



Winter 2007

## VolunteerVet, Winter 2007

College of Veterinary Medicine

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### Recommended Citation

College of Veterinary Medicine, "VolunteerVet, Winter 2007" (2007). *Volunteer Vet Newsletter*.  
[http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk\\_volvetnews/6](http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_volvetnews/6)

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# VolunteerVet

The University of Tennessee • College of Veterinary Medicine  
KNOWLEDGE COMPASSION DISCOVERY | WINTER 2007

## UT COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE MOUNTS A NATIONAL RESPONSE TO THREATS OF TERRORISM TO AGRICULTURE AND THE FOOD SUPPLY

The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine has created the Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness (CAFSP). In announcing the center during a news conference at the veterinary college, U.S. Congressman Zach Wamp said, "This is something that is going to make a huge difference for our region and for our nation."

The new center will serve as a focal point for several key initiatives that will assist the nation in efforts to protect agriculture and the food supply from terrorist threats. These areas are vital parts of the nation's critical infrastructure and have been identified as key sectors vulnerable to terrorism.

CAFSP will house the college's national training program that is being developed for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on agriculture and food vulnerability assessment. Development of this outreach training program is being funded by a \$2 million grant the College of Veterinary Medicine received in fall 2005 from DHS.

The nationwide training program will provide industry and government officials at the state, county and local levels with tools to prevent and deter terrorist acts targeting the agricultural and food sector. Facilities and operations considered vulnerable can reduce or eliminate risk through appropriate planning and training. The training program will be available at no cost to local communities.

Dr. Sharon Thompson, director of partnership programs at the veterinary college,

leads the center. Dr. Thompson, project director for the DHS grant as well as

other homeland security-related grants at the college, says, "The formation of the center demonstrates the college's continuing commitment to its work in the homeland security arena and will support the further expansion of this work." Other UTCVM faculty and partnering institutions will also be involved in the center's activities.



*Tennessee Congressional Representative Zach Wamp emphasized the importance of UT's participation in the homeland security effort through the new Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness in the College of Veterinary Medicine.*

Dr. Michael Blackwell, UTCVM dean and retired assistant surgeon general and chief of staff of the Office of the Surgeon General, says the center positions the college as a key player in the national effort to protect the nation's food supply from acts of terrorism. "This center has come about because the UT College of Veterinary Medicine recognizes its responsibility to promote public health and to be on

the team that protects national security," Dr. Blackwell says. "The work that will come out of this center has the potential to affect each and every American, anyone who consumes food." Dr. Blackwell adds that the center is the result of the success the college has had in building partnerships and receiving funding from the Department of Homeland Security.

"The center will provide a readily accessible Web portal for information on the DHS training program, as well as showcasing other college homeland security-related activities," says Dr. Thompson. The center will provide

a focal point for CVM's efforts to work directly with industry, especially in the vulnerability assessment and infrastructure protection arena. "We plan to develop on-line and additional in-person training programs," she adds. The center will organize and host the second Foreign Animal and Emerging Diseases Training Course, which will be held in Knoxville this summer.

*see back panel of newsletter for more information*

### Gamma Sigma Delta Award

The University of Tennessee members of the Agriculture and Food Vulnerability Assessment Program Project Team have received the 2006 UT Gamma Sigma Delta Team



Award. The project is funded by a \$2 million competitive grant from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security to develop and implement training that will help communities prevent and deter terrorist acts that target agriculture and the food sector.

Gamma Sigma Delta is the honor society of agriculture. The UT chapter recognizes individuals for several awards, in addition to providing an award honoring a team that has made an outstanding contribution to agriculture research, teaching or extension.

## CVM Increases Availability of

# Large Animal Emergency Service

“Large animal emergency student, please come to the front desk.” This phrase is being heard more often over the loudspeaker system in the wards of the large animal hospital at the UT College of Veterinary Medicine after normal business hours. Equine cases comprise the majority of those emergencies: acute abdominal problems, sick foals and trauma cases. The demands on students, house officers (residents and interns) and attending clinicians have also increased dramatically. To accommodate the increasing client needs, emergency surgeons Drs. Amy Plummer and Gal Kelmer joined the faculty during fall 2006. Licensed veterinary technicians (LVT) Mary English, Rose Groux, Lea Valentine and Dawn Phillips have joined the Large Animal Clinical Sciences staff. Phillips previously worked in the college’s small animal department. LVT Dawnya Breeding has changed her shift to accommodate the emer-



gency schedule. In addition, another surgery resident and veterinary technician assistants have been hired. A third medicine resident will be hired this summer.

Dr. Bob Holland, head of the Large Animal Clinical Sciences Department, expects the demand for additional after-hours emergency care to continue to rise. “It has become essential for us to increase the availability of continuous expert patient care, both for the animals we treat and the people who treat them,” Dr. Holland says. “We are a teaching hospital and these additions will enhance our teaching capacity.” Dr. Holland adds that the move creates better referral opportunities for large animal veterinarians throughout the region.

For more information about UTCVM emergency services, please call 865-974-5702 or 865-974-5703.

## And the Winners Are...



*Dr. Mark Bohling pulls the winning tickets.  
(Sue Schwarten, Bohling, Betty DeAcetis, Donna Rose)*

Actually, all small-breed dogs are winners in the Prince Kristopher Crown and Princess Kayla Tiara Raffle. The Yorkie Angel Patrol organized the raffle to raise money for UTCVM’s research on collapsing tracheas and to help pet owners who have dogs with collapsing tracheas. Drs. Mark Bohling and DJ. Krahwinkel are currently conducting clinical studies and research on collapsing trachea in small-breed dogs.

Tracheal collapse is a progressive, chronic and debilitating disease occurring primarily in middle-aged, toy-breed dogs. The clinical signs of tracheal collapse are a chronic, nonproductive cough; exercise intolerance; and difficulty breathing. Excitement or anxiety can worsen the clinical signs.

Betty DeAcetis won both raffles. Her Yorkshire terrier Skylar was crowned prince and DeAcetis donated the princess crown to Tinkerbelle. The raffle raised \$660.

For more information about collapsing tracheas and giving opportunities, please visit [www.vet.utk.edu/giving](http://www.vet.utk.edu/giving).

## Lindsay Young Award

Dr. Linden Craig, associate professor in the Department of Pathobiology, has received the 2006 Lindsay Young Teaching Award. Funded by late Knoxville attorney Lindsay Young, the award recognizes excellence in veterinary teaching. Craig received her B.S. from Cornell University, D.V.M. from Mississippi State University, pathology training at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health.



*Dr. Linden Craig*

## At your service...

The Medical Record Department at UTCVM has received the UT Team Excellence Award. Last year the department processed records for more than 34,000 patients and filed close to two million sheets of paper. The department, lead by Sue Gray, RHIA, consists of Pamela Brock, RHIT, Melissa Wilkerson, Jacques DuRand and student workers Chris Lawson and Keith Hunter.

## UTCVM Wishlist

The veterinary teaching hospital is always updating its equipment and facilities to provide the most technologically advanced patient care. However, we cannot accomplish this without the generous support of others, since our annual budget cannot stretch to meet all of the hospital’s priorities.

We very much appreciate gifts from clients, alumni, friends and associates who want to help provide specific items; this time, for the Large Animal Clinic (please see below). If you would like to make a gift to purchase or contribute toward one of the items below as a tax-deductible gift to UTCVM, or to discuss other giving options, please contact Dr. Claire Eldridge at 865.974.6477 or [celdridge@utk.edu](mailto:celdridge@utk.edu). You can also give on-line at [www.vet.utk.edu/giving/](http://www.vet.utk.edu/giving/). Thank you!

Central vacuum system for surgery	\$ 1,200
All-in-one V9204 Advisor Monitor	7,800
Two Pac surgical instrument tables	7,140 each
Lista mobile cabinet/cart for OB instruments	1,710
Aloka 900 ultrasound unit	13,000

## Wharton Professorship Awards

Dr. Steve Adair, associate professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, and Dr. Seung Joon Baek, assistant professor in the Department of Pathobiology, have received the 2006 Wharton Professorship Awards. Charles and Julie Wharton, long-time clients of the veterinary teaching hospital's large and small animal clinics and long-time advocates of the college, established the award several years ago to recognize exceptional CVM faculty performance in teaching, research and outreach and to help encourage faculty to remain at UT. The Charles and Julie Wharton Faculty Development Fund in the CVM also provides study and travel funds for faculty pursuing cutting-edge research, medical techniques and/or treatments applying to their teaching and to their treatment of animal patients.



*Dr. Steve Adair, Charles and Julie Wharton, and Dr. Seung Joon Baek*

Charles was recently appointed to the UT Board of Trustees by Governor Phil Bredesen. He also serves on the UT Development Council, the UT Institute for Agriculture's Development Board and is chairman of the UTIA Campaign for the Tennessee Steering Committee. Julie is a long-time member of the UTCVM Advisory Board.

The Whartons recently made a lead gift commitment of \$5 million to the Institute of Agriculture within the university's Campaign for Tennessee, designating the majority of the funds to the veterinary college. They live in Winchester, TN, where Charles is President and CEO of Poplar Creek Farms, LLC.

## A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

This October, the UTCVM and the Knoxville Zoological Gardens will host the 2007 American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) annual conference. This marks the first time a veterinary college and zoo have co-hosted the conference. Dr. Ed Ramsay, professor of Avian and Zoological Medicine at the college and president of AAZV, says the meeting is an international one, with as many as 20 countries represented.

This marks the second time Knoxville has been the site of the meeting. "The first time was 1978," says Ramsay. "In the last 30 years, the change within the organization has been spectacular. It's grown in numbers and importance, with members studying and reporting on a wide variety of issues facing captive and free-living wildlife." As many as 600 veterinary professionals and students could attend the weeklong conference, to be held October 20-26. The American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians and the Nutrition Advisory Group are holding their meetings in conjunction with the AAZV. For more information, visit [www.aazv.org](http://www.aazv.org).



*"Patriot" returns to the wild in November after rehabbing at American Eagle Foundation with help from CVM's Dr. Mike Jones.*

## Veterinary Faculty Member Receives International Award

Dr. Darryl Millis, a professor of orthopedic surgery at the UTCVM and recognized internationally for his expertise in canine physical rehabilitation, has received the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)-Iams Paatsama Award. Millis was recognized for his outstanding clinical and scientific achievements in elevating the profile of both orthopedic surgery and patient rehabilitation. According to the WSAVA, his prospective studies have been of crucial importance in veterinary orthopedics and are acknowledged as important examples of evidence-based surgery and physical rehabilitation.



*Dr. Darryl Millis*

## Another First in Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Cheryl Cross, a postdoctoral research associate at the UTCVM, is the first veterinarian and veterinary pathologist working for the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). UCAR is a non-profit consortium of more than 100 university members and affiliates founded in 1960 to enhance the capabilities of the universities and to focus on scientific problems that are beyond the scale of a single university.



*Dr. Cheryl Cross*

Cross's research interest is domoic acid, a marine biotoxin produced during harmful algal blooms. The toxin can bioaccumulate in marine organisms such as shellfish, anchovies and sardines and ultimately be ingested by several marine mammal species, most notably California sea lions, as well as other wildlife and humans. In mammals, the toxin causes short-term memory loss, brain damage, seizures and death in severe cases. Cross is investigating not only how the toxin works, but also experimental therapeutic intervention with the ultimate hope of preventing or treating damage to the animal's nervous system.

# Welcome to our house....

Do you ever wonder what it's like behind the scenes at the UT College of Veterinary Medicine? Now's your chance to explore! Each spring, the third-year students organize the college's annual Open House. Special attractions include various breeds of horses, dogs and wildlife animals. Activities include tours of the veterinary hospital, demonstrations and exhibits related to veterinary medicine.



The event is a popular field trip destination for schools and families. Mark your calendar for **Friday, March 23** and **Saturday, March 24**. On-line registration for teachers will be available February 1 at [www.vet.utk.edu/openhouse](http://www.vet.utk.edu/openhouse).



## Foreign Animal and Emerging Diseases Course

COMING IN THE SUMMER OF 2007

The UTCVM will host an in-depth, weeklong training course on Foreign Animal and Emerging Diseases in Knoxville, Tennessee **May 13-18, 2007**. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is co-sponsoring the event, which will include speakers with international expertise on foreign animal and emerging diseases. For more information, call 865-974-0345 or visit [www.vet.utk.edu/cafsp](http://www.vet.utk.edu/cafsp)

### Other kudos...

Janet Jones, LVMT and Small Animal Clinic Director at the veterinary teaching hospital, was appointed by Governor Phil Bredeson to the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners in Tennessee.

Leslie Wereszczak, LVT has passed the Veterinary Technician Emergency and Critical Care boards.

Dr. Haley Adams, (UTCVM 01) Comparative and Experimental Medicine, has won the Graduate Student Award at the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases held in Chicago.

## SPAY/NEUTER HOTLINE: 865-974-6464

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PA# E18-1701-00-002-07 07-0130