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Naimoli Student Commons
A gift from the Naimoli Family
2008

CVM Student Commons Dedication—pg. 5
Western University of Health Sciences has not suffered very much in an economic climate that is breeding consternation, caution, and fear. In fact, the university is undergoing unprecedented growth, thanks largely to prudent choices made by university leadership. The campus is bustling with new students, faculty and staff from the 3 new medical colleges—and the College of Veterinary Medicine! Since January of 2008, we have added nearly 20 faculty and eight staff positions in response to programmatic needs and COE concerns. We have expanded our institutional relations to better provide clinical experiences for our students in the first two years (see our next issue), finishing the checklist for the pathology building and are embarking on the long anticipated inter-professional curriculum—a unique endeavor by the university to enhance our graduates familiarity with the different roles of health care professionals. Clearly, we are moving forward and have little to complain about.

However, these are challenging and potentially dangerous times for our society and our profession. While the profession appears to be moderately affected by the economic climate in the private sector, the public practice sector is facing considerable reductions that may result in a significant retraction in public veterinary services. While the AVMA and the AAVMC are trying to convince congress that veterinary colleges are a national resource, and the federal government should contribute more to meet society's increased demands of the profession's services, the present level of state government support for public colleges is being slashed. The collective dwindling of public university budgets will have a negative impact on efforts to meet expanding societal demands, but also the troubling trend to shift funding of colleges and universities to the end user could make a professional education unaffordable to many—particularly members of emerging demographics that have been historically underrepresented. Just as important, critical veterinary services responsible for food safety, biological threat surveillance and emergency response in defense of the public health could be severely curtailed, if not crippled.

We have long lamented the relative ignorance of general society regarding the services our profession provides toward supporting our high standards of living. That very environment of ignorance presents the real threat of consequences resulting in non-strategic, broad and deconstructive public budget cuts. This is the worst time to underfund those services that are important to the health and welfare of a vulnerable public. These are the most important times to assure the provision of services that serve the public health—including veterinary services.

And so, while we seem to be enjoying a microenvironment of growth in the middle of a recession we must prepare for future potential difficulties. We cannot allow fear and self-serving political agendas to motivate our choices. Deliberate and rational judgments must be guided by our vision to position the college to contribute to the general public good.

While driving through Charlotte, NC during the recession of the early ’90s, I saw a billboard next to a skyscraper under construction that read, “We heard the country is in a recession. We chose not participate!” I like that sentiment!
Appointments

Congratulations to veterinary professor and pathologist Tracey McNamara, DVM, DACVP who has been invited to serve on the External Advisory Board of the European Union funded Wildtech Consortium project. The goal of this ambitious and visionary project is the development of pan-European surveillance for known or novel diseases of wildlife. Dr. McNamara has earned this recognition by devoting a significant portion of her career to disease surveillance strategies in the United States following the West Nile Virus outbreak she helped to identify.

Congratulations to David Kersey, MS, PhD, who has been appointed as a Research Associate in the Center for Species Survival, Conservation and Science Department at the National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C. for a period of three years, effective July 1, 2009.

Awards, Gifts and Grants

Congratulations to our own Kimberly Bridges, DVM ’11 who took second place—a $2,500 award—in the Morris Animal Foundation’s Annual Veterinary Student Scholar Competition held in Denver, CO on July 28, 2009. Bridges, expertly mentored by Margaret (Peggy) Barr, DVM, PhD, did a fine job in representing both the VM College and WesternU. The title of Bridge’s project was: “Molecular Evaluation of Canine and Feline Parvoviruses in Southern California.”

Speaking Engagements

Congratulations to Wendell Cole, DVM, DACT, Director of Year 3, and Josep Rutllant-Labeaga, DVM, PhD, Director of Year 2 of the veterinary curriculum in our College. Both WesternU College of Veterinary Medicine professors have extensive research and clinical experience in aspects of animal reproduction. The two professor’s interests in animal reproduction (theriogenology) led them to be invited to make a presentation at the Educators Forum of the American College of Theriogenologists in Albuquerque, NM, in August, 2009. Their presentation was entitled “How We Teach Theriogenology in a Problem-based Learning Format.” The American College of Theriogenologists (ACT) certifies specialists in Theriogenology, in the veterinary profession.

Congratulations to Victoria Voith, DVM, MSc, MA, PhD, DACVB, faculty member of the CV M, for her July presentations: “The Impact of Companion Animal Problems on Society” at the AVMA meeting in Seattle, Washington and the paper, “Comparison of Adoption Agency Breed Identification and DNA Breed Identification of Dogs.”

Publications and Research


Congratulations to veterinary anesthesiologist Lyon Lee, DVM, PhD, DACVA who has participated in a retrospective record review evaluating a local anesthetic combination protocol for a common canine ophthalmological procedure (conjunctival flap). The paper entitled: “Combination Auriculopalpebral Nerve Block and Local Anesthesia for Placement of a Nictitating Membrane-to-Superotemporal Bulbar Conjunctival Flap in Dogs” was published in the Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association widely read by veterinarians interested in small animal pet health. The published work is the result of an international collaboration between WesternU and veterinarians at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea. The success of a local anesthetic procedure is considered a time- and cost-saving approach to canine ophthalmologic treatment. The complete literature citation is: Park AS, Lee I, Lee L, et al. Combination Auriculopalpebral Nerve Block and Local Anesthesia for Placement of a Nictitating Membrane-to-Superotemporal Bulbar Conjunctival Flap in Dogs. J Am Anim Hosp Assoc. 2009;65:164-167.

Kudos to veterinary microbiologist Miguel Saggese, DVM, MS, PhD who has presented a paper entitled “Health Status of Argentine Crowned Eagles (Harpyhaliaetus coronatus)” to the Association of Avian Veterinarians Annual Conference held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin August 2009. Besides his research interest in raptor health and rehabilitation, Dr. Saggese has been active in the Association of Avian Veterinarians and now serves as Chair for the AAV Scholarship Committee. In this role he oversees the selection of award winners from among veterinarians and veterinary student applicants worldwide. Congratulations on these accomplishments in research and service!


Congratulations to Victoria Voith, DVM, MSc, MA, PhD, DACVB, a member of the CV M faculty, who was recently notified that her abstract “The American Shelter Dog: Identification of dogs by personality” was accepted for a long-spoken paper to be presented at IVBM 2009 in Edinburgh, Scotland.
Each year the incoming freshman class looks forward to a ceremony that welcomes them to the college while at the same time sets forth their responsibilities and expectations. This year was no exception as members of the Class of 2013 eagerly gathered on the morning of August 8, 2009 for the College of Veterinary Medicine’s White Coat Ceremony.

“The college is founded on principles of developing student-centered learning, a reverence for life, and strategic partnerships. We are honored that you have chosen our college to fulfill your dreams of becoming a veterinary health professional. On behalf of the faculty and staff of the college, we pledge all of our energies to your success in this endeavor,” said Dean Phillip Nelson, DVM, PhD, who officiated the ceremony.

Introducing keynote speaker Barbara Natterson Horowitz, MD, Director of Imaging UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Center and Associate Professor UCLA Division of Cardiology, at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA School of Medicine, Dean Nelson made note of her treatment of both primate and non-primate patients. An impassioned speaker, Dr. Horowitz highlighted the relationship between her traditional medical training and experience with her more recent role as a cardiovascular consultant to the Los Angeles Zoo. She went on to detail One Health, an academic movement bridging veterinary and human medicine. “It’s a very exciting time to be entering this field,” said Dr. Horowitz. “I encourage them to take advantage of this new environment and reach across professional borders.”

In conclusion, Professor and Director of the 1st Year Curriculum John Tegzes, VMD, MA, DABVT, discussed the rich and historic symbolism of the White Coat Ceremony. “This ceremony is part of the initiation of new health professions students; it is a time when they are ‘cloaked’ with their white lab coat. This ritual, held in the presence of faculty, administration and family members, helps students become aware of their responsibilities as healers from the very first day of their training. The ceremony encourages them to accept the obligations inherent in their scope of practice: to be excellent in science; to be compassionate; and to lead upright and honorable lives.”

CVM welcomes the Class of 2013!
**WesternU Dedicates Student Commons in Honor of Naimoli Family**

**WesternU** celebrated the generous contributions of the Naimoli family with the dedication of the Banfield Veterinary Clinical Center Student Commons in their honor.

Vince and Lenda Naimoli were joined by WesternU President Philip Pumerantz, PhD, Provost and COO Benjamin Cohen, DO, Senior Vice President for Advancement Thomas Fox, PhD, Board of Trustees members, College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Dean Phillip Nelson, DVM, PhD, and many CVM students and faculty at a special ceremony to dedicate the Naimoli Student Commons on Aug. 27, 2009.

The College of Veterinary Medicine has grown from 78 students per class to 105 students per class, and from five faculty to more than 50 faculty, Nelson said.

“That growth could not have occurred without special friends who have contributed generously to the growth of the university and this college,” he said.

The Naimolis have shown faith in WesternU’s mission, Pumerantz said.

“We’re so thrilled and honored that you’re friends of ours,” he said to the Naimolis.

Vince Naimoli, founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team, recently joined the WesternU Board of Trustees. He said he is amazed by the vision of Dr. Pumerantz, which has led to WesternU’s tremendous growth.

Naimoli said he is guided by the Bible passage, “To whom much is given, much is expected.” He supports higher education and knows that a lot of young people can’t afford to go to college.

“It’s important to support young people,” he said. “Young people are our future.”

Vince and Lenda’s daughter, Lindsey, is a third-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine student in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“Being a mother, you want your children to follow their dreams,” Lenda said. “I’m happy Lindsey is in her third year. There’s light at the end of the tunnel. This school gave her the opportunity to follow her dreams.”

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**WesternU Honors CVM Pioneer**

**The College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM)** honored one of its earliest supporters at a dedication ceremony for Dr. Steven Wickler, who served as a professor of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at Cal Poly Pomona and helped build connections between his university and WesternU.

CVM dedicated a problem-based learning (PBL) classroom in the Veterinary Medical Center in memory of Wickler, who passed away in 2007 from a brain tumor. In attendance were Wickler’s wife, Dr. Nicole Wickler, and their daughter, Kaitlyn. Dr. J. Michael Ortiz, president of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and his wife, Betty Ortiz, were also special guests at the ceremony.

Steven was the consummate teacher, in all of his classes at Cal Poly he would include “life on the farm” stories, said Nicole Wickler, interim director for the Center for Education Equity in Math, Science and Technology at Cal Poly Pomona. He would present information about a sick animal and ask students what to do, similar to the learning environment at WesternU. “The fact that WesternU is honoring Steven by dedicating a PBL classroom, I know he would be deeply moved and honored by that,” Nicole said.

Steven discussed opening a veterinary school with WesternU President Philip Pumerantz, PhD, before CVM opened, Wickler said. Serving as Cal Poly’s university veterinarian he wanted to support his students and the profession of veterinary medicine in order to make a better place for animals, she said. He earned his DVM degree from UC Davis in 1986, which at the time was the only veterinary school in California. He thought it would be wise to have a second veterinary school in California, Wickler said.

CVM needed to partner with an established program so students would have a place to practice clinical skills, said CVM Professor Joe Bertone, DVM, MS, DACVIM. “He was very enthusiastic about starting our program,” Dr. Bertone said.

“CVM Founding Dean Shirley Johnston, DVM, PhD, DACVT met Wickler when she first came to WesternU,” said Gary Johnston, DVM, MS, DACVR, a founding CVM faculty member. “He served as a conduit for Cal Poly students to apply to CVM...It’s a good marriage between WesternU and Cal Poly.”
Since 1946 the Brentwood Pet Clinic has been striving to practice veterinarian medicine in a manner that provides the best veterinary medical care for dogs and cats accompanied by personalized service for the client. Originally situated in a different location, the clinic moved to its Olympic Boulevard site in 1952 and has been an integral part of the surrounding community ever since. “We get to know the animals and the client,” says Richard Martin, DVM, DACVIM, “from our reception staff on up to the doctors and the professional staff we offer our services while providing a personal service to the clients.”

In 1979 Dr. Martin joined the Brentwood Pet Clinic after graduating from the University of Illinois in 1974 and completing a two-year medical residency at the Animal Medical Center in New York City. Relocating to Salt Lake City, Dr. Martin worked as a veterinarian there for two years before moving to southern California to enter into an owner-partnership from 1979 to 2006 with the Brentwood Pet Clinic, where he still continues to practice medicine.

It was in New York where Dr. Martin was introduced to Robert Mason, DVM, MS, who was a fellow resident at the Animal Medical Center. Dr. Mason would later make contact with Dr. Martin at the Brentwood Pet Clinic about becoming a clinical site for students of the College of Veterinary Medicine. “About four years ago Bob approached us with an offer to become a clinical site for WesternU and we agreed to do that,” says Dr. Martin. “So we started with the first class taking both third year and some fourth year students. Because of the small size of the hospital, ultimately CVM felt the one-on-one arrangement for the fourth students was the best.”

The preceptor program model is a student curriculum that relies upon problem-based learning. The students are assigned to Dr. Martin and Robert Olds, DVM, DACVS, the other former owner-partner of the Brentwood Pet Clinic. “They are our shadows throughout our workday,” explains Dr. Martin. “We engage the students with the appropriate questions and procedures throughout the day… we’re asking them what decisions they would make on the case as far as diagnostics and treatment, so that provides a good learning strategy for them.” CVM students complete a one-month rotation at the Brentwood Pet Clinic, which averages seven to eight student rotations per year.

The Brentwood Pet Clinic’s staff includes board certified doctors Martin and Olds who are complimented by Kimberly Caralho, DVM, DACVP, Vicki Thorrens, DVM, and Christina Britto, DVM. “We’re a full service veterinary hospital so except for a few specialty procedures we’re able to provide an extensive range of services to our clients. The hospital itself excels in having board certified personnel present in the hospital and providing personalized service to our clients,” says Dr. Martin adding that the clinic routinely performs procedures that are practiced in a number of specialty veterinary facilities.

An excellent support staff rounds out the thriving clinic, they include six nurses and seven receptionists. Four of the clinics’ doctors having been with the Brentwood Pet Clinic for over 10 years and the fifth doctor joined the clinic just over three years ago. An extended network of specialists including a board certified radiologist who come in periodically to perform specialized procedures. The clinic is also a member of the following organizations: the American Veterinary Medical Association, California Veterinary Medical Association, Southern California Veterinary Medical Association and the American Animal Hospital Association.

The clinic, Dr. Martin explains, provides enjoyment through the variety of work that he is able to perform there. “That’s why I’m in clinical practice. I enjoy being able to diagnose cases and still be able to do procedures such as endoscopies, minor surgeries and radiology all in one day. I enjoy the variety of internal medicine as well. To me, that’s the most interesting part of the day,” he says. Finally, when asked what the most rewarding part of being a doctor at the Brentwood Pet Clinic is, Dr. Martin replies, “Of course any veterinarian would answer that the most rewarding part is helping animals recover their health and the satisfaction that I (we) get from that.”
# CVM’s “STARS” Shine Brightly Again

Second annual event now campus wide

**The College of Veterinary Medicine** held the first annual "Student Technology and Research Symposium (STARS)" seminar program on July 28, 2008, specifically for CVM summer research students to present their results. An all day seminar, the event is devoted to students giving oral presentations on the research they conducted over the summer.

That original symposium was so successful, that the 2009 STARS program has become a university wide event, with students from other WesternU colleges now participating in their own STARS program. Participating CVM students write an abstract on their research, give a 15-minute oral presentation and answer questions from faculty, visitors and fellow students. To promote informal and friendly discussions, breakfast, lunch and a wine and cheese mixer were also part of the program. This year, the following 15 (13 from the CVM and 2 from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia) veterinary students participated in the STARS program.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2009 STARS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brandy Nunez</strong>, mentored by <strong>Dr. Miguel Saggese</strong>. Role of NRAMP-1 and Interleukin 1 Genes Presence and Polymorphism in the Differential of Ring-Neck Doves to Natural Mycobacterium a. Avium Infection.</td>
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<td><strong>Gina Johnson</strong>, mentored by <strong>Dr. Miguel Saggese</strong>. Molecular Epidemiology and Spatial Analysis of Avian Mycobacteriosis in North America.</td>
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<td><strong>Allison Pang</strong>, mentored by <strong>Dr. Josep Rutllant</strong>. Comparison of Preservation Methods of Canine Spermatozoa Recovered from Epididymides.</td>
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<td><strong>Gordon Hui</strong>, mentored by <strong>Dr. Kristopher Irizarry</strong>. Analysis of Finch and Chicken Genomes and Development of Methods for Assessing Genetic Fitness in Wild Avian Populations.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Justin Nowowiejski</strong>, mentored by <strong>Dr. Ellen Collison</strong>. Identification of the B Haplotype Lines (B19 Homozygous and B2 Homozygous) that are More Resistant to IBV Infections.</td>
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<td><strong>Roxanne Eberwein</strong>, mentored by <strong>Dr. Maria Pia Phillips</strong>. Oxidative Stress in FIV-infected Feline Astrocytes.</td>
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<td><strong>Kristin Nunez</strong>, mentored by <strong>Dr. Peggy Barr</strong>. Identification of Rickettsia in Ticks Found on Dogs in Los Angeles County.</td>
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<td><strong>Gabrielle Galgoul</strong>, mentored by <strong>Dr. Kristopher Irizarry</strong>. Analysis of Cancer-Associated Canine Genomic Intervals with an Emphasis on Their Proximity to Regions of Canine Genome Involved in Morphological and Behavioral Phenotypes.</td>
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<td><strong>Anna Mills</strong>, mentored by <strong>Dr. Peggy Barr</strong>. Serologic Screening for Antibodies to Rickettesia Species in Cats.</td>
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<td><strong>Rachel Rasmussen</strong>, mentored by <strong>Dr. Linda Kidd</strong>. Tickborne Illness Screening in Central and Southern California Dogs with Imha.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Erica Faulhaber</strong>, mentored by <strong>Dr. Katherine Mitsouras from COMP</strong>. Analysis of Behavior-Related Genes in Select Dog Breeds.</td>
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<td><strong>Mirela Pavic and Ana Petak</strong>, international vet students from Croatia, hosted by <strong>Dr. Suzanna Tkalcic from the CVM</strong>. Prevalence of Leishmania Inafratum Infection in Wild Wolves (Canis Lupus) in Croatia.</td>
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The 2009 STARS Most Progress Award was won by **Erica Faulhaber** and her work has recently been published: Katherine Mitsouras, Erica A Faulhaber. Saliva As An Alternative Source of High Yield Canine Genomic DNA for Genotyping Studies. BMC Research Notes 2009, 2:219.
Raised in Newberry Springs, CA I earned a BS from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in Animal Science. I’m a licensed RVTwo rking at University of California, Davis as a VMTH for 11 years. I’m a regional coordinator for Noah’s Wish, a national organization helping animals during disasters.

I completed my BS in Animal Science at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. My enrollment at WesternU was deferred to successfully battle Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma while serving as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army. I am excited to continue serving in the reserves while pursuing my DVM.

I obtained my BS in Biology from the University of Utah. For over 11 years I have been a veterinary technician in small animal medicine. Currently, I’m most interested in oncology and nutrition. Although my goal is to own a small animal practice, I’m also a sucker for tigers.

Growing up in Southern California I received my BS in Physiology and Neuroscience from the University of California, San Diego. I have always loved working with animals and was a small animal and exotics technician and also enjoyed doing research. I look forward to deciding my career focus at WesternU.

A San Diego native, I graduated from San Diego State University with a Biology BS, later earning a MS in Laboratory Animal Science from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. Loving both laboratory animal medicine and small animal surgery, I’m excited to see where my interests will lead me at WesternU!

To be at WesternU is a dream come true. I grew up in San Diego and Chicago, graduated from University of California, Santa Cruz in 2002 and studied abroad in Kenya. Over the past six years I have lived in three states, attended four universities and now I’m finally here!

A central California native, I received my Animal Science BS from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. My experience is mainly in small animal medicine and behavior, however I’m interested in wildlife and shelter medicine too. Loving all aspects of veterinary medicine, I’m excited to start studies at WesternU.

Born and raised in San Jose, CA, I graduated from University of California, San Diego with a BS in Animal Physiology and Neuroscience. My current interests include small animal and wildlife medicine, but I’m open to all areas of veterinary medicine. I’m excited to begin my childhood dream at WesternU!
Raised in Binghamton, NY, I graduated from Binghamton University with a BA and a MA in Biology. My experience includes wildlife research in Africa and working for small and large animal clinics. Although uncertain where my veterinary career will take me, I’m very excited to join the WesternU family!

Kevin Cline

I obtained my undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Relocating to Pomona will be a huge change due to the lack of nearby beaches. Nevertheless, I am ready to continue my education and apply the knowledge I’ve learned working in a veterinary emergency and specialty hospital.

Alberto Corona

Born and raised in southern California, I graduated from Cal Poly, Pomona with a BS in Animal Science. I have worked in small animal medicine for over ten years. I am interested in all aspects of veterinary medicine and have strong interests in both surgery and emergency medicine.

Jonathan Cortez

I grew up on a farm in Kentucky and graduated from the University of Kentucky with a BS in Biology and an art studio minor. I’m open to studying all areas of veterinary medicine and couldn’t be more excited at the chance to learn new experiences and become a veterinarian!

Blaire Cullman-Clark

I grew up in Bodega, CA and received a BS degree in Animal Science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, California. I then spent a year managing broiler nutrition research trials. I’m primarily interested in pursuing poultry medicine. I also enjoy competing in triathlons, when time allows.

Aleece Diaz

While serving in the military I earned my Associates Degree. Later, I attended Washington State University and earned a double degree in neuroscience and psychology. During that time, I founded a successful business. I have a variety of interests in veterinary medicine, and I’m thankful to explore them at WesternU.

Stephen Dolinko

As the youngest of four children, my graduating class was a mere 75 students. I went on to attend Central Michigan University for my undergraduate degree and found a new love, rugby. After four years of study at Central Michigan University, I enrolled in the MS program in Biology.

Kelly Darner

Born and raised in San Jose, California, I received a BS degree in Biology, with a minor in chemistry, from San Jose State University. I’ve worked at a small animal practice since I was 16 years old. I’m looking forward to exploring all the aspects of veterinary medicine at WesternU!

Lauren Coulson

Born and raised in Indianapolis, IN, and earned a BS in Animal Science from Purdue University. I have two parrots, two Sphynx cats, and a bearded dragon. My fiance, a fourth year VM student at Kansas State University, will join me in California after we’re married in July, 2010.

Joe DeBrotta

I grew up in Bodega, CA and received a BS degree in Animal Science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, California. I then spent a year managing broiler nutrition research trials. I’m primarily interested in pursuing poultry medicine. I also enjoy competing in triathlons, when time allows.

Aleece Diaz

Born and raised Winchester, CA, I received my BS in Animal Science from the University of California, Davis. After receiving my degree I earned my single-subject teaching credential in agriculture and an MA in Education. I have taught high school agriculture for three years in the central valley.

Rebecca Domenigoni
IN THE FACE OF INCREASING THREATS from zoonotic disease, the United States Department of Agriculture, Avian Influenza Cooperative Agriculture Program has awarded a team of Western University of Health Sciences faculty investigators a grant aimed at educating families who keep backyard poultry flocks in the Inland Empire geographical area of southern California.

The title of the grant is: Avian Influenza Education for Families with Backyard Poultry in Southern California. The education effort will inform poultry owners about the hazards of avian influenza as well as the appropriate responses of reporting and managing diseased flocks.

The investigators are: Margaret Barr, DVM, PhD; Ellen Collision, PhD; Yvonne Drehsl, PhD; Jose Peralta, DVM, MSc, PhD; and Ron Terra, DVM, MBA, DACVP. Advisors include: Paul Gordon-Ross, DVM, MS and Teresa Morishita, DVM, MPVM, MS, PhD, DACPV. Collaborators also include the Riverside County Animal Services.

The $83,915 grant calls for two years (2009 and 2010) of community outreach activity that will bring increased visibility for WesternU into our communities around the Inland Empire. Congratulations to this successful team!

National newspapers and television broadcasters recently quoted Western University of Health Sciences own Victoria Voith, DVM, MSc, MA, PhD, DACVB for an Associated Press article titled, “‘Thunderwear’ Among Remedies for Storm-Phobic Dogs,” by writer Sharon Theimer.

Voith, an internationally recognized expert in animal behavior, was interviewed about the management of dogs that are frightened by thunderstorms. Voith’s recent contributions in the popular press elevate both the WesternU and the veterinary profession in support of the human animal bond.

WesternU to Raise Avian Disease Awareness Across the Inland Empire
CVM Team Receives Grant to Improve Breeding Results of Endangered Snow Leopard

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has awarded a National Leadership Grant of $100,000 to a team from Western University of Health Sciences’ College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) to improve the breeding programs of captive endangered species.

CVM faculty members and co-principal investigators Margaret (Peggy) Barr, DVM, PhD, Kristopher Irizarry, PhD, and Janis Joslin, DVM, will develop a strategy for using genetic analysis to maximize the breeding of snow leopards to enhance species diversity and robustness.

“This is an important project for the advancement of wildlife genomics, particularly for snow leopards,” said CVM Dean Phillip Nelson, DVM, PhD. “This is a preliminary project, which hopefully results in the awarding of a full NLG project grant. We’re proud of the investigators involved.”

Snow leopards will not be the only beneficiaries of this research, as the results are expected to be applicable to many other endangered species.

“Our goal is to have a good method for using genomic information as part of the decision-making process for the management of captive endangered species,” Dr. Barr said.

Snow leopards were chosen because they’re on the brink of extinction and they’re susceptible to a number of infectious diseases, such as bacterial pneumonia and gastrointestinal infections. They have been carefully managed by an international studbook since 1976. About 550 snow leopards are maintained in captivity worldwide, with about 150 managed by the North American Species Survival Plan (SSP).

With a very limited population, and therefore a limited gene pool, you have to be very careful which animals are bred together to enhance survivability of the species and to not cause harm, Dr. Barr said. Historically, zoos have carefully managed the breeding of the snow leopards and other endangered species by using a studbook to maximize genetic diversity of the population, much as dog breeders look to pick the most unrelated pair of dogs to breed. This project will give zoos another tool to identify the best breeding pairs to sustain the captive breeding populations.

The WesternU team will bring together potential project partners and consultants, including geneticists, immunologists and members of the North American Snow Leopard SSP. They will collect DNA samples of snow leopards and determine a draft of the snow leopard genome to identify specific genes associated with immune function.

Dr. Joslin is Veterinary Advisor for the Snow Leopard Species Survival Plan and has reviewed more than 400 medical records from captive snow leopards housed in zoos in North America since 1914. Careful analysis of medical problems along with the studbook data will be used to identify family lines that should be evaluated for potential immune deficiency.

The WesternU team will bring together potential project partners and consultants, including geneticists, immunologists and members of the North American Snow Leopard SSP. They will collect DNA samples of snow leopards and determine a draft of the snow leopard genome to identify specific genes associated with immune function.

The team will try to decode the genes of the snow leopard to look for those genes that contribute to health, Dr. Irizarry said. If there are 200 potential breeding partners and you only have a limited number of litters born per year, you want to maximize the genetic fitness of the offspring, he said.

Project partners include Todd Mockler, PhD, from Oregon State University, who will be responsible for sequencing the snow leopard genome, and Jay Tetzloff, MS from Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington, IL, the Propagation Manager for the Snow Leopard Species Survival Plan, who will assist with the studbook analysis and identifying individual snow leopards for genetic analysis.
AFTER RECEIVING HER BA IN ZOOLOGY from the University of California, Santa Barbara, Diane McClure, DVM, PhD became a Research Technician at Loma Linda University Medical School. During her tenure at Loma Linda University she joined the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, in 1978. Returning to her post-graduate education Dr. McClure went on to earn a PhD in cardio-respiratory physiology from University of California, Davis.

In 1990, after completing her veterinary medicine degree with a zoological medicine track, she went on to complete post-doctoral training in laboratory animal medicine, again at University of California, Davis. Dr. McClure spent one year as the Attending Veterinarian at the Veterans Affairs Northern System of Clinics in Martinez, California, prior to taking a faculty position at the Ohio State University Veterinary School.

At Ohio State University she oversaw the construction of a primate, transgenic mouse and a zebra fish research facility, in addition to overseeing more than 50,000 square-feet of animal facilities. Dr. McClure became a Diplomat of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine in 1995. After serving Ohio State for nearly six years she returned to California and began seven years of service as the University of California’s campus Veterinarian Director of the Animal Resource Center. Since 2005, Dr. McClure has also been an independent veterinary consultant for a variety of institutions such as Stanford University, MannKind and Roche Palo Alto.

Dr. McClure’s expertise is focused upon research support including project start-up, monitoring, evaluation and trouble shooting, advanced technical, surgical and behavioral medicine program development and special species medicine including non-human primates, aquatics, unusual rodents and avian. Dr. McClure also uses her expertise for disaster medicine sitting as the Chair of the California Veterinary Medical Association’s Disaster Preparedness Committee. In 2009 Dr. McClure joins Western University of Health Sciences as Associate Professor of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Jaffe opened his first practice in Flanders, New Jersey, which he owned and operated for 27 years. Subsequent to that venture, he established three more small animal clinics in the Morris County, New Jersey area. His last project, The Cat Hospital, was one of the first exclusively feline practices opened in the country outside of a major city. Dr. Jaffe sold all of his practices and relocated to California.

In 2005, Dr. Jaffe joined the Western University of Health Sciences faculty. At WesternU he’s had the pleasure of facilitating students from every class that has attended WesternU. “I find the Problem Based Learning program fascinating,” says Dr. Jaffe, “having facilitated 42 groups, I think that my experience is among the broadest thus far in veterinary education.”

At WesternU Dr. Jaffe’s duties include: Course Leader for the 3rd year medicine rotation; PBL facilitator; Admissions Committee Chairman; Scholastic Standing Committee member; and R/A for 4th year students. Asked what he likes best about his job, Dr. Jaffe was quick to answer, “Interacting with the students and coaching them. However, mentoring 3rd year students in their choice of 4th year rotations is my favorite activity.”

Dr. Jaffe’s passions away from the school are: golf (9 handicap); photography (you can find his work is on display in his office); and poker. The manuscript for his as of yet unpublished novel, “Dog Doctor,” is available upon request. Dr. Jaffe has two sons, Ryan a screenwriter and Lane, a lacrosse coach. He resides in Santa Monica with his wife and Jack Russell Terrier.
FOURTH-YEAR VETERINARY STUDENT JAMIE SLINGLUFF always knew she had a big heart when it came to animals, but it wasn’t until her experience with a homeless encampment two years ago in nearby Ontario, California that she realized those who live on the streets and are most in need, have big hearts too. “Although this (homeless) population had limited skills and almost no resources, I realized progressively over time, these weren’t dogs and cats that were neglected,” recalls Ms. Slingluff, “instead, these were people who cared about their pets very much.”

After visiting the encampment several times Ms. Slingluff began to develop relationships with some of the people living there. It was during that time period that she also witnessed the great need for routine animal care for the pets this homeless population had, and depended upon for companionship.

The College of Veterinary Medicine already routinely provides area animal shelters with medical care and vaccination clinics through the school’s Veterinary Ambulatory Community Service (VACS). So it was a logical step when Ms. Slingluff proposed the idea of pooling the resources of campus clubs, the Christian Veterinary Mission and the Shelter Medicine Club, with the VACS mobile units, CVM veterinarians and CVM students. “I wanted to get an idea if they would be interested in pooling our resources together to conduct a joint spay and neuter and vaccination clinic,” says Ms. Slingluff.

As it turned out the students were interested and the collaboration began in earnest with a team of CVM students and veterinarians on January 26, 2008. On that day the group performed 22 spay and neuters and 59 physical examinations and vaccinations. The group came together again the following month to perform another 41 physical exams and provide vaccinations. “It was a great opportunity to connect with the people. It was both a good educational opportunity and an outreach opportunity,” says Ms. Slingluff, echoing the humanitarian ethos that WesternU is known for.

However, given the nature of an ever-changing student body and later on, what became the dismantlement of the tent city, a new method had to be developed in order to reach and treat this population. With a background in public health Jamie recognized that a more permanent program had to be put in place in order to effectively serve this mobile pet population. “I knew that if this program was to be consistent, it would take a lot of organization, and it would need to be renewed by a new group of students each year…and that’s why it became an issue,” explained Ms. Slingluff. “So in order for it to be sustainable this could no longer be a student project but rather it had to become part of our curriculum for the school.”

Fortunately, Ms. Slingluff was able to network with other community members and discovered a variety of resources for both the homeless and pet populations that would help her on the way to implementing a permanent medical assistance pet program. One such important link came from Genevieve Frederick, Executive Director and Founder of Carson City, Nevada based-organization Feeding Pets of the Homeless. This resulted in the application and receivership of a financial grant from Feeding Pets of the Homeless specifically aimed toward Ms. Slingluff’s proposal that an educational program become part of CVM’s curriculum. With the additional input from CVM faculty and assistance from Mercy House the proposed program would pair homeless pets with CVM students. After further development, a meeting with the CVM Dean’s Cabinet was organized to review the proposal, which was later approved. “It was unanimously agreed upon that everyone wanted to proceed forward,” recalls Ms. Slingluff.

This year the collaboration grew into a permanent part of the CVM curriculum for first and second year veterinary students and non-profit group Mercy House to work as a partnership to provide no-cost veterinary care to the pets of the homeless in the surrounding community. “I am so grateful that it worked out this way. I became very invested in the people I was working with there and it means a lot to me to know that they’re being cared for by other people in the community,” says Ms. Slingluff.

The first CVM event funded by this new collaboration will be led by Dr. Frank Bossong, DVM and commences Nov. 10, 2009. Thank you to all WesternU faculty and students who donated their time and volunteer efforts to make these events a success.

Faculty:
Phil Nelson, DVM PhD; David Forester, BVetMed, MRCVS; Heather Nevill, DVM; Pam Govett, DVM, DACZM, Gary Johnston, DVM, MS DACVR

Staff:
Eva Jaeger

Students:
Shelter Medicine Club; Christian Veterinary Mission; Cynthia Servantez; Brandon Boren; Nicole Giguere
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 (WAVE Program is modeled after the Human Willed Body Program at WesternU). More than 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 Miller 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.
Disaster Strikes:
Who Will Care for Your Beloved Pet?

- Of your relatives and friends, have you identified people who would be willing to undertake the short-term care of your pet, or in the event of your death, adopt your pet?
- If so, have you spoken with these people to make them aware of your wishes and to be sure they are willing to act as your pet’s caregiver?
- Have you put your wishes for the care of your pet in writing and informed the potential caregivers of the location of this document?

CORRECTION

In the Summer 2009/Volume 10, Issue 4 edition of the Outlook on page 13, Vincent & Lenda Naimoli were incorrectly listed in the $100-999 giving section for their support. They should have been listed under the $200,000+ section. We apologize for this error and want to again thank the Naimoli’s for their generous support and everything they have done for the College of Veterinary Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences.

CVM Calendar

December 7 - 18, 2009 .......... Fall Finals
December 21 - January 1 ......... Winter Break
January 4, 2010 .......... Classes resume
March 1 - 5, 2010 .......... Spring Mid-Terms
March 22 - 26, 2010 .......... Spring Break
May 10 - 19, 2010 .......... Spring Finals
May 21, 2010 .......... Commencement

Have you made arrangements for the care of your beloved pet if you become incapacitated or die? With no plan in place, your pet companion could end up in a shelter and perhaps euthanized. There are steps you can take now to ensure your pet is lovingly cared for should disaster strike. The following are actions you might want to consider:

- Have you made financial arrangements for such care?

Such actions taken now will ensure your peace of mind should disaster strike. If you would like to discuss this subject further, please contact:

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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. Instruction and clinical opportunities are provided in a wide variety of domestic species, including food animal, equine, and companion animals. 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.