Healing Hands

Pain relief
Researchers test treatments for cattle

LOOK INSIDE

Keeping grads in Kansas
Happy veterinary campers

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4  In good hands
Dr. T.G. Nagaraja tackles research on E. coli O157:H7

6  Bits & bytes
News from the College of Veterinary Medicine

8  Short course for kids
California-area alumni help lead summer veterinary camp for grade-school children at Fresno State U.

10 Keeping them in Kansas!
Veterinary training program provides financial aid to encourage grads to practice in rural Kansas

12 More bits & more bytes
Top honors to faculty trio; Hoover gets certification; Development office welcomes Megan Kilgore

14 Cover story: Research seeks pain relief for production animals
Dr. Hans Coetzee leads large group in research to relieve pain for farm animals

16 Bucking the trend
Abilene Animal Hospital is a model rural practice

18 Changing Lives Celebration
K-State fundraising campaign hits $529 million

20 Video replay scores point
Dr. Mac Hafen teaches communication skills

21 Beef Cattle Institute produces International Symposium/Research tips & assistance

22 Message from VMAA President Dr. Greg Bogue

24 Alumni News & In Memoriam
Special awards highlight Heritage Evening; University of Florida appoints Dr. John Harvey as executive associate dean

26 Alumni Recognition Awards
Greetings! You may have recently heard about “One Health, One Medicine” — this is an emerging theme recognizing the integration of veterinary medical professions with the public health system and human medicine.

This initiative is in response to outbreaks of salmonella, E. coli O157:H7, avian influenza, Ebola virus, West Nile virus and others — we’ve all seen the headlines. Sixty percent of more than 1,400 known infectious illnesses are caused by multihost pathogens that move across species. In the last 30 years, 70 percent of the new human infections have been zoonotic.

‘One Health’ intertwines human and veterinary medicine in selected endeavors — locally, nationally and globally — to build on a common core of knowledge through simultaneous studies on environment and zoonotic diseases in people, domestic and wild animals.

At K-State we look at emerging infectious diseases and rapid diagnostics with our renowned faculty such as Dr. T.G. Nagaraja, Dr. Dick Hesse, Dr. Juergen Richt and Dr. Bob Rowland. In this issue of Healing Hands, you’ll learn about Dr. Nagaraja’s research on E. coli O157:H7.

We also have food safety experts in our program such as Dr. Doug Powell and Dr. Justin Kastner, and we collaborate on campus with the Food Science Institute and other researchers who focus on food safety and security.

The opportunities for us to consider public health and welfare of people while taking care of the health and welfare of animals is a natural for us. The time is now and the opportunities are great.

I invite you to keep in touch and hope you share our enthusiasm for our profession and college as you read the stories in this issue of Healing Hands.

Sincerely,

Ralph C. Richardson, DVM, Dean
Despite years of scientific research on E. coli O157:H7, Dr. T.G. Nagaraja, professor of microbiology, says there is still much we don’t know about the food-borne, disease-causing bacterium which has been the cause of human illnesses, and in the last two years several million pounds of ground beef recalls. However, with nearly $1 million in grant funds from the USDA National Research Initiative in Food Safety, Dr. Nagaraja is hopeful that new research will lead to a better understanding of the possible connection between E. coli O157:H7 and feeding of distiller’s grain in cattle.

Distiller’s grain, a byproduct of the ethanol production process, contains the leftovers after the starch content is converted to ethanol from corn. It is used as a feed supplement for cattle, and contains higher concentrations of protein, fiber and fat than regular feed.

In 2005, during an unrelated study, Dr. Nagaraja and his co-workers observed a possible link between distiller’s grain feeding and increased presence of E. coli O157:H7 in cattle feces. He and his team then began to investigate their observations in a series of four studies, three of which found a statistically significant link between feeding distiller’s grain and increased E. coli O157:H7 presence.

“This was a very intriguing observation, which no one else had made,” Dr. Nagaraja said. “We still don’t know much about E. coli O157:H7, so anything we do to increase knowledge about the bacterium in cattle will make us one step closer to controlling the problem.”

This major finding has prompted a whole new string of questions and possibilities concerning the presence, transmission and containment of E. coli O157:H7 bacteria. Dr. Nagaraja’s team of researchers on the project hopes to find answers to some of these questions. The research team includes Megan Jacob, a Ph.D. student in pathobiology, Dr. David Renter, assistant professor in epidemiology, Dr. Mike Sanderson, associate professor in production animal medicine and Dr. Dan Thomson, associate professor in production animal medicine and a feedlot nutritionist.

In December 2007, Dr. Nagaraja and Dr. Renter submitted a grant proposal for an in-depth study on the relationship between distiller’s grain feedings and E. coli O157:H7. The million dollar grant was awarded in June 2008. The studies will continue for the next three years, and all studies will take place in commercial feedlots under controlled experiment settings. Funds from the grant will cover the cost of the study and a graduate student scholarship.

Jacob, Dr. Nagaraja’s current graduate student, is confident their research will have a positive impact. “The work we are doing will hopefully benefit the food animal industry by leading to a better understanding of the ecology of E. coli O157:H7 in its primary reservoir, resulting in a safer food supply and improved human health,” she said. “Being a part of the research process will greatly enhance my ability to succeed in my own career after graduate school.”

“The ultimate goal is to have no E. coli O157:H7 in cattle,” Dr. Nagaraja said. “Before we can come up with an effective intervention strategy, we must know as much as possible about the organism and sources of contamination of human food supply. This study will shed more light on this important problem.”

Ph.D. student Megan Jacob performs a latex agglutination test for E. coli O157:H7.
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Tornado hits campus in June

All’s well that ends well and as of this fall, everything looks good.

On the evening of June 11, a tornado ripped through the west side of Manhattan, destroying homes and businesses, before carving a line of destruction through the heart of the K-State campus. The veterinary campus escaped unscathed, save for debris scattered on the grounds (the path of the tornado was further south).

Nearly $20 million of damage was estimated to have occurred on the campus. Repairs were started immediately and K-State opened for business as usual in August, with few signs of damage remaining.

Dr. Philine Wangemann

Drs. Wangemann and Nagaraja make K-State’s distinguished list

CVM professors Drs. Philine Wangemann and T.G. Nagaraja were selected as University Distinguished Professors, the highest honor K-State can bestow on its faculty.

“These faculty members are remarkable for their expertise and achievements,” said M. Duane Nellis, provost and senior vice president. “With their significant contributions to their individual disciplines, they have enhanced K-State’s reputation as an outstanding research and teaching university.”

Dr. Wangemann received her degree in biology in 1985 from Justus-Liebig University in Giessen, Germany. She received her doctorate in 1987 from the Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg, Germany. She joined K-State in 1998. Dr. Nagaraja joined K-State’s animal sciences faculty in 1980 and transferred to the CVM in 1998. He received his bachelor’s in veterinary science in 1970 and his master’s in veterinary microbiology in 1973, both from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India. He earned a doctorate in microbiology from K-State’s Division of Biology in 1979.

Dr. Melinda Wilkerson

Dr. Wilkerson gets ‘Outstanding’ praise

Dr. Melinda Wilkerson, interim associate dean of academic programs, was named Outstanding Woman Veterinarian of the Year by the Association of Women Veterinarians Foundation.

“Since I’ve been at K-State more than 11 years, I’ve helped the Flow Cytometry/Clinical Immunology Lab to grow in its service capability,” Dr. Wilkerson said. “I also teach veterinary immunology and work in the dean’s office, so service, teaching, research, and administration — I think all of that is being recognized through this award.”

She was nominated by Dr. M.M. Chengappa, University Distinguished Professor and department head of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology. K-State has two previous winners: Dr. Lisa Freeman, associate vice president for innovation for the K-State Olathe Innovation Campus and associate dean of research and graduate programs in the College of Veterinary Medicine, in 2002, and Dr. Bonnie Rush, department head for the Department of Clinical Sciences, in 2004.

Dr. Bob Rowland

Dr. Bob Rowland obtains $4.8 million grant for PRRS research

Dr. Bob Rowland, K-State professor and University Distinguished Professor and department head of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology, was named Outstanding Woman Veterinarian of the Year by the Association of Women Veterinarians Foundation.

“My theme this year is, ‘From Vision to Reality’,” Beverly Richardson said. “The Auxiliary to the AVMA has previously been very effective in its support of the veterinary profession, but most recently, it has experienced a decline in membership. After seeking advice from organizational leaders, the Auxiliary has learned that social sector organizations need to reinvent themselves every 10 years in order to be applicable to the changing social environment. My goal for this year is to set in motion a process of redefining our mission. I am excited about working with many wonderful Auxiliary members from across the country and hope that we can build a team that will move us toward a new purpose and passion as we serve our organization and promote the veterinary profession.”

Dr. T.G. Nagaraja

CVM students ‘teach’ at the Kansas State Fair Birthing Center

CVM students got a chance to do some ‘teaching’ at the birthing center at the Kansas State Fair. Collette Conway, class of 2009, said it was a good opportunity to explain the differences between alpacas and llamas. The birthing center hosted alpacas, chicks and dairy cows.

Debris litters the lawn of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity — pieces of what was once the roof flew across Denison Avenue and landed in the yard by the engineering building. It has since been repaired.

Fourth-year student Collette Conway helps children match offspring with the correct animals.

Coordination Agricultural Project. Under the project, K-State’s experts will collaborate with other universities, veterinarians, commodity groups, government agencies and swine producers to get to the bottom of the disease. K-State has been a player in this initiative since 2004.

“Our first step was to lay out a comprehensive road map for the industry,” Dr. Rowland said of the national project’s progress to date. “All anyone in the field has to do now is pick a destination and go there.”

The mission of the project is to effectively coordinate efforts aimed at dealing with the disease. That includes research, education and extension.

PRRS is a highly infectious disease that has spread throughout North America, Europe and Asia. The disease is responsible for causing a flu-like condition with high fever, loss of appetite and an overall deterioration of health. In its most severe form, the virus causes “reproductive storms” which result in the death of pregnant females and of newborn pigs.

By eliminating PRRS we can have a remarkable for their expertise and achievements,” said M. Duane Nellis, provost and senior vice president. “With their significant contributions to their individual disciplines, they have enhanced K-State’s reputation as an outstanding research and teaching university.”

Dr. Bob Rowland checks on his research lab.

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By eliminating PRRS we can have a significant impact on animal health and welfare and the economic bottom line of producers across the nation and the world,” Dr. Rowland said.
Twenty-five kids in Fresno, Calif. got a taste of the veterinary profession thanks to two CVM alumni and other Fresno veterinarians. In July, the Division of Continuing and Global Education at California State University, Fresno, hosted an award-winning, week-long Summer Vet Camp for students entering grades 7, 8 and 9.

Under the guidance of Dr. Lisa Ferretti, CVM class of 1994, campers discovered the physics of radiology and operated the transducer on an ultrasound machine to peer inside the belly of a dog. Dr. Ferretti received her undergraduate degree in art from Fresno State before entering veterinary school at K-State. She currently practices as a mobile radiologist in the Fresno area as well as substitutes as a radiologist for the University of Florida’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

“This was our first attempt at veterinary camp,” Dr. Ferretti said. “I was surprised and very pleased at the kids’ enthusiasm and interest in veterinary medicine and am looking forward to next year!”

Dr. Kelly Weaver, CVM class of 1997, led campers in a lively discussion about common household and backyard dangers that can send a pet to the emergency hospital. Dr. Weaver and fellow CVM classmate Dr. Chris Dobbins own and operate Fresno Pet Emergency and Referral Center, which is decorated in K-State purple, and staff members wear purple scrubs. When Dr. Weaver made her presentation at veterinary camp, she distributed purple backpacks, purple plastic flying disks, purple leashes, and purple wristbands to the campers.

“We tried to bring some of the excitement and ‘think on your feet’ experience to the kids in a fun and interactive way,” Dr. Weaver said. “It’s all about the kids — they’re the best!”

Cyndy Trent, director of extension programs at Fresno State, earned her bachelor’s degree in French from K-State and worked in K-State’s Division of Continuing Education from 1983 to 2003. She knew of the great need for veterinarians in California and believed that a veterinary camp could also serve as a recruitment tool.

“We want these kids to consider Fresno State as the place to earn their bachelor’s degrees prior to going...
elsewhere to veterinary school,” Cyndy said.

The camp proved to be in high demand with a full class of 25 campers, and 50 kids on the waiting list. Campers learned to give physical examinations on live dogs using an otoscope and their own stethoscopes. They distinguished between the sound of a healthy dog heart and one with a heart murmur. Campers performed heartworm tests in the lab, along with other tests using a refractometer and microscopes for urine, feces and blood tests. Kids used their math skills to set up IV fluids for a “patient,” practiced surgical scrubbing-in, donned sterile gowns, gloves, caps and masks, and performed a mock surgery using actual surgical instruments. They were shown guide dogs for the blind, learned about local wildlife rescue and practiced bandaging and suturing. While on a livestock tour, campers witnessed the birth of piglets.

In September, the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA) selected Summer Vet Camp as the 2008 UCEA West Regional Outstanding Non-Credit Program. The camp was coordinated by Donna Shepard, a local veterinary technician, and had the support of the Fresno veterinary community; a local junior college, San Joaquin Valley College, which offers a veterinary technician program; and the Fresno State Animal Sciences and Agricultural Education Department, which houses Fresno State’s pre-veterinary program.

Next year, there are plans to expand the camp by offering a clinic tour, an emergency hospital tour and a presentation on veterinary forensics. Veterinarians in the community have offered to lead sessions on animal behavior, physical therapy and nutrition.

“I have already received calls from professors at other universities wanting to start something similar at their schools,” Dr. Weaver said. “Some have even looked at hosting older kids with overnight experiences. It’s great exposure for our profession and an excellent recruiting modality for academia.”

For more information on Summer Vet Camp at Fresno State, contact Cyndy Trent, 559-278-0408 or ctrent@csufresno.edu.
Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas
Entices students to think and practice locally

Rural veterinarians are a hot topic in veterinary medicine education. Last spring, Healing Hands reported about the shortage of rural veterinarians in Kansas. The state legislature has also taken notice of this issue and created a new program to encourage veterinary graduates to practice in Kansas. As an incentive to keep veterinarians in rural Kansas, the state legislature passed House Bill 3005 in 2006 and created a loan program with debt forgiveness to ease the financial burden. The participants in the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas receive financial support with the understanding they will work in a rural area of Kansas following graduation. To date, fifteen students have entered the program. Kyle Berning, Trent Glick, Brock Hanel, Nick Luke and Jessica Whitehill represent the class of 2010; Sara Craven, Adam Lukert, Chris Hansen, Garrett Stewart and Katie Edwards were selected from the class of 2011; and Seth Fox, Amy Gerhardt, Caitlin James, Tiffany Moses and Jodi Wright were chosen from the class of 2012.

Applications outnumber available spaces, so it has quickly become a desirable option for students who want to practice in a rural location without having to worry about how they will repay their student loans. "VTPRK is very good program because I want to return to rural Kansas," Chris Hansen said. "With a lot of students it's hard to return to a rural area. Many times, veterinarians in the rural areas do not receive the salary or the pay that a small animal practitioner in the city would receive."

Garrett Stewart added, "For me, the debt was going to be so much, it wouldn't be practical to go back to a small town where the salary may be limited and try to start a family, build a house, start a practice or buy into a practice. This gave some of us who would love to stay in Kansas an opportunity to graduate virtually debt-free."

The latest figures show that graduating veterinarians leave – with an average debt of $116,000. With salaries being more attractive in urban areas, fewer graduates choose to work in rural areas. "It seemed like a dream come true," Trent Glick said. "I wanted to stay in Kansas. I felt like the state had passed a program that would help me meet my goals of being a veterinarian in Kansas by being able to alleviate some of the financial burden."

The VTPRK is made available to five selected veterinary students at the beginning of their first year of veterinary classes. Students are eligible for up to $20,000 in loans per year to pay for college expenses and advanced training. Upon completion of their DVM, each student is required to work in a full-time veterinary practice located in any of 91 Kansas counties with less than 35,000 residents. For each year, up to four years, the student works in rural Kansas, $20,000 worth of loans will be forgiven. Each student in the VTPRK program is required to participate in additional activities beyond what is required for veterinary college. The first two classes of students have spent their summer breaks learning about foreign-animal disease preparedness, natural disaster preparedness, rural sociology, and public health. Among the summer activities for VTPRK students are sessions held at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York, the USDA-APHIS facilities in Riverdale, Md., and Ames, Iowa., the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, as well as mentor training with various industry professionals.

"We all had the opportunity to take foreign-animal disease diagnostic lab courses," Garrett Stewart said. "The courses help us be prepared for when we go into practice so we're able to assist our peers and colleagues in the state in case of a foreign-animal disease event in Kansas."

Dean Ralph Richardson noted the strong connection between VTPRK and food animal production. "K-State is committed to being a leading institution in large animal veterinary care, animal science, biosecurity, food safety and public health," he said. "We are dedicated to supporting the livestock industry and believe veterinarians create a positive influence on communities of all types, particularly small, rural communities. This act removes educational debt as an obstacle for those who wish to make their homes in rural Kansas."

Dr. Justin Kastner, assistant professor of food safety and security at the CVM, also led some sessions for the class of 2011 students during this past summer. "One of our activities is to lead the students through an exercise related to the state of Kansas foreign-animal disease plan," Dr. Kastner said. "This exercise exposes the VTPRK students to preparedness planning and the thinking through of what the veterinary college could provide in the event of a foreign-animal disease event."

"With this cohort of students, we're intentionally challenging them to think critically about rural issues in Kansas. That is what will pay dividends down the road in terms of preparedness. We seek to inculcate into students an awareness and an attitude of preparedness — rather than just handing them a manual upon graduation that says, 'Here's how you respond to a foreign animal disease event!' The college and the state are thinking ahead at trying to get this awareness and attitude into the DNA of the students before they graduate."

Within a few years, rural Kansas students will be providing dedicated veterinary care through this important state-funded program. These students will also be prepared to take leading roles toward promoting public health and emergency preparedness in their respective communities. It’s a win-win for Kansas and for K-State veterinary students. Questions regarding the VTPRK program can be directed to Associate Dean Ronnie Elmore who coordinates the activities of the program.
Dr. Kenneth Harkin
Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teaching Award

Dr. Kenneth Harkin works on improving the diagnosis of leptospirosis, evaluating the zoonotic risk associated with infected dogs and investigating pathogenic mechanisms of leptospiral infections.

Dr. Matt Miesner
Fort Dodge Award for Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Matt Miesner collaborates on various clinical research projects regarding bovine lameness, pain management and disease pathophysiology. He is currently investigating the use of thermographic imaging and pressure plate analysis as diagnostic and teaching tools for various conditions.

Dr. Steve Dritz
Pfizer Award for Research Excellence

Dr. Dritz’s research focus is development of simple and effective tools to customize and define growing-finishing pig nutrient requirements based on health and management factors. He has developed several practical tools for nutritionists, producers, and veterinarians to improve the accuracy and profitability of feeding the growing pig.
Say hello to Megan Kilgore. She was recently named as the new development officer for the College of Veterinary Medicine, employed through the Kansas State University Foundation. She takes the place of Marty Kramer who is now the director of development for the K-State College of Education.

Prior to joining the CVM, Megan was the marketing/business development manager for Kansas State University Federal Credit Union in Manhattan, where she developed key marketing strategies to increase membership and product usage. Megan's additional experience includes serving as the executive director of Hillsboro Management Board in Hillsboro, Kan., and as an economic development representative for the Kansas Department of Commerce, Agriculture Division, in Topeka, Kan.

Megan, a native of Lyndon, Kan., earned her bachelor's degree in animal science and industry in 2000 from the College of Agriculture at K-State. She will be responsible for assisting with the direction and implementation of a comprehensive development program for raising private support for the College of Veterinary Medicine at K-State. Megan and husband, Tim, have an English setter named Scout.
“Our group is committed to developing science-based pain relief methods that are cost-effective, convenient and user-friendly.”
— Dr. Hans Coetzee

Cover story
New research at K-State looks to improve animal welfare and management of production animals by reducing pain.

According to Dr. Hans Coetzee, assistant professor in Ag Practices, “The primary focus of this research is to understand the relationship between analgesic drug administration and alleviation of pain in cattle. Pain is unavoidably associated with dehorning and castration in farm animals; yet, remarkably there are no drugs specifically approved for pain relief in livestock in the United States. To facilitate these approvals, scientific measures of pain are needed.”

Dr. Coetzee enlisted a team of 14 students to help on the project. He collaborated with other Ag Practices faculty, including Drs. David Anderson, Mike Apley, Ronette Gehring and Brad White.

Dr. Brandon Reinbold, a graduate research assistant under Dr. Coetzee, believes scientific evaluation will produce better understanding. “The most important aspect is that Dr. Coetzee has mentored me in the art of identifying a problem, evaluating the current state of the science, and going beyond the conventional approach to solving the problem,” Dr. Reinbold said.

Sarah Barron, class of 2010, joined the team as a graduate student this past summer. “I really got a feel for all the hard work that goes into executing a successful research project and the meticulous schedule needed to gain great data,” she said. “We had an absolutely wonderful team that was crucial to perform a study of this magnitude. The goal of this study was to validate different methods of measuring pain during castration and dehorning in cattle by collecting data on cortisol and substance P (which are stress hormones), heart rate, chute exit speed, and vocalization during the procedure. We also are measuring to see if different drug regimens such as oral salicylate or a ‘Ket-stun’ injection would curb the stress response in these animals.”

The research project was funded by a $325,000 grant from the Animal Well-being section of the USDA-National Research Initiative. It is the first project to concurrently measure plasma analgesic drug concentrations and an innovative combination of pain biomarkers and behavioral indicators. Together, these will allow identification of effective, practical and affordable pain relief protocols in cattle. Studies of this magnitude require a great deal of planning and organization.

“Dr. Coetzee’s research is designed to evaluate all points that are critical to the induction of pain and stress during castration and dehorning,” Dr. Reinbold said. “Additionally, this research will designate the most optimal assessment of pain and distress that will prove to be invaluable for the improvement of bovine welfare.”

Dr. Coetzee added, “We believe the veterinary profession and livestock producers must be proactive in terms of developing and utilizing techniques that are shown to alleviate pain in cattle. Our group is committed to developing science-based pain relief methods that are cost-effective, convenient and user-friendly.”
For more than 60 years the Abilene Animal Hospital has provided reliable veterinary care to pet owners and livestock producers — and it continues to thrive contrary to recent trends in much of rural America. Rural veterinarians and many rural practices are becoming rare commodities, with many closing their doors as the nation becomes more urbanized. Meanwhile, the Abilene Animal Hospital is growing. Might their model of success be one that others can follow?

Formula for success
As was the case in most rural practices across the country, the Abilene Animal Hospital was started as a mixed animal practice that predominantly treated large animals. As livestock production became more consolidated and people moved from the farms to the cities, most mixed practices began to shift to a predominance of small animals and veterinarians proportioned their time to match their caseload.

Dr. Frank W. Jordan, class of 1939, (see sidebar) started the practice. Later, Dr. Jordan’s son, Dr. Frank R. Jordan, class of 1964, later operated the practice in partnership with Dr. Mike Whitehair, class of 1974, and Dr. Steve Henry, class of 1972. Current owners, in addition to Drs. Whitehair and Henry, include Dr. Scott Pretzer, class of 1998; Dr. Lisa Tokach, DVM from the University of Minnesota; and Dr. Roberta Lillich, DVM from Ohio State University. The most recent partner is Dr. Jon Gose, K-State class of 2003.

Dr. Lillich explains, “As the practice grew, Dr. Whitehair migrated toward large animal care, Dr. Henry toward swine herd management and Dr. Jordan moved toward small animal, so the history of the practice is such that now each of our veterinarians has a special interest area. This allows us to provide consistent, top-quality care, regardless of the species area. We’re able to focus our skills and continuing education in the areas we spend the most time in.”

Diverse partners
The Abilene Animal Hospital has been engaged in more than veterinary practice. It has been involved in teaching the next generation of veterinarians, while serving the profession.

Dr. Henry has had a lengthy history of involvement with K-State on an educational level. Beginning in 1980 and continuing through the early 1990s, he presented an annual seminar on the subject of swine medicine to senior veterinary students and served as a role model for future veterinarians by volunteering his time to interact with freshman students during orientation each August. Dr. Henry has regularly taught continuing education courses for practicing veterinarians, students and swine producers.

Some of the other veterinarians at the Abilene Animal Hospital have also served as instructors. “Dr. Pretzer and I have given lectures to the juniors in the theriogenology course,” Dr. Roberta Lillich said. “From the standpoint of what it gives to us, we benefit knowing the information that we have to provide is helping the next generation of veterinarians.”

Dr. Tokach and Dr. Henry share the distinction of both having been named Swine Practitioner of the Year. Dr. Tokach was selected for the award earlier this year, and Dr. Henry received it in 1981.

Dr. Whitehair has been actively involved in a leadership role with the American Veterinary Medical Association, serving on its House
Advisory Committee representing private practice, predominantly food animal. Additional, he has returned to K-State to present courses on practice management, integrated resource management and veterinary economics.

Dr. Lillich is the incoming president of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, a professional veterinary organization dedicated to the health and well-being of cats.

Far-reaching reputation
As a result of their professional activities, the practice has had an impact beyond Abilene.

“That’s shown especially through the swine veterinarians we have (Dr. Tokach and Dr. Henry),” Dr. Pretzer said. Their boundaries are really limitless. What they do is very specialized. Both are boarded and recognized not only nationally, but internationally.”

Dr. Lillich added, “We get visits internationally. We’ll have veterinarians from Japan or Mexico and interns from Germany or students from South America.”

Dr. Lillich explains, ”We have a fairly open door policy for students who want to experience what we do. We get about 10 to 12 interns per year.”

More K-State connections
While four of the Abilene practitioners are alumni, the other two have very close family ties with the university. Dr. Tokach is married to Dr. Mike Tokach, a swine nutrition expert in the Animal Science department in K-State’s College of Agriculture. Dr. Lillich is married to Dr. James Lillich, equine surgeon and associate professor in the CVM.

Good people make the difference
In the final analysis, the key to Abilene’s success seems to be teamwork. What started with one practitioner years ago, has turned into a group practice with a variety of strengths.

“Our practice philosophy has always been to identify good people who we feel are a good fit,” Dr. Lillich said. “We try to bring them on as long-term team members and that helps keep the practice growing in perpetuity.”

Here comes Dr. Jordan
Start-up of the Abilene Animal Hospital

Originally, the Abilene Animal Hospital was located in the heart of downtown Abilene. Dr. Frank W. Jordan had bought the practice from a retiring veterinarian, but quickly realized that the downtown location had its disadvantages.

“Frank decided it wasn’t a good place, especially with large animals coming in,” Gwen Jordan said. She graduated from K-State in 1940 with a bachelor’s degree in journalism. “There was no place to put large animals in that office.”

Dr. Jordan moved the practice to its current location, which was near the edge of town.

“The practice grew pretty well,” Gwen said. “We had a lot of clients with dairies, and a lot of rural work to go out to on calls.”

This was a good fit for Dr. Jordan. He had grown up on a farm in Beloit, Kan., and was comfortable working with farm animals.

“I remember one night, he went down into a creek to get a cow out of the creek before he could treat it.”

Gwen said. “Frank understood these situations because he knew what farmers deal with.”

Dr. Jordan served the profession in many ways including as an American Veterinary Medical Association Delegate for several terms, advisory board member of the KSU Foundation for Veterinary Medicine, department head of veterinary science at Mississippi State College, Major in the Army from 1940-45 in charge of the meat inspection unit.

He was named Kansas Veterinarian of the Year in 1959; president, vice president, district trustee, and alternate delegate to the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association; E.R. Frank Award at the K-State CVM; member, Kansas Board Veterinary Examiners, in 1964; and Abilene Outstanding Citizen of the Year, in 1985. He passed away in January 2007.

In 1983, Dr. Jordan established an endowment to create the Frank W. Jordan Veterinary Medicine Seminar. Dr. Jordan’s gift is used to finance the speaker’s expenses for this seminar.
More than $40 million was raised to benefit the CVM during the KSU Foundation’s Changing Lives Campaign. Since 2001, the campaign raised $529 million for K-State. In April, a concert featuring country recording artist Sara Evans was held as a thank-you for the K-Staters and friends who donated to K-State during the campaign. CVM programs benefit directly from gifts raised specifically for the college. Below are some of the facts and figures. Thank you for helping to change lives!

$76,030 for facility enhancements/additions
$7,228,994 for faculty enhancements
$12,753,390 for student success
$15,971,890 for excellence funds
$3,915,710 for program enhancements
$1,006,706 yet to be designated

2,180 donors made their first gift to K-State and designated it to the CVM.

83 scholarships were established in the CVM.

4 Faculty of Distinction funds were established.

2 facility projects were completed (Trotter Hall and VMTH renovations).

36 percent of all faculty and staff in the CVM participated in the Changing Lives Campaign.
why you gave
to the Changing Lives Campaign

“Why you gave to the Changing Lives Campaign

Elliot Stevens, class of 2008, accepts the Radar Mullet Clinical Excellence Award for clinical proficiency and respect and support for the human/animal bond from Lavonne Mullet, who created this award through a gift in the Changing Lives Campaign.

““There were very few scholarships or awards for veterinary students in the 1960s. As an expression of the gratitude I felt for K-State for the education and opportunities that came my way, I decided to initiate a scholarship supported by a direct contribution in 1983. Recently, it was possible and a great pleasure to restructure it as an endowment.”

- Dr. Lyle Devon Miller, DVM class of 1963
He established the Miller Pathology Scholarship for third-year students with an aptitude in pathology.

“I think it is exciting that our gift will continue to maintain the facility and support my husband’s dream of giving faculty, students and the community access to cutting-edge communications technology.”

- Mrs. Pat Frey
She and her husband established the Dr. Russ and Pat Frey Conference Center. Dr. Frey earned his DVM in 1952 and was head of the Department of Anatomy and Physiology for 15 years before retiring in 2001.

“We have this set up as a support for staff, which we feel will also benefit students. The quality staff available to me at K-State is what really helped me in my life. They are the reason I really wanted to do something for K-State — the accessibility of instructors and their willingness to teach courses, and in many cases, to give life instruction.”

- Dr. Don Schroeder, DVM class of 1964
He and his wife established the Don and Carol Schroeder Fund.

A banner on the front of Trotter Hall proclaims a big thank-you to the alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students who gave to the Changing Lives Campaign.
A smile can make a big difference. Or perhaps there's a better place to stand. Maybe more eye contact is needed.

These are details that Dr. Mac Hafen tells fourth-year students to watch for. As the official counselor for the CVM, Dr. Hafen has developed a new program that gives these students a chance to improve their interpersonal communication skills when interacting with clients.

"I'm hoping students become self-aware of their tendencies, both from a strengths-based focus — so they know the things they do really well — as well as blind spots they have and things they could do better," Dr. Hafen said. "Ultimately we want the students' interactions to become more client-focused."

About a year ago, a software package was installed that utilizes a two-camera system in the Pet Health Center. Two cameras and a microphone are mounted in an examination room for video- and audio-taping interactions with clients of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH). The students invite the client to participate as an educational activity. Clients sign a release form and are made aware sessions are being taped.

Later, the recordings are downloaded onto a computer for analysis by Dr. Hafen. He will watch the students' interactions, make notes and schedule meetings with the students.

“We review the video together, paying attention to students’ impressions of themselves because they can pick up on things I may not see on the video,” Dr. Hafen said. “Then we set up at least two or three goals with things they can do differently next time. They're asked to tape another client interaction within the same rotation and implement two or three goals. Afterwards we review how it went — if it was a good fit for them or if it wasn't a good fit. Then we try to problem-solve and figure out how we can tailor it to be a good fit for them. We also look at the client reaction. How responsive was the client to the changes they implemented?”

The software program and video system was installed by a friend of the hospital, Sam Ruggles, sales manager at Communication Integrity Group, Olathe, Kan., who had recently lost his dog, Jack, to cancer.

“I wanted to help K-State because they helped me personally with Jack,” Ruggles said. “I installed the system at my cost. This helped provide some closure. Jack — he was a pretty good old boy.”

Dr. Hafen, who is a licensed marriage and family therapist, used a similar training program with nursing students prior to his appointment at K-State, but without the use of video review.

“We want students to do certain things intentionally from a communications standpoint to help the clients feel more welcome, comfortable and more relaxed — so they ultimately have a better experience,” Dr. Hafen said. “That reflects well on the clinician, student and hospital. Hopefully the client will be more willing to come back for services and be more committed to the hospital itself.”

“Ultimately we want the students’ interactions to be more client-focused.”

— Dr. Mac Hafen
Beef Cattle Institute produces International Symposium

Animal health has entered a new arena at K-State. The Beef Cattle Institute hosted its first International Symposium on Beef Cattle Welfare in May at the K-State campus.

The Symposium drew more than 700 participants, both in local attendance and via live webcasts at feedlots, veterinary practices, veterinary colleges and other locations. More than 20 U.S. and international speakers — experts in cattle welfare — made presentations.

Dr. Dan Thomson, Jones Professor of Production Medicine and Epidemiology and director of the Beef Cattle Institute, said, “The beef industry is perceived as being on the leading edge of animal welfare in the livestock industry. The producers who were there are proud of the job they are doing with welfare, and they want to continue to improve and make our industry more open to the public.”

Many of us forget about the books and audiovisuals the Veterinary Medical Library has in its Animals in Society collection. For the past 15 years, Gayle Willard, director of the library, and the past five years, Cindy Logan, manager of Digital Instruction and Creative (DISC) Services, have written competitive grants for the Interlibrary Loan Development Program sponsored by the State Library of Kansas. To date, the grants total $89,760, and funds have been used to purchase a variety of books and audiovisuals for the Animals in Society collection.

One interesting book is “Without Regret: A Handbook for Owners of Canine Amputees” by Susan Neal (SF991 .N43 2002 Animals in Society). It deals with ways to provide a normal life for a dog that has had an amputation. The author stresses dogs don’t have the emotional baggage humans carry and can often perform work and activities they love without being affected by the amputation.

We also have books and materials dealing with the loss of an animal and the grieving process. The library has books for veterinarians and others to use with animal owners, both adult and children, who must deal with their loss.

Our staff is always ready to help and will provide assistance in finding materials to help with difficult situations. If you can’t come to the library, items can be requested through interlibrary loan from any public or university library. Also, remember if you are researching medical or veterinary medical issues Library Research Services can assist you and provide copies of journal articles resulting from your searches.
Message from VMAA
President Dr. Greg Bogue

Greetings from your Veterinary Medical Alumni Association executive board as we head into yet another year of working together to enable and improve the activities of our alumni association.

Members on this year’s alumni board represent a great cross section of alumni who are committed to working with and for you to make our VMAA the very best in the country! Our CVM is moving forward in many areas under the leadership of Dean Ralph Richardson; breaking ground in expanding the knowledge base of veterinary medicine in teaching, research and service. This is reflected by the students and faculty at our college who have obtained accolades for their achievements in leadership as well as in scholarship. Individually, we as alumni can share stories of our own personal success through our commitment and involvement in our businesses, communities, military, and of course, our families. We are all maintaining and enhancing the reputation of our college that started more than 100 years ago. We can be very proud.

We need your help — your thoughts, ideas and recommendations as to how we might further the important work of our VMAA. Our contributing efforts through financial support and volunteering our time will only strengthen our tradition of strong alumni involvement. For those of you who are considering becoming an actively participating member of our association, we want to encourage you. The benefits are for a lifetime!

This is going to be a great and exciting year! I am looking forward to meeting with as many of you as possible at the athletic or continuing education venues we are fortunate to attend. All of us on the executive board look forward to representing you. We invite you to join us in continuing to build a progressive college and alumni association.

Dr. Greg Bogue, DVM 1991

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greg@bogueanimalhospital.com

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The College of Veterinary Medicine’s Veterinary Medical Alumni Association is a nonprofit organization that is run primarily by our graduates who volunteer their time and effort. These graduates are elected to serve on the executive board for the association. Each serves a four-year term as member-at-large, and one year each as president-elect and president. The purpose of this board is to review nominations for awards, help organize receptions at seven national meetings and conferences and provide leadership in the management of the support sent to the association annually. The association provides alumni recognition awards each year at the national meetings or conferences. This is in addition to the Distinguished Alumnus and E. R. Frank awards that are presented at the Annual Conference for Veterinarians in June. Also supplemented through alumni support are reunions, biography booklets, class newsletters, fundraising initiatives and the administration of alumni records.

The VMAA executive board established an endowment in 2003. Membership dues are placed in the fund to generate earnings to support alumni events, initiatives and activities. The VMAA Endowment has a balance of $288,629 as of July 2008.

In fiscal year 2008, the VMAA had 25 percent of alumni participate by paying their membership dues to the association. We hope active membership continues growing to support alumni activities. A special thank-you goes to all who have participated in this effort.
Looking to give back?

Explore the financial benefits of giving back to the College of Veterinary Medicine. Some methods let you give more than you realize.

Cash, check, credit card
If you want to make an outright gift of cash, you have several options.

Matching gifts
Corporations and businesses encourage philanthropic behavior and enhance the impact of employee generosity with matching gift programs.

Planned gifts
Gifts including bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, IRA gifts and gifts of life insurance are beneficial to the university.

Gifts of real estate
The foundation encourages donors to consider making gifts of real property to the foundation for the benefit of the university.

Gifts of securities or mutual funds
When you donate cash or appreciated securities, it provides an immediate benefit to K-State and the maximum income tax deduction to you.

Gifts of personal property
Works of art, museum objects, rare books, historical documents, manuscripts and other property can be useful to K-State, while providing substantial benefits to you as well.

Contact one of the CVM development professionals at 785-532-4378 or go to: www.found.ksu.edu/vetmed and click ‘Give Now’ to make a gift online.
Special awards highlight Heritage Evening

In Memoriam

Clarence Vierling, DVM 1935
Midwest City, Okla., died July 26, 2008

Arnold Rosenwald, DVM 1936
Davis, Calif., died Jan. 23, 2008

Robert Cotton, DVM 1937
Los Angeles, Calif., died May 17, 2008

George Maichel, DVM 1938
Overbrook, Kan., died Jan. 4, 2008

Robert Tuma, DVM 1955
Boscobel, Wis., died May 6, 2008

Gene Shores, DVM 1956
Sequim, Wash., died Jan. 12, 2008

Alvin Melcher, DVM 1957
Smith Center, Kan., died Jan. 28, 2008

Richard Boster, DVM 1960
Burton, Kan., died March 29, 2008

Royce Snook, DVM 1965
Terrebonne, Ore., died May 13, 2008

Dennis Nelson, DVM 1967

Keith Kingsley, DVM 1968
Hays, Kan., died July 19, 2007

Roger Gfeller, DVM 1973
Fresno, Calif., died Nov. 25, 2007

Susan Dietrich, DVM 1979
La Canada, Calif., died March 18, 2008

Send us your News

We want to hear about you and let your fellow CVM alumni and friends know what’s happening in your life by printing your good news in the Class News section of Healing Hands.

Please keep in mind when you submit items for publication, due to deadlines, it could be up to six months from the time you submit a news item to the time it appears in Healing Hands. Items may be edited for style and to fit the available space.

Send news (and any address or occupation changes) to:

Office of Alumni and Development
College of Veterinary Medicine
Kansas State University
103 Trotter Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-5604

You can also submit news and updates online by visiting:

www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/alumni

Click on Address and News Information Update at the bottom right side of the page.
University of Florida appoints alumnus as executive associate dean

Dr. Harvey also receives ASVCP’s 2007 lifetime achievement award

Dr. John Harvey, class of 1970, has been named executive associate dean of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, effective Oct. 1.

Dr. Harvey was a founding member of the UF veterinary college’s faculty in 1974 and has served as chairman of the college’s department of physiological sciences since 1995. As executive associate dean, Dr. Harvey will be in charge of internal college operations.

“Dr. Harvey has a long history with this college and great institutional knowledge,” said Glen Hoffsis, DVM, the college’s dean. “He will be an excellent right-hand person to have in this position, and I am delighted that he has agreed to accept the job.”

A Hugoton, Kan., native, Dr. Harvey earned both his bachelor’s and DVM degrees from K-State (in 1969 and 1970, respectively) and his Ph.D. from the University of California-Davis. He is board-certified in clinical pathology by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

“I credit my interest in academic veterinary medicine to the basic science instruction I received at K-State,” Dr. Harvey said. “Most notably, Dr. Rudy Clarenburg stimulated my life-long interest in pathophysiology in my freshman year by his enthusiastic lectures on intermediary metabolism.”

In November 2007, Dr. Harvey was presented the lifetime achievement award by the American Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ASVCP) at their meeting in Savannah, Ga.

Dr. Harvey’s research interests are comparative hematology and erythrocyte enzyme deficiencies. He discovered and named the Anaplasma platys organism that infects platelets in dogs and, along with co-workers, first recognized and reported four inherited erythrocyte enzyme deficiencies.

Among the other honors Dr. Harvey has received are the UF Norden Distinguished Teacher Award, Award for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Clinical Chemistry, Division of Animal Clinical Chemistry, American Association for Clinical Chemistry, and the 2002 Alumni Recognition Award from the K-State CVM presented at the North American Veterinary Conference.

A former president of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology and the International Society for Animal Clinical Pathology, Dr. Harvey also served a four-year term on the Morris Animal Foundation’s scientific advisory board.

Classes of 1953 & 1963 receive 2008 Class Initiative Award

Dr. William Brown, president of the VMAA, gives the 2008 Reunion Achievement Award to Dr. Dallas Nelson, class of 1953, and Dr. Cliff Noffsinger, class 1963. Drs. Nelson and Noffsinger are representing their classes who tied for the highest gift participation during the returning class reunions’ class initiative competition. The presentation was made during Heritage Evening at the 70th Annual Conference for Veterinarians.
Dr. Jack Judy ('58) received the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award at the 70th Annual Conference for Veterinarians at K-State in Manhattan on June 2.

Dr. Judy is a professor emeritus at Michigan State University. He taught courses in veterinary business management in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences.

Dr. George Kennedy (Ph.D. '75) received the 2008 E.R. Frank Award at the 70th Annual Conference for Veterinarians at K-State in Manhattan on June 2.

Dr. Kennedy is a professor emeritus at K-State. He was a professor in the pathology department from 1972 to 1977 and a professor from 1978-2004, when he retired after 33 years of service.

Col. Cliff Walker, DVM ('82) was recognized posthumously with a 2008 Alumni Recognition Award at the annual American Veterinary Medical Association convention in New Orleans on July 21.

Col. Walker was the commander of the U.S. Army Veterinary Command at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The Veterinary Command provides food safety and defense, veterinary public health, and veterinary medical care supporting all Department of Defense organizations and other federal agencies while ensuring our soldiers are fully trained and mission-ready to deploy in support of worldwide operations.


Col. Walker's military awards included the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Forces Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal.

Dr. Arnold S. ‘Rosy’ Rosenwald ('36) was recognized posthumously with a 2008 Alumni Recognition Award. He received the award at the annual American Veterinary Medical Association convention in New Orleans on July 21.

Dr. Rosenwald was extension poultry pathologist at the University of California-Davis. He died Jan. 23, 2008.

He began his career with the USDA in meat inspection and investigation of swine brucellosis and scabies and tuberculosis in sheep. He was an assistant professor of veterinary science and assistant veterinarian at Oregon State University and then served in the Army Veterinary Corps as a veterinary bacteriologist.

Dr. Rosenwald joined the University of California as its first extension poultry veterinarian, served at Berkeley, and then moved to Davis.

Dr. Jerry Jaax ('72), was recognized with a 2008 Alumni Recognition Award at the Central Veterinary Conference on Aug. 23 in Kansas City, Mo.

Dr. Jaax is the associate vice president for research compliance and university veterinarian at Kansas State University. His responsibilities include university-wide oversight and compliance with applicable laws, regulations and guidelines for animals used in research and teaching, research programs involving human subjects, and activities involving recombinant DNA and biosafety. Dr. Jaax has been the principal investigator on a multi-million dollar research project, and has authored numerous articles, books and encyclopedia chapters. He is a widely quoted national authority on issues associated with biowarfare, bioterrorism, agro-terrorism.

Read more about these recipients and awards online at www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/alumni/recognition.htm
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