A New Dean for CVM

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ESTABLISHING NEW TRADITIONS, MAINTAINING CORE VALUES...

THIS HAS BEEN A FRENZIED SUMMER FOR THE COLLEGE - our inaugural class stepped through the paces of graduation and joined the profession as full-fledged colleagues; Dr. Shirley Johnston (founding dean) has become Vice President for University Advancement; and I was appointed Dean in June. The college administration has been reorganized, and we are presently conducting a nationwide search for an Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

In the meantime, Dr. Stephen Waldhalm (Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs) has agreed to serve as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs on an interim basis. The rest of the college administration includes the Associate Dean for Clinical and External Relations (Dr. Robert Mason), the Associate Dean for Research (Dr. Tom Phillips) and Curriculum Co-Directors, DRS. Maria Fahie and John Tegzes (Year I); Dr. Wendell Cole (Year II); and Dr. Peggy Schmidt (Year III). I am confident this administrative team has the talent, capability, and commitment to meet any challenge the college may face.

There have been other noteworthy changes. Since our last publication, the college faculty has grown by more than 25 percent and we are but one or two positions away from filling our planned compliment of faculty. While progress has been made on the personnel front, the long-awaited construction of our new Veterinary Clinical Center began in June and is progressing nicely. This 31,000 sq. ft. building will house faculty and staff offices, classroom and laboratory spaces, a student lounge/events area, conference rooms and a new Banfield Primary Care facility. We expect to occupy the building in the spring of 2008.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that literally all of these changes are a direct result of the incredible work of the founding (and early) faculty and staff under the leadership of the founding dean, Dr. Shirley Johnston! As the college meets the challenges of growth, accreditation, and the development of new programs, our commitment to the college’s founding principles will remain steadfast. While we strive to develop a college that is vibrant and responsive to society’s needs, we will also perpetuate the spirit of innovation and pay tribute to those that helped clear the path. With every success, we are establishing new traditions for the college. During those heady moments, we will not forget the shoulders on which we are standing.

This college has been uniquely blessed with leadership, a dedicated faculty, friends, and benefactors. I want to express my deepest appreciation to those of you who chose to support our college in the past, and humbly ask for your continued support as we create new traditions while building a college that is socially relevant.

"An idea can turn into dust or magic, depending on the talent that rubs against it."
– William Bernbach

Phillip Nelson, DVM, PhD
Welcome to Dr. Jennifer Buur, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology. Dr. Buur completed her DVM at the University of Wisconsin, and PhD (comparative biomedical sciences, pharmacology emphasis) at North Carolina State University. Her research interests are translational medicine, comparative pharmacokinetics and pharmaco-epidemiology.

The College welcomes Dr. Yvonne Drechsler, Assistant Professor of Pathobiology. Dr. Drechsler received her PhD in molecular biology from the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen in Germany. Prior to joining WesternU, she worked as Laboratory Manager and Research Assistant in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology at Texas A&M University.

Welcome to Dr. Paul Gordon-Ross, Assistant Professor/Clinical Field Liaison Instructor, who received his MS and DVM from the University of California, Davis. Before joining WesternU, Dr. Gordon-Ross was with Banfield, The Pet Hospital in small animal medicine. His specialties are equine reproduction and biology.

The College is pleased to welcome Ms. Lisa Lua, Director of Operations. Ms. Lua joins us from Union Bank where she served as a Financial Services Officer. She is a graduate of the University of La Verne and is currently working on her MBA at that institution.

Welcome to Dr. Miguel Saggesse, Assistant Professor of Exotic Wildlife/Wildlife Medicine, and PhD Candidate. Dr. Saggesse is from Argentina via Texas A&M University where he worked at the Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He received his DVM in 1995 from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina and his MS from the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, in 2004.

**In the Spotlight…**


Drs. Peggy Schmidt, Rosalie Trevejo, and, Suzana Tkalcic, for presenting posters at “Partnerships for Preparedness: Future Directions for Schools of Public Health and Colleges of Veterinary Medicine,” hosted by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and Association of Schools of Public Health at CDC in Atlanta, Georgia, April 23-24, 2007.

Dr. Teresa Morishita, for achieving appointment as Chair of the Poultry Science Association Committee on Drugs and Chemicals.


Mr. Shane Andrews, DVM ’09, for earning a Health Professions Scholarship from the US Army Veterinary Corps. Shane will be promoted to Captain upon graduating—the College’s first military commissioned graduate.


Ms. Vanessa Rizzo, DVM ’10, for earning a scholarship and invitation to speak at “Taking Action for Animals” sponsored by HSUS in Washington D.C.


Kudos to everyone who participated in the creation of the 2007 Issue of *Humanism in the Health Sciences*. It is the ABSOLUTE BEST issue yet, and comes to us through the talent of many people at WesternU, including the following from the College of Veterinary Medicine:

Faculty Advisors: Drs. Beth Boynton and Heather Nevill. *Humanism* Staff including: Ms. Zarah Hedge, DVM ’09; Mr. Yousuf Jafarey, DVM ’10; and Ms. Darlene Sanchez, DVM ’09.

Contributors: Dr. Heather Aubrey, DVM ’07; Dr. Carlos Crocker; Ms. Zarah Hedge, DVM ’09; Mr. Yousuf Jafarey, DVM ’10; Dr. Cynthia Kinney, DVM ’07; Mr. Terrence Krentz, DVM ’08; Ms. Amanda Page, DVM ’09; Ms. Darlene Sanchez, DVM ’09; Mr. Ryan Smith, DVM ’09; Ms. Lena Stuart, DVM ’09; Dr. Ciara Vollaro, DVM ’07; and Ms. Vanessa Wilkins, DVM ’10.
More than 115 U.S. and International Bear Keepers and bear caregivers gathered to launch the first Bear Information Exchange for Rehabilitators, Zoos, & Sanctuaries (BIERZS) Symposium, hosted by the College of Veterinary Medicine at WesternU on August 24-26.

The landmark conference brought together organizations that have different philosophies but one common factor—the desire to improve bear care, said Else Poulsen, co-chairwoman of BIERZS 2007.

“Our only philosophy is to build bridges of communication between zoos, sanctuaries and rehabilitation facilities for bear care,” Poulsen said. “It’s just about setting up a forum, a safe place to talk to other folks going through the same thing you’re going through in terms of your bears.”

Animals Asia Foundation (www.animalsasia.org) founder and CEO Jill Robinson was the keynote speaker. The Foundation is a Hong Kong-based charity dedicated to ending cruelty and restoring respect for all animals in Asia, including ending the practice of farming bears for bile extraction in China and Vietnam.

Co-chairs for the event were Else Poulsen, an animal management consultant who has worked in the zoo profession for more than 25 years, and Jordan Schaul, DVM '10, PhD, who has studied the health status of captive and free-ranging bears, an interest he developed while working as a zoo keeper. Teresa Morishita, DVM, PhD, and director of the Laboratory for Wildlife and Environmental Health, was the site coordinator for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The conference was underwritten by the Los Angeles Zoo, Polar Bears International, San Francisco Zoological Gardens, World Society For The Protection of Animals, Animals Asia, International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, Pet Ag, and Western University of Health Sciences, among others.
THE DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND PATHOLOGY COURSE provides pathology training and experience for third and fourth year veterinary students at the Antech Diagnostics laboratory in Irvine, CA. As the Clinical Preceptor for this course, I coordinate student activities through a two-week course where students explore fundamental pathology concepts via interaction with professional pathology staff, and learn laboratory operations and procedures from technical staff. I am also primarily responsible for the necropsy training.

The course is divided into two phases: one week with clinical pathology staff, and one week with anatomic pathology staff. During the clinical week, students are given lab data from actual cases to be analyzed and researched independently for later discussion with a clinical pathologist. During this part of the course, students are also tutored in hematology, cytology, and proper specimen collection technique, as well as given the opportunity to spend observational time in the different laboratory departments.

During anatomic week, students receive slides and/or necropsy reports from actual cases, which they analyze and research for discussion with the anatomic pathologist. A very important aspect of the rotation is the exposure of the students to necropsy techniques and procedures. All students participate in at least one full gross necropsy in which they are the prosectors.

My role as the Clinical Preceptor has allowed me to interact closely with all of the students rotating through the program. I can truthfully state that WesternU students are very capable and highly enthusiastic. Both the professional and technical staff at Antech echo these sentiments and look forward to their weekly interactions with the students. Everyone here at Antech looks forward to the continuation of this mutually beneficial collaboration.

The Charter Class of 2007 selected Dr. Richard Moreland to be the first recipient of the “CLINICAL PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD” in May 2007.

Preceptor Pep Talk

Third year students were excited to meet many of the Clinical Preceptors with whom they’ll be working this year as the students enter their clinical field courses. The Preceptors were on campus to introduce themselves to the students and tell them about their practices and expectations, as well as share anecdotes about the real world of veterinary medicine. Third year students rotate through 16 two-week experiences in small animal, food animal, equine, lab animal, zoo animal medicine, and clinical & morphological pathology laboratory facilities. They will return to campus for one week of the assessment every eight weeks. Preceptors came from as far as San Diego, Hemet, Los Banos, Turlock and Bakersfield. We are very grateful to the Preceptors who took time out of their busy schedules to meet with the students.

Thank you to the following doctors and staff:
Heidi Agnic, Rick Beck, Ron Boyd, Ingramar Caliolio, David Clark, Michelle Coran, Gary Daley, Clint Dennison, Russ Dickson, Fred Erickson, Rick Ermel, Karen Clingerman Greg Lawson, Laura McGowan, Richard Moreland, Greg Smith, Emily Southward, Tyra Stevens and Jill Werner.

Back row standing L to R: Drs. David Clark, Ingramar Caliolio, Gary Daley, Fred Erickson, Russ Dickson
Front row seated L to R: Dr Ron Boyd, Dr Rick Beck, Tyra Stevens, Dr Clint Dennison, Dr Greg Smith, Dr. Michelle Coran, Dr Heidi Agnic
Not pictured: Drs. Rick Ermel, Greg Lacon, Emily Southward, Rich Moreland, Karen Clingerman, and Jill Werner, RVT, LA Zoo
Russel Adams

I was born and raised in Washington, and have a degree in accounting from Gonzaga University. I worked six years as a CPA and the logical course takes me into veterinary medicine. Enamored husband of Jennifer, proud father of Caroline, and alpha one to Patch, Sam, Madison, Penny, Timmy and Norman.

Dana Alexander

Raised in Walnut Creek, California, I graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2006 with a BS in animal science and a minor in equine science. Although I am open to all areas of veterinary medicine, my current goal is to become an equine practitioner.

I was born and raised in Puerto Rico. From an early age I knew that my passion was to work with animals and it still is. I completed the pre-vet program at the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez Campus in 2006. My interest is in small animal medicine.

Andrew Ayre

I grew up in Suffern, New York, 45 minutes from NYC. I have a BS in animal science from Cornell University, love companion animals and hope to work with all varieties of small animals. I’m very excited to begin my graduate studies at Western U.

Kenneth Aponte

Born in Tucson, Ariz., I graduated from the University of Arizona with a BS in veterinary science and an MS in pathobiology. My experience as a veterinary technician began at 14 and I have worked in all types of veterinary practices. My interests include small animal oncology and internal medicine.

Anitra Balchan

I am from Albuquerque, NM., and graduated in 2004 from Colorado State University with a BS in biological sciences and a minor in biomedical sciences. I am interested in small animal critical care, traveling overseas to educate others, and student affairs.

Vanessa Biegen

I grew up in North Carolina, and received a BS and MR from North Carolina State University. I have a variety of animal experience, which includes work at an equine breeding facility, primate center, zoo nutrition department, small animal hospital, and more. I am so excited about fulfilling my dream of becoming a veterinarian.

Marissa Berman

I was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and have a BS in animal science and zoology from the University of Florida. I am extremely excited to start my dream of becoming a small animal veterinarian here at Western University of Health Sciences.

Jennifer Boardman

I’m from Long Island, NY., and graduated from Cornell University in 2007 with a BS in biology and animal science. Small animal medicine is my passion, though I’ve been riding horses all my life. I’ve visited California only once so I’m looking forward to this new adventure.
I grew up outside Baltimore, attended University of Maryland, and have been a veterinary technician the last four years, working with exotics. I've moved 2600 miles with my dog, guinea pig, four rats, two geckos, four frogs and five newts. I enjoy going to Tool concerts with my boyfriend.

Christine Bowers

I am from Dayton, OH., a 2004 graduate of University of Findlay with degrees in pre-veterinary medicine and biology. I wish to one day own a mixed animal practice and have an exotics rescue.

Dana Brandenburg

Originally from Southern Calif., I graduated from UC Davis with a BS in animal biology and an MS in horticulture and agronomy. My interests include nutrition and large animals. After working three years for the federal government, I am happy to begin a new chapter of my life at Western U.

Kimberly Bridges

I am so tremendously grateful to be pursuing my dream of becoming a veterinarian! I grew up in Orange County and attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for my undergraduate studies where I majored in animal science. I plan to practice small animal medicine, hopefully somewhere close to home!

Alissa Brown

I was born and raised in San Diego, Calif., and graduated from California State University at San Marcos in 2005. My background is in veterinary field and genetic research. I hope to go far in life and have many accomplishments.

Ami Bryson

I’m from Merrimack, NH., and received my BS from the University of New Hampshire. This past year I’ve been working at a small and large animal veterinary clinic. During the summer I enjoy waterskiing and swimming at my lake house in Rhode Island.

Kaleena Bysko

Originally from the Bay Area, I obtained my BS in animal science from UC Davis in 2005. Nine years ago I stayed overnight at the animal shelter to adopt my chow mix, Taz. In my free time I like to play soccer and pet-sit.

Tamera Chan

Born with an innate curiosity for all things, which fueled a drive for knowledge, I turned my interests toward veterinary medicine. Living with my stout companion corgi, Bazil, I have developed a loyalty derived from him, and which I maintain in all my relationships.

Peter D. Chu

I was born in Iowa and raised in Michigan, so I’m looking forward to Southern California winters. I graduated from Cornell University with a BA in biology, and plan to become a small animal vet.

Bryan Cody
RESEARCH

In Brief

Dr. Teresa Morishita: Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Summer Apprenticeship to enhance science and research experience for undergraduate students. $4,740.

Congratulations to CVM faculty who received June 2007 competitive intramural grants awards from WesternU:

Crocker C: Prevalence of urolithiasis in free-ranging desert tortoises, Gopherus agassizii, in Joshua Tree National park. $11,100.

Irizarry K, Voith V: Identification and analysis of genes underlying behavioral phenotypes: combining bioinformatics, comparative genomics and sequencing to accelerate discovery in the canine genome. $15,000.

Kachani M: Prevalence of cystic echinococcosis on a Navajo reservation in Arizona. $10,000.

Kovacs S: A longitudinal and cross sectional investigation of veterinary students’ empathy and attitudes toward clients and patients compared to students in other professions. $4,765.

Testa MP: Role of apoptosis in lentivirus induced diseases (FIV and HIV) and methamphetamine toxicity. $14,000.

Original Peer-Reviewed Research Publications:


HELEN ENGELKE, BVSc, MPVM, MRCVS, joined the CVM in September 2006 as an Assistant Professor in Veterinary Public Health. She brought a wealth of international cultural experiences, being born in the United Kingdom and spending her teenage years in Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean.

Dr. Engelke is a PBL facilitator, course contributor in Veterinary Issues, Course Director for the Phase II on-campus Veterinary Public Health Rotation, and a 4th year Rotation Administrator.

She graduated with a BVSc in 1990 from University of Liverpool, began her career as a State Veterinary Officer in Trinidad and Tobago while working part time in a private small animal clinic, and developed a true passion for public health and epidemiology. With a Pan American Health Organization Fellowship, she completed a master's in Preventive Veterinary Medicine from UC Davis in 1994, where her emphasis was Public Health.

Engelke returned to Trinidad and Tobago as Deputy Director and then acting Director of the Veterinary Public Health Unit of the Ministry of Health. She lectured at the College of Health Sciences in the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, concentrating on educating future public health inspectors in Food Safety issues related to foods of animal origin.

Engelke considers herself fortunate to have been exposed to many nontraditional roles for veterinarians, including public health policy development, legislative reform in public health, working with international agencies, technically advising the Minister of Health on all issues related to zoonotic disease, and developing a national food safety plan. It was with these passions and an understanding of the dynamic role that future veterinarians will play in public health that she came to WesternU.

She lives in Long Beach and is kept busy with three young children and her American husband. To quote Engelke, “It’s not all about work, although my profile makes it sound that way!”

Teresa Morishita

TERESA Y. MORISHITA DVM, MPVM, MS, PhD, Diplomate of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians, joined the CVM in August 2006 as Professor of Poultry Medicine and Food Safety and Outreach Veterinarian (Poultry and Wildlife). She is a native of Hawaii, received a BS and MS in Animal Science from the University of Hawaii, a dual DVM/MPVM degree from UC Davis, and completed a residency in Avian/Poultry Medicine. She received her PhD in Comparative Pathology from UC-Davis studying raptors and psittacines.

Morishita operated a private avian practice, served as veterinary consultant to California's poultry industry; and was Assistant Director of the California Raptor Center. She was Professor and Extension Poultry Veterinarian at Ohio State prior to joining CVM.

Morishita is a PBL facilitator, content expert in microbiology, director of the Feed and Food Safety course, and chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee. Her research includes investigation of antimicrobial resistance in poultry, fish, and wildlife species and conducting health surveys of free-ranging birds and bears.

She directs the Poultry Health Management School, a continuing education program between WU, Michigan State, Purdue, and the University of Wisconsin. She serves on the Technical Committee of USDA’s National Poultry Improvement Plan, is editor of the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine, member of the Editorial Boards of Avian Diseases and the Thai Journal of Veterinary Medicine, and veterinary advisor to the United Peafowl Association. She writes three poultry/avian health columns, “Fowl Talk,” “Peafowl Parley,” and “Pen Feathers,” and a public health/zoonotic disease column, “Healthy Animals, Healthy People.”

Morishita loves to travel. One of her goals, to visit all 50 U.S. states, was completed in 1997 by visiting Alaska. Her current goal is to visit the many countries around the globe, explore the sights in Southern California, and continue her volunteer work at local soup kitchens.

Construction Rising on New Veterinary Clinical Center

SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2008 COMPLETION, the new Veterinary Clinical Center will provide additional classrooms, teaching laboratories, a pet clinical practice, and much-needed faculty offices to serve the nearly 400 veterinary students on the WesternU campus.

The showpiece of the new building will be the 8,000 square foot Banfield, The Pet Hospital and Wellness Center, a state-of-the-art veterinary teaching hospital that will include patient examination rooms, paperless records, central treatment room bays, digital radiology and ultrasound imaging facilities, pharmacy, clinical laboratory, two surgery suites, isolation facilities, and intensive care monitoring capabilities for pets.

The new Center was funded by substantial gifts from Banfield, The Pet Hospital, and a multinational corporation, among others.

“We are very grateful for our donors’ investment in the education of future veterinarians,” said Dr. Shirley Johnston, vice president of Advancement and founding dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. “There is a great unmet need for veterinarians in this country, not only in the provision of health care to pets, but also in provision of care to horses, food animals, zoo animals, and wildlife, and in public health and food safety.”
Always In Our Hearts: Stories from the WAVE Program

Aja
By Frank Bruynbroek

Today the little bird on Aja's shoulder whispered in my ear that she was ready for her last cuddle with me, while she made her way to heaven.

She's in my heart, she's in every single one of my tears, she's in the air I breathe.

She was my faithful companion, she was my muse, she was the smile on my face.

She was the biggest gift I received from life.

I know she's keeping an eye (and the good one) on heaven's gate for me, until we meet again.

And at the end, she told me: love wins, love always wins and that's the truth.

Frank Bruynbroek is the co-founder of a rescue organization in Los Angeles. He became a "dog photographer" to raise funds for the organization. He plans to publish a book of photographs of dogs that have been helped through the organization to bring awareness to the public. Aja's photograph will grace the cover.

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.
If you wanted to honor your parents or another person who has influenced your life, you would be hard-pressed to find a more fitting way than to establish a named endowment fund. Such a fund carries the honoree’s name far into the future while benefiting a charitable cause through its annual earnings.

For example, you could create an endowment fund at WesternU in honor of your parents. This fund, bearing their names, would produce a certain amount of earnings each year to support the purpose of the endowment. It could be for a named scholarship or fellowship or perhaps even a named faculty research program. There are many options available.

Every time the fund is mentioned, your parents would be acknowledged and honored. Even grandchildren and great-grandchildren would identify with the endowment and perhaps contribute to the fund through their own charitable gifts.

Endowment funds are easy to establish, and they last indefinitely. They can be launched now with current gifts, or created later through a will bequest or other deferred gift. Another possibility is to start an endowment now and add to it later through a bequest. Of course, the advantage of starting an endowment now is that you can enjoy the experience of seeing your loved honored during your lifetime and, perhaps, theirs as well.

If you would like more information regarding the various ways of supporting the College of Veterinary Medicine, please contact Olive Stephens, Gift Planning Administrator, (909) 469-5211, ostephens@westernu.edu.
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.