



Fur, Feather, Scales and Tails

WSU College of Veterinary Medicine Admissions Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

March 2007

Admissions Process Update

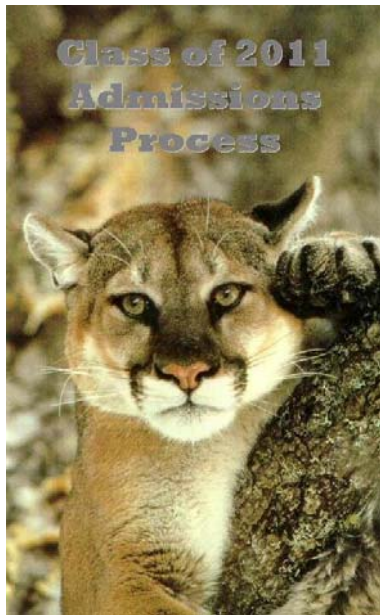
Well, the admissions selection process for the Class of 2011 is officially on the downhill slide!

Transcripts have been reviewed, letters of recommendation and personal statements were read, interviews have taken place and notice letters have been sent out. If you applied this cycle, by now you should know if you have been admitted, put on the alternate list or if you were not selected.

It has been a very busy admissions season for us here at WSU, especially since things were ahead of schedule by two to three weeks. Good for you the applicants...crazy for us

here in the office! :-) But all in all, things have gone pretty well.

This year we had record numbers of interviewing students attend our pizza parties (hosted by current WSU DVM students), our



DVM Student Ambassadors gave numerous tours of the facilities and lectures were filled to the brim with visiting students who wanted to check out the curriculum while they were here.

Now it's decision time. If you have been offered admission, you have until April 15th to decide which school you are going to attend and to send your gray admissions form in to our office.

If you are on the alternate list, unfortunately you still have some waiting ahead of you. If you were not selected, after May 1st you
(Continued on page 2)

Important Dates:

- **April 15th** — National DVM Acceptance deadline (*be sure to get your forms mailed in!*)
- **June 2007** — WSU online application available
- **June 5th** — VMCAS online application available
- **July 31st** — Last date to take the current version of the GRE test
- **August 2007** — NO GRE TESTS WILL BE AVAILABLE (*plan accordingly if you are applying in the 2007-08 admissions cycle*)
- **September 1st** — GRE testing will resume with the new test version
- **October 1st** — Application deadline (*all materials must be received by this date or an application will be considered incomplete*)

Inside this issue:

D.V.M.@WSU, cont.	2
Open House Reminder	2
Admissions Process, cont.	2
D.V.M.@WSU, cont.	3
Current Student Carey Bio.	3
Current Student Carey, cont.	4
Living in Pullman	4
Current Student Alexis Bio.	4
Living in Pullman, cont.	5
Current Student Alexis, cont.	5
Student Services Update	5
Current Student Alexis, cont.	6
Student Services Update, cont.	6

D.V.M.@WSU Spring Event

Concurrent with the annual College of Veterinary Medicine Open House on April 14th, CVM Student Services will again be hosting the "D.iscover V.eterinary M.edicine @ WSU" event.

D.V.M.@WSU is a jam-packed day whereby participants can find out about the professional DVM program here at WSU, ask questions of the actual Admissions Committee members, talk

to current students about their thoughts, learn more about the application and admissions process, find out about living in Pullman and financial aid. Not to worry, time is also built-in

(Continued on page 2)



Open House Reminder!

Don't forget that the annual WSU College of Veterinary Medicine Open House will be taking place on **April 14th**.

The event is open to the community and will run from 10am until 3pm. There will be hospital tours every 20-30 minutes, student club displays, educational booths and various giveaways from pet food companies, pharmaceutical companies, as well as the student groups. The Canine Canter fun run will also be taking

place that morning.

There will also be community mini-lectures that you can attend to learn about various different pet related issues and care.

This event is hosted by the WSU-CVM student organization, SCAVMA. For more information check out: <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/announcements/openHouse2007/>

**This event is separate from the D.V.M.@WSU recruitment event. **



Class of 2009 students teach an Open House visitor about a horse's leg.

DVM@WSU, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

so that participants can also check out the Open House with all its displays, mini-lectures and demonstrations.

Because of the resounding success of last year's event, this we will have a firm

Registration is available online until March 30th!

registration cap at 125, including parents, guests or pre-vet advisors. Registration is online at www.vetmed.wsu.edu until all seats are filled or March 30th, whichever

occurs first. Each person planning to attend must register separately and **all fields on the registration form will be required.**

One big difference at the 2007 D.V.M.@WSU will be the absence of CVM recruiter, Abbie, and in her place will be event coordination and leadership by two current DVM Student Ambassadors. Third year student, Julie, and second year student, Carey, will be putting on the event while Abbie is on maternity

(Continued on page 3)

Admissions Process Update, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

can contact our office to get feedback on your file and see where you can improve for a future application. Remember that the national average is 2.2 applications before acceptance, so don't give up!

Now, there is a big portion of you who

are reading this newsletter who will be applying this coming cycle and a notice about the VMCAS application recently went out. If you didn't get a chance to read it, the VMCAS application will be available starting June 5th. It will be accessible until midnight (EST) on October 1st. The WSU online application should be

available starting June 1st with the same final deadline as VMCAS.

If you have any questions about the process, haven't received your notification yet or have questions about the next cycle, you can contact us at **509-335-1532**.

DVM@WSU, cont.

(Continued from page 2)

leave, so you can look forward to meeting them!

If for some reason you are not able to get a spot during registration, the Open House itself is open to the general public and we would encourage you to at least attend that function to get a taste of the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Information about those events is posted on the CVM website at:


College of Veterinary Medicine



D. iscover V. eterinary M. edicine @ WSU
Open House



www.vetmed.wsu.edu.

If you have any questions, please get a hold of Assistant Director of Admissions/Recruiter Abbie DeMeerleer as early as possible at: abbiedem@vetmed.wsu.edu or 509-335-5107. She will be leaving on April 9th if everything goes as planned!

If you are registered and confirmed for the D.V.M.@WSU event, an agenda will be sent to you shortly via email.

Current Student Bio/Perspective— Meet Carey!

Hello! Let me introduce myself my name is Carey and I am currently a second year veterinary student at Washington State University. Go Cougs! As most of you will hopefully realize as veterinary school begins your head is full of dreams and at least a foggy idea of what role you think you would like to have as a veterinarian. I definitely want to go into small animal medicine hopefully specializing in emergency medicine. I want to practice in Manhattan or one of the other boroughs. This is where my true heart lies, not in Pullman, although it's nice for now.



DVM Student Ambassador, Carey

So my life story...I grew up in Ogden, Utah, a moderately sized town located outside of Salt Lake City. Yep where the 2002 winter Olympics were held. I have known

from the time that I knew what a veterinarian was that it was what I wanted to be. I grew up with pets all my life and my mom was Miss Rodeo Utah, but I have always wanted to work with small animals and that is still my desire. When I was younger, I attended Saint Joseph private elementary school and high school. After that I needed to get out of Utah and went off to college at Fordham University in the Bronx, New York. I loved it in New York, even though I moved there without knowing anyone. The craziest thing was that the World Trade center attack happened two months after I moved there.

I continued at Fordham through my sophomore year and then started looking seriously into applying for veterinary school and realized I needed to focus more on the courses that were needed for

applying. That's when I returned home to attend Utah State University. I was a member of their pre-vet club and had an amazing advisor that I thank daily for helping me get here. I applied as a junior and was denied, so I took more upper division courses, got more experience hours and here I am today. I also worked at a general practice small animal clinic and a small animal emergency clinic to get the majority of my hours.

On to vet school— well I love it. Even though this was the dream of everyone here, I think am in the minority with my affection for school. Don't get me wrong, it is not something they will ever regret... it is just unbelievably trying. The difficulty level is different for everyone that walks through the door. For some it is the course load, others the lack of free time, the lack of time with your family, or the constant state of being broke, but I think it is worth

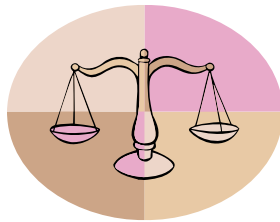
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Carey's Vet School Story, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

every moment. The most difficult part that I have faced was getting organized and creating enough time to study. I am one of those people that have to dedicate a lot of time to study and needs to know all the details in order to full comprehend an idea. But I am also a firm believer in balance and feel that it is one of the reasons why many vet students burn out. I go out on the weekends with my friends, go to the



movies or just go out to dinner—even if I have a huge test on Monday because mental health is a must. I make it a point not to lose touch with what I enjoy just because I am in vet school. Many students stop doing what they love, blame vet school and it leads them to not loving being here. Finding what you love and what keeps you sane and sticking to it has been my theory of how to get through the first two years.

Advice I have for future applicants: **1)** Focus on what you love and it will shine

through in your interview and make you stand out from the rest.

2) Vacation. I went on a huge vacation right before I started vet school and was able to start refreshed and tan—not burnt out from trying to work up until the day before the U-haul left.

3) Be open minded and give anything a try once, it will make vet school a lot easier. If you do hate it, you can always say you did it once (as I will always do when people ask me if I have palpated a cow).

If you would like to contact Carey, you can email her at: admissions@vetmed.wsu.edu

Living in Pullman—What to expect & think about

Pullman is a beautiful place, nestled among the rolling wheat fields of the Palouse and nearby the Moscow Mountains. It's only an hour and a half drive to Spokane and approximately five hours to Seattle (depending on how you drive!). This town is definitely a college town, life revolves around WSU and it's schedule, students and of course, athletics!

Living in the Pullman area can be

perfect for some and make others feel claustrophobic. It is a fairly small town—

Timing is everything in the Pullman housing market!

with a population of just over 27,000—but some may say if you are trying to focus on vet school, fewer distractions

are better! It really depends on your preferences. The biggest piece of advice we can impart is that going to the location(s) you are considering for your DVM program is probably one of the best investments you can make, pre-vet school.

Does the town, atmosphere and people suit you? What about the cost of living?

(Continued on page 5)

Alexis—DVM Student Ambassador & 2nd year student

Hi. My name is Alexis. I am a second-year veterinary student and I like most of you, had a great desire to become a veterinarian early in life. Growing up on a dairy farm in Southern Idaho, I knew that I wanted a career involving animals. After high school I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Idaho and then began applying for admission to colleges of veterinary medicine. I was accepted into the program here at

Washington State University and decided that this is where I wanted to continue my education.

After graduation I would like to work in a mixed practice that is predominantly large animals in a rural setting. I feel that because it was in this setting that I first desired to pursue the profession, it would be appropriate to return to it after



school. The road to where I am now has been an exciting, challenge-filled one, but there are several things that I have learned along the way that I would like to share. To be honest, the first time that I applied to a veterinary program, I did

(Continued on page 5)



Living in Pullman, cont.

(Continued from page 4)

Is there reasonable housing available? All of these are factors you should be thinking about as you think about where to go for your DVM program.

As far as housing availability, Pullman does offer many options, it's the strings you want attached that determine true feasibility. Will you be bringing pets? Do you want to live alone or with room-mates? Are you willing to commute or do you want to be within walking distance? All of these are doable, but require different degrees of flexibility

from you to make them reality.

Another thing to keep in mind if you are looking for housing in Pullman is timing. Timing is everything if you want to get your dream living location. The local real estate agencies have fantastic websites that they keep up-to-date and you'll want to check those often. April is the bubble month for leases to be renewed or come available, so you really need to watch for things then or as soon as you know you're coming to the area. Here's a listing of various real estate agencies on the web: <http://www.pullman-wa.com/housing/mapreal.htm>

An agent in the area who has been great for our students is Scott Sampson with REMAX Home & Land. His wife received her DVM here at WSU and is currently a equine sports medicine resident which gives Scott a special insight as to what vet students want, need and can afford all while trying to survive vet school! He is always happy to answer prospective students questions about the market and can be reached at: **509-332-4546** or www.pullmanteam.com.

If you have other questions, you can feel free to contact CVM Student Services!

Alexis— 2nd year student, cont.

(Continued from page 4)

not get accepted. Not everyone gets in on the first try, and that can be hard to take. For me, I decided to use it as a learning tool. Because of this, the following year my application and interview were much stronger and I did get accepted. That extra year allowed me time to build upon my weaknesses and keep my strong points in good standing. I think that

the biggest lesson that anyone can learn from a denial is not to become discouraged. Stay positive if your acceptance is not granted the first time and also look for ways to expand on the foundation that you have already started. Join clubs, become active leaders, and strive for continued personal growth. Since starting vet school, I have also learned how important

communication is within the profession. In the beginning, I used to tell people that I wanted to become a veterinarian because I could work with animals and not have to work with people. Over time I have realized that I enjoy working with people as much as with animals. While at the University of Idaho, I was involved in the program at the Northwest Equine Reproduction

(Continued on page 6)

Student Services/Faculty Updates



In the last issue of Fur, Feathers, Scales and Tails we featured our Associate Dean, Dr. Gil Burns in this section.

Well since that time Dr. Burns has accepted the position of Dean at Ross University in St. Kitts. He will be leaving our Cougar family on April 7th in order to make his way to the sun

and waves of his new Caribbean home. For those of you who have interacted with Dr. Burns, you know what a wealth of knowledge he has, not only about WSU, but also about the profession in general. We will miss him here at WSU, but wish him all the best in his new endeavor.

Once a new Associate Dean is

selected, hopefully by mid-summer, we will be sure to do a feature on that person so you know what's going on here and who the new face is in Student Services.

The other big Student Services update is that Assistant Director of Admissions/Recruiter, Abbie, will be

(Continued on page 6)

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College of Veterinary Medicine

The Washington State University (WSU) College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is the 5th oldest CVM in North America. WSU is a non-tracking program and home to the newest teaching hospital in the nation. The WSU CVM provides enrollment access to Washington and Idaho resident students and has a long history of serving Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming through the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Compact. The program also accepts students from all over the nation and the world.

Upon satisfactory completion of this program, the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree is conferred by the Regents of Washington State University (WSU). A minimum of seven years is required to obtain the DVM degree. These seven years represent three or more years of pre-professional (pre-veterinary) training, which can be obtained at WSU, UI, or other institutions with equivalent courses, followed by four years of professional study in the DVM program at WSU. The DVM program at Washington State University is fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) Council on Education.

We're on the Web!

www.vetmed.wsu.edu

We're also on MySpace at:

www.myspace.com/wsuveterinarymedicine.com

Believe

**Good Luck Cougars in the NCAA
Basketball Big Dance!**

Alexis, cont.

(Continued from page 5)

Laboratory—the same lab that cloned the first of the equine species, a mule. Working at the mule clone displays, I had the opportunity to interact with a variety of different people. These interactions showed me the power of having good public relation skills. My awareness of the veterinarian-client-patient relationship was heightened and my communication skills were sharpened. I would encourage anyone that is interested in any area of veterinary medicine to contemplate the human interaction skills that he or she will need to be successful, and either develop them or continue improving them.

I am often asked how hard veterinary school is. It is hard, but every minute of study and worry and learning is worth it. One of my favorite quotes states, "Never give up on a dream

just because of the length of time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway." It seems like a long time to be in school, but I am sure in retrospect it will seem short. My best advice to anyone who is interested in this profession would be to keep driving. Never stop believing that you can do something. Work hard in school, be active and involved in areas of interest, and remember your individuality. Realize that you hold the power to do whatever it is that you desire to do. If what you desire to do is become a veterinarian, I would like you to know that you have chosen an awesome profession. For me it has been a great experience thus far. The people are great, school has been amazing, and I cannot wait to get out into practice when I complete the program.

You can email Alexis at:
admissions@vetmed.wsu.edu



Student Services, cont.

(Continued from page 5)

out-of-the office from April 9th until the beginning of July. She and her husband are expecting their first child, a little girl, so she will be gone on maternity leave.



You can feel free to contact either Barbara Hodson or Barb Robbins during the time that Abbie is away—both have many years of experience in the CVM Student Services area and will be able to assist you. They can be contacted at: **509-335-1532**.