40 Years of Excellence: Paving the Way

I wanted to do something I would love
LETTER FROM OUR DEAN

Our students are the lifeblood of our school; they are the reason that we were founded. One aspect of the LSU SVM’s mission is to change lives through educational excellence. This issue of La Veterinaire highlights one of our students. Brandy Duhon (Class of 2013) has overcome incredible odds to achieve her dream of becoming a veterinarian. She is just on of more than 400 exceptional people (veterinary students, graduate students and hospital interns and residents) who have chosen the LSU SVM to further their educational and professional goals.

This issue also includes an update on the exceptional research conducted by our Equine Health Studies Program, as well as a clinical case study on a canine patient that was helped by multiple services in our hospital. We have been fortunate to add several stellar new faculty members, and you will meet them in this issue as well. It is our faculty, staff and students who make us great.

In 1973, thirty-six Louisiana residents composed our inaugural class. In 2013, we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of this achievement. Since then, the LSU SVM has bestowed 2,576 DVM degrees and 379 MS and PhD degrees. Our graduates work in the private sector, in academia, in the military and in government. We could not be more proud of their success.

Our 40th anniversary celebrations will take place throughout the year as we showcase our people, our facilities and our programs. We hope that you can join us at our annual events, including the Great Rover Road Run and the Animals in Art exhibition, and at special events we will host this year as part of our 40th anniversary.

Coinciding with our 40th anniversary is the kick-off of our ABC Challenge, a fundraising plan to augment three key programs. Our goal is to take these already-exceptional areas of our school to even greater heights. Your generosity and support are vital to our continued success. This is an exciting time for the LSU SVM, and I hope that you will join us in celebrating our past, our present and our bright future.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Haynes, DVM, DACVS
Dean

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I Wanted to Do Something I Would Love

Brandy Duhon lost her hands at the age of 13, but that hasn’t stopped her from fulfilling her dream of becoming a veterinarian. Brandy is a fourth-year veterinary student and will graduate in May 2013. Read her story on page 4.

BACK COVER IMAGE

The 88 students in the Class of 2016 received their blue lab coats in August 2012, signifying the beginning of their formal veterinary medical education.

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La Veterinaire
The News-Magazine of the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine

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 scholarly research and educational excellence.

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In 1973, thirty-six Louisiana residents embarked on their veterinary careers at LSU. This inaugural class received their DVM degrees in 1977. More than 2,500 veterinary students later, the LSU SVM continues to provide future veterinarians with an exemplary education and the skills they need to provide the best possible care for animals, to investigate disease and injuries, and to provide our military and government with outstanding service.

To commemorate the 40 years that we have been educating future veterinarians and MS and PhD students, the LSU SVM is hosting events throughout 2013 and is embarking on the ABC Challenge, a fundraising initiative focusing on enhancing key programs of the LSU SVM.

Our annual events, such as Open House, the Great Rover Road Run and the International Exhibition on Animals in Art will all help celebrate our 40th anniversary. In addition, special events such as the Evening with Mike VI and our alumni homecoming weekend will highlight our past, present and future.

On January 12, more than 100 people helped the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine kick off its 40th anniversary celebrations! For more than 40 years, we have been dedicated to saving lives, finding cures, and changing lives through outstanding clinical and community service, groundbreaking research and educational excellence. The January 12 event also commemorated the 10th anniversary of the LSU SVM’s Cancer Treatment Unit, which opened in 2003.

Attending the event were present and former clients and patients of the Cancer Treatment Unit and donors, as well as LSU SVM faculty and staff. Diane Deaton of WAFB’s 9 News This Morning and 9 News at Noon served as mistress of ceremonies. Special guests included Dr. William Jenkins, interim president and chancellor (and former LSU SVM dean), and Dr. Mike Strain (LSU SVM 1983), commissioner for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry.

Guests were given tours of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and got to hear stories from owners whose pets received medical care from the Cancer Treatment Unit.

Coinciding with our 40th anniversary is our ABC Challenge, a fundraising plan to augment three key programs, such as advancing cures for cancer, biomedical and infectious disease research and Companion Animal Clinic enhancements. Each represents our future, our mission and our service to the community. The financial goal of this challenge is to raise $5 million for these three important missions of the LSU SVM. To learn more or to make a donation, please contact Laura Lanier, director of development, at llanier@lsu.edu or 225-578-9826 or Betty Karlsson, executive director of advancement, at bkarlsson@lsu.edu or 225-578-9870.
ABOVE: Ed Antie attended the 40th Anniversary Launch Party with his dog, Annie.

RIGHT: Also attending the Launch Party were Lisa Bates and her dog, Tipper.

BELOW: Speaking at the LSU SVM’s 40th Anniversary Launch Party were (from left) Dr. Mike Strain (LSU SVM 1983), Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry commissioner; Diane Deaton with WAFB-TV; and Dr. Peter Haynes, dean.

TOP: The cupcake-cake and cupcakes were generously donated for the event by April and Charles Ruffolo, owners of the Louisiana Culinary Institute.

ABOVE: Attending the LSU SVM’s 40th Anniversary Launch Party were (from left) Nadine Carter Russell, LSU Interim President and Chancellor William Jenkins and Margaret Womack Hart.
Veterinarians are special; they combine a love and compassion for animals and a love for science into a career that helps both people and animals. It takes dedication, intelligence and caring to make a good veterinarian; most people would also assume that it requires hands, until they meet Brandy Duhon (Class of 2013). The loss of Brandy Duhon’s hands hasn’t stopped her from doing anything she’s set her mind to do.

Brandy’s arms end a few inches below her elbows. In 1995, at the age of 13, Brandy thought she was suffering from the flu and had unexplained bruises on her arm and thigh. At the American Legion Hospital in Crowley, La., Brandy was diagnosed with meningococcal meningitis, which cut off blood flow to her extremities. This led to gangrene in her hands and one foot; doctors amputated both hands and her right heel.

Since then, Brandy has been told there are things she can never do, like walk without a brace or even walk barefoot. She’s never worn a brace, and she walks barefoot whenever she wants. She has completed her course work and will complete her clinical rotations in the LSU SVM’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital in May. The only accommodation made for her as a student was the addition of a new door handle for the third-year classroom (a larger one that’s easier to grab); Brandy can open a door with a door knob but has trouble doing it while holding an arm-load of books.
Getting Into Veterinary School

Most veterinary students say that they always knew they wanted to be veterinarians. Brandy Duhon’s road to veterinary medicine was different. First, though she’s always been interested in science, she didn’t always want to be a veterinarian. When she was in college, she wanted to be an anesthesiologist; she later considered going into forensic science. By her junior year in college (she received her BS in science from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette in 2005), Brandy began considering a career in veterinary medicine. “I knew that I wanted a job I could enjoy; something that didn’t feel like a job,” said Brandy. “I wanted to do something I would love.”

Brandy was seriously considering a career in veterinary medicine when she met Dr. Renee Poirrier (LSU SVM 1988), who encouraged Brandy and invited her to come by her clinic to learn more about the profession. Brandy ended up working at the Acadiana Veterinary Clinic for almost five years. “I started out at the bottom, just like everyone else,” said Brandy. “I worked kennels, then moved to reception, and then I worked as a technician. By the end, I was helping with surgeries.” It was Dr. Poirrier who encouraged Brandy to apply to the LSU SVM.

Brandy was not accepted the first time she applied, or even the second. Dr. Rebecca McConnico (LSU SVM 1987), professor of veterinary medicine, met Brandy while she was applying to the LSU SVM. “When I first met Brandy, I was most impressed by her motivation; she was willing to do whatever it took to get into veterinary school,” said Dr. McConnico. “After reviewing her entire packet with her, we came up with a plan that we thought would put her in the best position for improving her ranking. She needed to convince the admissions committee that she was capable and committed to successful completion of advanced training. She was admitted to graduate school and began work OPPOSITE PAGE: Brandy Duhon assists Dr. James Wignall, companion animal surgery resident.

TOP: Brandy receives her blue lab coat from Dr. Bruce Eilts, professor of theriogenology, at the beginning of her first year of veterinary school in August 2009.

MIDDLE: Brandy (kneeling) participates in the Problem-Based Learning exercise with fellow second-year students.

BOTTOM: Brandy receives her white coat from Dr. Renee Poirrier (LSU SVM 1988) during her third year of veterinary school in February 2012.
on a Master's degree before applying to the LSU SVM again, when she was accepted.”

Dr. McConnico added, “Brandy’s life experiences are dramatically different than most people’s, but she has not allowed her physical challenges to keep her from pursuing her dreams and finding her place in our profession. We are always looking for great role models in our students—people who will contribute to a profession rich in diversity and contribute to society. I knew she would make a positive difference; she has more than done that as a student, and I can’t wait to see what she is going to do as a veterinarian.”

Classes and Labs

Brandy arrived at the LSU SVM for her first year of veterinary school in August 2009. She didn’t know any of her classmates before then but soon found out that her physician’s son, Logan Curtis, was in her class. “He came up to me and introduced himself,” said Brandy, “but I never knew he existed before that. It was strange because I’m so close to his dad (who basically saved my life), but I hadn’t met Logan before we started vet school.”

Along with the rest of her class, Brandy participated in the Freshman Leadership Experience, a one-day session prior to the class’s formal orientation; FLE gives the students a chance to get to know one another before the rigors of school begin. The class is divided into groups that must work together on different team-building projects, such as building a boat out of cardboard and duct tape before rowing the boat across a pool.

After FLE and orientation, the first-year students start classes and anatomy lab; students work in pairs to learn anatomy. “I remember Christine Zewe approached me and said, ‘What do you think about us being partners?’” said Brandy. “We just went from there and were partners for lab that whole year.”

There were some adjustments Brandy had to make to participate in lab. “I purchased larger forceps, and I taped the scalpel holder to my arm.”

“In anatomy lab, Dr. [Daniel] Hillmann and Dr. [Hermann] Bragulla were amazing,” added Brandy. “They didn’t treat me any different than anyone else. Dr. Hillmann never even asked if I thought I’d have trouble doing anything. He never questioned my ability.”

Clinical Rotations

Brandy’s favorite part of third-year (before clinics) was the surgery lab. “My first spay was incredible,” said Brandy. Spays are done in teams of three: one student performs the surgery (under supervision), one student assists, and the third student performs anesthesia. “For surgery, I keep the gloves inside-out so the fingers stay in the gloves,” said Brandy. “I also use an instrument called a Mathieu needle holder to suture. It uses opposing force to clamp.” The Mathieu does not have finger holes; it has handles that spring open when the ratchet is activated.

One of the classmates assisting Brandy performed with that first spay was Erika Fauth. “On the day of surgery, Brandy was extremely composed but excited for her first live surgery,” said Erika. “She had everything organized and ready to go. Our dog happened to be in heat so the surgery was tough, but Brandy remained level-headed. I was extremely impressed with how she handled the situation, and our dog did great afterwards! I actually fostered the dog after her surgery and found her a great home and she continues to do well.”

In the second semester of the third year, veterinary students begin their hospital rotations. Brandy’s first block was equine medicine with Dr. Susan Eades (LSU SVM 1982). “I loved equine medicine so much I cried when I was done,” said Brandy. “My last patient was a horse that ripped out her catheter one night. I had just gotten the catheter in her neck and was leaving, when she took her rear, right leg and ripped it out. I ran back to her, and the technician and I got it back in.”

Dr. McConnico said, “I have worked with Brandy in equine clinical skills labs but did not work with her when she was on her equine rotation; however, I do know that she impressed the heck out of my colleagues with both her physical and intellectual contributions. She is super smart and a leader in the class. I think she was able to complete all of the clinical skills that are expected of all of our students (except maybe a rectal exam on a horse - although, knowing Brandy—she somehow probably managed to do that too!”

She has taught me that if someone is determined enough—if something means enough to someone—they will find a way to do it no matter the odds against them.
Said Dr. Susan Eades (LSU SVM 1982), professor of veterinary medicine, “Brandy was actively engaged in all aspects of patient management—patient care, diagnostic and therapeutic management—during her equine rotation. She rapidly improved her skills in diagnostic and therapeutic planning during the rotation. Brandy worked tirelessly on her own cases and helped other students with their cases. She was a leader in organizing the efforts of all members of the rotation to accomplish the necessary tasks. Her overwhelmingly positive attitude in situations of adversity was contagious to all members of the rotation. I sometimes found myself wanting to help her take care of her patients but quickly realized that I didn’t need to. There is very little that she cannot do. I am looking forward to great things being done by her upon graduation.”

“I also loved shelter medicine with Dr. [Wendy] Wolfson,” said Brandy. “Dixon Correctional Institute was my favorite shelter we visited. The inmates are so dedicated and genuinely honored to be working with the animals there. They’re so eager to learn and very concerned for the animals.”

Dr. Wolfson (LSU SVM 1986), instructor of veterinary surgery, said, “I will miss her after graduation. I know her employers and clients are getting a great veterinarian. She made my job fun; her commitment to her studies and her great sense of humor make her a joy to teach. Brandy never says she can’t do something; she does what she sets out to do but perhaps in a different way. That girl has never used the phrase, ‘I give up.’ She is a true inspiration to me. At Dixon Correctional, the inmates asked her so many questions about her disability (not a word I think of when I think of Brandy), and she was so patient and honest in answering them. They were very impressed. She makes me believe in the human spirit—that we can achieve many things in life beyond what others think we can.”

Working with clients and patients is Brandy’s favorite part of veterinary school. “When I first started clinics, I spoke with Stephanie Johnson [licensed social worker and school counselor] about how I should approach clients,” said Brandy. “We agreed that I’m used to people’s different reactions to me, and I can tell when someone

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**TOP:** Brandy received the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association Outstanding Student Award in 2012 along with Anna Ozio (Class of 2012) and Elise Madara (Class of 2014). Dr. Gary Levy (LSU SVM 1982) presented the award (left). Congratulating the recipients is Dr. Peter F. Haynes, dean (right).

**MIDDLE:** Brandy enjoys the Spanish Town Mardi Gras Parade in February 2013. To her right is her boyfriend, Joe Del Diaz.

**BOTTOM:** Brandy with classmates Stacy Landers (center) and Erika Fauth at the 2013 Spanish Town Mardi Gras Parade.
is waiting for me to talk about it. I haven’t had a problem with any client. No one has indicated that they think I can’t do my job. Over the Christmas holiday, we had a family come in with their dog while I was on my emergency rotation. They were distraught because there was nothing we could do for the dog. The mother asked me to stay with the family while their dog was euthanized and that really touched me. That connection you make with the pet owner is very important to me. You provide care for their pet, but you know that you’ve touched a place in that person’s heart as well.”

While on her companion animal surgery rotation, Brandy assisted Dr. James Wignall, surgery resident. The dog’s veterinarian palpated a mass in the dogs left anal gland, and it was diagnosed as Apocrine gland adenocarcinoma of the anal sac. “We removed the entire left anal sac,” said Brandy. “I assisted Dr. Wignall by holding and passing instruments and suturing the skin.”

In August 2012, Brandy did an externship at Quitman Animal Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Quitman, Texas, and had a great experience. She will go back to that clinic in 2013 for a preceptorship. Brandy worked with Dr. Randall Bennett (LSU SVM 1984). “They had no hesitation about me whatsoever,” said Brandy. “They said they didn’t want to hold me back. It was my ideal clinic. The clinicians take time to help the technicians, and everyone stepped up to help everyone else. One doctor might prefer to work with farm animals, but if a client comes in with a dog and that doctor is available, he sees the dog.”

When Brandy gets back from Quitman, she’ll have her last few rotations before graduation: nephrology, theriogenology and a preceptorship at Dr. Poirrier’s clinic in Lafayette. After graduation, Brandy would like to work in a mixed animal practice (caring for pets, horses and farm animals).

**Relationships**

Brandy has been in a relationship for more than 12 years. Her boyfriend, Joe Del Diaz, is a purchasing manager for an oil company (a job that allows him to work from anywhere), and he’s prepared to relocate depending on where Brandy finds a job after graduation.

Brandy and Joe met in a bar. “I really wish it was a better story,” says Brandy. “The first thing he ever said to me was, ‘Would you ever get married?’ I said, ‘Hell no,’ and he said, ‘Hello. My name is Joe Del Diaz.’ He was there with a buddy who was getting a divorce, but we do plan to get married some day. He’s awesome.”
Brandy has made many friends at the LSU SVM. Peter Armstrong (Class of 2013) did a four-week externship at Quitman Animal Clinic at the same time as Brandy. “Brandy is one of my best friends,” said Peter. “She is by far one of the most outstanding people I have ever met in my life. She has more determination than anyone I know and allows no one or nothing to set her back. She can draw blood, give injections, and restrain the biggest dog in the room, all while having the best attitude. I have never seen one thing she could not do. One of our biggest laughs is that when she palpates, she needs to wear earplugs. She has taught me that if someone is determined enough—if something means enough to someone—they will find a way to do it no matter the odds against them.”

Added Erika Fauth (Class of 2013), “Brandy is the most strong-willed yet soft-hearted person I have every met. She will never give up on herself or give in to her handicap. She is a great friend and has taught me so much about myself.”

Brandy has been on the Dean’s Honor List of Scholastic Achievement for 2010, 2011 and 2012 by maintaining a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during her professional training. In 2012, she received the Outstanding Student Award from the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, which is presented to one student from Years II, III, and IV, selected by the faculty on the basis of scholastic achievement, demonstrated leadership ability, and professional attitude and acumen.

Dr. Kirk Ryan, assistant professor of veterinary medicine, said “Brandy is a bit of a paradox. On one level, she is the most inspiring person I have met. On another, she is just part of the team—an extraordinary veterinary student—no different than any other great team player we have on board. When I first observed her, I was fascinated by the things she could do. From working together, I know that she can essentially do anything that I can do. It’s amazing to think about it, but now I never give it a second thought. If you asked me to describe Brandy, it wouldn’t occur to me talk about a physical limitation; I would describe her as brilliant, clever, funny, insightful, humble, hard working, compassionate and caring. Oh, and she also has brown hair....and she’s a bit of a smart aleck.”

PHOTOS FROM TOP: Brandy with Dr. Anderson da Cunha, associate professor of veterinary anesthesiology.

Brandy discusses her cases during surgical rounds.

Brandy assists Dr. James Wignall, companion animal surgery resident, with one of her surgery cases.
The LSU SVM is home to the Equine Health Studies Program (EHSP), a premier clinical specialty and biomedical training and research program dedicated to improving the lives of horses. Central to the program’s core research efforts is the Charles V. Cusimano Equine Physiology and Pharmacology Laboratory, where collaborative studies are conducted in the areas of vascular and nonvascular physiology and pharmacology relating to laminitis and airway diseases, gastrointestinal diseases, reproduction, and pain management.

**Gastrointestinal Diseases**

**Gastric Ulcers**

In 2012, Dr. Frank Andrews, EHSP director, and his research team focused on the use of feed supplements containing natural ingredients to treat and prevent stomach ulcers, a common horse ailment. The team found that adding a zinc supplement to the diet with omeprazole (an acid-blocking pharmacologic agent) might help prevent stomach ulcers. The information is especially important for horses housed in stalls, fed twice daily and in a hot, humid climate.

Sea buckthorn berries (*Hippophae rhamnoides*), are rich in vitamins C and E, carotenoids, flavonoids, fatty acids, plant sterols, lignins, and minerals. A study performed by Dr. Andrews’s team found that a feed supplement containing sea buckthorn berries and pulp (SeaBuck SBT Gastro-Plus liquid) showed effectiveness in treatment of naturally occurring stomach ulcers in the lower part (glandular region) of the horse stomach. In addition, another study found that a supplement (SmartGut® Ultra) containing sea buckthorn berries and natural antacids prevented gastric ulcers from getting worse after omeprazole treatment and might be an affordable alternative to help guard against stomach ulcers, especially after omeprazole treatment is discontinued.
Colic

Colic is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in horses. Diseases of the large intestine are a major cause of colic, causing varying degrees of debilitation and death in horses. EHSP researchers, including Dr. Rebecca McConnico (LSU SVM 1987), continue to work to determine the reasons behind large intestinal diseases and to look at associations between gastrointestinal disease and laminitis. Their goal is to find effective treatments that prevent or reduce damage from these life-threatening conditions.

Dr. McConnico’s research team is focused on cyclooxygenase inhibitors, such as Phenybutazone (bute), that are often used to treat arthritis and muscle pain in equine athletes worldwide. Although initially thought to be well-tolerated in horses, research shows that the drugs can cause adverse side-effects including stomach and colon inflammation and ulceration and kidney dysfunction even when given at recommended doses. Dr. McConnico’s team showed that prolonged bute administration caused hypoalbuminemia, neutropenia, changes in colonic blood flow, and changes in volatile fatty acids. Based on this information, veterinarians should use these drugs with caution when treating horses.

Another pharmacologic study by Dr. McConnico’s team evaluated the safety of an oral paste formulation of a commercially available COX1-sparing NSAID, firocoxib (Equioxx®, Merial Limited, Duluth, Ga.) in clinically healthy 6-week-old pony foals. Results revealed that firocoxib administration did not have adverse effects on stomach, intestines or blood values and was well tolerated.

The Charles V. Cusimano Equine Physiology and Pharmacology Laboratory is home to summer scholars and graduate student projects since its dedication in 2011. Their studies have covered such topics as evaluating mechanisms of inflammation and secretion in the large colon with and without metronidazole, lidocaine or meloxicam. Equine colonic tissue samples are evaluated outside of the body using Ussing chambers to recreate the normal environment in the body to study tissue secretion, permeability and healing. Dr. McConnico and her colleagues continue to provide close one-on-one mentoring to eager young scientists to tackle some of these major equine medical problems.

Musculoskeletal Diseases

Stem Cells as Treatment

Stem cells have evolved as a common treatment approach in veterinary medicine. “To develop stem cell therapies, we need to first optimize and describe their behavior in the laboratory to help us predict how they will behave in the body,” says Dr. Mandi Lopez, director of the Laboratory for Equine and Comparative Orthopedic Research. Dr. Lopez and colleagues isolated multipotent stromal cells (immature stem cells in adult tissues) from equine bone marrow and fat. These stem cells participate in tissue maintenance and healing by maturing into adult cells as needed. Dr. Lopez’s team has successfully isolated and grown stem cell in the lab and focuses on uses of these cells in equine disease. Dr. Lopez and colleagues looked at the ability of multipotent stromal cells from bone and adipose tissue to produce bone, adipose and cartilage neotissue on pieces of collagen called a scaffold, which provides a framework for the cells to attach and produce tissue. The key finding of this study was that adult equine stem cells, when loaded onto collagen scaffolds, turned into fat, bone and cartilage. This is promising and may mean that stem cells may be used for tissue regeneration. “These findings support our ongoing efforts to develop equine stem cell tissue regeneration to provide new and improve upon existing treatment options”, says Dr. Lopez.

Laminitis

For the past 15 years, notable progress in understanding equine laminitis through research has been achieved under the direction of Dr. Susan Eades (LSU SVM 1982). As one of the two recipients of Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation “Barbaro” Grant, Dr. Eades continues to evaluate treatment and prevention strategies for this devastating disease in horses. Laminitis can result in separation of the hoof layers, known as lamina, often resulting in rotation of the coffin bone (distal phalanx), an irreversible and deadly condition. Anecdotal observations and results of survey studies indicate that most laminitis cases occur in horses and ponies kept at pasture. Risk for development of pasture-associated laminitis results from high nonstructural carbohydrate content of the pasture grass and from animal-predisposing factors. Horses that have circulating concentrations of insulin (insulin resistance) are more likely to develop laminitis when grazing pasture grasses. Dr. Eades’s research team studies laminitis by infusion of insulin and glucose intravenously. Another goal of Dr. Eades’s team is to measure biomarkers in the blood during insulin induced laminitis. A biomarker is a protein that is produced by the body in response to disease. Risk assessment by use of biomarkers is becoming increasingly common practice in both human and veterinary medicine; however, the use of biomarkers in equine laminitis has not yet been established. Dr. Eades’s research team is evaluating the useful of biomarkers in assessing the risk of laminitis occurrence on pasture.
During laminitis, enzymes (metalloproteinases) that degrade the structures holding the hoof wall to the pedal bone are produced. Dr. Eades's team has shown that pentoxifylline is a potent inhibitor of these enzymes in the horse and that it effectively reduces lameness during laminitis. Another goal is to evaluate the effects of pentoxifylline on laminitis caused by insulin.

**Laminitis and Stem Cells**

Complex hoof structure and the complicated nature of laminitis make study and treatment of laminitis a challenging endeavor. Studies have shown that lamina tissue is irreversibly altered by laminitis, regardless of the cause of the inflammation. The presence of stem cells in the hoof is necessary for normal growth and healing. Based on this knowledge, Dr. Lopez and her colleagues theorized that the permanent changes in hoof wall structure from laminitis might be due to loss or damage to the hoof stem cells. In order to investigate this theory, methods have been developed to isolate and grow stem cells from normal and laminitic hooves. Early results have confirmed that the isolated cells are capable of turning into several cell types, a characteristic of stem cells. This exciting discovery provides a new way to study and compare stem cells from normal hooves and those with naturally occurring laminitis. The possibilities to study causes, treatments and prevention of laminitis using this new, laboratory model hold significant promise to improve the health and well-being of horses.

**Infectious Diseases**

**Rhinitis Virus**

Respiratory disease is common in race horses. The economic impact of viral induced infectious respiratory disease, such as Equine Influenza virus (EIV) and Equine Herpes virus (EHV), on the horse industry is substantial. Despite this, little is known about Equine Rhinitis Virus (serotypes ERV-1 and ERV-2) in racehorses housed and trained at Louisiana. Dr. Andrews’s research team conducted a study to determine seroprevalence of ERV in horses at a racetrack, training center, and a university farm in southern Louisiana. The study revealed that ERV-1 and ERV-2 were present, and ERV-1 was more prevalent in horses housed at the race track and university farm, compared to the training facility. The difference in prevalence at these facilities may be due to age, as horses at the racetrack and university farm were older allowing more time for virus exposure. ERV appears to be prevalent in horses in Louisiana and warrants further epidemiologic investigation to determine its impact on racing and training and the need for vaccine development to reduce impact.

**Equine Herpes Virus**

Through joint efforts with private practitioners, the state veterinarian's office, and the Louisiana Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL), EHSP researchers (Drs. Frank Andrews, Susan Eades, Rebecca McConnico and Alma Roy) continue to report on the management of Equine Herpesvirus Type 1 infections in Louisiana and the region. The team, along with colleagues from other universities, has reported on outbreak scenarios and the importance of minimizing economic losses, while protecting the health and welfare of horses by encouraging equine veterinarians and regulatory officials to agree on nomenclature, case definition, interpretation of molecular diagnostic tests, and appropriate biosecurity responses.

**Respiratory Disease (RAO)**

Recurrent airway obstruction (RAO) is a debilitating respiratory disorder in horses, similar to human asthma. Dr. Changaram Venugopal is focused on airway hyperreactivity and is characterizing inflammatory mediators of diseases. Dr. Venugopal's team is focused on inflammatory mediators in Summer Pasture Associated Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (SPAOPD), which is common in Louisiana. These mediators are responsible for contraction of airway smooth muscles, increased vascular permeability leading to edema, increased mucus secretion and damage to airway epithelium.

In recent years, Dr. Venugopal and his colleagues have examined alterations in tissue receptors of two important mediators, endothelin and neurokinin-A, during their transformation from healthy state to a disease state. The findings of the investigation of novel antagonists of these receptors, particularly endothelin B receptor antagonists for endothelin and NK-2 receptor antagonists for neurokinin, suggested a potential use of them in RAO in horses.

Currently, Dr. Venugopal and his team are working to find a vaccine for RAO. Their emphasis is on the unique role of an endogenous anti-inflammatory proteins (Secretoglobulin family) produced by Clara Cells in the airways. These proteins are believed to be block inflammation which is the primary cause airway injury and leave the airways vulnerable to attack by allergens. Dr. Venugopal and his collaborator, Dr. Sudhiridas K. Prayaga, an immunologist, were able to identify and develop a peptide (Patent pending) that could produce antibodies to protect animals from seasonal allergy. Dr.
Venugopal's team is planning to investigate whether a subcutaneous administered peptide will prevent RAO in horses.

**Theriogenology (Reproduction)**

Theriogenology research in the EHSP includes stallion and mare reproduction. Dr. Sara Lyle and her research team have investigated the response of the immune system and the fetal endocrine system in response to bacteria that lead to abortion in the mare. Most notable was the discovery that inflammation post-infection precociously matures the fetal hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis (responsible for the production of cortisol—a key hormone in response to stress). These findings explain in part why foals that survive following delivery subsequent to placentitis are more mature than foals that are delivered prematurely due to other reasons.

Another group of Dr. Lyle’s investigations focus on changes in uterine pressure to endotoxemia and to stallion vocalization, using the SmartPill® system (a device that measures gastrointestinal pressure in people). Understanding how endotoxemia can lead to abortion will help refine treatments aimed at maintaining pregnancy following colic. The response to stallion vocalization may lead to improved methods of managing mares that cannot effectively clear the uterus of fluid and debris after mating.

A third area of research involves the use of third generation buffered chelators as adjunctive therapy for mares infected with bacteria or yeast. Chelators are helpful when these microbes become resistant to traditional antibiotics and antifungal agents and in cases where biofilm (a micro-colony of bacteria/yeast that are attached to the lining of the uterus) is suspected.

Finally, several studies have focused on optimizing semen processing for either fresh-cooled shipment or “freezing” of stallion semen. Dr. Lyle’s group has found that higher centrifugal forces than traditionally used are safe, and that cushion media does not substantially improve spermatozoal characteristics for shipped fresh-cooled semen, but may provide some beneficial effects when processing semen for freezing.

Louisiana boasts a rich equine industry and contributes $2.8 billion to the state economy. The mission of the EHSP is to improve horse health in our state and region. The interdisciplinary and interdepartmental nature and inter-laboratory collaborative efforts of the EHSP is a strength of the LSU SVM community of scientists. Many faculty members throughout the EHSP, the LSU SVM and the University participate in EHSP related research and mentor graduate students, post-doctoral students, and introduce veterinary students to opportunities for future careers in equine veterinary research. Research conducted by the dedicated faculty and staff in the EHSP provides a deeper understanding into the causes, treatment and prevention of the most important diseases affecting all horses of Louisiana and the surrounding region. It is only through a better understanding of equine disease that we can improve horse health and preserve the rich equine tradition in Louisiana.
By the time firefighters arrived, the two-story home was engulfed in flames. Peanut, a 10-year-old Kemmer Cur, was trapped, tethered by a leash on a second story balcony. Peanut was a ball of flames when her leash finally burned through, and she was able to jump from the second story. Firefighters had to extinguish her fur when she landed on the ground. By the time the house fire was extinguished, Peanut was all her owners had left.

When she arrived at the LSU SVM Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Peanut had burns over 40% of her body, was suffering from heat stroke and had signs of acute kidney injury. According to Dr. Mark Acierno, associate professor of companion animal medicine, “This case shows the real strength of an institution like LSU, as Peanut was treated by for her heatstroke, her extensive burns and her kidney injury by multiple medical services—internal medicine, dermatology, surgery and nephrology—often all at the same time. There are very few places in the southeast where a patient like Peanut could receive such comprehensive care.”

While faculty, staff and students on the dermatology and surgery services started caring for the burn wounds and those on the internal medicine service worked to control signs of heatstroke, Peanut was placed on continuous renal replacement therapy.
(CRRT), a form of continuous dialysis. Dr. Acierno explains, “The CRRT was started to give Peanut’s kidneys time to start working again. Also studies in people show that this therapy can remove chemical messengers associated with worsening signs of heatstroke.”

After 72 hours on CRRT, Peanut regained kidney function. She was hospitalized in the Small Animal Intensive Care Unit for an additional three weeks for management of her kidney disease, as well as care for her extensive burns.

“Peanut has made a remarkable recovery from her acute kidney injury and has only mild elevations in her renal values,” said Dr. Andrea Dedeaux (LSU SVM 2011), companion animal medicine resident. “Shortly after discharge she came back for surgical debridement of her burns and primary closure of some of the wounds.”

With so much of her skin burned and exposed, Peanut was at constant risk of developing a catastrophic infection, and precautions had to be taken to prevent her from being exposed to bacteria. While Peanut was in the ICU, the companion animal surgeons consulted on her burn management. “A decision was made to send her home since she was doing well and to re-admit her for surgery on November 26,” said Dr. Katrin Saile (LSU SVM 2006), assistant professor of veterinary surgery. “At that time, the plan was to anesthetize her and remove the eschar, properly clip and clean her wound and close as much of her wound as possible.”

Peanut was anesthetized on November 28 and approximately one-third of her wounds were closed. “She was having some anesthetic complications—mainly low blood pressure—that prevented us from closing more of the wound at that time,” said Dr. Saile. “Since she had renal insufficiency, we were very concerned about her becoming hypotensive since low blood pressure could push her back into renal failure. While still under anesthesia, a vacuum-assisted wound closure system was placed on her back. The VAC dressing was kept on into December. The dressing was changed every three days, and Peanut was able to go home with the dressing and vacuum container and came in just for outpatient bandage changes.” In late December, Peanut’s owner started performing her own bandage changes.

“Peanut’s prognosis is great!” said Dr. Dedeaux. “She does not have to be on any medication for management of her kidney disease.”

Marye, Peanut’s owner, said, “She now has no medical problems whatsoever. Her wounds are completely healed. The veterinarians and all the support staff at LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital provided outstanding care during Peanut’s four weeks in intensive care. Initially, she was only given a 50-50 chance of survival. However the combination of her strong will to survive and the excellent care she received enabled her to overcome significant obstacles.”

Hospital photos provided by Dr. Amy Grooters, professor of companion animal medicine. February 2013 photo provided by Peanut’s owner.
New Faculty

Sanjay Batra, MS, PhD, assistant professor-research in Pathobiological Sciences, joined the faculty in January 2012. Prior to joining the faculty, Dr. Batra worked as a senior research associate in the PBS department. He received his BS and MS from Lucknow University in 1984 and 1986, respectively. He received his PhD from Kanpur University (Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow) in 1992. Dr. Batra is a Centers for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) pilot project investigator researching bacterial pulmonary inflammation and host defense.

David Beehan, MVB, MS, DACT, joined the faculty in July 2012 as an instructor of theriogenology in Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Dr. Beehan received his MVB from the Veterinary College of Ireland (Dublin, Ireland) in 2006. He received his MS from the LSU SVM in December 2012. In July 2012, Dr. Beehan completed his theriogenology residency at the LSU SVM. He is a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists.

Jude Bordelon, DVM, assistant professor of companion animal surgery in Veterinary Clinical Sciences, joined the faculty in June 2012. He received his BS and DVM from LSU in 1998 and 2002, respectively. He received his MS in 2010 from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Bordelon is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Michelle Ellison, VMD, DACVR, joined the faculty in August 2012 as an assistant professor of diagnostic imaging in Veterinary Clinical Sciences. She received BS degrees in Animal Sciences and Microbiology from the University of Maryland College Park in 2003 and her VMD from the University of Pennsylvania in 2007. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiology, and her clinical specialty is radiology with special interest in musculoskeletal imaging. Her research interest is in functional tendon ultrasound.

Jacques Fuselier, DVM, DABVP, joined the faculty in August 2012 as an assistant professor of farm animal health management in Veterinary Clinical Sciences. He received his BS and DVM from LSU in 1998 and 2003, respectively. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (Food Animal) and will sit for the American College of Theriogenologists boards in 2013. His clinical interests are in the judicious use of antibiotics and vaccines in food animal species, production management, and in the reproductive performance of food animals and cervids (e.g., deer).

Kazuo Imaizumi, PhD, DVM, joined the faculty in February 2012 as an assistant professor of research in Comparative Biomedical Sciences. He received his BS and DVM from Nihon University in Japan in 1986 and 1988, respectively. He received his PhD in neurobiology in 2001 from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. His research
interest is in systems neuroscience, specifically the plasticity of inhibitory interneurons in the auditory cortex.

**Juan Martinez, PhD**, associate professor in Pathobiological Sciences, joined the faculty in November 2012. He received his BS in Microbiology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1995 and his PhD from Washington University in 2001. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, France, and was an assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Chicago from October 2005-2012. He is interested in understanding the molecular details underlying the initiation and progression of fatal rickettsial diseases and in elucidating the roles of conserved outer-membrane proteins in the interactions with human and animal hosts and how these antigens can be utilized to generate effective protective immunity against rickettsial disease.

**Margaret McNulty, PhD**, joined the faculty in August 2012 as an assistant professor in Comparative Biomedical Sciences. She received her BS from Colorado State University in 2005 and her PhD from the University of Minnesota in 2010.

**Matt Welborn, DVM, MPH, ACVPM**, professor of farm animal health management in Veterinary Clinical Sciences, received his DVM from LSU in 1987 and his MPH from the University of Tennessee in 2005. He is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, and his specialty is in farm animal production medicine. His clinical interests are in veterinary public health, agroterrorism, emergency preparedness and toxic plants.

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**Faculty Honors**

Congratulations to Jill Johnson, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Internal Medicine), DACVP (Equine Practice), professor emerita of veterinary medicine in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Dr. Johnson is the recipient of the 2012 American Association of Equine Practitioner’s Distinguished Educator Award. This award recognizes individuals who by their actions and commitment have demonstrated a significant impact on the development and training of equine practitioners; individuals who, through their ability, dedication, character and leadership have played an important role in the educational career development of others. She was honored and presented with this award at the President’s Luncheon during this year’s AAEP Annual Convention in Anaheim, Calif.

**Faculty History**

The LSU SVM’s first faculty members were Dr. Everett D. Besch (pictured right), dean (1968-1988); Dr. Robert B. Lank, associate dean (1968-1977); Dr. Maurice Morrissette, head of the Department of Veterinary Physiology, Pharmacology & Toxicology (1969-1982); Dr. Charles W. Titkemeyer, head of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy & Fine Structure; Dr. L. Keith Wayt, head of the Department of Clinical Sciences & Veterinary Clinics; Dr. Edgar D. Roberts, head of the Department of Veterinary Pathology; and Dr. A. Roland Dommert, head of the Department of Veterinary Microbiology & Parasitology. These faculty members were responsible for forming the LSU SVM and its original curriculum.
Life at the LSU SVM:
Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence

In 1973, the LSU SVM accepted its first class. While the Veterinary Medicine Building was being constructed, the Class of 1977 attended class in LSU’s Audubon Hall and provided medical care for animals in the temporary Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

On April 17, 1974, the last beam was placed in the Veterinary Medicine Building. Painted red, white and blue, the beam was signed by (from left to right) Tom Beyt, project architect (standing at left in white coat); Joe Gossen, director, State Board and Building Commission; Dr. Everett D. Besch, dean; David Broussard, project manager and vice president, Eaton Construction Co.; and three steel workers. The person signing the beam is not identified.

Construction on the Veterinary Medicine Building began in 1972 and was completed in 1978.

Attending one of the LSU SVM’s first Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association meetings are Drs. Jill Wroten (LSU SVM 1977), C.C. Kleinpeter (LSU SVM 1978), Bert Coco (LSU SVM 1979), Alfred Stevens (LSU SVM 1979), David Hesse (LSU SVM 1978), Sally Coco (LSU SVM 1979) and Don Meyer (LSU SVM 1977).
Dean Peter Haynes (right) congratulates the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Staff Award recipients (from left) Shay Bordelon (Technical Management Award), Lee Ann Eddleman (Outstanding Achievement Award), Leonard Carter (Operations Management Award), Michelle Reed (Academic Support Award), and Melissa Garza (Administrative Support Award).

Veterinary technician students from the Baton Rouge Community College learn how to use an Anderson sling to help injured horses.

Attending the December 2012 Diploma Distribution Ceremony at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine are (from left) Dr. Cathryn Stevens-Sparks, Dr. George Strain, Dr. Jorge Vila, Dr. Sara Lyle, Dr. Romain Pariaut, Sona Chowdhury, Dr. David Beehan, Dr. Konstantin Kousoulas and Shiliang Anthony Liu.

Over 5,400 people visited the LSU SVM for the 2013 Open House.

The Class of 1987 reunited in the Anatomy Lab during the 2012 Alumni Homecoming Weekend.

The Class of 1982 reunited at the LSU SVM for the 2012 Alumni Homecoming Weekend for their class’s 30th reunion.
Thomas N. Tully, Jr., DVM (LSU SVM 1986), MS (LSU SVM 1991), DABVP, DECZM

Professor of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. LSU SVM

Recipient of the 2012 LSU SVM Distinguished Alumnus Award

What made you want to be a veterinarian?

I became interested in veterinary medicine because it offered the challenge of medical science, the intrigue of discovery, and the ability to have a positive influence on people's lives through their animals.

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your career?

The LSU SVM prepared me for my career in many ways. Initially, I was fortunate to have mentors that provided advice and wisdom that I continue to use daily. Drs. Robert Fulton, Fred Enright, and Simon Shane introduced me to research science and the collegiality, collaboration, and professionalism required to be successful. Dr. Sheldon Biven was a visionary who was not afraid to push veterinary medicine beyond recognized boundaries. All of the individuals mentioned above, and their respective staffs, were representative of solid programs built on integrity and hard work. This preparation, while a student worker, veterinary student, and instructor laid a framework of how to build a veterinary specialty program.

The professional education and training I received at the LSU SVM was second to none. My plan upon graduation was to own a number of veterinary practices in south Florida treating dogs, cats, and companion exotic animals (obviously this plan did not work out). One of the advantages of my education at LSU was that I was exposed to the many different employment options one has as a veterinarian (a tradition that endures at the LSU SVM). I continue to see this knowledge benefit recent graduates, whose initial plans, like mine, were not realized.

What was the LSU SVM like when you attended?

The school was only three years old during my first semester in the fall of 1982. There were “state-of-the-art” television monitors in each class room. The monitors were connected to the video studio in which taped programs of physical examinations, disease conditions, and drug reactions in animals were shown to the class. We had a biochemistry lab and physiology lab in first year. The physiology lab took place in the third-year surgery area, which extended the length of the courtyard. Each station in the surgery area had machines used to monitor physiologic reactions in different animals such as turtles and frogs. The students didn't have computers, and any computers in the building were very rudimentary. Each first- and second-year student had a study carrel/desk located in what is now the computer room on the second floor and in rooms on the first floor for third-year students.

There was a student newsletter, the Borgborygmi, and a yearbook, the Cenobium. Everything at the SVM was new, including walk-in incubators and freezers on the third floor. Third year was considered the hardest year, and we started clinical rotations the morning the fourth-year students were released from clinic duties. Students ran the ICU, located in the current Dermatology Ward, from 5 p.m. until 8 a.m. the following morning. There was a “mixer”
in the courtyard once a month, a rugby team (I did not play) and many parties. As a class, we graduated with all other spring LSU graduates in the PMAC and then walked across campus for a diploma ceremony at the LSU Union Theatre, after which there was a reception in the LSU Union Cotillion Ballroom. It is an honor and pleasure to be a member of the LSU SVM class of 1986.

**What does the LSU SVM mean to you?**

The LSU SVM has a special place in my heart, because this is where I was introduced to veterinary medicine, trained, and now enjoy teaching future graduates of this outstanding institution. I have been fortunate to work at the LSU SVM to do what I can—with the help of many people—to make the areas, in which I am responsible, the best they can be.

**What is a memorable moment from your time as a student at the LSU SVM?**

There were many memorable moments, both good and bad, but all educational. One memorable moment occurred during fourth year when a dog being walked in front of the school escaped from a student. At that time, there was no designated dog walking area enclosed by a fence. The Mississippi River was very high on the levee, and the dog ran toward the levee with all students on the small animal medicine rotation giving chase. The dog jumped in the river, and a number of students stripped down to their skivvies and formed a human chain to rescue the dog. No one was injured and a fenced in dog walk area was built shortly thereafter.

**What years did you play football for LSU and what position?**

I started on the freshman team as a left offensive tackle in 1977, redshirted in 1978, and started at left offensive guard from 1979-1981.

**What did you do in the year between graduation and joining the faculty?**

In following my initial plans upon graduation, I worked at veterinary hospitals in Pompano Beach, Fla., and Baton Rouge, La. That year of private clinical practice, immediately following graduation, has been a tremendous asset in teaching and preparing veterinary students for clinical practice and understanding the needs of our referral veterinary community.

**What do you like best about being on the faculty of the LSU SVM?**

There are too many things that I’d like to list, so I will mention what is special, and this includes the collegiality of my fellow faculty members (this has been true since the first day I started as an instructor), teaching and helping students and house officers reach their professional goals, practicing clinical medicine and developing true friendships with the owners whose pets we treat, the administrators that we have had at the SVM (I am not sure everyone realizes how lucky we have been), and finally being able to work with and help the many referring veterinarians and other veterinarians that call/email from all over the country with questions about the pets they treat. Last but certainly not least, is being associated with the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana. The benefits of the Wildlife Hospital to injured wildlife, veterinary students, grade school students, and the state/region are many and continue to grow.

Dr. Tully received his BS from LSU in 1982 and his DVM and MS from the LSU SVM in 1986 and 1991, respectively. He is the 2012 recipient of the LSU SVM’s Distinguished Alumnus Award.
What made you want to be a research scientist?

I always intended to pursue a research or specialty career but was sidetracked by life. When an opportunity arose that did not excessively impact my family, I returned to school and rediscovered an interest in learning the details of why things happen.

What is your primary area of research?

Mechanisms and biomarkers of drug-induced tissue injury.

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your career?

The LSU SVM provided multiple stones in the foundation for my career since I received both a practical degree (DVM) and a research degree (PhD) from there. The work of the FDA heavily anchored in the clinical medical experiences of the U.S. public. Approaching research with a clinical perspective or background is a huge advantage for me. The bulk of researchers are too anchored in one world or the other and either understand the basic science but not its translation into applied science (clinical use), or have a clinical perspective that obscures the capacity for unbiased research.

What are some of your most memorable moments from LSU?

I have extremely fond memories from my time in pursuit of the DVM. It was a time of youth, unbridled freedom, and unlimited opportunity that I was sharing with those I thought would be with me forever. Having been on the fringe of those leading the class, I also remember my classmates fondly and wonder at some of the things that we were able to accomplish. More recently, I have enjoyed induction into an informal fellowship of PhDs that include my previous professors and mentors at the LSU SVM.

Dr. Rouse received his DVM in 1982 and his PhD in 2008, both from the LSU SVM. He also received his MBA from LSU. He began his work with the FDA in 2008.
1992

Dr. Virginia J. (Fason) Wright has suffered a loss. Her husband, John, was killed in a fall while hiking on July 6, 2012. Virginia and her daughter, Sarah (age 10) reside in University Place, Wash. Virginia is a veterinarian at Columbia Veterinary Hospital in Tacoma.

2005

Dr. Trina L. (Breaux) Gutierrez and her husband, Jaime Gutierrez, proudly announce the arrival of their first child, Naomi Catalina Gutierrez. Naomi was born August 25, 2012. Trina is doing small animal relief work in Austin, Texas, and the surrounding areas, and Jaime is the head electrician for St. David's North Austin Medical Center.

2006

Dr. Riley “Trent” Jones passed both sections of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners exam and is now a Diplomate of the ABVP (Canine and Feline). Dr. Dennis French, former LSU SVM professor, was the proctor for Trent’s exams; Dr. French was also one of three people who interviewed Trent for veterinary school 10 years earlier.

2007

Dr. Jorge Vila and Dr. Stephenie Abbott were married in May 2012. Jorge started his cardiology residency at the LSU SVM in July 2012. He also completed a MS degree in Veterinary Physiology in December 2012 at LSU. Stephanie is an associate veterinarian at Banfield, The Pet Hospital in Baton Rouge, La.
The LSU SVM's Advancement Team is dedicated to the LSU SVM's mission of saving lives, finding cures, and changing lives every day. We strive to take your passion, your time, and your treasure and find ways for us to work together to improve the lives of both animals and people. If you would like to learn how you can partner with us in our mission, please feel free to contact any member of our Advancement Team.

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March 18-22        Spring Break, Years I and II
March 21-23        SAVMA Symposium, LSU SVM
March 23           “Animals in Art” Show Opening Reception, SVM Library
March 23 –April 21 “Animals in Art” Show Exhibit, SVM Library
March 27           Dean’s Grand Rounds
March 29           Good Friday Holiday
April 6            Great Rover Road Run
April 8-20         Spring NAVLE Window
May 2              Spring Reception and Staff Awards
May 3              Awards and Honors Banquet
May 4-5            Annual Conference for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians
May 10             Semester ends
May 13             SVM Commencement
May 17             Diploma Distribution Ceremony for Advanced Studies Students
July 4             Independence Day Holiday
July 20-23         AVMA Convention, Chicago, Ill.

For information on these and other upcoming LSU SVM events, call 225-578-9900 or go to http://www.vetmed.lsuedu.
http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu

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