



Alumni Fellow talks beef on campus visit



Dr. M. Gatz Riddell Jr., DVM class of 1977, chosen as CVM's Alumni Fellow for 2019.

Dr. M. Gatz Riddell Jr., Auburn, Alabama, is secretary general of the World Association for Buiatrics and a professor emeritus at Auburn University. He was raised on a homesteaded farm near Conway, Kansas. Following an internship and residency at Auburn University from 1977-1981, he practiced in Tennessee, but returned to Auburn University in 1984. He became a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists in 1982.

Dr. Riddell represented the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) on the AVMA's drug advisory committee and later served on and chaired its Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents. He retired from Auburn University in 2005 as professor emeritus and was the executive vice president of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners from 2005 until 2016. He is a past president of both the AABP and the North American Veterinary Community.

He received the AABP Award of Excellence in 1999 and the AABP Amstutz-Williams Award in 2016. Dr. Riddell is married to Dr. Kay Pelly Riddell and they have three children, Molly, Wes and Jonathan, and a granddaughter, Emmalyn.

Dr. Riddell earned a bachelor's degree in veterinary medicine and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from K-State, both in 1977. He also received a master's degree from Auburn University in 1984. from K-State, a bachelor's degree in veterinary medicine in 1972 and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1974.

Zoetis Research Award goes to Dr. Wenjun Ma

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University presented its highest research award during its annual Phi Zeta Research Day activities on March 26: The 2019 Zoetis Animal Health Award for Research Excellence. Dr. Wenjun Ma was chosen as this year's recipient. He is an associate professor of virology in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology.

Dr. Ma's laboratory is interested in viral diseases of animals, with an emphasis on emerging zoonotic viral infections. His current research focuses on understanding mechanisms of pathogenesis and developing vaccines and/or antivirals for different viral pathogens, such as Influenza virus, Rift Valley Fever virus, porcine circovirus 3, African swine fever virus and other viral infections in livestock and poultry.

"I am very honored to be the recipient of this prestigious research award," Dr. Ma said. "Influenza and other viral

diseases are very important for human and animal health. Better understanding of biology and basic features of these viral pathogens will promote the development of countermeasures, including vaccines and antivirals, as well as accurate and rapid diagnostic tools that can be used to protect public and animal health."

Dr. Ma is an exceptional molecular virologist, working at the forefront of many important viral diseases of domestic and wild animals and humans," said Dr. Frank Blecha, associate dean for research. "His research is particularly focused on influenza virus where he studies mechanisms of infection, pathogenesis, surveillance, genetic aspects of influenza virus virulence and transmissibility,



Dr. Wenjun Ma accepts the Zoetis Animal Health Award for Research Excellence from Dr. Frank Blecha, associate dean for research.

and animal models. Dr. Ma supports his extensive research program with funds from several agencies, but primarily from the National Institutes of Health; receiving over \$4 million from the NIH over the last 5 years. His most recent NIH grant aims to understand the ecology of bat influenza A-like viruses and address their potential threats to other species, including humans."

USDA-NIFA grant targets anaplasmosis

A research grant from the USDA in the amount of \$1,199,948 is supporting work at Kansas State University toward combatting a disease that affects cattle in the U.S. and globally.

Dr. Kathryn Reif, assistant professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/ Pathobiology in the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, said the project focuses on optimizing antimicrobial use in order to control active infection of the hemoparasitic pathogen, *Anaplasma marginale*, the causative agent of bovine anaplasmosis.

"Different strains of the pathogen are actively circulating in the U.S.," Dr. Reif said. "We are using a combination of *A. marginale* strains, some of which we recently isolated from Kansas cattle herds, to help determine how strains differ in their

susceptibility to tetracycline antimicrobials, specifically chlortetracycline, the most common antimicrobial used to control anaplasmosis. We hope that by looking at three different chlortetracycline treatment protocols for cattle, we can provide practical recommendations for the Food and Drug Administration and ultimately for cattle producers towards controlling this disease."

Dr. Reif explained that treatment polices should be based on a firm understanding of how antimicrobial therapeutic effect can be maximized while

minimizing risk of resistance development.

"Cattle producers in Kansas and beyond are concerned that the current, FDA-approved anaplasmosis treatment regimens are not sufficiently controlling diseases," Dr. Reif said. "Also, there is no fully USDA-approved vaccine for anaplasmosis, and the experimental vaccine, available



Dr. Kathryn Reif, far right, Brandt Skinner, a graduate student in her lab, and Dr. Emily Reppert collect samples to monitor the anaplasmosis status of the K-State cow calf herd.

Phi Zeta Day spotlights research Carlson repeats on AAAP scholarship

The CVM held its annual Phi Zeta Research Day this past Tuesday, March 26.

“This was a wonderful success, featuring an inspiring and insightful keynote address by Dr. Luis Montaner, who is a world-renowned HIV researcher and professor at Philadelphia’s Wistar Institute,” said Dr. Raelene Wouda, president of the Kansas State University Sigma Chapter of the Society of Phi Zeta and assistant professor of oncology. “Dr. Montaner is director of the beat-HIV collaborative, and most importantly, he is a K-State alumnus. His keynote was followed by an afternoon of oral research presentations, describing basic or applied science investigations taking place at the College, and a poster session, proudly sponsored by Royal Canin.”

Phi Zeta Research Day spotlights the research efforts of graduate students who are working towards a DVM degree, Master of Science, Master of Public Health and/or a doctorate (Ph.D.) in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The annual event is organized by the Sigma Chapter of the Society of Phi Zeta, a professional honors society whose name is based on the Latin word *philozoi*, which means “love for animals.” The chapter’s mission is to promote scholarship and research that improves the health and welfare of animals.

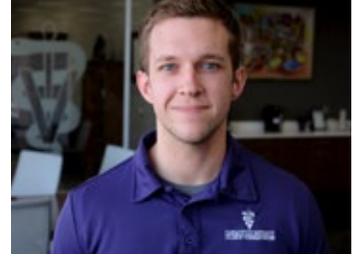


Second-year veterinary student Meghan Lancaster explains her research poster at Phi Zeta Day.

“The Phi Zeta Research Day is a wonderful opportunity for the College of Veterinary Medicine to recognize our students’ exceptional scholarly and research achievements,” Dr. Wouda said. “This year’s oral and poster abstract submissions by our students were of an outstanding quality, reflecting the diversity and impact of the research emerging from the college. Here at K-State, we strongly encourage students to become actively involved in either clinical and/or laboratory-based research programs. We hope these opportunities will inspire them to incorporate research in their future veterinary careers. The combination of a veterinary degree and research experience makes our students uniquely qualified to be highly successful scientists, capable and eager to contribute meaningfully to the continual advancement of veterinary, human and public health.”

See the list of award recipients at Lifelines online.

For the second year in a row, Jake Carlson, third-year veterinary student, has been named as one of 10 students chosen nationwide to receive a \$5,000 scholarship from the American Association of Avian Pathologists Foundation (AAAP Foundation) and Merck Animal Health.



The scholarships are designated for second- and third-year veterinary students focused on poultry health.

Carlson spent multiple years working for Mitchell Farms in Elk Grove, interned with the National Turkey Federation and worked for the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s Emergency Management and Animal Health Team. After graduating, Jacob plans to become a staff veterinarian for a poultry company.

CVM News Ticker



All-University Open House draws a crowd and gives youngsters hands-on opportunities to learn how animals are treated at the CVM. See more pictures at Lifelines online.

Dr. Alyssa Comroe attended the ASPCA Sheltering Operation in Ohio March 5-8. She was able to shadow at the emergency shelter where animals are held from cruelty cases such as hoarding, dog fighting, etc.

Dr. Raghavendra Amachawadi attended the 7th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in Bangalore, India, March 3-7 where he was invited to present, “Antibiotic alternatives in food animal agriculture.”

Congratulations to **Dr. Megan Wilson** who is now an American College of Veterinary Surgeons diplomate! Dr. Wilson completed her small animal surgery residency in July 2018. Her faculty adviser was **Dr. Walter Renberg**.

Drs. Hannah Turner, Kara Berke, David Biller and S.M. Schneider published, “Rectal Duplication Cyst in a Cat: A Case Report and Literature Review,” in the *Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine*, March 2019 edition.

Dr. Ken Harkin was invited to present three lectures at the Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Hospital Continuing Education Event in Wichita, Kansas, on March 28. Dr. Harkin presented, “Antibiotic Therapy for Leptospirosis: Do we have the right answer?,” “Myostatin Reduction for Rehabilitation and Beyond” and “Paroxysmal Dyskinesia: It’s not a seizure, is it?”

BugAPalooza showcases public health



Emma Winkley, MPH and third-year veterinary student, enlists help from Dr. Kate KuKanich at BugAPalooza in City Park.

The Master of Public Health Program organized a contingent of representatives from its program and the CVM to appear April 1 at BugAPalooza, a public health event hosted in Manhattan City Park, sponsored by the Riley County Health Department.

Drs. Ellyn Mulcahy and Kate KuKanich along with Barta Stevenson attended the event and were joined by student

volunteers, including Heather Poole and Brittany Blattner, both MPH students in the infectious disease and zoonoses track. Special thanks are extended to the judges of a public health poster session: Dr. Susan Nelson, clinical professor in the clinical sciences department; Berlin Londono, assistant professor in the entomology department and MPH faculty member; Andrew Adams, Riley County Health Department emergency preparedness coordinator; and Jared Tremblay, transportation planning analyst with the Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization.

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