The Sydney University Animal Medical Centre capital campaign has reached a major milestone with the projected commencement in late 2002 of Stage 1 of the new clinic development on the Sydney campus.

The University of Sydney has agreed to match dollar for dollar the first $1.5 million raised for the campaign, bringing to $3 million the funds raised to date. The Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science has generously provided $1 million for the campaign through the Valentine Charlton Bequest, and the Veterinary Science Foundation has secured more than $500,000 in pledged donations.

Stage 1 will comprise two works packages: demolition of the old stables (by the end 2002) with subsequent construction of the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre, expanded central reception and administration areas, and the installation of a CT Scan. Clinic operations will temporarily move to the new feline centre while the existing consulting areas are upgraded into an accession area for canine patients. Stage 1 is to be completed by the end of 2003.

A Project Users Group, chaired by Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Don Napper, has been established and met for the first time on 7 March. The Project Manager, Lucas Kallinosis, has been appointed, and tenders are currently out to secure project architects. Facilities Management Office staff, in particular Tracie Harvison and Peter McGeorge, have played crucial roles in the enormous planning and coordination required for this $8 million development.

To ensure the Sydney University Animal Medical Centre develops into a world class, state-of-the-art facility, a Project Working Group chaired by Associate Professor Max Zuber will be responsible for detailed liaison with the Project Manager and architects, and will consist of staff from all key clinic areas.

To mark this exciting milestone and to officially launch the campaign, the Veterinary Science Foundation is planning a major fundraising event scheduled for late 2002.
On talking to staff and students around the Faculty, I sense even at this early stage of the academic year, signs of stress and fatigue. I understand as I feel stressed and fatigued too! We are halfway through our curriculum change which is a huge task for us and have a lot of work to do for 2003 and 2004. However, things are shaping up well and we should have a lot of the difficult 2003 issues around years 4 and 5 resolved by the end of April.

We had a terrific student award ceremony on 15 March and it was great to meet with students and their parents and have the chance to present an overview of our major Faculty projects. One parent was so impressed with Faculty achievements and planning he sent a cheque this week for $10,000 to support the work of the Faculty and the Foundation.

We also received great news this week about a grant of $520,000 over 4 years from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation to support a postgraduate “on line” program in epidemiology, pathology and veterinary public health. This new program is very important to the future of the profession and it is wonderful to receive this level of support.

In the lead up to our short Easter break, I have been reflecting on the quality of our staff and students. This week I have taught or been into classes in most years and once again I am encouraged and impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of students and staff. We have exciting times ahead.

Clinic staff Leonie Beadman, Catherine Majarich and Lyza Mouta organised a stall to promote the Sydney Clinic at the South Sydney City Council’s annual Fur, Fang and Feather Festival. Other Veterinary Centre staff and students volunteered their time to run the stall which was one of the best-attended at the event. The animal-loving public appreciated the sample bags and give-aways, and the opportunity to speak with our dedicated staff and students.

After forty years of service Dr Phil Davis, Senior Lecturer, is retiring. He leaves us with many years of extensive research, undergraduate and postgraduate lecturing, publications and a strong departmental involvement. The Faculty of Veterinary Science extends its sincere best wishes to Phil for his retirement.

Phil graduated a BVSc in 1961 and in 1976 was awarded the MVSc for his thesis The haematology of the racing greyhound. He began his career in anaesthesia in the Sydney Clinic, then moved to the position of Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Medicine. Phil has also often worked at the Rural Veterinary Centre at Camden, performing ECGs on horses. Phil’s comprehensive career ranged from small to large animal practice, and he also provided external services including Racetrack veterinarian, Thoroughbred Trainers consultant, Pet Food consultant and more recently consultant to the Department of Agriculture Drug Registration.

Phil was actively involved in departmental activities including Acting Superintendent in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and as a member of the Animal Care and Student Liaison Committees.

Phil’s published work focused primarily on greyhound medical conditions and his most recent publication is: Chiropractic manipulation and mobilisation for speed in the racing greyhound, Canine Sports Medicine and Surgery, 1st edition (1998).

Contact the newsletter team on email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, or phone Jennie Churchill, Director of the VSF on 9351 8024, or Denise Popovic, VSF Communications Coordinator on 9351 8026.
2001 Veterinary Undergraduate Prize Winners

Congratulations to the following students awarded the 2001 Faculty of Veterinary Science awards for academic achievement.

Dean’s List 1st Year - Madeleine Bamford, Anne Dampney, Katherine Howell, Emily Orchard-Mills
Dean’s List 2nd Year - Erin Bell, Zara Boland, Timothy Craig, Clare Jones, Tamra Acciari
Dean’s List 3rd Year - Katherine Briscoe, Anna Dean, Phillip McDonagh
Dean’s List 4th Year - James Blackshaw, Alexa Brown, Tobias Floyd, Christopher Wearne

AFUW - River Branch Patricia Stapleton Memorial Prize - Libby Duhs
Australian Equine Veterinary Association Prize to the Top Equine Student in Medicine and Surgery in Final Year - Murli Baker-Gabb
Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association Prize in Medicine and Surgery - Christopher Wearne

Australian Society for Parasitology Prize in Veterinary Parasitology - Heather Russell, Geoffrey Campbell and Patricia Santos De Oliveira
Australian Veterinarians in Public Health Students Prize - Cindy Burrell and Libby Duhs

Auxiliary to the AVA (NSW Division) Prize for 3rd Year - Belinda Docwra
Auxiliary to the AVA (NSW Division) Prize for Cell Biology and Vet Physiology I and II - Timothy Craig

Auxiliary to the AVA (NSW Division) Prize in Animal Genetics - Zoe Cutcher
Auxiliary to the AVA (NSW Division) Prize in Veterinary Clinical Pathology - Timothy Ahern
AVA Prize for Undergraduates in Veterinary Pathology - Anna Dean
AVA Student Award - Nicole Mahony
Baker and Ridley Memorial Prize for Animal Husbandry - Christopher Wearne
Beri Sinkovic Poultry Medicine Prize - Libby Duhs

Chapter of Veterinary Pharmacology of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists Prize in Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology - Anna Dean
Cooper Australia Prize in Veterinary Parasitology - Adam Gerhardt
CW Emmens Prize in Veterinary Physiology - Anna Dean

Epidemiology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists Prize in Epidemiology - Libby Duhs
Farr Memorial Prize in Animal Husbandry - Kimberley MacAdams
H.C. Belschner Prize in Sheep and Wool - Katherine Howell
H.R. Carne Prize and Medal for Excellence in the Bachelor of Science (Veterinary) Degree - Alison Peel

J.D. Stewart Essay Prize in Veterinary Science - Catherine McDermott
John Gurner and Frederick Ebowski Scholarship in Cell Biology 1a - Anne Dampney
John Gurner and Frederick Ebowski Scholarship in Cell Biology 1b - Madeleine Bamford

John Gurner and Frederick Ebowski Scholarship in Chemistry - Katherine Howell
K.G. Johnston Prize in Veterinary Clinical Pathology - Dalya Koch
Lonsdale Prize (A) in Clinical Studies - Tobias Floyd

Lonsdale Prize (B) in Clinical Studies - James Blackshaw
Mayne Health Vetnostics Prize in Veterinary Clinical Pathology - Timothy Ahern
N.P.H. Graham Prize in Sheep Medicine - Cameron Skerman

Rex Butterfield Prize in Veterinary Anatomy - Timothy Craig
Richard Norman Sanders Prize - Cindy Burrell
Robert Reeves Hodgkiss Prize for Equine Research - Nicola Jagger
S.T.D. Symons Prize for Clinical Studies - Libby Duhs
Stewart Prize in Veterinary Medicine - James Blackshaw
Virginia Osborne Prize for Anatomy of the Horse - Timothy Craig

W.R. Sidman Memorial Prize Awarded by NSW Division of the AVA for Clinical Studies in 4th Year - Adam Gerhardt
Wally McGreery Prize in Animal Welfare Science - Michelle Reed
William James McHugh Prize in Equine Medicine or Surgery - Karen MacAlpine
Wires Wildlife Prize - Cindy Burrell