Gentle Doctor (Vol. 20, No. 3)

Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine

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College Breaks Ground for New VTH Building

Wanted: Food Animal Veterinarians

Distinguished Alumni Honored
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Fall 2006

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All creatures great and small

Ryder (Chesapeake Bay Retriever) and Walter (Miniature Pinscher) at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Photo/Tracy Ann Raef
Where in the world are Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine graduates?

![Map of the United States showing the number of graduates from each country.](image)

Argentina 1  Kenya 1
Bolivia 1  Netherlands 1
Cameroon 1  Panama 1
Canada 7  Puerto Rico 7
China 2  South Africa 1
England 1  Thailand 1
Germany 2  Uruguay 1

You're Invited

The Veterinary Medical Alumni Association invites you and your family to join other alumni of the College of Veterinary Medicine for the Iowa State women's basketball game to be held Saturday, January 27, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. A buffet luncheon will be held before the game at the Scheman Building, next door to Hilton Coliseum. Cost for both the game and the luncheon will be $20 per person.

Additional information and order forms will be e-mailed to members of the VMAA who have an e-mail address on file, and will also be posted at www.vetmed.iastate.edu/alumni/vmaa.asp by December 1, 2006.

If you are interested in attending this alumni event, you may also request information by sending an e-mail with your name and address to vmaaisu@iastate.edu, or sending a letter to VMAA, P.O. Box 1726, Ames, IA 50010.

We hope you can join us as we cheer on the Cyclones!
An Extraordinary Day in an Extraordinary Time

Dear Alumni and Friends,

R.

Buckminster Fuller, noted 1960s era visionary and lecturer, often spoke of focusing on important things and placing them in the context of "extraordinary times." As we celebrated the groundbreaking for our new teaching hospital on October 21, it was obvious that this is indeed an extraordinary time for the college and for the veterinary medical profession.

Our profession is being challenged to meet more diversified demands than ever before. Beyond the critical need for the traditional practitioner, we are expected to address critical needs in medical research, clinical specialties, public health, regulatory medicine, and the list continues to grow. The challenges we as a college face are providing an education that will equip our graduates to successfully address changing societal requirements, and equally important, providing the numbers of graduates necessary to fill the positions these needs create.

More than 400 alumni, donors, faculty, staff and friends participated in the beginning of a tremendous building project that is indeed the tipping point for our college, one that will move us from good to great. We have a lot of support and a world of opportunity.

The National Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act is federal legislation prepared and introduced through the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. This is an attempt to acquire federal funds to assist colleges of veterinary medicine to expand their capacity to meet the extraordinary demands for veterinarians. Our college is supportive of this initiative and is prepared to successfully compete for the funding.

The State of Iowa realizes that a leading-edge college of veterinary medicine cannot base its future on this federal initiative alone, and is making an extraordinary investment in our college at this pivotal point in its history—the Dr. W. Eugene and Linda Lloyd Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The $48.05 million Phase I, $9.3 million of which the college must provide through private funding, represents the largest one-time investment ever made by Iowa government in veterinary education. Phase II, the renovation of vacated large animal and equine spaces for small animal hospital expansion, will add an estimated $19 million more to this investment. This will create a modern, high-quality working and learning environment in our teaching hospital.

These extraordinary investments are not being made to allow the college to continue doing the same things we have been doing in the same ways we have been doing them. They present an extraordinary time of change, and a challenge for our college to be creative, innovative, and resourceful in leveraging resources to regain preeminence in veterinary teaching, research and service.

Our future will be defined by the successful recruitment and retention of the highest-quality students, staff and faculty; assessment and quality improvement of our curriculum; and timely completion of our facility expansion and renovation.

Our state has provided resources; our college has developed a new strategic plan; and our administration has prepared an aggressive timeline for achieving our growth in people, service and facilities in this extraordinary and defining time in our college's history. Your support will be critical and greatly appreciated.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

John U. Thomson
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Dean John U. Thomson, right, with AVMA President Roger Mahr
This year’s recipients are Drs. James E. Pearson (’66) and David Twedt, Jr., (’72).

**Dr. Pearson**
His original career goal was to be a farmer, but fate intervened. While on leave from the U.S. Air Force, he rode with veterinarians who practiced in Morrison, Ill. During those farm calls, Dr. Pearson decided to become a veterinarian. “Since then,” said Dr. John U. Thomson, dean of the college, “no one in the world has done more for the regulation and management of infectious diseases related to animals.”

Dr. James Pearson is an international consultant representing the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), and the consultant technical editor for the organization’s *Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*. He has represented the organization as a technical expert to the People’s Republic of China and at meetings on the control of biological weapons and on the standards for shipping infectious agents. Dr. Pearson is a consultant on a project to establish veterinary diagnostic laboratories and animal health programs in Georgia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan. As a consultant to the United Nation’s Food and Agricultural Organization, he conducted site visits to Vietnam to review the biosafety of a new avian influenza laboratory.

From 1999 to 2002, Dr. Pearson was head of the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE and from 1990 to 1999 was vice president of the Standards Commission of the OIE. Dr. Pearson was on the staff of the USDA’s National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, from 1970 to 1999 and served as the NVSL director from 1996 to 1999. From 1970 to 1996, he worked in the Diagnostic Virology Laboratory as section head and laboratory chief. From 1966 to 1968, he was a veterinary practitioner in a mixed animal practice in Fort Madison, Iowa.

He served in the Iowa National Air Guard, Des Moines, Iowa, flying fighters from 1962 to 1970, and as the commander of the Combat Support Squadron, retiring in 1984 as a lieutenant colonel.

Dr. Pearson is the recipient of the E. P. Pope Award for Excellence from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and 11 USDA service awards. In 2005, he received the OIE Gold Medal Award for his lifelong work in the field of veterinary medicine, his contributions to international animal health programs, and his work with the OIE.
Dr. Pearson received a BS (1956) in Farm Operations, a DVM (1966), and MS (1976) in veterinary microbiology from Iowa State University. He and his wife, Pat, reside in Ames, Iowa.

**Dr. Twedt**

“Dr. Twedt is nationally and internationally recognized for his knowledge of veterinary internal medicine,” Dr. Thomson said during the Stange Awards breakfast. “He is a tireless supporter of organized veterinary medicine and an outstanding educator, lecturer and teacher.”

Dr. Twedt, professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences at Colorado State University, is recognized for his expertise in small animal medicine. He is widely known for his research in the area of gastroenterology and hepatic diseases. Because of his contributions to the field, he is an often-sought guest lecturer for national and international veterinary conferences.

Dr. Twedt has an impressive record in veterinary education, having been involved in the postgraduate clinical training of over 140 interns and residents at Colorado State and serving as an advisor to more than 40 graduates. He has played a role in the education of over 3,500 veterinarians who have graduated from Colorado State University. In recognition of his dedication, Dr. Twedt received the 2005 Distinguished Contemporary Faculty Award, the 2004 Norden-Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award and the Innovative Instructional Methodology Award. In 1999, he was given the Outstanding Faculty Award by the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Twedt has presented over 400 continuing education programs to graduate veterinarians in the United States and around the world. He has published 180 refereed articles, book chapters and abstracts. In 2000, he was selected as the North American Veterinary Conference Small Animal Program Speaker of the Year. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine since 1978, Dr. Twedt has served in several leadership roles within the specialty group. He served as chairman of the board of regents and president. He also served as a forum chair for the group. In addition to the ACVIM, Dr. Twedt is also a member of the Comparative Gastroenterology Society, having served as its president in 1987 and as a member of the board of directors from 1988 to 1990.

Dr. Twedt graduated from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1972.

He and his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Whitney, live in Fort Collins, Colorado, with their 14-year-old son, Ryan Cameron.

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**Nominations Sought**

The college invites nominations for the 2007 Stange Award for Meritorious Service. Established in 1970, the award recognizes outstanding professional achievements in the areas of education, government, industry, practice or other endeavors in veterinary medicine. The annual award is named for Dr. Charles Stange, former dean of the college from 1909 to 1936. The award is given jointly by the college and the Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association.

Nominations will be accepted until January 30, 2007. Please submit names of nominations and a brief description of their accomplishments to: CVM Awards Committee, Office of the Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1250.
Iowa State professor receives Switzer Award in Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Lorraine J. Hoffman, interim director of Iowa State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, was honored with the William P. Switzer Award in Veterinary Medicine during the College of Veterinary Medicine's 2006 Research Day, August 11.

Established in 1998, the Switzer Award recognizes exemplary individuals who, through their achievements, have made significant contributions to society or to the enhancement of the veterinary medicine college.

"Dr. Hoffman epitomizes what we mean when we refer to a person's performance as excellent," said Dr. Nolan Hartwig, extension veterinarian. In his nomination of Dr. Hoffman he wrote, "She is an excellent microbiologist, teacher, advisor, mentor, diagnostician, researcher and university citizen."

Dr. Hoffman was honored for contributions to the college that span nearly 40 years. She is well known as a prolific researcher in microbiology.

"In addition, she has served as an outstanding role model for veterinary students, graduate students, and junior faculty," Dr. Hartwig said. "In a time when the veterinary student population has shifted from predominately male to predominately female, Dr. Hoffman has served as an important advisor for women in the veterinary profession."

Dr. Hoffman has been a lead advocate for improvements in client service in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Her efforts led to improved efficiencies and enhanced service, providing an example of the college's mission to better serve Iowa livestock producers and pet owners.

"I am honored beyond the spoken word to be named the 2006 recipient of the William P. Switzer Award," Dr. Hoffman said. "I am eternally grateful to him and his wife for providing the opportunity for this recognition. Although Dr. Switzer has been retired from the College of Veterinary Medicine for several years, he continues to inspire me and others with his unremitting commitment and servitude to the livestock industries, veterinary medicine, Iowa State University and his community."

Dr. Hoffman received her bachelor's degree from Wartburg College, Waverly, and her master's and doctoral degrees from Iowa State. She came to the college as a research associate and bacteriologist in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and joined the faculty in 1975. Dr. Hoffman is a professor in the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine. She is an honorary diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

Dr. Hoffman is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians where she serves in leadership positions on several committees. She helped establish and served many years on the National Committee of Clinical Laboratory Standards subcommittee that provides procedures and standards for antimicrobial testing of veterinary pathogens. Dr. Hoffman is an editorial reviewer for the American Journal of Veterinary Research, the Journal of Swine Health and Production and the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation.

AVMA honors Iowa State veterinarian for public service

The American Veterinary Medical Association presented its highest honor for public service to an Iowa State University professor known for his leadership in veterinary infectious disease research, teaching and outreach. Dr. James Roth, Clarence Hartley Covault Distinguished Professor in Veterinary Medicine, received the AVMA Public Service Award July 18 at the association’s annual convention.

The award recognizes a veterinarian for long-term, outstanding public service or unusual contributions to the practice or science of public health and regulatory veterinary medicine.

Dr. Roth is executive director of the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics, a World Organization for Animal Health collaborating center that provides training, brings about harmonization of regulations and assists countries in obtaining needed veterinary biologics such as vaccines. He also is director of the Center for Food Security and Public Health, which is working to increase national preparedness for accidental or intentional introduction of disease agents that threaten food production or public health.

“Iowa State University has always been strongly oriented toward public service,” Dr. Roth said. “I greatly appreciate the opportunities that I have had to contribute to the public service mission of our college.”
Dr. Roth earned his DVM (1975) and PhD (1981) from Iowa State. His research has focused on factors that suppress immune function and make animals susceptible to disease, and on understanding protective antigens and protective immune responses to aid the development of improved vaccines. He is the author of 130 research articles, one textbook and 27 book chapters. Dr. Roth is president of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. He has served on several federal boards, including the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity.

ISU biomedical scientist receives research excellence award

Dr. Vlastislav Bracha, associate professor of biomedical sciences at Iowa State University, is recipient of the 2006 Pfizer Award for Research Excellence. The award was presented during the College of Veterinary Medicine’s 2006 Research Day, August 11.

The award, sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, recognizes outstanding research that has or is likely to attain national recognition.

In his nomination of Dr. Bracha, Dr. Richard Martin, professor and chair of the biomedical sciences department, said, “Dr. Bracha is internationally renowned for his research, which involves the structure and function of the neural networks that are responsible for simple forms of associative learning. His studies have contributed to the scientific community’s understanding of classical conditioning.”

Dr. Bracha's research focuses on how the nervous system is involved in the memory process and in the generation of predictive automatic responses. Using sophisticated computer techniques, Bracha can record communications between brain cells and analyze how animals learn. His research has been published in the *Journal of Neurophysiology*, the *Journal of Brain Research*, the *Anatomical Record* and the *Journal of Learning and Memory*.

“I am very honored by this award,” Dr. Bracha said. “The college and department have created an excellent environment for our research. I believe that this award will be a great source of pride to students, postdoctoral fellows and research associates in my laboratory who, through their creativity and diligent work, significantly contribute to the advancement of science.”

In addition to his research, Dr. Bracha teaches endocrinology and comparative physiology to veterinary students. He has trained several postdoctoral fellows.

Dr. Bracha joined the faculty at Iowa State in 2000. He received doctoral degrees from the Czechoslovak Academy of Science and from Charles University, both in Prague.

Halbur appointed chair of VDPAM and executive director of VDL

Dr. Patrick Halbur accepted the position of chair of the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine and executive director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine in October 2006. He served as interim chair and executive director since July 2005.

Since coming to Iowa State as an assistant professor of veterinary pathology, Dr. Halbur has held several faculty positions. In 2004, he received the rank of full professor and served as the interim associate dean for public services and outreach until June 2005.

“Dr. Halbur’s research in porcine circovirus, Hepatitis E, and other swine diseases has brought state, national, and international recognition to our college,” said Dr. John U. Thomson, dean, “and made a significant impact on the swine industry in Iowa.”

He was the 1998 recipient of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians’ Howard W. Dunne Memorial Award. In 2004, he received the Meritorious Service Award from the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association, and he was named Honorary Iowa Master Pork Producer by the Iowa Pork Producers Association.

Dr. Halbur is a district director representing Iowa on the American Association of Swine Veterinarians Board of Directors. He is a past president of the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Halbur received his veterinary degree from Iowa State University in 1986. He was a partner in a mixed animal practice in Williamsburg, Iowa, for five years prior to earning his PhD in pathology from Iowa State in 1995.
White Coat Ceremony marks special milestone for class of 2010

The Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine’s Class of 2010 marked the start of its veterinary education at the college’s White Coat Ceremony, Friday, August 18.

Each of the 120 first-year students was introduced and presented with a white coat to signify the transition from undergraduate to professional education. This is the third year that the veterinary college has held the White Coat Ceremony, a tradition in many colleges of medicine, pharmacy and veterinary medicine.

The presentation of the white coat marks the student’s induction into the professional curriculum of veterinary medicine. The coat is a tangible symbol and daily reminder of the student’s chosen profession and accompanying responsibilities.

During the ceremony, Dean John U. Thomson gave welcoming remarks. Jaime Clark-Streff, third-year student and president of the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association gave the student address. Dr. Darrell Neuberger, president of the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association, introduced students to the Veterinarian’s Oath, which they will recite at graduation.

The highlight of the evening was the coating ceremony. Each student was “coated” by an individual chosen by the student. The “coater” could be a college faculty member, a member of the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association or a veterinarian from the student’s home community. In several cases, students were coated by family members who are veterinarians.

Dr. James Hoffmann (ISU ’82) coated his son, Patrick. “This was a special event for me,” Dr. Hoffmann said. “I felt an intense feeling of pride that my son thought enough about my career to want to venture down a similar path. That unexplained swelling in my heart was like an enormous pat on the back. I hope this jump-starts his four years of study and makes him feel that he has a lot of support during those years.”

Kari Christianson chose Dr. Peggy Chamberlain of Crystal Lake, Ill. “She has been my family’s veterinarian for nearly 18 years,” said Ms. Christianson. “Dr. Chamberlain gave me opportunities to watch surgeries, taught me different techniques, involved me with her cases, and let me work in the clinic for five years. She has been a big influence in my decision to attend veterinary school.”

Veterinary students also pledged to abide by the college’s Honor Code, a written policy developed by students to promote integrity and ethics. This year’s ceremony is the first in which students’ families and friends witnessed the signing of the Honor Code.

The Class of 2010 began their four-year veterinary education on Monday, August 21, with an 8 a.m. histophysiology class.

Head of Bulgarian University visits College of Veterinary Medicine

Svetlin Tanchev, rector of Trakia University, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, visited the college in October. He signed a memorandum of agreement for student and faculty exchanges with the College of Veterinary Medicine during his visit. Trakia University includes schools of agriculture, veterinary medicine and medicine with a student body of nearly 5,000.
College offers distance education degree program in public health

Iowa State University and the University of Iowa jointly developed a program that allows veterinarians to receive a master’s degree in public health without leaving their current job positions.

The distance-based program is designed for practicing veterinarians looking for a career change, or to enhance their ability to become board-certified from the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. The MPH degree provides veterinarians with opportunities to work in local, state, and federal health agencies; agricultural and environmental agencies; colleges and universities; vaccine and food industry companies; the military; and international public health agencies. The need for veterinarians trained in public health can be seen daily in news reports of zoonotic diseases such as high pathogenic avian influenza, BSE, foodborne illnesses such as E. coli 0157, environmental health and bio/ agroterrorism threats.

The program will begin in June 2007, with an in-person, two-week summer institute at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. During the summer of 2008, a two-week summer institute will be held at Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine in Ames. The remainder of the courses will be offered via the Internet.

In 2002, Iowa State University and the University of Iowa began training veterinarians in public health. Since then, 15 veterinarians moved to Ames to work for the Center for Food Security and Public Health at the College of Veterinary Medicine and complete the MPH degree.

For more information and a list of the courses for this 42-credit degree program, visit: www.public-health.uiowa.edu/mph/about/professional_programs/mph_vets.html.

Nieves, Seng recognized for service to college

Dr. John U. Thomson, dean, recognized two supporters of the College of Veterinary Medicine during the September 2006 Iowa Veterinary Medical Association annual meeting. Dr. Mary Ann Nieves was recognized for her service as director of the college’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Dr. Nieves served as director from 2002 to 2006. She stepped down as director to focus full time on research and clinical practice. Dr. Nieves received her DVM (’84) from Oklahoma State University and MS (’93) from Iowa State University. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Dr. Thomson presented her with a plaque of appreciation.

Dr. Joe Seng (’70) was also recognized by the dean for his support of the college and the profession. He has served as a resource on animal health issues to his colleagues in the Iowa House and the Senate where he serves as the state senator from district 43 (Davenport). Dr. Thomson presented Dr. Seng with a bronze casting of the Pegasus created by Christian Petersen, the nation's first campus artist-in-residence.
Typical groundbreakings involve the traditional ceremonial shovels or backhoes. The College of Veterinary Medicine chose to draw on its heritage as the nation’s first public-supported school of veterinary medicine, and enlisted Jake, a Percheron draft horse owned by faculty member Dr. James West (ISU ’71), and a restored walking plow owned by David and Barbara (Ag Engineering) Kalsem, to commemorate the start of construction on the Dr. W. Eugene and Linda Lloyd Veterinary Teaching Hospital construction and renovation project.

Following recognitions and comments by University President Gregory Geoffroy, AVMA President Dr. Roger Mahr (ISU ’71), and Dr. Gene (ISU ’49) and Linda Lloyd, a standing-room-only crowd, including national and state legislators, local government officials, donors, faculty, staff and students, watched as Dr. Justin Greenlee (ISU ’99) directed Jake in turning over the ceremonial first furrow.

Dean Thomson had the unique opportunity to recognize the contributions of four past deans and spouses who were on the guest list, including Dr. George C. Christensen (1963-1965), Mrs. Mary Jane Pearson (Dr. Phillip T. Pearson 1972-1989), Dr. Richard Ross (1993-2000), and Dr. Norman Cheville (2000-2004).
David Shirbroun (VM-3) had no prior experience with pigs. “I had a negative, uninformed view of the swine industry. I always wanted to be a mixed animal practitioner, but I had no desire to see a pig,” he said.

Angela Holbrook (VM-2) grew up on the old swine nutrition farm at Iowa State. Her father, Randy, is the animal caretaker at the university. Although Angela’s formative years were steeped in swine production, she had no experience with dairy cows.

Both students wanted to learn more, so each took one of the newly developed animal production cooperative experiences offered by the College of Veterinary Medicine—David, the Swine Production Immersive Knowledge and Experience (SPIKE), and Angela, the Dairy Production Immersive Knowledge and Experience (D-PIKE).

“Participating in the cooperative experience really opened my eyes,” David Shirbroun said. “Before this summer, I never would have considered working in the swine industry. Now, I would enjoy working in a mixed practice with swine clients.”

Angela Holbrook said, “After having milked and worked on different dairies this summer, I feel confident about practicing dairy medicine. The opportunity that D-PIKE offered was invaluable to me because I want to practice large animal medicine.”

**Pigs and Cows 101**

“We designed the summer cooperative experiences so the students could better appreciate animal production from the ground up,” said Dr. Bruce Leuschen (ISU ’83), university veterinarian and clinician in food supply veterinary services.”
The D-PIKE students spent time in the milk parlors, fresh cow pens, and maternity barns at four dairies. They also walked the barns to learn how to heat-detect and take care of the calves and replacement heifers.

“The students also attended weekly seminars on subjects including parlor management, mastitis protocols, the calving process, dairy economics, nutrition and cow comfort,” Dr. Leuschen said. D-PIKE students went on field trips to three dairy processors, a dairy that milks 150 cows and processes and retails their milk, an ethanol plant, and several innovative dairies. The students had a rotation with Postville Veterinary Clinic, riding with the practitioners to dairies that they serve in northeast Iowa.

Students in the SPIKE cooperative experience spent time in the various phases of swine production, such as gilt multipliers, boar studs, breeding and farrowing, nurseries, wean-to-finishers, and finishers. They visited feed mills and attended the World Pork Expo in Des Moines. SPIKE participants attended weekly seminars at the Audubon-Manning Veterinary Clinic (host clinic for SPIKE) on topics including biosecurity, sow longevity, and field trial design and analysis.

“There’s no question that if I had the opportunity to participate in a program like SPIKE or D-PIKE, it would have helped me become more effective faster when I first went into practice,” said Dr. Locke Karriker (MIS ’99), assistant professor of food supply veterinary services at the college.

Dr. Leuschen said that his veterinary education didn’t focus on the topics covered during the weekly seminars, such as cow comfort or nutrition. “I had to learn about those things after college, and that takes time that you don’t have as a recent graduate in a busy practice,” he said. “When students have worked on a 1,000-cow dairy through an internship versus raising calves for a 4-H project, it changes the types of questions that they ask during their veterinary classes,” he added.

“We were able to see aspects of swine production, like boar studs, that most veterinarians never see,” David Shirbroun said. “That type of hands-on experience will give me credibility with my future clients. Even if I never collect boar semen again in my life, I’ll at least know how the process works when I’m a practitioner giving advice to my clients.”

Dr. Karriker said that in veterinary education, diseases and aspects of animal production are taught individually. “We don’t do a good job of showing how the parts of both fit together. In the real world, there are
always multietiology disease problems, and those problems are always impacted by the farm management. If you don’t understand how those pieces fit, it takes a long time to get up to speed and be an effective veterinarian on the farm.”

Another valuable lesson that the students learned is that there isn’t always one right answer, he said. The best answer for farm A may not be the best answer for farm B. And, most important, the perfect answer is not always going to get implemented. The students need to learn that the answer that gets you 80 percent of compliance, repeated and correctly, each day on the farm, is a realistic option, he added.

Sometimes the value of SPIKE and D-PIKE was seeing what experienced veterinarians can do. During the SPIKE cooperative experience, the students had a chance to take samples from 1,100 pigs at a farm in Wichita Falls, Texas. The four SPIKE students took samples from 300 pigs in a day, while the veterinarian and his assistant took samples from 800.

The students also saw the variability among the farms. The veterinarian can design an excellent medical intervention. But that treatment program will never get to the pig or cow, unless a good training program for the staff is developed and implemented.

“I envy the students who went through SPIKE,” said Dr. Bob Blomme (ISU ’90), a veterinarian at the Audubon-Manning Veterinary Clinic. “They saw the ebb and flow of different farms and the challenges that occur when someone calls in sick and how that changes what the rest of the farm staff has to do that day. That experience will make them better practitioners.”

“As we see the changing dairy industry, students need to understand producers’ needs and they can develop the skills to help fulfill those needs,” said Dr. Curtis Harms (KSU ’95), technical service specialist for Monsanto. “The experience that a
“with SPIKE,” said Dr. J. Tyler Holck (ISU ’88), swine professional services manager for Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica. “SPIKE is an innovative teaching approach, and supporting it fits with our company’s mission statement of value through innovation.”

Dr. Leuschen’s advice to others who wish to develop similar programs at their colleges is to have an upper-class student on site to handle the day-to-day issues that arise. Brent Volker, third-year veterinary student, for instance, was familiar with the dairy industry and served as the resident contact person for the D-PIKE program. He made contacts with seminar speakers and milk processing plant managers after Dr. Leuschen lined them up.

“At our veterinary clinic, we’ve all had good mentors and role models,” Dr. Blomme said. “Our involvement in SPIKE was a way for us to give back to the veterinary profession.”

The future

Both SPIKE and D-PIKE will be offered again next summer to veterinary students who will be in their first, second, or third year in fall 2007.

“The programs need to accommodate as many students as possible, early in the veterinary curriculum,” David Shirbroun said. “Students need to keep an open mind about career options.”

“I feel like I grew up on a dairy farm now,” Angela Holbrook said. “One really important benefit was that I learned the dairy lingo, and that will give me credibility when I’m a new practitioner.”

 SPIKE student Ryan Schaefer receiving pigs in the nursery.
Critical analysis is an important skill for veterinarians. With the myriad of information in journals and continuing education programs, how does a veterinarian know what's fact or fiction?

Faculty members at Iowa State University have developed a course in evidence-based medicine to teach veterinary students how to critically evaluate research studies and information. “We try to get students to think about information presented,” said Rich Evans, PhD, assistant professor in veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine. “Just because someone says something, even if he or she is experienced, that doesn’t mean it’s fact.”

Dr. Evans teaches students to recognize the evidentiary value of research studies. For example, there’s a report in a scientific journal that evaluates the value of surgical vs. pharmaceutical treatment for canine lameness. It’s important to find out how and when the canine’s lameness was measured. Was it measured through owner survey or through force-plate analysis? Also, when were the canines evaluated, e.g., two weeks after surgery or six months?

This spring veterinary students will review procedures commonly used in veterinary practice to see if those procedures are based on evidence. Procedures to be evaluated may include screening canines for heartworm, footbaths as a preventive for hairy heel in dairy cows, and perioperative antibiotics for controlling postoperative infection. Students will also evaluate the levels of evidence supporting those procedures.

“The goal is to teach students to think about why they are doing something,” Dr. Evans said. Even if there’s no evidence to support a protocol, the experience of the clinician has to be taken into account. “It’s a blend of evidence and experience,” Dr. Evans adds.

Dr. Evans began teaching the course in spring 2005. Abby Patterson, a fourth-year veterinary student, who took the course two years ago said: “Instead of reading an article and automatically assuming the information is true and applies to the situation, we were taught to investigate the study design and the validity of the results. We learned to place less weight on significant biases, for example, subjective measurements or inadequate sample sizes. We were also taught to consider the external validity of the study to see if the results apply to the situation.”

This spring the one-hour, elective course will be offered at various times during the week so all students who wish to do so can take the course.

“Critical interpretation of journal articles will allow me to integrate the best medical evidence with clinical expertise to solve clinical problems,” Ms. Patterson said.
All of these words come from my background as a college basketball coach. The legendary, and mentor of mine, John Wooden uses these same words in his Pyramid of Success. Industriousness, friendship, loyalty, cooperation and enthusiasm are the foundation of the pyramid. With this, I know I’ve found a new home at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

I arrived in Ames at the end of September from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, where I was in the Alumni and Development Office for 6 years. I grew up in a small rural community in southwest Minnesota where I spent many summers bailing hay and doing chores on my uncle’s farms.

Coaching positions have taken me to places such as South Dakota State University and the University of Wisconsin-Richland, and finally to Buena Vista University. I left coaching in 1993 to spend more time with my young family and shift gears in my professional growth. I’ve found a home in development work and a great cause to support at the college.

As I begin this new relationship with Iowa State University and the College of Veterinary Medicine, I look forward to meeting you in the coming months.

Best regards,
Jeff Spielman

“Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of satisfaction you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.”
—John R. Wooden, Head Basketball Coach, Emeritus UCLA

Class of ’64 pledge to VTH

The Class of 1964 pledged $100,000 to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital building project. Dr. Stanley Moum (’64) represents the pledge to Dr. John U. Thomson and Richard Bundy, assistant vice president of development.

Effective Nov. 6, Shane Jacobson (ISU BS ’03) is the new director of development for the college. Shane will report to Jeff Spielman, senior development officer. Previously, Shane served as the assistant director for outreach and events at the ISU Alumni Association and managed its National Clubs Program. He also worked as a student recruiter for the Iowa State Office of Admissions. When asked about serving in this role, he said, “This college has an impressive history of success and of graduating extraordinary individuals. I look forward to the significant opportunities we have to become the nation’s leading College of Veterinary Medicine.”
Imagine a football field piled 43-feet high . . .

That’s the amount of dirt that will be scraped, dug and trucked from the site of the Dr. W. Eugene and Linda Lloyd Veterinary Teaching Hospital this fall and early winter. The physical footprint of the college will be changing dramatically over the next two years, and the site is already taking on a different look. Thirty to 40 trees were removed, with the majority being replanted on the college campus and at the site of the two former Towers residence halls.

Work this fall has centered on preparing utility infrastructure for the new building, including moving sewer, storm water and communications lines. Late fall and winter activities will include additional site preparation, completing the full building excavation, and forming and pouring footings. Work will continue on a new cooling tower facility to replace the existing structure and increase capacity for the added space. A temporary building will be added to house the hospital’s new MRI imaging equipment that will be installed in the spring. The MRI will later be moved to the advanced imaging area of the new building when it is complete.

Phase II is coming!

Phase I of the Lloyd Teaching Hospital will move the equine and food animal hospital to a new home, offering enhanced services and growing capabilities, and increasing overall college physical size by 25 percent. Phase II will reclaim the space vacated by the large animal move and increase the size of the small animal hospital by over 100 percent. Phase II work is expected to begin in the summer of 2009.

Expansion Project Summary

$48 million estimated Phase I cost
$9.3 million from private funding
55,000 square feet assignable space
25% increase in total college physical plant
Approximately 2.08 million cubic feet of dirt will be moved

Visiting the college:
Watch for the signs to help you get where you want to go.

Off of South 16th Street
Use Entrance A (S. Riverside Drive) to get to the Small and Large Animal Hospitals.

Use Entrance B (Christensen Drive) to get to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and college offices.
Dr. Allen Y. Miyahara (’54) was named the recipient of the AVMA Award during the AVMA’s annual convention in July 2006. The award recognizes distinguished contributions to the advancement of veterinary medical organizations.

Dr. Miyahara is being recognized for this service as well as for his work as AVMA vice president (1995-1997). During his term as AVMA vice president, he brought credibility and honor to the profession and the association through his work with the Student American Veterinary Medical Association, individual chapters, and students.

For more than 40 years, Dr. Miyahara has devoted himself to the veterinary medical profession and contributed substantially to the international understanding of veterinary medicine. Throughout his career, Dr. Miyahara has been committed to a stronger internationally united profession that meets current and future challenges confronting the worldwide medical community, such as zoonotic diseases and bioterrorist threats. He has shared his ideas and concerns with colleagues in Pacific Rim countries as both an officer of the Hawaii VMA and as Hawaii’s AVMA delegate since the early 1970s.

Dr. Miyahara has traveled throughout Asia and has always made it a priority to spend time with veterinary leaders in each country and to visit the schools in each country. Dr. Miyahara was instrumental in introducing the concept of the human-animal bond into countries throughout Asia.

As he traveled, Dr. Miyahara observed that each country looked to the United States as a leader of the veterinary medical profession. Dr. Miyahara encouraged the countries in the Pacific Rim to strengthen their ties with the AVMA, and he encouraged leaders from Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, and Thailand to attend the 2006 Annual Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dr. Miyahara was invited to Japan last year to make a presentation concerning education and accreditation standards in the United States. His goal is to encourage schools in Asia to become accredited by the AVMA, as have ten other foreign schools in North America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.
ISU alumna sixth recipient of the Bennett J. Cohen Award

During the organization's 41-year history, the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International has presented its Bennett J. Cohen Award six times. The award is the association's highest award, given to outstanding individuals who have provided exceptional service and significant contributions to AAALAC. During the association's annual meeting, Dr. Janet C. Gonder ('76) became the sixth recipient and the second Iowa State alumni to receive the award.

Dean John U. Thomson, left, with Dr. Janet C. Gonder

Dr. Gonder has been involved with AAALAC for more than two decades. She has served as chair of AAALAC’s Council on Accreditation, participated in more than 120 site visits, and continues to serve as a council member emeritus. She has authored dozens of articles and has made more than 50 presentations at scientific conferences. Dr. Gonder is currently a member and manager of Garber Consulting. Her leadership and outstanding contributions have helped AAALAC become the respected organization it is today.

Mahr Receives Special Award from University of Illinois

Dr. Roger Mahr, who took office in July 2006 as the president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, was selected by the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and its Veterinary Medical Alumni Association to receive the college’s Special Service Award.

The Special Service Award is given to an outstanding individual who has made significant contributions to the veterinary profession or to the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

In accepting the award, Dr. Mahr cited the Illinois veterinary community and veterinary graduates of the University of Illinois for their support throughout his career. He also mentioned the theme for his tenure as AVMA presidency, noting the unique role of the veterinary profession in animal and human health. “There is one world, one health, and one medicine,” he said, “and our profession must take the lead” in protecting all three.

After graduating with a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Iowa State University in 1971, Dr. Mahr was employed as an associate veterinarian in the Chicago suburbs of Morton Grove and Evanston for three years. Dr. Mahr established, owned, and directed the Meadow View Veterinary Clinic in Geneva, Ill., from 1974 through 2004.

Dr. Mahr has been active in organized veterinary medicine his entire career, including serving as president and board member and on numerous committees for both the Chicago and the Illinois State veterinary medical associations as well as on the AVMA Executive Board, Long Range Planning Committee, Committee on Environmental Affairs, and Model Veterinary Practice Act Task Force.

The Special Service Award was presented during the college's Annual Fall Conference for Veterinarians in September 2006.

In Memoriam

The Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine wishes to express its sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of the following alumni:

1940s

Clarence W. Meeusen ('42)
Cedar Grove, Wisc., died Aug. 23, 2006

Merrill H. Wallinga ('42)
Sioux Center, Iowa, died May 20, 2006

Clifford L. Syverson ('45)
Lawrence, Kan., died Oct. 13, 2005

1950s

Robert H. LeVan ('55)
Lexington, Neb., died Apr. 23, 2006

1960s

Donald J. Andrle ('60)
Brandon, Wisc., died June 12, 2006

Robert E. Creel ('61)
Gurnee, Ill., died Sept. 4, 2004

William K. Thomsen ('62)
Lake City, Iowa, died Sept. 29, 2005

1980s

Thomas A. Carlson ('88)
Omaha, Neb., died June 22, 2006
Another Iowa State University graduate takes the national stage as president of the Academy of Veterinary Consultants (AVC). Dr. John Mayer ('77) recently began his term as president, after 22 years of service to the organization.

Dr. Mayer, owner and operator of Midlands Consulting, P.C., provides consulting services to cattle feeders in Nebraska and Iowa. His career in veterinary medicine spans almost 30 years and has seen a lot of change in the industry. “The challenges of food animal veterinarians are the continual reality of the consolidation of cattle feeding operations. There are fewer and bigger operations and thus fewer veterinarians are needed for these operations. Veterinarians need to become creative to stay involved in food animal medicine. High energy costs will continue to be a problem as veterinarians travel to clients and the distance between clients continues to increase.”

His advice to veterinary students and recent graduates is that they truly understand the areas of bovine medicine that they want to pursue. “They need to walk in the shoes of their clients so they understand their business. They also need to connect with veterinarians already in their area of interest.”

“I entered veterinary school after two years of pre-veterinary coursework,” Dr. Mayer said. “If I had to do it over, I would have gotten a degree in some field of production agriculture or agriculture business first.”

In his own career, Dr. Mayer has been influenced by veterinarians he’s worked with and met through his membership in the AVC. “I recently attended the funeral of a veterinarian I rode with as a student and later worked with. He graduated in 1942 and in 64 years he saw many changes in veterinary medicine and production agriculture. I have also seen tremendous change over my career and I am sure there will be more changes.”

Dr. Mayer credits the AVC with providing the cutting-edge and high-quality information in food animal medicine that helped him succeed in his career. “It’s important that the AVC get and keep veterinary students and young veterinarians interested in food animal medicine by mentoring and providing help and support to them.”

“The most important thing I learned early in my career was that there was so much I didn’t know. If I got in a situation where I didn’t know something, I couldn’t be afraid to admit that I didn’t know the answer. Building relationships with other veterinarians in the field can provide a young veterinarian with contacts for advice and opinions. The AVC has been a tremendous resource to me. The AVC is more like a family to me than an organization.”
Schultz Receives Science with Practice Award from Iowa State

Roy Schultz, DVM ('60), MS ('81), received the Science with Practice Award, which recognizes exemplary integration of science and the art of veterinary practice to benefit swine productivity and welfare. The award was presented during the 14th Annual Swine Disease Conference at Iowa State University on November 9.

The Science with Practice Award was derived from language of the Iowa State University seal which emphasizes infusing science into the practice of all university disciplines. This award recognizes beneficial strengths that research and science implementation bring to the practice of swine medicine, and the benefits to both clients and to animals. A swine practitioner for over 40 years, Dr. Schultz is an outstanding example of using science to solve swine health and welfare problems on the farm. After practicing for 20 years, he returned to Iowa State University to learn more about *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*, a disease that was affecting his clients' herds. He returned to his practice with a master's degree in veterinary microbiology and preventive medicine. Subsequently, he developed a vaccine for APP that was licensed by the USDA.

During his years in practice, Dr. Schultz conducted research on several other swine health and production problems. He is an often sought-after lecturer at producer and veterinary meetings, nationally and internationally. He has authored over 100 scientific papers.

He is a past president of the AASV and was named Swine Practitioner of the Year in 1986. He is a founding member of the AASV, and was honored with a life membership in 2003.

In addition to his leadership roles in the AASV, Dr. Schultz is an active member of the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association, the US Animal Health Association, where he received life membership in 2006, and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Race for the Cure

Seventy faculty, staff and students from the College of Veterinary Medicine participated in the Race for the Cure held in Des Moines, Oct. 28, 2006. The team from the college was one of the largest that participated in the race. Dr. Joann Morrison, small animal internist at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, has served as the team's captain the past two years. “We have three cancer survivors who are on the team and we run to support them and other survivors,” Dr. Morrison said.

Luanne Endreland, laboratory technician, is a cancer survivor and member of the race team from the college. “I participated with my daughter and granddaughter,” said Mrs. Endreland. “I’m glad that so many people participated, the 70 from Vet Med, and the 21,000 others who were there. This is the third time I’ve raced. It’s awesome that so many care about this cause. It gets bigger every year. Thanks to all of the team members!”

Dr. Jim McKeen (right) presents Dr. Roy Schultz ('60) with the Science with Practice Award. Established in 2006, the award is given by the Food Supply Veterinary Services section at Iowa State’s College of Veterinary Medicine. It recognizes individuals who demonstrate the application of research and science to the practice of swine medicine, and the benefits to both clients and to animals. Photo/Dr. Alex Ramirez
Drs. Nani Ghoshal and Larry Evans “turn the dirt” at the college’s informal groundbreaking ceremonies for faculty, staff, and students on August 30. During the ceremonies, Dr. John Thomson, dean of the college, announced the beginning of the VTH construction and renovation. He presented longtime employees, Drs. Ghoshal and Evans, with appreciation plaques for their 43 years of service to the college.