

EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH, TEACHING AND SERVICE

WINTER 2014 VOLUME FOUR ISSUE ONE

THE HITCHING POST

Recognitions and Honors

Elizabeth Giuliano, DVM, MS, associate professor of veterinary ophthalmology at the CVM, is featured in the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists Diplomate Spotlight. The spotlight honors active or emeritus diplomates in the profession who are leaders in their field, are in good standing with the ACVO, and have an interesting story to share. In the feature, Giuliano, an ACVO diplomate since 2002, describes her unconventional childhood and explains how Columbia became her home.

Bobby Colley, gross anatomy teaching support specialist at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine, was named the September 2013 MU Service Champion by the MU Staff Advisory Council. The monthly campuswide award honors staff members who possess an exceptional work ethic and attitude. Colley oversees the anatomy lab's day-to-day operations, which vary from cleaning the lab to preparing specimens for class. He said his favorite aspects of his job are working with a great group of faculty on a daily basis and interacting with students.

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STATE INCREASES FUNDING FOR LARGE ANIMAL MEDICINE

Our food animal faculty has worked diligently to increase the hands-on training opportunities for our students.

Therefore, we were extremely gratified by the decision of the Missouri State Legislature in late 2013 to award the University \$1 million for large animal education. These funds will be utilized in several areas including facilities and equipment, personnel and teaching resources.

Here are some examples of how this funding will be put to work:

- We will replace one of the College's aging field service vehicles.
- We also expect to conduct a feasibility study for the construction of a combined teaching facility for the field service operations of the food animal, theriogenology and equine services.
- We are in the initial phases of implementing a travel grant program for veterinary students interested in pursuing off-campus food animal educational ex-

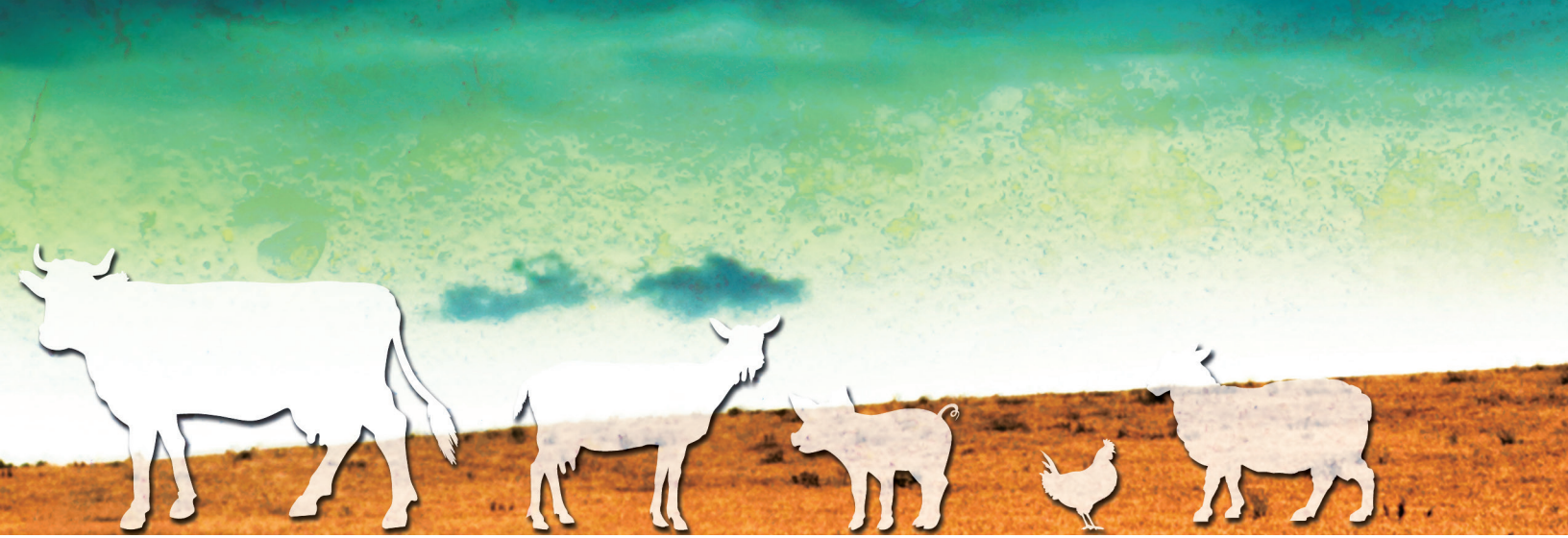


periences not currently offered by the College.

- Funds will also be used to add up to three faculty and additional technicians for the program.

Missouri's only College of Veterinary Medicine has always worked to establish and maintain ties with those in human medicine, agriculture, biology, and public health to enhance our teaching, research and extension missions. This additional funding is a tremendous step forward in helping us accomplish our goals.

Neil C. Olson



Honors, continued

The CVM Comparative Ophthalmology Service had a strong presence at the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists annual conference in November in Puerto Rico.

Ann Bosiack, DVM '09, MS '13, who completed her residency at MU this summer and recently achieved her ACVO diplomate status, won two of the three resident awards given out at the conference. She won the 2013 Best Basic Science Manuscript Award for the second year in a row and the 2013 Cindy Wheeler Memorial Award for best case report or review article.

MU College of Veterinary Medicine alumna **Amanda Fales-Williams**, DVM '95, PhD, received the 2013 American College of Veterinary Pathologists Presidential Award. Fales-Williams was honored Nov. 19 at the ACVP annual meeting in Montreal.

Presidential awards honor valuable service to the ACVP that exceeds normal expectations. Fales-Williams is the chair of the ACVP's Maintenance of Certification Development Committee.

Dr. Philip Johnson, BVSc, professor of equine internal medicine at the CVM, has been selected for induction into the 2014 International

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New Program Offers Grief Counseling for Pet Loss

When a person suffers the loss of a loved one, they have many options for grief counseling to help them work through their emotions. However, very few resources exist for people who lose their beloved companion animals, like dogs, cats or horses. Together In Grief, Easing Recovery (TIGER) is a new program in the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine designed to help people work through their unique emotions after losing their pets.

Francesca Tocco, a doctoral student in the MU Sinclair School of Nursing and the MU Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction (ReCHAI), uses her background in social work to help pet owners come to terms with their grief as well as prepare veterinary medicine students for working with grieving clients.

"Companion animals make a strong and lasting mark on the lives of their human counterparts," Tocco said. "This bond does not disappear when those animals pass away. Strong emotional and physical reactions such as grief, pain, shock, anxiety and guilt are healthy and normal. These reactions can often be over-

whelming, which is why TIGER strives to provide assistance and support to those going through this difficult time."

The TIGER program, which is free to clients of the MU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, can assist with many aspects of companion animal loss, including:

- End of life concerns such as euthanasia
- Moral and ethical concerns related to animal health care
- Family counseling
- Grief in anticipation of an animal's death
- How to talk to children about animal health and death
- Ways to memorialize the special bond with a companion animal
- Resources to help people cope with the loss of an animal
- Grief counseling
- Training for veterinary clinicians and students

The TIGER program is supported by the MU College of Veterinary Medicine and a donation from William Canney, an alumnus of MU. For more information about the TIGER program and to inquire about services, contact them at rechai@missouri.edu.



Honors, continued

Equine Veterinarian Hall of Fame. Sponsored annually by *American Farriers Journal*, the elite program was established in 1997 to recognize equine veterinarians for their contributions to the knowledge and recognition of proper hoof care for horses.

"Being nominated for this prestigious award was a complete surprise," Johnson said. "I feel very privileged to be asked to join this outstanding group of veterinary clinician scientists."

Carolyn Henry, DVM, MS, was elected to the National Academies of Practice and the Veterinary Medicine Academy as a distinguished practitioner and fellow. Henry is a professor of veterinary oncology and interim associate dean of research and graduate studies for the College of Veterinary Medicine, interim associate director of research for the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center and faculty facilitator for the One Health/One Medicine Mizzou Advantage area.

Richard Meadows, DVM, CVM Curators' Teaching Professor, was awarded the 2013 AVDS/Hill's Award for Teaching Excellence by the American Veterinary Dental Society. Meadows has been a member of the CVM faculty and the director

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Vet Products Day Unites Companies, Future Clients

Sharon Hasselbach knows she'll eventually have to deal with "Dr. Google."

The fourth-year student at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine said she expects some of the product questions she will get from future clients will begin with "Well, I saw on the Internet..."

It's one of the reasons she attended the 17th annual Veterinary Products Day on Oct. 15. The event brought 17 companies to the College to display their products, offer samples and answer questions. About 375 students attended.

Like Hasselbach, second-year student Courtney Reckrodt said learning about the products and using the samples on her own pets would better prepare her to make recommendations in the future.

"It's good because we get exposed to all the products," Reckrodt said. "If you have to give it to a client, you can actually say you've used it."

It was PKB Animal Health's first year attending the event. Marketing Manager Deirdre Putman and Technical Services Manager Naomi Kirby, DVM, wanted to raise awareness of the company, especially its pet health care products Zymox and Oratene. Putman said

PKB was beginning to realize the importance of engaging veterinary students.

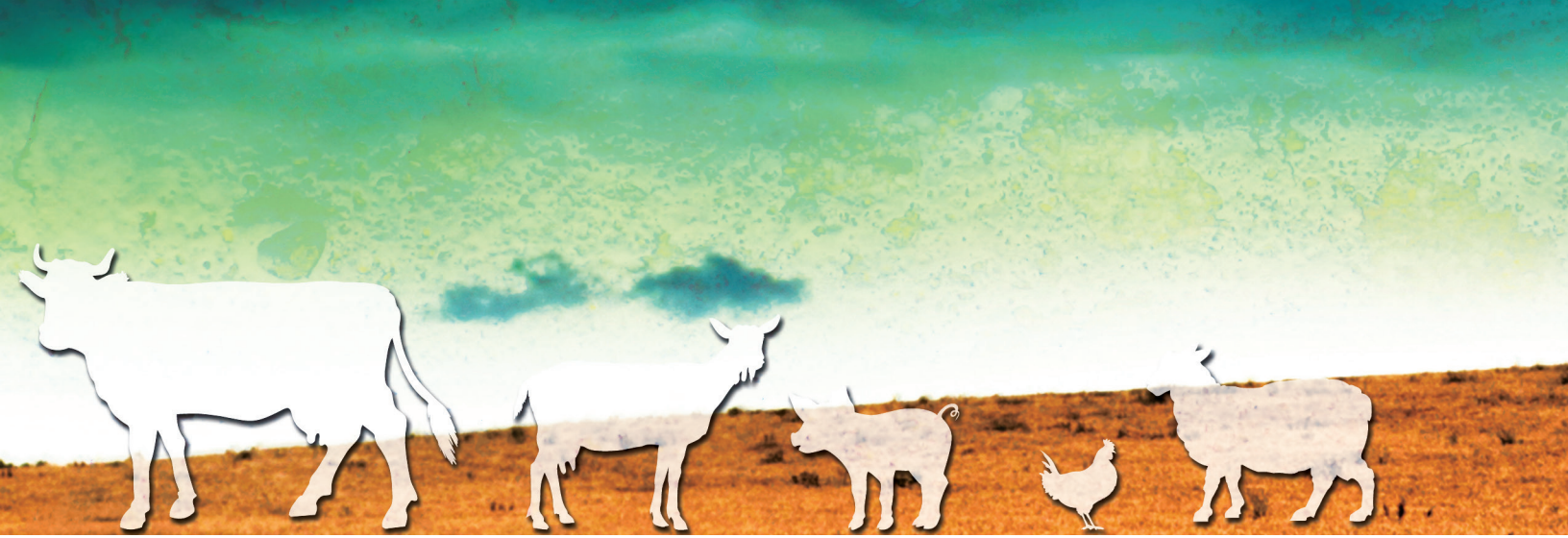
"Some of the smaller guys don't get their voices heard, so this was an opportunity for us. These are the future decision-makers, so it's a grassroots effort," Putman said.

For Animal Health International, a longtime vendor at the event, the benefit of attending was obvious.

"Each year you establish a relationship with a handful of students that you'll encounter as they get out in the field," said Randy Schilling, outside sales representative. Those students become customers, he said.

The event included drawings for prizes such as pet food and gift cards as well as scholarships.

Companies attending the event included Addison Biological Laboratory, Animal Health International, Banfield Pet Hospital, Dechra Veterinary Products, Elanco Companion Animal Health, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Iams/P&G Pet Care, Merial Limited, MWI Veterinary Supply, Nestle Purina Pet Care, Norbrook Inc., Nutramax Laboratories, Pet King Brands, Platinum Performance, ProPartners Wealth, Radiologic Resources and Royal Canin.



Honors, continued

of the Community Practice Section within the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital since 1999. He is also the director of the veterinary hospital's Pet-Safe Program.

Rajiv Mohan, PhD, the Ruth M. Kraeuchi Endowed Professor in Veterinary Ophthalmology at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named a 2014 Silver Fellow by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

"ARVO Silver Fellow is a distinctly prestigious honor given to researchers for their outstanding contributions to visual science by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology," Mohan said. "I am happy and humbled to receive this award."

Lindsay Donnelly, DVM, a second-year veterinary oncology resident at the CVM, received the Robert S. Brodey Memorial Award on Oct. 19 at the Veterinary Cancer Society annual conference in Minneapolis. The award is given annually for outstanding clinical research by a resident. Donnelly's abstract presentation was "Preclinical evaluation of combination ¹⁷⁷Lu-BBr2 antagonist targeted radiotherapy and chemotherapy for the treatment of castration resistant prostate cancer."

CVM ALUMNA TAKES RAPTOR PROJECT UNDER HER WING

A cockatiel named Chuckles sparked Stacey Beddoe's interest in birds. She received Chuckles as a pet while in high school, but her interest in avian medicine didn't hatch immediately. After attending Drury University in Springfield, she began her professional veterinary studies at the University of Missouri. Three fellow first-year students whom she befriended became involved in the University's Raptor Rehabilitation Project, but despite a personal interest in birds, the future Dr. Beddoe was not immediately drawn to the organization. She was aware that the organization's members made educational presentations, and being somewhat introverted, she lacked confidence in her public speaking skills.

"They kept telling me how cool (the project) was and finally talked me into attending a meeting. I was immediately hooked," Beddoe recalled.

The Raptor Rehabilitation Project is a service and education partnership of the MU College of Veterinary Medicine and the surrounding community. Veterinary students, other University of Missouri students and community members volunteer their



time to rehabilitate injured raptors and care for resident birds. Volunteers also raise awareness about birds and their needs by giving presentations at schools and other forums throughout central Missouri. While many of the project members are from the community and not involved in the medical care of the birds, their efforts are crucial to the success of the program.

Beddoe's involvement with the raptor group began with taking care of birds housed in the raptor projects' mews, where wild birds recuperate from illness and injury, and the project's permanent residents — birds

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Raptor, continued

that can't be returned to the wild — also live. After receiving training in handling the different types of raptors, whose beaks and talons are capable of inflicting serious injury, Beddoe advanced to showing the resident birds during the public presentations. She usually worked with a great horned owl named Squiggy, who had fallen from its nest as a baby. Squiggy never became proficient at hunting and could not fly well, so she became one of the project's permanent residents. With additional experience and veterinary training, Beddoe became qualified to provide medical care to injured and ill raptors brought to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Beddoe received her DVM in 2004 and moved to Jefferson City to work in a veterinary practice there. In 2007, she purchased Southwest Veterinary Clinic. She and two other veterinarians provide care for a variety of companion animals: dogs, cats, pocket pets, reptiles (excluding snakes), and potbelly pigs and goats, and, of course, birds. Although a former mentor discouraged her from pursuing avian medicine based on his own experiences, she said she has found there is a need in central Missouri for veterinarians willing to treat birds, and she attends to cases from as far away as Rolla and the Lake of the Ozarks region.

She recently took on additional duties, serving as the volunteer medical advisor for the Raptor Rehabilitation Project. Beddoe came on board with the project in November. She serves as the front-line advisor for medical treatment of raptors, consulting with veterinary students via phone and email on diagnostics and treatment plans for new patients and resident birds that may need medical intervention. She also travels to Columbia on alternating Tuesday evenings to meet with organization members.

Along with two MU CVM faculty advisors who serve as program mentors, Beddoe has been busy identifying ways to enhance educational opportunities for students and community members and establish policies for quality control and facilities maintenance. Beddoe is also exploring ways to streamline the training model to allow students the opportunity to handle the birds more quickly in the hope of increasing the number of veterinary students involved in the project.

Once veterinary students learn how to properly feed, harness and handle the different breeds of resident raptors and help maintain the birds' mews, they can advance to taking birds out on presentations. The next step in their training is in receiving injured or sick raptors at the veterinary hospital, triaging the birds,

and administering medical care. "I want to help students develop their knowledge and technical skills, such as delivering fluid therapy administering antibiotics, either orally or through injection, and positioning birds for radiographs."

She said involvement in the Raptor Project expands upon the clinical experience students acquire while working toward their DVM. Equally important though, is helping students develop good overall diagnostic processes that they can carry into their own professional practices. "This program helps the students learn how to deductively work through a case even if they are in a situation where they don't have access to high-tech diagnostic tools and equipment."

Other initiatives aimed at enhancing the educational function of the project have been reinstating rounds for an hour before each semi-monthly meeting to allow organization members to discuss medical topics affecting raptors that are in rehabilitation, and incorporating more instruction into the general meetings to enrich the experiences of community members who are not directly involved in the medical care of the rehabilitating raptors.

For information about the Raptor Rehabilitation Project, or to learn how to become involved or support the project, visit <http://www.raptor-rehab.missouri.edu/>.



LOW BLOOD CALCIUM IN DAIRY COWS MAY AFFECT COW HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

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The health of dairy cows after giving birth plays a big factor in the quantity and quality of the milk the cows produce. Now, researchers at the University of Missouri have found that subclinical hypocalcemia, which is the condition of having low levels of calcium in the blood and occurs in many cows after giving birth, is related to higher levels of fat in the liver. John Middleton, a professor in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine, says these higher levels of fat are often precursors to future health problems in cows.

“We found that about 50 percent of dairy cows suffered subclinical hypocalcemia and subsequent higher levels of fat in the liver after giving birth to their calves,” Middleton said. “These higher levels of fat in the liver are often tied to health problems in dairy cows, including increased risk for uterus and mammary infections as well as ketosis, which is a condition that results in the cows expending more energy than they are taking in through their diet. All of these conditions can decrease the amount of milk these dairy cows will produce.”

Middleton, along with Jim Spain, MU vice provost for undergraduate studies and professor of dairy nutrition in the MU College of Agriculture,



John Middleton, DVM

Food and Natural Resources, studied 100 dairy cows over two years to determine how subclinical hypocalcemia affected the health of the cows after they gave birth. Previous research done at MU has found that these issues also have a negative impact on cow fertility and reproduction. While the researchers did not find any direct links to health problems, they say correlations with higher levels of fat in the liver call for further research into the health implications of low blood calcium levels.

Dairy cows begin producing milk after giving birth, and continue for 11 to 12 months until they are “dried off” by a dairy farmer about 45-60 days before their next calving. To maximize the health of the cows and the amount of quality milk dairy cows produce, Middleton recommends paying close attention to dietary management in

the late dry/early lactating period as well as providing supplemental sources of calcium during early lactation for cows at risk for subclinical hypocalcemia.

“Because our study suggests some potential risks for health issues in dairy cows with subclinical hypocalcemia, it is important for dairy farmers to monitor these levels in their cows,” Middleton said. “For herds experiencing a high incidence of subclinical hypocalcemia around the time of calving, adding anionic salts to their diets or providing calcium solutions orally or by injection at the time of calving could be beneficial to their overall health and productivity.”

This study was published in the *Journal of Dairy Science* and was a featured article selected by the journal’s editor-in-chief in the November issue. Collaborators on this study include: William Chamberlin, former student and graduate of the MU College of Veterinary Medicine; Gayle Johnson, a professor in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine; Mark Ellersieck, a research professor in the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and Patrick Pithua, an assistant professor in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine.



NEUROLOGIST, ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON PARTNER ON COMPLICATED FRACTURE

Kevin and Sarah Smith don't know how their 7-year-old chocolate Labrador, Daisey, was injured. Sarah, studying to become a physical therapist assistant, was not at home. Kevin, a paramedic and firefighter, had been mowing the yard at their Pocahontas, Ark., home that Monday when a friend dropped by. Kevin and his friend went inside the house, leaving Daisey to romp in the yard with the visitor's dog.

Kevin said he heard a loud yelp and bolted out the door in time to see Daisey try to run toward him, only to stumble and roll under his truck. It took him a few minutes to get the dog out from under the truck, and while she had no visible injuries to explain the yelp or fall, she could not hold her head up. Concerned, he took Daisey to a local veterinarian who suspected a pinched nerve and prescribed steroids and pain management therapy.

For a couple of days, the Smiths observed their dog. Daisey could walk, but her neck continued to droop, and any kind of jolting movement, such as when she tried to leap

into a vehicle, would elicit yelps of pain. After two days of treatment had yielded no improvement, Daisey was returned to the veterinarian's office. This time radiographs revealed a far more serious issue than a pinched nerve: Daisey had sustained a fracture to her C-2 vertebra, the bone in the spinal column that is second closest to the skull.

Daisey's veterinarian placed a brace on her to immobilize the neck and advised the Smiths that their best hope was 265 miles away at the University of Missouri Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Christine Sibigtroth, DVM, a neurology resident at the VMTH, was on-call when the Smiths arrived in Columbia that Saturday. She called in Joan Coates, DVM, service leader of neurology and neurosurgery at the veterinary hospital, to examine Daisey. It was recommended that Daisey undergo a computed tomography (CT) scan to provide the best possible view of the injured area.

"I knew it was a bad fracture," Coates said. But it was only after seeing the images from the CT scan



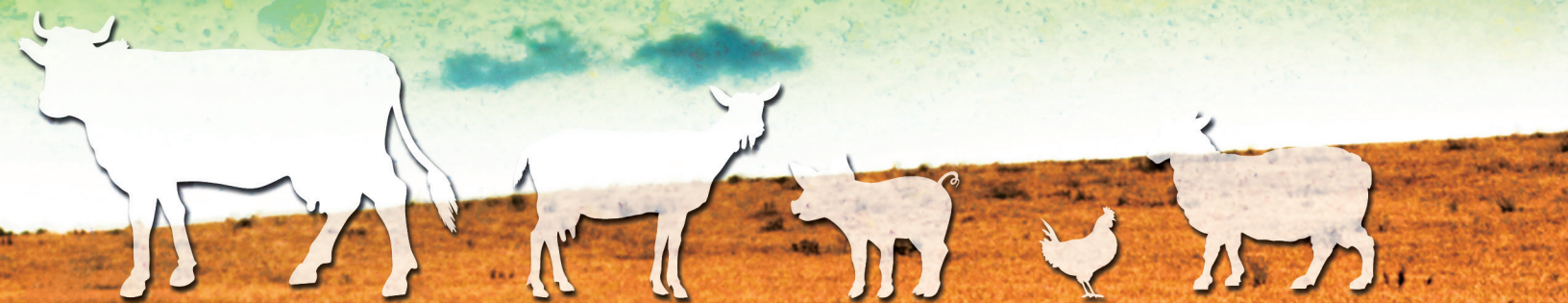
Daisey

that Daisey's veterinarians at the VMTH learned just how bad it was. While Coates and Sibigtroth had initially hoped they could immobilize Daisey's neck to allow the fracture to heal on its own, after reviewing the scans, they recommended surgical stabilization for the best hope in regaining the ability to walk again.

"The fracture was comminuted, which means it was in many pieces," Coates said. A displaced fracture so close to the spinal cord not only presented the possibility of paralysis, but Daisey's life was at risk.

"It is not uncommon for dogs to die from this type of fracture because they lose their ability to breathe. It

Continued on page 8



Daisey, continued

was amazing that Daisey was still able to breathe,” Coates said. “The fracture repair was complicated and definitely required the expertise of both a neurologist and an orthopedic surgeon.”

Coates and Sibigroth called on MU veterinary orthopedic surgeon James Tomlinson, DVM, who has the most experience with repairing difficult spinal fractures. Tomlinson knows how challenging the C-2 vertebra can be to repair. Not only is the bone dangerously close to the spinal cord, but its shape is similar to an hourglass, which means the center is much thinner than the ends.

“There is not a lot of bone there to work with,” Tomlinson explained.

With Coates and Sibigroth assisting, Tomlinson used pins and bone cement to realign the pieces of the shattered vertebra. Daisey did well throughout the seven-hour surgery, and the Smiths were relieved when she didn’t require a ventilator afterward to help her breathe. But her recovery had just begun.

Eight days after her surgery, the Smiths drove Daisey, now in a full body cast, home to Arkansas. The cast had to be kept dry. Its movement-limiting shape didn’t allow her to access to her food bowl so the Smiths hand-fed their dog. The



The Smiths with Daisey and her medical team, veterinary neurology resident Christine Sibigroth, DVM (left), orthopedic surgeon James Tomlinson, DVM, and service leader of neurology and neurosurgery at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital Joan Coates, DVM.

80-pound Lab could not walk and had to be carried outside. Nor could she relieve herself normally, so her devoted owners rubbed her bladder and expressed her bowels manually. They also initiated physical therapy exercises and massaged Daisey.

“She didn’t like having physical therapy, but we could see over time that she was improving,” Kevin Smith said.

Her veterinarians wanted her to remain immobile for six weeks, but the rambunctious Lab had other ideas and despite being monitored, managed to get out of the cast repeatedly. After four weeks of escapes, the Smiths attempted instead to keep her calm and confined. They took turns sleeping on the floor with her, rubbing her ears to keep her quiet and occasionally giving her a sedative so they could get some sleep.

“We could tell she was in pain. She’d get excited, but she couldn’t do a lot,” Kevin said.

When Daisey began to walk again, it was like watching a baby deer try to walk for the first time, Sarah Smith recalled. At first, the Smiths would help Daisey by holding her up with a towel until her leg strength and coordination returned.

Eventually, they were able to take her swimming to help improve her mobility and restore muscle tone.

While Daisey’s legs still get a little wobbly when she tries to move too quickly, Kevin Smith said her recovery has been miraculous.

“We knew it was going to be hard, but we didn’t know it would be this tough. But she stayed in good spirits and she wasn’t ready to give up, so we didn’t give up on her.”



CEREMONY USHERS IN CLINICAL TRAINING

The MU College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2015 received white laboratory coats on Sunday, Oct. 13, 2013, during a ceremony that celebrated their successful completion of two years of classroom studies and their move into clinical training.

The annual White Coat Ceremony marked the midpoint in the students' professional curriculum. The first two years of preclinical training provided them with a foundation in biomedical sciences and included courses in anatomy, physiology, cell and molecular biology, pathology, pharmacology, microbiology, virology and toxicology. They also learned fundamentals in clinical disciplines that they will need for the rest of their veterinary education including, anesthesiology, clinical pathology, radiology, public health and medicine and surgery. They will now spend nearly two years working in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital in the Small Animal, Food Animal and Equine clinics, as well as undertaking preceptorships on their way to completing their DVM degrees. The 115 students who took part in the ceremony selected a family member, friend or mentor to present their white coats.



Members of the Class of 2015



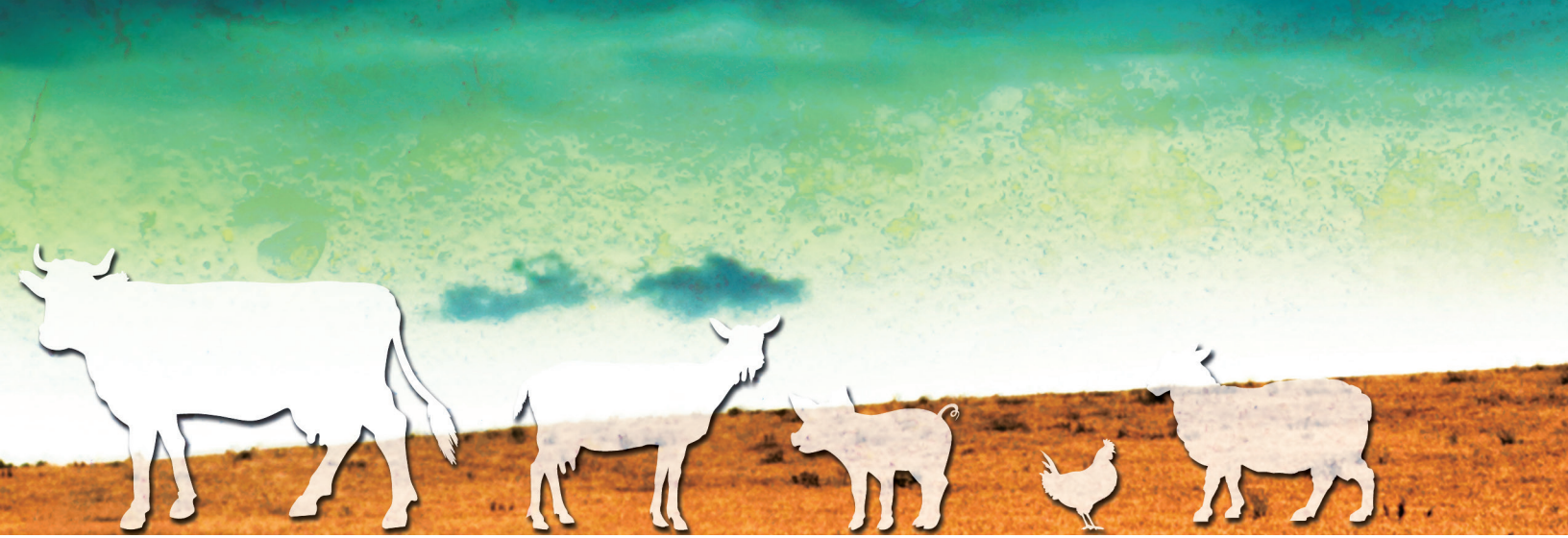
Class of 2015 President Tyler Armstrong gives the response on behalf of his classmates during the White Coat Ceremony.



Evelyn McKay receives a veterinary lapel pin provided by the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association.

Dean Dr. Neil C. Olson congratulated the class members on their success in reaching this milestone and reminded them they were closer to the end of their DVM education than the beginning. Dr. John Dodam, chairman of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Department, welcomed the students to the Teaching Hospital. Dr. Ron Cott, director of Advancement and asso-

ciate dean of Student and Alumni Affairs, served as the emcee for the ceremony. Dr. Craig Payne, director of veterinary extension at MU and president of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA), and Richard Antweiler, executive director of MVMA, presented each student in the class with a veterinary medicine lapel pin from the MVMA.



NEW FACULTY MEMBERS JOIN CVM

The MU College of Veterinary Medicine welcomed several new faculty members to the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery this fall.

New to the College – and the United States – this October is Daniela A. Mauler, a clinical instructor of neurology and neurosurgery. She completed her veterinary studies at Justus-Liebig-University in Gießen, Germany. She then worked as a visiting veterinarian in New York and Berlin and later worked as an associate veterinarian at clinics in Koeln, Germany. Most recently, Mauler completed an internship at Vetmed University Vienna in Austria and her residency at Ghent University in Belgium.



Daniela A. Mauler

Mauler's interests include spinal cord disorders, especially spinal arachnoid diverticula in dogs.

In August, John R. Haller, DVM, joined the faculty as a clinical instructor of radiology. He completed his undergraduate education at the University of Texas at San Antonio

and his veterinary studies at Texas A&M University. He then completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the Southern Arizona Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center and his residency in radiology at Gulf Coast Veterinary Specialists. Before coming to MU, Haller was an assistant professor of diagnostic imaging at Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. He is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiology.



John R. Haller

Leslie Lyons, MS, PhD, joined the faculty in July as the Gilbreath-McLorn Endowed Professor of Comparative Medicine. She received both her MS and PhD in human genetics at the University of Pittsburgh and completed postdoctoral fellowships at the University

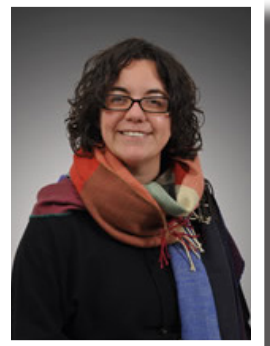


Leslie Lyons

of Pittsburgh and the National Cancer Institute. Before coming to MU, Lyons was a professor in Population Health and Reproduction at the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

Her research focuses on genetic aspects of domestic cats, including inherited diseases, traits and population dynamics, which are applied to genetic disease studies, translational medicine, genetic testing and forensic applications. Lyons said she is enjoying MU's atmosphere, resources and facilities.

Also joining the College in July was Barbara Gandolfi, MS, PhD, as an assistant research professor. She completed both her MS in zootechnics and her PhD in biotechnology applied to veterinary science at the University of Milan in Italy. Prior to joining MU's faculty, Gandolfi was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California-Davis, where she was awarded the 2013 Award for Excellence in Postdoctoral Research in recognition of her outstanding research accomplishments.



Barbara Gandolfi

REAR HITCH

ALEX BERMUDEZ HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY

MU College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Neil C. Olson honored Dr. Alex J. Bermudez posthumously with the 2013 Dean's Impact Award on Oct. 25. The award was presented during a remembrance ceremony for Dr. Bermudez held at the College. Dr. Bermudez' widow, Lisa, accepted the award on behalf of her late husband.

The Dean's Impact Award, established in 1993, recognizes individuals who have had an outstanding and sustained impact on the College of Veterinary Medicine. In presenting the award, Dean Olson spoke not only of the invaluable assistance Dr. Bermudez had provided to the College and himself personally, but also commended the late veterinarian's honesty and integrity.

Dr. Bermudez served the College from 1991 until his death in October of 2012. After earning a doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1986, he completed an avian medicine internship and held positions at the University of Connecticut and the Ohio State University. He became a faculty member at MU and avian pathologist at the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in 1991. His 65 percent appointment in the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory involved significant interaction with and service to the Missouri poultry industry. In 1992 Bermudez was awarded diplomate



CVM Dean Neil C. Olson (right) presents the Dean's Impact Award to the family of Dr. Alex J. Bermudez (from left), Carla, Steven, Alexa, Peter and Lisa.

status in the American College of Poultry Veterinarians. He was promoted to associate professor in 1997 and was appointed director of the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in 2005, a position he held until the time of his passing.

His reputation as a respected authority in poultry diseases enhanced the reputation of the College of Veterinary Medicine. He was a member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists and the American College of Poultry Veterinarians to which he was elected president.

He also represented the ACPV on the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Board of Veterinary Specialties from 2001 to 2007. He had been an associate editor for the journal *Poultry Science* for 10 years and served on the editorial board of *Avian Diseases*. He also served on the editorial board of the *Avian Disease Manual* published by the American Association of Avian Pathologists (1994 – 2006) and was a contributing author to the text "Diseases of Poultry."