Inside…

• CVM—WSU basketball connection
• Remembering a decorated veterinarian
• River the eagle: Alive and well

Dr. Bernard Pinckney
–His Life, His Legacy
It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to one of this college’s greatest friends. Dr. Bernard Pinckney (‘44) was a caring alumnus, a smart businessman, and a proud supporter of the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine. On the front lawn of our college sits the grand artwork of a veterinarian caring for a calf lying in the arms of a young boy. The vision behind this gift came entirely from Dr. Pinckney—one of the many gifts he has given to us.

It was his dream that veterinary students get a chance to see the world outside of the walls of this college. It was Dr. Pinckney’s wish that we develop a satellite program or programs to create new educational opportunities for our students. As we gaze into our future, we face a number of key changes that bring with them new opportunities. With changing demographics, there will be an increased demand from those over 50, as the number of people under 25 continues to shrink in proportion. We also have new societal demands from owners who see their pets as part of the family. Dwindling educational resources means greater pressure on increasing class sizes. Taken together, this almost demands we consider building a satellite facility that will help accommodate off campus learning. Yet with every new challenge comes opportunity. An opportunity that is now possible thanks to this tremendous gift (see page 3).

More importantly, making this move off campus will help fulfill the dreams of Dr. Pinckney. In this, we now see the true visionary nature of his gift. One that meets the emerging needs of the future, as we are only now beginning to recognize. Creating this new program will honor not only his vision for this college, but promises to leave behind a strong legacy—one which guarantees that his love and commitment for WSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine will be remembered forever.

Washington State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine is ranked first in the nation when it comes to other institutions’ scientists recognizing and noting WSU research in their own scientific papers.


The ranking comes from a tally of the average number of citations per scientific paper published by the top 100 federally-funded U.S. universities that published at least 200 papers between 2001 and 2005. All papers were published in Thomson Scientific-indexed journals of veterinary medicine and animal health.

“In scientific publishing, scientists credit statements about important past research with a citation of the source of the information,” explained Dr. Warwick Bayly, DVM, dean of WSU’s veterinary college. “Only the very best quality scientific work is cited often and forms a foundation for continued success. In this case, WSU veterinary college research was cited more often in other scientist’s peer-reviewed scientific papers than any other university’s work, including the biggest names in American higher education. This is simply one of the greatest recognitions WSU can have for our scientific research.”

During the ranking period, WSU veterinary college scientists published 238 papers; each was cited an average of 3.14 times in subsequent scientific publications. Trailing WSU’s ranking in order were Michigan State University, Ohio State University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Pennsylvania. WSU’s margin over the other universities was larger than the margins between any of the other schools.
Dr. Bernard Pinckney leaves behind a legacy of caring

Bulk of estate left to WSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine

One of this college’s most esteemed alumni, **Dr. Bernard Pinckney** (’44), died July 25, 2005, at the age of 84. Far from forgotten, Dr. Pinckney left the bulk of his estate to WSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine for the purpose of supporting teaching and related activities.

“Nearly everything I am today, I am because of WSU,” Dr. Pinckney once told us. Currently, the estate’s market value is about $2.3 million, but that figure could rise based on the sale of several properties in the Puget Sound region.

“One of Dr. Pinckney’s visions was to establish a satellite veterinary unit for this college,” said **Dr. Warwick Bayly**, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. “We are now working to make his dream a reality.”

For more than 40 years, Dr. Pinckney worked at his Central Valley Veterinary Clinic in Tacoma and was active in both the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association and the AVMA. Earlier in his career, he was the attending veterinarian for the San Diego Zoo, a regional humane society veterinary consultant, a U.S. Army veterinarian, and even taught briefly at WSU.

Dr. Pinckney is credited with using art as a way to enhance the cultural face of veterinary medicine. When asked about his greatest achievement, he once said “hands down, the *Caring Call* statue in front of the college. I knew I could get enough people to buy a smaller version to help pay for the permanent one.” Dr. Pinckney commissioned his friend, artist Larry Anderson, to create the statue that depicts a 1940s era veterinarian helping care for a boy’s young calf.

The effort was so popular that in 2002 Dr. Pinckney enlisted Anderson again to create *Team Effort*, a life-size bronze statue embodying the hands-on approach to veterinary preventive medicine. He donated the statue to the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, of which he was a member of the board of directors. Dr. Pinckney was hailed for promoting the global use of microchip identification in companion animals, and was given the AVMA’s Animal Welfare Award.

“Dr. Pinckney knew the value of veterinary medicine, and the value of a veterinary education. His legacy will be in support of both of these values for all time to come,” said Dr. Bayly.
WSU’s Capt. Clayton Mickelsen is memorialized with a scholarship to the College of Veterinary Medicine

For nearly two decades, veterinary hopefuls at Washington State University have passed under the watchful eyes of U.S. Army Captain Clayton Mickelsen (’39), whose painting hangs in the public lounge dedicated to his memory.

Dr. Mickelsen was a decorated WWII soldier whose family chose to remember him with an endowed scholarship awarded in his name forever. “Clayton’s choice to become a veterinarian was a dream come true for him,” said his cousin, Russell Mickelsen. “Our entire family has always been animal lovers…we want to assist students toward their goal of becoming a veterinarian.”

Dr. Mickelsen was part of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, serving in the Philippines, where he oversaw the health of more than 1,600 horses and mules. It was during the withdrawal of troops under General Douglas MacArthur into Bataan where Dr. Mickelsen would display extraordinary courage and earn his greatest honor.

Under heavy fire, the last of a group of straggling American troops had made it across a bridge, with a column of Japanese tanks rapidly closing. According to reports, seeing that there were a number of wounded soldiers near the bridge that would be left behind, Dr. Mickelsen drove his veterinary truck onto the bridge and set it on fire, effectively blocking the Japanese advance. Joining another soldier in a scout car, the two then picked up the wounded and gave orders to others left behind to help them to safety.

For his actions, Dr. Mickelsen was awarded the Army’s second highest decoration, the Distinguished Service Cross, believed to be the only one ever awarded to a member of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. The award itself reads “By his heroic actions...(then) Lt. Mickelsen saved the lives of a number of wounded, collected many stragglers, and set an inspiring example of courage for an entire regiment.”

Four months later, Dr. Mickelsen was among 11,796 Americans and 66,000 Filipinos at Bataan who surrendered. The prisoners of war were forced to make the infamous 90 mile Bataan Death March to Camp O’Donnell by way of San Fernando. For more then two years, Dr. Mickelsen was moved by railway box car from one camp to another. Finally, he was placed on a troop ship bound for Japan, but their ship was sunk by American forces. Dr. Mickelsen once again cheated death and he eventually found his way to a prisoner of war camp in Kyushu, Japan. His death came just two weeks before the camp was liberated by U.S. forces.

The face of Dr. Clayton Mickelsen smiles down on students relaxing in the College of Veterinary Medicine lounge, right next to his Distinguished Service Cross. His nephew Russell believes the time is right to add to the Mickelsen legacy by developing a scholarship endowment to recognize both Captain Mickelsen’s sacrifice and his love for WSU.

“He having graduated from WSU was a huge event in his life,” said Russell. “What better way is there, than to help young people become vets, so they in turn can help!” added Russell’s wife, Pat.
The Institute for Healthcare Communication bestowed its highest award—2006 Program Partner Award—on Washington State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine in November. It is the first time the award has been given to a veterinary medical organization. The award recognizes those who have made an extraordinary effort at improving communication.

The award was presented during halftime of a WSU men’s basketball game. During a pre-game gathering of CVM faculty and staff, WSU men’s basketball coach, Tony Bennett, hailed the college as being “a crown jewel of WSU,” adding “This is the kind of program of excellence I tell my players we need to follow, as we build a program of excellence of our own.”

Spring is often a frantic time here at the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Between finals...graduation...and applications for fall semester, you can feel the mix of tension and excitement within our halls. Yet there was one event that gave me pause for reflection: our annual Distinguished Alumni Awards. This year’s recipients stand as a powerful reminder of how the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine lays the foundation for greatness.

**Dr. David Anderson (’61 DVM)**

Distinguished Veterinary Alumnus Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research. He served as the dean at the University of Georgia’s College of Veterinary Medicine from 1975 to 1996. His work in medical microbiology and avian medicine includes authoring 30 publications dealing with avian disease, and is most noted for his work uncovering the relationship between environmental conditions and infectious agents.

**Dr. Linda Cork (’74 Ph.D.)**

Distinguished Graduate Alumnus Award. She is the chair of the Comparative Medicine Department at Stanford University, a position she has held since 1994. Cited as being a superb writer and accomplished speaker, Dr. Cork has authored or coauthored over 150 scientific manuscripts principally in the fields of neuropathology and comparative medicine. She is the first woman and one of only 16 veterinarians ever elected to the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine.

**Dr. Nancy Gillett (’76 DVM)**

Distinguished Veterinary Alumnus Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research. She is currently the president of Global Preclinical Services for Charles River Laboratories. She has distinguished herself with outstanding contributions in toxicological pathology that have had a profound impact on animal and human health.

**Dr. Michael Hauser (’84 DVM)**

Distinguished Veterinary Alumnus Award for Excellence in Practice. He is currently the director of the Dubai Equine Hospital, a position he has held since its inception in 1992. He is credited with being the primary force behind bringing leading edge equine medicine and surgery to the Middle East.

**Dr. Valery Shean (’88 DVM)**

Distinguished Veterinary Alumnus Award for Outstanding Service. For the past 15 years, Dr. Valery Shean has worked in Uganda with the Karamojong tribe, dedicating her veterinary talents to those less fortunate. She cares for and treats local animals, while developing better food stocks with drought resistant crops, and even establishing a program to feed widows and orphans using much of her own money—all this within the confines of a remote area, often beset with the violence of civil unrest.

As we send out the class of 2007 into the world, we pause to congratulate these award winners. Only the future knows what greatness they may achieve.

—Dr. Richard DeBowes
WSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine’s new online Pet Memorial program continues to grow in popularity, with more patients than ever posting stories about their pets. “We now see about fifty stories being sent in every month,” said Tim Osborn, who manages the Pet Memorial program.

The online memorial site allows owners to post a story and photograph of their pet, as well as receive a personal letter from the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. “This is a great way for veterinarians to reach out and help their clients during a difficult time,” said Kathy Ruby, Ph.D., a licensed counselor at WSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine. “We hear from a number of thankful clients who comment how touched they were to receive a letter from WSU acknowledging their loss.”

You can read many of the heartfelt stories yourself—go to www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-prd/memorial.aspx

CVM Mascot Remembered

Silver
March 1990–May 21, 2006

It is with sadness that we announce Silver’s death. Silver was born in March 1990 and raced as “Classy Eagle” at the greyhound track in Post Falls, Idaho. The rescue agency placed him with the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University in August of 1993 as the palpation dog for the freshman anatomy course. This is where he entered our lives and we were blessed to be his family for the next 12 and a half years.

Hundreds of veterinary students learned from and cared for Silver. Silver retired from the College of Veterinary Medicine in May 1997.

Silver spent the post-graduation years in Seattle, Salt Lake City, and Longmont, Colorado. He hiked the peaks of the Cascades, Wasatch, and Uintah mountains, ran in the sand at the Oregon Coast, and explored the deserts of southern Utah. When not on an adventure, he spent the majority of his time sleeping in the most comfortable spot available, ignoring the cats, and marking his territory on three to four daily walks.

We had hoped to show him off at the ten-year class reunion but 16 years of life was all he could share with us. We ask in your remembrance of Silver that you wish for open doors wherever he should pass, a cool, comfortable couch to lie on, and a beautiful open field to run (or not) whenever he chooses. He will be dearly missed.

Kevin and Tracy Thompson (CVM Class of ’97)
Achievements

Dr. Terry McElwain, executive director of the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, has been presented with the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Animal (APHIS) Administrator’s Award for 2006. The award recognizes an individual outside of the federal government who has made outstanding contributions and provided notable service, and is recognized as a pioneer or leader in an area relating to animal agriculture.

Dr. Roger McClellan ('60) has received the New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award for 2006. The award recognizes a lifetime of achievement. Dr. McClellan writes “It has been a great ride—and hopefully it is not over yet.” He currently lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, serving as an advisor to public and private organizations on toxicology and risk analysis issues.

Dr. Claude A. Ragle, an equine surgeon at Washington State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, recently received the Distinguished Service Award at the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) annual convention in San Antonio, Texas. To be honored, an individual must provide exemplary service to the benefit of horses, the horse industry, or the profession of veterinary medicine.

Katie Seabaugh ('07) was named a recipient of a $2,500 AAEP scholarship. Only eight of these scholarships are awarded nationally to senior veterinary students. We have not had a recipient from WSU since 2000.

Dr. Timothy Baszler has been awarded the 2006 American Association of Veterinary Diagnosticians Award for Best Manuscript in the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation. He was the lead author of a multi-institute comparison of two automated immunohistochemical procedures for the diagnosis of scrapie in domestic sheep and chronic wasting disease found in North American white-tailed deer and mule deer.

Dr. Guy Palmer was honored as the 2007 Annual WWAMI Science in Medicine Lecturer at the University of Washington Medical School. His lecture was entitled, “Antigenic Variation as a Driver for Pathogen Emergence and Disease Outbreak.”

WSU Equine Musculoskeletal MRI conference draws international expertise and interest

Medical imaging and equine experts from around the world gathered in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, in January, for the third annual Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Equine Musculoskeletal System Conference.

Thanks to advancements in MRI technology, veterinarians are getting an unsurpassed look at musculoskeletal conditions and injuries in equine athletes and companions.

“We are uniquely qualified to host this event,” said Dr. Russ Tucker, chief of medical imaging at the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine. “We were the first veterinary facility to perform MRI on live equine patients, have been collecting images on horses for over 10 years, and now have a database that is unsurpassed.”

WSU pioneered the practical use of MRI in evaluation of horses beginning in 2006 with the opening of the New Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Participants attended eight hours of lectures and presentations of fundamental MRI concepts and applications in the equine musculoskeletal injuries. This was followed by more than eight hours of hands-on case review and discussion. Presentation of the cases and materials involving equine injuries were provided at individual laptop workstations provided for all attending.

MRI, common in human medicine, uses magnetic energy instead of x-ray radiation to produce a series of high resolution images of both bone structure and soft tissues. Used in veterinary medicine, this tool can help identify problems traditionally discovered only through exploratory surgery or post mortem examinations. “The anatomic and physiologic information provided by MRI allows for early detection and therefore better opportunity for favorable intervention on several common musculoskeletal injuries in equine athletes. This is a tremendous diagnostic tool in the diagnosis, treatment, and ultimately the prevention of injuries in horses, and we are pleased to share our experience with the diverse group of equine veterinarians attending the conference.”
Healed eagle makes full recovery!

Remember River, the bald eagle rescued from the Kettle River in northeastern Washington? She’s alive and doing quite well. This photo was taken by Peter Holter-Mehren, a local resident and eagle watcher, who said “This success has brought a pretty big smile to my face too. It took four days’ work to get that shot, but well worth a few cold hours waiting.” The raptor was named River by the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine staff after she was discovered with her foot wedged under a rock; she was treated for severe weakness. http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/announcements/RiverEagle.aspx

Photo by Peter Holter-Mehren