

Administration's Report: 2007 – 2008  
Year in Review

The Administration of the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) is committed to effectively chronicle the activities and accomplishments of the SVM during the last Fiscal Year, and communicate these to the SVM Community. The collective efforts and contributions of many individuals have allowed the School's programs to continue moving forward, and the administration is greatly appreciative. The combination of progressive ideas and suggestions, combined with an energetic faculty and staff, make this all possible, and we will continue to work on creating an environment conducive to our collective future success.

In March of 2008, the SVM was placed on limited accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education based on substantial compliance in two educational standards:

- Facilities: The AVMA – CoE advised the School that progress toward construction of a Large Animal Disease Isolation was imperative, and that the flooring surface in the Large Animal Clinic also needed repair.
- Outcomes Assessment: The CoE indicated that the SVM needed to establish performance metrics for the clinical competency of its graduates.
- Considerable attention will be given to remediating these deficiencies as we prepare our next Annual Report to the CoE in late fall of 2008.

The School's Planning Document has continued to guide the administration in terms of program direction and strategic action items, and the December 2005 version again served us well during the last year. The Planning Document will be updated during the Fall of 2008 and should be ready for ratification by the faculty in early Spring of 2009. As in the past, this Administration's Report is generally presented based on the general headings of our planning document.

**Continue to advance the School's "Agenda for Excellence" through an enhanced funding portfolio emphasizing faculty salaries and equipment, and more effective utilization of space to support programmatic advancement at all levels:**

- Increases in financial support were obtained from a variety of sources:
  - The SVM realized a net increase of self generated revenue of approximately \$289,000 resulting from a \$2,000 tuition increase for non-resident students, a slight increase in non-resident student and a slight decrease in the resident student enrollment in the professional curriculum. The increase in the non-resident student tuition based upon the SREB Contract Program Fee went from \$20,400 to \$22,400 per year.
  - The School received an increase in State Appropriated Funds of \$2,233,000: \$701,000 of this was a 3% funding allocation to provide some financial flexibility to formula institutions currently at 100% formula level; \$479,000 was for mandated costs;

\$738,000 was for faculty merit raises; and \$315,000 for Civil Service and Professional Administrative pay raises.

- State funding provided for a 5% aggregate average salary increase for faculty effective 07/01/07 at an annualized cost of approximately \$738,000. The SVM provided an additional 1% (approximately \$143,000) from its budget to bring the total average salary increase for faculty to 6%. State funding also provided \$1,500 for each professional / administrative and classified staff member effective 07/01/07 and the SVM provided an additional \$73,000 from its budget to bring the total average salary increase for professional / administrative staff to 6%.
- Approximately \$3,228,000 in equipment investments were made in the SVM and were funded from a variety of sources:
  - The SVM provided approximately \$2,025,000 of this support, with an additional \$1,203,000 from restricted funds (i.e., grants and contracts). Key pieces of equipment included a Storz telepack mobile endoscopic imaging system, anesthesia monitors, pediatric laparoscopic equipment, force triad radiofrequency unit, multispectral imaging system, programmable density gradient fractionation system, telemetry system upgrade, nucleofector device, triple stage quadruple mass spectrometer, Olympus laboratory microscopes, and a red diode laser.
  - The Equine Health Studies Program provided \$69,000 in equipment utilizing both GBI funding and its dedicated funds. Key pieces of equipment included an endoscope and a “SmartPill®” system.
- Approximately \$844,000 was spent on the installation of a 2000 KW generator and the renovation and updating of approximately 2,375 NASF of facilities. These renovated facilities primarily included our BSL III laboratory, general research laboratories, and office space. Other projects included sidewalks for small and large animal clinic and new equine recovery stall doors.
- House Bill 2 of the 2008 Regular Legislative Session maintained authorization of the \$10,000,000 capital outlay project for “Veterinary Medicine Roof Replacement and Facility Repairs.” Funding will provide for project design with construction planned to start in FY 2008–2009. In addition, \$1,990,000 was authorized for the continued planning of the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. This funding will provide for project design and construction documents with construction planned to start in FY 2009–2010.
- House Bill 734: This bill authorized the System Boards to implement up to a 5% tuition increase annually for four years, starting in the fall of 2008.
- House Bill 1287 (Supplemental Appropriation): This bill provided \$4,540,000 for the construction of a Large Animal Disease Isolation Unit (the SVM was able to leverage \$800,000 in private funds raised to facilitate this legislation). Architectural selection should occur in the fall of 2008 with the start of construction late in 2009. This project will be pivotal in restoring the SVM to full accreditation by the AVMA – CoE.

- Start-up funding commitments to new faculty hires amounted to approximately \$1,150,000 for equipment, supplies, personnel, and other items needed to initiate clinical and research programs for 16 new faculty members.
- The Office of Institutional Advancement continued to provide support and visibility for the SVM's programs through development and public relations activities.
  - The following activities reflect the enhancement of the SVM's development programs:
 

Total gifts of \$868,838 were realized with unrestricted gifts of \$74,959 and total alumni giving of \$74,682. The total number of gifts received was 1,384 (up from 1,352 gifts in 2006-07).

In November 2006, Emmett and Toni Stephenson pledged \$25 million to LSU, with \$1 million dedicated to the LSU SVM to enhance the advancement program. The 2007-08 FY was the first year of distribution of this fund.

The Office of Institutional Advancement developed a comprehensive advancement program, including the promotion of Dr. David Senior to the position of associate dean for advancement and strategic initiatives, effective August 15, 2007. To further enhance the program, LSU Public Affairs was hired to design templates for all SVM publications, and a monthly e-mail newsletter (SVM Update) was created.

The Annual Fund was redesigned and giving levels were established. A three-pronged approach for alumni was formulated: Class agent appeal, followed by a telephone appeal, and completed by an appeal letter from the Dean. Additionally, an appeal to non-alumni was incorporated in the annual fund program.

A campaign to appeal to new clients of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital was planned.

Meetings of the Dean's Leadership Council and the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana Advisory Board were held.

A search was begun for a new Executive Director of Advancement following the resignation of Ms. Pat Edwards in the spring of 2008.

Development of "Connections" sculpture for the Serenity Garden continued.
  - The following activities were the focus of our Public Relations program:
 

The SVM published five issues of *La Veterinaire*, 12 issues of the SVM Update (e-mail newsletter), the 2006 edition of the Equine Research Report, one issue of the EHSP magazine, two issues of the Wildlife Hospital newsletter, and various brochures and flyers for SVM departments and events.

The SVM issued 61 press releases (31 news-oriented press releases, 28 event releases, and 2 wildlife releases). Press releases generated 12 feature stories in *La Veterinaire*.

The SVM was featured or mentioned on the front page of the Baton Rouge *Advocate* 12 times and in other items in the *Advocate* at least 12 more times.

The SVM was featured in the following publications: *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *University Business*, *Indiana Journal and Courier*, *Daily Reveille*, *Tiger Rag*, *Southern Living*, *City Social*, *InRegister*, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, *Shreveport Times*, *Veterinary Technician Journal*, and *LSU Today*.

The SVM was featured on local television news programs at least 18 times.

Approximately 47 tours were conducted for prospective students; alumni; LSU staff and the Honors College; groups of high school, middle school, and elementary school students; AHEC high school groups (summer program for students interested in medical careers); new St. George / Ross students; 4-H groups; families of new students; LASPCA Summer Cadets; and visiting dignitaries (namely, a group of Taiwanese veterinary students and a political contingent from the city of Cobh in Ireland).

### **Maintain a quality and contemporary veterinary medical educational program:**

- There were 33 electives offered during the 2007–08 year.
- The Class of 2008 graduated 83 veterinarians on May 12, 2008. The Class of 2008 pass percentage on the NAVLE was 89% for first time takers and 99% at graduation.
- The Class of 2008 participated in 75 externships and 106 out-rotations.
- Following graduation members of the Class of 2008 were employed in 17 states, with Louisiana the most popular (17), followed by Nevada (7), Georgia (6), Arkansas (5), and Texas (4). Twenty-seven percent of the Class of 2008 entered post-graduate studies, engaging in internships, residencies and graduate programs.
- The mean starting compensation package (excluding advanced studies programs) for the Class of 2008 was \$75,300, approximately \$2,200 more than the Class of 2007.
- The average debt load for the Class of 2008 was \$120,500 (range \$0-335,000) up from \$99,700 in 2007.
- The new Class of 2012 includes 86 students. Students are from Louisiana (56), Arkansas (9), and out-of-state (21). Sixty-four of 86 in the class are women, and the average age is 24 years. The average GPA was 3.76, and the average GRE was 1149. Applications (713) for the Class of 2012 were up 15 from the 698 received for the Class of 2011.
- Seventeen students were involved in the 2008 Student Summer Research Program funded by grants from the NIH, Merck-Merial, and the Comparative Gastroenterology Society.

## **Improve the Graduate Academic and Graduate Professional Programs:**

- The advanced studies program during 2007–2008 included 58 graduate students.
- In 2007–2008 there were three anatomical pathology residents, one clinical pathology resident, two DLAM residents, and 26 interns and residents for a total of 32 clinical house officers.
- Seventeen graduate students were supported totally or in part by SVM stipends, six by Board of Regents training grants, and two by Economic Development Assistantships. Ten graduate students were supported on extramural funds obtained by faculty. Thirty house officers were supported by SVM funds, with nine seeking advanced degrees.
- Two additional Board of Regents Graduate Fellows applications were submitted and four new Fellows were funded (\$400,000 plus tuition) beginning in fall of 2007 and 2008. The total number of graduate fellowships obtained from the Board of Regents to date is 21 for a total of \$1,580,000.
- Support for departmental seminar series continues at \$2,000 per department per year.
- The NIH T32 training grant, “Research Training in Experimental Medicine and Pathology,” submitted with the Tulane National Primate Research Center (TNPRC) currently has three PhD students.
- Awards for the Outstanding MS Thesis and PhD Dissertation were established in 2006 and these awards are now made at the annual SVM Faculty and Graduate Student Research Dinner during the spring semester.
- Four MS and six PhD degrees were awarded.

## **Enhance basic, applied, and clinical research productivity:**

- Ninety extramural grant proposals were submitted by faculty for a total of \$25.9 million requested. This represents a 6.8% decrease from FY 2008. Total extramural support during FY 08 was \$7.7M which does not include funds obtained from the NIH INBRE grant noted below. Another measure of research activity, the SVM’s Restricted Federal Research Expenditures was \$5.18 million slightly increased over FY 2007.
- The SVM continues to participate in the Louisiana NIH INBRE grant, “Louisiana Biomedical Research Network,” together with the college of Basic Sciences and other Universities within the state. The grant was funded this year for a total of \$16.6 million. Five faculty within the SVM will serve as the PI or on the steering committee and / or as mentors in this program.
- A Merck-Merial grant to support summer research experiences for DVM students was submitted and funded for \$20,000 in FY 08. This required an equal match, which was supplied by the SVM. Together with the NIH T35 grant, 17 DVM students participated in the summer research program in FY 2008.

- The SVM library continues to enhance and expand electronic access to research journals for our students, faculty, and staff at an annual cost of approximately \$285,000.
- The replacement / recruitment of research faculty continued with the hiring of faculty in all departments. (See last section of this report).

### **Provide quality clinical, consultation and diagnostic services:**

- The Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Clinics (VTH&C) saw a 10% increase in cases this year over last year from 20,539 to 22,660 cases. This increase in cases generated approximately \$9,272,000 in revenues, which translated into about \$220,400 in excess of expenses. Last year we handled 2,100 emergency cases after hours and this year we saw 2,198 emergency cases. Based on the fact that we saw 237 daytime emergencies last year and 520 this year we hired a daytime emergency clinician to handle this huge increase of patients.
- The VTH&C purchased almost \$250,000 worth of new capital equipment this fiscal year. Additionally, well over \$2,000,000 worth of equipment and supplies were received from the Veteran's Administration Hospital in New Orleans as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The biggest single piece of equipment was a 16 slice GE CT Scanner. Also included was a MRI compatible anesthesia machine.
- The VTH&C had several small construction and renovation projects completed this year including the large animal receiving area and one of the recovery rooms. Our parking lot was expanded and our sign replaced.
- The VTH&C were surveyed by the American Animal Hospital Association and received a full accreditation.

### **Continue institutional advancement through public programs and cooperative endeavors:**

- **Continuing Education**: The SVM hosted the Annual Conference for Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians & Support Personnel; Equine Artificial Insemination Workshop for Owners and Breeders; Veterinary Dermatology Conference for Veterinarians; Companion Animal Internal Medicine Seminar; Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician Course; Chemical Capture Certification Course for Animal Control Officers; Louisiana Animal Control Association Annual Conference; Safe Capture International Certification Course; and the Louisiana Academy of Veterinary Practitioners quarterly meetings. Approximately 797 attendees participated in the 128 hours of available continuing education during this period.
- **International Programs**: The Office of International Programs (OIP) develops and coordinates international research and education programs and exchange opportunities for students and faculty and provides a central clearing house and source of information on international activities in the school. Activities in this area included:

- Veterinary Medicine in International Development: This course offering was taken by four Year I and two Year II veterinary students, wherein they developed overseas summer studies proposals.
- International Study Travel Grants Program: Three applications were received for summer programs in 2007. Dean's travel grant funds were provided to Nathalie Petersen (Class of 2011) for summer studies in Thailand on "Zoonotic Opisthorchis in Cats and Dogs" (Mentors: Smarn Tesana and JB Malone).
- Gordy Labbe (Class of 2010) and Paula Mischler (graduate student in PBS) received funding (\$4,500) from the *FIPSE US-Brazil Exchange program* (see below).
- US-Brazil Student Exchange Program: A 2004, 2008 project funded by the Foundation for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) of the US Department of Education continued as an international veterinary medical summer scholar's student exchange program with Brazil.

In 2008, two SVM students, one student from Southern, and two students from the LSUHSC - New Orleans School of Public Health completed summer mentored research in Brazil.

In 2007, eight Brazilian veterinary students and two medical students spent the fall semester at the LSU SVM, Southern University, or Minnesota pursuing mentored project studies.

- Veterinary Public Health Elective Studies: In addition to providing international studies opportunities the FIPSE/CAPES program promoted action toward development of a DVM—Master of Public Health degree elective between LSUHSC - New Orleans and the SVM. In November 2007, a model Veterinary Public Health certificate program for LSU veterinary students was submitted for approval of the respective Deans at the SVM and the LSUHSC School of Public Health.
- International Cooperative Exchange Agreements: To facilitate international study opportunities by SVM students and faculty, exchange agreements continued in South Africa, the West Indies, France, Argentina; the Peoples' Republic of China, Brazil. New agreements were initiated / in progress in 2008 with programs in Thailand (completed), and two more in Brazil.

- **Alumni & Public Programs**

- Alumni receptions were held at the North American Veterinary Conference (Orlando, FL); the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association Winter and Summer Meetings (Shreveport, LA, and Ft. Walton Beach, FL); the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association Winter Meeting (Hot Springs, AR); the Western Veterinary Conference (Las Vegas, NV); the Southwest Veterinary Symposium (Dallas, TX); the American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention (Washington, DC); and the

American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention (Orlando, FL) to promote awareness of the School and the development program.

On-site visits were made to 30 veterinary clinics and over 40 alumni to maintain external connectivity.

Alumni activities in conjunction with the LSU SVM's Annual Conference included recognition of Dr. Robert Simmons (LSU 1977) as a Distinguished Alumnus, milestone alumni reunion activities for classes of 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002, a pre-game tailgate party attended by over 200 alumni and family.

- Activities related to our public programs and student support functions included:

The SVM's Annual Open House attracted over 4,500 attendees.

The International Exhibition on Animals in Art received 452 entries from over 200 artists representing 40 states and three countries and the opening reception was attended by approximately 200 people. A record 21 pieces were sold. The show netted \$2,700, which was split between the Library and the Wildlife Hospital.

One hundred and sixteen children registered for Pets & Vets in June 2008. Fourteen sessions were held, with 30-50 children in attendance at each one. Sessions included caring for your pet, exotic animals, wildlife, and farm animals.

The Great Rover Road Run had over 250 participants (almost double from 2007). One hundred and ninety-nine ran the one mile, 111 ran the 5K, and approximately 150 dogs participated.

Pharmacy and Supply Day was held in conjunction with SCAVMA, with 18 companies represented (up from 15 the year before). The event earned \$4,500 for SCAVMA.

The Job Fair was held for the first time in conjunction with Pharmacy and Supply Day. Sixteen clinics were represented, and approximately 35 students participated.

### **Other notable personnel items:**

- Faculty retirements included Drs. Carol Foil (VCS), William Henk (CBS), and Clay Hodgins (PBS/LADDL).
- Faculty resignations included Drs. Jeremy Hubert (VCS), Dario Marchetti (CBS), Glenna Mauldin (VCS), Ray Wilhite (CBS), G. Neal Mauldin (VCS), and Karin Peterson (PBS).
- Dr. Abolghasem Baghian (PBS) died in a car accident on June 27, 2008.
- New faculty hires include Dr. Julia Buchholz (VCS, Visiting Professor / Radiation Oncology); Dr. Marxa L. Figueiredo (CBS, Assistant Professor / Cell & Molecular Biology); Dr. Ji-Ming Feng (CBS, Associate Professor / Cell & Molecular Biology); Dr. Tracy L. Gieger (VCS, Assistant Professor / Medical and Radiation Oncology); Dr. Samithamby Jeyaseelan (PBS, Assistant Professor / Immunology); Dr. Yu-Ming Kang (CBS, Research Assistant Professor / Cell & Molecular Biology); Dayle G. Malen (VCS, Instructor of Social Work); Dr. Christopher Mores

(PBS, Assistant Professor / Epidemiology); Dr. Javier Nevarez (VCS, Assistant Professor / Zoological Medicine); Dr. Romain Pariaut (VCS, Assistant Professor / Cardiology); Dr. Patricia Queiroz (VCS, Assistant Professor / Anesthesiology); Dr. Natalie Rademacher (VCS, Assistant Professor / Diagnostic Imaging); Dr. Laura M. Riggs (VCS, Assistant Professor / Equine Surgery); Dr. Tara S. Snook (VCS, Assistant Professor / Dermatology); Dr. Noboku Wakamatsu (PBS, Clinical Track Assistant Professor / Pathology); Dr. Xiaochu Wu (CBS, Instructor / Microscopy).

- Faculty promotion / tenure actions effective in FY 2008–2009 included: Dr. Loretta Bubenik to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure; Dr. Susan Eddlestone to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure; Dr. Frederic P. Gaschen to the rank of Professor; and Dr. Amy M. Grooters to the rank of Professor.