



The University of Sydney

2007 Newsletter

PiVE

Partners in Veterinary
Education

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

DECEMBER 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

- Introducing Dr Geoff Scarlett who will head our new educational partner visit program
- Interested in how our industry is changing?
- Please log on to http://www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/industry_marketing/ and complete this survey
- PiVE Conference 2008 will be 24th and 25th July

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Partner Visit Program

The on-going enthusiasm of practicing veterinarians and the development of a real partnership between Faculty, the practicing profession and students has certainly been essential to the success of our veterinary student internship program.

Getting feedback from the profession and students has been our main priority for improvement.

We have visited most practices in NSW and ACT since the start of the program but maintaining a regular program of visits has been difficult.

To assist us further I am delighted to introduce Dr Geoff Scarlett, formerly of Berry Veterinary Hospital.

Geoff has very kindly agreed to

visit local practices in NSW and ACT so that we can collect your personal feedback on a regular basis.



Geoff Scarlett
Educational Partner Liaison

Geoff has already visited practices on the south-coast and central west of the state and has been a tremendous asset to us in this short time.

He will be contacting you soon so please make him welcome and feel free to tell him what you really think of us.

Geoff has hosted many students in the past, both with the new and old curriculum and we welcome him to our extramural program team.

Many of you will also have been visited by Bob Ratcliffe.

We hope that together with staff, Geoff and Bob will ensure we are able to gather personal feedback from veterinarians and their staff about our program and interns.

Thanks again for your continuing support in 2007 and I look forward to seeing you some time in 2008.



John Baguley
Year 5 Coordinator

The results of the survey will be shared with the profession in a future publication.

Please visit the survey at:

http://www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/industry_marketing/

Industry Survey

The Australian veterinary industry provides an extremely valuable service to the economy and well-being of people and animals.

Despite the significance of the industry, there has been limited research into the various forces that are driving industry change and the marketing practices adopted by companion animal industry incumbents.

I would be very grateful if veterinary practice owners or managers could help me fill this gap by completing an anonymous, 15 minute online questionnaire.

There are questions on industry change and marketing and I am also interested in collecting some details about your practice.

Partner Practitioner in Residence

Dr David Collins from Seaforth Veterinary Hospital was chosen as the 2007 Cenvet Partner Practitioner in Residence from a very impressive list of applicants.

Seaforth Veterinary Hospital has hosted a number of student interns since the inception of our new final year program.

David feels a strong responsibility to ensure new graduates are ready for private practice.

For 12 weeks, David took part in the rotations of Surgery, Anaesthesia, General Medicine and Referral Medicine.

“There were some fabulous cases to see, and I got a lot out of participating in both student and clinician rounds. I enjoyed giving the students tutorials on general practice topics”.

The intensive time David spent with student interns will undoubtedly assist him in teaching the students who come through Seaforth Veterinary hospital on their extra-mural rotations.

“I am most grateful for the opportunity provided by Cenvet, the ASAVA and the Veterinary Science Foundation to be the

2007 Cenvet Practitioner in Residence at the University Veterinary Centre, Sydney”.

We hope to continue the Partner Practitioner in Residence Program in 2008 —stay tuned for further details.



Dave Collins
2007 Cenvet Partner
Practitioner in Residence

“I am most grateful for the opportunity provided by Cenvet, the ASAVA and the Veterinary Science Foundation”

Website Updates

We are working on improving the look and function of websites for students and our Educational Partners and will implement a variety of changes during 2008.

Thanks to all those who provided feedback to our Web Services Coordinator, Federico Costa regarding the website earlier this year.

One of the main changes will be to better assist you with gaining

feedback from our interns.

We also hope to use this website for delivering more continuing education material to our Educational Partners.

For our students, in addition to changes to what is now known as the Virtual Veterinary Campus, we are working on improvements to the WebCT educational platform sites to assist their research efforts during placements.

This site also offers discussion boards and chat rooms to help interns keep in contact during final year.

If you have any suggestions for further improvement please contact Federico Costa: f.costa@usyd.edu.au

Mentor Program

One of the main reasons for introducing our new final year program of veterinary placements was to improve the transition from University to practice.

The need for continuous improvement of knowledge and skills is reinforced through this veterinary student internship program however some of the difficulties associated with new

graduate life are clearly evident to students in their final year.

Mentors can assist the transition to practice and the development of new veterinarians.

We believe that a mentor program in final year will not only help our interns during this challenging year, it will also promote development of valuable mentor relationships in new

graduate life.

Many of you participated in our mentor survey this year and from this information, as well as responses from final year interns in 2007, we hope to develop a valuable program for the future.

If you are interested in being a mentor to one of our interns in the future we will be offering training in 2008.



A mentor program will help interns and new graduates

Partners in Veterinary Education Conference

The Partners in Veterinary Education Conference in July this year was our biggest and best yet with over 120 delegates.

Thanks so much to Tony Moore and Angela Frimberger from Veterinary Oncology Consultants for organizing such a great program, to Brian Farrow for his most entertaining presentation at the Conference Dinner and Provet, our major sponsor.

There were excellent presentations as well from Nigel Swift (Animal Referral Hospital), Max Zuber (Gladesville Veterinary

Hospital), Geoff Gibbons (Riverstone Veterinary Hospital), Lynn Mathison (Coreen Ave Veterinary Hospital) and Philip Wilson (Lakes Veterinary Hospital).

The conference would not be possible each year without the support of our wonderful administration team in the Faculty Office and Jacqueline Booth from the Veterinary Science Foundation.

This year our major sponsor was once again Provet and our supporting sponsor Boehringer

Ingelheim.

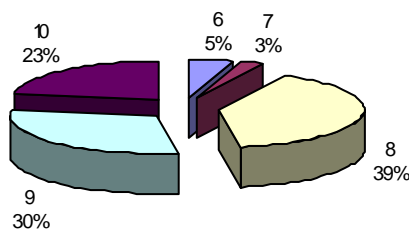
Many thanks to our sponsors once again for their assistance and we look forward to working with them in the future.

The conference is our way of giving something back to the profession but has also proved valuable for us in collecting feedback about our student internship program.

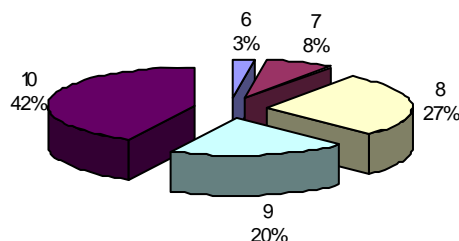
Our 2008 Conference is still in the planning stage but please lock these dates into your diary: **Thursday 24th and Friday 25th July.**

“Excellent presentations, networking with peers, discussion of practice and focus on the needs of students”

Overall rating of conference content from 1 (very poor) -10 (excellent)



Overall rating of conference organisation from 1 (very poor) -10 (excellent)



New Honours Program for 2008

From 2008, veterinary graduates from the University of Sydney will receive Honours I, Honours II, Merit and Pass grades.

Up until now, Honours I, Honours II or a pass overall was based upon the graduate's weighted average mark.

University policy means that to graduate with honours from now on, students will need to demonstrate an ability to complete research.

So, in addition to high average marks (greater than 70), our honours students will also have to complete a research project during final year.

It has been difficult to accommodate this project during an already busy year.

Some of you will meet these talented students during their standard placement program during the year.

I am sure they will be interested in sharing the early results of their research with you during their placements.

We have decreased the written assessment requirements for honours students during elective placements.

Students who achieve an average mark greater than 70 throughout the course but elect not to complete a research project will graduate with Merit.



Veterinary science needs more graduates to enter research



The University of Sydney

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Partners in Veterinary
Education

Your thoughts?

Veterinary Student Internship Program
Faculty of Veterinary Science
JD Stewart Building
University of Sydney, 2006

Phone: 61 2 9351 3550
Fax: 61 2 9351 3056
E-mail: extramural@vetsci.usyd.edu.au

LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION
IN
VETERINARY SCIENCE

The Veterinary Student Internship Program with its lecture free final year is now entering its fifth year. Our graduates are now better prepared for veterinary practice and are able to experience a wide variety of career options through this program. Placements are available throughout Australia and internationally. The success of this program is largely due to the dedication of veterinarians and staff from over 400 Educational Partners in Australia and overseas.

Graduate Profile: Erina Young

What did you enjoy about the final year program?

I had such a great time on my final year rotations. Having the opportunity to undertake placements at zoo and wildlife facilities gave me the wildlife experience I needed; a placement at Currumbin and subsequently a job!

What did you find hard about the program? How did you deal with it?

Finances were quite tight during the year particularly since I spent 10 of my 13 four-week rotations away from home.

I got homesick a few times but overall I had an amazing time and I wouldn't have been able to have

such interesting and unique experiences if I hadn't travelled around as much.

My parents have helped me out throughout the course, especially 5th year and without all their support I wouldn't have been able to have such experiences.

What are you doing now?

I am now working at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on the Gold Coast. I always wanted to work with wildlife - this was the reason I started the veterinary course. I knew that with perseverance I would get there eventually, I just didn't know it would happen so soon!

Working at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is amazing, everyday is different and I feel very fortunate to have found my perfect job.



Erina Young
2006 Graduate
Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

“Having the opportunity to undertake placements at zoo and wildlife facilities gave me the wildlife experience I needed”.