

Faculty Day 2006

Faculty Day 2006 was held on 28 September and again proved to be a popular and well attended academic and social occasion. In opening his first Faculty Day as Dean, Prof Gerry Swan emphasised the importance of the day to reflect on the research activities of staff and postgraduate students of the Faculty, as well as in enhancing the efforts of the Faculty to achieve its goal of research excellence.

The Sir Arnold Theiler Memorial Lecture was presented by Dr Brian Perry from the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya. His presentation was entitled *The global poverty reduction agenda: What are the implications for animal health research and development?* His presentation emphasised the merits of prioritising animal health constraints for optimal impact on poverty reduction and the role of the veterinarian in this regard.

Various prestigious awards were presented immediately after the guest lecture. The Lecturer of the Year Award went to Dr Peter Turner, while Sister Ester Botha was named as the Nurses' Lecturer of the Year. Prof Rob Kirberger received the award for Researcher of the Year while the Young Researcher of the Year Award was presented to Dr Mary-Catherine Madekurozwa.

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Dr Brian Perry (left) and Prof Gerry Swan holding the certificate that Dr Perry received for presenting the Sir Arnold Theiler Memorial Lecture.



From the Desk of the Dean



Whenever one looks back on a year, questions always arise about your personal goals, your career goals and the goals of the institution that you work for. My first year in office is already almost over and with your support I have settled into this responsible position with conviction and optimism about the Faculty's future. Although it was not without unique challenges, we can look back on a successful year. A few highlights are worth mentioning:

The Faculty hosted an accreditation visitation of the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) in May. The visitation was designed to obtain an overview of the Faculty's various academic activities. The outcome of this visitation was generally positive, although several constructive comments and suggestions for improvement were made. Most importantly, the Council stated that training at the Faculty, with regards to both the undergraduate veterinary degree programme and the veterinary nurses diploma programme, satisfies the minimum requirements of the SAVC for registration purposes. The official report on the visitation will be made available to staff once it has been received from Council.

The Faculty will also continue to review existing programmes and curricula, administrative guidelines and procedures in support of sustainable development, excellence in training and service delivery. In this regard I must state unequivocally that I am confident in the Faculty's ongoing ability to deliver on its mandate, and in so doing, to play its role and be judged on its contribution to the health and welfare of humans and animals alike, and thus, the economy of this country.

Visits to the Veterinary Faculty at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique, as well as a visit by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Sokoine University of Agriculture in

Tanzania, paved the way for ongoing negotiations between our Faculty and these institutions with a view to extensive cooperation and the signing of Memoranda of Agreement with these universities. The Faculty is expected to play a leading role in veterinary education in the SADC region and in eastern Africa. Closer ties with these institutions will undoubtedly provide impetus to the process of establishing links with most of the faculties of veterinary science in the SADC region.

The Faculty also undertook executive visits to various provinces, which included meetings with the Gauteng MEC for Agriculture, Conservation and the Environment, Mr Khabisi Mosunkutu, and the Directors of Veterinary Services in KwaZulu-Natal (Northern Region), Free State and Mpumalanga. In addition, meetings were also held with the top management of the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) and a high-profile delegation of the national Department of Agriculture, relating to important issues such as cooperation and assistance with regard to recruitment, awareness, training and the transformation of the undergraduate student body.

Effective operational leadership and sound financial management are important prerequisites for sustainable development within the internal orientation of any organisation. I am pleased to report that the Faculty fared well in terms of its finances after receiving an additional

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amount of around R32 million from the Government. A large *ad hoc* capital allocation for 2006 has allowed the replacement of much needed retiring equipment and for the purchase of a computed tomography scanner and a computed radiography system. The latter will place us at the forefront of diagnostic imaging once again. Our budget allocation for 2007 is generous.

Our congratulations go to all our BVSc- and DipVetNurs students who have qualified, and deservedly so. I know in my heart that these young colleagues will, in the near future, take their places as prospective leaders in the veterinary fraternity. The knowledge with which they are equipped, and the faith and self-

confidence they acquired throughout their years of study at this institution will stand them in very good stead. Our best wishes accompany them for the future.

Last, but not least, I want to reiterate that we, as staff members, are the most important resource of this Faculty. With a collaborative effort we will be able to take this Faculty to the next level of excellence and distinction in training, research and service delivery.

We can ensure that we not only do work of remarkable quality, but that our commitment to service delivery is unquestionable. However, we need something more special than just commitment:

As Ralph Waldo Emerson once stated: "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm".

My appreciation goes to every one of you for your contribution to the success of this Faculty during 2006.

I believe that we can confidently look forward to a fruitful and productive new year where we can meet our stated goals.

May your festive season and those of your families be blessed and joyful, and may 2007 be successful and prosperous.

Prof Gerry Swan
Dean

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A total of 26 papers on a range of topics were presented during five platform sessions and 10 posters were on display throughout the day. Presenters of posters again had the opportunity to communicate the main findings of their work using a two minute Powerpoint presentation during a dedicated poster session.

During an enjoyable cocktail function the prize for the best oral presentation was awarded to Dr Vinny Naidoo for his paper entitled *Diclofenac: A proposed mechanism of toxicity*. The prize for the best poster went to Mr Dave Lorom for his contribution *Morphologic and molecular characterisation of coccidia from the African buffalo (Syncerus caffer)*.

The day was again made possible by generous support from the commercial sector. The various companies not only financed the event, but also created an exciting atmosphere by manning a number of colourful and informative stands throughout the day.



Prof Andy Mogotlane, Vice-Principal (left), and Prof Gerry Swan, Dean, at the evening awards ceremony.

News from the Veterinary Hospital

Comfort room



This year saw the realisation of a Comfort Room for the benefit of clients. Many clients are severely distressed, even traumatised at having to euthanase their pet, and a clinical consultation room does nothing to ease their grief, or provide healing memories of the last few moments with their canine or feline friend. With the benefit of carpeting, curtains and comfy chairs, a consulting room near the pharmacy was converted and made cozy, so clients can spend a few last moments in privacy, holding their beloved pet before/while it is euthanased, and then compose themselves before driving home. A recent letter from a grateful client confirms the success of this initiative: "We were especially taken aback by the Comfort Room in which one can wait whilst animals/pets were being attended to".

Resident stress-relievers

Anyone familiar with the centre of the hospital will know the indoor atrium affectionately known as the 'Fish Tank'. Well, these days it is the residence of two very special black female cats called Magic and Mystery. They were intended to be blood donors, but are not large enough (though certainly plump enough!) to donate blood. Due to popular demand, however, they have been kept on as stress-relievers and are exceptionally friendly, and boost morale to no end! A recent attempt to provide them with a loving family (and

garden) failed, so clearly Magic and Mystery are meant to stay at the hospital! All faculty staff members are invited to visit the hospital and commune with Magic and Mystery any time they need a 'stress break'.

New Blood Bank signage

This year, Royal Canin became the company to sponsor the Onderstepoort Animal Blood Bank, and its attractive red and white signage has encouraged positive feedback from staff and the public alike. Their sign outside the OVAH cattery is also striking, portraying a large and beautiful tabby cat. The in-house greyhound and feline blood donors are thriving on Royal Canin food, and the cats have been thoroughly spoilt with toys, scratching posts and cushions to keep them comfy and entertained. The OVAH needs a steady and constant supply of especially canine blood, so if any Faculty staff member would like to consider volunteering their dog to be a blood donor, please contact one of the people listed on the Royal Canin notice board in the Outpatient reception area.

Patients are fed well in the OVAH!

Clients often ask what their cat or dog will be fed on when it is hospitalised here and we are always proud to say that patients are fed on lams and Eukanuba, unless a specific prescription diet is required. We find that lams and Eukanuba foods are so palatable that even very fussy, or seriously ill pets will eat satisfactorily during their stay with us, and we remain very grateful to lams for their generous sponsorship of our patient food!

Feline Congress has spin-offs

Hill's Pet Nutrition sent Dr Liesel van der Merwe and Prof Johan Schoeman of the Companion Animal Section to Brussels at the end of April 2006 to attend the Hill's European Symposium on Advances in Feline Medicine. Dr van der Merwe brought back very positive ideas regarding a more feline-friendly hospital environment, and specifically a separate feline ICU. A separate ICU for critically ill cats to be nursed away from noisy dog patients has, for years, been very high on the wish list of the hospital, and many staff members eagerly await the day when funds and/or space become available to make this a reality.

Mog-n-Mutt Pet Food shop is thriving!

Thank you to all Faculty staff for the continued and growing support of the M-n-M. If there is anything that you particularly require, Srs Hettie Geldenhuis and Nienke van der Westhuizen are available to assist and advise any time between 08:00 and 18:00 weekdays, and look forward to being of service!



Dr Liesel van der Merwe takes a "stress break" with cats Magic and Mystery.

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The Classes of 1930 and 1931

by RD Bigalke,

Chairperson : Veterinary History Committee of the South African Veterinary Association

The Class of 1930

The Onderstepoort Class of 1930 was the second smallest in the Faculty's history. It boasted two students and is only surpassed by the Class of 1933, which had a single student for much of the BVSc course. Despite the fact that the two students must have enjoyed considerable attention by their teachers, it is worthy to note that Posthumus stated that 'it is on record that no veterinary students qualified from Onderstepoort in 1930'. This must be kept in mind when studying the caption of the photograph. It is once again composed of individual shots of the two graduates rather than the customary, comprehensive class photograph, and it is apparent that Nilsen's photograph was taken several years after he qualified, evidently at one of the general meetings of the South African Veterinary Medical Association. The Dean of the Faculty, Prof Dr PJ du Toit, does not feature. This is strange because the photograph was clearly compiled many years after graduation and there is no reason why his photograph could not have been added.



Leslie Thomas (Ted) Edwards

Leslie Thomas (Ted) Edwards was born in Cathcart on 14 July 1908 and matriculated at the Victoria High School, Grahamstown in 1925. He was the only student in the second year and was joined by Nilsen, who had to repeat a year, in his third year. Both received supplementary examinations at the end of their final year and therefore qualified in the middle of 1931 instead of 1930. Ted's wife's name was Kay.

Edwards spent his entire career in the government service. He was first sent to Allerton Laboratory for East Coast fever smear examination duties for about six months and then to Umtata for a similar task. In 1933 he had his first experience with foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) control in the Koedoesrand area of the Potgietersrus district, which 'hardened' him for 'future life as a state veterinarian'.

In 1963 he was transferred to Pietersburg where he had to manage the slaughter-out policy for East Coast fever which ended the occurrence of disease in that district. Thereafter he was involved in the control of outbreaks of FMD in the following places: Pilgrimsrest area, which is adjacent to the Kruger National Park (1938-1939), Pilgrimsrest area and Letaba district (1944-1945 and 1950-1951), Bechuanaland Protectorate – now Botswana (1950), Mafeking and Marico districts (1957) and Hectorspruit and Komatipoort areas (1959). In 1959 he was transferred to Pretoria as Assistant Director of the Transvaal region and was promoted to the position of Deputy Director of Veterinary Services in 1961.

Dr Edwards retired from the South African government service in 1968 at the age of 60. He then took up an appointment with the Swaziland government where he once again had to control an outbreak of FMD,

which he achieved within two months. He finally retired in 1971 and settled at Umkomaas where he died in 1985 at the age of 77.

Christian Tunnacliffe Nilsen was born on 25 July 1905 and matriculated at Kingswood College, Grahamstown in 1923.



Christian Tunnacliffe Nilsen

After qualifying as a veterinarian in the middle of 1931, he farmed and practised for a while before joining the Veterinary Department as Government Veterinary Officer at Fort Jameson in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). He married his cousin, Sheila Nilsen, in 1937. Dr Nilsen represented Northern Rhodesia on the rinderpest control team in Tanganyika (now Tanzania), probably in the 1940s (see Rossiter on p8). The Union of South Africa was primarily responsible for vaccinating livestock in Tanganyika and the latter for the implementation of a 'cordon sanitaire' by the erection of a game-proof fence and the elimination of all susceptible domestic stock and wildlife from a six to 40km wide

corridor between Lakes Tanganyika and Malawi. Thereafter Nilsen transferred to the Swaziland Veterinary Department but once again decided to go farming, whilst he also operated a hotel. In 1963 he eventually joined the Directorate of Veterinary Services in South Africa, serving as state veterinarian in Umtata until his retirement in 1971. He died in 1980 at the age of 75.

The Class of 1931

The official photograph of the Class of 1931 is the more customary composite one, probably taken shortly after the last examination in the final (5th) year of the six students concerned. However, the Dean, Prof Dr PJ du Toit, does not feature. Was he perhaps on one of his many overseas trips? This class boasts the youngest veterinarian to ever qualify at the Onderstepoort Faculty, Major Henry Victor Brown.



Front (from left): Major Brown, Lancelot Rossiter, Nicolas van der Linde, Cornelius Wessels; and (back) William Clapham and William Barnard

Major Henry Victor Brown was born in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) on

2 May 1912. Major was only 14 years old when he started with the BVSc course in 1927, and he qualified in 1931 aged 19. He is said to have been the youngest veterinarian in the British Empire, at the time. Small wonder that he seems to be asleep in the photograph! According to one of his classmates, CC Wessels – told by the latter's son Brian, who is also a veterinary surgeon – Major Brown's brilliance was phenomenal. 'He hardly ever made notes during lectures. When it came to swotting he would go to the others, one at a time, find out what they were studying, and then asked the person to tell him everything about that particular subject'. He always had cigarettes at hand, which he kept in a tin.

Dr Brown spent 1931 to 1936 as a research officer at the Onderstepoort Research Institute. He then resigned to take on a position in the British Colonial Service in Burma at the Insein Veterinary Laboratory

as pathologist and bacteriologist, where he *inter alia* had to work with Asian elephants.

This included euthanasing a rogue elephant which he managed to do, without having to use a rifle. He did this by administering a pound of Epsom salts dissolved in a gallon of water intravenously. When the Japanese invaded Burma in 1942 during World War II, Major returned to South Africa and joined the practice of Dr Jack Boswell as a partner. He eventually concentrated on small animal surgery in the practice to become 'one of the finest surgeons I have ever seen,' according to Boswell. He died in office on 7 March 1955 at the age of only 43.

William George Barnard was born in Lydenburg on 14 September 1907 and qualified as a veterinarian in June 1932, having been obliged to complete a supplementary examination in Surgery. He then joined the Division of Veterinary Services in East Griqualand and served as state veterinarian for seven years. He married Marie Pringle in 1939. The couple was childless. In the same year he transferred to Swaziland where he served as Principal Veterinary Officer until 1953. He then went to Tanganyika where he succeeded Dr NR Reid – who qualified in 1927 – as Director of Veterinary Services. In 1958 he returned to South Africa to practise at Ballitoville on the Natal North Coast until his death on 27 September 1980 at the age of 73 years. He was awarded the OBE in 1951 for his services to the Swazi nation.

William Stratford Beverley Clapham was born in Pretoria on 14 June 1904 and also failed to qualify in 1931 because of a supplementary examination in Surgery. Clapham joined the Division of Veterinary Services in mid-1932, but soon transferred to the Department of Defence as a veterinary officer and from there to the Aircraft Depot. The reason for this move was probably because Clapham had qualified as a pilot while he was a student at Onderstepoort. By September 1933 he was receiving military training in England. Back in South Africa in 1934 he was placed in the SA Artillery Corps and became a

battery commander. However, he resigned from the Defence Force before World War II to join the Basutoland (now Lesotho) Veterinary Department. He married Ms PB Luscombe of Maseru while in Basutoland. Clapham took up gliding, but was unfortunately badly injured in a flying accident at Quagga poort.

Despite this severe setback to his health, Clapham served in the military in World War II, as Commanding Officer of the Waterkloof Air Station with the rank of major. He subsequently became Commanding Officer of the 6th Regiment, South African Artillery. He then served as lieutenant-colonel, on the northern front with the 6th South African Armoured Division, but was recalled to South Africa because of failing health. He died soon thereafter on 15 November 1943 at the age of only 39. His cremation service at Braamfontein cemetery was conducted with full military honours.

Lancelot William Rossiter was born in Ermelo on 18 November 1907. Like Barnard and Clapham he also failed Surgery – truly amazing that half the class failed this subject – in his final examination and qualified in June 1932. He also joined the Division of Veterinary Services and was first stationed at the Allerton Laboratory in Pietermaritzburg and thereafter served at Ladysmith and Nongoma (1937). From November 1939 to September 1940 he found himself on secondment in Tanganyika in the campaign to control rinderpest that was spreading southwards through that country, thereby threatening southern Africa, which had been free from the disease since the early 1900s.

Rossiter was in the South African Veterinary Corps during World War II and was involved in the transportation of mules to India for the British Army as well as in the capture of Madagascar by the South African Forces. He was awarded the MBE for these services.

Dr Rossiter was involved in several FMD campaigns at Bushbuckridge while stationed as government veterinary officer at Barberton and Ermelo, where he lived

for 10 years. He also spent five years in Grahamstown. In 1965 he was promoted to Assistant Director and placed in charge of the Natal region where he remained until he retired in 1972. He then took up a temporary appointment with the Division of Veterinary Services as meat inspector at the Pietermaritzburg abattoir. He was a keen cricketer and rugby player in his younger days, as well as a bowls player in later years, and an excellent horseman. He was also an active Rotarian and member of old soldiers' organisations. He died on 1 February 1981 at the age of 73.

Nicolas Theart van der Linde was born in Griquatown in 1909 and was one of the three final-year students who managed to pass Surgery, therefore graduating in 1931. He then joined the Division of Veterinary Services for which he worked for the first 28 years of his career. After being stationed at Allerton for about six months, he was transferred to Armoedsvlakte (a farm near Vryburg) where research was being done on lamsiekte (botulism). We also know that Dr Van der Linde served as a government veterinary officer in Bloemfontein in 1954. However, in 1960 he resigned from government service and went into private practice in Bloemfontein. He died the next year on 29 April at the age of only 52.

Cornelius Cloete (CC) Wessels was born on 31 August 1908 and matriculated at Bethulie in the Orange Free State. He was also one of the three students in his class who passed Surgery in his final year and therefore qualified in 1931.

Like four of his classmates (Van der Linde, Rossiter, Clapham and Barnard) Dr Wessels initially joined the Division of Veterinary Services as government veterinary officer and was posted in Kuruman. Dourine was rife in the Northern Cape and he was apparently involved in the episode in which Kuni Schultz was severely wounded in the jaw by the son of the owner of a farm near Danielskuil in the Barkly West district, when Schultz and a police escort arrived with a court order to destroy a dourine-infected horse [see Bigalke: Veterinary

education in South Africa: The Class of 1925. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association (2004) 75, pp 4-6*. CC married Enid Marguerite Maud Thomas in 1934 and the couple had six children, including Brian, a future veterinarian. In 1938 CC was sent to the Pennsylvania State University, USA for two years to conduct research on bovine tuberculosis and was awarded a DVM-degree. Wessels also served in Worcester in the early 1940s, where Brian was born in 1941. He was posted to the Onderstepoort Research Institute as a research officer shortly thereafter.

In the mid-1940s CC set up a private practice in Krugersdorp. However, in 1946 he changed his vocation by accepting a position as Director of the Municipal Abattoir in Durban, a task which included the customary other public health duties. His achievements in this discipline (such as enforcing local pasteurisation of fresh milk) resulted in him being elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health.

In mid-1957 he joined the Australian pharmaceutical company, Nicholas Products, set up their local veterinary department and established a market for the 'cobalt bullet' for the prevention of deficiency in sheep and cattle farmed extensively in cobalt deficient areas.

He rejoined Veterinary Services in 1961 and was stationed at Mossel Bay. After suffering a severe leg fracture while conducting TB tests, he was transferred to Cape Town as state veterinarian in charge of the quarantine station. He then spent a few months in Pretoria before being transferred to the Allerton Laboratory in Pietermaritzburg. Finally he went to Durban to supervise the public health aspects of the exportation of meat by the Orchid Company.

CC retired in 1973 and spent his retirement on the South Coast, just south of Amanzimtoti. He died in December 1988 at the age of 80 after a very full and varied career.

Vet Library's digital Theiler Collection under the spotlight

by Erica van der Westhuizen

The Veterinary Science Library participated once again in Faculty Day with a hands-on display of one of its growing UPSpace communities, the Theiler Collection. UPSpace is the University's electronic institutional research repository on the web for digitised items. (<https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/>)

The Vet Library's digital expert, Amelia Breytenbach, together with Ria Groenewald, the Academic Information Service's digital expert, worked together on the project and enabled the Faculty to show its clients and visitors what a

powerful tool a digital collection can be. The Theiler Collection enables access to historical documents including rare photographs of Arnold Theiler who founded the Faculty in 1920, as well as photographs of his colleagues, friends and family.

Ria made an excellent scanned copy of Prof Theiler's own thesis presented at Berne University in Switzerland in 1901 (*Die Malaria des Pferdes*) and it is included in the Collection. (<https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/bitstream/2263/172/2/atphd1901.pdf>)

Diseases of production animals are of importance worldwide, but Africa has

a special abundance of diseases and therefore attracts interest from various international research bodies. Most of the early research reports on Africa's animal diseases appear in our local veterinary or animal science journals. The need to digitise these early works is imperative.

Theiler's report on Lamsiekte (Parabotulism) in cattle in South Africa, published in 1927, is currently being studied by a research group in Germany. The library was proud to be in the position to provide the research material as it could not be found in any German library.



The Theiler Collection makes a valuable contribution to the University's electronic institutional research repository.

Onderstepoort student completes the well-known Envirovet course

An Onderstepoort veterinary student, Robert Campbell, recently completed the renowned international Envirovet course that ended in August this year. This course is a specialised programme that is focused on creating a force of veterinarians with the unique perspectives, knowledge, skills and expertise required to implement an efficient approach to animal, human and ecosystem health.

The course offered the 25 veterinary students and veterinarians doing the course the opportunity to draw upon and learn from cutting edge specialists in the wide fields of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem health. Each participant in this course participated in comprehensive classroom, laboratory and field interactions from mid-June to the beginning of August. Transdisciplinary cooperation was highlighted as essential for effective wildlife and ecosystem research, management and long-term problem solving.

The course consisted of two parts (a developed country section and a developing country section). The first section was

completed at White Oak Conservation Center, St. Catherine's Island and the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in the USA. The developing country section was done in South Africa and Swaziland, where first-hand practical experience was emphasised. This section was organised by Dr Jan Myburgh from the Department of Paraclinical Sciences. In southern Africa, the students were exposed to scientists from different disciplines and transdisciplinary collaboration was stressed. Interaction and conflict between rural people, livestock and wildlife were discussed and investigated on the ground.

The biggest problems in Africa threatening biological, economic, social and political

sustainability are unsustainable utilisation of natural resources, emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) and environmental pollution (all affecting biodiversity).

Emerging infectious diseases in humans and animals (livestock and wildlife) are usually caused by changes in host-parasite ecology and associated with numerous factors, including global travel trade, climate change, environmental degradation, encroachment by humans into natural habitat and increasing contact between humans, domestic animals and wildlife. Most of the EIDs are zoonoses. The Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases organised an in-depth infectious diseases workshop for these students.



Envirovets in Africa - Andreas Liebenberg discusses the white lions of Timbavati with Envirovet students and lecturers.

The deleterious effects of pollutants and/or contaminants are not always recognised in developing countries and have therefore not received much attention in Africa. In many African countries the treatment of sewage or wastewater in towns or villages has ceased and chemicals such as pharmaceutical agents ultimately end up in the water sources. Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) such as pesticides (e.g. DDT) and industrial by-products also contribute to contamination of the aquatic ecosystem. In Africa surface water is often utilised as drinking water and in the preparation of food, without prior and suitable purification. In addition, freshwater fish is often consumed (e.g. sharp-toothed catfish) and forms a large part of the diet of rural populations in Africa. Tissue residues in the flesh of fish contribute to the daily intake of pollutants by humans.

During the visit to the Loskop Dam Nature Reserve and Timbavati, students were given the opportunity to participate in some of the research projects of the Department of Paraclinical Sciences. Water samples were collected from waterholes in the Timbavati and several were found to be positive for *Microcystis aeruginosa*. Reports from Timbavati and the Kruger National Park indicated that large numbers of animals died, during last summer, due to cyanobacteria.



Envirovet students collect a water sample from a waterhole for cyanobacterial research.

The idea of Conservation Medicine was constantly highlighted throughout the course. The need to look holistically at the environment (ecosystem health), livestock and wildlife problems (animal health), and human health is absolutely essential. Conservation Medicine is an emerging discipline that addresses the interrelationships between human, animal and ecosystem health (transdisciplinary approach) and studies the effects of global environmental changes on these health interrelationships. This new discipline was established in response to increasing concerns about the adverse effects of anthropogenic environmental changes on human and animal health. Conservation Medicine moves away from considering diseases of humans and animals at an individual level and instead recognises that there is a continuum of interdependence that underlies the health of all biota on this planet: the health of the biosphere, ecosystems, plants, humans and animals.

The students were given assignments to do at two schools (one primary and one

secondary school). This was achieved by presenting a play for all the children and interacting with them in smaller groups afterwards. They were required to teach the kids about different types of animals, habitat and environmental pollution. An important part of the play was to teach the children about veterinarians and what they do. Most of the children, even the secondary school pupils, didn't know anything about veterinarians.

The Envirovet students visited several other places in southern Africa to work or interact with high profile scientists. Some of these included the Faculty of Veterinary Science, the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre, the Sterkfontein Caves, the Pretoria Zoo, the Ndlovu Aids Centre, Bateleur Wilderness Safaris in Timbavati, Skukuza restcamp in the Kruger National Park, Ngongoni for clinical work with Dr Cobus Raath, St. Lucia, Cape Vidal, KZNWildlife with Drs Dave Cooper and Ricky Taylor, as well as Stewart's Farm.

Veterinarians in Africa have a critical role to play within transdisciplinary teams working on biodiversity conservation projects; in particular, they can contribute significantly to the planning and implementation stages of such projects. Veterinary involvement in conservation medicine projects may include the management of threatened wildlife species; health assessment and monitoring of wildlife and/or domestic animal populations; health studies of zoonoses, anthroozoonoses and interspecies transmission of diseases; development of diagnostic capabilities to improve identification of disease agents in wildlife; involvement with welfare, regulation and production aspects of



Dr Cobus Raath teaches the Envirovet students about monitoring an immobilised roan antelope

wildlife utilisation programs; planning of export and import procedures of

wildlife species; training and capacity building; epidemiological data collection and management; research and policy development at local, national and international levels.



An Envirovet student teaches primary school children from the De Wagendrift combined school about animals, health, the environment and veterinary science.

"Man's heart away from nature, becomes hard! Lack of respect for growing and living things soon causes lack of respect for humans too." Luther Bear (1868 - 1939)

DVTD shares its expertise with international students

Cambridge Infectious Diseases Consortium (CIDC)

The Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases (DVTD) was invited to become a participant in the Cambridge Infectious Diseases Consortium (CIDC) based at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Cambridge, following a visit to Onderstepoort by the programme manager, Dr James Wood. Funding for the programme has been obtained from the British Government for a period of five years starting in 2006.

As part of the multi-dimensional activities of the programme, a course was organised for undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff at Cambridge University in transboundary animal diseases or diseases exotic to the United Kingdom. The emphasis during the course was on African experiences and perspectives of these diseases with concomitant references to their global status and effects.

To achieve this objective a team of five speakers was assembled from the ranks of the DVTD and collaborating scientists. They included Prof Koos Coetzer, Head of the DVTD, Prof Moritz van Vuuren, virologist in the DVTD, Prof Peter van den Bosch from the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Belgium and extraordinary professor in parasitology in the DVTD, Dr Gavin Thomson, Director of TAD Scientific cc, and Dr Mark Rweyemamu from Advanced Veterinary Information Systems (AVIS) in the United Kingdom.



From left: Prof Moritz van Vuuren, Prof Koos Coetzer (course convenor), Dr Mark Rweyemamu and Dr Gavin Thomson.

Fourth Biennial Training Course on Foreign Animal Diseases

The DVTD participated in the Fourth Biennial Training Course on Foreign Animal Diseases presented by the University of Madison-Wisconsin and hosted by the Department of Pathobiological Sciences of the School of Veterinary Medicine in July this year.

DVTD personnel have been involved in the course since its inception in 1999. The course developed from a similar course on African Epizootic Diseases that has been presented by the DVTD since 1994.



From left: Dr James Wood (course organiser), Prof Koos Coetzer, Prof Peter van den Bosch and Prof Moritz van Vuuren.

It was during a visit to Onderstepoort in 1997 by Prof Chris Olsen, as part of the collaboration between the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort and the School of Veterinary Medicine in Wisconsin, that the concept of a course on Foreign Animal Diseases in the USA was discussed and developed. The rationale for the South African involvement was the presence of many of the important transboundary diseases in southern Africa and the experience that local researchers have gained during outbreaks of these diseases.

The DVTD has also developed a formidable collection of teaching materials in this domain in the form

of multimedia CD Roms and these are provided to course candidates at each course. The emphasis during this year's course was on trans-boundary diseases that may pose a risk to the North American continent in terms of agricultural bioterrorism. Presenters from the DVTD specifically focused on African experiences and perspectives of these diseases with concomitant references to their global status and effects.

A new item on the programme this year was a small group work session in the form

of a table-top exercise on a suspected foreign animal disease incursion.

This was preceded by lectures on Federal and State responses to suspected foreign animal disease incursions by experts from the US Departments of Defence and Agriculture.

Pictured from left: Prof Barney Easterday (Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine), Prof Moritz van Vuuren (DVTD), Prof Koos Coetzer (Head: DVTD), Prof Chris Olsen (Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine), Dr Robert Ehlenfeldt (State Veterinarian for the State of Wisconsin), Dr Trevor Drew (Veterinary Laboratory Agency, UK) and Dr Ty Vannieuwenhoven (USDA Area Emergency Coordinator).



Letters to the editor

Dear colleagues

I would like to extend a response to the letter written anonymously by a member of the 2006 final year class in the last edition of OPNews.

I believe it is important for readers not to be exposed to only one person's extreme viewpoint - it would be unfair to cloud future final years' expectations of their clinic year with what is a shameless over-indulgence of self pity.

In the abovementioned letter, the clinic year was depicted as an ordeal of abuse experienced by students, with unrealistic expectations placed upon them. Very few of the clinical rotations that comprise the final year roster actually involve regular after-hours - specifically the notorious outpatients and equines. I must emphasise, however, that this "enforced

sleep deprivation" is not inevitable with either of these clinics, and always involves a rather large two letter word... In effect, eight weeks of the year have the potential to be very busy - IF the clinics are busy and IF you get woken up by an after-hours emergency. One is certainly not on after-hours duty every night of the two weeks.

The other clinical rotations based in the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) usually involve one ICU shift for each week that one is on the clinic (eg. Small Animal Medicine, Surgery and Theriogenology as well as Production Animals). While the hours are long, one must keep in mind that these shifts are at the absolute most twice in one week. The rotations performed by the students that are not based in the OVAH are considered to be less demanding rotations time-wise and allow students more than sufficient time during the course of the year to

experience shorter working days without the threat of after-hours, weekends off and the so-called stress of too-high expectations placed on the students by clinicians.

Having shed a more realistic light on the "torture" that is final year, I want to call attention to the fact that I am not trying to portray the other extreme end of what is a diverse spectrum - definite changes need to be implemented within the OVAH and while final year is not all sunshine and roses, it is unquestionably a vital leaning curve one needs to experience in order to be prepared for the stringent demands of private practice. Disillusioned? I beg to differ.

Still Sane!

Final Year 2006

Prof Cheryl McCrindle receives prestigious award

Prof Cheryl Mc Crindle has been selected as the winner in the education category of the 2006 Shoprite Checkers/SABC2 Woman of the Year Award.



Prof McCrindle is a specialist in the field of veterinary primary health care and education in South Africa. She is currently a full professor in the Department of Paraclinical Sciences and

Head of the section of Veterinary Public Health at Onderstepoort. She was the convenor of the K. Birch Trust fund for the continuing education of farmers, animal health technologists and veterinarians working in developing areas, which resulted in some four to five courses annually. With Prof Colin Stewart, Prof McCrindle ran the Veterinary Community Outreach Unit at Medunsa, which served the Winterveld region, in association with the medical and dental faculties.

One of the projects she is currently involved in, together with Prof Leon Prozesky and Mr Julius Sebei, is the small-scale dairy farming project in the North West Province, which has been running for the past five years and was due to finish soon. There has, however, been a resounding request to continue and to expand the project to include the rest of the country. No wonder she describes herself as a 'cow'-girl!

Prof McCrindle is currently Chairperson of the Onderstepoort Community Outreach Committee. This involves student-mediated outreach to surrounding communities. The committee is also involved in the protection of horses in Lesotho, and runs an ongoing global transport of animals project.

Throughout her career, Prof McCrindle has focused on creating a new paradigm of thought and action in the veterinary field, in which people of previous and current lesser means and of all ages are included in a meaningful and productive way.

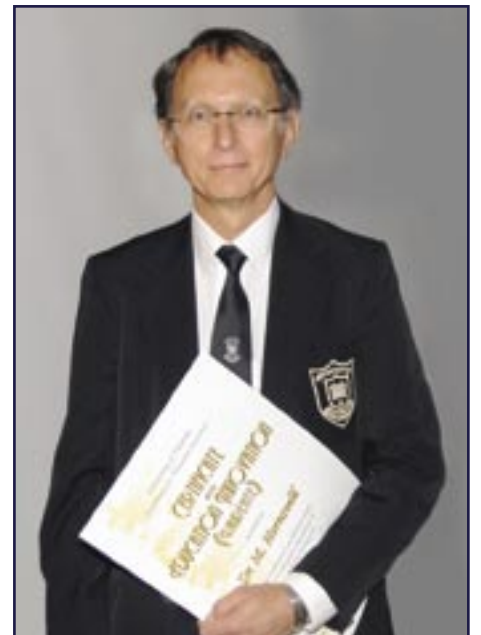
The Shoprite Checkers/SABC2 Woman of the Year Award, pays tribute to the most exceptional women of South Africa, who have not only achieved success in their own respective fields, but who have also made a tangible difference in their communities and society as a whole, and have inspired others to follow.

Anatomy lecturer receives Education Innovation award

Dr Marius Hornsveld, a lecturer in Anatomy, was awarded an Education Innovation Award for his innovative approach to uplifting the standard of anatomy education.

As a result of the restructuring of the veterinary course and an increase in the number of students, the quality of practical anatomy education has suffered. Additional factors include poor student to lecturer ratios and facility limitations. To address this problem Dr Hornsveld investigated alternative methods to achieve the same standard of anatomy

education that the veterinary profession has enjoyed in the past. Dr Hornsveld developed a set of 19 videos, one for each system of the body. Lecturers and demonstrators are given training on how to incorporate the videos into the anatomy course. Students attend discussions that take place around prepared cadavers. The videos serve as revision material.



OP Women take on Pebble Rock Golf Club

by Tania Heuer (BVSc IV)

At 07:00 on the morning of Saturday 7 October the restaurant balcony was filled with ladies wearing striking blue and white shirts. They were the women of Onderstepoort who faced the unknown world of "club swing" or, for those who aren't in the know, GOLF.

Most of the women had never played a round of golf before and some had never even touched a golf club until that morning. Most people would think that this would lead to sheer chaos, but their play turned out to be quite impressive. Not only did they all manage to finish the game with a few golf balls left, but the teams put down some pretty decent scores too. It must all be due to their "natural talent".

The first tee-off pretty much went as expected. Either the ladies moved some earth a few metres forward or ended up hacking their first ball out of the rough. But, instead of being disheartened, it only made them more determined to finish what they had started.

The more experienced players stayed well on course, while others thought that playing from hazard to hazard was definitely the way to show off their golfing talents. Some spent plenty of time searching for that damn little white ball in the rough and others had trouble with the 'gentle touch' around the green. And of course there were those who managed to repeatedly hit the ball completely out of the golf estate's boundaries... never to be found again, ever...

Then there were the hell drivers, which is why most students took control of the golf carts... But in the end, except for the loss of a golf bag wheel somewhere, most ladies managed to make it back in one piece. Except for Dr Caryl Furnis who managed to hit herself with her own golf ball...

After brunch at the restaurant, a small awards ceremony was held. The students won the day (by only 10 points, which says plenty about the "natural talent" of our lecturers). The best players of the day where Dr Caryl Furniss (4th), Elmien Kotzé (3rd), Jean-Lynn van Heerden (2nd) and Mrs Laurian McLaren (1st).

The following individuals deserve a big thank you: Elmien Kotzé, Tanya Leslie, Tracy Lloyd, Tania Smith and Jean-Lynn van Heerden for their moral support and help with arranging this day. To all the other students, thanks a million for keeping our spirits up and for actually practicing!

Two thumbs up for all our sponsors. Without them this day would simply not have come into play. You were all fabulous to work with and your generosity definitely didn't go unnoticed. For financial aid, thanks are due to Hill's, Prof Gerry Swan, and the OP marketing department. Thanks to Sondela Lodge, Sportman's Warehouse Montana, Shape Magazine, Centurion Theatre, Weg Magazine, OP pharmacy, Woolworths Kolonnade, Icon Driving range, House of Coffees Kolonnade, Merial and Gordon Adam for prizes. Merial also sponsored the

lovely golf shirts and Hill's sponsored a few caps as well.

Also a big thank you to Ms Louise Kloppers who designed the stickers for the wine bottles.

To all the guys who dared to lend out their golf club sets. I hope you received them back in one piece... and thank you for all the support and coaching.

Finally, to all our lecturers who participated, a HUGE (1010) THANK YOU, for getting up EARLY, for sacrificing more than half of your sacred Saturday and for participating with such enthusiasm.



Standing: Mrs Heleen Els, Dr Amelia Goddard, Dr Danny Steckler, Dr Annette Heise, Ms Ilse Luther and Dr Jackie Pickard. Sitting: Mrs Laurian McLaren and Dr Liesel vd Merwe. Lying down: the injured Dr Caryl Furniss.

Without your support this would have been a day without any meaning. We hope that you'll summon the courage and dare to teach us a lesson next year. Once again, thank you for being such great fun.

OP Sports Awards 2006

by Ciara Clarke

It was once again a great year for OP Sport with 21 sports teams competing. The year 2005 was always going to be a tough year to follow, but in true OP style, we gave it horns! Four teams were crowned champions, two were runners-up and five were semi-finalists.

The ladies' soccer team again dominated the Tuks Res league, winning it undefeated! Men's volleyball also took top honours. Rugby and netball both made the 1st division semi-finals. Racquet-wise, the ladies' squash team ended top seeded, whilst Matthew and Nenene made sure they didn't let the badminton knock-out tournament slip through their fingers and won in style. However, we missed the aquatic sports this year, not having the chance to defend the Tuks Spirit Trophy at the gala or getting into the water to show main campus how water polo is played.

It has been a fantastic year filled with fond memories and great achievements. Sadly, as the year draws to a close we bid farewell to the final class of 2006: a class that produced some of the finest, most committed sportsmen and women to grace the fields of LC de Villiers. On behalf of OP - thank you for your contribution to sport throughout your time here and we wish you all the best for the future.

Other special awards received during the year included:

- Plakkerskamp Trophy for Service to Sport - Bertus Nel
- Coach - For the Love of the Game - Daniel Lloyd
- Vets Choice Sportswoman of the Year - Paula de Klerk
- Royal Canin Sportsman of the Year - Ulf von Delft
- Deans' Team of the Year - Girls Soccer

Again the Republic of Onderstepoort's Senate mortgaged itself and awarded PhD* certificates to all members of teams that won their leagues. Congratulations to all who earned this year's honour.

* Pretoria Hostel Destroyer



The volleyball trophy.

Just in case • Emergency numbers

• Security Services (main campus)	6911	420-2310
• Flying Squad	6022	10111
• Police Pretoria North	6022	10111
• Ambulance: - Rosslyn	6003	541-3421/6
- Pretoria	6002	326-0111
• Fire Brigade (Wonderboom)	6024	543-0335
• Tygerberg Poison Centre	6179	(021) 931-6129
• Emergency Medical Help: OP		
- Sr Amanda Hamman (VAH)	8064	083 269 8874
- Sr Riani de Kock (VAH)	8149	082 802 3329
- Ms Anne-Marie Human (VAH)	8216	082 540 4833
- Prof Frik Stegnam (VAH)	8279	8148 (operating theatre)
- Mr Chris Neetling (Feed Stroe)	8004	8004 (roving phone)
- Prof Ken Pettey (Ethology/Physiology)	8449	082 882 7356
- Mrs Daléne Meyer (Anatomy/Physiology)	8212	082 374 1583
- Psychologist at OP(Wednesday), Voula Samouris	8243	083 754 5427
- Psychologist - main campus, Rina Buys	6127/6151	082 908 3688
• 24-hour university crisis line		0800 00 64 28
• Head of OP Residence:		
- Dr Jan Myburgh	8350	082 392 2534
- Mrs Susan Myburgh		083 235 6778

In the case of an emergency just dial the four-digit number given above.