

# Advance

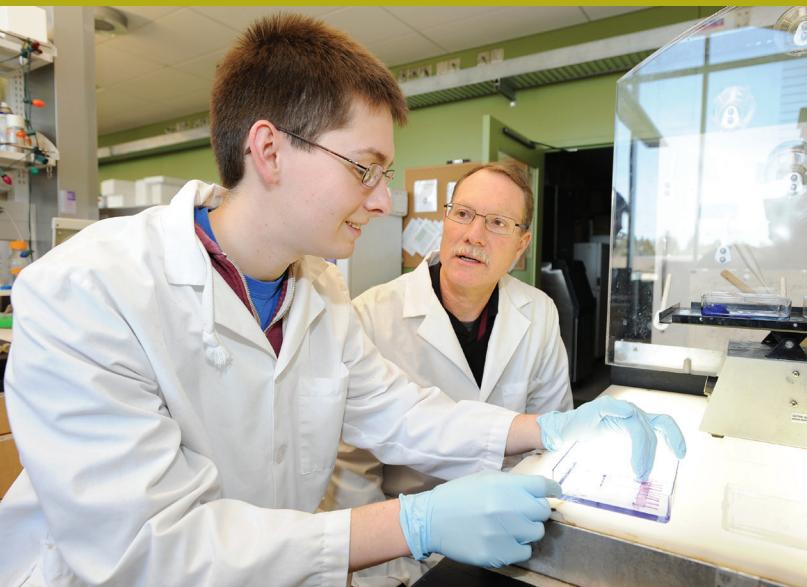
2013-2014  
Annual Report

A newsletter from the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Winter 2015

## Healthy Animals

Anna, a Boxer, gets a new lease on life after an innovative surgery for Cushing's Disease. It was the first time the surgery was performed at WSU. WSU is currently the only veterinary hospital in the country performing this type of surgery (see page 3).



## Healthy People

Dr. Mike Konkel (right) and Nicholas Negretti, a graduate student in the School of Molecular Biosciences. Dr. Konkel and his team investigate *Campylobacter jejuni*, the most frequent cause of human, food-borne illness. Their work will help develop new therapies for disease prevention.

## Healthy Planet

Dr. Douglas Call (left) with Beatus Lyimo, a graduate student at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology in Tanzania. Dr. Call and his team analyze samples for antibiotic resistance.



## [Message from the Dean]



Dean Bryan Slinker,  
WSU College of  
Veterinary Medicine

### *Advance Healthy Animals, Healthy People, Healthy Planet*

#### WSU College of Veterinary Medicine

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**G**rowth and opportunity. Moving into 2015 we find ourselves in a time where we are steadily hiring many new faculty members. Over the last three years, we have averaged nearly one a month across the college. And what an exciting time this is. It seems there is always a seminar or "chalk talk" being given by an exceptional faculty candidate from one of the many searches. Regardless of the area of expertise we seek, whether small animal or equine internal medicine, antimicrobial resistance, cellular microbiology, critical care, neuroscience of motivated behaviors, muscle biology, surgery, virology—and many more—talented scientists and clinicians from around the world see opportunity in our college. And in them we see tremendous opportunity for our college as we seek to improve in every dimension of our mission.

The decisions are challenging—there are so many outstanding possibilities to choose among as we hire new colleagues. Sometimes we hire two where we sought one. At times we find exceptional individuals we had not even known we were looking for! The potential to add to the quality of our college by attracting such talent is simply too hard to pass up. There is of course a limit to how many new colleagues we can bring on the faculty to join us, but the financial stretches we have made recently are worth it in relation to the opportunity for the college.

Our existing faculty and staff offer newcomers a body of great colleagues, both in expertise and in personal qualities. Our strategic successes offer newcomers ready access to a critical mass for focused, joint efforts to advance knowledge, clinical care, and service.

We also offer fantastic facilities and equipment. Once candidates visit during the recruiting process, they can see a great career ahead of them if they join us. And so they do.

We are also rapidly changing the face of the college. Of the last 30 faculty members hired over about three years, nearly a third have been mid-career. We are strategically moving away from the traditional hiring pattern of bringing in only new faculty at the very beginning of their careers. These mid-career individuals "hit the ground running" and help keep us on a strong upward trajectory as we face some imminent retirements of long-time, successful colleagues. Importantly, 50 percent of our new faculty members across the college are women. Together these new faculty members show us what our future looks like. And that future is bright.

In issues of *Advance*, and in other ways, we will provide more details of these individuals who constitute a remarkable new face for the college. Rest assured that in this time of rapid growth and change—which is by no means nearing an end—we seek not only to improve and better serve our mission and stakeholders, but we also seek to maintain the strong traditions and character of our Cougar family. We've come a long way from a couple of faculty and a \$60 lean-to tacked on to the Armory in 1895, but we will not forget where we came from.

Go Cougs!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Slinker".

Dr. Bryan Slinker, Dean  
WSU College of Veterinary Medicine

# Exceptional Veterinarians, Exceptional Leaders



Rian Calugcugan ('15 DVM) from Hawaii. After graduation, he plans to return to Hawaii and work in marine animal and exotic veterinary medicine.



Jessica Scherr ('18 DVM) from Montana. She is currently interested in small animal medicine.

For Jessica Scherr of Great Falls, Montana, choosing WSU for veterinary school was easy. The daughter of a veterinarian, Scherr had grown up with veterinary medicine all her life. When she learned the Washington-Idaho-Montana-Utah (WIMU, pronounced WE-moo) regional program in veterinary medicine offered in-state tuition and would keep her closer to home, she knew it was right for her. And having a class size of only 11 sealed the deal.

"With the small class size, we get more hands-on experiences," said Scherr. "I've gotten more hands-on experience than I could have ever imagined."

What wasn't so easy was starting in a new, highly demanding veterinary program. But getting an opportunity to participate in the Cougar Orientation Leadership Experience, known as COLE, made all the difference for the start of her first year.

"It is hard when you go to a new school," says Scherr, whose first year is in Bozeman, Montana—450 miles away from the Pullman campus. "So meeting faculty, new students, and older students was great. It was cool to meet some of the faculty because I won't see them until next year [in Pullman]."

Whether starting in Montana, Utah, Idaho, or Pullman, all first year veterinary students begin their year at COLE, an off-site retreat designed to promote leadership skills and team building. The experiential learning curriculum includes exercises by trained facilitators to help incoming veterinary students understand more about themselves—how they think, how they work with others, how they connect and solve problems, says Dr. Rick DeBowes, one of the program's founders.

"It helped me learn how to communicate better with others," says Scherr. "I have an outgoing personality and am strong willed so I like to get my ideas across. I learned that I may need to stay in the background and let others take the lead and then see if my ideas match up."

It also gave her an opportunity to meet current students and get to know the other students in her graduating class.

"Just knowing that everyone is going through the same things helped," says Scherr. "It was a great learning and bonding opportunity to welcome me to WSU."

These valuable experiences don't end after the first year. Rian Calugcugan ('15 DVM), who will graduate this spring, found that his experiences at COLE as a first year student and later as a mentor shaped him throughout his time as a veterinary student.

"The COLE program had a major impact in my life," says Calugcugan. "Each year I was there, I discovered more about myself as a person and I got to share that with people I mentored throughout the years."

And this kind of leadership and communication training gives WSU veterinarians an edge in the job market.

"Professional students need these skills to thrive in the high-demand world of medical service," says DeBowes. "Research shows that individuals who have high levels of emotional intelligence also have positive impacts and outcomes in the workplace."

For Calugcugan, he knows what he learned at COLE will help him as he begins his career.

"COLE gave me strong leadership skills I never realized I had," says Calugcugan. "It also helped me become a better communicator and empathetic person, which are all characteristics I think a great veterinarian needs to have."

 *For more information about COLE, visit [www.vetmed.wsu.edu/COLE](http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/COLE)*

## WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital Performs Innovative and Life Saving Pituitary Surgery

WSU veterinary surgeon Dr. Tina Owen ('92 DVM) at WSU and her team performed the first transsphenoidal hypophysectomy at WSU on a Boxer with Cushing's Disease in November 2014. According to Dr. Owen, any mass in the pituitary fossa region could be approached using this surgery. WSU is currently the only veterinary teaching hospital in the country performing this type of surgery.



# Annual Report 2013-2014

## Revenue and Expenditures

Today, only about one-third of college revenue comes from state appropriations, including tuition. The remainder comes from sources such as grants, services, and philanthropic giving. As state funding continues to decline, the college will increasingly rely on charitable giving from corporations, foundations, and alumni and friends to maintain a margin of excellence in teaching, research, and patient care.

### FY 2013-14 Expenditures (college wide)\*

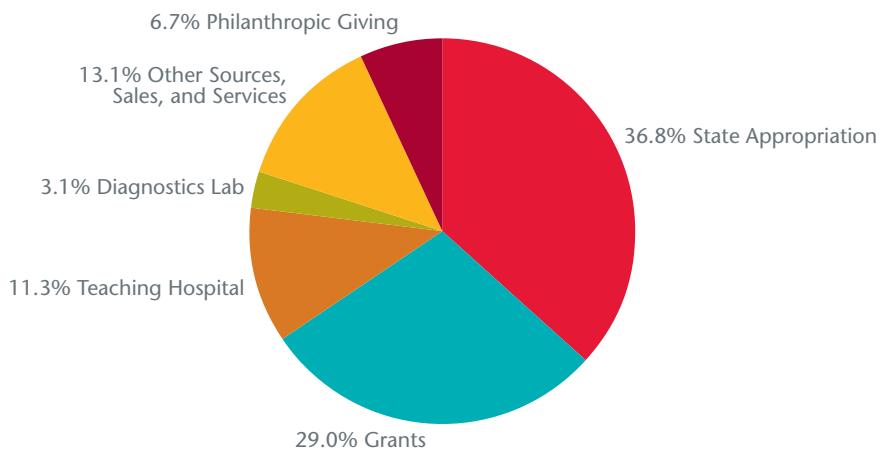
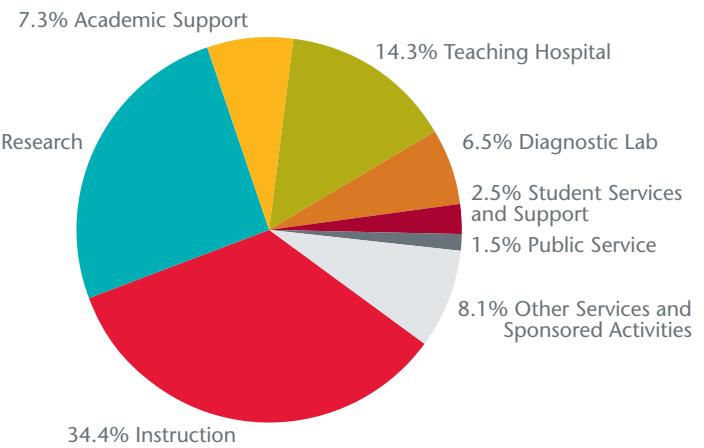
Instruction	\$ 27,480,341
Research	20,370,354
Academic Support	5,802,150
Teaching Hospital	11,427,560
Diagnostic Lab	5,162,403
Student Services and Support	2,026,250
Public Service	1,234,254
Other Services and Sponsored Activities	6,491,960
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 79,995,272</b>

\*Expenditures include charges against carry-forward balances that are not reflected in current year revenue figures

### FY 2013-14 Revenue (college wide)

State Appropriation*	\$ 27,201,762
Grants	21,486,955
Teaching Hospital	8,327,841
Diagnostics Lab	2,297,392
Other Sources, Sales, and Services	9,673,146
Philanthropic Giving	4,982,536
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 73,969,632</b>

\*State Appropriation includes tuition.



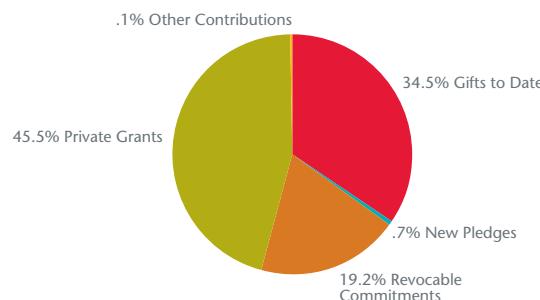
## Giving

Eighty-one percent of gifts in 2013-14 were immediately available to be used by the college to support programs, teaching, and research. Many gifts also come in the form of pledges or revocable commitments—funds the college cannot use until some time in the future. For instance, 19 percent of giving last year came as revocable commitments such as a Revocable Living Trust. Trusts such as these can be managed and changed by the donor with the remaining estate funds eventually going to the college.

The 2013-14 fundraising goal was just over \$6 million. Through generous gifts and private grants, the college received more than \$13.4 million—exceeding our total goal by over 120 percent. More than \$3.7 million of those gifts were in immediately usable funds that could be put to work right away to support our students, patients, and faculty. The college also received close to \$98,000 in new pledges and nearly \$2.6 million in revocable commitments.

## Types of Giving FY2013-14

Gifts	\$ 4,631,460
New Pledges	97,320
Revocable Commitments	2,578,000
Private Grants	6,102,654
Other Contributions	11,714
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,421,148</b>

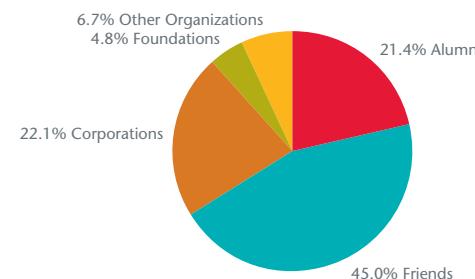


# *You Make the Difference*

Seventy-two percent of gifts to the college came from friends, corporations, and foundations, while 21 percent came from alumni in 2013-14.

## **Donors to the College FY2013-14**

WSU Alumni	\$ 3,105,641*
Friends	871,585
Corporations	429,309
Foundations	93,694
Other Organizations	131,231



\*Total includes a \$2.96 million gift from WSU alumnus Paul G. Allen to support the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health. Amount has been removed from the pie chart.

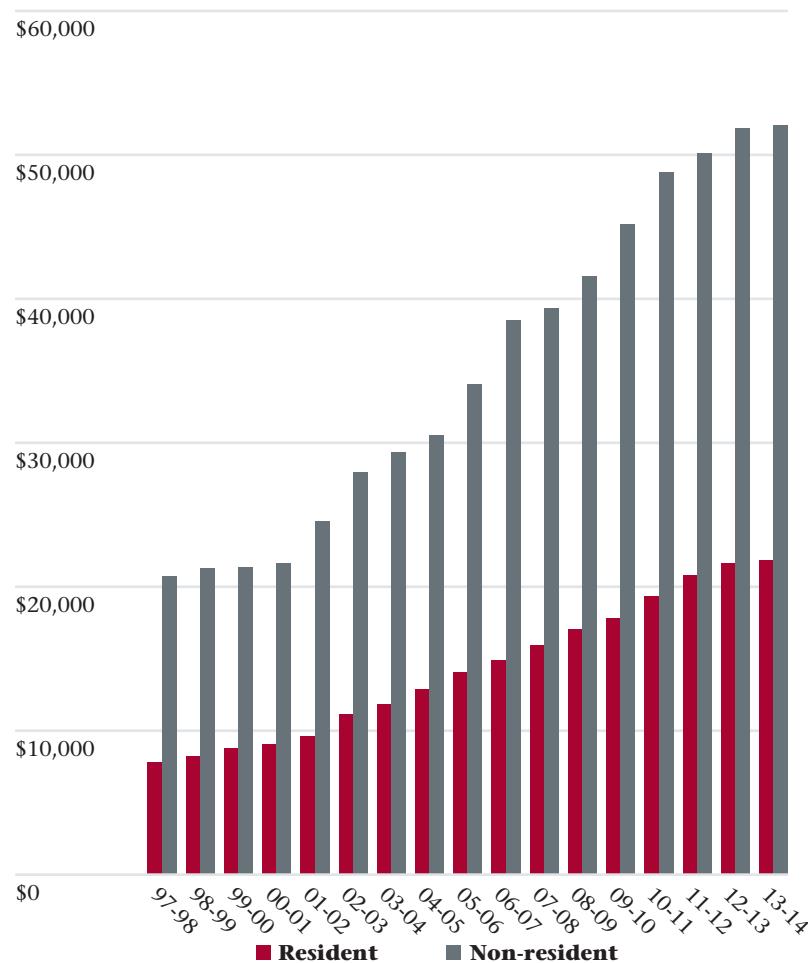
## Tuition

Tuition for residents and non-residents has **nearly tripled** since 1996. In fiscal year 2013-14, resident students paid \$22,352 each year while non-residents paid \$53,406. Student scholarships can help defray some of the costs of education, putting our students in a more competitive position as they start their careers.

## **Academic Year**

## **Resident**

## **Non-resident**



## **Percent change from 1997-98 to 2013-14**

## *New Benefactors in 2013-14*

*Benefactors of the college have a lifetime giving of \$100,000 to \$999,999.*

Crimson Benefactors

**Joseph T. and Barbara  
Murchie**

## Benefactors

**Bene**actors  
(\$100,000 - \$499,999)  
Betty J. Jones & The  
Cassius Cat Foundation  
David and Sandra Bielski



I first met David Bielski ('70 Comm.) in 2002 at a WSU Alumni Association Board meeting. He mentioned to me that he'd been to the college several times to talk about pet loss and his company, Petland Cemetery in Aberdeen, Washington. The business was

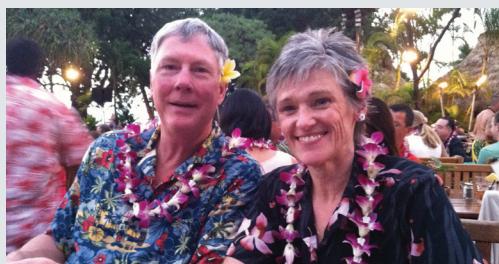
Lynne Haley,  
Director of Development

started in 1973 by three partners—one was David's father and another was Cougar alumnus Glenn Hilliard ('54 DVM). David took over the business in 1983 and has run it ever since with his wife Sandi. Sandi's dad, Dr. J.R. Fuller ('50 DVM), is also an alumnus of the college.

David and Sandi knew they wanted to find a way to support veterinary students and honor her dad at the same time. The result

was the *Dr. J.R. Fuller Memorial Scholarship*, which has helped 27 students since 2005. As David says, if it makes the difference between being able to stay in school or leaving for financial reasons, that is what the scholarship is all about.

We are so grateful to them and to the legacy they are passing to future Cougar veterinarians.



## David and Sandi Bielski, WSU Benefactors

What does one business, two Cougar veterinarians, three WSU degrees, and an adopted Cougar make? A Cougar legacy.

Looking back, the Cougar legacy created by David and Sandi Bielski seems almost inevitable. And listening to their story, there was a Cougar thread linking their lives along the way.

Their friendship with the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine started after a chance meeting between David and Lynne Haley, now director of development, at an alumni function in 2002. David and Sandi knew they wanted to find a way to support veterinary students and also honor her dad, WSU graduate J.R. Fuller ('50 DVM). The result was the *Dr. J.R. Fuller Memorial Scholarship*.

"He would have been embarrassed by it, but then quickly pleased because he enjoyed his profession and was serious about how he worked with his clients," says Sandi. "He thought about pets as well as people." Describing her father, Sandi says he was an old fashioned country doctor who would know all the pets' names—sometimes before the people's names. He was also a

very compassionate man, says David. Dr. Fuller passed in 1998 before the scholarship was created, but Sandi and David know the scholarship would have meant a lot to him because it is helping future Cougar veterinarians and, by extension, their patients. From 2005 to 2014, the scholarship had been awarded to 27 WSU veterinary students.

"It is amazing to us how many students we've been able to help," says Sandi. "We've also been fortunate to meet about three-quarters of them in person."

When the scholarship was originally established, the Bielski's pledged \$1 for every private cremation done at their business, Petland Cemetery, in Aberdeen, Washington. That seemingly small amount has added up to more than \$6,000 each year since. Petland was started in 1973 by David's dad, along with cougar alumnus Glenn Hilliard ('54 DVM) and another local businessman. David and Sandi took over the business in 1983. "We've been building the business ever since," says David.

Providing services to over 120 clinics in Washington and Oregon, Petland's services help veterinarians humanely dispose of animals that have died, says Sandi. And private cremations and burials offer pet owners comfort. They also work with local humane societies and zoos such as Woodland Park in Seattle and Point Defiance in Tacoma. As policy, they don't charge for service animals or for military or police K9s. "We go wherever the need is," says David.

But their connections to WSU run even deeper. David is a WSU graduate ('70 Comm.) and so are two of their three children. They are Platinum lifetime members of the WSU Alumni Association. Their business is also listed on the Cougar First Business Network, a free service offered by the WSU Alumni Association. So when Lynne learned Sandi had not gone to WSU, she was understandably surprised. "She [Lynne] told us that they would like to adopt her," says David.

Sandi was formally adopted as a Cougar in 2013. "That was the only surprise in 37 years of marriage that David was able to pull off," says Sandi. "It was nice to be honored in that way and asked to be part of the family."

For the Bielskis, helping WSU veterinary students is a priority. As life-long pet lovers they appreciate veterinarians who ensure good health. They also know how expensive a veterinary education can be. Through the scholarship, they pay it forward to future veterinarians and animal patients. Over 12 years, they have generously given more than \$80,000 to the college to support veterinary student education.

"We are glad to be able to help in some little way so someone can follow their dream," says Sandi.

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*The Dr. J.R. Fuller Memorial Scholarship is given to second or third year veterinary students at the college who are in the top three-quarters of their class, have a commitment to small or mixed companion animal practice, and have a financial need.*



Congratulations to our WSVMA award winners! Left to right:  
**Suzanne Kurtz** received the

Distinguished Achievement Award, **Julie Cary** received the WSU Faculty Member of the Year Award, and **Rick DeBowes** was presented with the 2014 Veterinarian of the Year Award at the WSVMA banquet and award ceremony in September.



**Tim Baszler**, director of the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, received the E. P. Pope Award at the annual conference of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians in

October. The highest award given by the AAVLD, it is presented to those who have made noteworthy contributions to the association and the field of veterinary diagnostic laboratory medicine.



**Troy Bankhead**, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary

Microbiology and Pathology, received a \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study Lyme disease. Over the five-year grant, Bankhead will conduct research to better understand how the disease, which is spread by the deer tick, is able to avoid being destroyed by the immune system. Results from the study may help provide useful knowledge to prevent and treat Lyme disease.

# Your Gifts in Action

## Keeping Families Together

Sometimes it takes many bends in the road to get where you are going. For Nick Snider ('14 DVM), he managed a coffee stand, he and his wife, Jennifer, worked as camp counselors, and he went back to school planning to become a biology teacher. But then he took his first virology and zoology classes and he was hooked. He knew his calling was to be a veterinarian.

"It is mentally stimulating and I get to work with people. Not just clients, but also staff," said Snider, a self-described people person. Many go into veterinary medicine because they love to work with animals, but for Nick it was because he also likes to work with people. And that goes a long way for being a good veterinarian.

"Working with people is something I always liked. It is a bit of the camp counselor in me," he said.

That love for animals and caring for people made him a natural to receive the "Our Caring Profession Award," which is funded by John Mattoon ('84 DVM) and his wife, Jennifer Mattoon. The recipient is selected by the fourth year class as someone who has sincere compassion and caring for animals and people, excellence in mentoring and serving as a role model, and someone with good judgment and understanding.

"It was a huge honor to be voted as the gentle doctor by my class," said Snider. "It gives me a lot to live up to."



Nick Snider ('14 DVM) with his wife Jennifer and their two daughters.

Snider also received the Thomas Montgomery Scholarship three years ago, which is given to non-traditional students with a family, and was the recipient of the Dr. & Mrs. E. Doyle Montgomery Scholarship.

The scholarships helped make it financially possible for him, Jennifer, and their two young daughters to live together in Pullman during his last two years at WSU. He commuted to Spokane during his second year, where his wife was a kindergarten teacher.

"These scholarships are a huge help on an already tight budget," said Snider. "Over the four years even small amounts really add up. They go a long way."

After graduation, he started working at SouthCare Animal Medical Center in Spokane. But one day he hopes to own his own practice.

As for receiving the Our Caring Profession Award, Snider was humbled to be honored by his classmates, and felt it was a special way to finish his final year.

"As classmates we go through a lot together," said Snider. "It was a nice way to end our time there and honor the relationships we built."



To learn more about how your gift can make a difference please visit [vetmed.wsu.edu/GiftsinAction](http://vetmed.wsu.edu/GiftsinAction).

Look for Gatherings of WSU Alumni, Friends,  
and Students at these Upcoming Events!



## Mark your calendars

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>March 27</b>     | Distinguished Veterinary Alumni Award Reception in Pullman   |
| <b>April 11</b>     | College of Veterinary Medicine Open House in Pullman   |
| <b>June 20</b>      | Peter Zornes Memorial Golf Tournament in Colfax, Washington  |
| <b>July 13</b>      | Alumni reception at the American Veterinary Medical Association in Boston, Massachusetts             |
| <b>September 26</b> | College hosts reception at the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association in Yakima, Washington |
| <b>October 17</b>   | College hosts Homecoming BBQ in Pullman (vs. Oregon State)   |

*CE courses at WSU and online are offered year round; visit [vetmed.wsu.edu/CE](http://vetmed.wsu.edu/CE) for more information.*

*For more information about upcoming events visit [vetmed.wsu.edu/Events](http://vetmed.wsu.edu/Events).*