



Welcome to the **September 2008** edition of the LSU SVM's e-mail newsletter. In this issue, we'll talk about the [loss of an icon](#), how the [Shelter Medicine Program](#) pitched in after Hurricane Gustav, the upcoming [Annual Conference](#) for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians, [alumni events](#), [new faculty](#), [accolades for SVM faculty](#), [supporting the School of Veterinary Medicine](#), [upcoming events](#), and [classified ads](#).

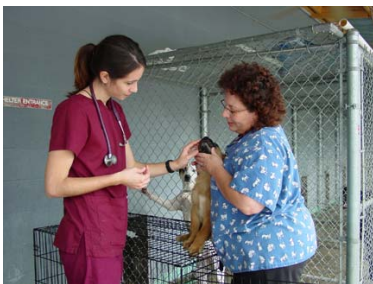


LSU SVM LOSES AN ICON

Dr. Everett D. Besch, founding dean of the LSU SVM, died August 28 in Baton Rouge, La. He was born May 4, 1924, in Hammond, Ind., the second son of Ernst H. and Carolyn D. Besch. After serving as pharmacist mate first class on the USS Inaugural AM-242 in the U. S. Navy during World War II, his education included a DVM from Texas A&M University in 1954, a MPH from University of Minnesota in 1956 and a PhD from Oklahoma State University in 1963.

At Oklahoma State University, he was promoted to professor and became head of the Department of Parasitology and Public Health. In 1968, Dr. Besch was appointed the founding dean of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and led the development of Louisiana's veterinary medical educational program, including establishment of the curriculum, construction of the veterinary school complex and recruitment of faculty and staff. Dr. Besch served as Dean from 1968 until his retirement in 1988. He continued to contribute articles on the history of veterinary medicine to *La Veterinaire*, the SVM's magazine, and was dedicated to preserving the history of the School.

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LSU SVM SHELTER PROGRAM ASSISTS SHELTER FOLLOWING HURRICANE GUSTAV

The LSU-SVM shelter medicine program assisted the animal shelter in Denham Springs, La., on September 9 when it was damaged during Hurricane Gustav and needed to send dogs out for adoption to willing animal organizations. Dr. Wendy Wolfson, instructor, and SVM students immediately went to the shelter and performed physical exams, rabies vaccinations and provided health certificates for 57 dogs. Dayle Malen, instructor and social worker, helped prepare the health certificates. They returned the week of September 15 to complete the rest. The shelter medicine program was created due to a grant from the Humane Society of the United States.

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LSU SVM HOSTS 77TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine will host the **77th Annual Conference for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians** on October 18 at the School of Veterinary Medicine in Baton Rouge, La. The conference will feature two nationally recognized speakers, Dr. Steve Marks and Dr. Sharon Kerwin, and the conference will focus on Companion Animals. Dr. Marks, Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, is a clinical associate professor of critical care and internal medicine, section chief of small animal medicine, and director of small animal emergency services at North Carolina State University. Dr. Kerwin is a professor of small animal surgery at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Eight hours of continuing education credit will be provided in two tracks so a choice of two subjects and two speakers exists each hour of the program. There will also be a continuing education program for veterinary technicians. The conference includes a reunion weekend for alumni with a reception for all alumni, the presentation of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, and a dinner for the milestone reunion classes of 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, and 2003. Other activities include a luncheon and a student job fair. *To download a conference registration brochure, click [here](#).*

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UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS IN BATON ROUGE

On October 18, the LSU SVM is hosting an alumni reception as part of the Annual Conference. Following the reception, the LSU SVM will host alumni dinners for the milestone reunion classes of 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, and 2003.

In February 2009, the LSU SVM will host alumni receptions at the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association Winter Meeting in New Orleans, La., the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association Winter Meeting in Hot Springs, Ark., and the Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas, N.V. **For information on these alumni events, contact Gretchen Morgan at gmorgan@lsu.edu or 225-578-9565.** *For information on other upcoming alumni activities, click [here](#).*

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NEW FACULTY AT THE LSU SVM

Dr. Jennifer Chang has joined the faculty as a visiting clinical instructor of veterinary emergency medicine in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Dr. Chang received her BS from the University of Oklahoma in 2002 and her DVM from Oklahoma State University in 2007. She has a special interest in small animal internal medicine.

Dr. Shafiqul Chowdhury has joined the faculty as a professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences. He received his DVM in 1978 and his MS in veterinary microbiology in 1980 from Bangladesh Agricultural University. He received his PhD in 1987 from Free University of Berlin, Germany. He also attended the Goethe Institute in Mannheim, Germany (1982-1983), studying German language. Dr. Chowdhury comes to the LSU SVM from Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, where he was a professor of virology. He also served as instructor of virology at the Dental Branch of the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, Texas (1988-1990), and as a research scientist for Bayer in Merriam, Kansas (1987-1988). Dr. Chowdhury's research focuses on molecular virology and recombinant vaccine technology of bovine herpesviruses (BHV). One project is currently looking at the mechanism of directional spread of BHV-1 and BHV-5 within the nervous system with special emphasis on the role of envelope proteins Us9 and glycoprotein E. The focus of a second project is to understand the role of envelope glycoprotein gN and gM in the regulation of pathogenicity and immunogenicity of BHV-1. Both the projects are funded by USDA (NRICGP/USDA). Additionally, Dr. Chowdhury is interested in developing a genetically engineered live modified vaccine against BHV-1 and equine herpesvirus 1 (EHV-1).

Dr. Jose Len has joined the faculty as an instructor in theriogenology in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. He received his Médico Veterinario Zootecnista (MVZ) from the Universidad de Guadalajara in Mexico in 1994 and will receive his MS in December 2008 from the LSU SVM. Dr. Len completed his three-year theriogenology residency at the LSU SVM in August 2008. His clinical specialties are in equine and canine breeding management, and his areas of research interest are in the effects of centrifugation on equine sperm and in vitro fertilization in horses.

Dr. Kristina Porthouse has joined the faculty as an instructor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences. She received her DVM from the LSU SVM in 2000 and completed a pathology residency here in 2003. In 2004, she received her MS degree from the Department of Pathobiological Sciences. Her thesis was entitled, "Early Tissue Migration of and Host Response to *Brugia pahangi* in Gerbils." Dr. Porthouse will teach gross anatomy and histology to Year I students.

Dr. Julian Daniel Rodriguez has joined the faculty as an assistant professor of diagnostic imaging in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. A native of Mexico, he received his Médico Veterinario Zootecnista (MVZ) in 1993 from the Facultad de Ciencias Naturales Escuela de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia Universidad Autónoma de Queretaro in México. From 1997-2000, he did an internal medicine residency (small animal) at the Hospital Veterinario at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. From 2004-2008, he did his residency in diagnostic imaging at the University of Wisconsin's School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Rodriguez's clinical specialty is cross sectional imaging (US, CT, MRI), and his areas of research interest are interventional radiology, US and MRI.

Dr. Keijiro Shiomitsu has joined the faculty as assistant professor of veterinary radiation oncology in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences and recently successfully completed the Certifying Examination and is now Board Certified in the American College of Veterinary Radiology, specialty of Radiation Oncology. A native of Japan, he received his BVSc (Bachelor of Veterinary Science) from Azabu University in 1997. Dr. Shiomitsu was employed in Osaka, Japan, from 1997 to 2002 at two large private veterinary clinics as a small animal veterinarian and was previously employed at LSU from 2001-2006 serving in the capacities of visiting veterinarian, research associate, and instructor of radiation oncology. He completed a Radiation Oncology Residency Program at North Carolina State University in 2008. Dr. Shiomitsu's clinical specialty is radiation oncology, and his areas of research interest are angiogenesis, radiation sensitizer, and Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT).

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LSU SVM SALUTES FACULTY

Dr. Bruce Eilts, professor of theriogenology in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, received an award from the LSU System for his project entitled, "A canine model for nonsurgical embryo recovery, embryo cryopreservation, embryo culture and nonsurgical embryo transfer in endangered canids" for \$97,036 for the period of 7/1/08-6/30/09. Dr. Eilts joined the faculty on December 3, 1984.

Drs. Frederic and Lorrie Gaschen, professor of companion animal medicine and associate professor of radiology, respectively, in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, were invited speakers at the 2008 Congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) in Dublin, Ireland. Lorrie gave two lectures: "Thoracic ultrasound - The radiographs companion" and "Imaging the feline pancreas - How to recognize disease." Additionally, she was appointed as a new member of the WSAVA Scientific Advisory Committee. Frederic gave three lectures: "How I treat chronic canine enteropathies," "Canine leptospirosis," and "Nosocomial infections." The Gaschens joined the faculty in January 2006.

Dr. Samithamby Jeyaseelan, assistant professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences (PBS), has received a five-year R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health entitled, "Neutrophil Accumulation in Bacterial Pneumonia" for \$1,696,735.00. The project was funded on its first submission and is the second NIH R01 award in PBS. This is also the first R01 award from a junior investigator in PBS. He has also obtained a Biomedical Research Grant from the American Lung Association and a Career Scientist Award (K08 equivalent) from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute. Dr. Jey was appointed as an associate editor of the *Journal of Immunology* beginning July 1, 2007, initially for two years. Dr. Jey will focus on lung inflammation and host defense for this prestigious journal which is subscribed by more than 7,000 scientists from all over the world. This journal has an impact factor of 6.5. Dr. Jeyaseelan joined the faculty on July 1, 2007, and is working on Lung Inflammation and Host Defense.

Dr. Mandi Lopez, assistant professor (equine research) in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, joins the editorial staff of *Veterinary Surgery* as associate editor for invited reviews and themes issues. She has served previously on the Publications Committee and the Editorial Review Board and continues as an active reviewer for the journal. Her responsibilities will include soliciting state-of-the-art invited review articles and oversight of special issues of the journal like the recent *Advances in Surgical Oncology* and the issue on *Advances in Canine Elbow Disease* planned for January 2009. Dr. Lopez joined the faculty on January 1, 2004.

Dr. Masami Yoshimura, assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, received a R21 award from NIH for his project entitled, "Real-time measurement of ethanol's effect on cyclic AMP metabolism in live cells" for \$360,966 for the period 7/20/08-6/30/10. Dr. Yoshimura joined the faculty on August 15, 2005.

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SUPPORTING THE LSU SVM

Hurricanes turn the country's attention to the care of animals before and after the storm

The Spirit of Veterinary Medicine Hurricane Relief Fund was established at LSU in 2005 on the heels of Hurricane Katrina in honor of "Spirit," a much-loved dog belonging to the fund's lead donor. The purpose of the fund is to support animals that are affected by hurricanes and other natural disasters. The incredible generosity of thousands of people supported the multiple expenses incurred caring for these displaced animals, including transportation to shelters around the country and subsequent transportation so that they could be reunited with their owners.

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has developed a shelter medicine program that provides services to shelters that were seriously damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. In addition, the program provides shelter management advice, implementation, and individual animal care at shelters in the parishes of East Baton Rouge, Plaquemines, Jefferson, and St. Bernard.

Activities involving the Spirit Fund are vast and continually moving forward. What was put in place to provide for animals in the face of a catastrophic natural disaster has now found long-term usefulness that we to continue to build upon. It is vital for our own work to progress in this realm and it is crucial to the animals that depend on us throughout the year and particularly during times of crisis.

Connections: A bronze statue to honor the people who supported the animals in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricanes will be erected in the SVM Serenity Garden on November 6. This project was supported independently of the Spirit Fund.

To learn about other ways that you can help the SVM, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 225-578-9826 or visit our website at www.vetmed.lsu.edu and select "Support the LSU SVM."



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UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

September 20	LSU Football v. Auburn, Auburn, Ala.
September 21	Louisiana Academy of Veterinary Practice meeting
September 24	Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day/Dean's Grand Rounds
September 27	Mississippi State v. LSU Football, Baton Rouge, La.
September 28	Dermatology Continuing Education Seminar
October 2-5	Southwest Veterinary Symposium, Dallas, Texas
October 11	LSU Football v. Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

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

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CLASSIFIED ADS FROM LSU SVM ALUMNI

Part-Time Associate Veterinarian Needed: Watson Pet Hospital in Denham Springs, LA (owned by Dr. Robert Apple [LSU 1985]) is a new state-of-the-art facility practicing high-quality small animal medicine. Our full service hospital is equipped with modern equipment and diagnostics. We also have an excellent team of staff members, which allows the doctor more time for patient workups. We are looking for someone with 2+ years of experience in private practice and an

interest in a long-term relationship with potential ownership. If interested, please contact Dev Yarbrough at (225) 665-7233 or by e-mail at dev@watsonpethospital.com. Also, please visit our website at www.watsonpethospital.com for more information about our hospital.

Associate position available in Hammond, LA in a mixed animal practice. Our clinic is approximately 70% small animal and 30% large animal. Salary based on experience, new graduates encouraged to apply. Compensation package includes all fees related to licensure, malpractice and liability insurance, CE, AVMA, LVMA and local VMA dues. **Please contact Dr. Jody Bondurant (LSU 2004) at Knight and Associates Veterinary Practice, 46631 River Road, Hammond, LA 70401. 985-345-0440 bondurantjb@yahoo.com**

Are you looking for career options? The USDA, Food Safety & Inspection Service is currently hiring veterinarians in Booker, Del Rio, Mount Pleasant, Plainview, and Stephenville, Texas. Our Public Health Veterinarians work in Meat and Poultry establishments and are vital to the safety of the American Food Supply. We offer a competitive salary - a new veterinarian will make at least \$54,494.00 (GS-11) to start. Some salaries will be higher, depending on the location and qualifications of the person selected. Many of our Public Health Veterinarian positions advance to the next grade after one year of satisfactory performance and conduct. The starting salary for the next grade (GS-12) is \$65,315.00. We offer a recruitment bonus of 25% of starting salary with a one year service agreement, as well as a paid move. We offer paid sick and vacation leave, health, life, and dental insurance, and an attractive retirement plan. In addition, any work performed over 40 hours per week is compensated, and training is provided. Please feel free to contact us if you are interested or would like more information! **Submitted by Dr. Jennifer Beasley-McKean (LSU 1993).**

 800-370-3747, x2556  (612) 370-2377 Jennifer.McKean@fsis.usda.gov

Associate Veterinarian wanted - come for a visit - stay for a career!!

Phone: 775-575-5851

Fax: 775-575-6606

State: Nevada

A great opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a brand new facility! Our small animal general practice is steadily growing and we are breaking ground in the immediate future for a new clinic building. We have an excellent support staff, who enjoy what they do; great clientele, and we are in the fastest growing county in Nevada. We offer exclusively laser surgery, quality medicine and work in a great atmosphere with its fair share of challenges. Clientele are excellent and we have easy access to specialists. Fernley is a great safe place to raise kids, we still have a small town farming community atmosphere complete with our well known junior and senior pro rodeo right here in town. Fernley Nevada is almost rural - but close to Reno, Nevada, to the northwest and Fallon naval air station to the southeast. Lake Tahoe with all its summer and winter recreation opportunities is a 2 hour easy drive from here. Salary is negotiable DOE, standard benefits package offered. **Contact Dr. Laura Remsen (LSU 1990) @ 775-575-5851 or send resume to Animal Care Center, 805 E Main St., Suite D, Fernley, NV 89408. Email - animal.cc@earthlink.net.**

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