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College Campaign Goal nearly doubled at $136 million

The Ohio State University’s But for Ohio State capital campaign began in 2009 with the goal of raising $2.5 billion for students, research and innovation. More than 750,000 individual donors participated in the university-wide campaign, which is believed to be the largest number of individual donors to a university campaign in American history. The capital campaign ended in September 2016 and the university raised a total of over $3 billion. Our college nearly doubled its But for Ohio State campaign goal of $75 million by raising over $136 million from more than 12,600 donors, including over 1,900 alumni and over 150 faculty, staff and numerous students.

Campaign donors were invited to An Evening in The Shoe to celebrate the impact of the campaign, acknowledge our milestones and to formally thank all for their support, encouragement and generosity.

College highlights and accomplishments during the “But for Ohio State” capital campaign:

- An increase of the endowment by over $42 million
- Established three new endowed chairs and one professorship
- Expanded support for the Veterinary Clinical Trials Office with a $6 million naming endowed gift from Blue Buffalo
- The Stanton Foundation gave $39 million to establish the “Building Preeminence in Veterinary General Practice Education” program
- Over $24 million raised for the Veterinary Medical Center Enhancement and Expansion project
- Over $10 million raised in scholarships including the establishment of 18 endowed scholarships with pledges for 9 others
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Endowments
The College of Veterinary Medicine has 149 endowments with a total principal of more than $37M and, with pledges for endowments, this number exceeds $60M. These endowed funds transform the college and the lives of our faculty and students. They include endowments for scholarships, programs, endowed chairs and professors, residencies, research and faculty awards. Endowments make it possible for us to positively impact the lives and careers of current and future generations at the college. In the last five years, we have almost tripled the scholarship dollars awarded annually from $350,000 to just under $1M with endowed scholarships significantly contributing to this increase.

New Endowed Chairs to Cultivate Industry Collaborations and Advance Veterinary Medicine Education
Endowed chairs are an academic institution’s highest honor and they are among its oldest traditions. In September, Professor Patrick L. Green and Professor Lawrence N. Hill were formally installed as the Robert H. Rainier Endowed Chair in Industrial Veterinary Medicine and Research and the Frank Stanton Endowed Chair in General Practice and Canine Health and Wellness, respectively. Both chairs were made possible through the generous donations and forward-thinking vision of two Ohio State alumni: Dr. Robert H. Rainier and the late Dr. Frank Stanton. President Michael V. Drake, Provost Bruce McPheron, Dean Rustin Moore, Dr. Robert H. Rainier and Dr. Elizabeth Allison, Co-Director of the Stanton Foundation, delivered remarks at a special ceremony to acknowledge this historical milestone for the college.
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About The Donors

Dr. Robert Rainier received both his BS in Agriculture and DVM from Ohio State. For the last 22 years of his career, Dr. Rainier worked in Veterinary Product Research and Development at Pfizer Inc., where he held key leadership and managerial roles throughout his tenure.

“Not only will our students be knowledgeable of the immense opportunities available to them in industry, but we will also give them the access to capitalize on career prospects that will advance and broaden their professional development beyond some of the more traditional pathways of veterinary medicine.”- Dr. Patrick Green.

Dr. Frank Stanton received his Master’s (1932) and PhD (1935) from Ohio State, and on the strength of his doctoral dissertation, “A Critique of Present Methods and a New Plan for Studying Radio Listening Behavior”, was hired by CBS’s research department and went on to serve as president of CBS for 27 years. Applying what he would describe as Ohio State Behaviorism, he turned audience research into a powerful tool for attracting potential advertisers. He was responsible for many firsts, including televising the Kennedy-Nixon debate, and he built a network so robust that CBS was the only New York-based network to stay on-air during 9/11.

“This gift will position Ohio State as a preeminent leader in veterinary medicine education and the premier institution for graduating confident, experienced and practice-ready veterinarians,” said Dr. Lawrence Hill, Frank Stanton Chair in General Practice and Canine Health and Wellness. Dean Rustin Moore and Ruth Stanton Chair in Veterinary Medicine added, “The generosity of the Stanton Foundation will position the college to implement an incredibly forward-looking move to advance the field of veterinary general practice education and, in particular, to promote the health and wellness of canines.”
Endowed Professorships and Chairs

The College of Veterinary Medicine is committed to the tradition and importance of endowed professorships and chairs. Endowed positions foster academic excellence, enhance recruitment, increase faculty retention and enhance the philanthropy experience at our college. This fall, four of our faculty members were recognized during a formal university ceremony for endowed chairs.

Listed below are our current endowed professors and chairs. A search is underway to fill two additional endowed positions, the Teckie and Don Shakleford Endowed Professor in Canine Medicine and the Wolfe Associates Inc. Endowed Professorship in Canine Clinical and Comparative Medicine.

Dr. James Belknap, Professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
Trueman Family Endowed Chair in Equine Medicine and Research

Dr. Wondwossen Gebreyes, Professor in the Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and Executive Director of Global One Health
Hazel C. Youngberg Distinguished Professorship (Office of International Affairs)

Dr. Patrick L. Green, Professor in the Department of Veterinary Biosciences and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies
Robert H. Rainier Endowed Chair in Industrial Veterinary Medicine and Research

Dr. Lawrence N. Hill, Professor in Veterinary Clinical Sciences
Frank Stanton Endowed Chair in General Practice and Canine Health and Wellness

Dr. Jeff Lakritz, Professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
Vernon L. Tharp Endowed Professor in Farm Animal Medicine

Dr. Rustin M. Moore, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine
Ruth Stanton Chair in Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Margaret Mudge, Associate Professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
Bud and Marilynn Jenne Endowed Professor in Equine Medicine

Dr. Yasuko Rikihisa, Professor in the Department of Veterinary Biosciences
Stanton Youngberg Endowed Professor in Veterinary Medicine
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Blue Buffalo Co. $6 Million Gift to Advance Veterinary Clinical Trials

Our veterinary clinical trials office is one of the largest in the country, running between 30-40 studies for client-owned animals at any given time. The $6M gift from the Blue Buffalo Company will support the growth of the clinical trials office, a program that facilitates studies to improve patient care and advance medical knowledge for both pets and people.

Since the company was founded in 2002, Blue Buffalo has supported pet oncology studies to gain greater understanding of the causes, treatments and prevention of dog and cat cancers. The Wilton, Connecticut-based company was founded by Bill Bishop and his family when their large breed Airedale, Blue, was diagnosed with cancer. Working with their family veterinarian and animal nutritionists, the Bishops developed high-quality foods in honor of the beloved four-legged family member.

The endowment enhances our ability to conduct more clinical trials and brings our clinician-scientists closer to making significant advances in the detection and treatment of diseases that affect humans and animals, like cancer, heart disease, arthritis and diabetes.
A Lifetime of Giving

With over 50 years of continuous annual giving to The Ohio State University, the generosity of Dr. M. Boyd Epperson and his wife Anne has become one of the most celebrated stories of giving in the history of the university. Dr. Epperson received his DVM from the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1958 and Anne received her degree in Dental Hygiene in 1957. Since graduating, the Eppersons have been deeply involved with the university. Dr. Epperson is considered a pioneer and leader in the veterinary medical profession for his commitment to the field and for managing an incredibly successful veterinary practice. Throughout the years, Dr. Boyd and Mrs. Anne Epperson have supported building enhancements at Ohio State’s Columbus and Mansfield campuses. In 2002, Boyd and Anne named the main conference room in the Veterinary Medicine Academic Building, the Epperson Conference Room, in honor of his parents. Their recent gift to name the Farm Animal Learning Conference Room in the Veterinary Medical Center Hospital for Farm Animals illustrates their professional interest in large animal medicine and food production, their passion for teaching and learning, and their strong roots in the local and regional agricultural community.

Dr. Rustin M. Moore, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Ruth Stanton Chair in Veterinary Medicine, is inspired by the Eppersons. “The Eppersons are treasured members of our veterinary medicine family because of their character, values and commitment to the profession and their communities, as well as their unselfish kindness and commitment to paying forward. They are stellar examples of the power of giving,” said Dean Moore. “Their generosity has created opportunities where there were none before, transformed the lives of students and faculty, helped to advance veterinary medical education and research, and they are among some of our most loyal and passionate supporters — it is an honor for our college to be to part of their incredible giving story and family legacy.”

The Eppersons credit their Ohio State education for playing a key role in their professional and personal success. Boyd added, “We just were so grateful for the outstanding education we received and we felt as if it was time to give — we are big believers in paying it forward and we wanted others to benefit from Ohio State, too.” Anne notes that it’s never too early or too late to start giving and encourages other alumni to continue the legacy of the university by becoming a donor. “We started giving by joining The President’s Club and at that time, it was $1,000 to join every year for ten years,” added Anne. “But giving back was important to us. Boyd and I knew we could find a way to make it work and we are so happy we did!”