A GRAND Canyon Experience

CVM outreach to the animals of the Havasupai Indian Reservation

3rd- & 4th-year students on rotation
A faculty trip to Honduras
CVM news
WAVE program

A Work Of Heart
I am composing this message on the first day of interviews for the Class of 2010 to be admitted to our curriculum in August 2006. The College received 612 primary applications (557 VMCAS and 55 direct) for admission in the Fall Semester of 2006 (to the Class of 2010), a 39% increase over last year. These include 232 applications from California residents, 380 from residents of other states, 121 (20%) from men, and 491 from women. Applications have been received from persons of the following ethnicities: American Indian/Alaskan native (6), Asian Pacific Islander (59), Black Non-Hispanic (5), Hispanic (8), White Non-Hispanic (363) and Race/Ethnicity Unknown (173). Faculty will be interviewing about 300 applicants during the weeks of February 6 and February 13. Faculty interviewers have been trained in behavior-based interview techniques using actors as prospective applicants. Thank you to Dr. Shawn Kari (CVMA representative) and Dr. Michael Weigand (Community Veterinarian) for serving on the Admissions Committee this year. These bright and beautiful faces seeking entrance to a veterinary career are a powerful reminder of why we are here.

Shifting for a moment from the newest class on the horizon to our brilliant Charter Class students (Class of 2007), now in their third year clinical rotations, I have good news to report. Student evaluations of their third year rotations for Fall Semester, 2005, have been received. We are still endeavoring to improve third year courses, to increase Clinical Site Coordinator and veterinary staff training at the sites, to enhance consistency and effectiveness of student assessment, and to improve communications. However, even at this very early stage of our development, I am pleased to report that mean student response to the question, “The overall quality of this rotation was excellent” (rated on a 1 to 5 scale, with 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree) for every rotation exceeded 3.7, with a range of 3.7 to 4.9. It is the College’s goal that overall Course evaluations exceed 3.0 on all assessment items using that scale. Good job! to the third year course directors, to the Clinical Site Coordinators, and to Associate Deans Fuentealba and Mason in achieving these good marks so soon.

This issue of Outlook has a story on the 2006 Summer Congress of the International Veterinary Student Association, which will be held in California July 19-29, 2006. Good job to organizing committee co-chairs Ms. Karen Eiler (DVM 2007) and Mr. Terence Krentz (DVM 2008) in their fund raising efforts. And a big THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS to sponsors of this event, which include our good friends at Banfield™ the Pet Hospital, the Bosack Kruger Foundation, Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Nestle Purina Pet Care, Novartis, SAVMA, Veterinary Pet Insurance, and many generous veterinarians in the State of California. Anybody else out there with money rattling around in their pocket, who would like to support the future global leaders of the profession, should email Karen at keiler@westernu.edu, Terence at tkrentz@westernu.edu or me to find out how to give.

Thank you to all of you incredible donors who sent contributions to the College following our annual year-end mailing. Large and small gifts have come from the hearts of wonderful supporters (you know who you are): parents who also support their sons and daughters working diligently in the curriculum, friends who help us through the year with affection and advice, and our wonderful foundation and corporate partners who are helping us achieve a common vision. We continue to be a work in progress, a Work of Heart.

Best wishes to you all.

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” — Mahatma Gandhi

Shirley D. Johnston, DVM, PhD


**Ms. Jenny Bennett, Ms. Melissa Thompson (DVM 2008)**, and the Student Chapter of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians organized a Trap-Neuter-Release event for feral cats with Dr. Heather Nevill on Saturday, January 28.

**Dr. Joe Bertone** wrote “Veterinary Insight: This Month’s Vet” on the geriatric equine’s performance and long-term health in the October, 2005 issue of *Horse Connection*.

Kudos to Dr. Beth Boynton for bringing in gifts of an electrocardiogram machine and a Doppler blood pressure monitor from Bionet, courtesy of our partners at EFriends, practice software.

Welcome to **Dr. Carlos Crocker**, Assistant Professor of Physiology, who started on January 2, 2006. He is a graduate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (MS) and the University of California, Davis (PhD).


Congratulations to Dr. Carmen Fuentealba and Dr. Oscar Illanes on their paper: Yang AH, **Fuentealba C**, Jessen B, Illanes, O: Investigation on biomarkers and mechanisms of p-aminophenol-induced nephrotoxicity. 56th Annual Meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, Boston, MA, Dec, 2005.

Welcome to **Dr. Richard Jaffe**, Instructor in Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Jaffee is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (VMD), and has owned and operated three veterinary practices, including a specialty feline practice.


Associate Dean **Dr. Robert Mason** spoke on the WesternU College of Veterinary Medicine to the Orange Belt Veterinary Medical Association in Riverside on January 17, 2006.

Kudos to **Dr. Heather Nevill** for being featured on CBS Channel 9 KCAL news on December 20, 2005, repairing a torn pelican pouch. Her work with another injured pelican, “Phoenix” was the subject of an article in the Los Angeles Times on January 31, 2006, entitled “Working to make pelicans well again.”

Dr. Heather Nevill spoke on “Avian Soft Tissue Wound Management” at the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Annual Symposium, March 10, 2006, Costa Mesa, CA.


Welcome to **Dr. Hrvoje Smolakla**, Assistant Professor of Anatomy, who started on January 3, 2006. Dr. Smolakla is a graduate of the University of Zagreb, Croatia (DVM), and the University of Tennessee (PhD, Anatomy). His recent work includes the macroscopic anatomy of the ringed seal (*Phoca hispida*).

Welcome to **Dr. Dean Smylie**, Instructor, who started a fulltime position at the College on January 2, 2006. Dr. Smylie is a graduate of Colorado State University (DVM) who has worked in equine practice and in industry in animal nutrition research.

Congratulations to **Ms. Colleen Tansey (DVM 2008)** for being awarded an AVMA Governmental Relations Division Congressional Student Fellowship for the Summer of 2006. Colleen will travel to Washington DC, and work with AVMA staff in lobbying Congress on issues of relevance to the veterinary profession.

Farewell to **Ms. Vanessa Wilkins**, Research Assistant, who resigned in December, 2005, to pursue a more clinical focus in veterinary medicine.

Congratulations to **Ms. Leigh Wiemann** and **Dr. Heather Nevill** for obtaining a $9,191 grant in aid from the Albert & Anna Herdina Memorial Fund for Animals of the Riverside Community Foundation. This grant will support veterinary care via the Veterinary Ambulatory Community Services vehicle for pets owned by low income seniors (over 65 years of age) in Riverside and San Bernardino County.
THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AT WESTERNU is making preparations to host the 55th Annual International Veterinary Student Association (IVSA) Summer Congress in cooperation with the University of California, Davis. The Summer Congress, which will take place July 19th through 29th, 2006, is expected to draw up to 120 international and domestic veterinary students to California, highlighting innovative veterinary education. This marks the first time that two US veterinary colleges, will work together to bring the Summer Congress to the United States.

Headed by Co-Chairs Karen Eiler (DVM 2007) and Terence Krentz (DVM 2008), the Organizing Committee is finalizing the program schedule, actively fundraising, securing accommodations and transportation, and building a website. The ten day event includes program scheduling in Los Angeles, San Diego, Davis and San Francisco.

The Organizing Committee is seeking sponsors for the event. The Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA), Banfield the Pet Hospital, Bosack Kruger Foundation, Novartis, Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI) and Nestle Purina have made donations to helping fund the 55th Summer Congress. Donations can be made to Western University of Health Sciences, IVSA Organizing Committee.

The last time the Summer Congress was held in the US was in 1997 when it was hosted by North Carolina State University; and 2006 will only be the second time the prestigious Congress was held in the U.S.

In November of 2005, Drs. Joe Bertone and Robert Mason took two third-year students, Jennifer Burpo and David Higginbotham, with them to help with medical and surgical procedures performed on the animals at the Havasupai Indian reservation in the Grand Canyon. This has been an ongoing outreach of the Veterinary Christian Foundation for almost 25 consecutive years under the guidance of Dr. Richard Marshall. Over 400 horses were vaccinated and wormed, and over 200 dogs and cats were vaccinated and treated for parasites. In addition, there were numerous horse castrations and dog and cat neuters and spays. The students were able to participate in the medical and surgical procedures, and learned a great deal about the need in this area. Fort Dodge generously donated vaccines and parasiticides and many veterinarians and technicians from around the country donated their time and effort to continue this very important project. Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2005 event.
Fourth-Year Rotations:
The Charter Class, DVM 2007, is now identifying four-week rotations for their last academic year. They are required to complete eight of these between June of 2006 and May of 2007. They will be selecting specific sites related to the disciplines they have chosen with their academic advisors and the Clinical Instruction Committee. The menu from which they choose lists sites located all over the world. The time they spend in these facilities and practices, as individuals, will be with board certified veterinarians or content experts recognized as such by their peers. Students will be required to be on campus for one week, in May, and again in October of the fourth year.

Third-Year Rotations:
Third-year students in the food animal rotation found themselves in the thick of clinical skills training as they assisted in practices from Los Banos to Turlock to Merced to Visalia. Whether it was vaccinating cattle, performing pregnancy checks via rectal palpation, pulling calves, or dehorning, they found new meaning to the term ‘early morning farm calls.’ It is estimated that in their four weeks of food animal experience, they will have palpated roughly 500 cattle. One student claimed she had palpated 2000 in that period of time. The experience has caused some of the students who were previously considering small animal medicine to consider food animal practice as a career choice. Those students will have the opportunity to choose four week rotations in that discipline in their fourth year which will begin in June of 2006. Some of the photos on this page demonstrate a part of how their days were spent.

Excitement Builds
For Third- and Fourth-Year Rotations

Student Megan Calinsky confers with Dr. Paul Cook.

JF Rowlinson palpating cattle for pregnancy status.

Vernice Bocanegra helping in the delivery.

Third-year student Vernice Bocanegra with twin calves she has just delivered.
Laura Chan

I was born in Hong Kong, raised in California, and survived my undergrad at Cal (Go Bears!). I believe everyone has a passion. Mine? Small animal emergency medicine, because it feels like you’re saving the world…touching one life at a time.

Marlene Anschultz

I have an array of animal experience from working with dolphins to a research lab that specialized in heart catheter surgeries. When I grow up I want to be an international veterinarian and/or a zoo veterinarian. This program will hopefully help me decide that.

Vanessa Fravel

I grew up in Miami, Florida where I fell in love with marine mammals. I knew that veterinary medicine was going to be my goal in life because I loved biology and had a passion for helping animals, marine mammals in particular. My undergrad experience at The George Washington University was exciting but lacked an ocean. I was much relieved to come to WesternU because I am only 45 minutes from the ocean and can finally pursue my dreams of becoming a veterinarian for marine mammals, though at this point, I get excited to help any animal.

Kelly Flaminio

I just graduated from Miami University of Ohio in May 2005 with a BA in zoology and a minor in anthropology. After studying aboard in Kenya as an undergrad student, I hope to continue my interest in wildlife as a veterinarian.

Audra De LaTorre

I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. I was working on my masters in ecology at CSUF when I entered WesternU. My true passion is working with wildlife facilities rehabilitating/releasing wildlife. I also worked as an emergency technician for 6 years and tech manager for 2 years. I intend to continue working with wildlife and emergency when I graduate.

Stephanie Friedman

Originally from Santa Barbara, California, I have lived in all the major west coast cities working as a chef. Realizing that I preferred to cure animals over cooking them, I got myself into veterinary school, and am now exactly where I need to be! My cats, King Carlos and Lady Dulcinea, are perfect study aids.

Bryan Hoffman

Growing up in New York, I have always had a strong desire to help animals. Throughout my youth I have had a plethora of animals and seeing them and others in pain and distress drove me toward veterinary medicine. I graduated from Cornell University in December 2004 and waited in anticipation for veterinary school. My eventual goal is to become a small animal surgeon and own my own multi-specialty small animal hospital.

Hana Hyun

I am a Korean-Chilean from Los Angeles. At UCLA, I studied biology and Spanish literature. Privileged to be here with my colleagues, who have my respect, I am interested in small animals, wildlife, and behavior. Hockey and 80s music delight me, and I am blessed by family and more so by Jesus, who is real and has done so much for me.

Haig Leonard

I grew up in Colorado and New Jersey, developed business skills throughout the west coast and now find myself realizing my ultimate dream! Being a veterinary student at WesternU has been extremely rewarding, albeit challenging. I currently live in Hollywood with my two dogs and numerous fish.

McGee Leonard

I was born and raised in southern California and bad the privilege of spending two years in Rome, Italy before returning home for college. I attended UC Los Angeles and graduated with a BS in microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics in 2003. I am interested in holistic medicine.

Caitlin M. O’Shea

I grew up just outside New York City, and am now enjoying the sunny weather in Southern California. I just finished by BS from Cornell in May 2005 as a double major in biology (animal physiology) and animal science (dairy management). I’m mainly interested in large animal medicine - particularly equine theriogenology.
Darlene Sanchez

Growing up in San Francisco, I spent most of my summers traveling with my family around the USA and the rest of the world. During undergrad I attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and majored in Animal Science. I hope to practice large animal medicine internationally, specifically focusing on equine.

I am a 25-year-old that graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in March 2005. I am happily married and have two very cute daughters: a 9-year-old and a 9-month-old. I was born and raised here in southern California, and hope to one day own my small animal practice.

Kelly Schmidtauer

In 2002 I graduated from the University of Colorado in Boulder with a degree in biology and somehow managed to do so without taking organic chemistry. So needless to say, I’ve been taking prerequisite classes and have been working at various small animal clinics in Colorado and California since then. I’m excited to see where the next few years take me.

I was born and raised in Whittier, California. I completed my undergraduate studies at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry and music. I am interested in zoo medicine and/or small animal medicine.

Tamerin Scott

I was born in Ukraine, and raised in Alberta, Canada where I earned a MS in medical science. I’ve worked in the research field in San Diego, where my main focus was on immunology and inflammation for six years. I’ve always had a passion for helping animals and science, and so decided to switch careers and become a vet to combine both of my passions. I’ve had amazing support from my wonderful husband, Rob, and our doggie kids, Fergus, Maggie and Pepe (aka Pep).

In 2005 with a BS in animal science. My current interest is in oncology. I’m a very out going people person and can’t wait to make new life long friends and colleagues!

I graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in zoology from Northern Arizona University in 2002. My experiences involved wildlife rehabilitation, volunteer work, and veterinary technician. My current interests include zoo, exotics, and international veterinary medicine.

Felicitas Tantiyatyanon

I grew up in Bangkok, Thailand and moved to the U.S. at the age of 13. I graduated with an associate degree in wildlife rehabilitation from San Diego Community College in 2007. My experiences involved wildlife rehabilitation, volunteer work, and veterinary technician. My current interests include zoo, exotics, and international veterinary medicine.

I became interested in veterinary medicine at the early age of 5. I carried that interest throughout my formative years and into college. I graduated from Occidental College with a degree in biology in May 2005. WesternU is a great opportunity and I intend to pursue my career goals of becoming an equine veterinarian.

Caitlin Wilson

I am originally from Lincoln, Nebraska and completed my undergraduate education at Iowa State University. I’ve worked as a veterinary technician in Ames, Iowa for the past few years. I enjoy outdoor activities and the martial arts (taekwondo). My career interest is feline medicine.

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Lena Stuart

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Nalini Swain

I am from Chicago, Illinois where I was employed as a veterinary technician at an emergency clinic for the last 6 years. I came to California with my husband, Drew; our 2-year-old son, Aidan and our 6-year-old Border Collie, Sadie. I plan to practice small animal emergency medicine and surgery.

Felicitas Tantiyatyanon

I grew up in Bangkok, Thailand and moved to the U.S. at the age of 13. I graduated with a bachelor’s degree in zoology from Northern Arizona University in 2002. My experiences involved wildlife rehabilitation, volunteer work, and veterinary technician. My current interests include zoo, exotics, and international veterinary medicine.

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Alex Swope

I was born and raised in Rosemead, California. My undergraduate studies were completed at Cal Poly Pomona and CSULA. I am a national and California RVT and have been a technician for about 7 years. I am excited to be a part of this progressive program and hope to focus on small animal internal medicine and emergency.

Naomi Tateishi

I am originally from Lincoln, Nebraska and completed my undergraduate education at Iowa State University. I’ve worked as a veterinary technician in Ames, Iowa for the past few years. I enjoy outdoor activities and the martial arts (taekwondo). My career interest is feline medicine.

Brandy Witte

I was born and raised in Whittier, California. I completed my undergraduate studies at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry and music. I am interested in zoo medicine and/or small animal medicine.
CARLOS E. CROCKER, MS, PhD, was born in New Haven, Connecticut. He completed his BS in zoology and his MS in biology at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, studying acid-base balance in the Tiger Salamander, Ambystoma tigrinum. He taught 10th grade biology at Damien High School in La Verne, CA for one year, and then decided to pursue a PhD at UC Davis, working on cardiovascular, respiratory, and acid-base physiology of white sturgeon, Acipenser transmontanus. During his time at UCD, he completed a one-time collaborative, international study of habitat preference, distribution, and physiology of cape hake off the coast of Namibia.

After finishing his PhD, Carlos taught biology at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, participating in a collaborative research project between the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa and Brown University. It was his job to dive under the icy waters of the Lamoille River in Vermont during the winter to obtain blood samples from hibernating Map turtles, Graptemys geographica. Soon after, he took a post-doctoral position at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was involved in a study of muscle metabolism in desert iguanas, Dipsosaurus dorsalis. He used HPLC to measure concentrations of high-energy phosphate compounds, pre-and post exercise. At the end of his post-doc he took a faculty position at San Francisco State University.

At SFSU Carlos established a research program to characterize how an anoxia-tolerant animal such as the freshwater turtle (Trachemys scripta elegans) can function without oxygen. He also worked to characterize and model some of the acid-base, cardiovascular, endocrine, and respiratory responses and limitations of white sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus) and green sturgeon (A. medirostris) chronically exposed to environmental hypercapnia and hypoxia. After five wonderful years at SFSU, he made the decision to move back to Southern California to join the faculty at WesternU in January 2006.

CARLOS E. CROCKER

HRVOJE SMODLAKA, DVM, PhD grew up in a historic city of Split on the Adriatic coast of Croatia, and attended the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, where he graduated first in his class (of 120 students) with the DVM degree in 1998. Following graduation, he completed a year of mandatory postgraduate military service in Croatia in an equestrian unit where he was in charge of 60 army horses. He moved to the United States in 2001, and completed his PhD in veterinary anatomy at the University of Tennessee in 2004, studying the respiratory, cardiovascular, and abdominal anatomy of the ringed seal (Phoca hispida).

Hrvoje (aka “Smoky”) was then recruited as an Assistant Professor of Veterinary Anatomy by the University of Georgia. He was in charge of the anatomy laboratory, where he established animal tissue plastination, a procedure he had mastered at the University of Tennessee. At Georgia, he taught Principles of Anatomy, Anatomy of the Horse, Clinical Anatomy of the Large Animals, and Anatomy of Food Animals. He also continued his dissertation research with a collaborative project to study marine mammal lung histology, immunohistology, histochemistry and physiology.

Hrvoje moved to Southern California in January, 2006, to take the position of Assistant Professor of Veterinary Anatomy here at WesternU. He is enthusiastic about the new and innovative PBL curriculum, and he is mesmerized and stunned by the beauty of the State of California. He has not complained about the weather since arriving in California in January.

Hrvoje speaks English and Italian fluently, in addition to his native Croatian. He is thoroughly enjoying his work with the students and faculty in the multidisciplinary class room lab and as a PBL facilitator. He is grateful to the students, faculty and staff who have made him feel welcomed here at WesternU.

HRVOJE SMODLAKA

HILL’S PET NUTRITION...

...offered Dr. Peggy Schmidt and her third year classes in Foods and Feed Safety the opportunity to tour their food processing plant in Vernon, California. Twelve students at a time have been able to take advantage of this educational experience and learn what goes into the production of a high quality dog and cat food, and the quality control steps from receiving raw materials to the completion of strict dietary formulations. Discussions on the regulatory side of the pet food industry were also presented. Seven trips in all were made to the facility where Hill’s provided the goggles, ear plugs, a great lunch, and an educational program to go along with the tour. The students learned a great deal and gained a better understanding of all that goes into that bag or can to keep our pets in the best of health. Thank you to Dr. Barry Watson, Hill’s Veterinary Affairs, for arranging this wonderful off-campus field trip.

CARLOS E. CROCKER

HILL’S PET NUTRITION...
Imagine going back in time to a place where life is simple. Where the pace of life is slow, where time is kept not by a watch, but by the position of the sun in the sky, and where a feeling of community is the center of activity instead of the TV in the living room.

Now imagine that a time machine isn’t necessary. And you have imagined a world that Dr. Donna Shettko and I have been fortunate to visit the past two years. Each January we spend two weeks providing rural veterinary care in the mountains of northern Honduras. Along with a volunteer organization called Peacework Medical, we volunteer our time, our talent, and our resources to provide care to the animals that are an integral part of daily life to the people.

Peacework has been providing volunteer opportunities around the world for decades. In the past, the main work has involved building and engineering services. Six years ago, Peacework began offering medical care in developing countries throughout Asia and Latin America. Typically, a group of about 15 volunteers travel to remote areas where medical clinics are run in temporary facilities with the assistance of local community leaders. Six years ago, Peacework established such a clinic in a small mountain village called Santa Lucia in northern Honduras. Medical care is provided to the residents of many neighboring villages, up to five hours away by foot. The local residents walk in mountainous terrain, often carrying infants and toddlers, in order to have the only medical care they receive all year. The clinic is staffed with volunteer physicians, nurses, and physician assistants.

Last year, Peacework invited Dr. Shettko and me to provide veterinary care to the animal inhabitants of the same villages. With patience and perseverance, we attended to the needs of about 600 animals last year, providing mostly preventative care to beef cattle and horses. At first, the local residents were a bit surprised that we wanted to care for their animals. But word quickly traveled that the vets were in town, and our services were sought by the men who are the primary caretakers of the animals.

This year, we returned to the same villages, where, to our surprise, our services were in high demand. The local leaders established a daily schedule for us, and we cared for over 1200 animals during another two week period. Most of the care we provided was to beef cattle. Administering vaccinations, and anti-parasitic drugs was our primary emphasis to the mostly Brahman cross cattle. Additionally, we provided care to pigs, horses, and a few sheep and goats. And in order to care for all the local animals we were able to vaccinate and deworm many of the village dogs and cats. Spays and neuters were one of our goals last year for the local dogs and cats. However, the human companions were not interested in this type of service. By the end of our second week last year, we were able to convince just two families to allow us to neuter one dog and one cat. Well, since last year the dog and the cat were transformed into “poster pets.” The people soon realized the benefits of surgical sterilization. The animals no longer roamed, were not as aggressive to other animals, and were clearly pets and companions. This year we dedicated three of our clinic days to spaying and neutering dogs and cats, and there were animals lined up all the way down the street for this service.

It is incredibly rewarding to provide veterinary care where animals are not only companions, but also provide subsistence to people where the family income is only $12.00 per month. We hope that the care and education we provide will help to improve the quality of life not only for the animals, but for the people who depend on them. We are excited about continuing this service opportunity in the years to come, and it is our goal to again double the number of animals we see next year. We are confident that we will, because next January we will be able to take two fourth year WesternU. students with us as a clinical rotation in International Medicine and Public Health.

If you would like to contribute to this project, donations are used to purchase vaccines and medications. Please contact Drs. Shettko and Tegzes for more information.
Always In Our Hearts: Stories from the WAVE Program

"RUSTY"
By Ben G., age 12

Rusty came to me during the first year of my life. He was a Golden Retriever mutt, dark red golden, with funny soft velvet ears that always looked chewed on. He loved everyone that he ever met and was never in a bad mood. I loved his silly smile and irritating, continuous bark from the beginning. He slept on my bed nearly every night of his life; except after he got sick from sneaking too many chocolates from the kitchen during the holidays. He wasn’t the smartest dog of all time, but that made me love him even more. Later in his life he welcomed a wonderful border collie named Spice, and two precious cats named Raven and Hermione into his home. They all loved him just as much as I did.

The day that Rusty died was the saddest day of my entire life. Just before he died, I wrapped the blankets from my bed around him so that he would think he was still on my bed. My dad and I cried for nearly 4 days after he died. All of the people at the Animal Clinic were so kind to us in our time of need. They treated Rusty as if he were their dog. I am also happy to know the WAVE program will be helping animals live as long as they are able to.

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 like Rusty 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 Outlook.
Artist Bev Doolittle Grants Use of Famous Watercolor

California artist Bev Doolittle’s now-famous watercolors celebrate our Western wilderness and its inhabitants, expressing the reverence for life that is a founding principle of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Hoping a partnership with the artist would be possible, Leigh Wiemann, the College’s Director of Philanthropy, requested permission to reproduce one of Doolittle’s watercolor images on a special bookmark. The artist generously agreed to donate the use of Pintos—her first, most famous camouflage watercolor print. The elegant, limited edition bookmark will be given as a gift of appreciation to individuals who donate to the College. The bookmark will not be available for purchase.

Dr. Shirley Johnston, dean of the College, personally thanked Bev for her generosity and partnership in December during a special exhibition at the B & R Gallery in Canyon Country, California. Dr. Johnston presented a handsome “Reverence For Life—It’s in our bones” paperweight (modeled on a canine foreleg femur) and received a delighted smile in return.
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.