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The Faculty’s inaugural industry research day was held at Camden on 23 February. First of a series, this session’s industry guests were from Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA). The day focused on exploring ways of aligning the Faculty’s research skills with industry needs.

The event provided an invaluable forum for interaction between the Faculty and staff from AWI and MLA. The companies took the opportunity to explain the complexities of their research planning process and what it needs to deliver outcomes for livestock producers. The Faculty briefly outlined its research capabilities and strategic plan for the next five years, with Professor Beryl Hesketh, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the College of Sciences and Technology, presenting the broader picture of the University’s research objectives.

Following group workshops and discussion, Professor Reuben Rose (General Manager – Livestock Production Innovation, MLA) and Ian Rogan (General Manager, AWI) both acknowledged the success of the day but also offered some constructive criticism and areas for development for the Faculty.

This first session has produced a framework for ongoing communication, with a number of major ideas suggested for future projects. It represents a starting point for ongoing relationships, future research planning and grant application development within the Faculty. A second industry research day is planned later in the year.

In February, the largest intake yet for the postgraduate program, Veterinary Public Health Management, commenced their studies, taking part in a short residency on campus. The 2005 group are based across Australia in locations such as Orange, Katherine, Moe, Bordertown, Broome, Bendigo, Goulburn and Scone.

International students are similarly diverse, from Thailand, China, Swaziland, USA and New Zealand.

The course, now in its third year of teaching, has a total of 48 students enrolled. The postgraduate program is one of the few programs at the University of Sydney to offer course material by distance. Eleven fully online units of study are taught by facilitators based around Australia and overseas, with another 5 units of study combining a short residential session with the online component.

The Veterinary Science Foundation and the Faculty has secured $500,000 from the University towards the $2.2 million Stage 2 Dog Centre, part of the Foundation’s capital campaign to redevelop the University Veterinary Centre Sydney, the Faculty’s small animal teaching hospital.

Following the completion of the Stage 1 Valentine Charton Cat Centre in 2004, planning and design has already commenced on the Dog Centre. This significant and welcome support from the University, together with funds already raised by the Veterinary Science Foundation, means the Stage 2 campaign has now reached 50% of its $2.2 million target.

This is also positive news for the April 2005 final visit by the American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation committee in April.

If you would like further details on the University Veterinary Centre Sydney project or would like to discuss how you can contribute please contact Dr Jennie Churchill at the Veterinary Science Foundation on (02) 9351 8024 or by email at jenniec@vetsci.usyd.edu.au.
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t has been a very busy time these last few weeks preparing for the new academic year. In 2005 we have two major degrees in the Faculty for the first time – the BVSc (Bachelor of Veterinary Science) and the newly-established BAnVetBioSc (Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Biosciences). The 2005 enrolment for the BVSc will be 130 - and this is despite the new Vet School at Charles Sturt University at Wagga taking 47 HECS students. For the new degree we have already surpassed the original target of 60 and will probably have 75 to 80 students at the start of the semester, all HECS places.

Our other current (and almost overwhelming project!) is the American Veterinary Medical Association Accreditation visit from 10-14 April 2005. The 7 member team will start their work on Sunday 10 April by visiting the University Veterinary Centre at Camden and the other facilities on the Camden campus. They will then spend Monday touring the Sydney campus, followed by two days of meetings concluding with a briefing with the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Beryl Hesketh, before flying back to the States. A great deal of work has to be done over the next 6 weeks, but we are confident that everything will be ready in time. As you all know the success of this visit is crucial to the future of the Faculty.

Professor Junhong Park (right) from the Department of Veterinary Science at Cheju National University in Korea recently visited the Faculty. Professor Park primarily teaches Veterinary Physiology but has a wider remit within his Department. He is also an examiner for ‘Korean National Veterinary Licence Examination’ and produced a report last year looking at improvements in the veterinary curriculum in Korea.

Professor Park’s visit resulted from his department’s interest in gaining experience of veterinary teaching in Australia - specifically the University of Sydney due to the Faculty’s changes in teaching methods and its current bid for AVMA accreditation. During his visit he was based with the teaching and learning staff and has been looking at developments in our curriculum over the past couple of years and our online teaching programs and resources. On his return he will be reporting back to colleagues at Cheju and to a committee of Veterinary Physiologists from across the country.

Professor Park urged the Faculty to increase its profile in veterinary education in South East Asia and outlined opportunities for development of global standards and curricula for veterinary training.

- **Associate Professor Chris Moran** has been promoted to Professor. Professor Moran has been working for both the Agriculture and Veterinary Faculties teaching animal genetics and biotechnology. He is Sub Dean for Agriculture teaching in Veterinary Science and has developed the new Animal and Veterinary Biosciences degree that begins this year.

- **Dr Jane Stevenson (right)**, Associate Lecturer in Veterinary Anatomy, took part in the renowned and challenging Cole Classic ocean race held at Manly on Sunday February 6. This race is one of the most popular in the summer ocean swimming calender and one of the longer courses covering 2km.

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**We want your feedback and contributions.**

Contact the newsletter team on email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, or phone Zara Gosson on (02) 9351 8026.