7-1-1991

Scholarships
Teaching Awards

The ballroom at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington was filled to capacity for the Annual Student Government Dinner Dance on April 14. Centerpiece of the evening was the presentation of the 1991 Student Government Awards for Teaching Excellence to members of the faculty and staff. Designed to enable each of the four classes of the School to honor an individual who exemplifies the highest degree of proficiency in teaching, the award is given to "anyone involved in the educational process who has made a major contribution to our veterinary education through dedicated, creative, and informative teaching."

Dr. Mark Haskins, associate professor of pathology, was the recipient of the Class of 1994 Teaching Award. The Class of 1993 presented its award to Dr. Thomas Van Winkle, assistant professor of pathology. Dr. Charles Reid, professor of radiology, received the Class of 1992 Teaching Award. The Class of 1991 presented its award to Dr. Lesley King, lecturer in medicine. The 1991 Student Government Teaching Awards were also presented to Donna Oakley, head nurse, VHUP; Dr. Beth Aan Brockman, an intern at VHUP; and to Dr. Marjan Gover, a resident at VHUP.

Dr. Deborah M. Gillette, assistant professor of pathology, was the recipient of the Norden Faculty Teaching Award. Dr. John H. Wolfe, assistant professor of pathology and medical genetics, received the Beecham Research Award. The Dr. Jules Silver Bedside Manner Award was presented to Dr. Brockman. Dr. Celeste Boatwright, junior surgery resident, received the William B. Boucher Award for Outstanding Teaching at New Bolton Center by a House Officer. The Iams Small Animal Clinician Award was presented to Dr. Beth Callan, resident in medicine. The Resident's Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Faculty Member was presented to Dr. Robert Hashbash, assistant professor of medicine.

The evening was supported by the following benefactors: Hills Pet Products, The Upjohn Company, Veterinary Medical Student Government, SCVMA, Peterson Imaging, Inc., and ANAQUEST.

Veterinarians and Wildlife Experts Train Arab Wildlife Rescue Workers

The massive oil spills in the Persian Gulf early this year endangered many birds, marine mammals and fish. A United Nations-sponsored six-member team, three veterinarians, two wildlife specialists and a bird specialist, was brought to Bahrain in May to help train wildlife workers to deal with the great influx of animals injured by the oil. The team was assembled by Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, Inc. of Wilmington, DE, a group with a strong reputation for successfully rehabilitating oiled birds. It included Dr. Greg Bossart, V'78, the veterinarian at Miami Seagrass, Dr. Josh Dein, V'80, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Health Laboratory (Madison, WI), Dr. Virginia Pierce, V'87, director of the Laboratory of Pathology, Philadelphia Zoo, Lynne Firk, president, TSBBR, Mary Jane Dalton, clinic supervisor at TSBBR, and John Pfinch, assistant curator of birds at the Philadelphia Zoo. To provide additional expertise, a multi-national Oil Spill Support Team was organized. Its 14 members are experts in such fields as research chemistry, veterinary medicine, wildlife rehabilitation, animal behavior, rehabilitation medicine and fishery biology and medicine. Three members of that team are School alumnae, Dr. Leslie Dierauf, V'74, Dr. Susan Donoghue, V'76, and Dr. Julia Langenberg, V'78.

The five-day workshop in Bahrain attracted 45 participants from Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Bahrain. "We were thoroughly impressed with the level of environmental awareness among the Arabs, and the enthusiasm with which they approached each topic we presented," said Dr. Pierce. "We feel confident that the programs that are developed as a result of the workshop will be staffed by competent and enthusiastic nationals with some expatriate consultants providing needed expertise, at least in the initial stages."

The workshop covered a wide variety of topics, including human health and safety, protection of vulnerable habitats, deterrence methods (to try to prevent birds from becoming oiled), field retrieval methods, the general characteristics of birds and special notes on the birds and vulnerable habitat of the Persian Gulf. The team also extensively covered aspects of medical and rehabilitative care of oiled animals, necropsy techniques, and how to design, staff and operate a rehabilitative facility during an oil spill. Dr. Bossart gave detailed lectures on the management of oiled-sea turtles, dolphins and dugongs. In addition to lectures, the team provided two afternoon hands-on training sessions in bird handling, medical evaluation, and necropsy procedures.

The team also visited the Wildlife Rescue Center in Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, which was established in January in response to the oil spill. "On January 26 the Saudis were faced with a daunting task," said Dr. Pierce. "One of the largest oil spills on record in the face of a war, with no established rehabilitation facility, no staff trained in oiled animal rehabilitation, and having to deal with two of the most difficult bird species- cormorants and geese. With temporary assistance from the British RSPCA and a Dutch expert team sponsored by the European Community, the center handled 70 to 100 birds a day during February and managed an approximately 40% release rate."

During ceremonies in Washington D.C. on June 3 the team was recognized along with the U.S. Marines for their contributions to the efforts of the Wildlife Rescue Center in Jubayl.