Welcome, Dean Constable

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Illinois Impact Goes to Washington

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Chicago Center Announces Name Changes
The Future of Veterinary Medicine at Illinois

By Dean Peter Constable

My sincere thanks go out to the faculty, students and staff at the college and the many alumni and friends who have extended a warm welcome to me since I joined the college as dean in January.

I've spent these first months immersed in learning about the outstanding people and programs at Illinois. This issue of Veterinary Report highlights a number of Illinois pride points, with updates on recent praise from the AVMA Council on Education for the Illinois veterinary curriculum, enhancements to the Clinical Skills Learning Center, and expanded opportunities for students in small animal surgery, study abroad, and biomedical research, to name just a few.

If you do not know me from my years in the food animal medicine and surgery section at Illinois, from 1993 to 2005, I will share a little about myself. I am a native Australian who completed my veterinary studies at the University of Melbourne. I practiced in Australia and England before studying at The Ohio State University, where I completed an ambulatory internship and food animal medicine and surgery residency and earned both a master’s and a PhD. I am boarded in veterinary internal medicine and nutrition.

From 2005 to 2013 I was head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at Purdue's veterinary college. My leadership style there and at Illinois is to build consensus within the organization around a short list of aspirational objectives that can be accomplished within five years, then to share these goals broadly, forge partnerships, and catalyze the community within the college to allocate resources and achieve our goals.

I value honesty and transparency in all interactions; collegiality and teamwork; diversity and creativity as well as respect for tradition; and listening, communicating, and celebrating success.

The University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine is truly an innovator and leader in veterinary education, a place where animal patients receive compassionate care from clinical and diagnostic experts, and where science advances animal and human health.

I am proud to lead this organization in its mission of education, healing, and discovery, and grateful for the partnership of our faculty, students, staff, and supporters in elevating Illinois among the best veterinary programs in the nation.

Please feel free to contact me at dean@vetmed.illinois.edu.

I hope you can attend my presentation at Fall Conference on Thursday, September 11, at 8 a.m. For registration details, see page 24.
In May the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine graduated 102 women and 20 men in the Class of 2014, the second class to be educated under the new integrated Illinois veterinary curriculum.

The curriculum was hailed as innovative by the site visit team from the Council on Education (COE) of the American Veterinary Medical Association, which spent five days at the college in April 2013 as part of the seven-year cycle of accreditation review.

Last fall as a result of the visit, the college was granted full accreditation status—the highest standard of achievement for veterinary medical education in the United States.

The COE team’s report highlighted many areas of excellence at the college, including several newly introduced since the previous accreditation review in 2006:

- An “innovative, integrated curriculum . . . [that] provides clinical exposure early in the program”;
- The Clinical Skills Learning Center, an innovative resource for hands-on student learning and assessment;
- Web-based curriculum management software used to speed detection and response to concerns with a student’s performance in class or students’ feedback on course content and materials;
- The Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine, which provides an outstanding facility where students can engage in contemporary primary care practice;
- Shelter medicine electives that expand students’ experience with entry-level surgery;
- Innovative instructional materials and information technology applications that enhance student learning, including lecture capture, iTunesU, and Aperio digital microscopy;
- Extracurricular opportunities, including business and finance education through the student chapter of the Veterinary Business Management Association and hands-on clinical experience through the Wildlife Medical Clinic;
- A holistic approach to evaluate non-academic admission criteria.

Commence to practice. Of the 122 graduates in the Class of 2014, more than 80 indicated on an exit survey that they would be entering small animal practice. Ten said they would be working in a mixed animal practice, eight cited exotics, and the rest were starting their careers in academia, equine or large animal practice, or shelter medicine.

Professional advantage. In the weeks before graduation, seven members of the Class of 2014 participated in a new two-week professional development course with Dr. Heidi Phillips to learn about laparoscopic surgery. The first week was spent practicing with inanimate objects, toys, vegetables, and cadavers to develop skills used in the procedure. The second week each student successfully performed a laparoscopic spay on a shelter dog. “Illinois graduates may have a competitive edge on the job market when they can introduce new skills to their practices,” said Dr. Phillips.
Communications is key. The college's extensive Clinical Skills Learning Center grew by more than 2,000 sq. ft. last fall with the opening of a communications center. The center has a conference room and four mock exam rooms equipped to record students as they engage in communications exercises, such as with a person pretending to be a client.

New training tool. Thanks to a gift from the Charles and Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation, the Clinical Skills Learning Center recently added a canine intubation mannequin made in The Netherlands by Forma Fundo. “This model has been a great advantage over our previous models,” said Dr. Lorrie Hale-Mitchell. “It contains an esophagus, whereas our previous models had only a trachea, so this creates a more true-to-life experience.”

Gimme Shelter Medicine:

Earlier this year the AVMA Executive Board voted unanimously to give provisional recognition to shelter medicine as a unique veterinary specialty concentrated on improving the health and well-being of animals that live in shelter environments.

That’s good news for Dr. Bob Weedon, a faculty member in veterinary clinical medicine who divides his time between leading the college’s shelter medicine program and serving as staff veterinarian at the Champaign County Humane Society.

Dr. Weedon has rapidly expanded the veterinary student experience in shelter medicine since joining the humane society in 2011. He oversees clinical rotations for first-, second-, and fourth-year veterinary students at area animal shelters, lectures on shelter medicine in the core curriculum, offers an introductory and an advanced shelter medicine elective course, and serves as the adviser for the Illinois Student Chapter of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians, an indefatigable group that is having a big impact on pet overpopulation in central Illinois.

That might be enough activity for some, but Dr. Weedon has his sights set higher: his long-term goal for the Illinois program is to establish a shelter medicine residency program to provide specialized training for future veterinarians entering this field.

“The fact that a new board specialty is coming demonstrates that shelter medicine is its own entity and is a unique area of practice distinct from general small animal medicine and surgery,” he said.

The shelter medicine program got a big boost on October 23, when the College of Veterinary Medicine received a $323,000 grant from PetSmart Charities. The grant will pay for supplies and fund an intern veterinarian, a veterinary technician, and a mobile sterilization trailer.

Dr. Weedon and Brenda Betts, associate dean for advancement, spent almost a year developing the grant application, and there is still a bit of red tape to clear away before the trailer can be purchased and equipped.
Weedon Leads Illinois Program, Wins Grant from PetSmart Charities

“Not all shelters have the resources to sterilize animals prior to adoption, so this funding will allow us to provide a no- or low-cost sterilization program without any additional cost to the shelter,” Dr. Weedon said.

“The mobile unit will be important for assisting shelters that do not have a facility adequate for surgeries,” he said. “It also will increase our efficiency, since we won’t have to set up surgical facilities at each different location. Ultimately, the entire grant will mean more students getting more surgical experience and more animals and their owners benefitting from pet sterilizations, which are goals that PetSmart Charities wants to assist.

“Last year, students in the shelter medicine rotation sterilized about 1,500 animals, which translates to approximately thirty animals per student. With this grant, we hope to achieve 3,000 animal sterilizations in the first year. This means a minimum of fifty solo surgeries per student and an ability to offer more effective sterilization services to the central Illinois area.”

Financial contributions to the Illinois shelter medicine program are still needed. To find out how you can help, call Brenda Betts, associate dean for advancement, at 217-333-5545.

—Based on reporting by Kody Carr, Class of 2015

“With this grant, we hope to achieve . . . a minimum of fifty solo surgeries per student and an ability to offer more effective sterilization services to the central Illinois area.”

C.A.R.A. (Citizens for Animal Rescue and Adoption) in Tilton, Ill., is one of several area shelters visited regularly by the shelter medicine rotation, which gives each student experience performing as many as 50 solo sterilization surgeries for dogs and cats.
About the Class of 2017

- The college welcomed 123 students into the Illinois veterinary program with a Blue Coat Ceremony on August 25. The students ranged in age from 20 to 32 years and included 89 Illinois residents and only 15 males.
- More than a quarter had attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for their undergraduate studies, and nearly a tenth had attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill.
- Other schools represented include Colorado State, Iowa State, Michigan State, Purdue, Texas A&M, the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin, and Yale University.
- Eleven students entered the program without having completed a bachelor’s degree.
- Undergraduate majors ranged from agriculture to zoology, and also included anthropology, biochemistry, finance, journalism, and psychology.
- Class of 2017 members at the Illinois Veterinary Leadership Experience before classes started and boning up on anatomy during first-quarter clinical rotations.
Teaching, Serving, Learning Across Five Continents

Most summers Dr. Margarethe Hoenig, veterinary clinical medicine and director of the college's study abroad program, leads Illinois students on a two-week trip to Germany to learn about the food safety and public health systems there.

Last year there was a twist: Dr. Hoenig organized two study abroad programs—to China and Tanzania—while Dr. Duncan Ferguson, head of comparative biosciences and, coincidentally, Dr. Hoenig’s spouse, went to Germany.

Dr. Ferguson was selected as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and spent August 2013 through February 2014 at the University of Veterinary Medicine, or Tierärztliche Hochschule, fondly known as “TiHo,” in Hanover. His funding was for exploring the systematic development of critical clinical thinking skills by veterinary professionals, and he co-taught case- and exercise-based elective courses in clinical pharmacology and clinical endocrinology. He also attended clinical rounds at the university’s small animal teaching hospital each morning.

Visit the website at vetmed.illinois.edu/intl/ to read the students’ accounts of their experiences:

- **China**: Ten Illinois students and students from three other U.S. veterinary colleges accompanied Drs. Hoenig and Stuart Clark-Price to study veterinary acupuncture at China Agricultural University in Beijing.

- **England**: One student participated in a small animal emergency and critical care rotation.

- **Ireland**: One student studied equine medicine in Ireland.

- **Mexico**: Two Illinois students went to the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexico City to learn about avian and small animal medicine.

- **Nicaragua**: Five Illinois students participated in a spay/neuter service trip organized through VIDA; two students also performed clinical service in Nicaragua last year.

- **Peru**: One fourth-year student received rotation credit for a two-week trip organized by an international equine service group to provide medical care to working mules and horses in rural Peru.

- **Switzerland**: One second-year student arranged a four-week experience in ophthalmology at the University of Zurich.

- **Tanzania**: Four Illinois students and one from Colorado State traveled with Drs. Hoenig and Avery Bennett (of Lauderdale Veterinary Specialist, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) to perform veterinary services in rural areas, with sponsorship from Illinois, Boehringer Ingelheim, Nestle Purina, Merial, and the College of Veterinary Medicine of Sokoine University in Morogoro.

To find out how you can support the college’s study abroad efforts, please contact Brenda Betts, associate dean for advancement, at 217-333-5545.
In March I had the privilege of representing Illinois at the annual conference of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges. As part of the meeting, I and other veterinary deans visited elected officials in the nation’s capital. For me, it was also a chance to see our college’s leadership on issues of national importance. These profiles are just a sampling of alumni, faculty, and students contributing to “one health” initiatives, legislative reform, and more. — Dean Peter Constable

Herrmann Honored for Public Policy Leadership

“At a time when public policy is often swayed by ideology and political agendas, Dr. Herrmann has served as a voice of scientific reason and logic,” said a nominator of Dr. John A. Herrmann, who received the 2014 Senator John Melcher, DVM Leadership in Public Policy Award from the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges.

During Dr. Herrmann’s 25 years in private practice in Freeport, Ill., he became involved in public health issues at the county and state levels, eventually returning to school to earn a master’s degree in public health. Since 2003, he has been an adjunct professor at the School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago and at the College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Rockford.

In 2004, Dr. Herrmann served as an AAAS/AVMA Science and Technology Policy Fellow, advising on public health and agricultural issues in the office of Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL).

The following year he joined the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine, where he has built one of the country’s largest Doctor of Veterinary Medicine/Master of Public Health joint degree programs, which has enrolled 57 students over the past 10 years.

Dr. Herrmann also directs the college’s Center for One Health Illinois, which last August convened experts from local and state health agencies and academia for the second “One Health Illinois Summit.” As with the first One Health Summit, held in 2010, the meeting focused on improving infrastructure for detecting and responding to health threats among human, domestic animal, and wildlife populations in the state.

Schrader’s Veterinary Background Informs U.S. House Role

“Veterinary practice was great training for Congress,” said Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) in a recent interview. “Animals don’t talk, so you have to learn body language.”

A year after earning his veterinary degree from the University of Illinois in 1977, Dr. Schrader opened the Clackamas County Veterinary Clinic in Oregon. In addition to owning a veterinary practice and farming, he spent more than ten years in the Oregon legislature before heading to Washington, D.C., where he is currently serving his third term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“One of the biggest things is learning to communicate on topics that are difficult. Communicating with clients in an exam room trained me to engage in a two-way dialog and to talk about complex subjects in a factual—not condescending—way, so folks understand what is going on.”

He encourages the younger generations of veterinarians to get involved in industry, government, and public health.

“There are tremendous opportunities to use the expertise of veterinarians in the public health and food safety arenas at the state and federal levels,” he said.

In 2013 he and Rep. Ted Yoho (R-Fla.), the only other veterinarian serving in Congress, introduced the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act to amend drug enforcement laws that hinder veterinarians’ ability to
Varela Sees DVMs’ Impact in D.C.

“As a kid I wanted to be a small animal veterinarian. I enjoy like diagnosing and treating patients and interacting with pet owners,” said Dr. Kate Varela, who completed her Illinois DVM in 2012.

But Dr. Varela came to want her veterinary career to have a broader impact. After earning a bachelor’s degree in the Program in the Environment at the University of Michigan, she had a policy fellowship with Greenpeace in Washington, D.C., for a year before pursuing her veterinary degree. During this time she made the connection between animal health, human health, and the environment.

At Illinois, she entered the DVM/MPH joint degree program. While completing her MPH courses in Chicago in 2013, she was selected for the AAAS/AVMA Science and Technology Policy Fellowship. She ended up serving in Sen. Durbin’s office, following in Dr. Jack Herrmann’s footsteps exactly ten years after he held the same position there.

Highlights of her year as a policy fellow have included researching authoritative data to support policy decisions, getting first-hand insight into the political process, and interacting with influential people, such as the son of Jonas Salk, who developed the polio vaccine.

“It’s been great to meet so many other DVMs pursuing public health careers,” she said, mentioning the One Health Academy, a group of animal and human health professionals in the Washington area who meet monthly to network.

When her year as a policy fellow ends this fall, Dr. Varela plans to remain in the capital and practice veterinary medicine as she explores career options involving agriculture and food policy. Her experience has reinforced the notion that veterinarians can apply their knowledge and skills outside the scope of clinical practice and have a significant influence on policy.

Students’ Experience with AVMA Reveals Breadth of Non-clinical Career Options

With all the energy and enthusiasm of the Dr. Seuss classic “Oh, the Places You’ll Go,” two Illinois students recently recounted their externships at the AVMA at a noon seminar at the college.

Both Jayme Jeffries and Stacey Bunting spent part of their six-week “professional development” course just before graduation in May at the association’s Schaumburg, Ill., headquarters.

Their main takeaway message for current veterinary students: “What’s most exciting is you get to meet some really awesome people and network a lot. You learn there are so many things you can do with a DVM,” said Bunting.

Jeffries externed in the Scientific Activities Division for five weeks, pursuing her interest in aquatic animal medicine by conducting a survey of veterinary colleges to learn what educational opportunities are offered in this area. AVMA has identified aquaculture as an expanding industry where veterinary expertise will be needed.

Bunting spent two weeks in the Animal Welfare Division, where she identified content for a new website. She felt privileged to witness AVMA’s role advancing science-based findings and mediating between entrenched groups with opposing views. (Bunting had also externed with the AVMA’s Governmental Relations Division in Washington, D.C., in 2013 as part of her clinical rotation year, as had her 2014 classmates Spencer White and Terese Noe.)

Both students were impressed and amazed to learn how much AVMA does to protect and promote the veterinary profession, and how eager the organization is for input from students.

“There are tons of chances to get involved,” said Jeffries. “They are looking for members to volunteer on committees, and sometimes those activities may lead to a new job.”
“This is a victory!” proclaimed Dr. Fred Kummerow, a professor of comparative biosciences, upon hearing the news last November that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration had all but declared that partially hydrogenated oils—known as trans fats—can no longer be “generally recognized as safe.”

Dr. Kummerow petitioned the FDA in 2009 to ban trans fats, citing data from decades of his and others’ research that showed the many ways artificial trans fats are harmful to health.

However, the FDA did not take action until November 2013, a few months after Dr. Kummerow filed a lawsuit against the agency for its lack of response to his petition. Now the agency is moving to ban artificial trans fats from the food supply.

In February Dr. Kummerow published another finding that runs contrary to the established medical wisdom about serum cholesterol. He asserted that low-density lipoprotein (LDL), the “bad cholesterol” that doctors consider a sign of potential heart disease, is merely a marker of a diet lacking all of the essential amino acids.

Noting that, unlike other cholesterol-carrying molecules in the blood, LDL includes only a single apo-protein, one that lacks the amino acid tryptophan, Dr. Kummerow reasoned that “LDL is not a marker of heart disease. It’s a marker of […] a lack of tryptophan.”

On April 23, family, friends and colleagues of Dr. Fred Kummerow came together at a symposium celebration in honor of the centennial year of his birth and his tireless contributions to health and science.

University of Illinois president Bob Easter welcomed attendees, telling Dr. Kummerow that “[Your] contributions to human health are tremendous, as are your contributions to the reputation of the University of Illinois as a place where cutting-edge science gets done.”


“I don’t think it’s well-appreciated that he did this by himself. Everybody was quite satisfied with the existing paradigm. He was the only one who said no, there’s more to it,” said Dr. Marshall, owner of IMMUNOM Technologies, Inc. “He is unique in that he tackled a problem no one else saw as a problem.”

If you’d like to support the Dr. Kummerow’s research efforts, please contact Brenda Betts, associate dean for advancement, at 217-333-5545.
Study of Plastics’ Impact Expands

A research program that looks at whether exposure to bisphenol A (BPA) and phthalates alters infant and adolescent physical development, cognition, or behavior recently received a five-year, $8 million grant as part of the Children’s Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers program, jointly funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

“This new grant will allow the center to expand and extend the research we’ve been doing over the past three years,” said Dr. Susan Schantz, director of the program and professor in the Department of Comparative Biosciences.

“While still focusing on BPA and phthalates, the research going forward will address two additional compounds: triclosan, used in antibacterial products, and parabens, commonly found in cosmetics, sun screens, and shampoos,” said Dr. Schantz.

“We are also incorporating diet into the study to explore how endocrine disruptors interact with diets high in saturated fat to impact neurological and reproductive function prena tally and during adolescence—two critical developmental periods.

“There is evidence that BPA is an obesogen, and some studies have suggested that maternal obesity negatively affects child cognition.”

“The Children’s Centers initiative supports transdisciplinary research aimed at understanding and identifying the health effects on children of environmental exposures, with the goal of rapidly translating findings from the research into information that can be used to improve children’s health.”

Two Pathobiology Researchers Win Grand Challenges Grants

Drs. Daniel Rock and Mark Kuhlenschmidt, of pathobiology, each received a 2013 Grand Challenges Explorations grant, an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to explore ideas that can solve persistent global health and development challenges.

Dr. Rock’s project focuses on the development of a novel one-dose vaccine to provide long-term disease control for livestock with a single vaccination, making disease control more viable for farmers in developing nations.

“These vaccines will protect animals whose owners who cannot afford conventional vaccines yet whose lives depend upon their animals’ survival, health and productivity,” said Dr. Rock, who is collaborating on the project with researchers at Illinois, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Connecticut, and Universidade Federal de Santa Maria.

Dr. Kuhlenschmidt is working with two researchers from Washington University in St. Louis to develop a better way to study Cryptosporidium, a protozoan transmitted in contaminated water and a major cause of diarrheal disease and death in humans.

“The real challenge is making a system [for growing the protozoan in the lab] useful for drug screening,” Dr. Kuhlenschmidt said. “If we can make a continuous culture that gives us the ability to look at the entire life cycle of Cryptosporidium, we’ll see rapid progress in making a vaccine or therapy.”

—Based on reporting by Chelsey B. Coombs, News Bureau intern
Rabbits kept indoors could be vitamin D deficient.

Rabbits kept indoors as pets or used in laboratory studies could develop a vitamin D deficiency that could lead to dental problems, undermine their cardiovascular health, weaken their immune systems, and skew scientific findings, according to a study in the *American Journal of Veterinary Research*. The study found that regular exposure to artificial ultraviolet B light for two weeks doubled rabbits’ serum vitamin D levels—an increase not seen in animals raised in artificial light lacking UVB radiation. Future studies will seek to determine optimal levels of UVB exposure and vitamin D levels in rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, and other animals. “We know of several types of diseases that can develop with vitamin D deficiency. Some of the chronic problems we see are tooth-related,” said Dr. Mark Mitchell, veterinary clinical medicine, who led the research. “As a clinician, I want to better manage these animals, give them a longer, higher quality of life.” — Reported by Diana Yates

Cancer drug tested in pet dogs is now bound for human trials.

Thanks to a new $2 million investment, a drug that spurs cancer cells to self-destruct while sparing healthy cells is on the road to human clinical trials geared toward brain cancer patients.

The compound, known as PAC-1, has so far proven safe and has promising anti-cancer effects in cell culture, in mouse models of cancer, and in pet dogs with spontaneously occurring lymphomas and osteosarcomas that received treatment through clinical trials at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Dr. Tim Fan, veterinary clinical medicine, has collaborated with Illinois chemistry professor Paul Hergenrother, who discovered PAC-1’s anti-cancer capabilities in 2006, on years of testing and development of PAC-1 and derivative compounds in dogs.

“In addition to paving the way for the human trial, we have helped many veterinary patients that would not have otherwise received treatments for their cancer,” Dr. Fan said. — Reported by Diana Yates

Anesthetic for amphibians could aid field researchers.

Sabrina M. Stone, Class of 2014, was the lead author on a recent study published in the *American Journal of Veterinary Research* demonstrating effectiveness of a general anesthetic for amphibians that is administered through their skin. The anesthetic jelly could be a low-cost, easy-to-administer form of anesthesia for veterinary work conducted in the field. “Because frogs and toads breathe through their skin, we’re able to paint this on their backs, and it works very well as a general anesthetic,” said Dr. Stuart Clark-Price, veterinary clinical medicine, who served as Stone’s faculty mentor for the research.

Drs. Mark Mitchell and Jordyn Boesch also contributed to the research, which was conducted as part of the college’s 2011 summer research training program for veterinary students and funded through the Merial Veterinary Scholars Research Training Program. — Reported by Sharita Forrest.
New Faces

Drew Sullivan
Clinical Instructor, Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine
■ DVM, University of Illinois

Professional interests: Small animal medicine, small animal ultrasound

Dr. Sullivan graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 2011. He began his career as an associate veterinarian at Northgate Pet Clinic in Decatur, Ill. In 2012, he completed a special certification in small animal ultrasound.

Karanvir Aulakh
Clinical Assistant Professor, Veterinary Clinical Medicine
■ MS, Biomedical and Veterinary Science, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
■ MS, Microbiology & Immunology School of Medicine, University of Louisville
■ BVSc & AH, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, PB, India
■ Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons

Research interests: Canine knee kinematics

Before coming to Illinois, Dr. Karanvir Aulakh completed both a small animal surgery internship and residency at Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. He became boarded in small animal surgery in 2014.

Gary Brummet
Visiting Clinical Instructor, Veterinary Clinical Medicine
■ DVM, University of Illinois

Clinical interests: Small animal primary care

Dr. Brummet is a 1981 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine. He practiced in Placentia, Calif. and Bloomington, Ill., before becoming the owner of A & E Animal Hospital in Urbana. A longtime Illinois colleague and lecturer, he joined the primary care service at Illinois in 2013.

Berit Fischer
Veterinary Clinical Medicine
■ Clinical Assistant Professor
■ DVM, University of Wisconsin-Madison
■ BS, University of Wisconsin-River Falls
■ Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists

Professional interests: New techniques involving locoregional anesthesia and analgesia, acute and chronic pain management

Dr. Fischer has ten years of combined experience in equine and small animal practice. Having completed a rotating internship in large animal surgery and medicine, Dr. Fischer went on to complete an anesthesia residency and has recently become a certified canine rehabilitation practitioner.

Laura Selmic
Assistant Professor, Veterinary Clinical Medicine
■ MPH, Colorado School of Public Health
■ BVetMed, The Royal Veterinary College, University of London
■ Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons
■ Founding Fellow of Surgical Oncology, American College of Veterinary Surgeons

Professional interests: Soft tissue and oncological surgery

After completing a surgical residency at Texas A&M, Dr. Selmic entered a fellowship in cancer surgery at Colorado State University. Most recently, she completed a Master of Public Health degree, also at Colorado State.

George Robert (Bob) Weedon
Clinical Assistant Professor, Veterinary Clinical Medicine (50%)
■ MPH, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
■ DVM, Purdue University

Professional interests: Shelter medicine, animal population control

Dr. Weedon has held teaching positions at Purdue University; University of North Carolina, Wilmington; and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He has been a mentor to Illinois veterinary students since he joined the Champaign County Humane Society staff as shelter veterinarian in January 2011.

Trucks contributed to spread of pig virus.

Dr. Jim Lowe, instructor in veterinary clinical medicine and co-coordinator of the Swine EVP program, led an investigation into the role played by livestock transportation early in the outbreak of the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV), which has killed millions of young pigs.

Veterinarians in six states went to packing plants and sampled 100 trucks at each plant before and after the truck unloaded its delivery of pigs. The data indicate that for every truck that entered the plants contaminated, two trucks were contaminated when they exited. That was consistent across all the plants.

“We surmised that the people who walk on and off between the trucks and the loading docks were carrying the virus on their boots,” said Dr. Lowe.

He said the long-term solution to this avenue of transmission will be building more truck washes, buying more trailers, and changing internal procedures so that the sites with baby pigs don’t ever have contact with the market facilities.

“The devastation with this disease is in the breeding herd. In older pigs, PEDV is pretty mild, but in pigs under seven days old, it is basically 100 percent fatal.” —Reported by Sharita Forrest.
Vet Med Students Spend Summer Hitting the Bench

By Debra Domal

The college’s Summer Research Training Program, now in its 12th year, provides students with an opportunity to perform actual hands-on, benchtop projects in some of the most active college and campus research labs.

Students work independently with support from their mentors. In addition to conducting research and collecting findings, they learn how to create a scientific poster, conduct a literature search, and prepare a manuscript in publication format.

Last summer 13 Illinois veterinary students participated. Molly King, Class of 2015, worked with Dr. Jodi Flaws, comparative biosciences, on a study of phthalate activity in circadian rhythms.

King said she “had never anticipated wanting to do research as a career. Now I find myself at least interested. I would definitely explore that further.”

Arsema Weldu, Class of 2015, worked with department of entomology faculty member Brian Allan on a study of how urban stormwater management impacts the potential for West Nile virus transmission.

“My portion of the bigger project was to extract DNA from blood-fed mosquitos and find out what bird species they fed on throughout the summer,” noted Weldu.

Stepping into a real-life research project is not without its frustrations. In fact, one valuable lesson the program teaches is the importance of patience.

“For the first month or so, all my data was worthless,” noted Mark Byrum, Class of 2016, who worked with Dr. Tim Fan, veterinary clinical medicine, on a canine osteosarcoma study. “I would try and try, and finally I was able to get some valuable data. So if you’re going into research, just know that that’s going to happen.”

The Summer Research Training Program is completely funded by external grants, including the National Institutes of Health. For more information about this program visit vetmed.illinois.edu/research/summertraining/.

Although he originally was planning a career in private practice, Mark Byrum, Class of 2016, was inspired by the summer program to continue working in Dr. Tim Fan’s oncology lab when classes resumed in the fall.

Michelle Piccione, Class of 2016, worked with Dr. Matt Stewart, veterinary clinical medicine, on an equine osteogenesis study. “I did a lot of research as an undergrad,” said Piccione, “but I never had my own personal project, so it was nice to be able to have input and have ideas about what to do.”
Illinois DVM, EVP Graduates Garner National Recognition

Graduates of Illinois programs swept the awards given out at the March annual meeting of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV).

Of the five practitioners honored for their contributions to the association and the swine industry, one had earned an Illinois DVM and the other four were graduates of the college’s Executive Veterinary Program in Swine Health Management, an award-winning two-year continuing education program designed to enhance the business and communication skills of animal health professionals.

“This list of honorees illustrates the caliber and the diversity of practice areas—ranging from industry and academia to AASV administration and practitioner—of graduates of EVP,” noted Dr. Larry Firkins, swine Extension veterinarian and assistant dean for public engagement at the college, as well as one of the coordinators of EVP.

Veterinarians honored by AASV in 2014 are:

- **Dr. Locke Karriker** (DVM Miss. State ’99, EVP ’09), Howard Dunne Memorial Award. Dr. Karriker is an associate professor and director of the Swine Medicine Education Center at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine

- **Dr. Aaron Lower** (DVM Illinois ’09), Young Swine Veterinarian of the Year Award. Dr. Lower is a partner in Carthage (Ill.) Veterinary Service, Ltd., and also helps manage his family’s livestock production business.

- **Dr. Darrell Neuberger** (DVM Iowa State ’77, EVP ’00), Technical Services/Allied Industry Veterinarian of the Year Award. Dr. Neuberger, for many years a swine health management veterinarian for Fort Dodge Animal Health, is currently with Zoetis.

- **Dr. Harry Snelson** (DVM N.C. State ’90, EVP ’09), Meritorious Service Award. Dr. Snelson is director of communications at the AASV.

- **Dr. Matthew Turner** (DVM N.C. State ’00, EVP ’09), Swine Practitioner of the Year. Dr. Turner is staff veterinarian at Prestage Farms in Clinton, N.C.

Three Illinois veterinary students were also recognized at the March AASV meeting. Brigitte Mason, Class of 2016, was selected to present her research and was one of five students who received a $1,500 scholarship.

Amy Daniels and Chad O’Connor, both Class of 2015, were among 15 students awarded in the veterinary student poster competition. In addition, Daniels took office as the AASV student delegate, a non-voting position representing student interests on the AASV board of directors and student recruitment committee; she is the fourth Illinois student who has served in this role since it was introduced eight years ago.
Chicago Center Turns Five: New Names, Same Goals

On June 1, 2009, the college’s Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine opened its doors at 2242 West Harrison Street in the Illinois Medical District, about two miles west of downtown.

The center rapidly evolved from offering only primary care services, under the name “Furnetic Veterinary Clinic,” to adding oncology and dentistry services on a limited basis delivered by college faculty based in Urbana, to adding 24-7 emergency and critical care service in summer 2011.

In 2012 the college adopted a new direction for providing specialty service and contracted with Veterinary Specialty Center, a private practice located in Buffalo Grove, Ill., to provide oncology, internal medicine, and specialty surgery services at the Harrison Street location. And early this year, the specialty care clinic formed a more formal partnership with VSC, introducing a new name: VSC at Illinois.

To better serve specialty and primary care clients, the college’s Furnetic clinic will be relocating to an adjoining suite in the same building later this summer and is changing its name to Medical District Veterinary Clinic at Illinois.

Throughout these changes, the goals of the Chicago center have remained unchanged:

- Enhance the clinical and practice management education of veterinary students in an urban environment with a diverse clientele
- Expand the pool of patients for clinical trials that advance animal health
- Provide Chicago-based veterinary professionals with better access to University of Illinois resources
- Reach out to new populations of student applicants, research collaborators, and financial supporters
- Increase awareness of University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in one of the nation’s largest and most vibrant cities

Dean Peter Constable, who has quickly immersed himself in the college’s Chicago activities, recently said, “The original goals of the Chicago center remain as true today as when the college initiated plans for the center in 2006, and I strongly embrace and support those goals.”

New Names Highlight Illinois Connection

What’s in a name? For the college’s clinical practices in Chicago, the University of Illinois name—or “Illinois” for short—hits a sweet spot that was missing with “Furnetic” and “Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine Specialty Services.”

The new names—Medical District Veterinary Clinic at Illinois and VSC at Illinois—more closely connect these practices to the Urbana campus, as well as tying to the West Loop location for primary care and the Buffalo Grove Veterinary Specialty Center partner for specialty.

What hasn’t changed? The commitment to top quality medicine and outstanding service for patients, clients, and referrers.

Chicago Center at Illinois
New Scholarship Honors Dean Whiteley and the Chicago Connection

Rick Hill sees the future in Chicago, and he has invested generously—through his leadership and philanthropy—to help the University of Illinois succeed there.

That is one reason he and his wife recently established the Richard S. and Loan B. Hill Veterinary Medicine Chicago-Area Scholarship Fund, which will provide support for veterinary students from the Chicago area.

“My son is a 2010 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine,” Hill said in a recent interview. “And I’ve long been affiliated with the University of Illinois and a big supporter of Chicago.”

“As urbanization of the United States continues to move people and businesses to both coasts, Chicago offers the most viable Midwestern alternative. That’s why I want to encourage the veterinary college’s long-term interest in Chicago.”

Another motivation for the scholarship is appreciation for the successes of former dean Herb Whiteley, including his efforts to establish the Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine.

“Herb Whiteley did a fantastic job leading the veterinary college,” said Hill. “He was able to bring the college to a level that can compete with the best.”

Hill was born on Chicago’s South Side and earned an engineering degree at the university’s Chicago campus. After holding management positions at companies including Motorola and Tektronix, he led Novellus Systems, then a small semiconductor capital equipment start-up in Silicon Valley, to become a top-ten company in that field globally.

Dr. Tom Graves, former professor of veterinary clinical medicine and director of the Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine, departed Illinois for a warmer clime and the challenge of establishing clinical education programs for veterinary students and house officers at a brand-new college.

Dr. Graves is currently Associate Dean for Clinical Education at the Glendale, Ariz., campus of Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine, which enrolls its first class this fall.

“Tom played a seminal role in developing our innovative new curriculum and establishing a thriving Chicago center,” noted former dean Dr. Herb Whiteley. “We are forever indebted to him and will always consider him part of the Illinois family.”

Dr. Graves Takes Leadership Role in Arizona Veterinary College

Retiring after nearly 20 years at Novellus, Hill now serves on the boards of several public companies. He has chaired the University of Illinois Foundation Board and served as adviser to the engineering colleges on the university’s Chicago and Urbana campuses. The Hills have contributed nearly $9 million to the University of Illinois at Chicago, most recently to establish the Richard and Loan Hill Department of Bioengineering.

The couple hopes the veterinary college will thrive in Chicago.

“Among the numerous challenges facing the veterinary profession, one is managing the growing urban homeless pet population,” said Hill. “Chicago is an ideal petri dish where an institution like the College of Veterinary Medicine can add value.”
Hospital News

Hospital Experts Coming to a Clinic Near You
Dentistry, small animal surgery, and pain management are just a few of the service areas that have visited Illinois referral clinics in 2014, along with Ginger Passalacqua, referral coordinator at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Clinicians have offered in-clinic continuing education for veterinary staff, and have shared news about clinical trials, new procedures, and more.

A newsletter introduced this year, rvetILLINOIS, has also brought tips and discoveries from hospital experts to Illinois clinics by post and by email every month.

Not getting a copy? Contact Ginger at 217-333-5311 or VTHrDVMcoor@vetmed.illinois.edu to add your clinic to the list or to request a clinic visit.

Tender Loving Volunteers: A Decade of Service
We thank these individuals for their outstanding contributions to patient well-being at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital since the inception of the Tender Loving Volunteers program in 2004.

- Debbie Bernardoni
- Karen Koenig (shown helping Benji out of the underwater treadmill)
- Tom Schaeffes
- Harriett Weatherford
Three other volunteers have served for five or more years: Jaci Davis, Jean Haley, and Liz Illyes.

Coming Soon: Honoring Foundational Faculty
At the end of 2013 Dr. Sandra Manfra Marretta, a small animal surgery faculty member who founded the dentistry program at Illinois, retired from the faculty. As 2014 closes, several more seminal faculty members will be retiring. Look to the next issue of Veterinary Report for highlights of their careers and their impact on Illinois students and programs.
Illinois Surgeon Offers Hands-on Microsurgery Training Laboratory in July

What are the benefits of microsurgery training?

Training in microsurgery provides surgeons a greater skill in tissue handling and hemostasis, “improved, more accurate hand skills,” and abilities to treat diseases previously thought to carry a poor prognosis or not have a procedure available to treat them.

Specifically, cases of ureteral obstruction secondary to stone formation, stricture, or tumor are amenable to repair or bypass by surgery augmented by use of an operating microscope. Additionally, the placement of hydraulic occluders (artificial urethral sphincters) for treatment of urinary incontinence, and surgical treatments for cases of ureteral ectopia are available.

Through a weeklong session limited to three participants, Dr. Heidi Phillips, veterinary clinical medicine, offers individualized, intensive training on the proper use of an operating microscope, micro-instruments, and micro-suture. Participants develop skills operating on live animal models.

Choose from sessions scheduled July 14 to 18 or July 21 to 25.

For details and to register, visit go.illinois.edu/microsurgery.

Clinic Supporters Take Walk on the Wild Side

Thistle, the American kestrel, and a more than 100 of his friends attended a Wildlife Medical Clinic fundraiser on May 2 at Pear Tree Estate. Rose Ann Meccoli, long-time volunteer in the clinic and former parasitology technician at the college, was honored with the Wildlife for Life award.

To watch a video on what to do for orphaned wild babies and to make a gift in support of the clinic, visit the website: vetmed.illinois.edu/wmc/.

Dr. Ann Johnson, veterinary clinical medicine, emeritus, combines her professional interest in animals with a passion for art. Her drawing of Ben, a dog that belongs to Dr. Amber Labelle, graced the cover of the November 15, 2013, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Johnson has been accepted as an Illinois Artisan.
Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards

Faculty, staff, and graduate students were honored in a ceremony held September 24.

- **Dr. Sandra Manfra Marretta**, veterinary clinical medicine, received the Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Helen Kruger All-Round Excellence Award for a faculty member who demonstrates excellence in teaching, research, and service.

- **Dr. Brian Aldridge**, veterinary clinical medicine, received the Kruger Teaching Excellence Award for presenting material with enthusiasm, dedication, clarity, and creativity.

- **Dr. Tim Fan**, veterinary clinical medicine, received the Kruger Research Excellence Award in recognition of quality and quantity of publications, research awards, and outside recognition of the nominee’s work.

- **Dr. Philip Solter**, pathobiology, received the Kruger Service Excellence Award for outstanding committee work, clinical service, and continuing education.

- **Dr. Dan Rock**, pathobiology, received the Zoetis Animal Health Award for Research Excellence, presented to a faculty member who has attained national recognition.

- **Dr. Matthew Allender**, comparative biosciences, **Dr. Anne Barger**, pathobiology, and **Dr. Mark Mitchell**, veterinary clinical medicine, were the recipients of the Dr. Erwin Small Teaching Excellence Awards in Veterinary Medicine. Recipients are selected by third- and fourth-year veterinary students.

- **Dr. Russell Moore**, clinical pathology resident, received the Dr. Walter E. Hoffmann and Dr. Ann L. Johnson Resident Teaching Excellence Award for an outstanding graduate student or resident in training for an AVMA-recognized specialty board.

- **Therese Eggett**, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and **Pam Long**, Veterinary Teaching Hospital, received the Terry and Judy Rathgeber Academic Professional Excellence Award for outstanding performance.

- **Renee Walker**, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, received the Seets Staff Excellence Award for demonstrated excellence in job performance and service.

- **Sherrie Lanzo**, comparative biosciences, received the Dr. Robert and Lucy Graham Award for a staff member who has made outstanding contributions.

More Kudos

**Dr. Zoltan Demeter**, anatomic pathology resident, won first place in the Young Investigator Award in Diagnostic Pathology competition for his poster presented at the annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, held in Montreal, Canada, in November.

**Dr. Arnon Gal**, pathobiology doctoral student, (front row, second from right) won the first prize for oral platform presentation at the fifth Annual Illinois Symposium on Reproductive Sciences at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, in October. Fifteen college researchers attended the meeting.
**Dr. Indrani Bagchi**, comparative biosciences, received the 2014 Illinois Department of Public Health-Penny Severns Breast, Cervical and Ovarian Cancer research grant.

**Dr. Stuart Clark-Price**, veterinary clinical medicine, achieved full certification in veterinary acupuncture. Dr. Clark-Price was nominated to the Illinois chapter of Phi Zeta Veterinary Honor Society and served as guest editor for the April 2013 *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Equine Practice*.

**Dr. Jodi Flaws**, comparative biosciences, was elected president of the Reproductive Developmental Specialty Section Society of Toxicology and was also elected to the board of the Society for the Study of Reproduction.

**Dr. Lorrie Hale Mitchell**, clinical skills instructor, achieved full certification in veterinary acupuncture.

**Dr. Tisha Harper**, veterinary clinical medicine, has successfully completed the BioMedtrix Universal Hip Certification Program, enabling her to offer total hip replacement.

**Dr. Rex Hess**, comparative biosciences, emeritus, received a Distinguished Service Award from the American Society of Andrology. Dr. Hess serves as the society’s treasurer through 2014.

**Dr. Mark Kuhlenschmidt**, pathobiology, is among the co-investigators of a new NIH/NIAID grant to isolate a CpV negative C. parvum isolate to test the function of the virus in C. parvum pathogenesis. See also page 9 regarding his Grand Challenge grant in this area.

**Dr. Jennifer Langan**, veterinary clinical medicine, received the Pride Award for Exemplary Service and Animal Care from the Veterinary Department at the Chicago Zoological Society’s Brookfield Zoo.

**Dr. Gee Lau**, pathobiology, was elected to an NIH/NIAID Special Emphasis Panel on Drug Target Development and Validation for Antimicrobial-Resistant Pathogens and to a review panel for Senior Research Fellowship Applications at the American Lung Association. He also recently served as ad hoc reviewer for the Danish Council for Independent Research, Technology and Production Sciences.

**Dr. Marilyn O’Hara**, pathobiology, received a U.S. National Park Service grant to develop a set of cultural resource and archaeological probability needs for Death Valley National Park.

**Dr. Roberta Portela**, veterinary clinical medicine resident, won the award for “Outstanding Poster in Clinical Research” at the Veterinary Cancer Society Annual Conference for her work entitled “Investigation of the Beta 2 Adrenergic Receptor (β2-AR) pathway in Canine Hemangiosarcoma.”

**Dr. Adam Stern**, veterinary diagnostic laboratory, was part of a team that confirmed the presence of white-nose syndrome in North American bats.

**Drs. Pamela Wilkins, Jonathan Foreman, Santiago Gutierrez, Kara Lascola, and Karie Vander Werf**, veterinary clinical medicine, received a $5,000 Emergency and Critical Care Foundation Research Award for their study “Use of an Exogenous L-Lactate Clearance (ExLC) Test in Horses with Acute Gastrointestinal Disease as an Aid to Improving Provision of Care and Evaluating Short-term Prognosis.”

**Dr. Dongwan Yoo**, pathobiology, was appointed as a member of the Editorial Board for *Virology*.
Thank You for Allowing Me to Serve

Hello fellow alumni,

By the time you read this, I will probably have passed the symbolic gavel to Dr. Bill Augustine, whose presidency of the Illinois Veterinary Medical Alumni Association board will begin in June.

I’ve had a very fun and productive two years as president! Over the past year your alumni association has:

- Cruised Lake Michigan during the AVMA meeting in Chicago. The weather was great, and guests were able to go out on the deck to watch the Chicago skyline and catch up with classmates and other graduates. Thanks to Beth Erwin and Brenda Betts at the college for organizing! Hope you can attend our reception at AVMA in Denver on July 28.
- Recognized five outstanding veterinarians—clinicians, educators, and business leaders—with awards at Fall Conference.
- Paired students with veterinarians who share their geographic or practice interested for the second successful year of the Veterinary Career Partnership Program. There are 139 veterinarians participating, and we’d love to have more. Recently several students have requested partners in exotics practice. Please learn more by visiting go.illinois.edu/VCPP_program.
- Recognized outgoing dean Herb Whiteley with an honorary membership to the Illinois veterinary alumni association for his immense contributions to the College of Veterinary Medicine. Herb, you deserve it for all the help you have given our group!

Before I go, I want to send one last plea for your active involvement in your alumni association. Sign up for the student partnership program at the link above! Tell your board what you think the organization should focus on! Better yet, volunteer to become a board member yourself!

—J.B. Bruederle, DVM
2012–2014 President, Illinois Veterinary Medical Alumni Association

Attention, Illinois alumni!

Your classmates and the college want to hear your news. Send your updates to editor@vetmed.illinois.edu

Illinois alumni sailed in style aboard the Mystic Blue for the college reception during the AVMA annual meeting in Chicago.

Standing between Dr. J.B. Bruderle and Dean Whiteley are four of the 2013 award recipients: Dr. Bill McEniry, Special Service Award; and Dr. Sheldon Rubin, Dr. Max Lang and Dr. Ronnie Elmore, Dr. Erwin Small Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Raymond Cypess received his Dr. Small Award at the Drs. Raymond and Sandra Cypess Lecture Presentation held at the college in November.

Dr. Matt Allender presented Dean Herb Whiteley with an honorary alumni association membership at a reception for the dean in December.
Still Crazy About Being Mundelein Vet After All These Years

By Hannah Pitstick

Dr. Tim Sullivan has been practicing veterinary medicine since the age of ten. As a kid, he would often get up in the middle of the night to help his older brother, Edwin, with surgeries at the Libertyville Animal Hospital and later at the Mundelein Animal Hospital opened by Edwin, an Illinois graduate in the Class of 1967.

From seventh grade on, Dr. Sullivan knew his career path was headed toward a veterinary degree. After graduating from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1983, he went right back to Mundelein and is glad he did.

“I think my brother let me have a day and a half off, and then said, ‘All right, get back here and help me,’” Dr. Sullivan said.

Tim Sullivan took over his brother’s clinic in 1986, taking his brother’s advice by getting a business partner, Gary Herrmann, a former classmate.

“The Class of ’83 was really a tight knit group,” he said. “The professors enjoyed us; I consider all of my 91 classmates to be good friends.”

Dr. Sullivan commutes to Mundelein for work from Chicago, where he lives with his life partner, Michael, and their two beagles and a cat and. The couple have recently made a planned gift to the college to support the area of greatest need.

Dr. Sullivan enjoys working with clients whom he has known his entire life—his teachers from high school, people who brought their pets to his brother before him. Most of his clients were referred to him by their friends and family.

The Mundelein Animal Hospital is not a 24-hour clinic, but when animals need overnight care, Dr. Sullivan won’t hesitate to bring pets home, as he did with his second beagle, Charlie.

“Charlie was a sick little boy with pneumonia. Come to find out he had a bad lung lobe and never recovered. He was not going to be a saleable puppy.”

Charlie and Dr. Sullivan’s other beagle, Emma, occasionally visit clients and patients in the exam rooms and may help out with Sit Stay Read, a literacy program for kids that Dr. Sullivan supports.

“They’ve found that the dogs can help kids relax and focus,” Dr. Sullivan said. “I’m really proud of that organization.”

He is also extremely proud of his profession and believes that veterinarians on the whole are doing a wonderful job.

“I don’t know how many times a year I hear ‘Wow, I wish my doctor was like this,’” he said.
### Meet the New Faces in College Fundraising

**By Brenda Betts**  
*Associate Dean for Advancement*

There’s a small but effective team at the college to assist donors, whether charitable foundations like PetSmart Charities or private individuals like Rick and Loan Hill, in matching their philanthropic interests to the important work of our faculty and students.

With the recent transition in the dean’s office, I’d like to acknowledge Dean Herb Whiteley for his role on the fundraising team and his unflagging support of advancement efforts. Working alongside him over the past eight years, we have completed a very successful Brilliant Futures campaign and gained a great many friends for the college.

In the few months Dean Peter Constable has been at the helm, he has shown equal vigor for reaching out to alumni and donors and sharing his vision for a brilliant future for our college. I am looking forward to introducing him to many of you on visits in the coming months.

I’d also like to note other changes to our team: Recently, Heather Zorn, associate director of advancement, and Heather Vazquez, associate director of development, moved to other positions on campus.

In January we welcomed Christine Dietrich, associate director of advancement, who will focus on building relationships with grateful clients of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Christine has more than 20 years of experience building client relationships, and she has a passion for people and animals.

I hope many of you will have a chance to meet Christine at an upcoming college event. You can reach me at 217-333-5545 or bbetts@illinois.edu.

### Veterinary Education Provides Foundation for Varied, Successful Business Career

**By Kody Carr**

In the words of Condoleezza Rice, “Life is full of surprises and serendipity. Being open to unexpected turns in the road is an important part of success.”

Dr. Richard Wallin, Illinois DVM Class of 1963, has experienced the unpredictability of life first hand, having navigated many unforeseen twists throughout his career.

As a student at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, Wallin was confident in his career plan.

“All I ever wanted as a student was to practice small animal medicine, but ironically, in my 37-year career I spent only two weeks in practice,” said Dr. Wallin.

Dr. Wallin continued his studies at the college after completing his DVM. In 1966 he earned a PhD in veterinary medical science under pharmacology professor Dr. William Huber. Two children were born to Wallin and his wife, Susan, while both were in graduate school.

As Dr. Wallin was preparing to graduate from his PhD studies, he was recruited by the aerospace medical division of McDonnell Aircraft to assist in preparing monkeys for space travel.

Dr. Wallin said, “At the time the only medical personnel on staff were MDs, so I was brought in as a veterinarian to perform various preparations and research.” The project stalled and Dr. Wallin moved on.

In 1967, he joined Baxter Laboratories in Chicago as a staff veterinarian and senior research pharmacologist, working to develop anticonvulsants and inhalational anesthetics. His research efforts, in collaboration with Drs. Bernard Regan and Martha Napoli, resulted in the discovery and development of sevoflurane, a widely used general anesthetic agent.

Eventually, Dr. Wallin became the director of research administration and associate director of pharmacology and microbiology.

“My time with Baxter Laboratories was invaluable. I was surrounded by individuals who served as mentors and teachers,” Dr. Wallin said. “In my experience, it’s so important to associate with people who have skills that you desire and a willingness to teach.”

In 1977, Dr. Wallin left Baxter Laboratories to become the scientific director for North American Science Associates in Northwood, Ohio. NAMSA is an independent contract research organization specializing in medical devices.

Ted Gorski, the creator and CEO of NAMSA at the time, introduced Dr. Wallin to a staff of 35 individuals. The company now employs...
Students, Faculty Celebrate Awards

The college awarded nearly $650,000 in scholarship support to 195 students in the 2013–14 academic year. Current and emeritus faculty members were on hand to congratulate a number of the winners.

Dr. John Ehrhardt and Mike Biehl, with Dustin Babler, Class of 1983 Scholarship

Drs. Stuart Clark-Price (holding Isobel) and Kara Lascola (holding Graeme), with E. Bastian Parsons, Stafford Clark-Price Memorial Feline Compassion Award

Mary Tiefenbrunn and Dr. Bob Weedon, with Cynthia Tao, Champaign County Humane Society Excellence in Shelter Medicine Award, which was awarded for the first time this year

Dr. Ted Lock, with Dagmara Lukaszek, Dr. Ted Lock Scholarship

Dr. Ralph Hamor, with Blake Miller, Dr. William Magrane Clinical Ophthalmology Award

Dr. K.T. Wright (DVM IL ’62; above), Dr. Allan Paul (DVM IL ’77), Nancy Drake, and Megan Garvey, Class of 2015, shared their perspectives as part of the celebration.

Dr. Wallin quickly climbed positions within the company and was soon appointed CEO. He also held the position of chairman of the board, beginning in 1996 and continuing nine years after his retirement in 2000.

“The greatest challenge that I faced during my time as a business professional and leader was managing the individuals who worked for me,” he said. “As a student, you are so focused on learning about medicine that you never realize how much business is involved with veterinary medicine, regardless of your discipline.”
Fall Conference for Veterinarians

Mark your calendar for one of the best deals in veterinary continuing education.

Whether you’re coming for the camaraderie with faculty and classmates or for the cutting-edge knowledge, it’s hard to beat the value of the college’s annual conference, to be held September 11 and 12 in Champaign.

Highlights include a full day of sessions with Amanda Donnelly, DVM, MBA, a consultant and a second-generation veterinarian who helps veterinary practices attain their business goals through better client service, human resource management, standards, and marketing. Her sessions are sponsored by Elanco.

Dr. Joseph Connor of Carthage Veterinary Service will present two sessions on the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus as part of the food animal track. Dr. Richard Ford, sponsored by Merial, will cover vaccine protocols and allergic reactions. Boehringer Ingelheim is sponsoring sessions on small animal cardiology and pulmonary function.

Other tracks with a range of speakers include companion animal medicine, companion animal surgery, equine health, “one health,” ophthalmology, imaging, and cancer treatment.

Three wet labs will be offered for an additional fee:
- Bone Marrow Biopsy, with Drs. Stanley Rubin and Suzette LeClerc
- Pediatric Sterilization, with Dr. Bob Weedon
- Non-Surgical Neutering Using Zeuterin, with Dr. Bob Weedon

Conference social events include a Thursday evening awards banquet, Friday afternoon class reunion kickoff event, and Saturday morning alumni association golf outing in support of student scholarships.

For details and to register for the conference, see vetmed.illinois.edu/opr/fallconf/.
Important Dates

July
28  American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention Alumni Reception, Denver, Colo.

September
11–12  Fall Conference for Veterinarians, Champaign, Ill.
11    College/Alumni Association Awards dinner, Champaign, Ill.
12    Class Reunion Kickoff Event, Champaign, Ill.
13    Veterinary Medical Alumni Association Golf Outing, Mahomet, Ill.

October
5     Vet Med Open House, Urbana, Ill.
17    Combined Class Reunion for those Celebrating 40th to 60th Reunions, Urbana, Ill.

November
8     Alumni and Friends Reception at the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association Convention, Lombard, Ill.

December
8     Alumni and Friends Reception at the American Association of Equine Practitioners National Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah.

January 2015
18    Alumni and Friends Reception at the North American Veterinary Conference, Orlando, Fla.

February 2015
16    Alumni and Friends Reception at the Western Veterinary Conference, Las Vegas, Nev.

May 2015
2     Awards and Scholarships Luncheon and Program, I Hotel and Conference Center, Champaign, Ill.

Mark your calendars for Vet Med Open House! Sunday, Oct. 5

Printed with soy ink.
Oskee Bow Wow Wows

Held at the University president’s residence, and hosted by President Bob and Mrs. Cheryl Easter as well by Urbana campus Chancellor Phyllis Wise and Dr. Richard Meisinger (pictured below with their dogs), the party for pets and their people was full of fun.

The event raised money for the Humane Connection Fund at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, which has provided more than $100,000 in veterinary care to more than 250 animal patients since the fund was established in 2001.

Special guests included Blue, Scout, and Grainger, pups in training through the Illini Service Dogs program. Started in 2010, the program allows Illinois undergraduates to train service dogs from puppyhood to placement.

Sponsors of the event included the University of Illinois President’s House, Cream & Flutter, Cousin’s Dog Biscuit Company, DISH Passionate Cuisine, LA Gourmet, Prospect Bank, and Sullivan Parkhill Automotive.