

SVM Update – September 2007

Welcome to the September 2007 edition of the LSU SVM's e-mail newsletter. In this issue, we'll talk about the [LSU's new tiger](#), the [retirement of a faculty member](#), [new faculty members](#), [accomplishments of current faculty and students](#), Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day, the [Class of 2011](#), the [SCAVMA Bookstore on-line merchandise](#), the [SVM Annual Conference](#), [supporting the SVM](#), and [upcoming events](#).

LSU Acquires a New Tiger Mascot

LSU has acquired a new tiger mascot. The tiger is currently being housed in the tiger habitat. He arrived at LSU on August 25 and was quarantined for one week in his night house. He was introduced to the outside portion of his enclosure on September 1.

The two-year-old male Bengal tiger comes to LSU from Great Cats of Indiana, a nonprofit sanctuary and rescue facility for big cats and other large carnivores, located in Idaville, Ind. During the university's careful review of Great Cats, LSU veterinarians were advised by expert U.S. Department of Agriculture personnel that this is a reputable and legitimate rescue program. Great Cats does not intentionally breed tigers, and LSU's assessment is that the facility abides by the "guiding principles" of a legitimate sanctuary.



LSU's new tiger checks out his new home. He was released into the outside portion of his tiger habitat on September 1.

The USDA further advises that the noncompliant items at Great Cats, which came into question several weeks ago, were all directly or indirectly related to shortages in operating funds and/or personnel. The issues under review by the USDA primarily involve facility cleanliness.

Sadly, personnel and funding shortages are common among animal rescue programs dependent primarily on private donations. LSU has been advised by the USDA that the noncompliant items have been addressed by Great Cats. Indeed, the situation only highlights the benefit to the animal of coming to LSU where there will be adequate resources, provision of excellent care and a clean environment.



LSU's new tiger introduces himself to some Tiger fans.

The tiger did not attend the first LSU home football game against Virginia Tech on Sept. 8. The university does anticipate that he will attend some home games this season, but that will be decided by Dr. David Baker, LSU's attending veterinarian, and will be handled on a game-by-game basis to ensure the tiger's health and safety. As with Mike V, the live tiger mascot will never be forced to load into his travel trailer for games; Mike V was always eager to load into his trailer and seemed to enjoy his visits to Tiger Stadium.

Click [here](#) for highlights from the press conference with Dr. David Baker about the new tiger.

LSU Clinician and Professor Retires After 25 Years of Service

Dr. Carol Foil, professor of dermatology, joined the faculty of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine on August 1, 1982. After 25 years with the SVM, she retired effective July 31, 2007. She will be made a professor emeritus.

"I'm proud of all of my students that became dermatologists," said Dr. Foil. There are currently 190 Diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology. Of those, at least six are graduates of the LSU SVM and former students of Dr. Foil: Drs. Michelle Brignac (LSU '86), Terese DeManuelle (LSU '93), Stephen LeMarié (LSU '91), Jenise Daigle (LSU '98), Cherie Pucheu-Haston (LSU '92), and Julie Delger (LSU '90). **To read more about Dr. Foil's retirement and her future plans, click [here](#).**

[Back to the top](#)



Dr. Stephen LeMarié (LSU '91), one of Dr. Carol Foil's former students, and Janice Dawson, the first veterinary technician assigned to the dermatology service at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, congratulate Dr. Foil (center) at her retirement party held at the SVM on August 3.

SVM Welcomes New Faculty Member

The Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences welcomes **Dr. Ji-Ming Feng** as a new associate professor. He received his Ph.D. at Beijing Medical University in China and was an assistant research neuroimmunologist at the UCLA School of Medicine. Dr. Feng is interested in the molecular regulations of calcium signal in T cells and their roles in autoimmune diseases, especially multiple sclerosis (MS), an autoimmune-mediated demyelination disease in humans. In addition, he is also interested in searching the molecular mechanism of lymphoma formation.

[Back to the top](#)

SVM Salutes

Dr. Shulin Li, professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, was awarded a National Institutes of Health RO1 grant entitled, "Gene-Product Auto-Targeting to Tumor Vessels." The five-year award is for \$1,396,500 for the period 8/1/07-5/31/08.

Dr. Hermann Bragulla has been promoted to assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, effective August 20, 2007.

Dr. Kevin Macaluso, assistant professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, received a NIH R21 grant for his project entitled, "Role of fleas in transmission of rickettsiae: Ecology of flea-borne spotted fever." The award is for a total of \$404,250 for the period 9/10/07-8/31/09.

Dr. Renee Thompson Carter (LSU '00), assistant professor of veterinary ophthalmology in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, successfully completed all portions of the board examination of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. Dr. Carter also completed a Rotating Small Animal Medicine & Surgery Internship at LSU in 2001.

Holly Brown (Class of 2010) is one of only 13 students to receive the **Mildred C. Sylvester Scholarship** from the American Veterinary Medical Foundation. The Foundation received more than 94 applications from veterinary students interested in the fund. The mission of the AVMF is to advance the care of animals, with an emphasis on disaster preparedness and response and animal health studies.

[Back to the top](#)

SVM Promotes Research with Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day

On September 26, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine will host its annual Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day--a day established to promote research in schools of veterinary medicine, to recognize research conducted by veterinary students, residents, graduate students and faculty, and to encourage veterinary students to pursue careers in research. Phi Zeta is the national veterinary honor society, which recognizes and furthers scholarship and research in matters pertaining to the welfare and diseases of animals. The importance of this day to the SVM is underlined by the fact that the Veterinary Teaching Hospital is closed except for emergencies to allow all students and house officers to participate.

Phi Zeta Day provides an opportunity for national experts to speak to students on current research in various fields and to present a picture of global veterinary research. This year's speakers are **Jack Harkema, DVM, MS, PhD**, university distinguished professor, Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation, College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University; and **Linda Cork, DVM, PhD**, professor and chair, Department of Comparative Medicine, and director, Veterinary Service Center, Stanford University. Dr. Harkema will discuss, "A Veterinarian's Study of Respiratory Disease and Air Pollution," and Dr. Cork's presentation is entitled, "Adventures in Comparative Medicine."

To read more about Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day, click [here](#).

[Back to the top](#)

SVM Welcomes Class of 2011 with Orientation and Coating Ceremony

The SVM received 698 applications for admission for the Class of 2011 (140 from Louisiana residents, 34 from Arkansas, 15 from Puerto Rico and 509 from other states). Eighty-four students were admitted (55 from Louisiana, 9 from Arkansas, 2 from Puerto Rico and 18 from other states); two students were readmitted from previous classes for a total enrollment of 86. The class is 74% female (64 students) and 26% male (22 students). The ages range from 19 to 47 with an average age of 24. Fifty-six of the students have college degrees (43 have B.S. degrees, 4 B.A., 3 M.S. and 2 M.A.). The average GRE score was 1133, the required course GPA average was 3.82, and the last 45 hour GPA average was 3.76. After completing four days of orientation, the Class of 2011 received their blue lab coats at a Coating Ceremony, which was sponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition, the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association and the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association.

[Back to the top](#)



The Class of 2011 takes the Veterinarian's Oath at the Coating Ceremony on August 22.



The SCAVMA Bookstore's merchandise can now be viewed on-line.

SCAVMA Bookstore Now Has Merchandise On-Line

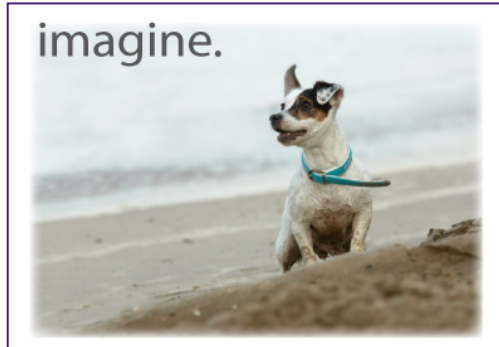
The SCAVMA Bookstore has updated its website so that visitors to the site can now view merchandise on-line. Orders can be placed via mail, phone, or e-mail. Payment must be received in full before items are shipped. Forms of payment accepted include checks and money orders for all orders, and credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover only) for phone and mail orders. All orders are subject to a 9% sales tax. So if you need to purchase an SVM t-shirt, baseball cap or other merchandise, go to <http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/scavmabks.htm>.

[Back to the top](#)

Save the Date for Annual Conference

The LSU SVM will host its **Annual Conference for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians** on November 9-11. The conference will offer 11 hours of continuing education, as well as social events such as the Fall Family Picnic, alumni reunions, alumni luncheon, a tailgate party and tickets to the Louisiana Tech vs. LSU Homecoming Game! Registration materials will be mailed in August. **For more information, call 225/578-9900, or you can go download the Annual Conference brochure at <http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu>.**

[Back to the top](#)



Support the School of Veterinary Medicine

If pictures are worth a thousand words, imagine how powerful they can be when diagnosing an illness or injury in animals. Not just any pictures, but detailed state-of-the-art images of practically any organ, blood vessel or nerve in crisp, clean pictures.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) can make this possible.

From the largest tendon in a racehorse, to the tiniest optic nerve inside a baby kitten, MRI has the capability to look just below the surface or deep within the body; painlessly, quickly and safely. The School of Veterinary Medicine at LSU is eager and ready to add this valuable resource to our remarkable repertoire of powerful diagnostic tools. We hope you will share in our vision. With your support, we can see further than ever before.

The Veterinary MRI at LSU's Veterinary Imaging Unit of Louisiana is a \$2 million project. Our ability to generate private support is vital to making it a reality. **To learn more about the goal to have a Veterinary MRI at LSU, please contact Ky Mortensen at (225) 578-9590 or kmortensen@vetmed.lsu.edu. For information on how you can help the SVM, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (225) 578-9870 or pedwards@vetmed.lsu.edu or visit our website (www.vetmed.lsu.edu) and select "Giving a Gift."**



Imagine the difference you can make.

[Back to the top](#)

Upcoming Events

September 15: Middle Tennessee vs. LSU Football, Baton Rouge, La.

September 22: South Carolina vs. LSU Football, Baton Rouge, La.

September 23-25: [LVMA](#) Equine Committee Seminar, Shreveport, La.

September 26: Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day/Dean's Grand Rounds, SVM Auditorium

September 29: LSU Football vs. Tulane, New Orleans, La.

October 6: LSU Football vs. Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

For information on these and other events, please go to the School's website at www.vetmed.lsu.edu.

[Back to the top](#)

This newsletter is designed to update LSU SVM alumni, faculty, staff and students, Louisiana veterinarians and the public about the School and its activities. If you do not wish to receive this publication, please reply to this e-mail and put "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you feel would be interested or would benefit from it. If this e-mail was forwarded to you and you would like to be added to the newsletter e-mail list, please go to www.vetmed.lsu.edu and click on "Subscribe to LSU SVM's free monthly newsletter." Thank you.

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