



Hot Zone spotlights Drs. Nancy and Jerry Jaax VHC eyes the road to help service dogs

Two Kansas State University veterinarians and leaders — Drs. Nancy and Jerry Jaax — and their response to a novel Ebola strain outbreak have inspired the upcoming National Geographic limited series, *THE HOT ZONE*.

Kansas State University hosted an advance screening of the premiere of *THE HOT ZONE* followed by a panel discussion with the real-life subjects of the series, Drs. Nancy and Jerry Jaax, DVM classes of 1973 and 1972 respectively, along with the showrunners, writers and executive producers Brian Peterson and Kelly Souders.

The six-part limited series premieres on National Geographic at 8 p.m. on Monday, May 27, and will air over three nights. Julianna Margulies plays Lt. Col. Nancy Jaax and Noah Emmerich plays Lt. Col. Jerry Jaax.

THE HOT ZONE is based on the 1994 best-seller by Richard Preston and is inspired by the true story of the arrival of Ebola on

U.S. soil in 1989 in Reston, Virginia.

The story involves two prominent Kansas State University leaders: Nancy and Jerry Jaax. Both graduated with veterinary medicine degrees from the university and served with the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, during which time they became involved in the events depicted in the series.

Following the events of 1989 and after stellar military careers, Jerry and Nancy returned to Manhattan. Jerry joined the university and served in a prominent research leadership position to further the university's biodefense mission. Nancy participated in innumerable infectious disease initiatives at the university.

Both Jerry and Nancy played important roles in the development of Kansas State University's biocontainment facility called the Biosecurity



Drs. Nancy and Jerry Jaax, CVM alums, are portrayed in a new National Geographic program about a 1989 Ebola-related incident.

Research Institute, or BRI, at Pat Roberts Hall.



Dr. Jessica Meekins performs an eye exam on a dog at the VHC.

As part of a national event, an ophthalmology team from the VHC will be providing free eye exams this May for guide dogs, handicap assistance dogs, detection dogs, military working dogs and other search-and-rescue dogs that selflessly serve the public. Each year, board certified veterinary ophthalmologists across the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico collectively provide more than 7,500 free eye exams as part of The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO®)'s ACVO/StokesRx National Service Animal Eye Exam event.

The doctors and staff at The VHC and participating board-certified ophthalmologists volunteer their services, staff and facilities at no charge for service and working animals and their owners/agents to participate in the event.

This year the K-State team of Dr. Jessica Meekins, associate professor, and Anna "Katie" Huyer, a veterinary nurse, went on the road May 14 to conduct eye exams at KSDS in Washington, Kansas, and were at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita on May 22. KSDS is a nonprofit organization that provides guide dogs for the visually impaired, service dogs to assist individuals with physical disabilities and facility dogs that assist professionals in the field of education, counseling, healthcare, retirement or the legal system.

"Our goal is to screen active working animals for eye diseases that could impair the ability to perform their job, and in doing so help them better serve their human owners and handlers," Dr. Meekins said.

White Coat Ceremony goes live online

This May, third-year veterinary students reached their arms, one sleeve at a time, to don their newest piece of educational apparel: a white coat for doctors. For the first year since this tradition began in 2001, family and friends had an opportunity to witness this fitting event online.

The Veterinary Health Center (VHC) broadcast the annual White Coat Ceremony in an online video stream at its website on May 5.

The annual White Coat ceremony is an activity that celebrates the transition of K-State College of Veterinary Medicine third-year veterinary students from their preclinical education to their senior year clinical rotations within the teaching hospital at K-State, the Veterinary Health Center.

"We are excited to once again host the College of Veterinary

Medicine White Coat ceremony as we welcome 115 members of the class of 2020 as senior veterinary student doctors into the halls of the VHC teaching hospital," said Dr. Elizabeth Davis, interim director of the VHC and head of clinical sciences.

Dr. Davis served as master of ceremonies at the ceremony. Special guests included Brett Montague, current senior and 2019 class president; Dr. Bonnie Rush, interim dean; and Dr. Becky Mullis, associate manager of scientific affairs for Hill's Pet Nutrition, the event sponsor.



The class of 2020 faces the family and friends in attendance at the White Coat Ceremony.

The white coats were presented by six faculty members representing different sections in the Veterinary Health Center: Dr. Laurie Beard, equine; Dr. David Biller, radiology; Dr. Ken Harkin, small animal medicine; Dr. Rose McMurphy, anesthesiology; Dr. Matt Miesner, livestock services; and Dr. Walter Renberg, small animal surgery. Dr. Tom Schermerhorn was marshal for the ceremony.

Dr. Poole to serve as teaching scholar

An internationally prominent and honored scholar and researcher will serve as Kansas State University's 2019-2020 Coffman Chair for University Distinguished Teaching Scholars.

Dr. David C. Poole, university distinguished professor in kinesiology and in anatomy and physiology, has been appointed to the chair, which was created in 1995 to highlight the university's commitment to excellence in undergraduate teaching and learning. Each chair is an acknowledged leading teaching scholar and conducts a research project or develops programs to improve educational methods at the university.

"I thoroughly enjoy teaching and learn at least as much from our students as they from me," Dr. Poole said. "The Coffman chair, as I see it, will permit me to better leverage K-State's resources to promote teaching excellence by more effectively integrating the



Dr. David Poole gives the welcome at the annual Clarenburg Lecture.

processes of scientific discovery into the classroom."

Dr. Poole will spend his year as Coffman chair evaluating which practices of the Association of College and University Educators are producing the best results with Kansas State University students, including those who go on to professional schools. The analysis will survey the up to 160 K-State faculty members who have completed or are currently enrolled in the Association of College and University Educators course to improve teaching and learning.

Staff get recognition from main campus

K-State recently recognized university support staff at a ceremony in April, honors included:

- USS employees who have reached five, 15, 25, 35 and 45 years of service in 2018.
- USS employees who retired during 2018.
- Employees of the Year selected by colleges/administrative units/departments and local agencies.
- K-State USS Award of Excellence.

Staff members at the College of Veterinary Medicine honored for years of service were:

Shannon Nicholson and Roxann Blasi (five years), Rhonda Stadel (15 years), Lesa Reves (25 years), and Maureen Sheahan and Audrey Fritz (35 years).

Among the honorees for employee of the year were:

Nelwyn Cook, Mike Hays and Brandon Weber.

Three university support staff professionals were celebrated for their job performance with the university's 2019 University Support Staff Award of Excellence. The award recognizes exemplary performance and contributions of staff members who consistently excel in their positions and demonstrate integrity and a strong



Joyce Nietfeld with the USS Staff Award of Excellence.

commitment to the mission and values of K-State.

The CVM's lone honoree with the USS Staff Award of Excellence (under the Technical and Professional category) was Joyce Nietfeld, program/project assistant with the Veterinary Health Center Dispensary.

In a separate ceremony on May 7, Gail Eyestone, Department of Anatomy and Physiology, was one of five university honorees to receive a President's Award of Excellence for Unclassified Professionals. Her award was in the Belonging category. From the same event, Joyce Nietfeld's daughter, Ashley, was presented with a Productivity, Creativity, Innovation Award for her work with the Global Campus office. Congrats to all.

CEEZAD team conducts research in South Africa

A CEEZAD research team spent two weeks in South Africa researching the movement of African swine fever (ASF).

Dr. Jürgen Richt, CEEZAD director, led the research team consisting of Dr. Jessie Trujillo, senior research associate, and Russell Ransburgh, research assistant, Dr. Bill Wilson,

research microbiologist with the USDA's Arthropod-borne Animal Disease Research Unit in Manhattan. The team collaborated with Dr. Bob Swanepoel, of the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases at the University of Pretoria in South Africa.



Dr. Jürgen Richt and the team sort through soil collected in a warthog burrow in a South African game park.

CVM News Ticker



The college recently announced promotions and tenure. Earning promotion to full professor is Dr. Waithaka Mwangi – DMP and clinical professor, Drs. Mary Bagladi-Swanson – DCS, Emily Klocke – DCS, Matt Miesner – DCS, and Jianfa Bai – DMP. Earning promotion to clinical associate professors are: Drs. Chanran Ganta – DMP, Gregg Hanzlicek – DMP, and Lalitha Peddireddi – DMP. Pictured above are Drs. Miesner, Mwangi, Klocke and Bai.

Dr. Tariku Beyene, DMP postdoc with the Center for Outcomes Research and Epidemiology (CORE) was selected for a highly competitive scholarship and joined the North Carolina State University Building Future Faculty Program April 3-6. The program was a two-and-half day workshop for doctoral and post-doctoral scholars who are interested in pursuing careers in academics. Dr. Tariku gave a 45-minute presentation to the faculty/staff/students at the department of Population Health and Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine at NCSU.

Dr. Sara Dias who passed her board certification and is now a diplomate in the European College of Zoological Medicine with Small Mammal specialty.

Dr. Chieko Azuma attended the Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research 2019 IACUC conference in Bellevue, Washington, April 1-3. She presented two sessions, "New Investigator at the Institution? Getting Them on the Right Track From the Get-Go" and "How Active Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM) Can Work at Smaller Institutions."

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