Happy 2004 to all of our friends and supporters. The new year started gloriously for all of us here at the College of Veterinary Medicine when we learned that all 85 of our first year veterinary students passed the first semester and advanced into the second of eight semesters of their professional curriculum. This is no small accomplishment in light of our innovative and different curriculum, diverse faculty, and in light of the rigor of the examinations faced by these bright students during exam week in December. The national average of attrition in veterinary colleges, usually due to academic failure, is about 4%. Way to go, class of 2007!

Our most recent faculty search has resulted in the hiring of more outstanding faculty to become part of the team that is bringing our vision of a new paradigm in veterinary education to reality. Dr. Russhawn Jackson Aldridge (PhD, University of Wisconsin) has accepted a position as halftime Associate Professor in Environmental Toxicology.

Dr. Peggy Barr (DVM, Auburn University; PhD, Cornell University) has accepted a position as Associate Professor of Veterinary Virology & Immunology. She comes to us with a grant from the Alzheimer’s foundation on the development of a hepatitis virus core-based Alzheimer Disease vaccine.

Dr. Donna Shettko (DVM, University of Wisconsin), DACVS, has accepted a position as an Associate Professor Equine Surgery.

Dr. Rosalie Trevejo (DVM & MPVM, UC Davis; PhD, UC Berkeley), DACVPM has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology.

We have one more offer extended that is being considered by the candidate, and have already initiated the next search, conducted under the leadership of co-chairs Dr. Carmen Fuentealba and Dr. John Tegzes.

I have just returned from Sweden, where I was privileged to deliver a keynote address entitled “Women in Veterinary Medicine: Past, Present & Future” and an address entitled “A New Paradigm in Veterinary Education” at the Lundadagen Veterinary Conference in Lund. This was a great opportunity to discuss the gender shift in veterinary medicine in the European Union compared to the United States, as well as discuss the future of veterinary education. I am expecting to host the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala here in Pomona within the next few months.

The next few months of the year will be a time of careful preparation of the college’s next Self Study Report for the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

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**CVM Profiles**

**Karen Ehler**
A Whittier, CA native whose inspirations are my cat, Whiskey, and traveling. I have traveled for both pleasure and wild animal research. My interests are anatomy, neurology, and feline medicine. My background has prepared me well for the self-directed learning of PBL. I love this program more than I could have ever imagined.

**Lindsay Ellithorpe**
Originally from Fresno, California, I attended the University of Southern California where I received a BS in exercise physiology. My primary interests, at present, are equine reproduction and lameness. I am very excited to be here at Western University and have my horse, Herbie, and my wonderful family to thank for their love and support throughout the years!

**Sally Gindi**
I am originally from Cairo, Egypt. I received my BS in animal science from Cal Poly Pomona. I am interested in pursuing a career in small animal medicine.

**Summer Griffin**
In the spring of 2003 I graduated from San Diego State University with a BS in biology. Throughout school I worked at a small animal practice and at a specialty hospital as a veterinary technician. I am blessed with a loving family that continually supports my dreams and aspirations. My career interests include small animal medicine and oncology.

**Karen Elliott**
I am the wife of an extremely supportive husband, Jeremy, and our happy home includes two wonderful dogs. I am a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. I have been living and working as an RVT in California for the past three years. I hope to become a small animal practitioner, but small ruminants catch my interest too!

**Nicki Field**
I grew up in the bay area of Northern California and attended UC Davis, where I earned a BS degree in animal science. I have a playful 5-year-old lab/pointer mixed breed dog named Stella and a crazy 7-month old orange tabby cat named Spanky. My interests lie in small animal medicine and, possibly, surgery.

**Vinutha Gowda**
I have a BS in chemical engineering and an MS in environmental engineering from Northwestern University and Johns Hopkins University, respectively. Before entering veterinary medical school, I worked as a chemical and environmental engineer. I have worked at emergency veterinary clinics including the Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species. I have also worked abroad - in East Africa on zoonotic diseases and epidemiology.

**Michael Hawkins**
I was born in Selma, Alabama in 1975. I love sports, reading, cooking, painting, playing video games and spending time with my wife and daughter. My motivation to become a veterinarian comes from my love for animals, an intense fascination for medicine and physiology, and a desire to help others.
Professor S. Dru Forrester Receives 2003 National Norden/Pfizer Award

Professor S. Dru Forrester (Small Animal Internal Medicine) was selected as the 2003 recipient of the National Carl Norden/Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award, to be awarded on March 14, 2004, at the annual meeting of the Association of American Veterinary Medical (AAVMC) Colleges in Washington, DC. In his letter of award, Dr. Lawrence Heider, Executive Director of AAVMC stated, “This selection, made by a committee of your peers, designates you as the outstanding veterinary medical educator of the year in the United States.” A big HOORAY for a well deserved honor.

Animal Photographs on Exhibit

Jan Maguire has been involved in photography for over 25 years. She has participated in local camera clubs and councils, and the Photographic Society of America (PSA) as an exhibitor, workshop leader, administrator, program presenter, judge, and international salon chairman. She has published photos and articles in various local newspapers and trade magazines. Jan has a line of photo greeting cards at The Living Desert in Palm Desert, and her fine art giclee prints are featured at Horizon Art in Upland, CA.

In the role of exhibitor, Jan has almost 3000 acceptances or “havings” in international exhibitions, and over 150 medals and trophies. She has attained the “top 25” ranking in PSA’s annual “Who’s Who” exhibitor ratings 19 times in mono prints, color slides, nature and photojournalism. In the role of judge, she has juried over 100 competitions at local camera clubs, councils, fairs, and PSA-approved internationals.

Jan is an active worker in the PSA organization. She served as the Nature Division Star Ratings Director for 2 years and now serves as the Photojournalism Director of Exhibition Standards. She also chaired the Southern California Council of Camera Clubs (S4C) International Exhibition for 2 years.

Jan’s work is on exhibit in the atrium of the Veterinary Medicine Center through February 20.
Malika Kachani, DVM, PhD graduated from the Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine, Morocco and received her PhD from Brunel University, London, UK. She has worked for the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on Parasitic Zoonoses, Veterinary Public Health (VPH), Extension-Communication-Education and Women in Development. She has worked for the World Health Organization (WHO) on VPH and hydatid disease. She is currently a member of the WHO Scientific Advisory Committee for Global Health Security. She was co-editor of a Compendium on cystic echinococcosis in Africa and Middle-Eastern countries, published in 1997. She was the principal investigator of several European Union (EU) funded projects with partners from Europe, Africa and Asia. She has developed partnership programs, with American universities in Morocco. She is responsible for implementation of a pilot program to control hydatid disease in Morocco. She organizes extension, education and training programs to promote animal and public health in Morocco. She has developed village studies to evaluate the importance and the cost of parasitic zoonoses in humans and animals. She organizes international programs for Moroccan and American veterinary and medical students. She believes in empowering women in developing countries and dreams of a world that seeks peace and fights poverty, hunger and lack of education.

Brian Aldridge, BVSc, MS, PhD, DACVIM was raised on a farm in rural England by a sweet mother and father, and with two great brothers as friends. Following graduation from Liverpool University School of Veterinary Medicine, he completed a one year Medicine and Surgery internship at Louisiana State University and then returned to England to help a long-time family friend rebuild a 2-man mixed-animal, rural veterinary practice. Six months as a member of a circum-global, community service expedition and an additional year of work as a relief vet were followed by 2 years as a large animal medicine lecturer at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh. After enjoying the experiences of mad Scottish cows and the culinary delights of haggis and chips, he went on to a three-year medicine residency at Colorado State University, a masters degree and ACVIM board certification. After an additional year of rural veterinary practice in England, he moved to the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a research project examining immunity in the newborn calf. Six years later, he was a die-hard Green Bay Packers fan with a PhD in neonatal immunology who had been swept off his feet by a beautiful, God-fearing Dallas Cowboy fan named Russhawn. With cheeshead in hand and her name on his heart, he joined UC Davis to work with the marine mammal immunology laboratory and a non-profit rehabilitation center. While there, he also worked in the equine medicine unit of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. As an Associate Professor in Large Animal Medicine, he hopes to establish a laboratory for investigating neonatal disease, marine mammal immunogenetics, and bovine and equine immunological health. With heavenly blessings too numerous to list, his two greatest earthly blessings are his wife Russhawn and their 2-year old son Caleb, who is a budding Green Bay Packers fan and ardent Arsenal soccer club supporter.
Grand Canyon Trip Treats Native Americans’ Animals

Dr. Robert Mason and his son Andrew embarked on a four day trip to the Grand Canyon in November 2003. They went in with a team of lay staff and veterinarians on behalf of the Veterinary Christian Foundation to donate time and services to the Havasupai Indian tribe. Dr. Richard Marshall has been going into this reservation with his team for twenty-one years to help the Native American Indians there. It is hoped that in year four of the curriculum, Western University students will be able to go in and help with this mission that focuses on treating the livestock and domestic animals belonging to the tribe. Over 400 horses and more than 100 small animals were treated this year. Vaccinations, wormings, spaying & castrating resulted in approximately $40,000 worth of product and service donations.

"WeCARe" Finds Homes for Unwanted Animals

"WeCARe" (Western University Companion Animal Rescue) is a group of students associated with the student chapter of AVAR (Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights) who are dedicated to placing unwanted companion animals into new, loving family settings. Our goal is to provide these animals with a second chance to live with a stable and loving family. Currently, the group has rescued and placed 41 companion animals. A majority of these animals had been abandoned and were living on the streets of Pomona. Our objective is to be able to provide foster homes for animals requiring new homes and maintaining a list of potential adoptive families. All of the animals will have a full physical exam, will be spayed or neutered, receive vaccines, flea control, and be dewormed if necessary. We will also be providing a check point for animals rescued by any member of the university. We will be developing a program where the purpose of animals on campus will be clearly identified. This will enable people to clearly recognize which animals are available for adoption. We plan to hopefully install a poop bag dispenser in Founders Park. We will be starting an outreach project to the other colleges, providing information regarding our program and the services available to them, their pets and any animal they may rescue. "WeCARc" now has two co-chairs; Megan Calinsky and J.J. Rawlinson; a director of communications, Jaimie Sun Washburn; and a program director, Paige Heywood.
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We are scheduled for our next site visit October 16-20, 2004, and will prepare documentation for that visit with input from our faculty, students, university administrators and advisory council members. I will provide more information on that process and the site team in future newsletters.