



Dr. Lena Levison, centre, with Dr. Derek Haley, left, and Dr. Todd Duffield, right, who co-ordinate the dairy cattle welfare rotation.

Dairy care program focuses on dairy welfare

VETERINARIANS ARE A CRITICAL resource for farmers, not only for clinical services, but also for advice and coaching for management changes and for industry programs.

The new Saputo Dairy Care Program, offered through the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare (CCSAW) and the Ontario Veterinary College, will focus on dairy welfare training for the next generation of veterinarians, and provide continuing education opportunities for farmers and practicing veterinarians.

“We are pleased to be a funding partner for the Saputo Dairy Care Program,” says Dr. Warren Skippon, DVM '89, director of animal welfare at Saputo Inc. “Investing in such programs is part of our com-

mitment to elevating standards of care and handling for dairy cattle. The program brings focused education and training on key welfare issues, such as pain management for disbudding calves and cull cow fitness for transport decision-making.”

The program features a new animal welfare rotation for fourth-year student veterinarians, says Dr. Lena Levison, DVM '07, who will help oversee the program's initiatives as the Saputo Dairy Care Program manager.

Levison, who completed an M.Sc. in animal behaviour and welfare at OVC in 2013, brings a strong dairy background to the role. She is also the clinical veterinarian for Animal Care Services

...continued on page 3



Congratulations to **Dr. Carolyn Kerr**, chair of OVC's Clinical Studies, and **Heather Leong**, senior analyst in OVC's Information Technology Services, on their nominations for **YMCA-YWCA of Guelph Women of Distinction Awards**.

Kerr was nominated in the Science and Research category, and Leong in the Information Technology category. The awards celebrate community leaders in 11 categories and honour one recipient in each category.

FROM THE DEAN

Health and well-being of animals central to our work

SINCE THE FIRST DOMESTICATION of dogs around 15,000 years ago, our attitudes toward animals and animal ownership have gradually evolved. They continue to evolve now. Animated discussions on animal welfare and animal agriculture are increasingly common in our places of work, in our homes, in the supermarket aisle and in the media.

For veterinarians and animal welfare scientists, of course, this isn't a new topic. The health and well-being of animals have always been at the core of our work and passion. Nonetheless, the degree to which we are engaging in public discourse on this topic is new and exciting. We welcome this opportunity to advance the welfare of animals using our compassionate science-based approach that has already led to many important advances in this field.

Research in animal care and welfare has always been an important component of our work at OVC. This goes back to 1964, when Dr. Harry Rowsell established an animal care policy for



Dean Jeffrey Wichtel

animals used in research and teaching, making Guelph the first institution in Canada to take such a proactive step to protect animal welfare.

The Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare, established in 1989, is now a world-renowned collaborative centre, bringing together scientists from across the U of G campus to conduct interdisciplinary research and education, informing practices to care for food and companion animals.

Our faculty, staff and graduates also bring their expertise to policy development and willingly serve organizations whose mandate is to further the welfare of all animals, including laboratory, companion and food animals, and wildlife.

Some time ago, I had the privilege of participating in developing the "Recommended Code of Practice for Care and Handling of Sheep." These codes are developed under the auspices of the National Farm Animal Care Council. I was impressed by the collaborative process I experienced in drafting this document. I had the opportunity to work closely with farmers, processors, transporters, retailers, government agencies and animal welfare scientists to develop a set of recommendations that advance the welfare of farmed sheep, while acknowledging the practical realities of caring for this species under the full range of production systems encountered in Canada.

Understandably, discussion of animal welfare tends to be emotionally charged, so it's important to employ a respectful and collaborative approach to ensure the resulting requirements and recommendations not only make sense on paper, but can be applied effectively in the field.

Many articles in this issue of *The Crest* focus on achievements and ongoing endeavours in animal care and welfare. Some will no doubt be familiar to many of you. I hope these stories also provide new insights into the continued advances our faculty, staff, students and alumni are contributing to this important field.

Dean Jeffrey Wichtel

Four OVC recipients were recently honoured with **Guelph 40 Under 40 Awards** in *Guelph Life* magazine: **Prof. Amy Greer**, Population Medicine; **Stefanie Sharp**, OVC alumni advancement manager; **Prof. Brandon Plattner**,

Pathobiology; and **Julia Nguyen**, OVC Class of 2018. The 40 Under 40 Awards honour people who make Guelph stronger through their work or community service.



COLLEGE NEWS

...continued from page 1

in U of G's Office of Research.

Animal welfare is included in the DVM curriculum, particularly during students' first two years at OVC. This new rotation is an opportunity to focus more specifically on dairy cattle and to reapply welfare principles in students' final year of study, adds Levison.

The program will include training at the Elora Dairy Research Innovation Centre and further opportunities for students to practice welfare assessments on local dairy farms, says Levison. This training will assist students as they work with farm clients on the dairy industry's animal care assessment program under proAction.

Offered twice a year to OVC students in the food animal and rural community practice streams, and DVM students from other veterinary colleges in Canada, the one-week rotation will focus on how to evaluate cattle. Students will examine criteria such as body condition score and lameness, two important issues affecting cattle, adds Levison.

Also included will be a visit to livestock markets, where student veterinarians will learn more about cow management and animal care and welfare.

Faculty hope that students complete the rotation with a better understanding of when to make the decision to transport animals. "It is really important for veterinarians to be able to recognize and pass this information along to farmers," she adds.

Levison points to ongoing research and training surrounding disbudding in dairy calves as one example of the type of continuing education available to producers. "It's not hard to do a local pain block once you've learned the skill, and it can make a huge difference to the calf's comfort level during and after disbudding," she says.

Communication will also be a focus of the rotation. "We want students to understand how to provide information to the farmer so it is useful to them, identifying key areas where farmers can achieve continuous improvements in the care of their herd."

Learn more at www.uoguelph.ca/csaw/SaputoDairyCare.shtml.

ALUMNI NEWS

New organization focuses on shelter medicine



AN ORGANIZATION LAUNCHED THIS past summer recognizes the growing importance of shelter medicine.

The brainchild of a committed group of veterinarians, including OVC faculty and alumni, the Ontario Shelter Medicine Association (www.ontariosheltermedicine.org) will offer support to shelter veterinarians and veterinary technicians through networking, continuing education opportunities and by promoting best practices.

Led by Dr. Linda Jacobson, deputy director of shelter medicine at the Toronto Humane Society, discussions began several years ago to see if this type of organization could become a reality in Canada, says Dr. Shane Bateman, a clinical studies professor and a clinician in the OVC Health Sciences Centre Emergency and Critical Care Service. The association was launched at the 2016 Canadian Veterinary Medical Association annual conference in July.

Bateman says there are increased expectations of animal welfare organizations and shelters, the people who work in them and the role of veterinarians in meeting these expectations.

Other OVC alumni laying the groundwork for this association include Dr. Danielle Boes, DVM '13, and Dr. Karen Ward, DVM '90, both with the Toronto Humane Society; Dr. Johanna Booth, DVM '07, Toronto Animal Services; and Dr. LeeAnn Sealey, DVM '93, Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society.



Dr. Martha Winhall joined OVC in May as the OVC medical communications program manager. In addition to her experience as a small animal practitioner and technical services veterinarian in the animal health pharmaceutical

industry, she has served as an independent consultant in both the veterinary and human health arenas. She brings a keen interest in communications, education and the human-animal bond.

ALUMNI NEWS

Poultry vet passionate about welfare



Dr. Mike Petrik, DVM '98, M.Sc. '13, at McKinley Hatchery.

ANIMAL WELFARE CAPTURED MIKE Petrik's interest when he was a student veterinarian at OVC and received a small scholarship in fourth year to do an animal welfare project. After earning his DVM in 1998, Petrik completed his M.Sc. in animal welfare at U of G in 2013 through the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare, giving him the credentials he needed to work in this field.

"I've always felt that if we are going to benefit from the animals we farm, we need to provide them as much care and comfort as possible," he says. "We have to be practical, but we must do the best we can.

"Right now, animal welfare is the biggest challenge in food animal production," Petrik adds. "The industry has done a great job of producing safe and abundant food for consumers. But now consumers want more; they want that food produced in a way that they see as more humane."

A major goal for Petrik has been working on the Recommended Codes of Practice, facilitated by the National Farm Animal Care Council, which sets out the guidelines for handling and care for each type of food animal. He has worked on several of the committees to revise these codes using his main area of expertise in laying hens.

The most obvious animal welfare issue for these birds, Petrik says, are cages. "We've been raising birds in cages for 70 years. That's how we got healthy and abundant eggs for consumers, and no other housing system comes close to providing the health benefits that cages do for the birds. There is a downside, though: the birds can't perform many of their natural behaviours."

Petrik says there is no right answer to the question of housing for laying hens. "It depends what lens you are looking through. Farmers see the cages as good because the birds are healthier. Consumers who are not from farms feel this pales in comparison to the bird not being able to move around. I know many farmers feel badly for birds that are on the range, because they suffer from environmental stresses and diseases that are controlled in cage barns."

Because of his experience working with egg farmers, Petrik says, "I know what is practical in the real world, and I can take a holistic view of the well-being of animals. I have both the veterinary perspective and the welfare science perspective." He's a strong advocate of having veterinarians on the front line of the animal welfare discussion.

Currently, Petrik is director of technical services at McKinley Hatchery, where he helped achieve a low level of disease and dramatic improvements in barn design and nutrition.

Dr. Harry Brightwell, DVM '56, co-founder and first charter president of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association and founder of the Veterinary Purchasing Company, was honoured with the **U of G Alumnus of Honour Award** at

the June 2016 convocation. **Gavin Armstrong**, PhD '16, received the **Alumni Medal of Achievement**, recognizing his achievements as founder and president of Lucky Iron Fish. **Karen Kuwahara**, B.A.Sc. '76, former president

of Nestlé Purina PetCare, received the **Alumni Volunteer Award**. They were recognized in the summer 2016 *Portico* alumni magazine and on the U of G Alumni Awards of Excellence page at www.alumni.uoguelph.ca/awardssofexcellence.

COLLEGE NEWS

CCSAW takes interdisciplinary approach to animal welfare

THE CAMPBELL CENTRE for the Study of Animal Welfare (CCSAW) has been an interdisciplinary powerhouse at the University of Guelph for almost 30 years.

The centre was formed at a time when animal welfare science was in its infancy. The developing field of study was necessary to help inform decisions, policies and frameworks that would benefit animal welfare.

From its inception, the CCSAW was unique: it aimed to be multidisciplinary, covering multiple colleges and species.

“One of our greatest strengths is the collaborative relationship between the Ontario Veterinary College and Ontario Agriculture College,” says Tina Widowski, director of the CCSAW and University Chair in Animal Wel-

fare. “Our transdisciplinary approach provides a very rich learning environment for our graduate, undergraduate and veterinary students, who are provided with numerous opportunities to learn from one another through our programs and events.”

The centre’s earliest visionaries included faculty from both the veterinary and agricultural colleges, who worked closely with faculty in the departments of psychology and zoology to launch the centre in 1989.

Dr. Ian Duncan, a pioneer in using a scientific approach to solve animal welfare problems, became the centre’s first director. His work caught the attention of Toronto businesswoman Mona Campbell who, along with her husband Colonel K.L. Campbell, had

a strong interest in improving animal welfare. To honour her husband after his death in 1990, she led a campaign for a university chair in animal welfare. In 1995, Duncan was appointed to the Colonel K.L. Campbell University Chair in Animal Welfare, the first chair in animal welfare in North America and the second of its kind in the world.

In recognition of her contributions, the University of Guelph renamed the Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare the Col. K.L. Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare. In 2009, she left a large bequest to OVC, which was used to establish the world’s first Chair in Companion Animal Welfare.

The centre has attracted world-class scientists, including Georgia Mason, former Canada Research Chair in Animal Welfare; Dr. Trevor DeVries, current Canada Research Chair in Dairy Cattle Behaviour and Welfare; and Dr. Lee Niel, Col. K. L. Campbell Chair in Companion Animal Welfare at OVC.

“We offer a broad array of research and graduate training opportunities in animal behaviour, welfare and human-animal relationships of farm, laboratory, companion and zoo animals,” says Widowski.

The centre hosts a seminar series, public lectures and research symposium each year, as well as conferences, workshops and formal training programs for a variety of different audiences. Learn more at www.uoguelph.ca/ccsaw.

11

full time 'core' faculty focus all their research & teaching in animal welfare science or ethics

40+

associated faculty in colleges of veterinary, agriculture, business, arts & social sciences

50+

MSc, PhD students pursuing theses and projects on animal welfare topics at any one time



Several OVC staff and faculty were honoured during the June 2016 convocation for their outstanding contributions. Faculty awards were presented to **Dr. Tiffany Durzi**, OVC Health Sciences Centre Primary Healthcare

Centre, who received the Merial Award of Excellence in Clinical Teaching; **Dr. Andrew Peregrine**, Pathobiology, who was awarded the OVC "Year 68" Award for Teaching Excellence; **Dr. John Tait**, Clinical Studies, who was

COLLEGE NEWS

OVC expertise instrumental in guideline development

OVC faculty and alumni expertise is instrumental in policy and guideline development in all areas of animal care and welfare, including companion animals, food animals and lab animals.

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) is the national organization responsible for setting, maintaining and overseeing standards, guidelines and policies for animal ethics and care in science throughout Canada.

The CCAC standards are among the highest in the world, says pathobiology professor Patricia Turner, who recently completed a six-year term on the CCAC standards committee, the last two as chair, and commenced a three-year term on the board of directors.

The CCAC covers not just traditional lab animals but also farm animals, wildlife and marine mammals, she adds.

"They've been around for more than 50 years and they have a lot of expertise in house," says Turner. "The CCAC guidelines are referenced heavily by regulatory bodies around the world."

Any institution receiving tri-council funding must participate in the CCAC program. Accredited organizations receive a site visit every six years to examine their facilities and protocols, as well as their communication and investigation procedures between all levels of staff.

Population medicine professor Lee Niel is also on the CCAC's rat guidelines subcommittee with Turner and has served on the euthanasia guidelines subcommittee.

Care and handling codes cover most farm animals

SINCE THE CREATION OF the first Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals more than 30 years ago, U of G and OVC faculty, staff and alumni have contributed their expertise to establishing and revising these codes that collectively cover most species raised on farms across Canada.

The National Farm Animal Care Council oversees and facilitates the code development's collaborative process enlisting key stakeholders, including farmers, veterinarians, animal welfare groups, transporters, retail and foodservice organizations, processors, government and researchers.

Codes of practice are the accepted standard of care for farm animals in Canada, says Tina Widowski, director of the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare, who has participated on the scientific and code development committees for poultry and swine. "These codes are driving improvements in animal care practices."

They include recommendations and requirements for housing, handling, transportation, processing and animal husbandry practices.

The scientific committee includes veterinarians and scientists with animal



welfare expertise regarding a particular species. They examine priority animal welfare issues to provide guidance on what the science says about these areas, says pathobiology professor Patricia Turner, who participated on the code development committee for poultry and now chairs the scientific committee on a code for rabbits.

The formal scientific reports lay the groundwork for this evidence-based collaborative code development process.

chosen by the third-year class as the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Teacher of the Year; **Dr. Alex Valverde**, Clinical Studies, who received the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teaching Award; and **Dr. Darren Wood**, Patho-

biology, who was recognized with the K.M. Bhatnagar Memorial Humanitarian Award. Staff awards were presented to **Mary Ellen Clark**, Pathobiology, who received the Carlton L. Gyles OVC Support Staff Excellence Award;

and **Sue Kinsella**, animal health technician, who was recognized with the OVC Class of 2001 Support Staff Award.

COLLEGE NEWS



Program teaches farm animal standards

MANDATED BY THE PROVINCE'S animal cruelty legislation to protect all domesticated animals, the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) is tasked with ensuring the well-being of a wide range of species, including cats and dogs, goats, sheep, swine, poultry, beef, dairy cattle and horses.

Since 2009, U of G's Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare (CCSAW) has been providing training for OSPCA agents, familiarizing them with typical practices for raising and caring for livestock and poultry, including commercial and backyard flocks.

Overall, livestock calls make up a small proportion of calls to the OSPCA, says population medicine professor Derek Haley, who teaches

the beef cattle portion of the course. "They are under a high level of scrutiny to maintain excellence at investigating species they encounter on a relatively infrequent basis."

Population medicine professor Paula Menzies covers the small ruminant portion of the course.

"Despite the fact livestock matters do not make up a large majority of calls we receive, they can be some of the most complicated, intimidating and labour and resource intensive," says Darren Grandel, deputy chief inspector, training and public awareness, OSPCA. "The training CCSAW provides has consistently provided our officers with a level of knowledge and confidence that they feel prepared to deal with livestock-related calls."

The intensive one-week training course with CCSAW is followed by a second week with Equine Guelph, focusing on horses.

The equine training includes three days of classroom and hands-on learning followed by a mock investigation on the last day, along with actual case studies, says Gayle Ecker, director, Equine Guelph.

"It is intensive training, but we have very open dialogue so people can ask questions throughout," adds Haley.

The training brings benefits to both U of G and the OSPCA, establishing a relationship where agents can follow-up with OVC faculty if they have questions while in the field.

The opportunity also helps inform the teaching of student veterinarians in assessing potential cases of animal abuse or neglect, adds Haley.



Dr. Barry Heath, DVM '72, has published *Mosie and Me: A Veterinarian's Story and the Summer of 1955*, a humorous recollection of summers spent on his grandparents' farm.



His relationship with a pet calf named Mosie in the summer of 1955 inspired him to choose veterinary medicine as a career.

RESEARCH NEWS

Take the stress out of bringing your cat to the vet

CAREFUL HANDLING OF YOUR feline might make the difference between a stressful and enjoyable trip to the veterinarian.

Carly Moody, a PhD student in the Department of Population Medicine, is testing a number of common and recommended handling techniques to discover what cats prefer to make veterinary appointments smoother for pets, owners and staff.

She initially compared passive handling, which involves light restraint, with full body restraint, to validate which measures are the most appropriate for detecting handling differences. A number of studies have found that restraint is stressful for animals, so behavioural differences observed between these two treatments should be good indicators of stress for future studies, says Moody.

She found that behavioural measures such as ear position and preferences testing, and physiological signs such as respiratory rate and pupil size, are useful measures to assess negative feline response to handling.

"Cats aren't taken to the vet as regularly as dogs," says Moody. "This is partly because owners see how much stress their cats undergo during veteri-



PhD student Carly Moody

nary appointments. Sharing that stress, owners are less willing to take their cat to the veterinarian again."

Consistent visits to the vet are important because veterinary care is essential for the health of all pets. Owners often overlook symptoms of illness in cats, so frequent veterinary visits are the best way to discover and treat illness early. Owners who do not regularly take their cat to the veterinarian may put their cat's health at risk by missing or prolonging disease.

Researchers are assessing whether cats prefer one handling method over another by conducting preference tests.

The cats are handled using each technique in separate halves of a preference apparatus so they associate each half, distinguishable by different colours, with a certain technique.

After being handled, the cats are allowed to walk around the apparatus and choose the side where they would rather spend their time. Based on these results, researchers can determine which technique the cats prefer by observing which side of the apparatus they choose. In addition, Moody is also looking at other behavioural and physiological indicators of stress during and immediately after handling.

Once researchers determine which techniques are best at reducing cat stress, Moody will share this information with veterinary staff. This knowledge will help veterinarians choose handling methods that optimize cat welfare, and will hopefully lead to more positive veterinary visits

"I hope this will alleviate owners' stress, improve cat welfare, and cause veterinarians to be more aware of how their techniques can change a cat's behaviour entirely," says Moody.

This research was done in collaboration with Moody's supervisor, Dr. Lee Niel, Col. K.L. Campbell Chair in Companion Animal Welfare; Dr. Cate Dewey, Population Medicine; and Dr. Georgia Mason, Animal Biosciences.

Funding for this research was provided by OVC Pet Trust.

Congratulations to OVC staff who received President's Awards for Exemplary Staff Service in September. **Amanda Bridge**, client services associate in the OVC Health Sciences Centre, received the Service Excellence Award; **Roman**



Poterski, left, anatomy lab instructor and technician in Biomedical Sciences, was presented with the Hidden Hero Award; and **Jane Dawkins**, right, OVC marketing communications officer, received the Spirit Award.

ALUMNI NEWS

Veterinarian envisioned career in public service

WHEN LESLIE WOODCOCK, DVM '89, enrolled at OVC as a mature student, working in a veterinary clinic was not her goal. She wanted to better understand animal health and welfare, so she began her career with the government in the animal care program at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in 1991.

In 2016, she became the chief veterinarian for Ontario and the director of the Animal Health and Welfare Branch, overseeing a staff of about 35, including 13 veterinarians. The others, Woodcock explains, are experts in livestock, bee health and animal welfare. This team, in collaboration with many partners, works to protect animal health, prepare for disease threats and respond promptly when they happen.

"Our shared goal is to be watching for those threats, be ready to take action quickly and position industry to recover as soon as possible," she says.

Woodcock recalls, for example, a recent case of low pathogenic avian influenza. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is primarily responsible for responding to federally reportable diseases; the ministry provided support. "We activated our emergency response team and contributed our knowledge and expertise to the response efforts," she says.

One area Woodcock describes as "tremendously successful" has been the implementation of the Ontario Animal Health Network. This "network of networks" consists of 10 collaborative, species-specific teams committed to monitoring and tracking disease and sharing information via their website, social media and other avenues.

Animal health is a complex field, Woodcock points out, and it's intricately intertwined with human health and the



Dr. Leslie Woodcock is chief veterinarian for Ontario.

environment. In recent years, the Office of the Chief Veterinarian and ministry's veterinarians have become more involved in broader discussions on issues such as antimicrobial resistance and climate change.

Another challenge for the ministry is increased public expectations around farm animal welfare. While the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) has the legislated authority for animal welfare, Woodcock feels it is important that she and her team are part of the conversation on humane treatment of farm animals. With their federal and provincial colleagues, they provide animal welfare expertise and contribute to development of the industry-led codes of practice that guide animal care for farmed animals.

The problem-solving and decision-making skills she developed at OVC have proven invaluable in her role as chief veterinarian, Woodcock adds. "You don't have all the answers, but you need to be able to figure out where and how to get the information you need to figure out the answers. OVC also valued teamwork and collaboration, both vital in this role."



Bailey Kagan recently joined the OVC Pet Trust team. A U of G bachelor of commerce alumna, Kagan brings experience in relationship management and strategic program growth to her new role as Pet Trust outreach

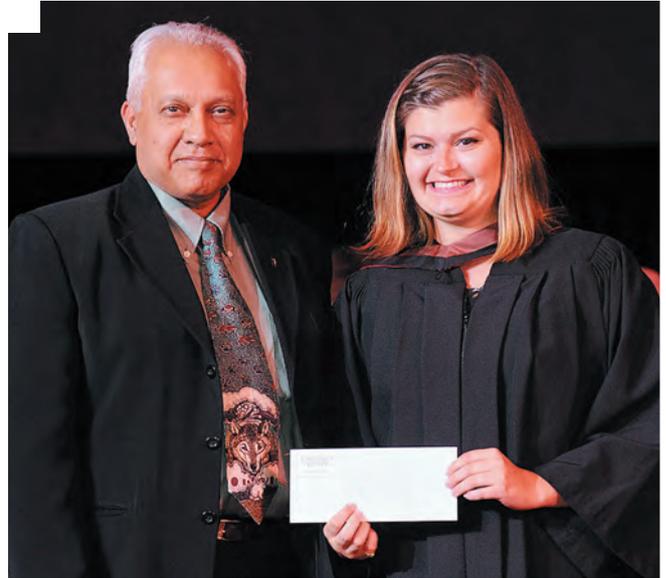
co-ordinator. She will visit veterinary practices across the province to provide information about OVC Pet Trust's Pet Memorial Program and support OVC Pet Trust at events promoting learning, health care and research at OVC.

COLLEGE NEWS

OVC 1986 presents Memorial Prize

THE OVC CLASS OF 1986 has generously donated more than \$30,000 toward an endowed memorial scholarship in memory of their classmates who have passed away. The class was excited the inaugural presentation of the award occurred in their 30th anniversary year. The award is presented to the fourth-year DVM student who has provided the most meaningful mentorship and guidance to the third-year class.

Dr. Kevin Saldanha, class leader of the project, was on hand at spring convocation to present the award to the first recipient, Dr. Karen Carlton, OVC 2016, and to celebrate his daughter Dr. Emerald Saldanha's graduation from the DVM program.



Dr. Kevin Saldanha presents the award to Dr. Karen Carlton.



Dr. Tarek Saleh

New Biomedical Sciences chair joins OVC

Dr. Tarek Saleh joined OVC Sept. 1 as the chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Saleh was a professor and chair of the Department of Biomedical Science at Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island. He earned a doctorate from Western University and was a post-doctoral researcher in neurophysiology at the University of Calgary.

"I am incredibly honoured and proud to join the Department of Biomedical Sciences at OVC, and humbled by the calibre of scientists and educators in the department, the college and University," he says. "I am extremely excited to be here and to be a part of the talented leadership team at OVC."

Saleh is a well-respected investigator in neuroscience and cardiovascular research with extensive teaching experience, says OVC dean Jeffrey Wichtel. "I look forward to working with Tarek in his role as chair to continue to build successful interdisciplinary research teams, and enhance our teaching and learning opportunities in both the DVM undergraduate and graduate programs at OVC."

Wichtel also thanked outgoing chair Dr. Neil MacLusky, who completed his term Aug. 31.

The OVC Alumni Association would like to collect every year's **class composite** to put together a complete set in a digital presentation at OVC. Please email Lisa Cox at coxl@uoguelph.ca if you have one of these missing years: 1946 to



1951, 1953 to 1974, 1976 to 1978, 1992, 2007, 2008 and 2010. If you have any high-quality images of your **class crest or mascot** from 1982 onwards, these would also be appreciated.

ALUMNI NEWS



Dr. Chris Doherty, president of the OVC Alumni Association, and Dr. Jackie Parr.



From left: OVC dean Jeffrey Wichtel, Dr. Chip Coombs, Dr. Ted Clark and Dr. Bob Van Delst, past-president of the OVC Alumni Association.

Veterinarians honoured by colleagues

FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES HONoured three OVC alumni during the OVC Alumni Association annual meeting in June.

Dr. Ted Clark, DVM '66, was presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award, recognizing his contributions to veterinary pathology. He began his career in farm animal practice before specializing in diagnostic pathology. He was part of the team that discovered porcine circovirus-associated diseases, which led to control measures for this once catastrophic disease.

Clark said he's often asked about the key to a successful career. It all started

with the class of 1966, who worked hard and supported each other, he said. He also recommended following some common advice: "Find a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life."

Dr. Chip Coombs, DVM '76, received the OVCAA Alumni Volunteer Award. "Veterinary students today are nothing short of amazing in their volunteering endeavours," he said. "As tomorrow's veterinarians they will have the ability to lead our profession back to its foundation, which is giving back and helping others."

Coombs has served on a number

of professional boards and committees within the veterinary industry. He is the current chair of OVC Pet Trust and a trustee since 2010.

The Young Alumnus Award went to Dr. Jackie Parr, DVM '09. A veterinary clinical nutritionist with Royal Canin Canada, Parr completed a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical nutrition with OVC in 2015 and also became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Nutrition that year.

In addition to her full-time work, Parr uses holiday and lieu time as a sessional lecturer at OVC and to advise masters' students



Save the date for the **2017 OVCAA alumni hockey tournament on March 31 and April 1**. If you have any questions, please contact Stefanie Sharp, alumni advancement manager, at 519-824-4120, Ext. 56679, or ssharp03@uoguelph.ca.



ALUMNI NEWS

A grad one year out

AS A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT veterinarian at OVC, Jodi Boyd had no intention of pursuing shelter medicine.

"I had a one-track mind that I would go into small animal private practice, but I got bit hard by the shelter medicine bug," says Boyd, DVM '15. She recently completed a shelter medicine internship at Cornell University before taking on a staff veterinarian role with the Houston SPCA.

Each day in shelter medicine is a mix of animal care, small animal herd health, wellness protocols, infectious disease management, surgery (especially high-quality, high-volume spaying and neutering), behaviour and enrichment program planning, investigations, epidemiology, public health and public relations, she says.

"I never know what the day might throw my way, but every day is fulfill-

ing, and I know I've made a difference."

The Ontario Veterinary College provided her with a variety of opportunities to develop her own passions within veterinary medicine. "Some of this learning came through unique clinical rotations, like 'EcoHealth' or 'Technology and Entrepreneurship in Veterinary Medicine,' that



Dr. Jodi Boyd

broke the typical clinical mold and forced hands-on, in-the-field, creative thinking outside of traditional curriculum," she says.

"My advice to new graduates is simple: only accept what you want, but be open to new things," she adds. "On job interviews, ask a ton of questions, especially the hard ones to ensure

the job has what you're looking for."

Boyd sought daily variety, opportunities to challenge herself and open communication in a fast-paced, supportive environment.

"My experiences have been incredibly positive because of this."

COMING EVENTS

JAN. 25

OVC Alumni Association Networking Career Night
Regatta Room, Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto

JAN. 26 TO 28

Ontario Veterinary Medical Association Conference and Trade Show
Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto
Register for "lunch with" sessions with OVC experts. Check conference program for details.

FEB. 7

North American Veterinary Conference Alumni Reception, Florida

MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1

OVCAA Alumni Hockey Tournament
University of Guelph Twin Pad Arenas

JUNE 9 AND 10

Alumni Weekend, University of Guelph

For more information or to register for any events, please contact Stefanie Sharp at ssharp03@uoguelph.ca or 519-824-4120, Ext. 56679.

The University of Guelph, and by extension OVC, is a registered charity. Your contributions can support the area of your choice or OVC's highest priority at the time. Visit our giving page at ovc.uoguelph.ca/give. Tax receipts are provided.

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