We congratulate the Class of 2012 as they venture out into their careers. Most of our graduates enter small animal medicine while others choose paths such as specialty practice, government service, or research. Our alumni represent our college across the country and around the world as they utilize their knowledge and skills to improve the field of veterinary medicine.

We are proud to have innovative faculty and staff who regularly implement new procedures and technologies in order to better serve our patients. Most recently, these advanced procedures include cementless hip replacement and ForceTriad technology, both of which are featured in this issue. Farewells to two retiring veterinarians, Dr. Catherine Kohn and Dr. Michael Rings, are also included in this issue. Many of you may have worked with these doctors and we would like to congratulate and recognize them for their achievements and well-deserved retirements.

As referring veterinarians, you are invaluable to us and we strive to provide the best specialty care to your patients so that they can return to your care. Always remember that our medical center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for any emergencies that may arise.

We are always open to feedback on how we can best serve you and your clients. Thank you for partnering with us.
The VMC’s expert surgeons and surgical capabilities have made it a recognized center for animal surgery. This year the VMC added a LigaSure ForceTriad unit to the companion animal surgical suite. “The LigaSure ForceTriad is standard in many human hospitals,” said Dr. Kathleen Ham, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. “Having one at the VMC really improves our surgical capabilities. It’s extremely useful, especially for soft tissue surgery.”

The LigaSure ForceTriad brings together the standard LigaSure tool with monopolar and bipolar cautery units. With the ForceTriad, surgeons can isolate tumors, for example, with minimal dissection and bleeding. The unit acts like a jaw, clamping around tissue, while also allowing surgeons to control bleeding, all with one instrument. “The addition of the LigaSure ForceTriad gives us the potential to expand our capabilities in minimally invasive procedures,” said Dr. Ham. “Minimally invasive surgery typically means a shorter time under anesthesia for the patient and less hemorrhaging. As a result, patients usually experience less pain and a faster recovery. The LigaSure ForceTriad will also assist surgeons during more complex procedures, especially in abdominal, cardiothoracic, and oncological surgeries.”

The advanced radiofrequency cautery units, combined with the standard LigaSure technology, reduce operative times, improve visualization, and help control bleeding. Dr. Ham explained that one recent case involving an eight-year-old dog required the removal of five ribs and reconstruction of his chest wall in order to remove a large tumor. Thanks in part to the new equipment, the procedure was successful and he now has an excellent prognosis.

The capability for improved soft tissue surgery and more minimally invasive procedures makes the LigaSure ForceTriad an indispensable piece of surgical equipment.

The board-certified radiologists at the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center will soon have the latest, most advanced imaging technology at their fingertips. Upgrades include a new ultrasound machine, new small animal X-ray with the addition of a C-ARM, and a new large animal X-ray. This new equipment will benefit the Companion Animal Hospital, the Hospital for Farm Animals, and the Galbreath Equine Center, providing increased flexibility for procedures.

The new ultrasound machine features improved imaging quality, including higher processing speeds, better clarity in digital imaging, and dramatically improved transducers. The new levels of sensitivity will allow for the detection of more subtle lesions and changes in tissues. “We are really excited about the improvements, especially in ultrasound,” said Dr. Tod Drost, associate professor in Veterinary Clinical Sciences and head of Radiology. “We want our referring veterinarians to know we now have these improved capabilities for their most difficult cases. These updates will benefit their clients who bring animals to the hospital, leading to more precise diagnoses.”

A demolition crew is currently dismantling the old fluoroscopy room, where equipment that once took up an entire room will be replaced by the C-ARM, allowing more flexibility with the space. The new C-ARM is also mobile and will allow for fluoroscopic procedures in the small animal operating room.

The large animal X-ray will also receive an update to its current tube crane system. The new system will allow the X-ray tube to reach from the top of the head all the way to the floor and provide more mobility around the animals. “We are the only ones in central Ohio and perhaps Ohio proper with this strength of X-ray tube just for horses,” said Dr. Drost. “It really makes us unique.”

Dr. Ham performs a splenectomy using the LigaSure ForceTriad device.
Stephanie and Cecil Snow discovered their 14 month old Newfoundland puppy at the bottom of their driveway, suddenly unable to walk on her left hind leg. The lameness improved minimally with medical management. Dr. Doug Wagner at the Granville Veterinary Clinic radiographed Bella and immediately referred her to Dr. Jon Dyce at The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC).

“Bella was diagnosed with a chronic left femoral capital physeal fracture (FCPFx),” said Dr. Dyce, head of Orthopedics at the VMC. “As a result of the duration of the fracture we could not recommend a primary repair to conserve her original femoral head. The gold standard for chronic FCPFx fractures is total hip replacement (THR). The alternative would be simple femoral head and neck excision which would have left Bella with permanent disability.”

The initial canine THR systems were bonded to the pelvis and femur using acrylic bone cement. In 2003, BioMedtrix (Allendale, NJ) introduced a cementless THR. An initial ‘press fit’ is converted to a stable fixation as bone grows into the textured surfaces of the cup and femoral stem (osseointegration). Dr. Dyce and Ohio State have worked closely with BioMedtrix to refine patient selection and surgical technique to improve outcomes for this technically demanding procedure. Surgeons from Europe, South America, Japan, Thailand, Brazil, Europe, Australia, Canada, and even as far away as Siberia regularly come together at Ohio State with the orthopedics team to learn from the experts in order to launch their own THR programs. Dr. Dyce himself has performed over 1200 THRs and his team has contributed extensively to the literature. Current resident Dr. Lauren Pugliese recently presented their latest research on FCPFx at the Veterinary Orthopedic Society annual meeting.

“Patients like Bella present extraordinary challenges during THR compared to the standard hip dysplastic dog,” said Dr. Dyce. “Spontaneous FCPFx is an increasingly common indication for THR, and veterinary surgeons should be aware of this important differential diagnosis for hip lameness, particularly in the giant breeds. But Bella’s THR surgery was reassuringly routine and she was fit for discharge the following day.”

For Bella, the results could not be better and are obvious in her eight-week postoperative radiographs (below). Substantial muscle recovery was evident on the operated leg even before she had returned to full activity. “It’s incredible,” said owner Stephanie Snow. “She can already take the mile-long walk with our other dogs every morning.” Dr. Dyce commented, “There have been significant recent developments in BioMedtrix THR. The novel aspect of Bella’s femoral stem is that it is manufactured from titanium. Previously these were cobalt chromium. Advantages of titanium include the potential for better bone ingrowth and mechanical properties that are an improved match for bone, potentially minimizing complications such as femoral fracture, implant instability, THR dislocation, and infection. The expansion of the range of THRs manufactured by BioMedtrix means that Ohio State can now offer THR in small, medium, and large breed dogs (and cats). It is a great privilege to operate at an institution that was the cradle for canine THR and to be able to restore comfort and function using state-of-the-art THR techniques.”
Retirements this Summer

Dr. Catherine Kohn

Dr. Catherine Kohn retired June 25, 2012 after almost 36 years of dedicated service to the College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Kohn received her DVM degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1973, graduating first in her class. She completed an internship and a residency in equine medicine and surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Kohn has been a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine since 1982. Some of her areas of interest include critical care, epidemiology and infectious diseases, diseases of the urinary tract, equine physiology, and equine thermoregulation.


Honors and awards include a Prize for Excellence in Pathology, a University Research Award, a Phi Zeta Research Award, and a National Gamma Award (OTS) for Research.

Dr. Kohn’s funded research as principal investigator or co-investigator includes awards of just under $1.5 million from over 45 research grants and contracts. Her publication credits include over 75 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles, as well as authoring a book and 20 book chapters. She has served as the chair of the Veterinary Review Panel for the United States Equestrian Federation Equine Health Research Fund for the past 15 years and the chair of the United States Eventing Association Research Group for the past four years.

Dr. Kohn has been involved with the instruction of over 4,800 veterinary students at Ohio State as well as the clinical instruction and mentoring of approximately 30 residents in equine internal medicine. She has served on the graduate committees of 15 master’s students and three PhD students.

Dr. Kohn has been involved in a number of professional organizations, including the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM), American Association of Equine Practitioners, Morris Animal Foundation, and multiple other equine-specific organizations.

Dr. Mike Rings

Dr. Mike Rings retired July 1, 2012 after nearly 37 years of dedicated service to the College of Veterinary Medicine. After earning his DVM at Ohio State in 1972, Dr. Rings went on to earn his master’s degree at the University of Minnesota. He has been a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine since 1980. Some of his areas of interest include gastroenterology in ruminants, paratuberculosis, and chronic weight loss in sheep.

Dr. Rings rejoined Ohio State in 1975 as an assistant professor in Food Animal Medicine and Surgery, achieved associate professor with tenure in 1986, and was promoted to professor in 1997.

Dr. Rings has been a dedicated and skilled clinician-educator. He has received awards and recognitions for his teaching, including the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award, the John Lyman Clinical Teaching Award, and the Western Veterinary Conference Outstanding Food Animal Speaker.

Dr. Rings’ funded research as principal investigator or co-investigator includes awards of over $2.1 million from over 23 research grants and contracts. Dr. Rings’ publication credits include 70 peer-reviewed journal articles, as well as 21 textbook chapters and a variety of proceedings, published scientific abstracts, and other non-refereed publications.

Dr. Rings has been involved with the instruction of nearly 5,000 veterinary students at Ohio State, as well as the clinical instruction and mentoring of more than 25 residents in farm animal medicine and surgery. He has also served on the graduate committees of 14 master’s students.

Dr. Rings has been involved in a number of professional organizations, including the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM), American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP), Phi Zeta Veterinary Fraternity, and the North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC), among others. He served as regional director for the AASRP, program chair for NAVC Small Ruminant Program, and various committee activities for ACVIM.