

# Saving Chocolate



**Veterinary**  
executive report

Fall 2008



WASHINGTON STATE  
 UNIVERSITY

*World Class. Face to Face.*

# Message from the Dean...



Dean Warwick Bayly

## Big Ideas—and the Future of the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine

Washington State University has unveiled its ambitious *Big Ideas* campaign to raise an unprecedented \$1 billion with the aim of becoming a model land-grant research university for the 21st century. The campaign moves to establish WSU as a preeminent research and educational facility that ranks among our country's finest. Yet it is a campaign for more than just consolidating greatness, it is about developing and expanding new programs in teaching and research in synch with the needs of communities and cultures worldwide.

To achieve this historic goal, WSU President Elson S. Floyd has focused on two key areas for us to remain modern and responsive to society's needs and expectations:

- We must be *global*, conducting research that benefits the world, focusing intellectual pursuits on the most pressing problems, preparing students to move across cultures and borders, and equipping our communities with the tools of the new global economy.
- As the state's university, WSU must also be *local*, serving every citizen in the state. We must create a fertile interdisciplinary foundation, and we must be innovative and entrepreneurial. In today's dynamic

global marketplace, all of these essential characteristics are connected.

For the College of Veterinary Medicine, our primary focus will be on tackling infectious diseases at the animal/human interface. The School for Global Animal Health, the first of its kind in North America, will serve as the centerpiece of the university's expanded research on animal diseases that directly impact human health, such as West Nile Virus and avian influenza. Our signature programs will yield sustainable improvements in developed and underdeveloped communities. With these innovations, scientists from across the College of Veterinary Medicine will be positioned at the forefront of the battle against emerging diseases, using animal vaccines to mitigate poverty, ensuring safer food supplies, and devising model systems to improve human and animal health. The Campaign Goal: an impressive \$74.5 million.

To achieve our full potential, we must first address several challenges. Our continued progress is limited by faculty retirements, the need to recruit faculty in emerging areas of animal health and new clinical specialties, salaries that are increasingly lower than those of peer institutions, a relative decline in state funding for equipment and facilities, and the enormous costs of a veterinary education. While we are one of the top veterinary schools in terms of

research grants, we must fill these other funding gaps to sustain our competitiveness in the laboratory and in the classroom.

We must continue our world class research in the neurosciences to better understand sleep and the role it plays in fighting disease. This is a field of science that has already opened the doors to new discoveries in understanding emotions, addiction, and overall well-being.

We must build on our unsurpassed leadership and communication programs that build cohesive medical teams and foster powerful relationships between veterinarians and the people they serve.

We must continue to find new and innovative ways to bring down the high costs of a veterinary education, with in-state tuition now over \$17,000 a year and rising.

I am asking each of you to consider the importance the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine has played in your lives, and how each of us can strive to give back to this place that has given us so much.

Here's to the start of a new beginning—one that will lead to even more pronounced greatness.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warwick Bayly'.

Dr. Warwick Bayly  
Dean, WSU College of Veterinary Medicine

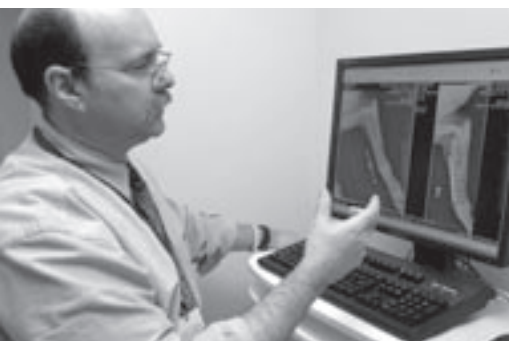
# Saving Chocolate

The hopes of a community, the skill of a surgeon, and the care of an entire rehabilitation team came together to save a young dog affectionately named Chocolate. The abandoned Chesapeake Bay retriever was found roaming the fields north of Pasco, Washington, last winter suffering from numerous fractures to his front legs. He was able to survive on his own by getting around primarily on his back legs. Now, after three surgeries, and months of intensive rehabilitation, Chocolate has healed enough to go home.

"We couldn't be more pleased with his progress," said WSU veterinary orthopedic surgeon **Dr. Steve Martinez**, who oversaw Chocolate's recovery. Surgery was required to repair the old breaks that had healed improperly, and left both limbs twisted and virtually unusable. "Once both legs were moving properly, we could focus our attention on rebuilding his muscle strength and literally re-teach him how to walk correctly," said Dr. Martinez.



(Above) Chocolate in WSU's underwater treadmill. (Below) "Among the worst fractures I've ever seen," noted Dr. Steve Martinez.



New England. I was astonished at how this story really touched many people's hearts and how they wanted to help him out." Dr. Swailes immediately sent Chocolate to WSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital for care.

Chocolate's departure from WSU back to Meadow Hills Veterinary Center became a media event, with a limousine company offering to drive him home. Yet the event was bittersweet for some who had grown attached to Chocolate these past four months. Their advice to any future owner is to earn Chocolate's trust first, and he'll follow you anywhere. "If he likes you, he will work hard for you," said third year WSU veterinary student Sara Dobry. "That's been the thing for me just bonding with him."

Dr. Swailes and her team have placed Chocolate in a loving home, with owners who are willing to help him complete physical therapy. "I think he's going to have a great life," said Dr. Swailes. "I think he deserves a great life given all he's been through."

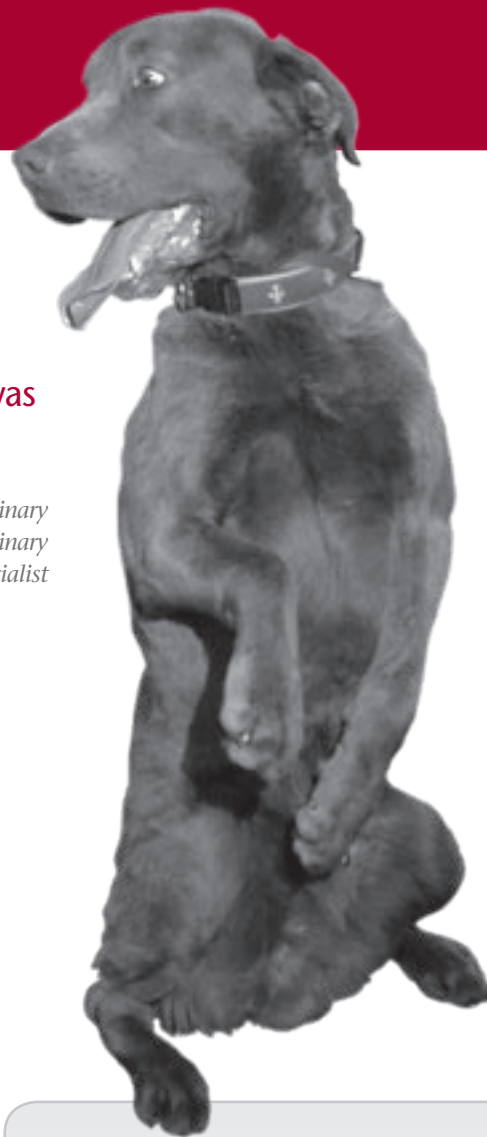
**"We absolutely could not have done this without the underwater treadmill. This was critical in his recovery."**

—**Lori Lutskas**, a licensed veterinary technician and WSU's veterinary physical rehabilitation specialist

The WSU team credits its new underwater treadmill as being a critical element in restoring Chocolate's strength. In the past few months, his sessions have helped rebuild lost muscle mass in his front shoulders. "We absolutely could not have done this without the underwater treadmill," said **Lori Lutskas**, a licensed veterinary technician and WSU's veterinary physical rehabilitation specialist. "This was critical in his recovery."

The new device allows physical activities in varying depths of water while providing buoyancy for gradual weight-bearing to allow motion and bone repair to progress simultaneously. The underwater treadmill was recently added to WSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital thanks to generous gifts to the college from two grateful donors.

The story of Chocolate spread worldwide. After his discovery, unsolicited donations totaling over \$25,000 came to Dr. Janine Swailes and her team from Meadow Hills Veterinary Center in Kennewick, Washington, who had first taken in the dog for care. "We even had a call from a soldier in Iraq," said Dr. Swailes. "It was just amazing. We got calls from California, Texas,



**Would you like to help the next Chocolate?**

Be a part of the WSU Good Samaritan Fund!

The Good Samaritan Fund is dedicated to helping animals who need life saving care, whether their owners can't be found or don't have the means to pay for help.

The fund was started in the mid-1990s with a \$1,000 donation by a WSU faculty member who had found an injured animal on the side of the road needing care. The fund was then established to help other animals in need.

You can give online at [vetmed.wsu.edu](http://vetmed.wsu.edu), or mail your donation to Lynne Haley, Director of Development, PO Box 647010, Pullman WA 99164-7010. Please make checks payable to the WSU Foundation.

# WSU School for Global Animal Health Lands First Major Grant

*Nearly \$1.9 million for work on animal immune systems*

The National Institutes of Health has awarded a WSU researcher with the School for Global Animal Health a grant of nearly \$1.9 million to aid in the fight against infectious disease. Dr. Wendy C. Brown, an internationally recognized immunologist, will use the five years of

uninterrupted funding to continue studies on novel approaches to vaccine development. The grant is especially important given the number of recent cutbacks in NIH funding.

“Dr. Brown’s acquisition of a major grant from NIH in today’s funding climate documents the international regard for her world class leadership in infectious disease research,” said **Dr. David Prieur**, professor and chair of the WSU Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology.

Dr. Brown’s work will be part of the landmark effort included in the School for Global Animal Health at WSU, initially funded by a \$25

million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This recent funding comes through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the NIH and is Brown’s fourth NIH grant.

“This grant builds on her past successes and will have a major impact on the prevention of infectious diseases worldwide while at the same time moving forward WSU’s extraordinary animal health research program,” adds Dr. Prieur.

Dr. Brown has focused her research on characterizing CD4+ T lymphocyte responses in animals that are protected from disease upon infection with either *Babesia bovis* or *Anaplasma marginale*. Her team uses a sophisticated and comprehensive genomic and proteomic approach to discover novel antigens, a critical step in developing vaccines. Given the similar nature of related human pathogens, it is believed this approach could lead to novel antigens in new vaccines that help people too.

In 2004, Dr. Brown was awarded the Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist Award by the Veterinary Immunology Committee of the International Union of Immunological Societies. The prestigious award is granted every three years and recognizes the best veterinary immunologist in the world.



Dr. Wendy Brown



## WSU’s Team Vet Fit Rides from Seattle to Portland in One Day!

Proving there’s more to being a WSU veterinarian than just science and medicine, a team of bicycle riders from the College of Veterinary Medicine proved they can overcome even the most daunting of tasks. Five riders from the college, along with a few friends and family, formed the first WSU veterinary medicine team to compete in the famous Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic, known among riders as the STP. CVM members of the team included Drs. Cat Berge, Jeff Bryan, Sushan Han, and Rance Sellon, and fourth year veterinary student Josh Davis. Joining them were Dane Grant, Shan Han, and Mavis Irwin.

“We had a great team, with the camaraderie and the support,” said WSU veterinary oncologist **Dr. Jeff Bryan**. “Having a nice tailwind didn’t hurt either.”

The team members all stuck together, finishing the ride together in 14 hours. The ride of 200 miles is completed in one day by about one of every four registered riders.

# Contact—Connect—Cure

These are just three simple words.

Yet the impact they can have together has proven to be one of the most powerful tools we have at WSU for providing the high level of veterinary science we sustain here in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Every day, you touch the lives of people who are passionate about their pets. Many of those pets have moved well beyond the status of furry friend to that of beloved family member. It is this love and dedication to caring that has led to some of the greatest gifts ever received at this college.

Let me tell you the story of Craig and Lynne Marcus and their cat Punkin. This medium haired, 13-year-old female Siamese-mix cat has captured the hearts of many care providers. She came to the College of Veterinary Medicine over a year ago, suffering from a mast cell tumor of the intestine. A treatment plan called for immediate surgery and intensive follow up care. During the surgery, 90 percent of her colon, part of her small intestine, and several lymph nodes were removed. Thankfully, we can report that Punkin remains cancer free today.

The connection the Marcuses made with the college lives on. Bonded to the college through a shared passion for pets and the relief of animal suffering, the Marcuses have stepped forward to

support the College of Veterinary Medicine. This summer, they planned and hosted an event in Boise, bringing together their friends, family, and influential members of the community. Craig was emcee and spoke from his heart about his passions, his love for his feline friend, and his gratitude to WSU for saving her life. Unequivocally, he

stated, "If it wasn't for God, Punkin's surgeon Michelle Powers, her oncologist Dr. Jeffrey Bryan, and the College of Veterinary Medicine, my beloved Punkin wouldn't be alive today." He shared his hope that his assembled friends and colleagues would be as excited about the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine as he was after learning of the high level of care and remarkable results he found at WSU and the potential for the oncology research and work being done there to significantly advance human cancer treatment and hopefully find a cure.



*Lynne Marcus with her cat Punkin.*

At the request of the Marcuses, the College of Veterinary Medicine sent several of its top experts on cancer. Their presentations captured the attention of the 100 or so there, with both the latest in science and treatment and a glimpse of what the future may hold. A number of the families there had themselves been hit hard by cancer. After the presentations, Craig Marcus pulled out his checkbook and presented WSU with a gift of \$10,000, asking his friends to do the same.

This shows the passion and gratitude that can come from the practice of veterinary medicine. When we better the lives of animals, we are enriching the lives of their owners. Help us identify those who share our vision, have the capacity to give, and are philanthropically inclined. Your gift, as a veterinary professional, helps today's students earn their degrees while offsetting some academic debt, and will help us continue the tradition of alumni helping students in the same spirit in which they were once helped.

**Dr. Richard DeBowes**  
Associate Dean of  
Veterinary Development  
and External Relations



# Achievements



*Hattie Kugler*

Hattie Kugler, a WSU veterinary student, has won the American Veterinary Medical History Society's National Essay Contest with her paper "Scratches, Grease Heel, and Grapes: Or Chronic Pastern Dermatitis Then and Now." The contest aims to raise interest in history by encouraging participation among veterinary medical colleges in the United States and Canada.

WSU veterinary students Jamie Getz, Megan Whisler, and Lisa Otto are among 43 veterinary students to receive unique research opportunity grants with the Morris Animal Fund. The grant program provides veterinary students an opportunity to become involved in veterinary research that enhances the health



*Jamie Getz*



*Megan Whisler*



*Lisa Otto*

and welfare of companion animals and wildlife. The three are now invited to compete in the MAF's national poster competition next summer.

WSU neurology undergraduate student Derick En'wezoh has been selected by Governor Christine Gregoire as the 2008–2009 Student Regent for Washington State University. Following his one year appointment he hopes to attend medical school.



*Derick En'wezoh*

The 2008 recipients of the Wescott Clinical Teaching Scholar award have been selected by this year's graduating class. The designation is awarded to faculty for excellence in teaching during the fourth year of the veterinary curriculum. Congratulations!

- Dr. Jeff Bryan
- Dr. Julie Cary
- Dr. Melissa Hines
- Dr. John Mattoon
- Dr. Rance Sellon
- Dr. Patricia Talcott



*Dr. Jeff Bryan*



*Dr. Julie Cary*



*Dr. Melissa Hines*



*Dr. John Mattoon*



*Dr. Rance Sellon*



*Dr. Patricia Talcott*

## Ride for Research

For its fourth year, the Washington State Horse Council has hit the trail to benefit the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine. The Ride for Research includes a trail ride for prizes, camping, an evening auction, and a barbecue dinner. This year, the benefit raised more than \$12,000 for equine research at WSU. "Considering the high cost of gas and everything else, I was surprised to see such a good turnout," said Sharon Call, secretary of the Washington State Horse Council. "This event just keeps growing!"

WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine is a national or international leader in many areas of equine research including sports medicine, pain management, joint diseases, and new techniques in laparoscopic surgery. Additional work includes investigating equine digestive and infectious diseases, as well as the immune responses of horses and foals to disease.



# Radiation: WSU's Option for Fighting Equine Cancer



After several successful treatments of equine cancer using radiation therapy, the cancer team at WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine offers a therapy once seen as an unrealistic option for managing horses with cancer. WSU Oncologist **Dr. Janean Fidel** believes radiation therapy is a highly viable option for numerous equine tumors, including melanomas and sarcoids. "Even though cancer is not as common in horses as dogs or cats, it does still occur and just like in small animals, radiation therapy is a valuable tool in the treatment of equine oncology patients," emphasizes Dr Fidel.

Dr. Fidel recently presented "Radiation Therapy in Horses: Something to Consider" at an American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) forum. According to Dr. Fidel, "Tumors located on extremities or the head are much easier to position, but any body part that fits under the beam can be treated." After reviewing the biology of radiation therapy in dogs and cats, Fidel says the goal remains the same: deliver the highest possible dose of radiation to the tumor while sparing the normal surrounding tissue. Under this model, Dr. Fidel believes that only tumors that have not or do not have a tendency to metastasize should be considered.

WSU has successfully used radiation therapy in the treatment of several equine cancer patients, including a 2,200 pound Clydesdale named Ghostbuster.

## Creating a Lasting Legacy

An endowed fund is a great way for your gift to create a lasting legacy. It takes \$25,000 to establish an endowment, and they can be created to honor a family member, a pet, or to create perpetual support as one large group.

Here are just a few recent examples of endowments set up for the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine that have been fully funded, or are close to reaching their goals.

### Blevins Family Good Samaritan Endowment

For Barry and Denise Blevins, the story of their gift begins with their cat Beaumont. At 15 years of age, Beau died of a pancreatic cyst, but not before the team at WSU worked diligently to save his life. To honor Beau's memory, the Blevins established an endowment in his name. "We knew there were people who loved their animals like we did with Beau," said Denise Blevins. "We wanted to be able to help others in a similar position who might not be able afford the care like we could."

### Peter Zornes Memorial Neuroscience Scholarship

The Zornes family took a large step toward fulfilling a scholarship endowment for their son by hosting their first charity golf tournament. "Our tournament was a huge success," says Kathy Zornes, Peter's mother. "We had tremendous support from local businesses for sponsorship, the silent auction, and from our volunteer team, which came mainly from WSU's neuroscience program. Fifty-seven golfers helped the family raise over \$7,000." Peter Zornes graduated with a neuroscience degree, with the ultimate goal of becoming a physician. Just three weeks before starting work at a newly formed bio-tech firm, he was tragically killed. He was just 25. "This is our way of honoring his memory," said Kathy. The Second Annual Peter A. Zornes Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 2009, in Colfax, Washington.



Peter Zornes



Dr. Bob Wilson

### Class of 1961 Professional Endowment

The WSU CVM Class of 1961, made up of 42 men and 1 woman, is a diverse group, with careers ranging from private and public practice to public health, industry, and academic research and teaching. Yet the group has remained closely connected. They publish newsletters and gather for class reunions. Under this spirit of camaraderie came the development of the Class of 1961 Professional Endowment. "We have a very close class. The members feel blessed to have had the benefit of a WSU CVM education and now as our careers and lives wind down we wish to memorialize the members and spouses of our class who have died and to recognize the debt we owe WSU and future generations of veterinary students," said class representative Dr. Bob Wilson. The fund provides a scholarship to students completing their third year of veterinary school. The scholarship recipient is selected by fellow classmates. The endowment specifies that "the awardees should exemplify professionalism, including criteria such as knowledge and competence; compassion; attention to duty; adherence to ethical standards; and have respectful and caring relations with classmates."

# New WSU Raptor Center Opens

WSU now has a special place to help rehabilitate injured birds of prey thanks to a few generous donors. A recent ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the completion of phase one of a refurbished facility located inside a building once dedicated to raising chickens and turkeys.

The building was originally part of then Washington State College's world renowned poultry husbandry program, named after John S. Carver, long-time chair of the poultry husbandry program and a nationally known poultry nutritionist. The building is left over from a time when poultry husbandry was vital to the budgets of most farm families and the prosperity of most commercial producers across the state. The farm was closed decades ago and the buildings have had various uses before being identified for the raptor center.

Funds for refurbishing the old turkey house came from several generous donations and some university resources. Most notably, Potlatch Corporation gave \$25,000 for the effort, while the WSU Raptor Rehabilitation Club earned more than \$11,000 through their fundraising efforts.

Phase one provided flight cages and optimal enclosures for the birds. Phase two will follow to replace siding and finish an office, food preparation area, and small examination room.

WSU's veterinary college treats 100 or more birds of prey annually. As many as possible are rehabilitated and released back to the wild.



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