

celebrating **150** years | 1862 to 2012



PhD history student Lisa Cox and Dr. Ian Barker peek inside a Canadian Army Veterinary Corps field chest. The insignia on the chest was the veterinary equivalent of the Red Cross.

## Taking stock of OVC history

THERE'S 150 YEARS of Canadian veterinary history locked up in the basement of the Ontario Veterinary College.

Now work is under way to document and digitize thousands of documents, images, books and artifacts that will one day make the collection accessible over the Internet.

"In time, the goal is to take the collection and adapt it for use as an online museum and teaching tool," said project leader Lisa Cox, a U of G history student whose PhD research is on the history of zoonotic diseases such as tuberculosis.

"For the moment, the artifacts need to be

catalogued, scanned or photographed, and uploaded using specialized software."

The collection includes everything from class photos to notebooks to medical instruments to fully stocked field chests used by the Canadian Army Veterinary Corps during the First World War — even a Webley service revolver.

Assisting Cox on the project are summer students Jennifer Bardon and Melissa Segeren. They're sorting through more than 11,000 items that were catalogued by the late Dr. C.A.V. Barker in the 1980s for the museum that now bears his name, as well as other donated items.

**Class photos wanted:** One of the goals of the 150<sup>th</sup>-anniversary history project is to make every OVC class photo available online.

So far, we have many photos going as far back as 1885. But there are some big gaps

in the collection from the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, particularly from 1944 through 1971. Contact Lisa Cox or Ian Barker at [ovc.museum@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ovc.museum@uoguelph.ca) if you can help make the collection complete.

## FROM THE DEAN

# Future is bright and unpredictable



**From left: OVC AA president Dr. Janet Sunohara-Neilson, DVM '07, and dean Elizabeth Stone.**

WHILE I ENJOY all the seasons, I particularly enjoy June when we celebrate spring convocation and Alumni Weekend. Reading the names of our graduating veterinarians always gives me great honour, and I like meeting their families and friends. Our graduates are so eager to make their mark on the world and on their profession using the skills and knowledge they have gained throughout their four years. For those of us who work in universities, convocation invariably reminds us of the

value of what we do for the profession and for society.

Soon after convocation, I had the pleasure of welcoming back our alumni, particularly the classes of OVC '51, '56 and '61. I participated vicariously in the OVC of days gone by as our alumni recounted their stories of friendships, struggles and successes. I so much enjoy hearing about what has changed — and what hasn't — for each class. As we begin our celebrations for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is worth considering what we can learn from our alumni that may help us predict the future for our new graduates.

Of course, any prediction we make for the future is rooted in the context of today's realities. Thus, we are more likely to predict modifications and advances in what we are currently doing rather than dramatic changes in direction.

Looking back to 1862, who could have predicted that motorized carriages would replace the horse-based economy, which was the original justification for the founding of OVC? In 1920, the decision was made for OVC to move from Toronto to faraway Guelph to provide for the health of farm animals and the safety of food. No one could have dreamed that the dogs and cats of Toronto would become a major patient base for veterinarians. Classrooms built

in the 1980s made no allowance for computer technology — why spend money on a technology that would never be accessible to the ordinary student?

A prediction made in 1949 demonstrates the difficulty of seeing into the future. That year, E.D.G. Murray, a scientist at McGill University, wrote in the *Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine*: “I doubt very much if any domestic animal is subjected to the multiplicity and intensity of tests and examinations that is common practice in a well found hospital, except as a research programme. I also doubt very much if such elaboration will ever come to veterinary medicine, because the cost would often be more than the individual animal is worth, even though the disease processes in man and other animals do not differ.”

With our “retro-spectroscope,” we can see the fallacy of such a prediction. So perhaps the most important lesson we can learn from our alumni and those who have gone before us is that the future is unpredictable — and that we need to be agile and alert in our thinking in order to constantly adapt to our changing future.

I look forward to seeing you during our 150<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebrations in the coming months!

— Dean Elizabeth Stone

Several OVC faculty members announced their retirements over the past year. More than 130 people attended a retirement party June 4 for pathology professors Ian Barker, Bruce Hunter and Pat Shewen. Barker and Shewen were named Univer-

sity professors emeriti and Hunter received College professor emeritus status. Also retiring are Drs. Doris Dyson and Michael O'Grady (Clinical Studies), David Waltner-Toews and Ken Leslie (Population Medicine), and Herman Boermans (Biomedical Sciences).



## RESEARCH NEWS

# They're all heart, and they're all here

OVC AND U OF G researchers have launched one of the few groups worldwide looking at cardiovascular disease all the way from single molecules to animal models.

Six U of G scientists, including three from OVC's Department of Biomedical Sciences, share equipment and students, collaborate on grant proposals and work together on projects within the new research group.

The interdisciplinary group builds upon U of G's strengths in the biological and veterinary sciences. It includes OVC professors Ron Johnson, Tami Martino and Glen Pyle with Profs. John Dawson (Molecular and Cellular Biology), Todd Gillis (Integrative Biology) and Jeremy Simpson (Human Health and Nutritional Sciences).

Angina or chest pain, heart arrhythmia, clogged blood vessels, heart failure following a heart attack or disease: numerous aspects make heart disease a big, complex problem. The more minds brought together, the better, says Pyle.

Pyle has already forged research ties with Dawson. Looking for causes of congestive heart failure led Pyle to marry his physiological studies of heart signalling and cellular mechanisms with Dawson's expertise in heart muscle proteins. They've published studies on genetic mutations causing dilated

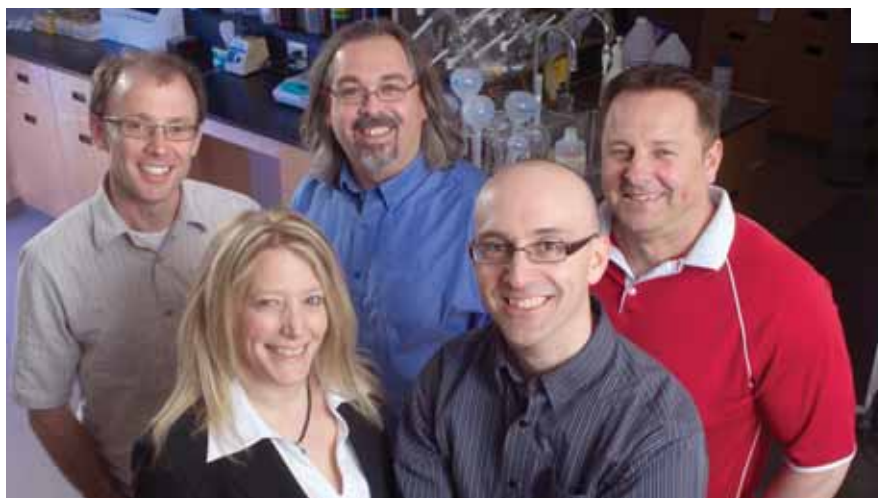


PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

**From left: Todd Gillis, Tami Martino, Glen Pyle, John Dawson and Ron Johnson. Missing from the photo is Prof. Jeremy Simpson.**

cardiomyopathy ("weak heart") in dogs. By looking at the condition in Doberman pinschers, which are particularly susceptible to heart disease, the researchers hope to learn more about heart failure, and prevent or reverse damage in people.

Pyle and Gillis have studied what happens when heart muscle thickens, a leading cause of sudden cardiac death in young athletes.

Animal models also help Johnson study heart attacks. He looks at what happens during these events and during subsequent heart failure, particularly the role of veins in cardiovascular disease.

Martino studies how circadian rhythms affect heart disease. If your

body clock falls out of sync with day-night cycles — as with shift workers or people with sleeping disorders — you may be more prone to heart attacks and worsen underlying cardiovascular disease and outcomes.

More incidents occur during wake time than during sleep, and your immune system behaves differently from night to day. "It's almost like it's a different disease," says Martino. In a paper published this spring in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, she and Simpson showed how time of day alters effects of ACE inhibitor drugs for treating hypertension and congestive heart failure.

— Andrew Vowles

Two outstanding OVC alumni were honoured this year by the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) for their contributions to the profession.

Dr. Jim Fairles, DVM '80, received the OVMA

Award of Merit, while classmate Dr. Doreen Houston was presented with the Outstanding Veterinarian Award at the 2011 OVMA/American Animal Hospital Association Conference held in Toronto in March.

## GIVING

# 150 Days of Service



**Dr. Dick Julian stands outside the new Pathobiology building.**

A NEW VOLUNTEER initiative sponsored by the OVC Alumni Association (OVC AA) is challenging OVC grads to make an impact in their communities in honour of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

From now until December 2012, alumni around the globe are invited to participate in the 150 Days of Service initiative by lending a helping hand in their community.

“Volunteer at a school or food bank.

Organize a charity fundraiser. Coach a team or mentor a child. Just use your imagination — there’s no limit to what we can do,” said OVC AA president Dr. Janet Sunohara-Neilson, DVM '07.

To get started, identify a service opportunity in your community or connect with other activities going on at OVC. Then visit our guest book at [www.ovc150.ca](http://www.ovc150.ca) and let us know what you’re up to. Keep us updated on your activity, and see who else is logging hours on our Facebook page, where you can share experiences, upload photos and invite alumni to join your volunteer events.

Looking for inspiration? Here are a couple of examples of alumni doing their part to make the world a better place:

## ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN HAITI

DR. DICK JULIAN, DVM '52, travelled to Haiti in April to help train members of agricultural co-operatives to boost production and improve animal health in rural areas.

Julian spent a week in Fon Batis, Haiti, on a project supported by the Foundation for International Development Assistance (FIDA) and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. FIDA is a registered Canadian charity helping rural communities in Haiti by

promoting the formation of productive agricultural co-operatives. FIDA currently partners with 17 co-operatives, representing more than 4,500 members throughout Haiti.

Julian had lectured and worked in many developing countries throughout his career as a poultry pathologist at OVC. But most of his experience was at the university and agri-business level in countries that had relatively well-developed agricultural infrastructure. In Haiti, he faced unique challenges.

“This was new for me, working at the village level where people had little education and the village chickens are scavenging to survive,” said Julian, who retired in 1994, but remains active at OVC and in the Guelph community. “There is no poultry industry as we know it, no feed mill, no breeding company, no electricity, not even a poultry house where the birds can shelter and lay their eggs.”

Julian worked with local experts to train co-op leaders in how to boost egg production, reduce mortality and manage disease. People would walk as far as 15 kilometres each way to attend the course in Fon Batis.

Local conditions dictated Julian’s approach to teaching the material to his eager, but under-resourced pupils.

“There’s no point encouraging them

**Biomedical sciences professor Bettina Kalisch** was one of two recipients of this year's CSA Teaching Excellence Award, presented in March at the Student Life Recognition Banquet. The award was established in 1990 and

serves to "recognize professors who have had a considerable impact on the education of undergraduate students." The award provides recognition for the contributions of outstanding instructors to teaching and learning.



to do something they can't afford to do or that's going to cost them more money than they'll make."

Julian said while he would happily return to Haiti if there were a role for him, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities closer to home.

"Veterinarians are busy people, but they're surprisingly active in so many community projects at home and overseas. We want to help — it's one of the things that defines our profession."

## THE PUCK DROPS HERE

FOR MANY OVC graduates, he's a familiar figure in the telltale black-and-white-striped jersey, keeping the peace at intramural and OVC Challenge Cup hockey games.

And if you happen to live in the Guelph area, chances are Dr. Brad Hanna, DVM '89, has officiated a game or two involving your son or daughter — or he might one day.

Earlier this year, the Stanley Stick Hockey Association (SSHA) presented a plaque to Hanna to commemorate his 1,000<sup>th</sup> game as a volunteer referee with the league. Not bad for a guy who didn't even learn to skate until he was in university.

Hanna started with the SSHA in 1992 while he was still a U of G graduate student. Dr. Grant Maxie of the

Animal Health Laboratory was league president at the time.

"I offered to serve as an assistant coach, just to do some volunteering in the community," said Hanna, now a professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. "On my first day, he suggested the league should perhaps start using real referees in place of the coaches who supervised the league's games. Since I had planned to volunteer as a coach, I didn't see anything odd about volunteering as a referee. It was fun — everyone in the league was co-operative, and I heard nothing from the players except thanks. So I kept it up and still enjoy it."

Including other minor hockey league matches, charity fundraisers, intramurals and tournaments, Hanna figures he's refed about 2,000 games. (He even met his wife, Dr. Lynae Harris, while refereeing a women's hockey game on campus.)

This season, Hanna will likely add another 45 hours to the total with the SSHA and love every minute of it.

"The main problem for hockey referees in Canada is those fans who have unrealistic expectations of perfection. No one is perfect, referees included, and people have a lot more fun when they just shrug off the calls they disagree with. Very few people in



PHOTO BY BARRY GUNN

**Dr. Brad Hanna keeps an eye on the action.**

this league get themselves worked up at the referees — I could count them on one hand from the past 20 years. So it really is fun for everyone."

For more information about the 150 Days of Service initiative, contact OVC alumni advancement manager Tara Collins at 519-824-4120, Ext. 54454, or [tcolli02@uoguelph.ca](mailto:tcolli02@uoguelph.ca).

**Installation of a pneumatic tube** delivery system for the OVC Health Sciences Centre was completed this summer. The pneumatic tube will move samples between key points in the companion animal and large animal medical

complexes — particularly the OVC Animal Cancer Centre — and the Animal Health Laboratory.

## HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

# More options for cancer patients



PHOTO COURTESY VALERIE POIRIER

**OVC's new radiation oncologist, Dr. Valerie Poirier, comes to Guelph following four years of practice in Australia, where she treated patients such as Boris the koala.**

NEW EQUIPMENT and personnel are helping the OVC Health Sciences Centre take a major leap forward in the treatment of animal cancer.

This summer, the OVC welcomed a board-certified radiologist and took delivery of a new linear accelerator that will provide leading-edge radiation therapy. The “linac” adds a whole new

level to the service OVC will be able to offer cancer clients, said Dr. Valerie Poirier, who joined the OVC Animal Cancer Centre team in August.

“A linear accelerator allows us to offer the very best cancer therapy available because it can very accurately pinpoint tumour cells and deliver the maximum dose of radiation to the areas that we want to treat without harming normal, healthy tissues,” said Poirier, who received her DVM from the University of Montreal and is board-certified in both medical and radiation oncology.

“I’ve trained for years to understand the new technology and the physics involved. This will add another level of expertise to the oncology team as we try to find new and different ways to treat cancer.”

Dr. Sherri Cox, associate dean administration and chief operating officer of the OVC Health Sciences Centre, said adding the linear accelerator and recruiting Poirier will bring new hope to clients of the OVC Animal Cancer Centre.

“This is exciting news, not just for us at OVC, but for referring veterinarians and animal owners throughout the region.”

Poirier’s training as a cancer specialist has taken her around the world,

from the University of Wisconsin to the University of Zurich in Switzerland. In 2007, she moved to Australia and joined the Brisbane Veterinary Specialist Centre where she developed the only radiation unit for animals in the southern hemisphere.

“I’m very excited to be coming back to Canada to live and work in Guelph. This is a unique opportunity to help build a state-of-the-art radiation facility at OVC, which will be one of the leading centres in the world.”

The OVC Pet Trust Fund has raised more than \$10 million so far in support of personnel and construction of the OVC Animal Cancer Centre. It will also include:

- chemotherapy suites with separate wards for dogs and cats
- radiation therapy
- minimally invasive radioisotope therapy for treatment of hyperthyroidism
- oncology ward, including an isolation unit, outer dog-walking area and courtyard
- special procedures area for advanced diagnostics and treatment
- four exam rooms, a quiet room/consultation area, client workspace areas and conference room.

**Construction began this summer** on the first phase of the OVC Equine Sports Medicine and Reproduction Centre. The \$650,000 project includes a new exercise arena, new exam rooms and treatment facilities, including radiology and

ultrasound, and upgrades to the existing barn and stable area behind the Equine Sciences/Equine Guelph building. The work is expected to be completed this fall.



## SUPPORTING GROWTH

# Training future rural practitioners

OVC STUDENTS WILL gain hands-on experience in treating farm animals in a new state-of-the-art facility that opened in the spring.

Supported by a \$2.3-million investment from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Large Animal Clinical Skills Building is helping prepare Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) students for careers in rural veterinary practice.

“OMAFRA has made a tremendous investment in protecting the health of our animal agriculture industry and in Ontario’s rural communities,” said Elizabeth Stone, OVC dean. “Student veterinarians will develop critical experience with farm animals in a safe learning environment.”

Carol Mitchell, minister of agriculture, food and rural affairs, added: “Our government is proud to support the next generation of veterinarians and animal health experts. This new clinic will contribute to strong, growing livestock and agricultural industries, and support our rural communities.”

The 8,300-square-foot facility will provide a bright and flexible space for OVC’s large animal learning labs, allowing students and faculty to use modern technology and animal-handling equipment.

It also ensures teaching animals



**New box stalls in Barn 37 provide a comfortable home for OVC teaching horses.**

will be kept separate from hospitalized patients, so that OVC continues to meet accreditation requirements of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the standards of the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

Stone said OMAFRA’s investment in the clinical skills building is one of many ways that the ministry supports learning through the Veterinary Clinical Education Program. The program funds student veterinarian externships, post-DVM training and graduate programs in the OVC Health Sciences Centre, and stipends for veterinarians enrolled in the master of public health program,

and partially funds some faculty and staff salaries.

“This support from OMAFRA is vital to our ability to provide high-quality veterinary clinical education and for protecting and advancing the health of animals, people and the environment,” said Stone.

The Large Animal Clinical Skills Building is located next to Barn 37, U of G’s historic dairy barn. A separate renovation project funded by OVC and donations has improved the barnyard and added 19 box stalls for horses. OVC and the Ontario Agricultural College both use this facility, which is the last functioning barn on the U of G campus.

**1879: John G. Rutherford** graduates from OVC. At the time, OVC founder Andrew Smith and Duncan McEachran, principal of the rival Montreal Veterinary College, were feuding over McEachran's criticisms of academic standards

at OVC. Rutherford would go on to become Canada's first veterinary director general. Rutherford played a key role in raising the standards of veterinary education in Canada and particularly at the Ontario Veterinary College.

## TIZARD RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

DR. IAN TIZARD, a former post-doctoral researcher and OVC professor, received an honorary doctorate during OVC's convocation ceremony on June 15.

Tizard, now a professor of veterinary pathobiology and director of the Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center at Texas A&M University, is known for his ability to captivate students and convince them of the critical importance of immunology.

During his 10 years at Guelph, he won numerous teaching accolades, including the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award, and he continues to inspire students at Texas A&M.

His textbook, *Veterinary Immunology: An Introduction*, was first published in 1977 and is now in its eighth edition.

In addition to his duties as director of the Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center, Tizard is chair of the Scarlet Macaw Genome Project, a major research effort directed at sequencing the entire genome of this bird.

His research interests cover all aspects of research into the health and welfare of exotic and wild birds. In 2006, his dedication earned him the Outstanding Veterinary Microbiologist award from the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.



**1913: The Delta Chapter** of Omega Tau Sigma is founded by OVC students. The fraternity originated in 1906 at the University of Pennsylvania. Today, the Delta chapter is one of 15 and the only Canadian chapter. The original house,

at 51 Dundas Rd. in Toronto, was purchased in 1955. Construction for a new frat house began in 1966 at 349 Gordon St. in Guelph. The chapter became co-ed in 1983; today more than two-thirds of the active members are women.



**Primary College**  
**of 2011**

**Class Presidents**


Anderson-Coats Photography

## DNA TECHNOLOGY REVEALS UNCLEAN CANINE MOUTHS

YOUR DOG'S MOUTH is cleaner than your own, right? Wrong, according to research that shows that your canine pet's mouth harbours as many kinds of bacteria as your own.

That's just one example of public health-related research into microbes in dogs, horses, cats and people afforded by a "next-generation" DNA sequencing machine now being used by Scott Weese, a pathobiology professor at OVC.

The instrument — about as big as a computer printer — tells researchers which species of bacteria are in samples with complex bacterial populations, such as those in the GI tract.

Looking at dog saliva samples, Weese and his grad student Jason Stull found more than 100 species of microbes, about as many as in human saliva. Some can cause serious disease in people, especially children and the elderly or people on drugs that suppress their immune systems, he said.

"I'd say the idea that a dog's mouth is cleaner is a myth," said Weese. He suggests people avoid being licked by dogs and wash their hands after handling pets, although he adds that the overall risk of infection is low.

**1951: The OVC Wives Auxiliary** is established. The group provided a venue for the wives of veterinary students to network and prepare for the various roles many of them would have in veterinary practices.

Some of these roles included administrative as well as pre- and post-operative care. The Auxiliary helped create a community for the wives and supported veterinary students through scholarships and awards.

## HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

# Supporting learning and discovery



**Dr. Catherine Fischer**

EACH YEAR, the Ontario Veterinary College receives invaluable support from industry in the form of funding for graduate students as well as staff positions.

This support — as well as funding from government sources such as the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) — creates new opportunities for learning and discovery that add value to the work we do at OVC.

These are just a few examples:

### SOLVING THE JIGSAW PUZZLE OF DISEASE

ALTHOUGH SHE CONSIDERS Portland, Oregon, her home, Dr. Catherine Fischer had no trouble settling in when she began a D.V.Sc. in clinical pathology in

the Department of Pathobiology in 2009.

“I went to vet school at Ross University in the Caribbean, where my favourite profs were from OVC,” says Fischer, who completed her clinical training at the University of Minnesota and Oregon State. After a couple of years in general practice, her career focus shifted from the clinic to the laboratory.

“I love diagnostics and being able to put together all the pieces of the puzzle,” says Fischer, whose position is supported by Antech Diagnostics.

As part of the team in Dr. Darren Wood’s hemostasis lab, Fischer compares the various tests available to diagnose bleeding disorders.

“The goal is to streamline diagnostic testing for animals with hemostasis problems in the future,” says Fischer, who is looking forward to one day using her knowledge and skills in a commercial lab.

“I’m very happy to be here. I wouldn’t be able to afford to do this if my position was not sponsored by Antech.”

### SURGEON BENEFITS FROM INTERACTION

DR. DEBBIE REYNOLDS liked what she saw when she first visited Guelph in 2005, and was “happy and hopeful” when the opportunity arose to return a few years later.

In 2009, the Melbourne, Australia,



**Dr. Debbie Reynolds**

resident successfully applied for a three-year surgical residency, partially supported by Boehringer Ingelheim.

“I always wanted to do surgery. I enjoy the challenges and the hands-on nature of it,” says Reynolds.

The residency is the latest stop in a diverse career that has taken Reynolds from general practice and a surgical internship in Australia to a rotating internship at Washington State and stem cell research at Michigan State.

“OVC is one of a few academic institutions that has specialists in every discipline, which is extremely valuable for training of residents and one of the reasons I chose OVC’s surgery residency program.”

Reynolds rotates between general surgery, orthopedics and surgical oncology. She’s also involved in research, conduct-

**1923: Dr. Ronald Gwatkin** develops a vaccine for fowlpox virus, a slow-spreading virus of poultry that causes various kinds of lesions. Gwatkin joined the OVC faculty in 1919 after serving with the Canadian army in the First World War.

A prolific researcher throughout his career, he performed some of the earliest experimental studies within the newly formed Department of Pathology at OVC shortly after the college moved to Guelph.



**Dr. Ulrike Sorge**

ing imaging studies of intervertebral disc disease with her primary supervisor, Dr. Brigitte Brisson, Clinical Studies.

“I’m training as a surgeon, but at OVC we have access to and collaborate with specialists in every discipline, which is rare in an academic environment.”

## HELPING PRODUCERS MANAGE JOHNE’S DISEASE

DAIRY INDUSTRY and government support have resulted in valuable research on Johne’s disease and helped launch the career of a former OVC graduate student.

Dr. Ulrike Sorge completed her M.Sc., PhD and post-doctoral work with Dr. David Kelton in the Department of Population Medicine. In February, her research on assessing and controlling risk factors for Johne’s disease received international

recognition when she was presented with the inaugural Konrad Bögel Young Scientist Award in Veterinary Epidemiology and Veterinary Public Health.

“My work is very applied — it’s nice to be doing research that’s practical and useful to people rather than sitting on a shelf where nobody sees it,” she says.

For her PhD, Sorge examined the effects of improved management and husbandry practices in 238 dairy herds in Ontario and Western Canada. Her work was supported by NSERC, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, the Canadian Adaptation Council, OMAFRA and CanWest DHI.

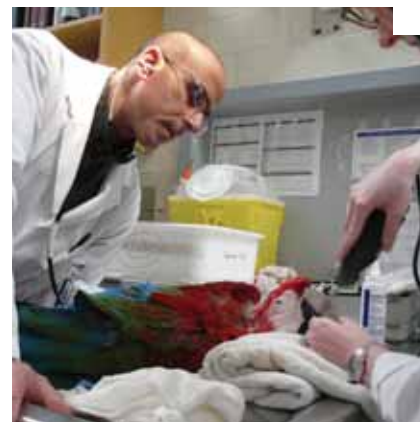
“You have to be practical. The same solutions don’t always work for each farm, but for each farm you can always find a solution.”

## LIKE A VISIT TO THE ZOO

“EVERY DAY IN MY CLINIC is like a visit to the zoo,” says Dr. David Eshar, who joined the OVC Health Sciences Centre’s avian and exotics service in early 2011.

Eshar’s position was partially funded by a donation from Rolf C. Hagen Inc. Although cats, dogs and livestock make up the majority of most veterinary practices, Eshar specializes in birds, reptiles and other exotic pets.

On this particular afternoon, he’s just



**Dr. David Eshar**

finished overseeing work on a guinea pig’s overgrown molars; next, he will be treating a gecko and, later, a hawk. On other days, Eshar has provided care for a serval cat, a baby lion, lizards, snakes, tortoises and many birds.

Eshar, who was born and raised in Israel, has always been interested in these less-common animals. “As a child, I had all kinds of animals as pets. When I started vet school, I would go to the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo on weekends to help out and learn more about the different animals.”

After his graduation, Eshar went into private practice and then an internship at Tufts University followed by a residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He then returned to Israel to work as a private consultant to vets, zoos and research institutes.

**U of G's Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare** hosted the International Conference on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level Aug. 8 to 11. The conference explored topics such as animal welfare pro-

ocols; integrating animal welfare and assessment of environmental impacts on food safety; and animal welfare in zoos, laboratories and animal shelters. Speakers included renowned author and livestock behaviour expert Temple Grandin.

## FROM THE DEAN

# Growing OVC's research enterprise



**Seven OVC faculty members attended a meeting in Yangling, China, last fall, including professors Gordon Kirby, associate dean of research and innovation, front row, beginning third from left; Jan Sargeant, director of the Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses; Shayan Sharif, Pathobiology; and Zvonimir Poljak, Population Medicine; back row, sixth from left; Patrick Boerlin and Claire Jardine, Pathobiology; and Dave Kelton, Population Medicine.**

GRADUATE STUDIES and research at OVC have come a long way in 150 years — and the journey is just beginning.

A new strategic research plan provides a vision and a framework to enhance research and discovery and ensure that OVC continues to play a pivotal role in protecting the health of animals, people and the environment.

“The goal is to grow our research enterprise by building on our unique strengths,” said Dr. Gordon Kirby, associate dean of research and innovation.

The strategic research plan charts a course for increasing enrollment in graduate programs; attracting more research funding; communicating research results to the scientific com-

munity, stakeholders and the general public; and building collaborative relationships in Canada and abroad.

It includes a new scholarship fund for non-DVMs entering the college's M.Sc. and PhD programs. The scholarships are supported by increased provincial government funding based on the expansion of graduate student spaces. OVC has benefited in part due to the popularity of its course-based master's programs in biomedical sciences and public health. Students applying for the scholarships are required to seek additional graduate fellowship support from outside sources, said Kirby.

“The scholarships help recruit more high-quality graduate students and allow

us to leverage the funds — we get more bang for the buck while we expand graduate and boost research productivity. This benefits everybody.”

To implement the plan, the OVC research advisory committee is also expanding research support services, including providing top-up and contingency funds for researchers, grant training and science-writing workshops, and organizing of focus groups.

A new research website launched in the summer of 2011 will provide a window on OVC research, including current projects, publications and researcher profiles.

International collaborations also figure prominently in the plan.

Supported by International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada, OVC scientists and their counterparts at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences are exploring collaboration in food safety and security. At meetings in Yangling, China, last fall and in Guelph in May, the group fleshed out research proposals looking at respiratory diseases in poultry, antimicrobial resistance, and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome.

“This strategic partnership will benefit both parties by focusing research on high-priority issues related to food-producing animals,” said Kirby.

**1991: Dr. David Holmberg** and Dr. Joanne Cockshutt develop DASIE, the Dog Abdominal Surrogate for Instructional Exercise.

The apparatus is used for instruction of various principles of abdominal surgery. The hollow

foam cylinder replicates the feel of an animal's abdomen when cut with surgical instruments, with "bowels" made of knitted cotton that can be cut, sutured and reused several times.



## ALUMNI NEWS

# OVC grad receives Forster Medal

AFTER RETURNING from Nepal where she met "the most amazing people," Dr. Claire Windeyer is discovering that some think she's amazing, too.

Windeyer is this year's recipient of the Forster Medal, the University of Guelph's top award for graduate students. The award was presented at spring convocation ceremonies in June. Named after former U of G president Donald Forster, the award recognizes academic achievement, motivation, leadership and citizenship.

"I don't know what I did to deserve it, but it's a very special feeling to receive that kind of recognition," said Windeyer.

What she did was become an award-winning, published researcher who helped run numerous committees and initiatives while completing her D.V.Sc. in ruminant health management with Dr. Stephen LeBlanc in the Department of Population Medicine.

"She is a great credit to the University and a worthy recipient of this honour," said LeBlanc. "Claire is a very intelligent, curious, productive person, and she was a pleasure to work with as a student and team member in our clinical service."

Her D.V.Sc. research made a substantial contribution toward understanding the epidemiology of respiratory disease,



**Forster Medal winner Dr. Claire Windeyer, centre, spent six months in Nepal in 2010/11.**

the most common infectious disease of weaned cattle, and the role of vaccination in its control, said LeBlanc.

In late 2010, Windeyer's curiosity and passion for the environment took her to Nepal, where she worked with milk producers to improve animal health knowledge and management skills. She was there with the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation and Veterinarians Without Borders – Canada in partnership with the Lalitpur District Milk Producer Co-operative Union.

On average, Nepali farmers get just \$5 a day for their milk, which mostly comes from buffalo. Dairy farming is one of the few means by which income

is brought from urban centres to the rural poor. Windeyer helped deliver training sessions to co-op members, covering subjects such as infectious disease, diseases of the uterus, milk quality and hygiene.

"I left with a million ideas for future projects," said Windeyer, who recently accepted a position as an assistant professor at the University of Calgary faculty of veterinary medicine. But she hopes to find her way back to Nepal one day.

"I think the most rewarding part of it was how enthusiastic the farmers were to learn and improve, and how generous and welcoming the people were. They were some of the most amazing people I've met in my life."

The OVC advancement team welcomed two new members in 2010. David Durbin joined the staff as a development manager reporting to senior development manager Clare Olmstead. Durbin has a broad background in the sports

retail and mortgage businesses and community fundraising. U of G grad Tara Collins was appointed interim alumni affairs manager, replacing Kim Robinson, who is on leave. Collins's background includes two years with Free The Children.

## ALUMNI NEWS

# Women in veterinary medicine



**Dr. Joan (Belcher) Budd**

THE ONTARIO Veterinary College (OVC) was a bastion of male-only students until 1924, when OVC principal Duncan McGilvary admitted the first woman to the program. Elizabeth Carpenter, from Detroit, graduated with her veterinary degree in 1928. Eleven years later, Jean Rumney became the first Canadian woman to receive a veterinary degree from OVC, followed by Edythe Williams in 1941. It was a B.V.Sc. degree in those days — the DVM degree was first awarded to OVC graduates in 1949. Male dominance prevailed at OVC for well over 100 years: in 1962, OVC's centennial year, there were 42 men and two women in the graduating class. In Quebec,



the faculté de médecine vétérinaire, founded in 1886, was apparently the last established veterinary college in North America to admit female applicants. The first woman graduated from this college in 1965.

The makeup of classes slowly changed over the years. In 1971, there were eight women in the graduating class. However, old traditions and attitudes often die hard. It is reported that male chauvinism still prevailed in some quarters for decades, among classmates and, occasionally, faculty members.

In a typical OVC class today, women outnumber men by several-fold. For example, of the 114 students admitted to the DVM program in the fall of 2010,

87 per cent were female. Similarly, the number of female faculty members is on the rise, currently about 40 per cent.

Dr. Joan (Belcher) Budd, the first female veterinarian to hold a full-time faculty position at OVC, encountered the “old guard” when she first applied to the college after high school.

“At the time, they told me veterinary medicine wasn't a suitable career for a woman, so I went into teaching,” recalls Budd, who celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Nov. 9.

After teaching in rural Manitoba and serving in the Second World War, she was accepted into OVC. After graduating in 1950, she did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin in virology and joined the OVC faculty the following year. Her specialty was diseases of mink. Later, a wildlife section was established at OVC, and Budd became the first faculty member to specialize in diseases of fish.

Looking back, Budd was a pioneer, not only starting a career as a female faculty member 60 years ago, but also with her contributions in the formative years to the study of fish and fur-bearing animals. Now widowed, she spends her summers at her home on Manitoulin Island and maintains an active interest in activities at OVC.

— Dean Percy, DVM '57

## 150TH-ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

Sept. 17 ■ OVC Fall Faire

March 2012 ■ OVC exhibit opens at  
Guelph Civic Museum

May 23 to 25, 2012 ■ International

Veterinary Medicine Symposium

June 2012 ■ OVC archival exhibit at  
U of G Library

June 2012 ■ U of G President's Dialogue

June 15 to 17, 2012 ■ Alumni Weekend

June 15, 2012 ■ American Veterinary  
Medical History Society Meeting

July 2012 ■ "Nature of the Beast" exhibit  
at Macdonald Stewart Art Centre

## ALUMNI WEEKEND

# OVC 150 website launched

THE OVC COMMUNITY kicked off the college's 150<sup>th</sup>-birthday year during Alumni Weekend 2011 celebrations with the launch of the 150<sup>th</sup>-anniversary website.

The website was unveiled during the annual general meeting of the OVC Alumni Association (OVC AA). Creation of the website was led by OVC 150 project manager Tara O'Brien and Dr. Peter Conlon, associate dean, students, and Waterloo-based eSolutions Group.

"The website is designed to be a fun, interactive tool that encourages alumni to reconnect with the College and get involved in the 150<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebrations," said O'Brien. "There are photo galleries, milestones and achievements in OVC history — even a quiz to test your veterinary knowledge. We invite all alumni to get into the spirit by sharing photos and memories, supporting a class project, volunteering or making a donation."

Check it out at [www.ovc150.ca/en/](http://www.ovc150.ca/en/).



**Classes marking special anniversaries during Alumni Weekend included the Class of '51, top left, and Class of '61, top right. Dr. Russ Willoughby, OVC '57, with his daughter, Joanne, and wife, Peggy. Dr. Ted Valli, OVC '62, right, presented the OVC Distinguished Alumnus Award to Dr. Bernard McSherry.**

THE OVC AA also honoured the achievements of two OVC graduates who have helped shape the profession.

Dr. Bernard McSherry, DVM '42, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for his influential role in

establishing the field of veterinary clinical pathology. Dr. Patricia Turner, Pathobiology, received the Young Alumnus Award for her work as a teacher, mentor and leading researcher in the field of laboratory animal medicine.

### The OVC AA ratified a new slate of officers at the June 18 annual general meeting:

**President:** Dr. Janet Sunohara-Nielson, OVC '07

**Vice-president:** Dr. Brad Hanna, OVC '89

**Past-president:** Dr. Blanaid Donnelly, OVC '09

**Secretary:** Dr. Maureen Anderson, OVC '03

**Treasurer:** Dr. Roger Thomson, OVC '75

**Directors:** Dr. Dana Allen, OVC '76; Dr. Peter Conlon, OVC '80; Dr. Lynn Helwig, OVC '54; Dr. Dick Julian, OVC '52; Dr. Jim Millington, OVC '69; Dr. Michele Oblak, OVC '08; Dr. Dean Percy, OVC '57; Dr. Michael Goldstein; Monica Marshman, OVC '12; and Amanda Rosborough, OVC '13.

**Everybody loves a fair** ■ The OVC is kicking off the 150<sup>th</sup>-anniversary school year with a good old-fashioned fair — and everyone is invited. The OVC Fall Faire will feature booths, historical displays and games as well

as the chance to socialize with the entire OVC community. Lots of fun for everyone! The Faire takes place Sept. 17 from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Check the OVC 150 website for details.

## GIVING

# Pet Trust gala supports cancer centre



ANIMAL LOVERS will put on the dog this fall at the OVC Pet Trust 25<sup>th</sup>-anniversary gala.

The event, billed as “A Walk in the Park,” will take place Oct. 13 at the Granite Club in Toronto with proceeds supporting the purchase of a new linear accelerator for the OVC Animal Cancer Centre.

“This promises to be a very special event,” said Karen Scott, managing director of the OVC Pet Trust Fund. “Thanks to the generosity of our friends and supporters, the OVC Animal Cancer Centre campaign has been very successful, raising more than \$10 million in just a few short years. We’re hoping this inaugural gala will be the first of many, and will

help us take this very important step in the fight against cancer in all species.”

The gala will feature a cocktail reception and dinner followed by a performance by singer-songwriter Jim Cuddy. The master of ceremonies will be award-winning sportscaster Brian Williams.

The linear accelerator will provide state-of-the-art radiation therapy at the OVC Animal Cancer Centre, which will be the most advanced animal cancer research and treatment facility in Canada. Construction is well under way and is expected to be complete by the end of 2011.

For more information about the gala, contact Karen Scott at 519-824-4120, Ext. 54370, or [kscott07@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kscott07@uoguelph.ca).

## COMING EVENTS

### SEPT. 17

OVC Professional Welcoming Ceremony | War Memorial Hall

### SEPT. 17

OVC Fall Faire 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. | Ontario Veterinary College

### SEPT. 24

U of G Homecoming Gryphons v. McMaster Marauders 1 p.m. | Alumni Stadium

### OCT. 1

Gryphons Go Wild...at the Metro Toronto Zoo | U of G alumni picnic at the Savanna picnic site. For more information, contact Tara Collins at 519-824-4120, Ext. 54454, or [tcoll02@uoguelph.ca](mailto:tcoll02@uoguelph.ca).

### OCT. 5

Alumni barbecue luncheon | Atrium, Metro Toronto Zoo.

This event is for zoo staff who are U of G and OVC alumni. Guest speaker is Prof. John Fryxell, Department of Integrative Biology. Contact Tara Collins at 519-824-4120, Ext. 54454, or [tcoll02@uoguelph.ca](mailto:tcoll02@uoguelph.ca).

### JAN. 14 TO 18, 2012

North American Veterinary Conference | Orlando, Florida

### JAN. 26 TO 28, 2012

Ontario Veterinary Medical Association conference | Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto | OVC hosting “lunch with” sessions. Watch for more information on the OVC website.

### The Crest

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