

Veterinary
Outlook

M A G A Z I N E



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Veterinary Outlook

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ABOUT US

At the WesternU
College of Veterinary Medicine,
our mission is to foster a
reverence for life and promote an
environment that creates healthy
and happy pets.

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Word from the Dean

This is the first in a four-part series.

As we shake off the residual dust of the worst recession this country has seen since the Great Depression, some of us are understandably concerned about the impact of market forces on the professional survivability of individuals within the veterinary profession. The breadth and scope of our profession negates a simple answer for the entire profession and, in fact, most of the national discussion has been centered on the potential saturation of small animal practice, sparking several related national discussions:

.....
It is time for you – our alumni – to exercise your collective influence, engage in the collective discussion, participate in the professional organizations, and initiate any and all appropriate actions that demonstrate the qualities of your training.

- Does the nation need more veterinary colleges (including WesternU)? Don't we already have enough veterinarians? Isn't there a plan?
- Isn't it the responsibility of the Council on Education (COE) to limit the number of graduates (ergo the number of colleges) to protect the market? Why is the COE accrediting foreign schools? Won't this simply amplify competition in an already crowded market?

- Veterinary graduates are leaving school highly leveraged in debt. How are they going to be able to achieve job satisfaction if an overcrowded job market prevents them from meeting their financial obligations?
- How did WesternU-CVM get accredited? How can a college without a tertiary teaching hospital meet the standards? How are their graduates prepared for the future if they are not exposed to research?

I have purposely framed the issues using some of the more provocative questions that require disastrous assumptions or predictions to illustrate the depth of concern throughout the profession. Though I recognize the importance of the issues, I do not share in the abject pessimism I have heard expressed, and I believe there is economic data and projections to support my view. Nevertheless, student debt is a particularly salient issue for the dean of a private, nonprofit college that does not receive state or federal subsidies.

Of course the issue that puts WesternU in the middle of the firestorm is the inability of some to understand how the COE was able to determine that WesternU-CVM met accreditation standards. The premise that the

COE must have weakened the standards is the simplest answer for those who have never read the standards, the college's self-study, or the COE's Report of Evaluation. And now these forces question whether the Department of Education should continue to certify the COE as the profession's accrediting body.



For the record, between the time the "Letter of Assurance" was issued and Full Accreditation was granted, WesternU-CVM generated and submitted 10 semi-annual reports; six annual reports; provided 11 progress updates and clarifications of our intentions regarding our plans to meet the standards; produced four comprehensive self-studies; and at least 20 in-depth correspondence exchanges between WesternU and the COE addressing nearly 700 questions, concerns, recommendations, requests for documentation and/or commendations.

Once the charter class arrived in 2004, the COE had a nearly constant presence on our campus. The liaison committee (or a sub-committee) visited the campus every year from 2004-2008 for either comprehensive (two) or focused (three) evaluations. Since 2008, the COE has completed two additional comprehensive evaluations. It should be noted that during each comprehensive site visit, every facility we use to deliver our core curriculum – except for those facilities that belong to COE accredited institutions – was visited.

There are a lot of words I could use to describe the degree of scrutiny this process entailed; the word "permissive" would not be among them.

While this past year has been full of positive activity for the College of Veterinary Medicine and punctuated with wonderful accomplishments by our faculty, staff, students and graduates, from time to time I found myself mired in an onslaught of negative criticism regarding WesternU-CVM and its models of instruction. I fully understand the benefits of a healthy environment that promotes rigorous review and constructive criticism. However, the atmosphere swirling around the more recent comments, predictions, and descriptions seems to have become toxic and (for some) blatantly malevolent. The most frustrating aspect of

See DEAN'S WORD on page 8

Dean's Calendar

February 15-19, 2015
*Western Veterinary Conference,
Las Vegas, Nev.*

March 12-15, 2015
*AAVMC, Iverson Bell,
Alexandria, Va.*

March 19-22, 2015
*Tuskegee Veterinary Symposium,
Tuskegee, Ala.*

KANGAROOS

PROVIDE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



The College of Veterinary Medicine received a couple of high-stepping visitors this fall, when alumnus Brad Ahrens, DVM '12, brought two red kangaroos to the WesternU Pet Health Center (PHC) for surgery, providing an opportunity for collaboration now and in the future.

The male red kangaroos – Lenny, 2, and Captain, 3 – arrived Oct. 8, 2014, and were neutered by CVM Professor Maria Fahie, DVM, MS, DACVS, with assistance from Dr. Ahrens and Associate Professor David Clark, DVM.

"You need to neuter them while they're still young," Dr. Ahrens explained. "Otherwise they grow up to be really big and can become aggressive."

Dr. Ahrens is in his third year of a laboratory animal residency at the University of Southern California and City of Hope, and is earning his PhD in Biological Sciences at City of Hope. He also works for Birds & Animals Unlimited, which contracts with Universal Studios Hollywood to provide animals for its theme park show, "Universal's Animal Actors," and for many film and television productions. The kangaroos were seen in the recent theatrical film, "Alexander and The Horrible, No Good, Terrible, Very Bad Day."

Birds & Animals Unlimited has facilities at Universal Studios and in Acton, Calif., but does not have a surgery suite, creating an opportunity for collaboration with WesternU-CVM. The company has many exotic animals and Dr. Ahrens said he hopes to partner with WesternU in the future.

"Getting faculty and students engaged in learning on species they wouldn't normally see while providing cutting-edge veterinary care to the animals is a great situation," he said.

CVM Professor Wael Khamas, BVM&S, MS, PhD, and Professor Josep Rutllant, DVM, PhD, are using the kangaroo testicles for histological research. Both have interest in the testes of

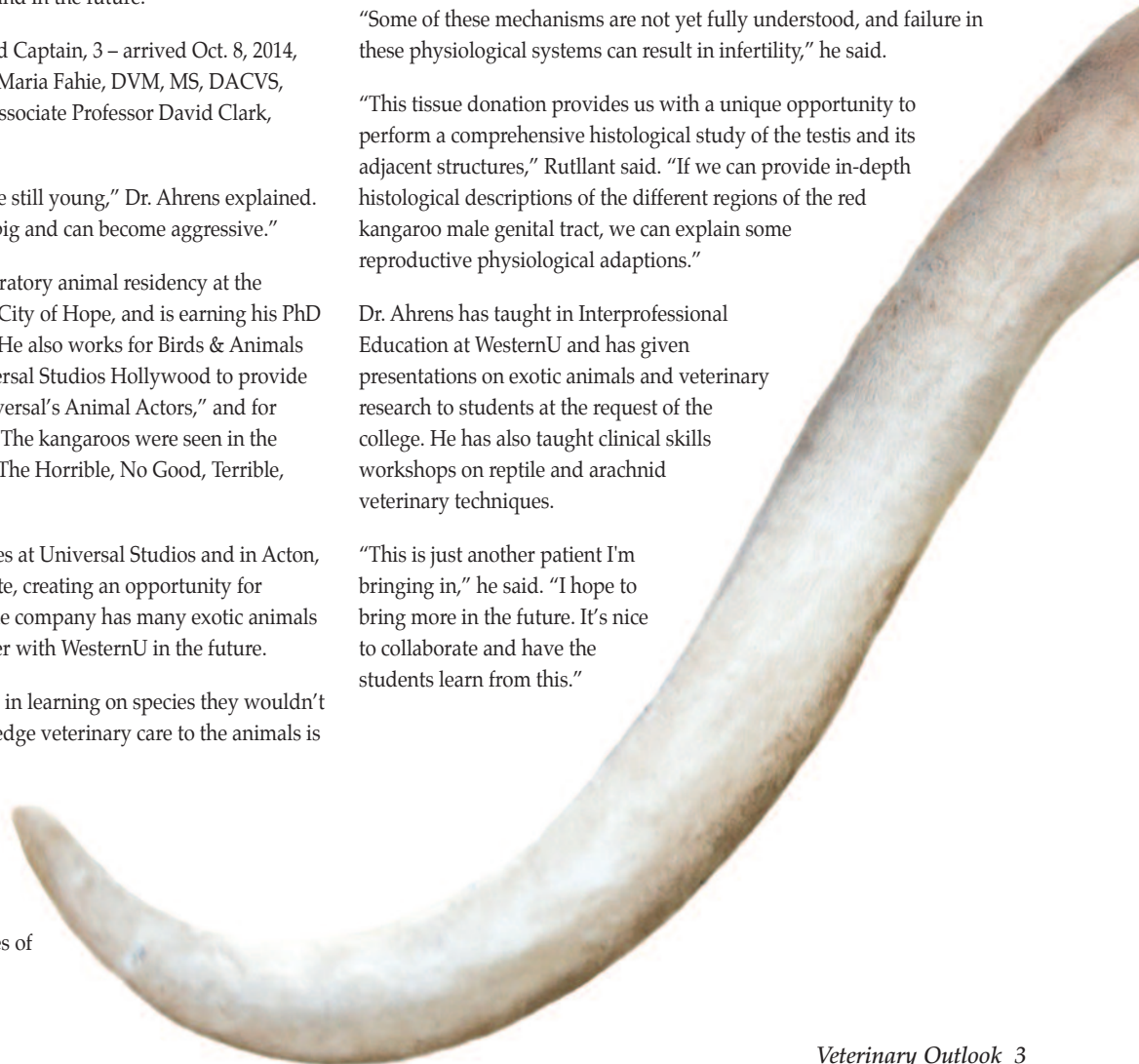
the red kangaroo because they have unique adaptations that are reflected in the thermoregulatory mechanisms at the level of the testes, Dr. Khamas said.

"Some of these mechanisms are not yet fully understood, and failure in these physiological systems can result in infertility," he said.

"This tissue donation provides us with a unique opportunity to perform a comprehensive histological study of the testis and its adjacent structures," Rutllant said. "If we can provide in-depth histological descriptions of the different regions of the red kangaroo male genital tract, we can explain some reproductive physiological adaptations."

Dr. Ahrens has taught in Interprofessional Education at WesternU and has given presentations on exotic animals and veterinary research to students at the request of the college. He has also taught clinical skills workshops on reptile and arachnid veterinary techniques.

"This is just another patient I'm bringing in," he said. "I hope to bring more in the future. It's nice to collaborate and have the students learn from this."



Pet-Human Bond Inspiration For New Scholarship



By Jeff Malet and Tim McPheron

From left: Dr. Aubrey Fine and two therapy dogs with the first PJ/Hart Loving Bond award winner, Kelsey Milich, DVM '16. Photos by Jeff Malet.

A new award was presented at the 2014 WesternU College of Veterinary Medicine Honors Day. One named in memory of two therapy dogs that made significant contributions to the psychosocial welfare of the numerous children they served.

The PJ/Hart Loving Bond Award was established to annually recognize the accomplishments of a CVM student who has learned to value and appreciate the unique aspects of the human-animal bond.

A pioneer in the field of animal-assisted therapy with children, Dr. Aubrey Fine, a professor at Cal Poly Pomona and a friend of CVM Associate Professor Jose Peralta, DVM, MSc, PhD, donated \$4,000, with additional support from Royal Canin, to fund the award for the initial years.

The award began as a tribute to Dr. Fine's therapy dog, Hart, a black Labrador retriever that came close to becoming a guide dog, but for a heart murmur. So, Hart became a therapy dog instead, Dr. Fine said.

The idea for the scholarship came from a children's book Dr. Fine had written, "Give a Dog Your Heart." The book was written to help children deal with the death of a pet. A subsequent book, published in spring 2014, aided the cause.

"I wanted all the royalties and all the proceeds from my book, 'Our Faithful Companions: Exploring the Essence of Our Kinship with Animals,' to go to a scholarship for college students interested in human-animal relationships," Dr. Fine said.

Before the book was completed and in print, Dr. Fine's other dog, PJ, died and he decided to change the name of the scholarship to recognize and honor both animals.

The first recipient of WesternU's PJ/Hart Loving Bond Award was Kelsey Milich, DVM '16, who was awarded the scholarship in April 2014. She was selected because she has seen first-hand how the pet-human bond has transformed life for herself and her family.

"Animals have the unique ability to treat one part of the human body that no pharmaceutical can touch – the soul," Kelsey wrote in her award application. "They are capable of giving a life back, which was once thought to be lost. By healing a person both mentally and physically, animals can help reintroduce people into the social network that our society depends on."



"My interest in the human animal bond stems from a very personal place; I have seen this relationship work miracles first hand. I have seen how an animal can take someone from a place of such desperation to one of such hope. Animals can be the bridge from seclusion and sickness to happiness and health; no medication has such far-reaching effects or absolute holistic results. There is no limit to the healing powers of an animal, which is why I am so excited to continue to study the impact of the human-animal bond."

Fine is a strong believer that animals enrich us and become members of our families.

"When you look at human-animal relationships, there are many reasons why we are connected," he said, "but part of it is that real love, that connection, it's the familial love, it's the love that you give to a child, it's the connection that brings joy."

Jeff Malet is a writer/photographer in the Public Affairs Office at Western University of Health Sciences. Tim McPheron is director of development for the College of Veterinary Medicine.



Class of 2018 photo courtesy of Michael Palmer

Convocation, White Coat Ceremonies Open School Year

WesternU welcomed the next generation of health care providers in August, 2014, during the traditional Convocation and White Coat Ceremony.

Peter Weinstein, DVM, MBA, executive director of Southern California Veterinary Medical Association, was the keynote speaker at this year's College of Veterinary Medicine White Coat Ceremony. A total of 104 new first-year CVM students were welcomed during the ceremony, held once again at Pomona College's Bridges Hall of Music in Claremont, Calif.

Earlier, California State Sen. Norma Torres, D-32nd District, gave the keynote address during Convocation at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center in Pomona, Calif. She told more than 1,000 students entering WesternU's

nine graduate health professions colleges that new health care laws passed at the state and federal levels "cannot succeed without the work of skilled, and trained, health care providers. It is your leadership, your training, your dedication and your skills that will help fight cancer, cure deadly diseases, rehabilitate patients and provide care to those who need it."

Sen. Torres, a former 911 dispatcher, Pomona mayor and state assemblywoman who won the seat for the 35th U.S. Congressional District in November, told the new students that "the men and women you are sitting with today will be the ones leading us into a new era of health care in this country. This new era will be characterized by a system of patient-centered

care – a system where the needs of the patient come first."

Convocation included a proud moment for the College of Veterinary Medicine when CVM Professor Wael Khamas, BVM&S, MS, PhD, received the Harriet K. and Philip Pumerantz Award for Leadership and Service. The award annually recognizes a faculty member for exemplary leadership, service and contributions to university committees, local and professional communities and societies, the development and implementation of university policies and programs through non-administrative roles, and for making documentable impact on the quality of the university and demonstrating a commitment to high standards of professional life.

Faculty & Staff



Brian Oakley

FACULTY PROFILE

A new face on the CVM campus is **Brian Oakley**, MS, PhD, an associate professor leading the Food & Feed Safety course and a problem-based learning (PBL) facilitator. Dr. Oakley joined the faculty on Sept. 1, 2014.

A native of Michigan, Dr. Oakley earned a bachelor's degree in East Asian Studies from the University of Vermont. After graduating from UVM and spending a year as a ski bum in Breckenridge, Colo., Dr. Oakley taught English

for two years in a small town in northern Japan as part of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Education. As the only *gaijin* in town, Dr. Oakley was somewhat famous locally and established a sister-city relationship between Shimizu-cho and Chelsea, Mich., that has continued to this day with annual exchanges of middle school students.

After returning to the United States, Dr. Oakley moved to Seattle, Wash., to pursue a master's and a PhD from the University of Washington. While in graduate school, he taught at two community colleges and subsequently worked as a post-doc in the UW Microbiology Department and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Institute. Dr. Oakley left Seattle with his family in 2007 to join a Marie Curie Excellence Grant at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. While in the U.K., Dr. Oakley embraced the revolution in DNA sequencing technology and its impacts on microbial ecology by applying these tools to environmental studies and veterinary research on ovine foot rot and environmental reservoirs of mycobacteria.

For the last four years, Dr. Oakley was a research microbiologist with a poultry microbiology food safety group at the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Athens, Ga. Dr. Oakley brings with him to WesternU a project

funded by the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association to identify gastrointestinal microbial communities associated with poultry health and exclusion of food borne pathogens. Dr. Oakley's specific area of expertise is microbial ecology and the overarching goal of his research is to understand microbial communities to improve animal health and agricultural productivity.

A resident of Claremont, Calif., Dr. Oakley is married, with two children, a daughter, 10, and a son, 7. He is an avid bicyclist and often can be found cycling to work.

FACULTY UPDATES

Several other administrative changes were announced recently in the College of Veterinary Medicine:

Professor **Wendell Cole**, DVM, DACT, previously Director of Year 3 Curriculum, is now the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Professor **Peggy Barr**, DVM, PhD, is now the Director of Year 3 Curriculum.

Professor **Wael Khamas**, BVM&S, MS, PhD, is the Director of Year 1 Curriculum.



Wendell Cole



Peggy Barr



Wael Khamas



At far right, Eva Jaeger, in front of the VACS II ambulatory vehicle.

Staff Update

Eva Jaeger, RVT, BS, one of the first staff members in the newly formed WesternU College of Veterinary Medicine, left the college in September 2014 for other pursuits. Ms. Jaeger joined WesternU in September 2002 and was instrumental in the success of the programs that involved the Veterinary Ambulatory Community Service (VACS) units. In October 2014, she joined the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society as the lead registered veterinary technician.



Eva Jaeger

CVM's Melanie Sailor Completes Research Project



CVM student **Melanie Sailor**, DVM '17, was one of 25 veterinary student scholars nationally to complete a summer research project funded by a Morris Animal Foundation grant.

Melanie and her mentor, CVM Assistant Professor of Physiology Gagandeep Kaur, DVM, PhD, used the grant for a 12-week project titled "Difference in Number of Arginine Vasopressin-Producing Neurons in Medial Amygdala of Male and Female Dogs."

Sailor said she knew she wanted to do research that would improve companion animal health and be relative to veterinary medicine.

"We successfully localized and identified a neuropeptide called arginine vasopressin in the amygdala of dogs," she said. "The amygdala region of the brain is responsible for controlling emotions. This neuropeptide has been shown to play a role in aggressive behavior of rodent species, but the data on dogs is limited."

Sailor hopes the research with Dr. Kaur will continue so they can understand arginine vasopressin's role in aggressive behavior of dogs, and to elicit sexual dimorphism, which is comparing whether this protein is greater in male than female dogs.

"This past summer, Dr. Kaur guided me the whole way," Sailor said. "She was there to mentor me through various new techniques, and taught me a lot about animal research in this field."

The Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholars Program encourages veterinary students to pursue research careers, providing students with summer stipends to focus on a project of their own design, while working with a mentor at their respective veterinary colleges, according to the Morris Animal Foundation.

Over the past nine years, the foundation has awarded 385 highly competitive grants, totaling more than \$1.4 million, to veterinary students from more than 50 different colleges and universities in 15 countries. In summer 2014, 25 veterinary student projects were performed across the country, covering a wide range of species and animal health issues, according to the Morris Animal Foundation.

10th Anniversary Open House Set

WesternU's College of Veterinary Medicine will once again throw open its doors to the community this spring with the Tenth Annual Open House, tentative for April 11.

Among the highlights of the 2015 day-long affair will be K-9 unit demonstrations, shelter pet adoptions, microchipping and pet vaccinations. Students will host booths on pet care, tours will be provided of the college and the WesternU Pet Health Center, and food vendors also will be on hand.

Boy and Girl Scouts also will participate in the event, earning scouting badges as they learn about various aspects of animal care.



WESTERNU CVM

University Advancement and the College of Veterinary Medicine are pleased to announce a new fully-endowed scholarship for the college. Burton A. Mitchell and Pamela J. Mitchell provided more than \$20,000 to fully fund the Georgia R. Mitchell Endowed Scholarship, which will provide awards to future generations of veterinary students with proven interest and accomplishments in veterinary research.

CVM STUDENTS



Kathryn Robb

Kathryn Robb, DVM '15, had an article published in the Grunion Gazette, a local Long Beach, Calif., paper. The article, entitled "Veterinary Student Details Educational Journey," describes her more than three years at in the College of Veterinary Medicine at WesternU. The article can be accessed at:



http://www.gazettes.com/lifestyle/veterinary-student-details-educational-journey/article_2d8889b2-0dd9-11e4-8b54-0019bb2963f4.html



Zachary Francisco

Zachary Francisco, DVM '17, gave an oral presentation Nov. 4, 2014, at the Humane Endings 2014 AVMA Welfare Symposium in Chicago, Ill., a three-day international symposium on euthanasia.



<https://www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/141215a.aspx>

VETERINARY PROFESSION

A recent article in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association focuses on the value of obtaining a veterinary degree. The December 2014 story states that AVMA economists "predict an improving market for veterinary services over the next several years," but they also "released results of analyses indicating the typical veterinary college graduate will earn less during his or her career than the typical bachelor's degree holder, once educational costs are considered." The article, written by Katie Burns and Greg Cima, can be accessed online at the link at the bottom.

JAVMA also reports that a number of veterinary colleges have started providing more support for student health and wellness. The University of Guelph Ontario Veterinary College has a peer helpers program. The peer helpers are veterinary students who have experience with counseling or wellness activities and assist their fellow students with both academic and personal matters, such as workload management, life balance, and time management. The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine started a peer-to-peer support group in October that encourages students to talk about issues with which they're struggling. And Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine has begun to focus on helping its interns and residents. This year, it hosted its first in a series of well-being dinners for interns and residents, who were given time off to attend and talk about health and wellness issues. To read the full story, go to:

MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following dedicated employees for their milestone years of service here at Western University of Health Sciences:

10 years – Annaluz Wilton, College of Veterinary Medicine

5 years – Spring Halland, College of Veterinary Medicine

DEAN'S WORD *con't from page 2*

these criticisms is the lack of evidence to support these wild accusations despite repeated requests to our critics made by the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI).

Now, I could, and probably should, extol the accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alumni. Our outcomes measures reported for every graduating class (NAVLE performance, employment rates, licensure rates, internships, residencies, graduate education, etc.) clearly demonstrate that our veterinary education prepares our graduates exceptionally well for success.

Instead, I would like to make a plea to our alumni. By this year, our 1,000th student (future graduate) is enrolled in our college. As part of your training, the college faculty and administration consistently included leadership and advocacy training. It is time for you – our alumni – to exercise your collective influence, engage in the collective discussion, participate in the

professional organizations, and initiate any and all appropriate actions that demonstrate the qualities of your training. This includes your willingness to speak out on matters that are of importance to your alma mater and to you as a standard-bearer of the profession. I implore you take an active role in serving as members/leaders in local, state and national veterinary organizations and their committees. I am encouraging you to express your knowledge about the strengths and positive aspects of your experience, as well as suggesting improvements where you have found us less effective. At the very least, be willing to educate others who cannot imagine how WesternU-CVM produces graduates as effective as YOU are.

It is time to stop chasing after trumped up charges, rumors, baseless predictions, and distortions. There are *real* challenges facing our profession. We should devote our energies to addressing them. Your time has arrived!

Phillip Nelson, DVM, PhD

Faculty Spotlight



Babak Faramarzi

Assistant Professor **Babak Faramarzi**, DVM, MSc, CVA, PhD, had two abstracts accepted for the 8th International Symposium on Veterinary/Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine and he gave an oral presentation in August. Dr. Faramarzi was principle investigator on both studies. The first study, "Diagnosis of Distal Phalanx Palmar Process Fractures in Foals: Challenges and Solutions," is based on a study he performed earlier.

The second abstract, "Use of Force Plate to Investigate Force Distribution in Foals With and Without Palmar Processes Fractures of the Distal Phalanx," is based on a novel project Dr. Faramarzi did via collaboration with colleagues at Cal Poly Pomona, where he is also an adjunct professor. Dr. Faramarzi also:

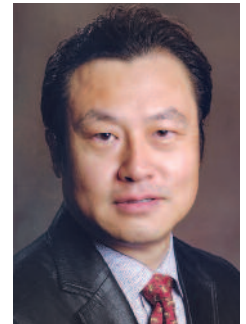
- Was notified that the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Foundation agreed to fund his study, "Response to Acupuncture in Horses with Chronic Laminitis." The foundation awarded him \$26,515.

Associate Professor **Lyon Lee**, DVM, PhD, DACVAA, recently received funding and material support of approximately \$30,000 from Vetland Inc, Votem Inc, PowerBrain Inc, Jurox Pharmaceutical and Western University of Health Sciences to carry out research related to oscillometric blood pressure monitors and the cardiopulmonary effects of Alfaxan (an injectable anesthetic recently approved by the FDA) in neuroleptanalgesic combination, the efficacy of oxygen concentrator in delivery of inhalant anesthetics, and tablet computer based telemonitoring in anesthetized animals. Contributors to the project include Dr. Courtney Campbell, a surgery resident, Austin Stein, DVM 2016, and a number of WesternU faculty/staff/preceptors. The multiparameter monitors donated by the sponsors are also currently being utilized at BVCC, VACS I and VACS II for clinical education. Dr. Lee also:

- Presented one of his anesthetic research studies at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia in Indianapolis, Ind. The co-authors of this study include Ben Williamson, DVM 2014, and Marissa Heil, DVM 2014, and CVM faculty members Victoria Voith, DVM, MSc, MA, PhD, DACVB; David Kersey, PhD, and Ohad Levi, DVM. The talk was entitled "Comparison of analgesic efficacy of intraperitoneally administered ropivacaine in dogs following laparoscopic ovariectomy surgery." Dr. Lee, as a member of the Education Committee of the ACVAA, also served as a judge during this conference for the best resident abstract presentation where three recipients were selected.
- Presented two anesthesia seminars to small animal practitioners at the Busan-Kyongnam Annual Veterinary Conference in Seoul,

- Was notified that his paper, "Morphological and Biomechanical Properties of Equine Laminar Junction," was published in the Journal of Equine Veterinary Science.
- Was an invited podium presenter at the Annual Health Professions Conference at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif. The title of his presentation was "Equine Sport Medicine."
- Was an invited lecturer at Cal Poly Pomona, College of Electrical and Computer Engineering, on "Emerging Technologies in Equine Sport Medicine: The Need for Collaboration between Engineers and Veterinarians."
- Was invited to moderate the equine sessions at the Pacific Veterinary Conference (PacVet) in San Francisco for three days in June, 2014.
- Contributed to the 2nd Edition (2014) of "Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery" textbook by providing a digital radiograph of a unique distal phalanx fracture in a foal. His name, along with "Western University College of Veterinary Medicine," has been published as a courtesy in the book.

Korea, July 12-13. He also visited Seoul National University and Kangwon National University to carry out collaborative anesthetic research on dogs and horses with graduate students. While in Korea, Dr. Lee also visited Votem Inc. and Woojung Sciences and carried out collaborative research on anesthetic monitoring and analgesia in laboratory animals.



Lyon Lee

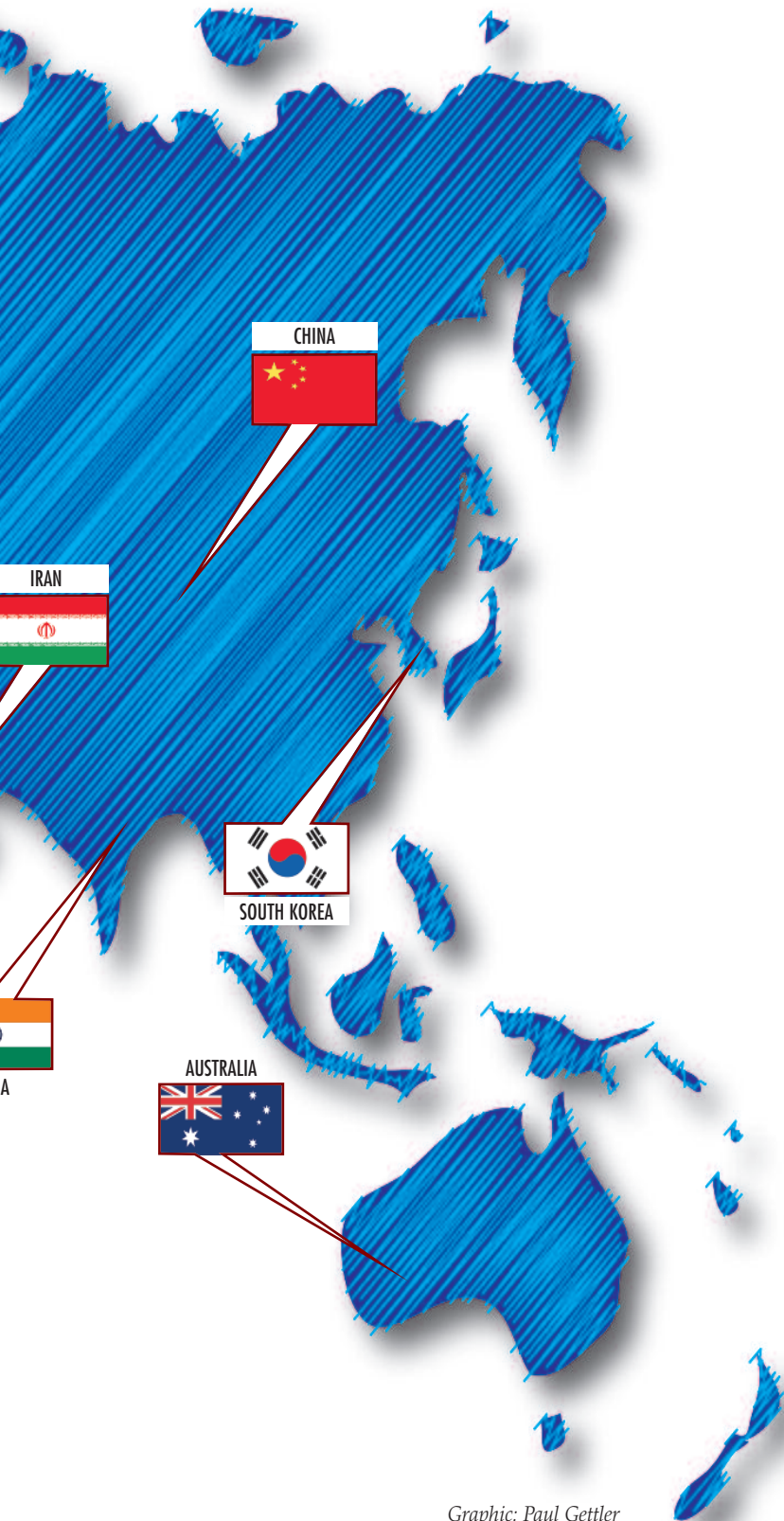
- Published a short communication he co-authored with a group of collaborators including Dr. Changbaig Hyun, veterinary cardiologist at Kangwon National University, and Dr. Janet Han, equine internal medicine specialist, Western University of Health Sciences CVM, in Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia. The article, entitled "Cardiopulmonary and anesthetic effects of the combination of butorphanol, midazolam and alfaxalone in beagle dogs." can be accessed at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25112420> for abstract and <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/vaa.12223/full> for full article.
- Published a research article he co-authored with a group of collaborators including two from Seoul National University, in Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia. The article, entitled "The effect of epidural injection speed on epidural pressure and distribution of solution in anesthetized dogs," can be accessed at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24628876> for abstract and <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/vaa.12147/full> for full article.

INTERNATIONAL

WesternU CVM Draws Faculty, Staff from Around the World



CONNECTION



Graphic: Paul Gettler

Students who study under the tutelage of the faculty in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences get not only a view of U.S. veterinary medicine, they often may learn about practices around the world as well. That's because more than one-third of the college's 60-plus faculty members hail from other countries.

Eighteen foreign countries are represented on the WesternU-CVM faculty and staff, with half of these the homelands of not one but two members of the CVM family.

Many of these 27 faculty and staff members completed their academic coursework in their native countries then arrived in the United States to take on various educational or professional positions. Others arrived here to complete one degree or another, and then stayed on in this country when offered jobs.

One of those is Professor Wael Khamas, BVM&S, MS, PhD, the director of Year 1 Curriculum, who returned several times to the U.S. He earned his BVM&S from the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Baghdad, Iraq, his home country, followed by an MS and a PhD, both from the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He was a teaching assistant at both of his alma maters, then served on the faculty at the University of Baghdad and at Jordan University of Science and Technology. He arrived back in the U.S. a decade ago, as a Fulbright teaching Scholar in 2004-2005 at Purdue University, where he learned new methods of teaching. He has taught at WesternU since 2005.

Associate Professor Miguel D. Saggese, DVM, MS, PhD, whose specialty is veterinary microbiology and avian diseases, earned his veterinary degree at the University of Buenos Aires in his native Argentina. There, he worked in private practice and as a faculty member in the College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Buenos Aires. Later, he went on to complete his master's and a residency at the University of Minnesota in 2004. He earned a PhD from Texas A&M University in 2007 and arrived at WesternU a short time later.

Yvonne Drechsler, PhD, an associate professor of immunology, has been in the U.S. even longer – and her education and work have taken her from coast to coast. A native of Germany, she earned bachelor's and master's degrees and a PhD there, then came to the

Continued on page 12

United States in 1999 for post-doctoral work at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. In 2003, she headed to Texas when her husband received a job offer there. She then accepted a position in the veterinary pathobiology department at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M, and arrived at WesternU in 2007.

Some faculty and staff members arrived here after stops in other countries as well. Assistant Professor Babak Faramarzi, DVM, MSc, PhD, on the faculty at WesternU since 2009, is from Tehran, Iran, but now holds dual citizenship with Canada, the country where he earned his master's degree and PhD. Research Laboratory Manager Hannah Mirrashed, PhD, also was born in Tehran, Iran, and she, too, now possesses dual Iranian-Canadian citizenship. Another dual citizen with Canada is Instructor Chandru Charavaryamath, BVSc, MVSc, PhD, who was born and raised in India, received an undergraduate and master's degree there, then moved to Canada for a PhD and post-doctoral training.

Eighteen foreign countries are represented on the WesternU-CVM faculty and staff.

Professor Maria Fahie, DVM, MS, DACVS, on the WesternU faculty since 2002, holds dual citizenship, too, but hers are with her home country of Canada and the United States. A native of Nova Scotia, Dr. Fahie's route to WesternU included a stop for several years in Virginia for academic purposes.

A faculty member with a varied international connection is Assistant Professor Helen Engelke, BVSc, MPVM, DACVPM, MRCVS. A native of the United Kingdom, she was raised there and studied veterinary medicine in that country, but also has spent considerable time in Trinidad & Tobago, her father's homeland, where she was a state veterinary officer. Her mother was from County Mayo, Ireland.

And one faculty member, while making his home in the United States for the past 15 years, retains a small piece of his native country. Hrvoje Smodlaka, DVM, PhD, an associate professor in anatomy, hails from Croatia. He came to WesternU in 2006 after stops in Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia. "My first name," he says, "literally means 'Croat.'"

SPANNING THE GLOBE



Argentina:
Miguel Saggese, DVM, MS, PhD



Australia:
Christine Tindal Green, BVSc, MRCVS



Brazil:
Pedro Paulo Diniz, DVM, PhD



Canada:
Maria Fahie, DVM, MS, DACVS
Suzie Kovacs, MS, PhD



China:
Jijun Hao, PhD
Yiling Hong, PhD



Croatia:
Hrvoje Smodlaka, DVM, PhD
Suzana Tkalcic, DVM, PhD



France:
Dominique Griffon, DMV, MS, PhD, DECVS, DACVS
Emmanuel Griffon, BS



Germany:
Yvonne Drechsler, PhD
Martina Haupt, DVM



India:
Chandrashekhar (Chandru) Charavaryamath, BVSc, MVSc, PhD
Gagandeep Kaur, DVM, PhD



Iran:
Babak Faramarzi, DVM, MSc, PhD
Hannah Mirrashed, PhD



Iraq:
Wael Khamas, BVMS, MS, PhD



Israel:
Ohad Levi, DVM



Jamaica:
Maisie Dawes, DVM, PhD, DACVIM



Mexico:
Ana Alcaraz, DVM, PhD, DACVP



Morocco:
Malika Kachani, DVM, PhD



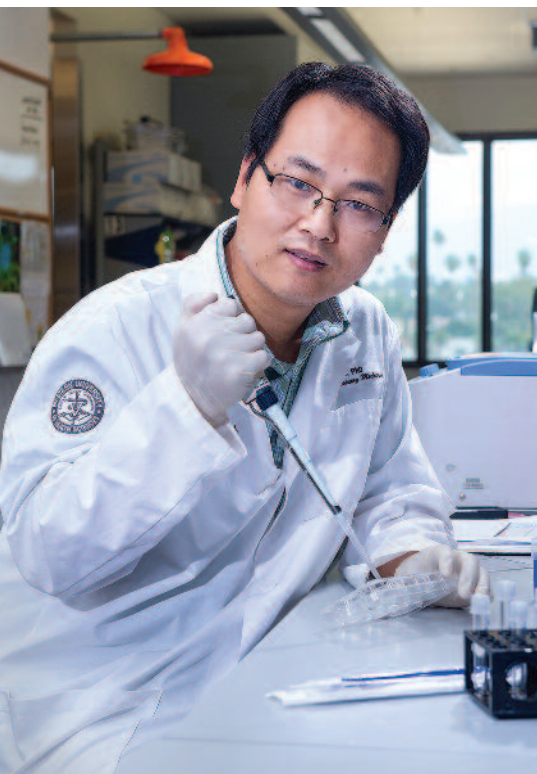
South Korea:
Lyon Lee, DVM, PhD, DACVAA



Spain:
Jose Peralta, DVM, MSc, PhD
Josep Rutilant-Labeaga, DVM, PhD



United Kingdom:
Helen Engelke, BVSc, MPVM, DACVPM, MRCVS
David Forster, Bvet Med, Ma ICS



Jijun Hao in WesternU's new Gosenfeld Laboratory

Assistant Professor **Jijun Hao**, PhD, has been awarded ReproCELL's Innovative Research Grant. ReproCELL Inc. will provide \$10,000 support for Dr. Hao to develop a novel, cost-effective and chemically-defined growth medium for human pluripotent stem cells.

Assistant Professor **Maisie Dawes**, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, was notified of the publication of a paper in the spring edition of *Bovine Practitioner*. The paper, entitled, "Clinical examination, diagnostic

testing, and treatment options for neonatal calves with diarrhea: A review," was co-authored by Dr. Dawes in conjunction with colleagues Jeff W. Tyler, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri-Columbia; Douglas E. Hostetler, School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Dusty W. Nagy, Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri-Columbia; and Ronald K. Tessman, senior veterinary scientist, Merial Limited.

Associate Professor **Hrvoje Smodlaka**, DVM, PhD, presented at the European Association of Veterinary Anatomists Congress in Romania. Dr. Smodlaka's presentation was "Histology of the Northern elephant seal (*Mirounga angustirostris*) eye."

Associate Professor **Kristopher Irizarry**, PhD, was quoted in the July issue of *Esquire* Magazine in an article entitled, "The State of The American Dog." Dr. Irizarry commented on the DNA of the pit bull dog (the American Staffordshire terrier).

Esquire



<http://www.esquire.com/features/american-dog-0814>

Associate Professor **Peggy Schmidt**, DVM, MS, DACVPM, and Assistant Professor **Paul Gordon-Ross**, DVM, MS, presented a four-hour workshop at the AVMA meeting in Denver, Colo., in July. The purpose of the workshop was to help veterinarians and their staffs learn more about teaching students in their clinical practice setting. Dr. Schmidt also traveled to University of Minnesota School of Public Health for a presentation at their Summer Public Health Institute. The title of her presentation was "Bloody Hell: Investigating an Outbreak of a Novel Hemorrhagic Disease."

Professor **Peggy Barr**, DVM, PhD, Associate Professor **Jennifer Buur**, DVM, DACVCP, PhD, and Assistant Professor **Dean Smylie**, DVM, joined in a podium presentation to the recent Veterinary Educator Collaborative Symposium. The presentation, entitled "Parallel Learning in a Problem-Based Learning Curriculum: Using the Same Case for Different Levels of Learners," discussed the reason the college decided to use "concurrent" cases for Year 1 and Year 2 students, the approach that was taken to implement this change, the challenges encountered along the way, and the methods that are being used for outcomes assessment.

Professor **Beth Boynton**, DVM, gave the keynote address at the Palomares Academy of Health Sciences 8th Grade Induction Ceremony. These students are the fifth class in the Pomona Unified School District that combines a health care industry focused curriculum with a traditional high school lesson plan. They also received their white coats at this ceremony. At a June 4 ceremony, 33 students graduated from the academy. Dr. Boynton also was quoted extensively in the February 2014 issue of *AAHA Trends Magazine* in the article, "10 Ways to Prepare for Senior Patients," written by Maureen Blaney Flietner.



An eighth-grader tries on her white lab coat

Assistant Professor **Spring Halland**, DVM, CVA, DACVIM, presented a poster at the Veterinary Educator Collaborative Symposium. The title of her poster was "Tablet-Based Clinical Skills Exam." Dr. Halland also attended the PacVet Conference, put on by the CVMA, of which Dr. Halland is WesternU's delegate to the House of Delegates. At this conference, Dr. Halland spoke at the Food Animal Medicine for the Small and Mixed Animal Practitioner section on "Camelid Basics 101 and What's New in Camelid Practice."

Continued on page 14

CVM Faculty News & Research

Professor **Victoria Voith**, DVM, MSc, MA, PhD, DACVB, participated in the Animal Farm Foundation's Summer Internship Program in Animal Sheltering. She gave a class on her recent work and publications and was available throughout the Internship Program to discuss topics and answer questions. The internship attendees came from humane and animal care/control agencies all over the United States. Dr. Voith also was a panelist in a Webinar broadcast. An animal behaviorist, she took part in "CAAB Chat on Cat Social Behavior."

Instructor **Chandru Charavaryamath**, BVSc, MVSc, PhD, attended the American Association of Anatomist's annual meeting this spring. While there he participated in the Scientific Affairs Committee of which he is a member.

Associate Professor **Yiling Hong**, PhD, was notified that her intramural grant proposal entitled, "Direct Generation of Functional Neurons from Fibroblasts by Chemical Methods for Parkinson's Disease Therapy," was funded in the amount of \$40,000. The submitted proposals were reviewed by the research committee following the outlined criteria in a true NIH initial review group ("study section") format, and scored accordingly.

Assistant Professor **Elizabeth Schilling**, DVM, attended the European Veterinary Dental Congress meeting in Marseilles, France, in the summer. At the meeting she gave two presentations: "Prevalence of Equine Odontoclastic Tooth Resorption and Hypercementosis in Southern California", and "Principles of Equine Dental Radiography." Dr. Schilling also presented at the Anatomy/Physiology Symposium in Croatia. Her topics included: Equine Dentistry, Practical Sedation and Pain Management for Standing Dental Procedures in the Horse.

CVM Associate Professor, **Diane McClure**, DVM, PhD, DACVA, was one of seven veterinarians invited to speak at the House Rabbit Society's first ever Educator Conference in September in St. Louis, Mo. Dr. McClure presented, "Trap-Neuter-Release – Not Just for Cats Any More," with Debbie Widoff from Best Friends. The conference, "Taking Rabbit Knowledge to a Higher Level," coincided with International Rabbit Day on Sept. 28, 2014. The conference was hosted by St. Louis House Rabbit Society.



<http://rabbit.org/conference/>



Veterinary Ambulatory Community Service (VACS) went to Long Beach City College to help spay and neuter about 100 rabbits

Professor **Janis Joslin**, DVM, received a copy of a book for which she had written a chapter entitled, "New World and Old World Monkeys." *Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine* series is published every 10 years. This is volume 8, edition 1. Dr. Joslin was asked to write all of the tables for the chapter (pages 301-335), which is the longest in the publication.

Director of Engagement and Strategic Programs **Teresa Morishita**, DVM, MPVM, MS, PhD, DACPV, wrote the chapter entitled, "Galliformes" in *Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine*. Dr. Morishita is the veterinary advisor to the Galliformes Taxon Advisory Group of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and has served in this role since 2009. In addition, the textbook featured the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine, the official scientific journal of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians.

Dr. Morishita was listed as one of three longest-serving editors in the journal's history, a position she has held since 2005 and the first woman to serve as editor-in-chief. Dr. Morishita also was selected to continue to serve on the Technical Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Technical Committee evaluates diagnostic tests and health programs to ensure disease-free commercial poultry flocks in the United States in order to ensure a safe food supply. As a testament to her dedication and standing, Dr. Morishita has been asked to serve as a Technical Committee member since 1996.

Professor **Tracey McNamara**, DVM, DACVP, also contributed to the publication, *Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine*, adding "Updates on West Nile Virus." Her contributions are on pages 710-713. Dr.

McNamara is credited with discovering West Nile Virus in birds while employed as head pathologist at the Bronx Zoo in 1999.

Dr. McNamara also gave a talk at the 2nd International Scientific Meeting of Anatomy and Physiology Fundamentals of Medicine Conference, June 13-17, in Croatia. Her presentation was, "Zoo Pathology: A treasure trove of Comparative Medicine." In June, she delivered the commencement address at University of Guelph Veterinary College in Ontario, Canada, and was awarded an honorary PhD.

Associate Professor **Linda Kidd**, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, was notified that a study she co-authored, "Seasonality of immune-mediated hemolytic anemia in dogs from Southern California," has been published in the *Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care*. Another co-author is Rachel Rasmussen, DVM, a 2011 graduate of WesternU.

John Tegzes, MA, VMD, DABVT, director of Interprofessional Education and professor of toxicology for the College of Veterinary Medicine, was featured in two recent news stories. He was interviewed by the *Today Show* for a story about a pet supply store owner's decision to eat only pet food for a month. Dr. Tegzes also was interviewed by Pasadena, California National Public Radio (NPR) station KPCC-FM (89.3) about the California ban on second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides, a poison used to kill rodents.

Professor **Joseph Bertone**, DVM, MS, DACVIM, was an invited speaker at the Hambletonian Conference in the summer. Dr. Bertone also participated in the Tour of the California Alps (bicycling) July 12. The distance was 126 miles with part of that climbing. This was the second time Dr. Bertone has participated in this event. His time was 10.5

hours. Dr. Bertone also was an invited speaker for the 2014 Federazione Italiana Sport Equestre Scientific program in Rome. The meeting was held in conjunction with the International Cavalli a Roma. Dr. Bertone also was invited to submit a commentary and opinion piece on the recent equine infectious anemia outbreak in Mexico. The commentary is published electronically at www.caballosyopinion.com and was printed in September 2014 in "Riendas" and "Caballo" magazines and www.damepaso.com in Venezuela.

CVM Professor **Wael Khamas**, BVMS, MS, PhD is a consultant on a NIH/NCI R15 award recently received by Dr. Sunil Prabhu (PI), College of Pharmacy, and his colleagues for the grant proposal entitled, "Combinatorial Nanotechnology-based Regimens for Pancreatic Cancer Chemoprevention." The three-year award, which began this academic year, is for \$438,000. Colleagues from the College of Pharmacy, Graduate College of Biomedical Sciences, and City of Hope, as well as a post-doctoral scientist are also involved in this award.

Associate Professor **Ohad Levi**, DVM, was in San Diego this fall for the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) annual conference, where he presented the study, "Ability of veterinary medical student to perform laparoscopy spay in comparison to open spay." Along with Dr. Levi, the investigators of the study are Dr. **Phil Kass** (UC Davis), and **Valerie Cantrell**, DVM '13; **Lyon Lee**, DVM, PhD; **David Clark**, DVM, DABVP; and **Dominique Griffon**, DMV, MS, PhD, DACVS, DECVS, all from WesternU.



CVM students at an on-site equine health exam

A TRIBUTE TO CARING HONOREES PROVIDE CARE AND COMFORT TO THE MOST VULNERABLE

Western University of Health Sciences honored a health plan that provides care to nearly a million members and a pioneer in healing, protecting and empowering victims of abuse during its annual A Tribute to Caring fundraiser.

The event, held Nov. 8, 2014, at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, Calif., raises money for student scholarships. Half of the proceeds from ATC will benefit student scholarships in this academic year and the other half goes into an endowment for future student scholarships.

Astrid Heppenstall Heger, MD, FAAP accepts the Elie Wiesel Humanism in Healing Award, the University's highest honor.



WesternU Founding President Philip Pumerantz, PhD, thanked the more than 600 guests in attendance.

"What you are really doing is helping us create for the community a quality of healing that will make a difference in people's lives," he said. "You, together with us, are creating a whole new enterprise of health care. I appreciate your participation and your contributions today."

As a result of the 2014 proceeds, "we will have more than \$1 million in the ATC Scholarship Fund," noted WesternU Senior Vice President Thomas G. Fox, PhD.

WesternU presented the Elie Wiesel Humanism in Healing Award, its highest honor, to Astrid Heppenstall Heger, MD,

FAAP, executive director of the Violence Intervention Program at Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center and a professor of clinical pediatrics at USC's Keck School of Medicine. She founded the Center for the Vulnerable Child (CVC) in 1984 for the evaluation of child abuse, the first medically-based child advocacy center in the world. The program evaluates more than 15,000 child abuse and child sexual assault victims every year.

In 1995, Dr. Heger established the first "one-stop shop" community Family Advocacy Center, offering medical, mental health, protective, legal and social services to victims of family violence and sexual assault throughout Los Angeles County. She established an Adult Protection Team and an Elder Abuse Forensic Center to provide direct

service to high-risk elders and dependent adults and to assist professionals charged with the protection of this most vulnerable population.

WesternU presented Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) its Access to Caring Award for making a difference in advancing health care access and availability to underserved people. IEHP is a not-for-profit, rapidly growing Medi-Cal and Medicare health plan in California. With a provider network of more than 4,000 physicians and more than 1,200 employees, IEHP serves more than 900,000 residents of Riverside and San Bernardino counties who are enrolled in Medi-Cal, Cal MediConnect (Medicare), IEHP's Medicare Special Needs Plan, or the Healthy Kids Program.

Annie

By Lea Dahlen



What can you say about the perfect dog? Her name is Annie.

She was one of those dogs that people dream of owning. She was everything you could want in a dog, and nothing you don't want. She was loving, friendly, kind, gentle, loyal and beautiful. She never jumped on anyone. She never licked your face or dug in the yard. Her bark was only for intruders.

She was awesome at snatching opossum off the wall, but she never hurt them. She was a friend to every dog and cat she met.

Annie went everywhere with me. I work at a dog training facility so she came to work with me. She spent her days in doggie daycare where her job was to be mother hen, always assessing the body language of other dogs and silently intervening when needed. We used her to evaluate new dogs in the group. She was truly a "working" dog.

Not only was she a joy to hike and go to the beach with, she probably had been to more restaurants than most of you. We could go anywhere. My well-behaved girl was a gift.

If Annie can help aspiring doctors learn about challenging cases, then her job is not yet done. Part of my heart went with her when she passed. She will be in my memories forever.

About the WAVE Program:

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 WAVE appears as a regular feature in each issue of the *Veterinary Outlook Magazine*.



Establishing a Pet Trust

Those concerned about what will happen to their animals should their human caregivers become incapacitated or die might consider including provisions in an estate plan. One means of doing so is to establish a charitable remainder unitrust to ensure their care in the event disaster strikes. This can be easily accomplished, and WesternU's Planned Giving Office is available to assist in this process. For more information, contact Tim McPheron, Director of Development at (909) 706-3762 or tmcpheron@westernu.edu.

Class of 2018 Profiles

First-year CVM students are profiled throughout the year



Maria-Victoria Alcaino

I grew up in Chelmsford, Mass., and majored in Pre-Veterinary Science at University of Massachusetts, Amherst. I worked and volunteered with small ruminants and companion animals, and hope to work in a mixed animal practice after graduation.



Hygan Baghoyan

I am from Vista, Calif., and attended University of California, Davis. My degree is in Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology with an emphasis in wildlife health. I enjoy working with all types of animals and am particularly passionate about wildlife/one health, equine, and small animal medicine.

I was raised in Georgia and graduated from Georgia Southern University with a bachelor's degree in Biology and minor in Chemistry. I volunteered at the animal shelter, fostered dogs for the animal humane society and worked as a veterinary assistant. I'm interested in small animal medicine and public health.



April Bailey

I am from Temecula, Calif., and received my bachelor's degree from University of California, Davis, in Animal Biology. I have interned at small animal clinics, the UC Davis teaching hospital, and a wildlife rehabilitation center in South Africa. I hope to focus on small animals and/or wildlife.



Kailey Beckman



Christine Bobula

I grew up in Gilroy, Calif., and received my bachelor's degree in Integrative Biology from University of California, Berkeley. I worked for an emergency and specialty veterinary clinic as an undergraduate and volunteered for several wildlife rescues. I am interested in small animal medicine.



Jacob Bryan

I graduated from Purdue University, where I received my bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences. I went on to receive a master's degree in Biological Sciences, focusing on sea turtle conservation in Costa Rica. I plan to focus on wildlife medicine, in hopes of specializing in aquatic medicine.

I received my BS in Biology from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, with minors in Chemistry and Studio Art. During school I researched rheumatoid arthritis in mice, interned at a museum's marine mammal necropsy lab, gained experience with field biology, and worked at a small animal veterinary practice. I want to focus on small animal medicine, and perhaps avian/exotic care.



Brooke Eusebio

I am originally from Connecticut and went to school in Raleigh, N.C., where I received a bachelor's in Animal Science and a master's in Animal Science with a concentration in reproductive physiology. I've worked predominantly as a veterinary technician in a small animal practice for the past 10 years. I am interested in mixed animals, zoological medicine, theriogenology, and public health.



Jessica Fournier



Jacob Gomez

I grew up in Tulare, Calif., and received my bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences from University of California, Davis, with emphasis in nutrition. I worked for CAHFS and a dairy practice as an undergraduate, and also gained small animal experience. I am interested in food animal medicine, with an emphasis in dairy.



Jaclyn Gosliga

I attended University of California, Davis, where I received my bachelor's degree in Animal Science. I went on to receive a master of science in Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology from University of California, Davis. My research focused on methods to reduce hypotension in anesthetized rabbits. I am interested in pursuing a career in academia.



Madison Herrick

I grew up in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., and received my bachelor's degree in Animal Biology from University of California, Davis. I have experience with cats, dogs, horses, manatees, lions, tigers and bears. I am interested in companion animal medicine and exotics.



Emily Hsieh

I graduated from University of California, Davis, with a dual degree in Animal Science and Design. In addition to working as a web designer for the UC Davis Energy Conservation Office, I have acquired skills in lab animal care, small animal medicine, farrier work, avian rehabilitation, and zoo husbandry. I hope to specialize in surgery, ideally in zoo and wildlife species.

I grew up in Benicia, Calif., and received my bachelor's degree in Animal Science from California State University, Chico, with an emphasis in pre-veterinary medicine. I worked at a small animal practice and have volunteered at a number of humane societies. I am interested in small animal medicine.



Morgan Jacobsen

I am from Lutz, Fla., and attended University of South Florida, where I received a bachelor's degree in Biology. I have volunteered in a small animal clinic, at Lowry Park Zoo and worked for a Paso Fino show horse breeder. I hope to focus primarily on wildlife and exotics.



Twisha Jani



Sohyun Kim

I graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara, with a bachelor's degree in Zoology. During my undergraduate years, I worked as both a vet assistant and a kennel attendant at the local nonprofit/no-kill shelter. I also worked as a vet rehabilitation assistant at an animal physical therapy center. My main interests are small animal surgery and shelter medicine.



Josephine W. Liu

My bachelor's degree is in Criminology from University of California, Irvine. After a stint in law school, I changed direction and completed my prerequisites at Chapman University. I am interested in exotic, marine, and small animal medicine.

I grew up in Phoenix, Ariz., and attended Arizona State University, where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Life Sciences. During my undergraduate years, I worked in a clinical setting with a small animal surgeon and volunteered at a stable where I fell in love with equine medicine.



Tracie Mahl

I graduated from University of California, Los Angeles, with a BS in Physiological Sciences. I worked in a corporate animal hospital and also at a research lab where I gained experience handling rats and mice. I am interested in small animal medicine, but am open to all fields of veterinary medicine, especially equine and large animal medicine.



Cherein Abdel Massih



Madison McKay

I was born and raised on Long Island, N.Y., and have a BS in Animal Science from University of Vermont. I am extremely excited about starting my dream of becoming a veterinarian here at Western University of Health Sciences in sunny California.



Katherine O'Neill

I grew up in Los Angeles and received my bachelor's degree in Animal Science from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. I worked at a small animal practice and interned at both a wildlife rehabilitation center and an exotic animal conservation. I am interested in small animal and wildlife medicine.



Oren Ofer

I graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara, with a degree in Biopsychology. While there, I had the opportunity to research animal models of drug addiction. My past animal experience includes work with dairy cows and wildlife, both on an Israeli kibbutz. Most recently, I worked as a vet tech in Los Angeles and am interested in pursuing small animal medicine.



Chelsea O'Toole

I grew up in Los Angeles and received my bachelor's degree in Biology from Occidental College with an emphasis in marine biology. After graduation, I worked at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California Science Center, and Animal Specialty Group. I also volunteered at the Los Angeles Zoo. I have an interest in zoo medicine and small animal surgery.

I grew up in New Jersey and received my bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Penn. I worked for a small animal emergency hospital since I was 17 years old. I have a horse, two dogs, and four cats. I am not sure yet about a specialty.



Jaimee Perlmutter

I was born in Russia and figure skating brought me to Southern California. Later I lived in Vancouver, Canada, and came back to do my undergraduate work at University of California, Irvine. I worked at a small animal practice and was involved in axolotl research. I am interested in research.



Ekaterina Perminov



Andrew Popp

I grew up in Vacaville, Calif., and received two BS degrees from California State University, Sacramento: in Cell & Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. I have worked in many animal-related fields including education, rehabilitation, research, wildlife, lab animal, small animal, and exotics. I am interested in zoological medicine.



Nina Pusateri

I graduated from University of Delaware in 2011 with a bachelor of science in Animal Science. I recently graduated from Drexel University with a Master of Laboratory Animal Science, and completed an internship at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I am interested in pursuing a career in mixed practice, aquatics, zoo, or even a specialty such as in nutrition or behavior.

I grew up in the Los Angeles area and obtained my bachelor's degree in Animal Science with an emphasis in physiology from University of California, Davis. As an undergraduate, I worked in a neurobiology physiology and behavior lab looking at the hibernation patterns in Syrian hamsters, and interned in the Neurology Department at UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. I hope to work in a public health related field.



Marissa Saenz

I graduated from University of North Texas with a degree in Biology. I worked for the Texas Coalition of Animal Protection, traveling throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area with a team offering low-cost spay/neuter and vaccines. This experience gave me a new perspective on the overpopulation of pets in today's shelters. In the future I hope to participate in solving this issue.



Melanie Spink



Clyde Rinaldo Sudarma

I received a bachelor of science in Biological Sciences from California State University, Sacramento. I have been involved with a zoo, an animal shelter, wildlife centers, a research facility, an equine clinic, and a pet hospital. I hope to become part of an organization whose activity with animals affects the public as well.



Hannah Zillmer

I was born and raised in McKinney, Texas, and received my BS in Biology at University of Texas, Austin. My volunteer history includes Mystic Aquarium, Mote Marine Lab, and In-Sync Exotics. I worked at an exotic pet and wildlife clinic in Virginia. I am interested in aquatic animal and exotic/wildlife medicine.

Alumni Connection

ALUMNI REUNION

The WesternU College of Veterinary Medicine held its third annual reunion in the fall, this year spotlighting alumni from the Class of 2009 who were marking their five-year commencement anniversary.

About 60 guests, including more than 15 members from the

Class of 2009 plus current students and faculty, attended the Oct. 18, 2014, event on the Pomona campus. Also attending were WesternU founding President Philip Pumerantz, PhD, and his wife, and Dr. Jeff Ondrak, beef cattle clinical veterinarian and assistant professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Great Plains Veterinary Education Center.

The reunion festivities included campus tours, a reception; group photo; a welcome from CVM Dean Phillip Nelson, DVM, PhD; faculty reflections; awards; music and dancing.

A reunion spotlighting the Class of 2010 is planned for fall 2015.



ALUMNI PASS BOARDS

The College of Veterinary Medicine would like to congratulate Tamerin Scott, Gael Lamielle and Zarah Hedge, all DVM 2009, who sat their veterinary preventative medicine boards in June 2014 and were successful. These alumni are now diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine.



Tamerin Scott



Zarah Hedge

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Have you recently married, started a new job, had a baby, or received a promotion? Update WesternU on your achievements and milestones so they can be shared with your fellow classmates. Send any news to alumni@westernu.edu or cvmoutlook@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.

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.



CVM Calendar

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| March 16-20 | Spring Break |
| April 11 | CVM 10th Anniversary Open House |
| April 27 | CVM Honors Day |
| May 21 | CVM Commencement, Pasadena Civic Auditorium |
| April 30 | CVM Research Rounds |
| Aug. 3-7 | WesternU Orientation Week |
| Aug. 8 | WesternU Convocation/ CVM White Coat Ceremony |



alumni@westernu.edu



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Parting Shot

Seasonal Splendor

No trip to New York City is complete without a stroll down Central Park's mall. These American elm trees are famous for changing colors from season to season, turning a gorgeous vibrant green in spring. Taking a walk under this surreal canopy – which I did during my last trip there in 2010 – takes you away from the concrete jungle that is NYC.

– Caren Tse, Administrative Associate

If you have a Parting Shot photo to share, please contact us at 909.706.3874.