



LSU SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

SVM Update – June 2007

Welcome to the June 2007 edition of the LSU SVM's e-mail newsletter. In this issue, we'll talk about the [SVM's new dean, Mike the Tiger, Commencement](#), the [Awards and Honors Banquet](#), the [Diploma Distribution Ceremony for advanced degrees](#), the dedication of the [Lexi Suite](#), the [Summer Scholars Program](#), [Pets & Vets](#), [Distinguished Alumni Award nominations](#), a donation commitment made by the [LSU chapter of the SCAAFP](#), an award for an [SVM dean emeritus](#), [supporting the SVM](#), and [upcoming events](#).



Peter F. Haynes, Dean

LSU Announces Peter Haynes as New Dean

The SVM is pleased to announce that Dr. Peter F. Haynes has been appointed the new dean by the LSU Board of Supervisors. The announcement was made on May 29 by Interim Provost Harold Silverman and became effective June 1. Haynes has served as interim dean of the school since July 2006 after the retirement of then dean Michael Groves. "I believe that Dr. Haynes has demonstrated the abilities and aptitudes needed for this position during his service over the past year as interim dean of the Vet School," Silverman said. "He is committed to reinforcing our veterinary medicine teaching program, enhancing our veterinary and biomedical research activities and improving our service to the Baton Rouge community and surrounding region." **For more information about Dr. Haynes's appointment and history with the SVM, please click [here](#).**

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Mike V, the LSU Tiger Mascot, Has Passed Away

The Louisiana State University tiger mascot, Mike V, passed away at 2:23 a.m. on May 18. Mike V was born October 19, 1989, and came to LSU when he was four months old. He was 17 years old at the time of his passing. Mike was brought to the LSU SVM on Wednesday, May 16 for a routine exam. His veterinarian, Dr. David Baker, noticed that he was having trouble breathing the day before. During the exam, it was discovered that he had a condition called "idiopathic chylothorax". This is a serious condition with a poor prognosis. Because of this condition Mike had to have emergency surgery to remove 10 liters of fluid from around his lungs. Given his age all surgeries are risky, but without surgery it is doubtful that he would have lived another week. As a result of the anesthesia, Mike's kidneys failed. He was placed on renal dialysis, but treatment was unsuccessful. Plans are underway to acquire a new tiger. **To read about Mike V and to view Dr. David Baker's press briefing, click [here](#).**



Mike V was introduced to his new enclosure on August 26, 2005. Mike V passed away on May 18, 2007.

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SVM Confers Degrees and Awards

The LSU SVM conferred 81 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees at its 31st annual Veterinary Medicine Commencement Exercises on Monday, May 14. Dr. Mark Mitchell, a former associate professor at the SVM, gave the commencement address at the ceremony. **For a complete list of the graduates and their awards, please click [here](#).**

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SVM Honors Students and Faculty at Awards & Honors Banquet

On May 4, the LSU SVM hosted the 33rd annual Awards and Honors Banquet at the LSU Union. The banquet was sponsored in part by Nestlé Purina Pet Care, Novartis Animal Health, and the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Amy Grooters, associate professor of companion animal medicine in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, served as Master of Ceremonies. Each year, the Master of Ceremonies is the winner of the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award from the previous year. Interim Dean Peter F. Haynes welcomed the guests. Over \$133,000 was distributed to students in the form of awards and scholarships. **For a complete list of the award recipients, please click [here](#).**

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The Class of 2007 poses on the steps of the LSU Union for a final group photo before the Commencement ceremony begins.



Receiving advanced degrees from the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine are (from left to right) Drs. Catherine Briere, Trevor Zachariah, Quinesha Perry, Javier Nevarez and Stephanie Lewis.

SVM Confers Seven Advanced Degrees

The LSU SVM conferred seven graduate degrees at its Diploma Distribution Ceremony for the Graduate Academic Studies Program on May 18. Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies and Boyd Professor Thomas R. Klei presided over the ceremony, and Dr. Peter F. Haynes, interim dean, greeted the guests. Dr. Stephen D. Gaunt, professor of veterinary clinical pathology, served as the representative of the LSU Graduate Council and conferred the degrees. **For a list of all of the degrees awarded, click [here](#).**

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LSU Equine Clinic Dedicates the “Lexi Suite”

In honor of the extraordinary efforts of globe-trotting surgeons, LSU veterinarians and technicians, a determined team of horse owners, and a remarkable 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare, the LSU SVM dedicated “The Lexi Suite” in the Equine Intensive Care Unit at the LSU Large Animal Hospital on May 17. The suite is named in honor of Lexius (Lexi), owned by Ms. Julie Calzone & Mr. Robert Gardes. Lexi is the mare who presented LSU with the opportunity to cure uveitis in North America through a procedure known as a vitrectomy. The surgery is rarely performed and was unprecedented at LSU. **To read about Lexi and the suite dedication, click [here](#).**

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Lexi attended the dedication of her Equine Intensive Care Unit suite. She is pictured here with her owners Robert Gardes (left) and Julie Calzone, along with Dr. Peter F. Haynes (center), interim dean, and Dr. Eric Storey (right), veterinary ophthalmologist.

Sixteen Students to Participate in Merck-Merial Veterinary Scholar Program

Sixteen students have been selected to participate in the LSU SVM Summer Scholars Program, an introduction to biomedical research through research-driven activities. The 2007 Summer Scholars Program is funded by the Merck-Merial Veterinary Scholar Program, a grant from the National Institutes of Health, and fellowships from the Morris Animal Foundation and the Comparative Gastroenterology Society. The Summer Scholars Program serves to further students' learning and experiences beyond the required classroom and clinical training. **For a complete list of all of the 2007 research projects, click [here](#).**

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SVM Hosts Annual Children's Program, Pets & Vets

The LSU SVM is hosting Pets & Vets, its annual children's educational program, beginning June 5 and ending June 28. Pets & Vets features various topics regarding veterinary medicine and basic information about pet and animal care. All presentations are free and open to the public, but pre-registration is requested. The program is open to all children ages 6 and up, unless otherwise noted on the schedule. Parents are also invited to attend the presentations with their children. **For a list of this year's programs, click [here](#) or go to <http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu>.**

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Nominate Classmates for Alumni Award On-Line

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is a means to recognize alumni of the LSU SVM for outstanding professional and personal achievements. The award, which consists of an individual plaque and the placement of the honoree's name on a group plaque in the SVM, will be presented at the Annual Conference each year. Any veterinarian who received the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Louisiana State University before 1998 is eligible for the award. Candidates will be recognized for their accomplishments in veterinary medicine and/or contributions to the community through public service. To be considered for the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award, a completed nomination form along with a summary résumé of the nominee or the nominator's cover letter describing why the nominee is a distinguished alumnus must be received **no later than Friday, August 31, 2007**. **Now you can nominate your classmates for the Distinguished Alumni Award on-line at <http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu>. Just go to the SVM website and click on "Alumni Resources."**

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The 2007 Summer Scholars and their mentors are (front row, from left to right) Dr. Joseph Francis, Kayla Prejean, Mary Leissing, Astrid Bigio, Laura Sarradet, Amanda Claudet, Meredith Mouney, Aliya Magee, Marie Chartier, Tina Miletello, Trisha Young, Leia Feinberg, Christopher Mole, Dr. Thomas Klei, and (back row, from left to right) Dr. David Baker, Dr. Ronald Thune, Dr. Karin Peterson, Dr. Kevin Macaluso, Dr. Philip Elzer, Daniel Langlois, Brenna Hanly, David Schur, Dr. Lorrie Gaschen, Dr. John Hawke, Dr. Frederic Gaschen, and Dr. Kevin Kleinow.



Katie Smith (left), SCAAFP vice president and treasurer, and Gregg Griffenhagen (right), SCAAFP president, present a donation check to Merle Suhayda, founder of Operation Stray Cat.

LSU SCAAFP Donates Percentage of Club Income to Local Feline Charity

"As part of our commitment to the community and the welfare of all things feline, the LSU Student Chapter of the American Association of Feline Practitioners donated 10% of all of its annual gross income to Operation Stray Cat of Baton Rouge," said Gregg Griffenhagen (Class of 2009). OSC is a group of volunteers that organized for the purpose of caring for the stray and feral cats that live on the LSU campus. OSC was

started 15 years ago by Merle Suhayda, who coordinates volunteers, cat care and feeding schedules. The money donated by the SCAAFP came from membership dues and the sale of t-shirts and other fundraising items. **For information about the SCAAFP or the yearly donation, contact Gregg Griffenhagen at scaafp@vetmail.lsu.edu.**

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Michael G. Groves,
dean emeritus

LSU Dean Emeritus Receives Outstanding Alumni Award

The Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences announced five new Outstanding Alumni whose contributions to veterinary medicine are a credit to the educational standing of the college both nationally and internationally. These individuals were honored by the College at the annual Outstanding Alumni Dinner which was held on March 23 in Bryan, Texas. The Outstanding Alumni award is given to those individuals who exemplify the ideals, character strengths and principles of conduct that make the veterinary medical profession one of the highest callings. This year, Dr. Michael G. Groves, dean emeritus, is one of those honored individuals. **To read more about Dr. Groves and the award, click [here](#).**

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Support the School of Veterinary Medicine

Have you made your alumni donation to recognize our 30 Years of Tiger Pride? Our sincerest "Thank You" to those of you who have already made your 2006-07 annual gift! All donations postmarked by June 30 will count toward this fiscal year goal of 30% alumni participation! Your contribution can be made to support the area of your choice, or you can make a donation to show your support of LSU SVM's fifth dean, Dr. Peter F. Haynes! His service to the SVM since 1974 brings the strength of continuity and leadership to guide us into the future. **To make your alumni donation today, 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."**

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Upcoming Events

June 5-28: [Pets & Vets](#)

June 28-30: [Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association Summer Meeting](#)

July 4: Independence Day Holiday

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

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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For more information about "Forever LSU," the University's capital campaign, go to www.foreverlsu.org.

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