From the Dean

We’re growing

During recent months, our energies have been and will continue to be focused on improving our facilities for students and clients, securing private and public investment in our priorities, conducting the highest quality research and enhancing the student experience. Following are some of our priorities.

**Ben Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center.** Contractors have begun the renovation of our 1907 dairy barn into a state-of-the-art learning center named in honor of a dear friend and great veterinarian. The center will house several classrooms, seminar rooms, a cafeteria, and a student technology center. Completion of the project is expected in early 2007 (see page 5).

**U of M Equine Center.** The Board of Regents recently approved plans for a new Equine Center facility to house outpatient clinical and research programs, the University’s undergraduate equine program, and the We Can Ride therapeutic riding program. The facility will include a large arena and a technology-rich conference center for continuing education programs. We continue to raise funds for this center. Completion of the project is expected in fall 2007 (see page 22).

**Veterinary Medical Center.** Our Veterinary Medical Center is an essential component of our teaching and research mission. To ensure that it remains financially viable, we have been engaged in a process to enhance service to clients and veterinarians by improving the efficiency of our systems and processes. Currently, we are developing a state-of-the-art call center that will streamline communications and a scheduling system to reduce client visit time. We are also delighted to announce the arrival of Dr. David Lee, who has joined us as the center’s new director (see page 27).

**Avian influenza.** The College is preparing for a possible introduction of avian H5N1 influenza virus into the United States. We are working closely with state agencies to coordinate response efforts, and our unique expertise and facilities make us key players in Minnesota’s planning for an outbreak. Especially important is the upgrade of facilities in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

We continue to make great strides in teaching our students, conducting research, and providing great service.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Klausner, D.V.M.
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
With everything else going on, you wouldn’t expect chickens and turkeys to make front-page news. But they have – many times in recent months – as avian influenza, the “bird flu,” draws the attention of citizens and policymakers around the world. In early 2004, a particularly deadly form of the virus that causes the disease, known as H5N1, appeared in Thailand and Vietnam. Since then, H5N1 has been found in more than a dozen other countries, including China, Russia, and Turkey. Millions of birds have died or been destroyed in the wake of the outbreak. In addition, at least 141 humans have been sickened by H5N1, and at least 73 have died. Fears that the virus will spread further or be genetically altered in a way that allows it to spread among humans has dramatically increased awareness of, and interest in, bird flu.

Although new on the public’s radar screen, avian influenza has long been part of the animal health picture for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL). As the official laboratory for the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, the VDL conducts routine surveillance for avian influenza as part of a longstanding statewide plan to prevent a widespread outbreak of the disease. The avian influenza virus comes in many forms. Most are termed “low pathogenic” and produce a mild illness in poultry with little mortality. Highly pathogenic forms, such as the H5N1 virus that has stricken Asia, are far more deadly. Minnesota has never had a case of high-path avian influenza; low-path has become increasingly rare here as the state’s poultry industry has moved toward total confinement, reducing exposure to wild birds that carry the disease.

Because early detection is key to preventing an epidemic should the virus appear, the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory at Willmar, a cooperative effort of the Board of Animal Health and the University of Minnesota, routinely tests blood from turkeys at slaughter for indications the birds have been exposed to the virus. And veterinarians and poultry producers watch flocks closely for flu-like signs of illness.

“If they see birds that are sick, they bring them in for diagnosis,” says assistant clinical specialist Andre Ziegler, D.V.M. “It’s our job to rule out influenza.”

“Infection with the H5N1 bird flu virus causes high mortality in chickens.

“We have prepared and are prepared to deal with the disease in Minnesota should it appear.”

— Jim Collins

When a sick or dead bird or a tissue sample from a suspected case of avian influenza arrives, VDL technicians perform one or more of three types of tests—a virus isolation test, a PCR test, and a rapid antigen capture (AC-ELISA) test—to detect the presence of the virus. The AC-ELISA test is rapid but not as accurate as the other two in detecting the presence of the virus. If results are negative, the more sensitive but slower tests are used to double-check the AC-ELISA results.

continued on page 4
The two labs run some 80,000 tests each year to detect the antibodies to the avian influenza virus. If one should come up positive, the lab would notify the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, the state’s official agency for controlling animal diseases, which would then determine whether the flock needs to be quarantined or other actions taken.

Both Ziegler and director Jim Collins, D.V.M., Ph.D., say the chances of the H5N1 virus making it from Asia to Minnesota are extremely remote. But the odds of other high-path versions of avian influenza showing up are not as slim; there have been several cases in North America in the past two decades, including outbreaks in British Columbia and Texas in 2004. Because Minnesota is accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to test for a variety of forms of avian influenza—including taking overflow from other labs—the VDL could well play a role should a high-path virus be detected not only in Minnesota but in other states as well.

So far, Ziegler says, the main impact of the Asian avian influenza outbreak on the VDL has been an increase in inquiries from reporters and policy makers looking for information about the disease. Surveillance work at the Willmar facility has been stepped up, and Ziegler expects the demand for testing at VDL to increase as well.

“We have prepared and are prepared to deal with the disease in Minnesota should it appear,” says Collins.

For more information on avian influenza, go to [www.cvm.umn.edu/ai](http://www.cvm.umn.edu/ai)

Mary Hoff

Veterinary Museum kicks off fund-raising campaign

In 1985, several Minnesota veterinarians recognized the progress of the Minnesota veterinary profession over the last century. They created the Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum, which continues to serve today as a resource to students, faculty, and others interested in veterinary medicine.

The museum is planning to raise $750,000 to support an endowment fund. Money raised will help pay for a part-time curator who will manage and promote museum activities and collections and further develop these galleries and displays. Two of the seminar rooms in the Ben Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center will be dedicated as the Pomeroy Gallery and Honors Gallery to celebrate the achievements of veterinarians.

The Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum campaign kicks off this summer. For more information, call Walt Mackey at 612-625-7770.
In 2005 the Minnesota Legislature approved $5.1 million to renovate a 1907 dairy barn on the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. The building will be transformed into the Ben Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center, providing the College of Veterinary Medicine with much-needed classrooms, seminar space, offices, and conference rooms.

Planning began in the spring of 2005. In early 2006 the Board of Regents approved the College’s proposal to name the building the Ben Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center in honor of veterinarian and University of Minnesota Professor Emeritus Ben Pomeroy, who was a strong advocate for veterinary medicine. Dr. Pomeroy passed away on January 16, 2004, at age 92.

McGough Construction was awarded the contract to develop the project and act as general contractor. McGough is in the process of reviewing all design documents, engineering reports, and other relevant materials to ascertain the maximum price for the renovation.

The architect, Miller Dunwiddie and Associates (MDA), is finalizing the design of the mechanical and life-safety systems and preliminary construction started in April 2006.

When the renovation is complete, the building will boast:
- 12,000 square feet of newly refurbished space
- A state-of-the-art classroom accommodating up to 200 students, with flexibility to create two 100-person classrooms
- Four flexible seminar rooms (accommodating 12-15 people) that may be reconfigured for meetings or classes of up to 50 people
- A large conference room and smaller meeting rooms
- A 50-seat computer lab with digital and wireless Internet access
- Office space for Academic and Student Services and other staff
- A commons area with a cafeteria for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends

Thanks to the Minnesota Legislature, students will have a new, state-of-the-art building in which to learn and alumni will have a place to gather, take part in continuing education programs, and meet with old friends.

To check progress, go to www.cvm.umn.edu.
College hosts national SAVMA Symposium

More than 1,200 veterinary students from around the nation were in Minneapolis March 9-11 for SAVMA Symposium 2006, the annual meeting of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association. Hosted by the College at the Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis, the symposium included lectures, wet labs, exhibits, academic and athletic competitions, tours, day trips, and evening events. The keynote speaker was Jack Hanna, director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo and star of the syndicated TV show “Jack Hanna’s Animal Adventures.” A team of students led by Liz Boos (class of 2006) spent the last year coordinating details of the conference.

Learning through role-playing

How can a student learn to be a better veterinarian without using animals? Through role-playing in the College of Veterinary Medicine’s client-simulation labs.

“Client-simulation labs help teach students better exam-room skills,” says Dr. Rebecca McComas, assistant clinical professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences department. The students participate in one simulation lab during their first year of veterinary school and complete two during their second year. They also have an option to take a non-clinical elective class on client simulation during their fourth year.

The clients involved in the role-play are not real clients, but trained simulator participants interested in helping veterinary students improve their communication skills. No animals are used during the labs, and the participants follow scripted case studies created by faculty.

“Client simulations are an excellent way to improve communication skills,” says second-year student Jackie Bryan. “These simulations put you in situations where you really need to think. Not all the cases we will receive as veterinarians will be predictable. The simulations give us the opportunity to use our knowledge and skills and receive valuable feedback on our performance.”

The labs are not graded. Each student receives a videotape of their client simulation. Dr. McComas is working with Dr. Peter Dimock, teaching specialist at the School of Social Work, who is conducting a study to help develop a scoring tool for simulations. It will be the first of its kind and will measure the validity and reliability of the lab.

Anyone interested in volunteering to serve as a “client” should e-mail Dr. Rebecca McComas at mccom010@umn.edu.

Mariah Carroll
As the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina approaches, we remember the thousands of animals injured or separated from their owners in August 2005. For the first time in history, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) deployed all four of its Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT) to operate an animal shelter at the Lamar Dixon Equestrian Center in Gonzales, Louisiana. It was probably the largest animal shelter in the United States, with thousands of animals, including dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, rodents, pot-bellied pigs, birds, reptiles, snakes, and turtles.

Dr. Heather Case, a post-doctoral associate in the Veterinary Population Medicine department, was there, serving as VMAT 5’s commander of shelter medicine. VMAT supervised the intake and export of every animal, and a field hospital was established to handle triage. The animals often required minor surgery, IV fluid therapy, and intensive monitoring. A working relationship with the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine afforded the ability to refer extremely critical cases for more intensive care.

Volunteer animal caretakers closely monitored the animals in the general shelter population, and veterinarians examined those identified as ill. From September 5 through October 4, 2005, the VMAT teams treated more than 7,000 animals. At times, more than 200 animals were receiving twice-daily treatments.

“An operation of this magnitude required a genuine team effort and a very steep learning curve,” says Dr. Case. “VMAT members rose to the challenge, gaining experience in the establishment of protocols for the care and treatment of a large population and public health issues such as decontamination of rescued animals and dog-bite prevention.”

The AVMA’s Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams are composed of veterinarians, technicians, and support personnel who are ready at a moment’s notice to provide aid in the event of a disaster. They are trained to assist local veterinary communities in providing medical care to animals, addressing public health issues, and coordinating on-site animal relief efforts.

The VMATs are sponsored by the American Veterinary Foundation.

For more information about VMAT, go to www.vmat.org.
For some people, avian influenza is a new concept. But Dr. Dave Halvorson has been helping Minnesota poultry producers keep the virus in check since 1978. Halvorson received the American Association of Avian Pathologists’ 2005 Bruce W. Calnek Applied Poultry Research Achievement Award for his contributions to minimizing the impact of avian influenza.

**Q:** What is avian influenza?

**A:** Avian influenza (AI) is a viral illness of birds. AI viruses can be low-pathogenic (killing no or few birds) or highly pathogenic (killing almost all infected birds).

**Q:** How big of a threat is AI to Minnesota’s poultry industry?

**A:** Minnesota has never had an outbreak of highly pathogenic AI; our last big outbreak of low-path was in 1995. Wild birds introduce AI to commercial poultry, so the fewer range birds, the less exposure. Since I’ve been here we’ve only found two infected chicken flocks. We’ve had over 1,100 flocks of turkeys with influenza, but its prevalence is declining since range flocks now account for less than one percent of turkey production.

**Q:** How do we deal with it?

**A:** Minnesota has a voluntary control program we call “responsible response.” We provide educational materials and monitor every turkey flock in Minnesota. When a flock goes to market, blood samples are tested for AI. If we find AI prior to slaughter we let the birds recuperate, then let them go to slaughter.

**Q:** What’s going on in Asia?

**A:** They have a high-path virus that has infected and killed over 70 people. It has been called “bad bird flu.”

**Q:** Will that influence our approach in Minnesota?

**A:** We’ve been working on control plans for some time; the situation in Asia has made getting them developed more critical. It also may affect how people will react if we get another outbreak of low-path AI. There’s a lot of potential to overreact and make things worse.

**Q:** How much of a threat is AI to humans in Minnesota?

**A:** Extremely, extremely, extremely remote. In all of North America there are only a handful of cases where people have been infected with AI. The bad bird flu is not in the United States, nor is it likely to get here. It is not a threat to people in the United States. It is not a food-safety issue in the United States.

For more information about avian influenza, go to www.cvm.umn.edu/AI.
Healthy Foods Healthy Lives

In 2002 University of Minnesota president Robert Bruininks launched the Healthy Foods Healthy Lives initiative (HFHL). The initiative integrates activities within four priority areas to address a number of critical health issues. The priority areas utilize and advance knowledge to:

- Integrate agriculture, food science, nutrition, social sciences, and medicine to promote healthy lives
- Prevent diet-related chronic diseases and obesity through diet, physical activity, and human behavior
- Enhance food safety at all stages, from farm to table
- Promote public awareness and inform public policy

“Working on the Healthy Foods Healthy Lives Initiative puts us on the map, leading the way in food safety,” says Dr. Richard Isaacson, chair of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences and chair of the HFHL operations committee. “The initiative recognizes our strengths and, unlike most universities, the University of Minnesota has a College of Veterinary Medicine, Medical School, and School Public Health. This allows researchers access to resources and scientific expertise to address the complex issues around food safety not present at other institutions.”

Approximately $110 million in grants have been awarded to support the initiative’s objectives. College of Veterinary Medicine faculty received grants for their work with bioterrorism and the food supply, zoonotic and food-borne diseases, and food safety. The College has worked with other collegiate units, collaborated with outside organizations, and participated in food safety outreach and educational opportunities.

“Food safety is important to everyone. The initiative is a great opportunity for faculty to continue their research and advance human and animal health,” says Jeffrey Klausner, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Over the next few years, the HFHL initiative will continue to expand support for faculty to develop research collaborations that produce cutting-edge science and positive outcomes for disease prevention and health. The initiative will also help the University of Minnesota achieve its goal to rank among the top three public research institutions in the area of food and health.

For more information, go to www.healthyfoodshealthylives.umn.edu.
College launches equine dental education program

Citing the importance of good dental care to the health of horses, the College has launched the Minnesota Equine Dental Symposia (MEDS), a series of continuing education programs for veterinarians.

“Recent advances in the diagnosis and treatment of equine dental problems such as periodontal disease, cavities, and fractured teeth have created a real need for a resource for basic educational tools for veterinarians,” says Gary Goldstein, D.V.M., director of the Dental Service at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center and a faculty member at the College.

The University of Minnesota joins the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry (AVD) in meeting this need. The MEDS program offers a series of weekend seminars that start with the fundamentals of equine dentistry and proceed to advanced periodontics, endodontics, restorations, and oral surgery. Practicing veterinarians can also take advantage of seminars, lectures, and labs offered by the AVD Veterinary Dental Forum and AAEP convention.

The Academy of Veterinary Dentistry has also created an equine track for fellowship in the Academy, which the University of Minnesota’s MEDS series supports by providing in-depth, hands-on instruction about subjects critical to the development of dental knowledge. A five-year plan guides veterinarians interested in AVD fellowship.

For more information about equine dental education opportunities, call Dr. Gary Goldstein at 612-625-1781 or 612-625-8156, e-mail him at golds034@umn.edu, or visit www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach/events/meds.html.
Radiation therapy saves Mai’Lee

The Veterinary Medical Center has been using radiation therapy as a treatment for more than 30 years. It is now a key way to treat cancer in animals. When Mai’Lee, a 13-year-old Shih Tzu, was diagnosed with a spindle cell sarcoma on her hind leg, her owners didn’t think twice about bringing her to the Veterinary Medical Center for treatment.

“We visited our local veterinarian in Rochester, Minn. in 2002 and the pathologist recommended amputation for Mai’Lee’s leg, but we did not accept that because of quality-of-life issues,” says Mai’Lee’s owner Bill Damerel. “Our local vet, Dr. Bob Waterman, suggested we take Mai’Lee to the Oncology Services at the Veterinary Medical Center to set up an appointment to have her checked out.”

The Veterinary Medical Center specialists confirmed the diagnosis and developed a treatment plan. Over a three-week period, Mai’Lee received 18 radiation treatments at the Veterinary Medical Center. She was treated primarily by Dr. Elizabeth McNeil, assistant professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences department, but she was cared for by most of the Oncology Services staff over the course of her treatment. It has been four years since Mai’Lee underwent radiation therapy and there has not been any recurrence of the cancer.

“Mai’Lee is doing great – she responded well to the treatment and is now happier than ever,” says Bill. “We are at a loss for words when trying to describe our thanks for the Veterinary Medical Center, especially the Oncology department.”

Mai’Lee’s story is representative of many of the clients cared for in Oncology Services. As this service area grows, so does the need for new equipment.

“The current radiation therapy equipment has been in place since the 1960s,” says Dr. Elizabeth McNeil. “Since then there have been great advances in the machines. New equipment will help Oncology Services grow and give us the ability to control cancer better.”

For more information about oncology services, go to www.cvm.umn.edu/vmc.

Meet Catherine St. Hill

A native of Barbados, Dr. Catherine St. Hill has lived in Minnesota for nine years. She completed her postdoctoral work at the University of Minnesota and recently joined Oncology Services as an assistant professor and researcher. She also promotes interaction and collaboration with other colleges at the University and serves as a resource to Veterinary Medical Center clinicians.

“We are excited to have Dr. St. Hill join Oncology Services,” says Dr. Robert Washabau, chair of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences department. “She brings years of research experience and adds a global perspective on veterinary medicine to the College.”

The University of Minnesota Animal Cancer Center research program continues to perform relevant cutting-edge research that improves the quality of life of animals and to make discoveries that improve the lives of pets and humans. A search is currently underway for a faculty member to fill the Al and June Perlman Endowed Chair in Comparative Oncology.
Summer research for students

Going on its fifth year, the Summer Scholars Program gives veterinary students the opportunity to have a research experience while getting involved in research planning and implementation, data evaluation, and working in an active lab.

The strength of the program lies in the research expertise of the faculty and the opportunities available for students in their laboratories. Collaborative efforts exist with other colleges in the Academic Health Center and the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences.

“I’m glad I participated in Summer Scholars. It was great for me to get research experience early on in my veterinary career,” says Lisa Schmidt, second-year veterinary student. “It was also a good way for me to establish relationships with faculty.”

Approximately 15 students are accepted into the Summer Scholars Program each year. The opportunity is available to first- and second-year College of Veterinary Medicine students, as well as veterinary students from outside the College. Once students are selected, they work full-time on a project with a research faculty mentor while attending seminars in the summer. The program starts in May and lasts for 10 weeks. Students receive a $4,000 stipend for their participation. Continued participation in basic and applied research is a major goal of the program.

After completion of the program, students present their research project at the College’s annual Points of Pride Research Days. The scholars are also encouraged to participate in a graduate seminar program and invited to attend seminars during the following school year.

Through Summer Scholars, the students develop leadership and teamwork skills, network with research professionals at state and local governmental agencies, attend seminars that develop communication and critical-thinking skills, and develop an understanding of clinical and basic research as a potential career path.

Watch for profiles of these students’ projects in the fall issue of Profiles.

Swine Summer Institute

The Minnesota Swine Summer Institute is the first of its kind. Nowhere else is there an opportunity for students interested in swine to gather, learn about the industry, establish a network, and earn credit for their participation.

This series of three two-week intensive courses includes introduction to swine health and production, principles of population-based diagnostics and therapeutics, and advanced swine health and production. The institute is open to current veterinary students and practicing veterinarians.

“The curriculum we designed provides an intensive and integrated learning experience for veterinary students and graduates seeking knowledge and skills relevant to modern swine or mixed food-animal practice,” says Dr. Peter Davies, professor in the Veterinary Population Medicine department.

College of Veterinary Medicine faculty members collaborate and team-teach the courses. Swine experts and practitioners serve as guest lecturers, discussing their field experiences, reviewing case studies, and providing insight into the field.

The University of Minnesota has one of the largest swine programs. There are roughly 20-40 veterinary students in the United States focusing on swine medicine. This program helps those students and working professionals committed to serving the swine industry advance their skills. For more information, go to www.cvm.umn.edu/sdec/education.
Special Events

White Coat Ceremony

Ninety-two University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine students were honored at the annual White Coat Ceremony at the St. Paul Student Center North Star Ballroom on March 19.

“This is an important milestone,” says Dean Jeffery Klausner. “The white coat represents the beginning of the clinical training that will make our students true partners in the College’s mission to improve the health and well-being of animals and people.”

The White Coat Ceremony marks the beginning of a rigorous 14-month clinical rotation during which students put the clinical and professional skills they have learned into practice, providing direct animal care during their final year and a half before receiving their doctor of veterinary medicine degree.

Research Days

The College honored the research accomplishments of its graduate students, faculty, alumni, and research partners at its annual Points of Pride Research Days on March 14-15.

The Distinguished Research Alumni Award went to Dr. Gary Boorman, a member of the College’s class of 1967, who is now a pathologist in the Environmental Toxicology Program at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Boorman presented the Points of Pride Distinguished Research Alumnus Seminar, “The Role of Veterinarians on Research in the Genomic Era.”

This year’s Distinguished Research Partner Award went to Genetiporc. Genetiporc has supported the College’s research efforts for more than eight years, enabling many investigators to develop successful research programs and providing stipends to support graduate students.

Also presented was the Pfizer Research Excellence Award, which went to Dr. Mitchell Abrahamsen, a professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department. He recently led a group that described the genome of Cryptosporidium parvum, a parasite that is a pathogen that infects the digestive tracts of humans and animals.

In a poster competition, the winners were Abigail Cumpton (class of 2008), who was a participant in the College’s 2005 Summer Scholars program; Dr. Xudong Liang, a postdoctoral associate; Dr. Andrea Sotirakopoulos, a resident; and graduate students Dr. Sheri Ross and Dr. Lisa Schmidt. Each winner received a first-place ribbon, certificate, and $250 cash award.

Postdoctoral associate Dr. Xudong Liang discusses his research with Bert Stromberg, associate dean, research and graduate programs.

Dr. Sheri Ross receives her award from Dean Klausner.

Dr. Andrea Sotirakopoulos discusses her poster with Dr. Jim Waddell and Dr. Bert Stromberg.
Awards banquet honors faculty, students, senator

The annual Spring Awards Banquet held on April 26, honored the achievements of the College faculty members and veterinary students, with special recognition going to Senator Dallas Sams.

During the banquet, 61 scholarship programs awarded 141 scholarships and awards to veterinary students in the amount of $130,000. The highest amount awarded was the Joseph E. Salsbury Scholarship, which awarded $25,500 to third-year veterinary students for their final year of studies.

The Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation and Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association Academy of Veterinary Medical Practice distributed the most prestigious scholarships. They awarded a total of $24,000, which included international travel grants to third-year students.

**Senator Dallas Sams** received the Outstanding Service Award for his support of veterinary medicine, his dedication to public service, and his interest in the mission of the College of Veterinary Medicine. Senator Sams has served in the Minnesota legislature since 1990. He has a strong interest in agriculture and has served on a variety of Senate committees including those related to agriculture, finance, and economic development.

The top faculty award went to **Dr. Leslie Sharkey**, associate professor in Veterinary Population Medicine, who received the Norden Teaching Award.

**Dr. Mitch Abrahamsen**, professor in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, received the Pfizer Research Award for his exceptional and promising research.

**Dr. David Polzin**, professor in Veterinary Clinical Sciences, received the Mark of Excellence, which is given to a faculty member who has generated and shared new knowledge with the veterinary community.

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**Teaching and service awards**

Small Animal Clinical Sciences Teaching Award:  
**Dr. Roberto Novo**

Small Animal Clinical Sciences Clinical Teaching Award:  
**Dr. Jane Quandt**

Small Animal Clinical Sciences Clinical Teaching Resident Award:  
**Dr. Jen Myers**

Veterinary Population Medicine Teaching Award:  
**Dr. Erin Malone**

Veterinary Population Medicine Clinical Teaching Award:  
**Dr. Mary Boyce**

Veterinary Population Medicine Clinical Teaching Resident Award:  
**Dr. Juan Romano**

James O. Hanson Continuing Education Award:  
**Dr. Luanne Hunt**

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**Congratulations to our faculty!**
Scholarships

Matt Allerson, class of 2009
Dr. Alvin F. and Eleanor E. Weber Scholarship

Jason Anderson, class of 2009
Dr. Alvin F. and Eleanor E. Weber Scholarship

Cynthia Argue, class of 2008
Donna Ant Memorial Scholarship

Peter Black, class of 2006
Friends of the College of Veterinary Medicine
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Liz Boos, class of 2007
College of Veterinary Medicine
Student Council Awards

Ashley Brown, class of 2008
August Searles Scholarship for Women
Caleb Dorr Scholarship

Laura Bruner, class of 2007
Joseph E. Salsbury Veterinary Medical Scholarship
Irvin Jorgensen Scholarship

Ahna Brutlag, class of 2006
Minneapolis Kennel Club Scholarship
College of Veterinary Medicine
Student Council Awards

Julie Bryngelson, class of 2007
Joseph E. Salsbury Veterinary Medical Scholarship
Willmus Family Trust

Jenny Cho-MacSwain, class of 2009
College of Veterinary Medicine
Student Council Awards

Jenny Clementson, class of 2007
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa
Class of 1953 Memorial Scholarship

Lucas Clow, class of 2006
Class of 1955 Memorial Scholarship
Robert Merrill Scholarship

Seth Cohen, class of 2006
Pfizer Veterinary Specialty Team - Anesthesiology
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Cindy Deakos, class of 2006
Lee McDonald - Class of 1969 Memorial Scholarship
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Yelena Duff, class of 2006
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Matt Duff, class of 2007
Ramsdell - Class of 1986 Scholarship

Laura Eikmeier, class of 2006
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Kari Ekenstedt, D.V.M./Ph.D. program
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation - Ben Pomroy Scholarship

Nate Eversman, class of 2006
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation Senior Award

Mac Farnham, class of 2006
Colin Krog - Class of 1978 Memorial Award

Ian Feldman, class of 2009
College of Veterinary Medicine
Student Council Awards

Ben Galbreath, class of 2007
Dr. Richard and Glenda Huston Scholarship

Chihiro Gardiner, class of 2006
Minneapolis Kennel Club Scholarship
Bayer HealthCare Small Animal Community Practice

James Gerdes, class of 2006
American College of Veterinary Surgeons Award
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Jessica Gerst, class of 2006
August Searles Scholarship for Women
Pfizer Veterinary Specialty Team - Dentistry

Nicole Grabowski, class of 2007
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa
Winton G. Evans Memorial Scholarship

Kelly Griffin, class of 2007
Joseph E. Salsbury Veterinary Medical Scholarship

Nancy Gruber, class of 2006
Bayer Gentle Doctor Award - Human Animal Bond

Heather Hadley, class of 2006
Pfizer Veterinary Specialty Team - Emergency
Maxwell the White Shadow Award

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Scholarships continued from page 15

Dan Hagman, class of 2008
Robert Merrill Scholarship

Jarod Hanson, class of 2006
James Ford Bell Jr. Memorial Award
Allen D. Leman Swine Medicine Scholarship

Brian Hardy, class of 2007
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa
Joseph E. Salsbury Veterinary Medical Scholarship
Class of 1968 Bob Velure Scholarship

Julia Hecking, class of 2007
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa
Joseph E. Salsbury Veterinary Medical Scholarship
Caleb Dorr Scholarship

Heather Herrington, class of 2006
Nestle Purina PetCare Nutrition Award
Rupert Memorial Scholarship

Christine Hoang, class of 2007
Joseph E. Salsbury Veterinary Medical Scholarship

Ildako Holschuh, class of 2006
Hill’s Buddy Award

Janice Husman, class of 2007
Irvin Jorgensen Scholarship

Cheryl Igielski, class of 2008
Nestle Purina Leadership Award

Stephanie Kennedy, class of 2008
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation - Margaret Pomeroy Scholarship

Kristina Kiefer, class of 2006
American College of Veterinary Surgeons Award

Nina Kieves, class of 2009
College of Veterinary Medicine Student Council Awards

Kristine Krausser, class of 2007
International Externship Travel Grant

John Labbe, class of 2008
Novartis Scholarship

Susan Lowum, class of 2007
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa
August Searles Scholarship for Women
Caleb Dorr Scholarship

Tristan Malmedal, class of 2006
John Aldrich Memorial Scholarship

Lehua Maloney, class of 2007
Friends of the College of Veterinary Medicine

Mary McKie, class of 2008
College of Veterinary Medicine Student Council Awards
IDEXX - Labs/Veterinary Software - Learning Award Certificate

Shannon McMartin, class of 2006
Class of 1957 Memorial Scholarship
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Jennifer Melling, class of 2009
Dr. Alvin F. and Eleanor E. Weber Scholarship

Erika Mueller, class of 2007
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Pfizer Animal Health Scholarship

Deb Murray, class of 2006
John Aldrich Memorial Scholarship

Leah Neal, class of 2008
August Searles Scholarship for Women
Caleb Dorr Scholarship

Jennifer Nehring, class of 2007
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation Spannaus Scholarship

Kara Nelsen, class of 2006
Caleb Dorr Medal
Caleb Dorr Scholarship
Minneapolis Kennel Club Scholarship
Society for Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Scholarship

Allison Newman, class of 2006
American College of Veterinary Radiology Award
American Veterinary Medical Association - Auxiliary
Caleb Dorr Medal
Caleb Dorr Scholarship
College of Veterinary Medicine Student Council Awards
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation Senior Award

Shana Owen, class of 2007
Simmons & Associates Education Trust Fund

Abigail Paavola, class of 2008
Donna Ant Memorial Scholarship

Geneva Pagliai, class of 2006
Friends of the College of Veterinary Medicine

Cynthia Panek, class of 2007
Sime Family Scholarship

Jennifer Panella, class of 2006
H.C.H. Kernkamp Memorial Award

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Scholarships continued from page 16

Matt Pike, class of 2007
International Externship Travel Grant
Joseph E. Salsbury Veterinary Medical Scholarship

Nathan Rose, class of 2007
Joseph E. Salsbury Veterinary Medical Scholarship

Keith Ross, class of 2006
CENSHARE Scholarship

Melinda Rostal, class of 2008
August Searles Scholarship for Women
Caleb Dorr Scholarship

Jolaine Roycewicz, class of 2007
Joseph E. Salsbury Veterinary Medical Scholarship

Kendall Sawyer, class of 2008
Class of 1960 Memorial Scholarship

Carissa Schloesser, class of 2009
Robert Merrill Scholarship

Jeff Schulman, class of 2007
Bil Jac Pet Foods Scholarship

Laura Schulz, class of 2008
Robert Merrill Scholarship

Jennifer Schurrer, class of 2006
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation Award - Leadership Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Stacey Schwabenlander, class of 2006
International Externship Travel Grant

Michelle Severs, class of 2006
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Molly Shepard, class of 2006
International Externship Travel Grant

Tara Sime, class of 2008
Donna Ant Memorial Scholarship

Krystuna Stoffel, class of 2006
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Jeff Stueve, class of 2006
James Ford Bell, Jr. Memorial Award
Class of 1961 Scholarship

Heather Swan, class of 2007
International Externship Travel Grant
Jeffery Lindstrom Class of 1987 Scholarship
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation Public Health Scholarship

Jonna Swanson, class of 2006
August Searles Scholarship for Women
Carl F. & John C. Schlotthauer Memorial Award

Sarah Swanson, class of 2007
Friends of the College of Veterinary Medicine

Carrie Swier, class of 2006
Ned Olson Memorial Scholarship

Dominic Tauer, class of 2008
Nestle Purina Leadership Award

Beth Thompson, class of 2007
International Externship Travel Grant

Ann Torborg, class of 2006
Minneapolis Kennel Club Scholarship

Jamie Torres, class of 2007
Joseph E. Salsbury Veterinary Medical Scholarship

Kristen Voigt, class of 2006
Bayer HealthCare Legend Award in Equine Medicine

Jay Volinski, class of 2007
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Jay Volinski, class of 2007
Friends of the College of Veterinary Medicine

Meghann Vollmer, class of 2006
Pfizer Small Animal Clinical Proficiency Award
IDEXX - Dr. Allan H. Hart Scholarship
Rupert Memorial Scholarship

Karen Vreeman, class of 2006
August Searles Scholarship for Women

Jennifer Wicklund, class of 2006
International Externship Travel Grant

Sarah Wilcox, class of 2007
August Searles Scholarship for Women

Sarah Wilcox, class of 2007
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa

Chai Wilensky, class of 2006
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa
Friends of the College of Veterinary Medicine

Katja Wucherer, class of 2006
Honor Society Phi Zeta Kappa
American Animal Hospital Association Award
Friends of the College of Veterinary Medicine

Corry Yeurokis, class of 2006
Minneapolis Kennel Club Scholarship
Eighty-two members of the class of 2006 were awarded their D.V.M. degrees at the College’s 55th commencement ceremony at Northrop Memorial Auditorium in Minneapolis on May 6.

Dean Jeffrey Klausner addressed the audience and Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou, University of Minnesota Department of Epidemiology professor, gave the commencement address. Dr. Pappaioanou received her doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Michigan State University-Lansing and her master of preventive veterinary medicine and Ph.D. from the University of California-Davis.

Allison Newman, student representative, addressed her classmates and reflected on the past four years. The president of the College’s Alumni and Friends Society, Dr. Tom Schuld, welcomed the students into the alumni organization, and Regent David Metzen conferred the degrees on the class.

In addition to the 82 students who received their D.V.M. degrees, five students were awarded with Ph.D. degrees, four with D.V.M./M.P.H degrees, one with a D.V.M/Ph.D. degree, two with master’s degrees, and three with swine certificates.

**Doctor of veterinary medicine degree recipients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catherine Angle</th>
<th>Jessica Gerst</th>
<th>Nicole Millner</th>
<th>John Sturtz</th>
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<td>Tami Bauer</td>
<td>Mary Goings</td>
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<td>Peter Black</td>
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<td>Heather Hadley</td>
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<td>Heather</td>
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<td>Herrington</td>
<td>Jennifer Panella</td>
<td>Joseph Utzle</td>
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<td>Rachael Holicky</td>
<td>Robyn Read</td>
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<td>Ildiko Holschuh</td>
<td>Lauren Robins</td>
<td>Meghann Vollmer</td>
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<td>Seth Cohen</td>
<td>Tami Karges</td>
<td>Keith Ross</td>
<td>Karen Vreeman</td>
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<td>Tom De Bleeckere</td>
<td>Carolin Karlin</td>
<td>Michelle Scanlan</td>
<td>Kate Wagner</td>
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<td>Cynthia Deakos</td>
<td>Kristina Kiefer</td>
<td>Jennifer Schurrer</td>
<td>Nicole Weber</td>
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<td>Jennifer Deyo</td>
<td>Carla Kitty</td>
<td>Michelle Severs</td>
<td>Chai Wilensky</td>
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<td>Mariah Kimball</td>
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<td>Daniel Kovich</td>
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<td>Amy Kruchowski</td>
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<td>Anita Yacoub</td>
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<td>Tristan Malmedal</td>
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<td>Hillary McCulloh</td>
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<td>Chihiro Gardiner</td>
<td>Shannon</td>
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<td>James Gerdes</td>
<td>McMartin</td>
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**Recipient of the Ph.D. degree**

Laura Eikmeier
Alonso G. P. Guedes
Shi-Dong Ma
Dileepan Thamotharampillai
Binu Velayudhan

**Recipient of the D.V.M./M.P.H. degree**

L. Daniel Kovich
Kara Nelsen
Jeffrey Stueve
Jennifer Wilson

**Recipient of the D.V.M./Ph.D. degree**

Laura Eikmeier

**Recipient of the M.S. degree**

Scott P. Hammel
Koti Venkata Ratna Prasad Mulupuri

**Recipients of the Swine Certificate**

MacDonald Farnham
Jarod Hanson
Deborah Murray
Back to Africa

Dr. Mark Hinton (class of 1978), had been with the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) for eight years, providing information technology services and desktop support for faculty and staff. But much of that time, his heart was somewhere else.

It was with the people of Africa, with whom he had lived and worked as a missionary for 12 years. In Africa, a continent ravaged by war, disease, and famine, people were struggling for food, water, sanitation and basic health care – for daily life. Mark couldn’t forget them. There was so much work to be done.

So, on Sept. 1, Mark took a leave of absence from the VDL and, with his wife, Audrey, traveled to Sudan, an African nation plagued by violence as it emerges from a 21-year civil war that left nearly two million people homeless and hundreds of thousands dead.

Mark became deputy field director of the Darfur Relief Collaboration, which combines the relief efforts of six North American humanitarian aid organizations. Its mission: preventing disease outbreaks by providing medical care and supplemental nutrition, rehabilitating water systems, digging wells, building pit latrines, establishing seasonal gardens, deworming donkeys (an important mode of transportation), constructing fuel-efficient stoves, and leading reforestation and health education efforts. As an education specialist, Audrey is helping a team develop health messages and delivery systems to the local population. Expected beneficiaries number 70,000.

“The area is basically desert, with dust and sand everywhere,” Mark says. He and Audrey live in a compound with 30 to 40 other people, mostly Sudanese. Water is delivered by donkeys in rubber bladders from open wells some distance away, then pumped up into storage drums that gravity-feed a filtering unit for drinking and also provide water for a jerry-rigged shower. Pit latrines serve as toilets.

It’s a long way from Mark’s roots. He grew up on a small family farm in southern Minnesota, where one of his main occupations was reading. Books were like windows to the world and all it had to offer. After graduating from Mankato State University, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years during the Vietnam era, operating out of Japan as a marine navigator in a photoreconnaissance Phantom jet. Then he joined the Peace Corps as an agricultural extension worker in Colombia, South America. This experience led him to the veterinary profession. He earned his D.V.M. at the University of Minnesota in 1978. Later, he obtained a master’s degree in Islamic studies at Luther Seminary and worked with a Somali friend to start Somserv, a nonprofit organization to work with Somalis in the Twin Cities.

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Graduate student profile: Terri Mattila

Terri Mattila joined the Comparative and Molecular Biosciences Ph.D. program in the fall of 2003. Her advisor is Dr. Pamela Skinner.

After spending several years raising a family, Terri received her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin-Superior in December 2001, 20 years after graduating from high school. She worked as a biologist at a privately owned aquatic toxicology lab until her love for animals and concern for their health and welfare brought her to the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.

Terri’s research involves using in-situ tetramer staining, a new technique developed by her advisor, to study CD8+ T cell response to HIV infection. HIV/AIDS has taken the lives of more than 20 million people worldwide since 1983 and left millions of children orphaned. Its incidence continues to climb. It is imperative that a vaccine be developed that could help stop the spread of the virus. Studies have shown that to do this, knowledge of the mechanisms of CD8+ T cell response to viral infection is needed. Using in-situ tetramer staining in lymph nodes taken from HIV-infected individuals allows visualization of virus-specific T cells, while their spatial relation to other cells of interest remains intact. Subsequent in-situ hybridization on in-situ tetramer-stained tissues can also be used, providing further information. These methods will provide new insight into virus-specific T cell response to infection, and may ultimately lead to development of a vaccine and/or therapeutic method to help combat HIV/AIDS.

Terri expects to finish her Ph.D. sometime in 2008. She had originally planned to pursue a career working with feline leukemia virus. However, the HIV research field is so interesting that she may just stick with it.

Back to Africa continued from page 19

For many reasons, going back to Africa was something Mark had to do.

“It’s an opportunity to take care of my unfinished business in Africa,” he says. “It appeals to my desire to live life to the full and is a way of doing something about the outrageous injustices afflicting innocent people. I can’t ignore such a proposition for involvement.”

Mark has passed on his international perspective and humanitarianism to his children. His son Nate, 31, works at a large international school outside Nairobi, Kenya. His other two children live in Brooklyn, New York, but intend to go to work in Africa as soon as they are able. Anne, 29, works as a physician’s assistant at an AIDS clinic in hopes of eventually working with AIDS orphans in Africa. Sam, 22, is a graduate of the Carlson School of Management, has a Peace Corps assignment, and is interested in helping businesses in the third world.

In November, an e-mail from Audrey reported that Mark was busy working with various organizations and government agencies involved in relief and development work, writing reports and coordinating team leaders for health, nutrition, agriculture, and water and sanitation. Their work was often disrupted, she wrote. “Rebel groups and armed bands on camel and horseback have made it impossible for our teams to go to the villages where they had been working.”

Back at the College, Mark’s colleagues miss his calm, thoughtful nature and global perspective, as well as his technical expertise.

“I admire Mark very much,” says Dr. Jim Collins, director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. “He is a consummate professional: hard-working, considerate, kind and capable. His personal and professional lives set a high standard for us to follow. He is missed a great deal, but we all wish him the very best.”

For more information about World Relief and the Darfur Relief Collaboration, go to http://www.worldrelief.org.

SUE KIRCHOFF
Endangered California condor treated at Raptor Center

An 18-month-old California condor from Arizona underwent treatment for a broken wing at The Raptor Center in November. Known as Condor #350, the bird is one of only four condors that has hatched in the wild and survived.

The condor was injured near the Grand Canyon in northern Arizona on Nov. 4. Representatives of the Phoenix Zoo and The Peregrine Fund, a raptor conservation organization in Boise, Idaho, flew the bird via Northwest Airlines to The Raptor Center for evaluation and treatment on November 8.

“This speaks volumes about The Raptor Center’s national reputation as the premiere medical center for birds of prey,” says Jeffrey Klausner, D.V.M., dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. “This endangered condor was sent all the way from Arizona to be treated by the best veterinarians at the University of Minnesota.”

“We were both thrilled and humbled to have the opportunity to care for this magnificent bird,” says Patrick Redig, D.V.M., Ph.D., director of The Raptor Center. “We put our years of knowledge and experience in fracture management to work, and also went to great lengths to prevent the condor from becoming habituated.” Habituation — becoming too comfortable around humans — can occur in condors and other wildlife that have regular contact with people, which is detrimental to their survival.

After three weeks of treatment, the condor was returned to Arizona on Nov. 30. On Jan. 19, the giant bird was released from a pinnacle near the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument release site in northern Arizona.

“He had absolutely no hesitation, taking only one leap before flapping powerfully back into the wild,” wrote Chris Parish, condor project director at The Peregrine Fund. “We watched as he took a long flight, seeming no different than any other bird in the area. Upon landing, he roughed his feathers, preened a bit and looked great!”

To learn more, visit www.cvm.umn.edu/raptor.

About the California condor

The California condor is North America’s largest land bird, weighing up to 22 pounds with a wingspan of nine and a half feet. A highly endangered species, its population reached a low of 22 in 1982 due to lead poisoning and habitat degradation. Since then, captive breeding programs at the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho, San Diego Wild Animal Park, Los Angeles Zoo, and Oregon Zoo and release efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have resulted in a slow recovery for the species. There are currently 274 California condors in the world – 127 in the wild in Arizona and California, 133 in captivity, and 14 awaiting release.
The University of Minnesota Board of Regents has approved plans for the new University of Minnesota Equine Center.

“A tradition of this University is to offer unparalleled teaching, research, and service. This center shows our commitment to an important Minnesota sector — horses and horse owners,” commented University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks. Construction will start in late summer.

Rafferty, Rafferty, Tollefson architects of St. Paul designed the center and are working with Gralla Architects, an Oklahoma firm that has designed many world-renowned equine complexes. The $14 million facility, which will be built in the northeast section of the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, will allow the University to offer horse owners integrated, research-based care for their animals. The University will be able to evaluate, diagnose, and treat diseases, conditions, and injuries more easily and effectively.

Dr. Stephanie Valberg, the director of the Equine Center, believes the center “will be the cornerstone of our partnership with the horse community. Few other facilities in the country will offer more resources for horse owners. It will be a home to innovative equine research, comprehensive clinical services, new undergraduate equine curriculum, and the We Can Ride therapeutic riding program.”

The Equine Center is a “program of excellence” within the College of Veterinary Medicine and supports the University’s initiative to become one of the top three public research universities worldwide. According to Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, “The Equine Center will feature the best in diagnostic technology and equipment, research programs, learning opportunities, therapy, and treatment. It will be a source of knowledge and innovation for decades to come.” The Equine Center will utilize all of the resources available at the University in collaboration with industry experts to produce meaningful, innovative advancements in the health, well-being, and performance in the horse.

A public groundbreaking is planned for August 9, 2006, and completion of the project is expected in fall 2007. Details are available at www.cvm.umn.edu/umec.

The College of Veterinary Medicine continues to raise funds for the center, with $4.62 million raised to date. To contribute to the Equine Center or for more information about the campaign, go to http://www.cvm.umn.edu/devalumni/campaigns/equine/home.html.

“Few other facilities in the country will offer more resources for horse owners.”
— Stephanie Valberg
Hubert and Julie Thibodeau noticed something else the medical center needed — a new building sign. “When the Veterinary Teaching Hospital was renamed, there was only a plastic banner announcing the new Veterinary Medical Center. This is a state-of-the-art facility, and the sign did not represent the high-quality work done there,” says Julie Thibodeau. The Thibodeaus have been bringing their dogs to the Veterinary Medical Center for care and treatment for years. Hubert and Julie have had Nova Scotia duck-towing retrievers, a Pomeranian, and two poodles. They currently have a papillon and a Nova Scotia duck-towing retriever.

In addition to donating money for the new sign, Julie and Hubert donated money to The Raptor Center to renovate four indoor mews. Mews are enclosures for raptors that represent their natural habitat. The mews now represent Minnesota’s biomes, creating an additional learning opportunity for visitors.

Thank you to the Thibodeaus and all those who donate to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Tribute Fund

The College understands and respects the need for individuals to recognize their beloved pets and for others to remember those special animals. The Tribute Fund provides an opportunity to celebrate, honor or memorialize animal owners, veterinarians, family members, friends, associates, volunteers, or that special someone — on any occasion. By making a gift through the tribute gift program, you can reach out to people during times of joy or sorrow and let them know they are not forgotten. A tribute gift can commemorate or acknowledge:

- Birthdays
- Graduations
- Births and deaths (human or animal)
- Anniversaries
- Weddings
- Promotions
- Special accomplishments or recognition
- Recoveries from illness, disease, or accidents

Each tribute gift is acknowledged by a distinctive card sent to the person or family in whose name your gift is made (the card will not mention the amount of your gift). As the contributor, you will receive a separate acknowledgement and a receipt for your records.

Your tribute gift will help companion animals by:

- Finding new treatments for diseases and other causes of animal suffering
- Upgrading patient facilities and equipment used to diagnose and treat patients referred to the Veterinary Medical Center
- Assisting veterinary students in mastering their profession, ultimately advancing the health of companion animals well into the future

For additional information about making a tribute gift, go to www.cvm.umn.edu/devalumni or contact the development office at 612-624-6744 or cvmdev@umn.edu.
**Alumni Achievements**

**Dr. Thomas D. Brokken** (class of 1969) was named the 52nd president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) during the group’s annual convention in Seattle Dec. 3-7.

Since joining the AAEP in 1969, Dr. Brokken has held positions on numerous AAEP committees and task forces. Most recently, he served as the AAEP vice president and 2005 program chair for the association’s annual convention. He served on the board of directors from 1985-1990 and participates in the AAEP’s On Call program as a veterinary spokesperson.

In addition to his role at AAEP, Dr. Brokken is a senior partner at Teigland, Franklin & Brokken, DVMs, a 12-veterinarian equine medicine and surgery practice exclusively for thoroughbred racehorses. He began working at the practice in 1970 and has been a senior partner for 14 years. Based in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., the practice also operates offices in Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania.

During a presentation at the AAEP convention, Dr. Brokken said he plans to lead the AAEP in three key initiatives in 2006: membership development, continuing education, and advocacy.

Dr. Brokken’s son, Todd, is a student at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (class of 2007).

**Dr. Bob Skinner** (class of 1979) has joined Guidant Corporation, an international manufacturer of cardiovascular therapeutic devices and related products. He is working in the preclinical area of cardiac rhythm management, helping to make better pacemakers, defibrillators, and other devices. Bob says that a course in regulatory medicine that he took from Dr. Mike Murphy, a professor in the College’s Veterinary Population Medicine department, gave him a head start in his new position.

**Dr. Mark FitzSimmons** (class of 1987) was named the 2006 Swine Practitioner of the Year by the American Association of Swine Veterinarians during the association’s annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo. Given annually since 1977, the award recognizes swine practitioners who demonstrate exceptional service to their veterinary clients. It is the association’s highest honor.

Dr. FitzSimmons is the owner of MAF Veterinary Services, Eagle Lake, Minn., a swine consulting practice that he established three years ago. He is also a partner in the family farm-associated business, Protein Sources. Previously, Dr. FitzSimmons worked for Swine Graphics Enterprises, Ltd. in Webster City, Iowa, where he became an expert in segregated production techniques. He is recognized for pioneering the use of serum therapy for control of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome.

**Dr. James Swenberg** (class of 1966) was named Kenan Distinguished Professor of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, an endowed faculty position awarded to outstanding scholars and teachers. He is currently a professor of environmental sciences and engineering, nutrition, and pathology and laboratory medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research career has focused on chemical carcinogenesis and toxicology, with an emphasis on studying the role of DNA damage and repair in carcinogenesis, developing highly sensitive assay methods for DNA adduct research, and improving the scientific basis of risk assessment.

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**Alumni, we want to hear about your achievements!**

E-mail your news to CVM Communications at cvmcomm@umn.edu.
Scott Dee installed as president of AASV

Dr. Scott Dee, a professor in the Swine Disease Eradication Center, was installed as president of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians at the association’s annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, March 7.

“My focus will be to build an industry-wide team dedicated to the long-term goal of eliminating the porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus from the North American pig population,” he says. “I am confident that our association will serve as a model for all veterinary species-oriented associations in regard to how veterinarians work with industry to solve economically significant problems related to food animals.”

An internationally recognized swine disease expert, Dr. Dee consults in 33 states and 22 countries, is a frequent speaker at veterinary and producer meetings, and is the author of 20 book chapters and more than 100 peer-reviewed articles. Prior to joining the faculty in 1999, Dr. Dee was a private practitioner in a swine-specific practice in Morris, Minn., for 12 years. He received his veterinary degree from the University of Minnesota in 1987 and earned his Ph.D. in 1996. He is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

Jim Collins receives AASV Howard Dunne Memorial Award

Dr. Jim Collins, director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, was awarded the Howard Dunne Memorial Award by the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV). Presented at the association’s annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, March 4-7, the award recognizes an AASV member who has made important contributions and provided outstanding service to the association and the swine industry.

An accomplished author, Dr. Collins has written 192 articles and book chapters on swine and bovine infectious diseases and served the U.S. pork industry through his pioneering research on porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome. In 2005, he was named Veterinarian of the Year by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Collins received his veterinary degree from the University of Minnesota in 1978 and his Ph.D. in veterinary pathology from Michigan State University. Prior to joining the faculty of the College in 1986, he was an assistant professor at South Dakota State University. Dr. Collins is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Rutherford proposal receives first prize

Dr. Mark Rutherford’s proposal for increasing the matriculation of high-quality graduate students in the basic biological and biomedical sciences received first prize in a Graduate School competition that sought proposals for innovative ideas for improving graduate education at the University. Dr. Rutherford is director of graduate studies, Comparative and Molecular Biosciences, and a professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department. The award was presented at a ceremony at the Weisman Art Museum on May 9.
In Memory

Dr. David Duane Olson, class of 1983, died of a heart attack on April 27, 2006. He was living in Eleva, Wisconsin.

Dr. Robert J. Velure, class of 1968, passed away Sept. 2, 1995. Velure was the state veterinarian for North Dakota until his retirement in May 1995. During Velure's tenure, North Dakota had one of the best livestock health records in the nation, according to the Fargo-Moorhead Forum.

Dr. Karl Healy Wall, class of 1989, died unexpectedly Nov. 19, 2005. Born and raised in Fridley, Minn., he is survived by his wife, Jill, and daughters Jessica, Gabrielle, Jenni, and Tana.

Dr. Robert Westlake, class of 1954, passed away on Dec. 24, 2005. A resident of Detroit Lakes, Minn., Dr. Westlake was a long-time member of the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association and a past recipient of the Ranelius Award.

Faculty and graduate students volunteer their time for Habitat for Humanity

On April 22, a group of graduate students and faculty in the Comparative and Molecular Biosciences program spent the day working for the Minneapolis chapter of the Habitat for Humanity. They built the inside and outside wall frames for a house and raised $195 for the chapter.

Standing, from left, are Dr. Kent Reed, Dr. Mark Rutherford, Dr. Mike Murtaugh, Dr. Rebecca LaRue, Dr. Bruce Walcheck, Dr. Geoff Hirsch, two Habitat homeowners, Dr. Dianna Saam, Ben Silberglitt (Dr. Amy Treeful's husband), a Habitat homeowner, Dr. Andy Petzold, Dr. Temene Melkamu, and Dr. Erik Olson. Kneeling are Dr. Robyn Milkie, Betty Braun (Dr. Jen Brazzell's mom, from Winnipeg, Manitoba), Dr. Margaret McNulty, Dr. Jen Brazzell, Dr. Amy Treeful, and Dr. Trasida Ployngam.

New Faculty/Staff

October 2005–May 2006

Administration
Sarah J. Goulet, controller

Veterinary Clinical Sciences
Karin S. Christopher, assistant clinical professor
Luca Ferasin, associate professor

Veterinary Population Medicine
Anibal Guillermo Armien, assistant clinical professor
Hyeun Bum Kim, research assistant
David Lee named VMC director

Dr. David Lee joined the College as director of the Veterinary Medical Center on July 5. He was previously hospital director/associate professor at the James L. Voss Veterinary Medical Center, the veterinary teaching hospital at Colorado State University. Prior to that, he was executive director of external affairs and marketing at Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Lee has a master of business administration and a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Cornell.

The College will host a fall reception to welcome him.

Veterinary Continuing Education Programs
September–December 2006

**September**
- Mather Lecture Series: Begins September 7
- Allen D. Leman Swine Conference: September 23-26
- Swine Disease Eradication Center Symposium: September 24

**October**
- Dairy COMP Introduction: Begins October 2
- Dairy COMP - Reproductive Records: Begins October 2
- Dairy COMP - Somatic Cell Count: Begins October 2
- Mini-Vet School: 5-week series begins Oct. 3
- Agriculture Executive Workshop: October 4-5
- Small Animal Dental Radiology, Periodontal, and Pain Management: October 10
- Successful Breeding and Health Management of Dogs: 6-week evening series begins October 11
- Equine Fall Conference: October 13
- MEDS - Advanced Equine Oral Surgery: October 20-22
- Companion Animal Gastroenterology Symposium: October 26-27

**November**
- Small Animal Dental Radiology, Periodontal, and Pain Management: November 11

**December**
- Layer School I - Diseases of Layers: December 6-7

For up-to-date program information go to www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach
Profiles
College of Veterinary Medicine
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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
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Veterinary Medical Center creates health maintenance plan

Three Roseville police dogs are the first animals to be covered under a new Veterinary Medical Center health plan specially designed for police canine officers.

The concept is similar to that of an HMO (health maintenance organization), which provides health insurance coverage through specific providers and emphasizes preventive care in an effort to control costs. For a fixed rate per dog per year, the plan covers wellness, preventive, urgent, emergency, and specialty services.

“It allows us to budget for the cost of health care for our canine officers,” says Sergeant Eric Christensen, who worked with Veterinary Medical Center officials to create the canine health plan. “The costs associated with illness, injury, and preventive care are unpredictable. If one of the dogs does get injured or sick, we won’t need to worry about what it will cost to treat him and whether the money is in the budget to do it. It will be covered, like health plans cover employees when they get sick or hurt.”

While “pet insurance” plans are available through private companies, the Veterinary Medical Center’s program is different because it is being offered by a veterinary care provider and covers both preventive care and treatment for acquired conditions.

“There is fairly little financial risk to the Veterinary Medical Center because the animals need to remain in good physical condition to maintain their status as canine officers,” says Dr. Roberto Novo, medical director. “However, there is a risk that one or more of the dogs could be injured in the line of duty, in which case their treatment would be totally covered by this plan.”

SUE KIRCHOFF