Word From The Dean

Shirley D. Johnston, DVM PhD

You are in for a treat in enjoying the wonderful images in this issue of the Western University CVM Outlook. These pictures capture much of the excitement and enthusiasm associated with the opening of the first new college of veterinary medicine in the country in more than 20 years.

The excitement started on Monday, August 4, 2003, with the arrival of the 85 members of our Charter Class. Kudos to Dr. Robert Mason, Associate Dean for Clinical Programs, who organized Orientation Week as well as the August 9, 2003 White Coat Ceremony and the CVM role in University Convocation. Orientation Week was a blur of introductions, team building exercises, trial runs in Problem-Based learning, buying books and supplies, touring the campus, and enjoying lunches sponsored by our friends at Merial, Schering-Plough, and VetCentric. The California Veterinary Medical Association and Hill’s Pet Nutrition sponsored a luncheon meeting with area veterinarians, and President Pomerantz invited all new students and faculty to his home for the annual ice cream social.

Saturday, August 9, began with University Convocation featuring all of the campus faculty in academic regalia as well as visiting dignitaries Dr. Bonnie Beaver (President-Elect, AVMA), Dr. Tito Fernandes (European Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges), Dr. William Grant, Sr., Dr. Lawrence Heider (Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges), Dr. Billy Hooper (Chair, CVM Advisory Council), Dr. Mary Beth Leininger (Hill’s Pet Nutrition), Dr. Hugh Lewis (Banfield the Pet Hospital), Dr. Patricia Olson (Guide Dogs for the Blind) and Dr. Larry Tilley (VetMed Consultants). Following Convocation the new students and faculty of the CVM proceeded to Bridges Music Auditorium in Claremont for the very moving White Coat Ceremony with keynote address by Dr. Mary Beth Leininger. The white coats were generously donated by our friends at Novartis. At noon all new students and their families gathered on campus for a welcome picnic, and that evening the CVM hosted a gala dinner for major donors and visiting dignitaries, including Dr. Scott Campbell (Banfield the Pet Hospital), Mr. Steve Dickson (Masterfoods USA), Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, Ms. Shelly Thompson (Maddie’s Fund), Dr. Jack Walther (President, AVMA), Dr. Charles Wayner (Hill’s Pet Nutrition), Dr. Peter Weinstein (President, CVMA) and Ms. Gretchen Wyler (Senior Vice President, Humane Society of the United States).

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A Photo Essay Profiling the People and Events that Opened the Newest Veterinary College in the Country.

Tammi Arguipo and Shirley Johnston.

New mom, new student.

Students express their unique qualities...

Students and faculty do lunch.

...their special interests...

Reality Check's Miriam Volat introduces team building.

...and begin to connect names with faces.

Learning to trust the game.

A fun way to learn names.
Dr. Suzana Tkalcic (tee-kal-chich), DVM, PhD, Veterinary Pathologist and Assistant Professor was born and raised in a picturesque 750 year-old town called Samobor in the Republic of Croatia. She received the DVM degree in 1995 from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb, and came to the US to pursue graduate training. She received her PhD and completed the residency training in pathology at the University of Georgia (Department of Pathology and Athens Diagnostic Laboratory) in Athens, GA. She joined Western University’s College of Veterinary Medicine in July of 2003 as an Assistant Professor of Pathology.

Dr. Tkalcic’s research interests include E. coli O157:H7 infections in cattle, food safety, and diagnostic pathology. Other professional interests include public health, international veterinary medicine issues, and bio- and agro-terrorism. During her career, Dr. Tkalcic has instructed veterinary students and residents in veterinary pathology, histopathology, and anatomy. Suzana has been a recipient of several of University of Zagreb Chancellor’s awards. She is a member of Phi Zeta, the National Honor Society of Veterinary Medicine and the American Endurance Ride Conference. Her personal interests and hobbies include singing and playing guitar, dancing, history, horseback riding, scuba diving, swimming and skiing. Dr. Tkalcic lives in Claremont, CA.
CVM PROFILES

Dr. S. Dru Forrester, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVIM, professor, small animal medicine, was raised on a peanut farm in southeastern Alabama. She received a DVM from Auburn University and her MS from Texas A&M University. Dr. Forrester also completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery and an internal medicine residency at Texas A&M University. She has been a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Small Animal Internal Medicine) since 1990. From 1990 until 2003, Dr. Forrester was a faculty member at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. She also served as Director of Student Affairs (1997-2000), Section Chief of Small Animal Medicine (2001-2003), and was Chair-Elect for the Academy of Teaching Excellence at Virginia Tech (2002-2003). Dr. Forrester’s research interests include acute renal failure, prevention of nephrotoxicosis, and urinary tract infection.

Other professional interests include academic affairs, student affairs, admissions, instructional methods and teaching excellence. Dr. Forrester has taught undergraduate, graduate, and veterinary students, primarily in the areas of urology, nephrology, respiratory diseases, and small animal problem solving skills. In addition she has been involved with clinical instruction of house officers and 4th year veterinary students in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital since 1985. While at Virginia Tech she received several awards in recognition of teaching excellence, including Teacher of the Year (8 times), Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award (2 times), MSD AGVET Creativity Award for Innovative Teaching (2 times), College Teaching Award, Virginia Tech Certificate of Teaching Excellence, William E. Wine Award for Excellence in Teaching at Virginia Tech, Class of 1996 Commencement Speaker, and the Auburn University Young Achiever’s Award. Personal interests include reading about teaching, shopping, cycling, martial arts, sewing, watching her favorite teams (Virginia Tech women’s basketball, Atlanta Braves baseball), and learning languages. Dr. Forrester lives in Rancho Cucamonga with her husband (Dr. John D. Jacobson), 8 year-old daughter (Sarah), and 8 year-old miniature schnauzer (Katy).

This photograph shows 85 bright and enthusiastic members of the Charter Class of 2007 on the stairs outside of Bridges Music Auditorium in Claremont, CA, following the August 9, 2003 White Coat Ceremony. This ceremony marks the initiation of new students into the healing professions. The white coat symbolizes the high regard in which health care providers are held. The ceremony encourages students to excel in the science of medicine and to be compassionate, and to lead upright and honorable lives.
Calendar of Events

**September 8:**
Start date, Associate Professor Brian Aldrich (Food Animal Medicine & Immunology) and Professor Beth Boynton (Wellness Clinic)

**September 17-19:**
Faculty Development in Problem-Based Learning Techniques, Dr. Phil Bushby, Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine

**October 6-10:**
First examination week, Charter Class

**October 8:**
Grand Opening, Hill's Wellness Clinic

**October 8-12:**
CVMA Wild West Conference, Reno, NV

**October 25:**
Tribute to Caring (http://www.westernu.edu/tribute/)