

r u m e n a t i o n s

The Faculty held its second annual Partner Practitioner Conference in July in appreciation of the continuing commitment of the profession to our new curriculum. The Conference included presentations on practice management, clinical material, workshops and feedback sessions to further improve the program for both our student interns and partner practitioners.



2004 partner practitioner conference

The 2004 keynote speaker was American-based veterinary practice consultant, **Dr Tom Catanzaro (left)**. Showing a clear understanding of the current issues affecting the profession in Australia, he outlined new approaches to practice management, tailoring his advice to the program. Dr Catanzaro also gave the Faculty a generous gift of his publications.

Visiting Dean Designate and current Dean of the School of Veterinary Science Cambridge, Professor Leo Jeffcott, also took the opportunity to address the conference, emphasising the significance of our strengthening partnership with the profession and its role in developing graduates for the future.

Dr Vanessa Barrs, the University Veterinary Centre Sydney's feline medicine specialist, and Associate Professor Peter Windsor, the rotation coordinator for rural public practice placements, presented clinical papers. Associate Professors Jennie Hodgson and Garry Cross provided valuable advice on current veterinary antimicrobial usage and aquarium management respectively.

The Conference once again proved to be a great success and the Faculty would like to thank Faculty staff members Associate Professor Bob Ratcliffe, Ms Melanie Robson, Ms Meg Vost, Ms Clare Fitzpatrick, Ms Ashleigh Schipp, and Faculty consultant Professor Grahame Feletti, and also acknowledge our presenters, Dr Garth McGilvray and Dr Jim Allen, for chairing the practice management sessions.

Thanks are particularly due to the partner practitioners who attended the 2004 conference and provided such valuable feedback and participation. We look forward to next year.

faculty success in examinations

The Faculty has achieved outstanding results from the 2004 Australian College of Veterinary Scientist (ACVS) membership examinations. All staff members who sat for ACVS Membership or Fellowship exams were successful.

A highly valued qualification within the veterinary profession, these results are an important first step for individuals in the long process of qualifying as specialists in their selected fields. The results are also reflective of the quality of the Faculty's staff, both of those who undertook the examinations and those who provided supported and mentoring.

Membership Examinations

Dr Neil Horadogoda - Veterinary Pathobiology, University Veterinary Centre Camden (UVCC)

Dr Mark Krockenberger - Veterinary Pathobiology, Veterinary Pathology Diagnostic Services/ University Veterinary Centre Sydney (UVCS)

Dr Harry Cooper

Dr Paul McGreevy - Animal Welfare

Dr Tina Baxter and Dr Linda Vogelnest - Small Animal Medicine (UVCS & UVCC)

Fellowship Examinations

Dr Jody Braddock - Canine Medicine (UVCS)

Dr Steve Fearnside - Small Animal Surgery (UVCC)

Dr Kris Hughes - Equine Medicine (UVCC)

Dr Sarah Matthews - Equine Surgery (UVCC)

teaching and learning update



Dr Annie Rose, Veterinary Registrar in Radiology, and **Dr David Burgess**, Associate Lecturer Small Animal Surgery, School of Veterinary Science at the University of Queensland, visited the Faculty during July to research some of our unique approaches to teaching and learning.

They were both very impressed with the Faculty's initiatives, including online learning, and the commitment, enthusiasm and motivation displayed by our staff.

Their visit follows a trip to the University of Queensland by our Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning, Associate Professor Rosanne Taylor, and further collaboration is planned. The process has proved to be an indicator of the potential for vet schools to work together to create further opportunities for innovation in research, teaching and learning.

On 17 June, the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee held a half-day Showcase of Research - led Teaching.

Organised by Dr Melanie Collier, presentations highlighted the ways Year 1 to 4 students learn about research developments and methods from relevant Faculty staff. Initiatives included students using samples collected for a research project by Associate Professor Chris Moran as a base for studies in Cell Biology, and Dr Paul McGreevy involving students through researching and reporting on inherited disorders in dogs for inclusion in the Faculty's new comprehensive online resource, LIDA (Listing of Inherited Disorders in Animals).

from the dean's desk

On 21 July the Faculty held a successful internal strategic planning day: successful because it enabled more than 60 staff, from all areas of the Faculty, to engage in open and honest debate about the future of the Faculty. It was a pleasure to be involved because of the frankness of comments and the fact that all present enjoyed the interaction. On reflection, it indicates how far we have come in the Faculty in terms of developing an inclusive, 'family style' culture. The day was also a first for the Faculty as we engaged the first internal facilitator: Professor Chis Maxwell, our Associate Dean for Staff and Students. Not only did Chis do a splendid job, he also came cheaply!

A key outcome of the day was the opportunity for staff to meet and engage with our incoming Dean, Professor Leo Jeffcott. None were disappointed with the interaction. Professor Beryl Hesketh, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of our University College of Sciences and Technology and Professor Les Copeland, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, also attended and made important contributions to discussion. The process of developing the Faculty's 2005-2009 Strategic Plan will now continue and over the next couple of months all Faculty staff, and key external stakeholders, will have the opportunity to contribute to the final plan.

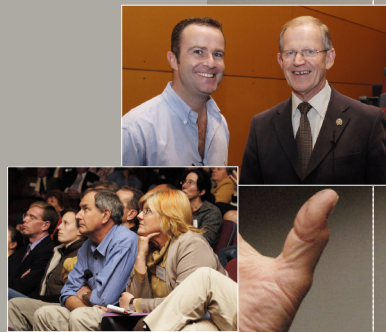
Acting Dean, Professor Paul Canfield

new equine lecturer

Dr Tony Mogg has recently joined the Faculty as a Senior Lecturer in Equine Medicine. A graduate of the University of Sydney, he has experience working in Australia, USA and New Zealand.

Dr Mogg has a PhD in Pharmacology and is a specialist in equine medicine. He will be based at the University Veterinary Centre Camden and will be involved in clinical teaching in Equine Medicine and Surgery to Year 4 and 5 students. His major research interest is in the pharmacology of therapeutic substances in horses.

On July 9, Professor Leo Jeffcott presented the 2004 J D Stewart Address at the Faculty. Two hundred veterinarians, friends of the Faculty, staff and students took the opportunity to attend and learn from the incoming Dean's extensive equine knowledge and experience in the field of equine sporting, highly relevant in light of his attendance at the Athens Olympic Games as the head equine veterinarian. Athens will be his fourth Olympic Games in this role. Following the Address, Professor Jeffcott launched Dr Paul McGreevy's (below left) new book, *Equine Behaviour: A Guide for Veterinarians and Equine Specialists*.



july events

Later in the month, visiting American speaker Professor Frank Ascione (pictured right for *The Age* newspaper) from Utah University, delivered Delta Society's inaugural Bob Kibble Memorial Lectures, *Children and Animals, kindness and cruelty: Exploring the reunion of animal and human welfare in the 21st century*, in a national tour supported by the NSW Animal Welfare League and the Veterinary Science Foundation.



His research findings into the common roots of violence towards people and animals proved disturbing but created considerable interest both at the public lecture, held in Sydney at the Conservatorium of Music, and in the press, television and radio coverage generated.

Professor Ascione also headed a well-received seminar at the University of Sydney, joined by Australian specialists, addressing veterinarians, health professionals, legal enforcement agencies and social and animal welfare workers.

We want your feedback and contributions. Contact the newsletter team on email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, phone Jennie Churchill, Director of the VSF on 9351 8024, or Zara Gosson, VSF Project Coordinator, on 9351 8026.