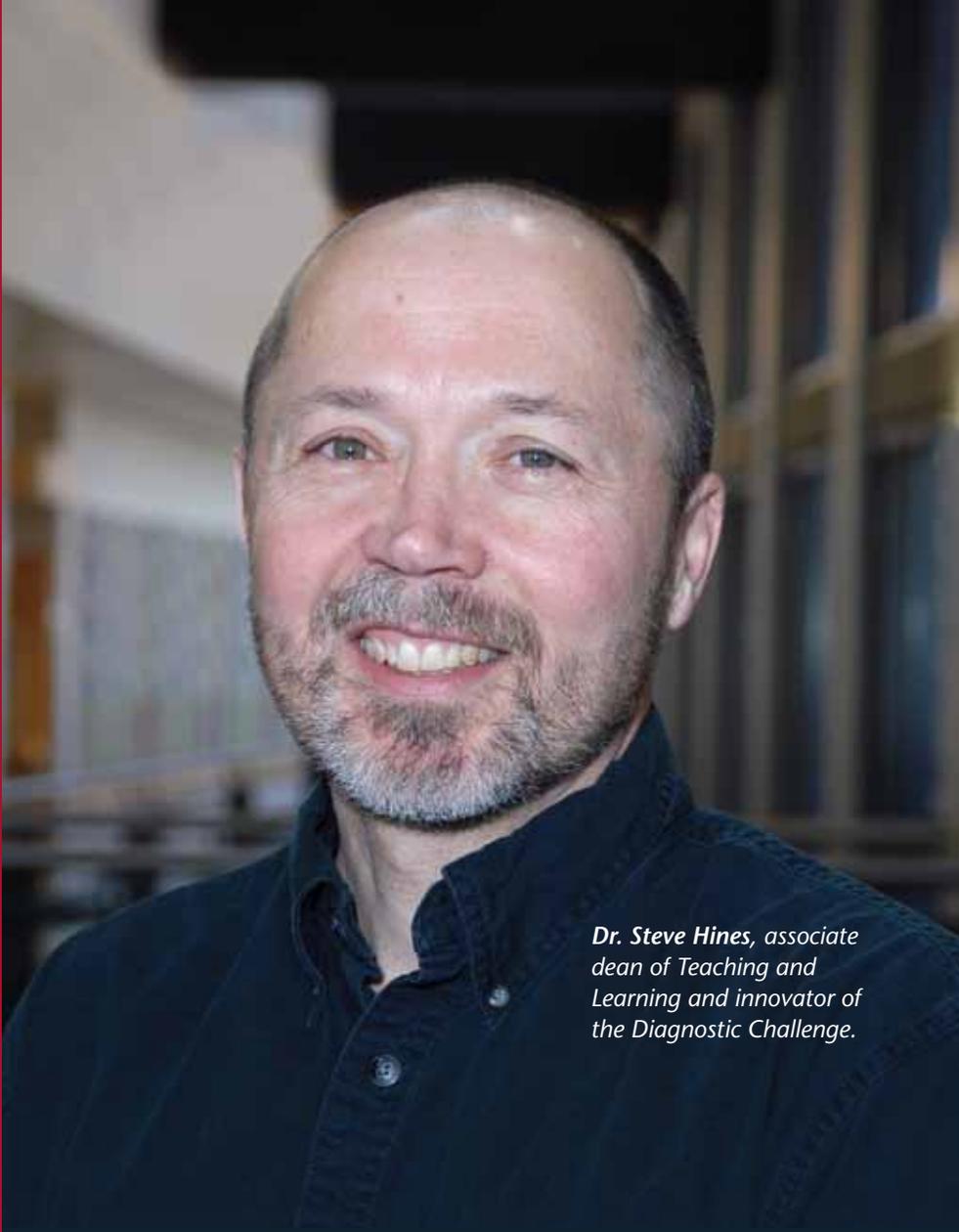




Veterinary

executive report

Spring/Summer 2011



Dr. Steve Hines, associate dean of Teaching and Learning and innovator of the Diagnostic Challenge.

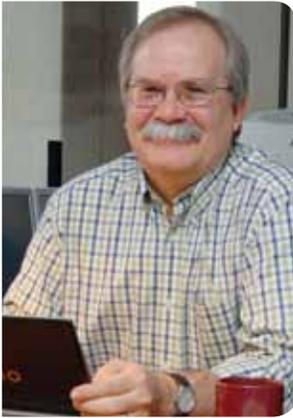
Education Innovators

WSU's Commitment
to Training
the Country's
Best Veterinarians



COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Message from the Dean



Dean Bryan Slinker
WSU College of Veterinary Medicine

There have been some exciting new things happening at the college this spring! First I am very pleased to announce an educational partnership program with Utah State University (USU). Beginning in 2012 the college will be accepting students from USU to spend their final two years here at WSU. These students will take their classes for the first two years in Logan, Utah, and will be taught by faculty within USU's Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences. They will then come to Pullman for their final two years of veterinary school. The program will educate 20 Utah residents and up to 10 out-of-state students that start out at USU.

By partnering with USU, we are able to better serve students and the states in our region. The college will also be in the position to hire several new top-notch faculty members. The University and the college have been hit hard by recent budget cuts. Funds from this new partnership, which we will start receiving in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, will allow us to re-fill most, if not all, of the faculty and staff positions that we have left vacant or eliminated due to the state's budget cuts to the University. These positions will be added across the college, but most especially in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences and the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

With an eye to the future, we at the college believe this type of joint education program allows us to meet the needs of a growing West. Because the western states are among the fastest growing in the country, there will be an increasing need for veterinarians in the region. As a regional veterinary college, WSU is better able to serve the West through this partnership with USU. And at WSU, we continue to lead the way nationally. Today, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in partnership with Iowa State University is the only other similar joint professional DVM education program in the country. Of course, this new program with USU will look familiar to many of you because it is very much like the partnership we had with Oregon State University from 1981 to 2003.

In other good news this spring, the college (with the help of Dr. Nicky Finch and Avista Utilities) was able to return a great horned owl chick to its nest. On March 21 Avista donated the use of its large bucket truck and the time and talents of Tom Haeder, a linesman, to reach the nest 40 feet off the ground. The chick was reunited with its sibling. You can see the video at www.vetmed.wsu.edu/Raptors.

And, as always, Go Cougs!

Dr. Bryan Slinker, Dean
WSU College of Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary Executive Report

WSU College of Veterinary Medicine

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Front: Charles C. Mellinger III.
Back, Charles' father Charlie Mellinger
and his sister Lisa Mellinger.



The Charles C. Mellinger III Endowed Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine

When Charles Mellinger III graduated from high school in 1981, he knew he wanted to follow in his family's tradition and attend WSU. His father Charlie ('60 BA General Studies) and his sister Lisa ('81 BA Fine Arts) are both devoted Cougs, as was his mother Sally.

Growing up, Charles loved animals, and had hoped to one day work as a veterinarian in agricultural animal medicine.

"Charles always had a way with animals," said his father Charlie Mellinger. "Whether it was training a Labrador or working with the Charolais cows, he was at ease with them."

After Charles finished his freshman year at WSU in pre-veterinary medicine he went home for the summer and was looking forward to returning in the fall. But the night before returning to Pullman, the car Charles and his roommate were driving was struck by another car. Charles' roommate was killed in the accident and Charles spent a year in the hospital. Left a quadriplegic after the accident, Charles was unfortunately never able to return to WSU and finish his degree.

While Charles' dream to be a veterinarian could not be realized, his family wanted to give back to the college and University that had meant so much to Charles and his entire family.

The Charles C. Mellinger III Endowed Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine will be awarded to third- or fourth-year veterinary students who intend to go into agricultural animal practice.

To learn more about giving to the college, please visit www.vetmed.wsu.edu/Giving.

Ride Across Washington with Bill Johnson and Save an Animal's Life

For the sixth year in a row, Bill Johnson will make a special journey. He travels by bicycle along a familiar route from his home in Cle Elum to Pullman to raise money for WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine.

The idea began when Johnson's golden retriever Sonny was lost to canine lymphoma in 2006. The route he takes retraces his friend's last days when the two would travel back and forth to WSU for treatment. Now, he makes the 214-mile trek every August 21 to the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital to honor his dog's passing, along with the loss of his second dog, Cody Jo.

Sonny Angel and Cody Jo's Gift of Hope Endowment funds are used to care for sick animals needing life-saving procedures who have no owners or whose owners do not have the means to pay for veterinary care. To date, Bill has raised more than \$55,000 in donations.

Join Bill for the last three miles or anywhere along the 214-mile trip! To learn more visit www.vetmed.wsu.edu/RidewithBill.



Not going to ride with Bill but want to participate? Visit www.vetmed.wsu.edu/RidewithBill to make a donation or contact Kay Glaser at kayann@vetmed.wsu.edu or 509-335-4835.

Education Innovators

WSU's Commitment to Training the Country's Best Veterinarians

"Here's what I'll do," said long-time client John Vanderhorn to the student working in a veterinary clinic. The doctor was out of the office for a few minutes and Mr. Vanderhorn needed medicine for his cow. But the doctor had said nothing about it to the student. "Since the doc didn't leave a note, I'll just go back there and get the medicine myself," said Mr. Vanderhorn. "That way you won't be responsible. I'll even sign something."

In a calm voice, Angela*, who is really a second year WSU veterinary student, says she will look again for a note. She then comes out of the room to consult with her small group of classmates and veterinarian coach as the simulation goes into a time out to give the student a chance to regroup and refocus. After a few minutes, Angela goes back in and gently but firmly lets the client know she cannot do what he is asking. John leaves annoyed, but much less frustrated than when the conversation started, and much less angry than he might have been had things gone differently.

Ethical dilemmas like this one are just some of the scenarios practiced by veterinary students in the WSU Veterinary Clinical Communication program. The simulated cases they are given are based on real cases (with identities changed) and many are simulated with area residents like John Vanderhorn (his character's name), who receive training through the program to act as

clients. Although the students know they are simulations, they said they don't feel like simulations. They feel very real.

"This type of clinical training has been common in human medicine, but WSU is really a pioneer in bringing it to veterinary medicine," said Dr. Suzanne Kurtz, the Nestlé Purina Professor in Veterinary Clinical Communication who directs the program. "Our students graduate better prepared for basic communication with clients or dealing with difficult or ethical issues."

Over the last two decades, the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine has developed an innovative veterinary curriculum to develop students' professional skills along with their medical training, making them more competitive for top jobs once

"We want to do the best job we can for the students, adding excellence to our already strong curriculum."

—Dr. Steve Hines, associate dean for Teaching and Learning in the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine



WSU is a pioneer in bringing clinical communication training to veterinary students. Students can practice their skills in a safe, simulated environment.



In the Diagnostic Challenges, students are given real world cases to practice their skills. Collaboration between WSU faculty and veterinarians who volunteer to be facilitators makes this class unique in veterinary education nationwide.

they graduate. Before students even take their first veterinary class, they begin their education with the Cougar Orientation and Leadership Experience (COLE), an off-site retreat designed to promote leadership skills and team building that started in 2002.

“Weaving the thread of how to be a professional is what is most unique about our program here at WSU,” said Dr. Kathy Ruby, veterinary counselor and clinical assistant professor in the Professional Life Skills program. “COLE is the starting place for developing professional skills.”

COLE brings students from different places and connects them to WSU, acclimates them to professional school, and sets the foundation for cooperation and teamwork over the next four years. One of the results of the orientation is that it reduces the adjustment period and students are ready to learn sooner.

By the time they reach their second year, students have already studied ethics, service, and leadership in veterinary medicine. In their second and third years they take classes to learn skills in clinical communication, diagnostic reasoning, and may elect to take a course on how to manage a veterinary practice.

“Students who choose to take the practice management class learn how operate a business in an environment of teamwork,” explains Dr. Rick DeBowes, director of the college’s Professional Life Skills Program. “We teach everything from finance to law and marketing with a focus on client experience.”

They also get experience with “real world” cases in the Diagnostic Challenges. The case-based exercises are conducted collaboratively with faculty in pathology, clinical pathology, bacteriology, virology, immunology, and radiology. Visiting WSU alumni veterinarians come to volunteer as case facilitators to give back to their school and work with current students.

“Students diagnose and work with clients in a setting similar to what they will experience once they are out of school,”

said Dr. Steve Hines, associate dean for Teaching and Learning who created the class in 1991 with Dr. Guy Palmer. “It is truly a collaborative endeavor between faculty and the veterinary volunteers who contribute to educating students.” Diagnostic Challenges is celebrating its 20th anniversary in the WSU curriculum.

To continue to foster innovative curriculum, the college created the Teaching Academy in July 2010, the first of its kind in veterinary medicine. The academy supports faculty dedicated to teaching and learning and brings educators together to help integrate common elements in the curriculum. As the associate dean for Teaching and Learning and director of the Teaching Academy, Dr. Hines explains the college is looking at the veterinary curriculum holistically using vertical integration to run threads, such as communication, throughout the curriculum. “The idea is to teach clinical reasoning and non-technical skills in all our classes,” said Hines.

To help support faculty and innovation, each college department now has an associate chair for DVM Education: Dr. Steve Hines for VMP, Dr. Lynne Nelson for VCS, and Dr. Leslie K. Sprunger for VCAPP.

The emphasis on creativity and innovation has already paid off. Some 78 percent of WSU College of Veterinary Medicine graduates who applied in 2011 for advanced training in an internship or residency program were accepted—the highest percentage among all U.S. veterinary colleges.

“We want to do the best job we can for the students, adding excellence to our already strong curriculum,” said Hines.

** To protect the student's privacy her real name was not used.*

To learn more about education innovation at the college visit www.vetmed.wsu.edu/EducationInnovation.



The Cougar Orientation Leadership Experience (COLE) develops teamwork and leadership skills.

Calling all alumni! Remember your Diagnostic Challenge? Now DC needs you. Become a facilitator and help train a new generation of veterinarians. No time? Consider a gift to this exceptional program. Visit www.vetmed.wsu.edu/DC for more information.

From the Office of Development and External Relations



*Dr. Richard DeBowes,
associate dean of
Veterinary Development
and External Relations*

At WSU we have a long history of making important contributions to veterinary medical education. As you read in the cover story of this issue, the college has made a number of educational innovations to improve on our already strong medical curriculum. By adding the Cougar Orientation and Leadership Experience (COLE) and courses to build teamwork,

instill professionalism, improve client-veterinarian communication, and enhance clinical reasoning, our veterinarians are better prepared to positively impact animal health, clinical medicine, and the society they serve.

In addition to classes such as ethics, communication, leadership, and the Diagnostic Challenges, many faculty members throughout the college have added experiential and interactive elements to their courses that provide students with opportunities to deepen their skills through peer feedback, problem solving, and communicating with team members. Taken as a whole, these experiences are equipping our students to perform at a level that will allow them the best opportunity to flourish in our changing profession.

Here's something that perhaps you didn't know.

The vast majority of these courses were developed and continue to be offered in large measure because of gift monies, not general fund allocations. For the past four years, nearly

\$200,000 has been invested each year to support non-technical curricular offerings such as the clinical communication course. Those funds come not only from alumni and friends of the college, but also from animal health care industry partners. These generous gifts offset the operational costs of offering these courses including materials, staff, a professor of clinical communication, and guest speakers.

We need your help to continue our record of leadership and innovation in veterinary medical education and to maintain these uniquely relevant and powerful educational experiences for our students. The dean has established the Fund for Innovations in Education and these funds are to be used in support of novel curricular offerings and development and faculty skill enhancement.

I hope you are pleased with the efforts you see our college making to graduate outstanding veterinarians and are excited about what these innovative efforts can mean for the future of the veterinary profession. Consider how you can help us promote educational innovation and ensure that WSU graduates leave with every opportunity to succeed. I encourage you to join with our faculty and other donors who are helping to make great things possible at Washington State University.

To learn more about innovative education or to make a gift to the Fund for Innovation in Education, visit www.vetmed.wsu.edu/EducationInnovation.



The Cougar Orientation Leadership Experience (COLE).

Awards and Achievements



Dr. Katrina Mealey's genetic test kit sales hit \$1 million and were featured on *Good Morning America* with Dr. Marty Becker, "America's Veterinarian" and '80 alumnus. The kits test for mutations in the multi-drug resistance gene (MDR1) that can cause serious drug sensitivities in certain dog breeds, such as Collies. For more information go to www.vetmed.wsu.edu/Genetics.

2010 Jerry Newbrey Teaching Scholars

The Newbrey Teaching Scholar is awarded for excellence in teaching during the first three years of the veterinary core curriculum. This award is given in memory of Jerry Newbrey, who joined the VCAPP faculty in 1975 and who died too young in a climbing accident in 1990. Jerry was an exceptional teacher and student advocate. Those who receive this award richly deserve our appreciation for their commitment to our students and to excellence in the classroom. www.vetmed.wsu.edu/Awards

Jeffrey Bryan	Sunshine Lahmers	Leslie Sprunger
Bonnie Campbell	Charles Leathers	Patricia Talcott
Annie Chen	John Mattoon	Russ Tucker
Tamara Grubb	Kathryn Meurs	Tamara Wills
Gary Haldorson	Matt Mickas	Patrick Wilson
Steve Hines	Rance Sellon	



Your Gifts in Action

A Big Screen, High Definition Television Monitor Allows Surgical Trainees to Watch and Learn

*Lynne Haley,
director of development*

In a small, windowless room, four veterinarians simultaneously tie sutures, biopsy a liver, and perform minimally invasive abdominal surgery.

No, this is not a typical operating room. It is a veterinary laparoscopic training laboratory—the first of its kind in the nation.

But earlier this year when the WSU Veterinary Applied Laparoscopic Training, or VALT, laboratory got its new virtual laparoscopic trainer, the only place to watch the virtual procedures was on a small laptop computer monitor.

"The small monitor made it difficult to really see and get a feel for what was happening," said Dr. Boel Fransson, director of the VALT laboratory. The virtual laparoscopic trainer has a real feel and provides immediate feedback to surgeons during training.

Thanks to four generous donors, veterinarians training in laparoscopic surgery can now view their procedures on a big screen, high definition television monitor. Long-time college supporters John and Charyn Zarzycki, who also support a student scholarship, along with Dr. Rick DeBowes, associate dean of veterinary development and external relations, and an anonymous donor understand how vital this kind of training is for surgeons.



"We are so grateful for this new television monitor," said Dr. Fransson. "It is invaluable for teaching and learning the latest techniques in laparoscopic surgery."

Laparoscopic surgery is being used more often in veterinary medicine because of the same advantages to patients seen in humans. Risks associated with traditional open surgery are minimized, pain is reduced and easier to control, and patients often recover much more quickly. It is also a valuable tool that allows veterinarians to run diagnostic tests they may not otherwise be able to perform.

"Currently we are training residents and veterinarians at WSU in our lab," said Dr. Fransson. "Our plan is to open it up to DVM students as an elective. We hope in the future to even invite surgeons from other universities to come train in our lab."

Dr. Boel Fransson, left, WSU small animal surgeon and VALT lab director, and Dr. Courtney Watkins, WSU small animal surgery resident, work on the virtual reality trainer.

To learn more about how your gift can make a difference please visit www.vetmed.wsu.edu/GiftsinAction.



Look for a WSU Alumni, Friends, and Students Gathering
at these Upcoming Events!

Mark your calendars

Peter A. Zornes Memorial Golf Tournament

The fourth annual Peter A. Zornes Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on **Saturday, June 25, 2011, at the Colfax Golf Club** to benefit the Peter A. Zornes Memorial Neuroscience Scholarship at Washington State University. Register at www.vetmed.wsu.edu/Zornes or contact Lynne Haley at lhaley@vetmed.wsu.edu or 509-335-5021. Remember to invite your friends to play!

Other important dates to remember:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| June 22-24 | Class of '61 reunion in Pullman |
| June 25 | Peter Zornes Memorial Golf Tournament in Colfax, Washington |
| July 18 | Alumni reception at AVMA in St. Louis, Missouri |
| August 21 | Bill Johnson's Sixth Annual Bicycle Ride for WSU from Cle Elem, Washington, to Pullman |
| October 8 | Alumni reception at WSVMA in Yakima, Washington |
| October 15 | CVM Homecoming BBQ (vs. Stanford) |
| October 14-16 | CVM Class Reunions ('66, '71, '76, '81, '91, '01) |

CE courses at WSU and online are offered year round; visit www.vetmed.wsu.edu/CE for more information.

For more information about upcoming events visit www.vetmed.wsu.edu/Events.

