Meeting the need for food-animal veterinarians

New Animal Cancer Care and Research program

Batman leads the way: Clinical trials open to dogs with brain tumors

Points of Pride Research Day

Baby giraffe treated in the Large Animal Hospital

The Raptor Center launches Kestrel Watch
Dear Friends of the College:

As we look forward to the beginning of a new academic year, I must say that the past few months have been both challenging and promising. Despite unprecedented budgetary issues, there have been a number of significant high points for the College of Veterinary Medicine. Let’s start with one of the highlights: the Veterinary Loan Forgiveness bill, which was passed into law this spring.

The College strongly supported this legislation, which is set to provide $225,000 in veterinary loan forgiveness for graduating food-animal veterinarians who agree to practice in rural Minnesota communities. This funding is critical because we are facing serious national shortages in food-animal veterinarians. This issue of Profiles explores this topic, including VetFAST, the College’s early-enrollment program for students interested in food-animal medicine.

We also supported proposed legislation to increase funding for the College’s Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), the state’s only full-service, accredited diagnostic facility for animal health and disease. The University of Minnesota backed the bill, and it received strong support in both the House and the Senate — but no new funding was identified to support the proposed legislation. Recognizing the importance of adequate VDL funding, the University committed both recurring and one-time funds to ensure ongoing accreditation for the VDL, despite the significant cut in state funding to the University.

In July we opened our state-of-the-art education center for dairy medicine in New Sweden, Minnesota. This facility is embedded in a modern working dairy, with 6,000 calvings per year, and is part of a public-private partnership with Davis Family Dairies. The center is already being put to good use, having hosted continuing education modules for dairy practitioners and senior rotations for veterinary students.

Budget-wise, this past year has been tough. College revenues fell short of budget projections, resulting in a number of very difficult decisions. The current fiscal year, which started July 1, brought additional challenges, with state funding to the College cut by $2 million, and more cuts are possible in the future. In response to these fiscal challenges, we are exploring all possible ways to increase revenues and reduce costs while relying on our strengths: our exceptional faculty and staff, and our tradition of quality and innovation. We are putting that innovative thinking to work to solve our financial challenges so we can provide even more benefit for Minnesota and the nation. We are extremely grateful for your support, which is more important than ever.

Finally, if you know anything about the College, you know we don’t let grass grow under our feet. We’re gearing up to welcome our new and returning students and we’re busy planning two major College events: our All-Class Reunion and CVM Open House. This year, both are being held in conjunction with University of Minnesota Homecoming 2009: The Ultimate Homecoming in October. See Mark Your Calendar, page 27, for more information. I hope to see you there!

With warm regards,

Trevor Ames. D.V.M., M.S.
Diplomate ACVIM
Dean
Meeting the need for food-animal veterinarians

The rising cost of tuition, coupled with the lure of higher starting salaries often offered by small-animal veterinary practices in large metropolitan areas, continues to pull students away from pursuing rewarding careers in food-animal medicine. The College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) has launched several initiatives to help stem the steep decline in the number of students who embark on careers in food-animal medicine, and the results of those efforts are now starting to show.

In early June, for example, the Minnesota Higher Education Committee passed legislation to provide $225,000 in veterinary loan forgiveness funding for graduates who agree to practice in underserved areas of Minnesota. The legislation is critical to meeting both the veterinary needs of animal agriculture and agribusiness and the statewide need for veterinarians in food safety and public health positions.

“Agriculture is an important economic engine of the state, and veterinarians are an important driver of that engine,” says Laura Molgaard, associate dean for academic and student affairs. “Yet in Minnesota, a number of counties are underserved and some don’t have a veterinarian at all.” On both the state and national levels, the number of veterinary students who pursue food-animal medicine has fallen by 50 percent over the past 20 years.

Amber Hazel, class of 2012, plans to work in a food-animal practice when she graduates. She estimates she will graduate with roughly $131,000 in student debt.

“What keeps me in school is the knowledge that I can pay back that debt,” says Hazel, who has received some scholarship money and would be a prime candidate to receive money from a loan-forgiveness program. “The program is a way to ensure that food-animal students stay food-animal focused,” she adds.

The College has also increased the number of students it enrolls annually — first from 80 to 90, and, more recently, to 100. The extra slots have allowed the College to recruit and enroll more students with an interest in food animals and public health.

And in 2001, the CVM developed a proactive solution to help stem the drop in students pursuing food-animal careers by launching the Veterinary Food Animal Scholars Track (VetFAST), an early enrollment/early decision program. VetFAST began as a collaboration with the Animal Science Department of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Science, and this partnership remains the primary source of qualified students for the VetFAST program. The program has recently been expanded to the University of Minnesota, Morris, and other partnerships are under consideration as well.

“We now have close to 50 students in the program and we will continue to grow,” says Dr. Scott Dee, director of the VetFAST program. “The program is now attracting scholarship dollars, which will significantly enhance recruitment of high-quality students.” The recent partnership with the University of Minnesota, Morris, allows students to do their undergraduate work in Morris or the Twin Cities.

“We will continue to grow the VetFAST program through applicants from Minnesota and possibly from other states as well,” says Dee. “In time, we expect other colleges of veterinary medicine to see the benefit and success of VetFAST and begin to set up their own programs. In the long run, that will allow the profession to meet the veterinary needs of animal agriculture, public health, and food safety sooner and with greater efficiency.”

The growing threats posed by widespread food safety outbreaks and animal-borne illnesses has also increased the need for food-animal veterinarians specializing in food safety and public health. To help meet the need, the College’s Center for Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) has partnered with the University’s School of Public Health to offer a veterinary public health dual-degree program that focuses on food safety and bio-security. CAHFS also offers a veterinary public health residency, the first program in the United States to receive recognition from the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.

“We are doing a lot of what we need to do to recruit and mentor students whose passion and interest is food-animal medicine,” says Molgaard. “The piece that has been missing has been financial support to help recruit and retain students with this interest. The loan forgiveness program is a crucial next step in supporting these graduates and keeping them in Minnesota.”
In today’s economy, jobs can be hard to come by for college graduates, but graduates of the food-animal track at the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) are finding that high-paying jobs are plentiful.

For graduates like Dan Hagman, Carissa Schloesser, and Laura Schulz, who knew early that they wanted to pursue a career in food-animal medicine, the CVM offers an early-decision program, the Veterinary Food Animal Scholars Track, or VetFAST. The program holds slots open for eligible undergraduate students who commit early to food-animal medicine, assuming they meet the rigorous academic standards. It also gives them the option of completing their undergraduate work in three years instead of four.

“VetFAST is a really unique and effective strategy to recruit and admit students committed to food-animal practice,” says Dr. Laura Molgaard, associate dean for academic and student affairs. “By identifying high-ability students very early, we can mentor them and retain them in this important part of our profession.”

Dr. Dan Hagman, a 2008 graduate and one of the first students to complete veterinary school through the VetFAST program, grew up near Lake Mille Lacs and has a passion for working outside with dairy herds. “It is something I absolutely love to do,” recalls Hagman. “The clients are relaxed. They are my kind of people.”

Hagman works for United Veterinary Services in Bear Creek, Wisconsin. The practice serves dairy farms in the nine-county Fox Valley area.

“VetFAST graduate Dan Hagman works for United Veterinary Services in Bear Creek, Wisconsin. The practice serves dairy farms in the nine-county Fox Valley area.

“In sixth grade, I rode with my uncle and I decided that being a dairy vet was what I wanted to do,” recalls Hagman. After graduating from high school, Hagman enrolled in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) for his pre-veterinary work, with every intention of becoming a dairy vet. What he didn’t know was that the CVM would be launching the VetFAST program, which would secure him a spot and allow him to enroll in veterinary school a full year earlier than his classmates.

Two decades ago, about half of CVM graduates went on to become large-animal practitioners. Since then, the number of graduates who plan to practice in the area of food animal production and/or food safety has fallen dramatically. Only 15 percent of the class of 2009 specialized in food animals. VetFAST’s mission is to help meet the need for food-animal practitioners by encouraging undergrads who are interested in food-animal medicine to commit early to their career choice.

But the path into the program isn’t easy. Program requirements are based on the CFANS honors program. Typical applicants rank in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating class, have a strong interest in food animals, and score 25 or higher on the ACT. Students accepted into the program must also complete their pre-veterinary work while maintaining an overall GPA of at least 3.40.

“These students are honors-level students in their undergraduate programs and are truly the cream of the crop,” says Molgaard.

Another graduate of the class of 2008, Dr. Laura Schulz, works at one of the state’s largest swine production practices, Swine Vet Center, P.A., in St. Peter, Minnesota.

“It’s a wonderful job. I really enjoy working with the producers, the animals, other vets, and networking with others in the industry,” says Schulz. “I appreciate the variety. I spend my days traveling, visiting with clients, working with pigs, and, of course, completing necessary paperwork. I like to be out and about instead of confined to a cubicle — my truck is my office.”

Schulz, too, grew up in rural Minnesota in the small farming community of Lafayette. At one time, Schulz was interested in a career in physical therapy, but after her first undergraduate course in animal science she decided she couldn’t leave livestock behind. “I love it too much,” she says.

So when she heard about the VetFAST program, she was ready to commit early.
“It sounded like a good option because I knew what I wanted to do,” she says. “It saved me some time and opened doors to scholarships.” Like Hagman, Schulz received at least one scholarship for each of her four years of veterinary school. In spring 2009, the CVM awarded a total of $40,500 to veterinary students specializing in food animals.

Dr. Carissa Schloesser, a graduate of the class of 2009, began working with the Pipestone Veterinary Clinic in June. The clinic specializes in swine and employs 12 full-time veterinarians, including Schloesser. Originally from the St. Peter area, Schloesser heard about the VetFAST program from family friend Mike Mohr, a food animal veterinarian practicing in North Carolina.

“It always thought I wanted to be a veterinarian,” says Schloesser. “I grew up around food animals. I liked the sciences. My love for animals plus my interest in sciences was a good combination.”

Also a recipient of scholarships, Schloesser saved valuable time and money by applying to the VetFAST program.

“‘It’s a good program for students who already know that they want to work in food-animal medicine,’” she says. “‘It helps you focus during vet school.’”

The first VetFAST graduates, Hagman, Schloesser, and Schulz, and are on the front lines of keeping the food system safe and preventing zoonotic diseases such as novel H1N1 viruses and bovine tuberculosis from spreading to humans.

“We are out there every day looking at our food supply,” says Schulz. “We keep the food supply safe. It’s a big responsibility.”

For more information about VetFAST, call 612-624-4747, e-mail dvminfo@umn.edu, or visit www.cvm.umn.edu/education/prospective/VetFAST.
Annual awards ceremony honors students, faculty, and staff

The annual College of Veterinary Medicine Awards Ceremony was held in the North Star Ballroom of the St. Paul Student Center on April 23. The evening began with a reception for students, faculty, and scholarship sponsors, followed by a welcome by Dean Trevor Ames and the presentation of the College of Veterinary Medicine Outstanding Service Award to Minnesota’s Commissioner of Agriculture, Gene Hugoson. After a few short remarks by Hugoson, followed by D.V.M. student Conrad Spangler, who presented a student’s perspective. Then, more than 60 scholarships totaling over $200,000 — $50,000 more than last year — were presented to veterinary students. The following teaching awards were also presented:

Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award
Jen Myers, Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department
The Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award is the College’s most prestigious faculty teaching award. Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, this award is unique in that the winner is selected by the veterinary students of the College.

Mark of Excellence
G. Elizabeth Pluhar, Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department
The Mark of Excellence Award is given to a faculty member who has generated new knowledge in the veterinary profession that has been shared with others by way of publication, presentations at scientific meetings, and other methods of dissemination.

Departmental Teaching Awards
Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department
• Excellence in Teaching Awards: Jane Quandt and Anthony Tobias
• Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award: Charles McBrien
• Excellence in Clinical Teaching Resident Award: Jen Myers

Veterinary Population Medicine Department
• Excellence in Teaching Award: Christie Ward
• Excellence in Clinical or Diagnostic Teaching Award: Nicolas Ernst
• Excellence in Resident or Diagnostic Teaching Award: Anne Nicholson

Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department Teaching Award: Vic Cox

Veterinary Technician Awards for Excellence in Clinical Teaching
Marie Bodin and Angie Homan
New this year, the veterinary technician awards are voted on by fourth-year students.

Excellence in Course Coordination Awards
• Al Beitz, veterinary neurobiology
• Larissa Minicucci, public health
• Peggy Root-Kustritz, professional development
• Sheila Torres, advanced animal dermatology
 Ninety-six students received their D.V.M., M.P.H., M.S., or Ph.D. degree at the College’s 58th annual commencement ceremony at Northrop Memorial Auditorium on the Minneapolis campus on May 2. Dean Trevor Ames presided over the event, and the commencement address was presented by Dr. W. Ron DeHaven, executive vice president of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Joining Dean Ames in the presentation of the doctor of veterinary medicine diplomas was Laura Molgaard, associate dean of academic and student affairs, assisted by Erin Malone, Jane Quandt, Leslie Sharkey, and Christie Ward. Srirama Rao, associate dean for research, and Mark Rutherford, associate dean of graduate programs, assisted in the presentation of the master of science and doctor of philosophy degrees. Master of public health degrees were presented by John Finnegan, dean of the School of Public Health, and Larissa Minicucci, director of the College’s D.V.M./M.P.H. program. Also speaking at commencement were:

- Andrew Federer of the class of 2009, who gave the class response
- Dallas Bohnsack of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents
- Mark S. Paller, professor of medicine and assistant vice president for research for the Academic Health Center
- Tom Schuld, president of the College’s Alumni & Friends Society
- Paul Rapnicki, president of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and professor at the College

The council encouraged the College to add an additional faculty member in the area of production animal medicine when economics permit.

Educational Development Grant winners announced

The College’s Educational Development Grant winners, announced in January, were --

- Tina Clarkson for “Faculty Development: Training in the Bayer Animal Health Communication Project for Application within the Professional Development (CVM 6012) Program”
- Peggy Root Kustritz, Sheryl Fonseth-Lais, and Susan Lowum for “Assessment of Competencies in Communications by Review of Client Interactions”
- Leslie Sharkey, Helen Michael, Deb Wingert, and Bruce Center for “Outcomes Assessment of the Use of Case-Based Writing Exercises in Veterinary Clinical Pathology”
- Deb Wingert for “College of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Academy”

The Educational Development Grants program supports the College’s goal of providing an excellent, science-based veterinary educational program to prepare students for leadership and successful careers.

Academic and Student Affairs reorganizes

The Office of Academic and Student Affairs has reorganized several functions in that area. Collegetile budget challenges and the early retirement of Larry Bjorklund, director of admissions and student affairs, led to a shift in responsibilities, says Laura Molgaard, associate dean for academic and student affairs.

Karen Nelson was promoted to director of admissions; Peg Dimatteo, director of academic affairs, is reassigning some of her responsibilities to others within Academic and Student Affairs to allow her to take over many of the student affairs functions that were formerly covered by Bjorklund; and Dr. Peggy Root Kustritz, vice chair of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department, has been named assistant dean of education.
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Ph.D. candidate Josephine Gnanandarajah: Driven to Discover

A veterinarian from Sri Lanka, Josephine Gnanandarajah obtained her BVSc (equivalent to the D.V.M.) from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka in 2003. Driven to pursue a career in science, she came to the United States to join Michael Murtaugh’s lab at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and to pursue her master’s degree in the veterinary medicine graduate program. After completing her master’s degree in 2007, she joined the veterinary medicine Ph.D. program.

What is your Ph.D. research investigating? 
I am investigating the oxalate-degrading bacteria found in the gut of dogs and their role in calcium oxalate stone formation. The long-term goal of this study is to generate efficient oxalate-degrading probiotics as a novel therapy for the prevention of calcium oxalate urinary stones in animals and humans.

How did you get interested in this research? 
I am very much interested in scientific investigations that can be directly translated into clinical or therapeutic application to benefit our loving pets. My Ph.D. project is an excellent opportunity for me to get involved and trained in interdisciplinary research like this. This research project gave me an opportunity to be trained under two excellent professors, Dr. Michael Murtaugh and Dr. Jody Lulich. Who would want to miss this opportunity?

Why did you choose the U of M for your graduate degree? 
The University of Minnesota is well-known for research that contributes to the well-being of humans and animals. The diverse research at the the U of M was the major reason for my choice. The other positive aspects that made me choose the U of M were the diversity of expertise, excellence in veterinary research, and the welcoming environment for international students. In essence, I wanted to be part of the “Driven to Discover” team.

What has been the most valuable part of your graduate education so far? 
The most valuable aspect of my graduate career is the training I receive from Dr. Murtaugh’s lab. His excellent tutelage and training covers a vast range of areas including formulating grant proposals, designing studies, scientific communication, and creative thinking.

Once you complete your degree, what are your plans? 
I would like to continue my career as a scientist in a research-oriented institution, especially related to animal diseases.

What advice you would give students just beginning their Ph.D. education? 
Always remember the meaning of research: re-search. There are plenty of opportunities available at the U of M, so be receptive. Develop skills of creative thinking. I like to share this quote from Albert Einstein: “Imagination is more important than knowledge. For while knowledge defines all we currently know and understand, imagination points to all we might yet discover and create.”

Daniel Linhares named Pijoan Fellow

Dr. Daniel Linhares is the latest recipient of the Carlos Pijoan Graduate Student Fellowship in Swine Medicine, which aims to train the next generation of specialists in swine health and production to conduct applied research on the transmission, diagnosis, control, and eradication of economically significant diseases of swine.

Linhares begins his graduate study this fall. He earned his veterinary degree at the Federal University of Goias in Brazil in 2003. Since then, he has worked with Agroceres PIC, the largest swine genetics company in Brazil. In 2008, he obtained his master’s degree in business administration from Fundacao Getulio Vargas, the leading Brazilian academic institution in the fields of economics and business administration.

As the Pijoan Fellow, Linhares plans to work with Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae, Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae, and porcine circovirus-associated diseases. When he completes his Ph.D., Linhares hopes to continue his research and train other swine professionals.

Incoming graduate students

Comparative and Molecular Biosciences
Seth Baker
K. Preethi Haran
Anne Mayer
Melissa Monson
Jessica Rotschafer
Nichol Schultz
Sara Shepard
Greg Sindberg

Veterinary Medicine
Matt Allerson
Daniel Linhares
Jane Manfredi
Lindsey Mathews
Jose Mendez-Angulo
Luis Mendonca
Chandrakumary Ponnuthurai
Catherine Rivara
Raffaella Teixeira
Fabio Vannucci
Meet Meggan Bandrick, 2009 MVMA Ben Pomeroy D.V.M./Ph.D. scholarship recipient

Where are you in your D.V.M./Ph.D. program?
I have about one year left in my Ph.D. program and then I will finish the last two years of veterinary school. I plan on joining the class of 2012 in September 2010. I completed my oral exam at the beginning of the year, so I am officially a Ph.D. candidate in the veterinary medicine graduate program. Dr. Tom Molitor is my advisor. I am currently being supported by a National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse training grant.

What is your research interest, and which lab are you working in?
My research concerns the transfer of maternal immunity to neonates and the influence of maternal immunity on neonatal immune development. I am currently studying this in a swine model. Unlike humans and mice, piglets do not receive any maternal immunity across the placenta/in utero, so we are better able to control what the piglet receives from its mother and determine how this affects immune development. I am interested in how transferred maternal immunity, specifically cellular immunity, influences the newborn's immune response to infectious disease. A breadth of information exists on transferred maternal humoral or antibody-mediated immunity in the newborn, but the influence of the cellular portion of maternal immunity on neonatal immune development has largely been neglected.

What do you hope to do after finishing your degrees?
I really enjoy teaching and hope to be a clinical professor someday. I would like to work at a university hospital where I can teach and perform translational research. Before returning to academia, I am thinking about working at a government laboratory such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to study infectious disease and the host immune response.

Recent M.S. and Ph.D. graduates

**Comparative and Molecular Biosciences**

- **Geoff Hirsch, M.S.**
  Advised by Mike Murtaugh
  Characterization of Novel Porcine EST Sequences in the Jejunal Peyer’s Patch

- **Jin Liu, Ph.D.**
  Advised by Mitch Abrahamsen and Mark Rutherford
  Cryptosporidium Parvum-Modulation of Apoptotic Pathways in Human Intestinal Epithelial Cells

- **Trasida Ployngam, Ph.D.**
  Advised by John Collister
  Role of the Median Preoptic Nucleus in Chronic Blood Pressure Regulation by Angiotensin II

**Veterinary Medicine**

- **Melissa Carr, M.S.**
  Advised by Sheila Torres
  Studies on Pruritogenic Substances and the H4 Receptor in Healthy Canine Skin

- **Cleaverson DeSouza, Ph.D.**
  Advised by Doug Weiss
  Host-Pathogen Interaction in Paratuberculosis: Role of the Mitogen Activated Protein Kinases in Modulating Monocyte Anti-Microbial Responses

- **Jennifer Granick, M.S.**
  Advised by Jane Armstrong and Dori Borjesson
  Anaplasma Phagocytophilum: An Investigation of the Pathogenesis of Infection-Induced Thrombocytopenia and a Retrospective Case Series of Canine Infection in the Upper Midwestern United States

- **Jun Han, Ph.D.**
  Advised by Kay Faaberg and Mark Rutherford
  Characterization of the Multidomain Nsp2 Protein of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus

- **Hyeun Bum Kim, M.S.**
  Advised by HanSoo Joo
  Porcine Circovirus Type 2: Serologic Response in Pigs and Susceptibility to Different Disinfectants

- **Kyra Martins, M.S.**
  Advised by Sheila Torres and Mark Rutherford
  Expression of Endogenous Antimicrobial Peptides in Canine Skin

- **Maria Pieters, Ph.D.**
  Advised by Tom Molitor
  Mycoplasma Hyopneumoniae Infection in Sow Herds: Epidemiology and Control

- **Andrea Pitkin, M.S.**
  Advised by Scott Dee
  The Production Region Model: A New Approach to Evaluate Routes of Transmission and Protocols of Biosecurity for PRRS Virus

- **Meetu Seth, M.S.**
  Advised by Srinand Sreevatsan
  Biomarkers for Subclinical Infections for Mycobacterial Disease in Cattle: Discovery and Application
The College established a new Animal Cancer Care and Research (ACCR) program in conjunction with the University’s Masonic Cancer Center in February. This collaboration is unique in the United States because it incorporates the ACCR program into the Masonic Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“We believe it will become the premier model for animal cancer care and research,” says Trevor Ames, dean. Within five years, Ames says, he expects the University of Minnesota to be recognized as the best institution in the country for conducting research in comparative oncology and providing care for companion animals with cancer.

“ACCR scientists have already made significant discoveries,” says Ames. “One particularly noteworthy finding is that many cancers in the dog are caused by the same genetic abnormalities found in humans.”

The mission of the ACCR program is ambitious: To advance knowledge in cancer biology that can be translated and implemented into treatment that will reduce the incidence of cancer and improve the outcome for animal and human cancer patients.

“The ACCR program is a key part of our comparative medicine signature program at the University,” says Robert Washabau, chair of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department. “Cancer claims the lives of animals as well as humans, and research into the causes and treatments of cancer is often applicable across species.”

The ACCR program draws its expertise primarily from scientists in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Masonic Cancer Center, but ACCR scientists also work closely with the Medical School, School of Pharmacy, and School of Public Health.

ACCR scientists work on research in genetics, cancer prevention, stem cells, metastasis, and cell signaling. Many of these basic research findings are readily translated into cancer care including diagnostics, treatments, and quality of life.

For more information on the Animal Cancer Care and Research program or to download a PDF of the ACCR newsletter, Synergy, go to www.cvm.umn.edu/accr.

Jaime Modiano at work in his lab. Modiano believes that great synergies can be achieved when veterinarians, physicians, and scientists with complementary expertise join forces to tackle the types of cancer shared by dogs and humans.

Companion Animal Grant award winners announced

The research committee and office of the associate dean for research announced the following winners of the College’s Companion Animal Grants:

• Elizabeth Orcutt and David Polzin. Research: Effect of spironolactone and angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor therapy on proteinuria in dogs with proteinuric chronic kidney disease.
• Helen Michael, Jaime Modiano, and Jeffrey Miller. Research: Isolation and characterization of canine peripheral blood natural killer cells.
• Melissa Carr, Sheila Torres, and Lucy Vulchanova. Research: Expression of the H4 receptor in the skin of dogs.
Clinical trials open to dogs with brain tumors

Batman, the first patient to undergo an experimental treatment for brain cancer in dogs, has become a poster dog for the revolutionary protocol.

In summer 2008, Batman was diagnosed with glioma, a very aggressive and relatively common form of brain cancer. Without treatment, the 10-year-old German shepherd mix was not expected to survive more than a few months. Batman’s owners agreed to let the dog be part of an experimental treatment plan for dogs with glioma. Developed by John Ohlfest, head of the neurosurgery gene therapy program at the Masonic Cancer Center, and G. Elizabeth Pluhar, a veterinary surgeon and associate professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, the combination treatment plan dramatically extended Batman’s life. Now, more than a year after Pluhar and Ohlfest gave Batman his initial treatment, the neurological deficits that led to his diagnosis have been almost eliminated, and there is no sign of a brain tumor.

“We documented an anti-tumor immune response that has correlated to control of the tumor,” says Ohlfest. In other words, the treatment appears to have worked.

The three-pronged treatment approach consists of first surgically removing the tumor, then treating the surgical site with a form of gene therapy to attract immune cells that will recognize and destroy remaining tumor cells, and finally administering an anti-cancer vaccine made from the dog’s own cancer cells to prevent tumor recurrence.

“There is the potential for this type of therapy to be used on nearly any type of systemic cancer in dogs, not just brain cancer, because the immune response covers the entire body,” says Pluhar. “I’m hopeful this therapy may in time be used for other types of systemic cancer in dogs.”

Through the help of grants from government agencies and private foundations, Ohlfest and Pluhar have since treated eight other dogs for similar tumors. The second dog to receive treatment exhibited an impressive tumor regression following six vaccinations, and Ohlfest and Pluhar are optimistic that the other dogs will show similar responses.

Canine brain cancer therapy has been organized within a new canine brain tumor clinical trials program. The treatment team currently has funding to treat about 65 dogs, a number that could soon exceed 135 if additional grants and charitable donations come through.

The area of medicine in which Ohlfest and Pluhar work is called comparative oncology. They use what they learn in veterinary medicine to help humans, and they extrapolate what they can from human medicine to help pet animals. Batman is an excellent case in point.

Ohlfest’s work in gene and immune therapy led to a first-generation anti-cancer vaccine to be used in a human clinical trial. However, the early vaccine was expensive and difficult to produce. He subsequently used that vaccine to develop a more potent and less expensive vaccine for dogs — which in turn may lead to a new cancer treatment for humans.

“I would be very disappointed if we couldn’t write a protocol for humans within a year from what we have learned from our work with dogs,” says Ohlfest. “This is first and foremost a new therapy for dogs, but at the same time, it will be more predictive of what might happen in people than any other form of research.”

The cost of therapy for one dog can range between $10,000 and $20,000. However, dogs with tumors that originate in the brain may be eligible for the canine brain tumor clinical trials program. The program will cover the vast majority of the cost of treatment including surgery and supportive care while the dog remains enrolled in the trial.

Learn more about the trials and apply for the program online at www.cvm.umn.edu/newsandevents/brainumortrials/. For an appointment with Dr. Pluhar or the Small Animal Surgery or Neurology Service, call 612-626-VETS (8387). To donate to the research effort, contact Sharon Staton, director of advancement, at 612-624-1247 or stato001@umn.edu.
College celebrates Points of Pride Research Day

The College hosted its annual Points of Pride Research Day on March 25, 2009. The day began with a poster competition in the Animal Science/Veterinary Medicine building, where graduate students, summer scholars, post-doctorate scholars, and residents presented their research. Posters also showcased departments, centers, and programs such as the Clinical Investigation Center, Swine Disease Eradication, Center, The Raptor Center, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and others.

After a Distinguished Partners lunch and a graduate student lunch with Distinguished Research Alumnus Peixuan Guo, the afternoon featured seminars and award presentations at the Ben Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center, followed by a reception in the Animal Science/Veterinary Medicine lobby. The 2009 Pfizer Research Excellence Award recipient was Mathur Kannan, professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, who presented “Contribution of CD38 to Airway Inflammation and Asthma.” Kannan’s research examines how calcium regulation in smooth muscle cells can go awry, causing health problems such as hypersensitivity of the airway.

The 2009 Distinguished Research Alumnus, Peixuan Guo, received his Ph.D. in microbiology and genetics from the University of Minnesota in 1987. He currently holds the Dane & Mary Louise Miller Endowed Chair in Biomedical Engineering and is director of the NIH Nanomedicine Development Center and professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Cincinnati. Guo presented an animated lecture on the topic “Single Molecule Studies on Phi29 DNA Packaging Motor for Applications in Nanotechnology and Delivery of Therapeutics.”

The 2009 Distinguished Research Partner was the Minnesota Turkey Research and Promotion Council, represented by Steven H. Olson, executive director, who thanked the College for its longtime partnership.

Poster competition awards were presented to:

**Summer Scholar:** Melissa Erickson. 
**Research topic:** Regulatory T Cells and Neurogenesis Following Experimental Herpes Encephalitis

**Summer Scholars** are D.V.M. students who participate in a summer research experience, supported in part by Merck-Merial. Jim Lokensgard and Maxim Cheeran were Erickson’s summer scholar advisors.

**Graduate student categories**

- **Comparative and molecular biosciences:** Mona Al-Gizawiy.
  
  Research topic: Effect of Electroacupuncture on Tumor-Induced Nociception and Tumor Growth in a Mouse Model of Experimentally Induced Osteosarcoma. Al-Gizawiy is a Ph.D. student in the veterinary medicine graduate program. Her advisor is Al Beitz.

- **Veterinary medicine:** Katie Schiller. 

  Research topic: CFTR is Involved in Cell Migration of Airway Epithelial Cells. Schiller is a Ph.D. student in the comparative and molecular biosciences graduate program. She is advised by Scott O’Grady.

- **Post-doctoral/research associates:** Yue Wang. 


- **Best overall research poster:** 

  Jennifer Johnson. Research topic: Ex Vivo Expanded Non-Human Primate Regulatory T Cells Express CTLA4 and Granzyme B and May Suppress Through Contact Dependent Pathways. Advised by Pratima Bansal-Pakala and Mike Murtaugh, Johnson is in the Ph.D. program in comparative and molecular biosciences.

Distinguished Research Alumnus Peixuan Guo presents an animated lecture.

Associate Dean for Research Srijama Rao, right, presents the 2009 Distinguished Research Partner Award to Steven H. Olson, executive director of the Minnesota Turkey Research and Promotion Council.

Graduate student Jennifer Johnson discusses her research with Professor Sagar Goyal. Johnson won the award for best overall research poster.
Clinical Investigation Center: 
New findings, new therapies in support of companion animals

College of Veterinary Medicine clinical researchers use the Clinical Investigation Center (CIC) to support their clinical trials research. The University of Minnesota CIC is one of only four veterinary clinical investigation centers in the country.

Bert Stromberg, co-director of the CIC and professor of parasitology, and former dean Jeff Klausner established the nation’s first CIC in 2000 to support the research efforts of the clinical faculty. The mission of the CIC is to facilitate veterinary clinical trials and translational research that may lead to new drugs, devices, procedures, and treatments for the benefit of companion animals and humans alike.

“We established the CIC in 2000 and we continue to grow in both the number of clinical trials conducted and number of faculty involved,” says Stromberg. “Our goal is to provide all faculty with the opportunity to participate in clinical trials.”

The CIC offers a broad range of services, including:
- First point of contact for business and industry seeking the expertise, capabilities, and caseload of the College of Veterinary Medicine
- A network of veterinarians who regularly refer cases to CIC-managed studies
- Project administration, including grant submissions, budget management, and regulatory documents
- Internal quality assurance for FDA trials conducted under Good Clinical Practices
- Client informed consent
- Study coordination
- Veterinary technical support

The importance of the CIC in veterinary and human discovery is emphasized by Robert Washabau, co-director of the CIC, chair of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department, and professor of medicine.

“The University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center sees more than 40,000 clinical cases per year, many of which are entered into prospective clinical trials,” Washabau says. “The Clinical Investigation Center provides the infrastructure and portal of entry for many of these patients. Our programs often reveal some unique new insight about the veterinary condition which can then be applied to the human condition. Recent discoveries in canine brain cancer have already provided new insights into the therapy for human brain cancer. The College and the CIC are uniquely positioned to transform human medicine while simultaneously contributing to the transformation of veterinary medicine.”

In addition to the co-directors, the CIC consists of Kelly Hall, clinical trials veterinarian, Kathy Stuebner, research coordinator and program manager, and research study veterinary technicians Sara Pracht and Marianne Robeck. For a list of current clinical trials and more information about the CIC, visit www.cvm.umn.edu/cic/.

College faculty awarded major research grants

College of Veterinary Medicine faculty members have been awarded millions of dollars in research grants from a variety of sponsors in recent months. Grants of $300,000 or more have been awarded to:

- **Al Beitz**: Cancer Pain: Nerve/Tumor Interactions. Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

- **Cathy Carlson**: Comparative Medicine and Pathology Training. Sponsor: National Center for Research Resources

- **Jim Collins**: Minnesota Poultry Testing Lab. Sponsor: Minnesota Board of Animal Health


- **Mathur Kannan**: Dynamic Calcium Regulation in Airway Smooth Muscle. Sponsor: National Institutes of Health

- **Tom Molitor**: Training in Neurobehavior/Neuroimmune Addiction Research. Sponsor: National Institute on Drug Abuse

- **Srirama Rao**: Role of Heparan Sulfates and NDST-1 in Allergic Inflammation and Airway Remodeling; Leukocyte Adhesion in Allergic Inflammation. Sponsor: National Institutes of Health

- **Kent Reed**: The Turkey MHC: Sequence, Haplotype Structure, and Gene Expression. Sponsor: USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

- **Mark Rutherford**: Host Specificity of Cryptosporidium Gene Expression. Sponsor: National Institutes of Health

- **Bruce Walcheck**: Regulation of Inflammation: Sheddases and CD62L. Sponsor: National Institutes of Health

Jody Lulich, Osborne/Hills Chair in Nephrology/Urology, uses CIC services in his research on urinary tract disorders in cats. Photo by Sue Kirchoff
Alumni reception includes tribute to R.K. Anderson

A standing-room-only crowd attended an alumni reception and tribute to Professor Emeritus R.K. Anderson at the annual Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association convention on February 5. Hosted by Dean Trevor Ames and the CVM advancement team, the reception included talks by Frank Cerra, senior vice president for health sciences and dean of the Medical School, and Debra Olson, associate dean of education, School of Public Health.

Retired professor Ralph Farnsworth of the Veterinary Population Medicine Department received the MVMA’s 2009 Outstanding Faculty of the College Award. The award is given to a faculty member who provides outstanding service to Minnesota veterinarians, gives his or her time and talent to the veterinary profession, makes a difference to the profession, and is a dedicated contributor to organized veterinary medicine. Farnsworth specialized in zoo animal medicine and mastitis control in dairy cattle.

The winners of the MVMA’s poster competition were graduate students Kari Ekenstedt (first place) and Mary Donahue (second place). Teresa Hershey, president of the MVMA, presented the awards.

Batman, the shepherd-mix dog who underwent experimental treatment for a brain tumor, received the MVMA’s Hero Animal Hall of Fame award, which is given to animals that have saved or preserved human life.

Cancer researchers seek partnership with Minnesota veterinarians

What are the origins of cancer? Which dogs get the disease? Why are some breeds more susceptible than others? Do heredity, birth weight, growth rate, diet, exercise, and environmental exposures play a role?

University of Minnesota faculty and Masonic Cancer Center members Jaime Modiano, who studies oncology and comparative medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Logan Spector, who studies cancer epidemiology at the School of Medicine, are teaming up to answer these questions, and are looking for community veterinarians to collaborate with them.

“Pet dogs are an ideal species in which to conduct lifelong epidemiologic studies of cancer, since they share the human environment, develop cancer at roughly the same rate as humans, have available a high-quality genome sequence, and have a lifespan that is short enough to allow birth-to-death observation,” says Spector. “We would like to work with Minnesota veterinarians on a long-term exploration of canine cancer.”

Interested in learning more? Modiano and Spector are planning to host an informational breakfast or early evening meeting with interested veterinarians sometime in early November. To learn more, contact Logan Spector at spector@umn.edu or 612-624-3912.
The College’s annual Nestlé Purina Memories Garden brick dedication ceremony was held on June 16. Special guests included Gwen Beberg, a specialist in the U.S. Army Reserves, and her dog, Ratchet, who were in the news earlier this year when Beberg rescued Ratchet as a stray puppy from a pile of burning trash in Iraq. Determined to bring the dog home to the United States, Beberg and her friends from Operation Baghdad Pups secured Ratchet’s homecoming after several months.

In addition to Dean Trevor Ames and Jeannine Moga, director of the Veterinary Medical Center’s Social Work Services program, speakers included Duke Addington, a lay Episcopal minister who performed a blessing of the garden, and Dave Runkle of the Greater Twin Cities Golden Retriever Club, which recently established the Will-Power fund to support Dr. Jaime Modiano’s cancer research. Bagpiper Patrick McCormick performed at the ceremony, and guests had an opportunity to share pictures, poems, and memories of their pets.

For more information about donating a brick to the Nestlé Purina Memories Garden, contact Sharon Staton at stato001@umn.edu or 612-624-1247.
Large Animal Hospital treats baby giraffe from Como Zoo

In the wee hours of May 5, a male baby giraffe weighing in at 152 pounds was born at Como Zoo. Zookeepers and veterinarians had expected the giraffe to be born sometime in July, but with a 15-month gestation period for giraffes, it's not always easy to predict a precise birth date.

The young giraffe had some major health complications and was admitted to the Veterinary Medical Center’s Large Animal Hospital, where he received round-the-clock care for 10 days.

Due to the extent of his illness and the length of stay in the hospital, his mother was unable to nurse him, but he was raised by the zoo keepers and readily drank up to four liters of milk at a time from a bucket.

The young giraffe made his debut to the public at Como Zoo on June 5.

Photos by Sue Kirchoff
St. Paul police dog shot, treated in Small Animal Hospital

Just after 6 p.m. on April 6, three St. Paul police officers and Boomer, a St. Paul police dog, responded to a complaint that a man in possession of a handgun was sitting in an alley. Shortly after police responded, gunfire broke out, and Boomer was shot in the muzzle. Bleeding heavily, he was rushed to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), where he underwent surgery and a blood transfusion.

After undergoing a second surgery to remove shattered bone, tooth, and lead, Boomer returned home and had a healthy recovery. He is now back at work as a St. Paul police dog.

Boomer’s handler, St. Paul police officer Pat Murphy, says that Boomer received great care at the VMC. He was especially grateful that the VMC doctors and staff allowed him to be involved during the treatment. Interaction between Murphy and Boomer was particularly important during the process since trained police dogs can have unexpected reactions in stressful situations.

About Boomer
Officer Patrick Murphy's partner, Boomer, was one of Animal Planet’s “K-9 Cops.” A black and tan German shepherd dog, Boomer was born in Holland and bought with donations given to the St. Paul Police Canine Foundation. Boomer is a patrol dog trained to use his nose to find people and evidence. When he is not working, he comes home with Officer Murphy and lives at his house, where he likes to run and play with his favorite toy, a Kong.

The team effort to save Boomer
Gary Goldstein, veterinary dentist and associate medical director, conducts surgery on Boomer assisted by Marsha Goldstein, dental specialist, and Jesse Baxter, class of 2009. Also part of the team caring for Boomer was veterinary surgeon Greg Anderson. Photo by Sue Kirchoff
First citizen-science program—
The Raptor Center launches Kestrel Watch

Across the world, citizens are helping scientists monitor changes in the environment and wildlife populations by becoming astute observers. Networks of these citizen volunteers help researchers gather large volumes of information that they otherwise would not be able to collect. Audubon’s annual Christmas Bird Count, which began in 1900, is the longest-running citizen-science project known. Now, The Raptor Center has launched its own citizen-science project, Kestrel Watch, to monitor American kestrels.

The smallest falcon in North America, the American kestrel is widely distributed throughout the western hemisphere and considered relatively common. But The Raptor Center has seen a decline in the number of kestrels admitted to the center, from 107 admissions in 2000 to only 22 last year. At the same time, admissions of Cooper’s hawks have doubled, from 54 admissions in 2000 to 114 last year.

At this point, no one knows whether these findings are correlated, or even whether the reduction in kestrel admissions represents a decline of the species in the wild.

What is known is that kestrels need both open hunting grounds, such as fields or meadows, and stands of trees to nest and roost. While American kestrel numbers increased substantially as pioneers cleared the eastern forests, kestrels face many challenges in the wild today. Through Kestrel Watch, The Raptor Center hopes to decode the decline in American kestrel admissions.

TRC presents raptor program in Spanish
TRC presenta programa de rapaces en espanol

Public education has been an important part of The Raptor Center’s work since the center was established in the mid-1970s. But this February, The Raptor Center’s education staff branched out, presenting their first educational program in Spanish.

Mike and Zuleika Billington presented the program at Lakes International Language Academy, a Spanish immersion school in Forest Lake, Minnesota. Mike Billington, an interpretive naturalist at TRC, and his wife, Zule, a native of Argentina who is also a clinic and education volunteer, translated TRC’s hour-long “Raptors of Minnesota” program into Spanish and presented it to two groups of second graders.

“The students’ fluency was fantastic,” says Mike Billington. “We were able to communicate the entire program in Spanish.” The children asked questions in Spanish and worked on their avian vocabulary.

“We taught them how to say red-tailed hawk in Spanish, which is aquililla for hawk, cola for tail, and roja, which means red,” he says. The Billingtons also taught the students the Spanish words for feather, peregrine falcon, great horned owl, and some of the birds’ prey species, and introduced the children to conservation and environmental issues affecting raptors.

“We explained in Spanish how one of the main injuries red-tailed hawks sustain, getting hit by a car, is often caused by people throwing garbage onto the road,” Billington says. “The garbage, even banana peels and apple cores, attracts rodents to the road, and the hawk swoops down for its prey.”

Very few educational programs are available in Spanish to Minnesota schools and communities.

“The presentation was very informative and engaging,” says Lauren Anderson, a teacher from Lakes International Language Academy. “It made our ecosystems unit come to life. It also reinforced our language studies for the students to see that other people value Spanish, and to be able to test out their abilities in a new setting.” The bilingual team visited the school again in early March to present the program to two other classes.

“It’s still in the program-development stage,” Billington notes. “But as the program develops, we’re hoping to be able to expand to other grades and schools.”
Annual Raptor Bowl raises funds for TRC

The Raptor Center hosted its fourth annual Raptor Bowl at Brit’s Pub in downtown Minneapolis on July 15. Sponsored by DeWaay Capital Management and LandCor Companies and presented by KARE 11 and WCCO Radio, Raptor Bowl featured an afternoon of rooftop lawn bowling by individual and corporate teams. A team from General Mills won this year’s lawn bowling competition.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory news

In recent months, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL)—

- Began offering two new genetic tests, one for exercise-induced collapse (EIC) in dogs and the other for polysaccharide storage myopathy (PSSM) in horses. The technology transfer to the VDL was made possible by research discoveries made via collaboration with scientists in the College, specifically Jim Mickelson, Katie Minor, and Ned Patterson in the area of EIC and Molly E. McCue, Mickelson, and Stephanie Valberg in the area of PSSM.

- Initiated a collaboration to help solve clostridial dermatitis in poultry, a major disease causing carcass condemnation and economic loss to the Minnesota turkey industry. New diagnostic tests for Clostridium septicum and Clostridium perfringens are now being offered to help the industry better understand the epidemiology of this condition and to help control and prevent the disease.

- Came to the aid of the poultry and swine industries by supporting the Minnesota Board of Animal Health’s emergency response to outbreaks of avian influenza in poultry.

- In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Animal Health Laboratory Network and Minnesota Pork Producers, the VDL helped design diagnostic strategies to prevent the spread of human novel H1N1 transmission to swine herds throughout Minnesota.

- Identified an elk herd infected by chronic wasting disease (CWD) through surveillance under a cooperative agreement with the USDA. The VDL is now working with the USDA and Minnesota Board of Animal Health to contain the infection by depopulating and testing the herd to ensure that CWD does not spread into the wild deer population.

- Was notified of the successful certification of the Biosafety Level 3 necropsy lab by the USDA. The BSL-3 lab is now being used to mitigate risk of zoonotic disease transmission to VDL employees working with animal tissues.

- Launched a new diagnostic ultrastructural pathology service. Offered by only few laboratories in the nation, this new diagnostic effort provides services on ultrastructural pathology and identification of disease pathogens of domestic animals and wildlife. The new service is headed by Anibal G. Armien, assistant clinical professor in the Veterinary Population Medicine Department.

- Began conducting new research to benefit llamas and alpacas. Through creative use of diagnostic case material, Anibal G. Armien discovered a malformation in llamas and alpacas that can serve as an animal model of a similar malformation in humans. As principal investigator, Armien received a two-year grant from the Alpaca Research Foundation and Morris Animal Foundation to study this congenital malformation. The study, entitled “Investigation of the Multiple-Malformation Syndrome in Llamas and Alpacas Associated with Choanal Atresia,” is focusing on identifying the mutant gene encoding the diseases and developing a method to identify the diseased animals in the herd.
Montserrat Torremorell appointed to Allen D. Leman Chair in Swine Health and Productivity

Montserrat Torremorell, an international expert in swine health, joined the College as the Allen D. Leman Chair in Swine Health and Productivity in May.

Torremorell has an extensive background in swine health, research, and production systems, including health improvement strategies, disease eradication and biosecurity programs, and health genomics. She is also an expert in strategies to control and alleviate swine influenza in the animal population.

“We are honored that Dr. Torremorell has joined the College as the Allen D. Leman Chair in Swine Health and Productivity,” says Trevor Ames, dean. “She has a long and diverse history working with swine in the field of veterinary medicine.”

Before joining the College, Torremorell was head of global health strategy at Genus/PIC. Prior to that, she was health director at Sygen International and vice president of health assurance for PIC USA.

Considered one of the most prestigious faculty positions in the international field of swine medicine, the Leman Chair was established in 1995 in honor of Dr. Allen Leman, a former faculty member at the College and an inspirational leader who made significant contributions to the global swine industry.

The endowed chair was previously held by Dr. Peter Davies, an international expert in swine epidemiology who was appointed to the chair in 2003. Davies remains at the College as a professor in the Veterinary Population Medicine Department, where he is regarded as a gifted educator, researcher, and academician.

Torremorell is the author of more than 32 peer-reviewed journal articles on swine health and more than 100 abstracts and articles in conference proceedings. She has presented invited lectures, keynote addresses, and presentations with proceedings at scientific meetings in North America, South America, and Europe. She received her doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the Autonomous University of Barcelona in Spain and her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, working with the late Dr. Carlos Pijoan.

Carl Osborne to receive ESVNU award

Carl A. Osborne, a longtime professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department, has been selected to receive the 2009 European Society of Veterinary Nephrology and Urology (ESVNU) Award during the annual meeting of the European Society of Veterinary Internal Medicine in Porto, Portugal, in September. This award, selected by the ESVNU and sponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition, is based on a lifetime of contributions to teaching, research, and service.

Tom Molitor appointed chair of Veterinary Population Medicine Department

Dean Trevor Ames appointed Tom Molitor chair of the Veterinary Population Medicine department in January.

Molitor earned his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1983 and became a research associate in the College’s Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. In 1985, he was a visiting scientist in the Department of Human Genetics at Yale University, and returned to the University of Minnesota in 1986 as assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology. He was promoted to associate professor in the College’s Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences in 1990 and full professor in the Department of Clinical and Population Sciences in 1994. Molitor was director of graduate studies from 2001-2005, and has been director of the Psychoneuroimmunology Training Program since 1998. In 2007, he received the University’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to Postbaccalaureate, Graduate, and Professional Education.

Molitor’s research interests include molecular mechanisms in the pathogenesis of viral diseases, host defense responses, and immunity and addictive drugs. In addition to his administrative role as department chair, he continues to have an active teaching and research appointment.

Rob Porter receives President’s Award

Rob Porter, a pathologist in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, received the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association President’s Award for his outstanding contribution to the Turkey Cellulitis (clostridial dermatitis) Gold Medal research panel.
Robert Washabau, chair of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences department, was the 2009 recipient of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) WALTHAM International Award for Scientific Achievement. This award recognizes outstanding contributions by a veterinarian who has had a significant impact on the advancement of knowledge concerning the cause, detection, cure, and control of disorders of companion animals.

The award was presented during the opening ceremonies of the WSAVA 2009 World Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on July 21.

Robert Washabau, center, is presented with the WSAVA Waltham International Award for Scientific Achievement by Peter Markwell, scientific director for Waltham, left. At right is Dr. David Wadsworth, president of the WSAVA.

Pelican and Singer named resident fellows with Institute on the Environment

Katey Pelican, assistant professor, Veterinary Population Medicine, and Randall Singer, associate professor, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, have been named resident fellows with the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment (IonE). As resident fellows, Pelican and Singer receive flexible funding to engage in creative research and problem solving, develop new models of teaching and training, and build new networks and partnerships. In addition, the fellows take part in leadership development activities and ongoing seminars, roundtables, and other public engagement efforts.

Pelican and Singer are members of the institute’s first cohort of 20 resident fellows. Their three-year fellowships began in June.

“This cohort of fellows is an amazing, eclectic group of thinkers and doers. They were drawn from the best and brightest of the University, selected for their creativity and willingness to try new ideas,” says institute director Jonathan Foley.

Whole Village Project receives funding

Meanwhile, the IonE’s Discovery Grants program selected the Whole Village Project, coordinated by Pelican and Craig Packer, professor, Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, to receive major funding.

The Whole Village Project works to provide an in-depth understanding of the health, prosperity, education, and natural resource consumption of rural Tanzanians in East Africa. This information is made available to the villagers, economic development and government agencies, and conservation NGOs, serving as a common language that allows communities to more easily collaborate and share best practices. The Whole Village Project team works with the IonE to map land-use patterns of the region, focusing on the intersection of rural livelihoods, land use practices, agriculture, and food security. A parallel track focused on food safety and security promotes sustainable agriculture, health research, and extension in Tanzania.

The announcement of the grant awardees followed a competitive selection process. Approximately 25 teams of University faculty members and external partners submitted proposals for funding.

Mathur Kannan appointed to three-year term with NIH study section

Mathur Kannan, professor, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, and 2009 Pfizer Research Excellence Award recipient, has been appointed for a three-year term to the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, Lung Cellular, Molecular, and Immunology Study Section. Members are selected based upon their demonstrated competence and achievement in scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of their research, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific contributions.
New veterinary continuing education director completes advancement team

Alicia M. Johnson joined the College’s advancement team as director of continuing education and alumni relations in June, replacing Jan Swanson, who retired on June 5. Johnson’s addition means that the advancement leadership team — composed of Sharon Staton, director of advancement, Brian Graves, communications and marketing manager, and Johnson as director of continuing education and alumni relations — is complete, says Staton.

“All the pieces are now in place,” Staton says. “We now have a first-rate advancement team, and I’m looking forward to many challenges and opportunities in the year ahead.”

Johnson most recently served as associate to the dean of the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts. Prior to that, she was executive administrator for the University of Minnesota Foundation Investment Advisors. Johnson earned a master’s degree in rhetoric/scientific and technical communication from the University of Minnesota.

“Alicia’s experience in project management, administration, and business systems, along with her dedication to team development and continuous improvement, are great assets to the College,” says Trevor Ames, dean. “We’re very pleased to have her on board.”

The College of Veterinary Medicine’s continuing education program reaches thousands of veterinarians and other veterinary professionals from around the world each year through a variety of professional conferences, workshops, symposiums, and lectures. Major programs include the annual Allen D. Leman Swine Conference, Minnesota Dairy Health Conference, Companion Animal Spring Conference, Mather Lecture Series, Equine Fall Conference, Minnesota Equine Dental Symposia, and Molecular Biotechnology Workshop.

Bill Venne joins College as major gifts officer

Bill Venne joined the College’s advancement team as corporate and major gifts officer in May. Venne works with the University of Minnesota Foundation to engage the resources of the private and corporate sectors to build, develop, and sustain excellence at the College. He was previously director of development for the University of Minnesota Graduate School. He has also worked in development for the Hennepin Theatre Trust, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, The Minnesota Opera, and the Illusion Theater. He received his bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of St. Thomas in 1985.

College well-represented at AVMA convention

The College was well-represented at the 2009 American Veterinary Medical Association convention in Seattle, Washington, in July, with faculty and staff speaking on topics ranging from biting dogs to turkey cellulitis. An alumni reception was hosted by Dean Trevor Ames with Sharon Staton, advancement director, and Bill Venne, development officer. CVM alumna René Carlson, class of 1978, officially became a candidate for president-elect of the AVMA. (See Alumni News, page 26.)

Former dean honored

The Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, held in Chicago in December 2008, was dedicated to Sidney A. Ewing, who was dean of the College from 1973-1978. A professor emeritus of the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology at the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Ewing retired in 2003.

Shaun Kennedy presents FDA Distinguished Lecture, keynote speeches, briefings

Shaun Kennedy, director of the National Center for Food Protection and Defense and assistant professor in the Veterinary Population Medicine Department, was the inaugural speaker for the 2009 Distinguished Lecture Series at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on February 25. The Distinguished Lecture Series was established to bring in leading scientists who are conducting pioneering research in areas relevant to the FDA’s core mission of promoting and protecting public health, to support the science-based regulatory decision-making process. Kennedy discussed emerging threats in the food system.

Kennedy was also the keynote speaker at the first Canadian Food Inspection Agency Food Defense Workshop, the Association of Food and Drug Officials annual meeting, and the first Singapore Food Defense Workshop, and provided briefings for the White House Homeland Security Council, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Congressional Research Service, various congressional staffers, and others at the federal level.

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**FACULTY & STAFF NEWS**

**Farhiya M. Farah awarded Bush Fellowship**
*Farhiya M. Farah* of the Global Initiative for Food Systems Leadership has been awarded a Bush Fellowship. Farah has been admitted to the environmental health (policy track) doctorate program and is planning to do a dissertation on food system leadership.

Farah fled the civil war in her homeland of Somalia and has since been inspired to work to improve conditions for immigrants and refugees, particularly Somalis. She will use her two-year leadership fellowship to pursue a Ph.D. in environmental policy at the University of Minnesota. Farah’s long-term goal is to bridge the gap between the Somali community and the institutions that serve them.

**David Brown participates in Washington, D.C., symposium**

David Brown, professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department and chair of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), was a participant in a symposium sponsored by the National Institutes of Health’s Office of Biotechnology Activities and the Eagleson Institute entitled “IBCs: Promoting Optimal Practice Now and in the Future,” which was held in Washington, D.C., in June.

**Kim Horne is veterinary technician of the year**
The Minnesota Association of Veterinary Technicians (MAVT) named *Kim Horne* Veterinary Technician of the Year in February. To receive this honor, a veterinary technician must be nominated by a member of the MAVT and then elected by active members of the MAVT, the second-largest state technician association in the country.

Horne is supervisor, small animal specialties, and staff development coordinator in the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), where she supervises technicians in General Practice, Dermatology, Nutrition, Behavior, Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and Small Animal Theriogenology services. She has been with the VMC since 1987.

**Les Westendorp receives President's Award for Outstanding Service**
University of Minnesota President Robert H. Bruininks presented *Les Westendorp*, manager, Research Animal Resources, with the University of Minnesota President’s Award for Outstanding Service in June. The award recognizes exceptional service to the University, its schools, colleges, departments, and service units by any active or retired member of the faculty or staff. Westendorp retired from the College in June.

**Faculty promotions announced**
The College congratulated six faculty members whose recent promotions were approved by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents:

- **Gary Goldstein** was promoted to full clinical professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department.
- **Al McVey** was promoted to associate clinical professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department.
- **Leslie Sharkey**, associate professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department, was promoted to associate professor with tenure.
- **Scott Wells** was promoted to full professor in the Veterinary Population Medicine Department.
- **Andre Ziegler** was promoted to associate clinical professor in the Veterinary Population Medicine Department.
- **Laura Ziegler** was promoted to associate clinical professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department.

**Farhiya M. Farah awarded Bush Fellowship**
*Farhiya M. Farah* of the Global Initiative for Food Systems Leadership has been awarded a Bush Fellowship. Farah has been admitted to the environmental health (policy track) doctorate program and is planning to do a dissertation on food system leadership.

Farah fled the civil war in her homeland of Somalia and has since been inspired to work to improve conditions for immigrants and refugees, particularly Somalis. She will use her two-year leadership fellowship to pursue a Ph.D. in environmental policy at the University of Minnesota. Farah’s long-term goal is to bridge the gap between the Somali community and the institutions that serve them.

**David Brown participates in Washington, D.C., symposium**

David Brown, professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department and chair of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), was a participant in a symposium sponsored by the National Institutes of Health’s Office of Biotechnology Activities and the Eagleson Institute entitled “IBCs: Promoting Optimal Practice Now and in the Future,” which was held in Washington, D.C., in June.

**Kim Horne is veterinary technician of the year**
The Minnesota Association of Veterinary Technicians (MAVT) named *Kim Horne* Veterinary Technician of the Year in February. To receive this honor, a veterinary technician must be nominated by a member of the MAVT and then elected by active members of the MAVT, the second-largest state technician association in the country.

Horne is supervisor, small animal specialties, and staff development coordinator in the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), where she supervises technicians in General Practice, Dermatology, Nutrition, Behavior, Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and Small Animal Theriogenology services. She has been with the VMC since 1987.

**Les Westendorp receives President's Award for Outstanding Service**
University of Minnesota President Robert H. Bruininks presented *Les Westendorp*, manager, Research Animal Resources, with the University of Minnesota President’s Award for Outstanding Service in June. The award recognizes exceptional service to the University, its schools, colleges, departments, and service units by any active or retired member of the faculty or staff. Westendorp retired from the College in June.

**Staff recognized at annual staff appreciation day event**
*Tim Gordon*, facilities manager, was honored with the Carl Edborg III Award and *Dr. Erin Malone* received the Outstanding Faculty/Professional and Administrative Award at the College's annual staff appreciation day event on June 26. Both were nominated and voted upon by fellow staff and faculty members to receive the awards.

**Jeffrey Klausner joins Banfield**
*Jeffrey Klausner*, who was dean of the College from 2000-2007, joined Banfield, The Pet Hospital as vice president of professional relations and government affairs in March. Klausner was previously president and chief executive officer for The Animal Medical Center in New York City, which he joined in 2007. In his new position, Klausner builds relationships with universities and national veterinary organizations and leads Banfield’s evidence-based medicine initiative.
Jill Schappa awarded AKC scholarship

Jill Schappa, class of 2011, was named the recipient of the American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Health Foundation’s 2009 Robert L. Kelly Memorial Scholarship.

Schappa has worked in Dr. Jaime Modiano’s lab at the Masonic Cancer Center comparing canine genotypes to phenotypes to determine their relationships to the development of hemangiosarcoma in golden retrievers. She has also spent time shadowing CVM theriogenologist Dr. Margaret Root-Kustritz and Dr. Fran Smith, a theriogenologist in private practice in the Twin Cities.

"No matter what path I choose, I will continue to focus on breed idiosyncrasies in order to maximize the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and care of specific dog breeds," Jill says. "Client education can contribute to advances in research by instilling the importance of offering samples to DNA databanks or including their dogs in ongoing studies." Schappa received a $5,000 scholarship to help pay tuition expenses.

Named for longtime director and founder Robert L. Kelly, the scholarship is intended to encourage research and young investigators as they pursue dual degrees in veterinary medicine and research.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation is the largest nonprofit worldwide to fund health research exclusively for canines, funding non-invasive genetic health research, stem cell research, and biotherapeutics benefiting both canines and humans. It has allocated more than $22 million in canine health research through more than 75 schools and research institutions worldwide.

Andrea Parrish Johnston and Steve Tousignant honored

Andrea Parrish Johnston, 2007-08 Student Council president, and Steve Tousignant, president of the Veterinary Business Management Association, were selected to receive University of Minnesota President's Student Leadership Awards. They were honored with other University of Minnesota students by President Robert Bruininks in May.

Anil Thachil awarded B.S. Pomeroy Award

Anil Thachil, a Ph.D. student in the veterinary medicine graduate program, received the B.S. Pomeroy Award for Student Achievement in Avian Diseases Research at the 60th North Central Avian Disease Conference held in St. Paul, Minnesota, in March. Thachil received the award and a cash prize for his paper, "Control of Turkey Clostridial Dermatitis using a Clostridium septicum toxoid." Thachil is advised by Dr. Kakambi Nagaraja.

Four students receive swine scholarships

The American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) Foundation awarded scholarships to four CVM students during the AASV annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, in March. The honorees were Meggan Bandrick, who received a $1,500 scholarship; Andrew Bents, who received a $1,500 scholarship; Aaron Nystrom, who received a $2,500 scholarship; and Andrea Pitkin, who received a $1,500 scholarship.

Forty-six veterinary students representing 17 universities submitted abstracts for consideration. Judges representing private practice, higher education, and industry selected the recipients on the basis of communications skills in the writing of the abstract, the presentation of the case report, and the applicability of the research to swine medicine. The scholarships were provided by Eli Lilly and Company Foundation on behalf of Elanco Animal Health.

Students win at Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge

Thirty-five veterinary students representing the University of Minnesota, Iowa State University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln competed in the Intercollegiate Veterinary Dairy Challenge at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, on April 4, 2009. The students, consisting of eight teams, traveled to a local dairy, where they had three hours to observe and record on-farm observations and meet with the owner. When the teams returned to Ames, they had two hours to develop a plan of action for the dairy. Each team presented their observations to eight dairy industry leaders who served as judges.

“The competition gets students out of the classroom and onto a working dairy farm where they can apply their textbook knowledge and develop their observation skills,” says Dr. Paul Rapnicki, professor in the CVM’s Veterinary Population Medicine Department.

Students were required to work within a strict timeline, similar to what they would experience in veterinary medicine consulting. The team approach of the competition mimicked the real world, where many successful dairy operations have management teams that are led by veterinarians.

After judging was complete, the University of Minnesota team was announced the first-place winner from group two. Team members were Andrew Bents, Aaron Nystrom, Nicole Tellier, and Steve Tousignant.

The Veterinary Dairy Challenge was established by the College in 2007. Designed to encourage hands-on practice for future dairy veterinarians, the event has expanded to include other veterinary colleges. This year’s event was organized and hosted by veterinary students at Iowa State University. Sponsors were ABS Global, BouMatic, Elanco, Fort Dodge, GEA Westfalia-Surge, Pfizer, Pioneer, and Swiss Valley.

Andrea Parrish Johnston and Steve Tousignant honored

Andrea Parrish Johnston, 2007-08 Student Council president, and Steve Tousignant, president of the Veterinary Business Management Association, were selected to receive University of Minnesota President's Student Leadership Awards. They were honored with other University of Minnesota students by President Robert Bruininks in May.
Greenwald and Mesenhowski complete AVMA government Relations externships

Nancy Greenwald and Shannon Mesenhowski of the class of 2010 completed American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Governmental Relations Division externships this past summer.

Greenwald, who completed her externship in May, has served as the president of the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA) and participated in the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Experience. She is interested in issues pertaining to improving the veterinary workforce, managing educational debt, and increasing public health preparedness and biosecurity.

Mesenhowski has demonstrated a keen interest in advocacy and leadership, having been actively involved in SCAVMA and the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA). She has also attended the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Experience and two AVMA Legislative Advisory Committee meetings and is simultaneously pursuing a D.V.M. and a master of public health degree. She completed her externship in June.

During the four-week externships, students learn about the federal legislative and regulatory processes, becoming actively involved in advancing the AVMA’s legislative priorities on Capitol Hill and meeting with members of Congress, legislative aides, and veterinarians working in federal agencies. Externs have opportunities to work on a wide array of issues, including animal welfare bills, pet insurance, food safety, veterinary education and workforce issues, and small business and tax issues. Externs receive a stipend of $1,000 to help defray expenses. To learn more about the externship program, visit www.avma.org/advocacy/get_involved/externships.asp.

Nina Kieves receives Simmons Educational Fund Business Aptitude Award

Nina Kieves received the Simmons Educational Fund (SEF) Business Aptitude Award, which includes a $10,000 national scholarship.

Kieves was the recipient of the Simmons Scholarship locally last spring and went on to the national competition, which she won based on her resume and well-crafted response to the SEF business case study. In addition to the $10,000 scholarship, the SEF awarded Kieves a trip to the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando in January, when the award was presented at the national meeting of the Veterinary Business Managment Association (VBMA). Kieves is a national officer of the VBMA.

Karen Gjevre receives ASLAP award

Class of 2009 graduate Karen Gjevre received the American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP) Veterinary Student Award in March. The award is presented to veterinary students in recognition of their extraordinary accomplishment in the field of laboratory animal medicine during their veterinary school career.

Katie Schiller receives young investigator award

Katie Schiller, a Ph.D. student in the comparative and molecular biosciences graduate program, received a young investigator award from the Epithelial Transport Group, Cell and Molecular Physiology section of the American Physiological Society, for the abstract she submitted to Experimental Biology. Katie is advised by Dr. Scott O'Grady.

Students represent College in Washington, D.C.

Veterinary students Amber Hazel, Tamara Jacobson, and Shannon Mesenhowski represented the College at a Veterinary Student Legislative Day sponsored by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C., in March. The first-time event brought 25 students together from across the nation to advocate for funding to support veterinary education. Students learned about the legislative process and participated in visits with congressional members, discussing veterinary issues and highlighting the need for reinvestment funds for veterinary colleges and loan forgiveness funding.
René Carlson is candidate for AVMA president-elect

René Carlson, class of 1978, became a candidate for the position of president-elect of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) at the AVMA convention in Seattle, Washington, in July.

Over the past 26 years, Dr. Carlson has worked in small and large animal practices and in rural and urban practices. She became the owner of the Animal Hospital of Chetek in Chetek, Wisconsin, in 1996, and in 2000, the hospital was listed as one of Veterinary Economics' 12 Practices of Excellence. In 2001, Carlson was selected as Wisconsin’s Veterinarian of the Year.

Carlson is a past president of both her local and state veterinary medical associations, served as the delegate from Wisconsin to the AVMA’s House of Delegates for eight years, and was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation Board of Directors for three years. In July 2004, she was elected vice president of the AVMA.

Bruce R. Coston to publish book


Heather C.F. Case becomes diplomate of ACVPM

CVM alumna Heather C.F. Case, who is now an assistant director of the Scientific Activities Division at the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), has become a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM). Case earned her D.V.M. degree from the College in 1998. At the AVMA, she has been instrumental in coordinating response efforts during hurricanes and other emergencies, and has created a disaster preparedness video to help pet owners protect their pets in a disaster.

"I believe the challenges I faced in earning board certification and the credibility of being an ACVPM diplomate will help me better direct disaster preparedness efforts at the AVMA," Case says.

Hoang certified in public health

Christine N. Hoang, who earned her D.V.M. from the College in 2007 and her M.P.H. in 2008, has been certified in public health by the National Board of Public Health Examiners. Hoang was part of the charter class of professionals to earn the new certification, which was introduced in 2008 to set new standards for public health medicine.

All-class reunion is October 9

This year, the College’s annual all-class reunion coincides with University of Minnesota Homecoming 2009: The Ultimate Homecoming. The CVM All-Class Reunion, with special recognition for the class of 1959, will be October 9 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center. For other University and College events, see Mark Your Calendar, page 27.

Take a survey about Profiles

As part of its effort to reduce costs and be good stewards of donor funds, the College is considering eliminating the print edition of *Profiles* and publishing an online edition only. What do you think? Take a survey about Profiles at www.cvm.umn.edu.
Mark your calendar

Fall Raptor Release
Saturday, September 26
10 a.m.—3 p.m.
Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center, Hastings, Minn.

Veterinary Continuing Education
Mather Lecture Series
Mather Lectures are presented from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in 215 Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center

• Surgical Versus Medical Management of Cranial Cruciate Ligament Rupture?, presented by Dr. Vicki Wilke: September 3

• Emergency Care, presented by Dr. Julie Schildt: October 1

• Advanced Medical Imaging Direct (AVID), presented by Dr. Sherry Fonseth: Nov. 5

• A Dermatologist’s Approach to Canine Recurrent Pyoderma, presented by Dr. Sandra Koch: Dec. 3

Mather Lectures resume in March 2010. For details, visit www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach.

Allen D. Leman Swine Conference
September 19-22
RiverCentre Conference Facility, Saint Paul, Minn. This event will include the presentation of the Allen D. Leman Science in Practice Award to Laura Batista.

Equine Fall Lecture and Horse Owner Day
October 2-3
Leatherdale Equine Center

Care and Management of Captive Raptors
October 20-23
The Raptor Center

Companion Animal Symposium
October 29-30
Leatherdale Equine Center, University of Minnesota St. Paul campus

For more information about continuing education opportunities and to register, visit www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach, e-mail vop@umn.edu, or call 612-624-3434 or 800-380-8636.

Homecoming 2009 events

Duke Lecture
Presented by Jim Gilbert
Friday, Oct. 9, 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center

CVM All-Class Reunion with special recognition for the class of 1959
Friday, Oct. 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center

Pre-game Event
Saturday, Oct. 10
8:00-11:00 a.m.
McNamara Alumni Center

Homecoming Football Game: Minnesota Gophers versus Purdue Boilermakers
Saturday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m.
TCF Bank Stadium, Minneapolis Campus

College of Veterinary Medicine Open House
Sunday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Profiles
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Join us for these College of Veterinary Medicine events!

**Friday, October 9**

**Duke Lecture**
Presented by Jim Gilbert, nature photographer, author, and environmental advocate  
Sponsored by The Raptor Center  
4:00-5:30 p.m.  
Ben Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center  
*One CE credit; no charge*

**All-Class Reunion**
Honoring the class of 1959  
5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Ben Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center

**Saturday, October 10**

**Game Day Party: Fans, Food + Fun**
Starts at 8:00 a.m., continues during and after football game  
McNamara Alumni Center  
*Free! Shuttles from the St. Paul campus to McNamara will be provided.*

**Sunday, October 11**

**CVM Open House**
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Includes tours of the Equine Center, The Raptor Center, the Veterinary Medical Center, and more!

Register for the College of Veterinary Medicine All-Class Reunion and related activities online at  
[http://ustar.ahc.umn.edu/all-class-reunion.htm](http://ustar.ahc.umn.edu/all-class-reunion.htm).

For a complete list of University of Minnesota Homecoming 2009: The Ultimate Homecoming events, visit [www.homecoming.umn.edu](http://www.homecoming.umn.edu).