T he University Veterinary Centre Sydney (UVCS) and the Veterinary Science Foundation are celebrating Cats on Campus – their take on the Sunday 9 October Sydney Metropolitan Practitioners ‘Great Big Animal Open Day’. The UVCS will open its doors on the day, joining the many veterinary practices in Sydney inviting the public inside to find out what’s really involved in caring for animals.

Cats on Campus 2005 will feature the launch of the state-of-the-art Valentine Charlton Cat Centre to the community, with behind-the-scenes tours of both the cat and dog teaching hospitals.

To mark the occasion, the Waratah National Cat Alliance will present the 2005 Cats on Campus Cat Show, with around 70 superbly groomed felines of diverse breeds on display, all competing to ‘graduate’ top of their class.

Other activities on the day include:

- A commemoration ceremony to bless the new Henry and Banjo Garden, a beautiful and unique sandstone memorial to animal friends created by international landscape architect Vladimir Sitta
- Free pet health checks by our senior interns (a dog crèche will be available should canine owners want to visit the Cat Show)
- The best images from the 2005 Animal Welfare Photographic Competition, staged by VSAW, the Veterinary Science for Animal Welfare student organisation. The photographic exhibition will feature wonderful images of all species, with a special feline focus for Cats on Campus

The University Veterinary Centre Sydney and the Veterinary Science Foundation are delighted to invite all clients, friends and supporters to join us from 10am on Sunday 9 October, at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Parramatta Road, Camperdown. Further details are available at www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/Foundation

The Faculty’s unique postgraduate distance learning course, Veterinary Public Health Management (VPHMgt), has celebrated its first graduates. George Hughes gained his Graduate Diploma in December 2004, with Katherine Clift, Raphael Zwijnenberg, Anand Deo, Jane Littlejohn and Luzia Rast (all pictured), Valerie Antras, Paul Freeman, and Peta Hitchens receiving their Masters.

VPHMgt provides masters level education in technical aspects of veterinary science impacting on biosecurity, public health and market protection. This is combined with managerial skills training designed to produce leaders in veterinary public health. Details of the VPHMgt program can be found at http://www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/publichealth_management/index.php

For information, contact Hannah Forsyth +61 2 9036 9105 or email vphmgt@vetsci.usyd.edu.au

For further information please visit www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/Foundation/events_animalia.shtml
from the dean’s desk

This month I would like to convey my congratulations to two of our senior staff on their significant achievements.

Professor Brian Farrow - It is good to be able to report that the University has awarded Brian Farrow the honour of Professor Emeritus on his retirement from the Faculty in July 2005. This is an important recognition of Brian’s many contributions to the Faculty, the University and the profession. We are very pleased that Brian has accepted an invitation to present the 2005 Graduation Address in the Great Hall on 16 December when the final year students receive their BVSc degrees.

Associate Professor Rosanne Taylor - Our hardworking Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning has recently been invited to join a group of researchers in Higher Education led by Professor John Biggs (the international ‘guru’ on constructive curricular alignment). Their brief is to undertake a major curricular reform in the Hong Kong City University - and they have 12 months to do what took us 5 years! This is a well earned recognition of Rosanne’s dedication to improving policies and procedures for Teaching and Learning in this University - so very well done!

Professor Leo Jeffcott

university veterinary centre sydney televised!

The Faculty has recently been featured on the popular Channel Ten program Totally Wild with a series of stories developed around the University Veterinary Centre Sydney. During the week of 29 August, segments were broadcast on the new Valentine Charrton Cat Centre, the animal blood bank, and an operation to remove an adrenal tumour from a dog called Santana. Totally Wild is continuing to film at the Sydney teaching hospital so look out for more stories on the program.

A team of 26 veterinary students, sponsored by Hills Pet Nutrition, took part in the 2005 City to Surf. A combination of walkers and runners from Years 1 to 5 took part in this classic annual race, beginning at Hyde Park and finishing at Bondi Beach. Entrants had half their entry fee paid by Hills and received a race bag at the finish.

Lawrence Baker was the fastest male runner in the group completing the 14km course in 66 mins 20 seconds, with Penny Farrell taking the ‘women’s title’ with a time of 74 minutes. Mari Futasi in Year 1 was the fastest walker. There are plans for a team to enter next year so get training!

APTF (The Australian Photobiology Testing Facility) vet ball 2005

On Saturday 26 August the Veterinary Society hosted its annual Vet Ball. The theme was Casino Royale with 130 students attending the event at the Watersedge harbour venue. It was a very successful evening, generously sponsored by APTF with support from IAMS, IDEXX Laboratories and Merial. The 2006 Vet Ball Committee has already convened with plans for a larger event following the demand for tickets this year.

The impressive line-up of speakers include:
- Dr Larry Vogelnest - Disease considerations for the release of rehabilitated wildlife
- Dr Tim Portas - Rhinoceros reproduction
- Dr Nick Otway - Grey Nurse Shark conservation in Batemans Bay
- Dr Anne Martin - Confirmation of Sarcoptes in wombats
- Dr Karrie Rose - The Australian Wildlife Health Network
- Dr David Vella - Wildlife veterinary care
- Dr Robert Johnson - Being a reptile vet

The conference runs from 9.00am to 4.30pm both days and includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Costs range from $90 for vets, $70 students and $60 Wildlife Society Members. (One day attendance fees are also available).

The Society is also organising a weekend trip to Dubbo Zoo, date to be confirmed. Students will have the opportunity to hear from Dubbo Zoo vets, see behind the scenes at the zoo and take guided walks at night and dawn. The cost of $90 includes a barbeque dinner and breakfast – attendees will need a tent.

If you are interested in either of these events please contact swwildlife@vetsci.usyd.edu.au

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.