Ensuring a Future

Few of us can resist a golden retriever. Big, lovable, friendly. When Linda Nelson visited Malagold Kennels in DeForest, she expected to come home with a female golden retriever puppy. Instead, she met a group of adults, discovered no puppies were available and was offered part-ownership in one of the boys.

And so a love story began. Big Guy was “stunning, well-behaved, friendly, warm, sweet – and then he flopped over on his back,” Nelson remembered. She was sold, and Big Guy, who turned out to be one of the top 20 goldens in the country, was extraordinary. Today, she and her husband, John, share their home with Solar Flare, their fifth golden. The couple has had as many as three golden retrievers at once. “We adore our dogs,” Linda Nelson said. “They’re our kids.”

Even after they’re gone, the Nelsons will continue to help the animals they love through their estate gift to the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. After losing two dogs to cancer, the Nelson’s targeted their gift for cancer research. “This is a huge, huge research project,” said Linda, who wishes she could spread the word to attract far more money for this purpose. “Bequests are critically important to the future of the School of Veterinary Medicine,” said Dean Mark D. Markel. Ten years ago, the school received about $800,000 a year in gifts; today, the total is closer to $6 million, and half of that amount comes from estate gifts. Last year, a $3.8 million estate gift established an endowment that provides about $163,000 each year for scholarships. An earlier estate gift endowed a chair and laboratory in comparative oncology, which advances cancer treatment for animals and humans. “Bequests build a pipeline, so future generations are going to benefit from those gifts,” Markel said.

The Nelsons are still young but knew it was time to put their estate in order. They also made bequests to the UW–Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the College of Engineering. “It occurred to us we ought to be responsible about these things while we were still able,” John Nelson said. “We have had very good and successful lives,” Linda added. “However, we were forced by health events to recognize that we might not be around for as long as we’d hoped. And frankly, since our great dogs are lousy money managers, we needed to make a plan for our estate.”

Supporting canine cancer research made sense to John, who was successfully treated for cancer with measures not available 20 years ago. “I am living evidence that research and innovation can lead to a better and longer life,” he said. Chair of the Nelson Institute’s Board of Visitors, Nelson believes the organization will continue to be an environmental foundation for the university community as it works on matters significant to the human condition. In engineering, where he is an adjunct faculty member, Nelson wants to encourage a very good program that the industry finds beneficial.

Making an estate gift is not about being remembered, John Nelson said. “I just think it’s part of a continuum and a responsibility one has when one has means beyond needs.”
Thank You

Thank you for being a part of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine’s success. Our new dean, Mark D. Markel, talks often about the importance of the school’s community—the faculty, staff, students, clients, alumni, and friends—working together to advance veterinary medicine and improve animal and human health. Each of our roles is critical, yet they all are dependent on one another.

In this issue of On Call, we provide special recognition to the donors who have invested in the success and future of the school. Without their gifts, we would not be the highly respected (and ranked) school we are today. Donations support our faculty and staff as they make the discoveries that improve our understanding of animal injury and disease and teach the next generation of veterinarians. Gifts allow our clinicians and hospital staff to provide the cutting-edge care our patients deserve. And they ease the significant debt burden our students face.

In addition to seeing the names of those who made donations, you’ll get to read a few of their stories and see the power of the partnership between our donors and the school. This partnership takes many forms—from the $25 gift from a recent alum to the transformational estate gift of a friend of the school. Individually the gifts make a difference; collectively their impact is overwhelming.

Again, I want to thank you for supporting the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. Our success is your success.

Kristi V. Thorson
Associate Dean for Advancement and Administration (interim)

Christoph Mans Earns Rudolf Ippen Young Scientist Award

Christoph Mans, clinical instructor in special species and former resident at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM), the Milwaukee County Zoo, and the International Crane Foundation, was recently honored with the Rudolf Ippen Young Scientist Award. The International Conference on Diseases of Zoo and Wild Animals, held this year in Bussolengo, Italy, recognized Mans for his outstanding work in the field of zoo animal and wildlife medicine.

Mans studied at the University of Leipzig in Germany, completed an internship in avian and exotic animal medicine at the University of Guelph, and worked in private practice in Hong Kong before coming to the SVM in 2009. His work focuses on non-traditional pet species, particularly turtles and parrots. Mans works in both the clinical and research aspects of veterinary medicine alongside Kurt Sladky, a clinical assistant professor and fellow zoological medicine specialist.

According to Sladky, the Rudolf Ippen Award honors young scientists whose work demonstrates the beginning of a particularly promising career in wildlife veterinary science, conservation medicine, or zoo animal and wildlife medicine. Sladky believes that recent publications by Mans made him a strong candidate. These publications include two projects that pioneered new techniques: spinal anesthesia for turtles and internasal sedation for parrots.

For Mans, his impressive research this year is just the beginning of a long career. “I would like to stay in academia,” said Mans. “I appreciate the working environment, which fosters critical thought processes and allows for the successful transformation of clinical problems into research hypotheses and at the same time lets me teach students, interns, and residents.”

PET TIPS

In this winter weather, your horse’s blanket isn’t the only defense against the cold. Horses have their own personal thermostat, powered by the calories they burn. That means when the temperature drops, you may want to add some extra hay to their feed throughout the day to make sure they can keep the chill at bay.

After a good romp in the snow, make sure to wipe down your dog’s feet and belly before he comes back inside. Although he’ll want to lick all the snow and ice off himself, he may also be licking salt and antifreeze that could be harmful. Also remember to get deicing salts that are chemical-free to protect your pup in case he takes a taste.

Your favorite holiday plants may actually be toxic to your pet. If you like to keep holly, mistletoe, or Christmas roses, make sure to keep an eye on any curious kitties or nibbling pups in case they decide to try a taste.

Donations Make the Difference

The University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine and UW Veterinary Care continue to accomplish great things. In addition to providing pet owners with expert animal care, we are teaching tomorrow’s veterinarians to excel in private practice, global health, industry, and academics throughout Wisconsin and beyond. Furthermore, we are widely recognized for the quality and strength of our research programs. As a result, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine continues to advance both animal and human health. None of these accomplishments, however, would be possible without the generous support of friends like you.

To learn more about making a difference, please visit www.vetmed.wisc.edu/giving. For further information, feel free to contact the Office for Advancement at 608-265-9692.
On June 4, well-wishers gathered to celebrate Daryl Buss’s 18-year career as dean of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM). Held at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, the event included such distinguished speakers as University of Wisconsin–Madison Chancellor David Ward and Provost Paul DeLuca. The retirement celebration offered the chance for faculty, staff, donors, and board of visitors members from the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, and others to congratulate the dean on his long career and wish him luck for the steps ahead.

“It was as much about wishing each other well as it was about saying goodbye,” said Buss. But while Buss completed his service as dean at the end of June, he intends to maintain his connection with the school. “We certainly hope to be involved in school events after this,” said Buss.

Beyond retaining ties with the faculty, staff, and supporters who became so important over the years, Buss is going to become a very real part of the school’s future, even in his absence. By establishing the Daryl and Sharon Buss Graduate Program Fund, Buss hopes to support the Comparative Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program and its students. The fund will ensure the continued excellence of the graduate program by attracting outstanding new students and supporting them in various areas, including specialized research training, scientific workshops, and emergency funds. More than $75,000 already has been raised for the fund.

Although his time as dean may have ended, Buss’s presence will long be felt at the school, both through his undeniable influence on the people who care about the school and through the future impact of the Daryl and Sharon Buss Graduate Program Fund.

For more information or to make a gift, please visit www.vetmed.wisc.edu/Buss_Graduate_Program_Fund.320.3.html.
New Roles and Faces at SVM

The appointment of a new dean and the promotion of one of the school’s senior administrators to a campus-wide post have prompted some reshuffling and restructuring of duties at the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Christopher Olsen, who has been associate dean for academic affairs since 2006, has been named interim vice provost for teaching and learning for the University of Wisconsin–Madison. In his new role, Olsen’s primary focus will be undergraduate education and, more broadly, teaching and learning initiatives. One of his priorities will be Educational Innovation, a campus-wide initiative focused on enhancing student learning while improving the university’s capacity to reach learners and identifying new revenue sources.

Dean Mark D. Markel has tapped Lynn Maki (formerly student services program manager) to take on Olsen’s responsibilities as interim associate dean for academic affairs. Lynn recently earned her Masters in Education from Edgewood College.

Dean Markel’s former position as associate dean for advancement has been expanded to include a greater role in the school’s administration. Kristi Thorson, previously director of external relations, has taken on these duties as interim associate dean for advancement and administration.

Nik Hawkins replaces Lori Strelow, who left the SVM for the University of Hawaii. Nik began as the school’s new director of communications and public relations in September. He comes to the SVM from the Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education (WISCAPE) in the UW–Madison School of Education where he was assistant director for communications.

Markel Begins Tenure as Dean

Mark D. Markel, a professor of medical sciences and associate dean for advancement at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM), has been chosen as the new dean of the school, starting September 1, making him only the third dean in the school’s twenty-nine-year history.

“I’m very excited for the opportunity to build on the legacy that Dean Buss and Dean Easterday have created,” said Markel. “My goal is to carry on the outstanding traditions already in place at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine and to build upon them.”

Markel has already started. At the end of September, he began a new tradition by inviting all SVM faculty and staff to his home for an inaugural get-together. “I thought it would be fun to welcome people to my home,” said Markel. “I view this job as an expansion of my family. The event was really a ‘welcome to the SVM family.’” In this spirit, Markel will continue to host monthly gatherings at the school, hoping to create more open exchange between all faculty, staff, and students.

But of course, deanship means more than just a bigger family. “Despite the advances in veterinary medicine in the past 100 years, the profession faces many challenges today and in the coming decades,” said Markel. “These challenges have come to the forefront with the budget crises facing Wisconsin and the nation.” According to Markel, his top priority will be to make sure that the SVM is equipped with all of the resources it needs to thrive.

“These necessary resources aren’t always financial, however. Markel explained that in addition to funds he must also ensure the SVM out-of-state tuition can be a major barrier for some students. “The UW School of Veterinary Medicine is very competitive,” said Maki. “Scholarships are a wonderful way for non-residents to make Wisconsin an option.”

Maki credits the generosity of individuals like Christine Meyer and her family for making these scholarships possible. “Our students are very grateful,” said Maki. “The scholarship funds ease so many stresses in their lives.” Thanks to Christine Meyer, the Elaine Meyer Memorial Scholarship Fund will be able to provide many students with the support they need to continue their studies and go on to do great things for the world of veterinary medicine.

Generous Estate Gift Helps Students Reach their Goals

Several years ago, Eugene Meyer and his daughter Christine honored the passing of their beloved wife and mother Elaine with a gift to the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. With their gift, they established the Elaine Meyer Memorial Scholarship Fund, dedicated to supporting veterinary students in need. Last year, Elaine’s daughter Christine Meyer passed away, leaving a generous $3.8 million estate gift to her mother’s scholarship fund.

Lynn Maki, interim associate dean of academic affairs, was moved by Christine’s generosity. “This will have a huge impact for students,” she said.

According to Maki, the rising debt load of the average veterinary student is reaching debilitating levels, and scholarships like those made possible by Christine’s gift make all the difference. Last year, the average debt load for a DVM graduate was $136,000. “The debt load limits the opportunities that students have for further clinical and graduate training,” said Maki. But scholarship funds can give students more flexibility. “When students aren’t worried about their increasing debt load, they are able to take advantage of all the opportunities available to them.”

Maki also noted that out-of-state tuition can be a major barrier for some students. “The UW School of Veterinary Medicine is very competitive,” said Maki. “Scholarships are a wonderful way for non-residents to make Wisconsin an option.”

Maki credits the generosity of individuals like Christine Meyer and her family for making these scholarships possible. “Our students are very grateful,” said Maki. “The scholarship funds ease so many stresses in their lives.” Thanks to Christine Meyer, the Elaine Meyer Memorial Scholarship Fund will be able to provide many students with the support they need to continue their studies and go on to do great things for the world of veterinary medicine.

PET TIPS

Any cat lover knows: cats love to cozy up to anything warm. During winter’s chill, this means outdoor cats may look for heat in dangerous places, like under the hood of your car. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang on your hood before starting your car to give any cold kitties a head start.
On a bright Sunday morning in mid-September, just outside the Veterinary Medicine building, a short line of runners and their dogs forms at the registration table for the 30th Dog Jog. As one runner approaches to sign in, her gray schnauzer puts its forelegs on the table and peaks over the edge while student Hilary Shipley asks, “Are you running competitively?”

This particular runner offers the most common response: a smile, a shake of the head, and a “No, just for fun.”

Fun has been a consistent theme running through the Dog Jog. Each fall for the last three decades, runners and their dogs have gathered near the southern shore of Lake Mendota for a two-mile walk/run and a good cause. Sponsored by the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine’s Companion Animal Club, the event has raised a significant amount of money for area shelters and humane organizations over the years.

While awards typically have been given to the fastest runners, the event also has included a pledge contest and a costume contest. John Urban, a local personality best known for hosting a local variety show, The Urban Theater, has served as master of ceremonies for years, amusing everyone with his dry wit. This is the kind of fun that got Shipley, a third-year veterinary medical student, to volunteer in the first place.

“And I always work the registration table because I like seeing all the dogs as they come in, especially the ones in costume,” she said.

And it’s the fun that has kept Linda Sullivan coming back each year to organize the event along with a host of volunteers from the school and area shelters. “There’s so much energy and fun with all of the dogs there,” said Sullivan, a clinical instructor and alumna of the inaugural 1987 SVM class, which founded the Dog Jog. “And without the volunteers, it wouldn’t have happened.”

The Dog Jog was the brainchild of Sullivan’s classmate, Jean Beau, although Beau credits another classmate, Rodney Kuenzi, with coming up with the name.

“I wanted our class to make a difference and be remembered for something other than being the first class,” said Beau, who was at the 30th Dog Jog to drop the starting flag.

And remembered they will be. While the Dog Jog only raised $250 in its first year, since its inception, the event has brought in more than $500,000. For her role in making this possible, Sullivan was honored during the event with a special plaque.

“Linda Sullivan, School of Veterinary Medicine clinical instructor and long-time coordinator of the Dog Jog, receives a plaque in honor of her years of service from Chris Olsen, SVM’s former associate dean for academic affairs and now interim vice provost for teaching and learning for the UW-Madison campus.

And when I think of Linda ... I think of all the dogs and cats whose lives have been made happier and healthier—and in a very real sense possible—because of her commitment to the Dog Jog over all these years,” said Chris Olsen, the school’s former associate dean for academic affairs and now interim vice provost for teaching and learning for the UW-Madison campus.

While this may be the final Dog Jog, at least in its current form, the Companion Animal Club will remain dedicated to raising funds in support of shelter animals.

Nik Hawkins
A Passion for Animals Benefits the Hospital

John and Kristina Murphy let their devotion show through everything they do. At their home in East Troy, Wisconsin, their family of pets is largely rescue animals, including a poodle from a puppy mill and a cat with a fierce attitude that were both deemed “lost causes.” With patience and consistent care, however, all these pets have found a happy home with the Murphys.

When their standard poodle Luther was diagnosed with oral melanoma, John and Kristina gave him that same devoted care, although his prognosis was poor. “It’s a horrible disease,” said Kristina. “But we wanted to do something to improve the quality of his life. Our veterinarian suggested that we contact the UW Veterinary Care.”

Although no cure had yet been found, the Murphys were impressed by the developments being made in research and clinical trails at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM). John explained that recent clinical trials gave them hope for truly cutting-edge treatments for Luther as well as the idea that Luther’s experience might be able to benefit others.

“We felt there was a greater good,” said Kristina. The Murphys began making weekly trips from East Troy to the UW Veterinary Teaching Hospital for treatments to improve Luther’s quality of life. “In spite of everything, we started looking forward to it,” said John. “It was a really great experience.”

“They treat the whole family,” said Kristina. “The owners and the pets.” The Murphys credited the friendly, enthusiastic veterinarians, technicians, and staff at the SVM for turning a terrible experience into a bearable one. Although they eventually lost Luther to cancer, John and Kristina gained a new connection with the people of the SVM who shared their passion for advancing animal and human health.

“When giving opportunities came around, we started giving modest gifts,” said Kristina. “If more people did that, those modest gifts would turn into something much greater.”

“We’ve given steadily through the years,” John added, explaining how they love helping the SVM work towards its goals in any way they can. “It gives a sense of involvement.”

The Murphys chose to donate to the School’s Annual Fund, which provides the school with flexibility to improve and expand upon its mission in education, research, and clinical service. According to Kristina, donating to the Dean’s Annual Fund was an easy choice. They want the school to have funds available to meet its needs, and they believe that the school can best decide what those needs are for itself.

“I’m confident that our gift, whatever it is, will be used wisely,” said Kristina.

The Murphys plan to continue giving to the SVM to support their work in the hope that dogs like Luther, and even humans who suffer from cancer and other debilitating diseases, may one day find answers.

“It’s an extraordinary place,” said Kristina. “We’re glad to be involved.”

Ali Bartol
New Faculty Join the School

Sharon Clare, DVM, PhD, has joined the Department of Medical Sciences as a clinical instructor in Small Animal Internal Medicine. Dr. Clare earned her veterinary degree from North Carolina State University and completed a PhD in biochemistry at the University of Southern California. She then participated in a small animal rotating internship at Ohio State University before completing her residency in Internal Medicine at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. Her clinical interests include gastrointestinal disease and lower urinary tract disease in dogs and cats.

Denise Imai, DVM, has joined the Department of Pathobiological Sciences as a clinical instructor in anatomic pathology. Dr. Imai earned her veterinary degree from the University of California, Davis where she also is completing a PhD in comparative pathology. Her dissertation focuses on the molecular mechanisms of chronic Lyme borreliosis. She completed a joint residency in zoo and wildlife pathology at UC Davis and the Zoological Society of San Diego. Her clinical interests include infectious disease and pathology of non-domestic species.

Christoph Mans, DVM, has joined the Department of Medical Sciences as a clinical instructor in special species health. Dr. Mans earned his veterinary degree from the University of Leipzig in Germany, completed an internship in avian and exotic animal medicine at the University of Guelph, and worked in private practice in Hong Kong. He completed his residency in Zoological Medicine at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. His clinical interests include endoscopy, as well as sedation and anesthesia in special species.

Julie Walker, DVM, has joined the Department of Medical Sciences as a clinical assistant professor. Dr. Walker earned her veterinary degree from Michigan State University. She then participated in a small animal rotating internship before completing her residency in Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care, both at North Carolina State University. Her clinical interests include transfusion medicine and viscoelastic tests of blood coagulation.

SVM Welcomes New Residents and Interns

**RESIDENTS**

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<td>Neil Christensen, BVSc, MANCVSc</td>
<td>Radiation Oncology</td>
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<td>Kimberly Claus, DVM</td>
<td>Emergency and Critical Care</td>
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<td>Sarah Dowling, DVM</td>
<td>Small Animal Internal Medicine</td>
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<td>Margaux Edwards-Milewski, DVM</td>
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<td>Connie Fazio, DVM</td>
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<td>Brian Geesaman, DVM</td>
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<td>Ruth House-right, DVM</td>
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<td>Martin Kennedy, DVM</td>
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<td>Chad Lothamer, DVM</td>
<td>Dentistry and Oral Surgery</td>
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<td>Jaimie Miller, DVM</td>
<td>Anatomic Pathology</td>
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<td>MacKenzie Pellin, DVM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natasha Evans, BVSc</td>
<td>Emergency and Critical Care</td>
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<td>Kathryn Pitt, DVM</td>
<td>DVM, Radiation Oncology</td>
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**INTERNS**

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<tr>
<td>Erin Scott, VMD, Ophthalmology</td>
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<td>Lydia Soydan, DVM, Cardiology</td>
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<td>Rickard Kohler, DVM</td>
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<td>Rebecca Mantuo, DVM</td>
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<td>Kathryn Pitt, DVM</td>
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<td>Nicholas Szigetvari, DVM</td>
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<td>Kathryn Tsimbas, BVSc</td>
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AVMA Convention Honors Two SVM Alumni

The awards ceremony for the American Veterinary Medical Association’s (AVMA) Annual Convention, held this year in San Diego, California, honored some of the nation’s top veterinarians. Among these distinguished recipients were Heather Wamsley and Vicki Wilke, two UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) alumni.

“I thought it said something special about the excellent example set by the SVM faculty for us when we were students,” said Wamsley. Both Wamsley and Wilke were honored with student-nominated awards, demonstrating the impact they continue to have as role models for the next generation of veterinarians.

Heather Wamsley, class of 2000, received the Student AVMA Teaching Excellence Award, praising her ability to educate, inspire, and make an impact on her students. Wamsley is currently an assistant professor and the clinical pathology residency coordinator at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

Vicki Wilke, class of 1998, received the Student AVMA Community Outreach Excellence Award for her outstanding work in the community beyond her collegiate responsibilities. Wilke is currently an assistant professor in small animal surgery at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.
Ascertaining damage to internal organs, such as the kidneys, liver, and spleen, after an accident.

Helping plan radiation therapy or surgical treatment and monitor response to treatment.

Guiding a biopsy.

Detecting or confirming the presence of a tumor.

State-of-the-art CT Scanner $1 million
Computed tomography is a diagnostic procedure that uses special x-ray equipment to obtain cross-sectional images of the body. The CT computer displays these detailed images of the tissues of all body regions, removing superimposition. State-of-the-art computed tomography is used in the following ways:

- Detecting or confirming the presence of a tumor
- Guiding a biopsy
- Helping plan radiation therapy or surgical treatment and monitor response to treatment
- Ascertaining damage to internal organs, such as the kidneys, liver, and spleen, after an accident.

State-of-the-art MRI $1.5 million
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) helps diagnose many medical conditions. MRI uses a powerful magnetic field, radiofrequency pulses, and a computer to produce detailed images of organs, soft tissues, bones, vessels, and virtually all other internal body structures. These detailed images allow radiologists to better evaluate and determine the presence of certain diseases that may not be assessed adequately with other imaging methods, including CT.

Imaging Wishlist
Almost all patients seen at this hospital will require diagnostic imaging to determine the source of their discomfort, the severity of their injury, or how best to treat their disease. Our patients have a variety of different diseases—from heart disease to dental disease, from cancer to lameness—and each involves different needs for the optimal diagnostic imaging that will help us create a treatment plan and follow through on patient care.

If you would like to make a difference, a gift toward any of the following imaging wish list items would improve our ability to diagnose and treat our patients.

Randi Drees,
Head of Diagnostic Imaging

Additional giving opportunities for imaging equipment can be found at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/ImagingCenterWishlist

Research Training Grant Opens Doors for Vet Students

After four years of accumulating veterinary school loans and working at a minimal salary as a resident, it would be impossible to enter graduate school without financial support.

Sara Colopy, a recent PhD graduate and clinical instructor at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, faced a common roadblock when she completed her residency program at the SVM.

“Entering graduate school and getting started with a mentor is actually the easiest part of the process,” said Colopy. She explained that the transition from clinical training and practice into academic research can be difficult, and external funding can be hard to come by. Thankfully, Colopy’s mentor directed her to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research training grant offered at the SVM.

Charles Czuprynski, director of the training grant, explained that the grant seeks to help students transition from their veterinary studies into research. “The purpose of these grants is to provide support for students,” said Czuprynski. Outside of simple financial support, the program offers opportunities for travel, workshops, and of course specialized research training that participants likely did not receive in their previous veterinary medical studies. “This is really an ideal training environment,” said Czuprynski, explaining that the devoted faculty, the range of research opportunities, and the university’s position on the cutting edge of research create an exceptional atmosphere for trainees.

These opportunities appealed to Colopy, who found the grant to be the perfect solution to her dilemma. “I was interested in the prospect of advanced research training,” said Colopy. “I jumped on the opportunity and was fortunate to be one of the individuals who received an award.”

During her time on the grant, Colopy investigated the urinary tract and its ability to heal after injury. Her outstanding work earned her the notice of the American Urological Association, which awarded her a one-year fellowship that allowed her to complete her PhD after her time on the training grant was complete.

This year, the NIH chose to renew its funding of the training grant at the SVM for another five years. “This grant was renewed because we have such an excellent cohort of scientists,” said Czuprynski. “It is their research accomplishments, their records of excellence, and their dedication to mentoring that are the reasons for the success of this program.”

For students like Benjamin Stading, currently funded by the research training grant, the grant’s renewal offers the chance to make a transition that might otherwise have been impossible. After graduating from the SVM in 2008, Stading left to try his hand at private practice but found that something was missing. “I was still reading the wildlife disease digests regularly to keep up with the research in emerging zoonoses,” said Stading. “I decided I should do what gets me excited.”

With the support of the training grant, Stading is making the move into research. His current work looks at oral vaccines for free-ranging bat populations. “We hope to be able to induce an immune response in bats to a variety of diseases, including White-nose syndrome,” said Stading. With his passions rekindled, Stading is back on track. “I plan to pursue a career in emerging infectious disease research,” said Stading. “The opportunities and interdisciplinary scientific community here at the SVM will leave me well qualified to continue my career in research no matter where I end up.”

According to Czuprynski, this is the true intent of the research training grant. “The best measure of our training program is for people to go on and be successful,” said Czuprynski. “That’s the real goal.”

Colopy also credits the research training grant for helping her along her career path. With the completion of her PhD, Colopy is exactly where she wants to be—in a faculty position at the SVM. “I am very excited about this next chapter of my career. It is what I have envisioned for myself for years,” said Colopy. “I can say with confidence that I wouldn’t have been able to achieve what I have without the support of the training grant and faculty mentors.”

Ali Bartol
Unique Team Saves Dog’s Failing Heart

It is said the heart works in mysterious ways.

Unfortunately for Grey, a young and seemingly healthy German short-haired pointer, those mysterious ways were killing him. It would take the collaboration and innovation of experts from across the board to solve this particular puzzle and save Grey’s life.

Grey was wrestling with his brother when a moment of overexertion left him coughing uncontrollably. The trip to the local veterinarian in Minocqua revealed a shock for Grey’s owner: the problem was with his heart.

“The vet told me, ‘Get this dog to Madison immediately,’” said James Gedig, Grey’s owner. “He was on his last leg.”

When Grey arrived at UW Veterinary Care, he had gone from healthy pup to heart failure in nothing flat. Heidi Kellihan, a veterinary cardiologist at the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM), and her team recognized the symptoms of a congenital heart defect. Kellihan thought Grey was suffering from Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA), a common birth defect in dogs, but she was in for another surprise. “We went to correct the PDA vessel, and he didn’t have one,” said Kellihan.

In search of more information, Kellihan reached out to her counterparts on the human side of medicine at the UW American Family Children’s Hospital and Wisconsin Institute for Medical Research (WIMR). “We consulted the pediatric cardiologists at the hospital,” said Kellihan. “Their cases and our cases are very similar when it comes to congenital defects.”

With the help of the WIMR team, Kellihan took Grey to the human hospital for an advanced MRI scan. Chris Francois, a cardiovascular radiologist at WIMR, explained that they hoped this new imaging technique, called 4-D flow imaging, would reveal more about Grey’s heart. “It allows us to look at 3-D volume and how blood is flowing in the heart,” said Francois. “The technique proved very helpful in figuring out the physiology of Grey’s defect.”

With just a quick scan, Francois and his team had all the data they needed to create a 3-D computer model of Grey’s heart that showed where the blood was flowing within it. The results were surprising.

Grey did indeed have an abnormal vessel but not one that any of the veterinary or pediatric cardiologists had seen before. “This was in a very odd spot,” said Kellihan. “We didn’t know what we were dealing with without all the advanced diagnostic imaging.”

The abnormal vessel connected the aorta with the pulmonary artery, and the 4-D flow image revealed the strange effect on Grey’s heart. “It was creating this huge vortex,” said Kellihan, explaining that the high-tech MRI revealed blood spinning through the abnormal vessel so quickly that it was weakening the vessel walls.

There was no doubt that Grey required surgery, but it would not be easy. Unlike more common congenital defects that Kellihan and Francois see, Grey’s abnormal vessel position made it much more difficult to access surgically.

Dale Bjorling, the veterinary surgeon on the case, had a long and tricky surgery in front of him; the first four hours were spent simply dissecting around to where the defect was located. Even when Bjorling did have access, he did not have a clear view; he had to use other information as a guide.

“Just by touch, we could feel the abnormal flow of the blood from the aorta to the pulmonary artery,” said Bjorling. Kellihan provided additional information by operating a trans-esophageal echo to constantly monitor Grey’s blood flow. “It allowed her to tell us when we were obstructing the flow,” Bjorling explained. “Based on that information, we were able to place sutures from the outside and close off the abnormal vessel.”

Grey bounced back from his six-hour surgery with his usual puppy energy, making it hard to believe he ever had a failing heart. According to Kellihan, Grey was playing with his brother again in no time. “He had to be restricted for two weeks, and then he got to be Grey again,” said Kellihan.

The collaborations between human and veterinary, medical and surgical, cutting-edge technique and daily practice that went into this unusual case saved Grey’s life. But to Kellihan, Francois, and Bjorling, collaboration simply makes sense.

Kellihan explained that her team of veterinary cardiologists makes the trip to the human hospital on a regular basis to present cases. “We talk to them all the time,” said Kellihan. “If we have cases we want their opinion on, we just ask. It’s a really nice collaboration.”

Without this form of open communication, cases like Grey’s might pose a difficult challenge, but instead they offer a learning opportunity for many rather than an obstacle for one.

Ali Bartol
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Every year, the School of Veterinary Medicine receives tremendous support from veterinary clinics who donate to the Companion Animal Fund Sponsor program in the name of a client’s pet who has passed away. We are thankful to be able to help during a pet owner’s time of grief, even just by being a part of that sense of connection generated when a pet owner learns that their veterinarian made a donation in the name of their pet. But we feel even more grateful that we are able to put these gifts to good use to benefit animal care.

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We are deeply grateful to all who have contributed. Your gifts make an impact on the lives of animals and sometimes benefit human health as well. Whether you have chosen to direct your gift towards studies to improve animal health, scholarship funding to ease the financial burden on students, or improving the school’s facilities so that we can better serve you and your pets, your gifts go a long way. Your generosity makes the difference and allows us to maintain the school’s reputation for excellence.

We have made every effort to ensure that this list is accurate. If there are errors, we apologize, and encourage you to call the Office for Advancement at 608-265-9692 with any corrections.
Special Thanks for Legacy Gifts

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If you would like to make a difference, a gift towards any of the following equipment needs would make a huge impact in allowing our research to move forward.

Dale Bjorling, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Training

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The SVM has a number of talented clinical faculty who need space to carry out clinical research projects, such as trials of new drugs and therapeutic procedures, and assessment of better diagnostic tests in veterinary patients. Clinical faculty do not have adequate space to process samples, perform bench assays, store data, and archive samples. The proposed Shared Clinical Research Laboratory would be equipped with basic lab equipment, including a refrigerator, –80°C freezer, refrigerated centrifuge, fume hood, vortex, and pipettes.

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To order your wristband by mail, contact Laura Olson in the school’s Office for Advancement at 608-890-0203 or lmolson@vetmed.wisc.edu.
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We would like to thank our alumni who have donated in the past year to help improve our school, whether for the benefit of animal health, students like themselves, or simply to maintain the excellence of their school.

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Diagnostic Imaging: A Crucial Piece of the Puzzle

Our patients cannot tell us what is wrong with them. Often times the presenting complaint is vague; a pet is lethargic or not eating quite right. In addition to the thorough physical exam by the primary clinician, diagnostic imaging plays a crucial role in finding and characterizing a patient’s disease.

For the patient, diagnostic imaging means we can find the cause of their discomfort. In addition, diagnostic imaging has a direct impact on the patient care we can provide. This means that we, the clinicians, are able to get to the bottom of the problem. By being able to show where disease or injury is localized, how severe it is, and how a disease might have spread through the body, our clinicians have the tools to come up with the best treatment plan. Our students benefit as well. By seeing a state of the art patient workup, students gain a better understanding of diseases, patient care, and treatment options.

Much of our current equipment is outdated, and in some cases the image quality is not ideal. Some problems cannot be seen or take so long to image that the patient must be under anesthesia for a long time. With upgraded equipment at UW Veterinary Care, we will be able to provide improved image quality, which would allow us to better determine the extent of a disease. For example, a multislice CT scan would help us to see smaller lesions and allow images to be acquired faster. With faster processing and improved imaging quality, we could make a real impact on overall patient care.

Randi Drees
You hear “university veterinary dermatologist,” and you might think “ivory tower,” a scientist surrounded by lab dishes, isolated from the real world.

You probably don’t think of a high-powered academic, on her knees, teaching volunteers at an overcrowded animal shelter how to clean and disinfect vomit on a tile floor.

But Karen Moriello, a clinical professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, defies the stereotype. With boundless energy and enthusiasm, she has earned a devoted following among people who care for cats in animal shelters.

Moriello focuses on ringworm, one of the worst scourges of cats in animal shelters. The fungus that causes this skin disease is highly contagious, and prior to work at UW–Madison, the many shelters that lacked the necessary treatments had to euthanize cats that could be adopted.

“Ringworm is treatable and curable,” says Moriello. “But there is no snap blood test, it takes time to diagnose and treat.”

Cats must be isolated until the medicine takes effect, or else other cats — and caretakers — can be infected. Finding a faster, cheaper and surer method for detecting and treating ringworm has become Moriello’s passion.

Born on the northwest side of Chicago, she was in the first generation of her family to attend college, and she realizes that people need help to get where they need to go.

“I would not have gotten to vet school without help from my father’s steamfitters union,” she says. “I asked for a loan, but they wrote me a check; it was a gift.”

Another lesson in generosity came from Bill Barnes, her first veterinary boss.

“He gave free care, including paying for specialist care, for anyone who had a guide dog or a service dog,” Moriello says. “He felt this was his moral duty. And when I went to my dermatology residency, he paid for all the travel and helped me move.”

“She was one of the most energetic residents I have ever worked with,” says Valerie Fadok, who taught dermatology at the University of Florida. “She was unfailingly interested in all aspects of dermatology, super-enthusiastic, wonderful with people, wonderful with cats.”

That natural camaraderie with cats has been growing since Moriello met Nifty, a Siamese who joined Moriello’s family when she was about 5 years old.

“I learned to speak cat,” she says. “You have to handle cats with a certain degree of regal respect. A cat says, ‘You need to get a little credibility with me, don’t get personal too fast.’”

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Moriello came to UW–Madison in 1986, and lives in Brooklyn, Wis., with her husband, Mark Peters, a veterinarian who practiced for 20 years in nearby Oregon. Their son, Ethan Peters, just graduated from Beloit College and is studying health care administration at the University of Minnesota.

The family has adopted two stray cats: Henry and Tink.

At UW–Madison, Moriello became interested in ringworm, despite being advised “there is nothing good that can come from an interest in ringworm.” Communicable to cats and people, lengthy to diagnose and treat, and utterly unsexy, it had all the makings of an academic black hole.

With joint roles in teaching and research at the veterinary school, Moriello was intrigued when fourth-year student Sandra Newbury asked for help creating a ringworm treatment program at the Dane County Humane Society, where she was soon to be a veterinarian.

“Because of her expertise in ringworm, this was really fortunate for the world of animal sheltering,” says Newbury, an extension veterinarian at the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine who is also on the faculty at the UW–Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. “She was totally fascinated and able to flex all that knowledge she had.”

Far from the high-tech world of the veterinary school, Moriello had to learn new ways to teach and motivate staff and especially volunteers, some of whom had never been inside a biology class.

In 2003 at Dane County, Newbury and Moriello established the ringworm screening and treatment protocol that is now followed all over the country.

“It’s a matter of taking the lingo out and making analogies,” Moriello says. “Top-down information flow does not work so well at shelters. If you are there, getting dirty along with them as you clean the floor, you can make changes work.”

The system has saved the lives of more than 100 cats at the Dane County Humane Society in the past year, says Erica Smedberg, staff veterinarian and another former Moriello student.

“In many other shelters these cats would have been euthanized [to control the outbreak],” Smedberg says. “Here, every cat that makes it through the program gets adopted.”

Moriello’s enthusiasm seems as contagious as ringworm itself.

“She has a passion that a lot of people don’t have for teaching, explaining,” Smedberg says. “It’s infectious and attractive.”

In the past year, Moriello used personal vacation time to establish a ringworm-control system at a large shelter in Nevada where the fungus had run rampant. Because hundreds of tests are needed to diagnose ringworm and evaluate treatment, Moriello controls costs with “big box medicine.” The toothbrushes that collect fur samples, for example, are bought by the hundreds at a discount store.

Moriello says her devotion and concern for cats and their owners are a reflection of caring mentors. “My first boss, Bill Barnes, used to tell me, ‘You have to stop and think. Are you doing this because of the money or because it’s the right thing?’”

Nobody at a shelter wants to euthanize animals that could be saved, she says, “but shelters get animals dropped off in a box, 40 cats from a little old lady, cats from foreclosures. What are you going to do?”

What you are going to do, if you are Moriello, is take your skills and expertise out and go to work.

“These techniques are of no use if they only happen in my lab,” she says. “I have been very fortunate that I can do what a land-grant institution is supposed to do, to help the people who have been paying for the bricks.”

David Tenenbaum
Jean Sander, DVM 1987

“It was one of those journeys I didn’t expect, but it has been perfect.”

When Jean Sander, DVM 1987, decided to switch careers and pursue veterinary medicine, she had no idea that her new path would lead her to one day become the dean of the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Every step along the way, it was Sander’s willingness to take risks, keep an open mind, and constantly challenge herself that finally led her to where she is today.

That first risk started with trusting a new, untested school. “A friend of mine had heard about a new veterinary school that had opened up in Wisconsin,” said Sander. “She was adamant that I apply.” Sander took a leap of faith and moved to Madison, Wisconsin, eagerly awaiting the final decision on her admission. When she received her offer, she accepted without hesitation, and the decision paid off. “It completely changed my life,” said Sander.

The environment at the new UW School of Veterinary Medicine had a strong impact on Sander. Because the school was still creating much of its formal infrastructure, she and the other students could be more hands-on in their own education. “I was really gratified when I went to my advisors and they said, ‘Why don’t you come up with a program that you think will fit your needs?’” Sander said. “We really created everything from the ground up.”

When Sander graduated in 1987, she went on to graduate school at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, intending to work in the poultry industry. However, by the end of her studies, Sander found her career taking another turn as she started looking for a job in academia instead.

When she took a faculty position at Georgia, Sander recalled the lessons she had learned at the SVM and sought to give students the same experience that her mentors had given her. “They were more willing to think outside the box than other schools,” said Sander. “It taught me not to be a barrier to students.”

Sander settled easily into academia. But, with the constant drive to challenge herself, she couldn’t help but look for the next step. “Being in academia is like being a student,” Sander explained. “As a student, you get the next test, the next grade. As a faculty member, it’s the next grant, the next promotion. I just kept thinking, ‘What’s the next test for me?’”

This attitude, combined with her concern for keeping students’ needs at the forefront, kept Sander rising steadily through the academic ranks. She became coordinator of the graduate program at Georgia, and then in 2003 she took a position at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine where she became the associate dean of student affairs. But what was the next challenge?

“I started looking at deanships,” said Sander. Sander was patient; she knew this was a big decision. When she was offered the deanship at the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2011, Sander knew it would be the right place for her. “It was the perfect fit,” she said.

One of Sander’s new ideas for the college involves helping veterinarians refresh their image. “I don’t think we do a particularly good job of showing our value to people outside the profession,” said Sander. “Sure, we are great companions, but that’s just one piece of the puzzle.” According to Sander, veterinarians tend to be caring, compassionate, and humble. Although this is great for animals, it means they are hesitant to brag and often sell themselves short. “We are highly trained doctors,” said Sander. “Let’s get out there and show people how great we are.”

In connection with this, Sander’s advice to future veterinarians, and even to current ones, is to learn how to connect with people outside of your profession. “If you talk amongst yourselves, then word never gets out,” said Sander. “But once you make a connection, then you have somebody’s ear. Then you can make a difference.”

Ali Bartol

Jean Sander, one of the first students at the SVM, found her calling in academia where she is now dean at the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Holly Pohl, DVM 1994

Holly A. Pohl passed away unexpectedly on August 21, 2012 at her home in Chicago, IL. Pohl, 51, was practicing at the Cat Hospital of Chicago where she had been since it opened in December 1998. She is survived by her father, Donald; mother, Linda; brother, Randy; and other friends and family. Her family asked that memorial contributions be made to the Companion Animal Fund at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.

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You are wonderful.

Over the last five years I have had the opportunity to meet many of you, and I am always impressed by what an accomplished and dedicated group you are. As UW School of Veterinary Medicine alumni, you are respected members of your community. You are dedicated to the veterinary medicine profession. Not only do you care for animals, you also mentor, lead and make a difference. And you know how to have fun!

While I may argue that SVM alums are the best, UW-Madison is known internationally not only for its campus accomplishments but also the contributions of its alumni. This fall, UW-Madison launched a “Share the Wonderful” campaign, an effort to celebrate and share the impact the university has had through its alumni, faculty, and staff. The campaign is also a call to action to pay it forward by giving to the annual fund. These gifts ensure that the next generation of students experiences the same world-class education you did.

Under the leadership of Dean Mark D. Markel, we are working to ensure that UW-Madison is leading the future of veterinary medicine. He is committed to having the most talented faculty and staff, the brightest students, and the most dedicated clinicians focused on advancing animal and human health. To reach his goals, we need the support of alumni and friends like you who will invest in the school’s future success. If you haven’t done so already, I invite you to pay it forward and share the wonderful by making a gift to the school’s annual fund. You can by visiting www.sharethewonderful.org and donating to the School of Veterinary Medicine’s Annual Fund (you’ll have to specify the SVM). Thank you in advance for your support. You really are wonderful!

Kristi V. Thorson
Associate Dean for Advancement and Administration (interim)
This holiday season consider giving those animal lovers on your list a gift that benefits animals.

For a suggested $10 donation per card, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine will send a holiday greeting card to the recipient of your choice. The beautiful full-color greeting card will include a message stating that a donation was made in their name to the School of Veterinary Medicine, and that proceeds will benefit projects that improve animal health.

Each year, a different artist donates artwork for the SVM holiday card. This year’s artwork, entitled *Sleddoggin’*, was donated by Marcia Sparks, a local artist who lives in Columbia County.

In addition to the holiday card, a limited edition print featuring a different work of art by Marcia Sparks will be available. This 12” x 14.5” print, entitled *Wanna Go Outside?* will be signed and numbered by the artist. Offered for a suggested donation of $35, print quantities are limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Both card and print make ideal, heartfelt holiday gifts for veterinarians, friends, family, people’s pets, or animal lovers.

Order forms for the holiday card and print can be downloaded at [www.vetmed.wisc.edu/holidaycard](http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/holidaycard) or contact Laura Olson in the school’s Office for Advancement at 608-890-0203.