

EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH, TEACHING AND SERVICE

WINTER 2012 VOLUME TWO ISSUE ONE

THE HITCHING POST

MU PARTNERS WITH MCC



Recognition and Honors

Ashley French, a fourth-year student at the MU CVM, recently placed second in the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners 21st Annual Student Case Report Contest sponsored by Elanco and Merial. French received a \$400 check and a certificate for her winning entry in the companion animal category with the case, "Spinose Ear Tick in an HYPP Yearling American Quarter Horse."

Winning case reports must include appropriate diagnostic workups, as well as medical or surgical managements, a clear demonstration of veterinary expertise, the application of sound medical principles in diagnosis and treatment, and the communication of medical observations and data in an organized manner.



Metropolitan Community College Chancellor Mark James (right) and University of Missouri Provost Brian Foster shake hands after each sign articulation agreements between the two academic institutions. Looking on are deans of the MU Sinclair School of Nursing and College of Veterinary Medicine, Judith Miller and Neil Olson.

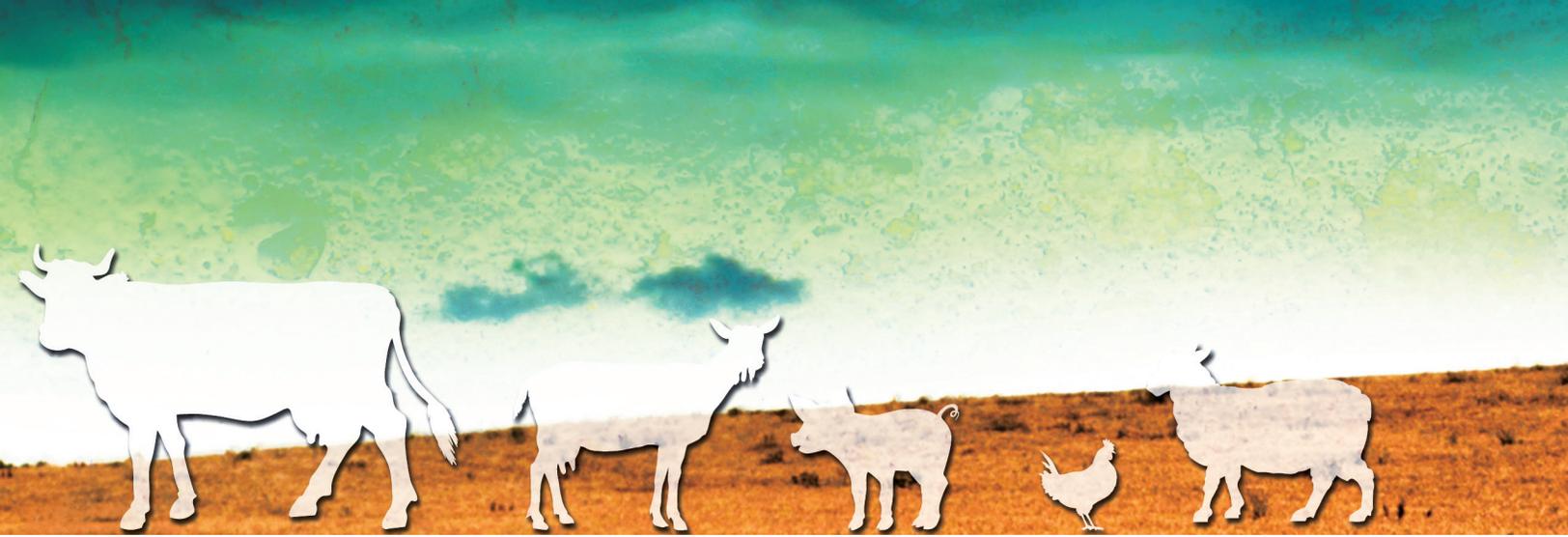
Earning a bachelor's degree is now more convenient for Kansas City area residents interested in nursing or veterinary science, thanks to two transfer agreements finalized Nov. 17, 2011, by officials from the University of Missouri and Metropolitan Community College.

The agreements, signed during a ceremony held at Metropolitan Community College, allow students who

have earned an associate's degree in applied sciences in either veterinary technology or nursing at MCC to take online courses to pursue a bachelor's degree from MU.

The seamless degree plans, also called two-plus-two, referring to the two years spent at MCC followed by two years of online studies through

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Articulation agreement continued

MU, offer a number of advantages. Students benefit from the lower tuition costs at MCC, thereby allowing them to take additional online classes at MU. The program also allows students to pursue a degree from MU while remaining in the Kansas City area and continuing to work in their field while completing their degree.

The veterinary degree plan allows students to move from earning an A.A.S. in veterinary technology to an online bachelor of general studies with credit hours earned in veterinary technology, biomedical science, and behavioral science or American studies, as well as general education requirements and electives. The plan is the first of its kind in Missouri, said C.B. Chastain, director of undergraduate biomedical sciences education at MU.

“It seems particularly appropriate that MCC, the first veterinary technology program in Missouri, be the first partner with Missouri’s only College of Veterinary Medicine in providing an online path for veterinary technicians to obtain a bachelor’s degree,” said Chastain. “It is our hope that this opportunity will enable veterinary technicians in the workforce to remain in the workforce, minimize their educational expenses and advance in their career to become leaders in veterinary biomedical technology.”

The growth of the Kansas-Missouri Animal Health Corridor that encompasses an area from Manhattan, Kan., to Columbia, Mo., is spurring the need for more people qualified to work in the veterinary medical industry, according to Neil C. Olson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at MU.

“Growing and developing a talented workforce to more effectively serve the needs of veterinarians and animal-health companies is absolutely essential to a vibrant regional economy,” Olson said. “This online veterinary technology program, offered by MU in partnership with MCC, will provide an opportunity for our gradu-

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— CVM Dean Neil C. Olson

ates in veterinary technology to not only grow professionally but also provide their employers with requisite skill sets that are necessary to function in a high technology environment.”

The second articulation agreement comprises a nursing degree plan that allows students to move from earning an A.A.S. in nursing, or an RN, to an online bachelor of science in nursing, or a BSN.

“This partnership between MU and MCC is unique because it employs distance learning technology to make the pursuit of a BSN more convenient in Greater Kansas City,” said Paul Long, vice chancellor for academic affairs and technology at MCC. “By educating more bachelor’s degree-level nurses, we expect this stackable degree plan to help alleviate shortages of skilled health care workers in our area.”

After earning a BSN from MU, students are also qualified to apply for admission to MU’s online graduate programs to earn a master’s, PhD or DNP.

“The MU Sinclair School of Nursing is committed to addressing the shortage of bachelor’s and graduate-prepared nurses in the state by offering online access to these degrees,” said Judith Fitzgerald Miller, dean of the MU Sinclair School of Nursing.

MU is dedicated to creating “One Mizzou,” a seamless system of high-quality courses and degrees delivered through innovative and flexible instructional delivery systems that serve the needs of all citizens of Missouri.



ASSOCIATE DEAN HAS CURRICULUM UNDER SCOPE

While many people spent New Year's Eve dining, dancing and belting out what lyrics to "Auld Lang Syne" they could recall, Dr. Linda Berent celebrated the traditionally festive night pursuing her own quiet brand of entertainment — she and a group of friends assembled a thousand piece jigsaw puzzle. It was that same enjoyment for solving puzzles that redirected her from an early original career aspiration in small animal medicine to veterinary pathology.

"I had worked in veterinary clinics, and I had an idealistic vision of veterinary medicine, but my talents lie in figuring out puzzles — I'm addicted to video games — that correlates with why I went into pathology," she said.

The riddles of blood-borne diseases and anatomic anomalies that she once solved under the microscope, have been set aside in recent months since MU College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Neil Olson appointed Berent as interim associate dean for academic affairs to replace the retiring Dr. Robert Youngquist.

An Illinois native, Berent entered the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine at 20 after earning a bachelor of science degree in biology in three years. After earn-



ing her DVM in 1994 and receiving a second bachelor's degree in veterinary biosciences, she worked for a small animal practice for a year in Danville, Ill. However, upon being offered a residency in clinical pathology, she returned to the university where she also studied anatomic pathology and earned a PhD. She is one of only 40 people in the world who is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists boarded in both clinical and anatomic pathology.

There were a number of teaching positions open at veterinary schools in 2002 as Berent completed her education and decided where to pursue her career. She and her husband,

who was working in academia, were drawn to the University of Columbia by the people and the Midwest college town atmosphere that offered an appealing environment for their young family. Berent said she was also impressed by the dynamics of the CVM, which created a sense of equality for clinical track faculty. She said she wasn't interested in focusing on research, which is necessary to pursue a tenure track career. "I wanted to teach and I wanted to be in diagnostics, which is what I really enjoy. That's what I wanted to do with my life," she said.

Her interest in working within the College's administration developed during her time at the CVM. Berent said she became increasingly more involved in the admissions process as she served on the admissions committee, and in the past year also became involved in the College's strategic planning process. When the dean offered her the interim associate dean post, she saw an opportunity to help move the College forward during a time of transition.

Berent said among her priorities are preparing for the 2013 reaccreditation review and assessing the College's teaching and learning models to determine whether they meet the

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Associate Dean Linda Berent continued

needs of the tech-savvy generation of students now entering its classrooms.

“These students have grown up with the internet and for them e-mail is passé. As Alison King wrote, our job is to move from ‘the sage on the stage to guide on the side,’” Berent said.

Another priority is guiding the transition to a new computerized class and clinical scheduling system to replace an outdated system that unfortunately failed completely just as Berent was assuming her new duties. Her ability to work her way through puzzles was put to the test as she tackled the first major challenge in her administrative position. Along with colleagues Drs. John Dodam, chairman of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, and Angela Tennison, student services coordinator, Berent scheduled clinical elective-rotations for all third-year CVM students manually. She said the experience was a crash course in the students’ schedules.

“We got it done. We made a lot of mistakes. The students were very forgiving,” she said of the experience.

While she is undeterred by the complexity of puzzles, be they on a board or under a microscope, she prefers to keep her communications direct and to the point. It was a lesson she said that was punctuated by a conversation she had during a Veterinary Leadership Experience she attended in 2007. A fellow veterinarian — a student at

“These students have grown up with the internet and for them e-mail is passé.”

— CVM Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Linda Berent

Illinois when Berent was a resident there — confided that while in school she had been suffering from depression, but Berent’s warmth and friendliness had helped her go on with her professional education and saved her career. Berent said she had had no idea her colleague had been in such a precarious state or that she unknowingly helped her through a crisis.

“I realized something I could do so thoughtlessly could have a profound affect. It puts pressure on you. You don’t know how the things you do and say can affect someone. So can a minor interaction affect someone in an opposite way? We have a profound effect on people’s lives without realizing it.”

While her duties as associate dean don’t allow her time to pursue diagnostic work, she has continued to lecture second-year students part time and she has stayed involved in residency training, a program she helped build at the College, by engaging in cytology and pathology rounds. With Director of Undergraduate Biomedical Sciences Education Dr. C.B. Chastain she recently started a hematology course online for veterinary technicians who are pursuing a bachelor’s degree.

COLLEGE SEEKING NEW DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TO REPLACE MARCHBANKS

After seven years of service to the University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine Development Officer Kelley Rohlfling Marchbanks announced her resignation from MU effective Oct. 31, 2011. She accepted a position with the

Oregon State University Foundation. During her time with the University, Marchbanks also worked with the MU Alumni Association before joining the CVM. The College thanks Kelley for all of her work through the years and

wish her and her husband, Aaron, and their daughter, Lilly, all the best in the future endeavors. The College and MU’s Central Development Office are in the process of interviewing prospective candidates to replace Marchbanks.



MIZZOU'S DIAGNOSTIC LAB PURCHASED

By Malinda Larkin
JAVMA News

In a \$43 million deal, IDEXX Laboratories Inc., a veterinary diagnostic testing corporation, bought the University of Missouri Research Animal Diagnostic and Investigative Laboratory. RADIL has provided health monitoring and diagnostic testing services to bioresearch customers since it began in 1968.

Though it started out small, RADIL's volume has grown dramatically in the past 10 to 15 years, said Dr. Neil C. Olson, dean of the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. Administrators have been working on moving the laboratory into the private sector for a few years now.

"It couldn't grow much more staying in the academic sphere, but it had lots of growth potential going into private enterprise, especially from a global perspective. The buyer recognized that," Dean Olson said.

"They have the global platform and infrastructure to bring it into the global market."

Headquartered in Westbrook, Maine, IDEXX Laboratories employs more than 4,900 people and serves veterinarians in more than 100 countries with a broad range of diagnostic and information technology-based products and services.

Jonathan Ayers, chairman and CEO of IDEXX, said in a Nov. 7 statement that the bioresearch market is a strategic fit for IDEXX, allowing the company to leverage its expertise in veterinary diagnostics as well as its integrated offering of reference laboratory and in-clinic testing solutions.

"The acquisition of RADIL, with its international reputation, track record of innovation, and solid rela-

tionships with key bioresearch customers, will create a strong foundation for our further participation in this market," he said in the statement.

The company expects to generate \$12 million in revenue from RADIL in 2012.

Details of the distribution of the proceeds from the purchase have yet to be settled; Dean Olson said he'll work with the chancellor, but most of the \$43 million will go to the veterinary college. Most of these funds will be invested in an endowment that he estimates will generate 5 percent a year and provide a source of funding in perpetuity.

"Yes, we're giving up revenue in the short term, but you don't know what will happen in five or 10 years. Companies can go broke, but we have a solid foundation with the endowment," the dean said, adding, "Colleges these days have to look for alternative sources of revenue. You have to think in the long term, instead of the short term will get you this or that."

The college received about \$1 million in revenue each year from the laboratory, but the endowment is expected to bring in 50 percent greater revenue, Dean Olson said.

One of the veterinary college's criteria in soliciting bids was that the buyer would have a long-term interest in working with the college.

"Going forward, we hope to have a real partnership that's above and beyond the enterprise we sold to IDEXX," he said.

All RADIL employees will join IDEXX and continue operations in Columbia. Residents and graduate students in the MU Comparative Medicine Training Program will continue to receive laboratory training there, but the program will not be directly associated with RADIL.



MU OFFERS MRI FOR EQUINE ATHLETES

For decades, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technology has provided accurate diagnosis of orthopedic ailments. Athletes, in particular, have benefitted from the detailed images MRI studies provide. Now, the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine provides equine athletes with the same competitive advantage. This is welcome news for equine lameness experts whose focus is keeping these horses in top health.

MU is among a handful of institutions in the Midwest with access to MREquine services, an independently owned mobile unit equipped with a high-field MRI unit sensitive enough to identify very subtle changes in bone and soft tissue. It is an imaging modality that allows the interface of bone and soft tissue simultaneously, with tremendous detail.

The elite coach housing this technology requires a specific electrical unit and docking station, as well as veterinary staff and facilities equipped to perform all aspects of anesthesia and patient management, from induction to recovery. In most cases, an attending veterinarian works in collaboration with the horse's own veterinarian.

The first to board the mobile MREquine at MU was Wise Guy N, an 8-year-old Dutch Warmblood. Lau-



Wise Guy N, an 8-year-old Dutch Warmblood, is loaded into the MREquine coach at the MU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

rie Daniels, who owns and operates Tree Top Farm V in Troy, Mo. imported the upper-level dressage horse from Europe. "He is my once-in-a-lifetime horse," Daniels said.

Since his arrival in the United States in 2007, Wise Guy has earned top awards in elite competitions. But in 2011, Daniels and the horse's trainer, Pamela Davies of Royal Oaks Equestrian Center in Foristell, Mo., noticed that Wise Guy's physical performance was just a little off.

"In dressage competition, a hair off is significant, and cause for investigation," Daniels said.

Wise Guy's veterinarian, Dr. Mark Cassells of Pacific, Mo., performed exams, X-rays, ultrasounds and nerve blocks, but they provided no

clue to the source of the horse's subtle lameness.

Around the time that Cassells, an MU CVM alumnus, was pondering Wise Guy's condition, he learned that his alma mater would soon provide equine MRI services. Wise Guy was promptly scheduled to take advantage of this technology.

Wise Guy came through his MRI experience — from initial anesthesia to an overnight stay at the MU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital — without incident. His MRI report indicated a bone bruise and fluid build-up deep within the distal cannon bone, which is a major long bone in the leg of the horse that is part of the fetlock joint.

The attending CVM veterinarian in Wise Guy's case was Shannon Reed, DVM, DACVS, who specializes in equine lameness.

"Our ability to perform MRI greatly enhances our ability to provide top-notch care for performance horses," said Reed. "The MRI successfully diagnosed the cause of the lameness in Wise Guy, a diagnosis that would have been very difficult to come to without it. It's a huge capability."

The MREquine unit returns to the MU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital once or twice monthly depending on demand.



Retired College of Veterinary Medicine Faculty Members Pass Away

Dr. Kenneth H. Niemeyer

Dr. Kenneth H. Niemeyer, who earned his bachelor's degree, doctor of veterinary medicine and master's degree at the University of Missouri and went to serve his alma mater as a College of Veterinary Medicine faculty member and administrator, died Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011. He was 83.

Dr. Niemeyer was born to William C. and Olinda C. Schwerdt Niemeyer on Sept. 15, 1928, in St. Louis. His family relocated to a 100-acre farm near Treloar, east of Hermann, Mo.

Dr. Niemeyer served in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1949. He returned to Columbia following his military service and enrolled at MU under the G.I. Bill. He married Margaret R. Rennick on April 3, 1953.

He earned a bachelor of science and his DVM in 1955. After working briefly at a small animal clinic in St. Louis, he was offered a teaching position at MU.

He completed his master of science at MU in 1962. In 1963, he was hired as an associate professor and took over the duties as the director of the Small Animal Clinic from 1964 to 1968.

In 1976, Dr. Niemeyer was named assistant dean for student and alumni affairs and essentially began developing an alumni relations program from the ground up. He is credited with initiating alumni publications and beginning a College development fund. With others, he also started the College's annual fund-raiser for student scholarships — the Gentle Doctor Benefit. Dr. Niemeyer is credited as serving as the point person for raising the private support needed for the construction of Clydesdale Hall, which now houses the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. He

also oversaw its construction, which was complete in 1993. He served as the interim chairman of veterinary medicine and surgery in 1981 and 1982. In 1985, his position was consolidated with that of the associate dean of academic affairs, a post he held until his retirement in 1993 after 38 years of service. Following his retirement, he was named as a professor emeritus.

Although retired, Dr. Niemeyer remained active at the CVM. He helped raise funds and oversaw the College's 50th anniversary celebration. A tireless champion of the College, Dr. Niemeyer, along with his wife, established the Visiting Lecture Fund, they were also members of the Jefferson Club. His other memberships included the American Animal Hospital Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, Missouri Veterinary Medical Association, Central Veterinary Medical Association, Association of Veterinary Clinicians, Association of Veterinary Medical Educators, Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta and Phi Zeta. He also served on the Advisory Board to Animal Control for the City of Columbia and was a longtime member of Missouri United Methodist Church.

Dr. Niemeyer received the Faculty Improvement Award from the MU Graduate School, he was named the CVM Alumnus of the Year Award 1986, and the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association named him Veterinarian of the Year in 1993. Dr. Niemeyer is survived by his wife, Margaret of Columbia; one son, Russell W. Niemeyer and his wife, Pamela J., of Hobbs, N.M.; two grandsons, Kyle W. Niemeyer and Michael J. Niemeyer, also of Hobbs, N.M.; one brother-in-law, Robert F. Rennick and his wife, Mary, of Jefferson City; one sister-in-law, Juanita Rennick of Washington, Mo; and numerous

cousins, nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to The Niemeyer Lecture Fund, or to the College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association, Kenneth H. Niemeyer Scholarship Fund, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri, 1600 E. Rollins, Columbia, Mo., 65211.

Dr. Bruce David Rosenquist

Retired MU College of Veterinary Medicine professor Dr. Bruce David Rosenquist of Isabella, Mo., died Oct. 29, 2011, at the age of 77.

He was born on June 19, 1934, to Godfrey Carter and Selma Reller Rosenquist in Chicago, Ill. He married Annette Dorothy Jagor on July 7, 1956, in Chicago. After graduating first in his class from the Iowa State University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1958, he was appointed as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service (CDC) in Atlanta, Ga., and also in Haddonfield, N.J., having served two years as an epidemic intelligence officer.

From 1960 to 1964, Dr. Rosenquist was in private practice in Morton Grove and Skokie, Ill. He then returned to school to further his education, attending the University of Missouri from 1964 to 1968 and earning both a master of science and doctorate in veterinary microbiology. From 1973 to 1992 he served as a professor of microbiology and virology at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. He and his wife moved to Isabella in 1992 following his retirement.

He is survived by his wife, Annette, son, Eric, of Columbia, Mo., daughter, Jill, of Mountain Home, Ark., and two brothers, Dr. Russell Rosenquist of Scottsdale, Ariz., and Dr. Robert Rosenquist of Lamolille, Nevada.

REAR HITCH

VISION 2020

WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN VISION 2020?

One of the greatest byproducts of effective strategic planning is its ability to foster engagement and collaboration across the organization. A collaborative planning process helps ensure that a comprehensive plan is created, that people understand the plan, and that the organization is able to implement it. A guiding principle of Vision 2020 has been to involve a variety of people in the work teams that would identify, refine and prioritize our goals for the future.

To this end, we created a two-tiered committee focused specifically on ensuring the development of the plan.

A main Strategic Planning Committee consisting of thought leaders representing all areas of the organization includes: Drs. Alex Bermudez, Doug Bowles, Charlie Brown, Joan Coates, Ron Cott, John Dodam, Dean Neil Olson, Craig Payne, Carol Reiner, Leona Rubin, Cathy Vogelweid, Dave Wilson, chairman Bob Youngquist and with additional input from Ron Haffey, Matthew Keeler and Vicki Miller.

There are four theme-driven Strategic Planning Subcommittees: Veterinary Programs and Education, Graduate Study and Research, Clinical and Diagnostic Services, and Economic Development and Outreach. These groups include more than 40 key thought leaders from across all areas, some from outside the CVM.

In addition to committee participants, other faculty, staff, students and outside stakeholders were solicited for specific input and feedback in the planning process:

Five members of the MVMA Executive Board met with the Strategic Planning Committee on July 24, 2011.

Thirteen executives from companies with the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor met with the Strategic Planning Committee Oct. 5, 2011 in Blue Springs.

Eight members of the CVM Strategic Advisory Board met with members of the Strategic Planning team Oct. 10, 2011.

Strategic Planning Subcommittees

Veterinary Programs and Education Subcommittee: Drs. C.B. Chastain, Lane Clarke, Leah Cohn, Jeni Hart, Rebecca Johnson, Cathleen Kovarik, Joanne Kramer, and co-chairwomen Drs. Linda Berent, Leona Rubin and Cathy Vogelweid.

Graduate Study and Research Subcommittee: Drs. Brenda Beerntsen, Frank Booth, Jimi Cook, Craig Franklin, Carolyn Henry, Ronald Terjung, and co-chairs Drs. Doug Bowles, Charlie Brown and Carol Reiner.

Clinical and Diagnostic Services Subcommittee: Drs. Stephanie Essman, Marie Kerl, Dae Kim, John Middleton, Jennifer Polkow, Shannon Reed, Dietrich Volkmann, and co-chairs Drs. Alex Bermudez, Joan Coates and Dave Wilson.

Economic Development and Outreach Subcommittee: Mr. Mike Brooks, Mr. Bill Sheehan, Mr. Alan Wessler, Mr. Greg Steinhoff; Drs. Elizabeth Bryda, Chris Fender, Kevin Keegan, Chuck Wiedmeyer, and co-chairmen Drs. Ron Cott, John Dodam and Craig Payne.

The VET Student Committee, led by Dr. Chuck Wiedmeyer and other faculty members, created the objectives and actions under Strategic Goal 5.

All faculty received a draft plan in November and reviewed the plan at the General Faculty Meeting Nov. 15, 2011.

Additional Student Leaders and their Advisors from SCAVMA, the VBMA and each academic class (class presidents) have reviewed draft plans.

We continue to seek input from all faculty and staff through departmental meetings and through the Strategic Planning Forum on the Faculty/Staff webpage. If you have immediate questions or feedback, please visit our Strategic Planning Forum at: <https://cvmweb.missouri.edu/strategy/> or provide your feedback directly through our electronic feedback form at: <https://cvmweb.missouri.edu/forms/view.php?id=8>.