

VVM

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***CDC's King on Infectious Diseases
Meng: Alumni Award for Research Excellence***

Human Virus Found in Chimpanzees

Radioactive Iodine Therapy for Feline Hyperthyroidism

VMRCVM Earns AAALAC Accreditation



News Magazine for the Virginia-Maryland
Regional College of Veterinary Medicine





Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

Managing Editor Jeffrey S. Douglas, APR
Assistant Editor Christy Jackson
Designer Terry A. Lawrence
Photography Jerry Baber, Don Massie
Rebecca Stotler
Writer Kate Lee

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The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine is a two-state, three campus professional school operated by Virginia Tech in Blacksburg and the University of Maryland at College Park. The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia serves as the college's third campus.

Questions and comments should be addressed to: Office of Public Relations and Communications, VMRCVM, Duck Pond Drive, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, 24061. Phone us at 540/231-4716 or visit us online at www.vetmed.vt.edu

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Cover photo-illustration: Dr. Lonnie King, senior veterinarian and director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases, was the keynote speaker during Virginia Tech's recent Deans' Forum on Infectious Diseases. During his address, King explained the only answer to pending global infectious disease threats is to look at animal health and human health as a continuum and to take a "one health" approach to managing the problem.



Dean Gerhard Schurig

Greetings from Blacksburg:

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Life Goes On...

It is disconcerting for all of us to watch the economic convulsions rippling through the global economy. Equity markets around the world have been severely affected, jobless rates are on a significant increase, and there's plenty of talk about global recession. Here in the U.S., Wall Street is panicking, Main Street is holding back, and state government budgets are bleeding red ink which affects us directly.

There's no shortage of gloom, doom and despair out there, and it's getting kind of hard to figure out what lies around the corner. We're watching strange little oddities with names like "collateralized debt obligations" and "credit default swaps" rip through the pipes of the global economy at the same time we're listening to international diplomats and Washington politicians point fingers and engage in arguments about the nature of capitalism and socialism.

Veterinary medicine must rise to the occasion, and the VMRCVM must do its part.

And frankly, it all comes at a pretty bad time for veterinary medicine. Most of you know that AVMA, AAVMC and other organizations have been working hard over the past several years to gain support in Washington for new federal funding to shore up the infrastructure of our profession. At the same time, we've all been working hard to develop more support at the state and local level.

Those of us in veterinary medicine understand the urgency of the need. Studies indicate a looming shortage of veterinarians in the future. Even now, we are critically short of food-supply and public health veterinarians. We'll have greater clarity on the nature of the need once the National Research Council completes its veterinary manpower study in 2009. But we know this now: Whatever the magnitude of the need, our 28 colleges of veterinary medicine lack the infrastructure and the resources to expand our classes in a way that will produce significant numbers of new, well trained veterinarians.

So what do we do? We do what we have always done... we persevere... we work harder than ever to convince the world that zoonotic infectious diseases, food safety and animal health issues will shape a big portion of our future. Veterinary medicine must rise to the occasion, and the VMRCVM must do its part.

We may not know much about the future of the economy, but we do know this: If we can't get the help we need from government, we must find new ways to help ourselves. We know we must expand our facilities to increase the number of students. Our new instructional building will enable us to increase our class size and it will empower our faculty. Our translational medicine complex will enable us and the other colleges at Virginia Tech to truly do the work we must - create advancements in science, medicine and health - in the world of "one medicine." In the long run, we must keep our eye on these goals.

In the short term, we'll manage our budget cuts as well as we can, causing as little disruption as possible. We'll seek even more efficiency in our business operations. We'll do everything we can to develop more support from the private sector. And we'll work harder than ever to bring in more contracts and grants and increase our revenues. We'll work hard, we'll work smart, and we'll get through this. We must, because life goes on.



Dr. Jennifer Hodgson

Hodgson Named Associate Dean for Professional Programs

Dr. Jennifer L. Hodgson, an associate professor of microbiology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), has been named the associate dean for professional programs.

In her new role, Hodgson will oversee the curriculum and administration of the DVM program in the college. She will also continue her teaching responsibilities in veterinary microbiology.

“Dr. Hodgson’s leadership in the college has been exemplary since she arrived,” said Dr. Gerhardt Schurig, dean of the veterinary college. “She successfully led the college through a very important accreditation process and she has proven herself to be a strong advocate for the students and for veterinary education. I have full confidence in her ability to lead our professional programs and I look forward to working with her in this new capacity.”

Prior to joining the VMRCVM in 2007, she was the associate dean of learning and teaching in the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Veterinary Science where she had many of the same responsibilities. “I have a great love of working with students,” said Hodgson, “and a real interest in ensuring the veterinary curriculum meets the needs of the veterinary profession.”

Hodgson received her B.V.Sc. from the University of Sydney and her Ph.D. from Washington State University. She is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Microbiology and a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

College Hosts 20th Annual Research Symposium

One of the nation’s leading biomedical scientists and innovators highlighted the VMRCVM’s 20th Annual Research Symposium on Friday November 21, 2008 on the Virginia Tech campus. The annual event showcases VMRCVM student and faculty research.

Dr. Anthony Atala, the W.H. Boyce Professor and chair of the Department of Urology and director of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest University presented the keynote address at the symposium. Atala is a surgeon specializing in pediatric urology with research interests in regenerative medicine.

His current work focuses on growing new human cells, tissues and organs.

He is a recipient of the congressionally funded Christopher Columbus Foundation Award, which is bestowed on a living American who is currently working on a discovery that will significantly affect society. He has also been awarded the Gold Cystoscope Award for advancements in his field.

In 2006, he was named by *Fast Company* magazine as one of 50 people who “will change how we work and live over the next 10 years,” and his work was listed as *Discover* magazine’s Number 1 Top Science Story of the Year in the field of medicine in 2007. A *TIME* magazine poll ranked Atala as the 56th most influential person of the year in 2007.

During the research symposium, graduate students who are engaged in their last year of study presented their research in fifteen-minute time slots. All other students participated in poster sessions. Prizes were awarded for the best presentations and the best poster sessions in both Basic and Clinical Science categories.

For more information, please visit <http://www.vetmed.vt.edu/research/symposium.asp>



Dr. John Rossmeisl

Rossmeisl, Students Receive Awards During Recent National SAVMA Symposium

Dr. John Rossmeisl, an assistant professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences (DSACS), was presented the 2008 Student AVMA

Teaching Excellence Award-Clinical Sciences during the SAVMA symposium hosted by Auburn and Tuskegee Universities’ Colleges of Veterinary Medicine.

“Dr. Rossmeisl’s award speaks well of the quality of our teaching,” said VMRCVM Dean Gerhardt Schurig, noting the college has won this national award four times in the past four years. Dr. Scott Pleasant, associate professor, DLACS, won in the clinical sciences category in 2005 and Drs. Marion Ehrich, professor, DBSP, and Kevin Pelzer, associate professor, DLACS, won both the basic science and clinical science categories respectively in 2006.

The clinical sciences award recognizes excellence, innovation, and enthusiasm in the field of clinical veterinary science and education.

About 25 students from the VMRCVM attended this year’s SAVMA Symposium where they attended numerous lectures and labs and participated in a variety of competitive events against students from other colleges of veterinary medicine.



Andrea Moore

Moore Honored with Veterinary Teaching Hospital 2008 Recognition Award

Andrea Moore, the manager of the Intensive Care Unit in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH), was recently recognized for her contributions to the hospital during the 2008 VTH Awards Ceremony in the College Center.

Individuals are nominated for this award by their peers based upon



Virginia Agribusiness Council Visits VMRCVM: Members of the Virginia Agribusiness Council and leaders in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences recently toured the VMRCVM. The group was visiting the college and university to learn more about the research and service opportunities currently underway. While on campus, the groups toured the VMRCVM. Here, Jeffrey Douglas, director of public relations and communications for the VMRCVM, explains the college’s Production Management Medicine and ambulatory service to the visitors.

criteria that include a professional attitude, excellent skills and performance, a willingness to help and cooperate with co-workers, and superior efficiency and organization. The faculty, staff, and students working in the VTH then vote on the nominees to determine the winner.

Moore received a plaque and monetary award in appreciation of her outstanding dedication to the hospital and to the college.



Dr. F. William Pierson

Pierson Named Director of Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Dr. F. William "Bill" Pierson was named director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in May 2008. Pierson served as interim director since July of 2007.

"Dr. Pierson has distinguished himself as a capable and effective professional," said Dr. Gerhardt Schurig, dean of the veterinary college. "He has provided important leadership to our college and hospital while interim director and I look forward to working with him in the future in this capacity."

As hospital director, Pierson is responsible for developing and implementing hospital policy and procedure, insuring state-of-the-art care for patients, and providing a dynamic and continually improving clinical environment that promotes scholarly and educational activities.

Prior to his appointment as interim director, Pierson served the college as an associate professor of biosecurity and infection control and a clinical specialist in avian medicine in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. He received his DVM as a member of the college's charter class in 1984 and his Ph.D. in avian medicine from Virginia Tech in 1993.

He is board certified as a diplomate by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians and is a member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists, the Association of Avian Veterinarians, the Poultry Science Association, the North Eastern Conference on Avian Diseases, and Phi Zeta.

Informatics Laboratory Welcomes New Staff

The Veterinary Medical Informatics Laboratory (VMIL) has welcomed two new employees. Maureen Fallon and Dr. Gareth Moore will both serve as editors of the Veterinary Adaptation™ of SNOMED-CT®.

Fallon graduated from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in animal science and a M.S. in vocational-technical education, and is currently pursuing a M.S. in special education.

Moore obtained a DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph and completed a residency in clinical pharmacology at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, where he also obtained his M.S.

The Veterinary Medical Informatics Laboratory, under direction of Dr. Jeff Wilcke, the Dorothy A.



House Appropriations Committee Officials Visit College: Two key members of the Virginia General Assembly's House Appropriations Committee staff were on hand to visit with VMRCVM alumni during a "Homecoming Tailgate" reception held before the recent University of Maryland and Virginia Tech football game. Pictured from left are Robert Vaughn, director of the House Appropriations Committee Staff, VMRCVM Dean Gerhardt Schurig, and Tony Maggio, the House Appropriations Committee legislative fiscal analyst responsible for higher education. The Hokies beat Maryland 23-13, but as Dean Schurig quipped during the evening, the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine always wins that game.

and Richard G. Metcalf Professor of Veterinary Informatics in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, provides terminology services to the United States Department of Agriculture (APHIS, Veterinary Services, and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network), the Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS), the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine and the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

The lab holds a SNOMED® license through which they acquire and maintain a legal namespace. Using this license, VMIL is developing the Veterinary Adaptation™ of the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine – Clinical Terms (SNOMED-CT®). This adaptation combines a limited (veterinary useful) subset of the SNOMED-CT® core and an integrated extension of this content which will have applications in electronic medical records, hospital systems and electronic drug labels, among others.

For more information about VMIL activities, visit <http://www.informatics.vetmed.vt.edu/>



Dr. Ansar Ahmed

Ahmed Named Head of Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology

Dr. S. Ansar Ahmed was named head of the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP) in May 2008.

Ahmed, a professor of immunology who has been a DBSP faculty member since 1989, had been serving in an interim capacity in this position.

"Dr. Ahmed is an accomplished researcher and administrator," said Dr. Gerhardt Schurig, dean of the veterinary college. "His leadership will be vital as we continue to build our research program."

Ahmed holds a DVM from the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore and a Ph.D. from the School of Veterinary Studies, The Murdoch University, Australia. He is a member of the American Association of Immunologists and the International Cytokine Society.

Ahmed's research is focused on studying the relationship between estrogens and naturally occurring estrogen mimicking compounds in the environment, the immune system and the development of autoimmune disorders.

He is specifically interested in understanding the hormonal basis of gender differences in immunity and susceptibility to autoimmune diseases. In addition, the molecular immunological effects of estrogen and estrogen-mimics are an important focus of his laboratory. He is currently exploring the role of microRNA in immunity in a variety of mouse models.

CPCVM, APHIS Provide "Gray Book" to DVM Students

The Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine (CPCVM) has collaborated with the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) to purchase and distribute over 2800 copies of the book *Foreign Animal Diseases*.

Produced by the Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases of the United States Animal Health Association, the book is also known as "The Gray Book," according to Dr. Bettye Walters, director of the center, who helped lead the initiative.

Books were mailed to every first-year student in each of the 28 veterinary colleges in the United States. The books were accompanied by a letter signed by Walters and Dr. John Clifford, deputy administrator for veterinary services with APHIS. The book contains descriptions of 43 diseases, with the most up-to-date information and photos from experts around the world.

The CPCVM serves as a national resource for all veterinary colleges. In addition to the book distribution, the Cooperative Agreement with APHIS has provided training for vet students in all 28 U.S. veterinary colleges.

Moore Travels to India



Dr. David M. Moore (left), associate vice president for research compliance at Virginia Tech and associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology in the college, recently met with Dr. Lalitha John (right), dean of the Madras Veterinary College in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Dr. David M. Moore, associate vice president for research compliance at Virginia Tech and associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), recently spent a week in India where he made a major presentation and trained veterinary and technical staff in laboratory animal medicine and discussed a developing academic exchange program with Indian university officials.

Moore's trip was sponsored by the International Institute for Biotechnology and Toxicology (IIBAT) in Padappai, Tamil Nadu, India. While there, he conducted training on ethical issues associated with animal use, non-animal alternatives, and husbandry of the rabbit for the organization's technical and veterinary staff. He and a team of two other laboratory animal consultants from the United States also reviewed IIBAT's animal health monitoring program and assessed blueprints for a proposed three-story animal research facility at the institute.

Moore also met with Dr. Palanimuthu Thangaraju, vice-chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), and Dr. B. Murali Manohar, director of the Centre for Animal Health Studies at TANUVAS in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. They discussed the Memorandum of Understanding between TANUVAS, Virginia Tech, and the VMRCVM, and areas of education and research that will be enhanced at each institution based upon this collaborative effort.

Moore also met with Dr. Lalitha John, dean of the Madras Veterinary College, while in Chennai and presented a one-hour lecture on "Laboratory Animal Medicine as a Veterinary Career" to the faculty and administration of the Madras Veterinary College. The presentation was well received by the administration, including Dr. Murali Manohar, who along with the dean, voiced interest in targeting lab animal veterinary training in their curriculum.

Moore also presented two invited lectures, comprising three-hours, at the "International Seminar on Issues in Preclinical Toxicity and Pathology Studies," held in Chennai. He spoke on "Humane Endpoints in Toxicology Studies - Regulatory and Ethical Considerations," and also on "Factors (Variables) Affecting Animal Research Data Validity."



Dr. Beverly Purswell

Purswell Certified as Veterinary Acupuncturist

Dr. Beverly Purswell, a professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences (DLACS), has graduated from the medical acupuncture course at Colorado State University and is now a certified veterinary acupuncturist.

As part of her training, Purswell spent four weeks participating in lectures and laboratories. While she and her colleagues were primarily trained on canine and equine models, they also saw cattle, sheep, camelids, and some exotic animals.

She plans to use her new skills in her work in theriogenology, the specialized field of veterinary medicine that focuses on reproduction. She also intends to start research utilizing acupuncture in subfertile/infertile male dogs.

Purswell received her DVM and her M.S. and Ph.D. in immunology from the University of Georgia. She is board certified by the American College of Theriogenologists.



Dr. Gwendolyn Lynch

Equine Ophthalmology Service Introduced at EMC

Equine ophthalmology services have been introduced at the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center.

Board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist Dr. Gwendolyn Lynch is seeing patients at the EMC on a weekly basis through a consultative relationship established with Eye Care for Animals at the LifeCentre in Leesburg.

"Because the EMC houses such state-of-the-art equipment, we can do procedures there that are just not available anywhere else in this area," Lynch said. "Clients would have to travel to North Carolina, Pennsylvania, or Blacksburg, Va. to have some of the treatments available at the EMC," she noted.

"Our goal is to offer the best medical care for horses," said Dr. Nathaniel White, the Gean Ellen Shehan Professor and director of the EMC. "Dr. Lynch provides an extra level of expertise for our patients that need this type of specialized care."

NIH Administrator Speaks to Public Practice Club

Dr. Robert J. Hoyt, chief of the Laboratory of Animal Medicine and Surgery at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in the National Institutes of Health (NIH), recently visited the college to deliver a lecture entitled "Veterinarians: Key Members of the Research Team."

The event, sponsored by the Public Veterinary Practice Club (PVPC), sought to introduce students to the career opportunities that exist in biomedical research for veterinarians. A 2005 study published by the National Research Council has identified the need to train more veterinary researchers.

Hoyt told the students that veterinarians are valuable as toxicologists, pathologists, and in laboratory animal medicine in biomedical research for a variety of reasons. They are generally very adaptable to changing circumstances and can adapt accordingly, they are not afraid to tackle new and different things, and most importantly, they are trained across a variety of species. In Hoyt's laboratory, he works with everything from mice to rabbits to primates.

Currently Hoyt is involved as a collaborator and surgeon in a number of research projects including the development of both animal models and gene therapy delivery techniques for atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease, cystic fibrosis, hemophilia and other cardiovascular-related diseases. He has also been the only veterinarian on the NIH Institutional Biosafety Committee for over 12 years.



The Harry T. Peters, Jr. Large Animal Hospital has installed a new flooring system to promote biosecurity, safety, and efficiency.

New Flooring System Installed in Large Animal Hospital

An innovative new flooring system has been installed in the Harry T. Peters, Jr. Large Animal Hospital in an effort to promote increased biosecurity, safety and efficiency.

The royal-blue colored multi-layered flooring system will be safer for horses and people, promote more efficient drainage, and be easier to clean, according to Hospital Administrator Dr. Rick Hiller.

"This new floor is supposed to be very equine friendly and very people friendly," said Hiller, adding that it is a softer floor, it is textured to promote better traction, and it is chemical resistant.

The new flooring system has actually elevated the floor about a half-inch, according to Hiller, which promotes better drainage and is easier for people and large animals to walk on.

The project involved replacing about 15,000 square feet of flooring surface and was conducted in two phases, which meant the work could be accomplished without shutting down the hospital.

As part of the project, doors, fire-doors and related hardware that have been decayed as a result of chronic exposure to moisture and cleaning chemicals are also being replaced, Hiller said.

Hiller said the new flooring system will likely create future savings in labor and materials cost as well, since the softer floor negates the need for special rubberized mats in patient stalls and other work processes.



Dr. Stephen Boyle

Boyle Named Director of Center for Molecular Medicine and Infectious Diseases

Dr. Stephen M. Boyle, a professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), has been named the new director of the VMRCVM's Center for Molecular Medicine and Infectious Diseases. He succeeds Dr. Ansar Ahmed who recently was named head of the DBSP.

In this position, Boyle will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of CMMID, an advanced research and development center focused on the development of genetically altered vaccines and immunomodulators to fight infectious diseases in people and animals.

"Dr. Boyle's accomplishments and experience as a researcher, especially in vaccine development, will be of great benefit as he helps to guide CMMID's mission to uncover new ways to fight disease," said Dr. Roger Avery, senior associate dean for research and graduate studies. "I look forward to working with him in this new capacity."

Boyle received his undergraduate education from Rutgers the State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Rhode Island. Before coming to the college in 1984 as an associate professor, Boyle was an assistant and an associate professor at Memorial University, Newfoundland.



Dr. Marlice Vonck, the college's clinical veterinarian for the TRACSS, passes the reins for "Sugar" to the Crawford family. Sugar was recently retired after 24 years with the VMRCVM.

"Sugar" Gets New Home in Time for the Holidays

Twenty-four years on the job is quite an accomplishment for anyone. No one knows that better than "Sugar," a 27-year old Spanish Barb horse that played a role in the education of almost every one of the VMRCVM's 2,109 DVM graduates.

Now, after a job well done and just in time for the holiday season, Sugar has retired and found a new home.

Linda Corel, a former employee of the college, and her husband Gary donated Sugar to the college in 1984. They had originally purchased Sugar to be a riding horse; however, because of her "petite" stature, they decided she might be better suited for helping veterinary students learn about equine anatomy and care. Since then, she has been used in first-year musculoskeletal palpation labs and in second-year clinical technique labs where students

learn proper methods for things like haltering and picking up the feet of a horse. She also made several public appearances during the college's annual Open House.

"Sugar was always the first picked for labs and events since she has such a sweet and gentle spirit," said Dr. Marlice Vonck, the college's clinical veterinarian for the Teaching and Research Animal Care Support Services (TRACSS). Vonck helped arrange Sugar's adoption.

Sugar remained in good health during her entire career with the college and was well monitored and cared for by Vonck and the animal care technicians of TRACSS. When it came time for her to enter retirement, they knew they had to find a good home for her as a way of saying "thank you" for all the hard work she had put in over the years.

That's where Shalyn Crawford, a member of the Class of 2010, and her family stepped in. The Crawfords adopted Sugar and took her home to their 10-acre farm in New Market, Va. This holiday season, with her working days behind her, Sugar will be enjoying "greener" pastures, loving care, and the company of two other "retirees," "Medicine Hat" and "Oliver."

Horse Training for First Responders Presented by Virginia Tech Faculty

Emergency personnel often interact with horses for the first time when they are called to the scene of a trailer collision, barn fire or other crisis situation.

In order to better prepare fire, police and medical professionals for dealing with accidents involving equines, an Emergency Responder Horse Handling Training program was recently presented by the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center and the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension (MARE) Center.

Thirteen first responders from throughout Northern Virginia participated in the four-hour educational event that was held at the MARE Center's campus in Middleburg. Tutorials on horse behavior, handling, tack and basic first aid were led by Dr. Jennifer Brown, clinical assistant professor in equine surgery at the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center, and Dr. Shea Porr, northern district equine extension agent at the MARE Center.

Brown and Porr guided attendees through a verbal analysis of various critical scenarios involving horses. Participants also caught and released horses in stalls and paddocks, tied horses using quick-release knots, and led horses to safe zones.

"We've found that emergency personnel often have no experience in rescuing horses," said Brown. "Trailer accidents and barn fires can be frightening and chaotic situations but training can provide the knowledge needed to properly manage these incidents."

Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine Presents SAVMA Symposium

The Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine (CPCVM) recently presented a day-long seminar focused on veterinary careers in public practice as part of the annual meeting of the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama.

Public practice is an area historically underserved by the veterinary profession, according to Dr. Bettye Walters, director of the Maryland campus based CPCVM. In view of the recent threat posed by Avian Influenza H5N1 and the possibility that zoonotic disease agents might be used as bioterrorism weapons, there is an urgent need for more veterinarians to serve in this sector of the profession.

The symposium was sponsored through grants awarded to the center by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to recruit veterinarians for their agency and others in the federal government.

This year's presenters included representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other branches of the U.S. government.

The VMRCVM has proudly introduced a shiny new "window to the world." Following more than a year in development, an extensive redesign of the college's website was recently introduced.

VMRCVM Launches New Website

The VMRCVM has proudly introduced a glistening new "window to the world."

The website redesign includes many new changes, all of which were undertaken in an effort to create a modern-looking, user-friendly information resource that reflects the vitality of the VMRCVM and provides stakeholders with ready access to the information they need.

The site includes an appealing new graphic interface and has organized vast amounts of information in a way that allows users to quickly navigate their way to target areas.

Websites play a primary role in the way orga-

nizations conduct their business, identify and maintain relationships, and ultimately, the way they achieve their strategic goals, according to VMRCVM Communications Director Jeff Douglas. In order to remain an effective communication tool, he said, all members of an organization must periodically review and ensure the relevance and accuracy of information pertaining to their program areas.

"We're very fortunate to have dedicated and talented employees in our web development group, but our success in this area is going to depend upon a sustained community effort," he said. Visit the site at: www.vetmed.vt.edu



VMRCVM 2008 Fall Awards: Dr. Karen Inzana (right), a professor of neurology in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, presents the K. T. and Jerry Archer Public Service Veterinary Scholarship to Keelan Anderson (left), a member of the Class of 2011, during the college's 25th Annual Awards Ceremony held recently in the college center. The ceremony, held this year in conjunction with Parents' Weekend, honors those students in their first through third year of the DVM curriculum. After a welcome from Dean Gerhardt Schurig and remarks from Dr. Jennifer Hodgson, associate dean for professional programs, students were presented with a variety of scholarships and awards.



Dr. Palanimuthu Thangaraju (second from left), vice chancellor of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in Chennai, India, recently visited the VMRCVM as part of a rapidly developing exchange program between the Indian university and Virginia Tech. During his visit to Blacksburg, Thangaraju met with Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger (left) and Provost Mark McNamee (right) to discuss the proposed Virginia Tech Center in Chennai.

Vice Chancellor of Indian University Visits College

Dr. Palanimuthu Thangaraju, vice chancellor of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) in Chennai, India, recently visited the college as part of a rapidly developing exchange program between the Indian university and Virginia Tech.

During his visit to Blacksburg, Thangaraju met with Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger, Provost Mark McNamee, VMRCVM Dean Gerhardt Schurig and other leaders from around the college and university to discuss a variety of opportunities, including the upcoming joint faculty/student exchange programs between TANUVAS and the veterinary

college and the proposed Virginia Tech Center in Chennai.

He also met with Dr. Roop Mahajan, director of the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, to discuss possible collaborative projects between TANUVAS and Virginia Tech in nanotechnology and food processing and he held discussions with Dr. Tom Wilkinson, head of the Institute of Distance and Distributed Learning, to develop e-learning modules for continuing education of veterinarians in India.

In addition, Thangaraju presented a lecture entitled "Molecular Characterization of Indigenous

Germplasm of Livestock by Microsatellite Markers" for the Virginia Tech community and visited with faculty members from around the university.

"This visit is very important to foster the existing relationship between TANUVAS and Virginia Tech and it will pave way for many new avenues of collaboration in teaching, research, and extension," said Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah, assistant professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), who helped coordinate the visit along with Dr. Nammalwar Sriranganathan, professor, DBSP.

Three Students Honored by Virginia Tech's Graduate School



Dr. Rachael Tan

Three graduate students in the college were honored and recognized by Virginia Tech's Graduate School during the Graduate Education Week Awards Banquet.

Dr. Rachel Tan and Ben Lepene were named the 2008 Outstanding Graduate Students for the VMRCVM.

Tan, who was also a resident in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, was named the outstanding master's student for her research entitled, "Comparison of Pulmonary Indices of Oxidative Stress Between Exhaled Breath Condensate (EBC) and Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid (BALF) Collected from Healthy and Recurrent Airway Obstruction (RAO)-affected Horses."



Ben Lepene

Lepene, who has been a student in the National Science Foundation-funded, Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT), titled "Macromolecular Interfaces with Life Sciences (MILES)" since 2004, was named the college's outstanding doctoral student.

The MILES-IGERT program brings together student and faculty in four colleges across the university to collaborate on research of oxidative processes.



Nathaniel Burke

Nathaniel Burke, a member of the DVM Class of 2011 who also completed his master's degree in the college, was also recognized during the banquet as the recipient of the 2007 William Preston Thesis Award in the biomedical and veterinary sciences category for his research entitled "Assessment of redox markers in cattle."

POGCast Migrates to Web

The college's POGCast is now available on the web. Created more than two years ago in an effort to provide more comprehensive information about the college's achievements and programmatic benchmarks, the POGCast is featured on six flat-screen monitors located throughout the college's three campuses. The "POG" in POGCast stands for "Progress on Goals."

Information available on the POGCast focuses on academic achievements and other accomplishments made by the college's faculty, staff, students and alumni; progress recorded in programmatic areas such as clinical caseloads in the college's veterinary teaching hospitals and proposals submitted and funded through the research division; progress made in the college's advancement activities; and other honors and accolades.

Produced in a user-friendly, information-rich and graphically pleasing way, the POGCast is an excellent way to keep up with the many positive things that are happening in the VMRCVM. The current edition contains over 125 individual slides.

To submit an item for POGcast consideration, e-mail cljacks@vt.edu

Veterinary College Participates in National Service Dog Clinic

VMRCVM ophthalmologists recently collaborated with the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) and Pet Health Systems (PHS) during the first ACVO® National Service Dog Eye Exam. Merial, Inc. was the official event sponsor.

Over 140 board-certified veterinary ophthalmologists and 1,300 general practice veterinarians from across the United States worked together to provide sight-saving eye examinations and preventative health reports for service dogs at no cost to their owners/agents during the event.

Service dogs include guide dogs, handicapped assistance dogs, bomb and drug detection dogs, K-9 dogs, and search and rescue dogs.

"Excellent vision in a service dog is mandatory," said Dr. Phillip Pickett, a veterinary ophthalmologist and professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences (DSACS). "In some cases, the good vision of the service dog is the 'vision' of the owner."

The goal of the program is to foster the health and well-being of the service dogs that play such an important role in the lives of individuals and organizations that promote public safety and well-being, according to the organizers.

The veterinary college has offered free screening examinations and consultations for service dogs for more than 20 years, according to Pickett. "This is our way of giving back to the community and to those individuals whose lives depend on the health and well being of their service dog," he said.



Chilean Delegation Visits College: Three senior leaders from the University of Austral in Valdivia, Chile recently visited the VMRCVM and Virginia Tech to work with college and university officials on the establishment of a Virginia Tech center based at the University of Austral. From left, Eugenio Ponisio Fernandez, director, Central Informatico; Agustin Quevedo Godoy, vice rector de Gestion Economica y Administrativa; VMRCVM Dean Gerhardt Schurig; and Victor Cubillos Godoy, rector, Universidad Austral de Chile. While visiting, the delegation met with business and administrative officials from both the college and the university, toured the VMRCVM, the College of Science, the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Natural Resources. With initial leadership provided by Schurig, the collaboration has blossomed into a major collaborative effort that involves several colleges at Virginia Tech. The group also met with Dr. John Dooley, vice provost for outreach and international affairs, and Dr. S. K. Dedatta, associate vice president for international affairs. Before being named president, Victor Cubillos Godoy served as the dean of the college of veterinary medicine at the University of Austral.

OTS National Service Dog of the Year Recognized



Ellie, a black Labrador retriever trained by the St. Francis of Assisi Service Dog Foundation in Roanoke, Va., was honored by the college's chapter of Omega Tau Sigma as "Service Dog of the Year." She is pictured with "her person," Bethany Deckard.

VMRCVM Open House visitors recently packed one of the college's auditorium style classrooms to witness Omega Tau Sigma's annual "Service Dog of the Year" award presentation.

The 2008 winner was Ellie, a black Labrador retriever that was trained by the St. Francis of Assisi Service Dog Foundation in Roanoke, Va.

"I'm so proud of OTS for having come up with this idea," said Carol Willoughby, founder of the St. Francis of Assisi Service Dog Foundation, noting that the award was being presented for the 12th time.

A formal oil portrait of Willoughby's service dog Booker painted by artist Mark Young hangs in the lobby of the college's Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

"We've come a long way," said Willoughby, concerning service dogs and service dog training programs. "But we're still the 'new kids on the block'."

Willoughby then detailed the origins of service dog training programs in the United States. In 1974, she said, a California special education teacher named Bonnie Bergen was traveling in Asia and she noticed how dogs were helping some disabled individuals lead productive lives.

"She suddenly got the idea that maybe dogs could help people in wheel chairs," said

Willoughby. Bergen returned to the United States and took a job in a kennel for \$2 an hour where she began working with dogs.

One day, Willoughby said, an elegant woman who had heard of the work that Bonnie Bergen was doing drove up in a Rolls Royce and presented her with a check for \$10,000. That private gift provided the foundation of what has grown into a major national training effort. The first service dog, a Labrador named Abdoul, was placed in 1976, she said.

Booker came into Willoughby's life in 1986, and was named the American Animal Hospital Association's National Service Dog of the Year in 1988. Inspired by her relationship with Booker and the need to create opportunities for others, Willoughby established the St. Francis of Assisi Service Dog Foundation in 1996.

"The fundamental value of a service dog is not physical, it is spiritual," said Willoughby. "They open doors for people. They give them hope. That is what a service dog does."

Virginia Police Work Dog Association Holds Fall Workshop

Nearly 70 teams from across the commonwealth recently participated in the Virginia Police Work Dog Association's 2008 fall workshop in Blacksburg. The event was hosted by the New River Valley contingent of the Southwest Virginia Training Group and was sponsored by Shelor Motor Mile.

Training focused on three areas: narcotics detection, criminal apprehension, and explosive detection. The narcotics detection focused on vehicle searches, buried hides, and residential and commercial searches. During the criminal apprehension session, open area and aquatic apprehensions were featured. Officer and canine teams had the opportunity to receive special instruction from Con O'Donovan, a bomb dog handler from Dublin, Ireland during the explosive detection training.

"These training events help our officers get the latest legal updates as well as learn the latest in training techniques," said Deputy John Hoover of the Franklin County Sheriff's Department who is also a master trainer with the Virginia Police Work Dog Association and a certified master trainer with the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA).

Dr. Bess Pierce, an associate professor in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, also participated in the training event. Pierce, who now coordinates the Community Practice Service in the

Veterinary Teaching Hospital, is a lieutenant colonel in the Veterinary Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve who has worked extensively with military working dogs during her career.

For the past five years, Hoover has been leading an effort to construct a permanent memorial to honor Virginia law enforcement dogs killed in action. The commission to create the bronze statue that will be part of the Law Enforcement K-9 Memorial has been awarded to Blacksburg sculptor Larry Bechtel, who produced the heralded "Officer Down" sculpture at the Roanoke City Police Department.

The sculpture will be completed by June 2009 and the memorial itself is expected to be dedicated during fall 2009 ceremonies to be held on the campus of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech.

There are an estimated 250-300 working police dogs in Virginia, according to Hoover. Hoover said that about a half-dozen animals have been killed in the line of duty since they began playing an active role in Virginia law enforcement about 35 years ago.



Kate Lee

Equine Medical Center Names Public Relations Coordinator

The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center has named Kate Lee public relations coordinator. In her new role, Lee will develop and implement strategies for increasing the center's visibility and enhancing its public image. Lee will also serve as a member of the VMRCVM's Office of Public Relations and Communications and Virginia Tech's Office of University Relations.

Lee joins the center with a diverse background in communications; previously she served as public relations director at a hospital in Southern California, advertising manager at a helicopter manufacturer, and most recently, she was the assistant editor of an international arts magazine.

Lee received her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Connecticut and completed post-graduate work in the corporate and political communications program at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn. Lee moved to Virginia six years ago, after living and working in many parts of the U.S. She lives with her family in Leesburg.

EMC to Host Regional Symposium for Veterinary Technicians

The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center will host the American Association of Equine Veterinary Technicians' Mid-Atlantic Regional Symposium Jan. 8-11, 2009 at the Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg.

The symposium offers continuing education credits for veterinary technicians who work with horses; participants will earn CE credit ranging from 1.5 to 20 credits, depending on program selections.

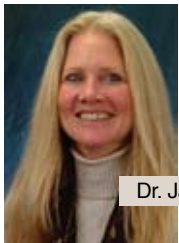
"This symposium is a tremendous opportunity for equine veterinary technicians to gain valuable knowledge about health care for horses," noted Nathaniel A. White II, DVM, M.S., Diplomate ACVS, Jean Ellen Shehan Professor, and EMC director. "The expertise of the specialists on our faculty—along with the scope and quality of our facilities and equipment—will provide attendees with a great educational experience."

Lectures presented by EMC faculty on Friday, Jan. 9 and Sunday, Jan. 11 will cover topics such as equine emergencies, neonate critical care, pain management, cardiology, respiratory disease, dentistry, and other subjects.

"Wet labs," which offer hands-on opportunities for participants to learn more about a variety of subjects, will be offered at the Equine Medical Center on Saturday, January 10. Wet labs will cover nuclear scintigraphy, digital radiography, ultrasound techniques, hoof care, diagnostic treadmill examinations, and more.

Additional information and registration materials are available on the AA-EVT Web site, www.aaevt.org. For additional information about the Equine Medical Center, visit www.equinemedicalcenter.net.

Pelzer Named Director of Admissions and Student Services



Dr. Jacquelyn Pelzer

Dr. Jacquelyn Pelzer has joined the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech as the director of admissions and student services. In this position, Pelzer will serve as the primary contact and resource for student advising and counseling and will oversee admission into the college's DVM program.

"We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Pelzer to our office," said Dr. Jennifer Hodgson, associate dean for professional programs. "Her proven ability to build positive and productive relationships with both potential and current students as well as those in the university community will greatly benefit our college."

Prior to joining the veterinary college, Pelzer was the career services coordinator for Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"I really enjoy working with students and that's a big part of this position," said Pelzer. "I am also very passionate about the veterinary profession's diverse career opportunities."

Pelzer earned her B.S. in 1992 from Virginia Commonwealth University and her DVM in 1997 from the VMRCVM. She is the owner of Creatures Comforts, a Blacksburg-based veterinary house call practice.

Walters, Zhu Honored at University of Maryland Campus



Dr. Bettye Walters

Two faculty members on the college's Maryland campus were recently honored for excellence during the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' (AGNR) annual awards convocation.

Dr. Bettye Walters, director of the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine (CPCVM), received the 2008 Faculty Extension Assistant/Faculty Research Assistant Excellence Award.

This award is given for a truly exceptional standard of performance of duties, including the ability to be innovative within the job and address needs beyond those specifically identified within the job description.

"Since the departure of the two other CPCVM faculty, responsibility for all aspects of the center have fallen on Dr. Walters' shoulders, along with the additional duties she has assumed as director of international programs," said Dr. Siba Samal, associate dean- Maryland Campus.



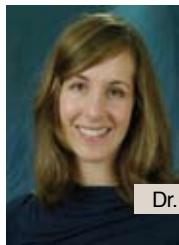
Dr. Xiaoping Zhu

Dr. Xiaoping Zhu, an assistant professor on the UMCP campus, received the 2008 On-Campus Junior Faculty Award.

Given to an individual who has been a full-time tenure track faculty member for less than seven years, this award honors exceptional teaching and advising, research and/or extension education. Special attention is paid to the creativity and innovations of the candidate.

"I know of very few individuals who work harder, put in as many hours in the lab, are as dedicated to and focused on their work as Dr. Zhu," said Samal. "He has proven himself time and time again, and this award is certainly indicative of his extraordinary efforts. We are extremely proud to have him on our faculty."

College Welcomes New Faculty

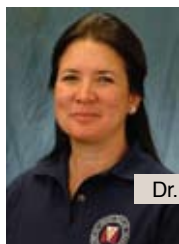


Dr. Nicole Weinstein

Dr. Nicole M. Weinstein has joined the college as an assistant professor of clinical pathology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP).

She comes to the college from the University of Pennsylvania where she completed a residency in clinical pathology.

Weinstein received her B.S. in biochemistry and veterinary science in 1997 from the University of Arizona and her DVM in 2001 from Colorado State University. In addition to her residency, she also completed a transfusion medicine fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and a small animal residency at Tufts University. She is a member of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology.



Dr. Lauren Kleine

Dr. Lauren Kleine has joined the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences (DLACS) as a clinical assistant professor of surgery.

She comes to the college from Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine where she completed a residency in large animal surgery with an equine emphasis.

Kleine received her DVM in 2003 from Mississippi State University, where she also completed an internship, and her B.S. in animal science from Cornell University in 1999. She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Association of Equine Practitioners.



Dr. Reid Tyson

Dr. Reid Tyson is the newest faculty member of the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences (DSACS). He joins the college as an assistant professor of radiology.

Tyson comes to the college from Corvallis, Ore. where he was in practice at Northwest Veterinary Imaging Consultants, P.C. Prior to that he was an assistant professor and radiology section head at Oregon State University.

He received his DVM in 2000 and his B.S. in animal science in 1996 from North Carolina State University. He also completed a radiology residency at Central Florida Veterinary Radiology.

He is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Radiology. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Radiological Society of North America.

Zajac, Goodwin Receive National Honors



Dr. Anne Zajac

The American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP) recently honored a faculty member and student in the college for exceptional achievement during the 53rd AAVP Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Dr. Anne Zajac, an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, was presented the association's 2008 Distinguished Service Award.



David Goodwin

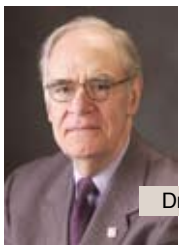
David Goodwin of Kingston, N.H., a graduate student in the college, was named the first recipient of the AAVP-Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) Graduate Student Award in Zoonotic Disease.

Zajac was honored for her many contributions to the association and to the field of parasitology.

She has been active in the association for over 20 years and served as its first female president. She has also authored two editions of the standard diagnostic manual "Veterinary Clinical Parasitology," which is published under the auspices of the AAVP.

Goodwin was honored for his contributions to the parasitology field in the investigation of two zoonotic parasites.

Naming Goodwin as the first recipient of this award was an excellent choice, according to Dr. David Lindsay, a professor of parasitology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, who serves as his advisor. "David has worked with two different zoonotic parasites, *Encephalitozoon cuniculi* and *Toxoplasma gondii*, and he has published his finding in several parasitology journals," said Lindsay.



Dr. Peter Eyre

Former Dean Eyre Honored by AVMA, University, and Professional Society

Dr. Peter Eyre, the former dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, was honored with an "AVMA President's Award" for exceptional service to the profession of veterinary medicine during opening ceremonies of the American Veterinary Medical Association's national convention in New Orleans.

Eyre has also been honored for service and achievement by a major Canadian university and a distinguished scientific professional society.

"The AVMA President's Award is unquestionably one of the most prestigious and coveted honors in the veterinary profession," said Eyre, who served as dean of the VMRCVM from 1985 to 2003. "I am deeply honored and very grateful."

During the presentation, AVMA President Dr. Greg Hammer praised Eyre for the major contributions he had made to the profession of veterinary medicine through his extensive career in veterinary education and research.

In recognition of the major contributions Eyre has made to the field of pharmacology over his career, the University of Guelph has established "The Peter Eyre Prize in Pharmacology" to recognize exceptional student achievement in that field.

Finally, the American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics has honored Eyre with the designation of Emeritus Fellow.

"If I can claim anything remarkable about my career, it is that it was unpredicted and unordered," said Eyre, who continues to teach pharmacology at Virginia Tech and has been very active in the Virginia Governor's School for Agriculture's academic programs.

"My life's work has resulted from a combination of intense personal interests with a series of fortunate opportunities that included exceptional colleagues and mentors, and outstanding academic institutions," he said.



Nearly 50 teams helped raise over \$3,000 in this year's Dog Walk Against Cancer. The event was sponsored by the Animal Welfare Club and the Center for Comparative Oncology.

Dog Walk Against Cancer a Success

Over \$3,000 was raised to support cancer research by nearly 50 teams who participated in this year's "Dog Walk Against Cancer." The event was sponsored by the Center for Comparative Oncology (CeCO) and the Animal Welfare Club in the VMRCVM.

Highlights of the October 11 event included a kick-off informational session on cancer in animals and a survivor and remembrance walk around the campus to honor and remember all two- and four-legged cancer survivors and victims.

The monies raised will support oncology research in the college, according to Dr. John Robertson, a professor in the college's Department of

Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP) and director of CeCO, a research center that studies cancer in animals and people. Robertson noted that a group called "Pawsitive Hokeez" played a major role in this year's success.

"Cancer is a major disease problem in dogs, just as it is in people," said Robertson, who estimates that as many as 40 percent of middle-aged and elderly dogs will eventually contract cancer. "Our goal is to learn as much about prevention, treatment and cure as we can."

Chartered in 2002, CeCO exists to study the development of cancer in animals and in people, to develop new ways to diagnose cancer and to find new treatments to control and cure it.



VMRCVM Senior Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Dr. Roger Avery (left), talks with (from clockwise) Drs. Mark Varner, Valentin S. Skripkin, Vasily P. Tolokonnikov, and Gennady G. Solgalov. The guests were part of a delegation from the University of Maryland and the Stavropol State Agrarian University in Russia.

Russian Scientists Visit VMRCVM

Three representatives from Stavropol State Agrarian University (SSAU) in Russia recently visited the College Park, Md. and Blacksburg, Va. campuses of the VMRCVM according to Dr. Bettye Walters, director of international programs.

The group visited the University of Maryland at College Park as part of a three-year the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-Higher Education Development funded project. The goal of their visit was to become more familiar with the VMRCVM, tour the veterinary college facilities, meet with appropriate individuals and expand international cooperation.

One aspect of the USAID-Higher Education Development grant involves the development and implementation of continuing education programs for practicing veterinarians in southern Russia, according to Walters. This was facilitated through the use of Internet-based video conferencing with Blacksburg-based faculty, Walters said.

Both Dr. Ann Zajac, an associate professor and veterinary parasitologist in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology; and Dr. Virginia Maxwell, a professor and large animal

Please see **Scientists:** page 36



Dr. Kent Scarratt

Scarratt Named Director of Teaching and Research Animal Care Support Services

Dr. Kent Scarratt, an associate professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences has been appointed director of the college's Teaching and Research Animal Care Support Services (TRACSS). TRACSS is responsible for the day-to-day care and housing of all college-owned animals involved in teaching and research projects.

Scarratt will oversee the team of trained professionals dedicated to the humane treatment and use of these animals and will assure the college is in compliance with all necessary guidelines and conditions set forth by Virginia Tech's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and other supervising agencies. He fills the vacancy left by Dr. Jennifer Hodgson, who was recently named the college's associate dean for professional programs.

"The VMRCVM has always been committed to providing exceptional care for all college-owned animals," said Dr. Roger Avery, the veterinary college's senior associate dean for research and graduate studies. "Our recent accreditation by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care further bolsters that commitment. I have great confidence in Dr. Scarratt's ability to lead this important college program and to maintain the hallmark of excellence for which it is known."

Scarratt received his DVM in 1975 from the University of Saskatchewan. Prior to joining the college in 1982, he was an assistant professor in the Department of Medical Sciences at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine.

He is board certified as a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, he is a member of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

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NEWSMAKERS

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Jennifer Barrett, assistant professor, EMC, has passed her boards and is now a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Dr. Christopher Ober, resident, DSACS, was named the recipient of the District of Columbia Companion Animal Resident Award.

Dr. Natalie Inteeworn, resident, DSACS, was named the recipient of the Bente Flatland Resident Award.

Dr. John Rossmel, assistant professor, DSACS, presented five continuing education sessions during the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando, FL.

Dr. Ansar Ahmed, head, DBSP, has been invited to be on the Editorial Board of *International Immunopharmacology*.

Dr. Martha M. Larson, professor, DSACS, recently presented ultrasound wet labs and lectures for the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando, FL.

D.C. Grant, S.R. Werre, and M.L. Gevedon recently co-authored "Holmium: YAG Laser Lithotripsy for Urolithiasis in Dogs" in the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*.

G.B. Daniel, S. Davies, M. Crisman, M. Larson, and D. Barber were recently awarded a Virginia Horse Industry Board Grant for "Scintigraphy and Ultrasonographic Appearance of the Thyroid Gland in Young Horses."

Dr. Erik Noschka, resident, DLACS, recently attended the 9th International Equine Colic Research Symposium in Liverpool, England where he gave two oral presentations: "Temporal aspects of laminar gene expression during the developmental stages of equine laminitis" and "Vascular and systemic effects of thromboxane and isoprostanes in black walnut heartwood extract induced laminitis." He also co-authored two poster presentations: "Heparan sulphate and hyaluronan oligomers: endogenous toll-like receptor ligands potentially involved in inflammation in the horse" and "Contractile responses of the laminar blood vessels isolated from horses given black walnut heartwood extract, carbohydrate-overload or LPS infusion: implications for equine laminitis."

Dr. Stephen Smith, professor, DBSP, presented five continuing education sessions at the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Marion Ehrlich, professor, DBSP, has been named to the Institute of Medicine's Committee to review ATSDR's Great Lakes Reports.

Dr. X. J. Meng, professor, DBSP, has recently been elected as an honorary diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Microbiology.

Dr. X.J. Meng, professor, DBSP, has been awarded two research grants totaling almost \$3 million from the National Institutes of Health to study the hepatitis E virus.

Dr. Philip Sponenberg, professor, DBSP, presented "Bovinos Criollos - Joya de las Américas" (Criollo Cattle - Jewel of the Americas) at the "XII Reunión Nacional de la Asociación Boliviana de Producción Animal" at the Universidad Autónoma "Gabriel René Moreno" in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Dr. Ansar Ahmed, head, DBSP, has been awarded a grant from Merck-Merial Veterinary Scholars Program to recruit and train DVM students into biomedical research. Other Key Personnel: Dr. Roger Avery.

Dr. Ansar Ahmed, head, DBSP, has been awarded a grant from the NIH/NICRR for Summer Veterinary Student Training in Animal Model Research Program.

Dr. Michael Leib, C.R. Roberts Professor of Small Animal Medicine, DSACS, recently presented six hours of continuing education at the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association's 124th Annual Meeting and Convention.

Drs. Michael Leib, C.R. Roberts Professor of Small Animal Medicine, DSACS, **Martha Larson**, professor, DSACS, and **Don Waldron**, professor, DSACS, recently presented continuing education classes at the Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas, Nev.

Dr. Michal Leib, C.R. Professor of Small Animal Medicine, DSACS, recently presented continuing education classes at the Midwest Veterinary Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Jonathan Abbott recently authored "Acquired valvular disease" in the fourth edition of the *Manual of Canine and Feline Cardiology*.

Dr. Jonathan Abbott recently authored "Feline cardiomyopathy" in *Small Animal Critical Care*.

Dr. Greg Daniel, head, DSACS, recently presented a Nuclear Medicine Short Course at the University of Tennessee.

Dr. Greg Daniel, head, DSACS, recently presented "Nuclear Medicine in Veterinary Practice" during the 36th meeting of the British Nuclear Medicine Society in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Dr. Lijuan Yuan, assistant professor, DBSP, was an invited speaker at the Next Generation

Vaccines Conference in National Harbor, Md. Her talk was titled "Probiotic lactobacilli enhance the immunogenicity and protective efficacy of a life attenuated rotavirus vaccine."

Dr. Lijuan Yuan, assistant professor, DBSP, and other members of her lab recent gave two poster presentations during the American Society for Virology Annual Meeting: "Genome Sequence Analysis of Human Rotavirus M (G3P1A [8]) Strain" and "Comparison of Genome Sequences of Virulent, Cell-culture Adapted and Attenuated Wa Strain Human Rotaviruses."

Dr. Larry Freeman, associate professor, DBSP, recently attended the XXVII Congress of the European Association of Veterinary Anatomists in Budapest, Hungary. He served as invited co-chairman for the scientific session of oral papers on the cardiovascular system and also presented an oral paper, "Angioarchitecture of the root of the equine penis."

Dr. Larry Freeman, associate professor, DBSP, recently presided over the General Assembly of the World Association of Veterinary Anatomists (WAVA) held in conjunction with the World Veterinary Congress in Vancouver, British Columbia. This concluded his five-year tenure as president of WAVA.

Dr. David Lindsay, professor, DBSP, presided over the recent meeting of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists in New Orleans, La. He also organized a presidential symposium entitled "Parasite Myth Busters: Fact and Fiction" and gave a presentation "Crazy like a fox (hound): Update on leishmaniasis in the United States."

Dr. Michael Leib, C.R. Roberts Professor of Small Animal Medicine, DSACS, recently co-authored "Gastric Helicobacter spp & Chronic Vomiting in Dogs" in Chapter 113 of *Kirk's Current Veterinary Therapy, XIV*. The work was completed with the late Dr. R.B. Duncan.

Drs. Chris Ober, resident, DSACS, **Jeryl Jones**, professor, DSACS, **Otto Lanz**, associate professor, DSACS, and **Martha Larson**, professor, DSACS, recently received an \$11,815 ACORN grant for "Evaluation of the Soft Tissue Compartments of the Canine Manus."

Dr. Kevin Pelzer, professor, DLACS, recently presented "Goat Health 101" to the Virginia Angora Goat and Mohair Association during the 17th Annual Angora Goat Show and Sale and Fiber Fest in Lewisburg, WV.

Dr. Willard Eyestone, research associate professor, DLACS, and **Oscar Peralta**, a Ph.D. student in Eyestone's lab, recently presented "Expression and Knockdown of Prion Expression in Differentiating Embryonic Stem Cells" during the 2008 meeting of the International Society for Stem Cell Research. The work was completed with **Dr. William Huckle**, associate professor, DBSP.

Dr. X.J. Meng, professor, DBSP, recently received funding totalling over \$300,000 from Fort Dodge Animal Health Inc./Wyeth Inc. to develop a second generation vaccine against porcine circovirus.

Drs. Francois Elvinger and **Virginia Buechner-Maxwell** have both been promoted to the rank of professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

Elvinger, F., Akey, B.L., Senne, D.A., **Pierson, F.W.**, Porter-Spalding, B.A., Spackman, E., and Suarez, D.L., recently published "Characteristics of diagnostic tests used in the 2002 low pathogenicity avian influenza H7N2 outbreak in Virginia" in the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*.

Dr. Jonathan Abbott, associate professor, DSACS, recently conducted a cardiac certification clinic for the James River Kennel Club Dog Show.

Drs. Philip Pickett, professor, DSACS, and **Dan Binder**, resident, DSACS, recently conducted an eye certification clinic for the James River Kennel Club Dog Show.

Betsy Midkiff, licensed veterinary technician, recently conducted a microchip placement clinic for the James River Kennel Club Dog Show.

Dr. Kurt Zimmerman, assistant professor, DBSP, has passed his anatomic pathology board examination and is now a dual boarded diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in both clinical and anatomic pathology.

Dr. Carolina Ricco, assistant professor, DSACS, has passed her board examinations and is now a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists.

Dr. Natalia Henao Guerrero, assistant professor, DSACS, has passed her board examinations and is now a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists.

Dana Calicott, LVT, VTH, recently authored "Jugular Venocath Placement: Peel-A-Way Introducer Technique" in *The NAVTA Journal*.

Dr. Ram Kasimanickam, assistant professor, DLACS, was recently recognized by the American College of Theriogenologists at the 2008 Annual Conference of the Society For Theriogenology held in St. Louis, Mo. for his contributions on the Scientific Information Committee from 2004-2008.

Student Achievements

Oscar Peralta, a Ph.D. student in the laboratory of **Dr. Willard Eyestone**, research associate professor, DLACS, recently won first place in the Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly's Graduate Research Symposium in the animal sciences category. His poster presentation was entitled "Determination of Prion Expression in Bovine Tissues." The work was completed with Eyestone.

Dr. Tom Cecere, a Ph.D. student in the lab of **Dr. Tanya LeRoith**, assistant professor, DBSP, has passed his anatomic pathology board examination and is now a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Aaron Lucas, a member of the Class of 2010, placed first in the individual Parasitology Challenge during the recent SAVMA Symposium hosted by Auburn and Tuskegee Universities' Colleges of Veterinary Medicine.

Stacie Boswell, a member of the Class of 2009, placed third in the individual Bovine Palpation Challenge during the recent SAVMA Symposium hosted by Auburn and Tuskegee Universities' Colleges of Veterinary Medicine.

Michael Hickey, a member of the Class of 2009, won best submission for his letter of nomination of Dr. John Rossmesl for the Student AVMA Teaching Excellence Award-Clinical Sciences.

Student teams from the VMRCVM took first place honors in the Jeopardy Challenge and placed second or third in five other events including the SAVMA Challenge, Name that Breed, Equine Aging, Parasitology Challenge, and Bovine Palpitation during the recent SAVMA Symposium hosted by Auburn and Tuskegee Universities' Colleges of Veterinary Medicine. Participants included: Jennifer Crain ('09); Sarah Krall ('10), Jennifer Sutton ('11), Brian Kopec ('11), Brooke Hoffman ('09), Michele Farrar ('09), Aaron Lucas ('10), Theresa Williams ('09); Stacie Boswell ('09); Megan Buchanan ('11); Jennifer Crain ('09); Molly Conca ('11); Amy Doernte ('10);

Julie Sanders ('09); Weston Mims ('10); Brooke Ridinger ('09); and Tiffany Borjeson ('10).

Alumni Achievements

Dr. Jesse Fallon ('08) was named Virginia Tech's 2008 Outstanding Graduate in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Timothy LaBranche ('03) has passed his board examinations and is now a certified diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Dr. Kendall Tandey Cummings ('02) has passed her board examinations and is now a certified diplomate in the American Veterinary Dental College.

Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center Announces "Tuesday Talks" Schedule

Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center has announced its 2008-09 "Tuesday Talks" schedule.

This series of lectures is designed to provide veterinarians, horse owners, and horse professionals with valuable insight and practical advice related to a wide array of equine health care topics.

The 2008-09 Tuesday Talks schedule is as follows:

December 2, 2008:

"Emergency Care for Equine Wounds and Lacerations," presented by Jennifer Brown, DVM, Diplomate ACVS, and a clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine and surgery.

January 13, 2009:

"Emerging Issues in Equine Parasite Management," presented by Harold C. McKenzie III, DVM, M.S., Diplomate ACVIM, and an assistant professor of equine medicine.

February 10, 2009:

"Equine Colic: A Real Pain in the Gut," presented by Nat White, DVM, M.S., Diplomate ACVS, and Jean Ellen Shehan Professor and Director.

March 10, 2009:

"Current Practices in Equine Reproduction," presented by James Brown, BVSc, Diplomate ACT, resident in equine surgery.

All Tuesday Talk lectures will be held at 7 p.m. in the Equine Medical Center's library. No fee is charged for attending but seating is limited and pre-registration is required. To register, e-mail Amy Troppmann or call (703) 771-6843. Additional information regarding the Center and its services is available online at www.equinemedicalcenter.net.

VMRCVM Commencement Hits Quarter-Century Benchmark



Above: Dean Gerhardt Schurig greets attendees to the VMRCVM's 25th commencement ceremony. Far left: Dr. Mark Crisman was chosen by the Class of 2008 to give the keynote address. Left: Members of the Class of 2008 celebrate during graduation ceremonies.

LEARNING

The VMRCVM graduated 89 new veterinarians during its 25th commencement ceremony held recently at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. That brings the total number of DVM degrees awarded by the college to 2,109.

In addition to the 89 DVM degrees, the college awarded seven Ph.D. degrees, nine M.S. degrees and seven Certificates of Residency during the ceremony.

During remarks, VMRCVM Dean Gerhardt Schurig told the graduates that they were entering a profession that is doing vital work in society.

"You will run small and large businesses, you will work in government, and some of you will work in corporations," he said. "Whatever you do, wherever you work, I urge you to stand tall in your communities. Be active, be a leader, and work for change where it is needed. Citizens will look up to you and you must not let them down."

Featuring dignitaries from both Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland, the colorful pageant included the presentation of diplomas jointly awarded by Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland at College Park, the administration of the "Veterinarian's Oath," the "Hooding Ceremony," and numerous awards and honors.

"Whatever you do, wherever you work, I urge you to stand tall in your communities. Be active, be a leader, and work for change where it is needed. Citizens will look up to you and you must not let them down."

In keeping with tradition, the graduating class selected a favorite faculty member to address them during the ceremony. Dr. Mark Crisman, professor, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, presented a humorous keynote address that also included advice for success and happiness in the future.

Dr. Jack O'Mara, president of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, swore the new veterinarians into the profession through the administration of the "Veterinarian's Oath" and Dr. Steve Karras, president of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, welcomed the new graduates into the profession on behalf of organized veterinary medicine.

Dr. Bom S. Inman, the valedictorian of the class of 2008, was presented the Richard B. Talbot Award, and Dr. Jennifer McQuiston was honored as the Outstanding Young Alumna.

On Friday, May 9, the college held its annual Graduation Awards Luncheon. Scores of students and faculty members were honored for their academic performance and teaching excellence during that ceremony.

Fallon Named Outstanding Graduate Award Recipient



Dr. Jesse Fallon was named the Outstanding Graduate in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Virginia Tech honored Dr. Jesse Fallon as the Outstanding Graduate in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Fallon excelled academically and was ranked sixth in his class. He was the Class of 2008 vice president, and served as president of the Private Veterinary Practitioners Club (PVPC) and as a Graduate Student Assembly representative. He was also a member of the Companion Animal Club and the Food Animal Practitioners Club. In addition, he served as an executive board member of the West Virginia Raptor Rehabilitation Center.

The Outstanding Graduate award is presented at the Student Honors Day Banquet each spring. This award is co-sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association and the senior class.

The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding student performance in each college of the university. Students are selected on the basis of their quality credit average (3.4 or higher on a 4.0 scale) and outstanding performance in several or all of the following areas: academic achievement, extracurricular activities, leadership positions, and contributions of service to the university and/or community.

Dr. Jennifer Hensley McQuiston Named Outstanding Recent Alumna



Dr. Jennifer Hensley McQuiston (left) has been named the recipient of the 2007-2008 Outstanding Recent Alumni Award for the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. To be eligible for this award, recipients must be graduates of the past ten years and each should have distinguished him or herself professionally in his/her career or in rendering service to the university since graduating.

Dr. Jennifer Hensley McQuiston was honored as the recipient of the college's 2007-2008 Outstanding Recent Alumni Award.

McQuiston exemplifies the graduate worthy of this award, according to Dr. Tom Inzana, the Tyler J. and Frances F. Young Professor of Bacteriology in the college's Department of Biomedical Sciences & Pathobiology (DBSP) and Virginia Tech's associate vice president for research programs. Inzana served as an advisor to McQuiston during her course of study in the college.

"Dr. McQuiston has distinguished herself as a veterinary epidemiologist, responding to and addressing emerging infectious diseases and public health issues around the world that are of the utmost national and international importance," said Inzana.

McQuiston is a three-time graduate of Virginia Tech. She received her B.S. in biology in 1993, her DVM in 1997 and her M.S. in molecular biology in 1998. From 1998 to 2000, she trained with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Epidemic Intelligence Service where she was assigned to the Viral and Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch.

Please see **McQuiston**: page 36

Class of 2012 Admitted During Matriculation Ceremonies



The 90 members of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's Class of 2012 were recently admitted following matriculation ceremonies held at the college. Part of this included the "White Coat" Ceremony where each incoming student is presented with his or her first lab coat and stethoscope.

The college's Class of 2012 was formally "admitted" following a "White Coat Ceremony" in which the 90 new students were issued white laboratory coats and administered the "Veterinary Student's Oath." While now common at many schools, the VMRCVM is believed to be among the first colleges to begin this welcoming ceremony.

Attended by almost 300 family, friends, and others, the matriculation ceremony followed a week-long orientation program filled with events as varied as leadership and communications training to behavioral and personality inventories.

During the ceremony, Dean Gerhardt Schurig spoke with the students about the promising opportunities and unique challenges facing the profession.

"You have picked a wonderful time in history to pursue your dream of becoming a veterinarian," said Schurig. "Our profession has never been able to

Please see **Matriculation**: page 36



A major study conducted by the Food Supply Veterinary Medicine Consortium has determined that the nation is facing a shortage of food animal veterinarians and that it will likely get worse over the next decade.

Dr. Dee Whittier talks with Gabrielle Minnich from Virginia Tech's Office of Visual and Broadcast Communications while working on a farm in Pulaski County. Whittier recently taped an upcoming segment on the shortage of food animal veterinarians that the university was helping to produce for Virginia Farm Bureau's "Down Home Virginia."

Whittier Encourages Others to Consider Food Animal Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Dee Whittier never has a "typical" day at the office. In fact, his office is often a local barn.

That's exactly where a crew from Virginia Tech's Office of Visual & Broadcast Communications recently found him. Whittier and some students were doing sexual maturity testing on local bulls in Pulaski County when he took time out of his day to speak about the shortage of food animal veterinarians for an upcoming segment for Farm Bureau's "Down Home Virginia" that Virginia Tech was helping produce.

"I love my job," said Whittier. "No day is ever the same. We get to go out into the community and really get to know our clients. Plus, we help to ensure a safe food supply for everyone. It is truly a rewarding profession."

It's this sense of satisfaction that Whittier hopes will lead students to pursue a career in food animal medicine.

A major study conducted by the Food Supply Veterinary Medicine Consortium has determined that the nation is facing a shortage of food animal veterinarians and that it will likely get worse over the next decade.

The study determined that the supply of food animal practitioners will lag four to five percent behind a demand that is expected to increase by 12-13 percent through the year 2016.

A variety of factors are leading to this shortage, according to Whittier. One is a good deal of veterinarians are coming from urban areas and want to return there upon graduation. Another is the emerging predominance of females in the profession. It's no secret being a food animal veterinarian is hard work and physically demanding; however, Whittier wants females to know that is no reason for them to shy away.

"Females can absolutely do this," said Whittier. "All it takes is the proper training and practice."

The VMRCVM was founded to help foster agriculture and the college offers many programs and incentives to encourage students to seek careers in food animal veterinary medicine.

The college's tracking oriented curriculum enables students to concentrate their studies in food animal veterinary medicine, and each year about 10-12 percent of VMRCVM students elect that track.

One such student is Aaron Lucas, a member of the Class of 2010 who was also interviewed for the program.

"I want to be a food animal veterinarian, first and foremost because I really enjoy working with people. I like the fact that being a food animal veterinarian will put me in a position to work together with farmers in my own community with the shared goal of making their operations a success," said Lucas. "It is exciting to know that soon I will be able to apply the skills learned in veterinary school to treat individual animals, keep herds safe from disease, and provide advice on management decisions."

About \$200,000 in scholarship money is earmarked every year to recruit students from under-represented areas, especially food animal veterinary medicine, to pursue academic work and eventually careers in food animal veterinary medicine.

"Down Home Virginia" is a half-hour television program geared toward consumers and families in Virginia and focuses on both agriculture news and family-oriented stories. For more information on "Down Home Virginia's" program schedule including when Whittier's interview will air, please visit: <http://www.vafb.com/video/about.htm>

New Interns and Residents Join Veterinary College

Fifteen new veterinarians have joined the college as residents and interns.

Internships and residencies are advanced clinical/educational programs pursued by DVM's seeking advance training and/or eventual board certification by organizations like the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, the American College of Veterinary Radiology, or the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology.

DSACS Interns



Dr. Karanvir Aulakh has joined the college as an intern in DSACS. He received his B.V.Sc. and A.H. from Punjab Agricultural University of India in 2003 and M.S. degree in microbiology & immunology from the University of Louisville in 2006. In 2007, he completed an externship with Banfield Hospital of Portland.



Dr. Bryan Bottorff has joined the college as a small animal intern. He received his DVM from Purdue University in 2008 and his B.A. from Hanover College in 2002.



Dr. Filipe Gomes has joined the college as an intern in the DSACS. He received his DVM from Tras-os-Montes e Alto Douro University in Portugal in 2002. He was a small animal intern at Animal Medical Center in Manchester, UK and an international surgical fellow at Michigan State University from 2007 to 2008.



Dr. Allison O'Kell has joined the DSACS as an intern. She received her DVM from the University of Saskatchewan in 2008. She finished a neurology externship at Canada West Veterinary Specialists and Critical Care Hospital.



Dr. Mackenzie Ostmeyer has joined the college as an intern in the DSACS. She received her DVM degree in 2008 and her B.S. in 2004 from Kansas State University.

DSACS Residents



Dr. Katie Belz has joined the college as a resident in internal medicine. She received her DVM in 2007 and her B.S. in 2003 from Texas A&M University. She completed a small animal rotating internship at the University of Florida.



Dr. Daniel Binder has joined the VMRCVM as an ophthalmology resident. He received his DVM from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 2007, his Ph.D. degree in neuroscience from the University of Virginia in 2003 and his B.S. degree in psychobiology from Binghamton University in 1998. He completed a small animal rotating internship at North Carolina State University.



Dr. Theresa Pancotto has joined the college as a neurology resident. She received her DVM and M.S. from Tufts University in 2007 and her B.S. in 2002 from Duke University. She completed a rotating internship at Affiliated Veterinary Specialists in Florida.



Dr. Diane Saulnier has joined the VMRCVM as a resident in radiology. She received her DVM degree from Ross University in 2003 and her B.S. in 1999 from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Her small animal rotating internship was at Boston Road Animal Hospital.



Dr. Brian Ward has joined the college as a surgical resident. He received his DVM from Auburn University in 2007 and his B.S. from the University of Kentucky in 2003. He completed a small animal rotating internship at North Carolina State University.

DLACS Interns



Dr. Olivia Schroeder has joined the college as an Equine Field Service intern. She received her VMD in 2008 from the University of Pennsylvania and her B.S. in chemistry in 2004 from the College of William & Mary.



Dr. Martin Vitek has joined the college as a Production Management Medicine intern.

DLACS Residents



Dr. Leeah Chew has joined the college as a theriogenology resident. She received her DVM from the University of Tennessee and her B.S. from the University of Notre Dame.

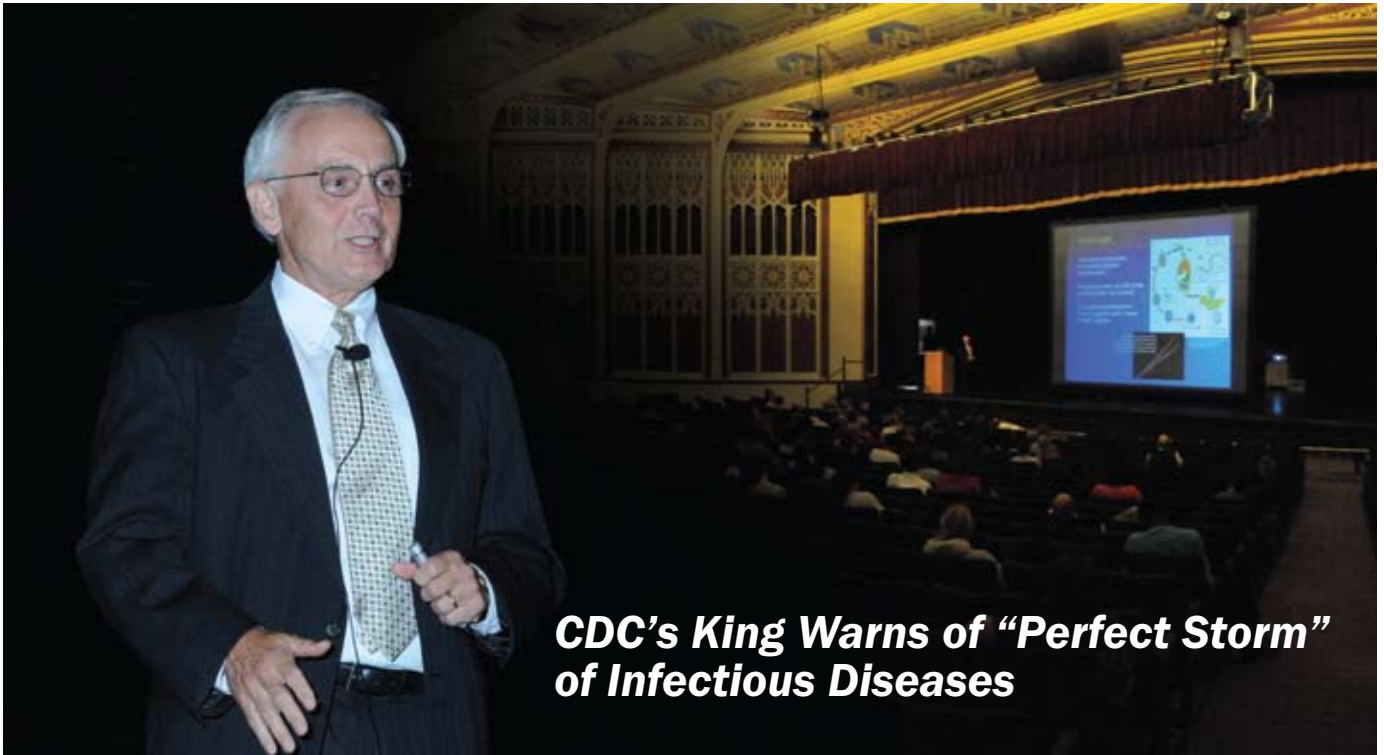


Dr. Megan Shepherd has joined the college as a resident in veterinary nutrition. She received her B.S. in biology from Virginia Tech and her DVM from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

DBSP Resident



Dr. Ellen Binder has joined the college as a resident in anatomic pathology. She received her B.S. from the University of Virginia in 1998 and her DVM in 2008 from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.



CDC's King Warns of "Perfect Storm" of Infectious Diseases

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) official Dr. Lonnie King predicted that infectious disease threats will intensify in the years ahead and warned of a "perfect microbial storm" during the keynote address of the recent Deans' Forum on Infectious Diseases held at Virginia Tech.

King said the only answer is to look at animal health and human health as a continuum and to take a "one health" approach to managing infectious disease.

Globalization, international development, and environmental changes are among the factors contributing to the chief risk factor, which is the proximity of animals living near people, King said, particularly in developing regions.

King said the only answer is to look at animal health and human health as a continuum and to take a "one health" approach to managing infectious disease.



In a well-illustrated and data-filled speech, King, a veterinarian who leads a staff of about 1,000 in the CDC's National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases (ZVED), warned that unless substantial action is taken very soon we may enter an unprecedented period where pandemics threaten global public health and where the next generation of Americans is not as healthy as the generation which preceded it.

King said in 1900 only 13 percent of the population lived in urban areas, whereas in 2007 about 50 percent lived in concentrated urban areas. Soaring population growth in Asia and Africa are leading to the development of mega-cities and peri-urban areas where humans virtually co-habitate with hogs, poultry and other vectors of zoonotic disease.

He said more people are moving faster than ever before and by the year 2020, 1.6 billion people a year will be traveling internationally.

"We can traverse the world faster than any incubation period for these infectious diseases," he said.



Members of the university and surrounding community attended Dr. Lonnie King's keynote address during the Deans' Forum on Infectious Diseases.

He predicted food borne illness and water borne illness would likely pose a major health threat for the 90 million members of America's aging baby-boomer generation.

Food production systems are also being challenged to produce more efficiently, which has led to concentrated "feedlot" operations that provide fertile opportunities for infectious disease incubation and transmission. Last year over 21 billion food animals were raised to feed six billion people. He said that number will increase by 50 percent by 2020.

That food – and the risk of disease transmission – moves around the world through an astonishing transportation network. At any given moment, he said, 40,000 ships conveying \$12 trillion worth of cargo move in and out of 305 ports of entry.

He said 60 percent of the 1400 known pathogens are multi-host pathogens and 60 percent of human pathogens are zoonotic.

"Good animal health strategies become good public health strategies," said King.

An additional transmission risk is the uncontrolled importation and exportation of the illegal exotic animal industry, which King estimated is a four to six billion dollar business and is second only to the illegal drug trade.

He cited the recent SARS epidemic as an example of things to come if action is not taken to curb risks in the near future. Originating in China, that infectious disease flashed across the world in days, causing 800 deaths from 8,000 cases, affecting 30 countries and costing \$80 billion in losses.

He cited current risks associated with avian influenza H5N1 causing a global pandemic and said not enough money is being spent to research and develop control strategies.

The reason, he said, is because we don't think of these disease threats as a continuum.

"Good animal health strategies become good public health strategies," said King.

He predicted water-borne disease will become an even greater threat in the future. By 2025, two-thirds of the world population will be living in a situation with a scarcity of fresh water.

Right now, he said, 1.1 billion are dealing with fresh water scarcity and 2.6 billion are dealing with poor sanitation. Scientists have already documented the emergence of chlorine-resistant cryptosporidiosis.

Insect-borne diseases are on the rise, he said, identifying West Nile Virus as an example of a zoonotic disease that has affected 1.5 million people since being identified in 1999. There has been a two-fold increase of tick-borne diseases in the past 10 years, said King.

In order to counter these risks, we need to make massive improvements in our animal health infrastructure, develop integrated surveillance strategies, train a new infectious disease control workforce, focus on prevention and take a global perspective to the problem, King said.

He said the scientific and medical community must take a multi-disciplinary, highly collaborative approach that looks at "one world, one medicine and one health" in order to solve the problems ahead, and that veterinary medicine is uniquely suited to play a major role in the effort.

King said there is currently a shortage of about 50,000 public health personnel, and business leaders are beginning to understand how health affects the bottom line of business and commerce.

But of the \$1.5 trillion currently expended in American healthcare, about 98 percent goes to diagnosing and treating disease and only about 2 percent goes to preventing disease.

"What's wrong with that picture?" he asked.



Deans' Forum on Infectious Diseases Presented

The Deans' Forum on Infectious Diseases attracted hundreds for a two-day academic symposium that examined all aspects of infectious diseases.

Presented by the VMRCVM and the College of Science, the event featured presentations and scientific abstracts made by visiting experts and Virginia Tech faculty-members and students. Topics included prevention and control of infectious diseases, infectious disease ecology and epidemiology, molecular pathogenesis, and host-pathogen interactions.

"Infectious diseases have shaped the course of civilization and they continue to do so today," said VMRCVM Dean Dr. Gerhardt Schurig. "Virginia Tech researchers are doing significant work in infectious diseases and in the biomedical sciences in general. Our goal with this forum was to highlight the work and the progress being made and stimulate new approaches that can drive new breakthroughs in the future."

The Deans' Forum on Infectious Diseases was the fourth in a series of forums intended to showcase activities within the university targeted at issues of topical interest to society. Previous forums have focused on energy and sustainability; the environment; and health, food, and nutrition.

As part of the event, a 120-page proceedings book which includes scientific abstracts that describe more than 100 specific infectious disease research projects underway at Virginia Tech was published.



Meng Receives Virginia Tech's 2008 Alumni Award for Research Excellence



Dr. X.J. Meng

Dr. X.J. Meng, a professor of molecular virology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, was one of two recipients of the university's 2008 Alumni Award for Research Excellence—the highest research award given at the university.

The Alumni Award for Research Excellence was established by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association to recognize university faculty who have made outstanding contributions in research. Nominations for the award are made by alumni, faculty, staff, and students, and the recipient chosen by a selection committee.

"Dr. Meng's research accomplishments are extraordinary," said Dr. Gerhardt Schurig, dean of the veterinary college. "The important work he is doing in virology has world-wide implications. We are very proud to have him in our college and university."

Meng's research focus is on emerging and reemerging viral diseases that impact public health. He is widely considered one of the world's leading scientists in hepatitis E virus, type 2 porcine circovirus, and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus. Meng recently developed a vaccine to protect against type 2 porcine circovirus infection and Post-weaning Multi-systemic Wasting Syndrome in pigs, a major threat to the global swine industry. The vaccine, Suvaxyn[®] PCV2 One Dose[™], has been patented by Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties Inc. and is licensed and being marketed by Wyeth Inc. and Fort Dodge Animal Health Inc. Meng's group also recently discovered two new viruses: swine hepatitis E virus from pigs

which is closely related to the human form of hepatitis E virus and avian hepatitis E virus from chickens. These discoveries open up the possibility of new animal models to study human hepatitis E and its treatments that have never been possible before.

"Dr. Meng's research accomplishments are extraordinary," said Dr. Gerhardt Schurig, dean of the veterinary college. "The important work he is doing in virology has world-wide implications. We are very proud to have him in our college and university."

Meng serves on the editorial board of three international journals and he serves as a reviewer on 29 more. He is a permanent member of the National Institutes of Health's Drug Discovery and Mechanisms of Antimicrobial Resistance Study Section, and has also served on other NIH Study Sections including the NIH-NCRR Comparative Medicine Study Section. He has served as a panel member of the Viral and Rickettsial Diseases panel and as chair of the Viral Hepatitis Section (Annual Report Review) for the United States' Department of Defense's Military Infectious Disease Research Program. He is currently the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture's NC-229 Committee and he is chair of the Hepeviridae Subcommittee of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses.

Meng was also recently recognized by Thomson Scientific as being ranked in the top 1 percent of highly-cited scientists in the world in the field of microbiology. He has published more than 155 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Since joining Virginia Tech, Meng has brought in over \$7 million in research funding on projects where he has been the principal investigator and has also been the co-investigator or consultant on other research funding totaling over \$21 million.

DISCOVERY

VMRCVM Awarded Prestigious Biomedical Research Certification

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine has been awarded full accreditation from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) International following an extensive program evaluation and site visitation.

AAALAC accreditation is considered the international “gold standard” for certifying ethical and professional excellence in the use of laboratory animals in biomedical research and education, according to VMRCVM Dean Gerhardt Schurig.

“Achieving this designation is a major step forward for our college,” said Schurig. “It’s an institutional ‘stamp of quality’ that says our programs comply with the highest standards of performance in biomedical research, and it should enhance our ability to procure more research contracts and grants in the future.”

More than 770 companies, universities, hospitals, government agencies and other research institutions in 29 different countries have earned AAALAC accreditation. Some of the institutions that have earned AAALAC accreditation include the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, The American Red Cross, and the National Institutes of Health.

Along with meeting all applicable local and national regulations regarding the use of animals in science, AAALAC accredited institutions must also demonstrate that they are achieving standards outlined in the National Research Council’s Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Developed in 1996, those standards exceed those that are required by law.

Earning AAALAC accreditation is a rigorous process that involves a detailed examination of an organization’s institutional policies, procedures and performance regarding animal care and use in the areas of research, education, testing and breeding. Teams of professionals evaluate a comprehensive written document and conduct a site visitation that analyzes institutional performance in animal husbandry, veterinary care, physical plant and other areas.

In addition to certifying that an organization complies with the highest standards for animal research programs, AAALAC certification also promotes scientific validity and increased credibility with research, according to Schurig.

“This achievement is the result of a major process that has involved the efforts of professionals from many different offices around the college and the university,” Schurig noted. “But I would especially like to recognize Dr. Jennie Hodgson, our associate dean for professional programs, for her overall leadership of the program.”

Veterinarians and researchers who recognized the need to foster the highest standards of care for the use of laboratory animals in biomedical research founded AAALAC in 1965.

Prestigious scientific, educational and professional organizations like the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association, the American Medical Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association and others help provide administrative direction and guidance for AAALAC International as members of their international Board of Trustees.

Veterinary Memorial Fund Research Grants Awarded

Almost \$70,000 in clinical research grants have been awarded to four principal investigators in the college through the 2008-09 distribution of Veterinary Memorial Fund research grants.

Founded in 1984 by the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association and the VMRCVM and recently joined by the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, the Veterinary Memorial Fund is a program that helps bereaved pet-owners deal with their grief and raises money to improve the quality of healthcare available for future generations of companion animals.

Proposals were selected for funding on the basis of contemporary clinical importance by a committee comprised of veterinarians in private practice and VMRCVM faculty-members.

“This program serves as a good example of the translational medicine research programs we are building throughout the college,” said VMRCVM Dean Gerhardt Schurig. “Working closely with practitioners in the field to identify current animal healthcare challenges, we are able to focus the power of university research in a way that produces solutions... quickly and effectively.”

Professors and grant requests that have been funded include the following:

Dr. Natalia Henao-Guerrero, assistant professor, DSACS, received \$19,800 for her proposal “Development of a ventilator protocol for thoracic CT exams in cats.”

Dr. Ed Monroe, professor, DSACS, received \$15,223 for his proposal “The effects of illness on plasma and urine concentrations of catecholamines and their metabolites in dogs.”

Dr. Otto Lanz, associate professor, DSACS, received \$19,767 for his proposal “Effect of Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy and Medial Meniscal Release on Internal Rotation of the Stifle.”

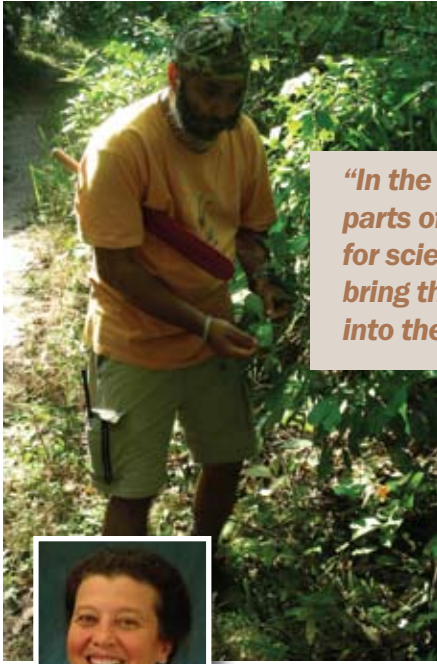
Dr. Jonathon Abbott, associate professor, DSACS, received \$14,228 for his proposal “Echocardiographic Assessment of the Canine Right Heart: Reference Intervals and Repeatability.”

One of the principal benefits of the Veterinary Memorial Fund is the way it links community veterinarians around the state with college researchers in a way that directly serves animals and their owners, Schurig noted.

When a companion animal passes away, the practitioner makes a financial donation to the fund. The dean of the VMRCVM then sends a letter of condolence announcing the memorial to the bereaved.

Then a team of private practitioners and college researchers work together to identify the kind of research that needs to be done to address urgent veterinary healthcare issues in the field, proposals are evaluated and funded, and the work is completed, Schurig said.

The fund is one of the oldest such funds in the nation. Since its inception, it has raised almost \$1 million that has been used to fund more than 100 clinical research programs.



“In the past, investigators have been bringing parts of the natural world into the laboratory for scientific study,” she said. “Now we can bring the expertise and rigor of the laboratory into the natural world.”

Dr. Jatinder Singh, a research assistant professor in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, examines a plant deep in the bush of Tanzania's Mahale Mountains National Park. Singh and his wife, Dr. Taranjit Kaur, have been living in the park for over a year studying viruses that are threatening the endangered chimpanzee population.



Dr. Taranjit Kaur

Virginia Tech Researchers Find Human Virus in Chimpanzees

After studying chimpanzees in the wilds of Tanzania's Mahale Mountains National Park for the past year as part of a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, Virginia Tech researcher Dr. Taranjit Kaur and her team have produced powerful scientific evidence that chimpanzees are becoming sick from viral infectious diseases they have likely contracted from humans.

In an article published in the August 2008 issue of the *American Journal of Primatology* featuring a special section on “Disease

Transmission, Ecosystems Health and Great Apes Research,” Kaur, an assistant professor in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, reported the results of extensive field studies conducted in the jungles of Africa.

The journal article presented data from molecular, microscopic and epidemiological investigations that demonstrate how the chimpanzees living at Mahale Mountains National Park have been suffering from a respiratory disease that is likely caused by a variant of a human paramyxovirus.

The work compliments and validates work published in a recent edition of *Current Biology* by investigators from European research institutes that describes evidence of human viruses in deceased chimpanzees found in West Africa's Tai Forest.

The Mahale Mountains National Park's free-ranging, “human-habituated” chimpanzee population provides excellent opportunities for scientists and tourists alike to study and view chimpanzees, the closest genetic relative of humans, in their natural habitat, Kaur said.

“Although evidence increasingly suggests that infectious diseases may be transmitted from research teams and eco-tourists to endangered great apes, we believe that this is still a bit of a leap and more research must be conducted in order to establish a comfortable level of proof,” said Kaur who has been unraveling the mystery in collaboration with scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and researchers from Japan who are conducting behavioral studies on Mahale chimpanzees.

“Exactly where this virus has come from and the specific route of transmission remains unclear at this time,” said Kaur, but she admits that mounting evidence suggests a linkage between visiting scientists and tourists and the viruses that are threatening the endangered chimpanzee population.

Scientific establishment of that linkage could affect the eco-tourism industry, which is an important source of economic development in



the region and has been credited with protecting the animals from poachers and the dangers of shrinking habitats for chimpanzees and other species of great apes. She believes more research must be conducted in order to protect the region through science-based changes and interventions.

Contributing to the efficacy of Kaur's scientific work is her background as a veterinarian who is board-certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine and her expertise in public health. "In the past, investigators have been bringing parts of the natural world into the laboratory for scientific study," she said. "Now we can bring the expertise and rigor of the laboratory into the natural world."

The family learned to adjust and function in the bush, where diseases such as malaria and cholera can be contracted, and dangerous creatures like black mambas, crocodiles, leopards, and others must be avoided.

The researchers can do that because of the development and deployment of an innovative, eco-friendly field laboratory called "PLUG," which is an acronym for "portable laboratory on uncommon ground." After Kaur's husband and research partner, Dr. Jatinder Singh, a research assistant professor and molecular biologist, expressed frustration over "trying to conduct space-age science with stone-age tools at geographically remote study sites," the pair collaborated with Virginia Tech's College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS) to develop a prototype field laboratory.

Working with CAUS faculty members and a team of university students, using "biomimicry" as the initial design direction, and incorporating state-of-the-art environmental technology to model the adaptability found in living organisms, the PLUG was born. The field laboratory weighs much less than a ton and can be assembled and disassembled in only a few hours by as few as two people using no tools. PLUG was field-tested in March 2007 then packaged for transatlantic shipment where further 'in-situ' testing has been conducted at Mahale Mountains National Park.

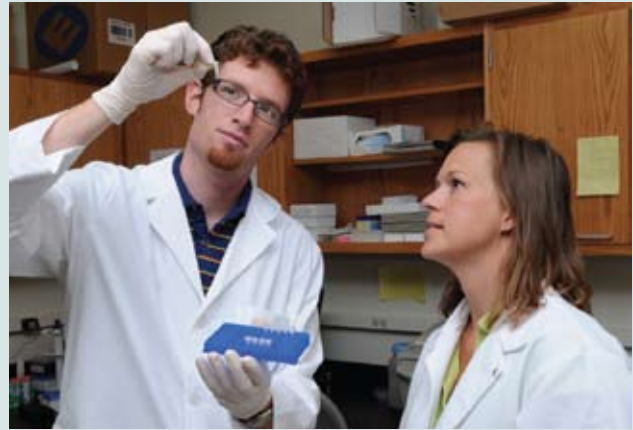
The PLUG has become an integral part of the base station where Kaur, Singh, and their four-year old daughter have been living in western Tanzania on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, the second deepest lake in the world, as part of a broader research project that seeks to establish a long-term health-monitoring program for these endangered great apes.

The project is sponsored through a five-year National Science Foundation CAREER grant awarded to Kaur in 2003 so she can develop a more "holistic" approach for the integration of technology, research and education through a program called "Bush-to-Base Bioinformatics."

Kaur and Singh have been working for several years with Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) officials on the project that seeks to protect the endangered species.

The family learned to adjust and function in the bush, where diseases such as malaria and cholera can be contracted, and dangerous creatures like black mambas, crocodiles, leopards, and others must be avoided.

Living in the wild has also encouraged their resourcefulness. A stubborn warthog kept digging up an area near the PLUG's external photo-voltaic cables and batteries. Their solution was to install an automobile alarm. The loud, piercing voice ordering the marauding warthog to "Step away from the car, step away from the car" every time it disturbed the laboratory seemed to solve the problem.



Sara Cann (right) works with Brian Szekeley (left), a graduate student in the college, in the laboratory of Dr. Taranjit Kaur. Cann, a teacher from Roanoke County, spent the summer working in Kaur's laboratory to gain knowledge she will take back to her classroom.

From the Bush to the Base to the Classroom

A high school science teacher from Roanoke County public schools recently spent the summer doing research in the laboratory of Dr. Taranjit Kaur in the VMRCVM with the intent of taking what she learned back to her students.

Over the course of six weeks, Sara Cann, of Roanoke, Va., did DNA sequencing on 10 plant samples sent to her from Kaur deep in the bush of Tanzania. Cann was trying to determine exactly what the plants were, so Kaur and her colleagues could determine why chimpanzees were eating them.

"For example, if the plants had an anti-nausea component, then the chimps may be eating it to sooth an upset stomach," explains Cann. This type of information is useful to Kaur as she continues her study of the endangered chimpanzee population of the Mahale Mountains National Park in Tanzania.

After studying chimpanzees in the wilds of Tanzania for the past year as part of a National Science Foundation grant, Kaur and her team have produced powerful scientific evidence that chimpanzees are becoming sick from viral infectious diseases they have likely contracted from humans. Scientific establishment of that linkage could affect the eco-tourism industry, which is an important source of economic development in the region.

The information is also useful to Cann as she prepared to use the knowledge she garnered this summer in her lesson plans for this school year. She hopes to develop her research and experiences into "Read It Modules" for her own high school classroom. She also plans to make the modules adaptable for other teachers to use across all levels of education and planned to present her suggestions at the Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST) conference in November.

"The Read It Modules allow for real world examples to be brought into the classroom," said Cann. "I can incorporate my research over the summer into a variety of subjects including ecology and the study of endangered species. I hope to use this as a way of sparking enthusiasm for science in my students."

Cann, a native of Charlottesville, Va., is a two-time graduate of Virginia Tech. She received her B.S. in biology and chemistry in 1995 and her MA.Ed. in curriculum and instruction in 2002.



New Research Lab Opens at EMC

The 2,400 square foot lab is set up for bench-top research, which includes growing stem cells for study and clinical application as well as identifying inflammatory proteins and molecules associated with numerous diseases and injuries.

The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center recently opened a new 2,400 square foot research facility. The laboratory is equipped to explore the molecular aspects of disease and trauma and is expected to generate treatments that will improve animal and human health.

The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center's advanced referral services and scientific research have always distinguished it as a leader in equine medical care. Pioneering research conducted by EMC faculty members in the area of equine ulcers, equine protozoal myelitis and musculoskeletal diseases, for example, has led to the development of new treatments and commercial products.

But the EMC's growing stature as a research center has taken a significant step forward with the construction of a major new laboratory building, one that is equipped to explore the molecular aspects of disease and trauma. The research laboratory is expected to generate treatments that will improve healthcare – and not just for horses.

"Given the spaciousness of the lab, the equipment it holds, and the world-class expertise of the EMC faculty, the opening of this laboratory brings us onto the national stage in research," noted Dr. Jennifer Barrett, assistant professor of surgery at the EMC. "And the results of our research here will not only make a critical difference in improving equine health, they could help improve the health of other animals—and possibly extend to improving human health," she said.

"In addition," Barrett continued, "this new lab offers a location for training future scientists. That's an enormous benefit to the veterinary medical community."

The 2,400 square foot lab is set up for bench-top research, which includes growing stem cells for study and clinical application as well as identifying inflammatory proteins and molecules associated with numerous diseases and injuries. All of these methods are needed to help understand complex medical problems and to develop new treatments.

"One of our first projects focuses on tendon and ligament regeneration," Barrett said. "This involves gathering adult stem cells from bone marrow as well as progenitor cells (cells that are partially specialized) from tendon. Because these tendon progenitor cells have some of the characteristics of stem cells and they are still in a form that is easily manipulated, they could be helpful in improving healing.

"Once we have progenitor cells, we subject them to various growth conditions," Barrett continued. "We examine the results and decide which cells will provide new growth in an injured tendon.

"The application of this research will improve the ongoing use of stem cell injections to treat tendon and ligament injuries. Specifically, we aim to reduce the turnover time for treating injuries and to optimize growth conditions of the cells prior to applying them to the injured area," she said. "The overall goal is to help tendon and ligament heal quickly and effectively back to their original strength and elasticity."

This is just one example of the research capabilities offered by the new laboratory. Other projects will involve isolating cells not only from bone marrow, but also from cartilage, fat, muscle, and tendon, then running tests to see how these cells perform under various conditions. In addition, researchers will be able to prepare platelet-rich plasma, which can then be used to treat injuries to soft tissue or orthopedic injuries.

Now with in-house research capabilities, the cohesive, integrative approach taken at the EMC is greatly enhanced, Barrett noted. "Our new cell and molecular research laboratory adds to our existing state-of-the-art facilities and equipment—a standing MRI, ultrasound equipment, a treadmill, video equipment, echocardiography, lasers, etc. Add to this our world-renowned faculty, and the result is that we are now at a new level in equine medical care," she said.

The ability to incorporate new areas of research and testing in-house offers an array of benefits that all point to savings—in time, effort, and cost. "We can address clinical problems directly by conducting the appropriate tests in the lab, reporting the results, and bringing solutions to the patient—all in an incredibly efficient way," said Dr. Martin Furr, Adelaide C. Riggs Chair in Equine Medicine at the EMC. "With test results available more quickly, treatments may be started in a more timely way, which could lead to successful outcomes sooner," he added.

"Fortunately," Furr said, "we were able to fund this new lab through a variety of sources, including private donations, monies allocated from pari-mutuel activities, and through two of Virginia Tech's colleges: the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Going forward, we will need to retain those funding sources, but also increase funding through grants offered by foundations or government agencies, or from private donors.

"Now that we have made this great stride," Furr concluded, "we want to keep up the momentum."



Veterinary Technicians Indispensible Part of Clinical Care

LVT Tami Reynolds works in the MRI area of the Horace E. and Elizabeth F. Alphin Radiology Center in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Since the Veterinary Teaching Hospital opened its doors, technicians have been working alongside veterinarians to provide the highest quality care for hospital patients.

While the facilities, equipment and personnel may have changed over the past 28 years, one thing remains the same: the critical role technicians play on the clinical healthcare team and their extraordinary dedication to duty.

“Our technicians are indispensable to our patient management and care,” said Dr. Bill Pierson, director of the college’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Veterinary technicians are the “nurses” of the veterinary profession. Working under the supervision of a veterinarian, they provide specialized care and can assist in a variety of diagnostic, medical and surgical procedures for both small and large animals. Licensed veterinary technicians or “LVTs” are veterinary technicians who have completed at least two years of academic study resulting in an associate’s degree and have passed a state examination.

According to Dr. Rick Hiller, administrator of the college’s teaching hospital, the veterinary college currently employs 34 licensed veterinary technicians.

According to the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America, there are currently over 100 veterinary technology programs in the United States that educate veterinary technicians. In order to maintain a standard of excellence these programs are accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association just like colleges of veterinary medicine. While being licensed is only required for the intensive care unit and anesthesiology, the majority of all technicians in the hospital are LVTs, according to Pierson, and most of those who aren’t are currently enrolled in a program to attain LVT status.

Technicians are now starting to seek specialty certification in a variety of fields including emergency and

critical care, dentistry, and anesthesiology. This specialty recognition requires additional education, experience and board testing. Ami Gilkey, who has been with college eight years, obtained her specialty certificate in anesthesiology. She is now working on a chapter in a textbook that will aid others in this pursuit.

Veterinary technicians are the “nurses” of the veterinary profession. Working under the supervision of a veterinarian, they provide specialized care and can assist in a variety of diagnostic, medical and surgical procedures for both small and large animals.

“I enjoy learning and bettering myself and I love my job,” said Gilkey when asked why she chose to seek her specialty certification. “I want to always provide our patients with the best care possible.”

In addition to hands-on care for the patient, veterinary technicians also assist in teaching fourth-year students during the rotations.

For many, the variety of their work is what they enjoy so much.

“We not only get to be involved in patient care, but we get to teach others how to provide the highest quality of animal care,” said Deanna McCrudden, who has been with the college for 19 years and currently serves as the supervisor for small animal technicians. “The students are a large part of why we love what we do.”

For others, the love of their patients and the desire to find new ways to help them drives them forward.

Please see **Technicians:** page 36



To provide realistic answers to historical questions, a production crew from The History Channel recently visited the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center and filmed a horse going through her paces on the hospital's high-speed treadmill.

History Channel Films at the Equine Medical Center

Billy the Kid just shot two deputies and has escaped from prison. He's making his getaway on horseback. Just how far can he expect his horse to go—and at what speed?

To provide realistic answers to those and other questions, a production crew from The History Channel recently visited the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center and filmed a horse going through her paces on the hospital's high-speed treadmill. The film footage will be used in "Real Cowboys," a new six-part television series that will air on The History Channel early in 2009.

Jennifer Brown, D.V.M. and clinical assistant professor of surgery at the EMC, provided details on horses' endurance capabilities at various speeds with "Lola," a six-year old thoroughbred mare, hooked up to diagnostic equipment and moving with the treadmill through a walk, a canter, and a gallop. Lola's heartbeat was monitored and displayed at all times, giving a realistic assessment of what legendary figures, or "Real Cowboys," might have experienced in the days of the Old West.

"By observing and monitoring Lola on the treadmill, we could see how she was handling the tasks we were asking of her," Brown noted. "We could see her exertion, how she was sweating and breathing heavily, but we could also monitor exactly what the toll of her efforts was on her heart."

While on the treadmill, Lola's top speed was measured at 30 miles per hour, a pace she maintained for approximately 15 minutes. "At this point, though, we could see that she was starting to tire," Brown said. "Like any athlete, she would be able to run at sprint speed for just so long. Then she would need to rest before she would be ready to move at a high speed again."

The treadmill is routinely used to evaluate the upper airway and, specifically, the opening into a horse's windpipe. While on the treadmill, horses can go as fast as they would in a race or other athletic event and the changes in the structures from the nose to the lungs can be evaluated to detect problems that are not evident while they are at rest.

By using high-speed video, the horses' gait can also be examined. "The treadmill adds a critical dimension to our ability to evaluate athletes," said Brown. "It's a valuable tool we can use to help us bring horses back to their full potential."

With diagnostic tools such as the high-speed treadmill at the EMC, enormous advances have been made in understanding equine athletes.

Faculty CE Commitment Part of VMRCVM Culture



Dr. Don Waldron



Dr. Martha Moon Larson



Dr. Mike Leib

Veterinary continuing education (CE) has become big business over the past couple of decades. Colossal CE meetings like the Western Veterinary Conference (WVC) in Las Vegas and the North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC) in Orlando typically enroll several thousand veterinarians.

The information explosion and new technologies in veterinary medicine have made CE more important than ever before for veterinarians who need to keep abreast of current approaches and techniques. This has led to an increased number of CE events at the state, regional and national level.

Many of the registrants at these regional and national events may be learning about the newest aspects of veterinary medicine from VMRCVM faculty members, who are routinely invited to present at major

conferences like WVC, NAVC, and others presented by professional societies like the American Veterinary Medical Association and specialty colleges like the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Providing CE presentations keeps VMRCVM professors in touch with practitioners in the field and it provides dividends for the reputation of the college.

"It keeps me in touch with the veterinary clinical community and the problems and concerns they face on a daily basis," said Dr. Don Waldron, a professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences (DSACS) and board-certified veterinary surgeon, who is frequently invited to lecture at national meetings. "It also puts the VMRCVM 'label' on expertise in my field which gives the college and university credibility."

Waldron believes veterinary faculty members have a unique ability to "distill" the massive amounts of information being generated these days into something that fits the needs of a clinical practitioner.

Dr. Martha Moon Larsen, a professor in the DSACS and board certified veterinary radiologist, participates in about a half-dozen continuing education programs a year. She believes that CE is more important than ever before and views it as part of her job. "It helps bring attention to the VMRCVM and adds to its reputation," she said. "The same is true of local meetings, where it is important to maintain good relations with our referring DVM's."

Dr. Michael Leib, the C.R. Roberts Professor of Small Animal Medicine in the DSACS and board-certified veterinary internist who specializes in gastrointestinal disorders, is perhaps one of the most frequently sought speakers on faculty in the college. Leib agrees that VMRCVM faculty play an important "reputation building role" for the college.

Please see **CE**: page 36

Teaching Hospital Introduces Radioactive Iodine Therapy Service for Feline Hyperthyroidism

The college's Veterinary Teaching Hospital has introduced a new radioactive iodine therapy service for an endocrine disorder that commonly affects older cats.

Feline hyperthyroidism is caused by a "benign goiter" of one or both thyroid glands that causes an elevation of thyroid hormones, according to Dr. David Panciera, a professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences (DSACS).

Cats suffering from feline hyperthyroidism may eat, drink and urinate more than normal, lose weight, be hyperactive, suffer coat quality issues, have an elevated heart rate and other clinical signs, said Panciera.

"This is one of the more common disorders we see in geriatric cats," said Panciera, who is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. There are both medical and surgical

approaches to managing the problem, he said, but there can be side-effects and complications from each. The medical therapy is generally quite effective; however, compliance issues often undermine the medical approach.

As a low dosage of radioactive iodine is administered to the patient through a single subcutaneous injection, the agent is accumulated and concentrated in the abnormal parts of the thyroid glands. The iodine destroys the diseased tissue, while healthy thyroid tissues are not affected.

"It can be quite difficult to get owners and their cats together and agree on whether or not they should be taking their medications," quipped Panciera.

Radioactive iodine therapy is an extremely effective treatment for treating feline hyperthyroidism, Panciera notes. As a low dosage of radioactive iodine is administered to the patient through a single subcutaneous injection, the agent is accumulated and concentrated in the abnormal parts of the thyroid glands. The iodine destroys the diseased tissue, while healthy thyroid tissues are not affected.

Clinicians have had a very high success rate with the treatment, and only infrequently do patients sustain complications where too much thyroid tissue is compromised and thyroid supplementation must be considered.

Candidates for the radioactive iodine therapy should be relatively healthy cats that have been off their feline hyperthyroid medications for at least two weeks, Panciera said, and the treatment usually involves hospitalization for three or four days.

Upon admission, patients are provided with a comprehensive health evaluation and a thyroid scan is done to ascertain the extent of the problem and to develop a therapeutic approach.

Once the agent is injected, the patient must be kept in isolation for three or four days while the radioactive agent is cleared from the body.

The college's VTH is ready to provide the service and looks forward to referrals from community practitioners throughout the region, according to Panciera.



Acupuncture Viable Treatment for Many Animal Ailments

Needles are often equated with pain and discomfort; however, for a horse named Gypsy the tiny sharp objects brought about much needed relief as Dr. Mark Crisman, a professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences (DLACS), administered acupuncture therapy.

Gypsy had an infection in her ankle and Crisman was using acupuncture, along with traditional therapy, to help strengthen her bones and immune system, and provide pain relief.

Acupuncture, which has its roots in eastern countries, is a technique of inserting and manipulating very fine needles into specific points on the body with the intention of relieving pain and other therapeutic purposes. This ancient practice has long been used among human patients and, over the past few decades, has gained popularity and recognition in veterinary medicine.

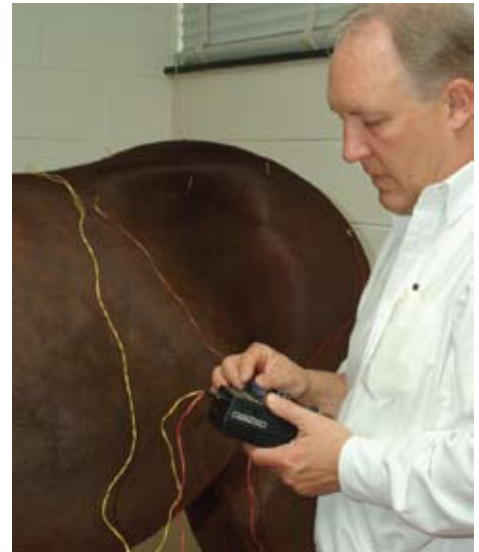
“Acupuncture has proven to be a safe and relatively painless treatment for a variety of illnesses in animals,” said Crisman who has been practicing the therapy for over a decade on equine patients and now teaches others who desire certification.

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital offers this therapy to both large and small animals. Conditions that respond well to acupuncture range from skin disorders to musculoskeletal issues to neurological problems.

“While pain and osteoarthritis are common conditions we treat with acupuncture in small animals,” said Dr. Bess Pierce, an associate professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences (DSACS) who is leading the hospital’s community practice, “we certainly provide therapy for a multitude of problems.”

Veterinarians who wish to practice acupuncture most undergo an additional training process. With the recent completion of

Dr. Mark Crisman, a professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, administers acupuncture therapy to an equine patient. Acupuncture is gaining popularity in veterinary medicine as a viable complimentary therapy for many ailments.



her certification, Dr. Beverley Purswell, a professor in the DLACS, brings the total of certified veterinary acupuncturists in the college to four.

“Acupuncture certainly does not replace traditional veterinary medicine,” said Purswell who plans to use the therapy in her work in theriogenology, the specialized field of veterinary medicine that focuses on reproduction. “It can, however, compliment the therapies we already use.”

In addition to Crisman, Pierce, and Purswell, Dr. Scott Pleasant, associate professor in the DLACS, is also a certified acupuncturist.

For more information on the hospital’s acupuncture service, please visit www.vetmed.vt.edu/vth/la/acupuncture.asp





Lynn Young

VMRCVM Alumni Society

On Nov. 6-7, the VMRCVM celebrated Homecoming for the Classes of '88, '93, '98 and '03. Over 100 alumni and their families and 125 faculty, staff and students attended the tailgate preceding the Virginia Tech vs. Maryland football game on Thursday evening. The homecoming program continued on Friday with a panel discussion comprised of Drs. Jennifer Hodgson, David Hodgson, Lud Eng, Frank Pearsall and Greg Daniel. Following the panel discussion, Fort Dodge sponsored lunch for students and alumni. Three alumni presented continuing education sessions: Dr. Ray Kaplan '88 - It ain't the 80's anymore: Toward an Evidence-Based Medical Approach to Parasite Control; Dr. Nancy Figler '98 - Laboratory Animal Medicine; Dr. Lisa Done '88 - Big Cat, Big Diseases. Tours of the college were offered in the afternoon for alumni and their families. The Classes of '88 and '98 had special dinners at Bogen's on Friday evening. A good time was had by all!

We hope that you will plan to attend one or more of our upcoming alumni activities:

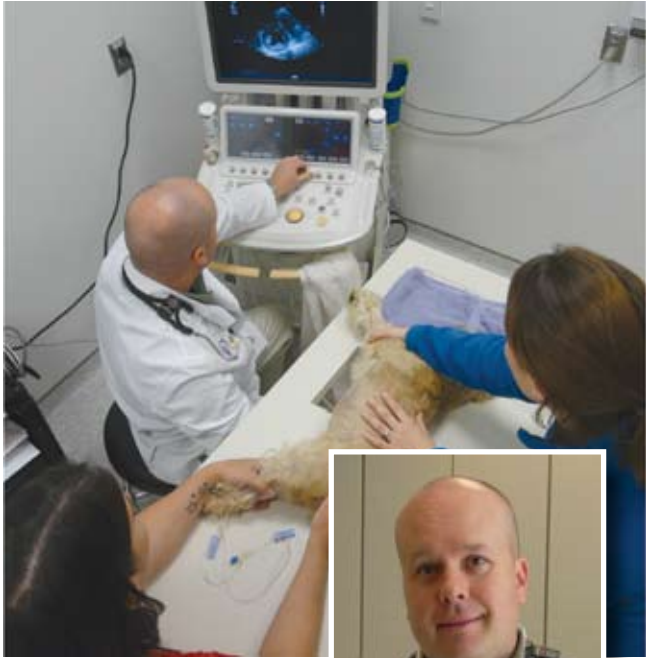
- January 18** - North America Veterinary Alumni Reception - Marriott World Center; Orlando
- February 14** - Virginia Tech vs. Maryland Basketball game - Riggs Alumni Center; College Park
- February 16** - Western States Alumni Reception - Mandalay Bay; Las Vegas
- February 26** - VVMA Winter Meeting, Roanoke, Va.
- April 4** - Open House
- April TBD** - CVC East Alumni Reception - Baltimore
- May 7** - DC Academy Alumni Lunch - Fairfax
- June 28** - MVMA Winter Meeting - Rocky Gap, Md.
- July TBD** - AVMA Alumni Reception - Seattle
- August 17** - VMRCVM Class of 2013 Orientation

If you are a member of the Class of '84, '89, '94, '99, '04 and would like to serve on the committee to plan your class reunion next year, please contact Lynn Young.

Please visit the VMRCVM website at <http://www.vetmed.vt.edu/> and click on the Alumni Society link. We also need updated e-mail addresses on our Alumni Council contacts as well as ALL of our alumni. Please send your updated information to VMRCVM Director of Alumni Relations and Student Affairs, Lynn Young, at youngl@vt.edu.

ALUMNI





Affable, engaging, and committed to his clients, patients and colleagues, Dr. Bill Tyrrell ('92) personifies an emerging new breed of veterinarian.



Dr. Bill Tyrrell

Tyrrell ('92) Keeping an Eye on the Future

You get a sense of how big a business modern veterinary medicine has become when you visit the spacious and glistening TLC The LifeCentre in Leesburg, Va.

The 18,500 square foot multi-specialty veterinary referral hospital and emergency center is like many that have been established in major cities across the country over the past ten years, and the trend continues.

Among the 30 or so veterinarians working inside is a man who keeps an eye on the future as he helps operate the largest veterinary cardiology practice in the country.

Affable, engaging, and committed to his clients, patients and colleagues, Dr. Bill Tyrrell ('92) personifies an emerging new breed of veterinarian.

He is a dedicated clinician, occasional entrepreneur, and patient consensus-builder who understands that the future of veterinary medicine will best be served by strong collaboration between veterinary academia, general practitioners and veterinary specialists working together within the realm of organized veterinary medicine.

After undergraduate work in biology, Tyrrell enrolled in the VMRCVM, where he earned his DVM in 1992. After four years in private practice with Pender Veterinary Clinic, he performed a cardiology residency with Boston's prestigious Angell Memorial Animal Hospital and Chesapeake Veterinary Cardiology Associates (CVCA) before earning his board certification from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) in 1999.

Today, he is helping train his own residents in an ACVIM approved cardiology residency training program at CVCA, where he and

seven other veterinary cardiologists and two cardiology residents operate practices in Annapolis, Richmond, Springfield, Vienna, Rockville, Leesburg and Baltimore.

A former member of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association national Board of Directors and past president of the VMRCVM's Alumni Society, Tyrrell is focused on keeping academic veterinary medicine aligned with the changing landscape of private practice.

He's concerned that the preponderance of private veterinary referral centers are draining caseload from Veterinary Teaching Hospitals located around the country, a phenomena that has implications for the quality of instruction and research.

One idea he proposes is to create more research alliances between academia and private practice, and he is working with the VMRCVM to structure a program for prospective and retrospective studies in veterinary cardiology that could tap the statistical horsepower generated by major caseloads.

"Veterinary medicine has case studies of 10, 20, 50 or 100 dogs or cats," said Tyrrell. "We don't have the caliber of case studies that are present within human medicine, say 1,000 or 10,000 patients where we can get true statistics and make wide, sweeping recommendations in regard to the treatment of patients."

A past president of the Northern Virginia chapter of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, Tyrrell is in line to become president of the VVMA in 2010. He believes that the role of the state's organized veterinary medical community is changing from one once predominately concerned with continuing education to one that is focused on advocacy.

A former member of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association national Board of Directors and past president of the VMRCVM's Alumni Society, Tyrrell is focused on keeping academic veterinary medicine aligned with the changing landscape of private practice.

Well-financed activist groups, as well as a series of cultural and economic factors are driving enormous changes in regulations and legislation, explains Tyrrell, and he believes the profession must carefully monitor, engage and influence public policy that relates to animal and biomedical health.

"We truly are the experts on animal health," he said, adding that veterinarians should be consulted on animal issues during the legislative process. "We truly are the experts on animal welfare."

Tyrrell is a believer in the "one medicine" concept that is gaining attention in both human and animal medical communities. He also believes veterinarians are among the most comprehensively trained medical professionals and are positioned to play a major role in addressing public health issues.

Tyrrell would also like to see veterinarians play a more active role in telling the story of their profession in their communities. "I think most of us as veterinarians... we're fairly humble individuals," he said. "We don't tend to 'toot our own horn' too much, but we probably need to start doing that."

That might be more easily said than done for the modest and gracious Tyrrell, whose understated interpersonal style belies a powerhouse of activity and ideas.

He also cherishes the role that Virginia Tech and the VMRCVM have played in his career development, and has recently pledged with his CVCA business partners Drs. Steven Rosenthal (UF '90), Bonnie Lefbom ('91) and McGregor Ferguson ('99) to provide \$100,000 in support for the VMRCVM through the "Campaign for Virginia Tech – Invent the Future."

[Virginia Tech and the VMRCVM] "have given so much to me, so I feel I have to give back to it," said Tyrrell, who said education is our greatest hope for the future and expressed his concern about eroding state support for higher education. "I hope that by doing so I can set an example for others to hopefully follow."

UGA's King ('87) Lauds Laboratory Animal Medicine



Dr. Chris King ('87) is the assistant vice president for research and university director of animal care and use at the University of Georgia.

When Dr. Chris King ('87) completed a NIH Post-Doctoral Fellowship in lab animal medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine in 1992, he thought he was headed for a job in industry.

On the verge of a promising position with a major pharmaceutical firm in New Jersey, King accepted an invitation to interview with the University of Georgia in Athens.

"It was like driving into Oz," recalled King of his introduction to the verdant, colorful spring-time campus of Georgia's flagship land-grant university. "I fell in love with the place."

Since then his career has blossomed. King accepted the position he was offered as director of animal resources of Georgia's Franklin College of Arts and Sciences.

Today, as the university's assistant vice president for research and university director of animal care and use, King is responsible for the welfare of all animals used in UGA's teaching and research programs – an enterprise that includes 13 major biomedical research facilities and 30 extension sites located around the state.

Today, as the university's assistant vice president for research and university director of animal care and use, King is responsible for the welfare of all animals used in UGA's teaching and research programs – an enterprise that includes 13 major biomedical research facilities and 30 extension sites located around the state.

"It's a serious responsibility," said King, who earned board certification from the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine in 1993. "We protect the institution, we protect the animals, and we do high quality research."

King has also been deeply involved with millions of dollars in upgrades to the infrastructure of the University of Georgia's animal care facilities, including the multi-million dollar state-of-the-art Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences.

Twenty years ago, King was tracking toward a career in zoo medicine. He credits Dr. Stuart Porter, who leads the veterinary technician training program at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyer's Cave, Va., with piquing his interest in lab animal medicine.

Porter advised King that lab animal medicine would provide him with the opportunity to practice high quality veterinary medicine with a broad variety of species, he could work in an intellectually stimulating university or biomedical research community, there would be many opportunities for continuing education and professional enrichment, and many other benefits to the career track.

All have proved true, King said, who has become extremely active in his profession and recognizes his responsibility to mentor the rising generation of DVM students about the important responsibilities and abounding opportunities that have arisen since the major revisions of the federal Animal Welfare Act in the 1980's.

"As I tell our veterinary students, if you want to really enhance animal welfare, if you want to be an animal welfare advocate, there is no better veterinary specialty," said King, who notes that the very language of the "Veterinarian's Oath" is an eloquent endorsement of the specialty. King estimates that about 20 percent of the positions in laboratory animal medicine are open right now and says there is enormous demand for qualified candidates. The salaries and opportunities are excellent.

He acknowledges that government regulations and reporting protocols designed to ensure the responsible use of laboratory animals in teaching and research have burgeoned over the past 20 years. "We have legal obligations," said King, adding that there is also increased activism on the part of the animal rights community. "But I think our ethical obligations to do the right thing are much more compelling."

King is extremely active in the laboratory animal medicine professional community and frequently works with the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AALACS) as an examiner and site reviewer.

In fact, he met his wife, Dr. Susan Sanchez, who works with the University of Georgia's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, at a meeting of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Sciences in Buffalo, New York.

King remembers his time at the VMRCVM as a lot of fun and a lot of work. "I have a lot of fond memories of Blacksburg, the college and my classmates. It played a huge part of shaping my life."



VMRCVM Hosts 2008 “Homecoming”

Dr. Steve Karras, president of the VMMA, along with his wife, Val, and his daughters, Stephanie and Venice, pose with the HokieBird.

Alumni, faculty, staff, students, and guests enjoy a tailgate dinner before the Virginia Tech vs. University of Maryland game.



Food, fun, and fellowship abounded during the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's recent "Homecoming" weekend. The festivities kicked off on Thursday evening with over 220 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and guests attending a tailgate barbeque, sponsored by Merial, before watching Virginia Tech take on the University of Maryland.

Noted attendees included Dr. Steve Karras, president of the VMMA; Dr. John Brooks, District II representative to the AVMA and deputy secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture; Robert Vaughn, director of the Virginia General Assembly House Appropriations Committee staff; and Tony Maggio, House Appropriations Committee legislative fiscal analyst for higher education.

Friday morning, following a welcome from VMRCVM Dean Gerhardt Schurig, alumni engaged in discussions with representatives from the college on the future of the VMRCVM. Those participating from the college included Dr. Jennie Hodgson, associate dean for professional programs; Dr. David Hodgson, head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences; Dr. Greg Daniel, head of the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences; Dr. Lud Eng, assistant dean for strategic innovations; and Dr. Frank Pearsall, director of development for the college.

Alumni then joined students in the Grove for a lunch sponsored by Fort Dodge.

The afternoon began with presentations from alumni in various areas of the veterinary profession.

Dr. Ray Kaplan ('88), an associate professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia, presented "It Ain't the 80's anymore: Toward an Evidence-Based Medical Approach to Parasite Control." He suggested that veterinarians and farm owners need to adopt a more individualized approach for parasite treatment because many parasites are becoming drug-resistant as a result of over-exposure to treatments.

Dr. Nancy Figler ('98), the director of veterinary science and technology for Pfizer Global Research and Development, followed with a presentation on the many opportunities available in the field of laboratory animal medicine and the rewards and challenges the career brings.

Dr. Lisa Done ('88), from the Baltimore Zoo, concluded with "Big Cat, Big Diseases" in which she explained the changing health care needs of felids in captivity and the various illnesses that can affect them.

The group was then led on a tour of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital by Amanda Dymacek, assistant director of development, and Christy Jackson, public relations coordinator, to view the additions and changes that had taken place since their time as students.

The classes of 1988 and 1998 then met at Bogen's Steakhouse in Blacksburg to mark their special reunion milestones. The weekend concluded with a gathering at Continental Divide at the Inn at Virginia Tech.

An audio slideshow of this year's event can be found by visiting www.vetmed.vt.edu

For more information on future alumni events, please visit <http://www.vetmed.vt.edu/engagement/alumni/index.asp>



**Development Report from
the Blacksburg Campus –
Frank Pearsall ('84)**

Dr. Frank Pearsall

**Virginia-Maryland Regional College
of Veterinary Medicine Campaign**

	Goals	Progress (Aug 31, 2008)	
Faculty Support	\$2.7M	\$1,877,183	70%
Student Support	\$1.5M	\$6,148,571	410%
Library Support	\$0.5M	\$1,400,000	280%
Dean's Fund	\$0.7M	\$4,318,924	662%
Program Support		\$6,183,114	
Trans Med Complex	\$25.828M	\$ 798,851	3%
Total	\$31.200M	\$21,041,073	67%

Campaign Overview

As you can see, we are well on our way to our dollar goal. The generosity of so many has once again provided overwhelming support for our students and faculty. Thank you. We also are seeing very strong support for our programs, evidence that you believe that we are making a difference. Thank you again. Now we need to focus on our Translational Medicine Complex, i.e., buildings, for which we still have a ways to go.

Why are buildings so important as to occupy almost 83 percent of our desired goal?

The college is essentially built out to the original design set forth in the late '70's. Now, three decades later, we are road-blocked by space in every direction, whether for teaching, service, or research. We desperately need to build to accommodate existing needs and the urgent need for more veterinarians.

Very few realize that there is a looming significant shortage of veterinarians which will impact every aspect of the profession and the many we serve. Every major study indicates that this country will be 15,000 vets short in the next two decades. Given that we only graduate 2600 new vets a year nationally, this is a major cause for not only concern, but also urgent action. It takes a minimum of two to three years to design and build a building, and we need three, to be built sequentially. Also it takes four years to graduate a new veterinarian after a one-year admission process. So we need to start NOW to avoid a crisis. It would be a tragedy to have developed the expertise to help animals, but suddenly not have the manpower to deliver that service.

All of the colleges of veterinary medicine must act now to address this situation. Our college is not unique, but you can be proud and assured that it is in the group at the front of the pack tackling these issues so our pets do not suffer.

Campaign Naming Opportunities



One goal of the campaign is not only to transform the college campus and prepare for the future by increasing capacity for teaching, service, and research, but also to set an example for the future. More mature colleges have reminders throughout their buildings of alumni and friends who have given back to make a difference for those that follow. This campaign provides an opportunity for that to be true here too. The good news is that both in our existing buildings and in the ones about to be built, there are many opportunities for individuals and groups of individuals to make gifts to name spaces. In order to reach naming levels, we encourage donors to consider five-year pledges and to consider making those pledges in groups. Following are some naming opportunities for consideration.

Private Component Naming Opportunity

	Buildings
\$50,000,000	College
\$30,000,000	Translational Medicine Complex 3 new buildings)
\$20,000,000	Translational Medicine Building (TMB)
\$14,000,000	Small Animal Teaching Hospital (\$10M bldg + \$4M Equip Excellence Endowment)
\$13,000,000	Translational Medicine Vet. Research Center (2nd floor of TMB)
\$10,000,000	Administration Building
\$ 7,000,000	Translational Medicine Clinic (1st floor of TMB)
\$ 6,000,000	Instructional Building
\$ 4,000,000	Infectious Disease Research Building
	Units, Rooms, Labs
\$ 2,500,000	Infectious Disease Unit, College Library
\$ 2,000,000	College Commons, BioMedical Sciences & Pathobiology Suite
\$ 1,500,000	Surgery Teaching Lab
\$ 1,250,000	Dept of Large Animal or Small Animal Clinical Sciences Suite
\$ 1,000,000	Hospital Directors Suite, Classrooms 100, 102, 125, Library Stacks, Computer Lab, Multi-Discipline Labs 1, 2, or 4
\$ 550,000	Hospital Pharmacy
\$ 500,000	College Administration Lobby, Waiting Room, Aquatic Medicine Unit, Research & Graduate Studies or Academic Affairs suite, Graduate Student Conference Room
\$ 400,000	Force Plate Lab or Toxicology Lab
\$ 350,000	Student Locker Room (2) or Student Lounge (1) Bench Lab (1), Infectious Disease Research Lab (2)
\$ 325,000	CT Room
\$ 300,000	Cafeteria, Equine Standing Surgery
\$ 250,000	Large Animal Isolation Building, Hospital Vestibule, Library Study Area, Small Animal Anesthesia & Surgical Prep room.

DEVELOPMENT

Private Component Naming Opportunity

Buildings	
\$50,000,000	College
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\$ 325,000	CT Room
\$ 300,000	Cafeteria, Equine Standing Surgery
\$ 250,000	Large Animal Isolation Building, Hospital Vestibule, Library Study Area, Small Animal Anesthesia & Surgical Prep room.
\$ 200,000	Small Animal Wards (3), Small Animal Operating Theaters (4), Large Equine Surgery, Parasitology Lab, Nuclear Scintigraphy, Large Animal Radiology, Bench Labs (2), Infectious Disease Research Lab (3)
\$ 175,000	Small Animal Ophthalmology Exam Rooms (2)
\$ 160,000	Bench Labs (4)
\$ 150,000	Small Animal Exam Rooms (8), Small Animal Treatment Rooms (4), Small Animal Surgical Recovery Room, Library Video Conference

Special thanks for gifts of \$10,000 or more this past year (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

Estates of Francis Farr Young and Dr. Tyler J. Young of Alabama (\$3,751,183) in support of the Young Scholars Program and the Young Chair in Microbiology.

Mary Jane Talbot of Blacksburg (\$121,403) for the completion of funding of the 25th Anniversary Sculpture “Running Together” in memory of founding Dean Richard B. Talbot and in support of the Friends of the Veterinary College Fund.

W. Stuart Johnson and Freda Bullington Johnson of Keswick (\$105,000) for the VM Translational Medicine Complex Fund plus \$5000 for their Animal Compassion Fund. This brings their giving for the Translational Medicine Complex to \$310,810 with a naming opportunity yet to be chosen. It is noteworthy that they were the first donors to the fund.

Dr. James Bostic and Lois Bostic of Virginia Beach \$101,750 for the VM Translational Medicine Complex Fund. This brings their giving to \$151,750 to the fund with a naming opportunity yet to be chosen.

Dr. William D. Tyrrell, Jr. ('92) and Jennifer Tyrrell of Leesburg (\$25,000), **Dr. Bonnie K. Lefbom ('91)** of Springfield (\$25,000), with colleagues **Dr. Steven Rosenthal** and **Dr. McGregor Ferguson ('99)** at **Chesapeake Veterinary Cardiology Associates** (corporate gift of \$50,000) for \$100,000 total five year pledges toward naming the Electro Diagnostics Room in the Teaching Hospital.

Dr. Elizabeth N. Kirby ('84) and Thomas Pridgen of Blacksburg (\$50,000) as a five-year pledge to the Translational Medicine Complex in honor of her parents, James T. and Pearl R. Kirby of Easton, MD, for teaching her the importance of business skills, a good work ethic, and a generous nature. The specific naming opportunity to accomplish this is being determined.

The Dorothy A. Metcalf Charitable Trust of Easton, Md. (\$50,000) in continued support of the Metcalf Chair of Informatics and the Metcalf Human-Animal Interaction funds.

Karl R. Verell of Alexandria, Va. (\$50,000 in gifts and pledges) for the Amy L. McDermott Memorial Scholarship.

Anonymous (\$40,000) for the VA Police K-9 Memorial Fund to erect a statue in honor of the Virginia dogs lost in the line of duty.

W. R. Winslow Residuary Trust of (\$31,522) in continued support of the so named scholarship benefitting students from Maryland, D.C., or North Carolina.

Dr. Rob J. Johnson ('00) of Baltimore (\$25,000) as a five-year pledge to the Translational Medicine Complex with naming opportunity to be decided.

Marion Bradley Via Memorial Foundation of Roanoke (\$24,000) for the Peter L. Via Scholarships.

Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc. (\$20,000) for capital support to improve facilities benefitting DVM students .

Evelyn E. and Richard J. Gunst Charitable Lead Trust of Richmond, Va. (\$19,455) in continued support of the Gunst Research Fund to benefit dogs and cats.

Clara Chrisman Langhorne Estate gift partial disbursement (\$15,821) to establish an endowed scholarship in memory of her father Dr. William George Chrisman.

James M. Stevens and Eleonore E. Stevens of Gainesville (\$15,000) in continued support of the Stevens Family Animal Assistance Fund.

Stanley Fried Private Foundation of Florida (\$10,000) to continue to fund a furnished apartment available to the college for visiting scholars short-term housing needs.

Dr. Kris Hitt ('06) and Brett Hitt of Arlington (\$10,000) for the Dr. Bob Duncan Memorial Veterinary Pathology Scholarship.

Also sincere thanks for new or updated bequest provisions made by the following:

Kathleen D. and Robert P. Edwards of Mount Airy, N.C. for Equine Residency support.

Rita and Joseph T. Hughes of Cibolo, Texas in unrestricted support of the college in honor of Dr. Steven Escobar ('90).

Susan S. and Leslie P. Randy of Blacksburg, Va. for student support.

Nancy E. Meck and Michael David McCarthy of Richmond, Va. in unrestricted college support.

Irene Stephens of Bluefield, Va. for post-DVM students interested in research.

Robert Lloyd Wallace and Montese B. Wallace of Charlotte, N.C. in appreciation of services in the Teaching Hospital and in honor of his veterinarian, Dr. John Schaaf ('84).

Charitable IRA Rollovers Are Back

Congress recently extended the Charitable IRA Rollover Provision to apply to gifts made during the 2008 and 2009 tax years. The provision allows certain older donors to transfer qualifying gifts from their IRAs directly to organizations such as the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., and exclude those distributions from taxable income.

Learn how this special tax provision might apply to your support of the the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

Visit www.campaign.vt.edu/irarollover or telephone 540/231-4716.

Loss of Teen Saddens College of Veterinary Medicine Community

The college community mourns the loss of Heather N. Hendrickson, a young woman who worked part-time as a nursing assistant at the EMC. Heather recently lost her life in a traffic accident; she had been on her way to work at the EMC early one Sunday morning when the accident occurred.

Heather, a 17-year old high school senior, planned to enroll at Virginia Tech and the VMRCVM and eventually become an equine veterinarian. Friends and family describe Heather as resilient, determined, energetic, and persistent. Her colleagues enjoyed working with her because she was so enthusiastic and dedicated.

"We are profoundly saddened by Heather's passing," said Nat White, DVM, M.S., Jean Ellen Shehan Professor, and director of the EMC. "She was a delightful young person, a hard worker, and a valuable employee. She will be greatly missed by all of us," he added.

To honor Heather, the Equine Medical Center has established a scholarship fund in her memory; awards will be made to veterinary students who are interested in a career in equine medicine.

Those interested in contributing to the fund should forward a check, payable to Virginia Tech Foundation, to the Development Office at the Equine Medical Center, P.O. Box 1938, Leesburg, VA 20177.

More information is available at www.equinemedicalcenter.net. Click on "Giving to the Center," and then follow the link to "How to Make a Gift." Locate "Memorial Gifts" within that page and complete the gift form.

Second Annual Lisa Marie Tedora Lecture Held

The second annual "Lisa Marie Tedora Lecture" was recently held on the VMRCVM's Blacksburg campus. Dr. Susan Barnes of the Animal Emergency Hospital and Referral Center in Leesburg, Va. presented "Trauma and Life Threatening Emergencies."

The Lisa Marie Tedora Lecture Series in Critical Care/Emergency Medicine is supported by the Lisa Marie Tedora Memorial Fund. These annual lectures are held each spring and address cutting edge issues, diagnostics and treatments related to critical care/emergency veterinary medicine. All lectures are offered to VMRCVM students at no charge.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about emergency medicine and critical care," said Amanda Dymacek, assistant director of development, who helps oversee the administration of the memorial fund.

The fund was established by memorial donations made by family and friends in memory of Dr. Lisa Marie Tedora. Tedora, a member of the VMRCVM's class of 2000, passed away on April 22, 2006 in her home in Manassas, Va. after a courageous battle against melanoma.

Tedora was a graduate of Yale University where she received her B.S. in English. During her time in the VMRCVM, she focused specifically on equine and small animal medicine. After graduation, Tedora practiced veterinary medicine at Animal Emergency Hospital and Referral Center in Leesburg, Va.

If you are interested in contributing to the Lisa Marie Tedora Memorial Fund or desire more information, please call 540-231-4716 or visit www.vetmed.vt.edu/development/waystogive.asp and click the link for the online giving page.

Scientists: continued from page 11

veterinarian and researcher in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences; participated in the video-conferencing instructional programs.

When the Russian delegation traveled to Blacksburg to tour the college facilities, they had personal meetings with Zajac and Maxwell.

The Russian delegation included two veterinarians and a professor of foreign languages and cross-cultural communication.

Dr. Vasily P. Tolokonnikov is currently the head of the Parasitology Department and is the former dean of the Veterinary School at Stavropol State Agrarian University. He is a veterinarian by training and is the director of the continuing education component for practicing veterinarians in a cooperative project with the University of Maryland that is sponsored by a USAID Higher Education Grant.

Dr. Valentin S. Skripkin is the head of the Learning Department at Stavropol State Agrarian University. He is a veterinarian by training and is the director of the Regional Distance Learning Project, a cooperative project with the University of Maryland that is sponsored by a USAID Higher Education Grant.

Dr. Gennady G. Solgalov is the head of foreign languages and cross-cultural communication department at Stavropol State Agrarian University. He is a language specialist by training and is the lead translator for the cooperative project with the University of Maryland that is sponsored by a USAID Higher Education Grant.

McQuiston: continued from page 15

From 2005 to 2007, she served as zoonoses team leader in the CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, managing issues related to animal importation and the infectious disease risks they pose. She is currently the epidemiology team leader in the Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch in the National Center for Zoonotic, Vectorborne, and Enteric Diseases at the CDC. She leads a team responsible for managing outbreaks and conducting national surveillance of rickettsial diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Q fever. She is a commander in the U.S. Public Health Service, and is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and an honorary diplomate of the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society.

McQuiston has been honored numerous times for her many contributions to public health including the Public Health Service's Crisis Response Service Award for her exemplary work in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

Matriculation: continued from page 15

do so much for so many. At the same time, the world has never asked so much from veterinary medicine."

Dr. Steve Karras, president of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA), and Dr. Jack O'Mara, president of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) participated in the ceremony.

Dr. Ed Jendrek, the MVMA's Delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association, presented each of the students with a Littmann stethoscope as a gift from the MVMA, the VVMA and Professional Veterinary Products, Ltd. MVMA Executive Director Ron Sohn also attended the ceremonies.

Admission to one of the nation's 28 colleges of veterinary medicine is very competitive. Over 800 individuals applied for admission to the VMRCVM's Class of 2012.

Incoming students represented 49 different undergraduate institutions, with 33 students hailing from undergraduate programs at the

VMRCVM's parent institutions, Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland at College Park. Those students majored in 19 different academic disciplines ranging from neuroscience to civil engineering. Sixty-three studied either biology or animal science prior to admission.

The incoming class also included 22 men. There are more women in practice today than men, and almost 80 percent of the estimated 10,000 students studying veterinary medicine in America's 28 colleges of veterinary medicine are female, according to the Association of American Colleges of Veterinary Medicine (AAVMC).

Technicians: continued from page 25

"We deeply care about all of our animals," said Becky Wade, the large animal staff supervisor who has been with the college since 1981. "It doesn't matter if they are the ugliest or the smelliest; there is no limit to how far we will go to make sure they are taken care of."

An event that occurred in the earliest years of the college provides a good example of the kind of dedication veterinary technicians bring to the hospital. Wade recalls sleeping all night on a mat outside the stall of an equine patient in order to monitor his condition. A horse named "Woody Creek" had been admitted with a fracture and a custom sling was built in a matter of hours to accommodate his injury.

Wade said she wouldn't have had it any other way, adding that the sling still hangs in the large animal hospital as a reminder of the case. "Every new case is a new door opened and a new solution found," she said.

The dedication of Wade, McCrudden, and others does not go unnoticed. They were recently recognized by the hospital during National Veterinary Technician Week October 12-18.

"These individuals are just good people in every aspect," said Pierson. "By doing their jobs extraordinarily well, they enable our veterinarians to offer the highest quality of care possible."

CE: continued from page 26

He also suggests there is a special need for board-certified specialists in academia to lecture at these CE events because the business model in the private sector makes it challenging for board-certified specialists in private practice to participate.

The availability of so many opportunities to procure continuing education has led some colleges of veterinary medicine to reduce their programming in this area, but providing continuing education for practicing veterinarians has been a part of the college's public service mandate since its founding.

The VMRCVM provides CE courses throughout the course of the year in areas like internal medicine, surgery, ultrasound, and others. But it has developed a national reputation for excellence in providing focused, multi-day, laboratory programs in introductory endoscopy and orthopedic surgery.

"Our niche is in the laboratory courses," said Leib. "I think we have a very good reputation for the 'in-house' laboratory courses."

The college offers an intensive three-day CE course in surgery twice a year, once for orthopedic surgery and once for soft-tissue surgery, according to CE Coordinator Anne Cinsavich. The intensive endoscopy training program is also offered twice a year, once for residents and once for practitioners. Both are extremely popular, she said.

Say hello to the future.



Help train tomorrow's leaders and fund tomorrow's discoveries.

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Learn more.

Contact Frank Pearsall or Amanda Dymacek.
540/231-4716 or 800/533-1144
pearsall@vt.edu or halla@vt.edu

University Development (0336)
Gateway Center, Blacksburg, VA 24061
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Food, fun, and fellowship abounded during the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's recent homecoming weekend held Nov. 6 and 7. The festivities kicked off on Thursday evening with over 220 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and guests attending a tailgate barbeque, sponsored by Merial, before watching Virginia Tech defeat the University of Maryland 23-13 in an ACC football game.



Virginia Tech

Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

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