Memorial Enhances VMTH Ophthalmology Service

T he family of Robert M. Cello has established a memorial to one of the school’s most respected and accomplished faculty members.

During his career, Dr. Cello made numerous contributions to the field of veterinary ophthalmology in both research and education. He is widely recognized as “the father of veterinary ophthalmology.” Following Dr. Cello’s death in May 2001, his family contacted the school and offered to fund a clinic renovation for the Ophthalmology Service at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH).

The Ophthalmology Service’s clinical space in the VetMed II wing was refurbished last summer. A third exam room and a treatment room were created by redesigning existing space.

On September 9 the Cello family joined Dean Bennie Osburn and members of the Ophthalmology Service for an informal dedication of the new Robert M. Cello Veterinary Ophthalmology Suite.

Dr. Cello, whose distinguished academic career spanned more than four decades, made many contributions both to the school and to the veterinary profession. He and Dean Emeritus William Pritchard led a group of faculty members in planning the first modern, full-service veterinary medical teaching hospital—the VMTH they established at UC Davis in 1970 set a new standard for veterinary education and service to alumni, practicing veterinarians, industry and the people of California.

While serving as director of the VMTH, Dr. Cello led the nation’s veterinary schools in embracing the concept of clinical residencies, and he established the nation’s first clinical residency in veterinary ophthalmology.

In addition to ophthalmology, the VMTH—which offers the largest and most diverse residency program in the country—now provides advanced training and preparation for board certification in 27 disciplines.

Lecture and Research Fund Is Dedicated to Robert Cello

The R. M. Cello Distinguished Lecture Series and Resident’s Research Fund was inaugurated in April 1998.

More than 95 individuals and organizations, including Dr. Cello’s family, friends, faculty colleagues, and former students and residents, contributed $123,000 to establish perpetual support for both a lecture series and independent resident research.

The Cello lecture series recognizes outstanding contributions to clinical veterinary medicine—it is presented annually in conjunction with the school’s Fall Symposium on Recent Advances in Clinical Veterinary Medicine. Topics of the 2002 lecture series, presented by Dr. Lynelle Johnson, included feline rhinitis and tracheobronchial disease.

Companion Animal Health Day: An Open House for Pet Owners

P et owners from all across Northern California were invited to presentations on pet health care and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital on October 26, when the school’s Center for Companion Animal Health sponsored the fifth annual Companion Animal Health Day.

Faculty members and resident veterinarians shared information on the newest advances in companion animal health care in several disciplines. Talks for 2002 included Introducing a New Pet into Your Home, Arthroscopy, Kidney Transplantation in Cats, New Approaches to Cancer Therapy, and Geriatric Pet Care and Coping with Pet Loss.


Many thanks to the volunteers who, with unlimited enthusiasm and energy, help to create and carry out Companion Animal Health Day: Barbara Bassinger of Sacramento, Perk Bell of Concord, Kathie Dreher of Concord, Claudia Dechow of Concord, Pam Green of Davis, Courtney Judd of Sacramento, Peggy Lane of Novato, Marit Marino of Concord, Nanci Medellin of Sacramento, Jon Musciant of Granite Bay, Yayoi Kushida of Granite Bay, and Don and Marty Porter of Grants Pass, Oregon.