Healing Hands
The POWER of Perseverance
Dr. Ellie Nuth reaches for her dreams

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Perseverance helps CVM strive toward its goals

Nobody said veterinary college is easy. Most veterinary students don’t realize how hard it is until they begin to manage their time and resources or learn how to study and work in different ways than ever before. It is hard work. The hallmark of our veterinary students, faculty, staff members and alumni is that they persevere. I would go further and say that Kansas State University is the “poster child” of a university that perseveres in the face of challenging times and difficulty. The people of our college demonstrate resilience, vision, a strong work ethic and an approach to life of “keep on keeping on.” In this issue of Healing Hands, you’ll see accounts of alumni, faculty, students, interns and residents who have done the right things and the hard things to be successful.

Looking toward K-State’s vision to become a top 50 research university by the year 2025, we are beginning to see evidence we can reach that goal. Five years ago, many people would have said this is impossible. Today, more and more people recognize with good planning, hard work and perseverance — it is possible. You’ll see how two of our academic departments rank among the entire university’s top five in research grants gained. That’s an amazing feat, particularly in light of the fact that only 5 or 6 percent of nationally competitive grants that are submitted receive funding. This speaks to the environment created at the CVM and at K-State to support people who want to do the right things and be excellent.

As you as alumni and friends of the college help spread our stories to others, there’s little doubt by the year 2025, K-State will be considered among the very top of institutions of higher education. There’s little doubt the CVM will be considered as one of the premier veterinary colleges in the world. We will become the center of infectious and zoonotic diseases as we build on current research and as we engage with federal laboratories such as the Arthropod Borne Animal Disease Research Unit and the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility. We will be a vital part of a new Regional Center for Veterinary and Comparative Medicine. We will be engaged nationally and internationally with programs such as our U.S.-China Center for Animal Health, Beef Cattle Institute, Center of Excellence for Emerging and Zoonotic Animal Diseases, Institute for Computational Comparative Medicine, Nanotechnology Innovation Center of Kansas State, and with veterinary colleges and biomedical programs around the world. As we continue to prepare the profession’s best new veterinarians, we will offer opportunities to enhance the DVM degree through programs such as the Master of Public Health, Basic Research Immersion Training Experience, Veterinary Summer Research Program and our DVM/Ph.D. program, all which are excellent tools that move us forward.

I hope you will be a part of building for the future and you will be someone who says, “We persevered as we reached toward our goals.” You’ll be one of the ones who can celebrate the many successes that are coming our way.

Sincerely,

Ralph C. Richardson, DVM, Dean
Academicians accumulate accolades and acclaim

This past year, faculty members from all three of the CVM’s academic departments received a wide variety of college, university and national honors for leadership, teaching and research.

2013 Presidential Award for Outstanding Department Head at Kansas State University

Dr. Bonnie Rush

2013 Arthur C. Guyton Physiology Educator of the Year by the American Physiological Society

Dr. Timothy Musch

2013 Outstanding Service Award from the Academy of Veterinary Consultants

Dr. Mike Apley

2013 Commerce Bank Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award

Dr. Bob Rowland

2013 Dr. William and Deanna Pritchard Veterinary Service and Outreach Award

Dr. Jerome Nietfeld

University Distinguished Professor - Kansas State University’s highest faculty honor

Dr. Jürgen Richt

University Distinguished Professor - Kansas State University’s highest faculty honor

Dr. Nancy Monteiro-Riviere

2013 Zoetis Award for Veterinary Teaching Excellence

Dr. Ken Harkin

2013 Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence

Dr. H. Morgan Scott

Dr. Jim Riviere

4 Healing Hands
Hearing-loss study provides breakthrough

A research project led by University Distinguished Professor Dr. Philine Wangemann has shown potential to treat human deafness and loss of balance. She and her international team published the results of this groundbreaking study in the July issue of the journal, PLoS Genetics: “SLC26A4 Targeted to the Endolymphatic Sac Rescues Hearing and Balance in SLC26A4 Mutant Mice.”

More than 28 million people in the United States suffer some form of hearing loss. Dr. Wangemann said mutation of SLC26A4 is one of the most common forms of hereditary hearing loss in children, not only in the USA and Europe but also in China, Japan and Korea.

SLC26A4 is normally found in the cochlea and vestibular organs of the inner ear as well as in the endolymphatic sac, which is a non-sensory part of the inner ear. When the mutant mice lack SLC26A4 expression, their inner ears swell during embryonic development, which leads to failure of the cochlea and the vestibular organs resulting in deafness and loss of balance.

“Our study provides the proof-of-concept that a therapy aimed at repairing the endolymphatic sac during embryonic development is sufficient to restore a lifetime of normal hearing and balance,” Dr. Wangemann said.

Cashing out a long career

After four decades of teaching veterinary anatomy, Dr. Wally Cash retired in June. He had earned a bachelor’s degree in 1969, DVM in 1971, and Ph.D. in 1982, all from K-State. He won several awards in his career: Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teaching Award (1980 and in 2000), Merial Award for Teaching Excellence in the First Year (2005 and 2009), and Professional Performance Award (2007) and E.R. Frank Award (2010).

BCI uses grant for STEC training

The Beef Cattle Institute was awarded part of a $25 million USDA grant to focus on ways to reduce public health risks from Shiga toxin-producing E. coli, or STEC, which causes more than 265,000 infections in the U.S. every year. The BCI is creating several training modules for its part in the STEC grant. The modules will provide intervention strategies from the literature found to decrease E. coli prevalence.

Elsie Suhr, Alexia Sampson, Rachael Gortowski and Rebecca Legere are interns who create STEC training modules.
The loss of an eye presents a variety of concerns and questions for the owner of any animal, but when that animal is a high-level performance horse with other unexpected complicating factors, this can be particularly challenging. Chad and Susan Koehn of Salina, Kan., faced these very daunting circumstances with their son Landon’s calf-roping horse, appropriately named Roper. The odds were certainly against Roper, but the Koehns are now thanking several doctors at the Veterinary Health Center (VHC) for a winning outcome.

Roper’s ordeal began more than a year ago when the Koehns noticed swelling around her eye. Equine recurrent uveitis (ERU) was diagnosed at the VHC and Roper was treated for an extended period of time. Unfortunately, her condition did not respond to medical therapy. Roper’s condition was so severe that she became uncharacteristically agitated and anxious. Evidence of her change in demeanor came when Roper showed her frustration by kicking so hard she got her leg lodged in the partition of the trailer during transportation — something that she had not done previously.

“Equine recurrent uveitis is a very painful condition for horses,” explained Dr. Jane Ashley Stuckey, an ophthalmology resident at the VHC who was involved with managing Roper over the course of several months. “The severity and frequency of inflammatory episodes are variable among horses with ERU. ERU is the number one disease that leads to blindness in horses. Horses may develop additional ocular problems secondary to the severity of the damage involving the internal structures of the eye, one of which is glaucoma, a condition for which Roper also was being treated.”
The Koehns made many trips to the VHC for evaluations to determine Roper’s response to treatment. “I was bringing her to the hospital every six weeks for check-ups,” Susan recalled. “I was also doctoring Roper, sometimes up to six times per day. When we were trying to manage her pain from the recurrent uveitis, I also needed to give her high doses of pain reliever.”

Over time, such treatments can create complications.

“Long-term use of anti-inflammatory medication (corticosteroid) is required for ERU treatment and this predisposes the equine cornea to developing what is known as calcific band keratopathy,” Dr. Stuckey said. “This condition can sometimes lead to corneal ulcers, which prohibit topical treatment for intraocular inflammation, making management of ERU tedious, challenging and strategic.”

Roper also battled occasional corneal ulcers in her affected eye. The Koehns were always very attentive to changes in Roper’s ocular status and they were very diligent with treatment of her ocular problems.

The Koehns made many trips to the VHC for evaluations to determine Roper’s response to treatment. “I was bringing her to the hospital every six weeks for check-ups,” Susan recalled. “I was also doctoring Roper, sometimes up to six times per day. When we were trying to manage her pain from the recurrent uveitis, I also needed to give her high doses of pain reliever.”

Over time, such treatments can create complications.

Enucleation and Colic

The increasing severity of Roper’s ocular condition ultimately led to the decision to perform an enucleation — removal of the unhealthy eye. The surgical procedure, which included the placement of an intraorbital prosthesis, was successful. However, Roper had medical issues that made her post-operative management challenging. One complication was kidney damage that developed as a result of long-term pain therapy. Also, marginal kidney function prohibits the use of certain drugs commonly administered to patients after surgery. Roper developed signs of colic soon after enucleation surgery that required immediate medical management. Unfortunately, her condition was very serious and did not respond favorably to medical therapy necessitating surgery. Roper was taken to surgery where a cecal impaction was diagnosed. This condition requires surgical emptying of the large intestine to allow restoration of normal intestinal movements. After successful surgery and postoperative management by several VHC clinicians, Roper was finally on the road to recovery.
Dr. Nathan Canada, an equine surgery resident who assisted in the colic surgery said the Koehns deserve a great deal of credit for their dedication to saving Roper.

“For every hurdle this horse encountered, the Koehn family was right there,” Dr. Canada said. “The dedication they demonstrated toward this horse was incredible. Every time we called, they said, ‘Do whatever you need to do in order to save her life.’”

Dr. Stuckey agreed. “I will forever remember Mrs. Koehn walking in the exam room with her box of eye medications and her clipboard of treatment sheets. The entire Koehn family remained positive through very trying times maintaining a ‘we-can-get-through-this’ attitude! They consistently followed medical instructions with precision, which provided Roper with the greatest chance for success.”

**A Winning Outcome**

“Words cannot express how much we appreciate the great treatment and compassion we were given through all Ropers’ injuries, glaucoma/recurrent uveitis visits and treatments,” Susan said. “I felt they truly cared about Roper and treated her just as if she belonged to them.”

Dr. Canada noted that it was a short time after her colic surgery that Roper was back to doing what she loved. She has been remarkably successful since her return to the calf roping arena. The Koehns said that in just a 10-day period following her recovery, Roper and Landon won more than $6,000!

“Roper has a vivid personality and is a competitive threat at all the calf roping competitions – even during those times when she had compromised vision and an uncomfortable eye.” Dr. Stuckey said. “All of us, the doctors and owners included, had so many emotions tied up in the management and attempts to salvage Roper’s eye as long as possible, but my selfish struggle with losing Roper’s eye was not being able to continue working with the Koehns. Fortunately, we still stay in touch, although now it’s about Roper and Landon’s success stories — and that’s a much better conversation topic!”

Roper’s remarkable recovery allows her to return to the rodeo circuit in the summer of 2013.
More than 100 years ago, Kansas State University scientists developed a hog cholera vaccine to protect the livelihood of hard-working farmers. Today, that expertise continues with breakthroughs in diseases that affect livestock, our pets and us. The university’s Olathe campus answers the call for much needed workforce education, research and graduate programs to advance these missions.

K-State Olathe is located in the heart of the Animal Health Corridor, which stretches from Manhattan, Kan., to Columbia, Mo., and accounts for more than one-third of the global $19 billion sales in the animal health industry. Since opening in 2011, K-State Olathe has been awarded for its work with developing curriculum in Kansas City metro high schools in animal health, food science and biosciences. Additionally, the Olathe Chamber of Commerce has recognized the campus for its impact on the region’s economy.

Graduate Education
The Master of Science in Veterinary Biomedical Sciences is one of nine programs currently being offered at the campus. This program provides students with the opportunity to advance their knowledge in animal health, and provides research opportunities in state-of-the-art labs while they advance their careers in the animal health industry. The primary goal is to elevate a student’s career opportunities in animal health, research at state and federal agencies, and teaching or service in academic institutions. Students enrolled in the program at K-State Olathe have the opportunity to pursue an M.S. in the pathobiology track of veterinary biomedical sciences in a blended format of online and face-to-face course work.

Outreach
K-State Olathe’s Veterinary Lecture Series, in partnership with the university’s College of Veterinary Medicine, is geared to high school
students. Veterinary faculty members are available the day of each lecture to meet with interested students to discuss academic and career choices at K-State and beyond.

“Training the future workforce for this industry begins with our students,” said Micheal Strohschein, director of K-12 science education partnerships at Kansas State University Olathe. “Years from now, they will be ensuring the continued growth of the success in the corridor and in this field overall.”

Research
The U.S.-China Center for Animal Health is a Kansas State University-based training center for the improvement of Chinese animal health, education, research, and government and industrial workforce. The center’s primary mission is to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration and the China Ministry of Agriculture to assist Chinese and U.S. animal health companies in obtaining registration and exporting their products.

Additionally, the Microbial Surveillance Lab, an extension of the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, is a partnership with Kansas City-based Merck Animal Health. The lab will provide outreach connectivity to the nation and provide an environment of support to the teaching and research responsibilities of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Kansas State University through value-added partnerships and an entrepreneurial business model.

“This partnership provides us with an opportunity to contribute to the education and real-world experiences of students who are pursuing a related degree, as well as impact advances in animal medicine,” said Dr. Rick Sibbel, director of technical services, Merck Animal Health.

A Global Perspective
Dr. Prema Arasu, an infectious diseases researcher, veterinarian and leader in university international engagement, serves as the new CEO and vice provost for the Olathe campus.

Dr. Prema Arasu (with scissors), CEO and vice provost for the Olathe campus, cuts the ribbon for the new Microbial Surveillance Lab, supported through a partnership with Merck Animal Health. From left: Mike Strohschein, K-State Olathe; Kim Young, Animal Health Corridor; Dr. Arasu; Rick Sibbel, Merck Animal Health; Dale Rodman, former Kansas Secretary of Agriculture; Kelly Goss, Merck Animal Health; Dr. Brian Lubbers, CVM; Dr. Gary Anderson, CVM; Dean Ralph Richardson; Ron Bryant, Merck Animal Health; and Dr. Eric Moore, Merck Animal Health.

Dr. Brian Lubbers, director of the Microbiology Laboratory at the KSVDL, gives a tour of the Microbial Surveillance Lab.

“K-State is incredibly fortunate to have found a new leader whose background aligns so well with our purpose on the Olathe campus,” said K-State President Kirk Schulz. “Scientific research, animal health, graduate education and international linkages are a perfect combination for our mission at K-State Olathe.”

Dr. Arasu joined K-State Olathe in September 2013 after serving as vice provost of international programs at Washington State University, with oversight of global services, global learning, international research and economic development. Before joining Washington State, she spent 15 years at North Carolina State University, where she served as director for global health initiatives, associate vice provost for international academics and professor in the department of comparative biomedical sciences.
Honoring a Special Mentor

Dr. Kelly Lechtenberg pays forward his respect for Dr. Harish Minocha through a scholarship...

...that keeps on giving

Outstanding teachers make impressions on their students that last a lifetime. In veterinary education, the impact of teachers often manifests through continuing education, consultation, conferencing, professional collaboration and camaraderie. In special cases, a student will make a generous gesture to honor his or her mentor. In 2003, Dr. Kelly Lechtenberg did just that by creating the Dr. Harish C. and Ved K. Minocha Scholarship, in honor of an emeritus professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology.

“I can look at several faculty members and friends in the industry who took me by the hand and helped me get started,” Dr. Lechtenberg said. “Dr. Minocha had a profound impact on me, and we have maintained a strong friendship and working relationship.”

Dr. Lechtenberg attended K-State on a dual-degree program. During the second semester of his freshman year of veterinary school, he started a Ph.D. program in nutrition in the College of Agriculture. He finished his DVM in 1987, and then worked part time at a practice in Nebraska. He commuted back and forth to K-State and finished his Ph.D. in August 1988.

“I was primarily working in feedlot consulting,” Dr. Lechtenberg said. “Our industry partners wanted contract research projects each year, so we saw a need for an independent contract research organization and biomedical research in both cattle and swine.”

Over the years, Dr. Lechtenberg developed a working relationship with Dr. Minocha as the biomedical research side of his business started to grow. Dr. Minocha studied the immune mechanisms in virus diseases in cattle. His expertise made him a good resource for Dr. Lechtenberg. As he became more involved in research, Dr. Lechtenberg founded Midwest Veterinary Services Inc., Central States Research Center Inc. and Logan Valley Feeders, a cattle-feeding company, all in Oakland, Neb.

“Dr. Minocha, T.G. Nagaraja and M.M. Chengappa have all helped by providing advice and guidance for our work over the years,” Dr. Lechtenberg said. “All have made the trip to Nebraska numerous times and have always been willing to help out whenever I had questions.”

“I was on a technical committee and attended meetings with the other scientists and staff who worked for Kelly’s laboratory in Oakland,” Dr. Minocha recalled. “When I retired, it was very nice for him and his wife, Marcie, to attend my retirement party. There were several other faculty and my former students who were there, so when Kelly announced the scholarship there, it came as big surprise. It has just been a wonderful association to have with him.”

“My wife, Ved, and I are very proud of Kelly and we are thankful to him for setting up this scholarship.”

The Minocha scholarship is a little different than other veterinary scholarships at K-State. It was created to help students who are working on a graduate degree with an emphasis in virology.

Scott Huang, a Ph.D. student under Dr. Stephen Higgs, director of the Biosecurity Research Institute, is the current recipient of the Minocha scholarship.

“As an international student who is only eligible for a limited number of funding opportunities, it is an honor to receive the award as an important recognition and encouragement,” Scott said. “The award has provided critical support for my dissertation research on vaccine strains of yellow fever virus.”

“This is a scholarship that would like to see grow,” Dr. Lechtenberg said. “Research and science continues to be an important part of the industry, and a scholarship like this helps create an opportunity for veterinary students to get the Ph.D. degrees that are necessary to become scientists. We hope other K-State alumni would consider contributing toward this scholarship or create other similar scholarships to help support graduate and dual-degree students.”

A Grateful Recipient

Dr. Minocha and his wife, Ved, enjoy attending the CVM’s senior honors banquet to help present the scholarship awards each school year. The current recipient is Scott Huang, who is a Ph.D. student under Dr. Stephen Higgs, director of the Biosecurity Research Institute.

Scott said, “My research focuses on identifying the genetic determinants of vaccine attenuation that limits the transmission of mosquito-borne RNA viruses. By developing genetically engineered viruses and mosquito colonies in our laboratory, we are individually assessing genetic mutations in the viral genomes that can potentially reduce viral infectivity and transmissibility by mosquitoes. This fundamental knowledge is expected to be readily applicable for the rational design on live-attenuated vaccines for other viruses.”
Dr. Ellie Nuth, right, demonstrates how to perform an ultrasound on Faith, a miniature Australian shepherd, while being assisted by fourth-year student Crystal Drakes.

Like many veterinarians, Dr. Ellie Nuth felt drawn toward working with animals from a young age. She started volunteering with a small animal practice early in her high school career. Born with a congenital right arm malformation, Dr. Nuth does not have a right hand, but that hasn’t interfered with her love of veterinary medicine.

“I was always interested in both animals and the medical field,” Dr. Nuth said. “Becoming a veterinarian was a no-brainer for me.” Although raised in Hawaii, she attended undergraduate and veterinary school at Colorado State University, earning her DVM in 2010.
“I always knew I wasn’t going to be an orthopedic surgeon,” she joked. “But the cool thing about veterinary medicine is that there are so many different things you can do.”

Her professors supported her throughout her studies, helping her brainstorm ways to complete tasks that could be challenging without the use of both hands. Although some actions involved a significant amount of trial and error, Dr. Nuth’s self-proclaimed stubborn nature pushed her to find creative and innovative solutions to the obstacles she encountered.

She explained the process in three steps, “Here is what I want to do, and here is how other people do it — now how do I do it?” She even devised a way to perform surgery on her own, using a sterilized wristband to hold surgical instruments with her right arm. “I knew early on that I wanted to specialize in radiology, but I wanted to be able to say I could perform spays and neuters as well,” Dr. Nuth said.

After receiving her DVM, Dr. Nuth completed an internship at a small animal practice in Denver before she was offered a residency at K-State. She chose to focus on radiology after working closely with radiologists during veterinary school and her internship. Radiology appealed to her for two reasons. Not only did the radiologists she encounter love their work, but she was interested in the technology used in the field. With the continued push toward “one medicine,” this technology has been improving significantly.

“We have been doing a lot with cancer research and how it applies to both animals and humans,” Dr. Nuth explained. Additionally, the radiology department at the VHC recently purchased a new multislice CT scanner, which provides a quicker and more detailed way to perform a variety of studies, including multiphase vascular studies, which the previous single slice CT could not perform. Today, radiologists serve as consultants for practicing veterinarians in the area, or even around the world. With the switch to digital imaging, it has become much easier for veterinarians to collaborate across physical borders.

“Here is what I want to do, and here is how other people do it — now how do I do it?”

Dr. Nuth’s work in the VHC has been highly regarded by her supervisors, including Dr. David Biller, section head of the radiology department.

“Dr. Nuth is an outstanding individual both personally and professionally,” Dr. Biller said. “She will be successful at anything she undertakes. I have tried my best to recruit her to stay here and teach students, which is one of many things she excels at.”

This is Dr. Nuth’s last year as a resident, and although she doesn’t have definite plans yet, she looks forward to the changes and challenges that she will face in radiology. Even with advances in prosthetic technology, she plans to continue figuring out how to do things on her own.

“I’ve already come this far,” Dr. Nuth said. “I’ve done everything I wanted to do. At this point, having to relearn everything with two hands would just be a hassle.”
Along with their passion for animals, some K-State veterinary alumni foster a desire to serve their country. The United States Army Veterinary Corps provides an opportunity for these unique veterinarians to work with both of these passions. As a Veterinary Corps member, these veterinarians can be called to deployment at any time, leaving their work and family at home for about a year at a time.

The 445th Medical Detachment, Veterinary Services, based out of Independence, Miss., includes five K-State CVM graduates: Lt. Col. Julie Koupal (1987 DVM), Maj. Heather Shuey (1999 DVM), Maj. Rance Erwin (2002 DVM), Maj. Darrin Olson (2005 DVM) and Capt. Rick Upshaw (2006 DVM). Recently, this group was deployed to the Middle East, serving in Kuwait, Qatar and Kyrgyzstan. The primary duty of this detachment included Military Working Dog (MWD) medicine, pest control and food inspection.

“Although we travelled together to Kuwait, most of the veterinarians were in charge of their location and did not work together very often,” Capt. Upshaw recounted. “We worked to ensure the safety of our fellow soldiers by approving safe food sources and keeping the MWDs operating.”

When deployed as an Army Veterinary Corps Officer, you have three main missions: food safety and sanitation, filling the medical and surgical needs of MWDs, and dealing with various public health issues. Many injuries and diseases that develop in these conflict areas are caused by “disease non-battle injuries” (DNBIs), which are ailments such as malaria, dysentery and accidents that are not combat related. The Veterinary Corps plays a vital role in reducing the rate of DNBIs through reduction of zoonotic exposures, food safety and defense.

Maj. Olson described one scenario that occurred while he was deployed in Afghanistan in 2008. He received a late phone call requesting his assistance at...
the veterinary clinic where a MWD was showing classic signs of a gastric dilation and volvulus. A few days after surgery, the dog already wanted to get back to work.

“I was fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time,” Maj. Olson said. “That experience made deploying all worth it.”

Most of these veterinarians have enjoyed their work with the Army Reserve Veterinary Corps and plan to continue their role in the organization. However, they caution that the career path is not for everyone. Life in the Veterinary Corps, while rewarding, demands a high level of commitment from veterinarians and their families.

“The most compelling aspect of being deployed was the amazing people and MWDs you meet and work with,” Maj. Erwin said. “It’s amazing and humbling to see the struggles these people go through on a routine basis. Sometimes I was lucky enough to help them overcome these struggles in the areas of public health and herd health management.”

Capt. Upshaw, Maj. Erwin and Maj. Olson recognized areas in which their education at K-State helped their duties overseas. Even in areas such as food inspection, classes in germ theory, sterility and microbial growth can be extremely useful. They also felt their education helped them learn how to communicate with different kinds of people.
Dr. Bob Rowland teamed up this past summer with Dr. Hanchun Yang of the China Agricultural University and a committee of experts from around the world for an event entitled International Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) — China.

“This meeting, which I have organized for more than eight years, was an incredible success that exceeded all expectations,” said Dr. Rowland, a virologist and professor of diagnostic medicine/pathobiology. “We planned for 500 attendees — set up the meeting for 600 — and ended up with 700.”

The attendees came from 25 different countries, and there were 151 abstracts submitted and presented as poster presentations. The symposium featured 40 talks with three keynote addresses, 18 oral presentations of the abstracts and 19 invited speakers.

“The Beijing meeting is recognition that PRRS is a transboundary disease that needs transboundary solutions,” Dr. Rowland said. “The collaborations that emerge from this type of meeting have a global impact.”

Dr. Rowland indicated that one of the goals of the symposium is to help find vaccines to control the spread of PRRS and porcine circovirus (PCV2). While the numbers were very good, the reviews have given this blockbuster symposium an enthusiastic two thumbs up.

Students take first place awards in therio competition

Two Kansas State University students each captured first place in their respective competitions at the annual conference of the Society for Theriogenology and American College of Theriogenologists, held Aug. 7-10 in Louisville, Ky. In veterinary medicine, theriogenology is study of the different aspects of reproduction.

Dr. Maria Ferrer, clinical associate professor at the Veterinary Health Center, coordinated K-State’s entries into the competition. The students who participated were: Viviane Gomes, a veterinary student from Brazil; Jessica Klabnik-Bradford, a third-year veterinary student; and Stephanie Skinner, a pre-veterinary student and member of K-State’s Developing Scholars Program.

Viviane won first place in the oral session of the student case competition. She also presented a non-competitive abstract during the opening session. Jessica won first place in the student case competition in the poster session. Her poster was featured in the September 2013 issue of The Horse magazine. Stephanie presented her abstract during the scientific abstract competitive session.
Teaching awards times two: 2012 and 2013

Due to a change in procedure, the fall teaching awards for 2012 were not presented until May 2013. The 2013 teaching awards were presented on schedule in October, so this issue of Healing Hands features both sets of teaching award recipients. These awards are voted on the respective student class members from the previous academic year. Congratulations to all!

Dr. Derek Mosier, left, won the 2012 Bayer Animal Health Teaching Excellence Award for Teaching for instruction of second-year students. Dr. David Poole won the 2012 Merial Teaching Excellence Award for first-year instruction. Dr. Ken Harkin was recognized as the 2012 winner of the Novartis Teaching Excellence Award for third-year instruction.

See this story on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRpDx3uXFEO

Dr. Dan Thomson, left, won the 2013 Novartis Teaching Excellence Award for third-year instruction. Dr. Steve Stockham, won the 2013 Bayer Animal Health Teaching Excellence Award for Teaching for instruction of second-year students. Dr. Cheryl Herman won the 2013 Merial Teaching Excellence Award for first-year instruction.

U.S.-China Center for Animal Health hosts visiting dignitaries

Students from China are being supported by their home country, for the first time since 1950, to earn a DVM degree from the U.S. — all through the CVM’s U.S.-China Center for Animal Health.

Three of four Chinese students who studied pre-veterinary medicine at K-State during the 2012-2013 school year — Yaoqin Shen, Bo Liu and Jing Li — were accepted this fall as K-State DVM students, while the fourth student, Yi Ding, was admitted for DVM studies at the University of Minnesota.

“The Chinese government has been attaching great importance to the cooperation and exchanges in education and culture, especially in student and scholar exchanges,” said Dr. Liu Jinghui, secretary general of the China Scholarship Council. “We are eager to partner with top veterinary colleges in the U.S. to support students from China as they pursue their four-year DVM program training.”
Greetings from your College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Board! Over the past year the Kansas State University Veterinary Medical Alumni Association has seen many changes. First we had the untimely loss of our good friend Chris Gruber, the void left was huge, but I am extremely proud of our alumni team, and how they pulled together and carried his mission on.

Another significant change in the alumni office is the retirement of Cheri Ubel, alumni coordinator for the Veterinary Medical Alumni Association. She had served the college for 25 years. She has taken a position as full-time grandma and we wish her all the best. We truly want to thank her for all of her years of service to Kansas State. She was a huge asset to the college and will be greatly missed. With her retirement, Megan Kilgore has been promoted to director of Alumni Affairs and Events. She previously served as the coordinator for Continuing Education and Events. I have visited with Megan, and she is very energetic and has many ideas for our association. If you have alumni related questions, or are stopping by campus, please get in touch with Megan and she will assist you in any way she can.

One of the current areas of focus for the VMAA is addressing veterinary student debt and how our association may be able to help. Currently students are graduating with an average student debt of $200,000. With this kind of debt, the dreams of owning a house, a new car or even purchasing a veterinary practice are in jeopardy. As a practice owner, this concerns me. If you have any suggestions or ideas of how we can help, please contact any of the development team members. This is a bigger problem than a seven-member board can solve, it is going to take all of us.

As I close, I hope all of you had a very blessed holiday season, and that 2014 brings nothing but continued success and happiness.

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Executive Board Members
Dr. Lawrence Kosmin, DVM 1966

The California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) installed Dr. Lawrence Kosmin as a member-at-large of on June 21, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach in Long Beach, Calif. The installation took place during the annual Pacific Veterinary Conference. The CVMA is a membership organization that represents more than 6,300 veterinary professionals in California. Dr. Kosmin was elected to the CVMA Board of Governors in 2011. He lives in Long Beach and is a small animal veterinarian in Orange, Calif. Dr. Kosmin also consults for the City of Long Beach Animal Shelter and inspects hospitals in Southern California for the California Veterinary Medical Board. He has been a representative in the CVMA House of Delegates. Dr. Kosmin was president of the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association in 2010.

Dr. Jay Merriam, DVM 1969

Equitarian outreach pioneer and longtime AAEP member Dr. Jay Merriam received the George T. Angell Humanitarian Award from the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals-Angell Animal Medical Center during the organization’s Animal Hall

About the VMAA

The Veterinary Medical Alumni Association is a nonprofit organization run primarily by alumni who volunteer their time and effort. Members are elected to serve on the association’s executive board. Each serves a four-year term as member-at-large, and one year each as president-elect and president. The SCAVMA president serves one year or until his presidency ends. The secretary-treasurer continues to serve without re-election until he/she resigns or an election is mandated.

The VMAA Executive Board established an endowment in February 2003. VMAA membership dues are placed in this fund to generate earnings to support alumni events, initiatives and activities in perpetuity. The VMAA Endowment, account number, K93615, has a balance of more than $375,000 as of October 2013. A special thank-you to all who have participated in this effort.

We are collecting VMAA membership dues for the 2014 fiscal year.

Alumni Class News

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Equitarian outreach pioneer and longtime AAEP member Dr. Jay Merriam received the George T. Angell Humanitarian Award from the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals-Angell Animal Medical Center during the organization’s Animal Hall
Dr. Merriam is a private practitioner in Uxbridge, Mass. He has been involved in working with equids since beginning Project Samana in the Dominican Republic in 1992. He is co-founder of the AAEP Equitarian Task Force and previously chaired the AAEP’s Equine Welfare and Membership Committee.

Dr. David Granstrom, DVM 1978

The AVMA promoted Dr. David Granstrom to the position of associate executive vice president (EVP) and chief operating officer (COO) of the AVMA, replacing Dr. Karl Wise, who retired in August. In his new position, Dr. Granstrom will provide staff support to the House of Delegates, House Advisory Committee and Judicial Council. He will also work directly with the Education and Research, Membership, Communications and other divisions.

Dr. Mark Baus, DVM 1981

Dr. Mark Baus was elected to serve on the AAEP board of directors for a three-year term. He is a solo practitioner and owner of Grand Prix Equine in Bridgewater, Conn., which focuses on care and treatment of performance horses. In 1981, Dr. Baus entered practice in Fairfield, Conn. He co-founded Fairfield Equine Associates in Newtown, Conn., in 1989, and served as president and managing partner of the practice from 1996 until starting Grand Prix in 2009.

Dr. Justin Smith, DVM 1987

The former Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, Dale Rodman, promoted Dr. Justin Smith, state field veterinarian, to the position of deputy animal health commissioner for the Kansas Department of Agriculture. He served the Kansas livestock sector in various animal health professional roles for the past 26 years. In addition to his time as a state field veterinarian for KDA since September 2011, Dr. Smith has served as ranch manager for Mills Ranch in Sharon Springs, Kan., owned and operated a veterinary practice and served as a 4-H livestock extension agent in Ness County. In February 2012, Dr. Smith earned certification as a foreign animal disease diagnostician (FADD) from the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. As deputy animal health commissioner, Dr. Smith will assist Kansas Animal Health Commissioner Dr. Bill Brown (DVM class of 1971) in providing leadership and support to the KDA Division of Animal Health in its animal disease control and traceability program, animal facilities inspection program and brands program. In addition, Dr. Smith will play a crucial role in the state’s emergency preparedness plan.

2013 Class Initiatives

Dr. Clifford Noffsinger accepts the Reunion Achievement Award for the Class of 1963 for having the highest participation rate (58 percent) in cash gifts given among the returning reunion classes for FY 2013. The classes of 1968, 1978, 1988 and 1993 all tied for second place with 40 percent participation. Together all the 2013 reunion classes raised $53,879.89 for the College of Veterinary Medicine. Go to the VMAA website listed at the top of page 20 and click “Initiatives” under “Class Activities” for more info.
In Memoriam

1939
Dr. Clare C. Hamilton
Lakewood, Colo.
June 26, 2013

1942
Dr. Wally T. Berner
San Rafael, Calif.
Sept. 17, 2013

1943
Dr. John H. Hoins III
Leavenworth, Kan.
Sept. 14, 2013
Dr. Donald W. Lunt
Clovis, Calif.
Oct. 9, 2013

1945
Col. Harry Berrier Jr.
Columbia, Mo.
March 10, 2013
Dr. Theodore H. Reed
Milford, Del.
July 2, 2013

1949
Dr. Elwyn L. Church
Beach, N.D.
June 27, 2013
Dr. Douglas N. Merritt
Perry, Kan.
Oct. 9, 2013

1950
Dr. Manuel Bendersky
Erie, Pa.
March 17, 2013

1951
Dr. David E. Herrick
Bowie, Md.
Oct. 12, 2013

1952
Dr. Howard L. Newkirk
Overland Park, Kan.
Sept. 17, 2013

1953
Dr. David S. Edwards Jr.
Union Bridge, Md.
June 20, 2013
Dr. John R. Good
Ponca City, Okla.
Nov. 25, 2013
Dr. Donald R. Nicholson
Hutchinson, Kan.
July 24, 2013

1955
Dr. David A. Walsdorf
New Holstein, Wis.
March 10, 2013

1958
Dr. Keith D. Beeman
Manhattan, Kan.
April 24, 2013
Dr. Stuart E. Knapp
Bozeman, Mont.
May 25, 2013
Dr. William E. Schaulis
Wisner, Neb.
Sept. 5, 2013

1960
Dr. Paul E. Brassfield
Hill City, Kan.
Oct. 29, 2013

1961
Dr. John P. Flolo
Gilroy, Calif.
July 21, 2013
Dr. James R. Hasler
Frankfort, Ky.
July 16, 2013

1962
Dr. Thomas W. Martin
Lamar, Mo.
Oct. 4, 2013
Dr. Alfred L. Schuetz
Denmark, Wis.
Sept. 21, 2013

1966
Dr. Kenneth L. Jeffery
Mesa, Ariz.
Dec. 30, 2012

1972
Dr. Gerald W. Henrikson
Emporia, Kan.
Oct. 16, 2013

1988
Dr. John C. Smith
Honolulu, Hawaii
April 30, 2013

Get more news by e-mail with Lifelines
Do you currently receive our monthly newsletter Lifelines by e-mail? If not, visit our website to add your e-mail address for Lifelines and other CVM news. Also, please send us your news and updates.

http://www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/alumni/forms/newsletter/index.aspx
E-mail updates and class news to: jmontgom@vet.k-state.edu
Alumni Recognition Awards

Dr. Bill McBeth (1981) 2013 Alumni Recognition

North American Veterinary Conference

Prior to attending K-State, Dr. Bill McBeth, Morgantown, Pa., was appointed from Nebraska to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1970. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers for six years in Korea and Germany. He left the military and earned his DVM at K-State in 1981. He practiced as an associate with the Metzger Veterinary Clinic, Gordon, Neb. In 1982, he served in northeast Colorado as an associate, then partner, and then sole owner of his own practice, Sun Prairie Veterinary Clinic. In 2001, while still in private practice, Dr. McBeth was engaged by Pfizer Animal Health as a livestock consultant. In 2003, he left private practice and became a full-time Pfizer employee as a drug-safety livestock veterinarian and then a manager of the Pfizer Veterinary Medical Information and Product Support Livestock-Equine team. He earned a master’s degree in food safety from Michigan State University in 2010.

Dr. Megan M. Ehlers (1999) 2013 Alumni Recognition

Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association

Dr. Megan M. Ehlers, Lincoln, Neb., has practiced small animal medicine since earning her DVM from K-State in 1999. For eight years she was part-owner of a practice, with a focus on orthopedics, oncology and rehabilitation. Dr. Ehlers described the core of her practice to be the human-animal bond, determining that quality medicine follows true concern for the animals. In 2007, with her classmate Dr. Kevin Christensen, Dr. Ehlers organized an emergency hospital in Lincoln. She served on the board of directors for this clinic for its first five years. She left her previous practice and opened a small clinic of her own. Dr. Ehlers and her husband, Britt, founded the nonprofit organization Runners with a Reason, which helped runners raise more than $150,000 for local and national charities over the past five years. Dr. Ehlers also helped the Arbor Day Foundation launch a “Trees for Pets” campaign to memorialize loved pets.

Dr. James E. Dale (1967) 2013 Alumni Recognition

Western Veterinary Conference

Dr. James (Jim) E. Dale, Golden Colo., received his DVM from K-State in 1967. After practicing in Lawrence, Kan., he enlisted with the U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corps. During the 30 years he served with the U.S. Air Force, he spent time in Japan, Thailand, Turkey, Spain and eight different U.S. states. At the time he retired, Dr. Dale was the chief of prevention in the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General. After military retirement, he worked as the health program director for Koop Foundation Inc. He then moved to Golden, where he served as director of environmental health for Jefferson County Public Health before fully retiring in 2011.

Read more about these recipients and awards online at www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/alumni/recognition.htm
Dr. Ronald J. Marler, Scottsdale, Ariz., received his bachelor’s degree in 1971 and DVM in 1973 from K-State. He joined the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps as a captain and returned to K-State to complete a Ph.D. in veterinary pathology in 1978. He served as dean of the CVM at K-State from 1994 to 1997, and is recognized as an expert in drug development and pharmaceutical pathology and toxicology. He is currently professor of Experimental Therapeutics and Molecular Pharmacology, director of the Animal Histology and Pathology Core, director of the Center for Procedural Innovation, and senior adviser for non-clinical drug development.

Dr. Polly Schoning, Manhattan, Kan., earned her bachelor’s degree, 1962; DVM, 1964; master’s degree, 1970; and Ph.D., 1979; all from K-State. She first worked as a small animal clinician and then as a bacteriologist for the Vermont State Department of Health in 1965, while developing a small animal practice in Essex Junction, Vt. From 1967 to 1971, Dr. Schoning was an instructor in anatomy while working on her master’s degree. In 1974, she was an assistant professor for the Department of Surgery and Medicine. On receiving her Ph.D., she moved to the Department of Pathology as an assistant professor, later becoming a full professor. She retired in 2003.

Dr. Copper Aitken-Palmer, Fort Valley, Va., Palmer earned her DVM and a master’s degree in clinical sciences, both from K-State University in 2003. She also holds a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. She is currently the chief veterinarian for the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, in its Department of Conservation Medicine, in Front Royal, Va. Her work routinely takes her to China as she specializes in giant panda reproduction, health and conservation.
Providing great service to everyone who uses the library is one of our goals at the Veterinary Medical Library. Students, especially those in the DVM program, are one of our priorities. We have features and services that are geared to these primary users of the Veterinary Medical Library that are in addition to the usual items such as books and journals found in our library.

Because the VML is used heavily by students for studying and collaboration on projects, we provide a variety of tables, study carrels, and seating. We have small group tables, several conference rooms with areas for larger group gatherings, plus individual areas such as private study carrels. Lounge chairs, donated recliners, and bean bag chairs are available for studying and relaxing. One room in the library is designated as a quiet room where we do not allow cell phones, talking, or audio devices so that a noise-free area can be provided for persons who prefer that environment for studying.

We also provide a variety of technology items that can be checked out by students as well as faculty and staff. These include digital cameras, laptops, handy cams, GPS, LCD projectors, DVD players, digital voice recorders, and many other items. We use the proceeds from our annual used book sale to help fund the purchase of these items. A KIC scanner allows scans to be sent directly to email or downloaded to a flash drive at no cost. Students also have a Student Technology Room located adjacent to the library that is only available to them and can be accessed 24/7. The room has computers with dual monitors, a large screen monitor, scanners, a copier/printer plus other technology items.

The VML also has a print service that students and others can use which provides print and copy services, book and note binding, plus other services such as printing of business cards, postcards, announcements, and other items for individual needs. Holiday Pet Pics is also a print service that our students and others enjoy. For students who do their own copying and printing we have individual print cards and Jamex copy cards to which they can add money when needed.

The staff tries to make the library a fun and relaxing place by decorating for various seasons and holidays. Everyone loves to come to our holiday “Tower of Treats” where we provide flavored popcorn. We also have a peanut butter and jelly station during finals week where students can prepare sandwiches to help them during their intense study periods.

We try to provide the best library experience possible for students which they can reflect back upon after graduation and know that they had positive experiences in the library.

Research Tips & Assistance

By Carol Elmore
Planning a gift that gives back

How would you like to make a gift that gives back? Most gifts are made to the CVM by check, but other gifting tools provide multiple donor benefits. One in particular — the Charitable Gift Annuity — actually gives back. Often called a CGA, it may be the best fit for your situation.

What’s best for you if you have decided to create a K-State legacy? Several factors should be weighed, but the list of benefits makes the CGA an attractive alternative — and a CGA gives back.

A CGA is a guaranteed contract to pay lifetime income to the donor. Payments are based on the donor’s age when the gift is made, continue for life and never change. When the gift is made, you work with our staff to decide where the remaining funds go. You decide what program, project or area within our college will be “home” to your legacy.

Are there other benefits? Yes, several in fact. Using proceeds from a maturing low-yielding certificate of deposit to fund a CGA will provide a higher payout, a generous charitable deduction, plus guaranteed and fixed lifetime income. Highly appreciated stocks are another outstanding CGA funding tool, with all the previous benefits plus the advantage of reduced or favored capital gains tax.

How about another twist? CGA income can be deferred until some point in the future. For example, the gift is made before Dec. 31, but income can be deferred 15 years to provide another source of retirement income. Depending on the asset used to fund your CGA, some income could be tax-free and payments can continue for one or two lives. Eventually, the principal is directed to the area, program or project most important to you.

If you have decided to create a KSUCVM legacy, the “best” method of funding that goal might be a CGA. Alumni often include their spouse and their financial adviser when selecting their “best” option. For more information — or a personalized CGA illustration — please contact the CVM development staff.

These charts reflect fixed annuity amounts that increase with donor age. Contact the College of Veterinary Medicine development staff for a personalized illustration.

Information for a single person: male or female

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>70</th>
<th>80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annuity rate</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable deduction</td>
<td>$6,456</td>
<td>$9,752</td>
<td>$12,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual payment</td>
<td>$1,100</td>
<td>$1,275</td>
<td>$1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax-free portion</td>
<td>$770</td>
<td>$958</td>
<td>$1,354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information for a couple

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>60/60</th>
<th>70/70</th>
<th>80/80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annuity rate</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable deduction</td>
<td>$4,925</td>
<td>$7,419</td>
<td>$10,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual payment</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$1,150</td>
<td>$1,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax-free portion</td>
<td>$678</td>
<td>$857</td>
<td>$1,131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLEASE NOTE: These examples are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended as legal or tax advice. Charitable deductions will vary slightly with changes in the Internal Revenue Service discount rate. Rate used here is 2 percent. Consult your adviser before making any decisions based on this data. This illustration represents a $25,000 cash gift and a 28 percent income tax rate. The charitable gift annuity is not offered in all states.
Five-Year Class Reunions
May 30 - June 1, 2014

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

76th Annual Conference for Veterinarians
SAVE the DATE | MAY 31 - JUNE 3, 2014

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 & Manhattan Conference Center. Watch your mail for a complete look at the conference sessions and special events.

Contact the Office of Continuing Education & Events for more information at 785-532-4528