Greetings to all WesternU-CVM supporters! The months of April and May have been busy ones for all of us here at the College as we work tirelessly to achieve accreditation approval and confirm our timeline for the admission of our charter class.

We were notified on March 17, that the AVMA-COE had approved our plans for nine of the Essentials (Organization, Finance, Clinical Resources, Library, Students, Admission, Faculty, Continuing Education and Research), but did not approve our plans for Essentials 3 (Physical Facilities) or 9 (Curriculum). Our assessment of reasons provided for the denial of these last two essentials is that the reasons were without merit and that the AVMA-COE action violated their own procedures by disregarding established criteria for essentials (for example, setting standards for WesternU not expected of other CVM's), failing to follow COE procedures (especially the mandate for consistency in application of the essentials), and failing to consider all of the evidence provided.

Therefore, WesternU took three actions in April. On April 17, we filed an antitrust suit against the AVMA in U.S. District Court, citing AVMA practices we believe violate the Sherman Act and the California Unfair Trade Practices Act. On April 18, we filed notice to appeal the 2000 denial through the AVMA-COE process. On April 21, we filed a complaint against AVMA-COE with the office of Accreditation and State Liaison, U.S. Department of Education. On April 28, 2000, President Pumerantz, Governmental Affairs Liaison Brenda Premo and I met with the acting director of that office, Dr. Karen Kershenstein, and her staff in Washington, DC, to discuss concerns about procedural violations in AVMA-COE actions.

On May 3, a five-person team from WesternU presented our appeal to a hearing panel appointed by the AVMA Executive Board in Schaumburg, Illinois. The team included Executive Vice President for Strategic Planning Carl Trincia, WesternU consultants Drs. Billy Hooper and Borje Gustafsson, WesternU accreditation counsel Michael Prairie, and myself. We presented evidence of AVMA-COE's disregarding accreditation criteria, failing to follow procedure, and failing to consider all of the evidence and documentation. We expect to see a copy of the hearing panel report in the next few weeks. The report will be submitted to the AVMA-COE at its October 2000, meeting, at which time the COE may accept or disregard recommendations, if any, of the panel.

These actions by AVMA-COE have caused us to move the planned time of admission of our charter class to fall of 2002. If we are able to reach a compromise on substantial approval of the last two essentials with AVMA-COE in October, 2000, we will probably hire our next faculty members in the fall of 2001.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts.
--Shirley D. Johnston, DVM, Ph.D., Dean
Professor of Equine Sciences at California Polytechnic University, Pomona, and Adjunct Professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, WesternU, was born and raised in Alberta, Canada in a mixed farming community. He entered veterinary school at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, with the intention of becoming a beef cattle veterinarian. Following graduation from Saskatchewan in 1978, Cal went to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University as a large animal intern, followed by five years of equine practice (mostly racetrack) in Ontario, Canada. In 1984 he moved to the Ontario Veterinary College at Guelph, where he completed his DVSc and a residency in large animal surgery, after which he became a board certified in the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. From Guelph, he moved to the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, where he took a faculty position for 10 years in large animal surgery. Cal developed research interests at Guelph and Minnesota in epidemiological studies of racetrack breakdown injuries and computer-based gait analysis of the horse.

In 1996 Cal moved to California to take the position of Director of Equine Sciences in the Department of Animal & Veterinary Science at the College of Agriculture, Cal Poly Pomona. Cal now directs the Arabian Horse Center, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The Horse Center houses an average of 150 Arabian horses with a continuous breeding line extending back 75 years (the oldest in the country.)

In his personal life, Cal has long been involved in cutting horses (approved judge) and team roping in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. He also enjoys playing golf and hockey. Cal is the father of two children: 14 year old daughter, Kristi, and 2 year old son, Landon. Cal's wife, Dr. Gina Gross, herself a rodeo cowboy (barrel racing) when they met, is the veterinarian at Inland Valley Humane Society in Pomona.

Cal is one of the founders of the College of Veterinary Medicine at WesternU, as he was a member of the first small group of educators at Cal Poly Pomona and WesternU to discuss the concept for a new college here. Cal served on the planning Task Force, and is now liaison with the College of Agriculture at Cal Poly Pomona. Cal Poly Pomona has the only college of agriculture in Southern California with large agricultural units on campus (horse, cattle, swine, and sheep.) In addition Cal Poly Pomona has a full complement of faculty that will significantly benefit from and add to a veterinary medical education program.

"I believe strongly in the philosophy of experiential learning at Cal Poly Pomona, and in the humanistic approach of WesternU. Both of these educational philosophies will benefit our profession by producing graduates that are very capable of carrying out the art and science of veterinary medicine in a compassionate manner. I am excited by the future of WesternU’s College of Veterinary Medicine and looking forward to the admission of the first class in the year 2002. I am comfortable that the Class of 2006 graduates will be a credit to the profession, serve society well, and validate the new paradigm developed by WesternU in cooperation with all of its partners."—Cal Kobluk
**A Glimpse into Our Instructional Arenas**

**WesternU’s On-campus Veterinary Wellness Clinic**

On May 12, the College of Veterinary Medicine provided wellness care to student, staff and faculty pets during a half-day clinic in the new (under construction!) Veterinary Sciences Center here on campus. The CVM faculty were graciously assisted by volunteer veterinary technicians from the surrounding communities and undergraduate students from Cal Poly Pomona. The purpose of the clinic was 1) to benefit the local community of WesternU students, staff and faculty, and 2) to provide veterinary experience to students interested in a career in veterinary medicine. We feel we succeeded with both during this event.

Services provided included: physical exams, viral titres, heartworm & FeLV/FIV testing, vaccination, and microchipping. We hope to host biannual wellness clinics in the coming years. Thanks to all who helped in this endeavor!
Support the College

Opportunities... large and small!

The (your name here) PsychoMotor Proficiency Facility (ie: Town PuMP) Surgical Suite – facility providing 1st & 2nd year veterinary students with their first training in asepsis, surgical protocol and surgery techniques. ($10,000)

The (your name here) Outstanding Student Scholarship – create a perpetual scholarship for one or more of our future veterinarians! ($$? The sky’s the limit!)

...please contact us with your interest in supporting the College!