Since I took over the position of dean in September 2014, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has gone through many changes. We created the position of Associate Dean for Diversity and Faculty Affairs, and Dr. Lorrie Gaschen, professor of diagnostic imaging, is working hard in that position to help define uniform expectations for various faculty titles; advise on faculty mentoring, recruitment and development; and facilitate orientation of new faculty. She also serves as the affirmative action officer for the LSU SVM and will work with search committees and the admissions committee in an advisory role.

In 2015, we also launched searches for a new associate dean for research and advanced studies and a new director for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Those searches are complete, and Rhonda Cardin, PhD, will be joining us in 2016 from the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center as associate dean. Mark Mitchell, DVM, PhD (LSU SVM 2001), joins us from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine as our hospital director, also in 2016. Dr. Mitchell was on faculty at the LSU SVM from 1996 to 2007 as a zoological medicine assistant and then associate professor in Veterinary Clinical Sciences.

Also, in 2015, we graduated 84 students in our veterinary program and seven students in our MS/PhD program. We gave out more than $184,000 in scholarships and awards, bringing our total scholarship distribution since 2004 to $1.86 million. We are able to help our students in this way thanks to the generosity of our friends and alumni. In fiscal year 2014-2015, the LSU SVM raised over $6.9 million in private funds and future commitments to support our programs and students.

Our research program continues to grow. We currently rank 11th among the 30 veterinary schools in the U.S. for total funding from the National Institutes of Health. Our research funding for 2014-2015 was $39.6 million. Scientists at the LSU SVM are investigating infectious diseases, cardiovascular health, vector-borne diseases, respiratory diseases, cancer biology, comparative orthopedic research and much more. Our research can improve the lives of both people and animals.

This year also saw the 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, a storm that had a tremendous effect on the Gulf Coast and how we treat animals both before and following disasters. The LSU SVM is on the forefront of disaster preparedness and response training, and we, in collaboration with the Louisiana State Response Team, hosted a week-long boot camp in memory of Hurricane Katrina.

We are dedicated to providing superior education, ground-breaking research and the best, most compassionate care.

Sincerely,

Joel D. Baines, VMD, PhD
Dean
Dr. Kenneth F. Burns Chair in Veterinary Medicine
Lessons Learned
Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005, and the Gulf Coast was forever changed. Animals are now part of disaster preparedness and response plans, and the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has embraced a new role as an authority on disaster training and response as they pertain to animals.

Story on page 2.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lessons Learned ................................................................. 2
Katrina Commemorative Boot Camp........................................ 8
Going Global ........................................................................ 10
Pseudorabies ....................................................................... 12
Faculty Promotions ............................................................... 13
New Faculty ........................................................................ 14
Faculty Awards ..................................................................... 16
Our Students ........................................................................ 17
Life at the LSU SVM ............................................................ 20
DVM Alumnus Profile ............................................................ 22
MS/PhD Alumnus Profile ....................................................... 24
Alumni Tracks ....................................................................... 25
Shelter Medicine Receives Transformational Gift ................. 26
Grants Support Outreach Programs ...................................... 27
Purina Nutrition Center ......................................................... 28

La Veterinaire, our award-winning magazine, is published by the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. Contact Ginger Guttner, Editor, at 225-578-9922 or ginger@lsu.edu for more information.
Lessons Learned

How one storm changed everything

Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005. Before that storm, many Gulf Coast residents took hurricanes in stride. Leaving your pet home alone for a day or two in a garage, or a bathroom or laundry room was okay. You’d evacuate, leave your dog or cat alone for two days at the most, and then you’d go back home. When the levees broke in New Orleans, people couldn’t return home, and thousands of pets had to be rescued. Also, emergency response plans didn’t include animals, so people evacuated out of New Orleans following the storm couldn’t bring their pets with them. Many stayed rather than leave their four-legged family members.
One of the best things to happen following Hurricane Katrina is the change to those emergency response plans. People may now evacuate with their pets if they have to use federal or state assistance, and animal shelters are now available for people staying in government-run disaster shelters.

With no disaster response plans for animals immediately following Hurricane Katrina, volunteers quickly improvised. Two shelters for animals were created: the shelter at the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center in Gonzalez, La., was for rescued animals, and the shelter at the LSU AgCenter John M. Parker Coliseum on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge, La., was for pets that accompanied their owners who evacuated but had no place to keep their animals in the short term. Statewide, more than 8,000 animals were cared for in temporary shelters during the largest pet rescue in the history of the U.S.

Veterinary faculty, staff and students were integral in the initial start-up of both shelters. The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine (LSU SVM) created an educational block in Shelter Medicine for Year IV veterinary students to earn credit for their work in the shelters; many other students volunteered their time. People from across the country shipped thousands of pounds of pet food, and medical and health supplies to support both the animals and the volunteers.
Lamar-Dixon Expo Center

The shelter at the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center was created for animals rescued by volunteers from the LSU SVM, the Louisiana Animal Response Team (LSART), the American Veterinary Medical Association, and a myriad of animal welfare groups including the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the Louisiana SPCA and the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

The LSU Equine Health Studies Program implemented a Horse Hurricane Helpline for horse owners with questions regarding rescue, shelter and veterinary care. The Hurricane Equine Rescue Operation teams of LSU equine veterinarians and staff, private equine veterinarians and numerous volunteers were deployed daily. Hundreds of horses and mules (plus more than 300 pets) were sheltered at the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center.

LSU AgCenter’s John M. Parker Coliseum

The LSU AgCenter’s John M. Parker Coliseum became a shelter for owned pets, meaning that owners who evacuated brought their pets to the shelter or they were brought in by veterinarians who had to evacuate clinics in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The shelters at Parker Coliseum and Lamar-Dixon were open for 24 hours, 7 days a week starting August 31, 2005. Parker Coliseum took in over 500 pets within the first 48 hours of operation. Two thousand animals went through this animal shelter, with the peak happening on September 12 with 1,287 animals.

The majority of the pets at the Parker Coliseum were dogs, followed closely by cats. However, the Coliseum also sheltered a pig, ducks, chickens, ferrets, mice, birds and tortoises. Dogs were housed in horse stalls and in kennels in the middle of the arena. It had a dirt floor, so mats had to be put down to keep dirt out of the air. Cats were housed in the air-conditioned corridor surrounding the arena. The only other air conditioning was in the conference room used as the operations center.

Hundreds of reporters from around the world came to the shelters to document the support efforts.

PAGES 2 AND 3: LSU SVM students learn how to right an overturned horse trailer.
FROM THE TOP:
Shelter at Lamar Dixon Expo Center.
Pets at Lamar Dixon Expo Center.
Arena floor of the LSU AgCenter’s John M. Parker Coliseum.
Veterinary student Piper Lambard with a dog in the triage center at Parker Coliseum.
LSU SVM and Veterinary Teaching Hospital

The LSU SVM, along with local and out-of-state veterinarians and veterinary technicians, provided volunteer veterinary care at the temporary animal shelters and donated countless hours to the shelters. Volunteers came from veterinary clinics and schools from all across the country and Canada. The LSU SVM set up sleeping areas in the Veterinary Medicine Building for some of these volunteers, as hotels in and around Baton Rouge were filled with evacuees and other volunteers.

The LSU SVM created an educational block in shelter medicine for its fourth-year students so that they could get credit for time spent in the animal shelter. This educational block has continued since then.

The School’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital tripled its case load following the storm and operated its intensive care unit 24/7 at near capacity, and, at times, over capacity to accommodate evacuated and rescued animals. A secondary ICU was set up to handle these additional cases, many of which the hospital treated at its own expense.

Shelter Medicine

In 2006, the LSU SVM received an $800,000 grant from the HSUS to establish a shelter medicine program. The curriculum was established in 2006, and Susan Eddlestone, DVM (LSU SVM 1989), DACVIM, then assistant professor of veterinary medicine, and Joseph Taboada, DVM, DACVIM, associate dean for veterinary education and student affairs, initially coordinated the program. Wendy Wolfson, DVM (LSU SVM 1986) was hired as the instructor for the rotation and is now the director of the program. Students enrolled in the rotation in 2007, and more than 490 students have participated in it since then. Currently, 30 shelters and four prisons receive assistance from the LSU SVM shelter medicine program.

Students gain surgical and medical experience by serving the needs of spay/neuter clinics, animal control facilities and animal shelters, the sheltering operation at the Dixon Correctional Institute and other correctional institutions in southern Louisiana. The curriculum also includes training in animal wellness, pet population dynamics, disaster medicine and animal behavior issues. The program works with animal control facilities to improve animal health, spay/neuter adoptable animals, increase adoption rates and ensure humane euthanasia. This program also gives educational seminars for shelter volunteers, shelter workers, and school children on various issues related to the care of shelter animals and pets.

In 2007, the HSUS made a generous donation to Dixon Correction Institute for the establishment of an animal shelter. This medium-security prison is located about 30 miles north of Baton Rouge and is able to house and care for up to 500 pets with handpicked, trained inmates and the supervision of the LSU SVM. In addition to providing daily care for the animals, the inmates also receive instruction from LSU SVM faculty, staff and students, and some inmates are pursuing online training so that they can continue to work with animals after their incarceration ends.

The LSU SVM Shelter Medicine Program also services feral cat populations on prison grounds in Louisiana. Feral cat issues are addressed as a major problem on the grounds of the three state prisons: Dixon Correctional Institute, Angola State Penitentiary and Avoyelles State Penitentiary. A grant from the ASPCA provides funds to support this program so that the shelter medicine program can continue to work with feral cat populations at these prisons.

In 2008, the American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery donated funds to provide a mobile emergency response unit designed to serve as a small animal medical facility in areas affected by disasters. When it is not activated immediately following a disaster, it is used as part of the shelter medicine curriculum to provide a sterile environment for spays and neuters for animals at south Louisiana animal shelters that do not have surgical facilities.

Spay Day

With initial grants from the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust and Nestlé Purina, the LSU SVM developed the LSU Animal Sterilization Assistance Program to perform spays/neuters once a month for low income families, animal shelters and humane organizations. Spay Days began on May 21, 2006, and have taken place monthly since then. Cats are brought to the LSU SVM via animal welfare groups such as Spay Baton Rouge and Cat Haven. The LSU SVM provides the facilities, supplies, faculty, staff and students. We work together with these groups to help curb the feral cat population in the Baton Rouge area. Thousands of cats have been spayed or neutered as a result of this program. Spay Day also gives our students valuable experience in shelter medicine, feral cat populations and surgical prep procedures.

Animal Rescues

In 2005 following Hurricane Katrina, animal rescues were done by volunteers who had little or no training for this endeavor. Since
2005, that has changed dramatically. The LSU SVM and LSART now routinely offer training for disaster preparedness and response as it pertains to animals.

The mobile emergency response unit donated by the American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR) in 2008 can be used for emergency response and significantly enhances the ability of the LSU SVM to provide immediate care to injured, dehydrated, or otherwise debilitated animals.

The LSU SVM and LSART also have a specialized disaster response mobile command large animal response unit center for assistance with large animal rescues. It has satellite equipment, portable corrals and stalls, kenneling materials, utility trailer containing technical rescue equipment, and a large animal training dummy. While deployed, the team is able to perform assessments of animals and triage the injured. They are able to assess the environment for safe water and food supplies for stranded livestock and pets, evaluate food and nutrition needs, and develop ways to stabilize injured animals, get them to safety and shelter, and manage and staff small and large animal shelters and field hospitals.

The LSU SVM/LSART disaster response team dedicates themselves to being available to provide needed aid during a disaster, and continue to use these experiential opportunities as a teaching tool for present and future veterinarians and other animal care personnel. Hurricanes Ivan, Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Isaac, the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill, the Mississippi River flooding in Tennessee (May 2011), and smaller scale rescues including vehicular accidents and flood rescues make up the list of responses since the group was formalized in 2005.

In addition to hosting and providing disaster preparedness and response training throughout the year, the LSU SVM has plans in place to have its Veterinary Teaching Hospital remain open during and after disasters. The SVM has remained open to help animals affected by disasters since 2005.

**Disaster Response Training**

In 2007, the LSU SVM partnered with the LSU Fire & Emergency Training Institute (FETI)and the LSU Stephenson Disaster Management to provide a four-day technical large animal emergency rescue and large animal hazardous material training course. Sponsored by the Louisiana State Animal
Response Team, the primary goal of the course was to prepare and train first responders, veterinarians, and other animal care personnel to work together in order to safely and effectively save animal lives without compromising human life during a disaster. Demonstrations and hands-on exercises included basic as well as specific large animal rescue procedures. Highlighted in the training were practical animal assistance techniques, mud rescue, water rescue, vertical lift using an A-frame and rope system, vertical lift using a helicopter, night rescue of an injured horse on rough terrain, as well as HazMat training. Subsequent training workshops have been held each year since then and have included simulated scenarios, night rescues of disabled horses, water rescues, emergency triage, and more.

In August 2015 on the 10 year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the LSU SVM partnered with LSART, the American Humane Association, the ASPCA, Code 3 Associates, Inc., the International Fund for Animal Welfare, RedRover, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Alliance of State Animal & Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) for a week-long boot camp to train emergency responders for future disasters.

**Honoring Volunteers**

In 2008, the LSU SVM dedicated *Connections*, a bronze statue to honor those who come to the aid of animals. *Connections* depicts a young girl offering water to a thirsty cat and dog representing both the relationship and responsibility we all share with domestic animals. “This sculpture illustrates the importance of animals in our lives, which was seen time and time again after the hurricanes as people refused to evacuate without their pets,” said Dean Emeritus Peter F. Haynes. “In the 1950s the pet was consigned to the yard; by the 1960s the pet had been allowed in the house; by the 1970s the pet was allowed to sleep in the bedroom; now they may even be under the blankets. With companion animals owned by more than two-thirds of our family households. Today, our focus is on the human-animal bond and the importance of animals in the lives of so many people.”

This one-of-a-kind artwork, designed by Kentucky sculptor Meg White, is a central part of the Milton J. Womack Serenity Garden. Donated by the Womack family and dedicated in memory of the late Milton J. Womack, Sr., the Serenity Garden is located near the Small Animal Clinic entrance of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Landscaped by LSU landscape architecture graduate students, it provides a peaceful spot for reflection. The Serenity Garden can also serve to honor special people and pets through the placement of an engraved pavement brick.

**Informing the Public**

Each year just prior to the start of hurricane season, the LSU SVM provides tips to the public about including pets and other animals in their disaster preparedness plans. LSU SVM faculty and staff have been interviewed by the media numerous times about the importance of including pets in plans and how best to evacuate with them.
The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine (LSU SVM) and the Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART), co-hosted the eight-day Katrina Commemorative Animal Responder Boot Camp, August 22-29, 2015, at the Lamar Dixon Exposition Center in Gonzales, La., and at the LSU SVM. The boot camp training included best practice courses on disaster assessment, slack-water rescue, animal handling, pet first aid, large and small animal sheltering, large animal rescue, wildland fire interface, and animal decontamination.

In 2005, when more than 400,000 people were displaced during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, about 44 percent of those who refused to evacuate did so because many rescue centers did not allow evacuees to bring their animals. Approximately 250,000 dogs and cats were displaced or died because of this, along with a multitude of other small mammals, horses, fish and other animals that were left behind.
When the 2005 storm season sent a major wake-up call to the nation demanding improved human and animal response capacities, the LSU SVM team responded by partnering and combining resources with LSART.

For the training to be realistic, live dogs from Tangipahoa Parish Animal Control and horses and goats from the LSU SVM were used in the animal handling, animal decontamination and technical large animal rescue courses. No animals were harmed during the training.

The LSART/LSU SVM partnership has trained more than 900 veterinary students, veterinarians, first responders and animal care personnel since 2005. The team dedicates themselves to being available to provide needed aid during a disaster, and continue to use these experiential opportunities as a teaching tool for present and future veterinarians and other animal care personnel. Hurricanes Ivan, Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Isaac, the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill, the Mississippi River flooding in 2011, and smaller scale rescues, including vehicular accidents and flood rescues, make up the list of responses since the group was formalized in 2005.

Attendees included representatives from federal, state, and local governments, the American Humane Association (AHA), the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), Best Friends Animal Society, Code 3 Associates, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART), the Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Veterinary Medicine, the LSU Ag Center, the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA), and Red Rover.

**TOP LEFT:** A volunteer prepares “Mayhem,” a dummy horse to be pulled on the rescue glide.

**FROM THE TOP OF THIS PAGE:**

Volunteers practice a water rescue of a “dog.”

Volunteers participate in water rescue simulations.

Boot camp participants pull the dummy horse to safety using the rescue glide.

Participants also worked with live horses, none of which were harmed.
The GOAL Aid Agency was in Sierra Leone before the Ebola outbreak occurred in 2014 to help fight poverty, but when the outbreak began, the organization started looking for volunteers. LSU researcher Christopher Mores, SM, ScD, had been looking for a way to help with the outbreak and was able to do so through GOAL. Dr. Mores landed in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on November 29, 2014, to help with the development of an Ebola Treatment Center (ETC). He served as the lead epidemiologist and infection control specialist at the ETC in Port Loko with colleagues from GOAL, which included 120 strong and varied staff members. His role was to provide experience regarding containment and safety. Dr. Mores was in Sierra Leone for 10 weeks and then spent three weeks in Florida under quarantine.

“When I did my post-doc with the U.S. Army, I worked on vector-borne viruses, which tend to be studied along with hemorrhagic viruses, so I had training working with those viruses,” said Dr. Mores. “In Africa, we had to work safely with Ebola and its genetics and proteins without having to be in a BSL-4 since we certainly didn’t have one in the jungle.” A biosafety level (BSL) is a level of the biocontainment precautions required to isolate dangerous biological agents in an enclosed laboratory facility. The levels of containment range from the lowest biosafety level 1 (BSL-1) to the highest at level 4 (BSL-4). In the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have specified these levels.

“It was so hot in Sierra Leone that workers in the ETC had to tweak their PPE (personal protective equipment); they had to piece things together to make a safe suit using layers of Tyvek and donated gear,” said Dr. Mores. “We didn’t have powered air purifiers; we had to use respirator masks. We got goggles that fit some but not others; gloves that fit some but not others. We had to evaluate all the pieces to put together safe suits. I wouldn’t have thought that there were a number of variations on the way the masks can fit people, but there are certain faces that couldn’t breathe in the masks because of the way the mask laid across the cheek. Some staff had trouble maintaining PPE so we had to figure out the best way to keep people safe. Gas-tight goggles had the same problems; they fit one person but not another.”

“We were constantly trying to retrofit the PPE to our staff,” added Dr. Mores. “At one point, we were so concerned about this and couldn’t find anything in country, that we had some folks at GOAL in Ireland order goggles from Amazon and then had them carried in by GOAL. We’d drive around and trade with other NGOs [non-government organizations] and GOs to get what we needed because no one had everything.”

Another obstacle in running the ETC was the difficulty in getting around in Sierra Leone. Because of the outbreak, roadblocks and checkpoints were set up to restrict human movement. “We had staff that would go to Freetown to do banking and get stuck behind a checkpoint and would be

From the Centers on Disease Control
Ebola is a rare and deadly disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola virus species. Ebola can cause disease in humans and nonhuman primates (monkeys, gorillas and chimpanzees). Ebola was first discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since then, outbreaks have appeared sporadically in Africa. The natural reservoir host of Ebola virus remains unknown. However, on the basis of evidence and the nature of similar viruses, researchers believe that the virus is animal-borne and that bats are the most likely reservoir. People get Ebola through direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes in, for example, the eyes, nose, or mouth) with blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola, objects (like needles and syringes) that have been contaminated with body fluids from a person who is sick with Ebola or the body of a person who has died from Ebola, infected fruit bats or primates, and possibly from direct contact with semen from a man who has recovered from Ebola.
Building trust was another obstacle, as was the reliance on traditional healing practices and changing long-held cultural habits like burial traditions that require contact with the deceased family members.

The GOAL treatment facility opened in December 2014 and had seen 200 patients by February 2015, many of whom died, Dr. Mores said.

“The outbreak is now pretty much over, but there are data and samples that need to be studied,” said Dr. Mores. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 28,000 people became sick with Ebola during the 2014 outbreak, and 11,000 of those people died. Sierra Leone has lost 10 doctors to Ebola already, and in West Africa over 200 doctors have succumbed to the virus.

In 2002, Dr. Mores received his ScD in epidemiology and infectious disease from Harvard School of Public Health. In addition to his position as a professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, he serves as the associate director for the Center for Experimental Infectious Disease Research at the LSU SVM, as well as a senior fellow of the Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (www.sdmi.lsue.edu). The mission of SDMI is to save the lives of people and animals by improving disaster response management. One of the institute’s primary goals is to close the gap between emergency management practitioners and academic researchers through collaboration. As such, Dr. Mores has worked with SDMI on Ebola response for first responders and has advised the Louisiana Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Dr. Mores also serves on the Executive Council for the Study of Models of Infectious Disease Agents for the National Institutes of Health, owing to his involvement in the MIDAS modeling community, an National Institutes of Health-funded consortium of scientists, mathematicians and statisticians who inform policy through the use of predictive models of infectious disease systems. His research at LSU centers on arthropod-borne viruses, particularly dengue, chikungunya and other emergent viruses causing significant outbreaks worldwide. On these diseases, he collaborates with colleagues at the Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Starting in August 2015, Dr. Mores is contracted to the U.S. Navy to head its Department of Virology and Emerging Infections in Peru, while maintaining his faculty position at the LSU SVM.
**Clinical Case**

**Pseudorabies Undergoing a Resurgence in Louisiana**

Pseudorabies has undergone a resurgence in Louisiana and surrounding states because of the large increase in feral swine. The Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL) is beginning to see cases in dogs used to hunt feral swine as well. Pseudorabies is an acute, frequently fatal disease with a worldwide distribution that affects swine primarily and other domestic and wild animals incidentally. The pseudorabies virus has emerged as a significant pathogen in the U.S. since the 1960s, probably because of the increase in confinement swine housing or perhaps because of the emergence of more virulent strains. Clinical signs in nonporcine animals are similar to those of rabies, hence the name “pseudo rabies.” “Mad itch” is another sign seen in dogs and cattle.

In pigs, the clinical signs of the disease vary with age. Very young piglets have central nervous system (CNS) signs (e.g., tremors and paddling) and death. Weaned pigs typically have more respiratory signs with only occasional CNS signs and usually recover. Sows will abort.

LADDL saw a case with two dogs that were being trained for hunting on a group of swine the owner maintained for that purpose. These dogs were found dead. The dogs had severe facial edema that was caused by self-inflicted trauma resulting from the intense pruritus caused by the disease. The source of the infection in these cases were the swine being maintained by the owner, but the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine (LSU SVM) and LADDL have seen cases from dogs hunting feral swine as well. Clinical signs typically seen in dogs having pseudorabies include fever, sudden behavioral changes, vomiting, lethargy, convulsions, intense pruritus, self-mutilation and sudden death. The facial trauma is a common clinical event. Diagnosis in this case was by the clinical signs and the non-suppurative encephalitis with perivascular cuffing shown in the photomicrograph below.

Located on the LSU campus next door to the LSU SVM, LADDL faculty and staff are able to collaborate with veterinarians at the SVM and the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. LADDL has seven anatomic pathologists with an average of 20 years of experience. A large variety of diagnostic testing is available. LADDL also offers a USALIMs system that allows nearly instantaneous email delivery of results and a web-based portal for viewing of results. There is also expedited delivery via FedEx at special, reduced rates. More information can be found online at www.laddl.org.
The Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL) is a full-service AAVLD-accredited laboratory. Housed in the LSU SVM, the LADDL services the people of Louisiana and surrounding states by providing animal disease diagnostic services to agricultural and general communities in the state of Louisiana.

Faculty Promotions

Congratulations to the faculty listed below who were promoted in 2015!

**Comparative Biomedical Sciences**

Shisheng Li, MS, PhD, Associate Professor

**Pathobiological Sciences**

Vladimir Chouljenko, PhD, Associate Professor (Research); Assistant Director, Division of Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine

Antonieta Guerrera-Plata, BSc, MSc, PhD, Associate Professor

Christopher Mores, SM, ScD, Professor

Rhett Stout, DVM (LSU SVM 1994), PhD, DACLAM, Associate Professor; Associate Director, Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine

**Veterinary Clinical Sciences**

Mark Acierno, DVM, MBA, DACVIM (Internal Medicine), Professor of Companion Animal Medicine

Bonnie Boudreaux, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Medical Oncology), Associate Professor of Veterinary Oncology

Mandi Lopez, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVS, Professor of Equine Research; Director, Laboratory for Equine and Comparative Orthopedic Research

Cherie Pucheu-Haston, DVM (LSU SVM 1992), PhD, DACVD, Associate Professor (effective January 2016)

Nathalie Rademacher, Med.Vet., Dr.med.vet, DACVR, DECVDI, Associate Professor of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging

Laura Riggs, DVM, PhD, DACVS, Associate Professor of Equine Surgery

Kirk Ryan, DVM, DACVIM (Internal Medicine), Associate Professor of Companion Animal Medicine
**Chance Armstrong, DVM, DACT**, assistant professor of food animal health maintenance in Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS), received his BA in 2002, his DVM in 2010 and his MS in 2015, all from Auburn University. He also completed his theriogenology residency at Auburn in 2015. He is a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologist. His research focuses on infertility of cattle with a particular study of Trichomoniasis. Dr. Armstrong was also recognized as a 40 under 40 professional in 2014, by Vance Publishing, which is a list of the most influential people in agriculture.

**Karanvir Aulakh, BVSc, MS, MS, DACVS**, assistant professor of companion animal surgery in VCS, received his BVSc & AH in 2003 from the College of Veterinary Sciences Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana, India. He received his first MS in 2006 from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Kentucky. Dr. Aulakh then completed his Small Animal Rotating Internship in 2009, his Small Animal Specialty Surgical Internship in 2010, his second MS in 2013 and lastly, his Small Animal Surgery Residency in 2013, all from the University of Virginia–Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine located in Blacksburg, Virginia. Dr. Aulakh is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons –Small Animal. His clinical interests focus on canine stifle (knee joint), as well as orthopedic surgery, knee stabilization surgery, total joint replacement and thoracic surgery, among other interests.

**Kate Barnes, DVM, MS**, assistant professor of companion animal surgery in VCS, received her DVM in 2011 from Oregon State University, then did a one-year rotating internship at Cornell. In 2015, Dr. Barnes received her MS in a combined program of biomedical and veterinary sciences, and completed a small animal surgery residency at Virginia Tech University. Dr. Barnes’ area of expertise is in small animal surgery. In 2011 she received the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Award-Small Animal and the Merck Veterinary Manual Award, among other awards.

**Michael Behnke, PhD**, assistant professor in Pathobiological Sciences (PBS), received his BS from Northern Arizona University in 1994 and his PhD from Montana State University in 2008. His research interests focus on Apicomplexan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* and the development of the parasite, as well as profiling the merozoite stage to determine the effectiveness of differentiation.

**Rebecca Christofferson, MS, PhD**, assistant professor in PBS, received her BS from LSU in 1998. She then received her MS in 2005 and PhD in 2011, both from LSU. Dr. Christofferson’s research focuses on the transmission of emerging viruses, especially vector-borne viruses like dengue and chikungunya.

**Brandy Duhon, DVM (LSU SVM 2013)**, instructor of shelter medicine and surgery in VCS, received her BS from LSU in 2005 and her DVM from the LSU SVM in 2013. She served as a shelter medicine fellow from 2013 to 2015.

**Britta Leise, DVM (LSU SVM 2002), MS, PhD, DCVS**, assistant professor of equine surgery in VCS, received her BS from Virginia Tech in animal
science in 1995. She received her MS in 1997 and DVM in 2002, both from LSU. She completed her internship in 2003 at the University of Georgia and her residency at LSU in 2007. She later received her PhD from Ohio State University in 2010. Dr. Leise is a diplomate of the College of Veterinary Surgeons. Her research focuses on orthopedics, soft issue, surgical oncology, arthroscopy and laparoscopy procedures, equine laminitis and wound healing.

Aliya “Yani” Magee, DVM (LSU SVM 2009), MS, DACVIM, assistant professor of veterinary cardiology in VCS, received her BS from Spelman College in 1995 and her DVM from the LSU SVM in 2009. She received her MS from Purdue University in 2013 and completed her cardiology residency at Purdue, also in 2013. Dr. Magee is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Cardiology).

Grant Middleton, DVM (LSU SVM 2011), DACVR, instructor of diagnostic imaging in VCS, received his BA and DVM both from LSU. In 2015, Dr. Middleton became a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Radiology. Dr. Middleton’s area of expertise is in diagnostic imaging. In 2011 he received the American College of Veterinary Radiology Award, Hershey Comeaux Memorial Award of Excellence and American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Certificate of Clinical Excellence, among other awards.

Tirumalai Rangasamy, BSc, MSc, PhD, assistant professor (research) in PBS, received his BSc in 1986, his MSc in 1988 and his PhD in 1997, all from the University of Madras in India. He has won many awards for his work over the years, which include the Peter Henson Award (2011), Best Abstract-Travel Award (2011), Best Research Poster Presentation Award (2005), among other awards. Dr. Rangasamy’s research interest focuses on identifying the genetic mechanisms of susceptibility to oxidative stress related lung diseases such as cigarette smoke (CS)–induced chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), allergic asthma, and acute lung injury and septic shock.

Sean P. Riley, PhD, assistant professor in PBS, received his PhD from the University of Kentucky in 2008. Dr. Riley’s research focuses on the bacteria of the genus Rickettsia and infected mammals. Many rickettsiae, including R. prowazekii, R. typhi, R. rickettsii, and R. conorii, are extremely pathogenic organisms that are transmitted to animals through arthropod feeding. His research helps to define the basic interaction between the host and pathogen so that we can identify therapeutic targets to defeat these life threatening infections.

Clare Scully, MA, DVM, MS, assistant professor of food animal health maintenance in VCS, received her DVM from the University of Tennessee in 2011 and received her MS from Oregon State University in 2015. Her clinical interests include advanced reproduction techniques in ruminants, pain management in food animals, as well as food animal surgery. In 2013 Dr. Scully won the Western Veterinary Conference Food Animal Incentive Award and was awarded the Society of Theriogenology Emerging Leader Scholarship in 2014.

Jennifer Sones, DVM (LSU SVM 2008), PhD, assistant professor of theriogenology, received her BS from LSU in 2004 and her DVM from the LSU SVM in 2008. She received her PhD from Cornell University in 2014 in molecular and integrative physiology. She completed her theriogenology residency at Cornell.
New Faculty

Ramesh Subramanian, BSc, MSc, PhD, assistant professor in PBS, received his BSc in 1994, his MSc in 1996 and his PhD in 2003, all from the Osmania University in India. Dr. Subramanian joined the LSU SVM in 2005 as a post-doctoral fellow. His primary research interests are in cancer research. He works on the development of oncolytic viral therapies for treatment of melanoma and breast cancer. Dr. Subramanian also works actively with the Center for Experimental Infectious Disease Research and is the assistant director of the MCBR core of the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network.

Kui Yang, DVM, MS, PhD, assistant professor in PBS, received his DVM from Huazhong Agricultural University in China in 1989. He received his MS in 1992 and his PhD in 1995, both from the Nanjing Agricultural University (China). He has been a member of the American Society for Microbiology since 2007. His work has been published in many academic journals and reviews, including the Journal of Virology, Archives of Virology, Journal of Virological Methods, BMC Veterinary Research, the American Journal of Veterinary Research, among others. Dr. Yang’s research focuses on understanding the mechanism of herpes simplex virus (HSV) DNA cleavage and packaging, and the molecular basis of HSV capsid assembly and egress. These processes are potential targets for new antiviral compounds.

LSU Distinguished Faculty Awards

Each spring, LSU recognizes the teaching, research and service of its faculty with more than 120 awards presented at the Distinguished Faculty Awards Ceremony. Twenty-four faculty members honored in 2015 received awards underwritten by the LSU Alumni Association, including 10 recipients of the new Rising Faculty Research Award. LSU SVM faculty members Charles Lee, PhD, and Cherie Pucheu-Haston, DVM (LSU SVM 1992), PhD, DACVD, each received a Rising Faculty Research Award.

Dr. Lee, assistant professor in Comparative Biomedical Sciences, is investigating how the brain transforms sensory information into a neural signal and how the emergent properties of the brain arise from those neural signals. Dr. Pucheu, assistant professor of veterinary dermatology in Veterinary Clinical Sciences, is investigating the development of in vitro screening assays for the identification of strongly allergic compounds, the development and use of minimally invasive models for preclinical evaluation of anti-allergic therapies, and the development of improved methods for the diagnosis of food allergies in animals.

Attending the LSU Distinguished Faculty Awards Ceremony were (from left to right) Dale Paccamonti, DVM, MS, DACT, head of Veterinary Clinical Sciences; Lorrie Gaschen, DVM, Dr.med. vet., PhD, Dr.habil., DECVDI, associate dean for diversity and faculty affairs; Joseph Taboada, DVM, DACVIM, associate dean for veterinary education and student affairs; Cherie Pucheu-Haston, DVM (LSU SVM 1992), PhD, DACVD, assistant professor of veterinary dermatology; Charles Lee, PhD, assistant professor in Comparative Biomedical Sciences; and Joel Baines, VMD, PhD, dean. Drs. Pucheu and Lee each received one of only 10 Rising Faculty Research Awards.
The students in the Class of 2019 began their professional veterinary journey with the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine on August 15 when they started orientation. On August 19, they received their blue lab coats and took the professional oath of conduct.

The LSU SVM received 809 applications for this class. Of these 809 applications, 176 were submitted by Louisiana residents, 39 were submitted by Arkansas residents, and 594 came from other states and Puerto Rico. The LSU SVM admitted 86 students (62 from Louisiana, nine from Arkansas, and 15 from other states and Puerto Rico).

Seventy members of the class are female (81 percent) and 16 are male (19 percent). The students’ ages range from 20 to 37 for a median age of 23.

Of the 86 students accepted into this class, 36 had college degrees at the date of their acceptance into veterinary school (20 BS, seven BA, four Master’s, three AS and two other). Fifty-nine students did not have a degree by their acceptance date (a college degree is not required to be accepted into the LSU SVM though students need at least two years of college courses in order to meet the minimum requirements, which can be found online at www.lsu.edu/vetmed under Apply).

The average required course GPA for the entire class was 3.80. For students from Louisiana, the average required course GPA was 3.82; for Arkansas, it was 3.73; and for other states, it was 3.76. The average GRE score (verbal and quantitative) for this class was 306 with averages of 305, 300 and 311 for Louisiana, Arkansas and out-of-state residents, respectively.
The LSU SVM conferred 84 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees at its 39th annual Veterinary Medicine Commencement Exercises on Monday, May 11.

Marjorie Gill, DVM, MS, DABVP, professor of farm animal health management in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, gave the commencement address at the 2 p.m. ceremony. Dr. Gill retired from the LSU SVM in 2015 after serving more than 30 years on the faculty.

Joel Baines, VMD, PhD, dean and Dr. Kenneth F. Burns Chair in Veterinary Medicine, presided over the ceremony, and James M. Moore, Jr., member of the LSU Board of Supervisors, conferred the degrees. Lauren Stump (Class of 2015) opened the ceremony with the invocation. Program speakers included Mr. Moore; Jane Cassidy, PhD, senior vice provost; Clifford Vannoy, president/CEO of the LSU Alumni Association; Martha Littlefield, DVM (LSU SVM 1982), assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, representing the School of Veterinary Medicine alumni; and Kirk Ryan, DVM, DACVIM, associate professor of veterinary medicine and president of the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Baines led the graduates in taking the Veterinarian’s Oath, and Dr. Matthew Greene (Class of 2015) closed the ceremony with the benediction.

The Class of 2015 was selected from 702 people who applied to the LSU SVM (135 from Louisiana, 35 from Arkansas and 532 from other states). Of those, 88 students were admitted to the class (61 from Louisiana, nine from Arkansas and 18 from other states). There were 22 men and 66 women. The average age was 23.9 (range 19 to 50). The average GRE score was 1137, and the average GPA at the time of application was 3.78.
CLASS OF 2015 FAST FACTS

- **$76,482** Average Starting Salary
- **$66,455** Average starting salary in Louisiana
- **$173,599** Average Debt
- **$81,495** Average starting salary outside of Louisiana
- **38** Graduates pursuing small animal medicine
- **12** Graduates pursuing advanced studies
- **70** Graduates with debt (out of 84)
- **8** Graduates pursuing mixed animal medicine
- **32** Graduates working in states other than Louisiana and Arkansas
- **3** Graduates pursuing equine medicine
- **17** Graduates remaining in Louisiana
- **2** Graduates working in Arkansas

*51 of the 84 students in the Class of 2015 completed the AVMA survey from which these facts are derived.*
**Life at the LSU SVM**

Veterinary students Megan Partyka (Class of 2016) and Cheryl Chooljian (Class of 2017) at the 2015 Open House. Cheryl is holding Indy, an American kestrel and one of our education birds.

Veterinary students Tiarra Spencer and Rob Garrison (both Class of 2017) explain cardiology to a few of the more than 6,300 people who attended the 2015 Open House. Our 2016 Open House will take place on February 20.

The Class of 2019 participating in the Freshman Leadership Experience, a day filled with team-building exercises that is the start of the first-year orientation.

Yaritza Serrano-Laureano (Class of 2015) was the mentor for Jordimar Rodriguez (Class of 2016) for the Year III Coating Ceremony.

Veterinary students painted Homes for Hounds that were donated to local shelters and rescue organizations. The first place dog house was painted by veterinary students Erin Olsen, Catherine Breland, Sara Roy and Jim Chaffin.

For information on upcoming events at the LSU SVM, go to www.lsu.edu/vetmed and click on News & Events.
A goose was shot with an arrow at City Park Lake and brought to the LSU SVM. The arrow was removed, and the goose was released. The Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana treats 1,800 wildlife cases each year, and the release rate is 45 percent (slightly higher than the national average).

On March 26, 2015, the LSU SVM dedicated its zoological medicine service in honor of Dr. Sheldon Bivin, who created our service.

The LSU SVM has hosted the Great Rover Road Run since 1993. This 5K run and 1 mile fun run/walk with your dog will take place in 2016 on February 27.

Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day is held on the last Wednesday in September and highlights research conducted by faculty, staff and students. Keith Jarrett (Class of 2017) received a first place award in the Basic Research student competition in 2015 and fourth place in the Clinical Research student competition in 2014.

First- and second-year students spend two weeks each year on Problem-based Learning. Each PBL group is given a clinical case and must come up with a diagnosis and treatment protocol.
Kevin D. Dunlavy, DVM  
(LSU SVM 1991), veterinarian who worked with Triple Crown Winner, American Pharoah

**When were you first introduced to American Pharoah?**

I started working with American Pharoah when he arrived at Churchill Downs prior to the 2015 Kentucky Derby. My normal routine is checking with the Baffert Stable daily, so I saw Pharoah almost every day. After winning the Kentucky Derby, Bob Baffert continued to use Churchill Downs as his training base so I continued to monitor American Pharoah throughout the Triple Crown campaign.

**What were the most interesting things you learned about American Pharoah while working with him?**

I guess it’s always easier to say in hindsight, but he always did seem to have a special quality about him. He’s a magnificent animal to look at, but when you watch him in motion you truly appreciate his athleticism. Pharoah has an effortless stride and just seems to glide over the ground when he runs. Without a doubt, one of his most impressive characteristics is his demeanor. He is kind to be around and easy to handle. I can assure that is not a typical attribute of most 3 year old Thoroughbred colts. He loves carrots and doesn’t eat peppermints or sugar cubes. Maybe he’s watching his figure.

**What type of work have you done with him?**

Fortunately, there was not a lot of veterinary work required. American Pharoah was extremely healthy throughout the Triple Crown. A typical week included physical and lameness exams, periodic endoscopic exams and just monitoring his overall health.
What made you want to be a veterinarian?

My family has been in the horse business my whole life. So from an early age I would accompany the veterinarians whenever they came to the barn to work. My interest started there and just continued to grow. I loved the problem solving approach to working with the animals. Ultimately, I knew it was the career path for me.

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your career?

The education and foundation from the LSU SVM was great. The faculty truly took a personal interest in your success. I have continued to stay in touch with faculty mentors. I still seek their advice out to this day.

What was the LSU SVM like when you attended?

It was a close kniit community. You really had an opportunity to get to know everyone from students to faculty. There was also a fun tradition of student and faculty mixers.

What does the LSU SVM mean to you?

Considering, I met my wife there, best friends to this day there and started my professional career there, I would say it represents a pretty special time in my life.

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

Being on Equine Surgery Block with Dr. Pete Haynes and treating a severe colic case. During the surgery it was discovered that some intestine had passed through a diaphragmatic hernia. Unfortunately, the horse didn’t fare well, but the case made a real impression on me in that each case is its own.

What did you do after graduation but prior to working with American Pharoah?

I have been in equine practice since graduating. Since 1996 my home base has been Louisville, Ky. I am currently the managing partner for Kentucky Equine Medical Associates. There are six veterinarians in the group, and we service clients in Kentucky, Indiana, Arkansas and Louisiana. I have and continue to be an active member of AAEP serving as a committee member and on the “On Call Team.”

American Pharoah
Born/foaled: February 2, 2012
Father/Sire: Pioneer of the Nile
Mother/Dam: Littleprincessemma
Owner: Ahmed Zayat at Zayat Stables
Trainer: Bob Baffert
Rider: Victor Espinoza
First American Triple Crown winner in 37 years and 12th in history.
His winning time was the second-fastest for a Triple Crown winner, and his closing quarter-mile time of 24.32 was faster than Secretariat’s. American Pharoah’s name is misspelled due to an error in his electronic application to the Jockey Club’s registration site. Pharoah with the “a” before “o” is the correct spelling. The Jockey Club has since reserved both spellings to ensure that no other race horse can be similarly named.
What made you want to pursue a career that includes research?

I became interested in research during my residency training in clinical pathology. I rotated through several laboratories at the LSU SVM and found the possibilities for creative research intriguing. It was during one of these rotations that I was first exposed to vector-borne disease research; it turns out that I liked working with ticks a lot more than I could have anticipated.

What is your primary area of research?

My primary area of research is tick-borne bacterial disease, specifically at the interface of the arthropod vector and the vertebrate host. I have worked with both rickettsial diseases and the Lyme disease spirochete.

What are your responsibilities at the LSU SVM?

I am on clinics 50 percent of the time, which involves overseeing routine CBC, serum chemistry and urinalysis assays, along with evaluation of cytology samples. I also teach veterinary clinical pathology to the second- and fourth-year students while mentoring two veterinary clinical pathology residents. I am also a facilitator for the first- and second-year Problem-based Learning courses. I’ve been on the Scholarships and Awards committee and the Admissions committee for the last two years, and I’m currently serving as the chair of the Admissions committee. I also teach advanced clinical pathology rotations for the internal medicine and surgery residents for both the small and large animal services. I work collaboratively with the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory within the LSU SVM on research projects and with the Embers Laboratory at the Tulane National Primate Research Center.
I recently became more involved with my specialty college, where I just completed a year serving as a proctor for the American College of Veterinary Pathologists certifying examination.

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

Without the LSU SVM, I would likely not have been involved in arthropod research at all. We have excellent facilities located within the main SVM building that are designed for arthropod research. Additionally, the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory is a unique aggregate of scientists with expertise in vector-borne research that is extraordinarily beneficial to anyone interested in such diseases. I was able to learn techniques in which very few researchers in the world are well-versed.

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

One of the most memorable moments during my time as a graduate student was the week that I submitted two manuscripts for publication. It’s very unusual to submit manuscripts in such short order, and my mentor, Kevin Macaluso, PhD, was adamant about what an accomplishment that was. I also met my wife, Brooke Fahrig Grasperge, DVM, MS, DACLAM, while we were both DVM students at the LSU SVM. She graduated in 2007 and works at the Tulane National Primate Center as a laboratory animal veterinarian. We have two beautiful children, Talon (age 6) and Olivia (age 4).

**Honors and Awards**

- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (2012)
- Phi Zeta Honor Society of Veterinary Medicine (2011)
- Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day Poster Award - First Place (2011)
- CL Davis Foundation Outstanding Graduate Student Award (2009)
- Pathobiological Sciences Graduate Student Symposium Outstanding Presentation Award (2008)

**Alumni Tracks**

**2009**

**Dr. Michael Ryan Smith** completed his residency in emergency/critical care in July 2015. He is now head of the ECC service at Southeast Veterinary Specialists in Metairie, La.

**2010**

**Dr. Jessica Simon Therrien** got married on June 13, 2015. She and her husband, Brent, reside in Kittery,
In 2015, a generous $620,000 gift to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine (LSU SVM) was realized by the estate of Mrs. Audrey June Engelhart. This transformational gift to the School was used to establish the Audrey Engelhart Endowment in Shelter Medicine, the Audrey Engelhart Scholarship in Shelter Medicine and the Audrey Engelhart Scholarship at the LSU SVM.

The Audrey Engelhart Shelter Medicine Endowment will provide the program with financial resources to improve the trap neuter and release program and its results, increase the number of shelter animals made available for adoption, educate students on the importance of shelter medicine to local communities and broaden the scope of services made available to surrounding shelters. In addition, given the rising cost of college tuition, Mrs. Engelhart’s two scholarships will go a long way in helping to off-set the debt burden of many LSU SVM graduates for years to come.

Audrey June Engelhart lived in Alexandria until she met and married the late Gerald Engelhart. They moved to Baton Rouge after their marriage, where Gerald worked as a civil engineer. Judy Bartow was asked by Mrs. Engelhart to serve as the executrix to her estate. Judy and her husband, Don, worked for Gerald for years, which is how they met Audrey. They became long-time friends to Mrs. Engelhart. According to Judy, Mrs. Engelhart had a love for Baton Rouge, LSU and all animals...but especially cats! Audrey was given her first cat when she was just two years old, and was almost never without at least one from that day on.

While Mrs. Engelhart decided that her estate would be given to charities, she decided to give the honor of choosing those charities to Judy. During one of their last visits, Judy brought up the idea of endowing a veterinary scholarship to LSU. Audrey visibly brightened, and said, “Yes! Can we go tomorrow?” While that meeting was not to be, there was no doubt that this was the best way to memorialize a very dear friend.

“With this gift, we can ensure that the shelter medicine program will continue,” said Wendy Wolfson, DVM (LSU SVM 1987), assistant professor of shelter medicine and surgery and the director of the shelter medicine program. “Animals and shelters will continue to be served, and students will continue to learn the importance of veterinary care for shelter animals.”

These three endowments will allow the LSU SVM to dramatically improve its Shelter Medicine Program, which is less than 10 years old, and her gift will generate funds to sustain these initiatives in perpetuity. The LSU SVM is extremely grateful to Judy and Don Bartow for their thoughtfulness and passion towards honoring Mrs. Engelhart’s love for animals and generously including us in Mrs. Engelhart’s estate.
Grants Support Outreach Programs

We are pleased to announce that the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine recently received two grants to help with our outreach programs. The Coypu Foundation generously funded a $100,000 grant for new flight cages for our Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana. Our current flight cages are over 34 years old and have surpassed their life expectancy. The vast majority of the birds admitted to the hospital are rehabilitated using our current flight cages. The new flight cages will ensure that we can increase our caseload and sustain this program for the LSU SVM.

Nestlé Purina has generously committed $100,000 to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine’s Shelter Medicine Program to fund the Mobile Unit. It will cover upkeep and maintenance of the vehicle, as well as provide for a part-time driver over the next five years. This gift is one of many generous contributions that has come from Nestlé Purina to the LSU SVM throughout the years.

The Development Team is dedicated to building relationships and seeking private funds to help the LSU SVM continue its mission of teaching, healing and discovery. Please contact any member of our team if you’d like to learn how your gift can improve the lives of people and animals.

Tracy Nye Evans
Senior Director of Development
225-578-9870
tracy@lsu.edu

Clayton Forbes
Associate Director of Development
225-578-9826
claytonf@lsu.edu

Gretchen Morgan, CFRE
Director of Alumni and Donor Relations
225-578-9565
gmorgan@lsu.edu

Meghan Dauler
Associate Director of Development
225-578-9948
mdauler@lsu.edu

Make a gift to help the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine!
www.lsufoundation.org/givetovetmed
Thanks to a generous donation from Purina, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine (LSU SVM) recently renovated the food preparation room in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. “The Purina Nutrition Center allows the hospital to have multiple types of foods available for our patients, gives the students access to all types/brands of both prescription and maintenance foods with which to become familiar, and also allows us to help transition patients to a new food by sending home samples,” said Nancy Welborn, DVM (LSU SVM 1990), assistant professor of community practice. “We also are planning to upload nutrition modules in the kitchen’s computer for student access. We can also offer weight loss plans to patients.”

The Purina Nutrition Center contains food for exotic pets, dogs and cats. Appliances, including a refrigerator, dishwashers, microwaves and blenders are also available for use. Dry food is stored in clear plastic dispensers, and canned food is stored in racks. Everything is clearly labeled and easy to find. Other food products available for use include baby food, chicken and treats.

“As a veterinarian for Purina, I have the honor of helping improve the clinical nutrition education of veterinary students,” said Lauren Pagliughi, DVM, veterinary communications manager for Nestlé Purina PetCare. “From biannual lunch lectures on a variety of clinical topics such as obesity and canine cognitive dysfunction, to awarding Purina grants to support various wet labs and guest speakers for veterinary clubs, Purina is able to positively impact the education and experiences of future veterinarians. Of particular importance is the presence of our Purina Nutrition Centers at more than a one-third of the U.S.
veterinary schools. These state-of-the-art nutrition centers allow students to have exposure to a variety of veterinary therapeutic and maintenance diets. These centers allow the students, staff and faculty to get first-hand experience with optimal nutrition choices for their canine and feline patients. Each school adorned with a Purina Nutrition Center has created a committee that worked directly with a Purina hired architect to design the space to their particular specifications. Each nutrition center is custom designed to fit the space and needs of the university. We don't ask for exclusivity in the Purina Nutrition Center, only that we are equally represented among the other pet food companies. Again, this allows students to gain a broad exposure of different brands so that they are better prepared upon graduation. At Purina, we believe that nutrition education and expertise is of utmost importance for today’s veterinarians.

“The LSU SVM values its corporate partners like Purina,” said Joel Baines, VMD, PhD, dean. “Partnerships like this one have a direct, positive impact on our faculty, staff, students and patients, and we are grateful to Purina for their generosity and their commitment to veterinary education.”
The members of the graduating class of 2015 enjoying a silly moment before receiving their diplomas.