Word From the Dean

Shirley D. Johnston, DVM, PhD

What a thrill it is to welcome our second class of veterinary students, the Class of 2008, to Western University of Health Sciences. This class of 80 students includes 10 men and 70 women from 21 states and Great Britain. Forty-one students are from California. Members of the Charter Class of 2007 have already been busy making the new class welcome at a class picnic and serving as big brothers/sisters for the new students. Orientation week started on Monday, August 2, 2004, with full days planned by Dr. Robert Mason, Associate Dean for Clinical & External Relations and Dr. John Jacobson, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. A highlight of the week was a luncheon hosted by the California Veterinary Medical Association and sponsored by Hill’s Pet Nutrition. Saturday, August 7, 2004, was the day of University Convocation and our second White Coat Ceremony sponsored by Banfield, the Pet Hospital and Hill’s Pet Nutrition.

It is wonderful to hear noise in our building again, the noise of students chatting and interacting and processing cases in the PBL rooms. Both faculty and students were energized during orientation week by the dynamic duo of our own Dr. Steve Waldhalm and his former colleague, Dr. Phil Bushby, Mississippi State University, in student- and faculty-development in Problem-Based Learning.

We also welcome new faculty to the College for the beginning of the academic year. Assistant Professor Suzie Kovacs joined us in early July from a Master’s program in epidemiology, with a focus on the veterinarian’s role in detecting, assessing, and responding to animal abuse. Instructor Ken Noriega joined us as a part-time anatomist while working on a graduate degree in comparative anatomy at California State University, San Bernardino. Dr. Amy Raines, DVM, Associate Professor, Wellness, started work in mid-July, and has already overseen the development of our on-campus Banfield Clinic in a modular building that will serve the curriculum until our new building is completed. Professor Victoria Voith, DVM, PhD, DACVB, a world-renowned animal behaviorist, started working with us in mid-July as well. Professor Wendell Cole, DVM, DACT, formerly of Monsanto, joins us in food animal medicine and reproduction, and Dr. Tracy Murchie, BVSc, MS, DACT, joins us in comparative theriogenology. Welcome to these extraordinary additions to our group.

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I was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. I graduated from San Diego State University with a BS in biology/zoology. I have been a veterinary technician for 6 years. I am thankful that I have the opportunity to fulfill my childhood dream of becoming a veterinarian. I love all animals, especially my dog, Killer. I have an interest in small animal surgery but I am keeping my options open.

**JENNIFER HATZEL**

A Southern California native from the San Fernando Valley, I grew up around lots of animals and with a lot of pets. From cats and dogs to turtles, frogs and hamsters, our house always seemed like a mini-zoo. Watching my mother constantly rescue animals inspired me further towards my dream. I received my BS in biology in April of 2003 from Pepperdine University.

**VERONICA PALACIOS**

I was born and raised in Southern California. I received my BS in veterinary science from the University of Arizona in Tucson. My interest in veterinary school is small animal surgery. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my wife and our four dogs.

**LAURA NARJES**

I'm a native of Texas, born and raised in the Houston area. I graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio with a BS in biology. Currently, I am most interested in small animal and equine medicine. Some of the things I most love are my family, my friends, my dogs and Mexican food.

**CARMELINA PANZA**

I am a native of Texas, born and raised in the Inland Empire. I completed both a BS degree in animal science and an MS degree in animal behavior at Cal Poly, Pomona. My goal is to be board certified in behavior with other interests in shelter medicine and immunology. Being a part of the charter class of a veterinary school in Southern California is having two dreams come true at once!

**KATHLEEN JOHNSON**

I'm a Southern California native born and raised in the Inland Empire. I completed both a BS degree in animal science and an MS degree in animal behavior at Cal Poly, Pomona. My goal is to be board certified in behavior with other interests in shelter medicine and immunology. Being a part of the charter class of a veterinary school in Southern California is having two dreams come true at once!
I am a first-generation American. My loving parents came from Kiev, Ukraine and gave me the ability to grow up without worrying about persecution. I received my animal science pre-vet BS degree from Cal Poly, Pomona. My interest in animals came out in my senior year of high school where I fell in love with the idea of caring for the ones who couldn’t care for themselves.

I was born and raised in Southern California. I attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. I am married to a loving and supporting husband, my best friend. We have three beautiful cats and three red ear sliders. So, I combined my two passions, medicine and animals, to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. Education: BS aeronautical engineering 1988, diploma in animal science, ICS 1998.

Welcome Class of 2008!

Faculty In The News

Congratulations to:

Dr. Dru Forrester, on publication of Clinical Nephrology and Urology (IF Lane, SD Forrester, SL Vaden, editors), Veterinary Clinics of North America, v 34, #4, WB Saunders, Philadelphia, July 2004, and authoring, in this book, Forrester, SD: Diagnostic approach to hematuria in dogs and cats (pp 849-866); and Stokes JE, Forrester, SD: New and unusual causes of acute renal failure in dogs.

Dr. Ben Kitchen, on receipt of $4000 from Pfizer Animal Health in support of purchase of materials for the Learning Tools Development Laboratory.

Dr. Lara Rasnussen, on funding (in full) of her $101,854 grant to the California Community Foundation, in support of service learning using the VACS vehicle to serve underserved animal and human populations.

Dr. Peggy Schmidt, on the publication of her paper, Schmidt PL, O’Connor AM, McKeen JD, Hurd HS: The association between cleaning and disinfection of lairage pens and the prevalence of Salmonella enterica in swine at harvest. J Food Protection 67:1384-1388, 2004.


Finally, we have expanded our collegiate administrative structure to better serve the needs of our growing College. Dr. James Amend has assumed a full-time position as Associate Dean for Research and Outcomes Assessment. Dr. Dru Forrester has taken the position of Associate Dean for Clinical Programs, charged now with developing our third-year curriculum.

Dr. Robert Mason is our new Associate Dean for Clinical & External Relations. Dr. Tom Phillips is halftime Assistant Dean for Biomedical Research.

Dr. Ashley Robinson continues as Associate Dean for Preclinical Programs while we search for his successor, and Dr. Maria Fahie joins the Dean’s Cabinet as Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Surely, 2004-2005 is off to a great start!
Peggy Schmidt, DVM, MS, joined the College of Veterinary Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Production Medicine and Epidemiology in May 2004. Raised in Wisconsin, Dr. Schmidt intended to be a small animal practitioner since kindergarten. During her undergraduate education at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, she was first exposed to beef and swine production and quickly developed a passion for production medicine. Peggy attended the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine and received her DVM in 1997. Following graduation, Dr. Schmidt joined a three-doctor, two-clinic practice in rural western Minnesota. She enjoyed practicing medicine on any and all animals while continuing her passion to practice food animal production medicine. After five years in practice, Dr. Schmidt returned to school and began a MS program in veterinary preventive medicine at Iowa State University. This year, Dr. Schmidt completed her degree and left the Midwest for sunny Southern California.

Dr. Schmidt has many diverse interests. Research interests include pre-harvest food safety, Salmonella spp. in swine, Neospora caninum infection in cattle, learning styles in problem-based veterinary education and food animal production medicine. Professional interests include population health, production medicine, animal agriculture, epidemiology, food animal medicine, parasitology and veterinary education. Personal interests include anything related to the Green Bay Packers, baking, reading, traveling and everything 5-year-old girls are interested in.

Dr. Schmidt resides in Temecula, with her family. Her husband, Gary, is a veterinary sales consultant with Nestle-Purina Pet Care. Her daughter, Emma, is 5 years old and loves dancing, cheerleading and the Disney princesses. Rounding out the family is Trooper, a 9-year-old Lab cross who has diligently made five moves with the family and Sydney, Emma’s beta fish.

Rosalie Trevejo, DVM, MPVM, PhD, joined the College of Veterinary Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health in March 2004. Dr. Trevejo was born and raised in the Los Angeles area, and completed her BS in biology at Loyola Marymount University in 1990. As a veterinary student at UC Davis, Dr. Trevejo became fascinated by emerging and zoonotic diseases and decided to pursue dual DVM and MPVM (Master’s of Preventive Veterinary Medicine), which she completed in 1994. Upon graduation from veterinary school, Dr. Trevejo completed a one-year internship with the California Department of Health Services, Veterinary Public Health Section, where she investigated disease outbreaks, worked with state and industry officials to develop guidelines for prevention of salmonellosis and researched trends in zoonotic diseases. After completing this internship, Dr. Trevejo joined the Centers for Disease Control, Division of Vector-borne Infectious Diseases in Fort Collins, Colo. as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer. She investigated local and international outbreaks, including a leptospirosis outbreak in Nicaragua and tick-borne relapsing fever in Colorado, evaluated laboratory testing protocols for the diagnosis of Lyme disease and developed methods for improving Lyme disease surveillance. In 1999, Dr. Trevejo decided to pursue a doctorate in epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley, where she evaluated several aspects of the arboviral surveillance program in California. Dr. Trevejo’s major research interests center around the interface between human and animal health, particularly vector-borne and zoonotic diseases. She is currently studying differences in the attractiveness of two different breeds of sentinel chickens to important mosquito vectors of arboviruses in California. Her growing family includes her husband, Curt, and three quirky but lovable cats. Personal interests include hiking, reading classic literature, and cooking.
Traveling the Globe with CVM Students in ’04

Morocco

This summer we enjoyed exposure to the culture, geography, political atmosphere and people of Morocco. Professor Malika Kachani organized our visit as part of her hydatid cyst eradication interdisciplinary program in villages in Morocco. Along the way, we identified professional, academic and cultural aspects that would be beneficial for other WesternU students to experience and would provide future travelers with a diverse and mutually beneficial array of experiences. The time in Morocco was highly educational and spawned many ideas for the commencement of efforts between the veterinary school there and WesternU. It is anticipated that the schools can develop a sister school relationship that promotes educational enhancement and cultural exchange. An overview of the plans for collaboration opportunities will be presented in an upcoming presentation sponsored by the International Veterinary Students Association.

Brian Van Horn and Michelle Fuller

India

This summer I ventured to Chennai (Madras) India as a Fulbright Fellow for the Indo-American Environmental Leadership Program. Over an 8-week period, I implemented an environmental health study that evaluated environmental heavy metal concentrations in air, soil and water and human and animal heavy metal blood concentrations in a high and low traffic zone. As part of this study, I worked with the Sri Ramachandra Medical College & Research Institute Environmental Health Engineering Department and Anna University Environmental Testing Center Laboratory.

Dr. John Tegzes served as the faculty advisor on this field work and will be involved in data interpretation. The end result will be a snapshot of the human and animal health for heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and arsenic with an understanding of the heavy metal point sources in the environment.

Vinutha Gowda

Italy

When Dr. Joe Bertone spoke of the Palio in Siena, Italy throughout last year, none of us really understood the magnitude of the event. This summer, Jennifer Nudleman, Odet Kaspari, and I had the chance to not only see the Palio and its racehorses first-hand, but also the opportunity to work with Raffaelo, one of the most respected and talented equine veterinarians in Italy.

Whether we were traveling around Tuscany with “Raffy” and his distinguished staff visiting racehorses and workhorses alike, or whether we were in the operating room watching truly innovative surgeries, the experience was unforgettable and we are truly grateful for the opportunity.

Hillary Hickam

Banfield, The Pet Hospital Established in Temporary Facility

A new Banfield, The Pet Hospital has been established in a modular building on the WesternU campus, and will serve the CVM curriculum until the College’s new building is completed in 2006. The hospital will be utilized as part of the Clinical Skills course offered to first- and second-year veterinary students on campus. Banfield, The Pet Hospital is excited to be a part of the new curriculum at WesternU, and appreciates the opportunity to help prepare veterinarians for clinical practice.
**Calendar of Events**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August 9, 2004</strong></td>
<td>First Day of Class</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August 16, 2004</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Wendell Cole (food animal medicine) starts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August 23, 2004</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Tracy Murchie (comparative theriogenology) starts</td>
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<td><strong>August 31, 2004</strong></td>
<td>Self Study document due</td>
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<td><strong>October 4-8, 2004</strong></td>
<td>First Exam week, 04-05; Faculty Training for Site Visit</td>
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<td><strong>October 6-10, 2004</strong></td>
<td>Wild West Meeting - Reno, NV</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>October 16-20, 2004</strong></td>
<td>AVMA-COE Site Visit (All faculty &amp; staff asked not to take vacation Oct 1-20)</td>
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