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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Peter F. Haynes, DVM, DACVS
Dean
Partners in Practice

The LSU SVM's Veterinary Teaching Hospital provides educational opportunities for our students and a valuable service to the community in the form of specialized veterinary care for animals. Veterinarians (both local and non-local) refer many cases to us that require a higher degree of specialty training or more advanced equipment. These referring veterinarians are our "partners in practice," and we work together for the benefit of both people and animals. Story on page 4.

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

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Partners in Practice

Working together to save animals

The LSU SVM’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) helps both people and animals by providing exceptional veterinary medical care for animals while simultaneously educating future veterinarians. Our students learn valuable lessons from every patient that comes through our doors. Many of these cases are referred to the VTH by veterinarians (both local and non-local), whose patients can sometimes require more specialized care or more advanced technology. These referring veterinarians (RDVMs) are our partners in practice. Our faculty, staff and students work with these veterinarians to improve the lives of animals, and, in many cases, save lives.

Fifi

On February 12, 2014, Fifi, a 12-year-old female Pug, was admitted with a collapsing trachea, mainstem bronchi collapse and aspiration pneumonia. Fifi was referred to LSU by Clark Cooper, DVM (LSU SVM 1992), and Peter Armstrong, DVM (LSU SVM 2013). Fifi’s medical history included hypothyroidism and previous treatment for heartworm disease.
“Fifi was medically managed for several years at my practice for collapsing trachea,” said Dr. Armstrong. “She did really well at home until she had a few episodes of respiratory distress that included brief periods of collapse/fainting. I discussed the possibility of tracheal stenting with Fifi’s owner, and she was interested. I then spoke with Dr. Katrin Saile and Dr. Kirk Ryan about her case, and they determined that she was at least a candidate for further work-up.”

On presentation at the VTH, Fifi had a “goose honk” cough with moderate respiratory distress. She was placed in an oxygen cage with 40 percent oxygen to ease respiratory effort overnight. On February 13, a complete blood count (CBC), thoracic radiographs, fluoroscopy and an echocardiogram were performed. The radiographs revealed marked alveolar pattern within the left lung consistent with aspiration pneumonia. There was also substantial dynamic narrowing of the trachea with near complete tracheal collapse occurring during coughing. Despite her multiple problems, Fifi’s doctors determined that a tracheal stent could be placed to alleviate respiratory distress and prevent tracheal collapse.

Radiographic measurements were used to order a customized tracheal stent which would span the entire trachea. Fifi was placed under general anesthesia, and a pre-measured self-expanding tracheal stent (14 mm diameter, 85mm length) was placed. Proper stent placement was guided fluoroscopically and confirmed with thoracic radiographs post-surgery. Fifi recovered in ICU and was placed in an oxygen cage overnight; she remained in the oxygen cage during her hospital stay, with progressively decreasing levels of oxygen beginning on February 17.

**Quote from Fifi’s owner**

“Fifi received exceptional care while at LSU, and the owner was more than satisfied and happy with the outcome,” said Dr. Armstrong.

**Hank**

On February 4, 2014, Hank, a 15-year-old quarter horse, was referred to the VTH and admitted with a fever, colic, and being off feed.

Lindsay Herzog, DVM (LSU SVM 2005), Hank’s primary veterinarian, referred him to the VTH after Hank began showing second colic signs just two weeks after a first colic resolved. Blood work revealed inflammation, high blood sugar due to stress and a high total bilirubin due to lack of appetite. Treatment, consisting of intravenous fluids, was started immediately because of dehydration.

That afternoon Hank spiked a fever of 102.8⁰, and he had a mild cough. He was given an anti-inflammatory agent to reduce fever. An examination of the abdomen and chest using ultrasound showed evidence of pneumonia and fluid contents in the large intestine. Hank was continued on fluids, and due to the fever and changes on blood work, pneumonia and colitis (inflammation of the large intestine) were suspected. He showed little interest in his feed.

On February 6, a transtracheal wash (a wash of the lungs) and chest radiographs (x-rays) were performed. The transtracheal wash showed inflammation, consistent with pneumonia, and the radiographs confirmed pneumonia, which might have been secondary to changes in weather conditions, shipping or stress. At that time, Hank was diagnosed with pneumonia, colic, and colitis and was started on antibiotics.

Because of the pneumonia, Hank was started on a bronchodilator to help him breath better. Over the next couple of days, Hank’s condition improved and his intravenous fluids were discontinued, but continued on the anti-inflammatory fluids and antibiotics. In addition, omeprazole was added administered to alleviate any stomach ulcers from the stress of being sick.

After several days of hospitalization, the blood work improved and the chest x-rays showed improvement in the pneumonia. Intravenous antibiotics were discontinued and Hank was started on oral antibiotics. The next day, his condition continued to
improve, however at that time he was dropping feed (noted by the owner) and moving his head from side to side while chewing. An examination of his teeth showed sharp points on his teeth. These sharp pointed were floated (filed down). While in hospital, Hank did not show recurrent signs of colic. However, he did have an intermittent cough due to the pneumonia and sporadic mild fevers. His appetite and water intake continued to be poor. This was thought to be due to lack of socialization with other horses and his owner. In other words, he missed his owners. Because he was happier when his owners were present, it was decided that Hank could return home and continue under the care of Dr Herzog. Hank returned home on February 12.

“I have thought of the veterinary school often since we brought Hank home,” Carol Maguire, Hank’s owner. “I truly feel you saved his life. When Hank took sick it broke my heart. I felt like I was losing my best friend, and he had already been through so much in his life. Hank was a rescue, and when we took him, in his feet were so bad he almost couldn’t walk. It took six months of constant work from the farrier. With his hard work and some new shoes, Hank began to do better. Then he was bitten by a snake and had to undergo six months of shots twice a day in his neck.

“Hank is special in our hearts and when we brought him to you not many people held out much hope. Your team took us in and made us feel like the whole staff was working hard to save Hank. He was still not 100% when we got him home but now, you should see him. Being home has finished the treatment y’all started. Hank is doing fine, and I thank God for your team for taking such good care of Hank and for putting up with all the tears we shed and all the questions we asked! Thank you all from our hearts.”

Gus

Debbie Knapp never thought that her Jack Russell Terrier would get cancer, and she certainly never dreamed that he would get cancer twice in his lifetime. When he did, her primary care veterinarian and the LSU SVM worked together to keep Gus happy and healthy.

In 2012, Gus’s primary care veterinarian, Leia Hunter, DVM (LSU SVM 2010), found a lump on his anal gland during a routine health exam. Dr. Hunter advised Debbie to take Gust the VTH or a clinic in Dallas for treatment. Debbie said, “I never considered taking Gus anywhere other than the LSU SVM. I have family in Baton Rouge, and I know they are very good.”
Upon arriving to Baton Rouge, Gus was diagnosed with anal sac adenocarcinoma. The surgery team at the VTH removed a mast cell tumor from Gus's left anal gland in January 2013, and then Gus underwent chemotherapy in the Cancer Treatment Unit.

“Apocrine gland adenocarcinoma of anal sac origin most commonly appears as a deep, firm, nodular mass near the anal sac. As these lesions grow, they may compress the rectum and induce constipation. These tumors can be unpredictable and invasive. Some of these tumors are associated with high calcium, which results in weight loss, inappetence, increased urination, and increased drinking. They are often highly infiltrative and commonly (90 percent) spread to the surrounding area. Wide surgical excision is the treatment of choice. Adjunct chemotherapy and radiation therapy may also be of benefit depending on the aggressive nature of the disease.” – insert from discharge summary

“They worked hand in glove with Dr. Hunter,” said Debbie. “It was like they were neighbors! They shared test results, monitored his condition and discussed treatment options with me.”

Another abnormal test result brought Gus back to the VTH Cancer Treatment Unit. This time for a different type of cancer. After rounds of treatment the cancer went into remission.

Gus needs regular tests and bloodwork (once every six weeks) to ensure his cancer does not return, so it is important that his veterinarian and the faculty and staff work together to monitor his condition. Dr. Hunter and the VTH alternate running the tests, and always keep each other informed of the results.

Dr. Hunter says, “Gus received absolutely excellent care at the LSU SVM; I could not have asked for better care for him.”

“Gus is alive because of the great care and communication between Dr. Boudreaux and her Oncology Team and Dr. Hunter,” said Ms. Knapp.

Pistol

On July 18, 2013, Pistol, a 7 year old female, paint horse, arrived at the LSU VTH as an emergency case due to a laceration at the right ear base. She apparently caught her right ear on a tree branch, and it was torn off. The injury was so severe that the surgeons considered euthanasia; however, most motor function appeared to be present.

Pistol was put under anesthesia, and the wound was explored. Wooden debris was removed, and the wound was debrided. A muscle at the caudal aspect of the ear base was determined to still be viable and was reattached at the severance point. A closed-suction, Jackson-Pratt drain remained in the wound for three days.

Pistol recoved well and was discharged from the VTH on July 23.
Charles C. Lee, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, investigates the neural mechanisms responsible for the encoding and processing of sensory information in the brain, with a focus on the central auditory system. “I got interested in the auditory system because of my interest in the evocative power of music,” said Dr. Lee. “The broad impetus for why I’m interested in the brain is that the brain is essentially everything we are. You can lose a limb or your spleen, but you can’t survive without your brain. Philosophically, I’m interested in what is it about the brain essentially that gives rise to all of who we think we are. And the reason that I focus on perception as opposed to motor actions or autonomic responses is because when you think about what you conceive of as yourself it’s your perceptual experiences of the world that shape your perceptions of them and yourself.”

The auditory system is twofold: one is the encoding of sound, which occurs at the level of the cochlea in the ear and takes the sound waves from the external environment and transforms it into some kind of a neural signal; and the second is how the sound is transmitted and processed by the brain. Dr. Lee’s research includes both aspects of the auditory system. Specifically, he is looking at tinnitus (ringing in the ears), presbycusis (age-related hearing loss) and the neural circuit changes that occur with both of these disorders. Dr. Lee is also investigating autism and how auditory circuits are altered (e.g., how do people with autism perceive what they hear?).

In tinnitus, people have this perception of a sound even though there is no sound. There are changes in the circuitry of the brain that give rise to this phantom perception. Dr. Lee is investigating those circuit changes.

The other main auditory disease studied by Dr. Lee is presbycusis (age-related hearing loss). “So as we age, first we have problems encoding the sound, but then there’s also the problem of intelligibility of the sound,” said Dr. Lee. “We have problems parsing speech. What are those neural circuit changes that are causing the problem of intelligibility of sound, the understanding of the sounds that are coming in?”

Because of his interest in perceptions in general, Dr. Lee also began looking at other disorders that are related to perceptions but not necessarily auditory, such as autism. “It turns out that a lot of the neural structural deficits that we find in some of the auditory diseases actually appear to correlate with some of the changes that are going on in people with autism,” said Dr. Lee. “Many of the circuits that are altered in auditory disorders are also altered in autism but in a different way. So we kind of backed into looking at things like autism, schizophrenia and some forms of depression.”

Dr. Lee uses mice to determine how they react to sound. “We record the activity of different neural structures in the brain and see how they react to the sound or how the stimulus is presented and how that correlates with behavior,” said Dr. Lee. “We play a sound, observe the animal’s behavior and see what parts of the brain or active. Then we map out those circuits using various neuroanatomical techniques that can visualize the connected networks that are involved in all of these different encoding and processing procedures of the brain.”
One of the more interesting techniques we’re using is called optogenetics. This is a powerful technique that has come online recently and kind of revolutionized systems neuroscience. What this method allows us to do is very specifically target particular types of neurons in the brain. So if you're interested in a neuron or a circuit that's involved in encoding where some sound is coming from in space, you can selectively activate or inhibit those neurons using light.

“You can essentially turn a neuron on or off using light. You express a particular type of protein in the neuron that is responsive to light and you insert an optic fiber into the brain which has the correct wavelength to activate the channel or close a different type of channel. And that'll either turn the neuron on or turn there off. If you turn the neuron on, what happens to the behavior the organism or if you turn your off what does the organism do. What happens to the physiology of a neuron. It’s in this way that you very specifically can knock out the different regions of the brain or active areas of the brain and see how that affects the behavior and physiology of the organism.”

Generally what Dr. Lee has found is that there's a relationship between the structures of the cerebral cortex and the thalamus, and these two structures are important to how auditory or sensory information in general is essentially processed in the brain. So if you knock out a particular type of connection from the cortex to the thalamus, that then affects how the animal is able to perceive sound. If you knock out the connection from the cortex to the higher order thalmus, that essentially inhibits the mouse's ability to localize where the sound is coming from in space.

Also, if you knock out a direct pathway between cortical areas that affects a different type of perceptual ability, that affects the brain’s ability to determine what the content of the sound is.

In the people with autism, it appears that the connections between the cortex and thalamus are over-proliferated, so there's too much stimuli; they are receiving aberrant, abnormal or excessive activity. There's too much sensory information coming in, and it needs to be limited.

With cases like tinnitus, part of the problem is that there's an inhibitory circuit in the brain that is turned off, so the circuit that is supposed to dampen activity doesn't work properly and the brain “hears” sound that's not there. “If you lose the off signal of the brain, then you get excessive activity,” said Dr. Lee, “and that generates the perception of the sound because the neurons are active even though there's nothing coming in.”

Dr. Lee’s research shows that we can use the optogenetic method to add back that inhibition in people with tinnitus so the perception of sound is lost (no more ringin in the ears). This also has some relevance to other types of phantom perception disorders.

Dr. Lee has grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Simons Foundation. The NIH grant award provides $403,378 for the project entitled “Functional architecture of the auditory cortex.” The Simons Foundation provided $60,000 for the project entitled “Altered corticothalamic processing in a mouse model of autism,” and the Board of Regents provided $63,876 for projects entitled “Intrinsic circuits in the auditory cortex” and “Age-related changes to inhibitory neurons in the cerebral cortex.”

Dr. Lee received the Zoetis Award for Research Excellence in 2014. This award is given to a faculty member who has excelled in veterinary medical research during the past two years.
Auggie, a 6 year old male Rottweiler, is walking on his own. This may not sound particularly special, but when Auggie first came to the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital on December 10, 2013, he wasn’t able to walk at all. Thanks to acupuncture, Auggie is back home with his family and walking on his own.

On December 9, Auggie had a grand mal seizure and could not stand up. “We took Auggie to our regular veterinarian after his first seizure,” said Michael, Auggie’s owner. “While on our way to the veterinarian, he had a second seizure in the vehicle, followed by a third at the veterinarian. We took him to an overnight emergency hospital for observation, where he had a fourth seizure. We transferred him back to our regular veterinarian the next morning, and that is when we were referred to LSU for an MRI.”

Auggie was diagnosed with a mass in the frontal lobe of his brain and stenosis (abnormal narrowing) of the cervical spinal cord causing paralysis. On December 16, with his neurological status unchanged, Julie Hartfield, DVM, companion animal medicine resident, and Travis Schaller, the veterinary student assigned to his case, spoke to Auggie’s owners about acupuncture. “We were open to it because my wife’s cousin had acupuncture on his shoulder while he was a baseball pitcher in college,” said Michael.

Acupuncture is the stimulation of specific points (called acupoints) on the body, by insertion of very fine, sterile, stainless steel needles to elicit a therapeutic response. This stimulus may also be administered to the acupoints using mild electrical stimulation (electro-acupuncture), pressure techniques with the hands (acupressure) or the injection of sterile solution (aquapuncture). From a modern research perspective, insertion of a needle into an acupoint stimulates a variety of sensory nerves in the body. Signals travel through the nervous system to the brain, which then releases various chemicals that produce multiple physiologic effects activating the body’s homeostatic regulatory mechanisms. Studies show that acupuncture stimulation increases the release of opioids from the nervous system, decreasing pain.

Auggie received acupuncture treatment once a day for five days, along with physical exercises two to three times per day and treatment in the underwater treadmill one to two times per week. Auggies was able to return home on December 27. His owners were asked to try and get his weight to 109 pounds (from 119), and they were given a home exercise and massage plan. Auggie continued to come to the LSU VTH for acupuncture, electroacupuncture, cold laser therapy and physical therapy through February 2014.
“We noticed an improvement upon our first visit after deciding to try acupuncture,” said Michael. “This was after three days of acupuncture treatment and physical therapy. It was noted in his case summary that there was improvement after the first session. Dr. Koh is easy to talk to, and his explanations of the treatment and therapy sessions were clear.”

Auggie’s treatment plan was created and overseen by Ronald Koh, DVM, MS, CVA, CVFT, CVCH, visiting instructor of integrative medicine. On February 17, 2014, Auggie’s motor function was steadily improving. By February 19, he could walk in a mostly straight line with little support but still could not rise up on his own. Dr. Koh surmised that Auggie needed to improve his strength in order to stand on his own, which he did on February 24. On February 27, Auggie was walking almost normally and was released.

“Acupuncture, including electroacupuncture, stimulates peripheral nerves, spinal cord segmental levels and central nervous system to release neurochemicals that help to alleviate pain, as well as activate mechanism of repair and regeneration of damaged nerves,” said Dr. Koh. “Acupuncture can help animals with spinal cord injury to achieve better body functions as well as physical relief from pain caused by the condition. Acupuncture may even improve the long-term neurologically recovery including motor, sensory and bowel/bladder function in spinal cord injured animals. Rehabilitation therapy combine physical exercise, underwater treadmill and therapeutic massage have helped Auggie to prevent muscle atrophy, to alleviate pain, and to improve range of motion, weight bearing and balance. This therapy aims to restore his locomotor functions so that he could walk normally again.

“Auggie is doing well, and is walking normally” said Dr. Koh. “He will continue acupuncture and rehabilitation once a month, and he takes medication to control his seizures.”

“Auggie is doing remarkably well,” said Michael. “He can walk, run, and rear up on his hind legs. He plays with his sister, Elka (also a Rottweiler), and loves to run the fence line when the children in the neighborhood are riding their bikes. Although he may not be 100%, he’s about a close as it comes. We can’t thank Dr. Koh and Travis Schaller enough for all the rehab hours spent with Auggie and the constant updates over the phone and in person. We also won’t forget the peace of mind Dr. Hartfield provided as we were contemplating Auggie’s future treatment. The entire team at LSU treated Auggie like a member of their family and we will always remember the care and compassion shown during our many visits.”

The VTH offers integrative medicine services for both pets and horses. For information on acupuncture and the VTH Integrative Medicine Service, please contact Dr. Koh at rkoh@lsu.edu or call 225-578-9600 to schedule an appointment.
Shanshan Cai, MS, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences (PBS), received her BS in 1998 and her MS in 2001, both from Liaoning College of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Dr. Cai received her PhD from Shimane University of Medicine in 2007. Dr. Cai’s research interest is in innate immune mechanisms in respiratory diseases.

Annie Daniel, MS, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS) and director of veterinary instructional design and outcomes assessment, received her BS in 1994, her MS in 1997 and her PhD in 2001, all from LSU. Dr. Daniel will be responsible for working with the Associate Dean of Student and Academic Affairs to development, manage, and implementation initiatives that facilitate the improvement of faculty pedagogical and assessment skills. She will also be responsible for continuing to further develop the outcomes assessment model, curriculum mapping, and instructional design for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program. Her areas of expertise are curriculum development, course design, educational research, educational technology, student academic support, faculty development, educational policy, and strategic planning.

Filipe Espinheira, LMV, DACVO, assistant professor of ophthalmology in VCS, received his LMV from Tras-os-Montes e Alto Douro University (Portugal) in 2002. Dr. Espinheira is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. His clinical interests are ophthalmology with a special interest in cornea, ocular surgeries and glaucoma.

Britton Grasperge, DVM, PhD, DACVP, assistant professor in PBS, received his BS from LSU in 2003. He received his DVM in 2006 and his PhD in 2012, both from the LSU SVM. Dr. Grasperge is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. His research interest is in ticks and tick-borne diseases, specifically zoonotic rickettsial diseases and the influence of the tick-vertebrate host interface on transmission and infection.

Ronald Koh, DVM, MS, CVA, CVFT, CVCH, visiting Instructor of integrative medicine in VCS, received his DVM from the National Chung Hsing University (Taiwan) in 2006 and his MS from the University of Florida in 2012. Dr. Koh has his Certification in Veterinary Acupuncture, Certification in Veterinary Food Therapy and Certification in Veterinary Chinese Herbology. He is working on his certification in rehabilitation. Dr. Koh’s clinical specialty is in integrative therapies for gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal and neurological disorders.

Ritwij Kulkarni, BSc, MSc, PhD, assistant professor in PBS, received his BSc in 1996 and his MSc in 1998, both from the University of Pune (India). He received his PhD from Stony Brook University in 2007. Dr. Kulkarni’s research interest is in the effects of cigarette smoke exposure on the virulence of bacterial pathogens that cause respiratory tract infections.

Ingeborg Langohr, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVP, associate professor in PBS, received her DVM and a Master’s degree in veterinary pathology at the Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, RS, Brazil in 1999 and 2001, respectively, followed by a PhD at Purdue
University in 2008. She is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathology. She was an assistant professor in the Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation at Michigan State University from 2008-2013. Dr. Langohr has extensive experience in diagnostic pathology as well as molecular pathology. Her interest focuses on the characterization of animal models for the pathogenesis of infectious diseases and for human cancer. Additionally, she has a keen interest in ocular pathology.

**J. Michael Mathis, PhD, MHA**, professor and head of the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBS), received his BS from Texas A&M University in 1982 and his PhD from the University of Texas in 1987; he received his MHA from LSU in 2011. Dr. Mathis' research interests are in signaling pathways in cancer; molecular imaging agents for cancer detection; targeted cancer treatments using adenovirus-based gene therapy, immunotherapy, and virotherapy vectors.

**Smriti Mehra, PhD**, assistant Professor in CBS, received her BS from Colorado State University in 2005 and her PhD from the University of Minnesota in 2010. Her research interest is in the host-pathogen in the respiratory tract using nonhuman primate models.

**Carlos Pinto, DVM, PhD**, associate Professor of theriogenology in VCS, received his DVM from Sao Paulo State University (Brazil) in 1986 and his PhD from LSU in 2001. He is a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists. Dr. Pinto's clinical interests are in comparative theriogenology and assisted reproduction in equine, bovine and canine species.

**Yanlin Shi, MS, PhD**, assistant professor in PBS received his BS from Northwestern University (China) in 1982 and his MS from the Chinese Academy of Science in 1987. He received his PhD from LSU in 2005. Dr. Li is interested in using molecular methods to study spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi*, an infectious pathogen which causes Lyme disease.

**Nancy Welborn, DVM**, assistant professor in VCS, received her DVM from the LSU SVM in 1990. Prior to joining the faculty, Dr. Welborn worked in private practice in both emergency/critical care and small animal companion practice. Dr. Welborn is in charge of the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s new community practice service, which will give students the opportunity to experience situations more common in daily practice with emphasis on preventative medicine, nutrition, dentistry and appropriate vaccination protocols.

**PROMOTIONS**

**Comparative Biomedical Sciences**
Dr. Herman Bragulla promoted to Associate Professor.

**Pathobiological Sciences**
Dr. Samithamby Jeyaseelan promoted to Professor.
Dr. Kevin Macaluso promoted to Professor.
Dr. M. Antonieta Guerrero-Plata promoted to Associate Professor.

**Veterinary Clinical Sciences**
Dr. Mark J. Acierno promoted to Professor (internal medicine)
Dr. Anderson da Cunha promoted to Associate Professor (anesthesiology).
Ms. Stephanie Johnson promoted to Assistant Professor (human-animal bond/counseling).
Dr. Mandi Lopez promoted to Professor (research).
Dr. Javier Nevarez promoted to Associate Professor (zooological medicine).
Dr. Roman Pariaut promoted to Associate Professor (cardiology).
Dr. Kirk Ryan promoted to Associate Professor (internal medicine).
Dr. Keijiro Shiomitsu promoted to Associate Professor (oncology).
If you were an animal, which animal would you be? Why?

Ashley: Definitely a pelican. They can walk, swim, and fly. They live by the ocean and eat great seafood. What could be better? Maybe a flamingo but I’m not that leggy.

Arturo: I would be Mike the Tiger. He has the nicest enclosure, the most loyal fans, and the greatest vet care.

Brianna: I would be an elephant. I’ve always felt they were the most interesting creatures. They form loyal family groups and are extremely intelligent, two qualities that I really value.

What is your dream vacation?

Ashley: Southeast Asia.

Arturo: I would love to travel to Europe and spend some time exploring historic cities and visiting famous monuments.

Brianna: If money were no object, my dream vacation would be to either Greece or New Zealand. I love to travel and it’s really hard to decide where I would most want to go! I love the history, beaches, and food in Greece, however the inner nerd in me really wants to see all the beautiful places where they filmed the Lord of the Rings.

What is one thing most people do not know about you?

Ashley: I love to whittle and am planning a second career as a woodworker.

Arturo: My entire family except for my mother and siblings live in Venezuela.

Brianna: While visiting a friend in Costa Rica, I was alone on a public bus when unbeknownst to me, the bus broke down in the middle of its route and everyone got off and dispersed. I had no money, no phone, no idea where I was, and absolutely no Spanish skills. But through gestures and desperate looks I gained the sympathy of another bus driver who got me on the next bus and paid for my bus fare. I guess you could say I’m a bilingual mime.

Which celebrity would play you in a movie about your life?

Ashley: Burt Reynolds.

Arturo: Darren Criss.

Brianna: I would love for Jennifer Lawrence to play me. Not only is she beautiful, but she is extremely strong willed and smart. She doesn’t care what the media says about her and does her own thing regardless of what anyone thinks. I love that!

Do you have an undergraduate degree? If so, from where and in what?

Ashley: I have a BS in Biology from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

Arturo: I have a Bachelors of Science from Louisiana State University in Animal Sciences.

Brianna: I have a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from Louisiana State University. Geaux tigers!!

Why do you want to be a veterinarian?

Ashley: Veterinary medicine is an incredibly versatile field that will always provide challenges and keep me interested.

Arturo: I love Science, Medicine, and of course Animals. Veterinary Medicine is the only profession that I can incorporate these three things I love.

Brianna: I have always loved science and animals. My father is a veterinarian and growing up I was surrounded by the sick animals who needed the most care. As I got older, I realized how much joy pets bring into our lives. I knew that I wanted to foster that happiness by caring for owners and their pets as a veterinarian for the rest of my life.

What is the next step in your veterinary career?

Ashley: Small Animal Rotating Internship at Colorado State University.
Arturo: I will pursue post DVM training by completing a one year small animal rotating internship at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. I will pursue my interest in the specialty of Neurology/Neurosurgery.

Brianna: I’m excited to be making the long trip back home to Connecticut with my fiancé, my dog, and a year’s worth of boudin to begin working at Mobile Veterinary Clinic for the best boss ever, my dad!
Life at the LSU SVM

393
MS and PhD degrees have been awarded in the LSU SVM’s history

On March 31, 2014, the LSU SVM Wildlife Hospital released a bald eagle along the Mississippi River levee near the campus. The eagle had a fracture to its wing, which was repaired surgically.

1,800
wildlife cases are seen at the LSU SVM Wildlife Hospital each year

On March 31, 2014, the LSU SVM Wildlife Hospital released a bald eagle along the Mississippi River levee near the campus. The eagle had a fracture to its wing, which was repaired surgically.

LSU got its first live tiger on October 21, 1936. The Athletic Department provided for the tiger’s care from 1936 through 1976, when the LSU SVM took over. On October 26, 2013, Mike’s caretakers (past and present) were honored on the field in Tiger Stadium for their service to Mike and LSU.

56
students have cared for Mikes I through VI

Attending the Diploma Distribution Ceremony are (from left) Dr. Michael Mathis, head of the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBS); Dr. Arthur Penn, professor of toxicology in CBS; Dr. Rui Xiao; Dr. Laura Riggs, assistant professor of equine surgery in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS); Dr. Cherie Pucheu-Haston (LSU SVM 1992), assistant professor of veterinary dermatology in VCS; Dr. Michelle Woodward; Dr. Samithamby Jeyaseelan, professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences; Dr. Mary Leissinger (LSU SVM 2010); Dr. Joao Brandao; Dr. Javier Nevarez (LSU SVM 2001, 2007), associate professor of zoological medicine in VCS; Dr. Thomas Tully, Jr. (LSU SVM 1986, 1991), professor of zoological medicine in VCS; and Dr. James Miller, interim associate dean for research and advanced studies.
The LSU SVM began including Problem-Based Learning in its DVM curriculum in 1997.

Students in the Class of 2017 participate in Problem-Based Learning and must diagnose and craft a treatment plan for a clinical case.

1,000 veterinary students, veterinarians, first responders and animal care personnel have been trained by the LSART/LSU partnership since 2005.

Vaccination students, faculty and staff and animal care personnel receive disaster response training at a boot camp hosted by the Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART) and the LSU SVM.

168 people attended the opening reception for the 27th International Exhibition on Animals in Art.

160 artists from 32 states and Canada submitted 383 entries.

King’s Move, an acrylic by Barbara Banthien from Tiburon, Calif., received the Best of Show award at the 27th International Exhibition on Animals in Art.
Some of our students are following in the steps of a parent (or two). In the Class of 2015 (from left) Jonuel Cruz Sanabria was presented with his white coat from his father, Dr. Jose Cruz-Rivera (standing behind him); Christopher Rumore was coated by his father, Dr. James Rumore (LSU SVM 1981); Christian Lay was coated by his father, Dr. Blaine Firmin (LSU SVM 1994); Matthew Greene was coated by his parents, Dr. Kim Greene and Dr. Gary Greene (LSU SVM 1982); Amanda Seemann was coated by her father, Dr. Paul Seemann (LSU SVM 1993); and Bridger Smithers was coated by his father, Dr. Mark Smithers (LSU SVM 1984).

Olivia Oubre (Class of 2017) works with Dylan Shannon (Class of 2016) on her Summer Scholars research project entitled “The effect of diet composition and luminal ingesta on intestinal echogenicity in health dogs.”

$39.4 Million total research funding in 2012-2013

24 veterinary students conducted research as part of the Summer Scholars Program
Thanks to Nestle Purina and Merial, LSU’s police dogs receive free food and heartworm and flea/tick preventatives. We do their annual exams free of charge. Officer Chambless and Sendy and Officer Richardson and Meggie are pictured.

Monica Runge (right), veterinary student in the Class of 2017, is congratulated by the Abdelbaki family for receiving the Y.Z. Abdelbaki Memorial Scholarship. Dr. Abdelbaki was on the LSU SVM faculty from 1975 through 1985.

$196,000 in scholarships awarded to students at the 2014 Awards & Honors Banquet

8,014 people attended the 2014 Open House

Over 8,000 people attended the 32nd annual Open House on February 8. This year’s theme was “Discover Veterinary Medicine.” Fifty-nine exhibits and a petting zoo gave visitors the opportunity to discover the fantastic world of veterinary medicine and the latest developments in animal health care, welfare and biomedical research.
Carol S. Foil, DVM  
(LSU SVM 1978), DACVD  
Professor Emerita  
Department Veterinary Clinical Sciences  
LSU SVM  

2013 Recipient of the  
Distinguished Alumnus Award

What made you want to be a veterinarian?  
There are two parts to this story. I grew up surrounded by and collecting animals, both domesticated and wild, as many predestined veterinarians do ... and my closest childhood companion knew from an early age he wanted to be a veterinarian, so I did too, even before I knew what that was. I was later distracted by basic biology, though, and went into graduate school with the idea of becoming an ornithologist. About the time I was entering my Masters program in zoology, at LSU, the announcement was made that a veterinary school was to be opened at LSU. I was looking around at a future of chronic underemployment as a field biologist when the light of my childhood life went back on. I started volunteering at Highland Road Animal Hospital with Dr. Randy Thayer and applied while shifting some of my Masters work to prerequisites. I was accepted and the rest is history!

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your career?  
I have said many many times and at many veterinary schools and forums throughout my career that I am grateful for the great education I received at the SVM. While LSUSVM may not be considered as a top tier veterinary school by some, I believe our graduates are the BEST EDUCATED veterinarians out there. I have never had any experiences in my long career that cause me to doubt this. I appreciate the on-going emphasis on education of the professional student at LSU.

Being in the second class of students, I and my classmates were studied and quieried and used to develop the new curricula. My career as an academic veterinarian was much informed by these experiences as it made me acutely aware of the planning and thought necessary to turn an excellent student into a well-educated medical professional.

What was the LSU SVM like when you attended?  
We were on main campus for the pre-clinical training, as the SVM as we know it today was under construction throughout the
4 years that we were students. We did our clinical rotations in temporary buildings and our necropsy rotation outside! I believe there are raptors and armadillos today in the buildings where we did our clinics! We were finally allowed in the new building on graduation day ... our graduation took place in the auditorium. However, we were NOT allowed a tour of the rest of the building as the state had not yet accepted it from the contractor. Sigh.

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

It may mean even more to me than it does to most graduates because, as you know, I not only graduated from the SVM, but upon completion of my post-graduate training in dermatology I was given the opportunity to return as a faculty member. I spent my career at the SVM. The SVM and my two department heads were very supportive of a new faculty member and we were provided many career improvement opportunities. I especially appreciated the training in how to teach! I am afraid I must say that was an on-going project through the 25 years I was on faculty though.

**What is a memorable moment from your time as a student?**

There were so many. One of the most memorable was standing ankle deep in blood and gore from an equine necropsy in our outdoor facility, Dr. Cho at the helm. Our drains, as usual were plugged up, so we really were ankle deep. A delivery truck got lost and the driver got out for directions, but took one look at us and fled the scene in horror!

**What did you do after graduation but prior to joining the SVM faculty in 1982?**

As I was a former ornithologist I had a secret dream of becoming an avian veterinarian, which is one reason I was so thrilled to be accepted to an internship at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital, as Dr. Petrak, who had written THE avian medicine book at the time, was on staff. Unfortunately, back then a sick bird was a dead bird ... and I became more fascinated with skin disease and allergy. For this I had been well-prepared by Dr. Renee McGrath at the SVM.

After my internship, I needed a new car, and I wanted real-world experience, though I had my eye on an academic career. I joined the staff at North Andover Animal Hospital in Massachusetts for a year, at a decent salary for a change, and loved it. I learned a lot of the trials and tribulations of owning a small business that was a veterinary practice but was glad to be applying to dermatology residencies after one year! I was accepted into a great residency at the University of Florida, with Drs. Richard Halliwell and Gail Kunkle. The rest is history.

**What did you like best about being on the SVM faculty?**

Easily, the bright young minds of the students and my residents ... keeping me constantly challenged and ever amused. We have great students at the SVM. And sooo polite compared to students at other veterinary schools I have spent time in.

**How are you spending your retirement?**

What a great life in Florida! I have a two-year old grandson who stays with me many weekends. I live on the beautiful St. Johns River. Many of my former students know, I am a life-long birder. How cool is it when you have Bald Eagle and Sandhill Crane on your very own Yard List? I have two kayaks and a motor boat. I have a swimming pool! I am happily ensconced in my little piece of heaven.

**Past Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipients**

1990    Dr. Robert Lewis, 1977
1991    Dr. Larry McCaskill, 1981; Dr. Mark Mikelonis, 1988; Dr. Jim Floyd, 1981
1992    Dr. Allen J. Roussel, 1977
2003    Dr. Mike Strain, 1983
2004    Dr. Alfred Stevens, 1979
2005    Dr. Gregory Rich, 1985
2006    Dr. Mary Boudreaux, 1979
2007    Dr. Robert K. “Bob” Simmons, 1977
2008    Dr. Mary Louise Martin-Klaucke, 1982, and Dr. Debra Sellon, 1983
2009    Dr. William James, 1980
2010    Dr. Sherril Green, 1985; and Dr. J. Trenton McClure, 1989
2011    Dr. Rick Alleman, 1980
2012    Dr. Tom Tully, 1986

2,736 DVM graduates in the LSU SVM’s history
What made you want to be a research scientist?

My interest in infectious disease began while serving in the US Naval Hospital Corps on a tuberculosis ward during the Vietnam War (1969-1972). Several servicemen contracted TB while serving in Vietnam and were returned to stateside hospitals for treatment. Several died on my ward. When my service was completed I left nursing, relocated to LSU in Baton Rouge, and finished my B.S. in Microbiology and M.S. in Entomology (Medical/Veterinary). During this time I decided that I would like to become a medical research scientist because of the opportunity it would provide me to make an impact on other people’s lives through medical discovery.

What is your primary area of research?

The focus of my research is to understand the molecular mechanisms of pathogenesis of mycobacterial pathogens and in particular *M. leprae* and *M. tuberculosis* (*Mtb*), the etiologic agents of human leprosy and tuberculosis, respectively. This research has led to the elucidation and characterization of molecular mechanisms of drug resistance in these pathogens and the development of assays for rapid detection and drug susceptibility testing of both directly from biological specimens. The significance of this research is that both pathogens are very slow growing. *M. leprae* cannot be cultured on artificial medium. Therefore, culture-based drug susceptibility testing for *Mtb* takes weeks to months and testing for *M. leprae* could only be accomplished using a mouse infection model which took 6-9 months to obtain results. Molecular-based assays developed at the NHDP now serve as adjunct tools for leprosy diagnosis and provide rapid drug susceptibility information which can improve patient care. My research also involves using *M. leprae* genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics and surrogate genetics to better understand *M. leprae*’s survival in its primary host cells [peripheral macrophages (MΦs) and Schwann cells of the peripheral nervous system]. These studies have identified a mechanism for the defective heat shock response in this pathogen which appears to contribute to its predilection for skin and peripheral nerves leading to the neuropathology of this disease. We are currently using Next Generation transcriptomics and metabolomics to better understand the metabolic requirements of *M. leprae*. It is anticipated that this will potentially identify a defined growth medium for the axenic culture of *M. leprae* and provide information on novel drug targets.

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your current career?

The education and training that I received at LSU SVM during my M.S. degree, 3 years as a research associate and 4 years as a Ph.D. student in Veterinary Microbiology and Parasitology Dept. were excellent. The advice of my mentors, instructors, fellow technicians, collaborators and other support personnel prepared me for my work as a medical research scientist. After obtaining my M.S. degree working on equine infectious anemia research under the guidance of Dr. Charles Issel, I worked as a research...
associate in the laboratory of Dr. Roland Dommert. During this time my technical capabilities were expanded and my experiences in this lab became a major driving force for me to complete my Ph.D. under the mentorship of Dr. Grace Amborski. She fostered a love for discovery and expanded my research interests into the molecular biology of infectious disease agents during my Ph.D. program in bovine leukemia research. For this I will always be indebted to her. Towards the end of my program at LSU SVM I attended a departmental seminar given by Dr. James Krahenbuhl, National Hansen’s Disease Programs (NHDP), Laboratory Research Branch (LRB), Carville, LA. I learned that leprosy (Hansen’s disease) is a progressive neurologic disease resulting in deformity and disabilities that affect millions of people in the world. In addition, while the leprosy bacillus was the first bacterium associated with human disease, it is still not cultivatable on artificial medium, animal models are limited, and therefore very little is known about its pathogenesis. I thought ‘now this is an infectious disease that could surely benefit from molecular biology research!’ Therefore, I pursued my postdoctoral training in the molecular biology of leprosy under the mentorship of Dr. Thomas Gillis, NHDP LRB. My love for leprosy research and molecular biology grew through his mentorship, my interactions with other NHDP LRB investigators, leprosy patients, laboratory personnel and through the many experiences I had at Carville. These and the funding of my first NIH grant resulted in me becoming a principal investigator in NHDP LRB. Together Dr. Gillis and I developed a strong molecular biology research emphasis at the NHDP LRB. I returned home when the NHDP LRB relocated from Carville to the LSU SVM campus in 1991. Currently, I serve as the Head of the Molecular Biology Research Section of the NHDP LRB which is still located at LSU SVM. I am also an Adjunct Associate Professor in Pathobiological Sciences. My work has literally taken me all over the world and has contributed to the publication of over 70 peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts and several book chapters. I have been very fortunate to be the recipient of NIH, USAID, New York Community Trust, American Leprosy Mission and World Health Organization funding. I feel very privileged to have received several awards for my research and to be chair or a member of several scientific, editorial and biological safety committees. My laboratory is one of seven World Health Organization’s reference laboratories for the global surveillance of drug resistance in leprosy. I am truly indebted not only to my mentors, collaborators, technicians and support personnel at the NHDP but also to the LSU SVM for giving me the education and training to pursue this career.

Although there were several memorable moments during my time as a Ph. D. student at LSU SVM, one experience tops the list and involves a cow chasing incident!! My dissertation research involved defining specific immune cell subpopulations for the bovine leukemia virus (BLV). To accomplish this it was necessary to routinely perform jugular bleeds of BLV-infected cows using a cow squeeze chute. One day at the LSU SVM barn after bleeding a particularly docile cow “Daisy”, my assistant (new to working with squeeze chutes and cows in general) released the cow squeeze chute lever too fast. This made a very loud noise that scared Daisy. She bolted out of the shoot and took off running. Unfortunately her lead rope was wrapped around my right hand and I went running after her! Cows can move real fast when they are scared!! A group of Vet students were standing a few chutes away and figured from my screams of panic that I was attached to this cow ‘in motion’ and was barely keeping up! Fortunately for me they entered the chase and stopped her but not before she broke one of my fingers, entangled in the rope when she took off. However, it could have been much worse. I could have been dragged all over the SVM barn until she decided to stop. Thanks guys!! Afterwards the individual that opened the squeeze chute too fast was properly schooled in the art of cow-squeeze-chute opening and I no longer could hold the lead rope due to the splint on my finger!

**Are there any honors or awards you’d like noted?**

1984    Recipient of the Animal Disease Research Workers’ annual award in recognition of excellence in research in the field of microbiology.

1985    Recipient of the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists’ annual award in recognition of excellence in research in the field of veterinary immunology.

1982

**Dr. Martha Littlefield** became certified in veterinary acupuncture in June 2013. She married Dr. Joel Goldman (TAMU 1965) on November 2013. Martha is a clinical assistant professor of anatomy at the LSU SVM in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences.

1983

**Dr. W. Byron Garrity**’s son, Thomas, is

**Dr. Gerard Salles** lost his son, Jeffrey, in 2013. Jeffrey was a pilot delivering cargo when his airplane crashed in Michigan. He was 26 years old. Gerard resides in Gretna, Louisiana, where he owns Terry Parkway Animal Hospital.

1985

**Dr. Sheri Speede**, veterinarian and founder of the Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center in Cameroon, Africa, has published a new book, *Kindred Beings: What Seventy-Three Chimpanzees Taught Me About Life, Love, and Connection*. Sheri unveils the story of how she sold her interest in a thriving veterinary practice in the United States to travel across the globe and establish a sanctuary for chimpanzees threatened by habitat loss and the illegal African bush meat trade. But while this is a story about chimpanzees, it is also Sheri’s story. Major events in her personal life unfold in her story of Africa and run parallel to the development of Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center, which Sheri founded in collaboration with the Cameroon government. The Center is a forested home for orphans of the illegal ape meat trade. With Edmund Stone, she established In Defense of Animals-Africa (IDA-Africa) as a division of IDA International and as the U.S. base of support for the work in Cameroon. Between 1998 and 2011 she lived in Africa full-time; currently, she divides her time between Africa and Portland, Oregon.

1998

**Dr. Marty Hartman Edwards** is the owner of a mobil/house call practice in the Research Triangle in Cary, North Carolina. Marty’s son, Zachary, graduated eighth grade and made all A’s all three years of middle school. Marty resides in Cary.

2003

**Dr. Larry Montz** accepted a position as an associate veterinarian at Animal Hospital of Frisco, in Frisco Texas. Larry is married to Brooke, and they have three children: sons Kaden (age 7) and Kane (age 1) and a daughter Kendall (age 4).

**Dr. Trace Peterson** has joined the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff as an assistant professor of fish pathology and director

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Send us your alumni updates at www.vetmed.lsu.edu (go to “Alumni,” select “Alumni Resources,” and click on “Keep in Touch”). You can also contact Gretchen Morgan at 225-578-9565 or gmorgan@lsu.edu.
of the fish health laboratory. Dr. Peterson will teach the undergraduate and graduate courses, “Biology of Fishes” and “Fish Pathology”. He will also be responsible for providing extension diagnostic and research support for Arkansas aquaculture, which includes the nation’s largest goldfish and baitfish producers as well as significant catfish and hybrid striped bass production. He will oversee the four-lab diagnostic system in the state, including fish inspections necessary for certification. Dr. Peterson will develop a research program using zebrafish as a surrogate model organism to better characterize and understand diseases of freshwater fishes, emphasizing aquaculture species, and he will continue to actively develop comparative disease models applicable to human health. He is creating a one-year zebrafish technician training program for undergraduate students, which will lead to certification. It will be only the second such program in the United States. Dr. Peterson completed his PhD in microbiology at Oregon State University in March 2013, while holding the prestigious National Institutes of Health Aquatic Animal Models Fellowship. Previously, he completed his residency in anatomic pathology at the University of California at Davis and a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School. He and his wife are expecting their first child in November 2013.

2004 AND 2006

Dr. Adam Foret (2004) and Dr. Catherine Foret (2006) welcomed their second son, Charles Paine Foret, on August 23, 2012. Charlie weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. and was 18 in. long. Adam and Catherine own University Veterinary Hospital in Shreveport, La. Their oldest child, John Thomas, is 4 years old.

2005

Dr. Trina Breaux Gutierrez and her husband, Jaime, welcomed their first child, Clara Nicole, on April 8, 2014. Clara weighed 8 lbs. and was 21.25 in. long. Trina is doing relief work in Austin, Texas, where her family resides.

2008

Dr. Jana Doege and her husband, Stephen Frueh, are expecting their first child in August 2014. Jana works at Pittsburgh East Animal Hospital in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, and she and her family reside in Apollo, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Karelma Frontera-Acevedo was inducted into the Xi Chapter of Phi Zeta at the University of Georgia, where she also received her PhD in veterinary pathology.

2009

Dr. Michelle Godiwala and her husband have two children (ages 3 and 10 months). Michelle works part-time at DuPont Veterinary Clinic, and her husband is completing his fellowship in pediatric critical care at Children’s National Medical Center. (he has two years left). The Godiwala family resides in Washington, D.C.

2009 AND 2013

Dr. Cassidee Landry (2009) and Dr. Eli Landry (2013) bought the Seminole Veterinary Hospital in Seminole, Oklahoma, on August 30, 2013. They welcomed their first child, Conner, on March 31, 2014. Conner weighed 5 lb. 14 oz. The Landry family resides in Seminole.

2010

Dr. Tina Miletello Ballon and her husband, John, are expecting their first child (a boy) in August 2014. The Ballon family resides in Alpharetta, Georgia.

2012

Dr. Adam Hardy works at Sanpete Veterinary Clinic in Mount Pleasant, Utah, where he also resides.
SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

4 p.m.  Fall Family Picnic  Join fellow alumni, faculty, staff and students (and their families) at a fun-filled picnic. Lots of food, fun and fellowship, plus games for the kids!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

8 a.m.  Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  Saturday Morning CE

8:30 a.m.  Improving neuro-orthopedic patient care: concepts and practical techniques for practitioners in acupuncture and rehabilitation  (Dr. Ron Koh)

10:30 a.m.  Local Anesthesia Techniques in Small Animal Practice  (Dr. Patricia Queiroz)

11:30 a.m.  Practical Laboratory: Local Anesthesia Techniques in Small Animal Practice  (Dr. Patricia Queiroz)

1:00 p.m. -  until  Tailgate Party & Football Game  Equine Lameness Pavilion

1:30 p.m.  Welcome by Dean Joel Baines

TBA  Kentucky vs. LSU Football Game

FOOTBALL TICKETS

We have a block of football tickets for the Kentucky game. They will be first-come, first-served, with preference given to those in the milestone reunion classes (1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009). Tickets are $60 each. You can purchase online when you register or send a check, payable to LSU Foundation with “tickets” in the memo line to Gretchen Morgan at LSU SVM; Skip Bertman Drive; Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

HOTEL

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hotel Indigo in downtown Baton Rouge. Contact Cindy Littlefield by email or telephone at sales@indigobatonrouge.com or 225-343-1515 or reserve online using the group code VS4.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

Four hours of continuing education credit or 0.4 CEU credits (one hour equals 0.1 CE unit) will be earned for this course. Forms will be provided for participants to certify the credit hours earned.

REGISTRATION

Register online at www.lsufoundation.org/SVMHomecoming

CONTACT US

Gretchen Morgan: gmorgan@lsu.edu or 225-578-9565
The Development Team is dedicated to building relationships and seeking private funds to help the LSU SVM continue its mission of saving lives, finding cure and changing lives. Please contact any member of our team if you’d like to learn how your gift can improve the lives of people and animals.

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Tracy Evans has joined the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine as the senior director for development, effective June 2. She comes to us from the LSU Law Center, where she was most recently the director of professional and bar relations, responsible for managing and fundraising for the Law Center’s Chancellor’s Council and overall strategic fundraising. As senior director of development, Tracy is responsible for leading the LSU SVM’s development team and directing the overall strategic vision and plan for development and philanthropic endeavors.

Tracy was with the Law Center for 21 years before making the move to the LSU SVM. Tracy has a great deal of experience in higher education and fundraising for a professional school. “The dynamics of enriching the lives of new professionals, the camaraderie experienced on college campuses and being part of a teaching environment was exciting to me and remains to be true,” said Tracy.

In addition to fundraising at the LSU Law Center, Tracy has assisted several local charities, including Capital Area CASA and the Baton Rouge chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. In 1997, she was an LSU Outstanding Staff Award recipient, and she has served on the LSU Foundation Staff Outstanding Service Awards Committee in 2000, 2002, 2005 and 2014.

Tracy received her BA in interpersonal and public communications from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and her MPA from LSU. She is married to Lamar Evans and has two children, Parker (age 16) and Perri (age 10). They have a 3-year-old Boxer named Stella and a 13-year-old Snorkie named Angel.
Midmark donates dental equipment to LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital

On August 6, Midmark donated a Midmark VetPro5000 to the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital for its community practice service. “The Midmark VetPro 5000 is a dental machine that will allow us to properly scale and polish teeth,” said Nancy Welborn, DVM (LSU SVM 1990), assistant professor of community practice. The VetPro 5000 also has a high-speed drill needed for tooth extractions and, with digital dental radiography, means the LSU VTH will be able to offer dental care for patients.

“Proper oral and dental care is key to keeping a healthy mouth and body,” said Dr. Welborn. With appropriate oral care, pets have less tooth loss, oral disease and other related issues throughout their lifespan.”

Midmark is also donating a digital sensor for the hospital’s digital radiography equipment, so Dr. Welborn’s service can offer digital dental radiography, which means that pets will get the best dental care and veterinary students will get advanced dental training.

Midmark has a history of working with veterinary teaching hospitals. Their representative, Pat LaMonica, walked Dr. Welborn and her staff through the workings of the dental machine and will return when the radiology sensor is donated for another training session. “He is gone above and beyond with his time and effort for us,” said Dr. Welborn.
Scholarship Named in Honor of Dean Haynes

In 2014, Dean Peter F. Haynes is retiring from the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine after 40 years of service to the school. Dr. Haynes joined the faculty on April 1, 1974, as an equine surgeon. Originally from Hawaii, he received his BS in 1967, his DVM in 1969 and his MS in 1974, all from Colorado State University, which held spots for Hawaii residents.

Dr. Haynes was one of the first surgery faculty members at the LSU SVM, and, during his tenure, developed surgery techniques and methods that are still used today in horses with upper respiratory diseases. He was also instrumental in obtaining state and ongoing funding for the Equine Health Studies Program. Dr. Haynes became dean in 2007.

“The LSU SVM has gone through many changes since I first joined the faculty as an equine surgeon in 1974,” said Dr. Haynes. “It is with great pride that I look back on all that has been accomplished in the last 40 years, and I know that we will only continue to grow and improve.”

In honor of Dr. Haynes’ many years of service to the LSU SVM, the school has established the Dean Peter F. Haynes Equine Scholarship Fund to be awarded to a third- or fourth-year veterinary student who has excelled in clinical surgery and medicine and has shown a special interest in clinical equine research. The award will also be based on participation in equine activities and leadership, citizenship and character.

To make a donation to this scholarship, please contact Tracy Evans, senior director of development, at 225-578-9870 or tracy@lsu.edu. You can also give online at www.lsufoundation.org/givetovetmed.

Shreveport couple pledge 40 percent of their estate to the LSU SVM

In 2014, Donald and Sue Crow pledged 40 percent of their estate (currently valued at $2 million) to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine to support the integrative medicine program. $1.2 million will be used to establish and endow the Donald and Sue Crow Chair for Companion Animal Integrative Veterinary Medicine, with the remainder being used to support the clinical faculty who serve this area. The endowment will be able to be used for salary supplements and other support of the academic activities of the chair position, and so will help us provide the highest level of professionalism and support for the integrative medicine service.

Since October 2010, the Crows have given the LSU SVM funding to begin and then enhance an integrative medicine program at the school. Their funds have supported training for faculty and staff, a speaker series for the entire veterinary school family and, since October 2013, a clinical faculty member (Dr. Ron Koh) who provides acupuncture, rehabilitation and herbal treatment for clients.
Seventy-eight students received their DVMS at the May 12, 2014, commencement. Since the first class graduated in 1977, the LSU SVM has bestowed 2,736 DVM degrees.