World-Class Innovation

Advertising executives and movie producers are well known for their creativity. Entrepreneurs are viewed as highly innovative and out-of-the-box thinkers. Seldom are university faculty and staff recognized for either of these qualities. They are respected for their intellect and their dedication, and I don’t think you’ll find “creativity” or “innovation” on most lists of professional qualifications.

This reality is unfortunate, especially when looking at the recent accomplishments of the College of Veterinary Medicine. College faculty and staff are not only world-class researchers and teachers, but they are also world-class creative thinkers. They continually seek ways to enhance and improve programs and services; they continually seek new and different methods of delivering great science and great care. They take great pride in their work; we take great pride in them.

Consider the following:

- The University of Minnesota was recently chosen to lead both of the U.S.D.A.’s new national research initiatives – one dealing with Johne’s disease, the other dealing with the Porcine Respiratory and Respiratory Syndrome.
- Twenty-three students are presently enrolled in joint D.V.M./M.P.H. program; ours is now one of the largest veterinary public health programs in the nation.
- The college was one of the first in the nation to use behavioral interviews to screen applicants for its D.V.M. program.
- The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory developed software creating an early warning system for new and emerging infectious diseases in Minnesota.
- The Veterinary Medical Center now has a social work intern to work with families of patients facing difficult decisions.
- Our new VetFast Program allows undergraduates with an interest in food animal veterinary medicine to gain early admission to veterinary school.

Too bad there isn’t an Olympic Gold Medal or an Academy Award for university creativity. This faculty and staff would win hands down.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Klausner, D.V.M., M.S., D.A.C.V.I.M.
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
U of M Named USDA National Research Site for Johne’s and PRRS

The University of Minnesota has received the two largest National Research Institute grants ever to be awarded for animal disease research from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The grants, totaling $8.8 million over four years, are aimed at developing strategies that eliminate Johne’s disease in cattle and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) in swine.

“Minnesota has been nationally recognized for its expertise in these diseases for many years,” says Jeffrey Klausner, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. “We take great pride in our outstanding faculty members, who distinguish themselves both for scientific leadership and for their commitment to building a healthy agricultural economy.”

Johne’s Disease (JD)

Johne’s disease is a bacterial infection in cattle and ruminants (e.g. sheep, goats, and deer) that causes chronic gastrointestinal inflammation. The economic impact of the disease is so significant that the National Research Council of the National Academy of Science has urged the USDA to designate JD as a high-priority problem. In Minnesota alone, JD affects 25 percent of the dairy population.

The JD project will involve five faculty members from the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Medical School. Another 72 researchers from 23 other universities nationwide will also participate.

The research goals are to better understand how JD is transmitted; to develop new diagnostic tools to track the disease in herds; to study how JD progresses; and to develop a vaccine or methods of boosting herd immunity.

“This collaborative grant will allow faculty to maximize research dollars and make a lasting impact on animal health and protect the dairy economy,” says Vivek Kapur, D.V.M., Ph.D., principal investigator, professor of microbiology and co-director of the University’s Biomedical Genomics Center.

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)

Designated by the National Pork Board as the most serious infectious disease facing pork producers, PRRS is a respiratory disease that results in severe reproductive failure in sows. PRRS also affects young pigs, causing slow and stunted growth. Annual industry losses from PRRS are estimated at $600 million.

PRRS researchers will develop methods to prevent the establishment and spread of the disease within herds and among herds on different farms. Researchers will also develop new diagnostic tools to detect infection, identify the specific genetic variants of the virus, and develop new vaccines. Once these elements are in place, researchers can begin evaluating disease elimination strategies.

“We are working with the swine and allied industries to maximize the resources available to solve this problem and reach our ultimate goal—elimination of PRRS regionally, if not nationally,” says Michael Murtaugh, D.V.M., Ph.D., principal investigator and professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Eleven faculty members from the U of M College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences join 57 other researchers from 20 academic institutions collaborating on the PRRS project.

USDA Approves Faster, Less Expensive Test for Johne’s Disease

A new DNA-based test for Johne’s disease developed at the U of M has been accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, opening the doors to improved control of the serious bacterial disease of cattle, sheep, and other ruminants.

Johne’s, which has no treatment or cure, is a particular problem in dairy cows because it reduces milk production. Once Johne’s invades a herd, it is difficult to eradicate, with losses exceeding $200 per cow per year.

The new test, developed by College faculty Kay Faaberg and Carrie Wees, dramatically speeds diagnosis, with results available in 48 hours, compared to four months for other diagnostic tools. Producers will use the test to identify infections in their herds and to minimize spread of the disease. They will also use it to find low-prevalence herds from which to buy cows and to identify their own herd as low-risk for other producers.

The test is available only through the U of M Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

For more information, call 1-800-605-8707.
In October, the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory received good news that only comes once every five years: The laboratory had been reaccredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) as a full-service diagnostic laboratory for all animal species.

Representatives of the AAVLD made a two-day site visit to St. Paul in July. By reaccrediting the laboratory, the AAVLD certified that the laboratory met its standards for veterinary diagnostic medicine and was able to provide quality diagnostic service to the animal industries of Minnesota and surrounding areas.

“The Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is well regarded for maintaining an aggressive approach to the needs of Minnesota practitioners and producers,” said a report by the site visit team.

In addition to disseminating information about the diagnosis of animal diseases, developing new diagnostic techniques, and improving existing diagnostic techniques, the AAVLD ensures that the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and other accredited laboratories receive representation in national and international policy developments in animal health. There are 33 AAVLD-accredited diagnostic laboratories throughout the United States.

Diagnostic Laboratory Introduces New Electronic Submission Software

When you first hear that the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has new electronic submission software, you have to wonder: Have they found a way to submit blood and tissue samples electronically? Is that possible?

Laboratory director Jim Collins is quick to explain: No, technology hasn’t gone quite that far—yet. But the new software, the Minnesota Laboratory Information System, is the first of its kind and promises to usher in a new era of data management for laboratory clients.

Previously, clients submitted samples to the laboratory on paper forms that they filled out either by hand or on their computers. Clients are still welcome to use paper, but now they can submit all information relevant to testing requests online - at no charge. The information is saved in a database, which returns a case number and automatically prepares the case to receive and report results, which are also accessible online.

“It’s not just a new way of submitting test requests,” Collins explained. “It’s a way to capture more data, establish a database, and potentially integrate with other databases. We can also couple disease information with production data and spot trends over time. It saves time, which lowers the cost of labor, thus lowering the overall cost of production. Everyone benefits.”

Introduced this past summer, the software was developed and tested over two years by a team composed of Collins; Bob Morrison, a professor in Veterinary Population Medicine; and Mary Thurn, an analyst in Auxiliary Services Technology. Several veterinary clinics serving major pork producers were also instrumental in developing the software by beta testing, including the Swine Vet Center and Fairmont Veterinary Clinic.

Collins is already planning the software’s next module: tools that will allow customers to analyze their previous submissions and look for trends - available as a free, value-added service exclusively to Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory clients.

For more information, call 1-800-605-8707.
In September, veterinary students added a new electronic device to their learning arsenal. While the new gadget weighs only a few ounces, it could bring big changes in how students learn and how instructors teach.

The personal response systems, or “blue clickers,” as they’re commonly called, resemble remote control devices. In a classroom setting, the devices offer a lecturer the opportunity to ask students multiple-choice questions to which they reply individually by selecting an answer on a hand-held wireless transmitter. Receivers connected to a computer register the responses and computer software tallies them. Faculty and students immediately see the results on a large screen using a standard projector.

“The lecture environment tends to foster passive learning,” says Laura Molgaard, associate dean for academic affairs. “Personal response systems offer a method of active engagement and increase interactivity in large classrooms, especially for students who are uncomfortable speaking up in groups. They allow instructors to assess what students are learning as they go and to do anonymous surveys on sensitive subjects.”

The tool can be eye-opening for instructors, who are accustomed to asking students multiple-choice questions to which they reply individually by selecting an answer on a hand-held wireless transmitter. Receivers connected to a computer register the responses and computer software tallies them. Faculty and students immediately see the results on a large screen using a standard projector.

“Whenever we sought feedback about our students from practitioners, the consensus was that the students’ scientific, factual, and theoretical knowledge was excellent,” Molgaard says. “But we also heard that the students could use more business knowledge, client-communications skills, and better exam-room rapport. These are the skills we’re trying to develop with our professional skills and experiential-learning programs.”

Expanding Experiential Education Opportunities Encourage Students to ‘Get Out There’

Experiential learning, learning by working in a veterinary practice, has long been an important part of veterinary education at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Now, in her position as experiential education director, Rebecca McComas is expanding the concept.

McComas has launched a professional skills course for first and second-year students. For two hours each week, students explore topics ranging from accounting and finance to conflict management and ethics to emerging diseases and virology. Sessions often include speakers from outside the college, such as professionals from the Office of Human Resources and Center for Bioethics, and outside the university, such as experts from North Star Financial Corporation and the Argus Center for human-animal bond resources at Colorado State University. McComas is also incorporating volunteer work into the program and looking for additional ways for students to “get out there” into the community.

The program was developed largely in response to comments from practitioners who hire new veterinary school graduates and offer externships.

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Little Blue Clickers Offer Big Benefits to Faculty and Students

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Students purchase their clickers for $5 at the beginning of the year and pay $15 per semester for their use. While there was some negative reaction to the unexpected expense, Molgaard expects that most students will warm up to the blue clickers as more instructors begin using the devices. Research has found that the use of personal response systems has a significant effect on student performance and participation, stimulating their interest and concentration as well as their enjoyment of lectures.
A veterinary technician can be a student’s best friend when it comes time to move from classroom learning to the real-life experiences of clinical rotations. From demonstrating how to wrap a horse’s leg to knowing when a cat is about to unleash feline fury, the techs play a major role in teaching veterinary students the ins and outs of clinical care.

“If the techs weren’t around to help, things would be way different,” says fourth-year student Beth Witte Neuman. “Students would be running around like chickens with their heads cut off.”

The techs are more than happy to help. Their days are filled with providing comfort, checking bandages, feeding, walking, and doing simple procedures with the animals. Guiding a student is just another dimension of ensuring that animals receive the care they need when and how they need it.

“We help teach them how to efficiently draw blood, collect urine samples, and guide them in how much blood they need for certain tests,” says veterinary technician Kellie Strand. “We’ll say, ‘Poke or hold?’ They get two tries. If they don’t get it, we’ll take over.”

Vet tech Kristi Steckman says she enjoys watching students grow in skills and confidence. “It’s neat to see everything come together for the senior students,” she says. “I love helping them and showing them things.”

From the students’ perspective, having someone around who’s familiar with...
Social Work Intern Brings New Resources to Veterinary Medical Center

Anyone who’s ever had a pet undergoing cancer therapy or hovering between life and death in a hospital emergency room or intensive care unit knows the feelings of anxiety, panic, helplessness, and fear. The nagging questions: Was it my fault? Will she make it? Is there anything else I can do? The constant vigilance - watching, waiting, and clinging to any sign of hope that your pet is getting better.

The feelings can be overwhelming, and one way to find comfort is to talk about them. But who has the time to listen? Who really understands?

Jeannine Moga understands and she is available to listen. Moga is a graduate student who is working on her master’s degree in social work at the University of Minnesota. In September, Moga became the Veterinary Medical Center’s first social work intern. Her internship, a collaboration between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the School of Social Work, is the first of its kind at the University of Minnesota.

Moga will be working at the Veterinary Medical Center for 16 to 20 hours a week until May 2004. While her direct supervisor is Elizabeth McNiel, a veterinarian specializing in oncology, Moga’s work is not limited to oncology clients. She also works with clients whose pets are in the ICU or emergency room - and the veterinary professionals who treat those pets.

“Helping to prepare veterinary teams to successfully meet the emotional needs of pet-owning families - and to deal with their own emotions about patients they’re unable to help - is an important facet of my work,” Moga says. “Veterinarians and veterinary technicians do their best to help their patients, but in some cases, even their best isn’t enough. If the animal dies, they’re faced with a grieving client - and they’re very affected by that.”

Media Pros Donate Time to Produce College Videos

Two Veterinary Medical Center clients who also happen to be talented media professionals recently donated their services to produce videos for the college.

Carolyn Marinan, director of public affairs for Hennepin County and a former reporter for KARE-11, was so happy with the care that her sick cat, Aurora, received at the VMC that she e-mailed University of Minnesota President Robert H. Bruininks about her experience, reminding him about the wonderful resource the university had on the St. Paul campus. She then donated her services to plan, script, and direct an introductory video about the college.

Cathy Wurzer, the host of “Morning Edition” on Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) and the Emmy Award-winning co-host of “Almanac,” trains and shows horses in her spare time. She was so impressed with the care her horses received at the VMC that she volunteered her time to write, direct, and produce a video to help raise funds for the Equine Center.

Both videos premiered at the Dean’s Circle Dinner in October, an event honoring major donors. For a copy call 612-624-6228.
Alvin and June Perlman

Approximately half of all deaths of dogs and cats over 10 years of age are related to cancer. After their own beloved pet was stricken with the disease and successfully treated at the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), Alvin and June Perlman established the Alvin S. and June Perlman Chair in Animal Oncology at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Q: How did you first become aware of the College of Veterinary Medicine?

A: When we were referred to the Veterinary Medical Center—then called the Veterinary Teaching Hospital—in the late ’60s or early ’70s by Dr. David Spong, our regular veterinarian at Hopkins Pet Hospital. Dr. Spong graduated from the College in 1965, and we still see him for regular veterinary care. If we have a problem that he thinks could be better treated at the university because of its equipment or knowledge or specialists, he refers us to the VMC.

Q: I understand that a miniature poodle named Pixie helped you make a connection with the college. Could you tell me about Pixie?

A: Pixie was a black miniature poodle that we had in the ’80s and ’90s. She was one of nine poodles we’ve had over the years - the first one of which we received as a wedding gift in 1963. In 1992, Pixie was 10 years old. We were in Arizona for the winter and had taken her to be groomed. We got a call from the groomer saying that she had discovered a tumor on Pixie’s gum line, and that we had better take her to a vet right away. So, we took her to our vet in Phoenix. They biopsied the tumor, and it was malignant. They said the prognosis was guarded to poor, and they suggested that we put her down.

We, well, we didn’t want to give up. We loved our dog too much. So, they gave us the name of a veterinary cancer specialist in Mesa, Arizona, and we drove down there. They performed radical surgery, removing three inches of Pixie’s jaw bone, and said they thought that doing this would give us one or two years of quality life with her. They wanted to follow up the surgery with chemo or radiation therapy, but they didn’t offer those services in the Phoenix area. They suggested we go either to Colorado or Minnesota.

Q: Was it this experience that inspired you to become a donor to the college and to establish the oncology chair?

A: Well, that was an easy decision. We picked our dog up at the vet on Christmas Eve, and on New Year’s Day, we put her in the car and drove back to Minnesota to have radiation at the VMC. We had five weeks of radiation with Dr. Dan Feeney. Pixie lived six more years, and the cancer never returned. We were really pleased, and so was the radiology department!

Q: How important do you think private support is to a college or university?

A: Private support enables the college or university to do more—to do research they otherwise couldn’t afford to do. I think it’s very important that people who have animals and love their animals like we do support a college like the College of Veterinary Medicine. It’s one of the top veterinary colleges in the country, if not the top. We want to do whatever we can to make their dreams come true. It would be so wonderful to see a cure for cancer, whether it’s in our lifetime or the next generation. That’s why I think private donations are so important.
S tones, bacterial infections, kidney failure, and other problems with the urinary system are a major cause of serious illness in cats, dogs, and other animals. These problems also cause heartache for their owners. The College of Veterinary Medicine is fortunate to have one of the few programs in the world that serves as a local, regional, and international resource for research and education in the area of urinary tract disorders: the Minnesota Urolith Center.

Founded in 1981 by Carl Osborne, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department, the center has analyzed more than 225,000 urinary stones from more than 70 species of companion, farm, and wild animals. In 1984, Hill’s Pet Nutrition became an important partner in the center’s success, making the first of many gifts to support the center’s research on feline and canine urinary tract disorders.

To insure a permanent legacy in Osborne’s honor, the college embarked on a fundraising effort in 1996 to endow the Osborne/Hill’s Professorship in Nephrology/Urology. Hill’s was one of the first donors and has made regular contributions to the professorship ever since.

“Hills Pet Nutrition is proud to pay tribute to Dr. Osborne’s extraordinary contributions to the medical care of companion animals,” says Mary Beth Leininger, D.V.M., director of professional affairs at Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Inc. “This professorship is a fitting legacy to his lifetime of work.”

By 2003 more than $1 million had been raised for the professorship, and the college decided to endow a chair in Osborne’s name. This past fall, the college kicked off the “Friends of Carl Osborne Campaign,” through which it hopes to raise $1 million by June 30, 2004.

Because of Osborne’s contributions to the field, college fund-raisers were able to work out an unprecedented collaboration with Purdue University, Osborne’s alma mater. Colleges rarely agree to allow another college to solicit their alumni for donations, but Purdue made an exception for the Friends of Carl Osborne Campaign.

“In our profession, only a few individuals are recognized nationally and internationally for being leaders in their field,” says college Dean Jeffrey Klausner. “One of them is Carl Osborne. Carl’s research and contributions to the study of urology and nephrology have had a tremendous impact on the health of companion animals and those who care about them.”

Many of Dr. Osborne’s colleagues obviously feel the same way. Since the campaign began, contributions to the Friends of Carl Osborne Campaign have been coming in from throughout the United States.

For more information on the campaign, contact the development office at 612-624-6744 or e-mail white0517@umn.edu.
Understanding Pain in Animals

We all experience pain sometime in our lives. Whether it’s a broken bone, disease, or a wound, animals experience pain much like humans do. Pain is an important condition that affects the quality of life for humans and animals.

It is relatively easy to assess pain in humans because we often can explain how we are feeling. Pain in animals is more difficult to diagnose, but is often accompanied by a change in behavior. Signs of pain in animals include changes in personality or attitude, abnormal vocalization, or change in activity level or appetite. Individual animal responses to pain vary dependent upon age, sex, health status, and other related factors.

Pain management assumes that a procedure painful to humans is also painful to animals. Animals and people may experience acute, chronic, cancer, and postoperative pain. In animals, acute pain is often easier to treat and lasts for a relatively limited amount of time. Chronic pain, which lasts for an extended amount of time, is more difficult to treat and diagnose in both animals and humans.

As with humans, if a treatment or procedure may induce pain, it is important to treat the animal accordingly. Treatment for pain is tailored to each animal’s needs. Available treatments include drugs, acupuncture, surgery, electrical stimulation, nerve blocks, and more. Prompt diagnosis and effective treatment are keys to successful pain management in animals.

Managing Pain

Veterinary Medical Center veterinarians have a new resource for keeping animals comfortable and free of pain. Last fall, five Medical Center anesthesiologists formed a new Pain Management Service. The service offers consultation for large and small animal veterinarians seeking assistance in helping patients cope with pain arising from disease, surgery, or trauma.

“We’ve been doing clinical pain research for 10 or 15 years and daily we are treating animals for pain in our anesthesia services,” says associate professor Elaine Rudé, who heads the service. “We wanted to offer some of the knowledge to other clinicians in the hospital.”

The pain management service offers advice for treating both acute and chronic pain. Treatment options offered range from systemic drugs to alternative therapies.

In addition to consultations, the service offers continuing education. Members of the pain management service held conferences for veterinarians in November and December. The service also offered an anesthesia and pain management symposium at the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association meeting in February.

For more information call 612-625-1919.

Techs to the Rescue continued from page 6

standard procedures can be a godsend. “Kellie has been so helpful,” says Witte Neuman. “She reads my mind and she catches me if I forget something.”

For fourth-year student Jessica Hammel, technicians provide not only assistance but also perspective, particularly valuable when things get hectic. “They’re great resources,” she says. “We can be crazy running around and Kristi balances everything for us.”

Technicians not only help teach students, they also provide input into the grade they receive for the rotation. But, as veterinary technician Maureen Parks points out, the education goes both ways. “We learn a lot from the students,” Parks says. “They bring a lot of the book knowledge we don’t know.”
Since penicillin first became a standard treatment for infection during World War II, antibiotics have become among the most commonly used classes of drugs in the world. Originally developed to kill bacteria attempting to commandeer human bodies, they have also found widespread application in veterinary medicine and as a growth-promoting feed additive, primarily in chickens and pigs.

Unfortunately, in the case of antibiotics, popularity is problematic. Reproducing rapidly, bacteria adapt to environment challenges. Penicillin-resistant bacteria began cropping up within a few years of the drug’s introduction. Almost as fast as we’ve developed new antibiotics, bacteria have developed new ways to survive them. We are moving ever closer to a day when few, if any, antibiotics will be reliable weapons against our microbial foes.

“It’s not a question, just a matter of when,” says Richard Isaacson, professor of veterinary pathobiology. “We could be in really deep trouble in the near future.” Isaacson and colleague Randy Singer are working to slow the spread of antibiotic resistance by studying what they call “the ecology of antibiotic resistance—how resistant genes and the bacteria harboring them move among humans, animals, and the environment.” By understanding the dynamics of antibiotic resistance, the two hope to find ways to limit the spread of resistant bacteria.

Some of their studies focus on bacteria’s more ho-hum modes of travel - in water, on pitchforks, via a sneeze, or a snack. The scientists are also looking at a more insidious mode of transmission called conjugation. In this process, disease-causing bacteria transfer resistance genes to friendly bacteria. The genes then multiply and spread without attracting attention, until the friendly bacteria share them with other disease-causing bacteria.

Singer is hoping to set up a larger study in Chile soon. His plan is to look at the flow of antibiotic resistance through a much larger area, from farm to hospital, river to city, and back again.

“It’s complicated, but that’s what makes it so intriguing,” Singer says. “That’s what an epidemiologist is all about - complex systems.”

Infection control is part of everyday life in hospitals and clinics. Large veterinary hospitals, like the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), face infection control challenges that never occur in human hospitals.

Think about it: Veterinary hospitals treat a multitude of species, not just one. Their patients come from a wide range of indoor and outdoor environments, are susceptible to a variety of illnesses, and require an assortment of sizes and types of equipment. Once admitted, their hospital rooms range from relatively easy-to-clean metal cages to wooden stalls with porous surfaces and countless joints and seams for bacteria to hide.

To address these challenges and others, an infection control committee has been formed. Chaired by Julie Wilson, D.V.M., division head, Large Animal Medicine, the group includes 12 representatives from throughout the VMC. The team began its work with environmental audits—making the rounds of the center, looking for potential problems, and discussing how to prevent them.

Because hand washing is the single most important procedure to prevent the spread of infection, the committee’s next step was to identify and standardize a hand soap to be used throughout the VMC, including areas without sinks. The committee chose Prevacare, a new waterless product that has proven to be very effective at cutting down infection rates. Dispensers of the hand-cleaning gel were installed throughout the VMC.

The committee also plans to establish and recommend infection-control policies and procedures, educate and train animal care workers, and evaluate and make recommendations for building projects and renovations.
In November, 60 students from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine teamed up with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to collect deer tissue samples to test for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

CWD is a progressive, debilitating, and fatal brain and nervous system disease found in deer and elk in certain parts of North America. Manifested by progressive weight loss, behavior changes, staggering, and listlessness, CWD is one of a group of infectious diseases known as “transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.” It is thought to be transmitted by animal-to-animal contact or contamination of the habitat by a diseased animal.

Since first being recognized in Colorado and Wyoming nearly 40 years ago, CWD has spread to numerous states and two Canadian provinces. So far, CWD in Minnesota has been found only in farmed elk. One elk tested positive for CWD after it died on an Aitkin County farm in August 2002. A second elk, part of a herd where the Aitkin elk originated, tested positive in January 2003. While CWD has not been found in Minnesota’s wild deer, it has been found in wild populations in the neighboring states of South Dakota and Wisconsin.

“Deer don’t pay attention to state boundaries,” says Jeffrey Klausner, dean. “This ongoing surveillance program will provide a base for early detection of the disease in Minnesota and allow us to limit the spread of infection.”

The students participating in the program received eight hours of CWD lecture and hands-on laboratory training from DNR and Board of Animal Health veterinarians. They then worked with representatives of the DNR at big-game registration stations throughout Minnesota, collecting hundreds of brain tissue samples a day.

Ten thousand samples were submitted to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the official laboratory of the Board of Animal Health. On March 4, the DNR announced that testing results were complete, and no CWD had been found.
Betty White Tours College

Actress Betty White, a longtime animal lover, toured the college during a visit to Minnesota to attend a Morris Animal Foundation Board of Directors Meeting. She will be returning with other members of the Morris Animal Foundation on June 26, 2004, to hear how faculty have benefited from their research dollars.

Faculty and Staff News

James Mickelson, professor, was awarded a U.S. patent for “Assay for Propensity for Canine Malignant Hyperthermia” (Patent #6,664,059).

Cindy Wolf, assistant clinical professor, was appointed chair of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) committee on sheep and goats for 2004 and is a member of the United States Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) steering committee and communications subcommittee.

Mathur Kanann, professor, was awarded a $280,000 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant entitled “Dynamic Calcium Regulation in Airway Smooth Muscle.”

Richard Isaacson, professor and chair of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, was selected as a fellow for the 2004 Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Executive Officers Seminar. He is one of four heads and chairs representing the University and will participate with 10 other institutions. This leadership seminar examines goal-setting, decision-making, priority-setting, resource development, and the measurement of success through various strategies.

Jeff Bender, assistant professor, received the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine Outstanding Faculty Award from the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) for his outstanding service to Minnesota veterinarians, the giving of his time and talent to the profession, and his leadership to make a difference to the profession.

Jan Swanson, outreach director, was awarded the MVMA Veterinary Service Award, which recognizes an individual who has promoted the veterinary profession and/or well being of animals.

Student News

Allison B. Newman, class of 2006, was selected to be a member of the 2004 Smith-Kilborne Foreign Animal Disease Program. Associate professor Scott Wells is serving as her mentor.

Michelle Rider, class of 2005, received a scholarship to attend the Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas in February. One student from each national veterinary college receives this scholarship to attend continuing education classes and is recognized for their leadership qualities.
Second annual alumni reunion—June 12

Mark your calendar for the college’s second annual Reunion Day celebration on Saturday, June 12, 2004. Scheduled to coincide with the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Forum in Minneapolis June 9-12, the reunion will include campus tours starting at 2 p.m., a social hour at 5 p.m., a pig roast at 6 p.m., entertainment, awards, and prizes.

All alumni are invited to attend. Members of the Class of 1954 will be honored guests, and members of classes that graduated in years ending in four and nine will be special guests. Many classes are planning their own events in conjunction with reunion day.

Reunion day registration packets will be sent out in April. For more information, e-mail cvmdev@umn.edu.

And if you really like to plan ahead... The 2005 reunion will be held on July 15, 2005, in conjunction with the American Veterinary Medical Association convention in Minneapolis July 16-20, 2005.

Campaign Minnesota raises $32 million for veterinary priorities

Campaign Minnesota, the University of Minnesota’s drive to create greatness at the University, has concluded after raising $1.656 billion, far exceeding its $1.3 billion goal. The College of Veterinary Medicine's goal was $28 million, and the total raised was $32,818,432. Donations funded:

- **A Chair in Comparative Oncology.** $2 million has been raised. A generous endowment gift from Alvin and June Perlman established the chair (see story on page 8), insuring the college's position as a leader in the research and treatment of animal cancer.

- **The University of Minnesota Equine Center,** the mission of which is to advance the health, well being, and performance of horses. $2.4 million of a $10 million goal has been raised to date.

- **The Osborne/Hill's Professorship in Nephrology/Urology.** $1 million has been raised, and an additional $1 million will be raised to establish an Osborne /Hill's Chair in Nephrology/Urology (see page 9 for campaign details).

- **The Raptor Center.** $5.6 million was raised to strengthen the program's rehabilitation, veterinary training, research, and public education efforts. The funds included a donation of $500,000 from Doug and Wendy Dayton to establish the Patrick T. Redig Professorship in Raptor Medicine and Surgery.

- **Student scholarships.** $3.5 million in gifts and bequests will provide scholarships for veterinary students.

- **Endowed graduate student fellowships.** $430,000 for fellowships in the Dairy Transition Management Facility, $275,000 in the swine area, and $75,000 in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

- **Education Center (dairy barn renovation).** $200,000 in gifts and pledges have been received, and the University of Minnesota has included the project in its bonding request at the Minnesota Legislature in 2004.

- **Comparative Animal Behavior and Wellness Program.** A $72,000 fellowship was established with a commitment to add $20,000 to $25,000 each year.

Alumni News

**Roger E. Meisner,** D.V.M., Afton, Minn. (class of 1955), was selected by the North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association as the 2003 Veterinarian of the year.

**Howard J. Cook,** D.V.M., Dousman, Wis. (class of 1952) received a 50-year award by the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association at its October 11, 2003, annual meeting. Dr. Cook was a large animal practitioner from 1952 to 1987 and was a charter member of the Wisconsin Equine Practitioners Association.
College offers unique continuing education opportunities for poultry industry

For the past six years, faculty from the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences (COAFES) have collaborated with faculty from other universities and industry professionals to present timely and information-packed two-day workshops for producers, farm managers, farm supervisors, and food production personnel. These innovative programs were initiated by faculty members Dave Halvorson, Dan Shaw, and Sally Noll.

“It was difficult to provide a focused educational effort in any one area through existing meetings,” said Noll. “The workshops incorporate time for discussion and problem-solving to emphasize take-home messages.”

Layer School I: Diseases of Laying Hens is an intensive two-day course for the egg producer. Learners have the opportunity to hear current lectures and participate in hands-on necropsy lab activities. Layer School II: Feeding and Managing Laying Hens is offered to learners who complete Layer School I.

In spring 2004, Layer School I will expand to include Layer School I East. In an effort to meet the needs of the poultry industry in the eastern part of the United States, this session will be held at Penn State University. The possibility of presenting Layer School I West is being explored with faculty at the University of California-Davis.

Veterinary Outreach Programs also coordinates Turkey School I: Health of Turkeys. A collaborative effort of the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences (COAFES) and the College of Veterinary Medicine, this program is designed for turkey growers.

The first National Poultry Ventilation School joined the complement of poultry programming in October 2003. A nationwide audience of more than 40 industry leaders and farm managers attended this two-day workshop featuring lecture and hands-on lab. Ventilation School was led by faculty from Iowa State, Penn State, the Departments of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Biosystems and Ag Engineering, and Animal Science at the University of Minnesota, and industry specialists. Ventilation school will be offered again in October 2004.

The overwhelming success of the poultry schools has exposed the College of Veterinary Medicine to a new and diverse audience of producers, veterinarians, and industry personnel, led to corporate sponsorship of college events, and educated nearly 350 learners.

For information on other programs call 612-624-3434.
Calendar of Events

CVM Open House
Sunday, April 4, 2004
11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Spring Raptor Release
Saturday, May 1, 2004
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Hyland Lake Park Reserve
Bloomington, Minn.
For more information call 612-624-4745 or visit http://www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu/content.asp?page=5001

Raptor Camp
July 12-16: sessions for ages 6-7 and 8-9
July 19-23: sessions for ages 6-7 and 10-11
July 26-30: sessions for ages 8-9 and 10-11
For more information or to register, contact U of M Youth Programs at 612-624-2241 or visit www.recsports.umn.edu/youth

Continuing Education for Veterinarians
May 7: Swine Clinical Forum
May 18-20: Minnesota Dairy Conference
May 18-20: Layer School II: Feeding and Managing Laying Hens
Sept. 18-21: Allen D. Leman Swine Conference
For more information or to register, call 800-380-8636 or 612-624-3434, or e-mail vop@umn.edu

Highlights from the 2003 Open House.