

# The Raptor Center

College of Veterinary Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

1920 Fitch Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55108-6108

July 24, 2000

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Contacts:** Dr. Pat Redig, Director, 612-624-4949  
Sue Kirchoff, Informational Representative: 612-624-3781

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

### **Eaglet to fly home, courtesy of Northwest Airlines**

St. Paul, Minn., July 24, 2000 --When it's time for a young bald eagle to be released from The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota on Tuesday, July 25, it will be flown home in style—by Northwest Airlines to International Falls, Minn., personally escorted by Matt Solensky, a biologist from The Raptor Center, and Bill Bowerman, a biologist from Mason, Michigan.

The eaglet was recovered from a nest in Voyageur's National Park on June 24, 2000. Only about seven weeks of age, it was suffering from a broken leg. It was transported to The Raptor Center by Northwest Airlines at no charge.

The eagle's leg was surgically repaired in a three-hour procedure that involved the implantation of several stainless-steel pins to stabilize the fracture. In the weeks that followed, the fracture healed rapidly. The eaglet now has full use of its leg, has grown considerably, and is ready to be placed back in the nest with its nest mate in Voyageur's National Park.

Escorted by the biologists, the eagle is scheduled to leave Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport on Northwest flight 2816 at 9:15 a.m. and arrive in International Falls, Minn., at 10:40 a.m. The biologists will take the eagle directly to Voyageur's National Park, arriving at approximately noon, when the young eagle will be returned to its nest.

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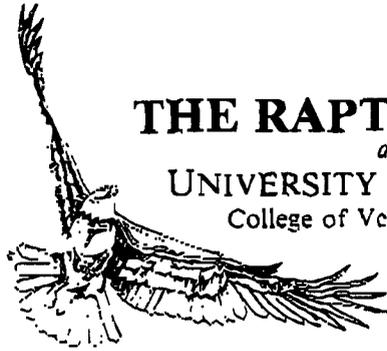
**The Raptor Center**

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The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine is dedicated to the medical care, rehabilitation, conservation, and study of eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons. It treats approximately 750 birds of prey each year, about 15 percent of which are bald eagles. Established in 1974, the internationally renowned program also reaches about 250,000 people each year through national public education programs and provides specialized training in raptor medicine and surgery for veterinarians from around the world. Northwest Airlines supports The Raptor Center by providing free air transportation for patient birds, education birds, and education staff and by sponsoring Raptor Fest, an annual fund-raising event.

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Interview opportunities, photo opportunities, and video opportunities are available prior to the eagle's departure on Tuesday morning. For more information, please call Dr. Pat Redig at 612-624-4969 or Sue Kirchoff at 612-624-3781.



**THE RAPTOR CENTER**  
*at the*  
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**  
College of Veterinary Medicine

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**FREE COMMUNITY SERVICE SPACE**

August 8, 2000

Contact: Noreen Huntington, Volunteer Director

The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota

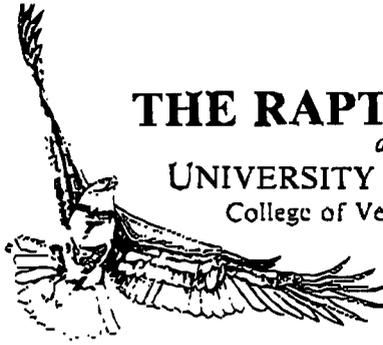
Phone: (612) 624-9753

If you have a love for birds of prey (eagles, hawks, owls and falcons), you might want to consider volunteering at a facility that helps care for injured raptors, as well as providing public outreach about these wonderful birds. The Raptor Center on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota - 1920 Fitch Avenue, will be hosting two informational fall volunteer orientations on **Wednesday, September 27th (6pm-8:30pm) and again on Saturday, September 30th (9:30am-12:00noon.)**

If you would like to register to attend one of the orientations or would like additional information, please contact Noreen at (612) 624-9753.

*"Hands Helping Wings"™*

1920 Fitch Avenue • St. Paul, MN 55108 • Phone (612) 624-4745 • Fax (612) 624-8740



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August 8, 2000

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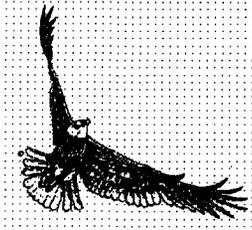
The Raptor Center on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota, is looking for a dynamite volunteer to help in their volunteer department. The position will support the Volunteer Director in organizing and coordinating the volunteer program, as well as assist with general administration. Ongoing tasks would include clerical projects, answering and responding to phone call inquiries, maintaining and entering data in the computer, creating flyers and other promotional materials, helping with special events and a variety of other duties.

Qualifications would include; Wordperfect/Access computer experience, excellent organizational and communication skills and an ability to work independently as a self-starter in a fast-paced office. Available to work about 8-10 hours/week; flexible on a weekly schedule.

For more information, please contact Noreen at (612) 624-9753.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**Contacts:** Ron Osterbauer, Associate Director, 612-624-1276 or 651-338-5059  
Sue Kirchoff, Informational Representative, 612-624-3781

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

## **Bald eagle, representatives of The Raptor Center to be part of Canon event at New York Stock Exchange**

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 11, 2000 -- A bald eagle from The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine will be part of the festivities at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on Thursday, Sept. 14, when Fujio Mitarai, president and chief executive officer of Canon, rings the opening bell at 9:30 a.m. and Canon's stock begins trading.

"The presence of the eagle is intended to represent Canon's commitment to the environment," said Ron Osterbauer, associate director of The Raptor Center, who will accompany the eagle, along with Mark Martell, The Raptor Center's coordinator of conservation programs, and Sara Rietbroek of Canon.

After the opening bell is rung and trading begins, Osterbauer and Martell will be on Wall Street from approximately 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., making informal educational presentations with the eagle and other birds of prey, including a peregrine falcon and a great horned owl.

Canon supports both The Raptor Center and The Nature Conservancy, and the two organizations are working together as part of the Conservancy's "Wings of the Americas"

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## **The Raptor Center**

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program to study raptor migration. In June 1999, Canon sponsored "EOS," a bald eagle rehabilitated at The Raptor Center. Fitted with a transmitter and released along the Mississippi River in St. Paul, Minn., the eagle has since been tracked via satellite throughout northern Minnesota and southern Ontario. (More information about the eagle and additional migration data can be found on The Raptor Center's Web site, [www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu](http://www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu).) The Raptor Center also works with Canon to present employee education programs for Canon's Clean Earth Campaign, an environmental awareness and education initiative. The Clean Earth Campaign guides all of Canon's environmental activities, including workplace conservation and recycling, philanthropy and employee volunteerism.

Established in 1974, The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine is dedicated to the medical care, rehabilitation, conservation, and study of eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons. The program also reaches approximately 250,000 people each year through national public education programs and provides specialized training in raptor medicine and surgery for veterinarians from around the world.

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Photo and video opportunities are available. For more information, call Ron Osterbauer, associate director, at 612-624-1276 or 651-338-5059 (cell phone).

# SPH

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

420 Delaware Street, S.E.  
MMC 197  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455  
Contact: Lynn A. Blewett, Ph.D.  
Telephone: 612-626-4739  
[blewe001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:blewe001@tc.umn.edu)

For Immediate Release

## **School of Public Health Faculty to Assess Nation's Health Insurance Needs**

Minneapolis, MN, September 14, 2000 -- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded \$3,989,223 to the University of Minnesota School of Public Health (MNSPH) to address states' needs for information on the uninsured. Although states are assuming increasing responsibility for providing and monitoring health insurance coverage for its citizens, researchers and policymakers find that information at the state level on the uninsured is limited. Project directors Lynn Blewett, PhD and Kathleen Call, PhD plan to work with states to develop more coordinated survey efforts to understand issues related to uninsurance and use this information to inform state and national policy makers about ways to increase coverage for all Americans.

To carry out the project, Blewett, Call and others will establish a State Health Access Data Assistance Center (ShaDAC) that will: 1) make available existing data and research on state estimates of the uninsured to state policy analysts and decision makers; 2) provide technical assistance to support states in providing needed analysis, data and information related to health care access; 3) increase the number of state analysts skilled in accessing and using data and information on the uninsured; 4) conduct policy analysis and timely research on access issues and state health policy; and 5) build an infrastructure

and expertise in state data needs to provide technical liaison between states and national survey efforts

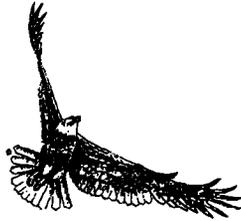
Blewett explained why such an effort is needed, "while we found a lot *national* data on the uninsured, we found a severe shortage of state-level data. The problem is that national survey data do not provide states with policy-relevant or timely information. The real information that drives state health policy is specific data about that specific state. In response, states are now developing their own surveys which often duplicate what is collected at the national level. We plan to facilitate the coordination of these state efforts."

RWJF's decision to fund the State Health Access Data Assistance Center in the state of Minnesota builds on the state's record for achieving low rates of uninsured. According to Blewett, the State of Minnesota has been at the forefront of initiatives to improve health coverage starting with the Children's Health Plan in the 80s. It has taken the lead on developing methods to understand the factors that lead to lack of coverage through its efforts to collect and analyze survey data.

Established in 1944, the University of Minnesota School of Public Health is one of the premier public health research and teaching institutions in the US. dedicated to improving the health of the public through research, education, service and outreach. More than 90 faculty are engaged in teaching and training the 370+ student body in a wide array of fields essential to assuring the health and well being of individuals and the public. Educational and research programs at the School address obesity, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, global health, healthcare finance, adolescent health, alcohol and tobacco use prevention, genetic and environmental factors affecting health and a wide array of other issues vital to preserving human health.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, based in Princeton, NJ, is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care. It concentrates its grantmaking in three goal areas: to assure that all Americans have access to basic health care at reasonable cost; to improve care and support for people with chronic health conditions; and to reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse – tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Contacts:** Sue Kirchoff, The Raptor Center, 612-624-3781

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—**

### **Fall bird release to be held Sept. 23 at Hyland Lake Park Reserve**

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 15, 2000 -- People who've been there say that the experience is so moving it brings tears to their eyes. What's the experience? The release of rehabilitated birds of prey at the annual Fall Bird Release, cosponsored by The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota and Hennepin Parks.

Scheduled for **10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, at Hyland Lake Park Reserve in Bloomington, Minn.**, the outdoor event will include educational exhibits with live birds of prey, entertainment by folk singer-guitarist Rachel Kroog, membership opportunities, and the sale of gift-store merchandise, the proceeds from which help support The Raptor Center. Birds of prey that were found injured and have been successfully treated and rehabilitated at The Raptor Center will be released to the wild at noon and 2:30 p.m., flying over the heads of hundreds, sometimes thousands, of awestruck spectators of all ages.

Also part of the event is the annual Run for the Raptors, which includes a 5K run/walk through the park starting at 10 a.m., a free Children's Fun Run starting at 11 a.m.—and a "ZeroK," which enables non-runners to support The Raptor Center and receive a T-shirt. Each

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## The Raptor Center

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participant is entered into a drawing to release a raptor to the wild that day. Same-day registration for the run is available at \$15 for the 5K and \$12 for the ZeroK. All proceeds benefit The Raptor Center. For more information, call The Raptor Center's special events line at 612-624-7422.

The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine is dedicated to the medical care, rehabilitation, conservation, and study of eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons. Established in 1974, the internationally



renowned program treats more than 700 birds a year. The program also reaches approximately 250,000 people each year through national public education programs and provides specialized training in raptor medicine and surgery for veterinarians from around the world.

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● **Representatives of The Raptor Center, accompanied by live birds of prey, are available for in-studio appearances** to promote the Fall Bird Release. For more information, call Sue Kirchoff at 612-624-3781.

● **Photo and video opportunities** are available during the bird releases at **noon and 2:30 p.m.** and throughout the event from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Directions:** Hyland Lake Park Reserve is located on East Bush Lake Road in Bloomington, Minn. From I-494, go south on Normandale Blvd. To 84th St. Turn right and follow 84th St. to Bush Lake Road. Go south on East Bush Lake Road and follow the signs to Hyland Visitor Center. Elm Creek Park Reserve can be reached by telephone at 763-424-5511.



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Nov. 9, 2000

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Contact:** Ron Osterbauer, Associate Director, 612-624-1276  
651-338-5059 (cell phone)

**Please note:** This media advisory follows a news release issued on Nov. 7, 2000.  
It includes a **new time** for the event.

- What:** The release of a bald eagle treated at The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota
- When:** 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, 2000
- Where:** Historic Fort Snelling, outside the history center
- Who:** **Bob Naegele**, chairman of the *Minnesota Wild* NHL hockey team, will release the eagle.
- Why:** The eagle release is the official kickoff for the annual "**Feed a Child, Free an Eagle**" event sponsored by **The Raptor Center in partnership with Second Harvest St. Paul Food Bank**. The Feed-a-Child, Free-an-Eagle Open House will be held at The Raptor Center on **Sunday, Dec. 3, 2000, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Visitors who bring a donation of 20 nonperishable food items or \$20 will have their Polaroid picture taken with a bald eagle, receive a coupon for 10 percent off in The Raptor Center's gift store, and be entered into a drawing to release an eagle to the wild and a drawing for two tickets to a **Minnesota Wild** hockey game.

## **Media Advisory**

Contact: Sarah Youngerman, University of Minnesota, 612-624-4604

## **Ethics and Policy Panel Set to Develop National Agenda Around PGD and Stem Cell Research**

November 16, 2000 (MPLS/ST. PAUL) — A panel of national and international experts in the areas of ethics, law, genetics and reproductive medicine will meet at the University of Minnesota to help set the agenda for the national policy discussion on the use of PGD (pre-implantation genetic diagnosis) to create stem cell donors. The panel will identify the issues and principles that need to be addressed at a national policy level.

Recently, national and international attention has been focused on a Colorado family who used PGD to select a healthy, disease-free embryo for invitro fertilization. The umbilical cord blood from the baby created through this process was used in a blood transplant to save the life of the baby's older sister who was born with a genetic, and often fatal, disease.

The panel will meet in a day-long conference, Friday, November 17, 2000. The conference is not open to the public. The press briefing will reveal the issues that surfaced, principles the panel wishes to advance and a recommended agenda for a national dialogue to take place in early 2001.

### **PRESS BRIEFING & TELECONFERENCE**

When: Friday, November 17, 2000  
4:00 p.m., C.S.T. (callers can call in a few minutes early)

Where: Room 750 Cancer Center, University of Minnesota

**Media Conference Call:** To join the press teleconference and to ask questions of the participants, Call: 1-888-273-9885 (or International, 612-288-0329). The conference I.D. number 551566 (U of M Ethics Conference)

To secure your reservation for the conference call and to receive a list of conference participants and the conference agenda, please contact Sarah Youngerman at 612-624-4604 or by pager at 612-899-6687 or by e-mail at [syounger@tc.umn.edu](mailto:syounger@tc.umn.edu).



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Contact: Noreen Huntington, Special Events Coordinator, The Raptor Center  
612-624-9753**

### **For Immediate Release:**

The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota on the St. Paul Campus will be hosting a special open house on Sunday, Dec. 3. The "Feed a Child, Free an Eagle" Open House will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event is sponsored by The Raptor Center in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank.

The Raptor Center is known for its work in the medical care, rehabilitation, conservation, and study of eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons. Second Harvest Food Bank is a nonprofit food distribution center committed to providing nutritious food to people in need. Last year, with a combination of food and money donations, a total of more than 10,000 pounds was collected and distributed to local food shelves, crisis shelters, and homeless facilities. Ten thousand pounds of food is equivalent to providing 8,124 meals to families in need.

Employees of the University of Minnesota are invited to help make this one of the biggest and most worthwhile food drives yet. Staff and faculty are being asked to drop off 20 nonperishable food items or a \$20 donation at The Raptor Center between Monday, Nov. 27, and Sunday, Dec. 3. In turn, they will receive coupons good for a Polaroid picture of themselves with a bald eagle at the open house on Dec. 3 and 10 percent off in The Raptor Center's gift store. They'll also be entered into drawings for tickets to a Minnesota Wild hockey game and for the experience of releasing a rehabilitated eagle to the wild. For those who are not able to come to the open house on Dec. 3, The Raptor Center will offer a make-up day for photos on Friday, Jan. 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for University employees only. Let's work together to stamp out hunger this holiday season!

The Raptor Center is located at 1920 Fitch Avenue (on the corner of Gortner and Fitch) on the St. Paul Campus. For more information, please contact Noreen Huntington at 612-624-9753.

**What: Clinical trial of leukemia drug**  
**Who: Bruce Peterson, M.D., (612) 624-5631**  
**Contact: Coleen Southwell, Cancer Center, (612) 626-1107**

## U OF M CANCER CENTER OPENS STI-571 TRIAL FOR CHRONIC MYELOGENOUS LEUKEMIA

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL--Adults with recently diagnosed chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) may be eligible for a new phase 3 clinical trial to evaluate STI-571, a new type of drug called a signal transduction inhibitor. Individuals in the study will be treated with either STI-571 or a combination of interferon plus cytarabine, current standard therapy. STI-571 is manufactured by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. The University of Minnesota Cancer Center is among several institutions nationwide that are enrolling patients in the trial.

Signal transduction inhibitors interfere with the pathways that signal tumor cells to grow. STI-571 is targeted to the specific biochemical abnormality found predominantly in CML.

University researchers caution that both STI-571 and interferon plus cytarabine only slow the growth of leukemia cells; they do not eliminate them.

"The only curative therapy for this type of leukemia is a blood or marrow transplant from a closely matched sibling or donor," said principal investigator Bruce Peterson, M.D., professor of medicine and principal investigator. "The STI-571 clinical trial is only available to those patients and their physicians who have already investigated transplant options and ruled them out." The reality is that the majority of CML patients are ineligible for transplantation due to lack of a suitable donor or age. Donor transplant recipients over age 45 have a significantly increased risk of rejection than younger recipients. The majority of the 7,000 people diagnosed with CML each year are over 55.

Pediatric cancer researchers at the University of Minnesota Cancer Center are currently participating in an STI-571 trial sponsored by the National Cancer Institute. In this trial, STI-571 is used to treat patients whose leukemia has returned after initial treatment. For information on enrollment, call 1-888-226-2376. More information on STI-571 (Leukemia Drug Heralds Molecularly Targeted Era) is available from the National Cancer Institute's Web site at [cancertrials.nci.nih.gov/types/leuk/cml0400.html](http://cancertrials.nci.nih.gov/types/leuk/cml0400.html).

The University of Minnesota Cancer Center has been designated Comprehensive Cancer Center

the National Cancer Institute. Cancer information is available by calling 1-888-CANCER MN  
(1-888-226-2376) or at [www.cancer.umn.edu](http://www.cancer.umn.edu). □



**What: U researcher on US News & World Report Top 10 Innovators list**  
**Who: Catherine Verfaillie, M.D., Ph.D.; director, Stem Cell Institute**  
**Contact: Sarah Youngerman, Academic Health Center, (612) 624-4604**

## **U RESEARCHER NAMED TO US NEWS & WORLD REPORT TOP 10 LIST**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL--U.S. News & World Report has named University of Minnesota researcher and Stem Cell Institute Director Dr. Catherine Verfaillie one of 10 leading innovators for 2001 in its Dec. 18 issue.

Verfaillie was profiled for her pioneering work in adult stem cell research. Her goal is to manipulate stem cells into differentiating into heart, liver, pancreas, brain and other cells that make up the organs of the body. Verfaillie's work is already influencing work toward treatment for such diseases and conditions as diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and stroke.

The Belgian born Verfaillie, 43, came to the university more than 13 years ago for postdoctoral training. She recently was named to two endowed chairs at the university and was given resources to develop the infrastructure for a world-class stem cell institute.

In its introduction, US News & World Report said the work of the innovators profiled "doesn't just change our understanding of reality, the way pure science can; it changes lives, now or decades down the road." □