

# VCAPP RECAP

*Keeping in touch* with the Department of Veterinary and Comparative Anatomy, Pharmacology and Physiology  
August 2005 (Autumn Issue)

## Office and teaching staff join department ranks

**V**CAPP, as do all dynamic families, continues to change and expand as new members come and go, leaving their mark on the ever-changing departmental story.

Although major hiring has slowed a bit, we still have added several new folks in the department over the last several months while other friends have left to pursue new endeavors.

### *New to the department:*

**Jennifer Grega** is a Research Associate with Ken Campbell (6/6).

**Darrel Nelson** (see below) started work in the Anatomy Lab with Paul Johnson in May. He took over the duties of Debbie Duncan.

**Janos Gardi** rejoined the lab of Jim Krueger last spring (visiting researcher for 3 months).

**Chris Davis** began May 1 in the Krueger lab as a postdoctoral research associate.

**Marika Ruiter** arrived the end of April to begin work as a postdoctoral research fellow in Bob Ritter's lab.

**Victor Leyva Grado** is a new graduate student in the Vet Sci PhD program. He transferred from Vet Micro/Path and is now be working in Jim Krueger's lab.

**Morvarid Kazerooni** joined the Simasko lab as Research Associate 3/1.

**Kathy Kiernan** took over the staff duties of Barry Seward in

*Continued on page 2*

## Darrel Nelson joins anatomy, safety teams

**D**arrel Nelson can be seen fleeting about VCAPP in his green scrubs, checking "go" kits or other safety matters, and he appears to have been here for years. Truthfully, however, Darrel only joined VCAPP this past May as a member of the anatomy team, working with Paul Johnson, and as VCAPP Safety Officer. However, Darrel has worked as an animal technician for a number of years (has 2 AALAS certifications), and his wife, Danielle, earned a DVM from WSU. (She is now a PhD student in Pathology.)

Darrell grew up in Oklahoma, met his wife while working on a ranch in Colorado, moved to California for her school, then to Pullman where he worked for the Idaho Fish and Game for a short time and then WSU ARU and Pharmacy (2001) while she attended Vet school. The Nelsons enjoy horses, hiking and are happiest in the out-of-doors. In addition to working on safety issues, Darrel is earning his degree in Natural Resources.

We welcome Darrel to our team.



Darrel Nelson



Kathy Kiernan

## Kathy Kiernan helps keep budgets on track

**K**athy Kiernan joined VCAPP office fiscal staff following the departure of Barry Seward last spring.

Kathy has been a great addition to the financial department, but she also has hidden talents many would not suspect.

First of all, Kathy is an artist (see one piece she painted below right). Second, she is a contractor. When she needed some work done, Kathy rented a backhoe and single-handedly installed all the utilities for the 3 mobile home spaces she owns; she is a landlord (owns and rents mobiles); and she is also a mother of Max, 17.

Although Kathy was an army "brat" in early years, she graduated from Coeur d'Alene High and has been at WSU for 25 years. Kathy was recently inducted into WSU's quarter-century club.

We're glad to have Kathy as part of our VCAPP family.



the financial office February 7 (see story, page 1).

**Paola Tonino** will be joining the Granzier lab as a postdoc (9/1).

**Kyoko Nakajima** will switch from timeslip to Civil Service Office Assistant in the VCAPP main office on Sept. 1. An additional new staff member will be on board in late August as an Office Assistant working with Sandi Brabb and Pam Colbert. Watch for more information in the next *Recap*.



**Debbie Duncan bids farewell to VCAPP and WSU.**

**Konstantin Kouptsov** left WSU on June 12. He worked in the Rector/Krueger labs.

**Debbie Duncan** departed VCAPP this past spring to help in her husband's new pharmacy business.

**Sabrina Khan's** last day in Bob Ritter's lab was March 11. She moved to Seattle to be with her husband.

**Scott Lacefield** had his last day at VCAPP in March. He worked in the Sue Ritter lab.

**Kyo and Tadanobu Yasuda** returned to Japan the end of February. They had worked in the Krueger lab.

**Barry Seward** moved in February to accept a new fiscal position in Vet Micro/Path. Barry and his wife, Bernice, have since had a healthy baby boy! (See page 10 for a photo.)

We welcome all newcomers and wish all the best to those who have moved on to other pursuits.

**Those who have moved on include:**

**Celeste Lynn** (7/31) from lab of Henk Granzier. Celeste plans to return as timeslip this fall while attending vet school at WSU.

**Amy Simpson** (end of July) was a former Research Associate with Ken Campbell. She is now a graduate student at Penn State.

**Jeffrey Sable** worked as a visiting researcher (July 25-Aug 13) in the lab of David Rector.

**Irina Topchiy** left WSU and the Rector lab the end of April.

## "Kids Judge!" Events a Success

Fifth-graders from several school districts took part in the annual "Kids Judge!" event at the WSU Cub ballroom in April. Kids Judge! is an event, sponsored by VCAPP's Neuroscience Program, to help get elementary school children take an early interest in science.

Area youngsters got to sample gelatin brains, evaluate education models developed by WSU Neuro 430 students, faculty and graduate

students, and get a general "hands-on" feel for science.

David Rector and Sandi Brabb work together to ensure the event will go off without a hitch, and many other volunteers give time and energy to help these youngsters learn to love science.

More photos and a fun article on the event were featured in the Summer 2005 issue of the Washington State Magazine.



## Don't forget Welcome Back Ice Cream Social

VCAPP's Fall "Welcome Back" Ice Cream Social is set for this Friday, August 19, between 2:00 and 3:00 on the Wegner Hall front plaza and lawn.

Everyone involved with VCAPP and Neuroscience is invited to attend.

The Neuroscience Club will be sponsoring a raffle with one of the items expected to be a stay at the Ritz Carlton in Las Vegas. Also included in the raffle will be food and entertainment coupons, so be sure to get lots of tickets for chances to win!

The Undergraduate Neuroscience Program continues to make inroads in the academic world at WSU, and it continues to grow. This year 58 new undergrads (~160 total) were added to the program. These students are often the ones to achieve noteworthy accomplishments.

Several undergraduate neuroscience students and alumni were recently inducted (April) into the Gamma of Washington Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. These students include **Adam Bryson**, **Keli Carter** (current WSU DVM student), **Tiffany Ludka** (current UW medical student), **Lindsey Muir** (admitted to the WSU PhD program in Neuroscience Fall 2005), and **Skye Powell**.

Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest national honorary fraternity in the United States, was established to promote scholarship and friendship among students and graduates of American colleges and universities. To be considered for selection, students must be majoring in a liberal arts discipline, have 75 percent of their course work in liberal arts including courses in mathematics and a foreign language, and have earned at least 45 of their total credits from WSU with a minimum 3.66 g.p.a. Only about 15 percent of the institutions of higher education in the United States have programs sufficiently strong in the sciences and liberal arts to warrant membership.

**Erin Lester**, who graduated from WSU with a BS in Neuroscience, has been accepted into the University of Washington School of Medicine.

At the spring 2005 graduation, CVM had two banner carriers, both neuroscience undergraduates who share the highest cumulative GPA of 3.97. These graduates are **Rachel Burnham** and **Catherine Schuck**.



Spring 2005 Graduating Neuroscience Students

**David Balberdi** was awarded a travel stipend to the Neuroscience Meeting this fall in Washington DC. David will be presenting his neurophysiology model from the Neuro 430 course at the meeting.

On April 9, at the CUB Ballroom, 14 undergraduates presented their 495 or 499 research at the second annual neuroscience poster exhibit and recognition dessert. This poster session was developed to satisfy the University's

requirement for program assessment. These students include: **Erinn Bjorklund** (Krueger), **Megan Breit** (B. Ritter/Simasko/Peters), **Rachel Burnham** (Sorg), **Anna Curren** (Moffett), **Josh Dunnivant** (Krueger), **Michael Falter** (Churchill), **Brynne Freeman** (Schneider), **Lindsay Fry** (Schneider), **Kelby Holtfreter** (J. Wright), **Michael Leitl** (Craft), **Justin Ripka** (Craft), **Mariya Rupp** (B. Ritter/Simasko/Peters), **Catherine Schuck** (Patterson) and **Yvette Virgin** (S. Ritter)

Undergraduate Neuroscience students presented their Honors Theses in the Honors Hall Library or Lounge during the month of February. The presentations lasted 20 minutes and were open to the public. Presenters were **Lindsey Muir** (Development of an Adeno-associated Viral Vector Containing Tumor Necrosis Factor-Alpha Short Hairpin RNA); **Lindsay Fry** (Role of  $\beta 2$  subunit Expression in Intestinal Responses to Nicotin; Early admit into the DVM program); **Erinn Bjorklund** (Sexual Education: Morality or Teen Safety?) and **Justin Ripka** (Kappa Opioid System: Modulation of Pain & Sex-linked Differences; early admit into the DVM program).

On a lighter note, the Neuroscience Club will be hosting a raffle at the back-to-school ice cream social with one of the items to be a stay at the Ritz Carlton in Las Vegas.

Smiles :)

One reviewer wasn't overly impressed with a recently submitted neuroscience article he had to review, so he wrote in the comments section, "This paper creates a much-needed hole in the research literature."

I recently emailed the following note to faculty: "Everything on our VCAPP web (regarding faculty, research, etc.) is quite old. Please take a look and give me some updates so that the web information is the most current.

Gil Burns sent the following reply: No need to remind me. I already know that I am "quite old."

## Letters of thanks from the 2005-06



## Neuroscience Scholarship recipients

Dear Ms. Brabb;

Please extend my gratitude in thanking the donors of the College of Veterinary Medicine for selecting me to receive the \$500 Neuroscience Scholarship.

Since I was young, I have been interested in studying and caring for animals in need. In the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, a neurologist spoke to my class about his career in medicine. As my interest in science grew, along with my passion for animals, this combination led me to choose a major in Neuroscience/Veterinary Medicine.

In high school (Holy Names Academy, Seattle), my aspiration to pursue a degree in Neuroscience/Veterinary Medicine expanded during my community service working with the horses of the Seattle Police Mounted Patrol and spending time at a local veterinary clinic observing a lengthy surgery. As such, I definitely want to look into a surgical specialty.

I know that to succeed in this field I must work hard and do well academically. The financial scholarship awarded by your donors will help me remain focused on my studies. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Ashley Sundin

Sally Chege  
P.O. Box 2143  
Pullman, WA 99165

Neuroscience Program  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
C/O Undergraduate Neuroscience  
P.O. Box 646520  
Pullman, WA 99164-6520

Dear Donor:

I would just like to express my gratitude for being selected to receive a \$250 Neuroscience Scholarship. I am a neuroscience student and will be a senior this coming fall. I plan to attend graduate school and eventually medical school and greatly appreciate any monetary donations that assist me in achieving my academic goals. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Sally Chege.

Kelli Carter  
615 SE Holbrook Apt#3  
Pullman, WA 99163  
1 May 2003

Dear Neuroscience Scholarship Donors:

Hello. My name is Kelli Carter and I am a junior majoring in Neuroscience at Washington State University. I just wanted to thank you so much for your generosity in making the Neuroscience Scholarship possible. I plan on attending WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine upon graduation. There I hope to obtain my DVM and PhD concurrently. With many years ahead of me until I reach my final goal of becoming a Veterinarian, every bit of funding I receive through financial aid and scholarships significantly reduces the amount of time I must spend working during the school year. This scholarship is very beneficial to me, because it allows me to focus on my courses and maintain my GPA instead of worrying about how I am going to pay my next bill. My parents unfortunately are not able to help me financially in the pursuit of higher education and the receipt of your scholarship will allow me to continue to work toward my goal. Thank you again for all of your help!

Sincerely,

Kelli Carter

Dear Neuroscience Scholarship Donors,

I would like to express my gratitude for the \$500 Neuroscience Scholarship that I have received based on my academic accomplishments. This money will greatly help curb next year's academic costs. I know that not many are always so willing to donate money to students, but in doing so you are doing a great service to help myself and others succeed in college.

With the use of this money, I hope to further my academic accomplishment, from continuing research within the College of Veterinary Medicine to eventually attending dental school. By being able to further my academic career, you have made it possible for me to also contribute to such scholarships when I become a productive member of society.

Once again, I would like to thank you for any and all contributions towards my tuition, for I know it will help greatly in the future.

Sincerely,

Joseph Haynes

Dear Donor:

Please allow me to thank you for aiding me with my journey through college, making it possible for me to afford a good education. In my limited years of life I have learned that money although important in our lives, is not everything. I want to show gratitude not only for the monetary assistance that you have offered me, but for your faith in me, and what I will be able to accomplish at WSU. Whilst attending WSU I will be majoring in the field of Neuroscience, and dedicating myself to research. I am interested in this field as it is very closely related, and a stepping stone towards my goal of becoming a medical doctor.

Thank you once more for your significant help towards my education,

Sincerely,  
  
Cristina Parada  
WSU ID# 10819707

# Zamora bids adieu to teaching, hello to private life

**W**SU, VCAPP and the Veterinary Profession bid farewell to a great mentor and teacher on March 24, 2005, when Dr. Cesar Zamora retired from teaching and entered his new phase as “private citizen.”

Dr. Zamora has been a tremendous influence on hundreds of first-year anatomy students as they studied under his tutelage to become the country’s best animal care-givers. He has won numerous accolades and awards for his teaching abilities, and his gentle nature and helping ways will be missed by colleagues and students alike. It was a fitting tribute that at the end of his final lecture, students stood and gave Dr. Zamora a standing ovation in appreciation for all he has done in their lives; a warm and fitting farewell for a teacher among teachers.

In 1959, Dr. Zamora began his career as a veterinary anatomy instructor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of the Philippines. He moved to the US Mainland in 1962 where he worked as a research assistant in veterinary anatomy, at the University of Minnesota, Saint Paul. For a short time he returned to the Philippines where he was in a part-time private practice and also worked as an assistant professor of Veterinary Anatomy, returning once again to Wisconsin in 1969 as a research assistant in veterinary medicine.

In 1972, WSU benefited when he came to the College of Veterinary Medicine in Pullman as an Assistant Professor of Veterinary Anatomy. The rest of the story, as they say, lies in the many wonderfully qualified veterinarians he has helped train in anatomy over the years.

Awards and honors given to a great teacher never fully explain all they have accomplished in training others to carry on, but Dr. Zamora has won many, including outstanding freshman teacher award several years, teaching scholar for excellence in teaching in the DVM program several years, Jerry Newbrey Teaching scholar award (several years), and was also nominated as “teacher of the year” finalist for Washington State University’s Marian E. Smith Faculty Achievement Award.

A lifelong teacher at heart, when asked what he plans to do the next few years, he said he had not quite finished with his tutorial slides and presentations and he hoped to finish those up (on his own time without pay) to leave for the upcoming classes of veterinary anatomy.

Once again, a star leaves VCAPP with a spot that will be difficult to fill. But he leaves behind a legacy for many generations to enjoy. Thank you, Dr. Zamora! You have accomplished much, and your students will continue to influence the future in your name.



*He who succeeds in shaping the young mind is the greatest artist of all.*



Honoring professional accomplishments of Cesar Zamora:  
outstanding teacher, mentor and gentleman  
March 24, 2005

# Ken Meyers: “gone fishin'”

Whether involved in bleeding disorders of canines, having Angus the Scottie Dog in “killer mode” chase Bob Ritter up four flights of stairs, or in recruiting large numbers of CVM students from Montana (when the weather was warm and the rivers running with fish), Dr. Kenneth Meyers has seldom felt boredom in his years at Washington State University.

However, all good things change, and Dr. Meyers ended 40 fruitful years at WSU (both as a student and a professor) Thursday, March 30, when he taught his last class of aspiring veterinarians at the College of Veterinary Medicine. A reception followed that afternoon in the lobby of Bustad Hall. There was a crowd of well-wishers on hand to roast Dr. Meyers and wish him many years of relaxation and productivity in his retirement.

Ken has been instrumental in obtaining both top-notch professors for teaching and research at VCAPP and the College, and in maintaining the high caliber students recruited for the veterinary profession. Dean Bayly and VCAPP Chair Bryan Slinker thanked Dr. Meyers for his years of service, his influence on them, and for his many contributions to the college as a whole. He was also congratulated and thanked individually by other colleagues, staff and students during his farewell send-off.

When presented a beautiful black, gold-trimmed chair as a memento of his years at WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine, Ken commented under his breath that he never really wanted a chair position. Despite not seeking such leadership roles, he served CVM well as Associate Dean and College Recruitment official. Now, however, as his visits to Montana become less business and all pleasure, he can sit back in the chair and think fondly of the many people at VCAPP and CVM who will miss his influence and wonderful sense of humor.

Ken and wife Judy are living in Sandpoint, Idaho, and Ken says they will welcome visits at “any time” from those of us who still reside in the wheat fields of the Palouse.

So here's a “toast to grandpa,” as Ken's two grandchildren proposed at his March 30 farewell reception. Ken, you are well loved and you will be sorely missed!



Ken Meyers (left) poses with his former chair, Bryan Slinker (to his right), and his new chair (beneath him) at his recent retirement reception in the lobby of Bustad Hall.



May the magical memories continue...



## Awards

The GPSA named **Ruth Newbery** (Animal Science and VCAPP) recipient of one of the Outstanding Advisor Awards for Spring 2005.

**Juming Tang**, of Biological Systems Engineering, also received this recognition.

CVM's safety committee has been selected to receive the university's gold award for their efforts to ensure that we have a safe and healthy workplace. VCAPP's safety representative is **Darrel Nelson**.

Safety is sometimes overlooked, and Darrel is here to ensure that we all remember how important it is. He will present more safety ideas and information in future *Recap* issues.

## Successful Defense

**Briedi Gillespie** successfully completed her Ph.D. in Veterinary Science dissertation on Friday, April 29. Her dissertation was entitled "Neuronal Controls of Food Intake in the Dorsal Vagal Complex of the Hindbrain." Briedi's major faculty advisor was **Gil Burns**.

## Research Funding

**Jim Krueger** was recently awarded \$200,000 from the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) to provide funds for his ongoing TNF work. This unique new funding was awarded to support the research for FY 2005 while he awaits word on his competitive renewal. Dr. Krueger has completed a grant application for this work, but this \$200,000 is in addition to that funding request and was awarded to him without his requesting it. Where does one sign up for *that* program?

**David Lin**, **Cathy Ulibarri** and **Ken Campbell** received College of Veterinary Medicine intramural funds beginning 7/1/05. **Ken Campbell** also won a three-year American Heart Association award beginning 7/1.

**David Rector** received funding on his NIH competitive renewal 7/1, and **Steve Simasko** and **Robert Ritter**

were awarded their NIH renewal funds in June.

**Alok De** has been awarded ADA funding in May.

**Heiko Jansen** has been awarded a USDA grant.

## Favorable Review

On April 11 and 12th the Neuroscience program underwent an external review. The review committee met with many department faculty, students and staff and in the end, the review was mostly positive. They were impressed with how much VCAPP is able to offer on so little funding.

## Promotion

Congratulations go to **Mike Varnum** on his successful promotion to Associate Professor and granting of tenure. According to Dean **Warwick Bayly**, Mike and other newly tenured faculty are a "credit to their units and the college. I commend them for their productivity and collegiality, and look forward to many more years of their contributions to CVM programs." The tenure/promotion was effective July 1.

Several staff members have also earned promotions during the past few months or had titles changed with the new WSU Civil Service system. These include **Pam Colbert** (to AP Academic Coordinator), **Bea O'Neill** (to Office Support Supervisor) and **Laureen Poesy** (to secretary senior). Congratulations to all these deserving staff members.

## Development Opportunity

As you plan your personal development activities for the new fiscal and school year, please keep in mind that VCAPP Civil Service and AP employees are eligible to apply for a VCAPP Staff Development Award. The fund was established to help defray the cost of ongoing training, in-service, or professional development activities of any staff member (civil service or

administrative professional) in the Department of VCAPP. In the past, awards have enabled staff to attend professional conferences, retraining programs, and professional development seminars.

The Staff Development Award Committee will consider applications throughout the year. Employees who have received an award are ineligible for future funding for a period of two years following their award notification. To apply for the award, complete an application form and return to **Sandi Brabb**. Applications are available in the main VCAPP office, Wegner 205 or from the web at [http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-vcapp/awards/DEV\\_APP1.pdf](http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-vcapp/awards/DEV_APP1.pdf).

## Family News



Proud daddy, **Kasey Schertenleib**, admires new baby daughter, **Joyce Margaret**, born March 18 (6 lbs 1 oz).



**Jim Peters** (Ritter/Simasko labs) took the "big step" Saturday, August 13, in his nuptial ceremony conducted at the bride's father's home in Milton Freewater, Oregon. A reception followed the outdoor service. The bride, **Jamie Goodenough**, is a surgical nurse now working on her masters' degree. The couple is currently in Australia where Jim will be learning a new technique and visiting some labs that have offered him a postdoctoral post. He will be defending his dissertation this fall.

# Odds 'n' Ends

Winners for the Kids Judge! competition include:

## Student Group A

1st - *Slow and Steady Wins the Race* by Anna Curren and Kelby Holtfreter; 2nd - *Action Potential, Go!* by Catherine Schuck, Megan Breit and Brynne Freeman; 3rd - *Reflexes and You* by Rachel Burnham, Jake Walker and Erinn Bjorklund.

## Student Group B

1st - *The Axonal Highway* by Mariya Rupp and Chelsey Tadema; 2nd - *Taste Buddies* by Mike Leidl and Justin Ripka; 3rd - *Don't Let Cocaine Tie you Down* by Lindsay Fry and Yvette Virgin.

## Faculty/ Student Group C

1st - *Sense of Touch* by David Barbardi (David is an undergrad); 2nd - *How to use your Rat Brain* by Barbara Sorg; 3rd - *Neuron Navigator* by Dr. Jean Sumner and Rose Marie Larios.

## Faculty/Grad Student Group D

1st - *Fear Factor* by Starla Meighan and Kathleen Carter; 2nd - *Sleep and Performance* by Richard Brown, Jim Krueger and Greg Belenky; 3rd - *Brains, Brains and More Brains* by Mark DeSantis.

Congratulations (and thanks) to all who participated. Thanks also, to the event's sponsors: The Department of VCAPP, WSU President's Office, WSU Community Relations Office, Dr. Dave Rector, Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, The Palouse Discovery Science Center, Pullman Regional Hospital, Mayor Glen Johnson and the City of Pullman.



**David Rector** (far left) and **Sandi Brabb** (far right) flank the winners of the Annual Kids Judge! event held in the CUB ballroom. (See related story, page 2)



The photo above was taken at the US Figure Skating National Competition at the end of January. Michelle Kwan is signing an autograph for her big fan, **Pedro Fong**, (center, beige sweater) who is working in Henk Granzier's lab.



**Caden Seward** (right), new son of **Barry** and **Bernice Seward** was born June 17, 2005. Cute and Healthy, Caden is the center of attention at all family gatherings. Daddy Barry left the VCAPP financial team to join Vet MicroPath last February.