

On Call



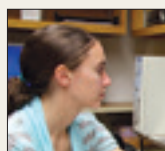
SCHOOL OF
Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Planned gifts leave lasting impact

Ken and Cathy Kerznar's estate plans ensure future veterinary medical students have funds to pursue their dreams.



Overcoming adversity

DVM student Sarah Spring-born turns

a life-altering accident into a research pursuit for new spinal injury treatments.



The art of rebuilding a tendon

A cutting-edge orthopedic

surgical procedure returns a miniature poodle mix to her old playful ways.

Not just for the birds

New modular poultry course responds to student and community demands.



Opening doors for the dairy industry

A grant from the Dean Foods

Foundation to the Dairyland Initiative provides free web-based resources for America's dairy farmers.

Stomping out hoof health problems

Scientists are developing safer, more effective treatments for digital dermatitis.

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

UW Veterinary Care
uwveterinarycare.wisc.edu



A Party with a Purpose

When Olivia Napadensky and Tian Brooks were planning their birthday parties, they didn't just want to eat cake and open presents. They wanted their parties to have a purpose.

Instead of birthday gifts, each girl asked friends and family to bring animal supplies and cash donations for UW Veterinary Care (UWVC).

For Napadensky, a fifth-grade student from Waunakee, Wis., it is a biennial tradition that began in kindergarten after attending a classmate's birthday party. Her friend, Parker, asked party attendees to bring donations for the local food pantry in lieu of birthday gifts. Inspired by the idea, Napadensky, returned from the party energized to do the same.

She chose to support UWVC because her 13-year-old golden retriever, Ben, had received cancer treatment at the hospital. Her gifts have gone to support oncology equipment, toys for patients, and art supplies for the waiting room.

"I decided to donate because they helped my dog live longer," says Napadensky. "I felt like I owed them, and I wanted to say thank you. I didn't miss the gifts. The big present is knowing you did something good."

Olivia's parents, Lita Napadensky and Char Arner, cherished the dignity and quality of life their dog was given through treatment at UWVC. They are proud of the contributions that Olivia, an aspiring veterinarian, has made in memory of their family dog. "Ben was a part of Olivia's life since she was adopted," says Lita Napadensky.



Above: Olivia Napadensky, a fifth grader from Waunakee, Wis., proudly displays the donations she collected from her birthday party. It is her third time forgoing birthday presents to raise funds and supplies for UW Veterinary Care.



Left: Tian Brooks snuggles with her dog, Jasmyn, who received treatment at UW Veterinary Care for brain cancer and inspired her to raise funds for the hospital.

Similarly, Tian Brooks, a first grader at Royal Oaks Elementary in Sun Prairie, Wis., never lived a day without her 10-year-old Boston terrier, Jasmyn, until her dog was diagnosed with brain cancer.

Inspired by the care and extra time provided to her pet by UWVC, Brooks collected \$214 and numerous toys for hospital animals through her birthday party. Brooks went the extra mile by personally delivering the goods to the hospital.

"My wife, Alissa, and I are extremely proud of her to come up with this idea on her own," says Nate Brooks. "She is learning the things we want her to learn."

Naturally drawn to the care of animals, Brooks hopes to one day follow in the footsteps of her cousin, Lauren Markovic, a cardiology resident at UWVC, by pursuing a career in veterinary medicine.

To learn more about ways to give, please visit www.vetmed.wisc.edu/giving

Jane Pruhs

AHABS Building Renamed in Honor of Robert P. Hanson



The Animal Health and Biomedical Sciences (AHABS) Building, one of the major campus facilities housing faculty and laborato-

ries for the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, has been renamed the **Robert P. Hanson Biomedical Sciences Laboratories** in honor of a former professor in the departments of Veterinary Science and Bacteriology.

Located on 1656 Linden Drive, the facility honors the UW graduate, a pioneer in the field of comparative biomedical sciences and a champion of interdisciplinary team approaches. The distinguished professor received many campus and national awards, including being elected into the National Academy of Sciences in 1979. Professor Hanson passed away in 1987.

A naming dedication is tentatively scheduled for May 2, 2014. For information, contact Kristi Thorson at kvthorson@vetmed.wisc.edu.



Nordlund



McGuirk

UW Veterinarians Nordlund, McGuirk Earn High Honors from Dairy Industry

The University of Wisconsin–Madison has played a large role in the state's dairy leadership, and two highly regarded dairy veterinarians from the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM)—**Kenneth Nordlund** and **Sheila McGuirk**—have earned recent accolades that drive home this point.

The World Dairy Expo has named Nordlund the 2013 “Industry Person of the Year” for providing excellence within the dairy industry. This is the second year in a row the Expo award has gone to a member of the SVM faculty. McGuirk, a professor of large animal internal medicine and food animal production medicine, received the honor in 2012.

This year she and Nordlund share another award. *Bovine Veterinarian* magazine has named them among the 20 most influential beef and dairy veterinarians in North America.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Our Donors Help Us Achieve Excellence

The winter issue of *On Call* is dedicated to thanking the friends of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine whose gifts have enabled us to excel. Over the past year, we have undertaken a broad array of initiatives focused on enhancing the education we provide to our students, the research that we conduct within the school, and the clinical service we offer our patients and their owners. It is only through the generosity of your gifts that we will achieve these strategic priorities and others we have targeted for the school's future success.

In addition to partnering with our friends, we have received funding from the UW–Madison campus to help leverage your gifts.



Mark D. Markel

We are undertaking several important capital projects, including the building of a small animal isolation facility, the enhancement of our pharmacy to make it both OSHA compliant and more effective, the creation of a large, second-floor instructional space

where our aging solar panels rest on the south side of the Veterinary Medicine Building, and a feasibility study that will determine the scale and scope of a new building to be built to the north of our current one. The campus has committed more than \$4 million over the next two years to these initiatives and others.

Each of these efforts demonstrate the critical role of our partnerships—with you, our donors; the UW–Madison campus; and our faculty, staff, and students—in achieving our strategic goals. On behalf of the School of Veterinary Medicine and the UW–Madison campus, I thank you very much for your generosity and continued support of the school.

Checking on Chickens: Poultry Course Responds to Student and Community Demand

On a sweltering day in August, seven veterinary medical students gather in the sparse shade around a backyard chicken coop on the near east side of Madison. Four chickens

peck about their feet or sit calmly in their arms as Cindy Bell, clinical instructor of pathology and DVM 2008, guides the class through a flock assessment.

“Look closely at their eyes,” she

says. “They should always be really wide open. Slitty eyes are a sign of depression or respiratory disease.”

Decked in disposable boots, gloves, and coats to prevent the spread of disease to other flocks they will visit later in the day, the students conduct physical exams of each bird, swabbing samples and recording findings on flock assessment sheets.

They are participating in one of the school's new “selectives,” which are focused, modular courses taught for one week during each of semesters two through five of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. They are designed to increase student exposure to hands-on clinical and research experiences earlier and throughout the curriculum. They also introduce alternative teaching methods that fit a variety of learning styles, increase classroom interaction among different cohorts of students, and expand the curriculum into areas that

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Dr. Cindy Bell guides veterinary medical students in the new Poultry Health Selective through a flock assessment during a tour of a backyard chicken coop in August 2013. The coop belongs to Kate Leiber, a SVM research specialist.

Grant Funds Free Nationwide Access to Dairyland Initiative for Farmers

The Dairyland Initiative, a UW School of Veterinary Medicine outreach program that works with farmers to optimize cow comfort, health, and milk production, has received a \$50,000 grant from the Dean Foods Foundation to make its web-based resources available at no cost to dairy farmers across the country.

“The Dairyland Initiative operates under the well-established premise that dairy cows produce at the highest levels when they’re immersed in an environment that accommodates their comfort needs,” says Nigel Cook, professor of food animal production medicine. “We intended to create a resource where, in one location, dairy producers can find all the information they need to build welfare-friendly facilities for their cattle. Three years later, we can make this resource available to all U.S. dairy farms, free of charge.”

The Dairyland Initiative delivers building plan assessments and other valuable information based on the latest dairy animal research and years of collective field experience in dairy housing. For example, its experts work closely with farmers to plan new construction and remodels of dairy barns, which includes

- updating old tie stall or stallion barns with mattresses and sawdust bedding to safer tie stall designs and sand bedding;
- modifying freestalls for improved comfort; and
- planning entire dairy housing facilities for calves through adult cows.

Changes like these help reduce injury, disease, and lameness, often leading to an increase in milk production.

“As a dairy company, responsible agriculture is a key focus area, and we are committed to promoting improved animal welfare



Tie stalls with sand bedding reduce lameness in cows and increase comfort, which leads to greater milk production. The Dairyland Initiative helps dairy producers incorporate these stalls in new or modified barns.

among dairy farmers,” says Liliana Esposito, Dean Foods Foundation president. “We are pleased that farmers nationwide can now take advantage of this program that offers up-to-date information and best practices on farm resource management provided by experts in this field.”

Dairy farmers can take advantage of The Dairyland Initiative’s services through consultations, workshops, and web-based tools. Previously, Wisconsin farmers could access the website for free while those outside of the state paid a nominal fee. The grant will help make the website available at no cost to farmers and university extension programs nationwide for two years.

“The grant will remove a significant barrier to use of the program outside of Wisconsin,” says Ken Nordlund, clinical professor of food animal production medicine. “While different climates will dictate some differences in how dairy cattle are housed, the concepts behind the ‘Wisconsin Blueprint’

recommendations of our website address the physical and social needs of calves, heifers, and cows no matter the location.”

Cook and Nordlund launched The Dairyland Initiative in October 2010. Since then, the program has assisted more than 200 dairy farms and trained over 200 professionals in important aspects of facility design, including calf barn ventilation and transition cow barn planning. More than 1,600 farmers, builders, veterinarians, and other consultants have referenced the website, registering more than 14,500 daily log-ins to access the most up-to-date resource on welfare-friendly dairy cattle housing.

The Dairyland Initiative receives financial and networking support from the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin and their foundation as well as generous donations from several other sponsors.

Learn more at thedairylandinitiative.vetmed.wisc.edu

Nik Hawkins

New Roles, New Staff

To help support the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) in its efforts to strengthen its research programs, some of the school’s current faculty are taking on new roles and responsibilities.

Lauren Trepanier, professor of internal medicine, has been appointed director of clinical research and **Cecilia Robat**, clinical instructor of medical oncology, has assumed duties as the new clinical trials coordinator. Dr. Trepanier will focus on enhancing research support for faculty interested in clinical research, including training opportunities, statistical support, and grant writing workshops. Dr. Robat will assist faculty in enhancing the design, funding, and execution of clinical trials to benefit our patients.



Two new staff have joined the school as well.

Tyler Gregory, instructional designer, has been hired to

work with faculty on developing Core Competency Modules, “blended learning” courses that will give students experience in seldom-seen clinical areas.

Gregory comes to the SVM from the UW General Library System and College Library where he was responsible for both instructional and information technology support of the Wisconsin Collaboratory for Enhanced Learning, DesignLab, and Media Studio initiatives.



Jane Pruhs, associate university relations specialist, will be helping the school with its

communications, public relations, and marketing efforts. Pruhs has extensive experience in all of these fields through her work in the non-profit sector. Her academic background in agricultural journalism and experience growing up on a dairy farm in southeastern Wisconsin make her a wonderful fit for the school.

Rare Procedure Rebuilds Canine Triceps Tendon

Thanks to a cutting-edge orthopedic surgical procedure conducted at UW Veterinary Care, Molly, a two-year-old miniature poodle mix, has returned to her old playful ways following a major injury.

Molly suffered severe trauma to her chest and left forelimb after being attacked by one of her housemates. After being stabilized and triaged at a local emergency clinic, her wounds healed, but her injured forelimb remained unused for two months following the incident.

At the recommendation of their veterinarian, Molly's owners, James and Anita Connor, brought her to UW Veterinary Care physical therapist Dr. Courtney Arnoldy. Arnoldy became concerned about the lack of strength and stability in Molly's triceps muscle, which must function properly for a dog to bear weight on its front limbs.

After experts in neurology verified that there were no issues with Molly's nervous system, Dr. Jason Bleedorn in orthopedics evaluated her. He determined that her triceps muscle had been torn away from where it would normally connect to the olecranon, a piece of forelimb bone that lies behind



Dr. Jason Bleedorn conducts a physical examination of Molly during one of her post-operation visits. Molly's leg was stabilized with a transarticular external fixator.

the elbow. A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan confirmed the diagnosis.

"I consulted with several human and animal surgeons with experience in muscle-tendon reconstructions," says Bleedorn. "We elected to perform a triceps tendon reconstruction. But because Molly had not used the limb in two



Dr. Courtney Arnoldy and owner James Connor coax Molly to walk up a step during a physical rehabilitation session at UW Veterinary Care.

months, I was skeptical we would be able to reconstruct the triceps back to its original position."

This uncommon procedure utilized Artelon™ graft, a degradable biomaterial that provides a strong foundation for tissue growth. Several samples of the material, donated by BioMedtrix, were incorporated into the repaired tendon to speed healing.

The surgery, performed by Bleedorn with the assistance of resident Jeff Little and student Liz Ambrosius, was a success. They stabilized Molly's leg with a transarticular external fixator, a metal exoskeleton that can be continually

adjusted to slowly increase a limb's mobility and loadbearing throughout the healing process. Molly wore the fixator for three months and then began biweekly rehabilitation sessions with Arnoldy.

"Molly is a sweet and quiet dog, but she's clearly very tough in how well she has tolerated this surgery and the device," says Bleedorn. "She continues to show excellent progress at each post-operation visit."

Six months after surgery, Molly could bear weight continuously on her forelimb, and the muscle mass around the limb, including the triceps, had increased. Her elbow joint range of motion had returned to normal.

"Molly's progress has been remarkable," says Arnoldy. "She has been easy to work with in rehab, and Mr. Connor has been very committed and receptive to all education and recommendations during her recovery. This has really been a team effort."

The Connors never expected her to recover this well. "She acts like nothing ever happened to her," says James Connor. "She runs all over, she swims, she plays. She does as much as she did before. It's hard to explain how happy we are."

Bleadorn says he and his team have been unable to find any record in the medical literature of this procedure being conducted on a dog.

Nik Hawkins

Nik Hawkins

POULTRY from page 2

traditionally have received less attention due to time constraints.

Bell developed the Poultry Health Selective along with collaborators Myron Kibus of the state Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and Michael Collins, professor of pathobiological sciences, in response to student demand for more information on the topic. In addition to backyard flock visits, the class toured commercial poultry facilities and participated in classroom discussions with experts in poultry health and management.

"I've always been interested in agriculture and food animal production systems but had very

limited knowledge regarding poultry production," says Kolby McIntyre, a third-year student. "Now that I've taken this course, I have confidence in my ability to assess poultry management practices as well as flock and individual bird health and make appropriate recommendations."

The course also meets a community need. According to Bell, as the urban poultry phenomenon expands and owners shift toward viewing chickens as companion animals, more veterinarians are being asked to handle poultry cases. "Most of these small animal veterinarians don't feel equipped to take these cases on because they don't feel they had enough exposure in school," she says.

This is why Bell is also working with DATCP and the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association to provide practicing veterinarians with continuing education in poultry health and diagnostics. She hopes this will help more veterinarians know what questions to ask and what samples to take when handling cases of sick or dead chickens.

"The involvement of general practitioners is vital for public health, flock health, and the welfare of the birds," says Bell. "Veterinarians need to step up to keep urban poultry safe and sustainable while ensuring that backyard chickens receive appropriate care."

New Faculty Join the School



Jennifer Dreyfus, DVM, has joined the Department of Pathobiological Sciences as a clinical instructor in anatomic pathology. Dr. Dreyfus has deep roots at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) as a graduate of the DVM program in 2009. Her anatomic pathology training began with a fellowship in ocular pathology with the Comparative Ocular Pathology Laboratory of Wisconsin (COPLOW) before starting a residency in anatomic pathology at the SVM. Her professional interests are cancer diagnosis and research.

Prior to entering the field of veterinary medicine, she ran candidate and issue-based political campaigns. In her spare time she can be found in the kitchen, reading a book, training for triathalons, or on stage with Ladies Must Swing, a Madison-based, all women's classic big band.



Christoph Mans, Dr. med. vet., has joined the Department of Surgical Sciences and the UW Veterinary Care special species service as clinical assistant professor of zoological medicine. Dr. Mans earned his veterinary medical degree from the University of Leipzig in Germany, completed an internship in avian and exotic animal medicine at the University of Guelph, and finished a residency in zoological medicine at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM). He was previously employed in private practice in Hong Kong and most recently as a clinical instructor at the SVM. His clinical interests include endoscopy, dentistry in rabbit and rodents, and sedation and analgesia in exotic pet and zoo animals.



Laura Nafe, DVM, MS, has joined the Department of Medical Sciences as a clinical instructor of small animal internal medicine. Dr. Nafe earned her veterinary medical degree from the University of Missouri. She then completed a small animal rotating internship at North Carolina State University before returning to the University of Missouri to complete a residency in small animal internal medicine. Her clinical interests include respiratory disease and immune-mediated disease in dogs and cats. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.



Xuan Pan, VMD, PhD, has joined the Department of Medical Science as an assistant professor of oncology. Dr. Pan earned her veterinary medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania where she also completed a doctoral degree in cell and molecular biology. She then participated in a small animal rotating internship at Michigan State University before completing her oncology residency at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. Her clinical interests include genetic and epigenetic regulations of hematopoietic development and malignancies.



Michelle Turek, DVM, has joined the Department of Medical Sciences as an assistant professor in radiation oncology. Dr. Turek received her veterinary medical degree from the Université de Montréal in 1998 and then participated in a small animal rotating internship at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston. She completed residencies in medical and radiation oncology at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM). She worked in private practice and held a position at the University of Georgia prior to returning to the SVM. Her research interests include basic and clinical comparative oncology as well as advancing evidence-based medicine in veterinary radiotherapy.

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine Welcomes New Residents and Interns

RESIDENTS



Rebecca Csomos, DVM, PhD, Small Animal Surgery



Allyson Gosling, DVM, Ophthalmology



Mairin Miller, DVM, Oncology



Chantel Raghu, DVM, Small Animal Internal Medicine



Diego De Gasperi, DVM, MS, Large Animal Surgery



Jennifer Hausmann, DVM, Zoology



Bonnie Oliphant, DVM, Neurology



Renee Richmond, DVM, Anatomic Pathology



Tara Fetzer, DVM, Emergency and Critical Care



Kevin Kroner, DVM, Small Animal Surgery



Sarah Raabis, DVM, Large Animal Internal Medicine



Reemy Thomas, DVM, Radiology



Jordan Manasse, BVMS, Zoological Pathology

INTERNS

Specialty Interns



Liz Layne, DVM, Dermatology



Alexis Dubin, DVM



Alyssa Pinkos, DVM



Magen Shaughnessy, DVM



Paige E. Mackey, DVM, MPH



Silvia Pryor, DVM



Courtney White, DVM

Rotating Interns

UW Veterinary Care Earns Gold in 'Best of Madison' Poll

UW Veterinary Care has earned the gold award in the veterinarian category for the Best of Madison 2013.



The Best of Madison is an annual readers' poll conducted by Madison Magazine to determine Madison's premiere businesses in the categories of food and drink, arts and entertainment, home and lifestyle, and fitness and recreation.

"We are so pleased to receive this recognition for the hard work of our wonderful clinicians, technicians, staff, and students," says Hospital Director Ruthanne Chun. "And this would not have been possible without our wonderful clients, referring veterinarians, and generous donors who help make this teaching hospital a great place."

Strategic Plan: A Guide for the Future

As the UW School of Veterinary Medicine moves forward in advancing animal and human health, a new strategic plan will serve as its trusty compass.

Recently, a strategic planning group of faculty and staff affirmed the school's mission, vision, and fundamental principles. In addition, following a spring and summer of conversations between Dean Mark Markel and numerous stakeholders, the school has established seven strategic priorities that will direct its efforts for the next five to seven years.

The school has already made significant progress on multiple initiatives aimed at achieving these goals. For example, one of the school's priorities is to "design an innovative professional curriculum that evolves to prepare students for a breadth of careers and professional opportunities." As part of working toward this goal, the school has launched its "selectives" curriculum (read about one of these innovative courses on p. 2) and has begun developing Core Competency Modules, "blended learning" courses that will give students experience in seldom-seen clinical areas.

Another school priority is to "support UW Veterinary Care in achieving its strategic priorities, and enhance its integration with the school." To help the hospital provide better service for its patients and clients, the school has secured funding to remodel the pharmacy and construct a new small animal isolation unit.

These are just a few examples. Look for more stories about the school's successful initiatives to be posted online and in future issues of *On Call*.

To learn more about the school's new strategic plan, including its mission, vision, fundamental principles, strategic priorities, and initiatives, visit www.vetmed.wisc.edu/strategic-plan

DVM Student Walks On After Life-Altering Accident

Never walk again. Never run again. Never ride a horse again.

Those thoughts stirred in Sarah Springborn's mind as she lay in a hospital bed following a traumatic skiing accident that damaged her spine in the winter of 2011. But only for a few moments. In fact, she allowed herself just one more "never"—that her injury would *never* keep her from doing these things again—before she stripped the word from her vocabulary. After nine days in an intensive care unit with the looming reality that she was paralyzed from the waist down, her mind had not changed.

"I didn't really accept that I would stay paralyzed," says Springborn. "I said 'I'll be fine, just give me time.'"

Time has proven her right. For almost a month following the accident, she was unable to move her legs, her right triceps, or the fingers on her right hand. Today she walks unassisted through the halls of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.

Her rehabilitation began when she shrugged aside her injury and finished her undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering by working from her hospital bed and home in the months following her accident. She graduated in the summer of 2011 instead of spring. During her hospital stay, she learned she was accepted to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. Although she deferred enrollment for a year to focus on her recovery, she is now on track to graduate with the Class of 2016.

Numerous rehabilitation milestones mark the road between then and now, and she achieved each with a positive attitude and characteristic refusal to be held back.

Road to Recovery

"It kind of comes in bursts," says Springborn of her recovery. "I'm still making progress."

Her accident occurred on February 4, 2011. It fractured both



Sarah Springborn, Class of 2016, stands with her horse, Dandy, in August 2012, 18 months after a major spine injury. Springborn has since graduated to walking without the help of a cane, and horses played a large role in her recovery.

of her hips and her C6 vertebrae, which shifted into her spinal cord and caused her initial paralysis.

Springborn spent the first three months after the accident in a wheelchair. While undergoing rehabilitation therapy in Menasha, she stood for the first time. It was only for a minute, but she was ecstatic. "Basically, [my therapist] just stood me up, and I just started smiling," says Springborn. "I felt so much taller."

Shortly after this, her physical therapist uncle, Steve Springborn, flew in from Arizona to help. A few days later she began using a walker. She did laps around the house to build up strength and tackled stairs for the first time in May 2011. She was soon bearing weight on her legs, and by June she graduated to forearm crutches.

"Sarah's recovery has been remarkable so far," says Steve Springborn. "She basically had to learn how to walk again. I was just shocked by her attitude in the

beginning. I have seen a lot of patients as a physical therapist, and I can honestly say I have never seen that positive of an attitude from someone so young and with such traumatic injuries. It's that attitude that has taken her to this level."

In the summer of 2012, Springborn moved from crutches to a cane. Well before the leaves turned this year she was walking without it, only a slight lag in her stride.

The Healing Power of Horses

Attitude and family have played a big role in Springborn's recovery. And so have horses.

Springborn has been riding since she was 10 years old, and she is the proud owner of Dandy, a 16-year-old Arabian-American Quarter Horse mix. As an undergraduate she worked in a stable where she would occasionally assist veterinarians with equine emergencies. These experiences steered her toward veterinary medicine.

continued on next page

She also loves riding and has refused to give it up. Six months after her accident she was able to sit on a horse again, and a few months later she began hippotherapy. This form of treatment uses the natural movements of a horse's pelvis, which are similar to that of a human's, to attune a disabled patient to the motion of walking.

"It's been extremely helpful, especially for loosening up my hip," says Springborn, explaining that it helps her walk better after each session. "Every time I ride, it just proves even more helpful."

Dandy is stabled near Oshkosh, but she finds opportunities to ride in the Madison area. As with her rehabilitation, she has made remarkable progress in riding, moving steadily from walk to trot to canter.

Related Research

Springborn applied to veterinary medical school with thoughts of a career in large animal practice or surgery, but her injury forced her to rethink her plans, at least in the near term. She's now weighing the

possibilities of pursuing specialty practice or earning a doctorate and taking the research route.

Springborn got a taste of the research world last summer while working as a Merial Scholar in the laboratory of Gordon Mitchell, professor of comparative biosciences. And it's no coincidence that her work focused on a promising treatment for spinal cord injury patients called acute intermittent hypoxia (AIH). AIH delivers intervals of air containing non-damaging, low oxygen levels to trigger a response that strengthens motor neuron signals. AIH can help stimulate function in muscles associated with breathing and limbs and has been applied successfully to spinal injury cases.

Given her background in biomechanics, Springborn initially thought she would study animal prosthetics, but she was drawn to Mitchell's work. "I decided I have a more personal interest in this," she says.

"Sarah has been a wonderful addition to our laboratory," says Mitchell. "I see her understanding

of science and her enthusiasm for research grow each time I talk to her. She can barely contain her enthusiasm when we discuss new possibilities for the treatment of spinal injury in our laboratory meetings. I see her getting hooked on discovery, and I won't be the least bit surprised if she is developing new treatments for dogs with spinal injuries some day."

While the research Springborn is involved in holds promise for helping people like herself in the near future, the laboratory environment itself has sped her recovery in the present. It compelled her to get creative and take leaps she may not have otherwise.

"The lab encouraged me to walk without a cane," she says. "It's a safe place, and it forced me to carry things. Usually I could come up with some way to make things work even with my limited dexterity."

And that's what Springborn does—she makes things work. She turns "nevers" into "whens" and keeps moving forward.

Nik Hawkins

Imaging Wish List

Almost all patients seen at UW Veterinary Care 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.

—Kenneth Waller,
Head of Diagnostic Imaging

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

Imaging Center Remodeling \$1.5 million

To better serve its clients and patients, UW Veterinary Care is working towards upgrading its computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) units. As part of a newly remodeled work area, the new Imaging Center will be organized around a central control room that will support large and small animals in both the MRI and CT units. The area will be expanded to accommodate a multi-slice CT machine and a high-field MRI unit. This design will provide a coherent alternative to current facilities that are congested and fragmented. For example, companion animals are presently escorted to an outside trailer for their MRI, a unit that is not accessible for horses or other large animals.

Ultrasound Machine \$300,000

For the benefit of both small and large animals, the ultrasound machine serves as a critical role in evaluating diseases within the abdomen, specifically liver, spleen, kidney, nodes and gastrointestinal tract areas. Additionally, the machine has utility for thoracic ultrasounds which provide valuable evaluation of masses in the chest. This non-invasive imaging technology provides unparalleled diagnostic feedback within the hospital setting.

Crane Foundation Celebrates 40 Years of Conservation

The International Crane Foundation (ICF), an organization devoted to safeguarding the world's crane species, celebrates 40 years of conservation this year.

ICF has partnered with the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) since 2000 by funding a faculty position that doubles as the organization's director of veterinary services. That position has been filled by Dr. Barry Hartup, clinical instructor in the Department of Surgical Sciences and DVM 1993.

What began in 1973 as what Hartup calls "a quirky, endangered crane breeding center in Baraboo, Wisconsin" now includes a 225-acre headquarters visited by more than 25,000 people each year. ICF hosts a captive flock of approximately 100 cranes, which includes the only



Dr. Barry Hartup conducts a health examination of a whooping crane with fourth-year student Aly Manthei.

complete collection of all 15 species in the world.

ICF has many achievements to celebrate on its anniversary, having led successful community-based conservation programs and innovative captive breeding and reintroduction efforts. Their efforts also have helped protect millions of acres of crane habitat

around the world and inside the state's borders, work that Hartup calls the Wisconsin Idea in action.

"We're restoring endangered wildlife in Wisconsin to the benefit of the people of the state," says Hartup.

ICF also contributes to the instructional mission of the SVM by hosting several students each year through four- to six-week internships and summer-long research experiences. Hartup also participates in lectures and labs as part of an avian medicine course for third-year students.

"It's an opportunity for students and faculty to get a unique experience in avian conservation medicine and for ICF to receive improved clinical support," says Hartup.

Learn more about ICF at www.savingcranes.org

Nik Hawkins

UW Veterinary Care Wishlist

At UW Veterinary Care, we're always looking for ways to improve. We strive to better serve our clients and their pets and to offer a learning environment for our students that goes above and beyond. Unfortunately, the hospital's income cannot always stretch to cover all these improvements. If you would like to help us work toward our vision, please consider contributing to the following equipment and service needs.

—Ruthanne Chun, Associate Dean
for Clinical Affairs

Additional giving opportunities with matching funds can be found at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/uwvc-wishlist

Diagnostic Stago STA Compact Coagulation Analyzer \$38,000

The coagulation analyzer provides significant diagnostic and prognostic benefits for evaluating individual blood clotting proteins. This analysis provided by this state-of-the-art technology is essential in managing serious blood clotting disorders.

Examination Rooms \$15,000-\$25,000

UW Veterinary Care is currently remodeling all small animal examination rooms. The enhanced rooms will include upgraded counter tops, cabinets, and examination tables, as well as improved lighting, more comfortable seating, and new computers that allow digital radiograph review with clients. Naming opportunities are available for the two examination rooms yet to be remodeled.

Pulse Oximeters \$600-\$1,500

These small portable devices are of critical importance in the hospital when patient's oxygenation is unstable. The pulse oximeters help determine when supplemental oxygen is needed. This essential equipment is utilized around-the-clock and requires on-going replacement.



A Dream Fulfilled through Planned Giving

When Cathy Kerznar was a child, she dreamed of being a veterinarian. She came of age before the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) existed, and her dream was left unfulfilled but never forgotten.

Decades later when Cathy and her husband, Ken, began making plans for their estate, they decided to share Cathy's dream with students at the SVM by establishing the Cathy Kerznar Scholarship Fund as part of their bequest.

Each year, a second-year student will be chosen to receive the scholarship. The fund will provide full tuition and fees for the recipient's second year. With good academic standing, the scholarship is renewable for each recipient's third and fourth years of education at the SVM.

The Kerznars first became involved with the SVM when their cat, Rasserty, came to UW Veterinary Care (UWVC) for thyroid treatment. With three dogs and six cats at home, many of their animals have undergone treatment at the hospital over the years.

The care and concern shown by UWVC clinicians has made a great impact on their lives. "Our dog, Nick, was receiving cancer treatment at the oncology unit," says Cathy Kerznar. "The doctor kissed Nick on the face, and it made a big impression on us."

Without any children to include in their estate plans, the Kerznars spent significant time determining where their legacy gift could have the largest impact. They decided to establish a scholarship fund

For more information about planned gifts to the SVM, contact Colin Nemeth at colin.nemeth@supportuw.org.

and consulted several local veterinarians who treat their animals, including SVM alumnus Dr. Chris Bessent, DVM 1988, who agreed that a gift to SVM students would have a lasting impact.

"The level of care we received just made us feel good, and it was something that we wanted to help strengthen and continue," says Ken Kerznar. "We were looking for the biggest and best way to contribute back to the veterinary community."

"We asked ourselves where can we do the most good and have a lasting effect," says Ken Kerznar. "The SVM, from a mission and academic standpoint, will help enhance the (veterinary medical) industry and improve the level of service within its network."

In addition to scholarship funding, designated bequest gifts provide the school with critically important resources for valuable research that advances animal and

human health.

Innovative cancer therapies are being developed and advanced through an estate gift provided by Barbara Suran. Her gift established the Barbara A. Suran Comparative Oncology Research Institute with its associated endowed chair and endowed laboratory.

The endowed chair was established at the request of Suran to allow the school to recognize a distinguished expert in oncology. Two of her beloved champion standard poodles succumbed to cancer—Jaime died of osteosarcoma and Donna LaRose died of acute leukemia.

Suran's endowment funding has led to discovery of new diagnostic and therapeutic techniques through clinical trials and has created more collaborative efforts with academic and private sector entities. It also provides additional laboratory and research project opportunities for medical oncology residents.

"The Barbara A. Suran Endowment has allowed our group to further our internationally recognized center of excellence in the area of comparative oncology," says David M. Vail, professor in the Department of Medical Sciences and the Barbara A. Suran Chair in Comparative Oncology.

Jane Pruhs

Veterinary Clinic Sponsorships Benefit the School

Every year, the School of Veterinary Medicine receives tremendous support from veterinary clinics that 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.

Thank you to the following veterinary clinics for their generous participation in this program between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.



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(SARA & ANDREW TURLEY)

\$500-999

All Paws Animal Hospital
Family Pet Clinic SC
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MAGGIE, JOSIE, BUDDY (KAREN MIER)

We're Grateful for Donations Made Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013

In this issue of *On Call*, we would like to thank our individual and corporate donors by listing those who made gifts of \$100 or more between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. Cumulative donors, alumni of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Sciences and Comparative Biomedical Sciences graduate programs, and veterinary medical clinics that participated in the Companion Animal Fund are thanked separately.

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 your gift is unrestricted or 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.

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“What a great experience with such wonderful people. Put a couple of gold stars beside each of their names!”



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"I want to sincerely praise all of the medical staff. They were friendly, understanding, compassionate, and made me and my dog feel at ease."



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continued on next page

Special Thanks for Legacy Gifts

Estate pledges, in the form of bequests, trusts, or wills, are another way to make a positive and lasting impact on the school. The following individuals, both living and deceased, have either pledged support for the school through an estate gift or an estate gift has come to fruition in their name.

For more information on how to arrange a legacy gift to benefit the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, contact Colin Nemeth, 608-263-7594, at the UW Foundation.



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FAWKES (LINDSAY HILL-BATORSKI)

Research Wishlist

To keep the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) on the cutting edge of research, we must keep our equipment on the cutting edge of technology. With a few improvements to the equipment in our research labs, we could enhance our ability to find new solutions to animal and human health problems.

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

Additional giving opportunities in support of research can be found at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/research-wishlist

Laser Capture Microdissection \$150,000

Understanding disease often requires knowledge of normal and pathological gene expression. This state-of-the-art system will allow us to make measurements of gene expression in single cells throughout the body. With this capacity, we will be able to advance our understanding of disease processes and possible cures for cancer, respiratory disease (e.g., asthma, emphysema, and sleep apnea), disorders of the nervous system (e.g., MS, ALS, and spinal cord injury), muscle disease (e.g., muscular dystrophy, muscle wasting), and diseases of the reproductive system. The research programs of many investigators in the SVM will benefit from the availability of this instrument.

MiSeq Benchtop Sequencer \$125,000

The MiSeq benchtop sequencer is a next-generation technology that integrates amplification, RNA and DNA sequencing, and data analysis. This equipment significantly improves the speed and accuracy of identifying the presence and activity of specific genes. The MiSeq sequencer has wide application for numerous investigators in the SVM for whom genetic analysis is a critical component of research. Availability of this equipment would improve efficiency and accuracy of research, as well as decrease costs associated with performing this research.

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PERSONAL TOUCH

“We were made to feel like we were the only patient they had to take care of all day.”



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Confocal Laser Microscope
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Understanding disease requires knowledge of normal and pathological function in cells. This state-of-the-art microscope will allow us to visualize normal and diseased cells throughout the body. The three-color laser system brings a clarity to images that is not possible with a standard microscope. The microscope also enables us to visualize proteins and receptors within cells and determine whether they change during disease processes. With this capacity, we will be able to advance our understanding of respiratory diseases; diseases associated with inflammation; and disorders of the nervous system, the musculoskeletal system, and the reproductive system. The research programs of many investigators in the SVM will benefit from the availability of this instrument.

Oxygen Exposure System \$80,000

The SVM group studying respiratory neurobiology is unparalleled in the world and is making discoveries that will alter the treatment of devastating disorders of the neuromuscular system. For example, based on basic science research, we recently made a highly novel and exciting discovery that repetitive exposure to low oxygen is highly effective in improving motor function (walking and breathing) in animals and humans with spinal cord injuries. We wish to extend our basic science findings by continuing with pre-clinical trials in patients within the SVM clinic (dogs with spinal injury) to parallel similar efforts in human patients (a study we are doing in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago). To perform such trials in dogs with clinical spinal injury, a sophisticated system is necessary to explore the best exposure protocol. Such equipment is very difficult to secure via extramural funding, and independent fundraising is necessary to assure that these important and highly novel efforts in clinical and translational research continue.

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Vet Med Scientists Find Better, Safer Treatments for Hoof Disease

For almost 40 years, digital dermatitis has plagued cattle throughout the world. Also called heel warts, these painful hoof lesions limit the amount of time cows can stand and feed, which can hinder animal welfare and food production. The disease can be found on almost every beef and dairy farm in North America, so it has a significant economic impact on those industries in the United States.

Fortunately, researchers at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine are helping to find new ways to address the disease. Some of this work has led to the development of safer, more effective treatments. But the road to these innovative approaches began with the creation of an effective testing method.

“For digital dermatitis, we developed an experimental infection model to reproduce and treat acute digital dermatitis lesions in cattle in a standardized way and in a controlled environment,” says Dörte Döpfer, assistant professor of food animal medicine and expert in veterinary epidemiology. This involved isolating a very small population of cattle in a laboratory setting free from other factors that can affect the natural course of the disease.

According to Döpfer, the experimental model helps improve animal welfare. Many treatment and preventive measures hit the market before being properly tested, which can be detrimental to millions of cattle. The infection model allows her research team to pre-screen products on a small-scale population before they are used in the field.

“In addition, the impact on the test cows is minimal,” says Döpfer. “As part of any study, the induced acute lesions are treated with antibiotics immediately. The pain is gone within a day, and the lesions do not become chronic. The cattle lead a perfectly healthy life afterwards.”



Hoof baths like this one soak infected hooves in solutions of copper sulfate, formaldehyde, or other chemicals, which can be environmentally problematic or hazardous to dairy worker health, so alternative treatments like feed supplements and botanically derived bath solutions are welcome.

The experimental model has been used successfully in university-industry partnerships aimed at developing better ways to prevent and treat digital dermatitis.

Zinpro Corporation has been collaborating with Döpfer on clinical trials since 2010. By analyzing data from those trials, she and Arturo Gomez Rivas, a research assistant at the School of Veterinary Medicine, helped assess the effectiveness of treatments that prevent digital dermatitis in pre-calving heifers.

One of these treatments is a new approach to supplementing cattle diets with trace minerals, which are nutrients like zinc that living things need in very small

amounts. According to Döpfer, the study showed that treatments with feed ingredients containing these minerals can reduce the prevalence of digital dermatitis. As an added benefit, this cuts down on the need for hoof baths, which involve soaking infected hooves in solutions of copper sulfate, formaldehyde, or other chemicals.

“These are the standard preventive treatments, but they can be environmentally problematic or hazardous to the health of dairy workers, so any alternative is welcome,” says Döpfer.

Döpfer and her colleagues have partnered with another company, Laboratoire M2 of Sherbrooke, Quebec, to evaluate the effects

of a safer, alternative hoof bath solution through field trial observations. Laboratory tests have shown that the company’s product, which contains botanically derived active ingredients, effectively kills and inhibits *treponemes*, the main bacteria that cause digital dermatitis. This work was only possible because Gomez Rivas used the experimental model in 2011 to identify the bacteria as the primary culprit.

“The cause and subsequent development of digital dermatitis are complex, and the experimental model gives us a better understanding of the important role the bacteria play in the process,” says Gomez Rivas.

Field tests have shown that the botanical hoof bath also helps prevent chronic lesions, which is vitally important for controlling the disease. While acute active lesions can cause pain and lameness, they can be readily treated with topical antibiotics.

“But even after topical treatment of these active lesions, *treponemes* still reside deep in the skin,” says Döpfer. “This can cause chronic lesions, which have thick skin and spread rapidly. They act as reservoirs of infection, and they are precursors to new, acute lesions. The hoof bath that can prevent these chronic lesions from reverting into active lesions is the hoof bath that we want.”

Eventually, Döpfer hopes to see widespread adoption of an integrated prevention and control system for digital dermatitis. “Usually, a company provides a topical agent or hoof-bathing,” she says. “But a long-term integrated system would also include keeping detailed herd records from youngstock to heifer to cow, combatting risk factors like bad hygiene, and possibly using feed supplements.”

Nik Hawkins

Study Puts Troubling Traits of H7N9 Flu Virus on Display



The H7N9 avian influenza virus responsible for at least 37 deaths in China has qualities that could potentially spark a global outbreak of flu, according to a new study published in the journal *Nature* this summer.

An international team led by Yoshihiro Kawaoka of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Tokyo conducted a comprehensive analysis of two of the first human isolates of the virus from patients in China. Their efforts revealed the H7N9 virus's ability to infect and replicate in several species of mammals, including ferrets and monkeys, and to transmit in ferrets—data that suggests H7N9 viruses have the potential to become a worldwide threat to human health.

"H7N9 viruses have several features typically associated with human influenza viruses and therefore possess pandemic potential and need to be monitored closely," says Kawaoka, one of the world's leading experts on avian flu.

The new study suggests that the ability of the H7N9 virus to infect and replicate in human cells may be due to just a few amino acid changes in the genetic sequence of the virus.

Engineered Stem Cell Advance Points Toward ALS Treatment



Transplantation of human stem cells in an experiment conducted at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine improved survival and muscle function in rats used to model amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as "Lou Gehrig's disease." ALS destroys nerves and causes death by respiratory failure, striking about 5,600 Americans each year.

In a recent study, Masatoshi Suzuki, an assistant professor of comparative biosciences, and his colleagues implanted genetically engineered adult stem cells from human bone marrow into the muscles of rats that had been genetically modified to model ALS. According to Suzuki, the real advance was finding an improved result from using stem cells that delivered two growth factors, VEGF and GDNF, simultaneously.

"In terms of disease-free time, overall survival, and sustaining muscle function, we found that delivering the combination was more powerful than either growth factor alone," said Suzuki. "The results would provide a new hope for people with this terrible disease."

Study Reveals Process that Counters Cell Death Related to Genetic Disorder

Scientists at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine have identified a biological mechanism in rats that protects nerve cells damaged by a genetic defect. Their findings were published in the May issue of *The Journal of Neuroscience*.

Long-Evans shaker (*les*) rats carry a genetic mutation that causes defects in the production of the myelin sheath, which insulates and protects nerve cells. This leads eventually to the complete loss of the myelin sheath through a process called demyelination, one of the hallmarks of autoimmune diseases like multiple sclerosis. During this process, the *les* oligodendrocytes—brain cells responsible for creating the myelin sheath—accumulate a significant number of abnormal organelles.

Researchers Chelsey Smith, Joshua Mayer, and Ian Duncan closely examined these abnormalities using high-magnification electron microscopy and biochemical and tissue culture analyses to determine whether they play a role in the loss of myelin. They discovered that the organelles are in fact autophagosomes, which are responsible for digesting unnecessary or dysfunctional components in cells.

Learn more about these studies at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/research-news

McGraw, Konkle Help Keep Wisconsin's Animals



State Veterinarian Paul McGraw, DVM 1988, and Assistant State Veterinarian Darlene Konkle, DVM 1993, at their offices at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

In Wisconsin, it's easy to take dairy for granted. But it takes vigilance to safeguard the source of our coveted milk, cheese, and other food products—the state's \$34 billion livestock industry. Much of this responsibility falls on the shoulders of two alumni of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM).

"The one thing that can really impact the industry is disease," says Paul McGraw, DVM 1988, who was appointed as Wisconsin state veterinarian in April 2013.

This is why McGraw and newly appointed Assistant State Veterinarian Darlene Konkle, DVM 1993, spend much of their time on disease surveillance and control. Housed in the Division of Animal Health in the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, McGraw and Konkle manage 45 employees dedicated to protecting animal and human health, including five district veterinarians and 14 animal health inspectors. In an era of widespread international trade in which food animals are shipped all

over the world, their work is critical to keeping the state safe.

"We conduct eight to 12 foreign animal disease investigations per year," says Konkle.

In 2013, that included testing potentially exposed poultry flocks for avian influenza, which in some cases can transfer to humans; examining pig herds for signs of pseudorabies, a viral disease that can cause reproductive problems in sows and high death rates in piglets; and inspecting an illegal import of cattle for tuberculosis, which can spread to humans through infected unpasteurized milk.

Testing of these recent threats has turned up negative for disease, but this isn't always the case. In 2003, viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), a deadly infectious fish disease, made its way to the Great Lakes region and reached Wisconsin's Little Lake Butte des Morts and Lake Winnebago in 2007. Fortunately, the Division of Animal Health was able to head off a potentially major disaster by detecting and blocking its spread.

(and Humans) Safe

“Due to our testing requirements, VHS was kept out of the state’s fish hatcheries,” says McGraw.

The animal health division’s jurisdiction ends when food animals go to slaughter, after which the Division of Food Safety takes over. However, if any disease is detected at slaughter, McGraw, Konkle, and their colleagues are responsible for tracing it back to its source and taking actions to contain it.

The division takes on disease outbreaks of this nature through its Emergency Programs for Animal Health, which Konkle has lead since 2007. This same program assists responses to natural disasters that affect animals by serving as a resource for local police and fire departments. On the disease front, they work closely with veterinarians in the food industry, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and staff from the Division of Public Health in the state Department of Health Services.

“Accredited veterinarians are our first eyes and ears for detecting animal disease,” says Konkle. “We also keep a good working relationship with public health. They may have an interesting cluster of cases that may be animal related, so they work with us. Our field veterinarians sometimes team up with them on investigations.”

The Division of Animal Health also licenses animal truckers, animal dealers, animal markets, deer farms, and fish farms, which account for most of the animal traffic that moves through the state, as well as dog sellers and dog facilities. This relatively new program was established in response to recent incidents involving poor canine housing and husbandry. And although they have no direct authority for prosecuting crimes against animals, the division trains humane officers at the county level.

Neither McGraw nor Konkle

anticipated high-level careers in regulatory medicine when they graduated from veterinary medical school. Both thought they would stay in practice. McGraw, who grew up on a dairy and hog farm in Dodgeville, Wis., became hooked on the field during ride-alongs with local veterinarians. He studied food animal medicine with an emphasis on dairy while at the SVM and spent 16 years in mixed animal practice before joining the Division of Animal Health. He was assistant state veterinarian from May 2004 until he accepted his most recent appointment.

Konkle, also a Wisconsin native, grew up loving both science and animals, so veterinary medicine was her inevitable path. Like McGraw, she got her start in mixed animal practice. She later completed a residency in large animal internal medicine while earning a master’s degree in respiratory physiology, served as a clinical instructor at the University of Saskatchewan, and worked in equine practice before being hired

to work on the Division of Animal Health’s Johne’s disease program.

Both McGraw and Konkle credit the SVM for helping to prepare them for their current roles by providing broad exposure to the field and a wide range of experiences. “I received great education in population health,” says McGraw. “It teaches you to focus on the herd, not just the individual animal, which is helpful since we need to have a whole industry viewpoint now.”

McGraw and Konkle maintain connections with the SVM and enjoy helping the school train the next generation of veterinarians. This includes exposing students to the wide array of careers available to them and providing externship opportunities.

“We have a great partnership with the SVM,” says McGraw. “We appreciate the opportunities we get to speak and interact with students. They’re our future partners in regulatory medicine to protect animal and public health.”

Nik Hawkins

Alumni Matching Gift Campaign Raises \$48,530

As a challenge to UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) graduates, the school’s Board of Visitors (BOV) agreed to match every dollar donated by alumni during a four-month period with 50 cents from their own pockets. SVM alumni answered the call by making \$28,365 in donations, raising a total of \$42,548 throughout the campaign.

The board pledged \$20,700 to match every gift of \$25 or more made by DVM alumni to any SVM fund. The campaign ran from May 27, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2013, during which more than five percent of alumni participated. Encouraged by the high rate of alumni participation, one board member converted \$6,518 of her pledge to a bonus gift, raising the campaign total to \$49,066.

One alumni donor, Erica Esser, DVM 2008, felt compelled to give to the school for the first time this year. Esser recognized that gifts to the school can go a long way.

“I find it really important to support the educational institutions I’ve been a part of, which includes my high school, my undergraduate college, and the School of Veterinary Medicine,” says Esser, who is an associate veterinarian at Corriente Veterinary Service, a large animal practice in Plover, Wis.

“I think it is important for the board to demonstrate to alumni that, no matter what level of success you achieve, you can give back in some way,” says BOV Member Debbie Cervenka. “Given the small and young alumni base, I am very excited that so much was raised in such a short period of time.”



Dear alumni,

The University of Wisconsin–Madison launched its second “Share the Wonderful” campaign this fall. While “wonderful”

caught my attention last year, I am now drawn to “share”—the giving of what you have to others.

I see it all the time. Our alumni share their experience and expertise with our students through mentoring and speaking at orientation and noon hour talks. Our Board of Visitors, past and present, share their time by advising the school and advocating on its behalf. Our donors share gifts so we can offer the best educational opportunities, provide exceptional care to our clients, and support research advancements to benefit animal and human health.

And as I think about sharing, it becomes clear that because of all who share with the school we can not only do all that we do, but we can also do it so well. UW Veterinary Care was named Best of Madison this year. The school is among the top five of all veterinary medical schools in North America. Our faculty and staff are exceptional and our students are outstanding. But they can’t do it alone. They can do so much more because so many share so much with the school.

We think of this time of year as one of giving, which is really another way of saying sharing. It is also a time of being thankful. Together we ensure that the School of Veterinary Medicine provides excellent and compassionate service, finds answers to some of our greatest health challenges, and trains the next generation of leaders in veterinary medicine. To all of you who have shared your time, expertise, and financial gifts with us—thank you!

Kristi V. Thorson

Associate Dean for Advancement and Administration

P.S. It isn’t too late to be a part of the Share the Wonderful campaign. Visit www.sharethewonderful.org and designate your gift to the School of Veterinary Medicine

www.vetmed.wisc.edu

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On Call

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

Holiday Card Supports Animal Health

This holiday season consider giving those animal lovers on your list a gift that really benefits animals.

For a suggested \$10 donation per card, the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) 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 the recipient's name to the school 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 "Wreath of Joy," was donated by Jaroslava Sobiskova, an artist who lives in Madison, Wis.

In addition to the holiday card, a limited edition print featuring a different work of art by Jaroslava Sobiskova will be available. This 14.5" x 12" print, entitled "Borderline Shoe Obsession," 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, or contact Laura Olson in the school's Office for Advancement at 608-890-0203.



Jaroslava Sobiskova also donated the artwork for this year's Limited Edition Holiday Print. This piece, titled "Borderline Shoe Obsession" was produced with acrylic. Sobiskova's art reflects the constant inspiration she finds in animals.

Wreath of Joy

Jaroslava "Jarka" Sobiskova is a multi-media artist who lives in Madison, Wis. As a teacher and host of local art workshops, she works in paint, fiber, and clay mediums. Sobiskova is surrounded by many animals in her home, including her two beloved dogs, Gubby (a rescued Dachshund depicted in the card) and Emma; her cat, Libby; and her frog, Freeco.

Animals provide Sobiskova with constant inspiration. Her art attempts to capture each animal's personality as well as its beauty. She feels that animals provide the best support group through their ever-present love.

Her art can be found online at jarka.ws and www.etsy.com/shop/jarkasgallery or by contacting her directly at 608-466-6408.

