Your Generosity Makes a Difference
LETTER FROM OUR DEAN

I am pleased to present this issue of La Veterinaire, which focuses on our students. This School of Veterinary Medicine was founded in 1968 with a legislative resolution for the purpose of educating future veterinarians. We have done that successfully since the first incoming class in 1973, and we have since expanded our mission to include superior service and ground-breaking biomedical research. However, as I have said many times, it is our people—our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends—who make us great. This issue shows you a few of our many talented and extraordinary students.

Our third-year students recently received their white coats and have begun their clinical rotations. They will work alongside our clinicians, residents and interns, veterinary technicians, and our fourth-year students. We continue to offer technologically-advanced yet compassionate care for our hospital patients. The Cancer Treatment Unit, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, Hemodialysis Unit, and our Diagnostic Imaging Service are just a few areas of the hospital that boast superior expertise and equipment. Our emergency service continues to grow, and improvements have been made to provide better after-hours service for our clients and referring veterinarians.

Many of you are aware that Louisiana’s economy faces significant challenges that would negatively affect LSU. We, along with the University, are committed to providing a top-tier learning environment and preparing our graduates for academic and professional success. There has been a lot of discussion in the media about improving graduation rates. At the LSU SVM, our average graduation rate for the last 10 years is 95% and actually reached 99% in 2005.

Our students’ pass rate on the national board examination, which is taken either in November or April before the May commencement, was 97% for the Class of 2010 and was 100% for the Class of 2004. In 2006, 2007, and 2008, the pass rate was 99%. Our graduates are a testament to the dedication of our faculty and staff and the high priority we set for excellence in academics, service, and research.

Now we appreciate you more than ever, as we rely on those individuals, corporations, and foundations that support us in our mission to save lives, find cures, and change lives every day. Your gifts help us provide scholarships for our students, continuing education for our faculty and staff, improvements to facilities and equipment, and a bright future for both people and animals. Thank you for investing in the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and its people.

Peter F. Haynes, DVM, DACVS
Dean
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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With an average debt load at graduation of more than $115,000, veterinary students are making huge investments in their futures. Thanks to the generosity of several supporters of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, many of our students are receiving monetary help to vanquish some of that debt. In 2010, over $172,200 was distributed to students in the form of awards and scholarships. In addition, some students receive memberships to professional organizations, journal subscriptions, and veterinary medicine manuals and supplies.

Nanci Solis, Class of 2011

“I was raised on a dairy farm in Arkansas,” said Nanci. “I always intended to be a veterinarian, but got side-tracked (Nanci started veterinary school after a 10-year career as a nurse; she then received her BS in animal science in 2007).
“What brought me back was seeing a lot of people with food animals (especially small ruminants such as goats) struggle to find veterinary care for their animals. They want to provide good care and many of them depend on these animals to supplement their income as well. The problem is there just aren’t enough food animal practitioners available—especially in smaller rural areas. I went back to school to help meet this need.”

Nanci received four scholarships in 2010: The Dr. Carrie Washburn Memorial Scholarship, a SCAVMA Bookstore Scholarship, an Arkansas Veterinary Medical Foundation Scholarship, and a Pfizer Food Animal Medicine Scholarship. “I was very blessed,” said Nanci. “These scholarships have made the past year ‘do-able’ financially and have made a difference in what I will be able to do after graduation. They have made it possible for me to be able to afford to return to Arkansas after graduation and enter food animal practice.” Nanci also serves as her class representative on the Scholarship Committee. “I have seen the tremendous difference these funds make not only for me, but to so many other students as well.”

“I was very honored to have been awarded the first Dr. Carrie Washburn Memorial Scholarship,” added Nanci.

Dr. Carrie Washburn Memorial Scholarship

Carrie received her DVM from LSU SVM in 2009 and succumbed to cancer in September 2009. Her family and classmates created a scholarship in her memory.

Dr. Catie Cook, one of Carrie’s classmates, helped create the scholarship. She recalls that Carrie was a Disney fan and that after her diagnosis she spoke with her parents about taking a trip to Disneyworld. “Knowing she’d always wanted to swim with the dolphins down there, I took up a collection from her friends in the class so she could do it,” said Catie. “We gathered for dinner, and she was truly surprised when we pulled out the card with a few hundred dollars in it to make her dream come true. She deserved it. How many people could make it through the second year of veterinary school with decent grades while undergoing chemotherapy? Carrie was a truly caring and compassionate person who I am honored to be able to have called a friend. The veterinary profession lost a fantastic doctor who was unfortunately never able to practice within her dream profession.”

Catie started the groundwork to create the scholarship after speaking with Carrie’s family. “Having been best friends in school, I only thought it right to take the reins as I was already in close communication with her family,” said Catie. “It’s not something I could have done on my own though. Dr. [David] Senior was a true asset in establishing it along with each and every person that donated, no matter how small the sum.”

The Dr. Carrie Washburn Memorial Scholarship is a $1,000 scholarship presented to a Year I-III student who has experienced a medical hardship during veterinary school through which they persevered.
Chad Malinak, Class of 2012

“Animals have always been a huge part of my life,” said Chad Malinak, third-year veterinary student. “I have always had a pet in my life. As I got older I accompanied my sister when she participated in dog shows, then I got my own Pointer, Shaker, to compete myself. Shaker was a tremendous comfort when my father passed away when I was in high school. Shaker was there for me, and I realized I wanted to give something back to animals, so veterinary medicine was the career path I wanted to follow.

Chad, who is originally from Harvey, La., studied at Louisiana Tech and was mentored by Dr. William Green, the pre-veterinary advisor at Tech. He chose to apply to the LSU SVM after several visits to the school. In 2010, Chad received the Bayou Kennel Club Scholarship and the AKC Veterinary Outreach Award.

“The scholarship means more than just less debt I have to worry about when I graduate,” said Chad “It helps tremendously since I do not have outside monetary help since my father passed away. It makes me grateful that there are people and organizations that support us as hardworking veterinary students and want to help us reach our goals of becoming doctors. People can make a difference and help someone reach their goal of becoming a veterinarian. As the cost of tuition keeps rising, it will help students who do not have outside family support. I know I will donate to support LSU SVM scholarships once I am able.”

Bayou Kennel Club, Inc. Scholarship

The Bayou Kennel Club, Inc. Scholarship provides two $1,000 scholarships to Northeast Louisiana high school graduates based on scholastic ability, financial need, and activities.

“We established the scholarship and first made contributions to fund it in 1986,” said Pat Booker, treasurer of the Bayou Kennel Club. “We have continued to fund these scholarships each year since. A total of 50 scholarships have been awarded to SVM students.”

The Bayou Kennel Club is chartered as a non-profit organization with the mission of promoting the interests of pure bred dogs. “All of the club’s available funds annually go to mostly dog-related situations, such as helping law enforcement canine units, book donations (particularly about dogs) to parish and university libraries, donations to canine-related charities, and even to disaster relief. We fund scholarships at LSU, Mississippi State University, and the University of Louisiana at Monroe from our dog shows.”

“Our basic objective is to assist veterinary students who graduated from northeast Louisiana high schools,” added Pat. “It is our hope that these students will graduate and return to northeast Louisiana to practice. We know that attending college (particularly veterinary school) is both expensive and time-critical. We hope that we ease the financial burden of these students and possibly allow them to concentrate more on their studies and maybe not worry about financial situations.”

Erin Wilkins, Class of 2012

Born and raised in Jonestown, Pa., Erin applied to the LSU SVM because of its zoological program and exotic animal
service, though she says that the warm weather didn’t hurt. “I have wanted to be a veterinarian for as long as I can remember,” said Erin Wilkins, third-year veterinary student. “A huge aspect that I have always found intriguing about veterinary medicine is the ability to help better the lives of animals, while indirectly improving the lives of people. I don’t think it can get much better than that!”

In 2010, Erin received the Thunderman Memorial Book Fund Scholarship and the 2010 Young Veterinary Leader Scholarship from the Pennsylvania Veterinary Foundation (PVF) and the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA). “These scholarships truly mean more to me than any amount of words could ever explain,” said Erin. “They have allowed me to continue my education. I will forever be grateful for their help. What I can say is that life in veterinary medicine is a lot more enjoyable without having to worry about how I am going to handle dealing with this large burden of loans on a daily basis. It is nice to just deal with what I am here for, and that is to become a competent and contributing member of the veterinary profession. Sponsoring a scholarship not only directly impacts the future of veterinary medicine for an individual, it will greatly impact the daily life of that individual.”

Thunderman Memorial Book Fund

Dr. Candace Warner, a Baton Rouge physician-acupuncturist, endowed the Thunderman Memorial Book Fund in August 2009 to provide textbooks for one female veterinary student per year. The fund is named for Thunderman, her treasured black Lab companion (“…the best dog I ever had,” says Candace).

“I created the fund because I have concerns for female veterinary students in financial need at the LSU SVM,” said Candace. “I never received a benefactor award, but I did receive a scholarship at Vanderbilt based on academic merit from the university directly. I think it is critical to donate to the students directly so that they do not face such huge debts upon graduation. I gave both of my nieces $5,000 book funds throughout their college years. When they both graduated, I wanted to continue this tradition with a financially needy and deserving LSU veterinary student.”

To help a veterinary student by creating or donating to a scholarship, please contact Betty Karlsson, executive director for institutional advancement, at 225-578-9870 or bkarlsson@lsu.edu.
Dr. James E. Miller, a parasitologist, has been a member of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine faculty since 1984; he was promoted to the rank of full professor in 1995 and served as acting head of the former Department of Epidemiology and Community Health from 1999–2001. He was recently awarded the Everett D. Besch Professorship in Veterinary Medicine and has been named interim associate dean for research and advanced studies here at the LSU SVM. He teaches several professional and graduate level courses at the School, as well as undergraduate courses in LSU’s Department of Animal Science.

What made you want to be a veterinarian?

I majored in biology (with an emphasis on herpetology) as an undergraduate and the career paths in that direction at the time were not that obvious to me. Because I had a five-year obligation in the U.S. Navy, I had time to think about it. I decided I wanted to pursue a medical field and veterinary medicine appealed to me even though I didn’t have much of an animal background outside of having pets. I remembered the famous Will Rogers saying on a plaque in the veterinarian’s office that read, “The best doctor in the world is the veterinarian. He can’t ask his patients what is the matter—he’s got to just know.”
Why did you choose research over veterinary practice?

I knew it would be difficult to attain admission to veterinary school since I had been away for five years and at that time I had to return to California as a resident. So, I applied for graduate school at the University of California, Davis in medical entomology to at least stay affiliated with a medical field while pursuing veterinary school admission. I became very interested in host-parasite interactions, and after two unsuccessful tries to get into veterinary school, I pretty much decided to finish my PhD and go into academia without a DVM. However, I gave it one last try and I was admitted primarily because of my research background. I was already ingrained in research and that was what I was going to do from the start. I switched PhD mentors and redirected my research efforts to ruminant parasites, specifically nematodes. After graduation, I realized that practice experience would be beneficial for my career, so I did a residency in Food Animal Practice, picking up the MPVM degree at the same time. Then after finishing my PhD, my research career began.

Why did you come to Louisiana?

I made application for a clinician position at Colorado State and was told I had too much research experience. Then I applied for a research position at Iowa State and was told I had too much clinical experience. My PhD mentor then told me the place to go where worms abound was the Southeast. I interviewed for positions at LSU in both the Department of Veterinary Science on campus and the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health here at SVM. I accepted the position in ECH and the rest is history.

Why did you choose to study parasitology?

I don't really think I chose parasitology, rather parasitology chose me (with the help of two very influential and encouraging mentors) and I went along for the ride.

What do you hope to accomplish with your research?

My research program has been two-fold: 1) to determine why, and/or how, Gulf Coast Native sheep are relatively more resistant to gastrointestinal nematode infection than Suffolk sheep, and 2) to evaluate alternative (non-chemical) approaches for protection against nematode infection. In 1), our international collaborative group hopes to identify genetic markers associated with resistance. Such markers can then be used for selection purposes and making management decisions. In 2), alternatives (nematode trapping fungi, condensed tannin-containing plants, copper wire particles, and vaccination protocols) in conjunction with strategic use of anthelmintics will provide a more sustainable platform for integrated control programs that are not chemical based.

What do you hope to accomplish in your interim position?

In these times of budget constraints, the major accomplishment that I expect to achieve is to ensure that our research and graduate programs remain intact and supported at the highest level possible, and at the same time to improve communications from this office. I expect that efforts will continue to increase extramural funding through federal and other sources and, when economic times get better, to recruit additional faculty to enhance that effort.

Has your new position affected your regular duties?

My regular duties are whatever the Dean asks and expects of me. In accepting this interim position, I had to relinquish some of my duties, but overall I am making it work with minimal disruption.
In October 2010, Bentley, a Pit Bull mixed breed, was accidentally dragged behind a pickup truck on a chain until a bystander notified the driver. Bentley was taken to LSU’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s emergency service in extremely bad condition; a large part of skin had been peeled off and he had suffered numerous contusions and impact injuries. Degloving injuries were present on all four distal limbs, including the paws.

As there were no obvious fractures (radiographs taken that evening confirmed this), Bentley was transferred to the Soft Tissue Surgery Service for surgery and follow up care.

After bringing the injured dog to the hospital for care, the driver of the pickup was not heard from again. Upon assessment of Bentley’s injuries and unfortunate situation, Tweaky Funds were used to help defray the cost of Bentley’s surgery and treatment.
Bentley underwent surgery for wound closure and skin flap repairs, and then began a long period of post-operative care while his injuries healed. After several weeks, his doctors noted that, “Bently has a good attitude and appears much happier.”

Bentley was discharged and went to his new home with Erika, a second year veterinary student.

“I actually did not meet Bentley until he was recovering from surgery,” said Erika. “I was working in the Small Animal Intensive Care Unit, and he came in, and I took care of him after his surgery. Of course, everyone knows I have a soft spot for pit bulls, and when I saw his floppy ears and big head I knew I was in trouble. He was so sweet, but cautious. He was in a lot of pain, but I could tell he wanted so much to be a good dog. I hope I gave him that chance to trust someone and know that he was being taken care of. He stayed in the hospital a week longer after I first met him to recover and also to be neutered. He then came home with me to be my “foster” dog…and the rest is history.”

The Tweaky Fund was created to honor the memory of an abandoned dog named “Tweaky.” Nadine Carter Russell found Tweaky (named for the robot in Buck Rogers) in a parking lot on College Drive in Baton Rouge, La. Nadine gave Tweaky to her aunt, Paula G. Manship, who later set up the endowment with the LSU Foundation to help indigent owners with veterinary care at LSU’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Funds are distributed on a case-by-case basis, and donations are accepted to the fund year-round.

Mission: The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine is a dynamic community of educators, clinicians, researchers, and students dedicated to saving lives, finding cures, and changing lives through outstanding clinical and community service, educational excellence, and groundbreaking scholarly research in the basic and applied sciences.

“I hope I gave him that chance to trust someone and know that he was being taken care of.”
~ Erika
Pearls & Paws is a women's league for veterinary medicine and an initiative to prop up our young student veterinarians and the welfare of animals. This grass roots organization brings women together to discuss the needs of and to celebrate the good work at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

**How Pearls & Paws will make a difference:**

- A league like this raises awareness for the LSU SVM.
- It highlights the work and services of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
- It provides members opportunities to volunteer, network, market, and give back to people and animals in our community.
- It focuses investment dollars to the “greatest good,” whether for a single project, for young veterinarians, for updating equipment, or for building improvements.

**Why YOU should get involved:**

- You’ll meet interesting and like-minded women, partner with other groups, and attend special receptions, activities, tours, and lectures.
- You’ll reflect the LSU SVM’s mission as an ambassador in everything you do.
- You’ll receive a recognition piece/bracelet that identifies you as a member.

What a privilege to get to know our clients, our donors, and our LSU SVM family of volunteers. April is National Volunteer Month. Please join us in thanking these “Pearls & Paws” grass-roots volunteers for their time, talent, and treasure.

You can make a difference by joining Pearls & Paws! For more information, please contact Laura Lanier at 225-578-9826, 678-640-1086, or llanier@lsu.edu.
From left, Elizabeth Harris, Brandy Matthews, Jennifer Park, and Rachel Duhon celebrate their achievement. Eighty-three third-year veterinary students participated in the Coating Ceremony to mark and honor their transition to clinical veterinary training.

Temple Grandin, PhD, professor of animal science at Colorado State University, presented the LSU SVM’s Dean Grand Rounds and toured the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital to demonstrate compassionate animal handling. To hear Dr. Grandin’s presentation, go to http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu (“News” under “About SVM”), or use your smart phone QR reader (readers can be downloaded for free to smart phones).

At the LSU SVM 29th Annual Open House, visitors use gastrointestinal endoscope equipment to view and recover candy from inside a stuffed tiger. Dr. Dionne Ferguson, companion animal resident (right), is assisted by second-year veterinary students Brandy Duhon and Adam Duris (in blue coats).

Attending the “Evening with Mike VI” are Byron and Paloma Reyes, Pearls & Paws founding member; and Dr. Carrie Fox (LSU SVM 1993) her husband, Timothy, and son, Coleman.
Meet Joey Bynog and Jessica Trichel

Why do you want to be a veterinarian?

JOEY: There are many reasons I want to be a veterinarian. The profession is well-respected, and I have always admired veterinarians. I chose this as a career because I have a strong interest in medicine and animals and love interacting with people. I also know that this is a career that will challenge me daily, and I look forward to it.

JESSICA: Well there’s the cliché answer of, ‘I grew up with animals, and it was just natural for me to go into veterinary medicine,’ but there is more to the story than that. The truth is I love that veterinary medicine has so many options—from small animals to large, general practice to specialization, industry to government, and so much more. I have a variety of career opportunities available to me at any point in my career. Also, as much as I love the animals, I love being around people who love and share a special bond with those animals. And so far I believe I am going to have the best colleagues in any profession! So those are just a few of the many reasons I want to be a veterinarian.

Why did you choose to apply to LSU for veterinary school?

JOEY: I chose LSU for veterinary school due to its reputation as a great school and because I am from Louisiana.

JESSICA: I am an LSU Tiger! But it came down to in-state tuition and the LSU 3 + 1 undergraduate veterinary program that I was lucky enough to participate in and graduate with a Bachelor’s in Animal Science after my first year of veterinary school (the 3 + 1 program allows students take three years of undergraduate courses at LSU in specific colleges and then count the first year of veterinary school as the fourth year of coursework toward that particular undergraduate degree).

Has your career choice changed since you applied?

JOEY: My career choice actually hasn’t changed since entering school. I started veterinary school with the mind-set...
that I would practice small animal medicine upon graduation. Veterinary school has only further assured me that this is what I want to do.

**JESSICA:** It has changed on nearly a weekly basis! I came in wanting to be an equine surgeon. Over the last two-and-a-half years, I have considered pretty much every different avenue possible—from small animal, to lab animal, to industry, and beyond—but now I have narrowed my interests down to specializing in radiology and/or equine practice. I feel my path will head in that direction; however, who knows what I will eventually end up doing!

**Do you feel prepared to enter the next phase of your career?**

**JOEY:** I am nervous to enter the “real world,” but I know that the LSU SVM has prepared me well. As graduation gets closer, the idea of how much responsibility I am about to have begins to set in. I just have to try to assure myself that I have prepared adequately.

**JESSICA:** Yes, nervous and a little intimidated of course, but definitely prepared.

**What is your best memory of your time here at LSU SVM so far?**

**JOEY:** My best memory is tailgating with friends in front of the veterinary school before walking down to Tiger Stadium to watch the Bayou Bengals take the field.

**JESSICA:** Oh geez, so many memories! So many people, so many delirious nights studying, so many inside jokes, so many quotes, so many pranks, so many phenomenal parties, and so many amazing trips that I would not change a thing, and I am so thankful for each and every memory.

**How many pets do you currently have?**

**JOEY:** I have a five-year-old miniature Dachshund, Dixie. I haven’t had the room or time to dedicate to more animals right now. I’m sure I will be getting many more after graduation.

**JESSICA:** Chris is my five-year-old Australian Shepherd who lives in Baton Rouge with me, but my other family dogs include Sophie, a three-year-old Great Dane; Chloe, a 10-year-old Chihuahua; and Lil Bit, a seven-year-old Chihuahua mix.

**Where are you from?**

**JOEY:** Natchitoches, Louisiana. My wife, Kit, is from Natchez, Mississippi. She is a radiologic technologist at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital. Our son, Caleb Joseph, was born on October 10, 2010.

**JESSICA:** West Monroe, La.

**Where do you plan to practice after you graduate and in what type of practice?**

**JOEY:** Monroe, Louisiana, in a small animal practice.

**JESSICA:** Wherever I can get a good job!

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The LSU SVM is pleased to be able to highlight these two veterinary students. We wish you could meet all of our more than 350 students (DVM, MS, and PhD candidates). They are all truly extraordinary.
What made you want to be a research scientist?
I was mainly inspired by what my father did as an animal scientist and by the exposure he gave me and my siblings. He often took us to dairy farms and slaughter houses to watch him treat animals, plan construction of animal handling facilities, and carry out meat inspections. We watched and listened to him while interviewing and advising clients (mainly small-scale farmers engaged in livestock and crop production). My mother, an elementary school teacher, emphasized the need for science and made sure we were on track.

What is your primary area of research?
At LSU my focus was on applying quantitative epidemiologic methods to clinical problems in ruminant health and food safety and on determining whether a subunit vaccine derived from the gut of a stomach worm could protect sheep against excessive parasite burden, anemia, and mortality (the project demonstrated that the vaccine was useful only if you gave sheep repeated booster doses of the vaccine). The lessons from that trial have been useful for my current National Institutes of Health-funded phase IV clinical trial in people who have high cholesterol and triglycerides; we use knowledge on diet, health behavior, and genetic variation to develop a prediction model to identify patients who will not respond well to fenofibrate (lipid-lowering drug with variable effect) so that alternative therapies can be tried early.

What was the LSU SVM like when you attended?
I wanted a place where people were happy and supportive of each other’s projects and an academically challenging environment with flexibility to explore beyond the set program of study. All these I got. LSU SVM was truly outstanding in the spirit of collaboration and support for each other. The 7.30 am meetings at Highland Coffees with Dr. Jim Miller, Dr. Tom Klei and fellow graduate students were both socially and academically very enriching!

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your career?
I got the best training for my career! Looking back, I think the most important thing at LSU SVM was that the environment was conducive for excellence; it encouraged scholarship and responsibility. LSU SVM faculty had multiple collaborations with researchers in the U.S. and overseas and allowed their students to take part in them. The contacts, together with involvement in collaborative research, were fundamental in making me learn the basics of research collaboration and in building professional confidence.

What are some of your most memorable moments from LSU?
Some of my best moments at LSU are those where I met people for the first time and got to know their generosity in terms of their time and resources. Dr. Jim Miller helped me navigate the LSU new student registration process, and there were multiple wonderful Thanksgiving dinners at his home. I spent many weekends at the tennis courts near Nicholson Drive, and had so much fun with colleagues while working on sheep at the Ben Hur sheep farm.

While at LSU I was single and without children. Now I am married to Hilda, and we have a daughter, Abigail (age 5) and a son, Samuel (age 3). I look forward to a time I will bring them to tour LSU and to see all my colleagues and friends.
What made you want to be a veterinarian?
I always knew I wanted to be in a profession where I could be with and work around animals for my entire life.

What was the LSU SVM like when you attended?
Obviously many things have changed. There is more cement and less grass for sure. The small animal ICU is five times larger, and many of the faces have changed. However, some things seem to be the same. Harvey Westbrook and Scotty Boatright (associate clinical specialists in anesthesia) are still there, the process for getting a parking sticker hasn’t changed, and neither has the barbecue beef sandwiches at the SVM snack area (a tradition since at least 1984).

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your career?
LSU SVM laid the groundwork for success in the world’s greatest profession. It was also my relationships with and support from the faculty at LSU SVM that helped me get accepted into my internship at Oradell Animal Hospital in New Jersey. This ultimately led to a surgical residency at The Ohio State University and back full circle working part-time at LSU SVM.

What does the LSU SVM mean to you?
For me, LSU SVM reminds me of my past, is my present, and excites me about the future of veterinary medicine when I see the bright stars who will take the baton and run with it to the next level. I appreciate the education I received at LSU.

What is a memorable moment from your time at the LSU SVM?
One of the most memorable moments was on a relatively mundane Saturday. I was on small animal orthopedic rotation. I and one other student came in to check on patients. The clinician was Dr. Chuck Blass. He sat down with us in the treatment room with one of our dogs. Then, over a one hour time period, gave us the most practical and thorough review of lameness in the dog I have ever seen presented by any clinician. What impressed us was that he actually cared about us learning and was willing to give his time on a Saturday for us. It may seem trivial but the impression must have been significant. The other student that day was Paul Sheilly, and we both went on to do surgical residencies.

Are there any other personal or professional facts you’d like to share?
I consider myself blessed to be part of the non-profit work associated with the New Orleans Dream Center in reaching out to pet owners in inner city New Orleans. My wife, Deb (DVM, Iowa State), and I are both happy to be teaching surgery in association with Resource Exchange International at the veterinary college in Hue, Vietnam. Finally, perhaps our greatest reward is being able to practice veterinary medicine for the people of one the poorest nations on earth in Niger, Africa, where we have treated over 10,000 animals in the last four years in remote villages.

Dr. Mauterer is as a visiting companion animal surgeon one week per month in the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
1979

**Dr. Mark C. Haines** is a veterinary medical officer with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. Mark and his wife have four dogs (Bernese, Golden, Rottweiler, Standard Poodle), four cats (Ragdolls), and two horses (calf-roping Quarter Horse and American Mustang). The Haines family resides in Libertytown, M.D.

1995

**Dr. Tom McGowan** worked in small animal practice in Sydney, Australia, following graduation. He followed that with mixed animal practice in Orange, Australia, and then equine-only practice in Canberra, Australia. In January 1999, Tom moved to the U.K. and worked in a small animal practice in Watford (London) for a little over three years. In October 2002, Tom and his family moved back to Australia, where he completed a PhD in Veterinary Epidemiology. The final writing of his thesis was completed in Helsinki while his wife was head of the Equine Medicine Department at the University of Helsinki. In October 2008, Tom and his family moved back to the U.K. and currently live in West Kirby, Wirral, south of Liverpool. Here Tom manages a Small Animal Practice and his wife is a specialist equine medicine clinician/researcher/distance learning provider at the University of Liverpool.

1996

**Dr. Jennifer “Jey” Koehler** recently obtained Diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Jey is a resident in the Department of Pathobiology at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in Auburn, Ala.

1999 AND 2000

**Drs. Victor (1999) and Laura (2000) Torres** welcomed their fourth child, Lena Carlota, on July 7, 2010. She joins her three big brothers, Joe (age 7), Lance, and Gabe (twins, age 5). Victor owns his own ambulatory equine practice, incorporating alternative medicines such as chiropractic work and acupuncture. Laura left private practice about five years ago, but stays busy with shelter work and handling the paperwork for Victor’s business. She has a small clinic set up on their farm (since she got tired of treating neighbors’ pets on her kitchen table) and is also trained in small animal acupuncture. The Torres family resides in Paris, Ky., just outside of Lexington.

2000

Dr. Ada M. Martinez is a clinician at Hospital Veterinario de Quebradillas in Quebradillas, Puerto Rico, where she also resides. She also works with veterinary technician students from the University of Puerto Rico, and she is a volunteer at public and private schools in Puerto Rico; she teaches students to care for and respect their pets. She has a 16-year-old son, Juan Anthony. They have four dogs, two cats, and two birds.

2001

**Dr. Katy Johnson Nelson** and her husband, Michael, have a son, Sam. She has two dogs and a turtle. She is an emergency clinician in Alexandria, Va.,

The LSU SVM hosted a reception for alumni and friends at the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association Winter Meeting in Lafayette, La., in February 2011. Attending that reception are (from left) Dr. Scott Buzhardt (LSU SVM 1980); Dr. Fenton Lipscomb, immediate past president of the LVMA; Dr. Gary Dupree (LSU SVM 1980); Dr. Hugh “Chip” Price (LSU SVM 1980); and Dr. Lynn Buzhardt (LSU SVM 1980), recipient of the 2010 LVMA Veterinarian of the Year Award.
and has her own successful veterinary media consulting business on the side. The Nelsons reside in Alexandria.

**Dr. Javier Nevarez** and his wife, Emily, are thrilled to announce the adoption of Emma Grace Si-yeong Nevarez. She was born on October 25, 2009, in Incheon, South Korea. Javier and Emily brought Emma Grace home on September 6, 2010. Javier is an assistant professor of zoological medicine and director of the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana. The Nevarez’s reside in Baton Rouge, La.

**2002**

**Dr. Virginia “Ginny” Bowdon Ellsworth** and her husband, Sam, welcomed their second child, Lily Sterling, in March 2010. Both children attend East Dallas Veterinary Clinic’s on-site licensed small employer based childcare facility, Doggone Fun Daycare. Sam graduated from Baylor College of Dentistry in May 2010. He continues his education in a Periodontology Residency at Baylor. The Ellsworth family resides in Dallas, Texas.

**2003**

**Dr. Larry Montz** and his wife, Brooke, welcomed their daughter, Kendall, on December 14, 2009. They are also the proud parents of their three-year-old son, Kaden. Larry is currently an associate veterinarian practicing in Denver, Colo. The family resides in Highlands Ranch, Colo.

**2005**

**Dr. Beth Lagattuta Cooper** married John Cooper on May 15, 2010. They reside in New Orleans, La.

**2006**

**Dr. Brooke (Bellard) McGee** and her husband, Lewis, welcomed six new feet to their home with the arrival of Lucas Joseph, Regan Nicole, and Caitlin Grace on September 3, 2010. Lucas weighed 3 lbs. 12 oz. and was 17 1/4 in. long. Regan weighed 2 lbs. 15 oz. and was 16 1/4 in. long. Caitlin weighed 3 lbs. 10 oz. and was 16 3/4 in. long. Sydney Claire McGee weighed 3 lbs. 12 oz. and was 15 1/4 in. long, but joined the angels above after nine days of life. The babies were welcomed home by their big sister, Madison. Brooke works at Crowley Veterinary Hospital in Crowley, La. The McGee’s reside in Eunice, La.

Katrin Saile, DVM, MS, joined the faculty in August 2010 as an assistant professor of veterinary surgery in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Dr. Saile received her both her BS and DVM from LSU in 2002 and 2006, respectively. She received her MS from Auburn University in 2010, where she also completed both her internship and residency in companion animal surgery.

Cherie Puche-Haston DVM, PhD, joined the faculty in January 2011 as an assistant professor of veterinary dermatology in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Dr. Puche-Haston received her DVM from LSU in 1992, where she also interned in Companion Animal Medicine and Surgery. She completed her residency in dermatology at North Carolina State University and received her PhD at NC State in Immunology with a minor in Biotechnology.
One of the realities of veterinary medicine is that not all patients can be saved and not all can be kept comfortable as they come naturally to the end of their days. But a growing number of veterinarians are realizing that sometimes there are alternative therapies that can help animals have a better quality of life. Thanks to a gift from a private donor, the LSU SVM is now exploring alternative therapies.

Integrative veterinary medicine is a discipline that combines modern treatment regimens with alternative approaches such as acupuncture, nutritional supplements (or nutriceuticals), chiropractic, and other holistic techniques. Alternative medicine is not intended to replace standard veterinary medical and surgical practices, but rather to integrate complementary methodologies into current treatment strategies to improve the lives of animals. Integrative techniques rarely bring about cures, but they can be excellent preventive and supportive tools. Acupuncture, for example, often brings dramatic pain relief to animals with chronic degenerative diseases, and herbal supplements administered throughout an animal’s life may help prevent the development of such diseases.

Many veterinarians today are not fully aware of the potential benefits of alternative treatment approaches and how they may be used to support and enhance their existing treatment options, but thanks to one forward-thinking couple, the LSU SVM veterinarians and students will soon have a chance to learn some of these alternative techniques and incorporate them into their practices.

Donald and Sue Crow, of Shreveport, La., have long recognized the need for more tools to complement existing treatment options and they have chosen to make the LSU SVM the beneficiary of their vision. The Crows have made a generous gift to the LSU SVM to support the development of an integrative veterinary medicine program that will be
incorporated into both the classroom and clinical phases
of DVM students’ curricula. Clinical faculty and technicians
will also receive training in integrative techniques, which
will benefit both students and the patients in the Veterinary
Teaching Hospital.

Sue Crow is a nurse, gardener, herbalist, and infection control
specialist, and is passionate about the benefits of integrative
medicine. With over 45 years of experience in healthcare,
Sue knows firsthand the advantages and disadvantages of
modern medical practices. “Many drugs are toxic, so about
20 years ago I started looking for alternatives,” she said. “And
when you look for something, you find answers,” Sue said of
her discovery of the healing properties of herbal nutritional
supplements. She has become a believer in integrative
medicine and would like to see it included in all medical
school curricula, but because it is difficult to introduce change
into human medicine, she and her husband turned their attention—and
their gift—toward the veterinary field.

“We’ve always tried to provide for
our animals,” says Donald Crow, a
retired oilman. “We like to see them
get the best care possible, and we
think a lot of the veterinary school
down there.” The Crows’ first experience with the LSU SVM
was years ago when they brought one of their dogs to its
Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The English pointer had been
diagnosed with prostate cancer but the LSU SVM clinicians
discovered that the dog actually had lymphoma, another form
of cancer. A course of radiation and chemotherapy bought the
dog another eight months of good quality life, and the Crows
were grateful. “The whole experience with the people at the
School of Veterinary Medicine was very rewarding,” said Don.

“The Crows’ gift comes at a most opportune time,” says Dr.
Rebecca McConnico, an equine clinician who was recently
awarded a scholarship to attend the Chi Institute in Florida for
training in acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Veterinary
Medicine (TCVM). “Faculty and students were already
discussing the importance of teaching alternative therapies
and acupuncture, and this gift will allow us to move forward,
sending other clinicians to train in TCVM.”

“There is a growing interest among both clinicians and
veterinary students in TCVM,” Dr. McConnico continued,
“and its popularity is growing nationally and internationally.
Combining Eastern medicine with conventional (Western)
 veterinary medicine provides us with additional tools to do the job.”

The Crows’ gift is already being used to educate the LSU
SVM’s faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Mark Acierno, a
small animal renal specialist, is scheduled to attend the
Chi Institute next year to receive training in acupuncture.
Two DVM students participated in acupuncture rotation at
Colorado State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine
& Biomedical Sciences in February, and two small animal
technicians attended the American Holistic Veterinary
Medicine Association’s annual conference in Covington, Ky.,
last October.

One of those technicians was Jenny Cassibry, who works
in the oncology service at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital,
and she described the conference as an
eye-opening experience. “This was my
first experience with holistic medicine,” she said. “The more you learn, the more you
realize what you don’t know. I was skeptical
going in, but now I believe in this—not that
holistic techniques could or should replace
traditional medical treatment methods,
because they can’t—but that working as
a team—pairing traditional methods with holistic options—is
what benefits people and their animals the most.”

Some of the techniques Jenny learned at the conference
have already been incorporated into the LSU SVM’s oncology
service here. “We’ve implemented some of the holistic
therapies I learned into our cancer treatment strategies,”
she said. “Many of our standard techniques such as
chemotherapy and radiation produce a lot of side effects, and
some pet owners are not able to cope with them. With holistic
therapies, we have more options…we now have something
else to offer, whereas before, we did not.”

Sue Crow adds, “We have here an opportunity now to start
an integrative program at the LSU SVM that can be the best
in the country. This is a new thing—an important thing—a
new frontier in the animal world. We hope that others will
recognize that this program is a way to provide holistic care
for our animals now and in the future, and will join us in our
support of the integrative veterinary medicine program at the
LSU SVM.”

“Including Eastern medicine along with conventional (Western) veterinary medicine provides us with additional tools to do the job.”
~ Dr. Rebecca McConnico
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 about how you can partner with us in our mission,
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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