pursue a residency in either aquatic animal or zoological medicine.”

*Lifelines* is published monthly by the Development Office in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The editor is Joe Montgomery, [jmontgom@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:jmontgom@vet.k-state.edu). Read online at [www.vet.k-state.edu/development/lifelines/1505.html](http://www.vet.k-state.edu/development/lifelines/1505.html)

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## Dr. Philip Hardwidge accepts award



Dr. Frank Blecha, associate dean for research, presents the Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence to Dr. Philip Hardwidge, associate professor of bacteriology in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology.

## CVM News Ticker

**Dr. Bonnie Rush** delivered a presentation at the AAVC conference in Atlanta on developing effective multiple choice examination questions to assess student knowledge and understanding.

**Susan Hazelbaker** was recognized as the K-State 2015 University Support Staff Award of Excellence winner in the Service and Maintenance/Skilled Crafts category. **Morgan Fyffe** was chosen as DM/P's University Support Staff Employee of the Year. They were recognized April 22 during K-State's University Support Staff recognition ceremony at the Union. **Vicki Smith** was chosen as DM/P's Unclassified Employee of the Year.

**Dr. David Eshar** lectured at the International Conference on Avian Herpetological and Exotic Mammal medicine in Paris. His topics were on hematology and general anesthesia in black-tailed prairie dogs.



### Five-Year Class Reunions

June 5 - 7, 2015

We hope you and your family are able to return to your alma mater and attend your reunion. This is a great opportunity to reminisce with classmates about the past and get updates on the present.

Plan to be in town Saturday morning when we officially kick off the Alumni Weekend. We will have a light breakfast, remarks from Dean Richardson and tours of campus.

Visit the Class Activities page for a complete schedule:  
[www.vet.k-state.edu/alumni/](http://www.vet.k-state.edu/alumni/)

## Register Today!

June 6 - 9, 2015

### 77th Annual Conference for Veterinarians

Kansas State University and the College of Veterinary Medicine invite you to heighten your knowledge about issues most prevalent in veterinary medicine. This year's conference is designed to provide Continuing Education (CE) opportunities for the entire veterinary team. The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center. Registration is available online at: [www.vet.k-state.edu/annual-conf15](http://www.vet.k-state.edu/annual-conf15)

#### Questions?

Contact the Office of Continuing Education & Events at  
785-532-4528 or [vmce@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:vmce@vet.k-state.edu).  
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