



VETERINARY

executive report

WSU Veterinarian elected to Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences

Dr. Guy Palmer, DVM, Ph.D., professor of veterinary pathology at Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, has been elected to membership in the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine (IOM). Election to this prestigious body is one of the highest honors for those in biomedical research and human health care.

"This is a tremendous honor and reflects the outstanding scholarly environment at Washington State University," said Dr. Palmer. "I work with a wonderful group of colleagues and students dedicated to better understanding the transmission of vector-borne diseases and innovative approaches to vaccine development. This election reflects our combined strengths."

"I have been aware of Dr. Palmer's outstanding research for many years," said **WSU President V. Lane Rawlins**, "It seems especially appropriate that he is being recognized at a time when concerns about epidemics of zoonotic diseases (diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans) are higher than I ever remember seeing before. Guy is a world leader in his field and we rejoice to see him gain this richly deserved honor."

"Election to the Institute of Medicine is one of the highest honors afforded a scientist, in part because it is bestowed by one's peers," said **Dr. James N. Petersen**, vice provost for research at WSU. "Dr. Palmer's work in battling animal disease in third world countries is second to none."

His research has explored what allows some disease-causing agents, or pathogens, to persist in a host long after the initial infection, what interactions between a pathogen and its vector (such as ticks) lead to efficient transmission and infection, and novel ways of producing vaccines to combat pathogens whose changeable nature makes them "moving targets" for a host's immune system.

In recent years, Dr. Palmer focused primarily on the infection biology of *Anaplasma marginale*, the most prevalent tick-borne bacterial pathogen of cattle worldwide. Once injected into the host by a biting tick, the *Anaplasma* bacteria enter



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From the Dean...



Dean Warwick Bayly

The 2006–07 school year is underway with a number of new changes and challenges for our students. For the fourth successive year, our freshmen class size is about 100, meaning that we have close to 400 students in the college, which is certainly the most ever. WSU no longer trains Oregon State University students. The relative

contribution of our funding support from traditional state sources continues to shrink, and this year 72 percent of our expenditures will come from private donations, competitive grants and contracts, and fees for services. For the first time, in-state tuition for a veterinary education at WSU has now topped \$15,000 per year. Add to this another few thousand for fees and books along with room and board, and it's no wonder the average debt for our new graduates last May was about \$81,000.

The AVMA says nationwide mean starting salaries for 2006 veterinary graduates among all employers was \$45,546. Meanwhile, mean debt among all graduates with educational debt was \$100,805. That figure was up 13.5 percent since 2005.

Higher costs have dramatically changed the culture for our students, too. Summer and part-time employment are

not sufficient to pay educational costs and haven't been for years. This combined economic scenario makes it near impossible for graduates to open a new practice, let alone purchase an existing one, for many years, if ever.

For these reasons, I am calling for your help. We have dedicated ourselves to increase the scholarship endowments to the College of Veterinary Medicine by \$40 million. This will provide significant tuition relief for each and every one of our veterinary students. In the grandest of WSU traditions, I am asking that the alumni of this college embark on a renewed campaign to give to back to those now walking in your academic footsteps. This is especially the case if you personally received a scholarship while at WSU. We must establish a desire and commitment to "recycle" scholarship dollars, if you will. First you receive them, then you give them back on a schedule that suits you and your family.

As a critical emissary from this college, I also ask that you keep an ear open for individuals who have both the capacity and the desire to support veterinary teaching. The largest gifts we have ever received at the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine are from people with a strong connection to one of our veterinary alumni.

During this season of giving, please remember those who have helped you get to where you are today, and think about doing the same for an existing and/or future student. Without your help, the future looks less promising for those entering our profession.

Veterinarian elected, *continued from page 1*

and destroy red blood cells, causing anaplasmosis, an often-fatal disease. Animals that recover from the disease remain infected throughout life, acting as a reservoir of the pathogen within a herd. The disease causes millions of dollars of loss to cattle herds, particularly in tropical regions but also in the United States and Canada.

While the vast majority of the IOM's 1,600 members are physicians, the IOM elects one-fourth of its members from the allied fields. Palmer's election makes him the fifth out of 16 veterinarians with direct ties to WSU, the highest number of any veterinary college in the United States. In fact, former WSU veterinary classmates **Dr. Roger McClellan '60** and **Dr. Charles**



Dr. Roger McClellan

Capen '60, both members of the IOM, played a critical role in nominating Palmer.

"It is a pleasure to welcome a fellow Cougar as an elected member to the IOM," said McClellan. "Dr. Palmer was elected to the IOM based on his extraordinary contributions to understanding vector-borne diseases."

"We have a long standing association with the National Academy's Institute of Medicine in that our dean emeritus, the late **Dr. Leo Bustad**, was among the first veterinarians elected to this prestigious institute," said **Dr. Warwick Bayly**, dean of the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine. "Several of our most distinguished alumni are current members. It's great to see Dr. Palmer join this elite group."

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Beaver has toothy grin back

Bailey the beaver has plenty to smile about. The 41-pound juvenile was accidentally struck by a motorist last spring, losing her front teeth. After months of rehabilitation, veterinarians at Washington State University were able to successfully release her back into the wild.

“It was really great to see Bailey back where she belongs,” said **Dr. Nickol Finch**, who heads up the exotic animal service for the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The key challenge for the exotic’s team was in building up Bailey’s strength and putting back the weight the beaver had lost. The good news was that a beaver’s teeth grow back.

“A beaver’s front teeth grow constantly throughout their life,” said Dr. Finch, “and all four of her front teeth grew back to a healthy length.”

After months of feeding Bailey a special diet of progressively chewy vegetables, the beaver was ready to go home. The exotics team picked a spot on the Snake River where there were few people, abundant forage, and no nearby roads.

Bailey’s long-term prognosis is good. “As a juvenile, she should be able to readapt well,” adds Dr. Finch.

The WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital treats hundreds of wildlife cases each year without being able to collect revenue since they are not owned animals. Support for the animals often comes from donations, while the veterinary care is provided with the dual goal of treating and releasing wild animals whenever possible as well as training the next generation of veterinarians.



Endangered species rescue dog gets lifesaving treatment at WSU

Finny, a 10-year old black Labrador retriever, has a gift—the ability to seek out rare and endangered species without causing them harm.

He has a skill that has taken him from California’s Mojave Desert, searching for rare desert tortoises, to South Dakota to look for black-footed ferrets. But Finny suddenly began having seizures.

A trip to his veterinarian in Missoula, Montana, confirmed the worst. It appeared Finny had a hemangioma in the frontal lobe of his brain. The recommended treatment was a series of radiation treatments available at WSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine.



“It’s been hard,” says Finny’s owner, **Aimee Hurt**. “He

has battled cancer before, with a lymphatic sarcoma. We had that removed surgically and he’s been great. That is until now.”

For more than three weeks, Finny came to WSU nearly every day for specialized treatment using the College of Veterinary Medicine’s linear accelerator, a specialized machine that produces a targeted beam of radiation. The directed energy is used to attack the tumor repeatedly while limiting the damage to surrounding tissue.

“Everything went really well, and his prognosis is good,” said **Dr. Janean Fidel**, veterinary oncologist for WSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine. “We often see these cases extend an animal’s life two to three years.”

Finny’s owner hopes to have him back out in the field to work within a few weeks. Next stop, the Centennial Mountains of eastern Idaho and southern Montana, to look for scat from grizzly and black bears, wolves, and cougars as part of the Wildlife Conservation Society’s Carnivore Connectivity Project. Then, back to the desert to continue looking for rare tortoises. “There is a growing demand for dogs like Finny,” says Hurt. “It’s an up and coming research tool, because it’s a non-intrusive way to go out and detect these animals without disturbing them.”

Owner rides to remember

Fund raising drive honors memory of a special golden retriever

Bill Johnson still holds on to the grief brought by the loss of his close friend Sonny, an 8-year-old golden retriever. The two had developed a special relationship, with Sonny as his constant companion. Johnson describes him as “a special dog, unbelievably full of life, fun, and affection. No matter

what kind of a day I had, I could always count on Sonny to make me feel good.”

Last November, Sonny died of canine lymphoma. The disease came on without warning, resulting in his death within just a few weeks of diagnosis.

“I was devastated,” Johnson wrote. “I did everything possible to save him, yet losing Sonny was still an incredible loss, leaving me feeling both guilty and terrible.”

Bill Johnson felt compelled to transform this heartbreaking incident into something positive. Being an avid cyclist, Bill Johnson struck upon an idea that would help him find closure for his loss, while battling to help the owners of sick animals who have nowhere else to turn. “Why not bike over to WSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine from my home in Cle Elum?” he asked himself. By creating a fundraising event, he sought out pledges from friends. As a rider, he could cover the same route he often drove with Sonny while seeking out care in his final days, to help him say goodbye.

This would be no easy task. Round trip distance was 414 miles, in just two days. Johnson hired the same training com-

pany that worked with Lance Armstrong. On a hot August day, Johnson fought his way through flat tires, big trucks, and heat exhaustion to complete the first half of his journey. “This was much harder than I ever expected,” said an exhausted Johnson when he arrived at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at WSU. “Yet the memory of Sonny helped me get through it all.”

In October, Johnson made a return trip, completing his journey and fulfilling his dream of raising \$25,000, the amount needed to complete “Sonny Angel’s Gift of Hope Endowment.” This fund will be used to support and care for animal patients who need life-saving procedures but who have no owners, or whose owners do not have the means to pay for the care. In addition, the fund will aid in the training of oncology students and assist in research of better techniques for treating cancer in pets.



“Ride for Research” a galloping success!

For the second year, the Washington State Horse Council hit the trails to benefit the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

With a variety of events including a trail ride for prizes, camping, an evening auction, and a barbecue dinner, there were plenty of activities to attract the avid horse owner. The event was held August 4–6 at the Evergreen Sportsman’s Club near Littlerock, Washington. By the end of the weekend, the group raised nearly \$10,000 for equine research at WSU.

“I’m a believer in the WSU program,” said Ride for Research organizer Eddie Armstrong. “It seemed to be a great way to try and do our part to help.”

The annual event brings together a wide variety of riders, including the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Woodbrook Hunt Club, John Wayne Pioneer Wagons and Riders, and the host, Washington State Horse Council.

WSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine is a national and international leader in many areas of equine research, including

sports medicine, pain management, joint disease, and new techniques in laparoscopic surgery. Additional work is investigating equine digestive and infectious diseases, as well as the immune responses of horses and foals to disease. The college also recently constructed two new facilities: an equine research barn that is critical for a quality program and a large animal reproductive teaching barn that will house the college’s breeding, reproductive research, and teaching program.

“We expect the event to keep growing strong, with a goal of doubling our gift next year,” said Armstrong. Next year’s ride is set for the weekend of June 16, 2007.

For more information about the event and directions, contact the Washington State Horse Council at 360-769-8083. If you are interested in supporting the equine research programs at the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine, contact Lynne Haley at 509-335-5021 or lhaley@vetmed.wsu.edu.

A new day in college development

There comes a time in higher education when you realize the future lies in the hands of alumni and friends. For me, that realization came this year after serving 25 years as an equine surgeon, professor, and clinical sciences chair. During my career, we have seen firsthand the effects of state and federal support at WSU falling from 78 percent in the mid-1980s to under 28 percent today.

This funding decline has caused dramatic changes in the way this University operates. It also changed the way students finance their medical education. This year's tuition at WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine is over \$15,000, a 10-fold increase from the \$1,500 that I paid at the University of Illinois in 1975.

The good news is that WSU Cougars "get it." More and more Cougar alumni understand the size of the financial challenges our new colleagues face. Cougar alums are also incredibly generous. There is a spirit of philanthropy and support among the WSU family that is seemingly unmatched by any comparable institution. This is where I am redirecting my professional efforts and career experience. I want to work to ensure that the fifth oldest veterinary college in continuous operation in the United States will continue long after all of us have moved on to retirement.

Dean Bayly has appointed me to the position of associate dean for veterinary development and external relations. The opportunity to guide the college's development and outreach efforts while further building our leadership and communication programs is extremely compelling and will now have my full attention.

Soon, you will be hearing more about the college's specific goals and initiatives. Our goal is to transform and enhance our fundraising efforts. Please examine our new goals and ambitions to find areas that strike close to your heart. Only with hard work and your support can we guarantee the future of WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine and the quality of our programs.

Thanks for all you do for WSU. Go Cougs!

Dr. Richard M. DeBowes
Associate Dean for Veterinary Development
and External Relations



Dr. Richard DeBowes

WSU CVM student work lands national magazine cover

The gazing yellow eyes of an orange tabby cat on the cover of a national veterinary journal are the work of WSU veterinary student Gudrun Gunther '08.

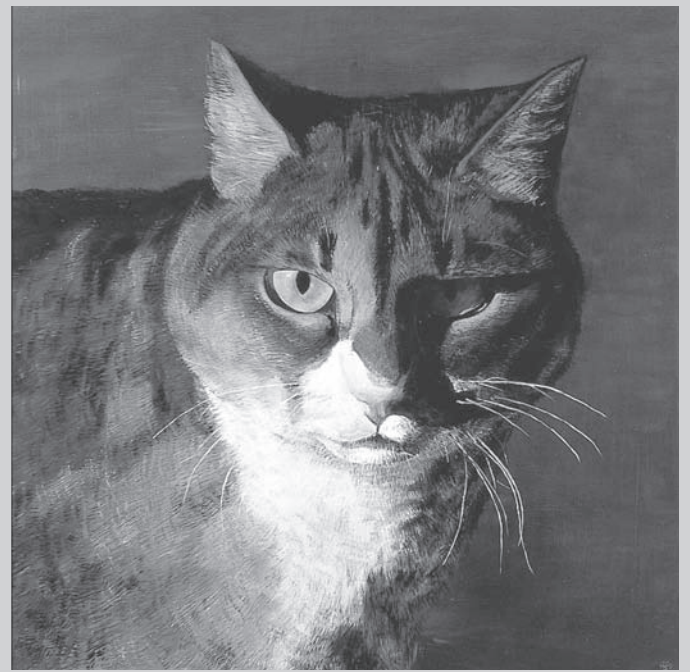
Her oil on panel painting, titled "Schonchen" and depicting her cat, is the front cover artwork on the September 15 issue of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. The work was selected over hundreds of other submissions.

"I loved the quality of [her work]. I often look at a painting and see reflections in the art of someone who truly loves animals," said Dr. Janis Audin, editor in chief of *JAVMA*. "She did a really nice job!"

Gunther says her art tends to stress the particular character of each animal she paints, highlighting the unique traits that make the animals such an important part of her life. She completed the painting in 2005.

"I was struck by the depth of the eyes in the painting," said Dr. Audin, adding, "We try to keep our mid-month issue strictly for non-professional artists, and always try to connect artwork with the stories inside." *JAVMA* editors try to select a work from an amateur painter for roughly half of their covers. Readers will often request prints of the cover art directly from the artist themselves.

Gudrun Gunther was born in Berlin, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Fine Art arts Brown University. From 2002 to 2004, she served in the U.S. Peace Corp as an animal husbandry volunteer. This past summer she spent time in India as an intern gaining a firsthand look at veterinary practices there.



Achievements



Dean Warwick M. Bayly was awarded the 2006 Veterinarian of the Year Award by the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association.



Dr. Debra Sellon, an equine internal medicine specialist with WSU's VTH, has co-edited a book on equine infectious diseases. The book is aimed at equine veterinarians and infectious disease specialists but contains information of benefit to the average horse owner.



Dr. John M. Gay was awarded the 2006 Washington State Veterinary Medical Association's Faculty Member of the Year Award.



Dr. Nina Woodford, clinical veterinarian in the Office of the Campus Veterinarian at Washington State University, received the 2005 Foster Award for academic excellence from the American College of Laboratory Medicine.



Retired WSU Professor Dr. Clive Gay was awarded the 2006 Washington State Veterinary Medical Association's Distinguished Achievement Award.



Todd Griffith '08 temporarily delayed the start of his veterinary education this fall to compete in the FEI World Equine games, held in Germany. While failing to medal, he is the 2004 USEF/AVA Silver Men's National Vaulting Champion.



Dr. Claude Ragle, an equine surgeon at WSU's VTH, was presented with the 2006 Distinguished Service Award by the American Association of Equine Practitioners.



Cassandra Mundy '08 received a \$10,000 scholarship from the Race for Education, in part for a program she developed for veterinary students to visit and read to children in the hospital. Mundy was also awarded the 2006 Student/Recent Graduate Service Award by the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association.

From the Director of Development



With the holidays here, I wanted to share with you my favorite story of the season. It involves a dog named Noelle, who worked with

her family at a Christmas tree farm. In memory of Noelle, her owners have set up a special memorial scholarship that establishes a legacy of giving that will last forever.

This is the letter they sent us to help us all get to know Noelle a bit better.

Happy Holidays!

Lynne Haley

Joyeux Noelle Scholarship **“DAD NEEDS A DOG”**

Although Mother and Dad had dogs throughout their married years (and Dad throughout his entire life), they were without a pet for several years due to travel. They felt it was unfair to a pet to be gone for any length of time. Living on a beautiful farm in Olympia was a perfect place for a dog to explore—swimming in the lake, chasing the cows, and being a part of an active family lifestyle.

The oldest of their four daughters started putting the pressure on them to get another dog because it seemed there was a definite void in their lives. “Dad needs a dog,” she would repeatedly express when they visited in Anchorage, enjoying their dogs (probably more than they did). She offered to help find a dog for them and got the go ahead.

Through much research, she found an English Cocker breeder, Ice Dreams Kennels, in North Pole, Alaska. The owner, Kathy Jorgensen, was looking for a home for her 5-year-old retired American Champion, Noel. Noel’s mother was an American and Canadian champion. American Cockers had been the dog of choice throughout Dad’s life, so a slight breed change was acceptable.

Mother and Dad had a Christmas tree business selling trees from their farm. During the Christmas season, Noel was positioned on top of her kennel to greet the customers. Dad would explain that Noel got her name because she was born on Christmas day and, in addition, she was from North Pole, Alaska, right near Santa Claus’s house. Who could resist buying a Christmas tree from this family? Noel, Mother, and Dad enjoyed three short years together before she developed jaw cancer. There was no doubt that they would get the very best care for her even though it included many long trips driving between Olympia and Pullman to WSU. That wasn’t difficult at all, even for these Husky fans! Optimistic for her cure, the journey began and with excellent medical care and love, all efforts were made to cure her.

Although they lost their lovable dog, they were impressed by the care and support she received at WSU. Shortly afterward they established the Joyeux Noelle Scholarship to benefit WSU veterinary students who demonstrate an interest in small animal oncology. Our family knows the love that a small animal can bring to a family and are happy to support a WSU veterinary student who embarks on a career to help animals.



Professor Stone retires to Grenada

Dr. Diana Stone, a longtime associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, has chosen to retire from WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine.

She may be retired but she is far from quitting. Dr. Stone now teaches fulltime at St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine on the Caribbean island of Grenada.

"I enjoy the students and faculty there a lot and I hope that I can make a positive contribution to their program, as the people continue to rebuild their lives after the hurricane," said Dr. Stone.

Much of the island was heavily damaged by Hurricane Ivan in September 2004. Dr. Stone was there, and sent back almost daily dispatches to the school about her survival and the efforts to rebuild the island from day one.

"There is much construction and reconstruction going on in Grenada," she said in a recent e-mail. "In fact, Grenada hopes to host some of the World Cricket Games

in April 2007. If you want to know about cricket, ask our dean, Dr. Bayly. He use to play cricket and he knows all about it.

"Things are looking better in Grenada post hurricane. The cruise ships are back and the resorts have reopened. The rain forest needs more years to really recover, as does the nutmeg industry. However, the Grenada Chocolate Company is now up and running again. Good thing."

"Dr. Stone was an enthusiastic and effective teacher and made many contributions to department and college programs in both research and teaching over many years. She will be missed," said VMP Department Chair, **Dr. David Priour**.

Dr. Stone says she will take lots of pictures of the Palouse with her, "just in case she gets homesick." Concerning her work here at WSU, she writes, "I greatly enjoyed my teaching and I think that WSU has some of the best veterinary students in the world. The students made it all worth while. Keep up the good work!"



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College of Veterinary Medicine
PO Box 647010
Pullman WA 99164-7010
www.vetmed.wsu.edu

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