Looking to the Future . . . How Far Can We Go?
LETTER FROM OUR DEAN

The Spring semester at LSU SVM always brings with it a renewed sense of purpose. The first-year students have just completed their first semester, second-year students move closer to beginning the clinical phase of their education, third-year students enter the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and fourth-year students make their career plans. Our graduate students and research scientists continue investigations in many important areas. Our vector-borne disease research program is highlighted in this issue.

Our commitment to continuously improving the School of Veterinary Medicine remains strong. Our highly qualified and respected students, faculty, staff, and alumni are testament to our unwavering dedication to excellence. The quality of applicants to the veterinary program remains extremely strong, and 28 of the 81 graduates in 2009 are pursuing advanced studies as interns or residents.

We have made recent technological advances with the acquisition of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and continue enhancements and improvements to our facilities. Construction plans are underway for a free-standing Large Animal Disease Isolation Unit, and we are hopeful that construction will begin on the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in the 2010 calendar year.

LSU SVM recently hosted a Stakeholder Summit, which included meetings of LSU SVM administration, faculty, and staff, as well as alumni and business and community leaders. Based on these meetings, we will redouble our efforts in two areas: 1) identifying research Centers of Excellence and then cultivating these areas of focus to bring recognition and distinctiveness to the School; 2) and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital & Clinics.

Like other colleges across the country, we are very concerned about the financial climate of our state and its impact on higher education, and continue working with LSU and the state to find solutions to address the projected budget shortfalls. We continue to diversify our funding portfolio by focusing on self-generated funds (e.g., Veterinary Teaching Hospital revenues), extramural grants and contracts obtained by our research scientists, and private fundraising.

Especially in times like these, it is essential to stay focused on our mission. I am extremely proud of the School and our continued dedication to LSU SVM’s core mission to provide superior education in veterinary medicine and related fields, offer a wide range of superior services to the general public and the veterinary medical community, and maintain a relevant, high-quality research program in basic and applied fields. By renewing our commitment to our mission, LSU SVM is preparing for a stronger future.

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

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ON THE COVER

HOW FAR CAN WE GO

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has a tri-fold mission of education, research, and service. As the veterinary medical profession continues to evolve and advances are made in medical technology and biomedical research, LSU SVM will continue to be on the forefront.

FULL STORY, PAGE 2.

COVER IMAGE

One example of LSU SVM's advanced research capabilities is its Microscopy Center. Here, heart tissue is magnified 20,000 times on LSU SVM's transmission electron microscope.

BACK COVER PHOTO

From left, AuVian Williams, Valerie Hoffpauir, and Savanna Pace, members of the Class of 2013.

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On http://www.facebook.com/, search for “LSU School of Veterinary Medicine” and become a fan.
For Twitter, go to http://twitter.com/LSUVetMed and click “Follow.”
As they say, part of being the best is knowing that you can be better,” Dean Peter F. Haynes said to a gathering of alumni, faculty, and staff at the 2009 Alumni Reception. Dr. Haynes added that the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine is taking action that will create enhanced learning, expanded community service, and advanced research impact.

Stakeholder Summit

In June 2009, forty-two people gathered on the LSU campus for a Stakeholder Summit hosted by LSU SVM to discuss the School’s status in the changing profession of veterinary medicine and how to best position the School for the future. Community leaders joined alumni, LSU leaders, and SVM faculty and staff. The Summit was led by Harrison Coerver, of Harrison Coerver & Associates Consultants, who has over 30 years experience facilitating in the veterinary field.

Surrounded by papers, notebooks, soda cans, and water bottles, the participants discussed trends in the profession, including the increased need for veterinarians in Homeland Security and large animal practices, private practice, and the future of veterinary education and biomedical research. LSU SVM is embarking on a new approach to planning for the future by enlisting broader participation in the process, including external stakeholders and the services of a facilitator. The goal is to embrace the strengths of LSU SVM, to imagine the creative and productive ways to better serve our clients and community, and to identify opportunities for excelling in our profession.

There are 28 schools of veterinary medicine in the U.S. LSU receives more than 700 applications annually for 86 seats and has one of the highest pass rates in the country on the national licensing exam. Enlisting broader participation in planning for LSU SVM’s future will focus our efforts on meeting the future needs of the profession, veterinary education, research, and the community.
“This is an interesting time in the veterinary profession with trends emerging that will require significant attention to the way we prepare our graduates for the challenges ahead,” said Dean Peter F. Haynes. “With good planning, LSU SVM will be expertly positioned to respond to these trends. Leadership from within the SVM and external stakeholders will help craft this future. Indeed, this will be a new chapter for the School.”

“The Stakeholder Summit at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine will be viewed as a ‘giant step’ for the program when looked back upon,” said Dr. Jeff Brant, founding partner and former president of Banfield, The Pet Hospital. “The broad range of participants strengthened the outcomes of the meeting and will continue to play a role with the School for years to come.”

**Stakeholder Recommendations**

The Summit participants made recommendations for the School, which were further refined in follow-up meetings of the Dean’s Cabinet (composed of LSU SVM department heads, and associate and assistant deans) and faculty. The following five-year objectives emerged:

- Achieve national recognition in Center(s) of Excellence
- Design and develop a contemporary and competitive Veterinary Teaching Hospital
- Retool the curriculum with a "one health" emphasis so that veterinary students learn about veterinary medicine not only as it relates to animal health, but also as it relates to human health, society, and the environment
- Develop solutions to space constraints within the Veterinary Medicine Building as more and larger laboratory, administrative, and educational space is needed

- Increase enrollment in professional, Master's degree, and PhD programs
- Develop the information technology capabilities needed to support programs
- Establish a leadership succession plan as administrative faculty and staff retire.

"One of the purposes of the Summit is to help us enhance our national reputation and competitiveness," said Dean Haynes. "These recommendations will help guide our targeted investments and help us determine where we want to grow. Now the real work begins as we move forward on the stakeholders’ recommendations."

...part of being the best is knowing that you can be better.

**Center of Excellence**

Adds Dr. David Senior, associate dean for advancement and strategic initiatives, "We engaged national, state, and university leaders from both private and public sectors to develop a plan. We know that we are a serious player in biomedical research, but we are striving to reach a higher level. Designating research areas that will become Centers of Excellence will help get us to that next level."

Thomas Klei, PhD, associate dean for research and advanced studies, sent a Request for Proposals to the faculty. "We want to get faculty input to help identify areas that might be designated as a Center or Centers of Excellence," said Dr. Klei. "I can think of several 'Centers of Excellence' here in the building, but we need the faculty to help move the idea forward. The ultimate goal is to have LSU SVM's Center of Excellence..."
Excellence be designated a center by LSU and then by National Institutes of Health standards, which translates into more funding opportunities.*

LSU SVM defines “Center of Excellence” as being characterized by a team of academically successful faculty focused on a specific research area that has been or is beginning to be established within LSU SVM, which would bring international recognition to LSU SVM through its accomplishments. The Center of Excellence would become a long-term signature program of LSU SVM and should attract interdisciplinary collaborations with scientists within the University and from other institutions. It should grow to be self-sustaining through extramural grant and contract funding and/or income. LSU SVM envisions a Center of Excellence as having the potential, through product development and spinoff companies, to have an economic impact on the region and state. Each Center of Excellence should have a leadership and structure that—with time—would be capable of growing into a Center or Institute within LSU SVM as defined by Louisiana Board of Regents Academic Affairs Policy 2.05 (http://www.regents.state.la.us/Academic/PP/Policies/2-5.aspx).

Faculty members had until February 5 to turn in their Center of Excellence proposals. Reviews are scheduled to be completed by February 22.

The Future

LSU SVM’s leadership knows that the School is already one of the best in the country, but also knows that continuous improvement will help us retain that position. By planning aggressively for the future—and by engaging alumni, business leaders, faculty, staff, and students in the process—LSU SVM will ensure its place as one of the top veterinary medical institutions in the country. ■

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu
The Department of Pathobiological Sciences has a strong vector-borne diseases research program, which investigates diseases carried and transmitted by insects or other arthropods such as ticks. These diseases can be viral, bacterial, or parasitic, and can affect both humans and animals.

**Lyme disease—Dr. Fang-Ting Liang**

Dr. Fang-Ting Liang, associate professor, is working on *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the tick-borne bacterium that causes Lyme disease. In humans, the first sign of infection is usually a characteristic “bull’s-eye” rash surrounding a tick bite; untreated, it can spread to other parts of the body and cause neurological disorders and severe arthritis. Lyme is the most common vector-borne human disease in much of the Northern Hemisphere; nearly 30,000 people contracted the disease in 2008 in the U.S. alone.

The Lyme disease organism has an unusual ability to defeat the body’s natural immune response and set up infection, and Dr. Liang’s research focuses on the means by which this occurs. “Developing a specific antibody response is an effective way for the host to eliminate bacterial infection, but *B. burgdorferi* can change its surface antigenic architecture,” he said. “This is a powerful strategy the bacterium uses to avoid elimination by specific antibodies and cause persistent infection. Our goal is to understand how this happens, which we hope will lead to better treatment and prevention options.”

**West Nile virus—Dr. Alma Roy**

Dr. Alma Roy, assistant professor and associate director of the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, works with West Nile virus, which is transmitted from reservoir species of birds to humans, horses, and other animals via mosquito bites.

West Nile virus appeared in North America in 1999 and quickly spread across the continent. At first, certain bird species such as crows and blue jays were severely affected; although most of those populations have subsequently recovered, West...
Nile virus infection continues to cause losses among various other species, including California condors, sandhill cranes, flamingoes, and hawks. Dr. Roy’s research has centered upon discovering which species of birds are involved in amplifying the virus in Louisiana, with the goal of improving vaccines against the disease. “The knowledge we have gained through surveillance is helping us better understand the epidemiology of West Nile virus in birds,” she said, “and we are working on developing vaccines that can be used to protect captive populations of birds, such as in a zoo setting.”

Dengue virus—Dr. Christopher Mores

Assistant Professor Christopher Mores is an arthropod-borne virus (arbovirus) researcher. Having studied the transmission and emergence of many zoonotic arboviruses, he now focuses on dengue virus. Transmitted by mosquitoes, dengue causes millions of human infections each year in tropical and subtropical regions. Typically a relatively mild febrile illness, more severe manifestations such as dengue hemorrhagic fever or dengue shock syndrome are being seen. Outbreaks of severe disease seem to coincide with periods in which multiple serotypes of the virus circulate in nature.

Dr. Mores investigates the role of competitive effects between co-circulating serotypes of dengue virus in this emerging public health threat. “By better estimating the critical parameters of dengue virus transmission and understanding the relationships and behaviors of those parameters to one another,” Dr. Mores said, “we will be able to devise better surveillance efforts, better plan vaccine trials, and support enhanced policies and procedures for control of disease outbreaks.”

Rocky Mountain spotted fever—Dr. Kevin Macaluso

Dr. Kevin Macaluso, associate professor, studies the transmission of tick-borne bacterial pathogens, particularly the agents of Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) and related diseases. RMSF is the most prevalent severe rickettsial disease in the U.S. and is a growing infectious disease problem. Although its name suggests otherwise, RMSF occurs most frequently in the southeastern and south central states. *Rickettsia rickettsii*, the causative organism, invades and multiplies within the lining of veins and arteries after the bite of an infected tick. This causes a rash (hence the “spotted fever”) that starts on the extremities and spreads to the body, followed by fever, muscle and joint pains, headache, and nausea; up to 7 percent of cases may be fatal.

Dr. Macaluso’s research explores the mechanisms of transmission of *R. rickettsii* from the tick to the vertebrate host and the factors that allow certain rickettsiae to be transmitted only by certain tick species. Although several varieties of ticks all live in the same geographic area where RMSF occurs, typically only ticks of the genus *Dermacentor* can transmit these organisms to humans, and Dr. Maculoso wants to find out why and how this happens. “We believe the factors that control the transmission are tick-derived instead of being controlled by some bacterial component, so that when we discover the means that allows only specific ticks to transmit the infection, we will be able to devise a means to more effectively prevent RMSF,” he said.

Human onchocerciasis—Dr. Thomas Klei

Dr. Thomas Klei, associate dean for research and advanced studies, researches human onchocerciasis, or “river blindness,” a serious public health problem in many developing nations. River blindness is caused by the filarial nematode parasite *Onchocerca volvulus* (Ov) and is transmitted by black flies. Onchocerciasis is a serious tropical disease and the second leading cause of infectious blindness in developing countries.

The overall goal of Dr. Klei’s research group is to develop a vaccine against human onchocerciasis, targeting the Ov larvae, which are known to be vulnerable to attack by the host’s immune system. Dr. Klei’s group hopes to identify two recombinant vaccine antigens with the highest probability for success at reducing or potentially eliminating infection, disease, and transmission. “Onchocerciasis has been neglected by researchers for many years,” said Dr. Klei, “but with over 37 million cases of onchocerciasis occurring worldwide and some 120 million people being at risk, it’s a real problem that needs addressing.”

Vector-borne diseases have long had a significant impact on the health of humans and animals worldwide; this continues, largely unabated, into the 21st century. LSU SVM researchers are working in many different directions, but their common goal is to improve human lives and livelihoods, both in Louisiana and throughout the world.
Maggie loves to catch Frisbees. However, after a dental cleaning at her veterinarian’s office, the 10-year-old black Standard Poodle began to discharge large amounts of thick mucus out of her nose. This made it impossible for her to breathe out of her nose, and she began to gradually decline. Thanks to a procedure done at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, Maggie can breathe through her nose again and is back to catching Frisbees. “She’s a different dog,” said Maggie’s owner, Susan Strait of Lafayette, La.

In August 2008, Maggie went to her veterinarian for a dental cleaning. She was anesthetized for the procedure (which is standard practice), but she regurgitated or vomited during the recovery phase. This vomiting resulted in gastric fluid accumulation inside her nose and throat. The highly acidic gastric material damaged her nasal passages and caused a build-up of scar tissue. The scar tissue almost completely blocked Maggie’s nasal passage, causing difficulty breathing and a large amount of mucus to build up behind the scar tissue. “She would cough up these soft-ball-sized balls of mucous,” said Strait. “At first we thought it was an infection, so we tried antibiotics, but they didn’t work.”

Maggie was referred to LSU, where she was diagnosed by Dr. Kirk Ryan, assistant professor of veterinary medicine. “Anesthesia is generally very safe, but some harmful anesthesia reactions can occur. What’s remarkable in this case is the type of complication that we saw with Maggie. It’s really a very uncommon problem,” said Dr. Ryan. “Our internal medicine resident, Dr. Ashley Martin (LSU 2006), advocated a new procedure where a stent is inserted into the nasal passage to open it back up.” The procedure had been done successfully a few other times, but it had never been performed at LSU.

In July 2009, Maggie received a nasopharyngeal stent. In the cool, dimmed laboratory, Maggie lay sedated on a table, while a guidewire was inserted through her nose and passed through a 1 millimeter opening to span the area of scar tissue. Using the guidewire, Dr. Romain Pariaut, assistant professor of veterinary cardiology, inserted a balloon catheter through the stent and centered it over the stricture (the area of narrow scar tissue). Dr. Pariaut inflated the balloon to open the stricture, while doctors, technicians, and students watched the procedure on the fluoroscope. “We used some high pressure balloons to open the narrowed area to 14 mm,” said Dr. Ryan. Once the stenosis was open, the team members...
placed the custom-made stent on a balloon and passed it over the guidewire where it was inflated under pressure to deploy the stent. Dr. Lorrie Gaschen, associate professor of radiology, helped verify proper stent placement on the x-ray and on the endoscope prior to Dr. Pariaut removing the placement equipment.

This stent is a wire mesh tube to hold the nasal passages open and prevent scar tissue recurrence. These stents were originally designed for humans but modified for veterinary purposes. In consultation with specialists across the country, the procedure was performed in the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory so that both endoscopy and fluoroscopy could be used. Endoscopy is a visual examination of interior structures of the body with an endoscope (essentially a special camera with a light source that can be inserted into the mouth or nose). Fluoroscopy allows examination using a fluoroscope, an instrument that uses an x-ray to project moving images onto a screen. “The mobile fluoroscopy equipment available in the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory is a highly maneuverable compact system that provides a large field of view for intra-operative images without interfering with the work of the doctor performing the procedure,” said Dr. Pariaut.

Drs. Ryan and Pariaut performed the procedure, assisted by Lee Ann Eddleman, veterinary technician; Dr. Martin; and Dr. Gaschen. “As a veterinary cardiologist involved in cardiac catheterizations, I am very familiar with the instruments, balloons, and guidewires used to treat this problem and the various steps of the procedure. Indeed, this is very similar to the treatment of stenosis of the pulmonic valve, a common congenital defect in dogs,” said Dr. Pariaut.

“It took six months to research and plan this procedure and order the equipment, but Maggie is doing great,” said Dr. Ryan.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/vth&c
Duma, a 7-year-old bay Thoroughbred mare, was donated to LSU SVM after she repeatedly failed to produce a foal for her owners. The LSU team developed a plan to attempt a healthy pregnancy, and a filly, Cadeau (French for “gift”), was born on May 27.

http://www.equine.vetmed.lsu.edu

On September 18, the Louisiana State Animal Response Team introduced its new Response Unit at LSU SVM.

http://www.lsart.org

Veterinary students play volleyball at the Fall Family Picnic on November 6. Hundreds of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and families and friends gathered on the grounds for hot dogs, games, and hayrides.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/svm_alumni&_donors.htm

LSU SVM’s Wildlife Hospital received three bald eagles in November. Here, fourth-year veterinary student Brendon Brophy (left) and Dr. Jennifer Huck surgically repair fractures to an eagle’s tibiotarsus bones (leg bones).

http://www.wildlife.lsu.edu
In October 2009, LSU Provost Astrid Merget visited the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, where Dr. Romain Pariaut, assistant professor of veterinary cardiology, explained the different types of procedures performed in the laboratory.

In answer to a call for help from the Liberian government, two LSU SVM alumni—Dr. Arlene Gardsbane (LSU SVM 1987) and Dr. Beth Miller (LSU SVM 1986)—spent two weeks in the country as part of the Veterinarians without Borders program. Here, Dr. Gardsbane vaccinates dogs against rabies. Photos courtesy of Christina Holder, a photo journalist living in Liberia.

The Vector-borne Diseases Laboratory in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences has a strong research emphasis on arthropod-borne pathogens including tick-, flea-, and mosquito-borne bacteria and viruses. See story on page 6.

The Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s barn floors have been resurfaced. Sika Purcem 22 Decorative flooring seals the concrete with a 1/4” thick barrier against contamination and is naturally antimicrobial, more durable, and twice as strong as concrete.

http://cardiology.vetmed.lsu.edu

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

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

DR. BONNIE BRUGMANN, Assistant Professor of Veterinary Oncology in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS), joined the faculty of the LSU SVM in August 2009. Dr. Brugmann received her DVM from Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005. She completed a Small Animal Medicine Internship at Auburn University in 2006. She recently finished her Residency in Medical Oncology at Auburn University in July 2009.

DR. ISABELLE CATTIN, Visiting Instructor in Small Animal Internal Medicine in VCS, joined the faculty in July 2009. Dr. Cattin received her Dr.Med.Vet. from the University of Berne, Switzerland in 2001. She recently completed a Small Animal Medicine Residency at the LSU SVM. Her clinical interests are hematology, immunology, and neurology.

DR. SHIREEN ABDELGAWAD HAFEZ, Instructor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, joined the faculty of the LSU SVM in August 2009. Dr. Hafez received her BVSc from Alexandria University (Egypt) in 1995. She received her CRLA (Master Tutoring Certification), from the College of Reading and Learning Association at Alexandria University in 2002, and she received her PhD from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2005.

DR. GEOFFREY HENNIG, Visiting Assistant Professor of Companion Animal Surgery in VCS, joined the faculty in August 2009. He received his DVM from Ross University in 2005. He completed an internship at the University of Georgia in 2006, and he completed his Companion Animal Surgery residency at the LSU SVM. Dr. Hennig’s clinical area of interest is orthopedics.

DR. DANIEL OGDEN, Assistant Professor of Companion Animal Surgery, joined the faculty in August 2009. He received his BVSc at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom in 2004. He completed a rotating internship at the Royal Veterinary College in 2005 and then worked for a year in private practice. He recently completed his Residency in Small Animal Surgery at Cornell University in July 2009. Dr. Ogden is interested in soft tissue surgery, especially minimally invasive and oncologic surgery.

DR. ANGELA ROYAL, Assistant Professor of Pathobiological Sciences, joined the faculty in October 2009. She received her DVM in 2005 and her MS in 2008, both from the University of Missouri, where she also completed a pathology residency and worked as a clinical instructor. Dr. Royal is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. She will be doing service work in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and instructing in pathology.
The Classes of 1979, 1984, 1989, and 1994 held reunions (30 years, 25 years, 20 years, and 15 years, respectively) during LSU SVM’s 78th Annual Conference for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/svm_alumni_&_donors.htm

The Class of 1979.

The Class of 1984.

The Class of 1989.

The Class of 1994.
1983

Dr. Jay Addison was installed as a new member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners board of directors at the 55th Annual Convention in Las Vegas, N.V. Jay will represent District IV, which includes Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee. The Addisons live in Independence, La.

1987

Dr. Layne Brooks Brett and Dr. Patrick Allen Brett celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They were married between their first and second years in veterinary school. The Bretts own Courthouse Veterinary Clinic in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and have two sons: Shan (age 22) and Austin (age 20).

1990

Dr. Christine Navarre was elected Vice President of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners in 2008. She became President-Elect on September 21, 2009, at the AABP Annual Conference. Christine is an extension veterinarian for the LSU AgCenter and a professor in the LSU Department of Veterinary Science. She and her husband, Joe, live in Port Allen, La.

1991

Dr. Laura Lynch has been practicing small animal medicine at Eastside Animal Hospital in Fort Smith, Ark., since graduation. She and her husband, Kevin, spend time watching their son, Tanner (age 13), play sports and waterskiing and fishing at Lake Ouachita. The family also includes Drake (Labrador retriever), Buddy (golden retriever), and Buck (wire fox terrier). The Lynches reside in Charleston, Ark.

1995

Dr. L. Thomas Gall and his wife, Rachel, announce the birth of their second child, Thomas Gene. He was born on June 15, 2009. Thomas weighed 9 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21 in. long. He was welcomed home by his big sister, Ella Kathryn (age 4). The Galls live in Blytheville, Ark.

1998

Dr. NaJuan Davis-Coleman was a captain in the U.S. Army for three years before joining the USDA, where she is currently a Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian in Omaha, Neb. She is married to Dr. Jonathan Coleman, who is also a veterinarian employed by USDA. They have one dog and another on the way. The Colemans live in Omaha.

1999

Dr. Gwen R. Fuselier is an associate at the Animal Center in Zachary, La. She and her husband, Brent; their four children, Conner, Justin, Abigail, and Tucker; and their four dogs live in Zachary.

2000

Dr. Carin C. Corbo and her husband, Tony Yenshaw, welcomed their third child, Viviana Grey Corbo Yenshaw, on January 3, 2009. Vivi has two siblings Brandon (age 5) and Gillian.
Alumni Tracks & Baby Vets Updates

Alumni updates can be sent to the SVM using by submitting an on-line form on the SVM website at http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu. Go to "Alumni & Donors" and then click on "Keep in Touch" under "Alumni Resources."

2001

Dr. Jimmy Barr is now a clinical assistant professor at Texas A&M University after working in private practice. He and his wife, Sarah, have a son, Jack, and live in College Station, Texas.

2002

Dr. Anne E. Laurent is opened Best Friends Animal Hospital, LLC, in Houma, La. The hospital has an IDEXX integrated system, including in-house laboratory and digital radiography and luxury and regular boarding. This small animal practice will be able to host preceptorships.

2002 and 2006


2003

Dr. Tracy Brown Gati and her husband, Mike, welcomed the arrival of their first child, Ryan Patricia, on April 16, 2009. Ryan weighed 5 lbs. 9 oz. and was 17 in. long. The Gatis live in San Antonio, Texas, where Tracy is an Associate Veterinarian at Dodd Animal Hospital, and Mike is the General Manager at Silverhorn Golf Club.

2004 and 2006

Dr. Adam Foret (LSU SVM 2004) and Dr. Catherine (Paine) Foret (LSU SVM 2006), celebrated the arrival of their first child, John Thomas Foret II, on July 2, 2009. John weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. and was 18.5" long. Adam and Catherine live in Shreveport, La., and are owners of University Veterinary Hospital.

2005 and 2006

Dr. Brian Shiplov (LSU SVM 2005) and Dr. Kelly (Erickson) Shiplov welcomed Kathryn Elaine on October 26, 2009. Kathryn weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and was 18 in. long. Brian works in McKinney, Texas, and Kelly is working in a private practice in Plano, Texas.

2006

Dr. Alexa Linsley Waltz and her husband, Robert, welcomed their son, Elias Alexander, on June 28, 2009. Elias weighed 5 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21" long. Alexa is Officer in Charge of the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Veterinary Treatment Facility. The Waltz family lives in San Diego, Calif.

2006 and 2007

Dr. Britton Grasperge (LSU SVM 2006) and Dr. Brooke Fahrig Grasperge (LSU SVM 2007) welcomed their first child, Talon Poëte, on July 31, 2009. Talon was 9 lbs. 5 oz. and was 21 in. long. Britton is a PhD student at LSU SVM and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Brooke is a clinical veterinarian at the Tulane National Primate Research Center in Covington, La. The Grasperges live in Baton Rouge, La.

2007

Dr. Shane Thellman and Dr. Nikki (Bourgeois) Thellman met in their Problem-Based Learning (PBL) group the very first week of veterinary school and were married in 2005 in Baton Rouge, La. Their first son, Clayton Alexander, was born on January 28, 2009, in Las Vegas, N.V. The Thellmanns have settled in Bloomington, Ind., to be closer to family and are happily working together at Bloomington Veterinary Hospital.
What made you want to be a veterinarian?

The Kingdom Animalia has held a fascination for me since childhood, not only the alluring diversity of species, but also the interesting adaptive mechanisms permitting various animals to live in a multitude of environments. As we know, the Lord God made them all.

What was LSU SVM like when you attended?

When the current building was scarcely more than a foundation, the students were crowded into quarters on the main campus that seemed designed for maximum discomfort. But that was scarcely noticeable compared to the discomforting intimidation I felt upon realizing the professors were recruited from the best in the world, my classmates were among the brightest in the country, and I was out of my depth. Our class moved to the new facility in our third year, and it was not until our final year of school that I felt comfortable in the knowledge that I might learn enough to contribute to society in my chosen profession.

How did LSU SVM prepare you for your career?

LSU SVM provided a firm foundation upon which I could build a public practice. The knowledge, skill, and experience imparted to us during our studies equip us for paths of service scarcely imaginable upon graduation. Our dreams, determination, and duty inspired by this inestimable advantage should know no limits.

What does LSU SVM mean to you?

Whether protecting food safety on the floor of a Virginia slaughter plant, explaining assessment and control of the risk of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Paris, battling raging canine parvovirus in Louisiana, or negotiating trade pacts for livestock and poultry products in Beijing, it is evident that everything we do as veterinarians is important because someone is counting on us. We have been made worthy of that trust because of our common experience—the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

What is a memorable moment from your time at LSU SVM?

Mike the Tiger broke a canine on the chainlink fence surrounding his compound. As we were returning him to the habitat in the bed of a pick-up, the basketball arena disgorged a large assembly of people. Mike began to stir, and we lifted his head above the cab, making a sufficient enough impression on the crowd to get them to empty the road and allow the vehicle to access the compound. Mike was restored to his home before fully awake.

Bio Bullets

- The Lord has blessed my wife, Becky, and me with three wonderful children—Megan, Savannah, and Caleb. All are happy, healthy, and comforts to their parents.
- Snuffy the Beagle grew up with my children, and is growing old with my wife and me. We also have a cockatiel, Sweety, whose name belies her disposition.
What made you want to be a public health veterinarian?

I have always been interested in science and medicine. I remember talking with Dr. Dennis French about my goal of working with a team of veterinarians, scientists, and other health professionals; I didn’t realize that I was describing a public health veterinarian. I learned about the opportunities for DVMs working on zoonotic diseases and food safety and pursued additional training at LSU SVM in the Epidemiology and Community Health Department.

What was your primary area of research?

I researched pre-harvest food safety. I studied the epidemiology of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli and other enteric pathogens commonly found in ruminant livestock. After completing my PhD, I joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer in the Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch.

What is your current employment position and where?

I direct the Foodborne, Vectorborne, and Zoonotic Disease section of the Tennessee Department of Health Communicable and Environmental Disease Services. I am also the Tennessee State Public Health Veterinarian and the Principal Investigator for CDC Emerging Infections Program activities. I also hold adjunct appointments at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

What was LSU SVM like when you attended?

There was a strong emphasis on Epidemiology and Public Health. Many faculty members that I trained with have moved on. Now, there appears to be a greater emphasis on molecular methods as opposed to epidemiology and public health. I’ve been pleased to hear about the progress in research and improvements in clinical medicine and facilities.

How did LSU SVM prepare you for your career?

In the DVM curriculum, the large animal rotations, herd health, and production medicine rotations gave me a good perspective on population health. These concepts translate easily to the work I do now. I also received a strong foundation in epidemiology and public health.

What are some of your most memorable moments from LSU?

I remember long hours in the barn and great trips with Dr. Steve Nicholson around the state. During my PhD work, I conducted sampling on dairy and beef farms and worked in a USDA laboratory to molecularly characterize bacterial isolates. My best memories are the relationships I still maintain with DVM classmates, faculty, and staff.

Bio Bullets

- I have been married to Paula Dunn (LSU, MD, 1996) for 16 years. We have four children, Ruth (age 14), Jessie (age 12), Nathan (age 9), and Eli (age 7).
- I was honored to receive the James H. Steele Veterinary Public Health Award last year from CDC.
Nobody who is not prepared to spoil cats will get from them the reward they are able to give those who do." These words by Compton McKenzie encircle Susan Buzick's sunroom in her home in New Orleans. Susan has owned many cats over the years, but it is her love for all animals that prompted her to support the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine with two Charitable Gift Annuities that are designated as unrestricted gifts (meaning that the Dean of the veterinary school can apply the funds to the areas of greatest need).

A native of Teague, Texas, Susan spent most of her married life in San Francisco. After her divorce, she returned to Shreveport to care for her ill mother. She received a degree in English from the University of Texas and worked in various areas around the country, with animals constantly in her life.

How have pets been an important part of your life?

They have been good and faithful companions all of my life. It has been proven that having pets in your life actually improves owners' health by having someone to care for.

Can you tell us about one of your more interesting cats?

Smitty was severely diabetic and a challenge to keep well. My niece, Jane Henslee, works for the LSU Foundation and was
assigned to the School of Veterinary Medicine to assist in their fundraising. She suggested that I call Dr. David Senior, who was head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at the time. After checking with my two veterinarians, Dr. Banta and Dr. Algero, to ask permission to call me, he assured me that I was doing the right thing with her. It was actually my first contact with the LSU Veterinary School. Since then, I consider Dr. Senior a good friend and advisor.

Why is it important to you to support the School of Veterinary Medicine?

The research done there will improve the lives of so many animals that it pleases me to be a donor.

Do you support any other charitable organizations?


How many cats do you have now and what are their names and ages?

I currently have three cats: Foots (age 14), Shaky (age 6), and Beulah (age 8). Those are approximate ages because they have come from some dire consequences when other people either couldn’t care for them or they were abandoned.

You gave two Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) to the LSU Foundation to benefit LSU SVM. Why did you decide to give such gifts?

It is a win-win situation for everyone. It’s actually the only time I can say that getting older brought good news. The interest rate you receive is higher for persons in older age brackets. I receive a wonderful tax deduction and upon my death, the School of Veterinary Medicine will receive the remainder of the CGAs.

You have made substantial gifts to LSU SVM. These gifts will make a large impact on the work of the School as it makes advances in the treatment and care of animals. How do you feel about the impact that will come from your gifts?

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has a fairly young development operation. Perhaps by seeing my gift, it will spur others to give similar gifts.

If you could share a message with the alumni and friends of the School of Veterinary Medicine who are considering a gift, what would your message be?

Just do it! The lives of our pets will be served by more private gifts.
I support the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine!

Please use my gift to continue the excellence in community service, education and research through the Advance Veterinary Medicine Fund. ___ $500 ___ $250 ___ $100 ___ $________ Other

Your company may provide corporate matching funds. Please contact your employer’s human resources office for more information.

Name ___________________________________________________________________LSU SVM Graduation Year_______________

Home / Work (please circle) Address_______________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone________________    Work Phone_________________    E-mail______________________________________________

For credit card contributions: _____VISA    _____MC     _____Discover

Credit Card Number______________________________________________________Expiration Date_________________________

Cardholder’s signature _________________________________________________________________________________________

_____ I would like to be contacted about including the LSU SVM in my estate plans.

_____ I have included the LSU SVM in my estate plans.

Please make your check payable to:  LSU Foundation

Mail to:  Institutional Advancement
          School of Veterinary Medicine
          Louisiana State University
          Baton Rouge, LA 70803

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

Visit https://www.lsufoundation.org/contribute.php to give online.

ADVANCE VETERINARY MEDICINE FUND

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 16    Mardi Gras Holiday

March 6    Hill's LSU SVM Great Rover Road Run
          LSU SVM Grounds and LSU Campus, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

March 27    Opening Reception for the International Exhibition on Animals in Art
          Exhibition runs through April 27
          LSU SVM Library

March 29-April 2    Spring Break, Years I and II

April 2    Good Friday Holiday

April 30    Awards and Honors Banquet
          Cotillion Ballroom, LSU Union, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

For information on these and other SVM events, contact the SVM at 225/578-9900 or go to www.vetmed.lsu.edu.
23rd International Exhibition on Animals in Art

Opening Reception
Saturday, March 27
6 p.m.
SVM Library

Exhibition
March 27-April 25
SVM Library during regular Library hours

Free and open to the public.
Art sales benefit the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine

www.vetmed.lsu.edu/art_show.htm

Pages 2-3, Top Right: From left, Dr. George Robinson, Dr. Steve Slaton, Chancellor Mike Martin, Dr. Jose Arce, and Dr. David Senior attend a dinner following the Stakeholder Summit.

Second photo (counterclockwise): Members of the Class of 2013 participate in the Freshman Leadership Experience as part of their orientation.

Third photo: Over 5,000 people visit LSU SVM each year for Open House.

Fourth photo: Blanca Colon (Class of 2011) with her Golden Retriever and parrot.

Fifth photo: Dr. Romain Pariaut, assistant professor of veterinary cardiology; technicians, and students prepare a canine patient for treatment in the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Sixth photo: Patrick Cutbirth (Class of 2010, left) and Dr. William Green participate in the Stakeholder Summit.

Seventh photo: Mike VI, LSU's live tiger mascot. Photo courtesy of Jim Zietz, LSU University Relations.

Eighth photo: An equine patient is about to undergo Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Ninth photo: From left, Drs. Shafiqul Chowdhury, professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences (PBS); Samithambiy Jeyaseelan, assistant professor in PBS; Maria Antonieta Guerrero-Plata, assistant professor in PBS; and Arthur Penn, professor of toxicology in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences and director of the Inhalation Research Facility. These SVM researchers are investigating respiratory diseases that affect both humans and animals.

Tenth photo: From left, Dr. Arlene Gardsbane (LSU SVM 1987) and Dr. Beth Miller (LSU SVM 1986) spent two weeks in the country as part of the Veterinarians without Borders program. Photo courtesy of Christina Holder, a photo journalist living in Liberia.

Eleventh photo: From left, Dr. Javier Nevarez, assistant professor of zoological medicine, and Alex Aponte treat an owl in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Twelfth photo: Julia Coutin (Class of 2010) conducts research as part of the Summer Scholars Program. Her project was entitled, “The topical effect of carprofen on the function of canine hepatic mitochondria.”

Thirteenth photo: Dr. Wendy Wolfson, instructor of surgery, and veterinary students provide medical care at south Louisiana animal shelters using LSU SVM’s mobile unit.

Page 4, Top Right: From left, Dr. George Robinson, Dr. Tracy Gieger, and Dr. Lorrie Gaschen participate in the Stakeholder Summit.

Page 4, Bottom Left: From left, Dr. Mike Strain (LSU SVM 1983), Commissioner of Agriculture; Dean Peter Haynes; and Dr. David Senior, associate dean for advancement and strategic initiatives, participate in the Stakeholder Summit.