**Entering DVM Student Stats**

**Introducing the Class of 2012**

The class of 2012 includes 104 women and 27 men. The average age is 24, with a range of 20 to 45.

Students report the following areas of interest: small animal (50), avian/exotics (4), equine (13), small animal/equine (4), research (8), zoo (6), wildlife (11), mixed (13), large animal (6), food animal (7), laboratory animal (3), academics/teaching (2), dairy (3) and fish (1).

Forty-two students attended UC Davis, 33 are from other University of California campuses, 19 attended California State University and nine attended other California schools.

Prior to admission, successful applicants completed an average of 3,025 hours of veterinary experience. Nineteen students will enter the professional program having already earned a master’s (14) or doctoral degree (5). Three students have been accepted into the Veterinary Scientist Training Program, which provides academic and financial support to individuals pursuing concurrent DVM and PhD degrees.

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**School Welcomes Students into Profession with White Coat Ceremony**

As part of orientation (see page 7) the new students donned white coats, which signify their transition into the profession, for an official welcome by Dean Bennie Osburn.

The ceremony closed with a recitation of the Student Veterinary Oath, and was followed by a reception and tour of Gladys Valley Hall, where classes began September 15.
BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

VETERINARY STUDENT SELECTED FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Rell Parker, class of 2010, has been selected as one of the first veterinary students in the nation to participate in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute-National Institutes of Health Research Scholars Program. The program is designed to encourage health professionals to pursue research careers.

The organization announced June 5 that 42 students from health professional schools had been selected to conduct biomedical research full time for one year. Four of the participants come from veterinary schools. This year is the first time veterinary students have been invited to apply.

Parker is a former participant in the school’s Students Training in Advanced Research (STAR) program under the mentorship of molecular biologist Isaac Pessah, director of the Center for Children’s Environmental Health. She traveled to the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland, in July to live among the other scholars and develop her own biomedical research project with an NIH mentor. Parker will return to her veterinary studies in 2009.

WILDLIFE HEALTH

Extreme Weather Events Can Trigger Mass Die-Offs

An international research team led by Linda Munson has found the first clear example of how climate extremes, such as increased frequency of droughts and floods expected with global warming, can create conditions in which diseases tolerated one at a time may converge and cause mass die-offs of livestock or wildlife.

“This study disclosed a key relationship between climate extremes and wildlife die-offs that had previously been unexplained,” says Munson, a professor of veterinary pathology. “As climate extremes become more frequent, wildlife may be less able to cope with infectious agents that were formerly tolerated.”

Researchers examined outbreaks of canine distemper virus in 1994 and 2001 that resulted in unusually high mortality of lions of Tanzania’s Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater.

Previous epidemics have occurred without decreasing lion populations. But the canine distemper virus outbreaks of 1994 and 2001 were both preceded by extreme drought conditions, which led to debilitated populations of Cape buffalo, a major prey of lions. After the rains returned, the buffalo suffered heavy tick infestations, resulting in abnormally high levels of tick-borne blood parasites in lions.

The canine distemper virus further suppressed the lions’ immunity, which allowed the tick-borne disease to reach fatal levels, leading to mass die-offs of lions. In 1994, the number of lions in the Serengeti study area dropped by more than 35 percent after the double infection. Similar losses occurred in the crater die-off in 2001.

Lion populations recovered quickly—within years after each event—but most climate change models predict increasing frequency of droughts in East Africa.

The study was published June 25 by PloS (Public Library of Science) ONE, an online peer-reviewed research journal.

VETERINARY GENETICS LABORATORY

Canine Clone Confirmed in “Missyplicity” Project

When BioArts International reported this year that the company had created three clones of a favorite family pet, Missy, scientists at the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL) were not surprised.

In fact, the school’s experts were the ones who confirmed that the animals were indeed clones of Missy, a dog that died in 2002. The VGL’s parentage testing laboratory used a canine-specific panel of 24 DNA markers to confirm that Missy’s nuclear DNA was present in each of the clones. Some of the markers were developed at UC Davis; the rest are used worldwide.

Missy’s mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is another factor. Beth Wictum of the VGL’s forensics unit says that the forensic group “used its expertise in mitochondrial DNA sequencing to confirm that the clones were different from Missy and matched the donor moms. Since mitochondrial DNA is in the egg and therefore passed through the maternal line, each clone would have the mtDNA type of the egg donor mom, not that of Missy.”

“The forensic lab group also used a new panel of DNA markers, developed for profiling dogs in forensic casework,” adds Wictum. “That made a total of 39 autosomal DNA markers. The more markers you use, the stronger the test. The fact that these dogs matched Missy at 39 markers very strongly supports the claim that they are indeed clones.

“What is unique about the forensic panel,” Wictum says, “is that these are all new markers that Aaron Wong from Mark Neff’s lab at the Center for Companion Animal Health has identified from the published dog genome, so no one else is using these yet.”

In 2002, scientists at Texas A&M produced “cc,” the first cloned cat. In that case, UC Davis geneticist Leslie Lyons verified that the cat was a clone, although the animal, a calico, did not look exactly like its parent.
**EQUINE HEALTH**

**Researchers Seek Cases of Possible Equine Bone Fragility Syndrome**

In a review of 16 cases from 1980 to 2006, Jonathan D.C. Anderson has brought to light a possible new diagnosis for chronic lameness and spontaneous fractures in horses. “The horses show similar symptoms that may indicate differing stages of the same disease, a bone fragility disorder,” says Anderson, lead author of a study published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* in June.

Anderson is a resident in equine surgery at the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. He found evidence of the problem in nuclear scintigraphic and ultrasonographic images in a variety of ages and breeds of horses. As the disease progressed, says Anderson, the disorder appeared to involve bones of the axial and appendicular skeleton (ribs, scapula and pelvic bone) resulting in deformities such as swayback and bowing of the shoulder blades. Affected horses also had progressively worsening stiffness and often developed pathologic fractures.

Anderson’s work is related to cases of silicosis reported in 2006 by Salinas, Calif., practitioners Matthew Durham and Coral Armstrong. Many of the animals with silicosis also showed fractures or other bone deformities.

**Ongoing Research**

Are the lung disease and the bone disorder part of a syndrome? “We haven’t yet shown causality,” says Amanda Murray, who is conducting doctoral research on that possible connection in the J.D. Wheat Veterinary Orthopedic Research Laboratory. Murray, who holds both DVM and MPVM degrees, is working with a team of referring veterinarians and researchers to accomplish the following:

- Identify affected animals
- Analyze the extent of bone pathology and possible causes of the disease
- Trace the geographic distribution of the disease—most cases to date have been in California
- Identify a practical, affordable diagnostic test—the best current method is a bone scintigraphy scan, but testing equipment is not available at most equine practices
- Determine potential risk factors and prevention strategies
- Test different treatment protocols

Dr. Murray is seeking cases for analysis of this unusual problem. If you know of a horse that might qualify, please contact her at almurray@ucdavis.edu.

The J.D. Wheat Veterinary Orthopedic Research Laboratory aims to improve sport horse and companion animal welfare; increase understanding of the causes of injury and disease; develop better methods for diagnosing, treating, rehabilitating and preventing injury and disease; and provide education to ensure that equestrian sports, pleasure riding and companion animals may be safely enjoyed.

New knowledge in veterinary medicine has expanded alongside rising consumer demand for clinical services for companion animals and horses. Although the school is young by comparison with institutions in the Eastern United States or abroad, UC Davis faculty pioneered many veterinary disciplines including urology, ophthalmology, virology, cardiology, behavior, neurology and hematology.

In 1966, when Dean William Pritchard spoke before the United States House of Representatives about the future of veterinary education, his testimony helped gain federal funding to establish nine more veterinary schools in the United States and build veterinary teaching hospitals—including the one that now carries his name.

The opening of the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital also marked a transformation in teaching. For the first time, veterinary students were able to select an area of species emphasis before graduation.

UC Davis set a new training standard for veterinary schools, and the opportunities for specialization led to the more than 30 residency training programs available today.

For instance, the school developed the world’s first behavior service in 1975 and now trains more board-certified veterinary behaviorists than any other veterinary school.

The faculty is currently engaged in a comprehensive curriculum review to continue raising the standards of veterinary education.

Opportunities for specialization led to more than 30 residency training programs.

As teaching approaches evolved, basic and clinical researchers rapidly expanded knowledge of infectious diseases, clinical capabilities and diagnostic tests. For example, researchers specializing in nutrition and cardiology demonstrated the link between a lack of dietary taurine and feline dilated cardiomyopathy. The addition of this amino acid to commercial pet food saves thousands of lives each year.

Most recently, toxicologists at the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System discovered that, when combined, melamine and cyanuric acid (found in samples of pet food recalled in 2007) can be lethal to cats.

Equine Medicine

The school responds to and collaborates with horse owners, breed organizations and the equine industry. Discoveries by the UC Davis veterinary faculty, such as the 1965 description of equine erlichiosis (anaplasmosis), led to development of the Center for Equine Health. This and other equine programs have enriched knowledge in analytical chemistry, orthopedic research, viral diseases, reproduction, genetics and performance in the horse.

Among their accomplishments, researchers revealed the presence of previously existing stress fractures in racehorses that suffer catastrophic injuries. This work, which has led to changes in California Thoroughbred racing, is receiving renewed attention since the high-profile cases of Barbaro and Eight Belles. The collaboratively designed UC Davis-Anderson sling aids equine recovery in the hospital and airlift rescues of large animals. Other advances in equine health research include greater understanding of colic, performance horse issues and viruses.

In the next issue, we’ll review the school’s role in veterinary research in human diseases and laboratory animals in science during the first six decades.
Then, now, the future...
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE HIGHLIGHTS

1954
The school develops the first of several vaccines to combat bluetongue, an infectious viral disease of sheep. Ongoing research produces more effective diagnostic tests and improved vaccines along with better understanding of the environmental and economic impacts of bluetongue on the international livestock trade.

1964
The first food safety program in a veterinary school is established at UC Davis.

1970
The Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital opens, and faculty begin training residents in veterinary specialties. The program grows from seven residents to the largest program in the nation. The school has now trained more than 1,000 veterinary specialists in more than 30 disciplines.

1975
The world’s first behavior service begins. Today it is the largest in the nation and has trained more board-certified behavior specialists than any other school.

1980
Small animal orthopedists develop the first total hip prosthesis for dogs.

1986
Researchers discover feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and develop a veterinary model for human AIDS research. In 2002, the first federally approved vaccine for FIV is based on School of Veterinary Medicine research.

1987
The California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System (CAHFS) is launched. The laboratory system is California’s “first line of defense” against diseases that harm animals, threaten the food supply, or pose a danger to human health. At laboratories in Davis, Turlock, Fresno, Tulare and San Bernardino, faculty and technicians now perform 1.8 million diagnostic tests annually and conduct ongoing surveillance on livestock and poultry for diseases such as avian influenza and BSE (mad cow disease). The CAHFS is the state’s central milk laboratory, responsible for laboratory programs to assure the quality of California’s milk.

1989
The nation’s first Pet Loss Support Hotline becomes a national resource for people grieving due to the loss of a pet and an opportunity for students to gain firsthand experience in effective and compassionate communication with pet owners.

1992
Faculty introduce the DNA test for hyperkalemic periodic paralysis (HYPP), the first DNA-based test available for a heritable disease in horses. Since then, faculty and staff and the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory have developed tests to screen for severe combined immunodeficiency, ovine lethal white foot disease, junctional epidermolysis bullosa and glycogen branching enzyme disease in horses.

1993
The Oiled Wildlife Care Network establishes a statewide effort to coordinate the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife injured in oil spills and begins oil spill research.

1995
A medical ecologist in Veterinary Medicine Extension develops methods and assesses the risk of water contamination by livestock grazing near water sources.

1998
The University of California Veterinary Medical Center—San Diego expands clinical services and research collaborations for Southern Californians. By 2008, the center offers pharmacy, nutrition, cardiology and kidney medicine, including hemodialysis.

2003
Veterinary Medicine Extension and CAHFS laboratory faculty help a USDA task force to curtail an outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease. Faculty build trust with backyard bird enthusiasts, while lab specialists develop sophisticated informatics to track the outbreak in real time. New cases are identified, and researchers develop a rapid diagnostic test that can prevent unnecessary destruction of flocks. They contain the outbreak two years sooner than expected, saving poultry producers more than $500 million.

2004
The Center for Companion Animal Health opens its new $16 million facility, built entirely with private funds. The building’s cancer center triples the capacity for cancer treatments and provides laboratories for genetics and cancer research.

2005
Researchers announce their discovery of the genetic mutation that causes polycystic kidney disease (PKD) in Persian cats. They develop a DNA-based test to alert breeders and eventually eradicate PKD, the most prevalent inherited disease in cats.

2007
Clinicians and geneticists identify a spontaneous genetic mutation in Maine Coon cats that is responsible for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, the most common heart disease in domestic cats.

2010 AND BEYOND
The school works to set new standards of veterinary education to help meet society’s needs for clinical services and new knowledge in animal, public and ecosystem health.
Annual Fund donors sustain the school’s reputation as a top-tier academic institution dedicated to providing the best veterinary education and advancing animal, human and environmental health. Contributions by alumni supplement underfunded programs, enhance opportunities for students, and meet other critical needs. Donors of $1,000 to $4,999 are given special recognition in the Dean’s Club, and donors of $5,000 or more become members of the Dean’s Club Executive Circle. In the 2007–08 fiscal year, gifts to the fund totaled more than $110,000.

The following alumni and friends contributed to the Annual Fund from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008:

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  - Lahritz, Jeffrey ’87
  - Lamb, David ’81
  - Larkin, James ’85
  - Lavan, Robert ’92
  - Laxineta, Marc ’83
  - Levitt, Janet ’88
  - Loesch, Dawn ’98
  - Lynch, Joseph ’60
  - Maguire, Spencer ’95
  - Mahoney, Perry ’76
  - Martin, Lawrence ’67
  - Maurer, James ’81
  - McArthur, Gary ’99
  - McConnell, Carol ’94
  - McCre, Debrann ’82
  - McGuire, William ’73
  - McRae, Michael ’71
  - Meadows, Juliana ’88
  - Menefee Ranches
  - Menefee, Jerry ’80
  - Millers, John ’78
  - Millers, Jeffrey ’74
  - Milne, Victoria ’01
  - Mitchell, Diane ’87
  - Moody, Kenneth ’58
  - Magnan, Albert ’89
  - Nadolski, Sara ’88
  - Neaderland, Marjorie ’84
  - O’Brien, Janice ’85
  - O’Brien, John ’52
  - Owens, Jerry ’71
  - Park, Mark ’76
  - Perry, Pauline ’92
  - Persky, Bruce ’72
  - Pettit, Ghery ’53
  - Pierce, Thomas ’93
  - Pogrel, James ’98
  - Reems, Judy ’85
  - Reese, Jacqueline ’83
  - Rollin, Janet ’75
  - Roncckievitz, Cathy ’01
  - Rosskopf, Walter ’69
  - Salido, Carla ’85
  - San Anselmo Animal Hospital, Inc.
  - San Roque Pet Hospital
  - Santerno, Barry ’76
  - Schmidt, Janis ’95
  - Schoeff, Kelly ’99
  - Schoeder, Betsy ’96
  - Scott, Bradford ’76
  - Scotts Valley Veterinary Clinic
  - Sears, Alson ’63
  - Shens, Mervyn ’55
  - Shirley, John ’52
  - Siegel, Leon ’62
  - Slade, John ’78
  - Smith, Patrick ’75
  - South County Veterinary Hospital
  - Stannard, Robert ’73
  - Steinberg, Diane ’86
  - Talley, Sharon ’79
  - Tims, Melanie ’96
  - Tucker, Pia ’87
  - Uchimura, Richard ’65
  - Velling, Steven ’92
  - Vogner, Lindalu ’79
  - Walsh, Michelle ’95
  - Welsh, Kristel ’06
  - Werber, Jeffrey ’84
  - White, Christina ’96
  - Wilken, Frank ’54
  - Williams, Martha ’87
  - Youdall, Mark ’81

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NEW FACULTY
Meet the school’s newest faculty members!

JOANNE PAUL-MURPHY
Professor, Veterinary Medicine and Epidemiology

EDUCATION
Diplomate, American College of Zoological Medicine, 1991
DVM, Cornell University, 1982
BS, Animal Science, Cornell University, 1977

EXPERIENCE
Clinical professor, surgical sciences, University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, Madison, 2005–08
Honorary associate fellow, Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, 2001–08
Clinical associate professor, University of Wisconsin, 1994–2005
Research animal veterinarian, Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, U. Wisconsin, 1991–93
Senior veterinarian, California Regional Primate Research Center, UC Davis, 1998–91
Acting chief, Zoological Medicine Service, UC Davis, 1986–88
Resident, zoological medicine, UC Davis, 1984–86

SPECIALTY
 Companion avian and exotic pet medicine, pain management in non-domestic species, particularly birds

ROBERT REBHUN
Assistant professor of veterinary medical oncology, Surgical and Radiological Sciences

EDUCATION
PhD, cancer biology, University of Texas, 2006
DVM, Cornell University, 2002
BS, animal science, Cornell University, 1995

EXPERIENCE
Postdoctoral fellow and resident in small animal medical oncology, Animal Cancer Center, Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Science, Fort Collins, 2004–08
Graduate research assistant, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, The University of Texas, Houston, 2002–06
Relief veterinarian, Greatwood Veterinary Hospital, Richmond, Texas, 2005–06
Relief veterinarian, Sugar Creek Animal Clinic, Sugar Land, Texas, 2005–06
Staff veterinarian, Animal Emergency Clinic, Sugar Land, Texas, 2002–05

SPECIALTY
 Cancer biology, comparative and translational oncology, immunohistochemistry

LINDA BARTER
Assistant professor of veterinary anesthesiology, Surgical and Radiological Sciences

EDUCATION
PhD, molecular and cellular integrative physiology, UC Davis, 2007
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists, 2004
MVS, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, 2000
BVSc, University of Sydney, Australia, 1995
BVSc(vet), University of Sydney, Australia, 1994

EXPERIENCE
Associate veterinarian, UC Davis, 2007–08
Veterinary Graduate Academic Program, UC Davis, 2005–06
Resident, anesthesia and critical patient care, UC Davis, 2001–04
Associate veterinarian, Animal Referral Hospital, Sydney, Australia, 2001
Assistant lecturer, veterinary anesthesia, Massey University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, New Zealand, 1999–2001
Veterinarian, general practice, Palmerston North, New Zealand, 1997–99
Associate veterinarian, Newtown Veterinary Hospital, Sydney, Australia, 1996–97
Veterinarian, Launceston Veterinary Hospital, Launceston, Australia, 1995–96

SPECIALTY
Anesthesia, neural mechanisms of anesthetic actions

MUNASHE CHIGERWE
Assistant professor of food animal medicine and surgery, Veterinary Medicine and Epidemiology

EDUCATION
MPH, University of Missouri, Columbia, 2008
PhD, pathobiology, University of Missouri, 2008
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, large animal internal medicine, 2007
BVSc/AH, University of Zimbabwe, Harare

EXPERIENCE
Resident, food animal medicine and surgery, University of Missouri, 2004–07
Intern, food animal medicine, surgery and production medicine, U. Missouri, 2003–04
Resident clinician, University of Zimbabwe Faculty of Veterinary Science, Harare, Zimbabwe; 2001–03

SPECIALTY
Large animal internal medicine, food animal and production medicine, large animal surgery; passive transfer of colostral immunoglobulins in dairy calves

JULIANA MEADOWS
Health sciences assistant clinical professor in community practice, Veterinary Medicine and Epidemiology

EDUCATION
DVM, UC Davis, 1988
BS, zoology, UC Davis, 1984

EXPERIENCE
Practice co-owner, Veterinary Medical Center of Turlock, 1992–2008
Adjunct professor, anatomy, physiology and terminology, Modesto Junior College Veterinary Technician Certificate Program, 2006–2008
Lecturer in physiology, California State University, Stanislaus, 2007
Associate veterinarian, Stanislaus Veterinary Center, Modesto, California, 1988–1992

SPECIALTY
Small animal outpatient medicine, community practice

Orientation Presents Mental, Physical and Emotional Challenges
The class of 2012 engaged in the first course of the DVM curriculum, the three-day doctoring program that focuses on building essential professional and clinical competencies. Along with team building, leadership training and exploration of issues such as values and conflict management, orientation included an introduction to the School of Veterinary Medicine and campus resources and opportunities.
Tiger Receives Care for Arthritis

Kuma, a 12-year-old Bengal tiger from Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, was treated last May for arthritis in his left elbow.

A team of zoo vets and surgeons at the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital injected pain medication and hyaluronic acid for lubrication of the joint. They also harvested bone marrow to culture stem cells that may be used to stimulate cartilage growth in the joint.

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Veterinary Medicine News is published by the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine: Bennie I. Osburn, DVM, PhD, dean; Donald J. Klingborg, DVM, associate dean for public programs; Susan Donahue, editor; Lynn Narlesky, Michelle Silva, Don Preisler and the UC Davis News Service, contributors. The University of California does not discriminate in any of its policies, procedures or practices. The university is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.