4-1-2003

Rosettes & Ribbons: Some Recent Accomplishments of Note at the School
Dr. Kathryn Michel, assistant professor of nutrition and chief, Section of Medicine, was honored by the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care with an Award for Scientific Achievement for contributions in critical care nutrition. She shares this award with Lisa Freeman of Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Gerhard Schad, professor of parasitology, was elected Honorary Member of the Helminthological Society of Washington in October. He chaired a symposium on the molecular and neurobiology of parasitic nematodes and gave a paper on the same subject at the meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in Denver in November.

Dr. Sue McDonnell, associate professor of reproduction, is the author of A Practical Field Guide to Horse Behavior: The Equid Ethogram, published by Eclipse Press. The book is based on studies of equid behavior under natural and feral conditions. It includes the work of many Penn veterinary students and alumni on behavior in NBC’s semi-feral pony herd (Elizabeth Ewaskiewicz, V’98, Michael Fugaro, V’97, Melissa Lutz, V’99, Samantha Murray, V’01, Amy E. Poulin, V’04).

Dr. McDonnell was a speaker on behavioral topics at the AAEP meeting in Orlando in December.

Dr. Eric Birs, assistant professor of sports medicine, received a grant from EquaTec, Inc. in support of his study on inhaled nitric oxide.

Dr. Mike Ross, professor of surgery, is co-author with Sue J. Dyson of Diagnosis and Management of Lameness in the Horse, published W.W. Saunders. This comprehensive text book consists of 130 chapters divided into ten parts and comes with an integral CD-ROM that allows the reader to see video clips of a variety of the conditions referred to in its pages. While it is a detailed text book that any equine specialist will find very useful, it is also a book that may have its uses as a reference work for any horse-owner, trainer or stable manager.

Dr. David Nunamaker, V’68, Jacques Jenny Professor of Surgery, presented the Milne State of the Art Lecture at the AAEP meeting in December in Orlando. He presented two topics: On Bucked Shins, and On Bone and Fracture Treatment in the Horse. Dr. Nunamaker is the seventh person selected to give the Milne Lecture.

Three faculty members were promoted to full professor: Dr. Robert J. Washabau, V’82, to professor of medicine, Dr. Mattie J. Hendrick, V’78, to professor of pathology, and Dr. James Ferguson, V’81, to professor of medicine.

Dr. Pamela Wilkins, assistant professor of medicine, presented a paper at the AAEP Meeting in Orlando entitled, Botulism in Foals: A Survivable Disease. Dr. Wilkins and Dr. Brett Dolente, V’96, instructor in medicine, received a $30,000 three-year grant from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Research Foundation to study the effect of low molecular weight heparin treatment in horses with diarrhea and disseminated intravascular coagulation.

Dr. Adrian R. Morrison, professor of behavioral neuroscience, delivered an invited lecture in March at the Congress of the Federation of Latin American Sleep Societies in Mexico.

Dr. Corinne Sweeney, professor of medicine, current president of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) and a long time associate professor of Pediatrics at the School of Medicine, presented a paper at the AAEP meeting in Orlando entitled, Botulism in Foals: A Survivable Disease. Dr. Wilkins and Dr. Brett Dolente, V’96, instructor in medicine, received a $30,000 three-year grant from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Research Foundation to study the effect of low molecular weight heparin treatment in horses with diarrhea and disseminated intravascular coagulation.

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Dr. Gary Smith wrote, produced and directed a pantomime in the British style called “Aladdin and his Magical Lamp.” It played to rapturous applause (alright, a few people clapped) for three nights in January. Dr. Smith also gave a talk on agroterrorism to the New York Farmers Club at the Union Club in New York City in February.

Dr. James Serpell, Marie A. Moore Associate Professor of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare, received a grant of $34,000 from the AKC Canine Health Foundation to help with the development of new methods for measuring behavior and behavioral problems in dogs. Together with Symme Trachtenberg of The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the School of Social Work, he has also been offered a grant of $96,664 from the Annenberg Foundation’s Sunnylands Trust for a new initiative to explore the potential of animal-assisted therapeutic interventions in the treatment of adolescent mental disorders. Some of these funds will be used to support a major conference on the topic in March 2004.

Dr. Robert Eckroade, associate professor of pathology, presented a paper at the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Avian Influenza Workshop held at the PDRC in Athens, Ga. in November. Dr. Eckroade was appointed to the USDA’s task force on Exotic Newcastle Disease and traveled to California in...
The transitioning of PennHIP back to Penn. A PennHIP seminar was held in association with the 2003 Penn Annual Conference in January. PennHIP seminars will also be held in conjunction with the AVMA meeting in July and the ACVS meeting in October. Since the program returned to Penn, utilization of the screening method has increased markedly. Dr. Smith presented talks at the 2nd Annual National Detective Dog Training Conference in December, the North American Veterinary Conference in January, and Western Veterinary Conference and the Veterinary Orthopaedic Society in February.

Dr. Michelle Powers, PennHIP fellow, and William Culp, V’04, gave presentations at the Veterinary Orthopedic Society meeting in Steamboat Springs, Colo., in February.

Dr. Joan Hendricks, V’79, Henry and Corrine R. Bower Professor of Small Animal Medicine, is serving as Interim Chair, Clinical Studies-Philadelphia, until June 30.

Dr. Brett Dolente, V’96, instructor in medicine, received funding from AVMA Foundation and Bernice Barbour Foundation to begin a clinical trial using a novel heparin in horses with coagulopathies. She presented a talk at the 2003 Camelid Conference at Oregon State University in March on critically ill camelid neonates and hepatic lipidosis.

Dr. Amy J. Alwood, resident in critical care, and her collaborators, Drs. Lori Waddell, Cynthia Otto, Kim Slensky of Penn and Dr. Marjorie Brooks of Cornell, were awarded a Winn Feline Foundation Research Grant. The grant of $15,000 under Winn’s Ricky Fund is for the investigation of the effects of low molecular weight heparins on coagulation in normal cats. This is expected to provide the basis for future clinical applications and use of low molecular weight heparins in cats with cardiomypathy and/or saddle thrombus (aortic thromboembolism).

Marsha Finkelman, Ellen Lomastro, Larry Nann, Wendy Curtis-Uhle, and Bethanne Walters, all veterinary technicians specializing in anesthesia, either at the Ryan Veterinary Hospital or at the Widener Hospital, were members of the Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists organizing committee, and were among the first group of technicians who were officially granted certification as Veterinary Technician Specialists in Anesthesia.