As I write this message in mid-April, our faculty has just finished four intensive days of faculty interviews. Groups of 12 and 13 candidates were brought to campus from all over the country and from several countries outside of the United States to look at our college as a potentially good career fit for them, and to let the college look at them as a potentially good fit for us. Of course, beyond requisite academic credentials, we are looking for great attitude, team player skills, and commitments to our founding values of student centered learning, reverence for life and excellence in clinical education through strategic partnerships and alliances.

This is also a time of excitement in the student admissions process. At my last update from Admissions, I learned that 71 students have accepted our offer of a seat in the charter class, and we have just extended offers to a small pool of alternates, hoping to reach our target of 77 students. You will read all about the demographics of the accepted class in the May/June issue of The Outlook. What remarkable young people (ranging in age from 23 to 45) we have attracted to the vision of this new educational process. All of our energy will be devoted to their success first in the curriculum and then in the veterinary profession. Just today I received an email from an applicant that said "I just wanted to tell you how thrilled I am to be accepted into the charter class at Western University. It is such an honor. I am finally going to live my lifelong dream." Take a look at the Admitted Student Website at http://westernu.edu/vetmed/students.

Believe it or not, the admissions process for the class of 2008 (admits in the fall of 2004) has already begun, with our working with the Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service operated by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges.

In early February, 2003, President Pumerantz informed the campus community that he had been approached by President James Doti of Chapman University, an accredited, independent, non-profit undergraduate university in Orange, California, to explore the possibility of a merger between the two institutions. Since that time both institutions have convened task forces to explore the advantages and disadvantages of such a merger, and a number of faculty exchanges and town meetings have been held. Task force minutes, FAQ's and President's messages can be accessed on the Western University web site at www.westernu.edu/merger/index.html. The campus communities have been informed that a decision will be made about the merger before the end of 2004.

On April 4, I was honored to be a keynote speaker, sponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition, at the 96th Annual Conference of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn, Alabama. I closed my remarks with a quotation that I have always loved, that summarizes much of the work that our current faculty, our prospective faculty, and our prospective students have lived. It is by Antonio Machado, cited in Annie Proulx's novel, Accordion Crimes: "Caminante, no hay camino. Se hace camino al andar." Which is Spanish for "Traveler, there is no path. Paths are made by walking." We are making our own path here at Western University.
Western University of Health Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine (WesternU-CVM) is developing a cadaver donation program to serve the educational needs of our future veterinarians. One of the founding principles of the College of Veterinary Medicine is a commitment to a Reverence for Life philosophy. This includes the goal of avoiding harm to animals in the educational program. In order to achieve this, WesternU-CVM has developed a donation program, the Willed deceased Animals for Veterinary Education (WAVE), to supply cadaver-based educational needs. The WAVE program provides an opportunity for owners to donate their deceased animals to the WesternU-CVM for the education of future veterinarians. Not only will the donations be used in the learning of anatomy, pathology, surgery and clinical skills, the program also will allow veterinary students to learn about compassion, grief and generosity. Memorial services will be held each term to acknowledge and show respect for these gifts to the CVM educational program. Permanent memorials of these donations will be displayed on campus.

THE WAVE PROGRAM

The WAVE program has pre-need and immediate donation options for both pet animal owners and production animal owners. Owners signing up with the pre-need option will receive a donor card for their animal(s) to facilitate communication and transfer of the animal at the time of death. Pet animal owners will have the option of having their pets' cremains returned. There are no costs associated with donating, and production animal owners can claim their gift as a tax deductible donation. Our vision is to collaborate with veterinary practices in Southern California, since they tend to be the primary contact for clients when animals have died or need to be euthanized. For pet owners, the option of donating to the WAVE program can be a normal part of end-of-life and grief counseling. WAVE program packets are available for pet animal veterinarians, production animal veterinarians, pet animal owners, and production animal managers/owners.

For more information contact Nina McCoy, WAVE program Coordinator. Tel: (909) 469-5431 Fax: (909) 469-5367 e-mail: cvm.wave@westernu.edu. Website: www.westernu.edu/vetmed/wave.html
The College of Veterinary Medicine is currently searching for more faculty to fill positions in the following: anatomy, immunology, microbiology, parasitology, public health/epidemiology, large and small animal medicine and surgery, anesthesiology/critical care, radiology and reproduction (ads in the January 1, 2003 issue of JAVMA). In addition, there is a position for a small animal clinician in the Wellness Clinic to be established in the Fall of 2003. All positions are tenure track full-time (12 months), although the option for some part-time work may be negotiated. Applications closed on February 28, 2003.

Given the unique mission and commitment of the CVM to student-centered learning, a “reverence for life” philosophy, and establishing strategic alliances with institutions and veterinary practices, Western University clearly needs exceptional individuals with a passion for teaching. In addition, faculty members are expected to be good communicators and team players. Opportunities for clinical research especially with practice partners and collaborating institutions will be actively promoted. Teaching at Western University might be considered a little like working in the Peace Corps as it could easily be “the toughest job you’ll ever love,” because you will have been chosen to do important and significant work. Once applications, including curriculum vitae, three references and a statement of teaching philosophy are received, six supplementary questions are sent to probe further into the candidates’ commitment to the college faculty to fill mission. Candidate interviews are held in group panels. Following a teaching presentation, candidates participate in a simulated problem-based learning exercise. In addition individual interviews with senior administrators and other faculty are arranged. Finally, all candidates have an opportunity to look at real estate options in the adjacent areas. Although we will try to decide which candidate is best for our positions, the candidates will have the opportunity to decide if Western University will be best for them. The quality of the workplace will always be a factor in attracting and keeping the best new teachers, so we provide “the negotiated” for college our educators deserve;” a February 28, 2003.

Given the unique mission and commitment of the CVM to student-centered learning, a “reverence for life” philosophy, and establishing strategic alliances with institutions and veterinary practices, Western University clearly needs exceptional individuals with a passion for teaching. In addition, faculty members are expected to be good communicators and team players. The opportunity to join a founding faculty of a new College of Veterinary Medicine does not occur often. As many people enter the teaching profession with a sense of mission or calling, Western University is looking for those unique attributes that a candidate can bring to the college. Induction and retention begin at the end of the interview process. More hiring will be made in 2003-2004. If you know of any individuals who might be interested or you would recommend, please contact the co-chairs of the Search Committee, Dr. Carmen Fuentealba 909-469-5522, cfuentealba@westernu.edu or Dr. Ashley Robinson 909-469-5661 arobinson@westernu.edu).

The gift of teaching is a peculiar talent, and implies a need and a craving in the teacher himself.”  John Jay Chapman
MARGO MACHEN, DVM, PhD, Associate Professor, Large Animal Medicine

**VET EVENT:**
**THE SALLY RIDE FESTIVAL**

Dr. Margo Machen attended and presented a workshop entitled, “Animal Friends: What a Vet Knows and Does,” at the Sally Ride Science Festival on March 29 at the California Institute of Technology. Sally Ride (America’s first woman astronaut) has created this science club to make science, math and other technological careers accessible for young girls; she hosts festivals all over the United States. Dr. Machen spent the day educating and introducing elementary and middle school girls on what type of education is needed to become a veterinarian, and the types of career opportunities available to veterinarians; she also answered questions about veterinary school. She brought Otis the Goat, Raspberry the Lamb and Bailey the Dog. The class was the first to fill up and many were turned away. Rene Lowry, RVT, of the Inland Valley Humane Society presented with Dr. Machen. She brought Elvis the Australian blue tongued skank, and a two-month-old rescued Squirrel. She discussed the duties of a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) and answered questions about her job from the students. The girls were able to touch and see these animals up close and personal.

This year, Drs. Gary Johnston and Lara Rasmussen were joined by new CVM faculty member Dr. Ben Kitchen and technician Eva Jaeger in spay/neuter efforts at Inland Valley Humane Society for the annual Spay Day event. Approximately 90 animals (dogs and cats, males and females) were successfully processed thru a system of examination, premedication, anesthesia, surgical preparation, tattooing, surgery and recovery. The smooth functioning of the regular IVHS Veterinary Care staff systems allowed easy integration of WesternU-CVM staff; the high caseload was easily accommodated.

Doing the math and only considering the females’ contribution to reproduction, this one-day exercise prevented the birth of approximately 250 offspring this season. And if we consider the males’ contribution to reproduction … well the math gets way too complex! Suffice it to say, the Third Annual Spay Day 2003 was a resounding success!
Special Announcement

Miss Miranda Brenda Fahie
welcomed by her proud parents Maria and Daniel Fahie on January 16 2003
at 7:04 p.m. This special bundle of joy weighed in at 6lbs, 6 oz and was
20.00" long.

CVM FACULTY

MARIA A. FAHIE

Dr. Maria Fahie was born and raised in eastern Canada. She has most recently been employed in
surgical referral practice. She received her BSc (major Biology, minor Psychology) from Dalhousie
University and received her DVM from Atlantic Veterinary College, and University of Prince
Edward Island—both in Canada. Dr Fahie received her MS in small animal surgery from Virginia
Polytechnic Institute, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. She currently is Associate
Professor (Small Animal Surgery) for the College of Veterinary Medicine. She was previously a
Surgical Associate for Veterinary Surgery Specialists from 1999-2002. She has a broad base of
veterinary surgical experience including soft tissue, oncologic, neurologic, reconstructive and
orthopedic procedures. Her primary area of interest is challenging soft tissue surgery including
such procedures as skin flaps and grafts, biliary diversion, portosystemic shunts, thoracic duct
ligation, pericardectomy and urinary diversion technique. Maria lives in Orange with her husband
Dan and their two daughters Mackenzie and Miranda, dogs Redbone Coonhound Dave, Great
Dane Sue and kitty Barney. They enjoy outdoor activities including hiking, mountain bicycling and
motorcycling.

DVM, MS, DACVS
Associate Professor, Surgery

CVM FACULTY

JAMES F. AMEND

Dr. Jamie Amend received his Ph.D. in Physiology and Biophysics from Baylor College of
Medicine, Houston, Texas. He subsequently earned his DVM degree at Washington State
University, and then spent two years in cardiovascular research at the University of Missouri's
Middlebush Equine Center. He next occupied a teaching and research position at the
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where his research focused on the problem of monensin
toxicosis in horses. In 1985, he joined the administrative development team at the newly
founded Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, where for ten
years he contributed to the establishment and growth of the new College as its Coordinator of
Academic Programs, Chairman of its Department of Anatomy and Physiology, and Professor of
Physiology. During this time, he also spent a sabbatical research year at the Heart Institute of
the University of Ottawa. Immediately prior to joining WesternU-CVM, he was Wylie
Distinguished Professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University. During
all these travels, Dr. Amend’s wife, Norine, has made her own contributions in clinical and
research medical technology, where she has taught hematology, made one of the first accurate
identifications of the agent responsible for hamster enteritis, and established a diagnostic
clinical pharmacology laboratory for service to veterinarians in maritime
Canada. As a committed gardener, she has worked helped for several years with landscape beautification of homes built
for Habitat for Humanity. The two have a son Matt, who does industrial design and educational technology, and a
daughter Jennifer, who is a specialist in communications and public relations.
ADMISSIONS 2003
UPDATE

During the week of February 18, WesternU-CVM faculty interviewed 142 candidates for the charter class entering Fall 2003. According to exit polls, the experience was a tremendous success, achieving both goals of introducing candidates to Western U-CVM and vice versa. With outcomes from these interviews, the deans were charged with building a class with a high level of broadly-defined diversity (i.e., age, gender, ethnicity, educational background, economic background, professional experience, career goals, etc.) that reflects the diversity of people in the USA and the State of California. Final decision letters were sent March 15, and candidate responses are to be returned by April 15.