



# LSU SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

## *SVM Update – November 2007*

Welcome to the November 2007 edition of the LSU SVM's e-mail newsletter.

In this issue, we'll talk about the [new head of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department](#), the [annual conference](#), the [Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient](#), the [state's new Agriculture Commissioner](#), a [donation by the HSUS that affects the SVM](#), [large animal rescue training](#), [accomplishments of faculty and alumni](#), an [equine/theriogenology wetlab](#), the [Dermatology Workshop](#), the [Dean's Grand Rounds](#), [supporting the SVM](#), [upcoming events](#), and [classified ads](#).

The current issue of the SVM Update can be viewed every day on the SVM website at [www.vetmed.lsu.edu](http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu) in the News & Events box.

## *Paccamonti Named New Chair of Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department*

Following Dr. David Senior's reassignment to the position of associate dean for advancement and strategic initiatives in August of this year, the SVM conducted an internal search for the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. "We were fortunate to have two candidates express their interest in leading the department into the future: Drs. Fred Gaschen and Dale Paccamonti," said Dean Peter F. Haynes. "From my perspective, I appreciate it when qualified individuals step forward and express an interest in leadership. This reflects well on our SVM community and that of the VCS Department." Dr. Paccamonti was offered the position and has accepted. "This is an exciting time in academic veterinary medicine," said Dr. Paccamonti. "The profession of veterinary medicine is changing in many ways. Challenges and opportunities on the horizon provide us the chance to break new ground and make substantial changes that will have a positive impact on veterinary education and academia. I find these challenges stimulating and look forward to being part of a team that develops solutions."

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## *SVM Alumni, Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians Attend Annual Conference*

Over 150 people attended the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians. 122 veterinarians attended continuing education sessions, as did 11 veterinary technicians. An additional 40 people



*The Classes of 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002 celebrated their respective reunions as part of the Annual Conference. Pictured here is the Class of 1977. To see photos of the reunion classes, click [here](#).*

came to the SVM to attend the Tailgate Party (220 plates of jambalaya were served), and 120 people attended the Louisiana Tech vs. LSU Homecoming Game. At the Annual Conference's Alumni Luncheon, Dr. Robert D. Simmons was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award, and Dr. Gary Dupree presented Dean Peter F. Haynes with a \$15,000 donation on behalf of the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association. This donation supports the first- and third-year Coating Ceremonies and the LVMA Outstanding Student Awards. In addition to continuing education activities and the football game, many alumni gathered together with former classmates.

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*Dean Peter F. Haynes (left) presents Dr. Robert "Bob" Simmons (LSU '77) with the Distinguished Alumnus Award at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians.*

## *LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Honors Alumnus with Distinguished Alumni Award*

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine awarded the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award to Dr. Robert D. "Bob" Simmons (LSU '77) at its 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians on November 10. Dr. Simmons is vice president, Global Pharmaceutical Research with Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation in Summit, N.J. He was a member of the first class of the School of Veterinary Medicine, receiving his DVM from LSU in 1977. His class is celebrating its thirtieth reunion this year.

***To read more about Dr. Simmons and the Distinguished Alumnus Award, click [here](#).***

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*Dr. Mike Strain (LSU '83) takes office as the new Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Louisiana in January 2008.*

## *LSU SVM Alumnus Becomes Commissioner of Agriculture*

Dr. Mike Strain (LSU '83) ran for the office of Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Louisiana and was headed for a run-off against incumbent Bob Odom. On October 25, Odom announced his retirement effective January 14, making Strain the State's new Commissioner of Agriculture. Strain received 40 percent of the vote in the October election. During his campaign, Strain said he wants to expand domestic and foreign markets for new and existing

crops, to craft a tax-cut package to aid agriculture and to make better use of LSU and other schools to improve farming methods. ***For more information about Dr. Strain, click [here](#).***

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## *LSU Teams with HSUS to Care for Pets Evacuated During Emergencies*

On October 8, the Humane Society of the United States announced that it is giving \$600,000 to build an emergency animal shelter and medical clinic for pets at Dixon Correctional Institute in Jackson, La. The announcement was made on the steps of the State Capitol in Baton Rouge. Dr. David F. Senior, associate dean for advancement and strategic initiatives, represented the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, which will supervise the veterinary care provided by the shelter. Construction is expected to begin in April. After the facility is built, it will be used as more than just an emergency animal shelter; it will operate year-round to serve stray animals in the East Baton Rouge and East Feliciana parishes to prepare them for adoption. The shelter will also help to train animals to care for people with special needs, such as the blind and the elderly. **For more information about the shelter, click [here](#).**

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*The large animal rescue training co-hosted by the LSU EHSP included a helicopter lift exercise.*

## *LSU Equine Program Co-Hosts Large Animal Emergency Rescue Course*

The LSU Equine Health Studies Program at the School of Veterinary Medicine recently co-hosted a four-day technical large animal emergency rescue and large animal hazardous material training course at the LSU Fire & Emergency Training Institute in Baton Rouge, La., October 11-14, 2007. Sponsored by the Louisiana State Animal Response Team, the primary goal of the course was to prepare and train first responders, veterinarians, and other animal care personnel to work together in order to safely and effectively save animal lives without compromising human life during a disaster.

**To read about the training, click [here](#).**

## *SVM Salutes*

On October 27, **Spay Baton Rouge** held a "soiree" fund raiser and honored the veterinarians that participate in the spaying/castration of the feral cats and low-income family pets. There are several local veterinarians that do these for them during the week for low cost. Volunteer veterinarians spay/castrate about 100 cats each month at the LSU SVM as part of the LSU Animal Sterilization Assistance Program (LSU-ASAP). **Dr. Susan Eddlestone (VCS)** was one of many veterinarians honored at the Spay Baton Rouge Soiree as the veterinarian that coordinates the program to help Spay Baton Rouge reach its goal of reducing the pet overpopulation problem in East Baton Rouge Parish. In the photo (from left to right) are Dr. Doris Truman, Central Animal Hospital; Dr. Gretchen Godbee, Azalea Lakes Veterinary Clinic; Kim Compton, artist of cat portrait; Dr. Martha Littlefield,

Assistant State Veterinarian; Dr. Roberta McKowen, Zachary Small Animal Clinic; Dr. Anthony LoBue, Crossroads Animal Hospital; Jay Dardenne, Secretary of State; Dr. Alicia Walsh, Acadian Oaks Pet Clinic; Gwen Johnson, Acadian Oaks Pet Clinic; Dr. Susan Eddlestone, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine; Sandra Feuer DiTusa, Executive Director and Founder of Spay Baton Rouge; and Dr. Suzanne Boucher, Azalea Lakes Veterinary Clinic.

**The Susan E. Weeks Nursing Care Award** was established in memory of Susan E. Weeks, LVT, and is

presented to the veterinary technician who has provided compassionate patient care and outstanding service to the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Clinics. The 2007 recipient of the Susan E. Weeks Nursing Care Award is **Nicole Fitzgerald**. Nicole began August 2004 as a part-time technician in Rehabilitation. In October 2004, she became a full-time technician in Anesthesia. "Nicole studies and understands each patient as an individual and meets their needs compassionately to minimize stress and suffering," said Dr. Lauren Beebe (VCS). "She improves her knowledge by seeking continuing education. Nicole can manage a range of cases and species from the most stressful emergency to routine electives with an ease of versatility."

**Jared Granier**, director of admissions and enrollment in the Office of Student and Academic Affairs, has been appointed by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges Board of Directors to the **AAVMC's Executive Admissions Committee**. The EAC is charged with addressing issues related to applying for admission to AAVMC member institutions, which includes: working with application service vendors to design and maintain an application instrument; collaborating with VMCAS personnel to monitor vendor performance, as well as other operational developments over the course of application cycles and to report their findings to the AAVMC Board of Directors; making recommendations to the VMEC and Board of Directors regarding application fee structure, fee waivers and financial requests, refunds, distribution of VMCAS funds, etc; ensuring that VMCAS application policies are applied fairly and consistently; planning and organizing Admissions meetings for general constituents and public at the annual AAVMC meeting.

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*Dr. Susan Eddlestone was one of many veterinarians honored at the Spay Baton Rouge Soiree.*



*First-, second- and third-year students learn general herd health at a wetlab sponsored by Fort Dodge Animal Health.*

## *Fort Dodge Sponsors Wetlab Teaching General Herd Health*

The student chapters of the **Society for Theriogenology** and the **American Association of Equine Practitioners** held a wet lab Saturday, November 3 at the Embryo Biotechnology Laboratory of the Reproductive Biology Center, LSU AgCenter in St. Gabriel, La. The wet lab

covered general herd health and first-, second- and third-year students learned the basics of horse handling, vaccination (West Nile Virus booster), deworming, routine dentistry, and hoof trimming. Fort Dodge Animal Health, represented by James Pellerin, was the sponsor, donating the vaccine and Quest dewormer and providing the catered BBQ lunch. Students were taught proper deworming technique. Dr. Simon Staempfli, equine practice resident, assisted with the dentistry station, and Dr. Jose Len, theriogenology resident, and Drs. Sara Lyle and Dale Paccamonti, both theriogenology faculty, assisted with the lab. Cindy Meeker, a local farrier, assisted with the hoof trimming station. "The students don't get these opportunities in School until third-year labs or fourth-year clinics," said Dr. Dale Paccamonti, head of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department. "This is a great experience for the first- and second-year students. It is especially great for those that haven't had a lot of experience around horses; it teaches them some of the basics, like how to put a halter on, how to work around and with horses, etc. Opportunities to expose students to equine veterinary experiences are important to attract students into equine practice."

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## *SVM to Host Dermatology Workshop*

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine is hosting its annual veterinary dermatology seminar entitled, "**A Potpourri of Veterinary Dermatologic Diseases and Therapy**" on Sunday, December 2. This seminar is generously sponsored by Vetoquinol USA Inc., Virbac Corporation, D.V.M. Pharmaceuticals (IVX Animal Health), Bayer Animal Health, and Sogeval. ***For more information and to download a brochure, click [here](#). You can also call the SVM at 225/578-9900.***

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## *Dean's Grand Rounds Focuses on Space Shuttle Columbia Disaster and Recovery*

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Dean's Grand Rounds for November will be held **November 28** at 8:00 a.m. in the SVM Auditorium. The title of the Grand Rounds will be, ***The Role of Animals in the Space Shuttle Columbia Disaster's Search, Rescue, and Recovery***. The speaker will be Dr. Amy K. Donahue, associate professor and head of the Department of Public Policy at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Donahue recently served as the founding director of the LSU Stephenson Disaster Management Institute, a research institute focused on the challenges of managing disaster responses. For the past five years, Dr. Donahue has served as a technical advisor to the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate. In 2003, she spent three months in Texas helping manage the Space Shuttle Columbia recovery operation, an intergovernmental response that involved 450 organizations and 25,000 responders. Dr. Donahue holds her Ph.D. in Public Administration and her M.P.A. from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

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## *2008 LSU SVM Alumni Annual Fund Drive:*

### *Supporting . . . Students, Veterinarians, Mankind*

The SVM touches people every day. **Students** benefit from an excellent curriculum taught by highly-qualified faculty. **Veterinarians** benefit from a teaching hospital with the most Board-certified specialists in Louisiana and a commitment to excellence and caring for both pets and their owners.

**Mankind** benefits through the superior service received from our graduates in the pursuit of their veterinary careers and through research conducted to understand diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, Cystic Fibrosis, Multiple Sclerosis and more. Your gift to the LSU SVM Advance Veterinary Medicine Fund provides unrestricted support for the Dean's priorities.

*To learn more and to make a donation to the Advance*

*Veterinary Medicine Fund, please contact Pat Edwards at (225)*

*578-9870 or [pedwards@vetmed.lsu.edu](mailto:pedwards@vetmed.lsu.edu). For more information*

*on how you can help the SVM, visit our website ([www.vetmed.lsu.edu](http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu)) and select "Giving a Gift."*



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### *Upcoming Events*

<b>November 12-December 8</b>	<b>Fall NAVLE Window</b>
November 17	LSU Football v. Ole Miss, Oxford, Miss.
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Santa Paws</b>
<b>November 22-23</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
November 24	Arkansas v. LSU Football, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>November 28</b>	<b>Grand Rounds</b>
December 1	SEC Championship Football Game, Atlanta, Georgia
<b>December 2</b>	<b>Dermatology Conference</b>
<b>December 3-14</b>	<b>Second Year PBL</b>

For information on these and other events, please go to the School's website at [www.vetmed.lsu.edu](http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu).

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### *Classified Ads*

**Practice for Sale:** Located in the historical city of Natchitoches, La., in NW Louisiana. Will include a 7yr. old building, and ~1ac. property on a busy highway. The building includes small animal(2413sq.ft.), and large animal(1337sq.ft.) areas all enclosed. Some contents included are computer, blood analyzers, X-Ray, and boarding kennels. Some owner financing possible. For further info. Email [bluejames@suddenlink.net](mailto:bluejames@suddenlink.net).

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