

## **Administration's Report: 2008 – 2009** **Year in Review**

The Administration of the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) is committed to effectively reporting the activities and accomplishments of the SVM during the last Fiscal Year, and to communicating 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.

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 past year. The Planning Document was updated during FY 2008-09 and was ratified by the faculty in May, 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:**

#### **Finance and Administrative Activities:**

- Accreditation by the AVMA Council on Education – The School learned in March of 2009 that its limited accreditation was extended for another year. The Council congratulated the School for its efforts in establishing additional programs for clinical outcomes assessment. Accordingly, we were found compliant with that standard based in large measure on the efforts of Dr. Joe Taboada.

SVM facilities continue to remain non-compliant in the areas of large animal disease isolation facilities and the flooring in the large animal clinic (LAC). Much progress has occurred on both counts, with funding in hand and planning underway for the disease isolation unit. The LAC floor project was bid in Spring 2009, and we anticipate completion of that project by early Fall.

- Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC): Following a site visit in late July, 2008, the School and Institution received a three-year extension of its full accreditation. This important credential demonstrates excellence in research animal care which is important to attainment of extramural funding.
- American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Accreditation: Following a site visit in Spring, 2008, the Veterinary Teaching Hospital & Clinics' accreditation was renewed for another three years, making it 33 consecutive years that our VTH&C has been so recognized.
- American Association of Laboratory Animal Diagnosticians (AAVLD) Accreditation: A site visit for the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory occurred in November, 2008, and resulted in provisional accreditation, will be continued through December 2009. The focus of concerns relates to facilities and base funding.

- Program Review: The School underwent Program Review (a SACS mandate) in April, 2009, following the preparation of an extensive self-study. The School was found in very favorable compliance with nearly all of the program assessment criteria. Further, the School was recognized for its significant progress since our last program review in 1999. Our response to the findings will be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs by November, 2009, and following discussion with that Office, will result in a Memorandum of Understanding.
- Planning: The School started another planning initiative in late Spring, 2009. This process used the services of an external facilitator (Harrison Coerver) and for the first time ever, the process engaged external stakeholders. We anticipate that this activity will allow the School to clarify its vision in these rapidly changing times of service to society, and very importantly, to develop a more rigorous sense of our priorities given the current economic climate. The final step (August, 2009) will be an action planning session followed by implementation during the course of FY 2009-10.
- Key financial items:
  - The SVM realized a net increase of self-generated revenue of approximately \$335,000 resulting from a 5% tuition increase for non-resident students and a slight increase in the number of non-resident Ross / St. George students.
  - The School received an increase in State Appropriated Funds of \$517,000: \$287,000 was for mandated costs (benefit rate increase and civil service merit increases) and \$230,000 was for two new faculty lines associated with the Dean's hiring package.
  - The School provided a 4% merit-based, average aggregate salary increase for faculty and professional / administrative staff using its own resources, including the increased tuition revenue, internal reallocations, and un-funding of some vacant positions. The cost of the salary increase was \$746,000.
  - Effective January, 2009, the State imposed a 4.5% budget rescission on higher education. The University absorbed 2/3 of the rescission centrally, with the balance of 1.5% passed on to academic units. This cost the School \$360,000 in FY 2008-09.
- Key infrastructure items:
  - Start-up funding expenditures for new and recent faculty hires amounted to approximately \$1,100,000 for equipment, supplies, personnel, and other items needed to initiate their respective clinical and research programs.
  - Approximately \$3,085,000 in equipment investments were made in the SVM. The SVM provided approximately \$1,920,000 of this support, with an additional \$1,166,000 from restricted funds (i.e., grants and contracts). Key pieces of equipment included a histologic slide digitizer, automatic tissue processor, laser micro-dissection upgrade, magnetic particle processor, digital radiography system, sputter coater, hematology system, video endoscope, ventilated mouse cage rack system, hot water wash system, equine CT scan table, intensive care oxygen cage, fluorescent imaging microscope, and a compound imaging microscope. Equipment purchased specifically for instructional use included 50 new student microscopes including a digital projection system, and 30 computers for the student labs.
  - Approximately \$1,373,000 was invested in ongoing facility renovations and improvements, a few of which will extend into FY 2010. These included laboratory renovations for a 2,000 sq ft modular laboratory on the third floor, research and office space improvements, HVAC upgrades for the Biosafety Level 3 laboratory, an 8,000 NASF modular building surge space for offices and Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory support space, Magnetic Resonance Imaging facility with a Hitachi Eschelon, 1.5 tesla (high-field) MRI Unit, equine stall renovations, and a student rounds room.
  - The Emergency Capital Outlay project to provide a much needed new roof, external sealing of the building, as well as four new energy-efficient air handlers, started in mid-April and, with a 550-day timeline, is scheduled for completion in October, 2010.

- Key legislative items:
  - House Bill No. 1287 of the 2008 Regular Legislative Session provided \$4,540,000 for the construction of a Large Animal Disease Isolation Unit. Architectural selection was completed in late 2008 with the start of construction scheduled for late in 2009. This project will be pivotal in restoring the SVM to full accreditation by the AVMA – CoE.
  - House Bill No. 734 of the 2008 Regular Legislative Session provided implementation for the first of four years of a 5% tuition increase in the Fall of 2008.
  - House Bill No. 2 of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session maintained authorization of the \$1,990,000 for the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. The project was bid-ready at the end of FY 2009, though will require additional funding in a cash line of credit for construction to start.
  - House Bill No. 872 of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session, authored by Representative Hollis Downs, provided for a \$750 per semester tuition increase for professional students and a \$30 per semester credit hour increase for graduate students effective in the Fall of 2009.
  - House Concurrent Resolution No. 183 of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session, authored by Representative Frank Hoffmann, requests that the School study its current practices relative to recruiting, admissions, training, and career counseling and placement in an effort to find ways to increase the number of large animal veterinarians practicing in Louisiana, and report its findings to the House Education Committee in early 2010.

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

- There were 26 sections of VMED 5010 electives offered during the 2008-09 year.
- The Class of 2009 graduated 81 veterinarians on May 11, 2009. The average GPA for the 4 years of study was 3.35 (3.99-2.60) The Class of 2009 pass percentage on the NAVLE was 89% for first time takers and 99% at graduation.
- The Class of 2009 participated in 106 externships (41% increase from the previous year) and 105 out-rotations (unchanged from the previous year). Relative to primary care rotations in the companion animal clinic, they participated in 159 rotations (74 Special Topics Shelter Medicine and Special Topics Animal Control rotations and 85 Small Animal Emergency Medicine rotations). In large animal, they participated in 94 rotations (34 Equine Ambulatory rotations and 60 Farm Animal Ambulatory rotations)
- Following graduation, members of the Class of 2009 were employed in 29 states, with Louisiana the most popular (21), followed by Florida (8), Texas (8), Nevada (6), and Massachusetts (4). Thirty-six percent of the Class of 2009 entered post-graduate studies (internships, residencies, and graduate programs).
- The mean starting compensation package (excluding advanced studies programs) for the Class of 2009 was \$73,300, approximately \$2,000 less than the Class of 2008.
- The average debt load for the Class of 2009 was \$134,500 (range \$0-290,000) up from \$120,500 in 2008. For the first time, the average debt load was above the national average of \$130,000.
- The new Class of 2013 includes 87 students. Students are from Louisiana (56), Arkansas (9), and out-of-state (22). Sixty-five of 86 (75%) in the class are women, and the average age is 23 years. The average GPA was 3.79, and the average GRE was 1143. Applications (642) for the Class of 2013 were down 10% from the 713 received for the Class of 2012.

- Seventeen students were involved in the 2009 Student Summer Research Program funded by grants from the NIH and Merck-Merial. Two of our students were involved in summer research programs at other schools.

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

- The advanced studies program included 61 graduate students. A total of 40 house officers included four anatomical pathology residents, two clinical pathology residents, three non-matriculating DLAM residents, and 31 clinical interns and residents.
- Eighteen graduate students were supported totally or in part by SVM stipends, seven by Board of Regents training grants, and two by Economic Development Assistantships. Twelve graduate students were supported on extramural funds obtained by faculty. Thirty-seven house officers were supported by SVM funds, with eight seeking advanced degrees.
- One additional Board of Regents Graduate Fellow application was submitted and one new Fellow was funded (\$100,000 plus tuition) beginning in Fall of 2009. The total number of graduate fellowships obtained from the Board of Regents to date is 22 for a total of \$1,780,000.
- A renewal application for the NIH T32 training grant, "Research Training in Experimental Medicine and Pathology," was submitted with the Tulane National Primate Research Center (TNPRC). Currently, four former pathology residents are being supported as PhD students by the grant.
- Awards for the Outstanding MS Thesis and PhD Dissertation were awarded at the annual SVM Faculty and Graduate Student Research Dinner during the spring semester. Chancellor Martin was the invited speaker.
- Seven MS and ten PhD degrees were awarded.

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

- The SVM held \$38,532,608 in extramural grants and contracts during FY 2008-09. One hundred and thirty-seven extramural grant proposals were submitted by faculty, totaling \$64.1 million in requests. This represents a 14.75% over the previous year. Total extramural support during FY 2008-09 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 \$6,807,196, a \$3.2M increase over the previous year.
- A significantly large number of federal grants were obtained during the year. This included seven NIH R01s, three R21s, two R03, and three USDA NRI grants. The \$10M NIH COBRE grant "Center for Experimental Infectious Disease" was also renewed for a second 5-year cycle.
- A \$17M renewal application for the Louisiana NIH INBRE grant, "Louisiana Biomedical Research Network," which is directed by the SVM and the College of Basic Sciences, was submitted in July of 2009. One CORE and five faculty within the SVM participate in this grant as the steering committee members and/or as mentors.
- An NIH NCRR C06 building grant for \$10M was also submitted in July of 2009. If funded, it will expand laboratory animal facilities and build a multipurpose laboratory for translation research.
- Eight faculty within the SVM received new or supplemental funding from NIH as part of the ARRA program. These "federal stimulus" funds totaled \$1.48M.
- A Merck-Merial grant to support summer research experiences for DVM students was submitted and funded for \$20,000. 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. Fifteen attended and presented posters of their

research at the National Symposium held on the NIH campus. Travel expenses for seven students were provided by the SVM.

- The School's Phi Zeta Research Emphasis day was held in September, 2008. Undergraduate students, veterinary students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty presented a total of 62 posters during this year's event.

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

### **Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Clinics:**

- The VTH&C had an overall caseload of 22,551 cases, comparable to that in FY 2008. The emergency caseload increased by approximately 20% to 2,500 cases, while the equine caseload declined by approximately 20% to 2,500 cases, due to the slowing economy. The total hospital revenue was up 10%, and while the expenses were up by 11%, the budget finished in the black.
- The VTH&C purchased \$513,237 worth of new capital equipment in FY 2009. The two major additions were a phase II upgrade to the Companion Animal digital radiology technology and the addition of a magnetic resonance imaging machine (MRI) unit. The new MRI unit was placed into service April 1, 2009, and has scanned 170 patients during the first 6 months of use. With the addition of the MRI and the upgraded digital radiology, the imaging services at LSU are now state-of-the-art.

### **Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL):**

- LADDL received 24,898 submissions for FY 2008-09. The operating budget included \$789,046 of State support and approximately \$800,000 in self-generated user fees charged for testing.
- LADDL continues to be a member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) and also remains as the testing laboratory for the State's Arboviral Surveillance Program. Both programs collectively contribute another \$600,000 to the overall laboratory operation.

## **Continue to develop / expand institutional advancement programs, continuing education and cooperative endeavors:**

**Institutional Advancement:** The Office of Institutional Advancement serves the SVM by representing the School to various public entities. Programs include: public relations, marketing, alumni relations, public outreach, advancement services, and philanthropic giving.

- In January of 2009, the Advancement team developed a six-month plan to evaluate the effectiveness of *La Veterinaire* and the SVM website as educational and outreach vehicles. Surveys were created and sent to a broad audience for each communication pieces. Both *La Veterinaire* and the SVM website are under construction to implement the reflections of the surveys, the input from the Editorial Board of *La Veterinaire* and the feedback from the consultants. The new look for *La Veterinaire* will be in place this October with the production of an *Annual Report*, a communication piece to our supporters, alumni, and friends about the State of the School.
- Grateful Clients: Our clients continue to have increasing passion for and support of the SVM. They are included in our quarterly Annual Fund mailings to give them the opportunity to support the school. The results are extremely positive. The *Love Your Pet, Honor Your Vet* program, which is part of the outreach to grateful clients, yielded a \$100K scholarship in name of two of our alumni to honor their work.

- Philanthropic Gifts: The dollar amount of total gifts received was \$1,572,538, a \$703,700, or 81% increase over FY 2008. The number of donors, including gifts-in-kind, was 1,075. The total overall gifts by Alumni was \$82,500, up over last year by 11%, or \$8,800.
- Advance Veterinary Medicine Fund - Annual Giving: Total gifts received were \$108,955, up by 1% over 2008. A comprehensive program to engage alumni and friends in support of SVM was designed and implemented in May. The plan calls for face-to-face visits with alumni, quarterly communication pieces, and stewardship and communication with our grateful clients.
- Planned Giving: A program to educate and engage potential Planned Giving donors is ongoing. Our communication pieces and face-to-face meetings with alumni and supporters will provide information on including SVM in their estate plans.
- Major Gifts: Judith Roberson joined the staff of the Institutional Advancement office as a Major Gifts Officer/Associate Director of Development. Her primary role will be to visit with and provide opportunities to our alumni and friends on the many various ways to support SVM. A major gift is considered a gift of \$25,000 or more. This role is also part of the responsibility Dr. David Senior, Ky Mortensen and Judyth Wier. The goal for FY 2010 has been set at \$2.4 million.
- Annual Giving and Alumni Relations: Gretchen Morgan was named Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations. Gretchen will continue to work with SVM alumni to increase participation at alumni reunions and events, and support for the Advance Veterinary Medicine Fund. She will also direct the communication to all alumni, donors, friends, and grateful clients through quarterly educational pieces.
- Alumni Activities: Alumni Receptions were held in conjunction with the North American Veterinary Conference (Orlando), Western Veterinary Conference (Las Vegas), Southwest Veterinary Symposium (Fort Worth), the Arkansas VMA Meeting (Hot Springs), the Louisiana VMA Meeting (New Orleans), and the American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention (Seattle). The focus of these functions included awareness of the School, the development program, and connectivity of the alumni, emphasizing what we offer to our alumni.
- Public Relations / Public Programs:
  - *La Veterinaire* was published five times, with issues featuring the different educational programs provided by the SVM, the SVM's advancement program, an overview of the SVM's biomedical research programs, a two-day chronicle of the small animal internal medicine service in the VTH&C, and interesting career paths chosen by SVM alumni.
  - The *SVM Update* (monthly e-mail newsletter) was sent thirteen times (once a month, plus a special update was sent following Hurricane Gustav).
  - The *Wildlife Hospital Newsletter* was published twice, and EHSP publications included the *Research Report* and one issue of *Santé de Cheval* (EHSP magazine).
  - Fifty-four press releases (34 news-oriented press releases and 20 event-related releases) were issued, and 60 interview and/or photo requests were received.
  - The SVM was mentioned or featured in 19 stories in the *Baton Rouge Advocate* (five times on the front page of a section), in eight stories in the *LSU Daily Reveille*, 10 times in *LSU Today*, and in 41 stories in other publications (e.g., *Veterinary Practice News*, *The Horse Magazine*, *225 Magazine*, *JAVMA*). The SVM was featured 12 times on television news programs.
  - The sculpture *Connections*, in recognition of those who come to the aid of animals, was dedicated in the Serenity Garden.
  - Thirty tours of the SVM facility were conducted for school and civic groups and prospective students.

- The theme for Open House was “Where’s Mike?” and over 5600 people attended (4500 in 2008).
- The International Exhibition on Animals in Art received 583 entries from 270 artists who represented 6 different countries. Thirty-four pieces were sold for a net profit of almost \$5200, which provided support to the library and the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana (21 pieces sold in 2008, for a profit of \$1965).
- Fourteen sessions of Pets & Vets were held, attracting approximately 560 participants. Thirty to 50 children attended each session.
- Pharmacy and Supply Day was held as a joint effort with SCAVMA. Eighteen vendors attended, making \$4500 for SCAVMA. A Saturday option was offered, in conjunction with the Annual Conference, and eight vendors stayed for that, providing a \$1200 offset for the alumni activities.
- Great Rover Road Run had 299 runner participants, up from 250 the previous year.
- Attendance and participation at all the public programs in FY 2009 was higher than in FY 2008.

### **Continuing Education:**

- The SVM hosted an MRI Training Seminar; Veterinary Dermatology Conference for Veterinarians; Companion Animal Cardiology 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 965 attendees participated in the 124 hours of available continuing education during this period.
- The SVM hosted the Annual Conference for Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians & Support Personnel. Distinguished alumnus awards were presented to Dr. Debra Sellon ('83) and Dr. Mary Louise Martin ('83-posthumously) during a reception sponsored by Hitachi after the Annual Conference. Milestone reunion dinners were held for the classes of 1978; '83; '88; '93; '98 (none from the class of '03 were present) – over 100 alumni attended.

### **Cooperative Endeavors / International Programs:**

- *Veterinary Medicine in International Development* elective (0.5Cr): In 2008, this course offering was taken by 6 Year I Veterinary Medical students in which students developed overseas summer studies proposals.
- *Dean’s International Study Travel Grants Program*: Travel grant funds (\$1,000) were provided to a student in the Class of 2011 for research on zoonotic *Optisthorchis viverinni* in cats in Khon Kaen, Thailand.
- *US-Brazil Student Exchange Program*: A fourth year of funding was provided by the Foundation for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education of the US Department of Education to develop an international veterinary medical summer scholars student exchange program with Brazil. The project has thus far sent 27 US students to Brazil for 8-9 week summer studies, 9 from LSU, 8 from UMN, 3 from SU; and 2 each from Virginia Tech and Kansas State University. Thirty Brazilian veterinary students have been hosted at LSU (18), UMN (9), SU (3) and Kansas State (1).
- *International Cooperative Exchange Agreements*: To facilitate international study by SVM students and faculty, new exchange agreements were initiated with the University of São Paulo and the Federal University of Parana in Brazil, Khon Kaen University in Thailand, and Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.
- *New Veterinary Public Health Elective Studies Program established with the LSUHSC School of Public Health*: In addition to providing international studies opportunities in Brazil to SVM students, the FIPSE/CAPES program has promoted action toward development of a DVM-Master of Public Health degree elective between LSUHSC School of Public Health (SPH) and SVM, similar to a successful program already in place at UMN.

The program was initiated in Summer of 2009 for the first two SVM students, and one SVM graduate student. The program has been greatly facilitated by availability of the LSU Access GRID system at SVM and SPH, funded by the NIH COBRE grant, which enables real-time distance learning for SPH classes by SVM students without the need to travel to New Orleans.

### **Notable personnel items:**

- **Faculty retirement:** Dr. Hollis U. Cox (PBS)
- **Faculty resignations included:** Drs. Loretta Bubenik (VCS), Andrew Daters (VCS), James LaCour (VCS), and Kristina Porthouse (CBS)
- **New faculty hires included:** Dr. Frank Andrews (VCS, Professor / Equine Internist, Director / Equine Health Studies Program), Dr. Jennifer Chang (VCS, Visiting Instructor / Emergency Medicine), Dr. Shafiq Chowdhury (PBS, Professor / Virology), Dr. Jose Len (VCS, Instructor / Theriogenology), Dr. Sara Lyle (VCS, Assistant Professor / Theriogenology), Dr. Antonieta Guerrero-Plata (PBS, Assistant Professor / Immunology – Virology), Dr. Kristina Porthouse (CBS, Assistant Professor / Veterinary Anatomy), Dr. Daniel Rodriguez (VCS, Assistant Professor / Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging), Dr. Keijiro Shiomitsu, (VCS, Assistant Professor / Radiation Oncology), Dr. Huiyong Wei (PBS, Research Assistant Professor)
- **Faculty promotion / tenure actions effective in FY 2009-2010 included:** Drs. Mark Acierno (VCS), Susanne Lauer (VCS), Fang-Ting Liang (PBS), Mandi Lopez (VCS), Kevin Macaluso (PBS), and Eric Storey (VCS) were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure. Drs. Shaomian Yao (CBS) and Qilong Xu (PBS) were promoted to Research Assistant Professor.
- **OTHER**
  - The School lost an icon when our founding Dean, Everett D. Besch passed away in August, 2008. He served as SVM Dean from 1968 until his retirement in 1988.
  - Ms. Judyth Wier, CRFE joined the SVM in December, 2008, as Executive Director of Advancement.
  - Mr. Stephen Winkler, Director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital resigned in February, 2009.