2011-2012 ADVANCEMENT REPORT

LSU School of Veterinary Medicine

THE ABC CHALLENGE
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, groundbreaking research, and educational excellence.
Thoughts from Our Dean

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 2011-2012 fiscal year. This year’s report highlights not only those generous individuals who supported our programs this past year, but also our future, which includes an ambitious fundraising campaign called the ABC Challenge.

The LSU SVM accepted its first class in 1973, and we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of that milestone in 2013. Coinciding with this celebration is our ABC Challenge, a fundraising plan to augment three key programs. It will enable us to (A) purchase a new linear accelerator for our Cancer Treatment Unit, (B) enhance our biomedical research program, and (C) expand our Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s companion animal services and facilities.

We are always looking for ways to improve our already great programs, and we rely on your continued support to aid in our mission of saving lives, finding cures and changing lives every day.

This is an exciting time here at the LSU SVM. We recently hosted a review panel from the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Council on Education (COE) as part of our accreditation procedure, which occurs every seven years. Our faculty, staff and students rose to the challenge and helped showcase our school as one of the premier teaching and research institutions in the nation. The review panel’s recommendations and the COE’s decision regarding our accreditation will be disclosed in March 2013.

We also recently welcomed the Class of 2016, who started their journey in veterinary medicine in August 2012. These 88 dynamic students will be a tremendous asset to the veterinary profession, along with our more than 2,500 alumni.

I thank our alumni for serving as our ambassadors and cheerleaders. You are the face and voice of our school, and we appreciate all that you do, not only for us, but for animals everywhere.

Thanks also to you, our generous donors, for believing in our mission, for sharing our passion for animals and health, and for supporting us with your time, talent and treasure.

Warmest regards,

Peter F. Haynes, DVM, DACVS
For Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine’s operating budget approached $42.5 million. Our revenue came from four sources: State Appropriation (47 percent); Self-Generated (21 percent—mainly Teaching Hospital operations); Tuition and Fees (25 percent); and Philanthropic Giving (5 percent). Total philanthropic giving for this fiscal year was over $2.46 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; Scholarships and Fellowships; Student Service, Scholarships and Transfers; and Operations and Maintenance.
Thanks to you, we helped 27 shelters and provided over 1,200 health exams and 700 surgeries, which often mean 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.

Thanks to you, we helped deserving veterinary students who are truly committed to the profession and to helping animals. We awarded more than $227,000 in scholarships to dedicated students to help them pursue their dream of caring for animals.

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.

TOP: Sarah Reardon (Class of 2014) with a dog from a shelter helped by the Shelter Medicine Club.

MIDDLE: From left, Dr. Javier Nevarez (LSU SVM 2001) prepares an eagle for transport to a zoo with help from Daniel Cutler (Class of 2014) and Jacqueline Serio (Class of 2013).

BOTTOM: From left, Class of 2012 students Brittany Marble, Emily Collins and Lindsay Moore.
Our ABC Challenge will focus on the greatest needs for the greatest impact. Each block represents a vital part of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine—each block represents our future, our mission and service to the community at large. The financial goal of this challenge is to raise $5 million for three key areas of the LSU SVM: advancing cures for cancer, excellence in biomedical and infectious disease research, and companion animal clinic enhancements.

**A** is for **advancing cures for cancer** with a new linear accelerator for our Cancer Treatment Unit. Radiation therapy generated by a linear accelerator is effective in cancer therapy, both to control pain and, in many cases, to induce complete remission. Cancer, which occurs in many breeds, has been identified as the number one concern for pet owners. Our current 15-year-old linear accelerator has served us well. When the CTU first opened in 2003, it provided the most advanced radiation treatment for cancer in veterinary medicine. Now, even better technologies are available, and we want to offer them to our patients.
is for **biomedical research faculty and staff** at the LSU SVM. We are uniquely positioned to investigate diseases that affect the lives of people and animals. Animals can contract “human” diseases, such as cancer and diabetes. Also, LSU SVM researchers are working on viral, bacterial and parasitic pathogens of worldwide significance, including West Nile virus, herpes viruses, pneumonia and malaria. Our faculty study mechanisms of disease development and programs in both breast and prostate cancer, the life cycles of pathogens, and the possible use of viruses to overcome cancer. Studies on molecular genetics and adult stem cell research add to our understanding of DNA repair, which may lead to cures, vaccines, and elimination of diseases that plague both people and animals.

**C** is for **companion animal clinic enhancements**. Our Veterinary Teaching Hospital has the most board-certified specialists under one roof in Louisiana. Our faculty, staff and students are dedicated to providing the best, most compassionate care for our patients. We plan to establish a community practice service to provide health and wellness care for animals and to provide our students with the opportunity to learn more about general veterinary practice.

*LEFT:* In 2003, we cut the ribbon to launch our Cancer Treatment Unit. In the 10 years since, we’ve treated nearly 2,000 cancer cases.

*TOP:* Veterinary technicians Shay Bordelon (left) and Jenny Cassibry attend to a patient in the Cancer Treatment Unit.

*MIDDLE:* Biomedical Researcher Dr. Konstantin G. Kousoulas.

*BOTTOM:* Sophia Gleeson (Ross University) and Lindsey Pelych (Class of 2013) examine Doyle, a companion animal medicine patient.
They say there is nowhere else in the country with community spirit like that of Louisiana. Community spirit equals relationships, and relationships are about connecting. Meeting Aimee Simon was such a connection for the LSU SVM.

Aimee is known as the “infamous” head of the 1,000-member-strong Bengal Belles, the powerful volunteer group that supports LSU student athletes. And yet Aimee also has a connection to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine through her yellow Labrador retriever, Belle.

Once a client steps into our Veterinary Teaching Hospital, the priority is the patient; the outside world is left behind, and the owner can speak candidly about her beloved pet (in this case, Belle).

Aimee wanted to breed Belle, and this became a job for the LSU SVM’s theriogenology (reproduction) service. Dr. Bruce Eilts, professor of theriogenology and head of that service, also happens to live in Aimee Simon’s neighborhood and spoke with her about breeding management. Soon, Belle became a patient of the hospital’s theriogenology service.

Aimee had the good fortune of being with Belle when she...relationships are about connecting...
Dr. Bruce Eilts, professor of theriogenology delivered eight healthy puppies on September 18, 2012. They were born in proper-LSU style during the first football game of the season (one of only a very few Aimee has missed since the inception of Bengal Belles in 1996). With names like LSU and Golden, the puppies serve as precious representatives of our great university.

Since the Bengal Belles were founded, groups from all over the state have asked for an official chapter. Today there is a 750-strong-membership in Shreveport, La., headed by Espe Moran, the “Aimee” of that growing connection. Espe and Aimee invited our LSU SVM Pearls & Tiger Paws Volunteer League to host Dr. David Baker as their keynote fall speaker. Dr. Baker is LSU’s attending veterinarian and the veterinarian for Mike VI, LSU’s live tiger mascot. In October 2012, Dr. Baker shared a 30-minute presentation on “The Magic of Mike VI.” He was a hit (as is Mike VI), and Pearls & Tiger Paws got five new members.

What is the formula for being successful and “wearing every hat” (the Belles’ signature)? Aimee—a pet lover, mom, grandmom, friend and community leader—says she has learned to be consistent. She plays hard and works hard. The Bengal Belles say it like this: “Win, lose or draw, you are a Tiger, and we love you!” Geaux Tigers!
Our Blue Ribbon Task Force rises to the challenge

Our ABC Challenge has three goals: A—Advancing cures for cancer and obtaining a replacement Linear Accelerator for cancer treatment; B—Excellence in Biomedical and infectious disease research; and C—Companion Animal Clinic enhancements. With the commitment of key board members who make up our Blue Ribbon Task Force, we will make this challenge a success.

Dr. Robert Simmons (LSU SVM 1977), Blue Ribbon Task Force member, believes this is a timely campaign. He has stepped up to share his family’s story of love and loss, which led to the establishment of a memorial research fund (part B of our campaign).

When asked what made him want to become a veterinarian, Bob said, “I hadn’t always wanted to be a veterinarian. I came from an Air Force family and wanted to be a fighter pilot. I loved animals and had horses and dogs but didn’t think about that as a career choice until I heard that LSU had a veterinary school.”

As a member of the first class to graduate from the LSU SVM, Bob chose to focus on large animal medicine. After graduation, his interest switched to research and launching projects and products, and he began a career with what is now Merck Animal Health. Bob has traveled all over Europe for sales and product development.

“Vet school was both the most fun time and most challenging time of my life,” said Bob, who met his wife, Julie (a client with a sick cat), during school and made lifelong friendships. Even though his work was in pharmaceutical research, animals remain an important part of Bob’s life.

“I have heard it said that there is a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ dog,” said Bob. “If that’s true, then Belle was our once-in-a-lifetime dog. Our son, Will, adopted Belle, a chocolate Labrador retriever puppy, when he began his Air Force career in North Carolina shortly after graduating from
the Virginia Military Institute. She provided him with company and companionship in a new and unfamiliar place and circumstance.

“When Will deployed to the Middle East in May 2006, Belle came to live with us. She fit seamlessly into our lives, and we enjoyed her tremendously—playing with her in the backyard and taking her for walks in the woods. She especially enjoyed the snow. The whole neighborhood fell in love with her—she was just that kind of a dog. As overjoyed as we were when Will returned safely from Iraq, it was a sad day when Belle left our home to join him in Florida, where he was stationed.

“Our Louisiana family came to know her over the next two years, as Will and Belle made frequent trips to Baton Rouge and Broussard, La. When his job required him to travel, Belle spent weeks, even months, with her “aunts” and “uncles” in Louisiana, giving a whole new meaning to the term “family dog.” Everyone loved Belle, and she loved everyone.

“She came north in the fall of 2009 when Will left the Air Force and returned to New Jersey to begin his career and get married. Belle was a regular visitor at our house. As Will and his bride, Danielle, were on their honeymoon, we kept Belle and noticed that her appetite was off, which was very unusual; however, she seemed to feel fine and acted normally. A few weeks later, she began to decline, and, upon being examined by the local veterinarian, she was diagnosed with kidney failure due to advanced Lyme disease. She had tested negative for Lyme just weeks before. Sadly, nothing could be done, and we lost her on November 10, 2011.

“Lyme disease (which is rampant in New Jersey), as well as other tick-borne diseases, pose significant health risks for both animals and humans worldwide. The LSU SVM has a long history of researching tick-borne and other parasitic diseases.

“Our hearts were broken when we lost Belle. A cure for Lyme will come too late for her, but hopefully some day we can help prevent another family member or pet from suffering a similar fate. To that end, we have established the Belle Fund, which will be devoted to research focusing on tick-borne illnesses, their prevention, and their cure. It is the best way we can think of to honor our ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ dog. Rest in peace, Belle.”
Researchers Rise to the Challenge

Our scientists investigate diseases that affect humans and animals, including, infectious and non-infectious diseases of the respiratory tract. The knowledge gained from this research may lead to advances in the treatment and prevention of a variety of diseases and help us all breathe easier.

Maria Antonieta Guerrero-Plata, BSc, MSc, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences (PBS), is researching innate immunity, dendritic cells, and the effect of environmental factors on the pathogenesis of respiratory viruses. Understanding the mechanistic aspects of the immune response to viruses is fundamental to manipulate host responses, improve antiviral immunity or prevent severe disease caused by viral infections.

Dr. Guerrero-Plata works with respiratory viral pathogens that are the most important cause of lower respiratory tract infections in children, elderly, and immunocompromised patients. The immunity induced by these viruses is not fully protective, is of short duration, and reinfections are common throughout life. Therefore, one of Dr. Guerrero-Plata’s projects seeks to determine the mechanisms used by these viruses to alter the immune response of infected individuals. The results of her studies will help to design long-lasting protection for these and other respiratory viral pathogens that cause significant airway disease.

Another project focuses on understanding the mechanisms underlying the severity and frequency of respiratory viral infections in children exposed to secondhand smoke. Limited information is available about how secondhand smoke alters the immune system, and the mechanisms that may predispose an individual to increased lung infections are still unclear. The results of this work will help design new strategies to boost immunity against respiratory viruses under unfavorable environmental conditions characterized by exposure to secondhand smoke.

Dr. Guerrero-Plata’s research team currently includes two postdoctoral fellows, one research associate, one PhD student and one undergraduate Chancellor’s Aid scholar. Her research support includes a $488,000 career development award from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute; a $100,000 Unrestricted Research award from the American Thoracic Society (she was one of the four recipients selected nationwide for this award); and a $148,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/ National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. She is also...
one of the investigators included in the $13 million LSU-Tulane Center for Experimental Infectious Disease Research grant funded from the NIH National Center for Research Resources.

Dr. Guerrero-Plata joined the LSU SVM in 2009 from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas.

**Samithamby Jeyaseelan, DVM, PhD,** associate professor in PBS, studies how the immune system eliminates bacterial infection at the site where disease-causing microbes enter the body. Another project seeks to understand mechanisms associated with bacterial infection in individuals exposed to secondhand smoke.

The overall research goal is to understand the molecular and cellular mechanisms responsible for neutrophil recruitment, priming and activation in the infected lungs, smoke-exposed lungs and previously smoke-exposed and infected lungs. Dr. Jeyaseelan states, “I strongly feel that research on neutrophil recruitment to the lung against bacteria is a double-edged sword: insufficient neutrophil recruitment can lead to life-threatening lung diseases, whereas an extreme accumulation of neutrophils can lead to excessive lung damage. Therefore, the ideal therapeutic approach to target the neutrophils would be to attenuate their destructive potential while maintaining their critical role in antibacterial defense; this is an arduous task.”

The challenge in the next decade will be to develop novel approaches to keep neutrophils in the lung for defensive functions while modulating their undesirable effects leading to extensive lung damage. New therapeutic strategies are extremely important since: 1) bacterial pneumonia affects more than a million adults, with 30,000 deaths per year in the U.S. alone; 2) neutrophil influx associated with bacterial pneumonia is the primary killer in several viral outbreaks, including flu; and 3) smokers are many times more susceptible to bacterial lung infections.

Dr. Jeyaseelan's group has one assistant professor (research), one post-doctoral fellow, three PhD students, one MS student/pathology resident, one undergraduate student and one lab technician, and is supported by a $500,000 career development award and $300,000 clinical innovator award from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI); a $1.7 million grant from the NIH; and a $300,000 two-year supplement to his NIH grant via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This is so far the first supplement awarded from the NIH to the LSU SVM and one of three supplements awarded from the NIH to LSU. Furthermore, Dr. Shanshan Cai, the postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Jeyaseelan’s group, is supported by a $0.5 million career development award from the FAMRI. Dr. Arthur Penn, professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences serves as a collaborator in the studies involving secondhand smoke.

Dr. Jeyaseelan came to the LSU SVM in 2007 from National Jewish Health (formerly National Jewish Medical and Research Center) in Denver, Colo., the number one respiratory hospital in the nation for the past 15 years.
Citizens Rise to the Challenge

I first became acquainted with the LSU SVM in early 1970s working for Senator Ellender in Washington, D.C.,” said Dan Borné. “Dr. Everett Besch had gone to Washington to request funds for a veterinary school in Louisiana (Dr. Besch would become the LSU SVM’s first dean). So, Senator Ellender, as chair of the senate appropriations committee, wrote into an appropriations bill where the next veterinary school would be (at that time, veterinary schools were funded federally). Senator Ellender was from Hardscrabble, La., and had a passion for agriculture; he realized how much Louisiana needed a veterinary school. He could not say in the bill WHERE the next school would be located, but he gave directions...so many miles from others in the east, etc. (drew coordinates), so that there was virtually no where else but in Baton Rouge right next to the Mississippi River.”

After this, Dan remained in contact with Dr. Besch and also got to know Dr. William Jenkins, who has served as LSU SVM dean, chancellor of LSU and president of the LSU System. Dan has felt connected to the SVM for most of his adult life.

In late 1980s, Dan joined the Louisiana Chemical Association, which at the time was looking at ways to deal with (false) allegations that Louisiana had the highest cancer rates in the nation. The LCA put together a team of scientists from several petrochemical companies to help evaluate this charge; coincidentally, all the scientists and epidemiologists had veterinary medicine degrees, as well as other degrees. The team, working with the Louisiana Tumor Registry, found that Louisiana’s incidence rate is no higher than the rest of the country, though Louisiana has a high cancer mortality rate, which was linked to poverty and health-care access. His work with the LCA helped Dan realize how important veterinary medicine is in our lives.

Dan’s “grandpup” Zuko was referred to the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital because he had intestinal bleeding. According to Dan, Zuko was resurrected by a team of doctors at the SVM. Dan is also a fan of the SVM’s Best Friend Gone program, which helped his family deal with the loss of another “granddog,” his daughter’s dog, Daisy.

Today, Dan is president of the Louisiana Chemical Association, which represents the interests of over 60 chemical manufacturing companies. He is also president of the Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance, a group of over 500 businesses supporting the state’s chemical plants with products, supplies and services. Before joining the LCA, Dan served as a vice president of Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. He coordinated the company’s governmental affairs and public relations activities throughout the South for 10 years.

Dan, a native of Thibodaux, La., is a 1968 graduate of Nicholls State University. He earned his master’s degree from the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication, where he now serves on the Board of Visitors and as an adjunct faculty member. He is a member of the LSU Alumni Association and, ...All that you do here is so important, including serving the pets...
in 2001, was inducted into the university’s Alumni Hall of Distinction.

In the 1970s, Dan was executive secretary and chief executive assistant to Governor Edwin Edwards and a Washington assistant to U.S. Senators Russell Long and Allen Ellender of Louisiana. He has also worked in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Louisiana State Senate.

Dan has also anchored news, sports and public affairs programming for WAFB-TV in Baton Rouge. He has been recognized as the Public Relations Practitioner of the Year by the Public Relations Association of Louisiana and received the Mark of Excellence award from the Public Relations Society of America. A true “joiner,” Dan has been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi; Beta Gamma Sigma; Sigma Tau Delta; and the John Henry Cardinal Newman Honor Society. He is also a member of Pi Kappa Alpha and is a Paul Harris Rotary Fellow.

Dan’s hobby is following LSU athletics. He has served as the public address announcer at Tiger Stadium for 26 years and at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center for 24 years. He is married to the former Lisette Hughey, also a Hall of Fame graduate of Nicholls. They live in Baton Rouge and attend St. Jean Vianney Catholic Church, where he is a deacon. They have four children.

“All that you do here is so important, including serving the pets because of the importance of the human/animal bond,” said Dan.
The first question someone may ask upon meeting Dr. William Jenkins, former dean of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and LSU System president emeritus, is “Where are you from?” With his lovely, faintly British-sounding accent, he answers, “South Africa.”

The second question that comes to mind is, “Why are you in Baton Rouge?” Well, that’s a longer story.

Dr. Jenkins is of South African and British and American parentage. He received his veterinary medicine degree from the University of Pretoria in 1958 and practiced veterinary medicine for four years before joining the faculty at the University of Pretoria, advancing through the ranks to become professor and head of the Department of Veterinary Physiology, Pharmacology and Toxicology. He obtained specialist credentials in 1968, and in 1970 received a PhD from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Dr. Jenkins became a member of the faculty in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology at Texas A&M University in 1978. He was appointed dean of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine in 1988 and was named LSU provost in 1993. In 1996, he was named chancellor by the LSU Board of Supervisors.

In 1999, he was named president of the LSU System, which includes five academic campuses, a law center, state-wide agricultural research and extension services, a leading nutrition research center, two health sciences centers, and 10 public hospitals. Jenkins’ tenure as System president was marked by unprecedented growth as well as challenges, including destruction of LSU institutions in New Orleans in the aftermath of hurricanes in the fall of 2005.

Dr. Jenkins retired as president in August 2007 but was asked to take on the role of chancellor in February 2008 when then Chancellor Sean O’Keefe resigned. Dr. Jenkins stepped up to help LSU again as interim president in April 2012 after the resignation of President John Lombardi and then took on the simultaneous duty of interim chancellor...
in May 2012 following the resignation of Chancellor Mike Martin.

“When the position of interim chancellor and president unveiled itself, Peggy and I thought we could make a significant contribution one more time,” said Dr. Jenkins. “Baton Rouge is a second home. We settled here several years ago and raised our family. We later moved but always kept in close touch since we knew many of the students and faculty.

“LSU also appealed to us because I studied animal science, and there is the School of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Teaching Hospital at LSU (one of only 28 veterinary schools in the country). It is such an important part of the community for the students, parents and pet owners. We are also pet owners and lovers. The LSU SVM graduates caring, skilled, respectful veterinarians. I’ve used them, I’ve followed them, and I am proud of the current dean, Peter Haynes. I can’t believe it is their 40th year Anniversary starting in January 2013!

“I have had a good run. I’ve been married to my Peggy for 50 years. We have four children—Sharon, Gwynn, Anthea and Warren—and 10 grandchildren. While I have seen changing paradigms in universities today, sometimes in career paths, like veterinary service, there are positive outcomes, like how so many young women have gone into the sciences and have championed the call of veterinary medicine. Change can still be difficult, but I strive to be consistent and fair. I am still a teacher, an administrator, a leader and always a student of life.”
All of my animals are special to me but one stands out and always will,” said Dr. Laura Riggs, assistant professor of equine surgery. “He was a 1-year-old Rottweiler named Merlin. I was working in a small animal clinic in college and he was brought in with a severe fungal respiratory infection that the owners could not afford to treat. I adopted him and treated the infection, which took months of painful IV medications.

“He had so many IV catheters and needle sticks, but he never once put up a fight. He would happily hop on the exam table with a stuffed toy in his mouth day after day, knowing we would poke away at him. He was so trusting I just fell in love with him. He went with me to college, veterinary school and then to my residency.

“On stressful days I remember coming home and thinking,’Everyone here thinks I’m the biggest screw up and still he thinks I’m the greatest thing that ever was.’ At 11, he developed osteosarcoma, an aggressive bone tumor. We amputated his left front leg and he became even more adorable than before. He fought a good fight and lived another 6 months. I remember the bond we had when I work with clients and animals in my care. It’s important that we, as veterinarians, make decisions for our patients that protect the human-animal bond.

“It’s important that we, as veterinarians, make decisions for our patients that protect the human-animal bond.

“At the age of 4, I told my mother I would be a veterinarian. I was immediately drawn to animals, medicine and even to research. In veterinary school, I couldn’t decide what I wanted to do. There are just so many options for veterinarians, and I seemed to be interested in everything, and it was difficult to choose what path I wanted to take.

“In my senior year of veterinary school, I decided to pursue a large animal internship but thought I would like internal medicine. Once my internship started, I was hooked on surgery. I was fortunate enough to obtain a residency, and then combine it with a PhD program. Dr. Riggs joined the faculty of the LSU SVM in 2008. She received her BS from Saint Louis University in 1996 and her DVM from the University of Tennessee in 2001. In 2007, she received her PhD from the University of Georgia. Dr. Riggs is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

“As a woman, I thought it would be a challenge to enter an area of veterinary medicine that has traditionally been male-dominated. I have actually found it is easy to change people’s perception with time and hard work. I love academia and the students I work with. Often-performed procedures can
become mundane but are kept challenging when you are teaching enthusiastic students, interns and residents. They are eager and dedicated. I can’t imagine my job without them.

“I would advise veterinary students to get to know their classmates and take advantage of all that veterinary school has to offer. Don’t try to rush it because you will miss great opportunities. Enjoy the profession you have chosen and remember why you chose it. If you become discouraged either as a student or after graduation, make the changes that bring you back to loving this career path.”
Although not an LSU alumnus, Dr. James E. Nave has profoundly affected the lives and careers of many of our alumni. Dr. Nave began his veterinary hospital practice in Nevada in 1974, the year after the first veterinary students started attending classes at LSU. Throughout the following 40 years, more than 70 LSU alumni have applied their veterinary skills alongside Dr. Nave in some capacity. These outstanding practitioners now reside in more than a dozen states and impact the lives of thousands of animals and people every day.

Especially interested in collegial and energetic young practitioners, the Nave hospitals and clinics became the “first job” for many young graduates as soon as their DVM degrees were awarded. The thriving and diverse animal community in Nevada offered an ideal locale to benefit from Dr. Nave’s excellent mentoring in business skills, public relations and client relations while honing one’s veterinary clinical skills.

LSU SVM faculty chair of continuing education, Dr. Dennis McCurnin, shares this personal tribute about Dr. Nave: “One of the most helpful clinical experiences for our students during the past 20 years has been exposure to Dr. Jim Nave and his large practice group in Las Vegas, Nevada. Our students have experienced both quality practice techniques as well as understanding how a large multi-location practice functions. Dr. Nave has helped hundreds of veterinarians (including me) over the years through clinical practice experience, practice management training, support for practice ownership, and through teaching the value of volunteer service to organized veterinary medicine. He is a veterinarian who truly ‘walks the talk and leads by example.’ I have become a better person through his friendship!”

To recognize and honor the personal and professional dedication and support Dr. Nave has given to the SVM and our graduates, our Blue Ribbon Task Force has decided to establish a “Krewe of Nave” that will include alumni who have been affiliated with Dr. Nave at some time during their careers. In fact, so many of our alumni revere him and cherish their early work experience in his hospitals, they are proud to join this select “club” in honor of the SVM’s “Fortieth Anniversary Celebration” in 2013.
When I was 10 years old, I accidentally crushed my cat’s head in our refrigerator. Golly went into seizures but survived and returned to normal within a few weeks. I felt helpless when that happened and that was the moment that I decided to become a veterinarian. I started working for a local veterinarian when I was 14 years old and never considered any other career.”

Dr. Dale Peyroux (LSU SVM 1980) is passionate about his veterinary career and the LSU SVM. He and his wife, Patti, have been supporters of our school for many years.

Adds Dale, “I have always wanted to be a veterinarian, and the LSU SVM enabled me to achieve my goal. It only seems logical to help the institution that made my dreams come true. I love being a veterinarian, and I can thank the LSU SVM for that achievement.

“I would remind all LSU SVM graduates of two important points: (1) The LSU SVM is partially responsible for your success, and (2) the LSU SVM is available as a very helpful resource to all practicing veterinarians.”

In addition to supporting the LSU SVM, the Peyrouxs support their church (St. Joseph Catholic Church in Ponchatoula), both financially and through the music ministry. Dale plays bass guitar in the praise band for the Youth Mass on Sundays at 5 p.m., while Patti provides vocals. They also help with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity/Fuller Center for Housing with food for workers, donations and labor. Dale and his daughter, Ashley, did a mission trip to El Salvador a few years ago.

Dale and Patti have three cats (Buzz, Iceberg and Speedy), three bearded dragons (Titan, Kona and Rex), one snake (Houdini), and seven chickens.
Thank You—for helping us transform lives!

Each and every gift is important to us!

To give online, 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 like you 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, 2011, and June 30, 2012. 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 2012. LSU SVM alumni are noted by an asterisk.

Join Us and Rise to the Challenge—Saving Lives, Finding Cures, Changing Lives Every Day

Above $1,000,000

Kenneth F. Burns Trust

$100,000-$70,001

Donald & Sue Crow
Estate of Allyn C. Donaldson
Kenneth Windheim and Ashlye Daniel

$70,000-$30,001

Chaparral Foundation represented by Dewey and Virginia Corley
Coypu Foundation Trust
Louisiana Mosquito Control Association
Nestlé Purina PetCare Company
## 2011-2012 Alumni Giving By Class

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Class Agent</th>
<th># Donors/ # in Class</th>
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<td>14/34</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>$5,120</td>
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<td>8/44</td>
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<td>7/46</td>
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<td>$7,000</td>
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<td>20/78</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>George Robinson</td>
<td>18/78</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>Gary Levy</td>
<td>19/75</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>Siegfried Mayer</td>
<td>14/74</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>$6,282</td>
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<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Skippy Berner</td>
<td>15/74</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$11,390</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Paula Drone</td>
<td>8/74</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>$1,075</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>Joe Stark</td>
<td>13/73</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>$4,355</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Becky McConnico</td>
<td>10/74</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$4,170</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Jackie Simon</td>
<td>14/70</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Rob Conner</td>
<td>10/73</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$2,680</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Phillip Cancilleri</td>
<td>8/76</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Melissa Robinette</td>
<td>9/64</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$2,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Dina Duplantis</td>
<td>8/57</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$1,970</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Open</td>
<td>5/56</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$1,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Nancy Kessler</td>
<td>5/62</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>$2,660</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Lon and Jacinta Hays</td>
<td>5/68</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>$2,360</td>
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<td>Tracy Gieger</td>
<td>7/65</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<td>Lori Howell</td>
<td>10/74</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<td>4/71</td>
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<td>Shirani Hickman</td>
<td>9/80</td>
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<td>4/79</td>
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<td>Sara R. Blakesley</td>
<td>6/74</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>$1,895</td>
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<td>Kristin Clark</td>
<td>10/77</td>
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<td>Alissa Whitney</td>
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<td>1/81</td>
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<td>$95</td>
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<td>6%</td>
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<td>Lindy O’Neal</td>
<td>2/81</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Shannon Landry</td>
<td>0/75</td>
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**Total Donors/Total # in Class:** 300/2,469  
**Donations:** $108,675

---

**$30,000-$10,000**

- Anonymous
- Arkansas Veterinary Medical Foundation
- Bernice Barbour Foundation, Inc.
- Biedenharm Foundation
- Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Inc.
- Hubert Charitable Foundation
- Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
- Margret Pahl Stewart Foundation, Inc.
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- Thomas D. Overbay
- SmartPak
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**$10,000-$5,001**

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- Kaytee Avian Foundation
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- Live Oak Banking Company
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- Dr. Alfred Stevens* & Susan Stevens
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**Congratulations to the Class of 1977 and their class agent, Dr. Steve Gaunt, for having the highest participation rate, and to the Class of 1981 and their class agent, Dr. George Robinson, for having the highest total dollars given.**
$5,000-$2,001

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BlueCross BlueShield of Louisiana
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Acadia Animal Medical Center
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$1,000-$501

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Family members come in all shapes, sizes and species.
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Dr. Henry Sirgo
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Gifts made in memory of those we have lost have special significance, not only for our donors, but also for us at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. This is a personal way to honor and remember a loved one.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Glenn M. Angelle</td>
<td>Donna J. Heinrich</td>
<td>Veronica Rogers</td>
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<td>Dr. Lindsay P. Herzog</td>
<td>Antoinette Ryals</td>
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<td>Carol Albritton Biedenharn</td>
<td>Robert Hobbs</td>
<td>Sally’s Circa 1857</td>
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<td>BREC Horse Activity Center</td>
<td>Teresa J. Hobbs</td>
<td>Penny Scarberry</td>
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<td>Angela Elizabeth Hubbard</td>
<td>Vincent B. Scarborough</td>
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<td>Dusty Staton</td>
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<td>Bert Huval</td>
<td>Lynn F. Thibodeaux</td>
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<td>Louis Lee</td>
<td>Three Chix Realty</td>
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<td>Larry Lieux</td>
<td>Britt Torres</td>
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<td>Lipp’s Printing</td>
<td>Dannie Towne</td>
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<td>Andy Lockhart</td>
<td>Kevin Viator</td>
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<td>James C. Lopez Jr.</td>
<td>Lance Vidrine</td>
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<td>Joseph A. Matranga Sr.</td>
<td>Dwayne Watts</td>
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<td>Robert Maurin</td>
<td>Jerome Webb</td>
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<td>Tim Mercer</td>
<td>Cleveland J. Weisgerber Jr.</td>
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<td>Jake Morreale</td>
<td>Wengierski Racing, LLC</td>
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<td>Robert E. Wiles</td>
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<td>Jessie Wimberger</td>
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<td>Shannon Garrett</td>
<td>Kevin Parker</td>
<td>Windy Hill Farm, LLC</td>
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<td>Lora Pitre</td>
<td>Becky Young</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terri Guin</td>
<td>Joe Rink</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve C. Hartman</td>
<td>Steve Robert</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Advancement Team

The LSU SVM Advancement Team is dedicated to the LSU SVM’s mission of saving lives, finding cures, and changing lives every day. Your passion, your time, and your treasure help us to improve the lives of both animals and people every day. If you would like to partner with us, please contact any member of our team.

<table>
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Starting in January 2013, we’re celebrating 40 years of Veterinary Medicine at LSU. Come have dinner with me! To learn more about our March 2013 “Evening with Mike VI” event, please contact Betty Karlsson at 225-578-9870.