Another Winning Team:

LSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital Combines Technology, Expertise, and Caring to Provide Exceptional Veterinary Service
LETTER FROM OUR DEAN

This issue of La Veterinaire focuses on our Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH), including the depth and breadth of professional and diagnostic services it provides. As a clinician for most of my career, the continued progress of the VTH is always a great source of personal pride as it continues to underpin our professional programs in an exemplary fashion. The Veterinary Teaching Hospital is embarking on a new path as well with the hiring of Dr. Margaret Coffey as the new hospital director. Dr. Coffey comes to LSU from the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island (Canada), where she served as hospital director.

The American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education restored full accreditation to the School as we successfully addressed compliance issues with our facilities and outcomes assessment programs. We have a wonderful new antibacterial floor surface in the large animal clinic and, with full funding in hand, construction of the large animal disease isolation unit is scheduled to begin this summer. Financial support for the disease isolation unit came from a combination of state and private funding. Further, the School has implemented a comprehensive array of outcomes assessments relative to our professional degree program such that we are well situated in this new and rapidly evolving field.

With the spring also comes the Louisiana legislative session. As with all those involved in higher education, we will be following the session closely, not only for news on the School’s budget but also for those bills that affect the School, the veterinary profession, and our place within it. Our friends and alumni continue to be strong supporters of the School. Dr. David Baker has prepared an Impact Assessment of the SVM on Louisiana, which can be found both in full and in summary on our website: http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/Web_pdfs/IMPACT_Assessment_Summary1.pdf. Please refer to this easily digested two-page document for definitive positive information about our wonderful SVM.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our alumni reception at the American Veterinary Medical Association annual conference this summer in Atlanta, Ga.

Finally, this is always an exciting time of year for the School with our fourth-year students preparing for graduation, many house officers completing their specialty training, and the rest of the students advancing one step closer to beginning their professional veterinary careers. I want to wish all of them well as they continue on their personal and professional journeys.

Peter F. Haynes, DVM, DACVS
The mission of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine is to provide superior education in veterinary medicine and related fields, to offer a wide range of superior services to the general public and the veterinary medical community, and to maintain a relevant, high-quality research program in basic and applied fields.

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Doctors and students in white coats, veterinary technicians in scrubs, patients being examined and treated, doctors and students being paged overhead...this team works together to provide veterinary care 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Home to the largest cluster of board-certified veterinary specialists under one roof in Louisiana, the LSU SVM Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) provides some of the most technologically advanced veterinary care in the U.S.

Admission and Discharge (“The Front Desk”)  
As with most medical and veterinary facilities, a client’s first experience is with the admissions staff, either when calling to make an appointment or bringing their animal to the hospital. When a client enters the VTH, receiving staff welcome them and handle both scheduling and the check-in process. Medical records personnel keep track of files and ensure that faculty, staff, and students have the information they need to help the patients. Cashiers address financial questions and handle billing.

Dermatology  
Mia, a 2-year-old West Highland terrier, has come to the hospital to be treated for Demodex (parasitic mites). As part of the daily routine, Dr. Sandra Merchant questions the students about Mia’s symptoms based on the medical record and her various diagnoses and treatment before she arrives. As each patient is examined, the faculty veterinarian and students discuss different treatment options, and the students are encouraged to reach their own conclusions.

The majority of the patients seen by the dermatology service are dogs—terriers, shepherds, retrievers, dachshunds, etc.—but the clinicians and students also treat cats, horses, and the occasional exotic or farm animal patient. In addition to seeing...
patients, the students discuss a different dermatological topic each day during their two-week block. Drs. Merchant and Tara Snook, along with two residents, comprise this service.

**Bird, Zoo, and Exotic Medicine (BZEM)**

If it's not a dog, a cat, a horse, or a cow, it might end up in the BZEM ward. Beautiful parrots and macaws are treated along with non-venomous snakes, rabbits, tortoises, iguanas, fish, and other exotic pets. This service provides everything from yearly health exams to MRI, surgeries, and radiation therapy for exotic species. This service also cares for wildlife patients that are brought in by concerned citizens and Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries agents. Approximately 1,700 wildlife cases come in each year. The animals are treated and, if possible, released back into the wild with the help of licensed wildlife rehabilitators. The clinicians on this service also give consultations and collaborate with the veterinary staff at both the Baton Rouge and Audubon zoos. Drs. Javier Nevarez (LSU 2001) and Thomas Tully (LSU 1986), as well as a resident and an intern, comprise this service.

**Oncology**

Oncology clinicians and students meet for rounds each morning to discuss the day's patients. New patients are seen each morning, chemotherapy is administered throughout the day. Today, Honey, a 9-year-old Catahoula/Cur mix who has been coming to the hospital for chemotherapy for osteosarcoma since January 2010, is receiving treatment. As with dermatology, the majority of oncology patients are dogs, but cats and other small animals are also treated.

The Cancer Treatment Unit integrates radiation therapy (megavoltage and radionuclide) and chemotherapy with surgery to provide comprehensive treatment of cancer patients. With intensity modulated radiation therapy, the VTH linear accelerator has enormous capability. Drs. Tracy Gieger (LSU 1996), Keijiro Shiomitsu, and Bonnie Brugmann, along with two residents, comprise this service.

**Ophthalmology**

Veterinary ophthalmologist Dr. Renee Carter (LSU 2000) and her students begin their afternoon by examining a great horned owl, one of the LSU SVM's resident education birds (SVM resident birds have major loss of normal function, e.g., damaged wings, such that they cannot be released back into the wild). This owl has a corneal scar and a cataract in his left eye, which makes retinal examination difficult. The ophthalmology service provides the latest diagnostic tests and surgeries to treat glaucoma and other eye diseases and conditions. In most patients, the goal is to address painful and blinding eye disease rather than to restore perfectly corrected vision. Drs. Carter and Eric Storey, who comprise this service, treat companion animals, farm animals, exotic animals, and wildlife.

**Cardiology**

Sam, a Coton de’Tulear, lies quietly while Dr. Carley Saelinger, cardiology resident, performs an echocardiogram to check his heart. Veterinary students gently hold the dog while petting and talking to him. Sam has a heart murmur that was detected by his veterinarian, who referred Sam to LSU for further examination.

In the cardiac catheterization laboratory, both diagnostic procedures and non-invasive treatments for heart disease are performed, including pacemaker implantation, balloon valvuloplasty, and patent ductus arteriosus occlusion. The cath lab is equipped with a C-arm for real-time fluoroscopic imaging of procedures, transesophageal ultrasound, cardiac monitors, an angiographic injection system, and a large inventory of catheters. Drs. Keith Strickland and Romain Pariaut, as well as a resident, comprise this service.
Companion Animal Medicine
Erin Daniels and Rebekah Mack, fourth-year veterinary students, use an ultrasound machine to diagnose Mr. Nu, a cat with chronic cystitis (urinary bladder inflammation). Because of the broad nature of internal medicine, the companion animal medicine service often serves as the first contact with many of the small animal clinic patients. Doctors in this service evaluate patients with a wide variety of conditions, from neurological to endocrine to intestinal disorders. The clinicians on this service—Drs. Mark Acierno, Susan Eddlestone (LSU 1989), Frédéric Gaschen, Amy Grooters, and Kirk Ryan, along with five residents and six interns (who rotate between internal medicine and surgery)—also care for patients transferred from the overnight emergency service.

Companion Animal Surgery
Today, Mollie, a 4-month-old Bichon Frise, is undergoing surgery for patent ductus arteriosus, which is an abnormal persistence of a small blood vessel between the aorta and the pulmonary artery, after birth. Drs. Cheryl Hedlund, Geoffrey Hennig, Susanne Lauer, and Daniel Ogden, as well as two residents and one fellow, comprise this service, which works closely with the anesthesia, companion animal medicine, diagnostic imaging, and other services as needed.

Shelter Medicine
Several mornings a week, the mobile veterinary hospital rolls out of the LSU SVM. Dr. Wendy Wolfson (LSU 1986), shelter medicine veterinarian, coaches students on the principles of good shelter medicine practices as she drives them to the locations they will be visiting. She and her students provide service to numerous animal shelters in South Louisiana, some of which were devastated by Hurricane Katrina and remain at less than full capabilities. The mobile unit provides a suitable facility for veterinary care of shelter animals where students can perform health examinations, provide medical care for sick and injured animals, and perform routine surgeries (spays and neuters) under Dr. Wolfson’s supervision.

Physical Rehabilitation
Louis, a mixed-breed dog who was hit by a car, gamely strides forth on the underwater treadmill. Kosmo, a mixed-breed former drug dog with hip dysplasia, will follow once Louis finishes his session. Following orthopedic surgery, some patients require physical therapy to maintain good muscle tone and to recover faster. In some instances, they must learn how to walk again. Kosmo also improves his mobility by walking the stairs in the new physical rehabilitation course. Jennifer Laborde, physical rehabilitation technician, works with a wide variety of patients, most postoperatively from the orthopedic surgery service, but some with arthritis, obesity, or neurological conditions that affect mobility.

Theriogenology
While the theriogenology (reproduction) service primarily works with dogs and horses, recently a Brahman heifer was admitted when she was 10 days past due; she was monitored by the clinicians and veterinary technicians and delivered her calf at the hospital. The theriogenology service specializes in breeding management with artificial insemination and sophisticated approaches to infertility in valuable horses, dogs, and cattle. Drs. Bruce Eilts, Sarah Lyle, José Len, and a resident comprise this service.

Farm Animal Medicine
A Jersey cow with a teat laceration and a beef calf with an umbilical hernia are all part of a day’s work in the farm animal medicine service. The origins of veterinary medicine can be traced back to the need to care for livestock, and this aspect of the profession remains just as vital today. This service sees multiple species, including cattle, sheep, goats, swine (commercial and miniature), camels, cervids, and even zoological hoofstock (e.g., bongos, giraffes, and...
antelopes). The hospital’s barn offers excellent facilities for safe handling of these animals, which is appropriate because of a burgeoning clientele with rodeo bulls. This service is supported by Drs. Marjorie Gill, Phil Hoyt, Bruce Olcott, and Gary Sod (LSU 2001), who all divide responsibilities between in-patients brought to the VTH and farm visits.

Diagnostic Imaging

Today, the horse shown on the cover has been brought to the VTH for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). It takes a team of doctors, technicians, and students to anesthetize the horse and transport it to the imaging room. Once there, the team quickly positions the animal for MRI, which provides superior imaging capabilities for hospital patients. In this horse, damage to the navicular bone would have been undetectable with radiographs and ultrasound. The MRI was installed in April 2009 and has been busy ever since.

The diagnostic imaging service works with all hospital services (small animal, large animal, and exotics), and can provide ultrasound, radiographs, fluoroscopy, MRI, and computed tomography (CT) scans for many species. Drs. Lorrie Gaschen, Nathalie Rademacher, Daniel Rodriguez, along with a resident and an intern, comprise this service.

Equine Medicine and Surgery

The cases that come into the VTH equine medicine and surgery service are many and varied: a 13-year-old thoroughbred was injured in a trailer wreck, after which she developed a sequestrum (an island of dead bone). The sequestrum was successfully removed surgically. A foal with dummy foal syndrome (lack of oxygen to the brain) was treated for seizures and required intensive therapy and is now doing well. Drs. Dan Burba, Charles McCauley, Colin Mitchell, Mustajab Mirza, and Laura Riggs make up the equine surgery service; Drs. Frank Andrews, Susan Eades (LSU 1982), Jill Johnson, and Rebecca McConnico (LSU 1987) comprise the equine medicine service. Four residents and two interns support both services.

From outpatients (lameness evaluation, diagnostic testing, etc.), to complex infectious diseases and neurologic, respiratory, and gastroenteric conditions, to sophisticated orthopedic and abdominal surgery, the services also support a challenging emergency after-hours caseload. Dr. Ann Chapman, an internist, provides an ambulatory service traveling to farms, ranches, and equine facilities to study herd problems and attend to horses that are unable to be transported to LSU for care.

Anesthesia

Long before anyone else gets started, the anesthesia faculty begin the day coaching their students and preparing patients from every other service for diagnostic and surgical procedures. Anesthesia is even required for radiographs and MRI because you can’t tell an animal patient to “Keep still, take a deep breath, and hold it.” Experts at catheter placement for anesthetic agent delivery, patient support, and placement of monitoring devices, these veterinarians also address post-operative pain management. Drs. Anderson daCunha, Lauren Beebe (LSU 2003), and Patricia Queiroz-Williams, along with an intern, comprise this service.

Pathology

Both clinical and diagnostic pathology services are performed on-site at the LSU SVM. The clinical pathology service reviews biological samples from patients (e.g., blood, urine, and tissue). Drs. Stephen Gaunt (LSU 1977) and Angela Royal, as well as two residents, make up the clinical pathology service. Drs. Rudy Bauer, Doo Youn Cho, Dawn Evans, Leslie McLaughlin (LSU 1998), Timothy Morgan, Daniel Paulsen and Nobuko Wakamatsu, along with seven residents comprise the diagnostic pathology service, which performs biopsy and post-mortem examinations.
Pharmacy

The hospital pharmacy, directed by Dr. Sonya Boss, serves only LSU hospital patients from the small and large animal clinics.

Technical Support

From anesthesia to bird, zoo, and exotic animal medicine to theriogenology, all services are supported by our talented, highly trained, dedicated technicians. No surgery could be performed, no radiation therapy completed, no critical care could be provided, and no radiographs taken without their help. The technicians are intimately involved in the instruction of students, and they set the stage for the compassionate care for which the VTH is renowned.

It takes a huge team of people working well together for a hospital to be successful. At LSU, faculty, staff, and students work closely with clients and their animals, using advanced diagnostic equipment and techniques, to provide exceptional veterinary medical care.

Last year, the hospital received over 23,000 patient visits, an average of 63 patients each day. Patients may be referred by their primary veterinarian, or clients may use the VTH as their primary veterinarian. The hospital is comprised of two clinics—one for small animals (primarily pets) and one for large animals (horses and farm animals).

The staff provides a wide variety of services and cares for many different species and breeds. The core function of the hospital is to provide an outstanding clinical experience for students as they train to become future veterinarians. In addition, the board-certified faculty provide advanced training to House Officers (veterinarians working and studying as interns and residents). A host of veterinary technicians and animal care workers assist both specialist veterinarians and students to achieve the hospital’s educational mission and to provide compassionate care for the animals and their owners. To read more, go to our website at http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/vth&c.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/vth&c

Captions for Images:

Page 3, left photo: From left, Megan Bittle and David Schur (both LSU 2010), Brittany Chappell (Class of 2011), and Lisa Roundtree, veterinary technician, examine a dermatology patient.

Page 3, right photo: From left, Shay Bordelon and Jenny Cassibry, veterinary technicians, prepare a patient for radiation therapy.

Page 4, left photo: From left, Elizabeth Skinner (Class of 2011); Dr. Romain Pariaut, assistant professor of veterinary cardiology; Dr. Carley Saelinger (seated), cardiology resident; Megan Bittle (LSU 2010); and Danielle Kunz (Class of 2011) perform an echocardiogram on a dog.

Page 4, right photo: From left, Jill Souvestre, veterinary technician, and Dr. Gregg Griffin (LSU 2009), anesthesia intern, prepare a dog for surgery.

Page 5, left photo: From left, Erin Daniels and Rebekah Mack (both LSU 2010) perform an ultrasound on a cat.

Page 5, right photo: Jennifer Laborde, physical rehabilitation technician, works with a dog in the underwater treadmill.

Page 6, left photo: From left, Susan Dauzat, surgery technician; Dr. Lynne Snow, companion animal surgery resident; Dr. Daniel Ogden, assistant professor of veterinary surgery; and Ambria Haddad, third-year veterinary student, prepare to perform surgery on a dog.

Page 6, right photo: Chris Nelson (Class of 2011) feeds a cow.
Dr. Margaret “Maggie” Coffey was a competitive rower and had a distinguished career with Corning Incorporated before switching gears to attend veterinary school. “I always wanted to be a veterinarian, and after finishing grad school and moving to upstate New York, I hoped that someday I might have the opportunity to study veterinary medicine.”

Dr. Coffey received her BA in biology/studio art from Mount Holyoke College and an MBA from Harvard University. She was a manager at Corning Incorporated for many years in various divisions and capacities: marketing manager and division planner for biotechnology; manager of the industrial/military sector; director of business process reengineering, etc. Dr. Coffey also managed a family-owned manufacturing/design engineering firm.

While working for Corning and raising a family of four daughters, Maggie finished her pre-med courses and applied to veterinary school, thinking that getting in was a long shot. She was happily surprised to be accepted at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and left behind corporate management to take on the role of student. “Every now and then I would question my decision of returning to school. While I attended Cornell, our eldest daughter was training as a Navy pilot. Whenever I would complain about how much I had to study or how demanding the curriculum was, she’d tell me about how she’d just been dropped out of a helicopter, been on a survival mission, or some other equally arduous endeavor; it helped me keep things in perspective. My family was very supportive of my veterinary school ‘adventure.’”

Upon graduation from Cornell, Dr. Coffey joined the veterinary school faculty as an extension services veterinarian. She also served as CEO of a genetic engineering start-up venture.

After several years as a business consultant and veterinary practitioner, Dr. Coffey joined the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island as director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. She also served on the board of directors for a privately held auto supply company in Detroit.

Dr. Coffey recently joined the LSU SVM as hospital director. She and her husband, Calvin, are very happy to call Baton Rouge home and the LSU SVM their new extended family.

“I am so very pleased to be here at LSU and look forward to working with staff, faculty, and students as we continually improve our service opportunities, research, and teaching excellence. I look forward to getting to know everyone at LSU SVM and am excited about the potential and possibilities of our teaching hospital.” 🐾

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/vth&c
Clinical Case

Leptospirosis, an infectious disease that causes kidney damage, is usually associated with outdoor dogs living in rural areas; however, that stereotype is rapidly changing. Snowflake, a 5-year-old indoor Maltese terrier living in Dallas, Texas, developed vomiting and urinary incontinence just four days before she was taken to her veterinarian. She was quickly diagnosed with acute kidney injury and sent to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine for emergency care and possible Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT).

Dialysis program coordinator Dr. Mark Acierno laments, "It is becoming all too common that we see pampered pooches from big cities becoming victims of this terrible disease." Leptospirosis is caused by a bacterial spirochete that is spread by exposure to soil and water that has been contaminated by the urine of infected wildlife, especially rodents. It is a zoonosis capable of infecting humans, so until treatment is complete, good personal hygiene is essential when handling infected patients.

Snowflake was admitted to the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital by the emergency service on May 11, 2009, and advanced medical management of her acute kidney injury was attempted. When she failed to respond to therapy, Snowflake received CRRT, a system for purifying blood and balancing body fluids and electrolytes, thereby replacing kidney function while these organs recover. Snowflake received treatment for 24 hours, after which her kidneys began to produce urine.
Snowflake's clinician, Dr. Dionne Ferguson, commented, “Snowflake was so sweet that everyone in the hospital was rooting for her recovery.” Perhaps a notation in the medical record sums it up best: “Snowflake likes long sunny walks in the gravel….. she is very sweet, please save her!” After six days, she was well enough to return home.

“It all happened so quickly,” said Nancy, Snowflake's owner. “The emergency clinic mentioned dialysis and said I would have to go to Pennsylvania or some place in California.” Nancy was told the cost would be anywhere from $35,000 to $40,000, not including travel expenses.

“Then we took Snowflake to another clinic, where she saw Dr. Brandy Porterpan (LSU SVM 2001), an LSU alumna. She mentioned dialysis, and I told her we had already discussed it, and it would cost about $40,000. She told us we could go to Baton Rouge, which, for us, was a real option. We got in the car and drove to LSU at 10:30 at night. It really did save her life. We’re believers. Snowflake is doing great!”

The LSU SVM maintains the only CRRT active dialysis program in the Gulf Coast region. Patients referred to LSU for CRRT should be transferred as soon as possible because the chance of success increases with early intervention. Vaccines are available to prevent leptospirosis, so consult your veterinarian.

Note to veterinarians: The LSU SVM emergency service is available 24 hours a day for referral of renal failure patients by calling 225-578-9600. Please contact the dialysis service before making a referral. If possible, spare at least one jugular vein (no jugular blood drawing, no catheters, etc.).

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/vth&c
Dr. Frank Andrews, director of the Equine Health Studies program at LSU SVM, has spent the last several years researching the causes of equine gastric ulcer syndrome (EGUS) and developing new methods for treating the condition.

EGUS is a common problem in horses. All ages and breeds are susceptible, but the prevalence is especially high in Thoroughbred race horses, probably due to the intense exercise they undergo during training and racing. It is estimated that 60% to 90% of performance horses—between 500,000 and 700,000 horses in the U.S. alone—are affected by EGUS, which translates to millions of dollars in lost revenue each year in training and racing days and in the cost of treatment. In addition, EGUS can be a painful condition, causing considerable suffering among affected horses and foals.

EGUS is a complicated syndrome with a number of potential causes but risk factors include stress, being transported, diet, stall confinement, intermittent feeding, intense exercise, racing, and the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Clinical signs, which are present in about half of the horses diagnosed with EGUS, tend to be vague and include abdominal pain or colic, diarrhea, rough hair coat, poor appetite, depression, and decreased performance. It is poor performance that makes EGUS an economically significant condition in the racehorse industry.
There are a number of commercial anti-ulcer drugs available to treat EGUS, such as equine formulations of omeprazole and ranitidine (both of which are also used in human medicine), but these drugs are expensive—$40 or more per day—and must be used for at least 28 days for complete healing. This can be a financial strain for horse owners, who may not be able to afford to treat their horses for the prescribed length of time, or may use the drugs at sub-therapeutic doses, or even substitute other medications or feed supplements that are ineffective. Hence, the prevalence of EGUS remains high even with effective treatment options available.

Dr. Andrews’ research team consists of Dr. Nan Huff, associate clinical specialist; Mike Keowen, research associate; Frank Garza, research associate; and Alyssa Auer, Purdue University veterinary student. They have been looking for a more cost-effective means of managing EGUS, which led Dr. Andrews to explore alternative approaches. In the veterinary community, as well as in human medicine, there is increasing interest in herbs and other plants that have therapeutic applications, and one such plant that shows promise for treating EGUS is the seabuckthorn, *Hippophae rhamnoides*.

The seabuckthorn is a deciduous berry-producing shrub that grows in high elevations across Eurasia from the Atlantic coast of Europe to northwestern China. Since antiquity, the plant has been associated with improving the health of horses; in fact, the species name, *Hippophae rhamnoides*, is Latin for “shining horse,” alluding to the beautiful coats of horses that feed on it.

A liquid equine feed additive derived from seabuckthorn berries, SeaBuck Complete™, is now available, and Dr. Andrews has been investigating its efficacy in treating and preventing gastric ulcers in Thoroughbreds. “Seabuckthorn berries are highly nutritious,” said Dr. Andrews, “and are a very good source of vitamins, trace minerals, amino acids, and antioxidants. Extracts from these berries have been used to successfully treat mucosal injury in humans and rats, so we are looking at this product as an alternative to expensive drugs in treating EGUS.” In a small study involving eight adult female horses, he found that SeaBuck Complete™ seemed to prevent existing ulcers from worsening under stress, which commonly happens among performance horses.

Now Dr. Andrews wants to continue investigating the use of seabuckthorn products using SeaBuck™ GastroPlus to confirm his initial findings. He has submitted a pre-proposal to the Morris Animal Foundation to expand his research and hopes to start a follow-up clinical trial in the near future.

In addition, Dr. Andrews will be mentoring a student in the Merial/NIH Veterinary Scholars Program this summer. Alyssa Auer, who is finishing her first year at Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine, will be at the LSU SVM for a 12-week research program beginning in May. She will be working closely with Dr. Andrews on the project entitled, “Efficacy of seabuckthorn berry pulp and oil in treatment and prevention of gastric ulcers in horses.”

If Dr. Andrews’s research confirms the value of seabuckthorn extract in managing EGUS, it will be a boon for horses and their owners alike. At recommended doses, seabuckthorn supplements cost much less than anti-ulcer drugs, making it more likely that horse owners will be able to continue treatment for as long as necessary. “We expect seabuckthorn-treated horses will have significantly fewer and less severe gastric ulcers on endoscopic examination than untreated controls,” he said. “We believe this research is likely to produce an immediate beneficial outcome by reducing morbidity caused by gastric ulcers in performance horses.”

http://equine.vetmed.lsu.edu
Dr. Renée Poirrier (LSU SVM 1988), Lafayette veterinarian and director of the Louisiana State Animal Response Team, traveled to the Dominican Republic and Haiti in February to join an international coalition of animal emergency aid workers in Haiti. She responded as a member of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) Emergency Relief Network, in support of the Animal Relief Coalition of Haiti (ARCH), which is jointly led by IFAW and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). From left, Dick Green with IFAW; Dr. Emile (first name), Haiti Ministry of Agriculture veterinarian; and Dr. Poirrier set up an animal health clinic in Gaman, a Haitian village.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/news_&_events.htm#Poirrier_Haiti

"Who’s Looking at Who,” a bronze by Diane Mason (Berthoud, Colo.), won the Best of Show award at the 2010 International Exhibition on Animals in Art. The exhibition ran from March 27-April 25 but can still be viewed on-line.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/news_&_events.htm#Animals_in_Art_Reception

Dr. Thomas Klei (left), associate dean for research and advanced studies, and Dr. Ronald Thune (right), head of the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, congratulate Dr. Kevin Macaluso, associate professor and recipient of the School of Veterinary Medicine Distinguished Scholar Award.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/news_&_events.htm#Faculty/Graduate_Student_Dinner

Dr. Thomas Klei (left), associate dean for research and advanced studies, and Dr. Gary Wise (center), head of the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, congratulate Dr. Masami Yoshimura, assistant professor and recipient of the Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/news_&_events.htm#Faculty/Graduate_Student_Dinner
Girl Scout Troop No. 10599 of Baton Rouge gathered and donated newspapers for the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Delivering the newspapers are (from left) Emily Bailey (age 10), Sarah Bowden (age 11), and Tory LaCour (age 11).

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/vth&c

On January 22, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Basic Sciences hosted a unique symposium to highlight biomedical research excellence in Louisiana.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/news_&_events.htm#Biomedical_Research_Symposium

More than 180 people participated in the SVM 17th annual Great Rover Road Run on March 6, which consisted of a 5K Road Run (66 participants) and a one-mile Fun Run/Walk with Rover (142 participants); twenty people participated in both races. This year’s major sponsor was Hill’s Pet Nutrition.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/news_&_events.htm#2010_GRRR_winners

More than 4,500 people attended the 28th annual Open House on February 6. Visitors go on a walking tour of the veterinary school building and learn about the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, animal anatomy, and veterinary medicine.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/open_house.htm
In 1990, Kenneth F. Burns, DVM, retired chairman of the Department of Vivarial Science and Research at Tulane University School of Medicine, created a $1 million charitable remainder trust with the LSU Foundation specifically for the establishment of a matched chair in Veterinary Medicine. In addition to his position at Tulane, Dr. Burns, a graduate of Ontario Veterinary College, was an adjunct faculty member at LSU and served as a consultant with many pharmaceutical companies. The trust recently transferred to the LSU Foundation and $600,000 has been realized to provide funds for a matched chair at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

In April, the Kenneth F. Burns Endowed Chair was awarded the $400,000 state match by the Louisiana Board of Regents, thereby achieving a historic first for the LSU SVM.

Endowed chairs are one of the most prestigious contributions at any university. Donors can name endowed chairs in the college or program of his or her choice. Income from the endowment can be used to supplement salary or provide additional funds at the discretion of the incumbent, such as graduate student stipends, post-doctoral student salaries, and special research equipment and library acquisitions, all in support of the academic program. The chair lasts in perpetuity and always provides income to the designated college or program.

The next step is to determine which LSU SVM program receives the chair. “Funding of the Kenneth F. Burns Chair in Veterinary Medicine ensures that the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine will move forward in its efforts to develop a center of excellence in biomedical research, as outlined by the Stakeholder Summit held in 2009,” said Dean Peter F. Haynes. “LSU SVM has a long history of promoting biomedical research directed at animal and human disease, and this endowed chair gives us the resources to excel even further in this arena.”

“The heart of any great university is great faculty,” said Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon, president and CEO of the LSU Foundation. “They are the engine that drives the learning experience at LSU, and their instruction and involvement is what helps us recruit the best students—and keep them—at LSU. This is particularly important at the School of Veterinary Medicine, which as one of only 28 veterinary schools in the United States, must compete on a national basis to draw the best teachers and students to our campus,” Bowdon said, “The Burns Distinguished Chair will help our outstanding School of Veterinary Medicine fulfill this mission and ensure that scholars of national stature and distinction continue to call this great institution home.” 🐾
Alumni Tracks & Baby Vets Updates


2000

Dr. Angela Layfield and her husband, Larry, currently have five children, Garrett (age 9), Lathan (age 7), Ella (age 5), Abigail (age 3), and Max (age 1), and one dog, Badger. Angela is a relief veterinarian, and the Layfields reside in New Braunfels, Texas.

2008

Dr. Julie Schexnider and her husband, Joshua, welcomed the arrival of their first child, Charlie Kane, on February 4, 2010. Charlie weighed 9 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20 in. long. The Schexniders live in Las Vegas, N.V., where Julie is an Associate Veterinarian at Pebble-Maryland Animal Hospital.

Nestlé Purina sponsors veterinary specialist training program

Dr. Jennifer Ayoub (LSU SVM 2008) is in the first year of her residency training program in companion animal medicine at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, a program sponsored by Nestlé Purina. Dr. Ayoub joins a distinguished group of postgraduate specialty trainees recently supported by Nestlé Purina at Texas A&M University, Auburn University, the University of California-Davis, Purdue University, Colorado State University, and Oregon State University.

“Nestlé Purina has a long history of supporting veterinary medical education,” said Dr. Nick Vaughan (LSU SVM 2003), a marketing manager at Nestlé Purina. “About four years ago, the company decided to enhance its support for academic residency programs so that veterinary students would be exposed to outstanding residents, enhancing student education, and advancing the field of specialty medicine.”

“We are delighted that Nestlé Purina, a leader in companion animal nutrition, has chosen to support our program,” said Dr. Frédéric Gaschen, professor and chief of the Companion Animal Medicine Service. “We are very grateful for their generosity. LSU SVM and Nestlé Purina share common goals of excellence in their respective fields, and this partnership is a great opportunity for both parties.” Nestlé Purina’s support will cover one-half of Dr. Ayoub’s salary and benefits for the three-year residency program that began July 15, 2009.

“Advanced training—such as internships and residencies—is required to become board-certified in a particular specialty,” said Dr. Ayoub. “It’s great that Nestlé Purina is helping LSU in this way, and I’m pleased to be the first LSU resident they are supporting.” 🐾
What made you want to be a research scientist?
I entered veterinary school with the same vision most students have, to deliver health care for animals. I thought it might be interesting to work at the Centers for Disease Control in the rabies research laboratory of veterinary virologist Dr. George Baer. I wanted to pursue discovery of the nature of diseases. After practicing for a couple of years, I was admitted to the LSU SVM graduate program to pursue my interest in diagnosis, research, and teaching, and received my PhD in 1988.

What is your primary area of research?
One of the benefits of comparative training in the medicine of many species is broad-based pathobiology preparation. Initially, I conducted research on a number of important pathogens of animals and human beings. For the past nine years, I have conducted research in molecular diagnostics to improve the predictability of mouse models of human disease. We have a research initiative to help develop disease-relevant protein biomarkers to detect and stage ovarian cancer in women.

What was the LSU SVM like when you attended?
LSU was a great place to be a veterinarian conducting advanced training. The attitude was youthful, and the institution was growing. Faculty in the Department of Veterinary Pathology were talented and dedicated to education. I interacted with the diagnostic laboratory and the teaching hospital for an incredibly dynamic training experience.

What is your current employment position?
I am a senior scientist and head of the Molecular Pathology Unit, Laboratory of Cancer Biology and Genetics for the National Cancer Institute Intramural Research Program (part of the U.S. government’s clinical and basic research laboratories at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.). I also serve as director of the NIH Comparative Biomedical Scientist Training Program, which provides research training opportunities to veterinary students and graduate veterinarians at the NIH through university partnerships.

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your career?
It will always be a challenge to train both clinically and in research. The elements needed to prepare as a clinician-investigator, or in my case as an investigative pathologist, make an extended time in training pretty standard. LSU provided me with a solid foundation in how to think about research and to solve problems in diagnosis and understanding disease mechanisms. The training helped me to successfully certify as a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

What are some of your most memorable moments from LSU?
For me, it's really the people at LSU. The collection of individuals was irreplaceable, and the students were very motivating. Dr. Steve Gaunt (LSU 1977) was my graduate advisor, and Dr. Harold Casey was department head. I've been back to LSU twice, and these visits brought up memories of the strenuous academic course I pursued, but also the satisfaction of a worthwhile and enriching time.
What made you want to be a veterinarian?
I worked for a small animal practitioner since the age of 14. It seemed like a natural fit—a balance of science and education with commonsense approaches to medical problems.

What was the LSU SVM like when you attended?
Dr. Everett Besch retired as dean and was replaced by Dr. William Jenkins during my time. The facility was very similar to the present one. I spent many late nights in the hallways surrounding the atrium studying for tests and drinking excessive amounts of coffee.

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your career?
One of my favorite professors had a saying: “If you don't hear it three times you probably won't need to know it in private practice.” With 20 years of practice experience, I think that nugget of wisdom has been proven to be fairly accurate.

What does the LSU SVM mean to you?
It took me several years to appreciate the importance of the degree I received from LSU. As a new graduate, I was thrown into the world of small business and began to grow my practice. As years passed and I began to appreciate the many benefits and the numerous doors that were opened to me as a small animal practice owner, I developed a true appreciation of the degree and education I received at LSU.

What is a memorable moment from your time at the LSU SVM?
All I can remember is the day I got accepted and the day I graduated. Wow, what a blur!

Are there any other personal or professional facts you’d like to share?
Presently, I am the majority owner and president of Pet Care Center, a small animal practice located in Metairie, La. My lovely wife, Robbie, and I reside in Covington, La., with our three children, Steven, Samantha, and Spencer. Currently, I serve as the vice president of the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine. 🐾
Am so grateful for the wonderful work of Dr. Paul Seemann (LSU 1983) and his staff, and I wanted to make a gift that would recognize their work and dedication. I wanted my gift to make an impact,” said Mrs. Shirley Picou, who raised five Pomeranians with her late husband, George, and who has been a client of Dr. Seemann’s for over 20 years. The staff at Ridgefield Animal Hospital is like her family. “They are all there, with smiling faces and eager to help,” said Mrs. Picou. “Dr. Seemann worked so hard to get where he is, and he genuinely cares about the animals he serves.”

Mrs. Picou wanted to honor Dr. Seemann and his staff. Dr. Seemann suggested that she make a gift to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. A month after she made the gift, Bunny (so named because she seemed to hop like a bunny), her last Pomeranian, passed away. Mrs. Picou feels that her gift is even more meaningful to her because she sees it as a way to honor Dr. Seemann and his staff, memorialize Bunny, and give back to the veterinary profession. “I wish more people knew what it takes to put together a program like the one at LSU SVM,” Mrs. Picou said. “They do things, not because it is their job, but because they care. I hope more people see how important it is to give back for the great work LSU does; they work very diligently to care for all of those pets.”
In the past, Bunny and Rustie, another Pomeranian, had been patients in the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. At that time, Mrs. Picou was able to tour the hospital, and she and her husband donated a wide-screen television for the waiting room in the Small Animal Clinic so that families could have something to watch while their pets received veterinary care.

Dr. Seemann said that he enjoys having Mrs. Picou as a long-standing client and appreciates having dedicated, caring clients who take such great care of their pets. "It makes my job easier," he said.

Mrs. Picou's gift was in support of the SVM Philanthropic Partners fund, which allows the dean to develop and maintain excellence at the LSU SVM.

Dr. Seemann owns Ridgefield Animal Hospital in Thibodaux, La., with two partners, Dr. Dawn Koetting (LSU 1984) and Dr. Natali Robichaux (LSU 2000). Dr. Lane Breaux (LSU 2005) and Dr. Ashley Baker are associates at the practice. Dr. Baker, a graduate of Kansas State University, is the daughter of Dr. Bruce Baker, who graduated with Dr. Seemann in 1983.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu and click on "Giving to VetMed"

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**Philanthropic Partners**

Many people make gifts to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine for a specific purpose, but the LSU SVM also needs gifts that can be allocated to have maximal impact on the quality of our program. Such is the case for gifts allocated to the SVM Philanthropic Partners fund.

Funds in this account are used to support academic excellence in many areas, including the shelter medicine program. Dr. Wendy Wolfson (LSU 1986), surgery instructor, teaches an elective course in which she and veterinary students provide storm damaged animal shelters in south Louisiana with outstanding veterinary services. The students gain valuable experience, and the shelter animals receive timely, compassionate care.

As with other public universities, the LSU SVM relies heavily on private funds to enhance the mission. Thanks to the generosity of people like Mrs. Picou, the LSU SVM can direct funds accordingly.

To find out how you can make a gift to Philanthropic Partners, please contact Dr. David Senior, Associate Dean for Advancement & Strategic Initiatives, at 225-578-9900. For information on other gift opportunities, please go to http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu and click on "Giving to VetMed."
LSU Alumnus Named Virginia's Veterinarian of the Year

Dr. Stephen Lichiello (LSU 1982) of Forest, Va., received the Paul H. Landis Veterinarian of the Year Award at the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association's Conference held at the Hotel Roanoke, Feb. 25-27. Dr. Lichiello was nominated and selected by his colleagues for this award, given each year in memory of Dr. Paul Landis, who served as VVMA President (1965-1966) and American Veterinary Medical Association President (1982-1983). It is presented to a veterinarian who has made exceptional contributions to veterinary organizational activities at the national, state, and local levels that reflect positively on the profession.

Dr. Lichiello, a 1977 graduate of West Virginia University and a 1982 graduate of Louisiana State University, has owned and operated Ridgewood Animal Hospital since 1985. His entire career has involved private practice in dairy, mixed, and small animal medicine.

He has served as president of the Piedmont VMA, president of the board of directors of the Animal Emergency Clinic of Central Virginia, director to the VVMA from the Piedmont VMA, and as VVMA alternate delegate to the AVMA. He is currently a member of the Veterinary Sportsmen's Society, the Enterprise Networking Group, and he recently assumed the duties of Virginia delegate to the AVMA.

Dr. Lichiello periodically visits elementary, middle, and high schools to provide insight and education about the veterinary profession and pet care. He has also assisted with the Smith Mountain Lake Charity Home Tour in 2008 and 2009. He is active in his church and coached numerous recreational league baseball, basketball, and softball teams while his children were growing up. He and his wife, Paula, reside in Forest, Va., and are the parents of three children—Tony, Annamarie, and Stephanie.

LSU SVM Distinguished Alumnus Award

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is a means to recognize alumni of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine for outstanding professional and personal achievements. The award is presented at the Annual Conference each year.

Any veterinarian who received the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Louisiana State University before 1999 is eligible for the award. Candidates will be recognized for their accomplishments in veterinary medicine and/or contributions to the community through public service. To be considered, a completed nomination form along with a summary résumé of the nominee or the nominator’s cover letter describing why the nominee is a distinguished alumnus must be sent to Louisiana State University, School of Veterinary Medicine, Office of Alumni Affairs, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, and postmarked no later than Thursday, July 1, 2010.

Past award recipients: 1990 - Dr. Robert Lewis (LSU SVM 1977); 1991 - Dr. Larry McCaskill (LSU SVM 1981), Dr. Mark Mikelonis (LSU SVM 1988), and Dr. Jim Floyd (LSU SVM 1981); 1992 - Dr. Allen J. Roussel (LSU SVM 1977); 2003 - Dr. Mike Strain (LSU SVM 1983); 2004 - Dr. Alfred Stevens (LSU SVM 1979); 2006 - Dr. Gregory Rich (LSU SVM 1985); 2006 - Dr. Mary Boudreaux (LSU SVM 1979); 2007 - Dr. Robert D. "Bob" Simmons (LSU SVM 1977); 2008 - Dr. Mary Louise Martin (LSU SVM 1982) and Dr. Debra Sellon (LSU SVM 1983); and 2009 - Dr. William James (LSU SVM 1980).
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

July 31-August 3 American Veterinary Medical Association Conference, Atlanta, Ga.
August 2 Alumni & Friends Reception, AVMA Conference, Atlanta, Ga.
August 5-8 Merial Summer Symposium, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.
August 13 Freshman Leadership Experience
August 16 Fall Semester begins. Classes begin, Years II and III
August 16-18 Year I Orientation
August 18 Family Orientation and Year I Coating Ceremony
October 30 Annual Conference for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine
November 23 Santa Paws Photos, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine

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Please use the postage-paid envelope to make your gift, or call 225-578-9948 to make your gift by phone!

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