



VIRGINIA MARYLAND

Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine



Winter-Spring 2000

Biomedical Informatics Research Group Develops Major Software Technology

A multidisciplinary informatics research group working in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine has created a Java-based "Problem List Generator" learning tool that helps veterinary students improve deductive reasoning skills as they learn the art and science of diagnosing disease.

Currently being beta-tested by second-year students in the VMRCVM, the software is the "brainchild" of veterinary clinical pathologist Dr. Holly Bender and a 16-member interdisciplinary team of faculty members and graduate students from across the university collaborating as the Biomedical Informatics Research Group.

The technology appears so successful the United States Department of Agriculture has funded the group with a Higher Education Challenge Grant to develop a diagnostic training module for food animal diseases using the technology.

Bender began working on the project to improve the way veterinary students learn how to apply knowledge in a problem-solving environment. While first-year students enrolled in the DVM curriculum spend much of their time learning facts, second-year students are challenged to begin developing "higher

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VMRCVM Launches Fairfax County Wildlife Rabies Vaccination Program

Epidemiologists in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech have contracted with Fairfax County Health Department

officials on a \$75,000 project designed to help control a raccoon rabies epidemic in the area by conducting a wildlife rabies vaccination program.

The goal of the Fairfax County Oral Rabies Vaccine Program is to help protect

citizens and companion animals in the Fairfax County area from exposure to the deadly virus, according to Dr. Francois Elvinger, an associate professor in the college's Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Fairfax County accounted for almost 20% of the state's reported rabies cases during 1999.

While rabies is largely controlled in domestic animals through mandatory immunization programs, it remains difficult to control in wild animal populations such as raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats. While effective wildlife vaccines have been developed, Elvinger said, getting the vaccine into the animal remains a significant challenge

Epidemiologists have determined that delivering oral rabies vaccines through

baits is the best way to approach the task. Elvinger, who is collaborating with scientists at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta on the project, plans to deliver the vaccine in roughly one-inch square blocks made of a fish-meal polymer. As the raccoons chew the wafer, the vaccine, which is enclosed in a plastic sachet, will be released and the animal will become immunized to rabies.

In April, public health workers and volunteers will begin distributing 17,000 vaccine doses over an area which covers about one-sixth of Fairfax County in an effort to achieve a distribution density of one bait per two and a half acres. Officials plan to target an area bordered by the Potomac River

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Helicopters will be used to drop baits like these to help contain the wildlife rabies problem in the Fairfax County area.

WELCOME VET STUDENTS!



The students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine welcome you to Virginia Tech for SAVMA Symposium 2000!

March 15-18, 2000

"Uniting Tradition and Technology in Veterinary Medicine"

Virginia Maryland is published periodically by the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Visit our website at www.vetmed.vt.edu. Please address all correspondence to:

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Dean's Desk



Dean Peter Eyre

Change

Once again, we are presented with a major report on the economic future of the veterinary profession. The recent KPMG study (*JAVMA*, 215 (2) 161-183, July 15, 1999) is complimentary of veterinarians, yet several unsettling problems are described which may threaten our economic future. These include: veterinarians' low incomes; the economic impact of women in the profession; the growing global demand for veterinary services; the inefficiency of current, general practice delivery systems; the perceived over-supply of graduates; and the skills, knowledge, aptitude and attitude of veterinarians and veterinary students.

This is the fourth major study on the future of veterinary medicine since the 1970's. Most of the problems have been evident all along, yet there has been little or no response for the past two decades or more! Why is it so difficult to change, even in the face of well-documented need or threat? The big challenge is that it is always extremely difficult for all parties to agree on what to do. As we all know, unanimity of opinion seldom happens, especially in academia — a place of creative inquiry and lively discourse! Yet, differing points of view must not be allowed to stand in the way of needed progress. Leading change means detaching ourselves from the prevailing majority viewpoint and taking bold new actions. This is frequently unpopular and even hazardous to one's job. Thus, college administrators, by and large, do not emerge as the champions of change. But, change is constant and the conditions which shape it are not determined by the profession itself, but by evolutions in society that are outside our control. When external forces are advancing more rapidly than the profession's internal ability (or desire) to change, we have a problem. This is where we are today and we must adapt or fail to meet society's expectations and, therefore, fall short of realizing the profession's economic potential.

Modern veterinary medical education is truly excellent in every technical sense. So what is missing? The question is whether we are educating our graduates to be sufficiently critical, flexible and versatile for the rapidly changing environment of the new century. If we could agree that every veterinary graduate has the necessary brains and medical education to succeed, then the factors which determine relative success or failure in a career must have a lot to do with non-technical life skills and behaviors. If we are to improve those attitudes and aptitudes of veterinarians which mediate economic success, then the process has to start in the colleges. This is where the professional journey begins. The leaders of tomorrow are enrolled in our classrooms today. So, how can the profession effectively change if academia does not respond to this latest wake-up call? The message is clear and the solution is not inherently difficult to conceive or implement. We have an obligation to lead the way. Will we?

Peter Eyre, Dean

VIRGINIA MARYLAND NEWS BRIEFS



"Bridge Between Veterinary Medicine and Human Health" symposium speakers included, from left, Michael Blackwell, DVM, Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service, Chief of Staff and Assistant Surgeon General; Dr. Maureen Fredrickson, Delta Society; Dr. Earl Strimple, MacArthur Animal Hospital, Washington, D.C.; Aaron Katcher, M.D.; Dr. Sandra Barker, associate professor, Department of Psychiatry, MCV-VCU; and Dr. Marie Suthers-McCabe, extension companion animal interaction specialist, VMRCVM.

College, Medical College of Virginia, State Associations Sponsor Human/Animal Bond Symposium

The Assistant Surgeon General of the United States told several hundred people gathered at the college for a major symposium on the human/animal bond that veterinarians should become more fully integrated members of the modern family healthcare team.

"Many family units today cannot be defined without talking about the pet," said Michael Blackwell, DVM, Rear Admiral,

U.S. Public Health Service, Chief of Staff and Assistant Surgeon General. "That pet does not exist in a vacuum. That pet exists in a family unit."

Blackwell said he could foresee a time when veterinarians will become more "fully engaged" with human health and well-being since pets are such a pivotal part of family health.

His remarks were delivered in a

symposium entitled "The Bridge Between Veterinary Medicine and Human Health." It was the first of three annual seminars designed to explore linkages between human and veterinary medicine over the next three years.

The symposia series is sponsored by the VMRCVM, the Virginia & Maryland VMA's and the Medical College of Virginia. It seeks to generate increased professional and public awareness of the therapeutic aspects of human/animal interaction, health threats posed by human/animal interaction, and public health and food safety issues related to human/animal interaction.

Other speakers included Dr. Earl Strimple, a noted expert on the human/animal bond and pet-assisted therapy who operates Washington D.C. based MacArthur Animal Hospital; Aaron Katcher, MD, Dr. Sandra Barker, associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry at MCV-VCU, and Dr. Marie Suthers-McCabe, extension companion animal interaction specialist.

The September 2000 symposium is entitled "Educating Physicians and Veterinarians on the Risks of Animal Interactions to Human Health and Well-being." The three year series concludes in September 2001 with a seminar entitled "Educating Physicians about their Joint Responsibilities in Public Health and Food Safety."



Drs. David Moll and Rick Howard, board certified surgeons in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences and members of Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine's Class of '89, were each honored as "Young Achievers." Moll earned a M.S. in veterinary science at Auburn that year and Howard earned his DVM.

Two VMRCVM Professors Honored by Auburn University

Guess it's a small world after all; especially in academe.

Two former classmates who ended up working side-by-side as veterinary surgeons in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences recently received "Young Achievers" awards from Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Rick Howard, assistant professor, and Dr. David Moll, associate professor, received two of the three awards that were presented to selected members of the graduating class of 1989. The award recognizes both professional achievement and contributions to society.

Dr. Howard received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky and his DVM from Auburn University. He received his Master's degree and Ph.D. from Colorado State University and had an internship with the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Dr. Howard has almost 50 journal articles, book chapters and abstracts, and has attracted more than \$250,000 in sponsored research funding. He is currently on the

editorial review boards for "Veterinary Surgery" and for the "American Journal of Veterinary Research." He also served as an ad hoc reviewer for "Equine Veterinary Science."

Dr. Moll received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas and his DVM from Kansas State University. He earned his Master's degree from Auburn University, where he also worked as a clinical instructor and research associate in large animal clinical surgery and medicine.

Dr. Moll is the co-author of 50 refereed journal articles, author or co-author of seven book chapters, and is the co-editor of a textbook. Dr. Moll is on the faculty senate at Virginia Tech and participates in the faculty mentoring program. He is also the faculty advisor to the student chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. His research interests include urogenital surgery, gastrointestinal surgery, lameness, and telemetry implants in black bears.



A group of Maryland higher education officials recently visited the Blacksburg campus of the VMRCVM. From left, Maryland Higher Education Commission member Dr. Dick Streett, Maryland Secretary of Higher Education Dr. Patricia Florestano, VMRCVM Dean Dr. Peter Eyre, Assistant Secretary-Finance Policy/MHEC Tina Bjarekull, VMRCVM Associate Dean – Maryland Campus Dr. William Hueston, and University of Maryland College Park College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Dean Dr. Tom Fretz.



Officials from the AVMA, the AAVMC, the AAHA and VMRCVM officials gathered at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg to discuss strategies for dealing with the challenges outlined in the KPMG "MegaStudy" report. It was the first university-based session organized to mount a response to the report.

VMRCVM Hosts Thinktank, Mounts KPMG Study Response

In the first university-based think-tank convened since the release of the KPMG "MegaStudy" in July, officials from the AVMA, the American Animal Hospital Association, and the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges joined several dozen educators and private practitioners gathered at Virginia Tech in November to begin discussing strategies for change.

The day-long meeting featured remarks that addressed the economic threats facing the veterinary profession from a variety of perspectives. Many focussed on how communication and business training can be inserted into veterinary college curriculums already overwhelmed by an ever-expanding body of knowledge.

VMRCVM Dean Peter Eyre outlined the need for the various sectors of the profession to develop a unified approach to problems such as skyrocketing student debt, low practitioner salaries, lack of

market development and other challenges that were identified in the KPMG study.

Suggesting that the "product" of a university is a changed human being, Eyre profiled the successful veterinary college graduate of the future as a person who is proficient in the science and technology of the profession, with strong business management and communications skills.

He articulated five specific ways that veterinary colleges can create graduates with those qualities. Admissions and selection processes could recognize students with aptitude and training in communication and business, an orientation process could provide professional communication and business training, extra-curricular programs could provide training for students outside of the formal veterinary professional curriculum, mentoring programs could be developed with professionals inside and outside of the college, and curriculums could be restructured to include formal training in business and communication.

VMRCVM Building Academic Exchange Programs With South American Colleges

The VMRCVM continues to build relationships with veterinary colleges throughout the Americas through several academic agreements and its World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Veterinary Education in Management and Public Health.

Academic exchange agreements with the University of Austral in Valdivia are also gaining momentum, according to Dr. Gerhardt Schurig, professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology.

Five South American veterinary students have studied in Blacksburg as part of the program, Schurig said, and recently, the first VMRCVM fourth-year student spent six weeks studying at the University of Austral.

"Our goal is to exchange six students each year," said Schurig, adding that financial aid is available to assist students who wish to participate.

A South American veterinarian is now conducting a residency program in equine medicine on the Blacksburg campus, he said, and several faculty members have been involved in academic exchange programs.

Blacksburg and Leesburg based faculty and staff members who have collaborated with the University of Austral College of Veterinary Medicine include Drs. Larry Freeman, Marty Moon, Nat White, Scott Pleasant, and Mr. Chris Wakely.

The college's World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Veterinary Management and Public Health seeks to improve animal and human health throughout the Americas by promoting public health and veterinary education throughout the Americas and Caribbean Basin, according to Schurig.

Former PPL Researcher Joins College

Dr. Willard H. Eyestone has joined the college as a research associate professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

Eyestone was most recently Senior Research Scientist for Blacksburg, Virginia based PPL Therapeutics, where he managed a large animal transgenic technology project and bovine nuclear transfer program.

Eyestone earned Ph.D. and M.S. degrees from the University of Wisconsin and an undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri.

In his new assignment, Eyestone will develop, implement and support research programs in reproductive biology and biotechnology, according to DLACS Head Dr. Craig Thatcher.

Eyestone will work closely with the College's Center for Reproductive Excellence Using Advanced Technology and Endocrinology (CREATE) lab.

Thatcher Edits Book on Small Animal Clinical Nutrition

Dr. Craig Thatcher, Head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech, has recently edited the fourth edition of a textbook entitled *Small Animal Clinical Nutrition*.

The textbook is intended to provide information about small animal clinical nutrition to veterinary students and practicing veterinarians worldwide, according to Thatcher.

Featuring the latest and most comprehensive nutrition information available today, the 1200-page text includes over 3700 references and has contributions from over 70 authors. The editors also incorporated 23 appendices, which are filled with practical, otherwise hard-to-find information.

Each chapter is organized as a mini-lesson in small animal clinical nutrition, providing both technical information and applications in a clinical setting. The text is a critical teaching tool because it is the only current, up-to-date textbook on small animal clinical nutrition since the late 1980's, according to Dr. Thatcher.

The publisher, The Mark Morris Institute, is a nonprofit educational foundation that strives to improve companion animal health by enhancing the practice of veterinarian nutrition.

Food Safety Meeting Held at VMRCVM

Food safety experts from the campus and the Food & Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Nutrition recently gathered at the VMRCVM for a symposium on "Food Safety Research: Needs and Priorities."

Unknown agents may account for more than 80% of illnesses and 60% of the food safety related deaths, according to federal officials. Most foodborne illnesses are not reported because victims don't seek treatment, specimens are not collected, and inappropriate lab assays are performed.

Responding to food safety problems growing because of novel pathogens and increased imports, the federal government has budgeted almost \$1 billion for research.

Control efforts focus on prevention, regulatory activity, voluntary recalls, containment of outbreaks and consumer education.

VMRCVM members making presentations included Dr. David Lindsay, *Toxoplasmosis gondii*; student Shawnee Spencer, Detecting *Campylobacter* in turkey flocks; Sean Altekruze, Antimicrobial resistance in *E. coli* in turkey flocks; Jennifer Sharpe, Developing ELISA and PCR diagnostics for *Salmonella* in broiler carcass rinse water; and Jean Whichard, Bacteriophage Felix 01: Application of recombinants for bioremediation of *Salmonella* in poultry.

Wilcke Develops SNOMED Browser

Dr. Jeff Wilcke, director of information resources, has developed an internet-based browser system for searching the SNOMED International database of medical concepts and terminology. Wilcke is also the AVMA's liaison to SNOMED editorial board.

Wilcke, who has been working in the veterinary informatics area for about ten years, participated in the beta test of SNOMED's new product SNOMED-RT. He designed the browser to assist veterinarians who might wish to examine SNOMED for their own medical records systems and for medical records professionals using SNOMED in the nation's colleges of veterinary medicine. The browser relies heavily on the file structure developed specifically for distribution of the new product.

Wilcke was invited to join informaticists from the Mayo Clinic, Duke Medical School and Medical Logic as one of four sites to present results to a recent meeting of the SNOMED User's Group. Since that time, he has been approached by several medical schools and a pharmaceutical corporation for access to his browser.

SNOMED International, a division of the College of American Pathologists (CAP),

oversees the strategic direction and scientific maintenance of the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine. Over the last 35 years, SNOMED works have become recognized globally as a comprehensive, multiaxial, controlled terminology created for the indexing of the entire medical record.

Used in over 40 countries, SNOMED allows for consistent gathering of detailed clinical information, enabling providers of various specialties, researchers and patients to share common understanding of health across sites of care and computer systems.



Participants in the 1999 VMRCVM Summer Fellowship Program included, from left, Kimberley Bohne, Kathleen Colegrove, Rachel Corrocher, Colleen McCloskey, and Mary Angela Murphy.

1999 Summer Fellows Program Held; Program Building Momentum

Five VMRCVM students recently participated in the college's annual Summer Fellowship Program.

"Our Summer Fellowship Program continues to provide a valuable experience to our first and second year DVM students," said Dr. John Lee, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies. "Program refinement is an ongoing process which incorporates suggestions and constructive criticism provided by the students."

Kimberley Bohne, Kathleen Colegrove, Rachel Corrocher, Colleen McCloskey, and Mary Angela Murphy were participants in this year's VMRCVM Summer Fellowship Program.

The main program objectives include managing the process of independent research, leadership development, and exposure to public policy and legislative processes. This twelve-week summer program assists students in achieving a competitive edge in today's professional environment through the development of valuable tools combined with research and leadership experience.

External sponsorship of the VMRCVM Summer Fellowship Program is expanding. New funds have been pledged from the Animal Health Group of Pfizer, Inc. and Bernice Barbour Foundation for summer 2000. Each of these sponsors supports the stipend of one fellow, with the college providing additional support for travel, research, mentors, and administration of the program.

New Surgeon in Large Animal Clinical Sciences

Dr. Norris Adams has joined the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine as a large animal surgeon in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Dr. Adams earned his DVM from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University. Dr. Adams conducted a residency in large animal surgery at the University of Minnesota- College of Veterinary Medicine.

Before joining the VMRCVM, Dr. Adams was an associate veterinarian/surgeon at Fairfield Equine Associates, P.C. in Monroe, CT. Dr. Adams is a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Open House Scheduled April 1

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine presents its annual "Open House" on Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg.

The VMRCVM's annual celebration of veterinary medicine will showcase the profession and the college through dozens of entertaining and informative presentations.



Jane Goodall, one of the world's foremost primatologists and humanitarians, was presented with the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation's "Lifetime Achievement Award" during ceremonies held at Virginia Tech as part of the foundation's "Frontiers for Veterinary Medicine" program, which was hosted by the VMRCVM. During the meeting, over 40 veterinary student fellows from around the nation, Canada and Mexico presented the results of summer research projects conducted on topics including research on companion animals, veterinary ethics, livestock and agriculture, wildlife, ecology, laboratory-welfare and human-wildlife interactions. VMRCVM students funded through the program include Michelle Weisbarth, 1997; Virginia Clarke, 1998; and Leela Noronha and Rachel Weiss, 1999.



Guided tours of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and other college facilities will be provided. Tours last approximately 60 minutes and will depart at thirty-minute intervals throughout the day. New children's activities are being planned for Open House 2000.

A variety of presentations concerning the academic program, contemporary clinical

approaches in veterinary medicine, and related clubs and organizations will be featured.

The open house will feature information on alternative careers in the veterinary profession and include presentations on preparing a competitive application for veterinary school. A video profile of the college will be presented throughout the day.

In memorium

Dr. Herbert W. Kelly



Dr. Herb Kelly, 69, passed away on February 12, 2000. A past president of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association and former Virginia Veterinarian of the Year, Kelly served three terms on the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine.

He was also a major force behind the creation of the VMRCVM and Co-Chair of its recent \$18 million fund-raising campaign. While president of the VVMA, he was a founding member and appointed the committee which created the legislative and financial support required to build the college.

Kelly was inducted into the college's John N. Dalton Society of Friends of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of

Veterinary Medicine in 1998.

He held a variety of leadership positions in organized veterinary medicine, and he served as executive officer of the Virginia Commission of Health Regulatory Boards.

Kelly earned an undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech and a DVM degree from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Roy Smith

Dr. Roy Smith, 77, of Lebanon, passed away January 21, 2000. Dr. Smith earned an undergraduate degree in animal husbandry from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a DVM from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

An early supporter of the movement to build a college of veterinary medicine in Virginia, Dr. Smith was a past-president of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association.

He also served on the Board of Visitors of Virginia Tech, was a member of Virginia Tech's Athletic Alumni Association, served on the Russell County Board of Supervisors and in many other civic and professional capacities.

Dr. Clarence Roberts



Dr. Clarence "Keeze" Roberts, 99, of Salem, passed away December 1, 1999. Dr. Roberts was a 1922 graduate of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

After practicing in upstate New York, he joined Sheffield Farms Company, becoming president in 1950. He was appointed president of Sealtest Foods in 1960.

Considered one of the earliest "corporate" veterinarians, Roberts was father of Dr. Kent Roberts, one of the VMRCVM's founding faculty members.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Dr. Peter Eyre, Dean of the VMRCVM, has been appointed a member of the Advisory Board for the VT-UVA Carilion Biomedical Institute. He has also been appointed the Chair of the Advisory/Management Committee of the Pharmaceutical Engineering Institute and the Chair of a committee to implement the report of the Provost's Task Force on Graduate Education. He has also been appointed as a member of the Search Committee for Vice President of Development and University Relations.

Dr. Donald A. Prater, resident, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, recently received the Charles Louis Davis Foundation 1999 Student Scholarship Award in Veterinary Pathology at the 50th annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in Chicago. The award is presented to the top resident from each veterinary school that has programs in veterinary pathology. Dr. Prater has recently completed the residency portion of the combined residency/Ph.D. program at the VMRCVM. He is currently working on his doctoral dissertation in the area of population pharmacokinetics.

Dr. David S. Lindsay, associate professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, was guest editor of a special issue of the International Journal for Parasitology, Volume 29, Number 10, 1999. The issue was devoted to the parasite *Neospora*.

Dr. Lindsay has also written several publications. "A structural study of the *Neospora caninum* oocyst" was published in the International Journal of Parasitology.

"Descriptions of two new species of coccidia (Protozoa: Eimeriidae) and redescription of *Eimeria ivense* and *Eimeria odocoilei* from captive white-tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*" was published in the Journal of Parasitology. "*Cryptosporidium andersoni* n. sp. (Apicomplexa: Cryptosporidiidae) from Cattle, *Bos taurus*" was published in the Journal of Euk. Microbiology.

Dr. Bernard F. Feldman, professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, recently spoke to the Lexington, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association on Small Animal Transfusion Medicine. Dr. Feldman also recently spoke at the Southwest International Veterinary Symposium in Dallas/Fort Worth on Clinical Hematology.

Dr. Xiang-Jin Meng, assistant professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, has recently authored and co-authored several articles in peer-reviewed journals. "Prevalence of antibodies to the hepatitis E virus in pigs from countries where hepatitis E is common or rare in the human population" was published in the Journal of Medical Virology. "Evidence that the genomic RNA of hepatitis E virus is capped" was published in the Journal of Virology. "Identity of a novel swine hepatitis E virus in Taiwan forming a monophyletic group with the Taiwan isolates of human hepatitis E virus" was published in the Journal of Clinical Microbiology. "Evidence for wide-spread infection of wild rats with hepatitis E virus in the United States" was published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. "Zoonotic and xenozoonotic risks of the hepatitis E virus" was published in the Infectious Disease Review.

Dr. Meng also presented an invited guest lecture on "risk of swine hepatitis E virus in xenotransplantation" at the Xenotransplantation Workshop in Minneapolis, Minnesota and participated in the FDA roundtable meeting on Xenotransplantation Policy. He also gave invited seminars on the pathogenesis of swine hepatitis E virus at PPL Therapeutics, Inc. and at Virginia Tech's Fralin Biotechnology Center. Dr. Meng also gave a presentation on swine hepatitis E virus pathogenesis at the Conference of Research Workers in Animal

Diseases in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Meng recently received several research grants including two NIH grants (one R01 and one K22) to study the pathogenesis, zoonotic and xenozoonotic risks of hepatitis E virus by using swine hepatitis E virus and pigs as a model system. He also received one grant from Fort Dodge Animal Health, Inc. to develop a vaccine against porcine circovirus-associated disease. He recently chaired the review panel on "Hepatitis Virus Vaccines" for the U.S. Army's Intramural Military Infectious Diseases Research Program (MIDRP).

Dr. Meng has also recently been appointed to the Editorial Board of the Infectious Disease Review and the Journal of Clinical Microbiology.

Dr. Thomas Inzana, professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, recently presented seven papers at the "Haemophilus, Actinobacillus, Pasteurella 99" meeting in South Africa. "Molecular cloning and mutagenesis of a DNA locus involved in lipooligosaccharide biosynthesis in *Haemophilus somnus*" was published from his lab in the journal Infection and Immunity.

Dr. Inzana also authored "Characterization of a DNA region containing 5'-(CAAT)n-3' DNA sequences involved in lipooligosaccharide biosynthesis in *Haemophilus somnus*," which was recently published in Microbial Pathogenesis.

Dr. Marie Suthers-McCabe, Extension Specialist in Human-Companion Animal Interaction, recently made a presentation on family violence and pets before a group of Japanese dignitaries gathered at a People, Animals, Nature Inc. Conference in Philadelphia. The group was comprised of members of a Companion Animal Study Group called "GO" from Kiyoseshi, Tokyo, Japan. The group included the former President of the Japan Animal Hospital Association, the founder of the Companion Animal Partnership Program in Japan, the veterinary consultant to the Japan Guide Association and Japan Service Dog Association, the curriculum coordinator for Kokusai Pet World College, public health officials, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, researchers, animal rescue volunteers, obedience instructors and others. Dr. Suthers-McCabe's presentation concerned the link between domestic violence, child abuse and animal abuse and provided information on the development of programs to provide housing and care for the pets of victims of domestic violence who have sought safe refuge.

Dr. Suthers-McCabe also recently spoke at the University of Pennsylvania College of Veterinary Medicine and at the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association's annual meeting on the topic of "The Growing Role of Pets in Human Therapy and the Safe Pets Program," and at the annual meeting of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association at the Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia.

Dr. Beverly J. Purswell, associate professor, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, recently presented "Management of Pregnancy and Whelping in the Dog and Modern Breeding Management in the Dog" at the annual meeting of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Purswell also recently gave a presentation at the Central Veterinary Conference on Canine Reproduction to veterinarians and veterinary technicians in Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. Purswell was also elected Alternate Delegate from the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Michael Leib, professor, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, recently presented "Helicobacter gastritis, acute pancreatitis, diagnostic approach to chronic diarrhea, fluid therapy for GI diseases, GI endoscopy: the technicians role" at the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association's annual meeting.

Dr. Ed Monroe, associate professor, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, recently presented

several lectures at the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando. The lectures were entitled "Diagnosis of PU/PD in dogs: Do's and Don'ts," "Insulin and insulin therapy for canine diabetics," "Managing the difficult diabetic dog," "What is the best insulin for cats?" "How valuable is the glucose curve for managing diabetic dogs," and "What should you use to treat canine Cushing's disease?"

Dr. David Kronfeld, the Paul Mellon Distinguished Professor of Agriculture and Professor of Veterinary Medicine at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, recently chaired a minisymposium on exercise at the annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. The meeting was held in Washington, D.C. and hosted ten thousand biologists.

Dr. Kronfeld also recently presented the plenary lecture on "Exercise Physiology" at the annual meeting of the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society in Raleigh, NC. He also presented a lecture on "Nutrient Supplementation of Grazing Mares and Foals" at the Sir Frederick Smith Memorial Lecture of the British Equine Veterinary Association at the Royal College of Physicians in London.

Amy Nugent, a student at the VMRCVM, was recently selected by the Morris Animal Foundation as the VMRCVM's new Ballard Student representative. There are 27 students involved in the program at veterinary institutions throughout the United States. Nugent will join 12 other students who are new to the program, and 14 students who are in their second year of volunteer service. The primary responsibility of a Ballard Student is to educate the student body and the faculty at his or her school about the Foundation's vital role in animal health.

Dr. Kimberly May was recently recognized for her outstanding achievements as a resident/graduate student in the Department of Large Animal Surgery. Dr. May received first place in the Clinical Research Presentation at the VMRCVM's 11th Annual Research Symposium for her presentation on "Arthroscopic Anatomy of the Equine Temporomandibular Joint." Dr. May was also awarded the Best Clinical Manuscript by the Veterinary Surgeon Journal in 1998-1999. The manuscript was entitled "Urinary Bladder Marsupialization for Treatment of Obstructive Urolithiasis in Male Goats."

Dr. Rebecca Rice, a member of the VMRCVM's class of '91, recently passed the American Toxicology Boards. Dr. Rice is one of 16 individuals worldwide to become double boarded in veterinary and human toxicology.

Several faculty members from the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences made presentations at a meeting of the Forum on Agricultural Communication Topics in Virginia held recently at the Equine Medical Center.

Dr. Mark Crisman, associate professor, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, presented "Alternative Therapies in Equine Medicine."

Dr. Rick Howard, assistant professor, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, presented "Equine Joint Disease."

Dr. Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, associate professor, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, presented "Center for Immunological Investigations."

Dr. Jim Bowen, Director of Continuing Education and professor, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, presented "Center for Reproductive Excellence Using Advanced Technology and Endocrinology."

Dr. Dennis Kronfeld, Paul Mellon Distinguished Professor of Agriculture, Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center, presented "Equine Nutrition Update."

Alumni Society Formed

Several steps have recently been taken to create a more formalized alumni society for graduates of the VMRCVM.

In September, Dean Peter Eyre met with about a dozen enthusiastic alumni and college administrators to begin planning ways to enhance the alumni relations sector.

Dr. Julie Holland ('89), was named "interim president" by acclamation, and Dr. D. Phillip Sponenberg was named faculty advisor.

Professional alumni staffing support has been provided from the Virginia Tech Alumni Association in the form of Lynn Young, who now maintains offices in the VMRCVM. She is responsible for managing the business affairs of the alumni societies for the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Natural Resources as well.

"This is a very important development in the life of the college," said Eyre, urging all faculty, students, staff and alumni to contact Young and others with ideas.

Holland and Young are currently in the process of drafting a set of by-laws and a constitution for the college's new alumni society.

As presently structured, all DVM graduates of the college will automatically become members and there are no immediate plans to collect "dues." Students enrolled in the DVM program will also be members, and a membership category may be considered for M.S. and Ph.D. graduates.

Plans are underway for a major kick-off event in September.

Dear College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni:

As a member of the Alumni Relations staff of the university, I have been appointed as the new Alumni Coordinator for the College of Veterinary Medicine. I will also serve the Colleges of Agriculture/Life Sciences and Natural Resources. I am delighted to have this new opportunity and look forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming alumni gatherings.

I have been fortunate to spend some time with Dean Eyre and other members of the faculty to formulate a plan for activities that will help build a strong alumni organization within the college and also acquaint current students with the benefits of maintaining connections to the college after graduating. We already have begun the process of organizing a formal Alumni Society for the college which will be led by a board of volunteers that will meet periodically. Our objective is to identify areas that can bring alumni together socially and professionally in both on- and off-campus locations. Julie Holland '89 has agreed to help us organize and lead this new Society.

A series of "firsts" planned for this year include: The first time the Alumni Association will be showcased during the College's Open House on April 1. The first College of Veterinary Medicine regional event will be held on The College Park campus in Maryland on May 20. The first board meeting of the new Alumni Society will be held during the annual college reunion next September (date to be determined). I am also hosting lunches for each of our four current classes to help acquaint them with the association they will one day be a part of.

My office is located in Phase II, 301. Please e-mail me at youngl@vt.edu or call me at 540-231-5809 if you have suggestions on creating a stronger alumni connection. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you as we strengthen the network between the College of Veterinary Medicine and our alumni!

Thank you.

Lynn Young
College Alumni Coordinator



Development Report from the Blacksburg Campus

by E. Frank Pearsall, II, DVM '84

Great news! The momentum of the campaign continues. In the next issue we will report on some of the most recent gifts and the exciting opportunities which they have opened. Since the last issue was so packed, I only had space to profile one of our campaign donors, Mrs. Mildred Corder. She has since passed away to our great regret. Her life had a very positive impact on animals and owners and her bequest provisions will continue that legacy. Also we have just lost a long-time friend and supporter, Dr. Herbert Kelly. His many accomplishments and services to the college and the profession are noted elsewhere in this issue.

So to catch up on the news, below are the most significant gifts received during the past year, July of 1998 through June of 1999. The next issue will detail those of the current year. Please note: revocable testamentary gifts are not included in this list, but are immensely appreciated.

\$10,000 from an **Anonymous** donor in Richmond "with gratitude to Drs. Wright, Leib, and others" for services rendered to her pet. The gift is to be used by the Dean to benefit the College in some meaningful way. We are appreciative of both the gift and the flexibility provided in the use of it.

\$12,000 from **Miss Mary Leach** of Arlington for the scholarships in her parents' name, Clarence and Gertrude Leach. As those of you know who are readers of these reports, Mary was the very first endowment donor to the College and has to date given \$172,722 to her endowments. They provide one four year endowed scholarship each year for students embarking on a career in agricultural practice.

\$12,000 from the **Marion Bradley Via Foundation** in Roanoke also for a four year scholarship, the Peter L. Via Scholarship, for a student with high academic achievement and leadership.

\$16,360 from **Dr. Duane R. Peterson** as a gift-in-kind of 200 wonderful life-size Comparative Gross and Developmental Anatomical Charts and Schemas with Compendium and Student Study Guide. These were given in honor of faculty member, Dr. Larry Freeman, one of Dr. Peterson's outstanding former students. The drawings are both an artistic and a teaching resource the College is honored to have.

\$20,000 from **Dr. John G. and Doris J. Salsbury** of Bozeman, Montana for the J. E. Salsbury Endowment for Veterinary Scholarships in honor of his father, a pioneer in veterinary medicine and founder of Salsbury Laboratories, now Solvay Animal Health. To date, gifts from the Dr. J. E. Salsbury Foundation and Dr. and Mrs. John G. Salsbury total \$210,000. The endowed scholarship is for senior students demonstrating superior scholarship, initiative, perseverance, potential for leadership and financial need.

\$22,966 from the estate of **William H. Trimpi** of Glasgow, VA for the William H. and Joyce T. Trimpi Fund for endowed support of the College with particular focus on Ovine Research. Distributions from the estate for this purpose now total \$309,564.

\$25,000 from the late **Dr. Paul F. Landis** for the Dr. and Mrs. Paul F. Landis Fund for unrestricted support of the College. As former President of the VVMA and important proponent of the formation of the College and

DEVELOPMENT

as President of the AVMA, Paul, and as a leader in the VVMA Auxiliary, Madge, have both made tremendous contributions to the profession. We are honored by their long-time friendship and support.

\$25,000 from **James M. Stevens** '52 of Loxahatchee, FL for the James M. Stevens Endowed Scholarship Fund supporting Virginia residents in the DVM program. Jim is a long-time Hokie and great animal lover. His gifts to this fund totaled \$125,000 at the end of the last fiscal year.

\$25,190 from **Helen and Frank Spurr** of Winchester for their named endowment to support research benefitting dogs and cats. Currently their fund is being used to support promising young researchers and their projects through the Summer Fellowship Program. Total giving to this fund by the Spurr's was \$62,690.

\$29,925 from **Carroll U. Stephens** and **John P. J. Havran** of Blacksburg to endow the Bente Flatland Resident Award Fund,

their second endowment in honor of students or residents here at the College. Besides their financial support, now totaling \$59,594, they are very active in assisting students in other ways, such as by providing opportunities for earning income via a pet sitting service which they were asked to take over by the founding student.

\$32,500 from **Richard D. Robertson** of Staunton for The Roseanne Robertson Memorial Fund supporting the Ophthalmology program within the College. Mr. Robertson is very grateful for the work done by Dr. Phil Pickett in saving the eyesight of his wife's dog, and also excited to see the strides being made in veterinary ophthalmology training. To date he has given \$46,477 to the program for equipment to enhance teaching and service.

\$35,000 from **Joy Goldschmidt** of Los Angeles, CA for The Cassidy Foundation Research Fund in support of Dr. Stephen Boyle's research in developing an immunocontraceptive vaccine for cats. Such early support has been very helpful in advancing the program so that it

can attract the larger gifts which will be necessary to make this promising vaccine a reality.

\$68,199 from the **W. R. Winslow Residuary Trust** for the William. R. Winslow Scholarships for needy veterinary students from Maryland, especially Montgomery County, D. C., North Carolina, or Virginia. The scholarships may be renewed for the entire course of study. To date this generous provision has made available \$363,010 and thereby, made a very significant, positive impact on the profession and the students of this College.

\$152,855 from the estate of **Patricia Bonsall Stuart** of Kennett Square, PA in support of the Patricia Bonsall Stuart Fund for Equine Studies in the College and perpetuation of the Herbert W. Stuart Memorial Scholarship. The total funding from the estate for the Fund endowment now totals \$1,319,622 and will enhance efforts to support and advance equine health enormously. The College is very grateful for the life and legacy of this couple and their dedication to horses.

Rabies: continued from page 1

on the east, the Occoquan River on the south, Interstate 95 to the west, and Interstate 495 to the north.

"We hope to get a large enough percentage of the raccoon population so that the epidemic will be reduced," said Elvinger, who is a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. "There will always be raccoons coming in from areas that are not vaccinated."

The four-phase distribution process is expected to include aerial drops from helicopters based at nearby Fort Belvoir, ground-based crews seeding known "raccoon activity zones," citizens who feed raccoons, and public works personnel who frequent areas considered prime raccoon habitat.

The oral rabies vaccine to be used in the program is a licensed biologic which confers immunity via a recombinant virus that cannot cause rabies in people and animals and is not hazardous to healthy people, pets and wildlife. About 20 million vaccine baits have been distributed in the wild since the early 1990's without any recorded adverse affects.

However, Elvinger said, people with weakened immune systems, such as those with HIV/AIDS or those undergoing chemotherapy, pregnant women and young children should avoid contact with the liquid vaccine inside the bait.

The bait blocks also contain a tetracycline biomarker to assist researchers in measuring the success of the program. Data regarding the incidence of rabies in the target raccoon population is being gathered on the basis of serologic testing, and post intervention evaluation will examine factors like the existence of the biomarker, serological testing, the numbers of animals submitted for evaluation, and the number of human and animal exposures. Depending upon the

results of the first vaccine distribution and continued funding by the Fairfax County board of Supervisors, the program may be expanded to other parts of the county in the future.

Similar programs recently conducted in other areas of the country have yielded excellent results, said Elvinger. Wildlife rabies vaccination programs conducted in Maryland's Anne Arundel County were responsible for a reduction in rabies positive raccoon cases from 14 per year to one per year. In Pinellas County, Florida, reported cases dropped from 30 a year to two a year following a wildlife vaccination program.

Rabies is a viral disease of mammals which attacks the central nervous system. It is almost always fatal and is transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Clinical signs include changes in behavior, general sickness, problems swallowing, increased drooling, and aggression. Affected wild animals may appear tame and pets may appear more violent.

Virginia has had a significant wildlife rabies problem for the past thirty years or so, according to Elvinger. In 1999, 529 rabies cases were reported in wildlife, 35 cases were reported in domestic animals, and 17 additional cases were reported in bats. Of those 581 reported cases, 107 were reported in Fairfax County.

In 1997, a rabid fox which wandered into a yard where a children's birthday party was being held ignited public concern, which eventually led Fairfax County public health officials to contact the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, according to Elvinger.

To minimize risks of exposure to rabies, people should avoid contact with wildlife, advise local animal control officials of animals that are acting strange, have domestic animals vaccinated, and make sure trash cans and pet food are not in position to attract wild animals. People bitten by animals should contact a physician, and pets bitten or scratched by wild animals should see a veterinarian.

Additional information on the program can

be obtained by calling the Fairfax County Oral Rabies Vaccine Information line at 703-246-5333 or by visiting a web site at www.co.fairfax.va.us/service/hd/rabies01.htm

Informatics: continued from page 1

order thinking skills" by applying their knowledge in "case-based" problems.

"This can be a very painful process," explains Bender, an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology. "This software facilitates their thinking."

One of the biggest problems she saw in her students was a tendency to jump to diagnostic conclusions on the basis of pre-conceived notions without fully considering all available evidence. To counter that, the Web-based auto-tutorial forces the students to work through a process where they "arrange data abnormalities in a causal hierarchy."

For example, clinical pathologists routinely evaluate blood and urinary chemistry assays that provide information on blood hemoglobin, white blood cells and a range of other parameters.

By systematically identifying all available data as it relates to normative values, hypothesizing about mechanisms responsible for the aberrations, and factoring those into a problem-solving hierarchy, the students build a deductive "argument for the complete pathogenesis of the disease," Bender said.

"They're thinking better," said Bender, "they're accounting for their decisions better."

A second project underway is developing a set of 16 Web-based interactive tutorials that describe the physiological processes behind disease states affecting different organ systems.

The Biomedical Informatics Research Group has been meeting once a week for two-

please see **Informatics:** page 11

NEWS FROM THE LEESBURG CAMPUS

\$250,000 Gift to Support Emergency Services

Philanthropist Irwin Uran has made a \$250,000 gift to support a new Emergency Medicine Program at the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center. Uran, a part-time resident of Leesburg, has made several significant contributions to organizations in the Loudoun County area.

The gift will be used to meet urgent needs for emergency services equipment at the Center, according to Dr. Frederick Fregin, the Jean Ellen duPont Shehan Director and Professor at the Center.

"We're extremely grateful for Mr. Uran's generous and visionary gift," said Fregin. "It not only contributes to excellence here at the center, it benefits horse-owners from throughout the region."

Emergency care is a time-sensitive, labor-demanding and critical service for both horse-owners and referring veterinarians, said Fregin. During the past four years, the emergency care caseload at the Center has grown 112%. Increased demand may be a function of growing numbers of horses in Loudoun and Fauquier Counties, where more than 32,000 horses reside.

Fregin said additional funds are still needed to support the increased staffed costs to provide around-the-clock emergency care services. For more information, contact Katherine Larmore at 540-687-3521.



Nadjar Named Assistant Director of Development

Ann Nadjar has been named assistant director of development at the Equine Medical Center.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English/Writing from George Mason University and possesses 14 years experience in a variety of administrative, editorial, marketing and public relations functions.

For the past seven years, Nadjar has worked with the National Communication Association, a 7,000 member higher education professional association. She has also held several other communications positions during her career.

A self-described "horse lover and animal lover," Nadjar rode hunters competitively as a junior and rides casually now.

New Employees at the Equine Medical Center

Dr. Deborah Grosenbaugh has joined the Center as a clinical instructor in equine anesthesia. Grosenbaugh earned her B.S. from the University of California at Irvine in 1974, and a M.S. from the University of Guam in 1980. She earned a Ph.D in veterinary physiology and from Texas A & M University in 1989, and a DVM from Texas A & M in 1993. She completed a residency in veterinary anesthesia at The Ohio State University in 1997. Prior to joining the EMC, she worked as a researcher with Abbot Laboratories Division of Animal Health and Development. She also served as a clinical instructor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at The Ohio State University.

Dr. Emma Rowe has joined the center as a resident/graduate student in equine surgery. She earned a BSc. and Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (Honors) from Murdoch University School of Veterinary Studies in Western Australia.

Dr. Monica Figueiredo has joined the center as an intern in equine medicine and surgery. She received her DVM degree from the College of Veterinary Medicine, Fluminense Federal University, Niteroi, Brazil.

Equine Update '99 Examines Equine Health, Racing, and Industry

Equine veterinarians from the Blacksburg and Leesburg campuses recently participated in "Equine Update 1999," an informational session for professional communicators and interested members of the horse community sponsored by the Forum on Agricultural Communication Topics in Virginia.

Featuring comments from horse industry and political officials and a series of research presentations, the meeting took a broad look at the Virginia horse industry, racing, and the academic foundations which support it.

Bette Brand, Virginia Horse Council delegate to the Virginia AgriBusiness Council, presented an overview of the industry and the Honorable Andy Guest, the Delegate who sponsored Virginia's racing legislation discussed the need for all elements of the horse industry to work to make racing a success.

Other speakers included VMRCVM Dean Peter Eyre and EMC Director G. Frederick Fregin.

Tuesday Talks Series 1999-2000 Season

Tuesday Talks, the community education program annually sponsored by the Equine Medical Center, wrapped up its 1999-2000 season with three evening presentations.

The goal of the series is to provide owners, trainers, managers and veterinarians with new information on relevant topics in equine veterinary medicine.

"Corrective Shoeing and Lameness Problems" was presented by Dr. Nat White, the Theodora Ayer Randolph Professor of Surgery, "Preparing your Horse for Surgery- The Art of Anesthesia" was presented by Dr. Lydia Donaldson.

Facilities Enhancements Planned at EMC

Planning continues on the development of several new improvements to the facilities at the Equine Medical Center, according to Director Dr. Fred Fregin.

Planning and Engineering work is underway on a 2900 square foot Isolation Center, which will provide a bio-secure containment area for horses suffering from infectious disease.

Planning is also underway on a new building to house an equine treadmill and physiologic evaluation center, a research barn and a new hay barn, Fregin said.

Names in the News From the EMC

Dr. Michael Murray, the Adelaide C. Riggs Professor of Equine Medicine, made a presentation on the impact and treatment of gastric ulcers in performance horses during a special luncheon at the Stadium Jumping Chalet in Palm Beach, Florida. Murray's appearance was part of the Winter Equestrian Festival in Palm Beach. The luncheon event was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Firestone.

Several faculty members from the Equine Medical Center made presentations at a meeting of the Forum on Agricultural Communication Topics in Virginia held recently at the center.

Dr. Nathaniel White, Theodora Ayer Randolph Professor of Surgery, presented "Hot Topics in Lameness" and "Equine Colic."

Dr. Michael Murray, Adelaide C. Riggs Professor of Internal Medicine, presented "Equine Gastric Ulcers."

Dr. Martin Furr, associate professor, presented "Equine Protozoal Myelitis (EPM)."

Patty Doyle, clinical instructor, presented "Nuclear Scintigraphy."

Dr. Ken Sullins, associate professor, presented "Osteochondritis Dissecans (OCD)" and "Laser Surgery."

NEWS FROM THE MARYLAND CAMPUS



Hueston Honored by VVMA

Dr. William Hueston was honored with the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association's 2000 Distinguished Virginia Veterinarian Award.

Dr. William D. Hueston, associate dean-Maryland Campus, was awarded the 2000 Distinguished Virginia Veterinarian Award during the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association's recent annual meeting at the

Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia.

Hueston was honored for his "standard of excellence and dedicated service to the profession of veterinary medicine."

Hueston serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Maryland at College Park and Associate Dean for the College's Maryland Campus.

He holds a DVM, MS in Veterinary Preventive Medicine, a Ph.D in Epidemiology from The Ohio State University, and is a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and the Epidemiology Specialty.

He has held a variety of positions in the academic, federal government, and private

sectors throughout the nation. Dr. Hueston also served as a consultant to federal agencies, national and international animal health organizations, and foreign governments.

His areas of focus include epidemiology and preventive medicine of domestic animals. His professional interests include monitoring disease surveillance systems and risk analysis.

He is a noted expert in the study of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), more commonly known as Mad Cow Disease. He was stationed in England for six months during 1991 as a member of the British government's epidemiology unit and served for six years as a member of the British Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee.

Tri-state Regional Poultry Health Program Update

Dr. Will Hueston, Associate Dean-Maryland Campus recently outlined some achievements of the Tri-State Regional Poultry Health Program before the 34th National Meeting on Poultry Health and Processing at Ocean City, Maryland.

Formed in 1995, the Tri-State group consists of poultry industry officials, representatives of the VMRCVM, the land grant universities, State Departments of Agriculture, and Diagnostic Laboratories in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia.

The program's three goals include enhancing protection against devastating poultry diseases, encouraging cooperative diagnostic and research activities, and enhancing educational programs at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels at the respective land-grant universities.

Four years later, the Regional Poultry Health Program has a string of accomplishments addressing all three goals:

- A poultry extension veterinarian and a clinical epidemiologist have been hired by the VMRCVM and stationed at the Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center serving Delmarva.
- A new director has been hired for the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Salisbury Diagnostic Laboratory and collaboration with the University of Delaware's Lasher Laboratory in Georgetown has been strengthened.
- Two new veterinary residency programs have been established, Applied Epidemiology and Poultry Medicine. Residents from both programs have been involved in field investigations and applied research projects benefiting the poultry industry.

- New faculty have been hired at both the University of Delaware and the University of Maryland to strengthen the poultry health team and expand research in food safety and environmental health as well as poultry disease.
- A new summer fellowship program in "Science, Technology and Public Policy" has been created for veterinary students to gain a better understanding of the complex scientific issues and policy problems facing the poultry industry.
- Additional State Department of Agriculture field veterinarians have been hired for the Delmarva and poultry specialists identified within the USDA APHIS, Veterinary Services.
- A coordinated effort is underway to implement geographic information systems across Virginia, Maryland and Delaware which are compatible with those in surrounding states.
- Three week "clerkship" experiences have been created for veterinary students in outbreak investigation, poultry health and food safety.

Future plans include focussing on geographic information systems, opportunities for identifying support for poultry programs and coordination of research priorities.

Names in the News From the Maryland Campus

Dr. Will Hueston, Associate Dean for the College Park campus of the VMRCVM, recently participated on a panel discussion entitled "Calculating Risk, Setting Priorities" of the National Consumer League at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The subject of the meeting was "Analyzing the Threats to Children from Consumer Products: A Symposium on Risk Assessment and Risk Communication." The panel discussion was also shown on CSPAN.

Informatics: continued from page 9

and-a-half years and includes faculty, graduate students and professional students from the departments of Teaching and Learning, Computer Science, Accounting and Information Systems, the VMRCVM, and the University of Virginia at Wise.

"I have been struggling with this problem for close to 20 years," said Bender. "It takes the talents of professionals in these key fields to approach the problem with novel solutions." The tool is currently undergoing a formal assessment as the subject of a graduate level instructional technologies course led by Dr. Greg Sherman in the Department of Teaching and Learning.

The group has been funded with approximately \$200,000 by the University Center for Innovation in Learning, ASPIRES and Reach-Out Grants over the past several years, Bender said, and it appears that university seed funding is beginning to reap dividends.

"Several years ago Provost Meszaros began an initiative to stimulate faculty research productivity by providing 'seed' funding and encouraging the development of interdisciplinary collaborations," said Bender. "I think the success of this program is a direct validation of her vision."

The \$90,000 USDA project is just one example of what Bender believes are many other applications for the new software technology, including continuing education for practicing veterinarians, extending the tool to assist experts in clinical pathology, and improving case analysis by other disciplines including human medicine and other health related fields.

"There is even a faculty member in the Department of Marketing with great interest in our tool," said Bender, adding that the tool will be extended to develop insights into the human learning process itself.

Maryland Campus Adds Faculty

Three new veterinarians have been hired at the College Park Campus of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine as part of an intensified effort to provide national leadership for public practice initiatives in veterinary medicine.

"We are absolutely delighted with the caliber of the people we have attracted to these new positions in the college," said Dr. William Hueston, associate dean of the Maryland campus and head of the college's Center for Government and Corporate Veterinary Medicine (CGCVM). "Each of these individuals brings vision, depth and innovation to a regional campus enterprise which we believe is uniquely suited to serve the needs of 21st century veterinary medicine."

The CGCVM was formed in 1990 to help prepare veterinary students for a broad array of careers in "non-traditional" sectors of the profession like state and federal government, private and public sector biomedical research centers, and industry. Hundreds of students from around the nation have been able to train in dozens of installations in the Washington D.C. metroplex area and around the world.

The College Park Campus also has created an innovative Executive Fellowship Program in Science, Politics and Animal Health Policy that seeks to train animal health professionals to create opportunities from emerging issues in animal and human health, agriculture, food safety, the environment and international trade.

Wendy L Fineblum



Dr. Fineblum is coordinator of the Food Safety Risk Analysis Clearinghouse for the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. Her overall interest is in the applica-

tion of evolutionary biology, ecology, and veterinary medicine to the study and prevention of disease in human and animal populations.

Fineblum works with the FDA, and leaders of the public and private sector to minimize food safety and environmental toxicology risks by developing risk assessment, risk management and risk communication programs.

She received her Ph.D in 1991 from Duke University Department of Zoology, where her research focused on the evolutionary ecology of plant-herbivore interactions.

After completing her Ph.D, she earned a D.V.M. from North Carolina State University. During this time, she participated in an elective at the Centers for Disease Control, in which she analyzed and interpreted data on the pork tapeworm in villages in rural Mexico. She also

Ted Y. Mashima



Dr. Ted Y. Mashima is an Associate Director of the Center for Government and Corporate Veterinary Medicine, where he coordinates educational clerkships for veterinary students at zoological parks, aquariums, wildlife agencies, and other conservation and environmental organizations.

Dr. Mashima received his DVM from Colorado State University, completed an internship in zoological medicine at Kansas State University, and a zoological medicine residency (wildlife emphasis) at North Carolina State University. He is a diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine.

Mashima, who describes himself as "passionate about teaching and mentoring," says he believes the CGCVM is well-positioned to help "broaden the horizons of career opportunities in veterinary medicine."

Prior to joining the CGCVM, he served as the projects director for the National Association of Physicians for the Environment and as a consultant to the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. He is currently on the board of directors for the Alliance of Veterinarians for the

Environment and is a founding partner of Exotic Animal Tales/Animal Life Publishing, which publishes children's educational books written by veterinarians.

His professional interests are in developing education and training programs in ecosystem health and conservation.

Bettye K. Walters



Dr. Bettye K. Walters is an Associate Director of the Center for Government and Corporate Veterinary Medicine, where her primary areas of responsibility include developing programs directed at post-graduate veterinarians in

government and corporate veterinary medicine.

Dr. Walters also coordinates clerkships for veterinary students in government agencies such as the USDA and animal shelters and humane societies. Further, she is initiating a course which covers ethical and legal issues surrounding animals in research, production and exhibition.

Walters says she is looking forward to helping "take the program to the next level." She looks forward to building programs that help policy-makers make better scientific decisions by factoring political, economic and social implications into the matrix.

Dr. Walters obtained her DVM degree from Tuskegee University. Her primary experience has been with public practice veterinary medicine, with various positions throughout the country with the Veteran's Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

She has extensive experience with the Animal Welfare Act, veterinary biologics approval and licensing procedures, public practice initiatives in veterinary medicine.

Her interest and primary focus areas include organizational planning and strategic development including setting program goals, priorities and adult learning.



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