How I Got Into Veterinary School

Sushi the Sea Lion Sees after Surgery

Faculty Profile: Dr. Dan Hillmann

It’s a Matter of Life and Debt

FOCUS ON STUDENTS
SUMMER 2009

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

Also Inside:  Sushi the Sea Lion Sees after Surgery
Faculty Profile: Dr. Dan Hillmann
It’s a Matter of Life and Debt
Letter from the Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs

I am pleased to introduce this issue of La Veterinaire focusing on a small cross section of our students. The SVM has over 350 students from Louisiana, Arkansas, and other parts of the U.S. Included in these numbers are both U.S. and international students from Ross and St. George’s Universities who participate in the clinical phase of the curriculum in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Our students are intelligent, accomplished, and increasingly more diverse. Together they form the fabric of a vibrant tapestry that one can’t help but feel good about when looking to the future of our profession.

The SVM has lessened its emphasis on grades and test scores to allow other skills, aptitudes, and life experiences that contribute to being a successful veterinarian to be considered. The SVM is committed to shaping a class that is diverse in thought, life experience, career goals, geographical origin, and race and ethnicity. Creating a diverse group of learners will help us to create a group of veterinarians who are best positioned to meet the varied needs of a changing society. One thing that is constant is the commitment and passion LSU veterinary students have for animals and becoming veterinarians.

The level of training is increasing as more of our students seek internships, residencies, or graduate programs. This year over a third of the graduating class went on to advanced training, and this number increases every year. Yet we still have many students whose goal is to work in mixed practice—this is the second most popular concentration of the six that are available to LSU students. The small animal concentration is chosen most often, and the equine concentration chosen third most frequently.

I am sure that you will be impressed and pleased with what the SVM and its students are accomplishing. I hope that this small cross-section gives you at least a taste of what my colleagues and I get to see and be proud of every day.

Joseph Taboada, DVM, DACVIM
Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/svm_students.htm
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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How I Got into Veterinary School

Dr. Marc Bordelon, Class of 2009

"Veterinary medicine is tough," said Dr. Marc Bordelon (LSU 2009). "In fact, it is the most challenging discipline of medicine, in my opinion. Is there any other area of medicine where your patient will never be able to tell you their symptoms or medical history? There is certainly no other career that allows you to be an anesthetist, surgeon, dentist, and internist all in one morning."

Marc received his DVM on May 11, 2009, and is working as an associate veterinarian at Lafayette Veterinary Care Clinic in Lafayette, La. He received his BS in microbiology and his MBA from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette before veterinary school. Marc also worked in veterinary clinics before applying to LSU. "I was fortunate to have worked for over 10 years with three veterinary clinics, including a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist, which provided me with valuable experience," he added.

Veterinary school provides students with the opportunity to forge life-long friendships with faculty, staff, and fellow students. "It may sound cliché, but the most rewarding part of this whole experience is the relationships I have built," said Marc. "Over these four years, I have made some of the best friends and have been taught by some of the most intelligent faculty and staff. I know I would have never met these individuals if it were not for veterinary school."

Three faculty members made a significant contribution to Marc's veterinary education. "Dr. Kirk Ryan, assistant professor of veterinary medicine, stands out as someone who taught me how to practice great medicine and enhanced my client communication skills," he said. "Additionally, Dr. Dennis McCurnin, faculty advisor for the Veterinary Business Management Association, provided me with important knowledge relating to veterinary business management, and Dr. Isabelle Cattin, a small animal medicine resident, always helped me find an answer to my questions by leading me to the appropriate source without telling me the answer."

Marc advises those considering veterinary school to get as many life experiences as possible. "What I mean by the
term 'life experiences' is that with time comes maturity and experience, and those are things that you cannot teach," he said. "Personally, the choice of being a veterinarian involved much more than just a love for animals. It appealed to me because it is a challenging, respected, and diverse career. I have never met a veterinarian who did not love their work. This, coupled with the fact that you can make a great living, was all the information I needed to confirm my decision to become a veterinarian."

Dr. Astrid Bigio, Class of 2009

Dr. Astrid Bigio's mother is a pharmacist in Puerto Rico, and her father encouraged her to enroll in medical school. "I knew that I wanted to do something in medicine," said Astrid. "I worked in a veterinary clinic one summer and knew that this was what I wanted." Astrid received her BS in biology with a minor in chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico, where she was involved in the pre-vet club. "I didn't have any experience with horses, so I worked at a racetrack for a few months before applying to veterinary school," Astrid said.

Dr. Carlos Mongil (LSU 1988), who practices in San Juan, Puerto Rico, encouraged Astrid to apply to LSU. "The doctors I worked with all spoke highly of LSU," said Astrid. Being away from her family has been a challenge, but her friends at LSU have helped her homesickness. "The people here are so warm, and I have a big group of friends," she said.

Astrid, who will undertake a Small Animal Medicine and Surgery rotating internship at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., received the Oncology Certificate of Merit Award at the 35th Annual Awards & Honors Banquet. Following her internship, she hopes to do a residency to become board-certified in oncology. To people considering a career in veterinary medicine, "It's a lot of hard work, but it can be done. Apply, apply, apply! You have to try," Astrid said.

Adam Caro, Class of 2010

Adam Caro is a fourth-year veterinary student and one of two veterinary students assigned to help care for Mike VI, LSU's live tiger mascot. "Being a caretaker for Mike VI is a very rewarding and unique responsibility," said Adam. "I'll always cherish this part of my veterinary school experience." However, he notes that balancing time properly to allow time for yourself and still do well in coursework can be challenging.

Adam decided to apply for veterinary school late in his college career. He received his BS in biological sciences from LSU, then he worked for a veterinary clinic that accepted emergency cases to strengthen his veterinary school application. A love for animals and a chance to "give back" helped Adam arrive at his ultimate career decision. "As a veterinarian, I will be in a unique position to give back to the community in multiple ways," said Adam. "It's a great profession that has a lot of opportunities in varying fields, and you can feel good about going into any of them. Of course, working with animals was also a major part of my decision to become a DVM."

After graduation, Adam plans to apply for a residency program in laboratory animal medicine. "Dr. David Baker (director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine) has been very helpful and always willing to answer any questions I have about laboratory animal medicine," he added. "I have the utmost respect for him."

"It takes a lot of work and dedication to get into veterinary school, but it's worth it," said Adam. "Very few professions have such a high caliber of people and garner so much respect from the public. With so many diverse fields within veterinary medicine, there is a unique niche for everybody. Study hard to get here, and study harder when you do! You only get out of it what you put in."
Michelle Faciane, Class of 2010

Michelle Faciane’s father, Dr. Neal Faciane, received his DVM from the LSU SVM in 1979. Michelle, who has completed her third year of veterinary school, worked in her father’s clinic in Slidell, La., before coming to veterinary school, and it was her experience there that made her choose her current career path. “Working in my dad’s clinic, I was always happy to get up and go to work,” said Michelle. “I would get bitten by dogs or cats, but I was happy to go back the next day to do it all over again; I knew this was what I wanted to do.” After graduation, Michelle plans to work as an associate in her father’s clinic.

Michelle received her BS degree in animal science from LSU, then she worked on a research project in the Department of Dairy Science to strengthen her application. The goal of the project was to determine if increasing doses of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* in yogurt would have the same color, viscosity, pH, and the rate and amount of synereses as typical store-bought plain yogurt.

Veterinary school requires a tremendous time commitment. “One of the challenging things about veterinary school is not being able to spend as much time with my son,” added Michelle, who is a single mother of a 7-year-old. “I couldn’t have done this without the support of my family. The first two years, you’re in class all day, sitting in the same place,” said Michelle. “Then you go home and sit and study.”

However, all the coursework comes together when students reach the clinical phase. “I really enjoyed my internal medicine rotation,” said Michelle. “I became this giddy girl, calling up my dad to tell him what we did in the hospital that day. Techniques have changed since he was in school, so it’s fun to talk to him about diagnoses and procedures.”

“Veterinary school is hard, so people considering it should have good study habits and get experience with a veterinarian before they apply,” she added. “It really makes a difference.”

Chad Brown, Class of 2011

“I’ve known this is what I wanted to do since I was five,” said Chad Brown. “I remember going with my mother to take our animals to the veterinarian, and it was like a light bulb went off in my head.”

“Veterinary school is hard, so people considering it should have good study habits and get experience with a veterinarian before they apply,” she added. “It really makes a difference.”

Chad received a BS in animal science from the University of Arkansas in 2005 and his MS in animal nutrition in 2007 from Oklahoma State University. He also worked in veterinary clinics while in school.

In November 2008, Chad and his wife had a son. “It can be hard balancing time between school and family,” he said. “Staying organized is important.” In addition to his coursework, Chad is the junior student representative for Hill’s Pet Nutrition and the manager of Pet Fare (Hill’s supplies
food for veterinary students, some of which is sold to faculty, staff, and students to raise funds for the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association—SCAVMA). Pet Fare sales take place throughout the year, and Chad oversees orders and finances for the project.

Chad got involved with Hill’s and Pet Fare through a fellow student, Dr. Mike Ratcliff (Class of 2009). "Mike was a teaching assistant at the University of Arkansas, so I knew him before I started veterinary school," Chad said. "He encouraged me to apply for the Hill’s position because it would get me more involved with students, and with faculty and staff who I’ll eventually be working with in the hospital."

Chad is also the public relations chair for SCAVMA, so he sits on the executive board, and he is the webmaster for his class. After veterinary school, Chad plans to join the Army.

Amy Norvall, Class of 2011

Amy Norvall left her home in Zimbabwe to attend LSU as an undergraduate in August 2004. As an undecided freshman, she met with a counselor at LSU Career Services who asked her to imagine the coldest, rainiest morning and what it would take to get her out of bed. Amy’s reply was that she would get up to help a friend with a sick or injured horse. She decided to enter the College of Agriculture and found that she loved science. This, coupled with an animal background, brought Amy to veterinary school.

"I grew up on a farm, so I've been around animals, especially horses, all my life," said Amy, who received her BS in animal science through LSU's three-plus-one program, where students take three years of undergraduate courses at LSU in specific colleges and then count the first year of veterinary school as the fourth year of coursework toward that particular undergraduate degree. She received the degree in May 2007 and has finished her second year of veterinary school.

As an undergraduate, Amy was involved in the pre-vet club and was mentored by Dr. Dennis French, former professor of veterinary science and former faculty advisor to the club. "Dr. French really encouraged me," said Amy.

"I really feel like I'm on the right path," she added. "Once I made the decision to pursue a veterinary career, everything seemed to fall into place. This is the busiest I've ever been, but it's rewarding knowing that I'm going in the right direction, and I'm enjoying myself more than at any other time in my life."

Deb Kim, Class of 2012

Deb Kim, who has completed her first year of veterinary school, is a non-traditional veterinary student: she is already a physician. Deb has a BA in philosophy from the University of California, San Diego, and received her MD from the Mayo Medical School in 1989. She also has an MBA from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. After medical school, Deb did a residency in clinical pathology and a fellowship in blood banking and transfusion medicine at Mayo. She is double-boarded in clinical pathology and blood banking and transfusion medicine.

After she completed her fellowship, Deb worked as the medical director of a blood bank. In her spare time, she
Deb volunteered at animal shelters. “I felt that I had accomplished everything I wanted in human medicine and wanted a new challenge,” said Deb. “I love medicine, and I love animals, so I applied to veterinary school.” After graduation, Deb plans to work with small animals.

Said Deb, “I get asked all the time, ‘What’s harder? Human medical school or veterinary school?’ They’re very different, even though they’re both medical. The science is similar, but in veterinary school, we’re dealing with a lot of different species.” One difference Deb has found is the faculty and the administration. “The faculty are spectacular, and the administration really seem to care about us,” said Deb. “And Dr. (Dan) Hillmann is amazing. He’s the most dedicated person I’ve ever met.” (See story about Dr. Hillmann on page 8).

Chad Malinak, Class of 2012

Animals were a big part of Chad Malinak’s life in Harvey, La. He first accompanied his sister when she participated in dog shows, then got his own Pointer, Shaker, to compete himself. Shaker was a tremendous comfort to Chad after his father passed away when Chad was in high school. “Shaker was there for me, and I realized that I wanted to give something back to animals, so veterinary medicine was the right choice for me,” he said.

Chad received his BS in animal science in 2008 from Louisiana Tech, where he helped manage the swine farm. He continued competing in dog shows, and in 2003 he was named Best Junior Handler at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, where he is invited back each year. He also mentored children, introducing them to dog shows, and was president of the pre-vet club at Louisiana Tech. He is studying to get his junior judge’s license.

Chad is the parliamentarian for the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and is a member of the Student Chapter of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the Veterinary Business Management Association. Being involved with student organizations is an important part of veterinary school for Chad. “I really enjoyed meeting veterinary students from other schools at the Student AVMA Symposium,” said Chad, “and it showed me how much more there is to veterinary medicine.”

Chad stressed the importance of having good mentors like Dr. William Green, pre-vet club faculty advisor at Louisiana Tech. “If you want to go to veterinary school, you should apply even if people tell you it’s hard and you won’t get in,” he said. “Get involved in veterinary organizations and experience new things. It’s definitely worth it if this is what you want to do.”

The Application Process

How do I apply?

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) at www.aavmc.org provides information on all veterinary schools and their application procedures, costs, etc. VMCAS requires applicants to enter all college coursework,
GRE information, degrees, job experience, animal and veterinary experience, activities, awards and honors, and a personal statement. Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation, two of which should preferably be from a veterinarian. Applicants must arrange for all transcripts from any universities attended to be sent directly to the LSU SVM.

LSU has a supplemental application and fee ($50), on which students list information on their residence classifications and expand on the information they entered into VMCAS. The LSU supplemental application and instructions can be found at www.vetmed.lsu.edu under “Prospective Students.”

Does it matter what my undergraduate school and/or major is?
The LSU SVM does not give any preference to any undergraduate universities or majors. We want students to get the best education possible, wherever that may be. Generally, we recommend that students enter a degree-granting program so that if they do not attend veterinary school for whatever reason, they are still on track to receive a degree. Many students choose science majors, such as biological sciences or animal, dairy, or poultry science, but students are not required to have a science major. Applicants with all majors are considered equally, as LSU encourages and values diversity in the applicant pool and has an equal opportunities approach to its admissions process.

Is a standardized test required for admission?
Applicants must take the verbal and quantitative portions of the general Graduate Record Examination (GRE). GRE scores must be sent directly to the LSU SVM (SVM school code is 6381), not to the LSU Graduate School.

What are the prerequisites?
A minimum of 66 hours is required for admission to the professional program. Forty-six of these hours must consist of the required courses listed below:

- **Biological Sciences** (12 hours) including eight hours of general biology with two semester hours of course/lab sequence and four hours of microbiology plus lab.
- **Inorganic Chemistry** (eight hours) must include laboratory.
- **Organic Chemistry** (three hours).
- **Biochemistry** (three hours).
- **Mathematics** (six hours).

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### Class of 2013 Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Admitted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other States</td>
<td>453</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Required Course GPA:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Age</td>
<td>23.3 (range 20-41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Male Students (25.3%); 65 Female Students (74.7%)</td>
<td></td>
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- **Physics** (six hours).
- **Communication Skills** (nine hours) including six hours of English and three hours of speech communication.

How will applications be reviewed and scored?
Each applicant receives a numerical admissions ranking. Sixty-five percent of the admissions score is objective and focuses on the GPA for the required courses, the GPA for the last 45 hours of college coursework, and the GRE score. The remaining 35% is subjective and reflects an applicant’s interview score and the folder review score (not all applicants are extended interviews). During the folder review, three veterinarians (including LSU SVM faculty members and private practitioners) review each folder. The student's coursework, awards and honors, activities, personal statement, recommendation letters, and experience are all evaluated. Generally, it is preferred that students have as much variation in their animal and veterinary experience as possible. Communication, leadership, problem solving, and entrepreneurial skills are highly valued. Animal experience is not required but is highly recommended. The objective and subjective scores are combined to produce the final overall admissions ranking for the applicant.

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/admissions/index.asp

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/svm_students.htm
Dr. Daniel J. Hillmann, professor of veterinary anatomy and cell biology in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, joined the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine faculty in August 1973. He has taught gross anatomy to every veterinary student in the LSU SVM's history. He will teach his 36th class in August.

How did you happen to join the faculty at LSU SVM?

I was teaching veterinary gross anatomy as an assistant professor at Iowa State University, School of Veterinary Medicine, in Ames, Iowa, when Dr. Charles W. Titkemeyer, department head of Veterinary Anatomy and Fine Structure (VAN), called me and asked if I would like to be a part of a developing program at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La. I traveled to Baton Rouge and met with Dr. Titkemeyer and other founding faculty, including Dean Everett D. Besch. I received an offer from Dr. Titkemeyer detailing an associate professor position, which I accepted, and the rest is history. I was charged with developing (actually, Dr. Titkemeyer and Dr. Maurice Morrissette had done a lot of work) and implementing the veterinary gross anatomical experiences in a vertically integrated curriculum covering four years.

What was the school like in the early days in Audubon Hall?

First of all, the LSU SVM “family” was small, but it grew
steadily. Before the first class arrived, we had lots to do. Physically, along with personnel from the Physical Plant, we had to ready space in Audubon Hall. Initially, we had one room where we delivered the lectures in gross anatomy, histology, and physiology. The same room doubled for the histology and physiology laboratories. Connected to this room were two rooms of similar size that we converted for dissection and physiology experiments. The school had already purchased the stainless steel surgery tables that we assembled in the two rooms (these same tables are now in the gross anatomy laboratory and the student surgery laboratory of the SVM).

What was it like to move to the “new” building in 1978?

It was a very big job, but exciting, to say the least. Items in Audubon Hall had to be tagged with a room number as to where and when they should be delivered. By the time of the move, I had taken on the additional responsibility of developing the Instructional Resources Unit (currently, Media Resources). Along with teaching gross anatomy courses, we had responsibility for instructional space in the SVM building (e.g., classrooms, auditorium, study carrels, the locker rooms, etc.). Imagine moving from a small apartment to a mansion. You could almost get lost in the building.

What significant changes have you seen in your years here at the SVM?

There have been significant changes in the veterinary curriculum, in the growth and complexity of the overall veterinary medical program, in the number and distribution of the student population (contract students, male versus female, in-state versus out-of-state, etc.), and in the research emphasis of the overall program. Everywhere you look, the program has expanded and become more complex. All of these are good things.

Are there any memorable moments you’d like to share?

- Experiencing significant amounts of ground water creeping onto the first floor of the SVM (before the relief wells were installed) and having to conduct 24-hour “water-vacuuming” sessions.
- Physically carrying 600-pound beef calves up the steps of Audubon Hall.
- Purchasing gasoline for less than 50 cents a gallon at the University Service Station (now gone and replaced with a parking lot).
- Having to ask a student to remove a six-pack of beer from the histology laboratory in Audubon Hall.
- Getting multiple fire ant bites after being out in the field filming a herd of beef cows suffering from paspalum staggers (dellisgrass staggers), and walking up the steps of Audubon Hall afterwards and having the students wonder why my face was so flushed red and my voice was changing—I was having an allergic reaction.
- Having to construct a smooth-surfaced floor on the tartan-covered auditorium stage so that Dr. and Mrs. Titkemeyer could demonstrate their ballroom dancing skills at the SVM Talent Show.
- Discussing the male reproductive structures of the bull and having one of the students ask, “What do you mean by ‘pendulous’?”
- Hanging the artwork on the walls of the Veterinary Medicine Library for the very first “Animals in Art” exhibition.
- Hanging the giant snowflakes from fishing line stretched across the balconies of the SVM courtyard (with the lighted Christmas tree below).

What have you enjoyed most about being here?

Clearly, my personal interaction with each and every one of the students over the 30-plus years—to see the enlightenment and the maturation that occurs during their four-year tenure—their becoming veterinarians. The opportunity to work with so many fine colleagues across the board—from the basic sciences to the clinical sciences, and to continue to learn from them.

Are there any special projects you’re working on right now that you’d like to tell us about?

We still teach with enthusiasm every day. There is no substitute for the well-preserved and dissected specimen, a small (two or three) group of students, a paper towel to sketch an explanation on, and a story to tell them about the anatomy. We have loved being able to do three-dimensional, anatomical reconstructions from the data of preserved specimens utilizing computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging.
Eric Martinez-Ramirez (Class of 2012), from San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico, is one of 17 students chosen to participate in this year’s Summer Scholars Program. He received one of eight awards from the National Institutes of Health for his project, which is entitled, “Using Adenoviruses to Treat Prostate Cancer in a Mouse Model of Bone Metastases.” His faculty mentor is Dr. Marxa L. Figueiredo, an assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, who is researching gene therapy modalities for prostate, head, and neck cancer.

The overall objective is to test how efficient adenoviruses can be in killing prostate cancer cells in a mouse model of the human disease. The adenovirus Eric is using contains sequences that activate the cell-killing genes mda-7 and p27 when inoculated into a culture of mouse prostate cancer cells. Dr. Figueiredo has previously confirmed that when p27 is inserted into an adenovirus and the virus is injected into a tumor, it causes cell death and slows the growth of the tumor. It has also been shown that inserting mda-7 into an adenovirus and then injecting it into a tumor kills up to 70% of the cancer cells, but does not affect normal ones. Eric’s work will help continue and expand this investigation.

“I will be looking at how well the adenovirus with mda-7, the adenovirus with p27, and the two in combination work to stop the growth of the cancer cells,” said Eric. He will analyze the tissue cultures to determine the degree of cell proliferation and apoptosis with each treatment type, and then compare them to the control cultures, which were not treated with an adenovirus-gene combination.
"If this work goes well, we will move to live animal studies," he said. Using mice previously inoculated with cells derived from bone metastases caused by prostate cancer, Eric will inject the same adenovirus-gene combinations intravenously into the experimental mice. Eric and Dr. Figueiredo expect this to arrest the growth of the tumors and cause them to shrink. He will monitor tumor growth or suppression using calipers and/or imaging techniques to determine changes in size.

"The project Eric is doing is basically helping the lab develop new and improved strategies for prostate cancer therapy. We are interested in creating more powerful ways to regulate the cell cycle of prostate cancer cells and induce programmed cell death (apoptosis) in the process. As a result, our hope is to reduce cancer growth and perhaps eliminate prostate cancer," said Dr. Figueiredo.

The LSU SVM Summer Scholars Program introduces biomedical research through research-driven activities. This year’s program is funded by the Merck-Merial Veterinary Scholar Program, a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and research funds from the Departments of Veterinary Clinical Sciences and Pathobiological Sciences. It serves to further students’ learning and experiences beyond the required classroom and clinical training. The program is competitive and based on proposals submitted by first- and second-year veterinary students. The program encourages innovative studies in human and animal diseases and lends further understanding to veterinary careers in biomedical research. Each year Merck-Merial selects veterinary schools to participate in its biomedical research program, and LSU has received the funding for nine consecutive years. For the sixth consecutive year, students will also receive grants from NIH for summer study. There are only eight veterinary schools in the U.S. with summer grant programs funded by both Merck-Merial and NIH.

Each student receives a $5,200 stipend. Merck-Merial will also sponsor the students’ participation at the 2009 Merck-Merial Symposium on August 6-8, 2009, at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C., where research will be presented by students from the participating veterinary schools. This conference will bring together scientists from academia, the pharmaceutical industry, and NIH leadership in one setting.

For a list of the student scholars and their research projects, go to http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/news_&_events.htm#Seventeen_Students.
Clinical Case

Sushi the Sea Lion Sees after Surgery

Dr. Eric Storey, veterinary ophthalmologist, began examining sea lions at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans, La., in 2008. He was asked to look at four or five of the older animals, since 15- to 20-year-old sea lions can develop cataracts or lens luxations. Dr. Storey worked with the senior veterinarian at the Audubon Zoo, Dr. Robert MacLean, and Dr. Jim Grillo, another Audubon veterinarian, as well as the sea lions' keepers and veterinary technicians.

After examining the sea lions, Dr. Storey discussed the different possibilities for medical and surgical treatments for each animal. One sea lion needed to have an eye removed, and there were others with lens luxations and cataracts. In March, the sea lion keepers noticed that Sushi, a 22-year-old female, had developed cloudy eyes. "Sushi's veterinarians thought it might be a corneal ulcer," said Dr. Storey. "We determined that the cataractous lens had luxated forward and was touching the inside of the cornea, causing the cloudiness in the cornea and lens." Sushi had a very unhealthy cornea, and the lens was out of position.

"Lens luxation surgery carries a relatively high risk of complications because the eye is often so diseased," added Dr. Storey. "You don't know if the cornea will get better or stay cloudy, and animals in this situation are prone to develop glaucoma or retinal detachments. It's hard to tell how much vision they have or will be regained." The Audubon Zoo veterinarians, keepers, veterinary technicians, curators, and board members were all involved in making the decision about whether or not the eye would be removed or if they would try to restore vision in the eye.

On April 24, Sushi was transported to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine for cataract surgery. Dr. Storey and Dr. Renee Carter (LSU 2000), also a veterinary ophthalmologist, made a 180-degree incision in the cornea at the top of the eye (to the right at the limbus at the junction between the
sclera and cornea). The lens was removed through the incision using a lens loop placed under the lens in order to pull it out. The doctors cut the vitreous from the back of the lens so it would not pull on the retina as it was removed. An endocyclophotocoagulation (ECP) unit, which is a combination of a 19-gauge endoscope, a fiberoptic diode laser, and a fiberoptic light source, allowed the doctors to visualize the retina and check to see that there were no retinal tears or detachments. The ECP also allowed the doctors to ablate (burn or vaporize) the epithelium of the ciliary processes that produce aqueous humor to minimize the risk and/or severity of glaucoma. The eye was then reinflated with viscoelastic gels, and the large corneal incision was closed.

Sushi has been reexamined twice by LSU veterinary ophthalmologists since the surgery and many times by Audubon Zoo veterinarians and staff. "While she is very far-sighted because she no longer has a lens in the eye, she does appear to have vision," said Dr. Storey. "Her prognosis is guarded in the long-term, as there is still a significant risk of complications, such as corneal disease and glaucoma."

"As captive sea lions age, they are prone to developing cataracts and glaucoma, and our old girls are no exception," said Dr. Robert MacLean, Audubon Zoo's senior veterinarian. "Our relationship with the LSU Veterinary School ophthalmologists and their access to advanced equipment and expertise has been a great help in managing these problems and keeping our animals more comfortable."

"Sushi is holding her own," said Audubon Zoo General Curator Rick Dietz. "We are especially grateful for our long-standing association with the LSU Veterinary School in cases such as this, where flexibility is key and expertise is imperative. The LSU veterinarians, staff, and students are always generous with their time and seem to enjoy working with our collection, so we see it as a classic case of 'win-win.'"

http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/vth&c/Ophthalmology.htm
http://www.auduboninstitute.org/
The curriculum for the School of Veterinary Medicine’s Class of 2013 that will begin classes here in a few months is considerably different from that in effect when the first students, the Class of 1977, enrolled in August 1973.

That first curriculum, designed in 1972, called for a basic science program with 18 credit hours per semester for Year I; pre-clinical studies beginning in Year II with 19 and 20 hours for the fall and spring semesters, respectively; students undertook in-depth studies of the major animal diseases, with an orientation toward species and organ systems that required 20 hours per semester in Year III; and 12 months of comprehensive training in applied veterinary medicine, divided into 10 five-week units called “blocks,” with each student required to complete at least eight blocks in Year IV.

Today’s incoming students face 22 hours their first fall semester, and 23 in the spring. By Year II, they will be in class for 23 semester hours in the fall and 24 in the spring. The fall semester of Year III involves 24.5 semester hours, but the classroom instruction in the spring of Year III is reduced to only six hours because students now begin their clinical rotations three months earlier than they did under the original curriculum.

How and why did the change come about? Dr. Joe Taboada, associate dean for student and academic affairs, said it was a long, slow process based on the changing times and changing needs of the students. Despite some minor modifications to the curriculum, it had remained substantially the same for over 20 years. “The subject of comprehensive curriculum change had first arisen around 1987,” said Dr. Taboada, “but it took a long time to come up with a plan that a majority of faculty would approve.”

An early proposal put forth by Dr. William Banks, then head of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Fine Structure, would have made the curriculum more systems-based, but the faculty voted it down. In 1989, the Pew Research Center issued a report about changes to the veterinary profession and new directions for veterinary medical education. “The Pew Report got schools thinking about curriculum changes, but the main impetus for substantial changes,” said Dr. Taboada, “was the performance of our students on the national board exam during the early to mid-1990s. During that time, only 60-70% of our graduates were passing their national boards.” Passing the national board exam is required to get a license to practice veterinary medicine anywhere in North America. Still, change did not come rapidly. In about 1990, then-Dean William Jenkins created an ad hoc committee to propose a revised curriculum that the faculty and administration would accept.

After years of discussion, proposals, rejections, and revisions, the committee produced a plan that the majority of the faculty accepted. It was a two-phase system that incorporated some modern approaches to teaching, such as problem-based learning (PBL), into the existing, traditional didactic classroom instruction, added some new courses, and reduced the time spent on others. Electives were introduced and students were
allowed to choose areas of concentration for their studies: small animal, mixed animal, equine, farm animal, exotic/zoo, or public practice, which marked the first time in the School’s history that classes had not progressed through the four years in lock-step. Also, third-year students began their clinical blocks in February instead of May. The new curriculum was implemented in the fall of 1997 with the incoming Class of 2001.

Four years later when those students took their national board exams, the effects of the curriculum change became obvious: over 90% of the class passed. Since then, 86-96% of fourth-year students pass on the first try and an average of 90% have passed by graduation; eventually, 99% of each class pass the exam and become licensed.

Dr. Taboada noted that one of the most helpful aspects of the new curriculum change was that teaching materials across the board had to be revised to fit into the new arrangement. “Getting the teaching materials updated probably helped the most,” he said. “I think the new curriculum has been a success, although it is not perfect,” he added; “it has increased our students’ clinical experience, which has positioned them better for the job market and enhanced their problem-solving skills.” Dr. Taboada also noted that it has been more than 10 years since the last curriculum change, so it may be time again to revisit the question of change.

Year I, Fall (c. 1972)    Hours: Contact Semester
5101 Veterinary Biochemistry  64 3
5111 Veterinary Clinical Science I  32 1
5112 Anatomy of the Locomotor System  96 3
5113 Biology of Animal Cells  80 3
  Comparative Morphophysiology
5114 Blood and Reticuloendothelial Systems  48 2
5115 Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Systems  56 2
5116 Urinary System  56 2
5117 Monogastric Digestive System & Nutrition  80 2
Total  512 18

Year I Fall 2009    Hours: Contact Semester
5100 Introduction to Veterinary Medicine I  11 0.5
5103 Principles of Problem Solving  25 1
5104 Principles of Diagnostic Imaging I  20 1
5110 Biochemistry & Membrane/Muscle Physiology  53 3
5111 Veterinary Physiology I  50 3
5123 Basic and Applied Anatomy I  77 3.5
5124 Basic and Applied Anatomy II  78 3
5126 Cell Biology and Histology  58 3
5127 Histology and Developmental Anatomy  74 4
Total  446 22
Awards and Honors Banquet: Dewey and Gigi Corley (left) pledged $100,000 to the LSU SVM for the establishment of a scholarship in honor of their veterinarians, Dr. Steven Everson (LSU 1979, fourth from left) and Dr. Brad Everson (LSU 2005, second from right). The first student to receive this scholarship is Amy Norvall (Class of 2011, center). Also pictured are Mrs. Missy Everson (third from left) and Mrs. Michelle Everson (right). For a complete list of awards and scholarships given at the 35th annual Awards & Honors Banquet, go to www.vetmed.lsu.edu.

Advanced Degrees Ceremony: Receiving their degrees at the Diploma Distribution Ceremony at the LSU SVM on May 15 are (from left) Dr. Prixia Nieto, Dr. Kathryn Rief, Soma Chowdhury, Dr. Matthew Rogge, Dr. Anuradha Guggilam, and Dr. Lee Ann Fugler. Also receiving degrees (not pictured) were Dr. Galena Rybachuk, Dr. Geoffrey Hennig, Dr. Andrea Zanetti, and Dr. Andrew Lewis. For a list of all of the graduates and their theses and dissertations, please go to www.vetmed.lsu.edu and click on "More News."

The Class of 2009: Eighty-one veterinary students received their DVM degrees on May 11, 2009. Since 1977, the LSU SVM has graduated 2,338 veterinarians. For a list of the 2009 graduates, awards, and scholarships, go to www.vetmed.lsu.edu.
If you have photos of your time at the LSU SVM and would like to share them, please contact Ginger Guttner, coordinator of public relations, at 225-578-9922 or gguttner@vetmed.lsu.edu.

Backstage Before Graduation: Graduates (from left) Daniel Langlois, Mitzi Clark, Aimee Hunt, Florence Boudreaux, Amanda Claudet, Leigh Parisi, and Devon Owens wait backstage before the Commencement Ceremony.

The New MRI: The LSU SVM recently acquired a Hitachi Echelon 1.5 Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) unit, the first and only high field MRI unit in the state of Louisiana for veterinary use. The MRI can image the limbs and heads of large animals, such as horses, as well as small animals.

Bandaging Lab: From left, fourth-year veterinary students Katie Shamburger, Mark Piechocinski, Claire Pivach, Erin Daniels, and Liz Buza practice bandaging in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Treatment Room under the guidance of Valerie Hymel, associate clinical specialist (back right).

Crawfish Boil: Hills of crawfish were eaten when Hill's Pet Nutrition sponsored a spring crawfish boil in April for LSU SVM faculty, staff, students, friends, and families. The event was held at Magnolia Mound Plantation in Baton Rouge.
Dr. Giselle Hosgood, professor of veterinary surgery and service chief of companion animal surgery and companion animal medicine, joined the faculty at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine on July 15, 1989. She received her BVSc from the University of Queensland in Australia in 1982 and her MS from Purdue University in 1988. She is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a Fellow of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists.

"The SVM has changed a lot during my time here," said Dr. Hosgood. "In the hospital, there are more specialty services, expanded emergency service, more technical staff. In the SVM itself, the departments were consolidated from six down to three, and there is now an expanded focus towards high-caliber, nationally funded research."

"I will miss the people," she added. "It was always a very collegial place to work. I never interacted with anyone that wasn't willing to help."

Dr. Hosgood led the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences in many ways," said Dr. David Senior, associate dean for advancement and strategic initiatives and former department head. "She served as the departmental graduate advisor from the inception of the program and was pivotal in both its establishment and growth. She undertook rigorous PhD studies in epidemiology while a full-time faculty member and quickly became the go-to person for those needing assistance in planning and analysis of research. In this, she was selfless of her time. In her private life, Dr. Hosgood is an outstanding competitive cyclist who holds several Louisiana records. Her athletic prominence resulted in her being the only member of the SVM family honored to carry the Olympic torch for a leg through Louisiana prior to the Atlanta Games."

Dr. Hosgood is now a professor of small animal surgery at Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia. Her responsibilities will be similar to those she had at LSU—working in the teaching hospital, teaching students and house officers, and research.
What made you want to be veterinarians?

Shannon: I have always enjoyed the company of animals. Being raised in a farming family exposed me to a lot of situations with animals. As I grew older, family and friends helped me migrate towards the profession.

Toni: Working with animals and helping them has always been a passion of mine.

What was the LSU SVM like when you attended?

Everyone was family. We all shared a common interest and common goals. We were instant friends, and we still are today. When talking to classmates about family and cases, we always talk about “Vet School” and the memories we had there.

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your career in veterinary medicine?

LSU gave us a very broad picture of our profession. We were both well prepared and comfortable when we began practicing. Our foundation was strong, which made us very confident.

What does the LSU SVM mean to you?

Great memories! Every visit for either continuing education or Open House brings a feeling of home on some level.

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

Shannon: Helping classmates stay awake during class. I have a special talent for this; just ask Dr. Jeff Artall.

Toni: Medicating an ostrich twice a day for two weeks with oral antibiotics; again, ask Dr. Jeff Artall.

Bio Bullets

- The Gonsoulins have four children: Taylor, Johnathon, Anna, and Joshua.
- They have a mixed animal practice in New Iberia, La.
- They recently purchased a small animal practice in Morgan City, La.
- Dr. Shannon Gonsoulin was instrumental in assisting LSU with horse rescues following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

What made you want to be a research scientist?

We can expand our knowledge base; I enjoy problem solving, which usually resulted in more questions being generated than answers obtained, and study results could have a great impact on improving animal welfare by decreasing disease morbidity and/or mortality.

What was your primary area of research?

My primary area of research was equine gastrointestinal physiology and pathophysiology. The focus was on the use of adenosine triphosphate as a substrate to help minimize or alleviate the damage caused by ischemic injury to the gastrointestinal tract.

What is your current employment position and where?

I am the Director of the Department of Animal Care & Technologies (DACT) and the Attending Veterinarian at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz.

What was the LSU SVM like when you attended?

I graduated in Spring 2001, successfully defending my dissertation on March 20, 2001, with a PhD. My dissertation was entitled, “Systemic and Colonic Hemodynamic and Vasomotor Responses to Adenosine Triphosphate in Horses.” During my time at the LSU SVM, the Equine Health Studies Program was in a rapid period of growth; funding was actively being sought to renovate/build a new equine intensive care unit and lameness pavilion.

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your career in biomedical research?

I do not currently do research myself, but my roles as Director of DACT and Attending Veterinarian involve oversight of all animals used for teaching and research. Therefore, I am constantly involved with assisting investigators with their animal protocols and execution of their animal-based studies. The experience I obtained during my PhD enabled me to fully understand—from a researcher’s perspective—the difficulties and requirements associated with running a research program, including, but not limited to: funding and staffing projects, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval process, troubleshooting when things are not going according to plan, data analysis, and manuscript preparation/acceptance procedures. This type of experience and understanding has been pivotal to my success as Director.

What are some of your most memorable moments from LSU?

I developed great friendships and was able to work with great people. I had lots of fun meeting at The Chimes for drinks and alligator bites; running a research study on my birthday and having all of the staff working with me bring in balloons, cake, and jalapeno hush puppies (which were my absolute favorite); the HPLC machine constantly failing in the middle of the run; and checking in on my dog and finding the second-year surgery resident with his finger in my dog’s surgery site because of extensive bleeding from the venous sinus during a C6/C7 stabilization procedure (the dog did great after the procedure despite dislodging the cortical block).
Bio Bullets

- Dr. Tetens received the LSU Alumni Association Distinguished Dissertation Award in Science, Engineering, and Technology in 2001.

- She completed a laboratory animal training program at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City and is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

- Dr. Tetens married in December 2004 and has five cats and two dogs.

- She was a junior surgery clinician at the University of Pennsylvania from 1992-1993.

- Dr. Tetens did her Equine Surgery Residency at Michigan State University (MSU) from 1993-1996.

- She received her Master’s degree from MSU in 1996.

- Dr. Tetens worked in private practice from July 1996-October 1997 (Michigan and South Carolina) and from 2001-2004 (Vermont).

- She began at LSU in October 1997 as a clinical instructor in equine surgery.

- In 1998, Dr. Tetens switched over to the combined PhD program/Equine Emergency position.

- She started the Lab Animal Medicine residency program at Columbia University Medical Center in January 2005 and completed the two-year program on December 31, 2006.

- Dr. Tetens stayed at Columbia from January 1, 2007, through September 2008, initially as chief of comparative clinical surgery and was then promoted to associate director.

DR. MARIA ANTONIETA GUERRERO-PLATA is an assistant professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences. She comes to LSU from the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas. She received her undergraduate degree from the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas in Reynosa, Mexico, and she obtained her MS and PhD from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. She received additional training at the Imperial College School of Medicine in London, U.K. She came to the UTMB as a postdoctoral fellow in the Child Health Research Center, Department of Pediatrics, where she was also a McLaughlin Fellow from 2002-2004. She was recognized by the American Association of Immunologists in 2006 with the AAI-Trainee Achievement Award and was awarded a five-year grant from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute to study the effect of tobacco smoke on antiviral immunity. Her research focuses on innate immunity, dendritic cells, and the effect of environmental factors on the pathogenesis of respiratory viruses.

DR. HUIYONG WEI joins the faculty in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences as an assistant professor (research). He received his PhD in molecular virology from the Zhongshan School of Medicine, Sun Yat-sen University (China) in 2002 and his MS from Sun Yat-sen University in 1992. Prior to coming to LSU, Dr. Wei was a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at University of Illinois at Chicago. His research at LSU will focus on identifying BHV-1 gN domain(s) necessary for TAP and gM binding, the construction of BHV-1 mutants not expressing gN or gM or that lack the gN-TAP binding domain, and the development of BHV-1 attenuated vaccine. Dr. Wei's current research project, "Regulation of pathogenicity and immunogenicity by BHV-1 envelope glycoproteins gN/gM," is supported by the USDA/NRI-animal protection program.
1979

Dr. Paul A. Resweber is the district manager for Jackson District in Ridgeland, Miss., for the USDA Food Safety Inspection Services Office of Field Operations (USDA FSIS OFO). Prior to this, he was district manager, deputy district manager, and Assistant District Manager-Enforcement in the Springdale, Ark. District that covers Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, the second-largest FSIS District. Paul has also served as Program Review Officer as a national auditor in the FSIS Program Review Division, Lawrence, Kansas. He began his federal public practice career in December 1989 as a supervisory public health veterinarian in Louisiana and Arkansas. Prior to that, he worked in private practice. Paul is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, with expertise in public health and preventive medicine. Paul and his wife, Sheilah D. Turner, reside in Florence, Miss.

1993

Dr. Jennifer Beasley-McKean is the district manager for the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in Dallas, Texas. Jennifer and her husband, Jeff, reside in Red Oak, Texas.

1996

Dr. Rhonda Leavenworth is a relief veterinarian in Bridgewater, Va. She and her husband, John, have a daughter, Karenell.

2003

Dr. Laura Bosch Ferrara and her husband, Joseph, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Joy Ferrara, on March 12, 2009. She was 8 pounds 3 ounces and 19 inches. Laura works at the Animal Care Hospital in Mandeville, La. The Ferraras reside in Madisonville, La.

2004

Dr. Greg Skelton and his wife, Anna, celebrated the birth of their third child, Natalie, on May 10, 2009. The Skeltons also have a son, Nash (age 3), and a daughter, Mackenzie (age 13). The family resides in Beecher, Ill.

2005

Dr. Trina Lee Breaux practices small animal medicine at Northwest Austin Veterinary Center in Austin, Texas. She is engaged to Jaime Gutierrez and will get married on September 26, 2009, in Round Rock, Texas. Jaime is the supervising electrician at St. David’s North Austin Medical Center.

2006

Dr. Andrew Armani completed an internship in surgery/medicine at Florida Veterinary Specialists (FSV) in 2007. He met his wife, Meg O’Connor, at FSV. The couple have been landscaping, sailing, and traveling. Andrew is working at Northbay Animal and Bird Hospital in Tampa, Fla., where he and Meg reside.

Alumni Tracks & Baby Vets

Alumni updates can be sent to the SVM using the form on page 25 or by submitting an on-line form on the SVM website at www.vetmed.lsu.edu. Go to “Alumni & Donors” and then click on “Keep in Touch” under “Alumni Resources.” For information on alumni activities, go to http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/svm_alumni&_donors.htm.

(From left) Cynthia Estrade, K.C. Toups, Meghan Respess, and Verna Serra get ready for commencement on May 11, 2009.
**ELEVEN GRADUATES RECEIVE BUSINESS CERTIFICATES**

In the fall of 2008, the LSU student chapter of the Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA) initiated a business certificate program to help veterinary students enhance their business management education. "While other veterinary schools have a certificate program similar to ours, we are unique in that we have a class that allows us to go into a private veterinary clinic and conduct a true business, marketing, and strategic plan," said Dr. Marc Bordelon (LSU 2009). "LSU also has more contact hours than most other schools currently (120 at LSU versus 30 at Washington State), and the biggest advantage is that we have been able to offer the program at no additional cost to the students. For example, the University of Pennsylvania business certificate program costs about $510 and their joint DVM/MBA program is about $1,000 per semester.*

Each student enrolled in the program at the LSU SVM is required to complete 140 additional contact hours in business education, including hands-on practice analysis. Topics include finance, accounting, management, and communication.

Members of the Class of 2009 who received the first business certificates are (above from left), Drs. Marc Bordelon, Jeremy Delcambre, April Fitzgerald, Chris Mole, Cynthia Estrade, Mitzi Clark, and Marty Roache. Certificates were presented by Dr. Dennis McCumin (right), VBMA faculty advisor, at the annual Awards & Honors Banquet. Not pictured are certificate recipients Drs. Lindsey Gordon, Jennifer Conduff, Brenna Hanly, and Michael Rossi.

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**DROP US A LINE!**

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

Mail to: Office of Public Relations
School of Veterinary Medicine
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
E-Mail: gguttner@vetmed.lsu.edu

Please let us know how you are doing and what is going on in your life. Complete and return this form to us today!

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Summer 2009 La Veterinaire - LVMAG
Sit Up and Take Notice:
It's a Matter of Life and Debt
Help Students Like Verna Reduce Their Debt as They Pursue Their Passion

Your support of the Advance Veterinary Medicine Fund is vital to the success of our students. Being a veterinary student at LSU is intense. It takes commitment, passion, focus, and, of course, money. But scholarship awards help ease our students’ financial strain. Your donation toward scholarships will give them one less worry so that they can devote their full attention to the things that matter most.

Class of 2009 graduate Dr. Verna Serra knows the value—and the price—of a great education. As a three-time scholarship recipient at the LSU SVM, she appreciates the financial assistance she’s received in pursuit of her dream. She also knows that those funds would not have been available without the generous support of donors like you. “I’ve applied for scholarship awards every year because, as a veterinary student, you don’t have time for a job, but expenses are high, and you need all the help you can get,” said Verna.

Verna has been passionate about being a veterinarian ever since kindergarten. She came to LSU after graduating from New York University with a degree in biology, working as a zookeeper in Queens, then as a veterinarian’s assistant in a surgery center. Here, she’s ranked near the top of her class. She volunteered for nightshifts at the hospital, monitoring patients on dialysis and is embarking on an internship in small animal surgery. “I’ve gotten a fantastic education at LSU,” said Verna. “It’s proved to me that this is what I was meant to do.”

To help support veterinary students like Verna, please make a donation to the Advance Veterinary Medicine Fund. For information on other ways to support the LSU SVM, please contact Judyth Wier, executive director of institutional advancement, at 225-578-9870.
I want my gift to support the Advance Veterinary Medicine Fund.

_____ Gift for the Hillmann Club ($100-$499), the Rhoades Club ($500-$999), the Jenkins Society ($1,000-$2,499), the Besch Society ($2,500-$4,999) or the Dalrymple Society ($5,000-$10,000).

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

July 23  Mike VI, LSU's Live Tiger Mascot, Turns 4-Years-Old
August 14-19  Orientation for the Class of 2013
August 17  Semester begins
August 19  Coating Ceremony for the Class of 2013
September 7  Labor Day Holiday

For information on these and other SVM events, contact the SVM at 225/578-9900 or go to www.vetmed.lsu.edu