Profiles
Veterinary Medicine
Veterinarians impact the lives of Minnesotans every day

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Dear Friends,

2007 marks my seventh year as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. As we all know, seven is often considered a lucky number, and I’m feeling very lucky these days.

Lucky because I have the good fortune to work with outstanding faculty and staff and visionary University of Minnesota leadership. Lucky because we enjoy the support of generous donors, committed legislators, loyal medical center clients, and industry partners. And lucky because we have talented students whose intellect and good hearts ensure that animals will receive quality care for decades to come.

Thanks both to luck and an amazing amount of hard work, I can proudly report that the college is strong – and getting stronger. During the past six years, we have recruited new faculty, upgraded facilities, enhanced students’ educational experience, expanded service to the community, and launched new initiatives to strengthen teaching, research, and service.

This year will be a landmark year for us. Excitement in the college is growing as we prepare to—

- Open the Ben Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center, a gathering place for faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends, and colleagues – a dream come true
- Open our exciting new Equine Center, which significantly improves our ability to care for horses and support teaching and research
- Define our research vision to drive our resources and energy to meet society’s need to protect animal and human health
- Expand our comparative medicine program and hire an oncology chair
- Continue to strengthen Veterinary Medical Center operations, finances, and customer service
- Advocate for $3.5 million in funding from the Minnesota Legislature to support the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the College

We wish you good fortune in 2007 and many lucky years in the future.

Warm regards,

Jeffrey S. Klausner, D.V.M.
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Ask Minnesota pork producers to name their toughest adversary, and chances are they’ll tell you “disease” – infectious diseases that cost them millions of dollars each year in prevention, treatment, and lost productivity.

That figure is far lower than it could be, because the College of Veterinary Medicine helps keep swine diseases in check. College faculty develop and perform diagnostic tests, improve the understanding of disease transmission, and devise control strategies.

“A good example of College researchers minimizing the disease toll on Minnesota’s billion-dollar pork industry is the case of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), which costs the U.S. swine industry $560 million per year. In the early 1990s, Collins and colleagues developed a diagnostic test for detecting swine disease. Now the VDL is able to detect PRRS in its early stages, which limits its spread and potential economic impact.”

—Jim Collins, director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

“Detecting and stopping disease outbreaks early limits their mortality, spread, and potential economic impact.”

—Jim Collins, director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.
test and a vaccine that have contributed tremendously to PRRS control. Last year the VDL announced a new PRRS test that makes diagnosing the disease cheaper and more accurate than ever. College researchers, led by Swine Disease Eradication Center director Scott Lee, are now in the middle of a year-long study to find the best strategy for preventing the spread of PRRS — a strategy Lee says could also help reduce the toll of other diseases such as mycoplasma and swine influenza.

Now, Minnesota’s swine industry faces a new threat: porcine circovirus 2-associated clinical disease (PCVAD). PCVAD is an economically devastating disease associated with the presence of a virus known as circovirus that began cropping up in Minnesota during the past year.

“We’re looking at a disease that has been a major problem in other parts of the world and is getting closer and closer,” says Peter Davies, who holds the Leman Chair in Swine Medicine.

PCVAD is particularly challenging because circovirus is ubiquitous, but only sometimes leads to the disease. With funding from the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station’s Rapid Agricultural Response fund, Davies is working to understand the link between circovirus and PCVAD and to develop improved systems for tracking the problem. The hope is that by acting now, researchers can help keep PCVAD from becoming as widespread and costly as PRRS.

“It’s not every day you see a new disease of this scope and potential to do harm,” Davies says. “Being able to focus resources and get people working on this is very important.”

For more information on animal diseases, go to www.cvm.umn.edu.
In 1918–19, approximately 20 million people died when an avian influenza virus developed the ability to infect humans, causing the Spanish flu pandemic. In 1957 and again in 1968, other avian influenza virus strains joined forces with human viruses, resulting in two more pandemics that killed tens of thousands worldwide.

How, when, and why do animal viruses cross species boundaries to infect people? Finding the answer to that question is key to preventing and controlling future deadly outbreaks. It also is the aim of the University of Minnesota’s new Zoonotic Disease Cooperative Research Center, which links experts from the University, Minnesota Department of Health, Marshfield Clinic, Minnesota Board of Animal Health, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Mayo Clinic, and Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, in a coordinated effort to understand the epidemiology of avian influenza.

“We want to fill in some of the unknowns regarding how these viruses go across species barriers,” says professor Marguerite Pappaioanou, who holds a joint appointment in the School of Public Health and the College of Veterinary Medicine and is principal investigator for the three-year, $2.6 million Centers for Disease Control grant that created the center. “This is very much about research, trying to get good data that can guide public health decisions about how to protect people from exposure to viruses from which a pandemic strain could evolve.”

To learn where avian influenza viruses are found, how they spread, and the human health threats they pose, collaborators will test backyard poultry flocks, wild waterfowl, and hogs — as well as humans who spend time with them — for the presence of viruses and antibodies. What factors influence transmission? How well do protective gear and hygiene, as used in field conditions, prevent human exposure? These are the kinds of questions the researchers will seek to answer.

A number of College of Veterinary Medicine faculty members have a part in the effort. Sagar Goyal, a professor in the Veterinary Population Medicine Department, is in charge of testing for the presence of viruses and antibodies in animals. College researchers Marie Gramer and Jeffrey Bender will help assess swine operations. (Pigs, which can be simultaneously infected with swine, avian, and human viruses, are widely viewed as a “mixing vessel” in which viruses can exchange genetic material needed to cross species boundaries.) Other College faculty members serving as co-investigators or advisors include David Halvorson, William Hueston, Patrick Redig, and Andre Ziegler.

For more information about avian influenza, go to www.cvm.umn.edu/ai.
A College without boundaries:
International collaborations benefit Minnesota

“The land-grant university image is often inseparable from the state in which it’s located. But we’re a part of a nation that’s a part of a world, and our issues are global issues.”

—Will Hueston, director, Center for Animal Health and Food Safety

Where can you find the College of Veterinary Medicine? “On the St. Paul campus just west of the state fairgrounds” is only part of the answer. As veterinary medicine becomes increasingly international, the College’s reach is extending far beyond its historic boundaries to address diverse issues around the world.

“Minnesota benefits from a global food system. Minnesota benefits from a global economy. Minnesotans travel around the world for business and pleasure,” says Will Hueston, director of the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS). “The land-grant university image is often inseparable from the state in which it’s located. But we’re a part of a nation that’s a part of a world, and our issues are global issues.”

College faculty work with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, World Organization for Animal Health, and other local, state, and national agencies to address everything from mad cow disease to malaria. Because diseases know no borders, these collaborations ultimately benefit all Minnesotans. They also benefit students by exposing them to the broad scope of veterinary medicine and allowing them to explore the connection between science and public policy.

One example is the University’s participation in a three-year U.S. Agency for International Development effort to reduce the threat of avian influenza (AI) in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. In collaboration with Vietnamese animal health authorities, a University of Minnesota team led by professor Marguerite Pappaioanou is working to identify and promote culturally appropriate animal handling and surveillance practices that can help reduce incidence of AI in poultry and ducks. By helping prevent spread in birds, the effort also aims to reduce the likelihood that the virus will mutate into a form that could cause a human pandemic.

“We’d like to make a difference...to absolutely reduce the threat of exposure from birds to people,” says team member Andre Ziegler, assistant clinical professor in the Veterinary Population Medicine Department. “This is really containment at the source.”

CAHFS postdoctoral fellow Katherine Waters and Michele Schermann of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences are working on developing local understanding, acceptance, and ownership of the control effort. Waters calls AI “a whole new ballgame.” The progress the team makes in learning how to help others control this disease, she says, will pay off in other ways in the years ahead.

“We’re laying the groundwork for managing future diseases, for food security in the developing world,” she says.

Mary Hoff
The Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences has performed a new viral study on turkeys. The study, conducted by researchers Binu Velayudhan, Kakambi Nagaraja, and David Halvorson, involved injecting turkeys with human metapneumovirus. The result: turkeys had the same clinical symptoms seen in turkeys infected with avian pneumovirus (APV).

Avian pneumovirus (APV) is an infectious respiratory disease in turkeys. The symptoms include coughing, swollen sinuses, and nasal discharge, along with decreased water and feed consumption. APV infections have been found throughout the world and were first identified in turkeys in South Africa during the 1970s. The disease was first identified in Colorado in 1996. The following year, APV was pinpointed in Minnesota, the largest turkey-producing state in the country. APV, present in respiratory secretions and excretions of infected birds, is transmitted by direct and indirect contact.

The virus was first identified by researchers in the Netherlands in 2001 as a cause of acute respiratory tract disease in children. Early assessments of hMPV suggest that the virus may be genetically similar to APV.

According to the study, this is the first experimental infection of turkeys with hMPV.

There are four genotypes of hMPV, and all four types infected turkeys with similar clinical symptoms to APV.

“The evidence only suggests infection from humans to turkeys, and there is no conclusive evidence of it going the other way,” says Halvorson. Outside studies show that most infectious agents, especially newly emerging pathogens, can be transmitted between humans and animals.

“We must investigate more on the implications of this,” Nagaraja emphasizes. “We are looking for more research grants to look further into it.”
Travel to China and Korea:

Students gain insights into Oriental medicine and culture

What better way to learn about traditional Oriental medicine than to travel to China and Korea and learn firsthand? In summer 2006, college faculty member Keum Hwa Choi, led 13 veterinary students on a trip to China and Korea, where they participated in classes at China Agricultural University in Beijing, China, and Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea.

“Students from each of our four classes and a recent graduate not only attended classes, but learned a great deal about the culture of the countries,” says Peg Dimatteo, director of academic affairs, who accompanied Choi and the students.

“It was a great opportunity for the students to learn about traditional Oriental medicine, culture, and philosophy,” says Choi. A specialist in traditional Oriental medicine, Choi received her veterinary degree from Seoul City University in Korea and her specialty training at Seoul National University, the National Veterinary Institute, and Kyung Hee Traditional Korean Medical School in Korea; Alford Ecole Veterinary School-Pasteur Institute in France; the University of Minnesota and American Academy of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine in the United States; and Shan Dong Traditional Chinese Medical School in China.

The trip changed the way I think about disease. Now I look at it from a Western medicine point of view, as we learn in classes, and then I look at it from a traditional Chinese medicine perspective. Traditional Chinese medicine is a different theory of medicine, which is successfully integrated with Western medicine in these societies. Traditional Chinese medicine theory cannot be separated from Asian culture; medicine overlaps with food, religion, language, and history. The trip gave us an amazing opportunity to live in this culture, which was foreign to us, in order to gain a better understanding of traditional Chinese medicine. We met some of the kindest and most generous professors and students, who were so excited to have us there to teach us what they know. Perhaps the best part was the last week when we spent three days at a Buddhist temple on a beautiful mountain along the coast of South Korea. Living like a monk for several days was the perfect culmination of our trip — living in close quarters with our classmates, without the niceties of everyday life, allowed us the opportunity to both relax and gain an understanding of Buddhism, which is such a large part of Asian culture.”

—Abigail Cumpton, class of 2008

“"If it weren’t for Dr. Choi, Dean Klausner, Peg Dimatteo, and everyone who helped get me there, I would never have seen such beautiful sights, been humbled by the humanity of a foreign land, and learned a veterinary medicine that is a valuable alternative to Western medicine. Dr. Choi is a gem at the University of Minnesota, a truly inspirational person, and I am thankful and honored to have gone on this adventure with her and my fellow students.”

—Matt Pike, class of 2007

Our experiences in Asia were one of a kind. We were able to learn both theories and practical applications of traditional Chinese medicine and how it can be used in veterinary medicine today.”

—Sarah Mercurio, class of 2008
This experience could never be replicated in the United States. The difference, not only in culture but also in values, was eye opening. Although learning can be accomplished anywhere, learning directly from the source is the most rewarding. What I remember most is the time spent with Chinese veterinary students. We spent time outside of the classroom with our fellow students during dinners and nights out. During the nights out I didn’t feel half a globe away.”

—Kirsten T. Caskey, class of 2008

Our trip to China and Korea taught us how important it was to keep an open mind about ways to integrate Eastern and Western medicine to benefit your patients.”

—Julie Fill, class of 2008

This experience was amazing. I learned a tremendous amount – not only in classes, but also while experiencing different cultures. It was a great opportunity and one that I will remember fondly for the rest of my life. My big take-home message was that Eastern medicine understands the usefulness of Western medicine better than Western understands Eastern.”

—Robinette Dunahugh-Ralston, class of 2008

The student travelers included:

Class of 2006
Kristy Flynn

Class of 2007
Matt Duff
Kris Krausser
Matt Pike

Class of 2008
Jackie Bryan
Kirsten Caskey
Abby Cumpton
Robinette Dunahugh-Ralston
Julie Fill
Tracy Julius
Erica Keller
Sarah Mercurio

Class of 2009
Maria Huh
Third-year veterinary student Ryan Reid already has a job lined up after graduation. After recognizing the debt he incurred over his first two years of veterinary school, he decided to take action — Army action, that is.

Reid is one of many veterinary students nationwide who apply for the United States Army Veterinary Corps each year. Ryan and three other University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine students were accepted into the program in 2006 and will receive full tuition, a monthly stipend, books, and reimbursement of certain academic fees. Of the 28 veterinary schools in the United States, the University of Minnesota has the largest number of award winners.

The purpose of the corps is to educate current students about the careers and benefits the United States Army Veterinary Corps has to offer and to inspire each to serve as an officer in the Army Medical Department.

Reid and the other veterinary, dental, and medical Army scholarship awardees are involved in the Military Health Professions Club at the University of Minnesota. This group of students meets monthly to motivate, inspire, and professionally develop current and future military officers, cultivate a military network at the University and the surrounding community, assist in the transition from civilian to officer, and meet the needs of an expeditionary military.

In exchange for the scholarship, Reid and the other award winners agree to serve a three-year post-graduate stateside assignment. The needs of the Army, the applicant’s training and experience, and the desires of the applicant determine where he or she is placed after graduation. Job opportunities are available in the areas of veterinary public health, lab animal medicine, veterinary pathology, clinical medicine, and comparative medicine. At the end of the three-year assignment, the participants may choose to enroll in active duty or continue on with their career in the Army.

“I value leadership, and the Army Veterinary Corps offers me the chance to pursue my educational and leadership goals,” Reid says. “I’m proud to be a member of this program, and I’m looking forward to having a job after graduation.”

To learn more about the United States Army Veterinary Corps, go to http://vetopportunities.amedd.army.mil/eligibility.html.
Our Goal:
To improve the health of animals and people by enhancing the vitality and depth of research programs

Our Results:
- **Collaboration with Pfizer Animal Health**—The College’s Clinical Investigation Center entered into a scientific collaboration with Pfizer Animal Health to support clinical studies in the Veterinary Medical Center.

- **Equine Consortium for Genetic Research**—Morris Animal Foundation granted $5 million for the first-ever Program in Equine Medical Genetics. This consortium, led by the College, brings together the world’s best researchers in a focused, collaborative effort to improve equine health.

- **Avian metapneumovirus**—Drs. Kakambi Nagaraja and Dave Halvorson discovered that avian metapneumovirus may be zoonotic.

- **Johne’s disease testing**—Researchers at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory developed a new test for the diagnosis of Johne’s disease. The test detects antibodies in milk against the organism that causes Johne’s disease and is now available to Minnesota dairy producers.

- **PRRS vaccine**—MJ Biologics launched a new technology for producing a porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome vaccine. This technology was originally invented by College professor Dr. HanSoo Joo and is exclusively licensed by the University of Minnesota.

- **Points of Pride Research Days**—Graduate students, faculty, alumni, and community partners were honored for their research accomplishments. The Distinguished Research Alumni Award went to Dr. Gary Boorman (D.V.M, 1967) and the Distinguished Research Partner Award went to Geneticporc.

Our Goal:
To improve the health of animals and people by preparing students, graduates, faculty, and staff for successful careers

Our Results:
- **Graduation**—Eighty-two students who received their D.V.M. degrees. Five students were awarded with Ph.D. degrees, two with master's degrees, one with a D.V.M./M.P.H. degree, and three with swine certificates.

- **Awards banquet**—Sixty-one scholarship programs awarded 141 scholarships and awards to veterinary students in the amount of $130,000.

- **Orientation**—The class of 2009 participated in the Minnesota Leadership Experience, a newly-developed orientation designed to build relationships and help prepare students for veterinary school.

- **Ben Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center**—Renovation began on the historic dairy barn, which opened in March 2007. The building was named in honor of Dr. Ben Pomeroy, a pioneer in veterinary medicine.

- **Pfizer Research Excellence Award**—Dr. Mitchell Abrahamsen, professor in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, received the Pfizer Research Excellence Award for his genomic work in *Cryptosporidium parvum*, a parasite that infects the digestive tracts of humans and animals.

- **Norden Teaching Award**—Dr. Leslie Sharkey, associate professor in Veterinary Population Medicine, received the Norden Teaching Award.

- **Mark of Excellence**—Dr. David Polzin, professor in Veterinary Clinical Sciences, received the Mark of Excellence, which is given to a faculty member who generates and shares new knowledge with the veterinary community.
Our Goal:
To improve the health and well-being of animals and people by enhancing the veterinary health care delivery system

Our Results:
- **Equine Center**—The College broke ground for the new Equine Center in August 2006. Completion of this state-of-the-art facility is expected in fall 2007.
- **Emergency preparedness**—The Center for Animal Health and Food Safety collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Board of Animal Health, U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Minnesota’s poultry and egg industries to develop emergency preparedness plans for avian influenza and other potentially catastrophic animal diseases.
- **Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere**—The Center for Animal Health and Food Safety provided leadership in the formation of SSAFE (Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere), a public-private partnership created to protect the safe global food supply.
- **Equine dental education program**—The College announced the introduction of the Minnesota Equine Dental Symposia, a series of continuing education programs for veterinarians.

Our Goal:
To improve the health of animals and people by positioning the College for long-term financial sustainability

Our Results:
- **Benefactors** shared a total of $3.5 million in gifts:
  - $1.1 million in new gifts to the Equine Center for a total of $4.8 to date
  - $681,089 to support The Raptor Center
  - Gifts to establish current and endowed scholarships to directly benefit veterinary students
  - Gifts to support student international travel experiences
  - Gifts to support clients through the Companion Animal and Animal Emergency Funds
- **Partnerships**—the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety continues to build productive partnerships with Minnesota state agencies, commodity organizations, and food systems, as well as national and international organizations that impact Minnesotans.
- **Surveillance**—the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory continues to protect Minnesota’s agricultural economy through programs to monitor animal diseases such as avian influenza, TB, and chronic wasting disease.
By The Numbers

Research expenditures
Research expenditures are a measure of the size of a college’s research program. Of the 28 colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States, the University Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine ranked eighth in research expenditures, with total research expenditures of $15,779,337.

Research awards
College faculty members submitted 162 research proposals of which 92 (57 percent) were granted, for a total of $9,738,461.

Research productivity
College faculty members publish the results of their research in peer-reviewed scientific journals and books. Faculty published 57 book chapters and 408 refereed journal articles.
- Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences: 185
- Veterinary Clinical Sciences: 135
- Veterinary Population Medicine: 88

Patents filed and issued
College faculty members submitted seven patent disclosures; one patent was issued.

Veterinary continuing education
The College’s veterinary continuing education programs provide lifelong learning opportunities for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary and agricultural industry representatives, food animal producers, and pet owners. Continuing education offered 33 conferences to a total of 2,172 veterinarians in the following areas: avian, equine, dairy, swine, molecular biotechnology, and companion animal. In addition, many faculty participated in Minnesota Extension Service programming as well as state, national, and international conferences.

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program
Total students enrolled in four-year program: 355

Class of 2010 Entering Student Profile
90 students (78 female, 12 male)
Minnesota residents: 62 percent
Mean grade point average in required courses: 3.61
Mean standard score on Graduate Record Exam: 1170

Class of 2006 Graduating Students Profile
Number of graduates: 82
Number practicing in Minnesota: 27
Number entering small animal private practice: 31
Number entering large animal or mixed practice: 6
Number conducting other activities (internships, advanced degree, military): 16
Number still seeking positions as of August 15: 17
Average salary for private practice: $58,152
Average age: 28
Average indebtedness: $115,802

Graduate Program Student Profile
Graduate students
- From United States: 47 percent
- From 21 other countries: 53 percent
Graduate degrees awarded
- Master of Science: 10
- Ph.D.: 13

Faculty and Staff Who Teach, Conduct Research, and Provide Administrative Service
Faculty members: 128
Graduate student, teaching, and research assistants: 142
Professional, administrative, and civil service staff: 382
**Sources of Revenue**

**Generated revenue**
- Veterinary Medical Center: $16,880,763
- Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory: $8,680,877
- Tuition: $9,152,728
- Sales and Service: $2,979,416
- Gifts/Endowment: $3,344,637
- Other: $2,340,833

Subtotal: $43,379,254

**Centrally-allocated revenue**
- State funding: $12,317,854
- State special: $2,274,412
- Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station: $2,312,423
- Minnesota Extension Service: $358,882
- Other: $364,010

Subtotal: $17,627,581

**Research grants**
- National Institutes of Health: $3,189,471
- U.S. Department of Agriculture: $3,470,955
- Private industry: $3,786,438
- Other: $91,773

Subtotal: $10,538,637

**TOTAL REVENUE** $71,545,472

**Expenditures**

**Veterinary Medical Center**
- Research: $19,376,883
- Faculty salary/department support: $15,779,337

**Research**
- Operations: $12,332,104
- Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory: $10,240,287
- Continuing Education/TRC/Other Public Service: $8,399,759

**TOTAL EXPENSES** $69,956,170
Financial Highlights continued

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Cases evaluated: 68,201
Laboratory tests conducted: 1,475,523
Molecular laboratory tests conducted: 156,648

Veterinary Medical Center
Small Animal Hospital
Admissions: 43,771
Hospitalizations: 8,914
Outpatients: 34,857

Large Animal Hospital
Admissions: 1,900
Hospitalizations: 778
Outpatients: 1,122

Referrals
Small Animal: 30,280
Large Animal: 1,031

Specialty Training
Veterinary interns: 9
Veterinary residents: 7

Zoo Animal Services
Number of calls: 165
Number treated: 536
Herd animals treated: 1,290

By the numbers
1..................Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) program in Minnesota
28..................Average age of students
60..................Percentage of students from Minnesota
87..................Percentage of students who are women
80..................Percentage of Minnesota veterinarians prepared by the U of M
86..................Faculty members
23..................Graduate students
33..................Continuing education programs
355..............D.V.M. students
382.............Staff members
408..............Refereed journal articles published by faculty
646.............Birds of prey treated by The Raptor Center
751.............Application for admission (90 admitted)
1,648..............Alumni in Minnesota
3,417..............Degrees granted since 1954
1,900..............Large animal cases in the Veterinary Medical Center
2,172..............Professionals attending CVM-sponsored conferences
43,771..............Small animal cases in the Veterinary Medical Center
68,201..............Cases processed by the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
1.4 million......Tests performed by the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
1.9 million......Dogs and cats in Minnesota
5.1 million......Population of Minnesota
3,492,420......Dollars donated by friends and alumni
$15,779,337 ....Research expenditures
72 million......Farm animals in Minnesota
21 billion........Dollar value of animal agriculture in Minnesota
Our donors

The College of Veterinary Medicine extends a sincere thank-you to all the individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations that have contributed gifts or services during June 30, 2005 through July 1, 2006. Each gift directly impacts the education of our students and the health and well-being of human and animals.

Space limits us to listing those who have contributed $100 or more. We are strongly committed to maintaining an accurate donor list so please contact the development office at 612-624-5614 about any errors or omissions.

Individual benefactors

$100,000 +
June & Alvin Perlman

$25,000 - $99,999
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Judith S. & Richard F. Corson
Dennis A. & Nickie J. Dillon
Barbara M. Dorset
The Tribute Fund

The College’s Tribute Fund program is a special way for veterinarians to memorialize the passing of a client’s pet through a gift in its honor. The human-animal bond is a special relationship. Expressing sympathy to a client over the loss of a beloved companion animal is a lovely way to honor that bond and memorialize that beloved companion. Knowing that these gifts will help pets in the future is a very comforting thought for grieving owners.

Tribute Fund gifts are also used to honor a veterinarian, celebrate an achievement of a companion animal, commemorate a birthday or graduation, and express joy for a pet’s recovery from an accident or illness. Tribute gifts are a wonderful way to celebrate the love we have for our companion animals and acknowledge the people who care for them.

For more information about the Tribute Fund, contact the development office at 612-624-7624 or cvmdev@umn.edu.
Nestlé Purina Memories Garden

The Nestlé Purina Memories Garden is an outdoor meditative garden space for pet owners and a permanent place to honor the special relationships between owners and their pets.

In June 2006, the College’s annual Memories Garden event recognized 18 companion animals and paid special tribute to Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota. Those who remembered their pet or loved one were:

- Kathy and Trevor Ames
- Katharine Anderson and Brad Anderson
- Gwen and Dayton Carlson
- Rosie and Dave Emmons
- Janis Hall
- Bill James
- Corinne and Richard Johnson
- Peggy Kustritz
- Nancy and John Lowman
- Abbie and Curtis Miller
- Stephanie and Jason Pommier
- Michelle Rich
- Joan and Mike Runnheim
- Beverly and Glen Semanko
- Kathleen and Richard Swenson
- Lori Anne and Eva Williams

For information about the 2007 Memories Garden event or about how to purchase a memorial brick, contact the development office at 612-624-7624 or cvmd@umn.edu.
Scholarships and fellowships

Faced with rising educational costs and declining government support, the University has worked hard to keep tuition increases to a minimum. Still, students’ expenses can be staggering. A scholarship or fellowship provides much-needed financial help.

In April 2006, the College held its annual Spring Awards Banquet to honor the achievements of College faculty members and veterinary students. During the banquet, 61 scholarship programs awarded 141 scholarships and awards totaling $130,000 that went directly to our veterinary students.

Through scholarships, College of Veterinary Medicine alumni and friends have a special opportunity to keep the tradition alive.

“We all owe the College a great deal for our professional training and the opportunities that it provided us,” says Wendell Niemann, class of 1957. “May the new young professionals gain as much benefit from their education as I have.”

For more information about College scholarships and the University of Minnesota President’s Scholarship Match program, please contact the development office at 612-624-7624.

Carol J. Carlson  
Cathy Sue Carlson ‘83  
Susan L. Chapman ‘91  
Michelle L. Cheever & Scott E. McKinster  
Avery J. Christianson ‘75  
Mark S. Citsay  
David E. Clausen ‘71  
Barbara L. Coffman ‘78  
Elwood R. Collins  
Michael J. Cook ‘75  
James E. Cowie  
Elizabeth H. Cowie  
Mary P. Craig & Michael Moore  
Karim A. Cramer  
Melinda I. Cress  
Wendy L. Daly  
Peter R. Davies  
Raymond J. Deeg, Jr.  
Laurel D. Degernes ‘81  
Trisha M. Delhamer ‘93  
John A. DePlanque  
Therese M. Dieringer ‘86  
E. Carol & Richard Dierks ‘59  
Donald T. Dingess  
James G. Donahue ‘82  
Mary S. Donohauer  
Janet D. Donlin ‘81  
Cornelia E. Farnum ‘80  
Barbara C. Farrell ‘87  
Stephanie A. Ferguson ‘87  
Thomas P. Filla ‘85  
Paul G. Fink ‘75  
Jane S. Flanders  
Janice Fleming  
Donna J. & Paul M. Floyd  
Patricia L. Ford ‘71  
Lawrence C. Fosbenner  
Rodney K. Frank  
Isabelle & Donald B. French ‘53  
Cheryl A. Fritz  
Charles Frye  
Richard E. & Lorraine Gandrud  
John M. Gay  
Barbara L. & James G. Geistfeld ‘73  
Jerold D. Gemar ‘65  
Kathy A. Gervais ‘87  
Glenn L. & Melinda B. Gibson  
Gail R. Gieseke ‘89  
Sophie Gilbert  
Dennis E. Gilbert  
David A. Gilgenbach ‘75  
Fritz P. Gluckstein ‘55  
Leslie S. Goldblatt ‘82  
Mary Grau & Allan D. Rosenwald  
Jill C. & Jock K. Grier  
Grant R. Gugisberg ‘91  
Ronald J. Guzman ‘81  
Mary Ellen Hanner  
Diane C. Hansgen ‘83  
Jodi Hansson Murphy & Alex Murphy  
Laura A. Hartfiel  
Kay C. & W. James Havenga  
Charles J. Hawkins  
Richard L. Heinrich  
Randall J. Herman ‘75  
Nancy C. Heuer  
Rosemary E. Hickisch  
Donald B. Hicks ‘51  
Harvey D. Hibey  
Clinton J. Hof ‘57  
Amy S. Hoffman  
Michael D. Hoffman ‘81  
Christopher M. Holenstein ‘93  
Heather N. & Brent E. Holm  
Lyle J. Holsbach ‘81  
Ann Brooke Holt ‘58  
Deborah L. Hooper  
Dennis W. Hovelson ‘74  
Evelyn M. Huff  
Richard F. Hughes  
Sharon Hurley & David Linn  
Jessie W. Hurtubise  
Duane E. Huwe ‘61  
Craig D. Innes ‘75  
William S. Isomoto ‘81  
Wayne M. Jacobs ‘68  
Dale L. Janson ‘76  
Roland S. Johns ‘59  
Julia A. Johnson ‘74  
Kermit W. Johnson ‘56  
Alice & Hans Kalinka  
Andris J. Kaneps ‘78  
Phyllis J. Kanki ‘82  
Carol Keehn  
P. J. Kessler  
Ross W. Kiehl ‘99  
Gene R. Kind ‘55  
Duane R. Kissner ‘69  
Stanley H. Klevan ‘65  
Donna J. Kodet  
James A. Kopolowski  
Betty A. Krome-Heffernan  
Roger A. Kroghwold ‘73  
Robert A. Kroll ‘88  
Cheryl L. & John M. Kruger  
Thomas A. Kruske ‘85  
Scott A. Kuecker ‘92  
John R. Kunkel ‘63  
Betsy A. Larson ‘83  
Harvard E. Larson ‘52  
Tucker W. Lebien  
Robert R. Leder ‘82  
Peter J. Lee  
Pamela R. Lee & Jeffrey A. Weeks  
Gary R. Leff ‘58  
Kyle P. & Benson E. Legg  
Richard L. Leiter ‘72  
Bradford Lemke

Kate An Hunter, president of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA), poses for a photo with MVMA scholarship winners Beth Thompson, Jennifer Wicklund, and Matt Pike, all of the class of 2007.
Equine Center gallops along

After the August 9 groundbreaking, construction of the Equine Center moved ahead rapidly. By December 1, the building’s concrete slab foundation and steel superstructure were all in place.

Benefactors to the Equine Center have enthusiastically contributed $4.8 million toward the fund-raising goal of $7.3 million. The total cost of the building is $14 million, with University support comprising roughly half.

The Equine Center will:

- Advance the health, well-being, and performance of the horse through state-of-the-art medical care
- Educate the next generation of equine veterinarians, offering a new undergraduate equine curriculum
- Strengthen the education of current equine veterinarians
- Expand research
- Offer a gathering place for the equine industry and equine community
- Provide a home for a therapeutic riding program and mounted police horses

The Equine Center is projected to open in fall 2007. If you are interested in “ponying up” and helping the Equine Center cross the fund-raising finish line, please contact the development office at 612-624-7624 or cvmdev@umn.edu.

By December 2006, construction of the new Equine Center was well underway.
Matching gift program

Thousands of companies sponsor matching gift programs to encourage their employees to support charities. Most companies match dollar for dollar, and some double- or triple-match employee gifts. The impact of matching dollars truly makes a difference!

To find out if your company has a matching-gift policy, visit www.matchinggifts.com/umn.

Foundations & Organizations

$25,000+

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Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica
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Cargill
Fort Dodge Animal Health
Genetiporc
Hill’s Pet Nutrition
IVESCO
McDonald’s Corp.
Merial Limited
Monsanto Co.
Nestle Purina PetCare Co.
Pfizer Animal Health
Pfizer
The Phileona Foundation
PIC USA
R & D Systems

Philip J. Schoenborn ‘79
Dora Schroeder
Thomas J. Schuld ’02
Peter J. Schultheiss ‘85
Joan M. Schumacher ’83
William J. Schumacher ’83
Charles D. Schwantes ’81
Willis M. Seabrook
Donald J. Settlegren ’75
Lalita & Razhubir P. Sharma
Karen G. Sheldon
Gerald K. Shuck ’76
Vivian & Frank Sichak
Francis E. Siegfried ’53
Barb Simison
Lawrence W. Sinek ’62
Vickie K. Skala
Carol A. Skradski
Gary L. Sloniker ’77
Cynthia L. Smith ’79
Margaret R. Soubby ’80
David A. Spong ’65
Barbara C. & Charles E. Stanley
Robert H. Steinbrank ’53
Marymina D. & George Stenger
Dale Stephenson
Philip G. Stevenson ’62
Eric D. Stone ’93
Jami R. Stromberg ’96
Meg A. Sulzen ’93
Lorna C. Taketa ’72
Ruth S. D. Taylor
Eileen L. ’78 & Brad J. Thacker
James A. Thelen ’62
Tara C. Thiele ’96
Rodney V. Thieleke ’76
Teresa L. Thomas
Dee Ann L. Thompson &
Michael J. Jones
Kevin N. Thorsgaard ’90
Lisa R. Tiegel & Eric H. Galatz
Margaret C. Tiffany ’84
Mary & Harold Tilstra ’75
Mark D. Titus ’73
Clayton J. Torbert ’58
Ava M. Trent
Todd R. Trigg ’95
James R. Tripp ’68
James D. Trites ’88
Richard R. Uhlig ’65
Rebecca Ann Urbanski &
Scott Junkert
Kevin P. Varner ’85
Andrea M. Verenoni ’03
Paula J. Vestey
Dawn R. & James F. Voegeli
Frank A. Voelker ’67
Alan V. Vogen ’65
Jean M. Waage ’88
Sharon A. Wachs ’69
Grace P. & William W. Wagnild
Ray Waldron
Thomas W. Wanous ’59
Patricia A. Weichselbaum ’97
Wayne H. Weiland ’83
Donald R. Wengen ’54
Thomas L. Wetzel ’77
Laurence O. Whiteley
Thomas H. Whitten ’83
Michael D. Williams ’75
Lori-Ann Williams
Eva Ann Williams
Paige Winebarger
Laura L. Winge
Laura J. Wold ’90
Michael J. Wolf ’79
Maureen E. Wolfram ’95
Robert W. Woolsey ’61
Stuart D. Wyand ’57
Jacqueline M. & John F. Youngberg
M. A. Zabel
Deborah Z. & Wayne C. Zwickey
$5,000-$24,999
AgStar Financial Services
Akzo Nobel
Banfield-The Pet Hospital
Bernice Barbour Foundation
Eli Lilly & Co
Keystone Foods
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation
Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation
Preserve International
Schering-Plough Animal Health Corp.
Medtronic Foundation
Merck Co Foundation
University of Saskatchewan

$1,000-$4,999
3M Foundation
American Veterinary Medical Association Foundation
American Association of Swine Veterinarians
Apogee Enterprises
Assn of American Veterinary Colleges
Edinburgh Pet Health Center
General Mills Foundation
Green Bay Animal Hospital
H. J. Heinz Co Foundation
IVX Animal Health
Kelly Foods Corp.
M. V. P. Laboratories
Marbrook Foundation
Minnesota Animal Health Foundation
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Monticello-Big Lake Pet Hospital
Morgan & Myers
PigCHAMP
PowerFloat
Prince Agri Products
Scientific Systems For Swine
Simmons & Associates Educational Trust Fund
James Ford Bell Foundation
Kitty Clinic

Leaving a legacy

Linda Wolf graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor’s degree in animal science in 1972, a veterinary medicine degree in 1984, and a doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1986. In July 2005, Wolf made a very special decision to designate the College of Veterinary Medicine in her estate plan.

Linda Wolf is a dear friend to the College. As a former staff member of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and a benefactor, she knows all the ins and outs of the Veterinary Medical Center. She and her dog, Meghan, are dedicated clients, and we are grateful for her passion and thoughtfulness to designate the College in her estate plan.

For more information about how you can support the College and its programs by designating it as a beneficiary, contact the development office at 612-624-7624 or cvmdev@umn.edu.
Companion Animal Fund and Animal Emergency Fund

Pet owners love their companion animals and want to care for them as best as they possibly can. But sometimes a pet owner finds that they have insufficient funds to cover unexpected costs associated with an injury or humane euthanasia.

The University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center can assist in these situations through the College’s Animal Emergency Fund and Companion Animal Fund. Entirely supported by donations from people who care deeply about animals, these funds provide qualified clients with financial assistance for the treatment of conditions such as fractures or foreign body ingestion, or for humane euthanasia, if necessary.

If you have questions about the funds or would like to discuss including these funds in your will or estate plan, please contact Katharine Anderson, development officer, at 612-626-2343 or ksander@umn.edu.
Jersey-Calhoun Veterinary Hospital
Johnson Jones & Ireland Veterinary Clinic
Johnstown Veterinary Associates
Judge Ely Animal Hospital & Bird Clinic
Just Cats Veterinary Care
Kaizen Animal Health
Kaukauna Veterinary Clinic
Kingsbury Animal Hospital
Koch Enterprises of Sarasota
Kroner Animal Care
Kulshan Veterinary Hospital
Lakemont Veterinary Clinic
Land O'Lakes Foundation
Lane Animal Hospital
Laurelhurst Veterinary Hospital
Leland Veterinary Clinic
Levan Veterinary Associates
Lichtenberg Veterinary Hospital
Lincolnshire Animal Hospital
Littitz Veterinary Clinic
Live Oak Animal Clinic
Lone Tree Veterinary Medical Center
Magnusson Veterinary Services
McCormick Animal Clinic
Meiners Animal Clinic
Memorial Drive Veterinary Clinic
Midland Animal Clinic
Milford Animal Hospital
Milford Veterinary Clinic
Miller Animal Clinic
Minnesota Rubber Co Foundation
Minnesota Valley Pet Hospital
Mint Hill Animal Hospital
Morganton Animal Clinic
Mountain Vista Animal Hospital
North Paw Animal Hospital
North Valley Animal Clinic
Northeast Indiana Vet
Emergency & Specialty
Northside Animal Hospital
Northside Pet Hospital
NWW Veterinary Service
Old Mill Veterinary Hospital
Olive Branch Animal Clinic
Owatonna Veterinary Services
Packerland Veterinary Center Ltd.
Parkway Small Animal & Exotic Clinic
Pecos-Russell Animal Hospital
Pet Care
Pet Care Veterinary Hospital
Pet Health Clinic
Pet Medical Center & Spa
Pet Medical Center
Pet Street Station Animal Hospital
Petmar Veterinary Service
Pineview Veterinary Hospital
Piper's Riverdale Animal Clinic
Pitts Veterinary Hospital
Plaza Veterinary Hospital
Plymouth Heights Pet Hospital
Portage Animal Hospital
Rainbow River Animal Hospital
Red Mountain Animal Hospital
Sault Animal Hospital
Schoolcraft Veterinary Clinic
Seville Operations
Shell Oil Co Foundation
South Ridge Animal Clinic
South Shore Animal Hospital
Sprayberry Animal Hospital
St Francis Veterinary Hospital
Sugar House Veterinary Hospital
Sunderland Animal Hospital
Superstition Animal Hospital
Suwanee Animal Hospital
Table Mountain Veterinary Clinic
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation
Top Industrial Supply Co.
Town & Country Animal Hospital Florida
Town & Country Veterinary Clinic Wisconsin
Town & Country Veterinary Clinic Ohio
Tulivane
Twin Maples Veterinary Hospital
Twin Pines Veterinary Clinic
U S Bancorp Foundation
Verde Veterinary Hospital
Veterinary Center of Liberty
Veterinary Relief Services
Volunteer Veterinary Clinic
Wallenpaupack Veterinary Clinic
Warwick Animal Hospital
West Branch Veterinary Services
Westbury Veterinary Clinic
Westside Animal Hospital
Westside Veterinary Hospital
Willow Hill Animal Clinic
Wingert Animal Hospital
Woodland Veterinary Clinic
Yalesville Veterinary Hospital
Young's Animal Hospital
A lasting remembrance

The Heritage Society at the University of Minnesota Foundation acknowledges individuals who have made a future gift of any size to the College of Veterinary Medicine and its associates program.

Thank you to Heritage Society members who have made future gifts to the College that will safeguard our future. Future gifts may include revocable and irrevocable deferred gifts such as bequest provisions, beneficiary designations, charitable gift annuities, and remainder trusts.

In 2006, the College of Veterinary Medicine welcomed six new members to the Heritage Society. If you are considering a legacy gift, please contact us about your intent. We want to ensure your gift is appropriately directed. Call the development office at 612-624-5614.

Heritage Society members

Christine M Addington
Katharine S. Anderson
Lorna L. Anderson
Barbara & Dean Asbury
Grace Ann Bartels
Elizabeth G. Bell
Ivy M. Celender
Catherine & Robert Cleary
Marcia & John Copeland
Margaret & Paul Cox
Marjorie & Wendell De Boer
Dena & George Fischer
Alan R. Flory, ’67
Diane & Robert Gordon
Joan & Raymond Grefe
Bee Hanlon & Wallace Griselda
Colleen & Michael Hansen
Mary & Oscar Hildebrandt
Sally Fefercorn Hyslop & David Hylsop

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Jean & Rodney Johnson
George H. Krienke, ’61
Mary Ellen & Leonard Kuhi
Frances R. Le Clair
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Nancy & John Lowman
Sue & Ken Madsen
Kathleen M. McLaughlin & Daryl Skobba
Marcella Melby
Barbara J. Merrill
Barbara J. Muesing & Charles Casey, ’63
Patricia & John Nelson
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Delores J. & Richard S. Olson
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Carolyn & Stanley Thompson
Alvin F. Weber
Patricia L. Weeding
Bet & Don Willey
Phyllis M. Wisen
M. F. Woelffer
Linda A. Wolf ’86
John S. Wright, ’70
Dr. David E. Lee joined the College in July 2006 as director of the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) and associate professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department. He came to the University of Minnesota from Colorado State University, where he was hospital director and associate professor at the James L. Voss Veterinary Medical Center. Prior to that, Dr. Lee was executive director of external affairs and marketing at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca, New York. He received his D.V.M. and M.B.A. degrees from Cornell University.

Q: What attracted you to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center?

A: The VMC is one of the largest and busiest veterinary teaching hospitals in the country, uniquely positioned to serve two large metropolitan areas. The veterinary college has a reputation among its peers for being exceptionally creative and visionary, and the VMC is one of the few teaching hospitals that functions very much like a large private practice. A distinct advantage is our ready access to other disciplines within the Academic Health Center, including medicine, dentistry, public health, and pharmacy.

Q: What are your values and vision for the medical center?

A: I value customer service, being free to take risks and fail, and personal and professional development. Some of the jobs I’ve enjoyed most over the years were retail positions, particularly if I was passionate about the product I was selling. We have a great product, and I’m privileged to be associated with this team!

In my vision I see exceptional students from across the country choosing to come to the College because they want to learn clinical skills in a busy, modern hospital that prepares them for life in the real world. An essential part of my vision includes hiring and retaining the very best clinicians and staff, in an environment that fosters personal and professional growth and satisfaction. At the same time, industry will increasingly want to forge meaningful partnerships with the College because a large, busy hospital with great people, doing high-quality work, and producing excellent veterinarians benefits them too. Lastly, my vision is to continue to grow as a world-class veterinary medical center respected by our peers for our creativity and vision.

Q: What changes can we look forward to in the near future?

A: Absolutely key to our success is our ability to retain and grow our loyal referral base in the Twin Cities. We are very fortunate to have a great referral base, many of whom are University of Minnesota alumni. We have a great reputation for the quality of care we provide and the expertise of our clinicians and staff. Still, we know we can do better on the service side, particularly with communications with clients and referring veterinarians. We pride ourselves on our compassionate, high-quality care, and we can’t afford to compromise on that as we continue to grow.

We are also very excited about upcoming improvements in our facilities. We recently received Board of Regents approval for a new linear accelerator, the only one of its kind for veterinary use in the region and a huge advance in our ability to provide safe radiation therapy for pets with cancer. Next summer we expect to install a new magnetic resonance (MR) unit to greatly improve our imaging capabilities for small and large animals. This will be part of a larger outpatient imaging service that will make current and future imaging capabilities far more accessible to regional veterinarians and their clients. The equine hospital will expand its equine performance and lameness services in the new Equine Center, and the recent purchase of a primary care, equine ambulatory practice in Maple Plain greatly expands our teaching and service capabilities. We will also be making sizeable investments in renovations to improve our hospital pharmacy, cancer center, clinical pathology laboratory, and other teaching and service space.
Medical Center client is breeder of champions

Vickie Halstead has been breeding and showing bichons frises since 1990. Over the years she has bred 27 litters, including 25 American Kennel Club champions. Halstead breeds champion bichons and takes time to examine their pedigrees for quality and health issues.

For many years Halstead has been coming to the Veterinary Medical Center’s Small Animal Theriogenology Service for help with breeding management and timing. In addition to seeking reproductive care at the Veterinary Medical Center, Halstead obtains certification for all of her dogs and ensures proper socialization and healthy emotional development by limiting breeding to one to two litters per year. She also provides puppy buyers with health guarantees and educates them on proper nutrition and veterinary care.

Speaking to veterinary students about the importance of responsible breeding is critical to Halstead.

“It’s important that students understand all of the aspects of breeding from an ethical standpoint, and Vickie takes the time to explain this to the students,” says Peggy Root Kustritz, vice chair, Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department.

By focusing on the health of her bichons, Halstead hopes she will inspire others to practice ethical breeding.

“My main goals as a breeder are to improve the quality and health of bichons and to provide happy, healthy puppies to carefully chosen homes,” she says.

Halstead is a member of the Bichon Frise Club of America and chair of its health committee. To view the club’s Web site, please visit www.bichon-health.org.

For more information on reproductive services, visit www.cvm.umn.edu/vmc.

—Peggy Root Kustritz, vice chair, Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department
Treatments for canine osteoarthritis: Reducing pain, increasing mobility

Osteoarthritis affects 20 million people, according to the National Institute of Arthritis and Muscoskeletal and Skin Disease. Surgical and non-surgical treatment options are readily available for humans. For dogs and other animals affected by this disease, treatment options are limited.

“For dogs affected by osteoarthritis, the pain can be relieved by medical management that involves weight loss, anti-inflammatory pain relievers, and supplements such as glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate,” says Liz Pluhar, assistant professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine. “When medical therapy is no longer effective, surgical options can be pursued, including fusing the joint, replacing the joint, or sometimes amputating the affected limb.”

Pluhar and her colleagues are researching other treatment options for animals. The Veterinary Medical Center currently offers total hip and elbow replacement and plans to offer full knee replacement in the future.

Researchers at the College are studying hyaluronan, a popular treatment for humans with osteoarthritis. An acid found in healthy joints, hyaluronan is injected into the arthritic joint. It acts like a shock absorber and lubricant to aid mobility. This treatment has been used in horses for years, and researchers at the College are working to measure its effectiveness in dogs.

“We are conducting a two-year study to evaluate the effects of hyaluronan on dogs with naturally occurring OA,” says Pluhar. “We should complete this study and compile the data this year, and hope to see a positive outcome from using hyaluronan to treat OA in dogs.”

If your dog suffers from osteoarthritis of the elbows and you would like to enroll the animal in the study, please contact Dr. Liz Pluhar at 612-625-1162 or pluha006@umn.edu.

New Pfizer Animal Health collaboration

The College’s Clinical Investigation Center (CIC) has entered into a scientific collaboration with Pfizer Animal Health, the “Pfizer Animal Health Funded Component of the Clinical Investigation Center at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.” The partnership represents a shift in the way the College of Veterinary Medicine works with industry, creating an opportunity to join the intellectual resources of industry and the expertise of academia in a host of areas. The relationship provides the opportunity to:

- Expand clinical research in the College of Veterinary Medicine
- Share the College’s expertise with Pfizer scientists, connecting drug development with diagnosis and treatment of companion animal disease
- Clinically evaluate Pfizer’s products
- Take basic research to the patients—dogs and cats

The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine is one of two national programs that were chosen by Pfizer to participate in this collaborative research relationship.

For information about the Clinical Investigation Center or to inquire about clinical trials, visit www.cvm.umn.edu/cic or call 612-624-2485.
Fourteen veterinary students were selected to participate in the 2006 Summer Scholars program. The program allows students the opportunity to plan and implement research, evaluate data, and work in an active laboratory. These students spent the majority of their summer working on a variety of research with the help of a faculty mentor.

Summer Scholars recap

Mindy Rostal, second-year student

Mindy spent her summer investigating Rift Valley fever virus in Kenya with her mentor Dr. Moses Njenga, a professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department.

Describe your research.

Every 10 years, Rift Valley fever virus causes a huge wave of abortions in livestock and severe illness in humans. We took blood samples from sick individuals, tested the serum for disease exposure, and gave them questionnaires to help correlate disease with risk factors. Because no one knows where the virus hides between outbreaks, we were trying to determine if there are low-levels of mild infection in humans.

What did you enjoy the most?

I enjoyed spending a summer doing research. Without support like this program, it is hard for veterinary students to get the experience of setting up and conducting our own projects. It also gave me opportunity to meet veterinarians who work with wildlife, public health, and labs to learn what it is like to be a veterinarian in a developing country.

What is the most important thing you learned?

I learned how much you can do with very little. In Kenya you need to be prepared for everything – from not having electricity during the day to being ready to leave at 8 a.m. but not actually leaving until 3 p.m. It is a different experience to do research in a developing country, but the challenges are fun as well as frustrating. It motivated me to go into the field of international medicine.

Lena DeTar, first-year student

Lena spent her summer conducting research to determine whether genes that are involved in human epilepsy are also involved in canine epilepsy. Dr. James Mickelson, a professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, served as Lena’s mentor.

Describe your research.

We selected genes we were interested in and investigated whether those genes had the same inheritance pattern as seizure disorders in our populations of vizslas, English springer spaniels, and greater Swiss mountain dogs. My data suggested that none of the genes I looked at has anything to do with inherited epilepsy in these breeds.

What did you enjoy the most about this program?

I enjoyed doing original research. It was neat to start out with a general plan and then 10 (or so) weeks later to have an answer to the question I was asking. I also enjoyed attending the annual conference held in Louisiana, getting the chance to explain my work to others, and meeting other Summer Scholars students.

What was the most important thing you learned while working on your Summer Scholar project?

It’s too early for me to tell; I think it will take some time to understand what was valuable and what was not. My research results showed that the genes I selected did not cause epilepsy, which I knew was a possibility when I started. I relearned that good research doesn’t always give you interesting, elucidative, publishable results, yet is valuable nonetheless.
Leman conference breaks records

In 2006, the annual Allen D. Leman Swine Conference drew in the largest amount of attendees ever. Held September 23-26 in St. Paul, Minn., the conference drew 824 swine professionals from 25 countries. For the first time, a special session was held for a group of professionals from China. A record number of 52 swine posters were accepted for the annual student poster competition.

Ninety-one speakers made presentations on issues related to swine health, disease, and production. Keynote speakers included Brian Knudson of Cargill, Charlie Arnot of CMA Consulting, Bill Christianson of PIC USA, and Jim Collins, director of the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Paul Schneider received the Science in Practice Award. The award, in memory of swine veterinary pioneer Al Leman, is presented annually to an outstanding swine clinician. Schneider is currently the director of animal health at Maple Leaf Foods.

The 2007 Allen D. Leman conference will be held in St. Paul, Minn. September 15-18.

Dental courses offered to veterinarians and technicians

Small animal radiology, periodontics, and surgical extractions were some of the courses taught at College of Veterinary Medicine weekend dental labs. Dr. Gary Goldstein, associate medical director and head of Dentistry Services at the Veterinary Medical Center, spent two weekends last fall teaching veterinarians and technicians about veterinary dentistry. Only 10 people are allowed to register per session, and all classes were full.

“We offer the labs a couple of times a year. The courses are kept small so each participant can get hands-on experience working in veterinary dentistry,” says Goldstein.

Upcoming continuing education opportunities

April 12: Companion Animal Critical Care
April 27-29: Minnesota Horse Expo, Minnesota State Fairgrounds
May 15-17: Minnesota Dairy Health Conference
May 19: Canine Elbow Workshop
June 2: College of Veterinary Medicine All-Class Reunion, Continuing Education Presentation, and Tribute to Dr. Carl Osborne
June 22-24: Fundamentals of Equine Dentistry
July 9-13: Molecular Biotechnology Workshop
July 16: DairyCOMP305 Online Training Begins
September 15-18: Allen D. Leman Swine Conference

For more information about continuing education programs at the College of Veterinary Medicine, call 800-380-8636, e-mail vop@umn.edu, or visit www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach.
Prominent swine researcher dies

Carlos Pijoan, a professor in the Veterinary Population Medicine Department, died peacefully at age 61 at his home in Shoreview, Minnesota, on Jan. 9 after a three-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

The founder and director of the University’s Swine Disease Eradication Center, Pijoan was recognized internationally for his work in the area of swine respiratory disease and the influence of swine production systems on the dynamics of microorganisms such as porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus, *Haemophilus parasuis*, *Streptococcus suis*, and *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*. He oversaw the professional development of numerous graduate students from around the world, many of whom have made significant contributions to the swine industry.

“Carlos truly touched uncountable lives — both personally and professionally — throughout the global swine and research communities, as well as here at the college,” says Jeffrey Klausner, dean. “He is truly missed.”

Pijoan received his veterinary degree from the National University of Mexico in 1969 and his Ph.D. from the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom in 1973. In 1982, he joined the College, where his many honors and awards included the Norden Teaching Excellence Award in 1991, the Mark of Excellence Award in 2001, the Pfizer Award for Research Excellence in 2002, and Best Teacher awards in 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Pijoan was also an artistic woodworker, bird watcher, nature lover, and world traveler. He is survived by his wife, Montse; children, Marc, Carla, and Adrian; granddaughter, Sara; brother, Pau; sister, Carmen Maria; and numerous other relatives, colleagues, and friends.

The family requests that donations in his memory be directed to the Swine Disease Eradication Center fellowship in his name. Donations may be mailed to the College of Veterinary Medicine, 1365 Gortner Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Faculty member joins board of Heifer International

Julia Wilson, associate professor, large animal medicine, has joined the board of directors of Heifer International. The sole veterinarian on the board, she is serving a three-year term representing the Midwestern region of the United States.

Last summer, Wilson introduced Odo, a goat belonging to Laurel Schedin, a College staff member, to a group of children at St. Peter Claver Elementary School in St. Paul, Minnesota. The children were celebrating their accomplishment of raising money to purchase a goat for a poor family in Africa via Heifer International’s “Read to Feed” program.

“The children were fascinated by this gentle giant and learned a bit about goat husbandry,” says Wilson. “I enjoyed sharing my enthusiasm for large animals with them as well as discussing hunger and poverty in many countries.”

Wilson has also organized other activities for Heifer International at the College over the last several years, including a volunteer workshop in November 2005.

Since 1944, Heifer International has helped 38 million people move toward greater self-reliance through livestock development and training. Heifer stresses education about the root causes of hunger and sustainable solutions that are earth-friendly. For more information about Heifer International, visit www.heifer.org.
Julia Ponder named executive director

The College named Julia Ponder, D.V.M., as executive director of The Raptor Center in January. As executive director, she will be responsible for implementation of the strategic plan, providing organizational leadership with an emphasis on growth through fund raising, educational sponsorships, research grants, and endowments.

A graduate of Texas A&M University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Ponder practiced small animal medicine in the Dallas area for 14 years. She originally joined The Raptor Center as a volunteer veterinarian in 1998, and became staff veterinarian in 2002.

“I am excited about leading an organization with a mission as compelling as The Raptor Center’s,” Dr. Ponder said. “I look forward to building on its strong reputation and creating an enduring program that is focused on raptors, based on science, and effective in addressing environmental issues facing our world in the years to come.”

“Juli did an excellent job as interim associate director, and we are thrilled at her acceptance of the position of executive director,” says Jeffrey S. Klausner, dean. “Her extensive background in veterinary medicine, and specifically in raptor medicine and surgery, will be a great asset to the center’s rehabilitation work as well as the training of veterinarians from around the world.”

Ponder succeeds cofounder Patrick T. Redig, D.V.M., Ph.D., who provided leadership to the center for the past 21 years. Dr. Redig will remain an active faculty member conducting research and teaching and will sit on the center’s board of directors, acting as liaison between the center and his extensive network of national and international contacts.

Patrick Redig honored

Patrick T. Redig, cofounder of The Raptor Center, is honored on the University’s Wall of Discovery, which was unveiled on the Minneapolis campus on Sept. 29, 2006.

The Wall of Discovery is a 253-foot-long artistic tribute to the process that leads to great moments of discovery. Redig is recognized for his work on an external skeletal fixator/intramedullary pin tie-in device he developed for fracture repair in birds.

Each year, the Raptor Center treats approximately 700 eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons and reaches more than 240,000 people through public education programs and events, provides training in raptor medicine and surgery for veterinarians from around the world, and identifies emerging issues related to raptor health and populations.

For more information about the Wall of Discovery, go to http://www.alumni.umn.edu/Wall_of_Discovery.html.

Julia Ponder

In memory: Gary Duke

Gary Duke, cofounder of The Raptor Center and a retired college faculty member, died August 21, 2006, at the age of 68. He had battled Alzheimer’s disease for several years.

In 1967, after he received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He was hired as an avian gastrointestinal physiologist with teaching responsibilities in veterinary and undergraduate physiology courses.

In 1970, a student working in his lab brought him four baby great horned owls, sparking his lifelong interest in the birds. Two years later, he teamed up with Pat Redig, a veterinary student who offered to help him take care of the owls. The pair launched the Raptor Research and Rehabilitation Program, which later became The Raptor Center.

Duke’s career at the University began in 1967, after he received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He was hired as an avian gastrointestinal physiologist with teaching responsibilities in veterinary and undergraduate physiology courses.

In 1970, a student working in his lab brought him four baby great horned owls, sparking his lifelong interest in the birds. Two years later, he teamed up with Pat Redig, a veterinary student who offered to help him take care of the owls. The pair launched the Raptor Research and Rehabilitation Program, which later became The Raptor Center.

“His foresight and work were pivotal in establishing The Raptor Center,” Redig says. “I will always be grateful for all his work establishing the program and forging relationships with many friends, donors, and scientific professionals.”

Dr. Duke is survived by Maryann, his wife of 45 years, two daughters, and two grandchildren.
Campaign underway to raise funds for linear accelerator

In 2005 the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine designated comparative oncology as a center of excellence based on the discipline’s potential to drive cutting-edge basic and clinical research, spawn collaborations between human and veterinary investigators, provide graduate and postgraduate training for the field, and meet increasing demand for clinical care of companion animals with cancer.

To produce these results, the Veterinary Medical Center has acquired a linear accelerator, the device most commonly used for external beam radiation treatments for patients with cancer. The equipment is also used in stereotactic radiosurgery similar to that achieved using the gamma knife on targets in the brain. It can destroy cancer cells while sparing the surrounding healthy tissue.

Scheduled for installation in April, the linear accelerator will be the only one for veterinary use in the Upper Midwest. It will become a critical component of oncology services at the Veterinary Medical Center, allowing it to maintain the high level of quality required in academic medicine.

Want to make a difference? Consider a donation by contacting Katharine Anderson, development officer, at 612-626-2343 or ksander@umn.edu.

Equine Center breaks ground

In August, the College broke ground for the new University of Minnesota Equine Center. More than 200 people attended the groundbreaking event, celebrating the excellence in equine education, research, and care this center will bring to the community.

At the ceremony, College alumna Patricia N. Olson, president/CEO of the Morris Animal Foundation, announced it had selected the College of Veterinary Medicine to receive $5 million in funding for the first-ever Equine Consortium for Genetic Research. Led by Jim Mickelson, professor, the consortium’s goal is to bring together the world’s best researchers in a focused, collaborative effort to improve equine health.

Fund raising for the Equine Center is ongoing. To learn more about the Equine Center, visit www.cvm.umn.edu/umec.

By December 2006, Equine Center construction was well underway.

Participating in the Equine Center groundbreaking event are Carolyn Marinan, Hennepin County Public Affairs; Ann and Justin Litke, We Can Ride, Inc.; Robert Bruininks, president, University of Minnesota; Stephanie Valberg, director of the Equine Center; University of Minnesota Regent Dallas Bohnsack; Cindy Piper, Equine Steering Committee; Patricia N. Olson, president/CEO, Morris Animal Foundation; and Jeffrey Klausner, dean, College of Veterinary Medicine. In the background are Bryan Hagen and a plow team from Lazy K Ranch. Photo by Patrick O’Leary.
Donor thanks

The College hosted its seventh annual Dean’s Circle dinner at the McNamara Alumni Center in October. Dean Jeffery Klausner welcomed everyone to the event, and speakers included Terry Bock, associate vice president of the Academic Health Center; Denny Schulstad, volunteer president of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association; Robert Washabau, chair of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department; and College alumna Linda Wolf.

Established in 2000, the Dean’s Circle recognizes more than 350 donors who have made contributions or bequests of $5,000 or more to the College or its programs, such as The Raptor Center.

For more information about the Dean’s Circle, contact Shirley De la Torre at 612-624-6146 or delat010@umn.edu. To learn more about giving opportunities at the College, visit www.cvm.umn.edu/devalumni.
Profiles

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1365 Gortner Avenue
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Change Service Requested

Ben Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center opens spring 2007

Students in the College’s Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program gathered for in front of the new Ben Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center.