Innovation, Daring and Vision

As you know, Dr. Philip C. Kosch announced his decision earlier this year to step down as dean on June 30, 2005.

Dr. Kosch has seen the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine through tremendous growth and change since he began as dean 9 years ago. When he arrived, he noted in this very magazine that “Tufts values creativity and innovation on a scale exceeding other places,” that the school is “daring,” and that the faculty have been “visionaries, thinking of what’s possible, not just of what is expected and traditional.”

Dr. Kosch propelled the school to a new level of excellence and national recognition. He recently steered the school through the reaccreditation process, achieving the maximum period of seven years by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education. In addition to the positive reaccreditation report, the school is excelling in faculty research, student admissions and other objective measures of success. The Cummings School is unambiguously one of the best veterinary schools in the country, and continues to be recognized as such by its peers.

Under his deanship, the Cummings School has seen outstanding student achievement in competitive national programs, including leading the country in matches for clinical specialty training. The creation of the Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine, along with continuous review and enhancement of our DVM curriculum, new graduate degree programs in comparative biomedical sciences and laboratory animal medicine, and the restructuring of academic departments to enhance programmatic synergies, have helped to make our veterinary school distinctive. This is reflected in our students, whom Dr. and Kosch has often said are our best asset. The school has consistently attracted and enrolled large numbers of high quality applicants.

Major capital improvements, such as the Agnes Varis Lecture Hall, the David McGrath Veterinary Teaching Laboratory, the Bernice Barbour Wildlife Medicine Building, the Luke & Lily Lerner Spay/Neuter Clinic, and the expansion of the Foster Hospital for Small Animals, enabled Dr. Kosch to unify the school and to greatly enhance the learning and working environment on the Grafton campus. Today, we have more space for teaching, clinics and research than we ever had before.

Throughout his deanship, Dr. Kosch has been determined to seek and secure a major research presence. Last year, with the Dean’s strong support, Professor Saul Tzipori applied for and secured a seven year $25 million award from the NIH to establish the National Center for Botulinum Therapies Research and Development. This award places the veterinary school at the forefront of the national biodefense effort to safeguard our food and water supplies. Dr. Kosch’s commitment to enhance faculty resources for research has been unwavering.

With Dr. Kosch at the helm, the Cummings School achieved financial security and sought out new avenues of innovation. His was the steady hand that guided the school through a difficult financial time when state financing was threatened. The culmination of his successful deanship was the receipt of the $50 million naming gift for the veterinary school from Cummings Foundation.

Phil Kosch is leaving the veterinary school with a legacy of remarkable achievements. Fortunately, Tufts will not be losing him. Following his sabbatical leave this year, he will serve as a special assistant to the provost to work on projects with university-wide impact. Please join me in wishing him well as he enters the next phase of his career of service to Tufts University.

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Gates Foundation Grant Received

Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine will play a very significant role in a $5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to Dr. Abraham “Linc” Sonenshein at the Tufts Medical School to develop a heat-stable vaccine. Dr. Saul Tzipori and his coworkers in the veterinary school’s Division of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Biomedical Sciences helped to create the proposal, and half of the grant will be given to this team to help develop low-cost technologies for formulating vaccines that do not require refrigeration.

Many vaccines require constant refrigeration to remain effective, making delivery to areas without electricity very difficult. The team will attempt to encase vaccines in harmless, heat-resistant bacteria. Vaccines prepared this way could be distributed in ready-to-use packets, mixed with water, and easily consumed.

Tufts was one of 43 recipients of the “Grand Challenges in Global Health” awards given out by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (out of 1,445 applications). The intent of the awards is to fund the very best ideas with the potential to make the most difference in improving human health globally.

IN BRIEF

NORTHEAST VETERINARY CONFERENCE

THIS YEAR’S NORTHEAST Veterinary Conference at the Rhode Island Conference Center in Providence, R.I., from Aug. 6-8 offered general-interest fare, including content pertaining to animal welfare and animal-assisted therapy. The conference also included nationally recognized speakers, a hands-on wet lab, technician programs, an equine practitioner program, and a keynote address by Dr. Larry Glickman MA, VMD, MPH, DrPH.

All net income from the Northeast Veterinary Conference is used for student scholarships at Tufts’ Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine.

REUNION WITH HAWAIIAN THEME

BRING YOUR HAWAIIAN SHIRTS, flip flops, and school spirit to the Tufts University Veterinary Alumni Association’s 20th Annual Reunion and Comeback on Sat., Sept. 10, 2005 at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine’s North Grafton, Mass. campus. All veterinary alumni are invited to the luau-themed festival with food, beverages, and entertainment to celebrate the reunion of the classes of 1985, 1990, 1995, and 2000.

Contact Alumni Relations Officer Sara Eltzroth Fish at 508-839-7976.

PEREGRINE FALCON SUCCESS STORY

The Tufts Wildlife Clinic was elated when it received news from Dr. Tom French of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and Chris Martin of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire that a banded female peregrine falcon had found her way back to her nest in New Hampshire after being released from the Grafton campus.

The peregrine was found injured and unable to fly in Boston Feb. 1. It was brought to the Wildlife Clinic by Animal Rescue League staff, where it was examined and treated for a moderate head injury and respiratory distress. It’s likely that she ran into a window while migrating or hunting in Boston. The peregrine improved quickly and was released less than a week later.

Because she was banded, the Wildlife Clinic knows she was hatched near Bartlett, NH in 2001, and recaptured in good health by Mass Audubon in 2003 at Logan Airport. Her mate was hatched near Stark, NH, and has been at the current nest site every breeding season since then.

The news is significant because it’s often difficult to determine the fate or breeding success of a wild animal once it’s released back into its natural habitat.
When Dean Philip C. Kosch first arrived at Tufts’ Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in 1996 as a transplant from the University of Florida, he felt both mystified and animated. “I was an alien on this new planet, and I needed to start breathing the same air and eating the same food and drinking the same water as these people were,” he said during a recent interview. “It was a really steep learning curve — not just “deaning,” but understanding Planet Tufts.”
But over time, the “foreign” culture that permeates the veterinary school slowly seeped into his psyche. Eventually he immersed himself in this pool of “creativity, entrepreneurial spirit, and can-do attitude” to realize his own vision. Kosch created the Department of Environmental and Population Health to address global health concerns and to preserve “the delicate balance between humans, animals, and their shared environments.”

Sporting a tie of interlocking elephants, and surrounded by an impressive collection of wild animal sculptures that adorn his desk and bookshelves, Kosch leans forward and talks about that undertaking as one of his greatest contributions to the veterinary school—as well as to Tufts University.

It began early in his deanship with the reorganization of the veterinary school into three departments — Biomedical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, and the new Environmental and Population Health. This department combined several programs that have been strongly influenced by Kosch — the International Veterinary Medicine Signature Program, Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine, Ambulatory Clinic and Rural Animal Health Program, Wildlife Medicine Signature Program, Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy, Ethics and Values Signature Program, and Environmental and Comparative Genomics Program.

“One of my responsibilities was to realign the school for success in the future,” he says of the reorganization. And because Kosch saw that veterinary medicine would increasingly intersect with population and environmental health issues, creation of this new department was a crucial step for the school.

“How does a veterinary school prepare its students and support its faculty to make a difference in solving the biggest issue we have on the planet, which is the survival of the planet?” he asks passionately. “How can we reconcile the human need for the consumption of natural resources, to feed and clothe ourselves and accommodate growth and population - and have a sustainable environment?

“You can make a difference if you have something to bring to the table, if you understand not only animal-health issues, but environmental-health issues, ecosystems, ecology - the interrelationship between animals, humans, and the environment,” he adds. “Those are the three big factors that we want our students to have a comprehensive understanding of, and to have a few students really decide that this is their career.”

The Department of Environmental and Population Health provides students with a broad view of the veterinary profession. “In reality, the relationship between animals and humans goes beyond companionship - it’s the health of the planet,” he explains.

“We are the “animal people,” but we’re way beyond that. We are a school of public health just as much as we are a school of animal health. Our goal is to improve the lives of families and communities. We want to inform policymakers and give them the valid information that public policy can be built on. And eventually, when public-policymakers turn the spigot on for resources to address complex environmental sustainability problems, the school will be in a position to be a go-to place,” he adds.

The study of zoonotic diseases (animal diseases transferable to humans) has become increasingly important with the rise in global trade and travel, the threat of bioterrorism after 9/11, and the emergence of new diseases resulting from ecosystem disturbances caused by humans pushing into uninhabited areas. Consequently, Kosch has encouraged the growth and development of the school’s public health and biomedical research enterprises by providing space and resources for their expansion.

Maturation of the school has always been his chief goal and his biggest challenge. “The Dean’s No. 1 job is to maintain what you have as well as garnering new resources to grow.

His other major challenges were consolidating the entire school on the Grafton campus and instituting the necessary changes to position the school for programmatic success - to make the school as attractive as possible to donors, future applicants, and current funders. Judging by the school’s reputation, he
clearly accomplished that goal.

The Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine ranks first out of 28 veterinary schools in the country in combined verbal and quantitative scores on the student Graduate Record Exam. It’s ranked No. 1 for three years in a row in placing more graduates than any other school in competitive internships and residency programs through the national matching program. On a per capita basis, its faculty ranks No.1 in the country in National Institutes of Health funding. As a teaching hospital, the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals ranks first in the number of hospitalized patients and fourth in patient visits.

“What I envision for the school is to maintain that kind of excellence and then build upon it. And where I see us building upon that is to continue to grow the research enterprise and graduate education because we’re doing the best job in the country in attracting bright veterinary students and graduating superb young veterinarians who are highly sought after,” he says.

During a time of considerable change and financial challenges at the school, Kosch created a Ph.D. program in Comparative Biomedical Sciences, M.S. programs in Laboratory Animal Medicine and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, and has invested in growing the joint D.V.M./Masters in Public Health program with Tufts Medical School with generous donations from Dr. Henry Foster and Agnes Varis, a member of the Cummings Veterinary School Board of Overseers and University Board of Trustees.

Agnes Varis has provided financial support for many of Kosch’s advancements. He runs down the list - the Agnes Varis Lecture Hall, Cat Ward, and University Chair in Science and Society. “She gave us a $5 million gift to resource projects that I care about, and she supports students who are doing graduate degrees in public health and in comparative biomedical sciences. They’re Agnes Varis fellows,” he notes.

And then there’s the exceptional $50 million gift from Cummings Foundation and what it will mean for the school: “The Cummings gift helped position the school for the future,” he says. “We still have opportunities to further strengthen the school and assure its forward progress. We’re still very modestly subsidized by the state when you compare us with all other veterinary schools.”

What does he foresee as the biggest challenges for the veterinary school? There’s the need for more student financial aid and a new lecture hall, campus center, and teaching and research space. But of greatest concern is the need to attract and retain quality faculty in the face of attractive offers from other veterinary schools, private practices and industry. “We have to make sure that this school - the culture, the community, the opportunity, the common purpose - really stays central to why faculty want to stay here. The pride felt in what we have built here is what binds us together,” he says.

Kosch is looking forward to taking some time off before his big move in 2006 to assume the role of Special Assistant to the Provost to tackle university-wide issues, particularly in the life sciences. As he completes his final days at the veterinary school, he reflects on the most valuable advice he can offer his successor.

“Open your mind, and take it in like a sponge. Embrace the way it is, and then build upon it. It took me a couple of years to fully appreciate and understand the complexity and fabric here, and then get embedded in it to the point where I bleed Tufts,” he says thoughtfully.

“This is a very unified place with a common purpose, and what is that purpose? That purpose is to support each other and give each other the opportunity to model the best in ourselves through one’s compassion toward animals and one’s contribution to animal health, welfare, and conservation, and to public health.”
The entire campus community participated in the celebration, which included scrumptious food, music, and the gifting to guests of T-shirts adorned with the school’s new name. A cheer rose up from the audience of students, faculty, state and local representatives, and other veterinary school friends to welcome in the new Cummings School era.

The renaming follows last fall’s $50-million commitment by Cummings Foundation to the veterinary school - the largest commitment in the foundation’s history, Tufts’ history, and the history of veterinary medical education.

“We are together today because of the philanthropy and optimism of Bill and Joyce Cummings,” Tufts University President Lawrence S. Bacow said during the historic ceremony. The pledge will be used to enhance the educational and clinical missions of the school, provide matching funds to support major research proposals, and finance critical capital improvements.

“The Cummings gift represents a vote of confidence in Tufts’ visionary leaders who have created a world-class veterinary institution that advances animal, human, and public health,” said Dean Philip C. Kosch. “We cannot thank Cummings Foundation enough for its trust in us. We now have the distinction of being the first veterinary school in the nation to assume the name of a generous donor, due to a magnificent gift that will provide greater financial resources to what is already a world-class institution.”

W hat’s in a name? Exceptional generosity, gratitude, and vision—if that name is Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. At a May 12 renaming ceremony on the Grafton campus, William S. and Joyce M. Cummings unfurled a banner on the podium to prominently displaying the school’s new name. A cheer rose up from the audience of students, faculty, state and local representatives, and other veterinary school friends to welcome in the new Cummings School era.

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PRESIDENT LAWRENCE S. BACOW: AN HISTORIC DAY

Today is an historic day - for Tufts University and for veterinary education.

Together we celebrate a school that has become a jewel in the crown of Tufts University and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;

We celebrate philanthropy and what it can accomplish;

And we recognize an alumnus who is giving back—in an extraordinary way—because he will never forget how much Tufts University gave to him…..

Bill attributes some of his success to the support he received as an undergraduate student at Tufts. He has told me that he is compelled to give back because of his gratitude to Tufts University.

Joyce Cummings has been a part of all Bill’s accomplishments. Together they formed Cummings Foundation, a powerful demonstration of their concern for others and their commitment to a better world. The Foundation contributes to community life by addressing a range of societal needs, providing scholarships to young people getting started in life, and safe and comfortable housing for individuals who have already led full lives.

As a member of the Board of Trustees when the
veterinary school was just getting established, Bill has been keenly aware that only finances were limiting this important venture with so much to offer to Massachusetts, New England and the world.

When Bill felt ready to make an extraordinary commitment to Tufts, he recognized a very special opportunity to enhance the university’s place in the landscape of higher education and to encourage its contributions to society…. It is a pleasure and a privilege to formally recognize this commitment by linking the Cummings name permanently to Tufts University and the work of its School of Veterinary Medicine.

EXCERPT TAKEN FROM BILL CUMMINGS’ SPEECH

In preparing for this ceremony, I thought a lot about Professor Sol Gittleman’s wonderful new book “The Entrepreneurial University.” The concept of “entrepreneurship” is one that is certainly close to my heart, and Sol identifies it as the central force behind the recent evolution of Tufts University.

In explaining exactly what “educational entrepreneurship” means, Sol evokes the concept of vision. As in the fact that an entrepreneurial leader must have the ability to conceive an innovative vision, cultivate it, and then develop it to the point of actualization.

It is particularly fitting to reflect upon this important feature of leadership while celebrating Cummings Foundation’s historic collaboration with the newly-renamed Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

This ceremony represents the successful realization of the late Jean Mayer’s original vision for a regional veterinary school. At that time, the national academic community and most of the Tufts trustees, as well, were shocked to learn in Jean’s inaugural address as president, that one of his highest priorities would be the establishment of this veterinary school.

There had been other attempts to establish a veterinary school in Massachusetts, particularly one by that other school over in Cambridge, but all past attempts had ultimately failed. Nevertheless, Jean, with Henry Foster at his side.

One of the most important reasons behind this determination was that he was convinced that there were great changes afloat in the biomedical industry. And he intuited the positive effects these would have upon the field of veterinary science.

Jean predicated that by the 1990s, veterinarians would be active in the fields of nutrition, marine and equine medicine, toxicology, public health and environmental science.

Oh, how that vision has become a reality, and then some!

EXCERPT TAKEN FROM PRESIDENT LAWRENCE S. BACOW’S SPEECH
COMMENCEMENT 2005

GRADUATION DAY
STUDENTS JOIN A COMMUNITY OF HEALERS

More than 1,000 attended Tufts’ Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine’s 23rd Commencement ceremony. Cheers erupted as the 76 graduates received their degrees on May 22 and joyously flipped their tassels from right to left.

Early into the program, Dean Philip C. Kosch introduced commencement speaker Dr. Mary Rose Paradis, associate professor of large animal medicine and director of the Marilyn M. Simpson Equine Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Hospital for Large Animals. She addressed the topic of how to grow and maintain idealism in the veterinary profession, as well as in one’s life.

Paradis contrasted the current graduating class with a 30-year-old study of medical students, “Boys in White: Student Culture in Medical School,” which documented the loss of idealism as medical students became physicians.

Veterinary students “remain idealistic in the transition from student healer to veterinarian because we are called to heal such a wondrous world of living things,” she contended. “We remain idealistic because in our transition from ‘wanta-be healer’ to veterinarian, we discover this miracle of the ‘Net of Life.’ What we do never becomes mundane, or ordinary…. My idealism has compounded and multiplied through my work with you the students. I wonder at how lucky I am to be a veterinarian…. Our wonderful profession leaves us daily with a sense of awe.”

The ceremony was the ninth for outgoing Dean Kosch, who waxed poetic while presenting the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award to Dr. Eugene White, a large animal veterinarian and ambulatory clinician.

“Be it outstanding student evaluations at the end of his course or fresh-baked cookies from his clients at holiday time, everyone makes it clear that they value how he truly cares that they learn how to better care for animals,” Kosch said while presenting the award sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health. “He sees preserving farmers’ livelihoods as his mission. Armed with great pride in his abilities, high ethical standards, strong personal faith, and good old common sense, he will do whatever it takes to provide the best care possible for his clients’ animals.”

“Not enough can be said about Dr. Gene White,” Kosch read from a graduating student’s letter. “As far as I am concerned, he is the standard-bearer of excellence for Tufts Veterinary School…. He practices at a level that I will aspire to as a new veterinarian.”

The Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence was presented to Dr. Raymond Kudej who “shows unlimited potential to become a leading research scientist,” the dean said. Kudej is recognized for his extensive research into coronary artery disease. His research is currently supported by a five-year, special-emphasis research career award from the National Centers for Research Resources of the National Institutes of Health.

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TVM
The student address was given by Dr. Matthew Eyles,VD05, who described his classmates as “sisters and brothers” who forged that relationship through tears, laughter, and many challenges.

“I have seen you sneak into the hospital on your night off to check on a fragile patient. I have seen you nail a diagnosis. I have brushed sawdust from your eyes as we pulled a new calf, mooing, into this world. I’ve seen you pull a dog back from the brink, and I’ve heard you whisper the last encouraging words to a patient as she slips into oblivion. We have all fallen down. We have all picked each other up. We have banded together against injustice and disease, we have lost and we have won,” he said emphatically. “You will never be alone, you will always have this family to share your victories and your sorrows.”
“I see it as a smorgasbord. I want to set out lots of opportunities for them, and the opportunities may be lecture series they can attend, electives, or summer programs,” said Dr. Mark Pokras, V’84, director of the wildlife clinic. “But the challenge has always been finding the dollars to fund these opportunities.”

The wildlife clinic was fortunate to receive grants from several sources for this year’s summer intern projects: The Edward Gorey Charitable Trust, Jane’s Trust, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and National Institutes of Health.

Paula Gillikin is a masters degree candidate at the Center for Animals and Public Policy, whose project is being funded by a donation from the Edward Gorey Charitable Trust The trust was established after the artist and author passed away about five years ago.

“He left substantially his entire estate for the purpose of forming a charitable trust to support the activities of animal welfare organizations,” said co-trustee and lawyer Andrew Bose. “This is the first year the trust has been in a position to fund any organizations, and Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine was one of the first recipients.”

The trust chose to fund four student projects over the next year because “we were very interested that Tufts was doing projects on the Cape, which is where Edward Gorey lived. He loved the Cape, he loved animals, and additionally, Tufts has been involved in the establishment and running of the Edward Gorey Museum in Yarmouthport,” Bose added.

Gillikin is compiling data to help assess the potential vulnerability of seabirds to proposed wind-farm sites off the coast of Massachusetts. The project will also determine what locations would cause the least disturbance to birds that use these marine habitats.

“We’ll use mathematical models to develop a species sensitivity index … and incorporate these results into a Geographic Information System to determine which species of birds will be affected the most and where,” she said. “For example, there’s particular concern about adverse effects on the Roseate Tern - a federally endangered species that breeds largely on islands near Cape Cod.”

The controversy over offshore wind energy in Massachusetts is centered around the potential adverse effects on birds, bats, marine mammals, sea turtles, fish, and habitat in the vicinity of Horseshoe Shoals in Nantucket Sound where Cape Wind Inc. intends to locate a wind farm. Gillikin said she selected the project because of her lifelong interest in marine wildlife issues.

“The Cape Wind project is likely to be the first offshore wind farm in North America and one of the largest in the world with 130 turbines, so it’s important that we consider integrating this type of research into site selection so as to minimize the
Student researchers (from top, clockwise) this summer included masters candidate Paula Gillikin, Second year student Danielle Torin and second year student Janine Calabro.

chance for adverse effects on marine wildlife,” she said.

Janine Calabro is also working on a project funded by the Edward Gorey Charitable Trust that will add another building block to her already extensive experience in pesticide research. Before she came to the veterinary school, the second-year student worked in endocrine disruptor research for five years at Tufts Medical School.

“My background is in research, and I’m interested in going into research after I graduate,” she explained. “I want to learn more laboratory techniques and make some additional contacts with new researchers in a new field.”

The project will allow her to gather data on Cape Cod pesticide use by assessing cholinesterase levels in aquatic birds as an environmental indicator. Previous studies
have shown that organophosphate pesticides used in lawn chemicals, flea medications, cranberry production, and mosquito control suppress cholinesterase in the brains and blood of many species, which negatively impacts their nervous systems. After compiling basic statistics for Massachusetts, she plans to travel to a Texas lab in August with samples she’s collected to do assays for total cholinesterase activity.

Second-year student Diane Carle is working on a related project under a grant from the Jane’s Trust, a charitable-lead trust established in 2002 (www.hembar.com\janestrust) that’s providing the veterinary school with two years of funding for six student projects. The goal of the funding is to educate students in the school’s Conservation Medicine program to understand the fundamental relationships connecting the environment with the health and welfare of all living creatures, and to give them the skills they need to assume leadership roles. Students accomplish these goals by gaining research and policy experience through the projects.

Another major goal of TCSVM’s wildlife and conservation programs is to build long-term, collaborative relationships with a wide variety of NGOs, state and federal agencies, and other environmental and public-health groups in the region. The projects chosen are strategically selected towards this goal (including which organizations are truly interested in collaborations).

“Students are a marvelous resource to develop these kinds of inter-institutional collaborations, which help both students and the institutions,” said Pokras.

Dressed in scrubs and holding an x-ray of a rabbit, Carle eagerly talked about her project. “I’m looking at cholinesterase in mammalian wildlife that comes into the clinic after they are hit by cars or attacked by predators to see if their survival skills are reduced by potential exposure to pesticides. Studies done mostly on birds have found that they may have reduced survival skills – for example, in one study, exposed birds were more likely to be preyed on by cats,” she explained.

The project interests her because it provides involvement in environmental issues, lab experience, and necropsies, she said. “I’m doing necropsies to make sure there isn’t some other explanation for their decreased survival skills such as a really heavy parasite load or disease. Doing necropsies is great because I get experience with anatomy and pathology, and being in the wildlife clinic is also great because there’s interesting stuff going on all the time.”

For second-year student Danielle Torin, the Jane’s Trust is providing a very different kind of veterinary medicine experience that allows her to get her feet wet in conservation medicine while contributing to the health of wildlife. She’s addressing the prevention of disease transmission in colonial waterbird and seabird populations by researching and developing protocols for biologists and others working with birds in the field. Such protocols include appropriate disinfectants and clothing and the use of footbaths.

“There are three main issues in terms of disease transmission that we’re worried about. There’s the classic idea of zoonotic diseases, which humans can catch from animals they’re working with, but there’s also the concern that people can transmit diseases to animals they’re working with. The third concern has to do with biologists visiting multiple sites,” she added. “We’re concerned that they could be carrying infectious particles on their skin, clothes, gear, and potentially spreading disease from colony to colony” as they visit islands.

The result will be a field techniques guide to “minimize or prevent disease transmission among the seabird colonies and to protect our staff from disease exposure,” said Linda Welch, a wildlife biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

Although this is their first collaborative project with Tufts, in the past, the refuge has successfully worked with the Cummings School on other issues. “Tufts is eager to work with different partners in the conservation community. And students bring veterinary expertise to the refuge, which helps us deal with injured animals or disease concerns,” she said.

Three other foundations are supporting student intern projects at the Wildlife Clinic this summer. The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation has been funding summer projects at the wildlife clinic for many years. After the first few years, the program became so successful, the foundation decided to create a national grant program.

“It broke my heart a little because in the beginning all the support was for Tufts students, and then we had to share,” said Pokras. “But the Dodge Frontiers in Veterinary Medicine program has been a marvelous success and has changed the face of veterinary medicine.”

And over the years, the National Institutes of Health has provided numerous grants in funding to Dr. Sawkat Anwer, acting dean of Cummings School. Twelve TCSVM students are receiving funding from NIH this summer for basic science research programs, including several focusing on conservation and public health issues.

“Many of the faculty who write grants will write into the grant one or more student summer salaries,” which is another way of securing such opportunities, Pokras said. “But to build the sort of long-term efforts that will really have impact on environmental research and policy issues, we have to be able to work with our collaborators to plan. That’s why it’s so important to develop sources of funding such as endowments that are predictable from one year to the next.”

PROGRAMS

“ONE THING TUFTS IS PARTICULARLY GOOD AT IS ENCOURAGING STUDENTS WITH NONTRADITIONAL INTERESTS.”
CONTINUING EDUCATION CALENDAR

TUFTS’ CANINE AND FELINE GENETICS CONFERENCE
Friday, September 30 – Saturday, October 1, 2005  Sturbridge, Massachusetts
For veterinarians, technicians, breeders, and owners. Course Director: Dr. Jerold Bell. The 2005 conference will focus on practical applications for management, based on research into traits controlled by complex (polygenic) inheritance.

CANINE BEHAVIOR SYMPOSIUM
Saturday, October 15 – Sunday, October 16, 2005
For veterinarians, technicians, owners. Speakers: Gerrard Flannigan, DVM, MSC., DIPL. ACVB; Alice Moon-Fanelli, MA, PhD, CAAB; Nicole Cottam, Tufts Behavior Service Coordinator.

EMERGENCY AND CRITICAL CARE UPDATE: Common Gastrointestinal Emergencies
Sunday, November 13, 2005
For veterinarians and technicians. Course Director: Theresa O’Toole, DVM. Technician Program instructed by Kellie Paige, CVT, VTS

7TH ANNUAL TIMELY TOPICS IN INTERNAL MEDICINE
Sunday, December 4, 2005.
For veterinarians. Course Director: Linda Ross, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVIM

11TH ANNUAL ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY COURSE AND LABORATORY
Wednesday, March 8 – Saturday, March 11, 2006
For veterinarians. Course Director: Dr. Karl H. Kraus, DIPL. ACVS, ABVP

2ND ANNUAL FELINE MEDICINE SEMINAR
Thursday, March 9 – Saturday, March 11 2006
For veterinarians. Course Director: Mary Anna Labato, DVM, DIPL. ACVIM

HOW TO REACH US

Main hospital switchboard and after-hours emergencies ................................................................. 508-839-5395
Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals, appointment desk ........................................... 508-839-5395
Hospital for Large Animals, appointment desk ............................................................................. 508-839-5395
Wildlife Clinic ................................................................................................................................. 508-839-7918
Directions to Cummings School ..................................................................................................... 508-839-5395 (ext. 84650)
Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine administration ..................................................................... 508-839-5302
Veterinary Student Admissions Office ............................................................................................ 508-839-7920
Veterinary Alumni Relations ......................................................................................................... 508-839-7976
Cummings School Veterinary Fund ................................................................................................ 508-839-7909
Tufts Pet Loss Support Hotline ..................................................................................................... 508-839-7966
Continuing Education .................................................................................................................. 508-887-4723

Web site: www.tufts.edu/vet

If you are interested in learning more about how you can support Cummings Tufts Veterinary School, please contact Shelley Rodman, director of veterinary development and alumni relations
508-839-7907 or e-mail: shelley.rodman@tufts.edu
Join thousands from around New England at Tufts’ Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine’s 16th annual Open House on Sat., Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – rain or shine. Located at 200 Westboro Road (Rte. 30) in North Grafton, Mass., the campus is offering obedience, police and assistance canine demonstrations, breed rescue exhibitions, animal health-care exhibits, tours and demonstrations in Tufts’ animal hospitals and fun activities for the kids.

Special attractions include the New England Miniature Horse Society, the USDA Beagle Brigade and the popular birds of prey demonstration.

The event is free, and all are welcome. For safety reasons and state public-health regulations, please leave your pets at home.

For more information, call (508) 839-5395, ext. 84899.