Reproductive Biology Studies Make News

Four Earn Honors from College, Alumni Association

Thank You, Donors!
Making a Difference, Achieving a Dream

By Herb Whiteley

“What is tucked into a manila envelope and wedged into a 6′ x 6′ square will make an enormous difference in our lives.”

Erin Long, then a fourth-year veterinary student, shared that insight with the guests at the College’s scholarship celebration last spring. Her words come to mind as we take stock of our accomplishments in 2008, look forward to opportunities ahead, and pause to acknowledge the contributions of so many.

Dr. Long referred to the impact on students when they find notification of a scholarship award in their mailbox. Scholarship money makes the difference for students, enabling them to pursue a summer experience, an internship, or a career that ignites their passion instead of being constrained by economic factors to choose an alternative path.

Donors make a difference throughout the College. When you scan the names of supporters that appear in this issue of Veterinary Report, stop to read the stories behind the gifts: the zeal of the Class of 1988 in raising $70K to establish a scholarship; the gratitude of pet owners who want to make veterinary care accessible to others.

The College is committed to pursuing its priorities and dreams despite troubled times. The decades-long decline in state support will drop even more sharply this year. Our energy costs are rising and will soon be assumed within the College, rather than the campus, budget.

Yet our dreams are becoming reality:

- Veterinary education, our highest priority, will be revolutionized by the new highly integrated curriculum that faculty are formulating.
- We have revitalized the Vet Med Scholars Program, which attracts veterinarians into research careers by offering dual DVM/PhD degrees.
- Our new Chicago headquarters will open in just a few months, contributing substantially to our teaching program, clinical trials and specialty caseload at our Urbana hospital, and our veterinary and public outreach efforts.

Opportunities abound for making an impact on each of these initiatives—and on the lives of the people and animals connected to them—through your gifts.

The year ahead will bring challenges as well as unprecedented opportunity for recognition and reward as our College realizes several dreams. Your gifts can and will make a difference. Thank you.
Chicago Center Takes Shape

The University of Illinois Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine will be open in the spring of 2009. Over the next few months, construction crews will be working to create a state-of-the-art veterinary practice in a building at 2242 West Harrison, 2 miles west of downtown Chicago in the Illinois Medical District.

This primary care teaching facility will engage veterinary students in clinical care and practice management. Clinical specialties will be offered later in 2009. Other goals of the center include enrolling patients for clinical trials, increasing interactions with the Chicago veterinary community, and reaching new populations of student applicants, research collaborators, and financial supporters.

Watch the Web site for frequent construction updates: vetmed.illinois.edu/chicago/

Canine Dentistry, Fish Medicine, More: Continuing Education Comes to You

Springfield, Peoria, Chicago, virtually anywhere... The College is taking its expertise on the road and online to better serve veterinary practitioners.

In 2008, veterinarians in three central Illinois communities were invited to attend a reception and lecture for one hour of free CE—and a chance to hear from new clinical faculty members in oncology, ophthalmology, imaging, and endocrinology. Contact the Office of Advancement if you’d like to host a reception in your area: 217/333-2762.

Coming to Chicago on January 9 through 11 are three days of lecture and hands-on laboratory focused on dentistry, with Dr. Sandra Manfra Marretta, and aquatic medicine, with Dr. Mark Mitchell. See the Web site for registration information: vetmed.illinois.edu/ope/.

Banner Day for Pioneering Pharmacologist

Dr. Lloyd Davis, professor emeritus in veterinary biosciences and a founder of the field of veterinary clinical pharmacology, has been hanging out on campus with the likes of Nobel laureate John Bardeen and Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic Roger Ebert. These 3 and 17 other notable faculty members and alumni were featured in a series of orange and blue street banners that celebrate the diversity of scholarship and achievement that is Illinois.

Dr. Davis was selected to represent the College of Veterinary Medicine because of his accomplishments as the director of the College’s first veterinary medical clinical pharmacology residency program and as one of five founding diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology in 1990.

He was also the first president, in 1977, of the American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics, which has named an award and lecture in his honor.

“Pharmacology has been well represented at the College over the years by faculty members such as Roger Link, Bill Huber, L. Meyer Jones, Richard Bevill, Gary
Koritz, and Carol Davis,” says Dr. Davis, noting that he was honored to have been selected.

“The discipline continues under the leadership of Duncan Ferguson, who was among the first group of candidates to be certified as Diplomates of the College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology. Four other members of this initial group of diplomates were trained by me in our residency program: Jeffrey Wilcke, Mark Papich, Gordon Brumbaugh, and Corey Langston.

“Pharmacology provides the scientific basis for rational drug therapy, and the specialty of clinical pharmacology established the safety and efficacy of drug usage by means of the clinical trial. We constantly must guard against the return of quackery in veterinary medicine by following scientific principles in the selection of drugs for the treatment of our domesticated animals.”

**Online Portal Opens Doors for Referring Vets**

Need to access findings from the diagnostic lab in a hurry? Wonder who the expert on blastomycosis is in the teaching hospital? Or looking for information on the DVM program, earning online CE credits, or posting a position announcement?

We’ve put all these resources at the practitioners’ fingertips on a single Web page, the new Veterinarian’s Portal. Please check it out at [vetmed.illinois.edu/4dvms/](http://vetmed.illinois.edu/4dvms/).

A key feature is the new Directory for Referring Veterinarians, a compendium of information about our clinical faculty, services, contact numbers, and more from the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. (To receive a print copy of this directory, call Peggy Olsen at 217-265-6588.)

**Teaching Hospital and Diagnostic Laboratory Re-Accredited**

The Veterinary Teaching Hospital in October received confirmation of its accreditation renewal after a site visit from representatives of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). In November the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory was notified that it had received full accreditation from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians through 2012.

In December, Dr. Michael Biehl moved to a faculty position as clinical professor of toxicology in the Department of Veterinary Biosciences after two years as hospital director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Thank you, Dr. Biehl, for leadership during a time of transition, and kudos to the faculty, staff, and students in both units who continue to provide quality care and services to animal patients, clients, and referring veterinarians.

**CSI: Urbana**

Public Health Outreach Advances College’s ‘One Health’ Initiative

The investigation under way was as fictitious as those on CSI, but the tension in the room was real, as staffers with the Illinois Department of Public Health enacted their real-life roles in a mock food-borne disease outbreak.

In November, the College hosted the two-day exercise, funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to evaluate the state’s emergency response preparedness. Faculty in the Community Health and Preventive Medicine section of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine developed and ran the exercise.

This activity falls within one of the College’s strategic goals, the “one health” initiative, which focuses on activities with direct applications for improving public and environmental health.

Other efforts related to this initiative include the joint DVM/master’s degree in public health program, which currently enrolls 24 veterinary students, and a 4-week senior clinical rotation that takes students to farms, live animal markets, food manufacturing plants, zoos, and public health offices to learn about epidemiology, biosecurity, human and animal disease surveillance systems, and outbreak investigations.

By the way, the culprit in the mock outbreak? Cheese.
Students Spend the Summer Down on the Farm

Last summer 17 Illinois students got their hands on pigs, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, alpacas, elk, bison, and poultry for deworming, hoof trimming, calf pulling, milking, pregnancy checks, castrations, outbreak investigations, necropsies, dehorning, vaccinations, and much more.

The students took part in a new program that encourages experience with food and fiber animals and exploration of these aspects of veterinary careers. Called the Illinois Food Animal Reproduction, Medicine, and Surgery Program, or iFARMS for short, this program replaces—and allows greater variety than—the summer externships previously offered at the College’s former research farm at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center in southern Illinois.

Students entering the second- or third-year of the veterinary program applied to receive small stipends for experiences of up to 4 weeks’ duration at a public or private food animal production or practice facility. Students arranged their own experiences. They were required to get faculty approval in advance and to present a report for interested students in early fall.

Locations of iFARMS experiences in 2008 ranged from goat dairies in north Urbana, Ill., and in Mauna Kea, Hawaii, to large swine or dairy farms, to mixed or large animal veterinary practices throughout Illinois as well as in Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

“The little extra funding gave me a boost to see what else is out there,” says Kyle Flessner, Class of 2010. He spent two weeks at a swine practice in Sutton, Neb., and two weeks at a mixed practice in Foley, Minn.

“I learned a lot and got plenty of hands-on experience. It opened my mind to the whole large animal experience,” he says, citing LDAs, milk fever, and meetings with swine industry executives among the new experiences afforded by this opportunity.

iFARMS will be an ongoing program at the College.

More Technology in the Classroom

Out with the microscopes, in with virtual images and clickers.

Since fall 2007, incoming students have been required to own laptop computers, and all class notes have been provided electronically, saving $30,000 in photocopying.

This fall the microscope rental fee was used to digitize histology slides. Instead of fumbling with adjusting focus knobs, students can focus all their attention on identifying cell and tissue structures on the computer screen.

“The students seem to be grasping histology much more quickly,” says Dr. Rex Hess, veterinary biosciences. “The images are incredibly sharp and the students have access to them at any time, which was not true of the slide sets. It is just like a microscope, but without all the fiddling.

“When virtual microscopy works, it is marvelous, but it depends upon a computer server that has gone down a couple of times,” says Dr. Hess. He has been working closely with Craig Flowers, director of computing services, to perfect the system, and they hope to help expand the concept next year into pathobiology as well.

Many other technological enhancements have been implemented in the curriculum this year. Most of the College complex now has wireless Internet capability. Several classrooms feature lecture content-capture systems, so instructors can create podcasts—a recording of the audio and visual material presented—to be made available to students for review. Instructors can use new equipment to create high-quality video vignettes for use in instructional material. Videoconferencing capabilities have been upgraded in some classrooms, facilitating distance learning with two-way video and audio communications.

The iClicker audience response system has been a big hit, according to Flowers.

“The iClickers work the same as depicted on the show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire,” says Flowers. “Instructors like them because they can quickly gauge how well students are learning a particular subject. Likewise, students can see where they stand. Not to mention clickers are just plain fun.”
The College awarded nearly $270,000 to more than 120 outstanding students and 3 deserving faculty members on April 12. Donors, recipients, and friends and family celebrated together over lunch. Following are excerpts from the remarks offered by scholarship donors Dr. Marvin Case (DVM IL ’59), of Onalaska, Wis., and Linda Case, of Mahomet, Ill. Erin Long spoke on behalf of student recipients.

"For a number of years we had been contributing money to a scholarship at the College, but we never thought it possible for us to have our own scholarship fund. We found the process much easier than we anticipated. We did not need a lot of money to get started. With our annual gifts and 3M matching funds, our scholarship fund—as well as the scholarship award—has grown.

Our scholarship is for a veterinary student who is about to complete the second year and who has an interest in pursuing a non-practice veterinary career…

I am very proud to be a veterinarian, and I am most pleased to be able to help, in a small way, a student to fulfill their goal of joining me as an alumnus of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine." —Dr. MARVIN CASE

"[O]ur final reason for creating Nike’s Gift was as a way to remember those students who cared for our dogs and to encourage current students to consider working in veterinary oncology. Although it is certainly a challenging specialty, working with cancer patients and their owners and helping pets to live well with cancer can bring many rewards and certainly allows a veterinarian to find expression for his or her deep love and empathy for animals – one of the reasons that so many students enter this profession in the first place."

—LINDA CASE

“The difference that Awards and Scholarship money can make may equal the difference between a student taking the non-paid research experience with a mentor over the night job as a server at a local restaurant… For me, it meant feeling free to choose the next career step that was most fulfilling and best aligned with my values and dreams, and less importantly something that would provide a wealth of income.

The bottom line is that the generosity of Awards and Scholarship donors like yourselves enhances our veterinary education and our veterinary careers. You are laying the foundation that makes it possible for students to achieve their goals and follow their dreams.”

—ERIN LONG, CLASS OF 2008

2008 First-time Awards
The College thanks these new donors for their generosity and vision in assisting veterinary students.

Bayer Advantage Multi Award for Parasitology
Bayer Compassionate Communications Scholarship
Class of 1963 Endowed Scholarship
Class of 1975 Endowed Scholarship
Clint Franks Memorial Scholarships
Drs. Gail and Joseph Golab Animal Welfare Scholarships
Christian Jensen and Regina Jensen Scholarship
Dr. Francis E. “Gene” Lynch Memorial Award
Nike’s Gift – Linda and Mike Case
Novartis Ethicon Surgery Award
Novartis Parasitology Award
Doris Rivera Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine
Cedric and Edna Rybolt Scholarship
Fred and Geraldine Steffen Memorial Scholarship Fund – Edward and Judith Polzin
The College conferred 95 DVM degrees, 3 master's degrees, 5 PhDs, and 27 certificates of internship or residency on May 11.

As in the previous year, Dr. Thomas Graves, veterinary clinical medicine, gave the welcome, and the graduating veterinary class selected Dr. Anne Barger, pathobiology, to give the address.

Dr. Ronald E. Gill, president of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, offered greetings. ISVMA president-elect Dr. Sheldon Rubin gave the ISVMA Award to valedictorian Erin Long, while Dr. Jonathan Foreman, associate dean for academic and student affairs, presented the Carrie McGreevy Award to salutatorian Daniel Tierney.

Hooders included Dean Herb Whiteley; Dr. Foreman, Dr. Dawn Morin, and Mary Kelm, all with academic and student affairs; Dr. Barger; Dr. Graves; and Drs. Ralph Hamor, Sandra Manfra Marretta, and Clifford Shipley, all in veterinary clinical medicine.

After the hooding ceremony, Dean Whiteley led the graduates in the Veterinarian's Oath. Dr. Brooke Nitzkin gave the response from the Class of 2008.

Class of 2012: At a Glance

- **Total class size:** 120
- **Gender:** 22 men, 98 women
- **Residency:** 88 Illinois residents, 32 non-residents
- **Age range:** 21 to 50; 77 percent between 22 and 25 years old
- **Degrees earned:** BA, BS, JD, MBA, MS

**Selected undergraduate institutions:**

- **Illinois schools:** Augustana College, Eastern Illinois University, Northwestern University, Southern Illinois University, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **Others:** Colorado State University, Florida State University, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, Rutgers University, Texas A & M University, University of California
Chronic Exposure to Estradiol Impairs Some Cognitive Functions

Dr. Susan Schantz and others in veterinary biosciences recently showed that chronic exposure to estradiol, the main estrogen in the body, diminishes some cognitive functions. Rats exposed to a steady dose of estradiol were impaired on tasks involving working memory and response inhibition, the researchers reported in the journal *Behavioral Neuroscience*.

The researchers made the discovery when studying the effects of estradiol on activities mediated by the prefrontal cortex, a brain region that is vital to working memory and to the ability to plan, respond to changing conditions, and moderate or control one’s behavior.

The researchers had not expected to see such pronounced results. In fact, the study had been designed to give them baseline information for a separate inquiry into the effects of soybean estrogens on cognitive function. They planned to compare the effects of chronic estradiol exposure to the effects of chronic exposure to genistein, a phytoestrogen found in soybeans. Genistein is believed to have similar effects in the body as natural or synthetic estrogens, although no study has definitively proven that it does.

Some women take genistein supplements or eat soy-based foods to reduce hot flashes or other symptoms of menopause, says Dr. Schantz. “Women take them thinking they’ll be a safe alternative to hormone-replacement therapy and they might help hot flashes.”

The research indicates that multiple factors influence the effects of estradiol on the brain, says Dr. Schantz. The timing of the exposure, the types of brain functions or structures studied, and the age of the test subjects can all generate different results, she says.

More at news.illinois.edu/news/08/0801estradiol.html

Gap Junction Protein Vital To Successful Pregnancy, Researchers Find

College researchers studying a critical stage of pregnancy—implantation of the embryo in the uterus—have found a protein that is vital to the growth of new blood vessels that sustain the embryo. Without this protein, which is produced in higher quantities in the presence of estrogen, the embryo is unlikely to survive.

This study, published in the journal *Development*, was the first to detail the mechanism by which the steroid hormone estrogen spurs cell differentiation and blood-vessel growth in the uterus during pregnancy, according to the authors, who include researchers at the University of Illinois, Emory University, Baylor College of Medicine, and New York University.

Connexin 43 (Cx43) belongs to a family of proteins that form junctions between cells that regulate the flow of ions and small signaling molecules from cell to cell. At the time of embryo implantation, this gap junction protein is essential to the rapid growth of new blood vessels needed to support the development of the embryo and allow it to implant in the uterine wall, the researchers discovered.

Mary Laws, doctoral student in veterinary biosciences, studied the role of Cx43 in pregnant mice and in human endometrial cells. By deleting the Cx43 gene in the uterus immediately after implantation of the embryo, she found that the embryo could not develop into a fetus.

Dr. Indrani Bagchi, left, molecular and integrative physiology professor Milan Bagchi, and veterinary biosciences doctoral student Mary Laws led the team that discovered that a gap junction protein is critical to a successful pregnancy.
pregnancy in mice, she was able to reliably prevent implantation of the embryo in the uterus. In human endometrial cells, Cx43 enhanced the differentiation of cells that make up the stromal tissue of the uterus. These cells produce factors that promote the growth of new blood vessels.

The findings have important implications for early pregnancy loss and female infertility, according to Dr. Indrani Bagchi, veterinary biosciences.

“Connexin 43 has been shown to be in the uterus in many animal systems—cows and pigs and rodents and humans,” Laws says. “But this is the first time that it’s been shown to be critical for pregnancy.”

More at news.illinois.edu/news/08/0910pregnancy.html

**Female Embryonic Sexual Development Driven By Universal Factor**

A gene essential to the growth and development of most organ systems in the body also is vital to female—but not male—embryonic sexual development, according to Dr. Humphrey Yao, veterinary biosciences, and his colleagues at the University of Illinois and the University of Texas. The findings, which appeared in *Human Molecular Genetics*, lend support to a controversial hypothesis about mammalian sexual development.

In the beginning—in terms of their sexual organs—all embryos look alike, explains Dr. Yao. “They have a common primordium, the foundation for both testis and ovary. Only at a certain stage of development does this primordium start to follow a different path.”

Dr. Yao’s laboratory investigated the role of beta-catenin, an important regulator of cell proliferation and differentiation and a molecule known to be involved in transforming the primordium into testis or ovary.

First the researchers developed a mouse embryo in which the beta-catenin gene could be shut off at the earliest stage of development of the gonads while remaining functional in other organs.

“Surprisingly, the ovaries still formed,” Dr. Yao says. But male sexual structures also appeared, creating an amalgamation of male and female sexual structures. “That tells us very conclusively that beta-catenin is an internal regulator of this pathway,” says Dr. Yao.

To see how the absence of beta-catenin would affect testes formation, the researchers repeated the experiment in embryos in the early stages of testes development.

“When we looked at the testes without beta-catenin,” Dr. Yao says, “they developed just fine. I couldn’t believe it. How could such an important gene like beta-catenin function differently in males and females?”

These findings provided some support for a recent hypothesis which proposes that embryos will develop testes as the default unless an unknown factor disrupts the pathway and leads to the development of ovaries. Previous theories said that unless it had a Y chromosome, an embryo developed ovaries and became female by default.

More at news.illinois.edu/news/08/1113embryo.html
Kathleen Colegrove  
**Assistant Professor, Pathobiology, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory**  
- DVM, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, 2002  
- PhD, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California-Davis, 2008

**Research interests:** Diseases of free-ranging and captive wildlife, in particular infectious diseases of marine mammals; the role of environmental factors in wildlife disease; immunohistochemistry in diagnostic and cancer pathology.

Dr. Colegrove recently received her doctorate in comparative pathology from the University of California-Davis, where she also completed a residency in anatomic pathology. She has also worked as a consulting pathologist at the Marine Mammal Center, Sausalito, Calif. Her current research focuses on the pathogenesis and molecular alterations in endemic urogenital neoplasia in California sea lions. Collaborative projects have shown that viral infection, genetic factors, endocrine-disrupting environmental contaminants, steroid hormone receptor expression, and alterations in the tumor suppressor gene p53 may be involved in tumor development.

Richard Evans  
**Associate Professor, Veterinary Clinical Medicine**  
- PhD, State University of New York at Albany, 1997

**Research interests:** Statistics and evidence-based medicine.

Dr. Evans received his PhD in mathematical sciences before taking a position as assistant professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and then the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University. In addition to publishing frequently in the area of statistics and evidence-based medicine, Dr. Evans has also served as the director of the statistic laboratory at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan.

Megan Mahoney  
**Assistant Professor, Veterinary Biosciences**  
- PhD, Michigan State University, 2003

**Research interests:** Circadian rhythms, neuroendocrinology, sexual differentiation of brain and behavior, regulation of female reproductive cycles.

Since completing her dual doctorate in Zoology and in Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and Behavior in 2003, Dr. Mahoney completed post-doctorate work in reproductive sciences at the University of Michigan and worked as a research scientist in the University of Michigan’s psychology department. Her research brings together two major fields of biology: reproductive endocrinology and chronobiology. Specifically her lab examines how the circadian timekeeping system interacts with steroid hormones to regulate the timing of female reproductive events and how disruptions of the circadian clock (jet lag, shift work) decrease reproductive function in female rats and degus as well as how prenatal exposure to exogenous steroid hormones impacts sexual differentiation of the brain of adult animals, particularly sheep.

Tiffany McFadden  
**Visiting Clinical Instructor, Veterinary Clinical Medicine**  
- DVM, Ross University, 2006

**Professional interests:** Emergency and critical care.

After receiving her veterinary degree, Dr. McFadden worked in emergency medicine for two years in Houston, Texas, and then in anesthesia for six months at Texas A&M University. Her current clinical research includes oxidative stress, treatment with antioxidants and nutraceuticals, and measuring decreases in oxidative stress in free catch urine samples. Her team is planning to assess oxidative stress in dogs with blastomycosis, in dogs and cats with arthritis, and in animals with cancer.

Mauria O’Brien  
**Assistant Professor, Veterinary Clinical Medicine**  
- DVM, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1996  
- Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care

**Professional interests:** Emergency and critical care service.

Dr. O’Brien recently completed a residency in emergency and critical care at the Animal Emergency Center in Glendale, Wis. After receiving her DVM, she worked in small animal general practice for nine years before specializing in emergency and critical care.

Robert O’Brien  
**Professor, Veterinary Clinical Medicine**  
- DVM, The Ohio State University, 1979  
- MS, University of Cincinnati, 1987  
- Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Radiology, 1992

**Research interests:** Contrast ultrasound; feline cardiopulmonary imaging; and advanced CT imaging of emergency and critical care patients.

Dr. O’Brien is continuing the whole body scanning research he began at Kansas State University in collaboration with researchers from Kansas State, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of Helsinki. Whole body scanning allows for improved detection of the spread of cancer and other diseases. His team has begun to create a basic model of normal imaging in felines and will then move on to create a canine model. He frequently presents veterinary continuing education nationally and internationally and was recognized for excellence in teaching while he was a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin.

Kuldeep Singh  
**Assistant Professor, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Pathobiology**  
- MS, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, 2002  
- PhD, Oklahoma State University, 2008

**Research interests:** Pulmonary pathology, pulmonary bacterial diseases, and bovine pneumatic pasteurellosis.

Dr. Singh’s doctoral project investigated and quantified in vivo and in vitro cytokine response in bovine alveolar macrophages when challenged with wild type and leukotoxin deletion mutant Mannheimia haemolytica. He earlier completed a residency in anatomic pathology at Oklahoma State, during which he characterized strain variation in a canine adenovirus.
**Research Projects Funded Between October 1, 2007, and March 31, 2008**

**Ferguson D.**, $39,370, Colgate-Palmolive Co., Human neural stem cell line in defined medium as a screen for neurodevelopmental toxins

**Goldberg T.**, $47,156, Morris Animal Foundation, Eco-epidemiology of infectious disease transmission in wild African primates II

**Gordon-Evans W.**, $5,990, Spangler Funds, Evaluation of S-adenosyl-L-methionine in a double blinded, randomized placebo controlled, clinical trial for the treatment of canine osteoarthritis in the dog

**Griffon D.**, $12,960, American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Gait mechanics and predisposition to cranial cruciate ligament disease in dogs: Knee kinematics, kinetics, and neuromuscular patterns in greyhounds

**Herrmann J.**, $6,000, Spangler Funds, The prevalence of human and canine blastomycosis in Illinois counties from 2001-2006

**Hofmann M.**, $235,017, National Institutes of Health, Isolation and characterization testis stem cells; influence of GDNF

**Hoh C.**, $5,800, Companion Animal Memorial Funds, In vitro function of a commercial frozen canine DMSO-preserved platelet concentrate

**Johnson A.**, $7,000, Spangler Funds, The effect of body condition on postoperative recovery in dachshunds with intervertebral disc disease treated with surgery and aggressive physical rehabilitation

**MacNeill A.**, $6,000, Companion Animal Memorial Funds. Investigation of myxoma virus as an oncolytic agent

**Mitchell M.**, $19,118, Louisiana State University, Evaluating the efficacy of silver dihydrogen citrate against salmonella sp. in the aquatic habitat of the red-eared slider (Trachemys scripta elegans)

**Ragety G.**, $15,000, American College of Veterinary Surgeons, Evaluation of two strategies to improve adhesion of chondrocytes on chitosan scaffolds

**Sable H.**, $90,000, National Institutes of Health, Assessment of psychostimulant addiction risk following developmental PCB exposure

**Terio K.**, $37,800, Morris Animal Foundation, Do immune function alterations explain Asian elephant susceptibility to mycobacterium spp?

**Whittington J.**, $5,000, National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, Ophthalmic findings in birds of prey using electroretinography, ultrasonography, and direct exam techniques

**Yoo D.**, $82,020, Elanco Animal Health, Mechanism of tilmicosin for inhibition of swine viruses

**Zarfoss M.**, $4,999, American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists, Canine preiridal ibrovascular membranes: A morphologic and immunohistochemical study

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**Pamela Wilkins**
Professor, Veterinary Clinical Medicine
Section Head, Equine Medicine and Surgery
- DVM, Cornell University, 1986
- MS, Cornell University, 1989
- PhD, Cornell University (Physiology), 1998
- Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
- Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care

Research interests: Cardiovascular and respiratory problems of the critically ill foal or horse; respiratory diseases and problems of horses; equine infectious diseases; lactate metabolism and bacterial blood cultures in foals and adult horses as indicators of disease severity and prognosis.

For the past 11 years, Dr. Wilkins has been on faculty at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. There she started the equine emergency and critical care academic section care at Penn’s New Bolton Center in 2002 and served as its chief until joining Illinois in August.

She also worked as an associate veterinarian at an equine practice in New York for two years after finishing her master’s degree.

In recent studies she has shown that, among adult horses with gastrointestinal disease, those with circulating bacteria are 12 times more likely to die than are horses without a bacterial blood infection. These findings challenge the prevailing view that adult horses with GI problems should not be given antibiotics.

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**Jackie Wypij**
Assistant Professor, Veterinary Clinical Medicine
- DVM, Cornell University, 2002
- Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Oncology)

Research interests: Clinical cancer medicine in pet animals; clinical and translational research in oncology, particularly further characterizing the molecular signaling in cancer cells and potential therapeutic applications.

Dr. Wypij joined the faculty after completing a medical oncology residency here at Illinois. She is currently working on the anti-angiogenic effects of targeted anti-cancer drugs and is particularly interested in cancer at the molecular level and bridging the gap between basic science research and clinical application for pets.
Stepping down as College dean in 2001 after nearly 12 years in the role did not diminish the schedule or contributions of Dr. Victor “Ted” Valli. He remained an active researcher, teacher, and pathologist serving clients of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Nor did retiring from the College earlier this year mean he has packed away his microscope; he is working in a private diagnostic lab in Davis, Calif., and plans to teach graduate courses at UC-Davis.

Identifying highlights of his career at Illinois, Dr. Valli is quick to credit his wife, Carroll, for her many contributions to the College, including hosting numerous events in their home.

He also acknowledges the help of staff in the dean’s office and the computing and design units. “It amplifies your time to have good support staff,” he notes.

As dean Dr. Valli maintained a high profile in veterinary leadership nationally. He served as president of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and of the Board of Veterinary Medicine of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges at the same time, a connection that greatly improved communications between the groups.

“I liked the politics, going on the Hill, getting things done,” he recalls. “[Then-ACES dean David] Chicoine and I were in Springfield every month. We took four trips every year throughout the state” to foster connections with agricultural and veterinary alumni and met with local state legislators.

Under Dr. Valli’s leadership, the College benefited from nearly $6 million in venture technology funding from the state.

Dr. Valli was raised on a ranch in Canada, and he points to the veterinary profession’s agricultural roots as a critical source of ongoing support. Yet his research and heart hold a soft spot for companion animals.

“Animals are sentient beings. I always greet the patients I meet in the halls of the teaching hospital. They tell me I’m scared. There are strange smells here. I’m worried there’s something wrong with me.’

“It’s very satisfying to participate in their care. You win a little every day.”

His most recent study showed that veterinary pathologists can apply WHO specifications to tumor typing in canine lymphoma with better than 80 percent agreement. The next step in this work is to analyze patient survival as a function of diagnosis for 1,000 lymphoma cases about which he has data. He believes his work will lead to tailored treatment and improved outcomes for dogs with cancer.

Dr. Valli has published 230 articles, including half a dozen in the past year.

“If I live long enough, I’ll publish a revision of my textbook,” he says, referring to *Veterinary Comparative Hematopathology*, published by Blackwell in 2007.

He’s currently completing a chapter for the sixth edition of *Schalm’s Veterinary Hematology*. With input from many he has started work on a new text on surgical pathology which will have more emphasis on the necessity of both cytology and histology for every case and will include examples from exotic species, such as frogs, turtles, snakes, and pocket pets.

“I’ve had the greatest time working with students, whether they’re grad students or vet students in class or they’re undergrads or high school students working in my lab,” says Dr. Valli.

“They all end up wanting to go into pathology,” he adds with a characteristic twinkle in his eye.

He has mentored more than 20 graduate students over his career and taught pathology to every Illinois veterinary student in the past 19 years.

“In a way I look at them all as my kids. That’s the wonderful thing about the university: it has a pulse because of the youth. It keeps you young.”

Ted and Carroll Valli share a laugh at their farewell reception in May.

Faculty retirement

Ted and Carroll Valli share a laugh at their farewell reception in May.
Denise Archambeault and Chia-Feng Liu, veterinary biosciences graduate students, gave oral presentations and were recipients of the Lalor Foundation Merit Award at the 41st annual meeting for the Society for the Study of Reproduction in Hawaii in May.

Dr. Rupesh Gupta, post-doctoral associate in veterinary biosciences, presented a poster at the meeting, and Dr. Humphrey Yao received the New Investigator Award (more below).

Kevin Attermeier, small animal clinic student employee, was chosen as the University Student Employee of the Year out of 26 nominations campus wide. He received a $400 scholarship.

Dr. Val Beasley, veterinary biosciences, spoke at the University of California-Davis, Texas A&M University, and the University of Tennessee recently on conservation medicine and ecosystem health.

Dr. Luke Borst, pathobiology, received the C.L. Davis Foundation award for outstanding pathology resident from the University of Illinois during the annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in November in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Karen Campbell, veterinary clinical medicine, was elected president of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology and will be serving in that role for the next two years.

Dr. Duncan Ferguson, veterinary biosciences, received a grant from the Society of Toxicology Colgate-Palmolive Grants for Alternatives Research Program.

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Dr. Duncan Ferguson, veterinary biosciences, received a grant from the Society of Toxicology Colgate-Palmolive Grants for Alternatives Research Program.

Dr. Larry Firkins, pathobiology, presented the day-long Frank W. Jordan Seminar at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in April 6.

Dr. Wanda Haschek-Hock, pathobiology, has been named to the National Academies of Sciences Committee on Emergency and Continuous Exposure Guidance Levels for Selected Submarine Contaminants.

Dr. Marie-Claude Hofmann, veterinary biosciences, received an Independent Scientist Award from the National Institutes of Health. This award is intended to foster the development of outstanding scientists and enable them to expand their potential to make significant contributions to their field of research. Dr. Hofmann’s current research seeks to answer questions about stem cell biology using spermatogonial stem cells as a model.

Jeff Chen-Che Huang, veterinary biosciences graduate student, received a $500 award to present posters at the annual meeting of the Endocrine Society in San Francisco in June.

Dr. Ann Johnson, recently retired from veterinary clinical medicine, took the helm of the Western Veterinary Conference in February. This is the first time in the conference’s 80-year history that a woman is serving as president. More than 13,400 veterinarians, veterinary technicians, practice managers, and others in the animal health field, including 866 international attendees from 29 countries, attended the meeting.

Faculty promotions in 2008:

- Dr. Anne Barger, pathobiology/veterinary diagnostic laboratory, promoted to the rank of clinical associate professor
- Dr. Rick Fredrickson, veterinary diagnostic laboratory, promoted to the rank of clinical associate professor
- Dr. Lois Hoyer, pathobiology, promoted to the rank of full professor with indefinite tenure
- Dr. Dawn Morin, veterinary clinical medicine, promoted to the rank of full professor with indefinite tenure

Newly board certified:

Veterinary Clinical Medicine faculty members

- Dr. Stuart Clark-Price, American College of Veterinary Anesthesia
- Dr. Mauria O’Brien, American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care
- Dr. Jacki Wypij, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Oncology)

Doctors trained at Illinois

- American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine: Dr. Cristobal Navas de Solis (Equine), Dr. Chen Gilor, Dr. Melissa Riensche
- American College of Veterinary Pathologists: Dr. Kapil Vashisht, Dr. Luke Borst, Dr. Gaurav Tyagi, Dr. Lily Cheng, and Dr. William Meier (all Anatomic Pathology); Dr. Ashlee Urbasic (Clinical Pathology); Dr. Rebecca Kagan (Zoological Pathology)
Mary Kelm, academic and student affairs, gave the keynote address for Faculty Development Day at Clayton State University in Morrow, Ga.

Dr. Kenneth Keppel, dermatology resident, took the top research award at the North American Veterinary Dermatology Forum for his work on the quantitation of T-regulatory cells and serum IL-10 concentrations in atopic dermatitis patients receiving immunotherapy.

Dr. Sandra Manfra Marretta, veterinary clinical medicine, was named Fellow of the Year by the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry at its annual conference in September. This honor recognizes contributions that further the field of veterinary dentistry.

Dr. Milton McAllister, pathobiology, spoke in Argentina in July at the Bovine Pathology for the Practitioner conference.

Dr. Maureen McMichael, veterinary clinical medicine, spoke on oxidative stress and pediatric emergencies at the International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society Symposium in Arizona in September.

Dr. Allan Paul and Mandy Barth, in the Office of Public Engagement, were recognized by the University of Illinois Extension for their role in delivering Petstravaganza, an innovative program featuring interactive learning about animals.

Dr. Art Siegel, veterinary clinical medicine, and Kathy Ellis, health information coordinator, participated in a teleconference with the College of American Pathologists and the National Primate Research Centers on the application of SNOMED CT. They will be providing training and discussion of SNOMED CT for the primate center’s comparative pathology initiative.

Dr. Ted Valli, former dean, was invited to present at the Theilen Tribute Symposium, a cancer symposium honoring Dr. Gordon Theilen, a forefather of veterinary oncology and held in Davis, Calif., at the end of May.

Dr. David Williams, head of veterinary clinical medicine, received an honorary doctorate in the field of veterinary science from the University of Helsinki on May 23. He was hailed for having developed tests used worldwide in the diagnosis of diseases of the canine and feline digestive tracts and for his many contributions to and collaborations with Finnish veterinary researchers and educators. The conferment celebrations, which last for three days, constitute the most prestigious festivity in the academic world. Dr. Williams was awarded the right to wear the insignia of this academic degree, the doctoral hat and the doctoral sword unique to the University of Helsinki Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Matt Wallig, pathobiology, received the Presidential Award at the annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in November.

Earlier this year he gave four foundation lectures, covering a broad range of cellular and molecular responses to toxicologic injury, at the “Road to Toxicologic Pathology” meeting in Pune, India.

Dr. Dick Wallace, veterinary clinical medicine, is currently serving as the president of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.

Dr. Brent Walling, graduate student in pathobiology, received a Student Travel Award from the 2008 Society of Toxicologic Pathology to present an abstract at its June meeting in San Francisco.

Dr. Howard Whitmore, professor emeritus who served as chief of the hospital’s Food Animal Medicine section from 1980 until 1991, received the 2008 Bartlett Award from the Society for Theriogenology for his outstanding service to the reproductive veterinary community. Dr. Whitmore has served as president and secretary of the American College of Theriogenology as well as on its diplomat examination committee.

Dr. Humphrey Hung-Chang Yao, veterinary biosciences, received the 2008 New Investigator Award at the annual meeting for the Society for the Study of Reproduction in May. He also spoke on cell fate determination in fetal testes at the meeting.

The research focus of Dr. Yao’s laboratory is to understand the fundamental process for the formation of sex organs in mammals, with the goal of better understanding the origins of reproductive problems such as reproductive birth defects and infertility in humans.

Dr. Yao also taught a course with his graduate student, Denise Archambault at Frontiers in Reproduction at Woods Hole, Mass., in May and spoke at the Gordon Research Conference in Reproductive Tract Biology at Proctor Academy in Andover, N.H., in August.

Author’s Corner

Books published in 2008 from faculty in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine.

Dr. Gay Miller, pathobiology, spent 12 months in 2006 and 2007 in Washington, D.C., as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowships.

The goal of the fellowship program is to “establish and nurture critical links between federal decision-makers and scientific professionals in order to support public policy that benefits the well-being of the nation and the planet.”

As a USDA Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Fellow, Dr. Miller worked at the National Center for Animal Health Emergency Medicine. At the time of her fellowship she was the only veterinarian on staff inside the National Veterinary Stockpile.

Working on issues related to foreign animal disease response, Dr. Miller dealt with such questions as what drugs, vaccines, and other critical veterinary supplies to get, how to get a lot cheaply, and how to get them where they are needed as fast as possible.

“I could see the impact my involvement was having,” she says. “Anybody working in foreign animal disease modeling is going to make a difference in what gets done.”

Dr. Miller lived in Takoma Park, Md., during the year and biked to her D.C. office most days. She also made trips to Colorado, Georgia, Texas, and several animal production facilities. Her husband, University of Illinois mathematics professor Dr. Joseph Rosenblatt, also arranged a position in Washington.

“Every day was like drinking from a fire hose,” she says. “The pace in D.C. is phenomenal.

“There is a huge demand for veterinarians in the AAAS program,” reports Dr. Miller. “Every faculty member could benefit from such an experience. The year provided me with groundwork for the next decade of my research on economics and epidemiology.”

Recognizing Excellence

Faculty, staff, and graduate students at the College were honored for service excellence and length of service during a reception held September 25. Eleven people received awards for excellence in various categories. The awards and winners were:

Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Helen Kruger All-Around Excellence Award
Dr. Anne Barger, pathobiology

Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Helen Kruger Research Excellence Award
Dr. Jodi Anne Flaws, veterinary biosciences

Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Helen Kruger Service Excellence Award
Dr. Richard L. Fredrickson, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Helen Kruger Teaching Excellence Award
Dr. Thomas Graves, veterinary clinical medicine

Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence
Dr. Lois Hoyer, pathobiology

Dr. Joseph O. Alberts Award
Mary Laws, veterinary biosciences doctoral student

Dr. Walter E. Hoffmann and Dr. Ann L. Johnson Resident Teaching Award

Dr. Ashlee Urbasic, pathobiology

Dr. Ted and Mrs. Carroll Valli Award
Dr. Jeff Chen-Che Huang, veterinary biosciences

Terry and Judy Rathgeber Academic Professional Excellence Award
Shilana Rairden, academic and student affairs

Shirley A. Seets Excellence Award
Amanda Matson, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Robert and Lucy Graham Staff Excellence Award
Debbie Cassout, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Retirees honored at the celebration and their years of service were:

Dr. Tom Goetz, veterinary clinical medicine, 24.9 years
Dr. Ann Johnson, veterinary clinical medicine, 27.1 years
Dr. Uriel Kitron, pathobiology, 21.8 years
Mike Miller, computing services, 13.5 years
Dr. Ted Valli, pathobiology, 18.6 years

Flanked by Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Barak Obama (before his election to the presidency) are Hiram and Jean Paley, of Urbana, Dr. Joe Rosenblatt, and Dr. Gay Miller.
Students

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges awarded a $500 grant to the Illinois chapter of Veterinary Students as One in Culture and Ethnicity (VOICE) to fund an external mentoring program.

Elizabeth Clark, Class of 2011, was selected to participate in the Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research for Veterinary Medical Students at the National Institutes of Health. She researched gliomas, a type a brain tumor that affects both humans and dogs, for the neuro-oncology branch of the National Cancer Institute.

Jeannie Harris, Class of 2010, won the Hill’s Second Chance Contest grand prize for an essay she wrote about her dog Rose. As a result, the Champaign County Humane Society received $10,000.

Lauren Markovic, Class of 2009, was one of 15 veterinary students nationally awarded a $1,000 stipend for an externship that broadens education through experiences in public practice, corporate veterinary medicine, or food supply veterinary practice. The award was made by the American Veterinary Medical Association Member Services Committee.

Students Show They Care

Last holiday season, the Indianapolis branch of the USO was grateful to receive almost $400 worth of prepaid phone cards, thanks to the generosity of Illinois veterinary students. All four classes contributed, with most of the donations coming from members of the Class of 2009, according to Tony Mutchler, Class of 2009.

In February, Teresa Lehnhardt and Rachel Shaff, Class of 2008, presented 18 "Josh dog" kits to the pediatric oncology clinic and patient ward at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. The stuffed toys and related story book were designed by a veterinarian to help hospitalized children overcome their fears by having a comforting dog friend. The kits were purchased through funds raised by Illinois veterinary students over a two-year period.

“It’s just someone to talk to, to comfort them, and I think it really shows a lot more of the emotional connection that people and children have to animals,” Shaff explained to a local television news reporter.

A vaccination clinic exclusively for the pets of veterinary students, interns, and residents raised more than $700 for the Wildlife Medical Clinic. Merial donated all of the necessary vaccines, forms, syringes, and so forth and also provided snacks, drinks, and giveaways for the students.

The clinic took place in October at A&E Animal Hospital in Urbana. Clinic owners Dr. Gary Brummet and Dr. Donna Juhl (both DVM IL ’81), their associate Dr. Amy McGuffin, and three technicians on staff at A&E donated their time.

Greetings from the University of Illinois Veterinary Medical Alumni Association!

Over the past year, your alumni association has continued to focus on serving both its future and its present members.

We serve our future colleagues by supplying veterinary students with a stress pack during fall and spring finals. These packs are filled with goodies to help our future veterinarians survive the rigors of the last week of the semester. For the graduating class, the Alumni Association provides a monetary scholarship to a worthy candidate and a gift to each graduating class member.

For alumni, the association has hosted and sponsored numerous receptions at the major veterinary conferences. These receptions are key to providing what is sometimes the only contact between the University and alumni. The alumni association was also a major player in Fall Conference activities, including organizing and hosting the now-annual golf outing, class reunions, and alumni awards.

As you can see, your alumni association is a busy, active organization.

With all this activity and change, now is the time to consider becoming involved. Involvement can be as little or as much as you wish:

- Make a donation to continue the efforts of the alumni association.
- Come to the annual meeting on January 26 in Urbana.
- Visit the campus.
- Nominate a deserving member of the veterinary community to receive an award. For nomination forms, see vetmed.illinois.edu/advancement/alumni.
- Volunteer to participate in the interview process for the Class of 2013.

You will certainly be welcomed with open arms.

Dr. Karen Blakeley
President, Veterinary Medical Alumni Association
Class of 1997
vetmed.illinois.edu
The College and its alumni association presented three Dr. Erwin Small Distinguished Alumni Awards and a Special Service Award on September 11 during the annual Fall Conference for Veterinarians.

**Dr. Joseph Connor** (DVM IL ‘76), president of Carthage Veterinary Service and Professional Swine Management, received the Dr. Erwin Small Distinguished Alumni Award, presented to a graduate who has made significant contributions to the veterinary profession or to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

After completing his veterinary degree, Dr. Connor established the Carthage Veterinary Service in Carthage, Ill. Today this internationally known practice employs nine veterinarians, and its subsidiary, Professional Swine Management, employs 360 and manages 60,000 sows throughout all stages of pork production.

Dr. Connor has also served as vice president of Health Services for the global swine company PIC and done consulting work in Argentina, Brazil, and Siberia.

In accepting the award, Dr. Connor said that when he graduated with his veterinary degree, he did not envision what his practice would later become; from the start, his goal was simply “to be the best vet I could be.” He advised current veterinary students that “there’s always someone along the way to help you.”

**Dr. John Van Vleet** (PhD IL ‘67), professor of veterinary pathology and associate dean for academic affairs at the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine, received the Dr. Erwin Small Distinguished Alumni Award for his considerable contribution to the veterinary profession.

Dr. Van Vleet joined the veterinary faculty at Purdue University after earning his PhD from the University of Illinois in 1967. He earned his DVM from Cornell University in 1962.

He is internationally renowned for his research in toxicologic pathology and cardiovascular disease and has more than 140 publications. His current research examines many diseases of the cardiovascular system, as well as the effect of selenium and vitamin E deficiency in the diet of animals.

Dr. Van Vleet said he was especially thrilled that the award was named for Dr. Small, who had been helpful in finding canine patients for Dr. Van Vleet’s graduate project on liver problems in dogs.

**Dr. Stephen Sundlof** (DVM IL ‘80), director of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition of the Food and Drug Administration, also received the Dr. Erwin Small Distinguished Alumni Award.

After leaving the University of Illinois with a master’s and PhD, Dr. Sundlof spent time teaching veterinary pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Florida. He served as director of the FDAs Center for Veterinary Medicine from 1994 to 2008.

His nomination credits his work in that role with ensuring the quality of veterinary products and animal feed and implementing policy to ensure the safety and effectiveness of animal drugs and feed additives. He also played a key role in introducing extensive programs to ensure that Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy would not endanger the U.S. animal feed system.

Dr. Sundlof noted that his experiences have shown him that “veterinarians occupy very high levels in many agencies” in the United States and overseas and that this phenomenon is “a true testimonial to the broad knowledge this profession offers to its graduates.”

**Peter Weber**, executive director of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, received a Special Service Award. He was honored for the strides that the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association has taken under his leadership since 2003.

During his tenure as executive director, the association has seen a significant increase in membership, budget, and veterinary convention turnout. Their newsletter and headquarters have both been substantially improved.

Weber has also made an effort to reach out to Illinois students who are interested in pursuing careers in veterinary medicine by establishing a college scholarship fund and an internship program to educate high school students.
The Vet at the Mane Event

By Ashley Mitek, Class of 2011

The last time Madison Park had this much pressure on him, he was galloping down the stretch with a furlong to go.

Today, the thoroughbred gelding is still concerned with speed, but the track is much tougher: Four miles and 33 jumps in 11 minutes.

Each year, the finest riders and equine athletes from across North America meet at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington for the Rolex 3-Day Event. The most prestigious such competition in the United States, it is known as the triathlon of horses. But it’s worth the effort. After three grueling days of dressage, cross country, and jumping, the winner will receive $200,000, the acclaim of winning a world championship level event, and perhaps the chance to compete in the summer Olympics.

Responsible for the well being of the 45 athletes not wearing a helmet is Dr. Lisa Crump (DVM IL ’86). As the associate veterinarian for the competition, she says, “My primary responsibility is to be an advocate for the horse.” If she is concerned about a horse’s fitness to compete, she will advise the ground jury, and they can prevent the rider from continuing.

Keeping a watchful eye over the cross country part of the event, Dr. Crump sits in the control center observing video monitors as all 45 horses complete each jump. It is her job to create and implement an emergency action plan. If a horse is injured, she calls the veterinarians and staff on the ground to dispatch them to the scene.

“We have eleven veterinarians at key points on the course, as well as one person who can cover the entire area, so response time is quite short,” notes Dr. Crump.

There are also a number of eager veterinary students, many from the University of Illinois, working under the supervision of a team of veterinarians to assess the health of horses as they finish. Should an animal not recover well, or be injured or nonambulatory, Dr. Crump can radio for one of two equine ambulances or two transport trailers on site to take the horse back to the barn or veterinary hospital.

“That might seem like a lot of people, but at this level it is the norm,” says Dr. Crump, who has been a veterinarian at Rolex since 1988, the past five years as the associate veterinarian. After graduation she worked on a racetrack in Boston, and then took a job at the prestigious Rood & Riddle full-service equine hospital in Lexington.

She currently lives, and rides, in Switzerland with her husband. She officiates at competitions sanctioned by the Federation Equestrian Internationale, the governing body that oversees all international equestrian events, in different locations around the country. She is the owner of an equine sports medicine practice.

As for Madison Park, it looks as though racehorses make pretty good eventers. He was one of only 27 horses to finish Rolex and came in eighteenth.
Alumni who have made donations in fiscal year 2007–2008 are listed in Illini Orange.

Dr. John Merrick (DVM IL ’54) was recognized in October with a 50-year award from the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association. He practiced small animal medicine in Kenosha and Oshkosh, Wis., and was a member of the state veterinary association for 50 years. Dr. Merrick currently resides in Peachtree City, Ga.

Dr. Sheldon Rubin (DVM IL ’68), who practiced for four decades at the Blum Animal Hospital in Chicago and now is director emeritus, received the 2008 Chicago Illini of the Year Award. This honor, bestowed by the University of Illinois Alumni Association (UIAA) and the Chicago Illini Club, recognizes graduates of the Urbana campus for their overall career achievement, positive impact on the Chicago community, and commitment to the University of Illinois.

In accepting the award, Dr. Rubin remarked: “Here I am before you today because of my U of I professors, my mentors, who instilled the excitement of the profession in me which has lasted for all of these 40 years.”

A strong advocate of organized veterinary medicine and the University of Illinois, Dr. Rubin is the current president of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, current president of the American Heartworm Society, and a past president of both the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association and the University’s Veterinary Medical Alumni Association.

His many awards and honors include being named Practitioner of the Year by the American Animal Hospital Association in 2003 as well as top honors from the ISVMA, CVMA, and College and campus alumni groups. A UIAA lifetime member, he was an Illini Comeback guest at Homecoming in 2001. He is a member of the University of Illinois Presidents Council.

Dr. Rubin is also proud of his most recent achievement: Blum Animal Hospital was voted “best vet” in the 2008 “Readers’ Choice Awards” published by Chicagoland Tails magazine.

Dr. Kurt Schrader (DVM IL ’77) was elected to a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives from Oregon’s 5th Congressional District in November. He won handily, garnering 56 percent of the votes, compared with 36 percent for his Republican opponent. Dr. Schrader owns two clinics, both named Clackamas County Veterinary, and owns a small family farm.

Since 1997, Dr. Schrader has served in both the House and the Senate in Oregon’s state legislature. He helped secure state funding for the diagnostic laboratory and worked to establish a full-time, four-year veterinary program at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Dr. David Watkins (DVM IL ’80), owner of the Animal Health Center in Sarasota, was recognized with a Gold Star Award by the Florida Veterinary Medical Association for his contributions in advancing veterinary medicine. Dr. Watkins has served as president of the Southwest Florida Veterinary Medical Association and has volunteered at the Mote Marine Laboratory and at his local humane society.

Dr. Jeff Wilcke (DVM IA ’78, MS IL ’82) received the 2007 American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics Teaching Award. He is the MetCalf Professor of Veterinary Informatics in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. Dr. Wilcke has spoken and written widely and has made important contributions to the integration of computer technology into veterinary education and information management internationally.

Dr. Stephen Hooser (DVM IL ’82, MS IL ’86, PhD IL ’89) has been named director of the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, which is located in West Lafayette, Ind., on the Purdue University campus. Dr. Hooser had served as head of the laboratory’s toxicology section. He was also recently promoted to full professor in comparative pathobiology at Purdue’s School of Veterinary Medicine. He is currently vice-president of the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology.

Dr. Michelle Henry Barton (DVM IL ’85) has been appointed to a Fuller E. Callaway Professorial Chair at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. Callaway Professors are
chosen primarily for excellence in instruction but must also have a distinguished record in scholarship and must provide valuable service to students and faculty outside their area of specialization.

Dr. Barton is a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine, with an adjunct appointment in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology. She joined the college as a clinical resident in 1986, earned a PhD in physiology in 1990, and joined the faculty in 1993. She became a full professor in 2000. She is currently president of the Specialty of Large Animal Internal Medicine in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

Dr. Daniel Ness (DVM IL ’87, PhD IL ’94) of Palo Alto, Calif., is currently serving as chair of the Comparative and Veterinary Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology.

Dr. John Plishka (DVM IL ’93), a small animal practitioner at Lakes Animal Clinic in Antioch, Ill., created “Watching You,” a painting selected for the cover of the November 15, 2007, issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. He graciously donated the original artwork to the College, and it is on display just outside the dean’s office.

Dr. Donna Mensching (DVM Cornell, MS IL ’08) passed the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology certifying exam in July after completing a master’s degree and residency in toxicology at Illinois. She currently works for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center in Urbana, Ill.

Dr. Robert Poppenga (DVM IL ’78, PhD IL ’87) serves on the board of the non-profit organization Council for Agricultural Science and Technology. He represents both the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology and the American Academy of Veterinary and Comparative Toxicology and sits on the Membership and Marketing standing committee and the animal sciences working group.

Dr. Stephen Sundlof (DVM IL ’80, MS IL ’78, PhD IL ’80) was appointed director of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration, in January. He leads the Center’s development and implementation of programs and policies related to the composition, quality, safety, and labeling of foods, food and color additives, dietary supplements, and cosmetics. From 1994 to 2008 he served as director of FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine. Previously he was on the faculty at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. (See page 15 for more on Dr. Sundlof.)

Dr. Daniel Morton (PhD IL ’90) received the Presidential Award at the annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in November.

Dr. Peter Rohloff (PhD IL ’03, MD IL ’07) received the 2008 Illinois International Graduate Achievement Award from the campus International Programs and Studies Office for high-impact, innovative, and sustained international research or service.

A native of Vermont, Dr. Rohloff has been working in Guatemala since 2002 to promote health and explore ethnobotany and ethnomedicine. He is executive director of Wuqu’ Kawaq, an NGO providing health care, community education, and capacity building in Mayan languages.

Dr. Derrick D. Hall (DVM IL ’06) was hired by the American Veterinary Medical Association as an assistant director and program coordinator. In this capacity he also serves as an advisor to the Student American Veterinary Medical Association.

Three former surgery residents at Illinois passed their small animal surgery boards on the first attempt: Dr. Abimbola Oshin, of Brentwood, Tenn., Dr. Elizabeth Rawson, of Pompano Beach, Fla., and Dr. Kahrma Wagner, of Alpharetta, Ga.

A number of Illinois alumni recently joined practices owned by Banfield, The Pet Hospital. They are:

- Dr. Justin Scott Allen, Class of 1999, in Sarasota, Fla.
- Dr. Jeremiah Bieszczak, Class of 2008, in Schererville, Ind.
In Memoriam

Dr. Albert “Tom” Amlung, Jr. (DVM IL ’70), of Swansea, Ill., died October 22, 2007. He operated the Belleville Animal Clinic and later taught biology at Southwestern Illinois College, where he also worked to establish a nature preserve.

Dr. Ira Aves, Jr. (DVM IL ’57), of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., died May 23, 2008. He owned a mixed animal practice in Belvidere, Ill., for 47 years and served as the county animal control administrator.

Dr. Joseph Brewer (DVM IL ’61), of Springfield, Ill., died June 8, 2008. He served in the Air Force after graduation, and practiced at Capitol Illini Veterinary Clinic and Brewer Animal Hospital. He was active in local humane animal organizations.

Dr. Frederick Hembrough (DVM IL ’54, PhD IL ’66) died on March 31, 2008. He was a professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology at Iowa State University, Ames.

Dr. Earl Lutz (DVM ’52) of Bloomington, Ill., died March 23, 2008. He spent his career in the pharmaceutical industry in quality control, research, and consultation. A veteran of World War II, he received a Purple Heart for his service during the Battle of the Bulge. He was also a member of the first graduating class of the College. Memorials may be made to the Lutz Endowment Fund at the College.

Dr. Patricia Martin (DVM IL ’68), of Addison, died May 28, 2008. She taught at Parkland College, Champaign, Ill., in the 1970s, then lived for a time in West Virginia before returning to the Chicago area, where she practiced in the west suburbs. In the late 1990s she began incorporating acupuncture, Chinese herbs, and other holistic approaches into her practice.

Dr. Howard Peterson (DVM IL ’56), of Fayetteville, Ark., died July 31, 2008. Dr. Peterson served in World War II and had a career on the faculty of the University of Arkansas, teaching animal and poultry sciences and studying large animal reproduction.

Dr. Curtis Witt (DVM IL ’62), of Madison, Wis., died August 27, 2007. He owned Witt Animal Clinic in Maple Park, Ill., for 40 years. During his career, Dr. Witt also served as a veterinarian at Illinois racetracks and trained and drove Standard bred harness horses.

College Faculty and Staff

Dr. Bruce Brodie, of Champaign, died December 13, 2007. He was on faculty in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine from 1954 to 1994 and was a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists. At the College he received the Norden Teaching Award in 1979 and the College’s Special Service Award in 1994. During his career, Dr. Brodie also taught at the University of Nairobi in Kenya, the University of Alexandria in Egypt, and the University of Zimbabwe. Donations in memory of Dr. Brodie may be made to the Howard L. Whitmore and Borje K. Gustafsson International Dairy Award.

Dr. Lyle Hanson (MSU ’50), of Indianapolis, Ind., died December 19, 2007. During World War II, Dr. Hanson served in the Army at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He came to Illinois in 1950, eventually serving as head of the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Hygiene from 1967 to 1979 and as associate dean for veterinary research and graduate training from 1979 to 1985, when he retired.

A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, Dr. Hanson was known for his expertise on leptospirosis and viral diseases of poultry. He received a Special Service Award from the Veterinary Medical Alumni Association in 1997. In 1999, he was the recipient of a Distinguished Veterinary Alumnus Award from the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Virginia Ivens, retired associate professor of parasitology at the College, died April 6, 2008, in Champaign. She taught for 37 years before retiring in 1988. She established a scholarship to help women and minority veterinary students.

Dr. Alvin Safanie, professor emeritus of morphology, died January 10, 2008, in Urbana. Dr. Safanie received a veterinary degree from Cornell University, a master’s degree from Michigan State University, and a PhD at Illinois. He joined the Illinois veterinary faculty in 1952 and taught pre-clinical anatomy and embryology courses until his retirement in 1985. In 1986, he received a Special Service Award from the Veterinary Medical Alumni Association. He was revered by students and practitioners as a teacher.

Priscilla Smiley, who worked as a part-time assistant librarian in the Veterinary Medicine Library for 20 years before retiring in 2004, died May 18, 2008.
Back on campus: On October 23 and 24, alumni celebrating their 50th, 45th, and 40th class reunions shared a meal at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center, brunched at Dean Herb Whiteley’s home, toured the College, and heard from faculty members Drs. Mark Mitchell, Laura Garrett, and Jackie Wypij. Shown at left: Dr. Lawrence Fox ’68, Dr. John Kalchbrenner ’68, Dr. Joseph Helfand ’68, Dr. Jerrold Michaels ’58, Dr. Norman Cornelius ’58, Dr. Jorg Hoogeweg ’58, Dr. George Buchal ’58, Dr. Frank Riley ’58, Dr. Wesley Bieritz ’63, Dr. LeRoy Biehl ’58, Dr. Wesley Osthus ’63, Dr. Lyle Brumley ’68, Dr. Herb Whiteley, dean.

Photos by Nick Mann

Fall Conference Reunion Kick-off, September 12


Class of 1978: Row 1: Jennieann Heischmidt, Diana Wilson, Deb Schelkopf; row 2: Drs. Brad Cooper, Jim Fleming, Scott Hoyer, and Jack Herrmann; row 3: Drs. Brock Wagner, Don St. Ledger, Neil Schaffer, Gary Koehler, and Bohdan Rudawski.


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Veterinary Couple’s Gift Will Benefit Students and Pets

By Chris Keblusek

Commemorating their 40th wedding anniversary—and their 40-year class reunion—Drs. Sam and Nancy Lerner have generously endowed a scholarship for Illinois veterinary students.

After graduating with the Class of 1968, the Lerners settled in the San Francisco area and eventually established three practices there. Both have been active in their community and both served as president of the Peninsula Veterinary Medical Association.

“We came out [of veterinary school] with high skills and the basic scientific knowledge to go as far as we wished,” says Nancy.

In gratitude for their education, the Lerners established the Drs. Sam and Nancy Lerner Award, which will go to students exhibiting good character and academic achievement and who have submitted a proposal for research to benefit domestic dogs or cats.

Their desire to encourage students to pursue an interest in research arose from Nancy’s participation on the Stanford University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

“I have come to appreciate how valuable and interesting it is for a veterinarian to become involved in animal research. I’m thrilled to see the cutting edge of life-saving research unfold before me as I visit labs, review protocols, and help enforce rules for proper and humane animal care,” says Nancy.

The Lerners feel that students might sometimes overlook the importance of research in veterinary medicine.

“The private practice field is overcrowded, but the area for research is wide open and urgent,” she adds. “We hope our award will allow a bright student to discover new possibilities.”

“We feel very good knowing that we’ll have made some small difference back at the University of Illinois and that our names will be attached to it,” says Nancy.

In addition to giving back to the College and promoting veterinary research, the Lerners also were motivated by the desire to create a legacy that would help society as a whole.
Class of 1988 Gives Back in a Big Way Through Endowment Fund

By Chris Keblusek

In planning for their upcoming reunion, many members of the Class of 1988 began to look back and ask how they might demonstrate their appreciation for the opportunities they had at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

After talking with Dean Herb Whiteley, class members determined that the College would most benefit from scholarship funds. A gift committee of 10 class members was formed to raise funds to support a scholarship for a veterinary student based on merit and need. The committee contacted each member of the Class of 1988 to ask for support and, in a wonderful demonstration of generosity, they raised nearly $70,000. The amount was nearly twice the previous high donation for a class gift.

“The education we received opened a lot of doors for us,” says Dr. Larry Ritzhaupt, who works in drug development for Pfizer. “Helping with the class gift committee was a great way to provide something back to the College. I know that my career path would have been far different if I had not had the opportunity to attend the College of Veterinary Medicine at Illinois.”

“The class really considered how they could contribute to the College,” says Dr. Susan Anway, another member of the committee who also works at Pfizer. “We wanted to give something back to reflect our own very positive and rewarding experience.”

The closeness of the Class of 1988 was another significant factor in their interest to contribute to a class gift. The bonds that were formed during their years as students have remained strong to this day, with nearly two-thirds of the classmates attending the 20-year reunion in Urbana last September.

“We got a tremendous response, to say the least,” says Dr. Anway. Dr. Ritzhaupt says the class was very pleased to provide funds that will help offset the escalating cost of veterinary education for students.

He offers this advice to current students: “Jump in and give it everything you’ve got. Experience and learn as much as you can and you will have wonderful opportunities.”
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Passion for Animals Motivates Gifts

By Chris Keblusek

A lifelong love of both wild and domestic animals motivated Dr. Robert and Mrs. Alice Henry of Macomb, Ill., to create an endowment in support of the Wildlife Medical Clinic and the Humane Connection fund at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. “Animals are very, very important to us and to people in general,” explains Mrs. Henry. “We would like to see animals have access to veterinary care at the University of Illinois, regardless of their owners’ ability to pay.”

The Humane Connection allows clinicians and students at the hospital to “go the extra mile” to provide treatments for patients whose owners have limited means. As for their choice to support the Wildlife Medical Clinic, Mrs. Henry says, “There are not many options for wildlife, but they’re just as entitled to health care as domestic animals.” Dr. Henry is a retired faculty member at Western Illinois University, and Mrs. Henry had a career as a dietitian.

Although the Henrys had no previous connection to the College, they decided that establishing an endowment was a great opportunity to support a worthy cause and an institution they trust. They chose the University of Illinois because it has a great reputation and because they wanted to keep their contribution within the state, to maximize the benefit for local animals and pet owners.

The Henrys would like their gift to inspire others who share their passion for animals so that more animals might benefit. “We do hope that other people think about contributing,” Mrs. Henry says. “These funds certainly help out a lot.”

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By Chris Keblusek

It was a Sunday in December of 2004. It was a normal weekend afternoon for Dr. Keith Butvilas, of Galesburg, Ill., hunting pheasant with his black lab, Gunner. And then the unthinkable happened.

“Gunner was chasing a pheasant for about fifty yards. He didn’t see the wire fencing, and ran full blast into it,” says Dr. Butvilas.

He heard a painful yelp and immediately knew that the damage would be significant.

As an emergency medical doctor, Butvilas was able to see that Gunner’s radius was completely broken, the skin badly torn, and many muscles were sticking out.

“My local vet said it could not be saved, that the only thing to do was amputate the leg,” says Dr. Butvilas. “That was not a very agreeable treatment option.”

He went home and searched the Internet for options, with Gunner sitting in the garage, still critically injured. Dr. Butvilas quickly discovered the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and made the decision to travel to Urbana.

“I got there at 11 p.m., and they did a full exam right away, on a Sunday,” says Dr. Butvilas, still clearly impressed after four years. “They sedated him and kept him comfortable. I was just tickled pink about it, because he was in extreme pain.”

After treatment and a 12-day stay in the hospital, Gunner’s leg got back to 99% normal, Dr. Butvilas estimates.

“Four years later the dog hunts, runs, is playful, and is just as good as before,” he says. “My dogs are my family, and I treat them exactly the same way I would a child. I wouldn’t settle for amputation.”

Dr. Butvilas feels fortunate that he found his way to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

“I am forever indebted to the doctors there. My whole experience was just phenomenal,” he says. Dr. Butvilas is now a member of the Dean’s Club, and makes an annual contribution, half of which goes to orthopedics while half is used at the college’s discretion.

“I don’t want to see the College ever be short of funds. I want them to be there to help dogs.”
Hatcher. "I just looked over at my wife one morning and said, 'Something's wrong with Pascoe.' He was asymptomatic, but we somehow knew there was a problem," says Mr. Hatcher.

The Hatcher's experience with Pascoe, and with the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital, inspired them to help pet owners in need. "The vets worked very, very hard to try and save him, but were unable to do so," says Mr. Hatcher. "My wife and I were very thankful for the 110 percent effort given by the staff. We were lucky to have the resources to make that call. Many aren't."

The Pascoe Memorial Fund will ensure that other cat owners with financial need will be able to take advantage of the full range of available treatment options. The fund will eventually grow to more than $50,000. "We hope to help some cats and their owners," says Mr. Hatcher.

**Pascoe Memorial Fund to Help Cats in Need**

*By Chris Keblusek*

In memory of their beloved cat, Pascoe, Harris and Lynn Hatcher of Springfield, Ill., have created a fund to assist patients who don't have the means to pay for emergency veterinary care. The Hatchers' experience with Pascoe, and with the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital, inspired them to help pet owners in need.

"Local vets were unable to treat him, so we took him to the U of I. They found an undetected tumor." Six-year old Pascoe was diagnosed with advanced stage cancer involving multiple organs. The Hatchers opted for an experimental surgery, the only course of action that could have saved their cat.

"The vets worked very, very hard to try and save him, but were unable to do so," says Mr. Hatcher. "My wife and I were very thankful for the 110 percent effort given by the staff. We were lucky to have the resources to make that call. Many aren't."

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The third annual Oskee Bow Wow fundraiser was the first to welcome four-legged guests. In September about 100 people and more than a dozen pets—including one guinea pig—came out in support of the College’s Companion Animal Memorial Fund, which promotes animal health and veterinary education.

Webster, a cherished member of the family of University of Illinois President Joe White and his wife Mary, again served as the official host and greeter.

Dr. Tom Graves, veterinary clinical medicine, served as emcee, reading the honor role of pets in attendance. Other faculty members who are making discoveries in companion animal health with the help of Companion Animal Memorial Fund grants were on hand to discuss their studies.

Live music and gourmet hors d’oeuvres and wine donated by English Hedgerow, Jim Gould, Mezza Luna, Pasha Mediterranean, and Piccadilly Beverage Shop added to the festivities.

An original watercolor painting, depicting real-life pets in the manner of Renoir’s *Luncheon of the Boating Party*, was created by Melissa Lynch for the invitation and donated for auction at the event.

Additional sponsorship was received from the Cousin’s Dog Biscuit Company, Herriott’s Party Rental, Laura Trovillion Photography, Papa George Restaurant, Premier Print Group, and Melissa Lynch and the Creative Services office at the University of Illinois.

The Companion Animal Memorial Fund was created in 1984 to allow veterinarians and animal owners to honor the memory of special animal patients and friends. Since then more than $1.25 million has been raised to promote companion animal health by funding noninvasive studies and advancing care and education at the College.

Mary White and Webster greet a guest.

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University of Illinois Veterinary Medical Alumni Association
USBones.com

Le Roy Veterinary Clinic
Leemon Enterprises, Inc. U-Need Seamless Guttering/ Roofing
Leo Burnett Company, Inc.
Lincoln Animal Hospital, Ltd.
Linton Veterinary Hospital, PC
Lipton Animal Hospital
Lockport Animal Hospital, PC
Lohnes Veterinary Service
Loving Care Animal Clinic
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Lyons Animal Hospital, Inc.
Magnetar Capital LLC
Mapleview Animal Hospital, PC
Mark Fransen Stable, Inc.
Mokena Animal Clinic, Ltd.
Mont Clare Animal Hospital, Ltd.
Mosinee Veterinary Clinic
Mt. Tom Veterinary Service
Mount Plaines Animal Hospital
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Noahs Ark Small Animal Hospital
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Northern Illinois Cat Clinic, PC
Northwest Corner Veterinary Hospital, LLC
Novak-Brainard Veterinary Clinic
Nuessen Veterinary Clinic
Oakwood Hills Animal Hospital, LLC

Ozier Investments
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Petersburg Veterinary Clinic, Ltd.
Pets Vet, LLC
Pleasant Valley Animal Hospital
Poloniase, Inc.
Pope Animal Hospital, Ltd.
PPG Industries Foundation
Prairie View R.V. Park, LLC
Prospect Animal Clinic
The Prudential Foundation
Quad Counties Veterinary Clinic
Redenius Funeral Home
Richton Park Animal Hospital, Ltd.
Robinson Hospital for Animals, Ltd.
Royal Canin
The Saint Francis Group
Scott County Kennel Club
Shoemaker Avenue Animal Hospital
Snyder & George Electric, LLC
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St. Joseph Cub Scouts Pack 40
State Road Veterinary Clinic, PC
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Sutton Road Animal Hospital
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TechPro, Inc. DBA Corporate Travel Network
Temple-Inland Foundation
Thomas Animal Hospital, PC
Town and Country Catering Service Urbana
Five Points, Inc.
Tremont Veterinary Clinic, PC
USBones, Inc.
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Veterinary Associates of Westville Veterinary Services, Ltd.
Veterinary Specialties, Inc.
Watseka Animal Hospital
Waview Registered Holsteins
Wheatland Animal Hospital of Naperville, Ltd.

WI-IL Agility Group
Wildsides Wildlife Center
Wildwood Dog Training Club Inc.
Wilson Racing Stable
Woodland Veterinary Clinic, Ltd.
Wyeth
Calendar

January
9  Canine Dentistry Laboratory, Chicago, Ill. See vetmed.illinois.edu/ope/dentistry/.
10–11 Fish Medicine Lecture and Laboratory, Chicago, Ill. See vetmed.illinois.edu/ope/fish/
18  Alumni Reception at the North American Veterinary Conference, Orlando, Fla. Contact the Advancement Office, 217/333-2761 or advancement@vetmed.illinois.edu.

February
7  Horseman’s Clinic, Urbana, Ill. See vetmed.illinois.edu/ope/horseclinic/
16  Alumni Reception at the Western Veterinary Conference, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact the Advancement Office, 217/333-2761 or advancement@vetmed.illinois.edu.

March
7  Doodle for Wildlife, Champaign, Ill. Contact the Advancement Office, 217/333-2761 or advancement@vetmed.illinois.edu.
20–22 College of Veterinary Medicine exhibit at the Chicagoland Family Pet Expo, Arlington Heights, Ill.
20–22 American Pre-Veterinary Medicine Association Symposium, Urbana, Ill.
26–27 Intensive Toxicology Short Course: Common Small Animal Toxicoses, Urbana, Ill.

April
4  Veterinary Medicine Open House, Urbana, Ill. See vetmed.illinois.edu/openhouse/.

May
2  Awards and Scholarships Ceremony, Urbana, Ill. Contact the Advancement Office, 217/333-2761 or advancement@vetmed.illinois.edu.
17  Commencement, Urbana, Ill. Contact Student Affairs, 217/265-0380 or admissions@vetmed.illinois.edu.

June
29–July 1 4-H Veterinary Medicine Academy, Urbana, Ill.

July
20–22 Toxicology and Pathology in Drug Discovery and Development Short Course, Urbana, Ill.
22–24 Target Organ Toxicologic Pathology Part 1, Urbana, Ill.

September
10–11 Annual Fall Conference for Veterinarians, Urbana, Ill.

Please contact the Office of Public Engagement at 217/333-2907 or on the Web at vetmed.illinois.edu/ope for additional information, unless otherwise noted.

For more College events listings, visit vetmed.illinois.edu

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Auction Supports Wildlife Clinic

Author Margaret Atwood, baseball legend Yogi Berra, and humorist Dave Barry did it.

So did Star Wars stars Mark Hamill and James Earl Jones, Robin Williams and Vanessa Williams, Steve Martin and Martin Sheen.

Celebrity twosome Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick did it together.

All these notables “doodled” in support of the College’s Wildlife Medical Clinic. Their drawings were auctioned at the seventh annual “Doodle for Wildlife” event in April. Other notable auction items included art prints and getaways to the Caribbean, on Sanibel Island, Fla., in Snowmass, Colo., and other vacation destinations.

Long-time supporter Karen Koenig was presented with the second annual Wildlife for Life Award for her commitment to the preservation of the wildlife community. Koenig is also a valued volunteer in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

The Doodle for Wildlife event accounts for nearly half of the annual budget of the Wildlife Medical Clinic, a non-profit volunteer organization that provides care for nearly 2,000 ill or injured wild animal patients every year, enhances the education of veterinary students, and educates the public about Illinois wildlife.

Save the date for the next Doodle for Wildlife
March 7, 2009
To donate auction items, call 217/333-2761

Dr. Julia Whittington, medical director of the Wildlife Medical Clinic, presents Karen Koenig with a framed doodle and photo from Tippy Hedren, star of Alfred Hitchcock’s The Birds.

Odin, a red-tailed hawk that is a resident of the Wildlife Medical Clinic, attended the Doodle for Wildlife, along with 200 human guests.

Illinois
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
College of Veterinary Medicine
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