

## VLE Facilitators and Speakers



**Debbie Barton** is a 1979 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. In February of this year, after 32 years in private companion animal practice, she ventured out into the world of academia, joining the faculty there at WSU. Her range of roles includes involvement in the orientation program for first year students, and teaching veterinary issues and ethics, clinical communication, and leadership. In addition she works alongside fourth year students in the Community Practice rotation in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Membership in numerous professional organizations includes the Idaho Veterinary Medical Association (since 1979), and chairing its Public Relations and Practice Development Committee for six years. For these contributions, she received the IVMA "Idaho Veterinarian of the Year Award" in 1999.

In December of 2009, she graduated from Gonzaga University in Spokane with a Masters of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership and certification in Servant Leadership. With new insights and energy, she has begun to focus efforts on future research and professional activities to integrate leadership strategies into private veterinary practice. Outside her professional life, Dr. Barton stays closely in touch with her two daughters who provide an endless source of joy. Kelly, a 2007 graduate of the University of Portland, is still happily residing in the Rose City, now working toward a double master's degree in social work and public health at Portland State University. Katie graduated from the University of Puget Sound in May of 2010, and is taking a year off to build her application to medical school. The three "girls" love to spend time together anywhere, especially on the Oregon Coast where beach walks, seafood, conversation, and the family Golden Retriever are the focus. At home, Debbie enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with her two cats, Lucy, and Daisy, and Jasper ("the dog"). Beyond the "city" limits of Pullman, you will find her on, in, around, or under the water (salt or fresh, doesn't matter). Sailing, swimming, hiking, fishing and canoeing are among her favorites.

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**John & Fay Batchelder** are the Executive Director and the Program Director, respectively, at Ross Point Camp and Conference Center in Post Falls, Idaho. They have been at Ross Point since 2001. John and Fay have been in the camp and conference field since 1983, and actively involved in team building and outdoor adventure since 1990. Along with Keith Newman, John owned and operated Challenge Research and development for several years. John has a B.S. in Zoology. John and Fay met in Los Angeles while travelling with an international drama group performing plays and leading drama and communication workshops. John spent six years traveling through the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand; Fay was with the group for three years. They have three children, Zachary, Rachel, and Joel and two grandchildren, Olivia Fay born the day after VLE in 2008 and Jeremiah John. They love camping, climbing, skiing, motorcycles, music and life!

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**Sarah Batchelder** has been a full-time firefighter and paramedic for the Washington TWP Fire Dept. who provides the Fire and EMS service for Dublin, Ohio a city on the NW corner of Columbus. She has been there for the last 10+ years. She has a bad habit of working part-time as a FF/EMT-P as well, for the City of Marysville on her off days - too much of a good thing and all. Sarah has been involved with team building alongside John and Fay since they were directors at a nearby camp in Ohio many years ago. She has been with the VLE and COLE since 2004.

Sarah was born to a marvelous Mother and hardworking Father, who proceeded to try and replicate the perfection they had obtained with her, and ended up with five boys for their efforts. Needless to say Sarah's outlook on life is somewhat skewed. She enjoys traveling and tries to see everything on the road less traveled. She is an avid, self-made renovator from necessity most times; ski patrols in the winter (obviously) and keeps her sanity in the summer on a motorcycle. She is the proud, yet perplexed, Alpha of her pack, which consists of Sadie, an 18 mo. old English Mastiff and the old girl, Abby, a Lab/Rott. mix. She also provides shelter to a rabbit who answers to the name of Jeffery on occasion.

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**Joe Bertone** is a Professor of Equine Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine. He is a 1983 graduate of the NYSCVM. Joe experienced the VLE as a past attendant and participant in several sessions at conferences across the country. In the few years he's been in this profession, he hasn't found many singular experiences that impacted him in such a positive manner as the VLE. Dr. Bertone's expectations of students, colleague and himself have all changed for the better.

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**Betsy Charles** combines a wide variety of professional experiences with her love of veterinary medicine in order to help others be the best they can be. After graduating from Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and completing an internship with an equine referral hospital, she joined an ambulatory performance horse practice as an associate veterinarian and then served as their Imaging Center Director for 3 years. In addition to her responsibilities within the imaging center, she developed the practice's extern program that included students from all over the country as well as formal involvement with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year veterinary students from Western University of Health Sciences. She is also an adjunct professor at Washington State University.

Dr. Charles completed a master's degree in Organizational Leadership in May 2009 where her thesis dealt with implementation of change efforts within organizations, specifically veterinary practice. To that end, she loves helping veterinary professionals understand how the principles of emotional intelligence can help facilitate implementation of change initiatives in practice using the servant leadership model.

One of her main areas of interest is generational diversity as it applies to veterinary medicine and she has spoken on this topic at veterinary colleges around the country, various state veterinary medical associations and the North American Veterinary Conference. She has been involved with the Veterinary Leadership Experience as a speaker and facilitator since the beta class. She served on the AVMA's Council on Communication and currently serves on the Student Relations Committee for the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

Currently, Dr. Charles is pursuing residency training in veterinary radiology while also working as a faculty member at Western University of Health Sciences. She continues to work closely with the Veterinary Leadership Experience team where she can combine her passion for veterinary medicine, leadership development, teaching, and communication into one role. If she ever has free time she loves hanging out with her husband of 19 years and their 3 dogs, Shotzie, Rosco, and Dexter.



**Drake Charles** graduated from Washington State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996. He spent the next seven years in the private sector working for Northwest Basketball Camps (NBC), an international sports ministry serving over 10,000 athletes each summer throughout the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. Drake functioned in a variety of director level roles which eventually coalesced into a vice president position with oversight of marketing, expansion, and leadership development for camps in the U.S. and Canada. In 2003 Drake resigned from NBC and was hired by the Physician Owners of Rancho Family Medical Group to design, develop, and launch the Rancho Sports Center (RSC). This project began with the conversion of a 40,000 square foot abandoned warehouse into a multi-court basketball, volleyball, and fitness club with the aim of serving the medical community, their patients, and youth sports throughout the greater Temecula-Murrieta area. During this time Drake also began pursuing a Master degree in Organization Leadership from Biola University and was introduced to Linfield Christian School through the student-athletes at RSC. In 2007, Drake was hired as an Athletic Director for Linfield Christian School. He continues in this capacity presently, but is now the Director of Student Life with additional duties related to high school student activities outside of the athletic department. He also serves as on the administrative team where he contributes primarily in the area of organization development.

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**Ron Cott** is the Associate Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs and Director of Development; College of Veterinary Medicine; University of Missouri; Columbia, Missouri. He is currently the Associate Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs and Director of Development at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri-Columbia. Ron received his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Missouri in 1973. After spending three years in the Army he entered into private companion animal practice in the Kansas City, Missouri area for the next 25 years. In 2001 he was appointed Associate Dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine and in 2008, additionally appointed Director of Development. Currently, he is course director/instructor for the College's "Fundamentals of Veterinary Business Management" course and teaches business in the clinical Community Practice rotation. Dr. Cott also is a faculty member of the Bayer Animal Health Communication Program, a program designed to teach communications in a variety of areas found in veterinary medicine. He provides consulting services for private practices in the areas of practice management and communications.

After more than 30 years of commitment to organized veterinary medicine, local, state and national, he served in the House of Delegates of the AVMA as the delegate representing the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) until retiring from that position in 2011. He has been recognized as the "Veterinarian of the Year" for the MVMA, "Alumnus of the Year" for the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri, and has received the University's "Gold Chalk Award" in recognition of outstanding achievements in the education, training and development of graduate-professional students.

Upon the recognition of the Human Animal Bond theory in veterinary medicine and its importance to the profession Ron placed an emphasis on that subject while in practice. As that concept grew and surveys revealed the need for non-technical skills within the profession he developed strong interest in that area of the profession. He has been heavily involved with organized veterinary medicine and its efforts to develop ways to incorporate non-technical skills into the profession. Knowing that these skills help make a veterinarian successful he has been active in implementing them into the academic setting so that new graduates are prepared as they enter practice and the profession. He served on the SKAs committee, a sub-committee of the NCVET, which was one of the original committees in organized veterinary medicine that promoted the importance of the non-technical skills in the veterinary profession. Dr. Cott

founded the Veterinary Enrichment & Teambuilding (VET) Orientation Program for the College of Veterinary Medicine University of Missouri in 2005. He is married to Jane, his wife of 40 years, and they have two children and four grandchildren. Family and veterinary students are his passion for life.

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**Jana Davidson** (ENFP extraordinaire) currently holds the position for AVMA GHLIT as the Director of Student Services. Jana earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physiology from Oklahoma State University ('90) and holds current securities and insurance licenses from the State of Florida.

She spends most of her time traveling throughout the year to visit with students at campuses, conventions and leadership training sessions across the nation to assist anyone in the process of finding financial balance and planning for the future.

Formerly, Jana spent her first career in medical research and also taught research skills to medical students at the university level. More recently, she worked with young families in her financial planning practice, teaching efficient spending and risk management techniques for business and personal needs. Her primary goal is to provide the right information and understanding to help others make intelligent decisions about their future.

Jana's personal time is found either in Florida with her favorite dog, Phoebe, or visiting many friends and family (including her VLE family) across the nation and abroad. Fine dining, wine tasting, music, seeing new things and meeting new people are passionate pastimes she plans to keep doing until she's done and seen it all.

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**Richard M. DeBowes** is a Professor of Surgery and the Associate Dean for Veterinary Development and External Relations in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University (WSU). Rick also currently serves as the Director of the Professional Life Skills Program. He holds a Master's degree in Veterinary Surgery from Washington State ('82) and a DVM from the University of Illinois ('79), as well as BS degrees from Illinois and Massachusetts. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, a former chair of Clinical Sciences at Kansas State University (94-99) and Washington State University (00-06) a member of the AVMA House of Delegates, an active contributor to organized veterinary medicine (KVMA, WSVMA, ACVS, AAEP, Vet Partners), a former Regent of the ACVS and a past president of several national veterinary organizations including the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians (AAVC) and the North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC).

Although formally trained as an equine clinician/surgeon and engaged for most of a 30-year career as a veterinary clinical educator and academic surgeon, Dr. DeBowes has spent much of the past nine years of his career focusing on promoting change within the profession and within student and program needs in colleges of veterinary medicine and specifically, how best to equip students with the skills they need for success and continued professional growth based on the KPMG, Bayer Brakke and PDI studies. He has written over 100 manuscripts and 30 book chapters for publications and has presented over 400 invited presentations to colleagues across four continents.

His greatest love is being a father. His hobbies are boating/sailing, scuba, flying, and target shooting. An avowed ESTJ (Myers Briggs), his most important personal values are honesty, compassion, and empathy. He lives with his wife Pam and their two children Andrew and Laura (Lollie).

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**Abbie DeMeerleer** received both her degrees - Bachelor of Science and Masters of Education – from Washington State University. Abbie started working for the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005 and has been actively involved in various facets of the program; from helping facilitate at the VLE and COLE conferences (*4 years & 5 years respectively*), recruitment of new DVM students, to keeping ~400 veterinary students organized and on track. She is currently the Academic Coordinator for the WSU DVM program.

Abbie grew up in the heart of the Palouse rodeoing and raising and showing Scottish Highland cattle. As a kid, she even attended church camp at Ross Point for four years...loving the spirit and ambience of the camp but never imaging how life would bring her back to Post Falls again – year after year – as an adult. Taking a scenic route through college, she took two years out of college to work for the National FFA Organization as a National Officer as well as professional development trainer/recruiter. During that time she traveled around the United States, Europe and Japan educating and training individuals regarding American agriculture, leadership, communication, personal development.

She and her husband keep busy chasing after their kids – Grace and Kellan – who are active in swim lessons, gymnastics, dance, and helping on the farm. In her free time Abbie enjoys hunting, running, trapshooting, quilting, gardening, photography and is an avid reader. A passion for her is whitewater rafting, which she and her husband have been doing for 10+ years. Also, since they say your dog often reflects your personality (she’s an ENFJ), she has a rat/Jack terrier, Apollo, who never fails to have a tail-wag-wiggle to perk her up.

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**Kelly Farnsworth** graduated from Washington State University in 1993. He completed an equine ambulatory internship at The Ohio State University and completed an Equine Surgery residency and Master’s Degree at the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center, which is part of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Farnsworth is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Dr. Farnsworth is currently an Assistant Professor of Equine Surgery at Washington State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. His clinical and research efforts have been concentrated in minimally invasive surgery, laparoscopy, and lower limb lameness.

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**Tamara Hancock** is a 2011 DVM graduate from Iowa State University and will begin an exciting new chapter of her life as a clinical pathology resident and master’s student at Mizzou July 1. Originally an Epsilon class alum, she is teeming with excitement to be involved in another great week of transformation. She enjoys running, cycling, and anything outdoors or sunshine related. She also feels at home cooking, is a slow food enthusiast, and enjoys pretending to be an amateur sommelier with her husband, Jason.

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**Bill Kearley** is a 1977 Washington State University CVM graduate. Bill has a diverse background in veterinary medicine starting with 15 years in food animal practice and as a livestock producer in rural Idaho, followed by 3 years in the Idaho State Veterinarian’s office while pursuing an advanced business degree. The past 16 years, Bill has operated Kearley Consulting out of Boise, Idaho, working with veterinarians who want to create a thriving business and develop a motivated team. Additionally he serves on the Board of Directors for VetPartners, an association for veterinary practice management consultants and advisors, and is co-editor of the VIN practice management message board. Although Bill has worked with all types of practices over the years, his true passion is helping rural veterinarians create thriving, harmonious and rewarding veterinary practices.

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**Aubrey J Lavizzo** is a 1970 Tuskegee grad and Denver Colorado practitioner and practice-owner of the AAHA-accredited small animal hospital, The Center for Animal Wellness. Servant Leadership is the foundation upon which Aubrey, a.k.a. Dr. Zo, has built his practice and his life, and it is modeled in programs he has created and in his service to community and professional organizations.

Aubrey is a charter member of the Colorado Alliance for Cruelty Prevention and former chair of its Veterinary Issues subcommittee; he is a former VP and board member of the CVMF; board member of the American Society of Veterinary Journalists; practitioner diversity representative/member of the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biological Sciences' admissions' committee; adjunct faculty member/facilitator of the CSUCVMBS; guest lecturer at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work; co-creator/ former consultant of the "Ready, Vet, Go!" interactive educational exhibit at The Children's Museum of Denver; and creator of the HOPE Program of the CVMF - an outreach program providing in-home wellness care to the pets of home-bound older persons and persons with disabilities who have minimal financial or family support. The Center for Animal Wellness and its staff are also proud co-sponsors and partners of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless in Colorado's annual Cesar Chavez Day of Service in providing wellness exams/care and vaccinations for pets of homeless persons.

Aubrey was the first recipient of the Colorado Association of Certified Veterinary Technicians' Advocate Award given annually to a veterinarian who strongly supports CVTs and the mission of CACVT, and he was also honored with a Colorado Veterinary Medical Association 'President's Award' for his support and mentoring of veterinary students and grads. Aubrey is also featured in career planning on the AAHA student website and has been a speaker/presenter on Servant Leadership at the annual AAHA Student Officers meeting. He and The Center for Animal Wellness were also the first practice featured in the publication the Exceptional Veterinary Team.

Aubrey is married to Gayle Brooks Quick, a psychotherapist whose practice occupies a corner of the building housing The Center. He is the proud father of four sons and the beaming grandfather of Laila Mascotti- Lavizzo. Gayle and Aubrey share their lives with their two cats Sushi and Bob (Aubrey always wanted a 'bobcat'), and they are avid theater-goers. Aubrey also enjoys running and biking, and the solitude of backpacking, hiking, and photography in the wilderness areas of Colorado's Rocky Mountains, and he is a student of Aikido. His grandest adventures have been two, seven-day rafting/camping/hiking trips down the Colorado River through 188 miles of the most serene place on planet Earth, the Grand Canyon.



**Lauren Olavessen** is a technical veterinarian for Merial from Memphis, TN. She was introduced to VLE and servant-leadership three years ago in her work with Merial and the universities. Since that time, she has focused on continuing her educational and personal journey into exploring leadership and communication styles as tools to more effective relationships within the various avenues of the veterinary profession (academia, industry, government and private practice) and subsequently her personal life.



**Kathleen L. Ruby** is a licensed professional clinical counselor with more than twenty-five years' experience in the counseling and educational fields. She has been the head of WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine Counseling, Wellness and Professional Skills development department on the veterinary school faculty for the past 13 years. In this capacity, she has counseled veterinary students and faculty, served as a faculty member teaching professional skills, and developed and conducted programs and workshops related to professionalism, communication skills, stress

management, life balance, and leadership within the college, and throughout the profession. She is one of the co-founders of the VLE, and continues to help guide and shape the program. In addition, she is the Editor-in-chief of a new journal devoted to veterinary team professional skills called the *Exceptional Veterinary Team (EVT)*.

Kathy is a frequent speaker at state veterinary associations and practice venues. With a background and training in individual and organizational psychology, human development and leadership, Dr. Ruby brings a unique mix of people skills, psychological insights, and programmatic ideas to the profession of veterinary medicine. Her research interests include the psychology of high achieving individuals and the development of emotional competence in medical professionals.

In addition to her professional life, she has two beautiful daughters; Rachael who is attending vet school and Andrea who is a registered nurse in Portland, Oregon. Her husband, Wayne, is a family practitioner in a large medical practice. Her favorite activity is to walk with Sadie and, the family dogs down by the pond of their country home.

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**Jeff Thoren** is the founder of Gifted Leaders LLC. His personal mission is to bring joy and fulfillment to individuals and to transform organizations into renewed workplaces by emphasizing effective leadership and nurturing a positive and motivating team culture.

His passion for leadership and effective organizational culture has developed over a 25-year professional career including experience in both private and corporate sectors. An International Coach Federation (ICF) certified coach trained at the Adler School of Professional Coaching, Jeff has a strong interest in liberating personal and organizational potential, particularly through coaching relationships with individuals and teams.

A graduate of Washington State University with a Bachelor's degree in Veterinary Science (1981) and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree (1984), Dr. Thoren worked as an associate veterinarian in small animal practice in western Washington from 1984-87. In 1987, he left private practice to serve as a Professional Service Representative with Hill's Pet Nutrition. He stayed with Hill's until 1994 when he joined Novartis Animal Health as the Regional Technical Manager for the Pacific Sales Region before moving to Greensboro, NC as Associate Manager of Professional Services in 1995. He became Manager of Professional Services in 1998.

From October 2000 until June 2005, Jeff served as the Director of Professional Recruitment and Development for Pet's Choice, Inc., a family of 46 community veterinary hospitals and specialty practices in five U.S. states. His primary goal there was to help transform Pet's Choice into an employer of choice within the veterinary profession.

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**Ayla Turnquist** is originally from Minnesota, don'tcha know. She lit up Baltimore as a psychology major at Johns Hopkins University and is a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania as an Equine major. She will soon begin a half & half large animal internship: half internal medicine at Tufts and half ambulatory equine at Massachusetts Equine. She and her soon-to-be husband, product development guru, Tim Guild, are excited to soon be living near Boston. One day, when she's all grown up, she wants to be an equine ambulatory vet. An eternal optimist, she has a passion for bucket-filling and enjoys inspiring others to take action to make a difference. From horse-back riding, to running, to yoga, most of her hobbies involve being outside. As a proud VLE 2009 alumnus, she is giddy to return as a facilitator again this year.

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**Chuck Wiedmeyer** received his DVM from the University of Illinois in 1994. Following graduation, he stayed at the University of Illinois and completed a residency in Clinical Pathology and a PhD. In 2001, he took a faculty position at the University of Missouri. He is currently an Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology at Missouri. Since arriving at MU, he has become deeply involved with student issues and development. Of his duties of teaching, service

and research, teaching brings the greatest rewards. Shortly following his time at the 2008 VLE, he started a private laboratory business, Comparative Clinical Pathology Services. Thus far, his business has been successful, and he credits his VLE experience for igniting the spark necessary to enter into this venture. Chuck has been married to Birgit Scherer for over 20 years and they have no children. In his spare time Chuck likes to play piano, spending quiet evenings at home cooking with his wife and walking his dog, Pearl the Wonder dog.

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## Facilitators-in-Training



Travis Anderson, Class of 2012 is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year vet student from St. Matthew's University. He has a professional interest in Parasitology and Clinical Pathology, and enjoys tutoring incoming classes. He also serves as a facilitator for the SMOLE (St. Matthew's Orientation and Leadership Experience) for new students, and as president of the St. Matthew's Student Chapter of AAHA. In his spare time he enjoys playing the guitar, getting outdoors as much as possible, and spending time with his wife Amanda, and his golden retriever Kosmo. He is an alumnus of the Eta class of VLE 2010. He's honored and excited to be returning to Ross Point.

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**Kim Chappell** is a 1997 graduate of the NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She spent two years in private companion animal practice in North Carolina before joining the animal health industry. Kim spent nine years with Intervet Inc. (now owned by Merck) in the clinical development area of the company's pharmaceutical product development group. The bulk of her experience comes from designing and running national multi-site clinical trials for animal drug approval through the FDA. Her animal health industry experience also included participation in leadership initiatives, corporate communications training, and brand repositioning efforts.

While with Intervet, Kim served seven years with the Executive Board of the Delaware Veterinary Medical Association. She held several offices in a leadership track, and served as the DVMA President in 2008. Committed to organized veterinary medicine, and passionate about serving her profession, Kim is continuing her involvement with her newly adopted state association, the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association.

In 2009, Kim joined the faculty of NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Clinical Studies Core, a service unit dedicated to facilitating and promoting clinical research at the CVM. As a faculty advisor to the NC State chapter of the Veterinary Business Management Association, Kim works with students to organize the annual Wolfpack Leadership Conference. The WLC offers a weekend-long program covering topics in servant leadership, communications, and self-awareness, and is open to students, faculty, and staff of the CVM, as well as veterinarians, technicians, and office personnel from the community.

At home, Kim and her husband Howard (also a veterinarian) chase two giggling, pet-loving kids around the house (Grant, 4 years-old, and Ruby, 2 years-old). Kim enjoys running after the kids, and running for its own sake. The family loves gardening and spending time outdoors.

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**Michael Clark** is a 2009 graduate of the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He is currently soaking up the sun in sunny Southern California at a referral equine hospital. After graduating from WSU, he completed a one-year internship at Humphrey, Giacomuzzi and Associates Equine Hospital. They liked him enough to keep him around as an associate. His daily activities include everything that make up the exciting life of a general equine practitioner (including those sheep, goats, cows and pigs!), but he does enjoy those times when

he can focus upon reproduction and lameness the most. Even as a dedicated ENFP, he is able to be on time to most of his appointments.

While at WSU, Michael was active in student leadership (SCAVMA, SCAAEP, GPSA) and has been an assistant for and participant in VLE 2007 and 2008 respectively. He was one of the first students from the SCAVMA Executive Board to contribute to the WSU COLE program as a Student Mentor. He returned last year to help welcome the Class of 2014 during their COLE experience. His leadership training has helped him greatly as a veterinarian by preparing him to better communicate with his clients, staff and colleagues. He would like to continue serving the veterinary profession by providing leadership training to others so they too can realize the amazing benefit and potential it unlocks in their personal and professional lives.

He currently works too much, so it is a good thing he loves his job. His dog, Slinky, has proven to not be a very good companion on farm calls, but she is lucky enough to go to work to keep an eye on the happenings at the clinic.



**Aaron George** is a fourth year student in human medicine at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He attended VLE as a participant in 2010, and is excited to continue to share in the growth and development of new leaders across the health care professions. Aaron graduated from James Madison University and then taught U.S. History to tenth and eleventh grade students at St. Maria Goretti High School in Hagerstown, MD. After completing his training on the human medicine side, Aaron dreams to practice rural family medicine in his hometown of Chambersburg, PA. He also hopes to continue to find opportunities to inspire the health care leaders of tomorrow. Aaron enjoys exercise and sport, classic music and classic movies, and a strong cup of coffee.



**Tim Guild** joins the veterinary team of VLE from a unique perspective as a veterinary support operative; he has been in the trenches and seen the good, bad, and the ugly of vet school through the eyes of his partner and soon-to-be-wife, recent graduate and VLE facilitator Ayla Turnquist. Originally from California, Tim has lived all over the west coast from Arizona to Washington State but has loved the four seasons in Pennsylvania for the past 2 years. He enjoys questioning the cultural norm and always sees the best in people. As an engineer with a special interest in product development, Tim is constantly thinking of how to make things better, whether it's a better horse shoe or improving a customer's experience. He is thrilled to join the VLE this year as a Facilitator in training.



**Stacey Halse** is a student in the Class of 2013 at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. She is interested in pursuing a career in Large Animal Surgery and hopes to remain in the field of academia. Stacey has had the opportunity to serve in a variety of leadership experiences during vet school, including serving as a facilitator at the Tufts Veterinary Orientation Program. In her free time she enjoys hiking, equestrian sports, photography, and swimming. She is a proud alumnus of VLE 2010 and is excited to be returning for 2011.



**Alex Thomasson** graduated from Auburn University in 1993 and stepped into Companion Animal and Equine clinical practice until joining Merial in 2006 as a Technical Service Veterinarian. The blending of private practice, academia and corporate practice began the journey in servant leadership and to the VLE in 2010 (Eta class). The passion and experiences continued with participation and facilitation at the school based VLE functions at the University of Florida, University of Georgia and St. Matthews University. Equal to his passion for Veterinarian Medicine, is his passion of his family, their animals and their farm outside Ocala, FL.

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**Heath Tjaden** is originally from Las Cruces, New Mexico. Heath is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year veterinary student at Washington State University. He has been a member of the Christian Veterinary Fellowship Club and the Zoo Animal, Exotic, Wildlife (ZEW) Club during his first year at vet school. Heath attended VLE last summer. The dream for Heath is to become a food animal veterinarian, preferably having to do with the reproductive system.

He graduated from New Mexico State University in animal science and chemistry. During those four years he was heavily involved with the Methodist Church. He helped run the Wesley Foundation, was in a Christian rock band, and orchestrated many “Walk to Emmaus” events. He lives by the Methodist motto of, “Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors”. Energy, optimism, and realism are what you’ll get from Heath...ask him a question...you’ll get an answer, and a hug if you stand still long enough.

Theatre and the arts are Heath’s hobbies and passion. Being able to be a “facilitator-in-training” to help further this experience is a great joy and never a job for him.

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## VLE Coordinator



**Karen Hornfelt** is the Clinical Communication, Leadership, & Continuing Education Programs Coordinator for Washington State University CVM. Prior to joining the team at WSU in 2007 she worked 27 years in K-12 education. Through the school district she became a trained *Covey Seven Habits* facilitator. She studied fine arts at Central Washington University, and is a published illustrator. Karen is married to Dan (37 years). They have one married daughter, one beautiful granddaughter, Skarlette, and their best buddy ever...Darby, their dog. Her hobbies include camping, fishing, backpacking, wildlife photography, and gardening. In the fall and winter months you can find her and Dan steelhead fishing most weekends on the Snake and Clearwater Rivers in Idaho.

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## AVMA Executive Board Host



**Aaron Gibbons, DVM**, graduated from Washington State University, Class of 2011. His veterinary interests include food animal production medicine; especially beef cow/calf veterinary medicine. He spent all four years in veterinary school integrally involved in organized veterinary medicine. He served on the SCAVMA Board at WSU and also served as SAVMA delegate representing WSU in the national student association. This early involvement in SAVMA and his desire to strength the veterinary profession led him to serve on a national level as SAVMA President-elect in 2009-2010 and as SAVMA President in 2010-2011.

He has been a part of AVMA VLE since starting veterinary school at WSU in 2007. He attended the 2008, 2009 and 2010 AVMA VLE's and plans to keep coming back as a facilitator. As a servant-leader, Aaron encourages and inspires individuals to meet their potential, be happy and live a fulfilled life.

Aaron loves spending time with his wife Laura and their four kids. He also enjoys anything outdoors, from playing and watching sports to hiking, fishing and horse packing in the Idaho back country.

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## VLE Washington State University DVM Student Hosts



**Angie Brooking**  
Class of 2013

Washington State University



**Andrew Nicholson**  
Class of 2013

Washington State University



**Tiffany Patterson**  
Class of 2013

Washington State University