CVM White Coat Ceremony
Highlights from this year’s events marking the opening of the school year

Team Building
CVM Hosts IVSA
Outreach to Baja Mexico
CVM News
WAVE Program
Word from the Dean

There is much to tell you about in three months since our last issue of the Outlook, even though these months included the summer break, when students are away, and the curriculum is not in session.

July 19th marked the first of ten days of the annual Summer Congress of the International Veterinary Student Association. Ms. Karen Eiler (DVM 2007) got the bid to hold the Congress at our College last summer in Vienna. This is only the second time that the Congress has been held in the United States. Karen and co-chair of the Organizing Committee, Mr. Terence Krentz (DVM 2008) did an outstanding job of raising more than $100,000 from corporate sponsors, organizing scientific and recreational activities for the Congress (including a behind the scenes look at veterinary care at SeaWorld by veterinarian Dr. Tom Reidarson), and accomplishing the impossible task of transporting and housing about 100 international delegates from Los Angeles to San Diego to San Francisco to Davis.

Faculty in our College participated in faculty retreats, and other faculty work groups this summer, under the leadership of Drs. Phil Nelson and Stephen Waldhalm to address issues such as faculty use of the multidisciplinary classroom, optimal format for Grand Rounds, fine-tuning the assessment instrument for individual performance in PBL group, and continued progress in assessing student learning in the third and fourth years of the curriculum. Associate Dean Carmen Fuentealba presented pooled 3rd year student assessment data indicating very strong approval of Clinical Preceptor performance during the 2005-2006 academic year. Means of 23 assessment items (with numbers of responses exceeding 980 each) exceeded 4.2 on a 1 to 5 scale, and 14 of 23 means equaled or exceeded 4.5. Mean response for “The supervising veterinarian demonstrated knowledge and competence in his/her discipline” was 4.7 (n=1056) and mean response for “The clinic staff treated me with respect” was 4.8 (n=1048). How great is that?

University Convocation, opening the 2006-2007 academic year, was held on Saturday, August 12th, followed by the White Coat Ceremonies for each of the colleges at WesternU. This year the CVM admitted 101 new and 4 returning students to comprise the Class of 2010. The class includes 32 men and 73 women from 19 states, including 59 from California. Our White Coat Ceremony keynote speaker was Dr. Temple Grandin, an amazing woman who has transcended autism to earn a PhD in animal science, to create a livestock consulting company that has designed chutes through which more than half of the food animals processed in the United States pass, and to become a best selling author. Read more about her in this issue of the Outlook.

Recently, my friend, Dr. Scott Campbell, reminded me of Goethe’s words, “Dream no small dreams, for they have no power to move the hearts of men.” Surely our students dream no small dreams when they determine that they will become veterinarians. The paths to gain admission to veterinary school and the paths through the rigorous four year curriculum fulfill very big dreams. The people of this college also dream a big dream for our students, for we dream that they will thrive in our curriculum, graduate, enter the veterinary profession, and go out to change the world. It is a personal joy to welcome the Class of 2010 to our College.

“He had a way of taking Buck’s head roughly between his hands, and resting his own head upon Buck’s, of shaking him back and forth, the while calling him ill names that to Buck were love names.” – Jack London

Shirley D. Johnston, DVM, PhD
**CV M News**


Congratulations to Ms. Shannan Boss, whose position was reclassified to the CVM Director of Operations effective July 1, 2006. In that capacity, Ms. Boss will serve as CVM Budget Manager, Office Manager and the Dean’s Chief Administrative Officer.

Ms. Cyanna Brauning (DVM 2007) received the American Quarter Horse Foundation $10,000 Telephony Scholarship for 2006. Hooray!

Drs. Carmen Fuentealba, Phil Nelson, Peggy Schmidt and John Tegezes participated in summer workshops in Denver and Knoxville for the Foresight Project of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. AAVMC is using Foresight Analysis to predict future scenarios for academic veterinary medicine in 2020-2025.


Welcome to Dr. Kristopher Irizarry, Assistant Professor of Genetics. Dr. Irizarry completed his BS in Biochemistry at Renselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, his PhD in Molecular Biology at UCLA, and a postdoctoral fellowship in pharmacogenomics, also at UCLA. At the CVM he will be a content expert in mammalian genomics and bioinformatics, and will provide data management for research and learning outcomes.


Welcome to Dr. Teresa Morishita, Professor of Poultry Medicine & Food Safety. Dr. Morishita was educated at UC Davis (DVM, MPVM, MS, PhD), and is a diplomate in the American College of Poultry Veterinarians. She comes from Ohio State University, where she was Director of the Laboratory for Wildlife and Environmental Health; recent work includes characterization and abatement of ammonia, particulate, pathogen, and odor emissions from egg production facilities. She is Editor of the *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine*.

Farewell to Dr. Tracy Murchie, Assistant Professor of Theriogenology, who left her faculty position at the CVM in August, to pursue new opportunities in her homeland in South Africa.

Dr. Phillip Nelson spoke on “Proactive Mentorship: Actively Seeking Diversity in the Veterinary Profession” at the AVMA Veterinary Diversity Symposium in Honolulu, Hawaii, July 17, 2006.

Dr. Heather Nevill was featured in the June 30, 2006, *LA Times* story, “300 Baby Terns Dead on Shore.” Dr. Nevill is a consulting veterinarian at the International Bird Rescue Research Center in San Pedro. Sixteen surviving Caspian and elegant tern chicks were treated at the center.

Congratulations to Ms. Darlene Sanchez (DVM 2009) who has received scholarships from the Upland Chapter of the American Business Women’s Association and the Zonta Club of Redlands.

Congratulations to Dr. Peggy Schmidt, who became a diplomate by examination of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine in July.

Good job to Ms. Danielle Shaffer (DVM 2008) and Dr. Oscar Illanes for establishing the College’s new Student Chapter of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.


Welcome to Dr. Ron Terra, DAVBP, Professor of Food Animal and Production Animal Medicine. Dr. Terra was educated at UC Davis (DVM), and the University of Guelph (MBA). He was recruited from the Lander Veterinary Clinic in Turlock, CA, where he implemented dairy production medicine programs on dairies with emphasis on nutrition and finance.

Welcome to Dr. Christine Tindal, Associate Professor of Small Animal Medicine. Dr. Tindal has her BVSc and a Certificate in Veterinary Ophthalmology from the University of Sydney, and is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. In Sydney, Australia, she performed referral ophthalmologic consultations.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Erratum: In the summer, 2006 issue, under Student Awards at CVM Honors Day 2006 (page 4), the Juan Fuentealba Collegiality Award was incorrectly spelled as the Juan Fuentealba Congeniality Award. The Editor apologizes for this error.
The Annual Summer Congress of the International Veterinary Student Association, hosted by the student Organizing Committee at WesternU College of Veterinary Medicine, was held in California July 19-29, 2006. This is the first time the Congress was held in California, and only the second time it was held in the U.S. About 100 student delegates arrived from 15 countries for opening sessions and scientific programs at WesternU, followed by 10 days of travel, education and recreation. The Congress program included three nights stay in dormitories at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, two nights at UC San Diego with a General Assembly meeting and trip to SeaWorld, San Diego, followed by travel to Northern California with programs at the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis, touring in San Francisco, and Closing Ceremonies at San Francisco State University. Big Congratulations on the Congress success to Co-Chairs Karen Eiler (DVM 2007), Terence Krentz (DVM 2008), Secretary Daisy Burns (DVM 2008), Treasurer Sarah Sacco (DVM 2008), and organizing committee members Marlene Anschultz (DVM 2009), Lisa Contreras (DVM 2007), Zarah Hedge (DVM 2009), Hillary Hickam (DVM 2007), Christina Kane (DVM 2009), Vivian Koo (DVM 2009), Gael Lamielle (DVM 2009), Caitlin O’Shea (DVM 2009), Michelle Schexneider (DVM 2007), Megan Templeton (DVM 2007), JJ Rawlinson (DVM 2007), Cheryl Sanfilippo (DVM 2009), and Sarah Wiltol (DVM 2008).

A HUGE THANK YOU to sponsors, that included Banfield the Pet Hospital, Nestle Purina, the Student American Veterinary Medical Association, Royal Canin, Bosack Kruger Foundation, Novartis, Fort Dodge, Pfizer Animal Health, WesternU Alumni Association, WesternU Student Government Association, Veterinary Pet Insurance, MWI, Advanstar, the California Veterinary Medical Association, NAVC, the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association, PepTech, WesternU CVM Faculty, Blackwell Publishing, the American Animal Hospital Association, Miltex, Teton New Media, Elsevier, and many California veterinarians.
Dr. Temple Grandin Speaks at White Coat Ceremony

The CVM was honored to host Dr. Temple Grandin as the keynote speaker at the White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2010 at Bridges Hall of Music in Claremont. Dr. Grandin, Associate Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University, is an autistic woman who has earned one PhD and received two honorary ones, and who has revolutionized animal handling around the world. Through her ability to understand how animals see, think and feel, Dr. Grandin has designed livestock handling facilities in many countries; in North America, almost half of the cattle slaughtered for meat pass through a system that she designed. Her writings on the flight zone and other principles of grazing animal behavior have helped many people to reduce stress on their animals during handling. She has likened non-human animals to autistic savants, who think in pictures rather than in language.

Dr. Grandin has appeared on television shows such as 20/20, 48 Hours, CNN’s Larry King Live, PrimeTime Live, the Today Show, and has been featured in People Magazine, the New York Times, Forbes, U.S. News and World Report, Time Magazine, and Discover magazine. She has authored over 300 articles in both scientific journals and livestock periodicals on animal handling, welfare, and facility design. She is the author of Thinking in Pictures, Livestock Handling and Transport, and Genetics and Behavior of Domestic Animals. Her recent book, Animals in Translation, was a New York Times best seller.

She is the recipient of many honors, including the Meritorious Service Award from the Livestock Conservation Institute; the Brownlee Award for International Leadership in Promoting Respect for Animals, from Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada; the Woman of the Year in Service to Agriculture from Progressive Farmer Magazine; the Humane Award from the American Veterinary Medical Association; and the President’s Award from National Institute of Animal Agriculture. In 2004, she was named one of the 40 most influential people in the beef industry.
Originally from South Carolina, I moved to the Bay Area after graduating from Clemson University. My husband, two kittens and I moved to southern California in 2005 in hopes of attending WesternU. I knew it was the school for me! With degrees in psychology and biology, I’m especially interested in veterinary behavior.

Brandon Boren

I graduated from UC Santa Cruz in 2004 with a BS in marine biology. I am interested in zoo, wildlife and exotic medicine, specifically marine mammals. I am also interested in traveling, and I hope to revisit Australia.

Jonathan Craig

I was born in Torrance, California. After high school I attended UC Davis to obtain my degree in animal science. I’ve returned to southern California to complete my goal of becoming a veterinarian.

Kim Deane

I was born in Long Beach, California, graduated in 1999, worked in marketing for years, and then decided to pursue my dream and become a veterinarian. I have worked in a small animal clinic and shelter for two years. I enjoy spending time with my boyfriend, family and friends. I love to travel and really enjoy doing new things.

Jason Dombrosky

Born and raised in a small town in Alberta, Canada I was surrounded by animals all of my life. After finishing my bachelor’s degree, I began working with dolphins. I now look forward to furthering my career by attending the veterinary program at WesternU.

Reid Forman

Growing up about 15 miles east of Philadelphia, I attended Tulane University and then UNLV. My education consisted entirely of business and hotel administration courses. After working for three years, I decided to pursue my childhood dreams of working with animals as a veterinarian. I couldn’t be happier to be here!

Emily French

I am a Southern girl with a microbiology degree from the University of Tennessee, and aspirations to become either a small animal or equine vet. I am super excited to be living in southern California, where I hope to continue doing what I do: whitewater rafting, riding horses, and being outdoors in general.

Michael D. Gerber

I grew up in Sharon, Massachusetts, which is just south of Boston. In May, 2002, I earned by my BS in animal science from the University of Vermont. I always wanted to be a vet. My veterinary interests currently are focused inon small animal medicine and surgery.

Ellie Goan

I received my bachelor’s degree from Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina, and my masters degree from the University of Georgia. As of today I am interested in having a mixed animal practice and in specializing in surgery.

Jessica Hammack

I am from Virginia and graduated from Virginia Tech. I am excited about beginning the journey to my dream with WesternU. After spending some time working with marine mammals, I know that I’ll enjoy being a zoo/exotic animal vet. I look forward to meeting you!
My home state is Wisconsin so moving to the West Coast has been an adventure. I minored in Spanish and am looking forward to using it often here. I'm interested in all fields of veterinary medicine, and am excited to giving them all a try before choosing a career.

Andrea Hoeksema

Born and raised on the east coast, I spent most of my childhood on the New Jersey Shore. Recently, I graduated from Virginia Tech with a dual degree in biology and psychology. Currently, I am interested in small animal medicine due to my childhood pet Siberian Husky, Skyler.

Kate Hubbard

I was born and raised here, in southern California. I received my bachelor's degree in animal science at Cal Poly Pomona and I hope to pursue my interest in large animal medicine.

Sara Hunnicutt

A native of southern California, I love the outdoors, especially biking, camping, and the beach! I obtained my BA from UCLA and teaching credentials from UC Santa Barbara. I taught elementary special education and kindergarten. My goal is to work in small animal medicine, specializing in oncology or exotics.

Cristina Jaramillo

I grew up near Boston, and majored in anthropology at Colorado College. A couple of years working in the field of primate behavior helped me realize my next move, which eventually landed me here. Specific veterinary interests include shelter, wildlife, and holistic medicine. Specific non-vet interests include good stories, surfing and all things outdoors.

Jinyi Joo

I graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, with a BS in biology. I have worked on a dairy, goat farm, and then for a small animal clinic in Reno.

Rick Kohltfarber

Born and raised in Germany, I moved to beautiful California in 1993. I went to Cal Poly Pomona and entered the pre-vet program in 2001. I am interested in a mixed animal practice with primary emphasis on small animals.

Katy Kaabe

I graduated from Cornell University with a BS in animal science in 2005. I am from Seaford, Long Island and am also an LVT. I plan to pursue small animal medicine, and hope to one day own my own practice on Long Island.

Adam Krawczyk

I graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in June of 2005, and am very excited to be taking my final steps to my dream career! Cal Poly’s “learn by doing” motto has equipped me with exciting and amusing experiences that I hope I can share with my new classmates and friends.

Katie Krimetz
Dr. Robert V. Mason, DVM, MS, one of the founding faculty members of the College, is Associate Dean for Clinical & External Relations. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota (DVM) and Western University of Health Sciences (MS, Health Professions Education). He completed an internship at the Animal Medical Center in New York City, after which he entered private small animal practice in Los Angeles. His extensive knowledge of veterinary practice in Southern California has made him a key resource for the community-based teaching vision of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Mason assists in the development and maintenance of strategic partnerships between the College and all external constituents, including veterinary practices, laboratory animal facilities, other universities, the Los Angeles Zoo, and clinical pathology laboratories used in student clinical education. These sites now serve as the “teaching hospitals” for third and fourth year veterinary students at WesternU. Other responsibilities include coordinating the annual California Regional Educational Symposium (CARES), serving as editor of the Outlook, coordinating orientation week for entering students, and serving as a facilitator in the Problem-Based learning courses. As a member of the Dean’s Cabinet, he participates in development and implementation of Collegiate policy, and is an ex-officio member of several standing committees of the faculty. Dr. Mason also is responsible for the ongoing training of third year clinical preceptors.

Dr. Mason owns the Animal Medical Clinic in Redondo Beach with his wife, Marianne. They live in Manhattan Beach with sons Adam and Andrew, cats Jazz and Louie, and dogs Josie and Winston. Dr. Mason enjoys fishing, golf, mountain biking and cooking. “The variety of daily activities and challenges makes this one of the most interesting and enjoyable jobs I’ve ever had.”

Dr. Phillip Nelson, DVM, PhD, joined the CVM as Executive Associate Dean for Preclinical Programs in January, 2005. He is a graduate of Tuskegee University (DVM), and North Carolina State University (PhD, immunology). He completed an internship and residency in small animal internal medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State, and has served on the faculties of Mississippi State and the School of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee. While at Tuskegee, he helped pioneer techniques in the “explicit curriculum” that are used in veterinary medical education today; his interest in student learning and medical instruction became the major reason for his decision to remain in academia.

At Tuskegee, he was head of the Small Animal Clinic and Acting Head of the Department of Small Animal Medicine, Surgery and Radiology. When recruited back to Mississippi State as Associate Dean, he found that the curriculum had evolved to Problem-Based learning, a teaching paradigm with problems that come with implementing a radically new system. Dr. Nelson was Associate Dean at Mississippi State for approximately 12 years while simultaneously maintaining active research on feline immunodeficiency virus, and training graduate students in immunology and biotechnology. He was recruited to WesternU to complete implementation of the preclinical curriculum, and to supervise all on-campus faculty.

Dr. Nelson and his wife, Doris, have a daughter, Nicole, sons Brian and Vincent, and a granddaughter, Akayla, as well as a “senior citizen” white Spitz, Nova. “It is wonderful to work with such an enthusiastic faculty and staff as those here at WesternU. I have become quite concerned with the profession’s plight with regard to labor shortages and lack of diversity. I’m looking forward to impacting these issues in a positive way via my role here.”

CVM Calendar

Oct 2-6 ................................................... Class of 2007 on Campus

Oct 9-13 ................................................... Exam Week, and Class of 2008 on Campus

Oct 24 ................................................... Groundbreaking ceremony, new Veterinary Medicine Building

Nov 4 .................. Tribute To Caring, 2006, honoring Hill’s Pet Nutrition and the Susan G. Kohmen Foundation

Nov 23-24 ................................................... Thanksgiving Break

Dec 18-22 ................................................... Finals Week

Dec 25 – Jan 5, 2007 ................................................... Holiday Break
WesternU Veterinary Students Work for AVMA on “the Hill”

WesternU Veterinary Students, Colleen Tansey and Terence Krentz (DVM 2008), spent four weeks in Washington, DC, in May and June, serving as 2006 AVMA-Governmental Relations Division student externs. Each year, ten students are selected from AVMA-accredited colleges and given a stipend to travel to Washington, DC. There they work with the AVMA-GRD staff and members of the Executive and Legislative branches of the government on legislation affecting veterinarians.

Student externs get to know veterinarians who work in the US Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, as AVMA Fellows in the offices of various Senators and Representatives, and as advisors to the President in the Office of Science and Technology.

Colleen and Terence worked on two important pieces of legislation: the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act (VWEA) and the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS). The VWEA is a competitive grant program designed to increase capacity to educate veterinarians working in public health practice areas such as bioterrorism and emergency preparedness, environmental health, and food and feed safety. The legislation was introduced by Colorado Senator Wayne Allard, who is a veterinarian.

The PETS Act is an amendment to the Stafford Disaster Relief and Assistance Act that would ensure that State and local emergency disaster preparedness plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster. After Hurricane Katrina, many disaster relief shelters would not accept pets when their families were forced to evacuate. This bill was introduced by Representative Tom Lantos.

To learn more about the AVMA-GRD externship program, or how to work with your Member of Congress on current legislation, contact the GRD office at (800) 321-1473, or through the AVMA website at http://www.avma.org/advocacy/default.asp#get_involved.

WesternU Veterinary Outreach to Baja Animal Sanctuary, Mexico

Baja Animal Sanctuary (www.bajadogs.org) is a non-profit animal rescue, rehabilitation and adoption group in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, that was started by an American, Sunny Benedict, in 1997. Sunny was a real estate agent in Baja, who could not take seeing the many homeless and mistreated animals in Baja. At any given time, the sanctuary has between 200 and 500 dogs and over 50 cats.

In May, 2006, WesternU veterinary students Mindy Buswell, Alicia Elwell, Kelly Flaminio, Vanessa Fravel, Hana Hyun, Samuel Rivera, Dainna Stelmach and Lena Stuart, (DVM 2009), traveled to Mexico with Avery Woodworth (DVM 2007) to provide much needed veterinary care for these animals. The students divided up into teams, and cleaned and medicated wounds, ears, eyes, trimmed nails, created treatment plans, dewormed, and administered treatments. They worked with the workers at the sanctuary, and wrote out continued care treatment plans in Spanish.

Many WesternU students have helped BAS in the past year. Colleen Tansey and Alayson Phelps have collected extra lams/Eukanuba food for BAS, and other students have donated flea, tick and heartworm medicine. The Student Chapter of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights has sent out hundreds of letters to vets and clinics in the area, asking for donations. One clinic in West Hollywood donated two boxes of medicine, shampoo and fluids. Much work and help has been done by many students at the school to help BAS. The collective effort of so many people touches your heart.
Always In Our Hearts: Stories from the WAVE Program

In Loving Memory of our Sweet Jerry

By Cyndi and Andy Torres, Owners

After losing our first bull terrier, Jessie, to an illness in 1996, Jerry came into our lives and filled a huge void. As a pup, he was wild, happy, and full of life, and always made us smile. Typical of a bull terrier, he was strong, always determined to get his way (which he always did), curious, and grew into a proud and handsome adult. After our first vacation, when we kennelled him, he let us know what a horrible experience that was by ignoring us for a good week. Thereafter, he had a pet sitter so he could stay comfy in his own home. His pet sitter would leave report cards indicating that “Jerry was mischievous today and enjoyed a 6-pack of Dr. Pepper!” We even had to put a safety strap on our refrigerator, as he learned to use his strong nose and paws to open it to help himself to a snack.

After ten years, he became ill with kidney failure. We were broken-hearted to learn he wouldn’t last much longer after the diagnosis. He hung in there for about a month, and we focused on giving him so much the same love during his last few days as the unconditional love he gave us during his 10 years of life. We decided to donate Jerry’s body to WesternU College of Veterinary Medicine so that he could live on by helping veterinarians learn more about kidney disease in dogs. It warmed our hearts to know he could possibly help other dogs live longer. He will always hold a special place in our hearts. Life with Jerry was happy and never dull. God bless Jerry.

The Willed Body Program for Veterinary Medicine, WAVE

The College of Veterinary Medicine’s Reverence for Life Commitment promises that animals will not be harmed in our teaching programs. A key element of this commitment is the WAVE (Willed deceased Animals for Veterinary Education) Program, which reaches out to animal owners to ask that they consider donating their beloved pets’ remains to anatomy and clinical skills education at the College (The WAVE Program is modeled after the Human Willed Body Program at WesternU). Over 500 deceased animals have been donated to the College in the last two years. These special animals are providing a greater quality of education to future generations of veterinarians.

All donations to WAVE must be deceased due to age, serious illness or injury. An animal that has no owner to approve the donation of its remains will not be accepted. When you know that the death of your beloved pet might be imminent, and you live within 40 miles of the College, please ask your veterinarian about donating to WAVE. Your veterinarian may contact Ms. Tami Jones at (909) 469-5597 to make all arrangements.

Always in Our Hearts: Stories from the WAVE Program appears as a regular feature in each issue of the Outlook.
The 26th anniversary of “A Tribute to Caring” is all about the university’s annual gala benefiting student scholarships and supporting the university’s mission to educate compassionate and skilled health care professionals.

Honorary Chairman and past honoree Montel Williams invites you to join us Saturday, November 4, 2006.

~ Beverly Hills Hotel ~
Tickets $350 • Sponsorships from $3000
Contact Special Events at 909-469-5439
http://www.westernu.edu/tribute/

This year’s honorees include corporate partner Hill’s Pet Nutrition and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
MISSION STATEMENT:

The College of Veterinary Medicine is committed to serving society and animals through the preparation of students for the practice of veterinary medicine, veterinary public health and/or veterinary research in an educational program of self-directed learning, reverence for life and clinical education through strategic partnerships. The college sustains a vibrant diverse faculty by encouraging advancement through personal and professional development and research. This creates an environment of competent, caring, ethical professionals, where cooperative learning, public service, and scholarship can flourish.