

r u m e n a t i o n s

The Sydney University Veterinary Clinic is at the forefront of equal opportunity employment – and clients, staff and students, as well as the clinic patients, are reaping the benefits.

Lino Nastasi is the Supervising Kennel Nurse at the Sydney Clinic. He arrived in 1992 to undertake work experience when completing an Animal Attending Access course through the Intellectual Disabilities Unit at the TAFE NSW – Sydney Institute Ultimo Campus. Lino never left, and now supervises two new staff members, Mitchell Burns and Renee Seery, who both graduated from this course in 2001. Mitchell and Renee have been working at the clinic as kennel nurses since late 2001.



Lino Nastasi. Image Keith Ellis

According to staff member Keith Ellis, “Lino had such a refreshing attitude and passion for the work we were compelled to keep him on”. Lino continued to work at the University Veterinary Centre as a permanent staff member while studying, and graduated from TAFE in 1993. His promotion to supervisor happened recently and the University Veterinary Centre has been acknowledged as the first organisation to promote people from the Intellectual Disabilities Unit in this way.

Lino’s diverse and responsible role includes maintenance of the cat and dog ward, boarding kennels and intensive care unit; ensuring dietary requirements are met under veterinary supervision; assisting vets during general treatments; regularly exercising boarding dogs and blood donors as well

as delivering additional love and care to recovering animals during their stay: “I occasionally open a cat cage and let the animal come to me for a pat or hug and do the same with the dogs,” Lino says. He is also responsible for supervising the veterinary students’ housekeeping activities in the wards during their rotations through the veterinary clinic.

The high calibre of students exiting the Animal Attending Access course can be attributed to the dedicated team in the TAFE ID Unit. One of the unit’s staff members is Avril Baird, a 4th year veterinary science student who, through her previous qualifications, has been the teacher and coordinator of the Access program for the past 10 years. Avril says the students in the program make a remarkable transition from being an “untapped source of skill to an invaluable member of a team”.

Lino is highly enthusiastic about continuing to develop his knowledge in animal health through working with the clinic vets. In his spare time he also nurtures the intellectual stamina of academic and clinic staff by keeping no less than six games of chess constantly in progress. Dr Richard Malik, a keen chess player and regular opponent says, “Lino is a deep and logical thinker and delights in beating me at chess”.

Lino’s other interests include fencing (he competes at University B level) and computer studies.

Denise Popovic



Mitchell Burns and Renee Seery. Images Keith Ellis

From the Dean's Desk

The year 2002 looks like an exciting year with many new academic posts to be filled including the Chair of Farm Animal Health, to be announced by the end of February. It will be stimulating to have new academic colleagues and to introduce them to the Faculty culture to which we have committed.

Our annual enrolment process has just taken place and we once again have had great demand for entry to our Faculty by local and international students. It is pleasing to see the continuing interest in veterinary science by bright and committed young people.

During January, I reviewed our new Faculty Strategic Plan for the next 3 years and also the operational plan for 2002. Looking at my goals for 2002, I will be focusing on the following key areas which I believe are of critical importance for the Faculty:

1. Fundraising and external development
2. Leadership development
3. Effective Veterinary Teaching Hospitals and Clinical Teaching
4. Promoting Faculty Leadership in Farm Animal Health
5. International Accreditation of our veterinary degree.

My best wishes to all staff and students for the new academic year.

Staff Update

Professor David Hodgson has been appointed Director of Clinical Teaching (New Curriculum). This position will facilitate implementation of the new clinical curriculum and the partner practice program. David has a strong interest in clinical teaching and received the prestigious Norden Teacher of the Year while at Washington State University.

Gareth Evans and Frank Nicholas have been promoted to Professor. Both are internationally renowned scholars in the fields of animal reproduction and genetics, respectively. Their promotions recognise their research achievements and contributions to teaching and advancing knowledge.

Dr Jenny-Ann Toribio is the new Lecturer in Veterinary Epidemiology.

2001 Faculty Awards

The following special awards were presented at the 2001 Graduation celebrations.

Pfizer Teaching Awards – Dr Rosanne Taylor and Associate Professor Paul Canfield.

Dean's Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching – anaesthetist Dr Sanaa Zaki.

Grace Mary Mitchell Awards – for significant contribution towards the achievement of major Faculty goals, awarded to Dr Rosanne Taylor and Keith Ellis. Rosanne has a passionate and professional commitment to the principles of good teaching practice. Keith provides outstanding support for Faculty staff through high quality audiovisual assistance, dedicated service to the community and valuable work for the Sydney clinic, enhancing clinical experience for students.

R W Gee Prize for Animal Welfare – Jane Lacey, 2001 graduate.



Jane Lacey, winner of the R W Gee Prize for Animal Welfare with Dr Bill Gee

Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science – Elizabeth Duhs, 2001 graduate.

Certificates of Appreciation awarded to: Professor Grahame Feletti, educational consultant, and Associate Professor Michael Prosser, Director, both of the Institute for Teaching and Learning, for enhancing the quality of teaching and learning in the Faculty.

Philip Pogson, Leading Partnership strategist, for his longstanding contribution to the planning and direction of the Faculty.

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