

2013 Highlights

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

College of Veterinary Medicine

Driven to DiscoverSM

Preparing the next generation of veterinarians and veterinary researchers



Veterinary education twinning project

The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and Chiang Mai University in Thailand launched a veterinary education twinning project under the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Veterinary Education Twinning Program. Part of a wider OIE initiative to improve the capacity of veterinary services in developing countries, “twinning” is an approach that enables peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge, ideas, and experience between two universities.



Commencement

Doctor of veterinary medicine degrees were awarded to 96 students at the college’s annual commencement ceremony at Ted Mann Concert Hall on May 11. Seven PhD degrees, two DVM/MPH degrees, and two MS degrees were also awarded. The commencement speaker was Clint Lewis, executive vice president and president of U.S. operations at Zoetis, a global animal health company.

Scholarships

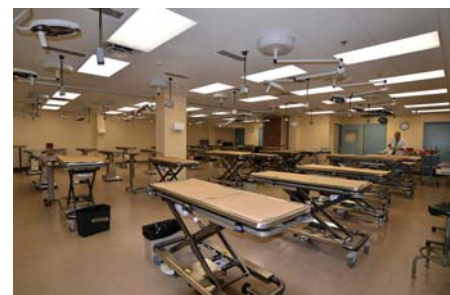
The college awarded 56 student scholarships totaling \$472,000 and recognized the generous support of donors at the annual spring scholarship reception on April 18. Dr. John King, the former executive director of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine, was honored with the college’s Outstanding Service Award.

Education Day

The college hosted its fourth annual Education Day on May 31, when faculty attended seminars and a plenary session, presented posters, and made presentations related to education and innovative teaching methods. Education Day also included the presentation of teaching awards, including the Zoetis Distinguished Teacher Award, presented to Dr. Jody Lulich; departmental and graduate advising/teaching awards; excellence in course coordination awards; and Veterinary Medical Center technician teaching awards.

Enhanced classrooms and labs

The college made a variety of improvements in classrooms, teaching labs, and other facilities, including the active learning classroom, a multipurpose, technology-enhanced space located in the Animal Science/ Veterinary Medicine building. The small animal surgery and clinical skills lab also underwent a major renovation.



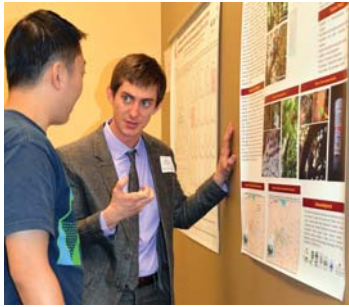
Applications for fall admission

The college’s admissions office received 961 applications for the 102 seats in the fall 2014 freshman class. Seven University of Minnesota students were accepted into VetFAST, an early admission program for students interested in food-animal veterinary medicine. These students are on track to begin their DVM coursework in fall 2016.

Discovering and sharing new knowledge

Points of Pride Research Day

The college hosted its annual Points of Pride Research Day on October 2, presenting the Distinguished Research Alumnus award to Dr. M. Suresh, associate professor of pathobiological sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who received his PhD from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Alvin Beitz, professor and chair of the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, received the Zoetis Award for Excellence in Research. The AKC Canine Health Foundation was honored as Distinguished



Research Partner, and Dr. Alice Larson, professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, was presented with the Mark of Excellence Award. Fourteen graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and summer scholars received awards in the Points of Pride poster competition.

Leman Swine Conference

The college hosted the 2013 Allen D. Leman Swine Conference at RiverCentre in St. Paul September 14-17. One of the international swine community's premier events, the Leman conference drew nearly 700 swine veterinarians, producers, research scientists, industry experts, and government officials from around the world. In addition to two days of presentations and seminars on topics ranging from swine diseases to production to consumer issues, the conference included a two-day pre-conference program, trade show exhibits, and scientific poster presentations.



Leman China Swine Conference

The second annual Leman China Swine Conference was held at the Quijiang International Conference Center in Xi'an, China, on October 13-15. The conference welcomed more than 1,000 participants from 13 countries and included two general sessions, eight breakout sessions, and 20 speakers, as well as a poster session. More than 350 companies were represented, and more than 50 exhibitors displayed products and services.

Mather Lecture Series

Under the faculty leadership of Drs. Julie Churchill and Jed Overman, the six-part continuing education lecture series was presented at the Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center and simulcast online. Topics included pain assessment, vaccine protocols, dermatology, computed tomography, clinical trials, and more, all presented by College of Veterinary Medicine faculty members.

Minnesota Dairy Health Conference

With Dr. Riki Sorge as faculty lead, the annual conference convened at the Minneapolis Airport Marriott on May 21-23. Dairy veterinarians, producers, and other industry professionals discussed the latest developments in dairy production science, health, management, and food quality.

Camelid Health Conference

Under the leadership of Dr. Anna Firshman, the annual conference was held at the Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center on January 26-27. Fifty-eight participants, including veterinarians, technicians, and students, took part in sessions on camelid diseases, parasite control, and pasture management.



Minnesota Veterinary Institute

This new collaboration of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association, Veterinary Hospitals Association, and University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine offers continuing education programs for veterinary practitioners. The inaugural program, to be offered in 2014, is an advanced dentistry series featuring lectures, wet labs, and online content designed by Drs. Gary Goldstein and Kevin Stepaniuk.



Discovery: Seeds from box elder tree cause muscle disease in horses

Led by Dr. Stephanie Valberg, researchers at the University of Minnesota Equine Center discovered that a toxin in the seeds of the box elder tree cause seasonal pasture myopathy, a devastating muscle disease in horses. Research also found that toxins from the seeds of the tree *Acer pseudoplatanus* are the likely cause of atypical myopathy, a highly fatal muscle disease in Europe.

Gene's contribution to asthma susceptibility

Research by Dr. Srirama Rao, Dr. Sung Gil Ha, and their colleagues uncovered the role that the gene ORMDL3 plays in asthma. Recently linked to asthma susceptibility, ORMDL3 was also connected to the body's ability to recruit inflammatory cells during an airway allergic reaction. Study findings were in the journal *Nature Communications*.



International Conference on One Medicine One Science (iCOMOS)

Planning was underway throughout 2013 for the inaugural conference scheduled for April 27-30, 2014, at the Commons Hotel in Minneapolis.

Serving the community in Minnesota and around the world

Official laboratory of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health

The University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, a unit of the College of Veterinary Medicine, is a national leader in providing rapid diagnosis of animal diseases, identifying emerging diseases, and developing new diagnostic methods, as well as training diagnosticians and veterinarians. It processes up to 70,000 cases from livestock, poultry, wildlife, fish, and companion animals annually.

Test for porcine epidemic diarrhea virus

Researchers at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory developed a rapid diagnostic test for porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV), a virus that migrated to the United States in April 2013, infecting pigs in 17 states. The first-of-its-kind test provided a way to quickly and cost-effectively identify the presence of U.S. PEDV strains.



Level-1 Veterinary Trauma Center



The University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center was one of nine U.S. veterinary hospitals and clinics to be designated as Level-1 Veterinary Trauma Centers by the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care in a new initiative designed to improve treatment outcomes for animal trauma cases.

RESPOND

The College of Veterinary Medicine continued to work with the School of Public Health, School of Nursing, Medical School, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and College of Education and Human Development on RESPOND, a cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The objective of RESPOND is to improve the capacity to respond to zoonotic and emerging infectious diseases around the world. University of Minnesota faculty members are working with universities and other organizations in areas that are hot spots for the emergence of infectious disease, including the Congo Basin and Southeast Asia.

The Raptor Center

The Raptor Center (TRC) treated approximately 1,000 sick and injured birds of prey, trained veterinarians and veterinary students from around the world, and presented educational programs to more than 200,000 people of all ages. TRC also continued its work with Galápagos hawks in the Galápagos Islands, a project that also helped the Pinzón giant tortoise, an animal listed as extinct in the wild.



University of Minnesota Equine Center

In addition to providing veterinary education through internships and residencies and treating more than 1,000 patients, the Leatherdale Equine Center developed an education and outreach program using a resource herd of six horses for undergraduate and veterinary education, equine-assisted therapy, and horseback-riding courses. The center also hosted a variety of events at the Barenaecheer Arena and Nutrena Conference Center, including the Hooved Animal Rescue Trainer's Challenge and a Horsemanship Camp. The West Metro Equine Practice served the western Twin Cities area, handling 1,636 appointments with horse owners.

Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum

The museum expanded with the addition of attractive new exhibits about the history of veterinary medicine in Minnesota, from veterinary surgery and obstetrics to disease control and education. Located in the Animal Science/Veterinary Medicine building, the museum is supported by private donations.

International telepathology program

In collaboration with the International Veterinary Consortium for China (IVCC) and IVCC partners, the college created an international telepathology program. This novel training program will provide residential training for pathologists in the United States, then continue the training through online modules, real-time interaction via the telepathology system, two-way consultations, and hands-on training in swine pathology and disease diagnostics. The ultimate goal: to build capacity in swine pathology and diagnostic services in the U.S. and China.

One Health Partnerships Workshop

Hosted by the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety on April 16, the annual One Health Partnerships Workshop focused on advancing local to global food and nutrition partnerships, attracting participants from industry, government, and higher education.

VetCamp

The college continued to offer VetCamp, an interactive program for students in grades 9-12 who are interested in veterinary medicine. Developed and taught by DVM students and sponsored by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation, this three-hour program engages students with interactive hands-on learning activities and games. VetCamp takes place at various venues throughout the year, including summer day camps at the college and county fairs around the state.

Distinguished achievements



National leadership

Dean Trevor Ames was named president-elect of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, a nonprofit membership organization working to protect and improve the health and welfare of animals, people, and the environment by advancing academic veterinary medicine.



Distinguished teaching

Dr. Robert Washabau, professor and chair of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department, received a University of Minnesota Award for Outstanding Contributions to Postbaccalaureate, Graduate, and Professional Education.

Leadership in public policy

Dr. Will Hueston was awarded an honorary doctorate from Chiang Mai University in Thailand. He was also awarded the 2013 AAVMC Senator John Melcher DVM Leadership in Public Policy Award by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC).



Best presentation

Dr. Peter Davies, professor, swine health and production, received a Best Presentation Award for "Longitudinal Study of *Staphylococcus aureus* and MRSA Colonization of U.S. Swine Veterinarians" at the 10th International Conference on the

Epidemiology and Control of Foodborne Pathogens in Pork (SafePork).



Extraordinary influence

Dr. John Fetrow, professor in the Veterinary Population Medicine Department, was named by Bovine Veterinarian as one of 20 veterinarians who have had extraordinary influence on the beef or dairy industries in the past 20 years.



U.S. patent

Dr. Michael Murtaugh, professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, was issued a U.S. patent for intellectual property, Identifying Virally Infected and Vaccinated Organisms.



Outstanding mentor

Dr. Stephanie Valberg, professor and director of the Equine Center, was honored by the University of Minnesota Postdoctoral Association as Outstanding Mentor-2013.

Serving the nation

Dr. Sarah Easter Strayer, veterinary public health resident, was promoted from captain to major in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.



MVMA recognition

The Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) named Dr. Carl Jessen, retired professor and current treasurer of the Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum, Veterinarian of the Year. Dr. Stephanie

Valberg received the Outstanding Faculty Award.

Superb swine veterinarians

Dr. Lisa Tokach, class of 1990, was honored with the Science in Practice award at the Allen D. Lemam Swine Conference. Dr. Barry Kerkaert, class of 1994, was named 2013 Swine Practitioner of the Year by the American Association of Swine Veterinarians.



AABP honors

Five students were honored by the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP). An Amstutz Scholarship was awarded to Lee Michels; Andy Kryzer received first prize for best research project in the Student Case Competition; the Cargill Animal Nutrition Award went to Brett Boyum; and AABP Bovine Veterinary Student Recognition Awards were presented to Amy Dahlke, Andy Kryzer, and Abbie Wirt.

Distinguished Master's Thesis

Carmen Alonso, a student in the veterinary medicine graduate program, received the University of Minnesota Distinguished Master's Thesis Award for her thesis, "Epidemiological and Economic Implications of Air Filtration Systems to Prevent PRRSV in Large Sow Herds."

Student leadership

Sara Losinski, class of 2013, received a University of Minnesota President's Student Leadership and Service Award in recognition of her contributions to SIRVS (Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Service) and VeTouch. Chris Thomson, a second-year veterinary student, was the first University of Minnesota student to be awarded the Americans for Medical Progress Michael D. Hayre Fellowship in Public Outreach.

Alumni Service Award

Dr. Kevin Barcus, class of 1986, was presented with an Alumni Service Award by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. A longtime volunteer for the college, Barcus had served on the Alumni Friends and Society Board since 1988 and led the college's mentor program for 24 years, fostering mentor relationships for an estimated 500 students.

Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year

The American Veterinary Medical Association named Dr. Benjamin Hart, class of 1960, as Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year.