

Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Healing Hands

Iditarod

K-Staters help care
for sled dogs in Alaska

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

**Dr. Gentry examines
rural practices**

**Global travels for
faculty and students**



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About the cover: Dr. Dirsko von Pfeil examines a sled dog competing in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. See story on page 14. (Courtesy photo)

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Foreword — progress

Celebrating 10 years at K-State by looking to the future

VALUES

The College of Veterinary Medicine values excellence; innovation; productive, results-oriented efforts; diversity; cooperation, communication and collegiality; mutual respect; and honesty and integrity.

VISION/MISSION

The KSU CVM is dedicated to scholarship through innovation and excellence in teaching, research, and service to promote animal and human health for the public good. We are committed to creating an environment that is fulfilling and rewarding, being recognized for good communication, productive collaboration, mutual respect, diversity, integrity, and honesty.

This year marks a personal milestone — my 10th year as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. While we have accomplished many things, we focus on what lies ahead for the CVM.

Our college is one of the finest in the country, and we are rapidly becoming the country's pre-eminent college of agriculturally related veterinary medicine. Meanwhile, we maintain a strong reputation of graduating excellent, well-rounded veterinarians to help meet all aspects of the nation's demands for veterinary services.



We continue our aggressive pursuit of excellence with a focus on food safety and security and serving the livestock industry. Clearly, marked growth in state funding for higher education is a thing of the past, so we will continue to seek other ways to fund and grow our programs.

I am excited about the potential for curricular revision and the opportunities our veterinary profession has to become more engaged in public practice. One such opportunity is through our Master's in Public Health (MPH) program. I also hope to see K-State develop programs to meet the workforce needs of the companies in the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor and beyond.

Our new K-State Olathe Innovation Campus will anchor the Kansas Bioscience Park, bringing a research and educational facility to meet regional and national workforce needs. In addition, we hope to help expand the associate's degree program in veterinary technology offered by Colby Community College to better meet the needs of practicing veterinarians. And wouldn't it be fantastic if K-State/Manhattan becomes home for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility?!

We have addressed responsible access to teaching caseloads by opening our satellite teaching hospital, MidWestVET, in Omaha, Neb. We have concerns that veterinary colleges in non-major metropolitan areas will suffer irreparable harm to their patient resources if we do not assume a proactive role in influencing the management of primary, secondary and tertiary care of patients in our referral catchment' area.

The future will provide many wonderful opportunities, but there will always be challenges waiting to be embraced. We will work as a team — our faculty, staff and students — and solve problems as we move forward.

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

bits & BYTES from the College of Veterinary Medicine

Prestigious Karuna Award in India goes to Dr. M.M. Chengappa

Being honored in your hometown is always nice, even if you have to travel around the world to receive it. Such was the case this past December for Dr. M.M. Chengappa, University Distinguished Professor and Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology

department head in the CVM. He was honored by the Karuna Trust for National Progress in Bangalore, India, with its 2007 award.

Dr. Chengappa had received his DVM and Master of Veterinary Science at Mysore Veterinary College in Bangalore in 1970 and 1973 respectively, so this was a homecoming for him.

"I was truly honored and humbled to be recognized for this award," Dr. Chengappa said. "It's a tremendous recognition for what I've done with my career. It's a privilege to work at K-State with so many good people who have had such an impact on my career, growth and development as a researcher."

Dr. Chengappa was cited by the Karuna Trust for several accomplishments including his research into the pathogenesis of important infectious diseases of animals, specifically molecular characterization and functional analysis of the antigens/toxins of *Streptococcus suis*, *Pasteurella haemolytica* and *Fusobacterium necrophorum*, as well as for his educational and leadership accomplishments throughout his career.



Dr. M.M. Chengappa, left, receives the Karuna Trust award from Dr. B.C. Ramakrishna.

Dr. Carpenter becomes ACZM president



Dr. James Carpenter

said. "It would be an understatement to say how honored and proud I am to have been elected by my peers to serve as the next ACZM President!"

Dr. James Carpenter, professor of zoological medicine, was elected to serve as the new president of the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM).

Dr. Carpenter hopes to improve the ACZM's role in education and to increase the awareness and value of ACZM board certification within the veterinary profession.

"To become a Diplomate of the ACZM has been one of the greatest achievements of my career," Dr. Carpenter

Dr. Rush co-anchors newscast at AAEP

Dr. Bonnie Rush, clinical sciences department head and professor of equine internal medicine at the CVM, participated in the Kester News Hour at the 53rd AAEP Convention in Orlando, Fla., in December. She also presented several topics during the conference, including "Influenza in Australia," "Methicillin-resistant Staph aureus," "Cervical Stenotic Myelopathy in Older Horses," and "Immune-mediated Myositis."



Dr. Bonnie Rush, right, gives a live broadcast with Dr. Margo Macpherson, University of Florida, and Dr. Scott Palmer, New Jersey Equine Clinic.

Getting the 'Royal' treatment

The CVM sponsored a birthing center at the American Royal in Kansas City last October. The center featured a sow, piglets, baby chicks, radiographs and anatomical displays.

The purpose of the annual birthing center is to educate the public about veterinary medicine: what we do, what the opportunities are, and how veterinary medicine impacts both public and livestock health. Faculty and residents in agricultural practices and equine medicine took senior veterinary students each day to visit with the public.



Dr. Meredith Jones, center, and class of 2008 students (left to right) Angela Juno, Debra Wert and Brianna Abel, take a break from the birthing center and let famous McDonald's restaurant mascot, Ronald McDonald hold a piglet.

Dr. Tokach wins national swine award

K-State adjunct professor Dr. Lisa Tokach was named the Swine Practitioner of the Year by the American Association of Swine Veterinarians. The award recognizes swine practitioners who demonstrate exceptional service to their veterinary clients.



Dr. Lisa Tokach

Since graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1977, Dr. Tokach has been a mixed-animal practitioner, primarily focused on swine population medicine at the Abilene (Kan.) Animal Hospital. She is also the hospital's personnel director.

Since 1996, she has served as president of the Kansas Swine Alliance Inc., a management company that promotes interdependence among smaller Kansas producers. As an adjunct professor at K-State, she works in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

In the words of her colleague and partner, Dr. Steve Henry, "The boundless energy and volunteerism Lisa has for the AASV, our practice and our clients impress me every day. She is the consummate supporter and encourager — valuing each person for what they bring and encouraging each in a most special way."

Dr. Ganta gets \$1.8 million grant for tick-borne bacteria research

One thousand dollars a day over five years — this is the breakdown of a new research grant for Dr. Roman Ganta, professor in diagnostic medicine and pathobiology. In December, the National Institutes of Health approved \$1.825 million for Dr. Ganta's continuing research on *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*.



Dr. Roman Ganta checks in with Feng Pan, research assistant; Dr. Gwi-Moon Seo postdoctoral associate; and Kendra Siebert, a Ph.D. student in his lab (from front to back).

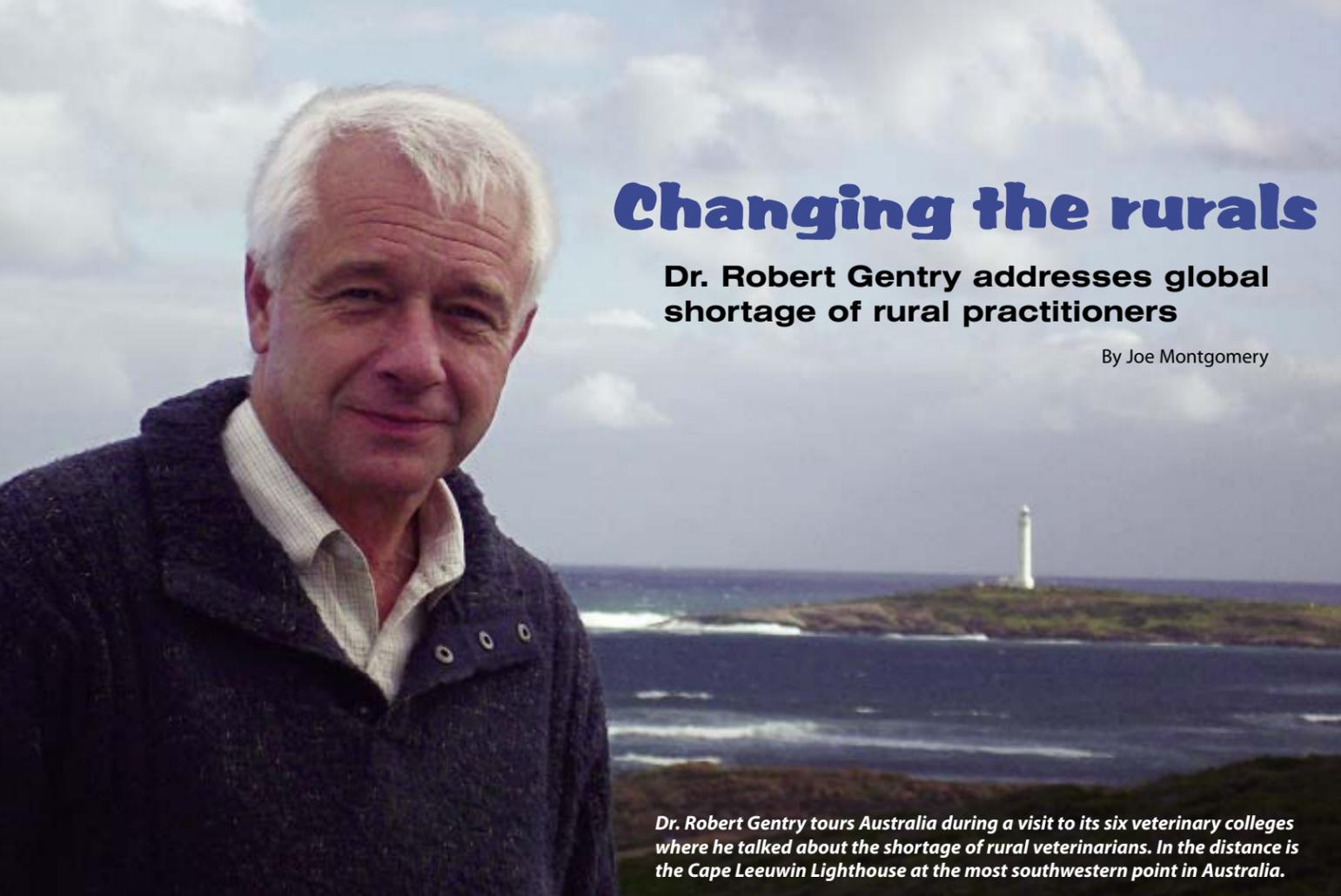
Dr. Ganta said tick-borne pathogens like *Ehrlichia chaffeensis* have long been recognized as a persistent concern for the health of several companion animals and livestock. The number of cases in humans has also risen in recent years, increasing the threat to public health.

"Understanding the molecular basis for persistence by these bacteria has been critical in developing effective methods to control this and other tick-borne pathogens," Dr. Ganta said. "Our research is focused on understanding the pathogen evasion mechanisms, and then using those to defeat it."

Dr. Ganta estimates that as many as 50,000 people have actually contracted *Ehrlichia chaffeensis* each year. As many as half of patients diagnosed with Ehrlichiosis may require hospitalization.

This is the second grant of roughly the same size Dr. Ganta has received for this research. Over the last five years, his research team has been working under a previous federal grant, also from the National Institutes of Health, to uncover exactly how the bacterium works.

The hope is that once Dr. Ganta comes up with a way to fight off the bacteria, that will pave the way for solutions to other forms of *Ehrlichia* and closely related tick-borne pathogens, some of which are devastating for companion animals, cattle and other food animals.



Changing the rurals

Dr. Robert Gentry addresses global shortage of rural practitioners

By Joe Montgomery

Dr. Robert Gentry tours Australia during a visit to its six veterinary colleges where he talked about the shortage of rural veterinarians. In the distance is the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse at the most southwestern point in Australia.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. GENTRY

The times are changing, and for the veterinary profession, change means there are fewer and fewer rural veterinarians. As a rural practitioner in Beloit, Kan., Dr. Bob Gentry, DVM 1981, decided to study the issue to see what might be done about it.

“A few years ago, I was working on the idea that we need rural practitioners and that we need to go tell students about rural practice,” Dr. Gentry said. “I met with some other veterinarians who were forming an organization for the same purpose and joined them as a director of the Academy of Rural Veterinarians.”

Dr. Gentry is also the president-elect of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association and begins his term in June.

“One of my agenda items is to address rural veterinary medicine,” Dr. Gentry said. “You have to start by identifying where we are, who we are, what gender we are, and find out where people are, what they do, what they want to do, and then try to do a better job of serving the membership.”

By the numbers

In order to find information on rural practices, Dr. Gentry enlisted the help of

Dr. David Anderson, professor and head of Agricultural Practices in the CVM. Together they started looking at Kansas demographics.

“The work Dr. Gentry and I are doing will help us define the veterinary marketplace in Kansas,” Dr. Anderson said. “We both want to see more veterinarians going to rural practice and farm animal practices. This study was to gain insight about where the veterinarians are in Kansas and what population base they serve, both human and animal.”

Dr. Gentry explained, “I found eight counties that don’t have a licensed veterinarian listed, and in one county, the licensed veterinarian is a government employee who is not practicing. I did a per capita list of veterinarians by county in Kansas, and there’s anywhere from one veterinarian per 598 people to one veterinarian per 4,000-5,000 people, depending on what county you go to.”

Dr. Gentry was also curious about population decline in rural counties.

“I started looking at these numbers in north central Kansas where I live, and we have somewhere between zero and 15 percent decline in population from 2000 to 2006,” he said. “If your



Dr. Gentry is not afraid to get his hands dirty, such as when performing a fetotomy, but says farm animal medicine is easier today than when he started his practice 25 years ago.

practice was 70 percent food animal and 30 percent small animal, when 10 percent of the people move away, it only affects 3 percent of your business, but if you reverse it and 10 percent of the people move away — and they’re the pet owners — then you’d lose 7 percent of your business.”

Australian adventure

Dr. Gentry says the issue affects other countries as well as the U.S. Through his involvement with the KVMA and Academy of Rural Veterinarians, Dr. Gentry was invited to speak down under.

“I went to Australia for three weeks this past summer,” he said. “I spoke at all six Australian veterinary schools about the academy and its purpose. Per capita, Australia produces twice as many veterinarians as we do, and they still have a shortage of veterinarians in rural areas. If you’re trying to address the rural issue, producing more veterinarians hasn’t solved the problem. You can go three times as many veterinarians per capita and still be short of veterinarians in those rural areas.”

Selling a lifestyle

Dr. Gentry points out the rural population issue is not just a problem for veterinary medicine, but can affect other livelihoods. His suggestions are to emphasize the positive aspects of rural communities.

“Lifestyle is what we promote,” he said. “With modern capability, there’s very little in our mixed practice that we do without as far as quality of medicine and surgery. With the Internet and referral, such as to K-State or other veterinarians, you can provide almost anything in veterinary medicine that anyone else can. We have the quality, we have the support, we have the income, and we have the lifestyle.”

Another spokesperson for the rural lifestyle might be Dr. Gentry’s wife Lesley, who is definitely not a native Kansan.

“My wife worked in a veterinary practice in England before we met,” Dr. Gentry said. “It’s where we met, when I worked in England one summer while I was in veterinary college.”



Dr. Gentry meets with Dr. Diane Sheehan, president of the Australian Veterinary Association, and Dr. Peter Chenoweth, professor of veterinary reproduction at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, Australia. Dr. Chenoweth was previously on the CVM faculty at K-State. The three veterinarians appeared on a local farm radio program in an interview addressing the shortage of rural veterinarians.



Dr. Gentry supervises Laura Moxon, a veterinary student from England, at a client’s dairy. She came to Beloit for two weeks in August 2006 on an externship from the University of London.

While Lesley is not a veterinarian, she has worked several years as a veterinary assistant and has written a book called “The Lady is a Veterinarian,” which is about the history of female veterinarians who have graduated from K-State.

“One of the best parts of being a veterinarian is helping each other when it is needed,” Dr. Gentry said. “A tornado hit north of Beloit (on April 24) and affected four or five families, including Dr. Rita Soler (DVM 1985). Her home and clinic was destroyed. She told me her pharmacy was a pile of broken glass. My associate spent the morning helping out by euthanizing four lambs and ewes that were critically injured. He evaluated their horses, three of which traveled to K-State, one that was impaled by debris. I saw one dead cow there and spent the morning suturing lacerations on a neighbor’s cows.”

Addressing the gender shift in veterinary medicine

The issue of gender diversity is also important in the veterinary profession. At K-State, women represent more than 60 percent of each graduating class, and the number is much higher at other veterinary schools.

“The question is how we can make it work,” Dr. Gentry said. “We need to create an environment that fits the young veterinarians. This is something we tell the livestock industry. Some of these students are under the assumption that farm animal medicine is a lot of hard work, but things have changed. There’s better equipment and livestock is in the hands of fewer people who are more competent and self-sufficient than it used to be. It’s much more user-friendly for today’s veterinarian.”

The most important strategy is for rural veterinarians to encourage veterinary students to work in rural practices. Visiting students who show an aptitude in high school is a good time to promote the profession.

“We really try to encourage those who live in the community to want to be veterinarians and come back,” Dr. Gentry said. “If you stimulate interest in veterinary medicine at a young age, it’s always positive.”

WORKING IN REAL TIME

Drs. Renter and White seek ways to improve bovine respiratory data analysis

Bovine respiratory disease complex has multiple causes. It's sometimes hard to classify and predict. It also costs the beef industry more than any other disease — an estimated \$690 million in 2006, according to one report.

That's why a team of K-State researchers is stepping in. Using a three-year, \$375,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the team is analyzing data from feedlots to develop decision-making tools that will make it easier for producers to manage cattle health.

seeking to generate estimates of the effect various risk factors have on the multifaceted disease complex. A better understanding of the data would allow feedlot producers to compare their data with averages and make more informed decisions about managing and treating herds.

Drs. Renter and White are looking at data that feedlots collect, such as how many cattle get sick and when the problems are most likely to occur. The problem is that feedlots don't analyze this information on a daily basis, Dr. Renter said. Rather, they

look at data that from an entire feeding period. Analyzing data in real time could improve treatment and disease management.

"Right now, for instance, there's no software to tell producers that cattle in a particular pen are experiencing more disease than expected," Dr. Renter said.

Producers already can predict with some accuracy which cattle are likely to get sick. But bovine respiratory disease complex "is not a simple, contagious infection like the chicken pox," Dr. Renter said.

It is caused by multiple viruses and bacteria common in feedlots. Some of them even appear in healthy cattle. Such factors as immunity, feed intake and the weather can influence which cattle get sick, as can stressors like being weaned or moved from farm to feedlot.

"Part of the cost associated to producers fluctuates, because we can't

predict as well as we want to," Dr. Renter said. "There's so much variability in how many cattle will get sick."

Dr. Renter said the research conducted at K-State will supplement the work being done by producers and consulting veterinarians. What makes the research at K-State so valuable is that the team is looking at data from multiple sources, and the researchers will share their tools with those in the industry. With the groundwork laid at K-State, further work could yield software or other decision-making tools, Dr. Renter said.

Other K-State collaborators are Abram Babcock, doctoral student in pathobiology; Suzanne Dubnicka, assistant professor of statistics; Dr. Robert Larson, professor of clinical sciences; George Milliken, professor emeritus of statistics; Christopher Reinhardt, assistant professor of animal sciences and industry; Dr. Michael Sanderson, associate professor of clinical sciences; and Dr. Dan Thomson, assistant professor of clinical sciences. 



Dr. Brad White talks to "Cattlemen to Cattlemen," a weekly television show from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association that airs on RFD-TV.

PHOTOS BY DAVE ADAMS



Dr. David Renter is a lead researcher on the bovine respiratory disease project.

The research team is led by the College of Veterinary Medicine's Dr. David Renter, assistant professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology, and Dr. Brad White, assistant professor of clinical sciences.

The researchers are working toward several objectives, including a system to classify distributions of disease within feedlot pens. The researchers also are

beating the blues



Dr. Dick Hesse teams up with Cai Jianping at the Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Dr. Hesse teams up in China to battle blue-ear pig disease

Millions of Chinese pigs are dying of a newly emerging disease.

With the assistance of a CVM virologist and a team of specialists who recently visited the country, Chinese researchers are now a step closer to understanding the disease complex.

Dr. Dick Hesse, K-State's director of diagnostic virology, was part of a team that made a two-week visit to China in December. Dr. Hesse together with Ying Fang, molecular virologist at South Dakota State University; Dr. Butch Baker, senior clinician of swine medicine at Iowa State University; Dr. Johnny Callahan, senior scientist specializing in viral assay development with Tetracore Inc.; and Dr. Eric Neumann, epidemiologist and senior lecturer in pig medicine at Massey University in New Zealand, formed the investigative team.

The team's goal was to help Chinese scientists diagnose the disease that has stricken the pig population and to assist

them with the technology and techniques to understand and control the disease. Real-time PCR — polymerase chain reaction — assays developed at Tetracore and K-State were used to look for and provide rapid laboratory diagnosis of likely viral agents.

Since 2006, China's pig population has been devastated by blue-ear (and high-fever) disease resulting in the deaths of millions of pigs. A variant form of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) was believed to be the cause of the disease. The

investigative team worked with prominent scientists from four research centers that have had extensive experience with the disease. The group also traveled to several farms to view the clinical signs up close and to collect samples.

"The problem in China's herd appears to be a multifactorial disease complex," Dr. Hesse said.

Researchers did find PRRS virus, though not in all cases. The majority of the samples contained more than one type of virus. Classical swine fever virus, PRRS virus and porcine circovirus 2b were most commonly found in diseased pigs.

Dr. Hesse said there is limited monitoring of animal disease in China and that a lack of uniform practices among pig producers has likely allowed blue-ear disease to flourish in China and spread to adjacent countries.

"What the Chinese need are efficacious porcine circovirus vaccines like those available in the U.S.," he said.

The team suggested several biosecurity control mechanisms to hinder the spread of disease in China.

They also made several suggestions to enhance U.S. biosecurity.

"Situations like that in China remind us that the U.S. pork industry is at significant risk from new disease agent introductions. This is why it's important to remain vigilant and ensure that our national biosecurity measures are in place and working," Dr. Hesse said. "If you have a disease that's capable of killing millions of pigs, you want to make sure it stays out of the U.S."

Relationships with Chinese scientists were also established and are expected to lead to exchange opportunities for students and faculty at K-State's College of Veterinary Medicine.

"K-State is committed to enhancing animal and human health in Kansas, the United States and the world," said Dr. Ralph Richardson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "Animal and zoonotic diseases don't recognize geographic borders. Foreign exchange opportunities are one of the best ways to acquaint the veterinarians of tomorrow with diseases they might not see in common practice." 

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. HESSE



These pigs' blue ears indicate that they are stricken with blue-ear disease.

Smiling for K-State

Glovers' \$1.25 million gift ensures their pets' future and supports several programs

By Joe Montgomery



PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY

A family practice

The Glovers opened a small animal practice, the Family Member Veterinary Hospital, in Mission Viejo, Calif., in 1997.

Doug's veterinary philosophy is encompassed in the business moniker.

"The 'family member' part of our hospital's name is related to how I practice medicine," Doug said. "Pets are members of the family and should be treated with the best care available. Before I had

my own practice, it always disturbed me if I went into an exam room and realized I cared more about that animal than the person who brought it in."

To reinforce the family and smiling themes, the Glovers invite clients to send photos of their smiling pets to be posted at the hospital's Web site:

www.familymember.com. For the Glovers, there's nothing like a smiling pet to warm a person's heart.

Early in their careers, the Glovers moved frequently, living in places such as Topeka, Kan., Northern and Southern California, Delaware and Pennsylvania, where Doug worked as an associate veterinarian.

"Owning our own hospital has been a nice opportunity for us," Tina said. "I do the business — that's not something

Doug is interested in. He does the medicine, which I know nothing about, so we don't step on each other's toes. It's a beneficial partnership."

Always on the move

The Glovers are both natives of Dodge City, Kan. Doug graduated from K-State with a bachelor's degree in animal science and industry in the College of Agriculture in 1980. He earned his DVM in 1985. Tina is a 1980 graduate of the College of Human Ecology with a bachelor's degree in clothing and textiles. She earned an MBA from K-State in 1984.

Tina's business career had given her several opportunities including Payless Shoes, Hills Pet Products, Del Mar Window Coverings, Levolor, Avery Dennison and the Franklin Mint.

"We love to travel and never lose sight of the fact that our decision to attend Kansas State University made our many ventures possible," Tina said. "Although we live in California, our passion for all things purple provides us with opportunities to stay connected

with lifelong friendships that started here. We are extremely proud of our association with this very special place."

This winter, the Glovers realized an opportunity to return to Manhattan on a 'Kansas Sabbatical.' While their main purpose was to enjoy attending the conference portion of the basketball season, Tina

audited a class on Internet marketing and Doug visited the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, going on rounds as an observer.

COURTESY PHOTO



Dr. Doug Glover treats his patients like family.

Caring for their pets

The Glovers' time on campus helped them appreciate the impact their gift will have. They also get peace of mind by taking advantage of the college's Perpetual Pet Care Program (PPCP). The Doug and Tina Glover Veterinary Medicine Excellence Fund serves to enroll their pets in PPCP. They have two dogs and three cats. The fund was established with \$262,500 of the Glovers' bequest. [Editor's note: See sidebar for more information about the PPCP.]

"The program is fantastic," Doug said. "They understand what your animals mean to you and how they affect your life. It's great to know that our pets are going to go to somebody who's going to care for them as close as possible to the way we care for them. And I can't think of anyone better to entrust the lives of my animals with than the very people who trained me to become a veterinarian."

Tina added, "Our pets are the closest thing to children we have. Parents would want this same kind of placement for their children if something

happened to them."

The Glovers also established a scholarship for veterinary medicine students: the Doug and Tina Glover Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine. The fund was established with \$100,000 from the bequest. The recipient will be a third- or fourth-year veterinary student who has received an undergraduate degree from K-State.

"We thank Doug and Tina for creating this wonderful scholarship," said Dr. Ralph Richardson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "The third and fourth years of study are a critical time for students. This scholarship will help keep the recipient focused while relieving a considerable amount of the financial load."

Doug said, "Our decision to give came from a desire to say thank-you to Kansas State University and make it possible for the university to continue to have the same kind of effect on the lives of others as it has had on us."

Because of the Glovers, smiles will be seen for a long time at K-State. 🍇

Perpetual Pet Care Program

Established in 1996, the Perpetual Pet Care Program is designed to provide animals with loving homes once an owner is no longer able to provide daily care. Enrollment benefits include:

- Performing an extensive search to locate a loving home;
- Providing for your pet's lifelong medical needs;
- Monitoring of the adoptive home; and
- Designating your charitable interest.

Financial gifts provide for a pet's lifelong medical needs. After a pet passes away, the remaining funds will support a college area most meaningful to the pet owner.

There are numerous funding options: cash, bequests, charitable gift annuity or unitrust, gifts of securities, life insurance and real estate. Please contact the Development Office at the College of Veterinary Medicine for details.

PHOTO BY J&C IMAGING/JOHN LABARGE



The Glovers celebrate their silver wedding anniversary in 2006 by returning to K-State. They renewed their vows in Danforth Chapel and posed for this photo in front of Nichols Hall, a favorite campus building when they were undergrads.

Two of a kind

Physiology journal cites Drs. Poole and Erickson as top teachers

Two of a kind is usually a good poker hand, but at K-State, it's a sign of national distinction. In its December 2007 publication, the journal *Advances in Physiology Education* included two Anatomy & Physiology (A&P) professors in a list of 13 profiles of renowned physiology teachers within the American Physiological Society: Drs. Howard Erickson and David Poole. This list includes physiology teachers from non-veterinary programs, so it demonstrates how well K-State is recognized for its A&P educational program.

story continued below

PHOTO BY DAVE ADAMS

Dr. Erickson and Dr. Poole had already earned a shared distinction by being named recipients of excellence awards in 2006. These awards were part of the reason why they were named to this list of accomplished physiology teachers in the publication.

Dr. Erickson was given the 2006 IVX Animal Health Teaching Excellence Award for outstanding instruction of first-year veterinary medicine students. This award has had National Science Foundation support and is driven from

the nominations of first-year veterinary medicine students. In addition to his teaching expertise, Dr. Erickson was recognized for contributions to a veterinary telemedicine project and for his appointment as the Roy W. Upham Professor of Veterinary Medicine from 2001-2004.

Dr. Poole is cited as an international authority on oxygen transport in exercise and disease states. He received the 2006 Merial Teaching Excellence Award, which resulted from nominations from

first-year veterinary students.

Department Head Dr. Frank Blecha said, "This recognition says a lot about our physiology program. We know that we have world-class teachers in our lecture rooms and laboratories. The American Physiological Society recognition of Drs. Erickson and Poole's teaching excellence proclaims that sentiment loud and clear!"

Dr. Jones walks a mile for a camel ... in Mongolia

In September, Dr. Meredyth Jones, clinical assistant professor in Agricultural Practices, spent two weeks teaching in Mongolia with V.E.T. Mongolia, a subsidiary of Christian Veterinary Mission. She co-taught a camel medicine shortcourse with Dr. Jim Jensen, a zoo medicine specialist from Texas. After completing the shortcourse, Dr. Jones traveled with a group of five Mongolians to towns throughout the desert, meeting with veterinarians and providing medical and business training.

“Veterinary training in Mongolia is extremely basic, and the students are taught very little clinical case and management skills,” Dr. Jones said. “They recognize and appreciate the skills of veterinarians from the West and are eager to improve their ability to manage cases. The people there are extremely hospitable and felt very honored to have a foreigner come visit them.”



Dr. Meredyth Jones examines a camel.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. JONES

Telefund volunteers raise \$75,000 for scholarships

Good call! This past February, CVM students wrapped up another successful session at Telefund 2008, the KSU Foundation’s volunteer calling program to raise support for scholarships and other college funding priorities.

The two-day effort resulted in \$75,263 being generated from 636 pledges. Overall, Telefund 2008 raised \$1.3 million for all colleges at K-State. CVM students earned a variety of prizes for participating this year. The College of Veterinary Medicine thanks all the students for volunteering and all the alumni and friends who gave generously to support scholarships in the college.



CVM students call alumni during Telefund 2008.

PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY

Fond farewell: Kramer takes fundraising position with College of Education

The CVM Alumni and Development Office has announced that Assistant Director of Development Marty Kramer accepted the position of Director of Development for the K-State College of Education as of Feb. 4.

“We wish Marty good luck and continued success in the future,” said Chris Gruber, CVM Director of Development. Please direct any questions you might have to the Development Office at 785-532-4378.

Marty Kramer moves out of his CVM office.



PHOTO BY JOE MONTGOMERY

25° below

K-Staters brave the cold to care for Iditarod sled dogs

By Joe Montgomery

They tell you, if you're a smart veterinarian on the Iditarod, and you're on duty — and you can't always do this — that you should bust your rear to be out there to watch the next team come in.

You'll see a tail down, head down or that a dog is limping — you'll see a bunch of stuff if you just stand out there and watch the team you're assigned to check when they come in.

This dog came in around the corner and nearly fell over. And I saw him coming — tail down, his head was down — so I scooped him up in my arms. The musher kind of yelled at me, but I said, 'We can do this the hard way or the easy way, but if we don't take care of this dog, he's going to die.'

So I scooped him into my arms and ran him inside and put him in my sleeping bag. I told Andrea [a veterinarian from Calgary], 'I've got to have help — we've got to hook an IV up.'

Well ... we saved that dog.

- Dr. Ken Huggins, DVM 1966

The ultimate test

As winter winds down, dozens of the best sports teams come together to compete in one of the most intense, spirited and long-lasting athletic events in the sporting world. No, we're not talking March Madness and NCAA basketball, but a competition that is much more challenging and rigorous: the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

This is perhaps the ultimate test of humans and animals facing the elements as well as competing against each other. Held each March in Alaska, the Iditarod race extends more than 1,000 miles during some of the coldest weather on the planet. Veterinary medicine has become an integral part of the race as the canine athletes must be monitored closely. Several K-Staters, both alumni and faculty, have been among those who have voluntarily given their time and expertise to provide the best in veterinary care — and on repeat occasions. In this story, you'll meet some of the recent volunteers with a K-State connection.

The history of the race is related to the serum run of 1925, where frozen ocean, lack of highways and extreme winter weather cut off the city of Nome, which was in the midst of a diphtheria outbreak. Sled dogs proved to be the only way to rush lifesaving serum to the city. A portion of the Iditarod trail overlaps part of the same path of the original serum run. The rest of the



Dr. Ken Huggins administers an IV to one of the sled dogs.

COURTESY PHOTO

Iditarod trail cuts toward Anchorage and across some of the most rugged parts of Alaska.

Not just any volunteers

Because of the extreme weather conditions, duration of the race and the need for highly qualified veterinary professionals, walk-up volunteers are not encouraged. The Iditarod race employs a chief veterinarian, Dr. Stu Nelson, who has established guidelines and criteria for recruiting veterinary volunteers. About 30 veterinarians are chosen each year, and rookie volunteers must attend orientation sessions held the week before the race begins. There are more than 20 checkpoints, and veterinarians are assigned and moved from checkpoint to checkpoint by bush pilots. Rookie veterinarians usually stay the longest at a checkpoint until all contestants or "mushers" have gone through. Veterinarians have the responsibility of examining the dogs, and if necessary, pulling dogs out of the race. Mushers may start with as many as

16 sled dogs and must finish with at least six dogs, but they may not add new dogs to their team. Dogs are generally dropped from the race because of fatigue or lameness. The dropped dogs are flown back to Anchorage for necessary treatment and rest.

K-State connections

"After retiring from the Army Reserves, I was at a Rotary meeting in Kansas City, and Dr. Huggins gave a talk about his trips to the Iditarod in 2003, 2004 and 2005," said Dr. Vern Otte, DVM 1975. "I had always wanted to do that too, so I put in an application and convinced them that even though I was older than the average people out there, I could still handle the rigors of doing this. Most of the vets are young pups — about 35 or so."

Dr. Otte went to the race in 2007 and 2008. The first year he went alone, but this year he took his wife and

daughter to attend the opening ceremonies of the race.

In addition to alumni, K-State has been represented at the Iditarod race by current and former faculty members including pathology professor Dr. Derek Mosier, DVM 1978.

"I got into it all, not so much as an enthusiast, but for the adventure involved and to know more about the dogs," Dr. Mosier said. "We play a unique role as pathologists. In the unfortunate event that a dog would die during the race, then we are able to investigate what happened and prevent it from happening in the future."

STORY CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Dr. Vern Otte examines one of the sled dogs in 2007.



COURTESY PHOTO

BACKGROUND PHOTO BY DR. DIRSKO VON PFEIL



Alaskan adventure cont'd



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Dirsko von Pfeil checks one of the sled dogs at a checkpoint.

One of Dr. Mosier's students followed in his footsteps.

"Dr. Mosier mentioned his Iditarod experience once in class. It sounded like fun, and I always wanted to go to Alaska," said Dr. Michelle Fleetwood, DVM 1999 and staff pathologist in the Department of Veterinary Pathology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington D.C. She went in 2005 and 2006. "I remember it being bitterly cold the second year. We were collecting blood for a research study in Nome after the dogs finished the race. We had to

bleed the dogs inside the Nome sewage facility because the blood would freeze in the needles outside. At some of the remote checkpoints, the stethoscopes froze straight out. It was at least 40 below (that's as low as the thermometer went)."

One of K-State's newest specialists, Dr. Dirsko von Pfeil, assistant professor of small animal surgery, went to the Iditarod in 2007, but was unable to go this year.

"I learned about it in 1982 — I was about 9 years old and was fascinated with the whole idea," Dr. von Pfeil said. "I had read 'Wolf's Blood' by Jack London, and in the back of my mind, I wanted to see the start of the race. Then I heard you could be a veterinarian at the race. It turned into a great adventure."

The greatest of respect

A common theme among all the volunteers is the immense respect they each gained for the sled dogs.

"All my life, I've always thought the Alaskan sled dog on the Iditarod was the most incredible canine athlete in the world," Dr. Huggins said. "I've been in private practice for 30 years and you see working cattle dogs — they're great — and you see racing greyhounds — they're great — and you see sporting breeds, the Labs, the pointing dogs — they're all great. Each of the animals has its own niche, but nothing compares to

the stamina of those sled dogs — nothing does."

Dr. Mosier explained, "I developed a profound respect for these working animals — they're amazing. It's an indication of how, within a breeding system, an animal can perform in those kinds of extremes and apparently enjoy doing it. I've worked with a variety of service dogs and horses. The performance expectation is somewhat like a greyhound or thoroughbred race, but not for only two minutes of racing time. These sled dogs compete for several hours a day over the course of several days."

Dr. von Pfeil added, "Working with the dogs was most impressive. They are so healthy and eager to run. And they recover extremely fast from the physical demands of the race."

Caring for the dogs

Both mushers and the trail veterinarians have responsibility for checking and caring for the dogs.

Dr. Otte recently spoke to a group of third graders in Kansas City about the typical routine.

"Each of the dogs wears booties to protect its feet from ice and snow balls getting lodged into the pads of the feet. The booties are changed about each time a musher comes to a stop at a checkpoint," Dr. Otte said. "As soon as the musher stops, he starts melting snow or ice for water so that he can feed the dogs. First, though, he gives each dog a chunk of food — it's frozen solid, usually fish or some kind of a chop like beaver. The dogs eat it like a popsicle. Then the musher mixes dry kibble in heated water, feeds the dogs and takes their booties off. Next, he goes to each dog and rubs or massages the dogs' legs and checks them for sores. In the meantime the veterinarians come and check all the dogs too."

Dr. Otte explained that the mushers carry a mandatory yellow logbook, in which the veterinarians make notes at each of the checkpoint. Failure to

present the book results in a musher's elimination from the race. The notes from previous checkpoints help veterinarians decide if a dog needs to be dropped from the race.

"It takes about an hour and a half for a musher to take care of his dogs," Dr. Otte continued. "In the normal routine, the dogs will run for five or six hours and then they sleep five or six hours. If they run over eight hours, it will take them longer to recover, so they usually try to keep it less than that. After the dogs have rested, the musher feeds his dogs again before leaving. If a musher has any questions at this point, he or she will call us (the veterinarians) to check these dogs out."

The dogs consume about 10,000 calories a day, which is about five times the amount a normal person requires. The dogs only weigh about 35-40 pounds, but burn a great deal of energy while racing. The optimum temperature to prevent the dogs from overheating or being dehydrated is less than zero.

Veterinarian's checklist

Here are some items Dr. Fleetwood shared from her examination checklist.

"Check muscles and joints for lameness.

"Check feet. Dogs wear booties but they still get cuts. Need to watch them so they don't abscess and the dog becomes septic.

"Listen to heart and lungs. Listening for pneumonia can be a challenge with the winds howling off of the Bering Sea.

"Temperatures — dogs are still at risk for hyperthermia, especially if they have a dark hair coat and the sun is glaring off of the snow.

"Watch for signs of stomach ulcers. The mushers work hard with the veterinarians to see what conditions occur in the sled dogs and how to avoid them. For example, stomach ulcers are common, and have caused a few fatalities in past years. The mushers and veterinarians keep an eye on the stools for blood, and check for any other signs such as vomiting. Many mushers give

preventatives such as Pepcid.

"Exertional rhabdomyolysis is being investigated. This usually occurs in the first 1/3 of the race. The dog is lame, but you can't localize it to a particular leg.

Histologically, there are small areas of skeletal muscle

necrosis throughout the muscles. Death is suspected to be from a massive release of potassium from the damaged muscles. Pathologists investigated a vitamin E or selenium deficiency as a possible cause, but no luck. They think it may be similar to 'Monday morning syndrome,' where draft horses would get similar lesions after returning to work Monday morning after having the weekend off.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Ken Huggins posts his K-State Powercat at one of the checkpoints.

"Take care of dropped dogs."

Some of these tasks are usually routine work for a veterinarian, but that's in a clinic with a controlled environment. Next time you do an exam, think about doing these procedures outside in the snow when it's 25 below! ❄️



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Vern Otte tells a group of third graders about his 2007 trip to the Iditarod race. He gave the kids souvenir booties worn by the dogs.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Michelle Fleetwood stays behind at one of the checkpoints to care for the sled dogs until a plane comes in to fly the dogs back to Anchorage, Alaska.

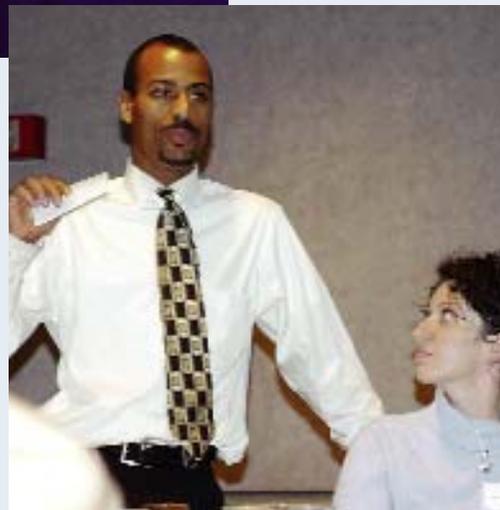
CVM guest Dr. Lila Miller discusses shelter medicine and diversity

ASPCA VP shares experiences with students during visit



Top left: Following her presentation, Dr. Lila Miller visits with a student. Top right: Dr. Miller shares thoughts on addressing diversity at the institutional level in veterinary education. Center: Dr. Kimathi Choma, class of 2007, tells about his time at K-State while Allison Ward, class of 2011, listens. Bottom left: Dr. Ronnie Elmore gets help from Morgan Bernal, class of 2011, in a discussion exercise on diversity. Bottom right, Rebecca Lee, class of 2011, explains concerns she had before attending K-State.

Dr. Lila Miller was a guest speaker at the CVM in March. She was invited to speak by SCAVMA, K-State's student chapter of the AVMA. Dr. Miller, a Cornell grad, is vice president of outreach for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). She gave a presentation to students on shelter medicine issues and opportunities for veterinary students. Dr. Miller also participated in a group discussion on diversity issues in veterinary education, which was led by Dr. Ronnie Elmore, associate dean of admissions and diversity programs in the CVM.





Phi Zeta Research Day 2008



Phi Zeta Research Day is designed to showcase the research efforts of instructors, house officers, graduate students and professional students at the CVM. Oral presentations are given on basic or clinical research areas and case reports.

The surrounding photos show some of this year's activities, held in March. Top: Dr. Kevin Hahn, chief medical officer and director of clinical trials and claims at Hill's Pet Nutrition, gives a lecture on veterinary science and mythology. Middle: Dr. Chanran Ganta, right, explains nanoparticle research to Dr. Patricia Payne. Bottom: Phi Zeta President Dr. John Pickerell, left, introduces Dr. Beth Davis as the president-elect.



by Carol Elmore

Family get togethers are an excellent time to discuss family medical history. Ask grandparents about medical conditions in the family history. Other family members can be encouraged to contribute what might be known about family health conditions.

The U.S. Surgeon General found it important enough that a special Web site has been created called My Family Health Portrait (www.hhs.gov/familyhistory) for generating family health history reports. The director of the Human Genome Project, Dr. Francis S. Collins, says family history can give insight into the glitches and susceptibilities to common illnesses that a person's genes carry. This information can be used to track illnesses passed down from one generation to another and for risk assessment and making personalized disease-prevention plans.

If you have family members who are actively involved in genealogical research, they may not realize this can help locate medical history as well. Death certificates can often be ordered using some of the genealogical information that their family genealogist uncovered.

Both of my grandparents on my father's side died before I was born, but I ordered copies of their death certificates which listed their causes of death. Although this is not always totally accurate, it can be a start when combined with oral history in piecing together a family health portrait.

Remember, if you are researching medical or veterinary medical issues, Library Research Services can assist you with searches and provide copies of journal articles resulting from your searches.

VETERINARY MEDICAL LIBRARY
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
408 TROTTER HALL

FREE EXCHANGE

K-State starts student exchange with Free University in Berlin

Last fall, the CVM hosted two students from Free University in Berlin as part of a new exchange program. The program is the brainchild of Dr. Philine Wangemann in anatomy and physiology at K-State and Dr. Holger Martens, a physiology professor at Free University.

"I was invited to give a research talk at Free University in Berlin in January 2007," Dr. Wangemann said. "Dr. Martens and I thought it would be great to have a clinical exchange program between our schools. Students could be integrated into rotations, watch surgeries or observe treatments, and benefit from a comparison of teaching and clinical practices."

K-State sent two students to Berlin for about 10 days in May and June: Naomi Wheeler, class of 2010, and Anne Brammeier, class of 2009. The two students who visited from Germany in late October were Christine Müller and Stefanie Grof, third-year students in a curriculum that lasts 5 ½ years.

"We're impressed with the techniques here in your college," Christine said. "Everyone works together and has a lot of time for discussing problems."

"We expected to see cowboys and a lot of flags," Stefanie said. "I was surprised by all the huge pick-up trucks and the wide streets."

Naomi and Anne enjoyed their trip to Berlin.

"Everyone moves very quickly in their animal clinic," Naomi said. "Being in a large city, they are very busy and they don't use as much support staff."

"Their veterinary medicine is not that much different than ours," Anne said. "They lead animals into their specially designed lecture halls and it's very interactive for the students."

"Our goal was for these students to get an impression of how veterinary medicine is working in Berlin and Germany," Dr. Wangemann said. "It was a cultural exchange as much as it was an exchange of ideas on how to run an education system and how to function in international veterinary medicine. We hope to expand the program next year." 🌍

COURTESY PHOTO



Naomi Wheeler, class of 2010, and Anne Brammeier, class of 2009, enjoy some of the sights while in Berlin.



Berlin exchange students Stefanie Graf and Christine Müller observe a surgical procedure during their visit to K-State.

PHOTOS BY DAVE ADAMS

BRIDGE.....BUILDER

Dr. Freeman connects CVM with K-State Olathe Innovation Campus

Dr. Lisa Freeman, associate dean of research and graduate programs at the CVM, was recently named associate vice president for innovation by the K-State Olathe Innovation Campus Inc. board of directors.

In her new role, Dr. Freeman will build public and private partnerships to benefit the Olathe campus and will act as a liaison between it and programs on the Manhattan campus impacted by those new relationships. She also will encourage an entrepreneurial culture on the Olathe campus and will facilitate the transition of research and ideas from the lab to the commercial marketplace.

"The Olathe innovation campus will serve as a bridge between K-State's Manhattan campus and the academic and industrial resources in the greater Kansas City area," she said. "We see that as a way to take outreach, service, teaching and research to another level that we couldn't have done without a Kansas City presence focused on animal health, food safety and security."

The course work on the K-State Olathe Innovation Campus will focus on graduate degree and certificate programs. Current graduate degree programs to be offered or expanded would likely include those in Food Science, Food Safety and Security, Biomedical Sciences, and Public Health. New graduate initiatives may include an interdisciplinary homeland protection program (M.S. and



certificate) with cores in agriculture, food, one health, and associated disciplines, as well as professional master's

programs focused on applied life sciences. In the Kansas City metropolitan area, these cross disciplinary efforts would serve agriculture, health care and food service professionals; local, state, federal, and tribal government officials; law enforcement; emergency first responders; and a host of other traditional and nontraditional students.

"We plan to engage precollege students from Olathe and the Kansas City area and undergraduates from some of the Johnson County institutions into K-State research programs as a way to attract these students to K-State graduate programs," Dr. Freeman said. "We want to build a pipeline to serve the needs of the animal health industry, the food science industry and to train the interdisciplinary scientists of tomorrow. Our



Dr. Lisa Freeman is the new associate vice president of innovation for the K-State Olathe Innovation Campus.

goal with the Olathe campus is to ensure that no opportunity to incorporate an educational experience will be missed."

"We are very fortunate to have attracted someone of Dr. Lisa Freeman's caliber to help lead the K-State Olathe Innovation Campus," said Dr. Dan Richardson, CEO of the Olathe campus and DVM 1977. "Her experience working with both the public and private sector interests will be critical

to the success of the campus. Her professional expertise and track

record are a perfect match for the vision and mission of the campus."

Dr. Freeman joined K-State's department of anatomy and physiology in 1994, where she taught pharmacology. Since then, she has served as a research mentor and role model for postdoctoral students, clinical residents and young faculty members. In 2001 she was named director of mentored training and in 2005 became associate dean for research and graduate programs.

Dr. Freeman said she is looking forward to the challenges ahead. She will retain some prior responsibilities as an associate dean in the CVM, including supporting the research efforts of faculty and trainees and advancing the commercialization of intellectual property through interactions with the industry, government and commodity groups focused on innovation in animal health. 



Veterinary Medical Alumni Association

Message from VMAA President Dr. Bill Brown

What a fantastic year this has been for the K-State Veterinary Medical Alumni Association working to provide you with several activities. Several highlights since my letter last fall come to mind, but the prominent ones are the various alumni receptions across the country with award presentations made to K-State alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professional and personal lives.

Last fall, your VMAA Executive Board held a strategic planning session. Out of this meeting, you will begin to see various initiatives that will enhance your organization.

I encourage you to check out our alumni Web site: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/alumni/.

The college is now helping set up class pages hosted on the college's Web site and list serves so classes can communicate electronically. Send in your class news and address updates.

The upcoming Annual Conference for Veterinarians will again bring together a large number of CVM graduates for continuing education and a fun-filled week. The class reunions are scheduled the weekend prior to the conference and always draw a large number of graduates back to campus to enjoy the sessions, wet labs, sights and many changes surrounding the College of Veterinary Medicine and the K-State campus.

You won't want to miss Heritage Evening in which we will determine the winner of the class initiatives award. Two of the college's most prestigious awards will be presented at Heritage Evening. Dr. Jack Judy will receive the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award, and Dr. George Kennedy will receive the E.R. Frank Award. Please make plans to attend this gala.

Our membership is growing in both annual and lifetime memberships. This is a trend we hope to build upon. It takes the continued effort of all our members to promote from within their ranks. Please contact myself or any VMAA board member if you have questions or ideas to make our alumni association stronger and more responsive.

See you in June!



Dr. Bill Brown, DVM '71

The College of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Medical Alumni Association is a nonprofit organization 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 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. Also supplemented through alumni support are reunions, biography booklets, class newsletters, fundraising initiatives and the administration of alumni records.

The executive board for the VMAA initiated dues in 2000 and established an endowment in February 2003. The VMAA Endowment account currently has \$294,319 to support alumni activities.

The VMAA has 656 alumni who are full lifetime members and 91 who have paid their first installment on a lifetime membership. For annual membership in fiscal year 2008, there were 400 alumni who participated.

Through dues-paying memberships, the college will be able to support alumni activities with the income earned on the principal of the endowment. Please support your association so we can continue to offer the best alumni program we can. Get more info at: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/alumni.

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Walk through the Decades



Become a visible part of the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine history!

Honor your achievements, promote your clinic or business, or create a memorial with a personalized granite tile. Imagine the joy a gift like this would bring for the veterinary medical professional in your life.



Each donation to this program supports the College of Veterinary Medicine. Granite tiles are displayed prominently in the Centennial Plaza between Mosier and Trotter Hall.



To place an order, please visit us online at <http://www.vet.ksu.edu/centennial/plaza.htm> or call us at 785-532-4043.

Leave A Legacy ...

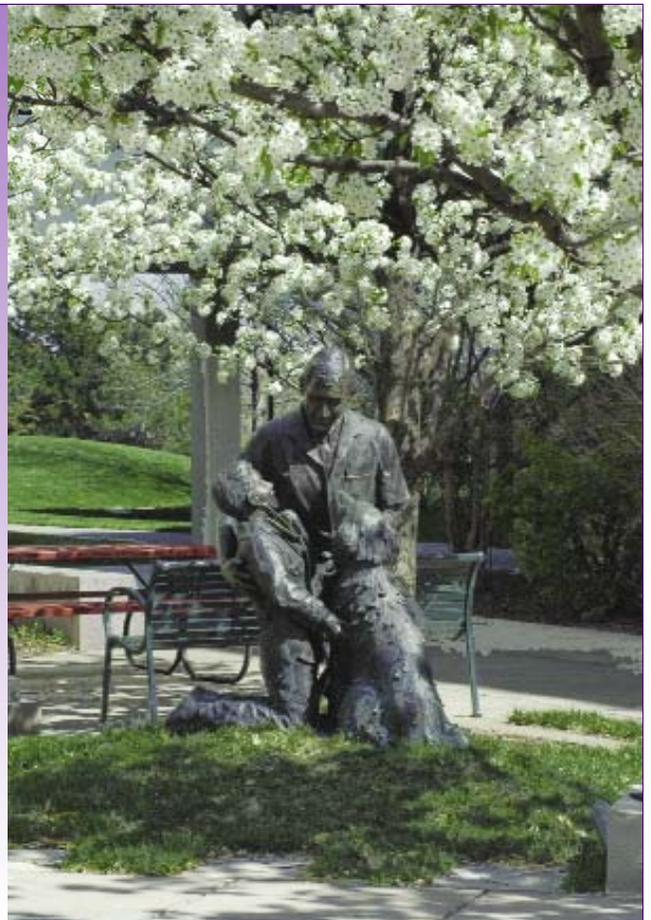
Remember the College of Veterinary Medicine in your estate plan!

If you decide to include the college in your will, IRA, life insurance, etc., you may use this official language:

I give and bequeath to the Kansas State University Foundation, Manhattan, Kansas, Federal Identification Number 48-0667209, a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Kansas, the sum of \$____ or percentage of ____%, to be used according to the Memo of Understanding on file with said organization OR for the general purpose of said Foundation.

If the college is included in your plan, PLEASE let us know! We'd like to personally thank you for your support.

For more information, please call 785-532-4378, e-mail cgruber@vet.k-state.edu or visit <http://www.vet.ksu.edu/depts/development>



Alumni Class News

1957

Dr. Irvin M. Schwalm, Hiawatha, Kan., retired Dec. 31, 2008, after 50 years in primarily large animal practice, 48 of those years in Hiawatha. He enjoys golfing, biking hunting, fishing, Harley riding and Big 12 (K-State) sports.

Dr. Schwalm has set up a class page through the alumni Web site and is the editor. He is also setting up a class list serve. Dr. Schwalm asks classmates to send their e-mail addresses and news to him or the CVM alumni office. Visit: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/alumni/classes

1965

Dr. Bruce W. Little, Arlington Heights, Ill., retired from the position of executive vice president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) on Dec. 31, 2007, after serving as the CEO for the past 12 years. Prior to that, Dr. Little served as assistant executive vice president at the AVMA for 11 years.

Dr. Little has formed a consulting company, Bruce Little Associates LLC, and now serves on the Board of Directors for Pets Best Pet Health Insurance Company and the Advisory Board of LocalVets.com, an online search engine locator for veterinary practices. He continues to work with veterinarians to develop new business practice to enhance the quality of service given to animals served in veterinary medicine.

1991

Dr. Barry N. Pittman, Topeka, Kan., is with the USDA APHIS VS Kansas Area Office and now has an office in Jefferson City, Mo. Dr. Rick Tanner is now their official family veterinarian. He has a 1½-year-old grandson named Jackson.

Dr. Janice L. Buback, Fishers, Ind., has set up a class page through the CVM alumni Web site and is the editor. She is working with the college to set up a class list serve. Dr. Buback requests classmates send their e-mail addresses and news to her or the CVM alumni office. Visit: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/alumni/classes

2003/2004

Dr. Sarah Ketterl White (2003), Norton, Kan., and husband, **Dr. Aaron R. White** (2004), are parents of a son, Gideon Ritchey White, born Oct. 29 at 5:09 p.m. at the Norton County Hospital.

Dr. Hammer shines as 2008 Alumni Fellow

The last 12 months have been significant for Dr. Gregory S. Hammer, a veterinary practitioner who earned his DVM at K-State in 1973. In July 2007, he reached a pinnacle in his profession by being named president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). In February, he received another superlative distinction — that of Alumni Fellow — from his alma mater.

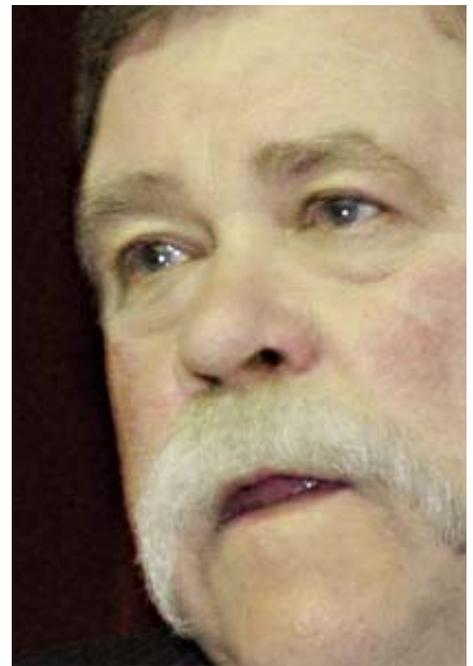
As a deserving alumnus, the college and university hosted Dr. Hammer and his wife, Karen, on campus from Feb. 27-29 for a series of lectures, festivities and other activities. The K-State Alumni Fellows program, sponsored by the Dean's Council, President's Office and Alumni Association, presented its Alumni Fellows awards to Dr. Hammer and the recipients from K State's eight other academic colleges during a banquet held Feb. 28 at the Alumni Center.

"This is a tremendous honor," said Dr. Hammer, who grew up in Bonner Springs, Kan. "I was blessed with a loving family and tremendous mentors while I was at K-State. Without Dr. John Noordsy, the late Dr. Russell Frey and my class of 1973, I could never have accomplished what I have. I am humbled to represent the College of Veterinary Medicine as the 2008 Alumni Fellow."

PHOTOS BY JOE MONTGOMERY



Dr. Greg Hammer takes time to visit with CVM students while on campus for the 2008 Alumni Fellows awards.



Dr. Greg Hammer speaks to students about getting politically involved in veterinary medicine issues.

"Dr. Hammer's accomplishments are self-evident," said Dr. Ralph Richardson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "As president of the AVMA, he demonstrates impressive leadership skills. His election to this post shows the respect he has earned in the profession. We had already recognized Dr. Hammer with an Alumni Recognition Award in 2001 at the AVMA convention, so we now take great pride knowing that the university, as a whole, is recognizing him further with its ultimate alumni award."

Dr. Hammer is a small animal and equine practitioner in Dover, Del. He is owner and partner of Brenford Animal Hospital, where he has worked for 33 years. He was 1997 Delaware Veterinarian of the Year.

Prior to election as president of the AVMA, Dr. Hammer served six years on the AVMA executive board and 13 years in the House of Delegates. 🌐

Dr. David Granstrom leads AVMA Education And Research Division

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) education accreditation programs and research, Dr. David Granstrom, class of 1978, was appointed director of the Education and Research Division.

"Dave's broad base of experience and knowledge of AVMA will serve him very well as our new division director," said Dr. W. Ron DeHaven, executive vice president of the



Dr. David Granstrom

AVMA. "Dave is a former assistant director in this division and was previously an associate director at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Md."

Dr. Granstrom's responsibilities will include overseeing and formulating the association's policies, objectives and programs concerning education, research, accreditation, certification of graduates of foreign colleges of veterinary medicine, and veterinary medical specialties.

Dr. Granstrom owned and operated a solo mixed practice for five years and returned to K-State to earn a Ph.D. in parasitology in 1988.

Dr. Irwin captures Hogg Scholarship

Dr. Christa Irwin, Ames, Iowa, was named the 2008 recipient of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians Foundation Hogg Scholarship.

This scholarship honors the late Dr. Alex Hogg, DVM 1950, a leader in swine medicine who pursued a master's degree in veterinary pathology after 20 years in a mixed-animal practice. The \$12,000 scholarship is awarded annually to an AASV member and longtime swine practitioner who is accepted into a qualified graduate program.

Dr. Irwin, adjunct instructor in the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine at Iowa State University, seeks a master's degree in veterinary preventive medicine, focusing on epidemiology. She earned a DVM from K-State in 1998.

"My passion for learning, teaching and promoting swine and swine production has led me back to academia," Dr. Irwin said. "As the first Hogg Scholar, I feel I have a duty and responsibility to set the standard for those to come. My intent is to promote Dr. Hogg's commitments to continuing education and the swine industry through my role here at Iowa State University. Within this setting, I will expand not only my knowledge, but my influence and instruction to students, producers, practitioners and the community. I have work to do, but I am excited and eager for the challenge."

The Hogg Scholarship was presented at the annual AASV conference in San Diego in March.

COURTESY PHOTO



Mrs. Mary Hogg, right, presents a scholarship plaque to Dr. Christa Irwin at the annual American Association of Swine Veterinarians meeting held in San Diego.

In Memoriam

Henry A. Bender, DVM 1943
El Dorado Springs, Mo., died March 26, 2006

Bernard A. Friesen, DVM 1966
Finnemore, Wis., died May 4, 2006

Ernest A. Siegle, DVM 1942
San Mateo, Calif., died June 22, 2006

George B. Maichel, DVM 1938
Overbrook, Kan., died Jan. 4, 2007

Donald W. Mills, DVM 1950
Salina, Kan., died Jan. 4, 2007

Donald F. Lee, DVM 1950
Council Bluffs, Iowa, died March 30, 2007

Coy C. Mickey, DVM 1969
Harrogate, Tenn., died March 31, 2007

William G. Wisecup, DVM 1957
Frederick, Md., died May 28, 2007

William S. Gaston, DVM 1942
Rolla, Mo., died June 12, 2007

Roger W. Gfeller, DVM 1973
Fresno, Calif., died Nov. 10, 2007

Galen L. Heritage, DVM 1957
El Dorado Springs, Mo., died Nov. 10, 2007

Charles F. Parker, DVM 1950
Spring Valley, Minn., died Nov. 18, 2007

James B. Shields, DVM 1958
Scottsdale, Ariz., died Nov. 22, 2007

Marcuss D. Morris, DVM 1944
Parsons, Kan., died Dec. 6, 2007

Edward F. Ptacek, DVM 1952
Ellsworth, Kan., died Feb. 15, 2008

Mark G. Stevens, DVM 1982
Ankeny, Iowa, died Feb. 27, 2008

Harry A. Hopson, DVM 1957
Wolf Point, Mont., died March 3, 2008

Gerald D. Gurs, DVM 1943
Osage City, Kan., died March 11, 2008

CVM alumni recognition awards

Dr. Robert G. Gillespie ('61)

received a **2007 Alumni Recognition Award** at the **Central Veterinary Conference** in Kansas City, Mo., on Sept. 15, 2007.

Dr. Gillespie held a general veterinary practice in Brownstown for 42 years, with special interest in equine and swine medicine.

He started the practice and later built it up to a three-doctor practice.

Dr. Gillespie was a leader in his community, and in the state of Indiana's veterinary medical regulatory and licens-



ing efforts, including several terms as president of the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA).

While serving as IVMA president, Dr. Gillespie played an instrumental part in establishing the Indiana State Disaster Preparedness plan. He served 15 years as the chairman of veterinary services for the Indiana State Fair.

Dr. Norman W. Umphenour ('62)

received a **2007 Alumni Recognition Award** at the **American Association of Equine Practitioners** annual conference in Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 3.

Dr. Umphenour is the resident veterinarian for Ashford Stud, a division of Coolmore America, with divisions in Ireland and Australia.

Ashford Stud breeds and trains champion race horses.

As an AAEP member, Dr. Umphenour has served on several committees since 1984. He is also a member of the



Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, Kentucky Association of Equine Practitioners and the Society for Theriogenology.

Early in his career, Dr. Umphenour worked with former K-State provost and veterinary professor Dr. Jim Coffman who had a veterinary practice in Wichita in the 1960s.

Dr. Mark P. Nasisse ('78)

received a **2008 Alumni Recognition Award** at the annual **North American Veterinary Conference Medical Association** in Orlando, Fla., on Jan. 20.

After working two years in a small animal practice in St. Augustine, Fla., Dr. Nasisse completed an ophthalmology residency at the University of

Tennessee, in 1983.

He was an assistant professor at UT for a year and then joined the faculty at North Carolina State University. He served as an assistant professor and associate professor



until 1994. Dr. Nasisse was selected as the Kraeuchi Endowed Professor at the University of Missouri in 1995.

In 1999, Dr. Nasisse joined Drs. Jesse Eichenbaum and Tony Glover to form Carolina Veterinary Specialists, a multi-specialty referral hospital, which operates four referral centers in four N.C. cities.

Dr. James West Carlson ('59)

is a **2008 Alumni Recognition Award** recipient. He received the award during a reception at the **Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association** conference on Jan. 25 in Lincoln.

He had a private mixed practice in Crofton from 1959 to 1985. Dr. Carlson was a member, past

director and district representative in the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association (NVMA).

Beginning in 1971, Dr. Carlson became involved in firearms parts manufacturing and



sporting goods sales. In addition he is a consultant in the muzzle loading firearms field since 1974.

From 1976 to 1996, Dr. Carlson was the director of the National Rifle Association in Washington, D.C. He was director of the National Muzzle-loading Rifle Association, in Friendship, Ind., from 1977 to 1987.

Dr. Steven Wright ('74), was recognized with a posthumous tribute at the winter meeting of **Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association** conference on Jan. 25 in Lincoln.

Dr. Wright earned a bachelor's degree in 1972 and a DVM in 1974, both at Kansas State University. He worked in the Omaha, Neb., area his

entire career, owning the Millard Veterinary Clinic since 1975.

Dr. Wright partnered with two colleagues, one of whom is his only child, Dr. Matt Wright, who graduated



from K-State in veterinary medicine in 2001, and currently practices in Omaha as the owner of the Millard West Veterinary Clinic.

Active on numerous church boards and activities, Dr. Steven Wright was recognized by the Millard Education Foundation as its Outstanding Alumnae in 1998.

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