

r u m e n a t i o n s

A new four-year degree program, Animal and Veterinary Bioscience, has been launched by the University of Sydney. The new degree will be administered by the Faculty of Veterinary Science, with the first intake of 60 HECS and up to 20 full fee paying students set for February 2005.

The Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience, which replaces the existing Bachelor of Animal Science program, is an applied science degree blending a basic science foundation with fields specific to animal sciences. The degree provides an excellent pathway to careers in the animal industries, and animal and biomedical research.

Associate Professor Chris Moran, the Faculty's Sub-Dean for Agriculture Teaching and the key staff member responsible for the new degree, said: "The Faculty of Veterinary Science has a strong commitment to postgraduate research. We are already benefiting from our previous undergraduate teaching in Animal Science, which has provided a steady stream of highly valued PhD students, and this is set to expand considerably with the new degree. These PhD students are working in fields as diverse as quantitative and molecular genetics, animal behaviour, wildlife nutrition and reproduction, endangered species conservation, and assisted reproductive technology, as well as in the more expected areas of animal production research."

"There is concern in the agricultural industries about the decline in educational opportunities for appropriately trained scientists. This new degree will provide a very positive boost in graduates trained in animal science to meet the needs of animal production industries and the broader aspirations of potential students," he said.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science already plays a significant role in the existing Bachelor of Animal Science program and will now administer the degree. The Faculties of Agriculture and Science will still be involved with teaching and the Board of Management overseeing the degree. The three Faculties will contribute teaching resources as follows: veterinary science 50%, agriculture, food and natural resources 35%, and science 15%. No substantive curriculum changes are anticipated, but the course will evolve over the next few years.

For further information, contact Shirley Ray on (02) 9351 6932. A comprehensive overview of the new degree will appear in the May 2005 Roundhouse.

new degree
- animal and veterinary bioscience



Simon de Graaf,
PhD student working in the field of animal reproduction

teaching and learning UPDATE

Following discussions with the University of Queensland, the Faculty is looking to form a formal collaborative relationship to develop nine teaching and learning resources to be utilised on both campuses.

On November 8 the Thyne Reid Teaching Innovation Unit held a one day showcase to explore new teaching practices in the Faculty. Staff from across the Faculty took the opportunity to present some of the new teaching techniques currently being utilised or developed. These included online learning exercises and the face-to-face learning environment that supports them. In addition, the results of recent research projects investigating students' approaches to some of these new teaching practices were presented. The day was an opportunity for colleagues to share experiences and inform all staff of the diverse range of projects being supported and developed by the Unit - putting the Faculty at the forefront of the University's teaching innovation.

Guest speakers Justin Read, School of Chemistry, and Katy Bridge, School of Occupation and Leisure Studies, brought different perspectives to the day presenting research and teaching projects from their areas.



On Friday 17 December the Veterinary Science Foundation will be joined by ABC Radio 702 broadcaster Sally Loane for its 2004 fundraising event - a special benefit performance by Richard Tognetti's Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO), of Saint Saëns Carnival of the Animals with narration and illustration by cartoonist and philosopher, Michael Leunig.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to see a unique performance at the Conservatorium of Music, Sydney. Tickets \$150 each, including: cocktails and canapés, a beautiful first half performance by the ACO, and the excitement and fun of Carnival of the Animals.

Thanks to our sponsors Qantas and Accor Hotels and Resorts, our raffle features a trip to Shanghai for two with four nights' accommodation. For more information or to purchase tickets for the concert/raffle please contact - (02) 9351 8026 or vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au.

Make a date in your diary

this December for a magical Christmas fundraising concert
....because animals matter



from the dean's desk

The Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee (VSAAC) visited the Faculty during October with the aim of reviewing our progress with the new curriculum for Years 3 to 5, to see the various developments that have taken place within the Faculty, including the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre, and to ensure the recommendations from their last visit in September 2001 had been completed.

I am pleased to say that, from the perspective of a newly-arrived Dean, the visit seemed to go very well. The committee members, led by Chairman, Dr John Craven, were impressed with the current curriculum developments, the staff and, of course, the students. They referred favourably to the openness and clear motivation of all the staff and students they interviewed. The committee concluded their visit with a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gavin Brown.

Thanks to all our staff and students for their important individual contributions to what was a great team effort during the VSAAC visit. This has been a valuable 'rehearsal' for the all-important American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation visit scheduled for April 2005.



From left to right - Emeritus Professor Max Murray, Professor Stuart Reid, Professor David Hodgson, Associate Professor Jennie Hodgson, Professor Leo Jeffcott and Professor Stuart Carmichael

collaboration anniversary
glasgow university

Colleagues from Glasgow University - Emeritus Professor Max Murray (previously Head of Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies) Professor Stuart Reid (Dean designate at the University of Glasgow Veterinary School) and Professor Stuart Carmichael (Professor of Small Animal Orthopaedic Surgery) – recently visited the Faculty acknowledging 10 years of collaborative work between the two veterinary schools.

The Glasgow and Sydney Veterinary Faculties have collaborated on some major research focused primarily on the epidemiology of animal diseases, including studies on musculoskeletal injuries and respiratory disease in horses, reproductive efficiency in dairy cattle, snake bite and skin disorders in dogs. University of Glasgow staff have also participated in workshops on the epidemiology of travel-related illness in horses, and been keynote speakers at a meeting for equine researchers from across Australia held at the University of Sydney. They have also taught epidemiology to undergraduate veterinary students and contributed to the postgraduate program in veterinary public health.

During the visit they toured the University Veterinary Centre Sydney's Valentine Charlton Cat Centre - a highly relevant project as they are currently planning a £10 million small animal hospital at Glasgow. Professor Carmichael, heading this project, also shared details of a state-of-the-art patient record system they are developing with a private software company in Scotland.

The 2004 Post Graduate Conference was held on 3 and 4 November at Camden and Sydney respectively. More than 35 postgraduate students presented their projects, showcasing an amazing diversity of research being undertaken in the Faculty - from seals to rainbow trout, cattle and sheep to guide dogs.



The annual conference is an important forum for students and supervisors to share information and experiences with colleagues. This was the first year the conference ran over two days and was divided between both campuses.

The conference was generously supported by the CRC for Innovative Dairy Products and Olympus Australia Pty. The companies sponsored prizes for the best presentations and best poster. Tai Pasetta from the Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) also kindly presented a workshop on improving the supervision relationship.

The prize-winning students were: Amanda Warren Smith, Jane Heller, Simon de Graaf, Peter Houweling, Peta Philips and Alison Morgan.



Conference organisers left to right - Associate Professor David Emery, Dr Imke Tammen and Dr Susan Hemsley (and Marie Wildridge)

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