

Student receives prestigious scholarship



Haydan Vosburgh, fourth-year, plans to pursue a career in equine medicine.

By Piper Brandt

Five veterinary students across the country received a \$5,000 scholarship from Merck Animal Health, administered by the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Foundation. Among the recipients is Haydan Vosburgh, a fourth-year student at CVM.

"I am extremely grateful to have been awarded this scholarship from Merck Animal Health and the AAEP Foundation," Haydan said. "This award will help alleviate some of my financial burden from veterinary school and allow me to focus on pursuing my passion for equine medicine! I am excited to start the next chapter of my veterinary career and would like to thank Merck and the AAEP Foundation for providing this wonderful opportunity!"

The Merck Animal Health scholarship recognizes promising veterinary students committed to a career in equine medicine.

"We are incredibly proud to support these five future equine veterinary students," said Dr. D. Craig Barnett, Merck Animal Health director of equine technical services. "These students are exceptional leaders and I'm confident they will help move our mission forward by advancing the science of healthier animals in the years to come."

The award will be presented to the recipients Dec. 9, at the AAEP's 65th Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Hill's Pet Nutrition partnership adds dimensions to CVM

Healthy pets and nutrition education are key components of a partnership announced a year ago between CVM and Hill's Pet Nutrition.

One of the highlights of the partnership includes the addition of an internship dedicated to nutritional service and education at the VHC. Part of this internship includes the establishment of an obesity clinic for small animal veterinary patients.

"The objective of the K-State Obesity Clinic is to provide a structured program to help overweight dogs and cats reach their ideal body weight," said Dr. Elizabeth Davis, head of Clinical Sciences and interim director for the VHC. "The program offers six-month blocks



Abby Ostronic, third-year, and Dr. Vincent Michels, current VHC intern, participate in internship opportunities provided by Hill's Pet Nutrition.

of enrollment that include regular veterinary consults."

Dr. Vincent Michels was hired as the VHC's primary care/nutrition intern.

"Dr. Michels will be overseeing the majority of the patients enrolled in the program," Dr. Davis explained. "For the more challenging cases, he will be able to consult with two of Hill's

American College of Veterinary Nutrition board certified clinical nutritionists who are also adjunct faculty of the Department of Clinical Sciences."

This past summer, Hill's Pet Nutrition hosted third-year student Abby Ostronic as the first Global Professional Veterinary Affairs Summer Intern.

"Hill's was an incredible experience for me and I would recommend it to any other veterinary student in the future,"

Ostronic said. "I got to see what daily life is like as an industry veterinarian and the immense number of roles that a veterinarian can have, whether it is in marketing, education, finance, product development, research or many other areas that we are not exposed to during veterinary school."

ACVM names Dr. T.G. Nagaraja 'Microbiologist of the Year'

By Cheyenne Swoope

Dr. T.G. Nagaraja, University Distinguished Professor, has been named as the 2019 recipient of the prestigious "Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist of the Year" by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM). This award was presented at the ACVM's annual meeting held in Chicago.

"I am truly humbled by the award," Dr. Nagaraja said. "It is special because this recognition is from my peers. I have had a lot of help in my research career — some outstanding graduate students, very good laboratory help and excellent collaborators."

Dr. Nagaraja is a member of the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology faculty in CVM. His appointment is 70% research and 30%



Dr. Amelia Woolums, president of ACVM, presents the award to Dr. T.G. Nagaraja.

teaching. Dr. Nagaraja's research expertise is in gut microbiology, focused primarily on the role of rumen microbes in function and dysfunction of the rumen, and on food borne pathogens, particularly Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* and *salmonella* in cattle. His research is a blend of basic and applied studies and involves collaborative interactions with epidemiologists,

molecular biologists, pathologists and ruminant nutritionists.

Dr. Nagaraja's teaching responsibilities include veterinary bacteriology and mycology lecture and laboratory for sophomore DVM students, ruminant digestive physiology for freshman DVM students and two graduate courses, rumen metabolism and rumen microbiology. Additional responsibilities include serving as the veterinary college's

director of the graduate programs in pathobiology and veterinary biomedical science.

Dr. Nagaraja and his graduate students have been responsible for several seminal findings, one of which includes describing that the feeding of distiller's grain was positively associated with prevalence of *E. coli* O157, a major foodborne human pathogen, in cattle.

Dr. Michael Apley receives double honors from AAVPT



Dr. Michael Apley is well known for his work with veterinarians and producers throughout the U.S. regarding the use of pharmaceutical drugs in food animals, as well as feedlot health. The AAVPT named him a Distinguished Fellow and presented its 2019 Service Award at the Biennial Symposium.

By Piper Brandt

CVM's Dr. Michael Apley recently received a pair of accolades from the American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics (AAVPT) at its Biennial Symposium in Overland Park, Kansas.

Dr. Apley, who is a professor of production medicine and clinical pharmacology, was presented with the AAVPT Service Award and elected as a Distinguished Fellow of the AAVPT. The Service Award is presented every other year to recognize exceptional and sustained service either to AAVPT or to the profession of veterinary or comparative pharmacology, or therapeutics, at large. The Distinguished Fellow is a membership category reserved for Fellows who have made an

outstanding contribution to the field of veterinary pharmacology.

"It was wonderful to receive this recognition among many long-time friends and colleagues who have the same passion about the science of using drugs in animals," Dr. Apley said. "I hope that everyone has the same blessings as I have had — to be surrounded by multiple groups of colleagues sharing their expertise and experience in your field(s) of interest."

Dr. Apley has conducted research on infectious disease, antibiotic efficacy and resistance, drug residues and applications of drugs in food animals. He is well known for his work with veterinarians and producers throughout the United States regarding the use of pharmaceutical drugs in food animals, as well as feedlot health.

VHC staff shows their Halloween spirit



The halls of the VHC became quite spooky in honor of Halloween. Pictured above, the necropsy receiving staff dresses up to show their rendition of Shark Week: Jane Keller (Monday), Kim Malo (Tuesday), Shawna Nehls (Wednesday), Kimberly Glotzbach (Thursday), Kelsey Wohletz (Friday) and Cait Kasper (Saturday).

CVM News Ticker



Mal Hoover, CVM medical illustrator, was elected to become the new secretary of K-State's Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective multidisciplinary collegiate honor society. Dr. Justin Kastner, associate professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, currently serves as the chapter's president.

The annual RITA (Rabies in the Americas) Conference, held in Kansas City, had around 240 attendees. RITA is an international scientific annual meeting for learning of the latest developments in the rabies field as well as networking with others.

Dr. Jim Carpenter was awarded the 2019 Oxbow Quest Award in recognition of his excellence in the field of exotic mammal medicine and care. He was also presented with an Honorary Lifetime Membership Award by the Association of Avian Veterinarians. The honors were presented at the 2019 ExoticsCon in St. Louis, Missouri.

Drs. Hans Coetzee, Michael Kleinhenz, Butch KuKanich, Abbie Viscardi and Brad White, as well as Ally Fitzgerald, class of 2021, participated in the second biennial Pain in Animals (PAW) Workshop held at the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland. The focus of the meeting was cross-species assessment of acute pain.

CVM's shelter medicine program was involved in an outreach event at the subdivision of Lakeshore Estates in partnership with Topeka Community Cat Fix. They trapped, spayed/neutered and vaccinated 115 cats in the community.

Dr. Liz Santschi presented, "Radiography of the stifle from 6-18 months" and "Treatment of SBC with screws" panel discussion at the World Equine Veterinary Association Meeting in Verona, Italy, Oct. 2-5.

Zoo research and mentorship project continues



(From left) Dr. Neta Ambar and second-year students, Carolyn Mark and Tori Matta, supervise anesthetized naked mole rats.

A group comprising veterinary faculty, two interns, students and an alumnus recently finished a new round of anesthesia research and mentorship in a project at the Lincoln Zoo in Nebraska.

"This is the research internship project for Dr. Neta Ambar, our zoological medicine intern, and Dr. Nathan Boyd, our cardiology intern," said Dr. David Eshar, associate professor in companion exotic pets, wildlife and zoo animal medicine. "The zoo veterinarian is Dr. Trenton Shrader, a 2015 K-State College of Veterinary Medicine graduate and director of medicine and conservation projects. Also assisting us were five CVM students: Carolyn Mark, Emma

Bishop-Moser, John Doyle, Justin Yuen and Tori Matta."

Dr. Eshar said the project, now in its second year, received funding through the 2018 MCAT grant.

"The study is looking at the impact of an injectable anesthetic protocol on mole rats," Dr. Eshar said. "This is a big challenge as their body weights are usually 30-60 grams."

"We are happy to continue the collaboration with the Lincoln Zoo, who is letting us work with a kept group of naked mole rats that are undergoing their annual health evaluations," Dr. Eshar said.

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