

r u m e n a t i o n s

Issue 10 June 2002

Associate Professor Geraldine Hunt is leading a Faculty of Veterinary Science program seeking key recognition within the international veterinary education sector.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science is undertaking an internationally recognised accreditation process through the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education, the accrediting agency for Colleges of Veterinary Medicine in the United States. Until recently, the only universities outside the US to have accredited veterinary schools were the University of Glasgow, the Royal Veterinary College (London) and the University of Utrecht. Massey University in New Zealand has just become accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Associate Professor Geraldine Hunt's crucial role is to coordinate the complex process and help Faculty staff and students present their work and roles effectively. As Chair of the AVMA Management Committee, Geraldine has set up a committee of people who represent the Faculty at all levels - Sydney and Camden, general and academic staff, postgraduate and undergraduate students.

Application for accreditation is a rigorous process and colleges must show that they comply with 11 'Standards' set by the AVMA. These standards address Organisation, Finances, Physical Facilities and Equipment, Clinical Resources, Library and Learning Resources, Students, Admission, Faculty, Curriculum, Continuing Education and Research Programs. According to Geraldine "We need to perform well in every area, so it's a joint effort".

Geraldine's first task was to discover more about the Faculty's current situation including new initiatives, existing infrastructure and broad areas which need improvement to meet the AVMA standards. "The process is very important in helping the Faculty clarify its role and responsibilities, and to prioritise areas in which extra support is needed." Following this initial work, Geraldine will set up a communications network to enable a two-way flow of information about the process then collate the information required for the AVMA self-study document.

"It's a lot of work but it's a challenge. I see my role as a facilitator. It's not 'my' AVMA application but rather the Faculty's. I am hoping to develop a process that will make us feel proud of our Faculty and keen to show it off to the AVMA and others."

Geraldine is finding that the most rewarding aspect of this role is realising what good work is being done and how dedicated, enthusiastic and skilled her colleagues are in every area of the Faculty's operations - general, academic, technical and administrative.

Denise Popovic



Associate Professor Geraldine Hunt, Chair of the AVMA Management Committee

Temple Grandin Lecture

Dr Temple Grandin, internationally renowned for her contribution to animal behaviour, facility design and revolutionary methods of handling livestock to minimise stress, will present a lecture at 5pm on Thursday 13 June in the Wallace Theatre. Dr Grandin, Associate Professor of Animal Science, Colorado State University, USA, will speak on 'Cattle Behaviour, Facility Design, and Ways to Reduce Stress on Animals'.

All staff and students are invited to the lecture, which has been organised by Dr Peter Wynn and the Australian Society of Animal Production. For further information, contact Peter on (02) 9351 1632 or email peterw@camden.usyd.edu.au.

From the Dean's Desk

Last year, the Faculty undertook a significant amount of work to develop a Faculty Culture Statement, including a 3-day retreat for all staff in the Faculty, plus student representation. You will have seen posters in various locations around the Faculty that distil the elements of how we agreed to work together as a Faculty (this is also on the web site and in the Faculty Handbook).

One of the most important points in the culture statement is *shared leadership for our future*. To develop skills in this area, the Faculty is investing in a leadership program for academic and general staff that will take place over the next 8 months. The first part of the program is a workshop on 14 and 15 June for 50 staff followed by a more intensive program for around 20 staff. We see this program as crucial to the development of many of the skills we need to be successful in an increasingly competitive marketplace and to achieve our vision of being a world class veterinary school.

Nuclear Medicine Seminar



Associate Professor Max Zuber and Professor Greg Daniel, Professor of Radiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee

Sydney Clinic Director, Associate Professor Max Zuber, worked with the Australasian Association of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging to host a successful 3 day course on Nuclear Medicine and Advances in Imaging.

Around forty veterinarians and other professionals attended from across Australia, including staff from the veterinary imaging departments of Melbourne, Murdoch and Queensland vet schools, and equine practitioners from across the country.

The keynote speaker was Professor Greg Daniel, Professor of Radiology, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee. Professor Daniel is the co-author of the only veterinary textbook on nuclear medicine and is a winner of awards for both teaching and research excellence. Other speakers included Max Zuber and the Faculty's imaging specialists Adjunct Professor Graeme Allan and Dr Robert Nicoll.

Veterinary Nurses Conference

During April, two of the Sydney Clinic's veterinary nurses, Rhonda Foreman and Catherine Majorich, attended the annual International Veterinary Nurses Conference in Perth. Attendees travelled from the UK, US, Holland, New Zealand and The Netherlands to listen to sessions ranging from lifting the standard of nurse training to the use of alternative therapies. Rhonda and Catherine also visited the Murdoch University clinic facilities. Catherine and Rhonda's trip was generously supported by Pfizer (through the Continuing Education Rewards Program) and Lyppard Veterinary Wholesalers, a long-standing supporter of the University Veterinary Clinics.

Half Way Dinner

The traditional celebration for students reaching mid-point in their studies will take place on Friday 5 July, from 8pm to 1am in the Queen Victoria Building Tea Rooms, Level 3 (north end). The event - **003 1/2: Licence to Drink** - is open to all staff and students and their partners and friends.

Tickets cost \$65 (includes cocktail food and unlimited drinks), dress is black tie (with a James Bond theme), and entertainment includes a jazz band, DJ, games and door prizes. Contact organiser Jeremy Pearson on email jeremy_pearson@hotmail.com.

Contact the newsletter team on email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, or phone Jennie Churchill, Director of the VSF on 9351 8024, or Denise Popovic, VSF Communications Coordinator on 9351 8026.

Saturday 29 June from 10am - 4pm

Sydney University Veterinary Centre Camden

Open Day

CELEBRITY GUEST

**Olympian Rachael Downs will open
the new stable block and give
dressage demonstrations**

Clinic tours

Puppy pre-school

Large and small animal health talks
and demonstrations

Show bags for kids

Horse treadmill demonstrations

Pet health and arthritis checks

See different horse breeds and alpacas

ALL WELCOME

Bring your pet!

Enter your dog in the Dog Show!

To find out more contact

Dr Christina Dart on (02) 4655 0777

The University Veterinary Centre

is located at 410 Werombi Road, Camden