**OUR MISSION:** The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine is a dynamic community dedicated to saving lives, finding cures, and changing lives through outstanding clinical and community service, educational excellence, and groundbreaking research.

On http://www.facebook.com/, search for “LSU School of Veterinary Medicine” and become a fan. For Twitter, go to http://twitter.com/LSUVetMed and click “Follow.”

**On the Cover:** Students and alumni joined Dr. Daniel Hillmann and his wife, Nancy, for a photograph in honor of Dr. Hillmann’s retirement after more than 38 years with the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

**Above:** *Connections*, a bronze statue dedicated to those who come to the aid of animals, is located in the LSU SVM’s Serenity Garden near the Small Animal Clinic entrance.

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It is with a strong sense of accomplishment and great pride that I share with you the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Annual Advancement Report for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. This year’s report highlights the extraordinary educational, research and service achievements the school has attained, especially with the help of the many generous individuals who continue to believe and support us in our mission of saving lives, finding new cures and enhancing the quality of life for many on a daily basis.

Since we accepted our first class in 1973, our school has bestowed 2,494 DVM degrees, 166 Master’s degrees and 195 PhDs. Along the way, we have created a robust research culture that now boasts over 90 active extramural grants totalling $46 million.

Our Veterinary Teaching Hospital continues to excel, with over 25,000 cases coming through our doors each year. We are so pleased to provide compassionate and technologically advanced care for animals residing in Louisiana and throughout the Gulf Coast region and beyond.

Our students are vital to achieving our overall mission. Their extraordinary efforts, even while pursuing a rigorous curriculum, enabled the LSU SVM to come to the aid of animals during emergencies such as in 2005 after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, in 2008 after Hurricane Gustav, and still again in 2010 following the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, many students choose to participate in our Shelter Medicine Program, which is funded by private dollars to provides medical care for shelter animals throughout Louisiana.

In 2013, the LSU SVM will celebrate its 40th anniversary! As part of this year-long celebration, LSU will host the Student Association of Veterinary Medicine (SAVMA) annual symposium. We look forward to staging many events for students and colleagues from across the country, introducing them to advancements in veterinary medicine and showing them how far we’ve come in establishing a great atmosphere for learning and healing.

To our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends like you, who have helped us achieve so much, I give my sincerest thanks. You are indeed our CHAMPIONS!

Sincerely,

Peter F. Haynes, DVM, DACVS
For Fiscal Year 2010-2011, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine’s operating budget approached $41.5 million. Our revenue came from four sources: State Appropriation (52 percent); Self-Generated (20 percent—mainly Teaching Hospital operations); Tuition and Fees (24 percent); and Philanthropic Giving (4 percent). Total philanthropic giving for this fiscal year was $1.7 million.

The School used these funds for education, research and community service to support our mission. Funds were spent for Instruction, Research, Academic Support, Public Service, Institutional Support, Student Service, Scholarships and Transfers, and Operations and Maintenance. As the pie charts show, approximately 54 percent of expenditures were spent on instruction and 15 percent on research. Thirteen percent was spent on academic support and public service.
Thanks to you, we helped 23 shelters and provided over 600 surgeries, which often means the difference between life and death for a homeless animal.

Because of your gifts, we vaccinated and examined 1,700 shelter animals, helping to ensure that they will find a forever home.

Thanks to you, we helped over 1,700 wildlife animals in need through our rescue and rehabilitation work.

Because of your gifts, we helped deserving veterinary students who are truly committed to the profession and to helping animals.

Thanks to you, we awarded more than $176,000 in scholarships to dedicated students to help them pursue their dream of caring for animals.

Because of your support of the Animals in Art exhibition, we refurnished a hospital consultation room where friends can quietly say good-bye to their pets.

Because of friends like you, we at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine are able to realize our mission of saving lives, finding cures and changing lives every day.
At the end of the day, more than 100 students and alumni answered the call to be photographed with Dr. Daniel Hillmann and his wife, Nancy (both seated), in honor of Dr. Hillmann’s retirement. After 38 years, Dr. Hillmann, one of the founding members of our faculty and professor of veterinary anatomy and cell biology, retired on July 29, 2011. He leaves behind a huge legacy: every student from the charter class through the Class of 2014 is indebted to him for their knowledge of veterinary anatomy.

“One cannot think of the LSU SVM and not visualize the stalwart image of Dr. Dan Hillmann,” said Mike Strain, DVM (LSU SVM 1983), commissioner of agriculture and forestry for Louisiana. “In the fall of 1979, I was introduced to Dr. Hillmann and gross anatomy. A consummate professional, in a long, pressed white coat, he taught us anatomy in an engaging, friendly atmosphere. A teacher, mentor, and friend, he is the embodiment of the School we love.”

“I don’t think I or my classmates truly understood how extraordinary Dr. Hillmann was as our veterinary anatomy professor until we started our clinical rotations,” said Rebecca McConnico, DVM, PhD (LSU SVM 1987), associate professor of veterinary medicine. “The talent, skill, and dedication that were provided to us by his meticulous and caring instruction laid the groundwork for the success of so many students and is a major reflection of this truly gifted teacher and professor of anatomy.”

Dr. Hillmann has seen the veterinary curriculum grow and become more complex with a greater emphasis on research, but it is the students he will remember most.
“My fondest memories are of the personal interaction with each and every one of the students—to see the enlightenment and the maturation that occurs during their four-year tenure—their becoming veterinarians,” he said. “You must teach with enthusiasm every day. There is no substitute for the well-preserved and dissected specimen, a small group of students, a paper towel to sketch an explanation on, and a story to tell them about the anatomy.”

Dr. Hillmann has retired, but he'll still be around. “Initially, I plan to relax a little, spend some time vacationing and cash in on some of my free time,” said Dr. Hillmann. “I will remain affiliated with the School and follow its progress while I complete several of my research projects on the anatomy of the bowhead whale.”

“Dr. Hillmann has been an anatomist, veterinarian, educator, researcher, curator, artist, and mentor,” said Jeremy Delcambre, DVM (LSU SVM 2009), PhD student, University of Florida. “Not many people realize how labor-intensive running an anatomy laboratory can be. From specimen preparation, skilled prosection of cadavers, creating lectures with detailed illustrations, to behind-the-scenes technical work, he did it. The LSU SVM has been fortunate to have Dr. Hillmann guiding the first-year students through what is certainly the longest, most labor-intensive, and difficult class in veterinary school. His tireless work is an inspiration to us all, and he is one of the reasons I have chosen the path of teaching veterinary anatomy.”
When Amelia came into Nadine Carter Russell’s life in 2004, she was an aggressive and emotionally unstable dog, but, over time, they formed a very strong bond. “I spent time with her and brought her to a state of grace and peace,” Nadine said. “It took an incredible amount of time to train her, but I stuck with it and learned new techniques. Now, she’s perfect in every way.”

Nadine became ill soon after Amelia came home. While Nadine was house-bound, Amelia was her constant companion, and they formed a special bond.

Amelia is now a Canine Good Citizen, a program of the American Kennel Club designed to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community.

Nadine adopted Amelia from the Capital Area Animal Welfare Society (CAAWS) in Baton Rouge. CAAWS introduced Nadine to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, and Nadine established a fund at the LSU SVM to help shelter animals.

“I wanted to help people who couldn’t pay for special veterinary services,” Nadine said. She established the Arabella Fund in honor of another dog, Arabella, who was blind. The fund, which was established to facilitate veterinary work on shelter animals to make them more adoptable, supports a guest lecturer to teach students how to assess shelter animal behavior.

ABOVE: Nadine with Amelia.

LEFT: Nadine (right) is a member of the LSU SVM’s Animals in Art committee. Pictured with Nadine at the 2010 Animals in Art exhibition are (from left) Associate Dean David Senior, Denise Westphal, Ginger Guttner, Dean Emeritus Michael Groves, Librarian Christine Mitchell, and Michael Robinson.
Gwen Graves and Cane II of “Raising Cane’s” generously give of their time by volunteering for LSU’s Tiger HATS (Human Animal Therapy Service) program, where pets visit nursing homes and hospitals.

While Raising Cane’s restaurants are a familiar site in Baton Rouge (and their franchises are expanding across the country), the company is as well known for its philanthropy as it is for its chicken fingers, fresh-squeezed lemonade and Cane’s sauce. Gwen, and her husband, Todd, founder and CEO of Raising Cane’s, are an integral part of a growing Baton Rouge. Their support of our community and LSU encompasses many causes, including the development of public dog parks and the construction of Mike the Tiger’s habitat.

Indeed, the inspiration for the name of their company was “Raising Cane,” Todd’s yellow Labrador retriever, and the Graves family (including Todd and Gwen’s two children) are all animal lovers. After Cane I passed away, the family had to get another yellow Lab, Cane II.

“The Raising Cane’s community support has become a part of who we are,” said Gwen. “It is not work or a company, but an extension of us and what we want our life to reflect. We want our customers to have not only a high quality meal but to also feel good knowing they are supporting so much more than Cane’s. We are shaping Baton Rouge and we are all in this together.”

TOP: Gwen and Todd Graves with Cane II and their children at Mike the Tiger’s habitat on the LSU campus.
For more than 40 years, **Clear Creek Stud** has been in the business of producing some of the finest Thoroughbred bloodstock in the South. Founded in 1969 in the rolling wooded hills near Folsom, La., this 300-acre farm has made an impressive habit of standing some of the top stallions in the region. Its reputation has been grounded in producing high-quality results, and it has done so through the strength of a family that extends far beyond its employees.

The health of the horse farm business goes hand in hand with the health of the herd. Clear Creek Stud long ago embraced excellent veterinary care, and LSU has been privileged to work with **Val Murrell** and Clear Creek for over three decades. Late night colics, new foals, and lameness and breeding management issues have forged a deep relationship between Clear Creek and the LSU SVM.

“I have always made it a priority to surround myself with people that are knowledgeable, professional horsemen dedicated to the well-being, breeding and raising of thoroughbred horses,” said Val.

“Some have been with us for 15 or 20 years and better. The people associated with Clear Creek Stud every day—from individual horse owners (who basically make it all work financially) to the employees (who make it all work physically)—all share a common denominator and that is that they have a passion for horses. It is the single most important factor that keeps the industry vibrant, exciting and moving forward… always looking for the next ‘big horse’ and appreciating all of those on the way.”

Val and Clear Creek Stud have been a champion for the LSU SVM in more ways than one. They have supported such projects as the LSU Equine Intensive Care Unit and various research projects. Each year LSU is privileged to participate as an active part of the program in the Clear Creek Stallion Showcase at the farm in Folsom.

Added Val, “Having that expertise you can rely on, having those relationships you can depend on in that moment you need them, that makes a family.”

**TOP:** Clear Creek Stud farm was founded in 1969 near Folsom, La.
Fluker Farms is a major international supplier of food and habitat products for reptiles, birds and amphibians. Fluker Farms, located in Port Allen, La., is one of the top cricket-producing farms in the U.S.

David Fluker, owner and president, supports the Master’s and PhD programs of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine by providing funds for graduate stipends.

“The faculty of the LSU SVM has helped me enormously in many aspects over the years,” David said. “Advice from the faculty on product suitability and studies on product efficacy have enabled my company to be more successful. I support the research at the LSU SVM because of the impact that research has had on my business. LSU faculty has added credibility to my product by assisting with marketing meetings with high volume retailers.”

“We are proud that, in a model of translational research, LSU SVM faculty and graduate students have directly impacted the success of Fluker Farms,” Dr. David Senior, associate dean for advancement and strategic initiatives, said.
Margaret Womack Hart has always had pets, and they’ve always been a big part of her life. J.J., a bird dog, was the first. She owned many different dog breeds until she discovered Dalmatians. She’s now on her fifth Dalmatian, Spice, but her love of animals also includes Cis, a chocolate Labrador retriever.

The LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital saved Pepper, another one of her Dalmatians, from sago palm toxicity (sago palms are popular in south Louisiana but are toxic to pets and can cause organ failure if ingested), and Margaret was extremely grateful for the excellent care that Pepper received. “The compassion and expert care of everyone at the LSU hospital really comes through,” Margaret said.

Pepper was her constant companion following the death of her husband, Milton Womack, who established the LSU SVM’s Serenity Garden. When Pepper eventually passed away, the LSU SVM sent her a ceramic print of his paw, and everything Pepper meant to her still floods back when she sees it.

Margaret appreciates the grief counseling provided by the LSU SVM for people who have lost pets, as well as the research we do into deafness (a congenital condition common in the Dalmatian breed).

“We owe it to our dogs and the veterinary community outside the school to support the tremendous resource that is the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine,” Margaret said.

Margaret also supports the Baton Rouge General Hospital and the LSU School of Social Work. “Health is so important, but education, peace and justice are the key criteria that lead me to support organizations, but the LSU SVM has a special place in my heart,” she said.
As the parents of four children and the owners of seven pets (almost all adopted from shelters), Ed and Bonita Antie have a big family.

“They are each our joy and responsibility,” Bonita Antie said. “These four-legged little friends depend on us, and what a bond we have made with them. We owe them safety and wellness, and we find that comfort with the staff and students at the LSU SVM.”

“I grew up loving the companionship I have with animals, and it has never wavered. Luckily my family all share this feeling,” Ed added. “We’ve rescued more animals than I could ever count.”

The Anties spend a lot of time at the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. “With shelter pets come hidden challenges,” Bonita said. “We have gone through everything from surgeries to spider bites, cancer to aging care. But once we place our babies in the caring arms of an intern or resident, we eagerly head to the LSU SVM cafeteria. We enjoy watching the students and talking to them. We also get great pleasure from paying for their meals, snacks and drinks, just a small gesture we can make for all they do and will be doing in the future.”

Bonita brainstormed with the LSU SVM staff to find a special way that women could support the veterinary school, and she founded a women’s league she called “Pearls & Paws.” She and Ed plan to continue to stay involved with the LSU SVM because, despite owning their beloved dogs and cats, there will always be room in their hearts for more.

“We want to invest in and support our state, region and Flagship School,” Ed said. “We have grown to love the veterinary school and believe in it. We want to make a difference, help with projects and capital campaigns to leave a legacy.”

OPPOSITE PAGE: Margaret Womack Hart with Spice (her fifth Dalmation) in the LSU SVM Serenity Garden.

LEFT: Ed and Bonita Antie with Persephone.

RIGHT: The Anties with (from left) Eloise, Black Dog and Persephone.

...we have grown to love the veterinary school and believe in it...
Mehmet and Karen Tümay endowed a fellowship in memory of their daughter, Peri (LSU SVM 1996). “Peri had to choose between getting her MD or her DVM,” said Mehmet, “and she went with her passion.” As a child, Peri had lots of pets. As a veterinary student, she won a scholarship for most compassionate student and was on the Dean’s List from 1992-96. While visiting Turkey (her birthplace), Peri gave her allowance to needy farmers so they could better care for their animals, and she brought three cats home from Turkey (once even carrying one in her pocket on the airplane).

In 2004, the Tümays created a legacy for future veterinarians by establishing a fellowship to recognize Peri’s academic excellence, her achievements in the veterinary medical profession and her deep compassion and love for animals.

The fellowship is awarded each year to a female veterinary student. “This scholarship is very valuable to me because of the financial assistance, but, more importantly, it means that I am living up to the academic and professional standards that Dr. Peri Tümay displayed,” 2010 fellowship recipient Caitlin Contrary (Class of 2012) said. “I was and still am deeply honored to receive a scholarship in memory of such an incredible person.”

“I cannot thank the Tümays enough for their generosity,” Shannon David (Class of 2013), 2011 recipient of the fellowship, said. “But more importantly, it is an honor to represent their daughter’s name.”

“There is no greater joy than to further and enhance a person’s life,” said Mehmet and Karen. “We always feel that the evening of the Awards Banquet is a moment to cherish and remember our daughter, as she would have wished. Every year we feel the same joy, and we are so fortunate to be able to do it.”

TOP: Dr. Peri Tümay with her dog, Nugen, in Turkey.
LEFT: Dr. Mehmet and Karen Tümay, who have endowed a fellowship in memory of their daughter.
My becoming a veterinarian did not follow the traditional path,” said Dr. Steve Gaunt (LSU SVM 1977). “I grew up in rural Alabama, and there were no veterinarians nearby. It wasn’t until I was an undergraduate at LSU that I learned much about this branch of medicine. I remember leafing through a 1972 LSU general catalog and reading a description of the proposed LSU SVM that Dean Everett Besch was working on.” About that same time, Steve was working on an honors zoology project in the Veterinary Science department, and soon he was volunteering at a small animal practice.

“Being part of the first class was very special. The faculty were learning how to assemble a functional school from scratch, and the students were figuring out how veterinary medical students were supposed to react,” Steve said. “Our class was involved in the process of starting the small and large animal clinics, initially housed in an interim facility. There were many opportunities to sign up for after-hours emergency duty and late-afternoon ambulatory trips. That unique experience is what creates a special bond between myself, the School and students currently enrolled at LSU. No doubt, that same special bond exists for many of our classes.”

Steve and his wife, Pat (LSU SVM 1979), have three dogs and two yellow tabby cats, who were all rescued from either animal shelters, parking lots or the side of the road near their second home in Mississippi. Pat works as an aquaculture veterinarian and toxicologist for Mississippi State University.

“I give to the LSU SVM because it gave me my livelihood as a veterinarian,” said Steve. “That doesn’t just refer to me being employed here. For no matter where I was working as a veterinarian, I would owe LSU for the unique experience and training I had here as a student.”

Steve has been the agent for the Class of 1977 for many years. During this time, his class has led the way in charitable giving, not only in the level of participation but also in the number of dollars donated.

TOP: Dr. Steve Gaunt in the clinical pathology laboratory at the LSU SVM. He is a member of the School’s charter class.
Senator Robert Adley and his wife, Claudia, have served both the people of Louisiana and its animals. They rescued Katie after Hurricane Katrina in 2005; rescued Beau, a 12-year-old chocolate Labrador retriever, from a pet store that had too many pets in cramped quarters; and took in another dog, Eddie, after the previous owner left him on a short chain for five days.

The Adley’s cat, Eleanor (named for Eleanor Roosevelt), joined the family when she jumped into their van after they stopped for hamburgers in Port Barre when they were traveling from Benton to Baton Rouge. They also have three feral cats they feed on the porch every day, along with some possums and raccoons (who eat alongside the cats).

The Adley’s son, Dr. Brandon Adley, received his DVM from LSU in 1999 and worked for the family’s veterinarian, Dr. Billy Townsend (LSU SVM 1987). Though the Adleys were introduced to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine when Brandon was a student, they did not become clients of the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital until their yellow Labrador retriever, Bubba, was diagnosed with blastomycosis, a systemic yeastlike fungal infection caused by the organism Blastomyces dermatitidis, which is commonly found in decaying wood and soil.

Bubba was cured at LSU. One month later, their black Lab, Max, also came down with blastomycosis.

“Dogs are the closest thing to God on earth,” Robert said. “Even if poorly treated, they come back and love you more. They are a precious creation. When they get old or sick, you must do the right thing for them, and you need a veterinarian who cares and understands.

“I support the LSU SVM because of the love of animals and compassion for owners that is demonstrated by the people that work in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital,” he said. “Also, the education my son, Brandon, received at the LSU SVM opened up a wonderful world for him and a great career.”

TOP: Senator Robert and Claudia Adley with two of their many pets, Beaux (left) and “Fast” Eddie.
We exist because of LSU,” said John Milazzo, Jr., president and CEO of Campus Federal Credit Union (CFCU). “CFCU is a dynamic LSU partner committed to giving back to the entire LSU community.”

“Our goal is to have a close relationship with all schools within the LSU system,” said Ron Moreau, vice president of business development and community relations. “We add value by providing excellent financial products and services and by promoting volunteerism (employees volunteer at least 12 hours per year)—over 2,040 hours per year are spent volunteering with LSU and the surrounding community.”

Since 1934, CFCU has offered a comprehensive portfolio of consumer products and services for LSU faculty, staff, students and alumni. “Today we have expanded our product offerings to include a full suite of business services for LSU graduates,” said Ron. “We are partnering with the LSU SVM and other veterinary practitioners to develop products and services to help practitioners (as well as the pet owners) in their time of need,” said Brian Ainsworth, assistant vice president of business development.

CFCU has been part of the new student orientation at SVM for five years. “We have supported activities such as Open House, the Great Rover Road Run and the white coat ceremony, both financially and with volunteers,” said Ron.

The CFCU officers have more than business ties to LSU. Five of John’s six children attended LSU, and Brian has always had pets and his daughter (now entering LSU) hopes to enter veterinary school one day. Ron recently partnered with a team from the LSU SVM for the CFCU Faculty/Staff Golf Tournament.

Ron said, “We want to be here for faculty, staff and students, but, more importantly, to be there as they transition into the business world and family life.”

LEFT: The CFCU’s Ron Moreau, John Milazzo and Brian Ainsworth enjoy the LSU SVM’s Serenity Garden.

RIGHT: Gregory Haynes (Dean Peter Haynes’s son), Assistant Dean Ernie Tanoos, Dean Peter Haynes and Ron Moreau participated in the CFCU Faculty/Staff Golf Tournament.
It was in seventh grade that I decided to become a veterinarian,” said Dr. Mike Reid (LSU SVM 1981). “At the time, my family had a dog that we would take to the veterinary clinic in the next town. I was particularly struck by the calm and confident manner our veterinarians had while treating my dog.”

“I tend to have somewhat of a single-minded and driven personality,” said Mike. “So when I decided that I wanted to be a veterinarian, I was set on accomplishing the goal.” At the time, Connecticut (where Mike lived) had no veterinary school. The school at LSU was just starting up and Mike had relatives in Louisiana, so he decided to attend LSU.

Mike’s family had always stressed the importance of a college education, and his parents and grandparents saved so that Mike and his sister could go to college. “I was incredibly fortunate to get a quality education and walk away from veterinary school with zero debt,” Mike said. “I saw many of my classmates leaving with a significant debt load and starting their careers behind the eight ball, so to speak. So I figured, give what I can, when I can, to the LSU SVM so I can help out the veterinary colleagues coming along behind me (kind of a pay-it-forward mentality).”

Mike’s wife, Maureen, was originally a nurse, but after Mike started his veterinary practice, she joined the clinic as his office manager. The Reids have two cats, three dogs—and two daughters in college, Caitlin and Brianna. Caitlin, the youngest, is studying to be a teacher in special education. Their older daughter, Brianna, has just started her second year in veterinary school at the LSU SVM.

She received her BS degree from LSU in May 2011 as part of the thee-plus-one program that allows veterinary students to count their first year of veterinary school toward the last year of their undergraduate degree. Brianna was one of approximately 75 university medalists. In a few years, there will be two veterinarians in the family.

TOP: Dr. Michael Reid and his wife, Maureen, with their daughters, Brianna and Caitlin, when Brianna graduated from LSU.
Great champions overcome challenges, and that is why Dr. Bobby Lewis (LSU SVM 1977), is one of our alumni champions. Like so many of our leaders, he had challenges he had to overcome to follow his vocation. His father and brother were physicians. There weren’t many colleges of veterinary medicine; LSU was just starting one but had limited enrollment.

Bobby resolved that he wasn’t suited for Pre-Med, but he embraced his love of agriculture, large animals, and the outdoors. He packed his bags for Baton Rouge, where LSU had a new veterinary medical program. He was one of only 36 students accepted into the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine’s inaugural class.

Bobby has a deep devotion to LSU, not only for his education, but also for life-long friendships. He remembers fondly his time at the LSU SVM, including working in the interim hospital and assisting now-Dean Peter Haynes with equine surgeries. In 1990, Bobby became the first recipient of the LSU SVM’s Distinguished Alumnus Award, and he gives credit to the School for his professional success.

Bobby began his career in companion animal practice, but always knew he wanted to be an equine veterinarian, and so he kept looking for large animal opportunities.

Today, Bobby and his wife, Nancy (also an equine veterinarian) have a thriving equine practice in Elgin, Texas. They have two children.

“I know I received the best education here, compared to all of the other veterinary schools in the U. S,” Bobby said. “I wouldn’t change a thing about my experience. I represent a solid, admirable, noble profession. I will continue to be a champion, passing on a love of veterinary medicine to future generations!”

BOTTOM: Dr. Bobby Lewis performs equine surgery.
RIGHT: Dr. Bobby Lewis, our first Distinguished Alumnus.
Nancy Link loves animals. She shares her life with a fabulous black Labrador retriever, Daisy, two adopted cats, 75 mallards and wood ducks and four Arabian horses! Her first visit to the LSU SVM’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital was with her German shepherd, the late Rayne, for treatment that helped extend her beloved pet’s life. Nancy freely admits she has a passion for animals; when she adopts or raises one, she “takes it for life.”

Nancy’s roots go deep into South Louisiana. Born on a rice farm in Acadia Parish and world-traveled, she returned to reconnect with her roots and to undertake a challenging project—transforming her share of the family farm acquired by her Grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Link, in the early 1900s. She chose the name, “Ben Link Farms,” in honor of her Grandfather and to acknowledge her Father’s nickname for her, “Ben.”

Her love of art is reflected throughout the farm. A number of local artists and craftspeople contributed to special details, such as the custom-designed wrought iron entry gates by Richard De la Houssaye, who also created chandeliers and a unique cat tail stair rail in the stable.

When Nancy was growing up, the working farm focused on rice and cows. Today, she is reseeding pasture lands, planting native prairie plants and grasses, and adding hundreds of trees to help reforest the property. She has renovated the family home built in 1939, and is restoring a 1950s vintage hay barn. The centerpiece of the equestrian facilities is the stable with loft designed...
by equine architect, Charlie Kolarik of Populous, accompanied by an impressive lighted, covered arena, pasture shelters and an equipment storage barn. A nephew of artist Elemore Morgan, Jr. (who was inspired to create two beautiful and treasured paintings of rice fields on the farm), Charlie has designed equestrian facilities throughout the world, for clients including the Budweiser Clydesdales and the World Equestrian Games at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Nancy believes in heroes. Her list includes several of the clinicians and students at our hospital who provided personal feedback and kindness that meant so much when Rayne was in intensive care for several days. Veterinarians are high on her list because her animals are her “children,” and she wants to ensure they receive the very best in medical care. She acknowledges that her parents are her true heroes, whose spirit and inspiration live on in the legacy of the farm. From them, she first learned to love and care for the cows, horses, birds, dogs and cats that were an integral part of life on the farm.

Nancy believes in giving back, to help not only her own animals, but also others. She has generously supported the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital clinicians and students in memory of her beloved Rayne. Her additional gifts help extend the Dean’s Philanthropic Partner fund, which helps provide support where the need is greatest. Dean Peter Haynes affirms, “Nancy is truly a philanthropic champion and loyal friend of the School of Veterinary Medicine. Her passion for our community and our State, and her love of animals, is outstanding, and she deserves our sincere thanks for her support and dedication to our mission.”
Join Us—Saving Lives, Finding Cures, Changing Lives

To become one of our Philanthropic Champions, please go to http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu and select “Give Now.”

Support for the School of Veterinary Medicine through financial contributions is essential to the life of our programs, clinics, and future growth. We are deeply grateful for the many supporters who continue to believe in our mission and the services we provide.

This information reflects the cumulative giving level of our supporters for all gifts and pledge payments made between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011. We have made every effort to ensure that this information is accurate, and we regret any omissions. Please provide corrections via email to our LSU SVM Office of Advancement at bkarlsson@lsu.edu.

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine is pleased to acknowledge those alumni, organizations, foundations, and private donors who gave so generously during the Fiscal Year 2011. LSU SVM alumni are noted by an asterisk (*) or two asterisks (**) if both donors are alumni.

Thank You—for helping us transform lives!
### 2010-2011 Alumni Giving By Class

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<td>41%</td>
<td>32/78</td>
<td>$8,526.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>George Robinson</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15/78</td>
<td>$8,385.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Gary Levy</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>29/75</td>
<td>$6,105.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Siegfried Mayer</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15/74</td>
<td>$5,240.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Skippy Berner</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12/73</td>
<td>$4,070.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Paula Drone</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12/74</td>
<td>$6,925.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Joe Stark</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12/73</td>
<td>$2,875.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Becky McConnico</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11/74</td>
<td>$3,330.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Jackie Simon</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9/70</td>
<td>$1,965.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Rob Conner</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9/73</td>
<td>$3,175.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Phillip Cancilleri</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9/76</td>
<td>$1,750.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5/64</td>
<td>$820.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Dina Duplantis</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5/57</td>
<td>$5,445.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3/57</td>
<td>$5,040.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Nancy Kessler</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5/62</td>
<td>$1,880.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Lon/Jacinta Hays</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7/68</td>
<td>$2,190.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Tracy Gieger</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5/65</td>
<td>$735.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Lori Howell</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10/74</td>
<td>$855.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Jennifer Ritchie</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4/71</td>
<td>$1,300.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Open</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4/66</td>
<td>$275.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Shirani Hickman</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7/80</td>
<td>$2,005.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Ann Chapman</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3/75</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Stephen &amp; Lacie Lee</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3/79</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Sara R. Blakesley</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7/74</td>
<td>$1,495.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9/77</td>
<td>$2,010.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Veronica Paul-Duncan</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9/83</td>
<td>$3,280.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Alissa Whitney</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7/76</td>
<td>$725.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Elisabeth Lau</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4/81</td>
<td>$320.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Julie Schexnider</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3/83</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Gretchen Henry/ Jeremy Delcambre</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8/74</td>
<td>$1,300.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Lindy Medine O’Neal</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4/81</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Front Cover: Dr. Daniel Hillmann and his wife, Nancy (both seated), surrounded by alumni and current veterinary students in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory. The full photo is seen on pages 6-7.

Page 25: From left, Associate Clinical Specialist Thomas Suggs assists Veterinary Cardiologist Romain Pariaut and Cardiology Resident Carley Saelinger with an angiogram in the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory.

Page 26: Veterinary students participate in large animal disaster training with assistance from the LSU Fire & Emergency Training Institute.

Page 27: An inmate participating in Pen Pals, the animal shelter at Dixon Correctional Institute in Jackson, La., plays with a kitten before it is examined by Dr. Wendy Wolfson, the LSU SVM’s shelter medicine program director. Pen Pals is just one of the more than 20 animal shelters that receives assistance from the LSU SVM.

Page 29: From left, Dean Peter F. Haynes and Commissioner of Agriculture & Forestry Mike Strain (LSU SVM 1983) congratulate Charles Cusimano during the dedication of the Equine Physiology and Pharmacology Laboratory in honor of Mr. Cusimano. Mr. Cusimano was joined on stage by his wife, Violet Cusimano.
Entry gate at Ben Link Farms, owned by our Philanthropic Champion, Nancy Link.

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