

On Call



SCHOOL OF
Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

WHAT'S INSIDE?



Tiny donkey, big problem

Large and small animal surgeons team up to repair a miniature donkey's deformed leg.



Family practice

Thirty years after enrolling at the SVM, alumnus Dan Heder looks forward to working with his daughter, the school's first known legacy student.

Healing better

A new regenerative medicine therapy that helps patients heal is part of two ongoing clinical trials.

Keen eye for cows

Vet med students turn in rare perfect performances at a major cow judging contest.



See Jack run

A novel surgical procedure puts an exceptional field trial dog back in competition.

University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine
www.vetmed.wisc.edu

UW Veterinary Care
uwveterinarycare.wisc.edu

SVM Celebrates 30 Years

It has been 30 years since the first class of veterinary medical students enrolled at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM). For most of the aspiring veterinarians and researchers who now fill its classrooms and labs, the school has always been here.

But in the world of veterinary medical schools, the SVM is a relative newcomer—one of the youngest of 28 in the United States—and its creation was not inevitable.

“It took a tremendous amount of effort by several key people and organizations to push it through the state legislature,” says Dean Emeritus Bernard Easterday, the school's first dean.

Although the school is somewhat new, the University of Wisconsin-Madison boasts a strong tradition of veterinary science, hiring veterinarians as early as the late 1800s in its Department of Animal Husbandry.

In 1911, the university established the Department of Veterinary Science in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. It did not offer a veterinary medical degree, but it quickly gained an international reputation for research and graduate training, a mantle that the school would assume after its creation.



Dean Emeritus Bernard Easterday speaks at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Veterinary Medicine Building on the UW-Madison campus. Seated are several key people involved in the creation of the school and its facility (left to right): Rep. Gervase Hephner; Jan Grignano of the Anthony Grignano Company, which constructed the building; Sen. Thomas Harnisch; and Susan Hyland, the school's first associate dean for academic affairs.

In 1947, the UW Board of Regents passed a resolution that a school of veterinary medicine should be established on campus when adequate funds were available.

Thirty-two years passed before the circumstances were right for this to happen.

For a variety of reasons, certain regents and politicians opposed the

creation of a veterinary medical school. Proposals rode the roller-coaster of politics for decades. In fact, in 1976, Gov. Patrick Lucey vetoed bills authorizing the creation and funding of a veterinary medical school. The state assembly overrode both vetoes, but the state senate overrode only the first, leaving the school in an odd

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SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE TIMELINE

April 1947: UW Board of Regents pass resolution that a School of Veterinary Medicine should be established when adequate funds are available

July 1979: Governor Dreyfus signs the bill that establishes the School of Veterinary Medicine and provides \$28 million for construction

March 1981: Ground-breaking for the Veterinary Medicine Building

March 1983: Dedication of the Veterinary Medicine Building

August 1983: First class of 80 veterinary medical students begin study

May 1987: First class graduates with Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees

May 2013: 30th anniversary of the enrollment of the first class

McGill is Charter Recipient of AAVMC Diversity Scholarship



The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) named Samantha McGill, Class

of 2014, as its first recipient of the Patricia M. Lowrie Diversity Leader Scholarship. The AAVMC established the scholarship to honor a veterinary student who has made significant contributions to enhancing diversity or inclusion at his or her institution.

McGill has served in leadership positions in the Gay Straight Veterinary Alliance, Broad Spectrum, and the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA). She has participated in a variety of veterinary leadership experiences, and she has designed a curriculum for a veterinary medical mentoring program for underrepresented high school seniors.

"The SVM is committed to diversity and inclusivity, and we work to incorporate and integrate all forms of diversity into the school's activities," says Lynn Maki, interim associate dean for academic affairs. "Sammi is an excellent example of a student who has contributed significantly to that effort."

DATES TO REMEMBER

www.vetmed.wisc.edu/events

July 22, 2013: SVM Alumni Reception at American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention in Chicago.

August 7, 2013: UW-Madison Day at the State Fair. More at www.statefair.wisc.edu

October 1-5, 2013: World Dairy Expo at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wis. More at www.wvma.org

October 10-13, 2013: Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association Convention at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wis. More at www.worlddairyexpo.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Our Past and the Path to Our Future

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Summer 2013 edition of *On Call*. In this issue, we highlight the events that led to the creation of the School of Veterinary Medicine and some of the key players who served as important champions for the school and its establishment. It continues to amaze me how far the school has come in its brief history. We are regularly ranked among the top five schools of veterinary medicine nationwide, a vivid testament to the talent and dedication of those who have worked and taught in the school since its founding.

In order to maintain this level of excellence and to continue to serve as a national and international leader in veterinary



Mark D. Markel

medicine, the school is updating its strategic plan. We have posted a strategic plan page on our website (www.vetmed.wisc.edu/strategic-plan), which outlines our mission, vision, fundamental principles, and the strategic priorities that we will focus on over the

coming five to seven years.

During the summer, we will engage our faculty and staff in developing the specific initiatives that we will undertake to achieve these strategic priorities. We value the perspectives of our friends and supporters; if you have any input on this process or our strategic plan, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As we reflect on the past and look to the future, one constant is the difference friends like you make. Your partnership and investment ensures we can provide the best training for our students, offer state-of-the-art patient care, and make the discoveries that improve animal and human health. *Thank you!*

30 YEARS from page 1

state of limbo in which it was authorized but not funded. Lucey left his post in 1977 to serve as U.S. ambassador to Mexico, and Lt. Gov. Martin Schreiber, a veterinary medical school supporter, changed the game when he stepped in to finish out Lucey's term.

The efforts of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association were just as important, says Easterday. In addition, two key state legislators crafted and championed the legislation that would ultimately establish the school: Rep. Gervase Hephner and Sen. Thomas Harnisch.

Hephner owned and operated a farm near Chilton, Wis., where he dealt mostly in beef cattle, cash crops, and some dairy.

"That's why he was so adamant about having a vet school in Wisconsin," says Joseph McGrath, Hephner's nephew. "It was for the agricultural industry. He wanted a school that would educate and train enough veterinarians to care

"...a victory for the state of Wisconsin, especially the dairy industry."

for the large animal stock throughout the state."

The state legislature finally established the school in July 1979, and the first class of 80 students was admitted in 1983, a landmark for celebrating 30 years. Prior to the school's founding, only a handful of slots were held open each year for Wisconsin residents at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine through a

reciprocity agreement.

Hephner called this expansion in veterinary medical education opportunities "a victory for the State of Wisconsin, especially the dairy industry." It was also a victory for his great nephew (and Joseph McGrath's son), Stephen McGrath, who graduated with a DVM from Wisconsin in 2011. His own experiences, as a result of his education at the SVM, span large, small, and exotic animals, demonstrating the diversity of the school's expertise and influence today.

Nik Hawkins

SVM's Founding Team

Between 1979 and 1983, several individuals from the university coordinated the academic planning, recruitment of faculty and staff, and facilities construction necessary for the school. The "founding team" included Dean Bernard Easterday, a professor in the Department of Veterinary Science; Richard Bristol, an extension veterinarian in the Department of Veterinary Science; Sue Hyland, at the time a recent veterinary science PhD who took on responsibility for academic affairs; Dan Redmond, a budget expert from the School of Medicine; and Linda Chandler, who provided administrative support for the entire endeavor. Liaisons from the Office of the Chancellor and University of Wisconsin System, Peter Bunn and Albert Beaver, also played a critical role in the success of the planning phase.

Novel Surgical Procedure Saves Resilient Retriever's Field Trial Career

For an athletic dog, breathing problems can be devastating. Jack, a 3-year-old Labrador Retriever and one of the youngest field trial dogs at the national level, faced this very challenge just a few months ago. But his natural toughness, coupled with UW Veterinary Care's surgical expertise, have put him back on top again.

When he was four months old, Jack contracted pythiosis, an infectious disease caused when an animal ingests *Pythium insidiosum*, usually by drinking standing water. The organism typically invades through wounds in the skin or gastrointestinal tract, develops in the stomach or small intestine, and eventually forms granular tissue much like a scab that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, and even death.

However, with the help of quality veterinary medical attention and diligent care from his owners at the time—trainer Charlie Moody and his wife, Heather—Jack pulled through. He recovered well and quickly demonstrated an aptitude for field trials, events in which hunting dogs compete against each other. He earned his first championship and qualified for his first national competition when he was barely three.

"It's rare for a dog so young to compete with top-level dogs, but he can," says Wally Riffle who, along with his wife, Cheryl, adopted Jack when he was 21 months old.

However, signs of trouble emerged again during Jack's first trip to nationals when the Riffles noticed he was struggling to breathe. They brought him to a veterinary medical school closer to their hometown of Germantown, Tenn., where veterinarians determined that a benign mass of tissue, possibly linked to his brush with pythiosis, had formed in his larynx, leading to laryngeal paralysis. They recommended a procedure that would tie back the laryngeal

cartilage. This would help Jack breathe better but could also severely hamper his athletic pursuits by putting him at risk for aspiration during water retrievals.

"Our number one concern was to help him breathe normally, even if it would sacrifice his athletic career," says Riffle. "But I thought I should first investigate other options."

Riffle sought a second opinion at UW Veterinary Care based on the recommendation of friends connected with the field trial scene.



Jack holds his first-place ribbon following his victory at the Magnolia Field Trial Club.

Dr. Jonathan McNulty, professor of surgery and soft tissue surgeon, examined Jack and determined that the larynx was merely fused, not paralyzed.

"Instead of a tie back, we did a procedure where we shaved back the mass and shifted the laryngeal tissue so it wouldn't fuse again," says

McNulty, who conducted the surgery along with resident Kathy Guthrie. "It's a somewhat novel procedure and it's not written up in the textbooks. It was custom

crafted for this particular situation, and we got him back in performance shape."

"Dr. McNulty was very patient and gave me a lot of personal time," says Riffle. "His attention to detail is awesome, and I could tell from the outset that he was comfortable with the surgery. I couldn't find that comfort level anywhere else."

Jack's surgery took place on Jan. 23, and he was back in training by March 6. On March 17 he beat 78 other dogs at the Magnolia Field Trial Club in Alabama on his way to a first-place finish. He is now only a couple of points shy of qualifying for nationals again this year.

"Jack is unbelievable," says Riffle. "He's like Superdog. My wife and I love him to death. He'll be our pet for life."

Nik Hawkins

Awards and Honors in Brief

Read more at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/category/news



Kawaoka Elected to National Academy of Sciences

Yoshihiro Kawaoka, professor of pathobiological sciences and leading expert on influenza, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) as a foreign associate, a non-voting member with citizenship outside of the United States. Membership in the NAS, a private organization founded in 1863, is an extremely high honor for a scientist or engineer.



Nordlund Honored as Dairy Industry Person of the Year

The World Dairy Expo announced in March that Dr. Ken Nordlund, clinical professor in the Department of Medical Sciences, is the 2013 Dairy Industry Person of the Year.

Dr. Nordlund is a board-certified dairy specialist in the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. He joined the UW School of Veterinary Medicine in 1989 and helped found the food animal production medicine program.



Duncan Named WARF Professor

Dr. Ian Duncan, professor in the Department of Medical Sciences, has been named the Sir William Lee Weipers Professor of Veterinary Medicine, an honor that includes \$75,000 in research support from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) for five years. Dr. Duncan studies the development of myelin—which coats parts of nerve cells and is essential to nerve signaling—and the way nervous system disorders disrupt myelin.

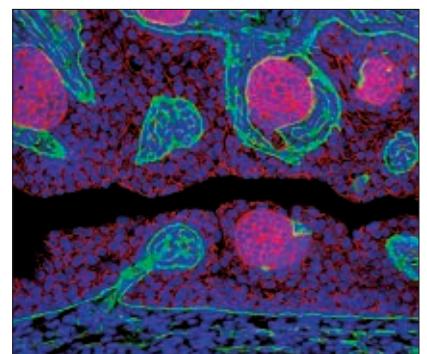
Mehta Among Winners of Cool Science Image Contest

Vatsal Mehta, a research associate in the Department of Comparative Biosciences, was selected as one of the winners of the UW-Madison campus-wide Cool Science Image Contest. His submission, a fine combination of science and art, was a micrograph showing a cluster of cells in a transgenic mouse exhibiting high levels of beta catenin, a protein that plays a role in prostate development.



Muir Earns Distinguished Teaching Award

Dr. Peter Muir, professor in the Department of Surgical Sciences, was among 10 UW-Madison faculty who received a 2013 Distinguished Teaching Award. "Dr. Muir has been instrumental in changing the way orthopaedic surgery is taught to veterinary students," says Jonathan McNulty, professor of surgery and chair of surgical sciences. "His efforts have also led to advancement in teaching in other disciplines as faculty have become aware of his efforts and the impact that they have made on student instruction."



Surgeons Partner to Repair Miniature Donkey's Complex Limb Deformity

After only a few moments with Tiny Tim, an energetic miniature donkey, he disarms you with a gentle gaze, a flick of his long ears, and an affectionate nuzzle. But not long ago his most noticeable feature was a malformed right hind leg, twisted and bent at such an odd angle that it could not properly support his weight.

Fortunately for Tiny Tim there are people like Angela Langoski, President and Founder of Holyland Donkey Haven, Wisconsin's only donkey rescue. "This poor little donkey had no name and he was very malnourished," says Langoski, who brought Tiny Tim to UW Veterinary Care for help. "I wanted to see him have a high-quality life. He's such a sweetheart."

Large animal surgeon Dr. Samantha Morello took up the case. She determined through X-rays that Tiny Tim had a severe angular deformity of the tibia coupled with abnormal bone growth, possibly due to an old fracture in his growth plate.

"Minor angular deformities can be fixed in large animals, but we're seldom able to repair major deformities of long bones like the tibia," says Morello. "Due to the large size of the animal, there aren't implants that can reliably hold their weight. But with Tiny Tim's small size, I could look to our small animal surgeons for guidance on how to use imaging to plan the best procedure for correcting his deformity."

Small animal surgeons Dr. Peter Muir and Dr. Jason Bleedorn offered up their expertise. The team brought Tiny Tim to the nearby Wisconsin Institute for Medical Research (WIMR) for advanced computed tomography (CT). Working with WIMR experts, they used the CT scans to create 3-D images and, through a process called stereolithography, a to-scale plastic model of Tiny



Above: A close look at Tiny Tim's hind leg after the procedure shows the twist and bend of the tibia have been corrected. Pictured in the background (left to right): Dr. Courtney Arnoldy, Angela Langoski, and Dr. Samantha Morello.

Top left: A to-scale model of the deformed tibia (top), created through stereolithography, rests beside a preserved normal tibia from a similarly sized equine. Bottom left: A pre-operation photo of Tiny Tim's hind leg shows the severity of the deformity. Bottom right: An X-ray of the leg after surgery shows the metal plates stabilizing the bone graft.

Tim's abnormal bone (donated by ProtoMed of Denver, Colo.). They used the model to plan and practice the complex procedure.

The surgery involved cutting out a wedge-shaped section of the tibia and reattaching the two ends with steel plates to correct the twist and bend of the leg. Then they grafted the cut with fragments of bone to serve as a scaffold for healing. The surgeons used the practice session to become more familiar with the procedure and contour the metal plates to the surface of the tibia, all of which minimized the length of the surgery and Tiny Tim's risk for infection.

The results were even better

than expected. "He was comfortably walking around the next day with only mild pain," says Morello. "Ten weeks after surgery, he could stand with his leg directly underneath him."

Large and small animal surgery collaborations occur quite often at UW Veterinary Care and distinguish the UW School of Veterinary Medicine from its peers, says Muir. "We have three small animal orthopaedic surgeons and three large animal surgeons on the faculty, all board-certified in veterinary surgery, so patients benefit from the collective wisdom of six veterinarians," he says.

Tiny Tim's care and good

fortune continue. He is undergoing rehabilitation therapy with Dr. Courtney Arnoldy to retrain his muscles, tendons, and ligaments to function properly with a straight leg. And according to Langoski, thanks to the "Godsends" at UW Veterinary Care, he is already running, and he has captured the hearts of sponsors who contribute to the costs of his care while they look for someone to adopt him.

"He has been so positive through this whole thing," Langoski says. "He had a tough time, but he took what he was given and worked with it. Animals teach us so much."

Nik Hawkins

DVM Students Earn Win, Historic Perfect Scores in Cow Judging Contest

In its 83-year history, the Hoard's Dairyman Cow Judging Contest has seen 5.5 million entries, and only 84 individuals have ever received a perfect score by aligning their rankings with those of the official judges. Five of the perfect scores were awarded this year, and they all went to students from the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine.

"If we can teach these students as much about the interior workings of cows as they already know about judging the outside appearance, they will become some amazing veterinarians," says Ken Nordlund, clinical professor of food animal production medicine who served as the UW team's coach. "We could not be more proud of them."

The perfect scores earned the UW team the top five individual places in the contest's senior division. Their historic performance



The winning team from the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (left to right): Loren Heusel, Chelsea Holschbach; Megan Foy, Andrew Dietsche, Dan Haeflinger, Chelsea Crawford, Valerie Ujzdowski, Janelle Hoffman, and Brittany Kern.

forced a tie-breaking contest from which Chelsea Holschbach emerged as the winner. Megan Foy, Dan Haeflinger, Brittany Kern, and Chelsea Crawford earned second through fifth place, respectively.

Coupled with exceptional

performances from Andrew Dietsche, Loren Heusel, Janelle Hoffman, and Valerie Ujzdowski, the perfect scores also propelled the UW team to a first-place finish in the contest's collegiate division, besting 78 other teams. Each of the

teammates is a member of the UW Bovine Club and all are interested in dairy or beef production medicine.

This year's contest included nearly 19,000 entries from 49 U.S. states and eight foreign countries.

Nik Hawkins

New Faculty



Robert Lipinski, PhD, has joined the Department of Comparative Biosciences as an assistant professor.

Rob received his PhD in molecular and environmental toxicology from UW-Madison in 2008. He went on to a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he studied embryology and teratology while using cutting-edge small animal imaging techniques to investigate mouse models of human birth defects. The focus of his research program is to better understand how genetic and environmental factors interact in causing etiologically complex birth defects, including cleft lip and palate. His teaching will focus on developmental anatomy for first-year veterinary medical students.



Gillian McLellan, BVMS, PhD, has joined the Department of Surgical Sciences as an assistant profes-

sor of comparative ophthalmology with a joint appointment in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences in the School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). Gill is a graduate of Glasgow University Veterinary School (UK) and worked in practice before completing a PhD and ophthalmology residency at the University of London. She was a faculty member at the University of California, Davis and Iowa State University before joining the SMPH as an associate scientist. Gill is a Diplomate of the European and American Colleges of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. Her clinical and research interests are glaucoma and imaging of the eye.



Cecilia Robot, DrVetMed, has joined the Department of Medical Sciences as a clinical instructor

in medical oncology. She earned her veterinary medical degree from the University of Liege in Belgium where she completed a small animal rotating internship. She then participated in a clinical trials-focused internship and three-year residency at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, after which she achieved board certification in medical oncology. She worked as a medical oncologist in a private specialty practice in France before returning to Madison. Her clinical interests include comparative oncology and clinical trials, exotic animal oncology, and pathology.



Leandro Teixeira, DVM, MS, has joined the Department of Pathobiological Sciences as a clinical

instructor in anatomic pathology. Leandro earned his veterinary degree from the São Paulo State University in Brazil where he also completed a residency and a master's degree program in anatomic pathology. He completed a fellowship program in comparative ocular pathology followed by another fellowship in vision science at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. His clinical interests include comparative and toxicological ocular pathology.

Regenerative Medicine Therapy Enhances Patient Care and Clinical Research

Platelet-rich plasma (PRP), a new therapy now available at UW Veterinary Care, is improving the healing process for patients while presenting new opportunities for clinical research.

Platelets, one of three main types of blood cells, play a major role in blood clotting and repairing connective tissues because they contain numerous growth factors—proteins and hormones that stimulate cellular growth. PRP amplifies this natural healing process by increasing the concentration of platelets in a patient's plasma.

“We take a sample of blood from the patient and separate the platelets and plasma from the white and red blood cells using a centrifuge,” says Sabrina Brounts, clinical associate professor of large animal surgery. “This creates a platelet-rich plasma sample, which is injected back into the patient to enhance healing and recovery.”

Part of the budding field of regenerative medicine, PRP is exceptionally safe and has minimal side effects because it is derived from the patient's own body. UW Veterinary Care clinicians use it

to treat tendon and ligament injuries, joint problems, and wounds in horses and dogs. In addition to improving animal care, PRP has also opened doors to new clinical research.

Evaluating Equine Tendon Injuries

Brounts is using PRP in a study that tests a new technique for monitoring the healing progress of injured tendons in horses.

Performance horses commonly suffer injuries to their superficial digital flexor tendons (SDFT), and they often re-injure them after a premature return to competition. “This is because assessment of how well they're healing involves too much guesswork,” says Brounts. “We need an objective, quantitative, and non-invasive method.”

In her study, Brounts uses a new technique, developed and only available at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, called Acoustoelastography (AEG), which uses ultrasound to evaluate the stiffness of tendons. “Injured and healthy tendons have different

Clinical Trial Participation Information

More information about these clinical trials can be found at <http://uwveterinarycare.wisc.edu/clinical-trials/orthopedics>

Horses Needed for Study on Acute Superficial Digital Flexor Tendon Problems

Contact Sabrina Brounts at 608-263-7600 (option #3) or brounts@vetmed.wisc.edu.

Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) as a Regenerative Medicine Treatment for Dogs with Non-contact Cruciate Rupture

Contact Peter Muir at 608-262-6512 or muirp@vetmed.wisc.edu

levels of stiffness,” says Brounts. “And just like guitar strings, they have different sounds depending on that stiffness, so the sound can be used to determine how well a tendon has healed.”

Horses with acute injuries to the SDFT will be treated with rest and/or PRP. Their progress will be monitored for six months to a year, and AEG will be used at re-check appointments every two months to assess the mechanical integrity (stiffness and strain) of the healing tendons. Brounts hopes to demonstrate the feasibility of AEG as a simple, inexpensive tool that can track the recovery progress of injured horse tendons, improve treatment, and help owners make well-informed decisions about returning their animals to competition.

“We'll also investigate the enhanced healing that PRP can bring to tendon healing, which will benefit both animal and human medicine,” she says.

PRP Therapy for Cruciate Ruptures in Dogs

Another ongoing clinical trial focuses on the potential of PRP to help heal damaged ligaments in dogs. Cruciate rupture (CR), a common condition found in the canine knee (stifle), causes 20% of all lameness in dogs and has an

enormous economic impact.

“By one estimate, the dog-owning public in the United States spends more than \$1.5 billion per year on this condition,” says Peter Muir, professor of small animal orthopaedic surgery and principal investigator for the study.

Current surgical treatments for CR stabilize the knee joint but do not repair the damaged or torn cruciate ligament, and associated arthritis typically worsens over time. Aimed at reducing the need for surgical stabilization, the study will test the effectiveness of a PRP-collagen hydrogel on dogs with stable knees and early signs of CR.

“Our long-term goal is to develop a safe and effective therapy that will prevent progressive tearing of the ligament, enable healing, and block the progression of arthritis,” says Muir. “We'll also use the findings to help future work aimed at developing a bioenhanced cruciate repair treatment for dogs with unstable knees in which the cruciate ligament is completely torn.”

The study will focus primarily on the cranial cruciate ligament, the equivalent of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), which is commonly torn in humans, so the findings have the potential to advance both animal and human medicine.

Nik Hawkins

Research Grant Briefs

Jorgensen Receives \$1.6 Million to Investigate Ovarian Failure

The National Institutes of Health have awarded Joan Jorgensen, assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Biosciences, a \$1.6 million grant to study the genetic factors underlying premature ovarian failure (POF). Women without functional ovaries are infertile and require significant intervention and therapy to maintain their overall health. The study uses genetic mouse models to uncover the components that are essential to maintaining the survival and health of follicles, which in turn ensure the survival of oocytes (eggs), so that new treatments or preventative measures may be developed for women suffering from POF.

CBS Faculty Win \$400,000 Grant to Study Treatment of Spinal Cord Injury

Tracy Baker-Herman and Gordon Mitchell of the Department of Comparative Biosciences have been awarded a two-year Department of Defense grant for \$400,000 to explore the mechanisms giving rise to functional recovery after spinal cord injury. They will study the capacity for spontaneous recovery and the ability to induce further recovery with novel treatment strategies. While the funds are currently delayed by federal sequestration, they are hopeful they will be able to get to work soon.

Alum and Student Make Exceptional Father-Daughter Team

Dan Heder, DVM 1987, enrolled 30 years ago as a member of the first class at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM). As he rounds out a long and rewarding career, he finds himself the owner of a thriving clinic and a diagnostic imaging service. He credits the SVM for putting him on the road to success, and now, as he looks forward to life after work, he can also thank the school for what he calls his “exit strategy.”

His daughter, Brianne Heder, the school’s first known legacy student, is preparing to fill her father’s shoes as she enters her fourth and final year in the DVM program. After graduation, she plans to join the family practice, learn the ropes of managing a clinic, and eventually buy the business.

“Brianne has a lot to offer us because she’s also interested in the business side of things,” says Dan Heder. In fact, she’s been preparing for the role for quite some time through involvement with the Veterinary Business Management Association, and she recently won the Simmons Educational Fund Business Aptitude Award.

But underlying the Heders’ business acumen is a deep passion for animals, which they both developed



Brianne Heder, class of 2014, and Dan Heder, DVM 1987, and Briann’s dog, Chazz, stand outside Dan’s practice, Edgerton Veterinary Clinic, where they will work together following Brianne’s graduation.

at an early age. Dan grew up with all kinds of critters on a farm in Franklin, Wis., an experience that propelled him into veterinary medicine instead of other professional fields. Brianne adopted her first cat when she was three and announced her plan to be a veterinarian as

early as the fourth grade. That plan crystallized one day when her father was called in to perform an emergency C-section on a Labrador Retriever. Afterwards, she helped care for the puppies as they recovered. She was hooked.

“That was my first real hands-on experience with veterinary medicine,” says Brianne. “That’s when I knew.”

Knowing some of the challenges associated with a career in veterinary medicine, Dan half-jokingly urged Brianne to apply for medical school instead. “But I lost that argument,” he says. “Then I fully embraced the concept.”

“My Dad loves his profession,” says Brianne. “He’s clearly happy doing what he does. That drew me in.”

Brianne has seen this happiness up close at the family businesses. Dan owns and operates Edgerton Veterinary Clinic in Edgerton, Wis., and Lakeland Veterinary Imaging, which provides mobile ultrasound services throughout south-central Wisconsin and computed tomography (CT) at a satellite clinic in Madison. Brianne has worked with her father for many years, gaining valuable

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Supporting the Next 30 Years



Dear alumni:

As we reflect on the school’s first 30 years, we also remain focused on the future and making sure that the University of

Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine is positioned to lead the profession in the years to come. We’re finalizing our updated strategic plan, which you can see at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/strategic-plan. We’ve been busy moving forward by hiring new faculty, improving our equipment and facilities, enhancing our curriculum, and investing in financial aid for our students.

Earlier this year we shared our plans with the school’s Board of Visitors. They are excited about where the school is headed and, as a sign of their support, have pledged over \$20,000 in matching funds for gifts from our alumni. They hope you will join the many clients and friends who are partnering with the school and investing in its future. Letters announcing this match went out to DVM alumni in May, and this summer some of our current students are calling you. They want to learn about your experience as a DVM student, share some updates, and invite you to leverage this matching gift. You can learn about the match and give online at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/BOV-match.

We’re excited about the next 30 years (and more) and hope you are too! Veterinary medicine is a noble and respected profession that contributes to our communities and the world in many ways. We are proud to be leading the way and creating its future. With the Board of Visitors match, there has never been a better time to make a gift to the school and support its future success.

Here’s to another great 30 years!

*Kristi V. Thorson
Associate Dean for Advancement
and Administration*

Alumni Briefs



McGraw Named Wisconsin State Veterinarian

Dr. Paul McGraw, DVM 1988, has been promoted to the state veterinarian position at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, where he has served as assistant state veterinarian for the past nine years.

of Veterinary Medicine alumni at the clinic, including owner Dr. Troy Semandel, DVM 1995; Dr. James Voss, DVM 1995; Dr. Ben Seebart, DVM 2007; and Dr. Kathleen Blessing, DVM 2009.

Wright Donates Kidney to Facebook Stranger

Dr. Kelly Wright, DVM 2002, made national news in March when she agreed to donate a kidney to a complete stranger seeking a transplant candidate through Facebook. Her sacrifice helped save the life of a man whose kidneys had completely shut down due to septic shock caused by a bacterial infection.

Semandel’s Practice Tops A-List

Spirit of 76th Veterinary Clinic is the number one veterinary clinic in south-eastern Wisconsin, according to the A-List, WISN ABC 12’s online viewer poll. This is no surprise given the strong representation of UW School



Will Receives Honorary Degree from Khon Kaen University

The Medical Faculty of Khon Kaen University in Thailand has granted an honorary PhD in Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to James A. Will, PhD 1968 and professor emeritus in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences. Crown Princess HRH Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presented Dr. Will with the degree on April 4 in Khon Kaen.

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A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

FATHER-DAUGHTER from page 7 hands-on experience in everything from cleaning cages to surgery and diagnostic imaging.

This knowledge will serve Brianne well in her fourth-year clinical rotations at UW Veterinary Care, according to Linda Sullivan, a clinical instructor in pathobiological sciences. “She’s seen a lot,” says Sullivan. “She’s seen how different veterinarians approach different situations, on top of all of the technical things she’s picked up. I don’t think her learning curve will be as steep going into practice.”

Sullivan also earned her DVM from UW in 1987, so she learned alongside the older Heder and educated the younger. This unique position allowed her to observe many similarities between the two,



one of the most prominent being their natural intellectual curiosity. “They’re interested in exploring more than just what’s put in front of them,” says Sullivan, adding

that this may explain why they have both delved so deeply into diagnostic imaging.

Dan says he is proud to see Brianne following in his footsteps

Animals have been a big part of life outside of veterinary medicine for Brianne and Dan Heder. Here they rest behind a hunting blind with Reba, a dog they helped train, at a kennel club event circa 1999.

and was pleased with Brianne’s choice to attend the SVM over other options. “I have always felt that I received a very good education at UW,” says Dan. “I was well prepared by that program, and it’s still a great program.”

Dan isn’t just paying lip service to his alma mater. As proof of his trust in the program to produce quality veterinarians, he’s hired two SVM alumni to work with him—Terri Osgood, DVM 2003, and Jamie Gerbig, DVM 2011. And one more exceptional alumna will be joining them soon.

Nik Hawkins