CVM presents annual teaching awards

Dr. Ralph Richardson looks to step down at Olathe

Dr. Ralph Richardson has announced plans to retire as the dean and CEO of Kansas State University’s Olathe campus before July 1. He has served in the position since August 2015.

“I certainly have mixed emotions about retiring, as I’ve never enjoyed my work more and am proud of what has been achieved at the Olathe campus in the last several years,” Dr. Richardson said. “President Myers and Provost Taber are leading K-State forward in unprecedented ways. I love being part of their team and working with faculty and staff, my fellow deans and other university administrators. However, it is imperative to focus on succession planning, especially with the new budget model and strategic enrollment management initiatives coming on board. I want the new leader of the Olathe campus to be well prepared to embrace the opportunities that are coming to K-State through engagement with Greater Kansas City.”

Under Dr. Richardson’s leadership, K-State used the Olathe campus to expand its outreach and services to Greater Kansas City to elevate the university’s profile in academics, research and service in the region and generate new opportunities for students and faculty.

Dr. Richardson helped establish and oversee numerous partnerships that are being used to develop a recruitment and support infrastructure for Kansas City-based undergraduate students to attend K-State and working professionals to enroll at the university’s Olathe campus.

Kudos to Drs. Ryane Englar, Butch KuKanich, Emily Klocke and Justin Thomason on being named recipients of teaching awards for excellence in the first, second and third years.

Dr. Ralph Richardson looks to step down after more than three years at K-State Olathe.

Dr. Englar, clinical assistant professor and clinical education coordinator for clinical skills, was named recipient of the 2018 Boehringer Ingelheim Teaching Excellence Award, which is presented in recognition of outstanding instruction of first-year veterinary students. She earned her DVM in 2008 from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Dr. Englar joined the faculty at K-State in May 2017, when she was hired in May 2017 to help fulfill a priority in the college’s Strategic Plan of providing clinical experiences and skills in all years of the DVM curriculum.

“It is an honor to be recognized for something that has never felt like a job to me — teaching is my passion; supporting and nurturing the next generation of veterinary leaders is my reason for being,” Dr. Englar said.

Dr. KuKanich was presented with the 2018 Bayer Teaching Excellence in the Second Year Award in recognition of outstanding instruction of second-year veterinary students. He earned his DVM from Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech in 1997.

“It is great to see the students progress through the semester,” Dr. KuKanich said.

Dr. Ryane Englar, Butch KuKanich, Emily Klocke and Justin Thomason are coming to K-State through initiatives coming on board. I

In the pre-clinical stages of the veterinary curriculum,” explained Dr. Peggy Schmidt, associate dean for academic programs and student affairs.

A group of Kansas State University students have recently completed the Transboundary Animal Disease (TAD) Fellowship program at the Biosecurity Research Institute. With completion of the program by these students, the program is now seeking new applicants. K-State helps to confront diseases through this research fellowship program, which leverages the expertise and resources of the Biosecurity Research Institute and the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology in the CVM to train next generation Ph.D., DVM, M.S., M.P.H., and post-doctoral researchers to work in high and maximum-containment environments on a variety of TADs.

New TAD Workforce Development opportunities are now being offered for summer 2019 and an optional fall 2019 term. Applicants must enroll and be accepted into the Agricultural Biosecurity Research Graduate Certificate program at Kansas State University and hold U.S. citizenship. Complete application requirements and details are posted online at: www.bri.k-state.edu/education/TADFellowship.html.

Transboundary animal disease training at BRI

Laura Constance and Rachel Palinski work on a training exercise.

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Read more at Lifelines online.
A quartet of faculty members have been chosen as the new holders of professorships, each dedicated to promoting different academic areas within the college.

Dr. Mary Bagladi-Swanson has been selected for the Pet Tribute Professorship, which goes to a recipient who exhibits scholarly excellence, good communication and leadership skills. 

Dr. David Renter was appointed to the Dr. Robert MacDonald Professorship, which perpetuates the memory and honors the 1940 alumnus, who passed away in 2009. The professorship was established to recruit and retain a faculty member based on professionalism, character and achievements in the field of safe food production from livestock as exemplified by Dr. MacDonald. 

Dr. Ellyn Mulcahy was chosen for the Dr. James B. Nichols Master of Public Health Professorship. This appointment is in honor of Dr. James B. Nichols, DVM class of 1934, to recruit and retain the highest quality faculty as well as serve as the director of the MPH program.

Dr. Thomas Schermerhorn was selected for the Morgan K. “Al” Jarvis Chair in Veterinary Medicine. This appointment is in honor of Dr. Morgan K. Jarvis, DVM class of 1940, with the intent to recruit and retain the highest quality faculty to the College of Veterinary Medicine in small animal medicine in the Department of Clinical Sciences.

By Adrian Austin

Dr. Bob Rowland, professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, was recently awarded an education grant from the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The major focus of the grant will be on the three-week summer boot camp in animal health biotechnology for high school science teachers recruited from the greater Kansas City area. This will include teachers from schools serving under-represented communities. 

The grant titled, “Capacity building in animal health,” will be utilized to support the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, as well as animal health capacity-building throughout Kansas. “This is a totally unique program in that it; focuses on training high school teachers in Kansas, integrates the educational strengths of the Olathe campus with the animal health expertise in the CVM, conducts a summer ‘boot camp’ that immerses high school teachers in animal health biotechnology techniques and is conducted using the Rowland research lab in the veterinary college,” Dr. Rowland said. “We plan to enhance science education in Kansas, increase the number and diversity of qualified workers who get jobs in NBAF, plus other federal facilities or companies throughout the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor and increase the diversity of applicants to veterinary school.”

The shorter term impact is to increase in the number and diversity of high school students entering animal health professional programs at community colleges and four-year institutions in Kansas. The overall goal of the project is to develop a self-sustaining program that better prepares high school teachers to deliver outstanding teaching in animal health biotechnology. The grant is in the amount of $149,000, distributed over the course of three years.

Potential research collaborations in Brazil

Dr. Roman Ganta, director of the Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases, was recently invited to visit the Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro campus in Brazil. He presented at the VI International Symposium in Veterinary Sciences held in Seropedica City, Brazil. The event was focused on the “New trends in Veterinary Science Research.” During his visit, he interacted with many faculty and students at its veterinary college campus and from other departments where tick-borne disease research is actively pursued.

Dr. Stephen Higgs, (left) University Distinguished Professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology, was one of four faculty distinguished researchers from Kansas universities, (one of two from Kansas State University) who were chosen as recipients of the prestigious Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Awards, which are presented for scholarly excellence. Winners were recognized at a Nov. 29 ceremony at the University of Kansas. He is shown above with KU Chancellor Doug Girod.

Dr. James Carpenter and three fourth-year students, Katie Luits, Margaret Belshaw and Dani Windle, spent part of their December zoological medicine service clinical rotation by being invited to teach at a zoo camp at Manhattan’s Sunset Zoo on Dec. 26. Dr. Carpenter said the camp hosted 12 kids from ages 5 to 7, plus numerous staff attended as well.

CVM News Ticker

The newest endowed professors in the College of Veterinary Medicine, from left: Drs. Mary Bagladi-Swanson, Ellyn Mulcahy, Thomas Schermerhorn and David Renter.

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