



Alison Kent

## WILDLIFE HEALTH VETERINARIANS REPAIR WILD BIRD WING

A black-crowned night-heron received replacement feathers through an imping, or grafting, procedure last February, after the bird was found at the UC Davis Arboretum dangling from a tree, its damaged wing entangled in fishing line.

UC Davis veterinarians Shannon Riggs, Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) wildlife veterinarian based at the International Bird Rescue Research Center, and Bill Ferrier, staff veterinarian with Campus Veterinarian Services and codirector of the California Raptor Center, used donor feathers and epoxy to replace the heron's nine broken feathers. The night-heron was released the following morning.

Walter Boyce, codirector of the school's Wildlife Health Center, says, "Skilled clinicians made this bird whole again, and they are backed up by a whole team of UC Davis experts working to make the environment safer and healthier for wildlife."

The Wildlife Health Center directs not only the OWCN, but also the SeaDoc Society and its California Lost Fishing Gear Removal Project and other new initiatives to remove hazardous gear from California coastal waters.

**Dr. Shannon Riggs monitors the anesthetized black-crowned night-heron. Donor feathers from an immature night-heron are first glued to bamboo sticks then lined up in correct anatomical order. The symmetry of the feather prosthesis is matched to the patient's undamaged wing. Dr. Bill Ferrier (right) has successfully grafted hundreds of feathers on raptors.**

## UC Presses for Enrollment Growth

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In the 67-page report, authors lean heavily on a comprehensive assessment of health workforce needs undertaken in 2004 by the university-wide Health Sciences Committee. Based on these and other findings, the Advisory Council recommends specific measures:

- Expand DVM class size to 160 students per year as early as 2008—total school enrollment would rise from 497 (currently) to 640 students by 2012
- Increase the number of veterinary specialty residents by 20 per year over the next three years, for a total of 150
- Increase workforce diversity to reflect California's many cultures

The council considered needs and recommendations up to 2020.

Because the level of growth needed at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to address state needs far exceeds current capacity—even with new infrastructure—the council further recommends that the university explore the feasibility of a second comprehensive UC veterinary school.

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For more information, visit the Web site of the UC Office of the President, Division of Health Affairs (<http://www.ucop.edu/healthaffairs>).