**Word From The Dean**

**SHIRLEY D. JOHNSTON**  
DVM, PhD, Professor and Dean

**Happy New Year**

to all of our WesternU CVM Friends and Family. We are now in the home stretch toward welcoming our charter class to the College of Veterinary Medicine. Monday, August 4, 2003 will be the first day of a week of orientation and classes will begin officially on **Monday, August 11, 2003**. Associate Dean Bob Mason has been working diligently to organize a week of orientation activities for our new students, to include leadership training, orientation to the college and university, social events, introduction to Problem-Based Learning and Evidence Based Medicine, rabies vaccinations, testing and the list goes on and on. Thank you to the California Veterinary Medical Association and corporate sponsors who are helping organize and implement this important orientation. Although the year has barely begun, our small faculty has been hard at work meeting the challenges of 2003.

Good job to the Admission Committee (Dr. Lara Rasmussen, Chair, and Drs. Jamie Amend, Tom Carpenter, Jim Diefenbach, Carmen Fuenteaiba, Chas Hendricks & Margo Machen) for reviewing and scoring all of the applications for admission to our first class. File review is now complete and we are in the process of planning the interview week, which will start February 18, 2003. Letters of acceptance will be mailed March 14, 2003. Dr. Carmen Fuenteaiba and Dr. Ashley Robinson are co-chairing the search process for our second wave of faculty hires. Ads appeared in the January 1 and January 15, 2003 of JAVMA, and if you know a bright faculty member who we should recruit I encourage you to contact Drs. Fuenteaiba, Robinson or me. We hope to conduct group interviews in April. Case Development for the PBL Curriculum is advancing under the leadership of Dr. Stephen Waldhal. Two cases from the first module that have been completed were sent to the Council on Education in the report that I mailed January 15, and teams of faculty are busily completing other cases, conducting, mini-tutoring” (kind of like a test drive) of cases, and acquiring exhibits, anatomical specimens, and other learning resources to support these cases. We held a short tutor training program on February 5, 2003, taught by Dr. LuAnn Wilkerson, an educational specialist from the medical school at UCLA. Finally, on Thursday evening, January 16, 2003, Associate Professor Gini Barrett spoke and served as a panelist at a roundtable co-sponsored by Western University and the University of La Verne, entitled The Legal & Ethical Uses of Horses. Gini spoke on the topic of The Role of Public Policy in the development of Ethics. This program was the first of a number of collaborative partnerships being established between the University of La Verne and Western University of Health Sciences. The College of Veterinary Medicine connection is with the ULV College of Law and a particular faculty member, Assistant Dean Sandra Tozzini, who has special interests in Equine Law.
**Orientation Week 2003**

We have an exciting action action-filled orientation week planned for the charter class. Just one of the highlights will be the presence of Dr. Mary Beth Leininger who will serve as the keynote speaker. Dr. Leininger currently holds the position of Director of Professional Affairs for Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Inc. Dr. Leininger received her veterinary medical degree from Purdue University. She co-owned an AAHA-accredited hospital in Plymouth, Michigan for 30 years with her husband Dr. Steven Leininger.

Dr. Leininger has been active in organized veterinary medicine her entire career. She was president of her local and state veterinary associations and has received many awards from veterinary, community and professional organizations, as well as from the veterinary schools at Michigan State University and Purdue University. Her most recent honors are election as a Distinguished Practitioner in Veterinary Medicine in the National Academies of Practice, and an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Purdue. Dr. Leininger was appointed by the Governor of Michigan to both the veterinary licensing board and the Joint Commission on Controlled Substances for the State of Michigan. In 1998, she was selected as a Fellow of the Michigan Political Leadership Program. She served nine years on AVMA’s Council on Public Relations and chaired the AVMA Public Relations Roundtable, the Nine States Conference, and several task forces for the Pew Veterinary Education Program. She currently serves on the Sponsor’s Council of the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues and the Leadership Identification Committee of AAHA. Dr. Leininger served as President of the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1996/1997 and was the only woman elected to that office in the 140 year history of the organization.

**VET MED EVENT**

**VELP Conference**

Western University and the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps co-hosted a special veterinary conference entitled Veterinary Emergencies of Large Populations (VELP) on campus December 4-6, 2002. It was attended by leading military and civilian veterinarians. Among the topics discussed during the three-day event was the threat terrorism may pose to Southern California’s commercial beef, poultry and dairy industries and the ramifications of an outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease on local poultry operations. The conference was the first collaborative effort of the United States Veterinary Corps, the State of California and the College to provide a forum for the continuing education of military veterinarians on the topics of international veterinary disaster and foreign animal diseases responses. Among leading military, government and civilian experts in attendance at the event were Colonel Gary Vroegindewey, assistant chief, U.S. Army Veterinary Corps and Dr. Heidi Hamlen, DVM, MS, Head of Emergency Programs for the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Representatives were also on hand from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT), California State Senator Nell Soto (D-Pomona), Phillip Pumerantz, Ph.D, University President, and Shirley Johnston, DVM, Ph.D, Dean of the college opened the conference. Ashley Robinson, Ph.D, associate dean of preclinical programs, coordinated the conference. “I want to thank Western University for the opportunity to bring our conference for veterinary officers to the West Coast,” said Col. Vroegindewey. “The Army Veterinary Corps is interested in developing a strong partnership with University to promote professional Army careers for future veterinary students graduating from the college. We are grateful for this opportunity provided by Dr. Pumerantz and Dean Johnston to investigate homeland defense initiatives and related veterinary responses to potential foreign animal diseases”.

**AGENDA**

**CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE**

**VETERINARY EMERGENCIES OF LARGE POPULATIONS: INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY DISASTER AND FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE RESPONSES**

**December 4-6, 2002 **

**Wester University, Pomona, California**

PICTURED LEFT (left to right): Colonel Gary Vroegindewey, Dr. Sebastian Heath & Dr. Ashley Robinson at the VELP Conference held December 4-6, 2002

**GINI BARRETT**

Associate Professor, Biomedical Ethics & Public Policy

**The Legal & Ethical Use of Horses**

Experts on horses, law and ethics led a discussion Thursday, January 16, 2003 at the University of La Verne College of Law’s Bidart Moot Courtroom. The introduction and welcome were given by H. Randall Rubin, MPA, JD, Dean, University of La Verne College of Law Topics and Shirley Johnston, DVM, PhD, Founding Dean, Western University College of Veterinary Medicine. Issues discussed included Horse Abuse - How To Know It When You See It by Steven Wickler, DVM, Ph.D, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; The Role of the Public in the Development of Public Policy and Ethics, Gini Barrett, BS, Western University of Health Sciences; Equines, Ethics & Attorneys, Sandra Tozzini, B.S, JD, Assistant Dean of Students, University of La Verne College of Law; The Ethics of the Aging Equine, Barry Peachey, LLM, S. TH, Chairman, Animal and Equine Lawyers Association, Brig, England.
CVM ADMISSIONS UPDATE

The Admissions and Scholastic Standing Committee (above) is in the process of selecting our charter class to begin in August 2003. This monumental and critical task has been developed to maximize the potential for highly successful Western U-CVM Charter Graduates. The Committee is composed of four Western U-CVM faculty (Drs. Jamie Amend, Carmen Fuentealba, Margo Machen and Lara Rasmussen), two Western-U CVM adjunct faculty/practice partners (Drs. Tom Carpenter and Jim Diefenbach) and one representative from organized veterinary medicine (Dr. Chas Hendricks). The file review process was completed in late January and has resulted in a pool of qualified applicants to which on-campus interview invitations will be extended. The interviews will occur mid-February and will allow for a day of introduction and information for both applicants and committee members alike. Following the interviews, a class of applicants representing the diversity of Southern California and the United States will be built. Offer letters will be sent March 14, 2003. The uniqueness of the WesternU-CVM curriculum and founding principles demand a unique and informed student population. Self-direction and an eagerness to learn are pre-requisites. Compassion, respect and a commitment to helping others are integral to the Western-U CVM approach to education. Collaboration and successful communication form the cornerstone of the curriculum. All of these factors weigh heavily in the selection process now before the Admissions and Scholastic Standing Committee.

DON ADAMS, Ph.D.,
Professor of Anatomy

Dr. Don Adams received his Ph.D from the University of California at Davis subsequent to earning a Master’s degree and general Secondary Teaching Credential at Chico State. Early instructional assignments included teaching biology and health science in Tanganyika, East Africa, and in Sacramento. He taught veterinary gross anatomy for 4 years at Michigan State, 25 years at Iowa State University (ISU), and for five weeks at Ross University in Dominica. His research interests have focused on structure of the upper respiratory system and its defense mechanisms against disease. Teaching activities have included the development of instructional aids, the use of non-embalmed animal cadavers for student dissection, and the authoring of interactive, computer-delivered educational software. His canine anatomy interactive CD and his illustrated laboratory text have been used in the education of both veterinarians and technicians. The Interactive Multimedia Laboratory of the College of Veterinary Medicine at ISU was created and administered by Dr. Adams from 1993-99. While at ISU, Dr. Adams presented multimedia workshops to veterinary and agricultural faculty nationally. His new job at Western University is enabling him to work again with two colleagues whom he first met in one of these workshops. Don’s wife Carol is a “quilting” school social worker and they have three sons, Shawn, Robert and William. His hobbies include hiking, trout fishing, digital photography and software development.

ELIZABETH REGA, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor, Anatomy

Dr. Elizabeth Rega received her MA and Ph.D from The University of Chicago. She is currently teaching both at the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific at Western University. Her early instructional assignments were at the University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom, California State University, San Bernardino, Pomona College and the Claremont Colleges. Dr. Rega has shown that an academic discipline can be used in many different ways. She has worked as an anatomy consultant on several films such as, Disney’s “Tarzan”, “Mul”, “Pocahontas” and Sony’s “Hollow Man”. She organized a symposium that included animation artists that focused on how the resources of the film industry can help in research and teaching. Dr. Rega’s other interests include research into a new species of extinct sloth, which she recently described at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology meeting in Mexico. Other hobbies include martial arts and grandiose landscaping at her home. Dr. Rega is married to Dr. Stuart Sumida, Associate Professor of Biology at California State University, San Bernar , and they have one son Darwin, 19 months.


“Anatomy is a basic science that is useful for all sorts of research”
178 DAYS AND COUNTING!
(as of 2/10/03). That's the number of days before the Charter Class of the first new veterinary school to open in more than twenty years begins its first day of orientation week. The exciting events leading up to that moment are unfolding with an ever-increasing pace. Faculty hires, curriculum development, building construction, admissions review, all combined, bring the excitement ever closer to a reality. The culmination of the first week will be the “White Coat” ceremony where Dr. Mary Beth Leininger, former president of the American Veterinary Medical Association will be the keynote speaker. Most recently, Dr. Allen Miyahara, Ambassador for Pacific Rim Development, American Veterinary Medical Association (pictured above, right, with Drs. Gary and Shirley Johnston), visited our campus as the guest of Dean Shirley Johnston. Hawaii is vitally interested in Western University of Health Sciences as a professional school to which their residents can apply.

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