CVM Students Comfort Sick Children

“Josh Project” kits ease anxiety for kids in hospitals
**Word from the Dean**

**SUMMER HAS ARRIVED** and we are experiencing the bittersweet emotions of missing our veterinary students while enjoying periods of blissful silence. Finals week ended May 13, which concluded the work for our students, but not for faculty who were grading exams all through the next week. On May 24, Associate Dean **Philip Nelson** and PBL Coordinator **Steve Waldhalm** convened the first of three faculty retreats to be held over the summer. In addition to reviewing recommendations from the Admissions and Scholastic Standing Committee regarding promotion of students to the next year of the curriculum, the faculty reviewed the successes and challenges of the Problem-Based Learning curriculum. Faculty and staff activities during the summer include research, continued curricular development and much-needed vacation.

I am pleased to report that the CVM has admitted 108 students to the Class of 2009, exceeding our target of 100: 88 women and 21 men from 18 states (61 from California) with average prerequisite GPA of 3.26. Huge GOOD JOB to the Admissions and Scholastic Standing Committee (Dr. Lara Rasmussen, Chair, and Drs. Peggy Barr, John Jacobson, Suzie Kovacs, Peggy Schmidt, and area veterinarians Drs. Carpenter, Cuellar and Patlogar) for their outstanding job in recruiting this class.

On May 14, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution: That Western University of Health Sciences proceed with plans to establish a College of Veterinary Medicine in Las Vegas, Nevada, to be modeled on the College of Veterinary Medicine at WesternU’s Pomona campus and that its establishment be conditional on the acquisition of external funding. This exciting resolution follows months of information gathering by a University Task Force. Findings presented to the Board include that there is a critical national shortage of veterinarians and veterinary colleges, that Las Vegas is the fastest growing city in the United States, that Las Vegas is home to a large and growing animal population, significant partnership opportunities exist with prospective donors and animal stakeholders, and the proximity of the Pomona campus to Las Vegas and the agility of our veterinary curriculum suggest that a new school could be established easily.

A Las Vegas CVM Planning Committee has convened to investigate the feasibility of raising money to occupy a building on the Animal Foundation Lied Animal Shelter campus. Stay tuned.

Part of our investigation of the feasibility of a Las Vegas CVM includes meeting prominent Las Vegas citizens. A WesternU contingent (President Pumerantz, Executive Vice President Cohen, Vice President James, Executive Associate Dean Nelson, Associate Deans Mason and Phillips and I) attended the May 26 Anti-Defamation League dinner honoring Barbara Greenspun at Caesars Palace. Mrs. Greenspun is the mother of Jane Greenspun Gale, Chair of the Board of the Animal Foundation and one of our partners on the Las Vegas CVM Planning Committee. We were honored to meet keynote speaker and Nobel Prize Winner (1986) Elie Wiesel, and honored to sit with Mr. Siegfried Fischbacher, Ms. Lynette Chappell (Siegfried & Roy’s “Evil Queen”), and Ms. Suzanne Kloud of Siegfried & Roy Productions. I hope to have more information about this exciting prospect in next quarter’s magazine.

"Humankind is drawn to dogs because they are so like ourselves – bumbling, affectionate, confused, easily disappointed, eager to be amused, grateful for kindness and the least attention."

- Pam Brown, contemporary New Zealand poet

Shirley D. Johnston, DVM, PhD

Congratulations to **Ms. Veronica Boling**, Technician in the Multidisciplinary Classroom, for being accepted to the College of Veterinary Medicine at WesternU, Class of 2009. Hooray!

Congratulations to **Ms. Emily Clinton**, DVM ’07 for being elected (by veterinary student clubs across the country) as National President of the Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society.

Welcome to **Ms. Denisha Jenkins**, who joined the CVM as Administrative Assistant for clinical rotations, reporting to Dr. Carmen Fuentealba. Denisha came from the Student Rotations Division of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is the mother of Tairalen, 4, who hopes to become a veterinarian (hooray) and Markus, 5, who hopes to become a DO.

Congratulations to **Dr. Robert Mason**, Associate Dean for Clinical Rotations & External Relations, who received the Master of Science in Health Professions Education at WesternU this Spring. His degree was awarded at graduation in Pasadena on May 12, where he was hooded by his sons, Adam and Andrew.

Congratulations to **Danielle Shaffer**, DVM ’08, recipient of the CL Davis Foundation Summer Externship in Veterinary Pathology award. Danielle will work for WU-CVM at the San Diego Animal Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory.

Good job! To **Dr. Jane Shaw** who, with **Dr. Cindy Adams**, Ontario Veterinary College, presented workshops on Essential Communication Skills for Your Team [American Animal Hospital Assoc. Denver, CO, Jan 20, 2005] and on Team-Based Communication: A Key to Success in Veterinary Practice [annual meeting of the American Animal Hospital Assoc. Baltimore, MD, Mar 20, 2005]. We bid affectionate farewell to Dr. Jane Shaw in May, who assumed leadership of the Argus Institute for Families and Veterinary Medicine in Fort Collins, CO.

Welcome to **Ms. Debbie Smith**, who joined the CVM as our premier Receptionist in May, 2005. Debbie previously worked in the College of Osteopathic Medicine assisting the Director of Student Services. Debbie and Dennis Smith are the proud parents of Ryan and Todd, and have an adorable granddaughter, Lakyn.


The CVM Research Advisory Committee congratulates recipients and proposals from its 2005 research competition:

- **Anderson J**: The Chicasha formation of Oklahoma: Possible Middle Permian deposits in North America.
- **Barr MC, Tkalcic S**: Development of a Guinea Pig model for testing Alzheimer’s Disease vaccines.
- **Kachani M, Raines A**: Survey of common parasitic and viral infections in stray and owned companion animals in Southern California.
- **Kovacs S**: Support for Research Conference, International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations.
- **Schmidt P, Cole W**: Stress response of dairy cattle to palpation per rectum by veterinary students inexperienced in palpation.
- **Shettko D, Wickler SJ**: Muscle strain and stress of the patellar muscle-tendon complex in the equine stifle.
- **Tegzes J**: Determination of the amount of mercury found in fish-based cat food.
- **Trevejo RT**: Study for Submission to the Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association
- **Voith V**: Assessing sensitivity of pituitary-adrenal responsiveness to varying intensities of psychological stress in companion animals by measuring plasma cortisol.
On April 5th, 2005, four WesternU students, Ms. Heather Applegate, Ms. Kimberly Cook, Ms. J.J. Rawlinson and Ms. Jaimie Sun Siegel (all Class of 2007) flew to Sacramento to testify at the introduction of AB 418, which would ban cosmetic ear cropping of dogs in California. As members of WesternU’s student chapter of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights (AVAR), these students joined over 30 other animal advocates in support of bill AB 418, including veterinary students from UC Davis, AVAR representatives, veterinarians and rescue groups and Dr. Paula Kislak, President of AVAR, and Dr. Frank McMillan. Expert testimony was provided to the Assembly’s Committee on Public Safety. The bill was passed by a vote of 5-2. From there, it will be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and then move to the Assembly floor. If passed by the Assembly, it may be signed into law by the Governor. The experience proved to be very eye-opening for the veterinary students who were granted the opportunity to attend. This legislation is an example of how veterinary medicine continues to change daily.

Those present in opposition to the bill were dog breeders and members of the American Kennel Club (AKC). An opponent of the bill and friend of the CVM who is a local breeder of Doberman Pinschers, wrote the following to her Assembly representative: “I have bred and enjoyed the sport of showing dogs for 32 years with one of the oldest continuous bloodlines in the country. I am the co-bredrer of the 1990 Best in Show winner at Westminster Kennel Club and her sire who was the top producer with 95 American Kennel Club Champions. They were all cropped right here in California by very careful and talented veterinarians. I would never do anything to harm my dogs, and the practice of ear cropping is safe and done under anesthesia. I have never had a puppy die or have any other adverse effects from an ear cropping in all this time. I believe that AB 418 creates an enforcement climate in which activists could harass veterinarians and dog owners and breeders; sets an unacceptably low threshold for government interference in the personal choices of its citizens; allows one group to impose its values on another without having to demonstrate that such imposition serves a significant public good; opens doors to persecution and intolerance; and represents an unwarranted intrusion in the relationship between dog owners and their veterinarians.”

These opinions reflect both the different views of persons affiliated with our college, as well as those of veterinarians divided on the issue. One argument is that veterinarians have a moral and ethical responsibility not to cause harm or suffering in animals for cosmetic reasons. Another argues that ear cropping is a relatively simple procedure that does not cause undue suffering and that interferes with activities of purebred dog fanciers. Still another view argues that the State should not legislate the banning of procedures that should be the purview of the doctor-client relationship in veterinary medicine. Students at the College of Veterinary Medicine at WesternU are encouraged, and congratulated, on participating in the political process. Status of AB 418 can be followed online at http://www.sen.ca.gov.
How Cassius Cat Became Famous

Imagine, driving down the street, minding your own business, when suddenly WHAM! A large mechanical crane owned by a major utility falls on your car. Five years later you awake from a coma paralyzed but with money in the bank—the largess from a lawsuit filed by your attorney on your behalf.

This is the incredible, true story of Betty J. Jones, who spent the next ten years deciding how to put the award to good use. Her financial advisor encouraged her to start a foundation so something would live on after she was gone. Ms Jones loved animals and used part of her settlement in 1997 to establish a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping animals—Betty J. Jones & The Cassius Cat Foundation. And so it was that Cassius, a favorite childhood cat, came to fame.

Although Ms. Jones passed away several years ago, her love for animals has continued to guide the Foundation’s charitable giving. Each year, Betty J. Jones & The Cassius Cat Foundation award scholarships to help promising veterinary students meet the costs of their education.

Ms. Carol Brown, president of the Foundation, and Dr. Barbara Allard, vice president of the Foundation, presented scholarship awards to Ms. Emily Angell, DVM ’08 and Ms. Hiroko Hata, DVM ’08 at the 2nd Annual Honors Day Program & Tea held on April 20, 2005. These competitive scholarships, awarded to second year veterinary students, are renewable each year through graduation. The Foundation also awards scholarships to veterinary students attending Washington State University, Colorado State University and UC Davis.

We are very grateful to Ms. Brown, Dr. Allard, and Betty J. Jones & The Cassius Cat Foundation for their faith in and support for our wonderful, talented students at the College of Veterinary Medicine. ♥
Carolyn Olech
I graduated from Cal Poly Pomona, receiving a BS in animal sciences; however my roots lie in the metropolitan DC area. I have 10+ years experience working as a veterinary technician and managing small animal veterinary hospitals. I have a special interest in oncology, serving law enforcement canines and further enriching the human-animal bond. I remain grateful to the unconditional support and sacrifices my husband, dogs and family have made so that I may achieve my lifelong passion.

I was born and raised in Southern California. I received a BS in biological sciences from UC Irvine in 2004. Although I dedicated most of my undergraduate time to various research projects, I feel that my true passion is small animal medicine. This is because I have always had a passion for the challenges that this area of veterinary medicine bad to offer.

Jill Pindar
I am a California native from the Bay Area. In June 2004 I graduated with a BS in animal science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. It was a blast! I am seriously considering specializing, but the options are endless and my mind changes with each new case.

Kelly Everson
I grew up in West Los Angeles, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in December of 2002 with a BS in animal science. After graduating, I plan to work with small animals including rodents. I am here today thanks to the support and love of my family, friends and pets Bambi and Charlie.

I live in Sunland, CA with my wife, 2 teenage boys, 5 dogs and 3 horses. My goal is to specialize in equine medicine. My non-medical equine interests include dressage competitions, competitive trail riding and mounted law enforcement. I also enjoy flying helicopters and playing tennis.

Zhenya Sheriff
I grew up in West Los Angeles, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in December of 2002 with a BS in animal science. After graduating, I plan to work with small animals including rodents. I am here today thanks to the support and love of my family, friends and pets Bambi and Charlie.

I am originally from New Jersey, but moved here from Vermont, where I have lived for the past 10 years. I graduated with a BA from the University of Vermont before coming to California to pursue veterinary medicine. My goal is to own a small animal practice one day.

Jessie Sinkowski
Originally from Eugene, Oregon, I attended Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon where I received my BS in animal science. My current interests are equine lameness, reproduction, and nutrition. Between studying I like to play with my Dalmatian, Riggs, and I spend vacations working with our 5 horses in Oregon.

Mary Siri
Born and raised in Santa Cruz, California, I graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor’s in animal science. I have worked as a veterinary technician for the past few years and I am leaning toward practicing small animal medicine. When not teaching myself veterinary medicine, I enjoy being outside, drawing, and tormenting people with my sense of humor.

I completed a BS in microbiology at the University of Michigan. I worked in the endocrinology section of Michigan State University CVM after graduation. I moved to Los Angeles in 2002 and researched brain and spinal cord injury at UCLA. I am interested in equine research and small animal imaging. Many thanks to JennyFur!

Meg Sislak
I was born and raised in a small southern Indiana town. I graduated from Indiana University in 2001 with a BS in biology. From there I pursued my MS in animal science at Purdue University. I wish to become a mixed animal practitioner serving the rural area which I came from.

I currently live in Upland with my two cats.

Andrea Smith
My name is Andrea Smith, and I graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in animal science in May of 2004. At this time, I am interested in pursuing a career in small animal medicine, but I also at times show interest in the veterinary care of marine mammals.

I graduated from Michigan State University with a BS in animal behavior and neurobiology in 2003. I moved here from Lansing, Michigan where I spent the last five years working in local small and large animal practices. I currently live in Upland with my two cats.

Kelly Sparks
I am a California native from the Bay Area. In June 2004 I graduated with a BS in animal science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. It was a blast! I am seriously considering specializing, but the options are endless and my mind changes with each new case.

David Robertson
I live in Sunland, CA with my wife, 2 teenage boys, 5 dogs and 3 horses. My goal is to specialize in equine medicine. My non-medical equine interests include dressage competitions, competitive trail riding and mounted law enforcement. I also enjoy flying helicopters and playing tennis.

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CVM Student Profiles - Class of 2008

Roshanak Tajrishi

I have participated in several projects involving wildlife, including marine mammals and sea birds. My experiences sparked my interest in wildlife medicine and a vision of owning a successful mixed small animal practice that will allow me to fund a wildlife rehabilitation center. Currently I am focused on building the educational foundation I will require to gain experience as a veterinarian.

Colleen Tansey

I am from Chicago where I worked in theater and advertising for about 10 years. I decided I wanted to be a vet when I was a kid, but didn’t pursue it until I was about 26. I love knowing that I will be a doctor in 3 years (fingers crossed), and am so glad that WesternU took a chance on me and I took a chance on them. I have a loving husband who takes care of me, my dog and 5 cats.

Melissa Thompson

I was born and raised in the Detroit area. I received my BS in life sciences from Arizona State University and went on to a career in cancer research at the Mayo Clinic and later in Bio-Tech in Seattle. After graduation I plan to go back to Arizona as a small animal practitioner.

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FROM THE BEGINNING, Cynthia Kinney and Ciara Vollaro knew it was the right thing to do. Today the two veterinary school students will deliver 144 Josh Project kits to Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. The kits include a plush golden retriever, fashioned after a real dog named Josh, and a children’s book titled “I’ll Be OK.”

The kits are given to children about to undergo a procedure at hospitals and are valuable tools for easing their anxiety, said Wendi Kellaris, manager of the volunteer resources department at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Josh “is therapy. It’s not just a toy,” Kellaris said.

Kinney and Vollaro, second-year students, tackled the project after Kinney learned about it at a symposium last year and met the kit’s creator. The two women invited other veterinary students and started a letter-writing campaign in which they asked for $40 donations to cover the cost of a kit and shipping. “It’s something we should be doing,” said Kinney, a Rancho Cucamonga resident. “We shouldn’t only be focused on animals even though it’s our passion.”

The project connects two vulnerable groups, said Vollaro, an Upland resident. “You have the most innocent creatures - children and animals,” Vollaro said. The students aimed to purchase 100 kits but surpassed their goal.

Randall Lange, a veterinarian in Knoxville, Tenn., is the author of the kit’s children’s book and launched the Josh Project with a friend. He said the work of Vollaro and Kinney is impressive.

Veterinary schools nationwide have been challenged to raise money to purchase kits, and the WesternU students are in the lead. The idea for the book came about 11 years ago when Lange’s daughter, who was 9, was going to undergo a tonsillectomy. She was scared. Lange searched libraries, bookstores and even turned to the hospital for something that could help calm her fears. When he found nothing, he decided to write a book himself and offered it to the hospital.

The book centers on a dog named Josh, who looks like Lange’s pet, and tells from his perspective what a hospital visit can be like. The plush dog is intended to bring some comfort and companionship to young patients. “Josh becomes a friend and confidant,” Lange said.

Lange said the kits can go to any hospital, but if they go to a facility affiliated with the Children’s Miracle Network, which Childrens Hospital Los Angeles is, a portion of the cost of the kits is donated to the hospital. Kellaris said WesternU’s donation will help a large group of children.

“I can’t tell you the positive impact that (gift) is for our children and their families,” she said.

Monica Rodriguez can be reached by e-mail atm_rodriguez@dailybulletin.com or by phone at (909) 483-9336.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2005 RECIPIENT OF THE CARL NORDEN-PFIZER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING OF VETERINARY MEDICINE:

DR. GARY JOHNSTON

The Carl Norden-Pfizer Award for Distinguished Teaching of Veterinary Medicine is given to one faculty member at each College of Veterinary Medicine in the United States every year, and the recipient is selected by members of the student body. The purpose of the award is to improve veterinary medical education by recognizing outstanding instructors who, through their ability, dedication, character and leadership, contribute significantly to the advancement of the profession. On April 20, the 2005 recipient from Western University was announced at the annual Honors Day Tea: Radiology Professor Dr. Gary Johnston.

Dr. Johnston has been an academic veterinarian for more than 30 years. A native of Seattle, Washington, he received a BS in zoology from the University of Washington, a DVM from Washington State University in 1974, and completed an internship, residency, and MS in veterinary radiology at the University of Minnesota. He became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiologists in 1980. From 1974 to 1996 he was on the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota where he rose through the ranks to become a full professor, serving as Division Head of Radiology and establishing the College’s nuclear pharmacy. While at Minnesota he was a full member of the Graduate Faculty in Surgery, Radiology and Anesthesiology.

He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Zoo. From 1996 to 1998 he was a Professor at Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Pullman, with responsibilities in Anatomy, Radiology, and Computer-Assisted Instruction (“Virtual WSU”). He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Society for Veterinary Radiology, the Radiological Society of North America, Phi Zeta and Sigma Xi. He has been principal or co-investigator on 43 funded research projects, and primary or co-author on 74 refereed journal articles and 111 textbook chapters.

Dr. Johnston came to Western University in 2002 as a founding faculty member, and has since been heavily involved in curriculum development (Problem-Based Learning and Clinical Skills) and in recruitment of clinical sites. He has made great contributions to the Problem-Based Learning curriculum, both as a well-loved facilitator and as a provider of radiographs and radiology reports for PBL cases. His small group film-reading sessions have also been well received by the students, with “Good Stuff” ringing through the rooms when accurate radiographic findings are discerned.

Gary is a fisherman extraordinaire (walleyed pike, Northern pike, ice fishing in Minnesota, bass fishing in Midwestern lakes, albacore, yellow tail and blue fin tuna off the California coast, winner of the 2004 California Croaker Tournament for California Sea Bass). He is married to Dr. Shirley Johnston, and they are the parents of son Gary Ryan (28), a landscape architect and teacher in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and Alison (22), a recent graduate in Economics from the University of Washington and soon-to-be graduate student at the University of British Columbia. CONGRATULATIONS on this great honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2005 RECIPIENT OF THE Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence:

DR. JASON ANDERSON

The Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence is awarded annually to one faculty member at each College of Veterinary Medicine after evaluation by the Research Committee who makes a recommendation to the Dean. The purpose of the award is to foster innovative research, on which the scientific advancement of the profession depends, by recognizing outstanding research effort and productivity. On April 20, the 2005 recipient from Western University was announced at the annual Honors Day Tea: Anatomy Assistant Professor Dr. Jason Anderson.

[From the April 2005 issue of Discover Magazine] “Last summer, on a warm Paris morning, a few dozen members of the International Society for Phylogenetic Nomenclature gathered at the National Museum of Natural History. The occasion was a talk by Jason Anderson, a professor of veterinary medicine at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California. Anderson’s talk – the fifth of the day – was about Lepospondyli: an extinct group of small four-limbed creatures that may be the ancestors of modern amphibians. To the uninitiated, it would have seemed deeply pedantic: the title of the talk was “Phylogenetic Taxonomy of Lepospondyli: Top-Down Versus Bottom-Up Approaches to Nomenclature in Uncertain Topologies.” Yet Anderson’s real subject was a revolution that could shake the foundations of how we describe life on Earth.”

Dr. Anderson is a Michigan native, who received his BS in Geological Sciences at the University of Michigan, and his PhD in Anatomy from the Department of Biology, McGill University in Canada. He completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship funded by the National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada at the University of Toronto, and came to Western University in the Summer of 2003, at about the same time as the arrival of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
Charter Class. His research and teaching interests include macroevolution of vertebrates, anatomy and functional morphology of vertebrates, phylogenetic systematics, origin of modern amphibians, development and evolution of terrestriality.

He has authored 13 refereed journal articles, 12 conference papers and published abstracts, and has delivered 10 invited lectures. He has received grants in support of research on the topics of Anatomy, Functional Morphology and Phylogeny of Aistopoda; Anatomy and Ontogeny of the Amphilamid Temnospondyl Eoscopus; The Fossils of Hortons Bluff, Nova Scotia and the Origin of Terrestriality; and The Chacsha Formation of Oklahoma: Possible Middle Permian Deposits in North America. Since coming to Western University of Health Sciences, Dr. Anderson has helped establish the anatomy teaching program in support of Problem-Based Learning and has facilitated in the Problem-Based learning curriculum. He is Faculty Advisor for the Zoo, Wildlife and Exotics Club, and serves on the Public Health and Safety Committee, the Instructional Resources Committee, and Willed deceased Animals for Veterinary Education (WAVE), the Willed Body program. Dr. Anderson was curator for Glimpses, A PaleoArt Exhibition at the College of Veterinary Medicine in 2004.

Jason’s wife Cindy is an attorney doing post-graduate study at the University of British Columbia on legal and women’s issues impacted by surrogacy. He plays the Irish and Bluegrass mandolin, and was a member of the varsity Fencing Team while at McGill University. Before embarking on his PhD, he worked for Greenpeace, Canada, on their Toxic Issues Campaign.

CONGRATULATIONS on this great honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2005 RECIPIENT OF THE CVM STAFF APPRECIATION AWARD:
MS. ANNALUZ WILTON

The CVM Staff Appreciation Award is given annually to the staff member who has provided the most outstanding assistance and attitude towards students, staff and faculty. On April 20, the 2005 recipient from Western University was announced at the annual Honors Day Tea: Receptionist Ms. Annaluz Wilton who joined the CVM staff in December, 2004.

Ms. Wilton came to Western U from Customer Service positions at Barth, and Dreyfuss and Ad-Tek Specialties. Before that she served as Assistant Manager at Anna’s Linens and as Internet and Customer Service representative for Stroud’s, The Linen Experts. She surely brings her commitment to customer service to CVM, as she assists everyone with a smile, speed and courtesy.

Anna always goes the extra mile. Some comments made by persons nominating her for this award include, Dr. Steve Waldhalm: “To a woodworker, the name ‘Wilton’ has a special meaning. This is the company known for the manufacture of very fine tools, especially the vises that hold woodwork while it is being sawed or chiseled. Ms. Wilton could be a member of this fine product line because she has strength, innovation and reliability upon which you can always depend. She has a ‘grip’ on her work!”

In the recent search for outstanding CVM staff members, Anna was most frequently mentioned (or nominated) with accolades coming from faculty, fellow staff and students! The most frequent attribution proclaimed her “kindness” to others in the performance of her duties. She was also praised for going beyond the level of service and concern that might be expected.

Anna lives in Fontana with her sister, Maria, and their mother, and she also owns a company called Anna’s Desserts, that everyone at Western U has enjoyed at one time or another.

CONGRATULATIONS on this great honor.

CVM Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 7-9</td>
<td>2nd International Conference on Communication in Veterinary Medicine (ICCCVM) Blue Mountain Village Resort, Collingwood Ontario</td>
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<td>Jul 20</td>
<td>CVM Booth at Best In Show Gala, sponsored by the Animal Foundation, Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<td>Jul 16-20</td>
<td>Annual AVMA Meeting, Minneapolis, MN</td>
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<td>Jul 28-29</td>
<td>College of Veterinary Medicine Faculty Retreat, Pomona College</td>
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<td>Aug 1</td>
<td>First day of Orientation, Practice Management Course</td>
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<td>Aug 6</td>
<td>Convocation, White Coat Ceremony</td>
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<td>Aug 8</td>
<td>First day of Class</td>
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<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>First day of Midterm Examinations Week, Fall Semester</td>
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<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>First day of Final Examinations Week, Fall Semester</td>
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**Always In Our Hearts: “MAKO”**

*Stories from the WAVE Program*

By Gary J. Vitti M.S., A.T., C.

Head Athletic Trainer, Los Angeles Lakers

This letter has been a long time coming. I wanted to thank you for making a difficult situation tolerable. As you know, I probably kept “Mako” alive longer than I should have. I never wanted to give up hope that something could be done. I’ve had several dogs throughout my life and although they were all special, Mako was extra special. The spirit of Mako still lives on in our home. Her collar hangs on the fence post and sometimes I expect her to greet me with her tail wagging. There is a certain solace that Mako is making lives better even in her absence. Thank you for introducing me to the WAVE program. At the time, I had no doubt of its value but now that time has passed I am even prouder that Mako became part of it. In her last days she had a tough time and if your research can make life better for another, then that warms my heart.

**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 for 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 like Gary 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 Mako—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 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* will appear as regular feature in each issue of Outlook.
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.