

Veterinary World

SUMMER 1999

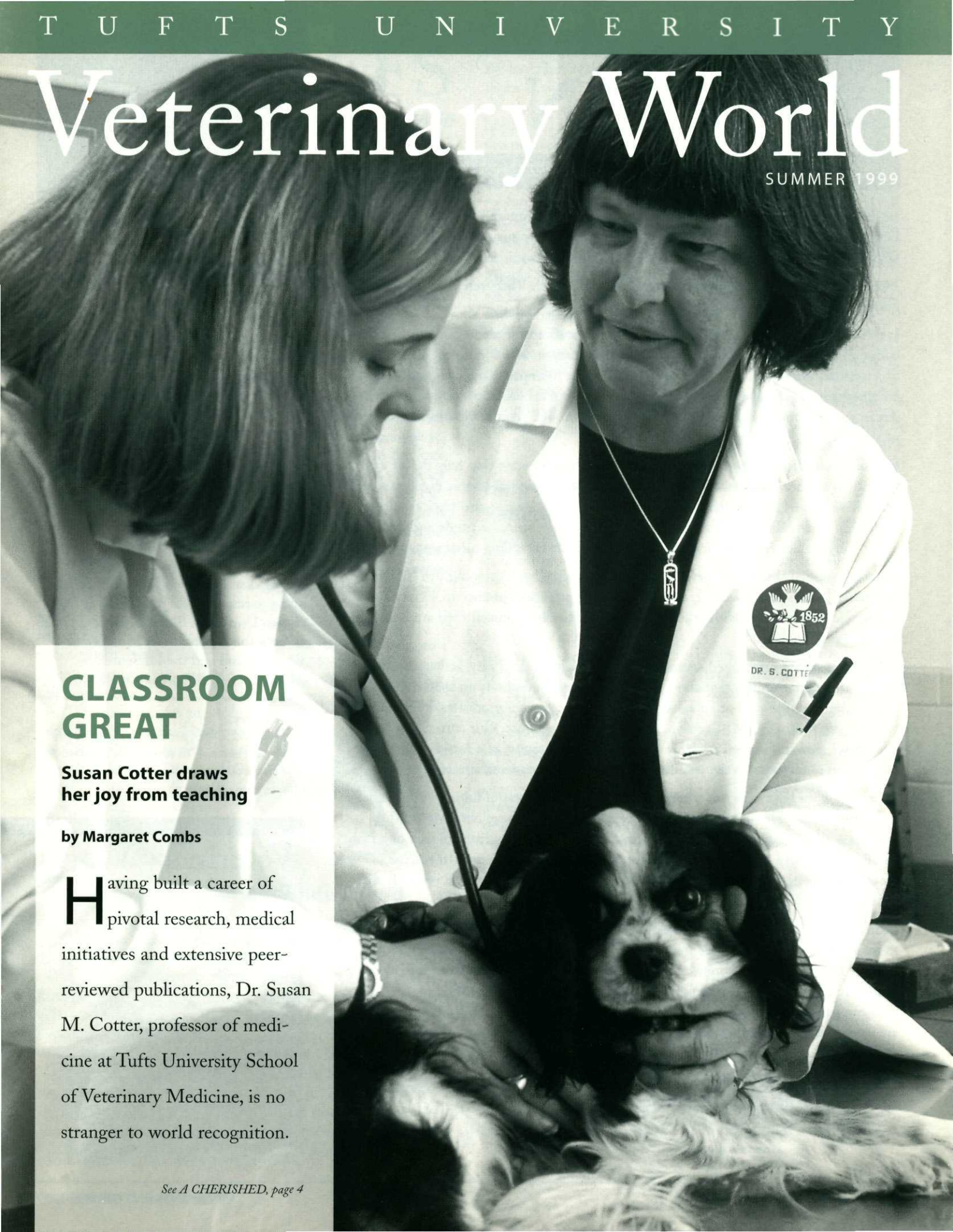
CLASSROOM GREAT

Susan Cotter draws her joy from teaching

by Margaret Combs

Having built a career of pivotal research, medical initiatives and extensive peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Susan M. Cotter, professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, is no stranger to world recognition.

See A CHERISHED, page 4





DEAN

by Philip C. Kosch



2 overseers named

V. Duncan Johnson, a partner in the law firm of Edwards & Angell, LLP, and his wife, Diana L. Johnson, senior vice president of the Providence Group Investment Advisory Co. in Rhode Island, have been appointed to Tufts' Board of Overseers for Veterinary Medicine.

Duncan Johnson, a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, is a recognized authority on bank mergers and acquisitions. Currently a director of Fleet National Bank, he headed the attorney team that guided the historic merger of Fleet Financial Group and Norstar Bancorp in 1988 and most recently, Fleet's merger with BankBoston Corp.

Diana Johnson received her B.A. degree *cum laude* from Radcliffe College and a master's degree in art history from Brown University. She is a board member of both the Newport Art Museum in Rhode Island and the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown.

On the cover:

Dr. Susan M. Cotter, professor of medicine, guides Jocelyn B. Polston, V00, through the essential steps of clinical examination and diagnosis.

Photo by Richard Howard

T U F T S U N I V E R S I T Y

Veterinary World

Summer 1999

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A SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL DISTINCTION

In the last issue of *Veterinary World*, I wrote about the beginnings of Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine and our 20 years of development. And what a trip it has been!

Beginning with this issue, I want to share with you where Tufts veterinary school is going. The first step is to understand our identity.

It must be stressed that the community of faculty, staff and students and our broader community of alumni, clients, collaborators, veterinarians and friends of Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine are united in a commitment to improve the lives and well-being of animals. That is why we are here. This school is blessed to have people who, day in and day out, model the best in themselves through their compassionate care of animals, their health, welfare and conservation.

Our faculty and staff also distinguish themselves in other ways that help define our identity as a school with an international reputation for both academic excellence and innovation. It was bold to start a veterinary school, without a tenure-track faculty, at a private university. This demanded a very special entrepreneurial attitude and dedicated effort. Tufts values creativity and innovation on a scale exceeding other institutions.

Tufts has pushed the boundaries of veterinary medicine by developing five "signature programs" and three academic centers that have depth and relevance to society and the future role of veterinarians. Our students enthusiastically approach their studies within a culture of leadership.

A Tufts veterinary medical education places emphasis on flexibility, active learning and experiential opportunities that allow exploration and/or emphasis on special areas of interest, with a solid core of knowledge and skills, so that our graduates are prepared to enter virtually any field of veterinary medicine they choose. Our curriculum has been developed and refined as the result of both the initiative of a forward-thinking faculty and in response to the wonderful self-motivated students attracted to Tufts.

As a school, we have inherent attributes that predict a successful future. We are relatively small, but have superb faculty, staff and students. We have our own beautiful campus with increasingly excellent modern facilities. We are an integral part of a truly excellent university. We are the regional center of academic veterinary medicine in New England, nested within the best higher education and biomedical research area in the world. We are rich in the quality and innovation of our programs.

I can't think of a better way to illustrate what Tufts veterinary school is all about than to refer you to this issue's cover story on Dr. Susan Cotter, Distinguished Professor of Clinical Sciences. She personifies the special attitude and effort characteristic of our school. In addition to these strengths, Tufts is both blessed and fortified by all of you who comprise our very special community of supporters. Your interest and support are inseparable from our ongoing success—now and in the future.

We invite you to stay tuned. In the next few issues, this column will focus on strategic opportunities we have identified to strengthen our leading programs and to chart the future course of this unique school of international distinction.

BRIEFS



Connecting World Scientists

Described as a "watershed" experience, a three-day conference in April sponsored by the Center for Conservation Medicine at Tufts (CCM), brought together 48 wildlife veterinarians, physicians, epidemiologists and ecologists from around the world. Held at the White Oak Plantation and Conservation Center in Florida and supported by funding from the Howard Gilman Foundation, New York Community Trust, the V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the conference was the first in the nation to address the impact of ecosystem damage and habitat destruction on animal and human health.

"The meeting was an overwhelming success," said Dr. Gary Tabor, executive director of CCM. "There was lots of energy and excitement about pushing conservation medicine forward, and right there on the spot, veterinarians, ecologists and physicians who had never met each other before made plans to work together," he said.

The team that organized the event included Tabor, CCM Science Director Dr. Rosalind Rolland, CCM Wildlife Field Veterinarian Dr. Alonso Aguirre, Tufts Wildlife Clinic Director Dr. Mark Pokras, Resident Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Colin Gillin and CCM Program Officer Cynthia Barakatt.

Emerging from the

meeting were a number of initiatives to be launched over the next few years aimed at better educating scientists to understand the links between human, animal and ecosystem health and also establishing conservation medicine as a multidisciplinary field of biomedical study. These include the establishment of a working group to develop conservation medicine curricula as part of veterinary education; the inclusion of a symposium on conservation medicine at the June meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology in Missoula, Mont.; and the publication of a book on conservation medicine, based on the papers and presentations at the White Oak conference. An editorial board of several conference participants, including Tabor and J. Michael Reed, assistant professor of biology at Tufts, will convene this summer to oversee the book's development.



Wildlife Award

Dr. Alonso Aguirre, the Wildlife Preservation Trust International's field wildlife veterinarian who is based at the Center for Conservation Medicine at Tufts, is the recipient of the second international Harry Jalanka Memorial Medal in recognition of his achievement in wildlife management and conservation medicine at the international level.

The award is named after the late Harry Jalanka, a professor of wildlife medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine in Helsinki and a veterinarian with the Helsinki Zoo.

Aguirre has worked on wildlife-domestic disease interactions in national parks; developed research on sea turtle diseases with the National Marine Fisheries Service; worked on ecosystem health and biological diversity training and research with the Smithsonian Institution and has been involved with the health assessment and disease monitoring of the endangered Hawaiian monk seal.

Help for AIDS Patients

Cynthia Theodos, Ph.D., assistant professor of biomedical sciences, has received a \$1.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for her research that could lead to life-saving protocols for AIDS patients.

Theodos, an immunologist, will collaborate with researchers at the New England Regional Primate Research Center to identify changes in the immune system that result in the gastrointestinal illness chronic cryptosporidiosis in AIDS patients. Caused by the parasite *Cryptosporidium parvum*, the illness can be life-threatening in AIDS patients due to their compromised immune systems.

"By understanding the changes in the immune system that result in the development of chronic cryptosporidiosis, we will be better able to design effective immunotherapeutic approaches to eliminate the parasite from the body," said Theodos.



Peggy Brosnahan, V02, tests out the nutrition computer, assisted by Tufts veterinary nutritionist Dr. Lisa Freeman, pointing at screen, and Dr. Beth Nichols, veterinary affairs manager for Hill's Pet Nutrition.

Nutrition Matters

Should a cat with cancer go on a special diet? Do vitamin supplements enhance a horse's performance? Answers to these questions and many others related to nutrition for animals are now at the fingertips of Tufts veterinary students through a new state-of-the-art computer donated by Hills Pet Nutrition.

"This computer reinforces the fact that nutrition is an integral part of case management and patient care for both small and large animals," said Dr. Lisa Freeman, head of the veterinary school's nutrition program.

Freeman credits Dr. Beth Nichols, veterinary affairs manager for Hill's Pet Nutrition, for generating the necessary funds and leading the project forward.

In addition to referencing study resources such as Hill's Atlas of Veterinary Clinical Anatomy and nutrition web sites, students can access specially designed interactive software by Hill's. Testing their knowledge, students gather history and symptoms, conduct physical examinations and come up with a diagnosis and treatment protocols, which include a nutrition component.

A cherished teacher and mentor



Cotter's research on feline leukemia virus led to the routine use of screening tests and the subsequent development of a vaccine.

Continued from page 1

Her international renown as a leading clinical oncologist in veterinary medicine and her respected reputation as a small animal clinician have brought her a stream of accolades, including the American Veterinary Medical Association's Outstanding Woman Veterinarian of the Year in 1978, the Carnation Award for Research in 1982, the Beecham Award for Research Excellence in 1985 and her election as Distinguished Practitioner by the National Academies of Practice in 1987.

And yet, at this point in her career, Cotter's deepest satisfaction comes not from the world, but from the classroom.

"Teaching is really my favorite thing now," said Cotter, who also serves as section head of small animal medicine at the veterinary school. "It's really the most fun part of what I do."

Arriving at Tufts as an associate professor in 1981, Cotter has served as guide and mentor for every graduating class since the school opened. Described by her students as an "excellent teacher and clinician," "easily approachable," "very helpful and supportive" and "thorough,"

Cotter has been recognized for her dedication to teaching with the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher's Award in 1988, and this year, with a promotion to the rank of Distinguished Professor by the Tufts University Board of Trustees.

Speaking at this year's graduation ceremonies, Dr. James Ross, named a Distinguished Professor in 1998 and former director of the veterinary hospitals, encapsulated Cotter's value to the Tufts veterinary community by saying simply, "We cherish her."

STUDENTS MAKE IT EASY

With typical humility, Cotter says her students deserve as much of the credit for her effectiveness as a teacher as she does herself. Their sincerity and eagerness make teaching them a pleasure, she said.

"Veterinary students tend to be very bright, dedicated and idealistic, and they don't come to this profession because they want to get wealthy," said Cotter. "They are in this field because they love it."

The same can be said for Cotter. Her own enthusiasm for veterinary medicine began at a young age and never wavered. "I was one of those people who decided at 10 years old what I wanted to do and never looked back," said Cotter, who began taking care of dogs and cats and cleaning cages at a neighborhood small animal hospital when she was in grade school. "I always liked animals, and I liked science. It was a natural combination."

Cotter's innate compassion for animals and her aptitude for science would prove invaluable to animals, veterinary students and colleagues alike. After receiving her D.V.M. from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1966, she spent the next 14 years at Angell Memorial Hospital in Boston, fulfilling a high school dream to work there, first as an intern and then as a practicing veterinarian. As fate would have it, the "new school came along," and Cotter saw in Tufts a "greater chance for research as well as an opportunity to teach."

PIVOTAL RESEARCH

It was during these years, in the mid '70s and '80s, that Cotter was to lay the groundwork for successfully combating one of the largest infectious disease killers of cats—feline leukemia virus (FeLV). Working with virologist and veterinarian Max Essex, now chairman of the AIDS Institute and a professor at Harvard's School of Public Health, Cotter and her colleagues discovered what had been previously unknown: That FeLV, which causes leukemia and

"When a student finds something, or performs a procedure or makes a diagnosis for the first time, that makes it exciting for me— all over again."

Susan M. Cotter

bone marrow malignancy, is spread as a contagious disease. This discovery led to the routine use of effective screening tests and the subsequent development of a vaccine, both of which have eliminated the virus from shelters and resulted in a significant decline in the number of cases overall. In addition, her chemotherapeutic protocols for the treatment of canine and feline lymphoma are now widely used and have been recognized by veterinary oncologists as the standard to which all other studies should be compared.

Cotter's work was to reverberate far beyond the animal kingdom when FeLV, a retrovirus, was later discovered to have similarities to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"The groundwork we did in cats laid the groundwork for AIDS research," said Cotter, whose colleague, Max Essex, was one of the first to show HIV caused AIDS.

This would have been enough to establish Cotter as a significant presence in the field of medicine. However, rather than rest on her laurels, Cotter forged ahead in yet another critical area for both animal and human health—blood transfusion medicine.

Armed with a \$500,000 teaching grant that she received in 1986 from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Cotter and her research team set up the first animal blood bank in New England to learn more about blood transfusion medicine and to develop a curriculum in transfusion medicine for veterinary students and residents.

Again the result was pivotal, benefiting animal health while laying the groundwork for improvements in human health. Because of the transfusion research, Tufts was approached by Biopure Corp. to develop oxyglobin, the nation's first-ever oxygen therapeutic blood substitute, which is now being used to treat canine anemia and may soon receive approval for use in humans.

At the same time, Cotter made significant contributions to medical educa-

tion. Upon her arrival at Tufts, she planned and organized both the hematic-lymphatic pathophysiology and small animal medicine courses for third- and fourth-year students. In addition, she took the opportunity, through the NIH teaching grant, to write and publish a manual on comparative transfusion medicine for veterinarians and physicians interested in blood research as well as develop a syllabus for what is now the veterinary school's core hematology course that teaches students "everything they need to know about blood."

GOOD TEACHING

That Cotter proved to be as effective and productive a teacher as she was a researcher is not surprising. She possesses qualities that nurture both: Namely, patience and the ability to translate knowledge into practical applications.

"A lot of the time, students have trouble making the association between basic science and clinical relevance," said Cotter, who finds hematology perfect for helping students make that connection. "Hematology is my favorite course to

teach because every student can relate to a blood count—they've all had it done—and it's immediately obvious to them how it's applicable to diagnosing and treating disease."

The most important part of her job as a teacher, Cotter said, is to put students in charge of their own knowledge. An important way she does this is through the problem-based learning program at Tufts, a student-directed learning experience whereby the teacher acts as a guide, largely allowing the students to determine what they need to know to solve a case and how to find the information.

"It's not so much the diagnosis itself that is important in this course, but how to get there. The students learn how to ask the right questions and where to go for the right information," said Cotter, who trains other facilitators in problem-based learning in addition to serving as one. "This is what these students will be doing the rest of their lives as veterinarians—trying to solve the problem."

When students begin to discover their own abilities—those "aha" moments of learning—is when Cotter is happiest being a teacher. These moments happen most often during clinics, such as a recent one when a student tackled her first bone marrow aspiration.

"It was her first case, and she was nervous while getting ready," explained Cotter, who has seen hundreds of students go through the same procedure. "And on the very first try, she got it! She almost couldn't believe it! Those things are a pleasure to see."

Guiding students to these moments of discovery makes teaching particularly satisfying to Cotter, but what makes it innervating and what keeps her coming back to the classroom year after year is that her students enliven her as much as she inspires them.

"A procedure can seem routine to me after all these years, but the first time a student encounters it, it becomes new again," said Cotter. "When a student finds something, or performs a procedure or makes a diagnosis for the first time, that makes it exciting for me—all over again."



Dr. Steven L. Rowell

Alumnus named hospital director

Dr. Steven L. Rowell, V83, is the new director of the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals and the Hospital for Large Animals. He succeeds acting director Dr. James Ross.

A respected member of the Tufts community, Rowell served as director of the veterinary school's Division of Laboratories since 1990.

"Dr. Rowell has done a remarkable job developing the diagnostic laboratories into a high-energy, high-performance organized activity within our school," said Dean Philip C. Kosch. "Now the hospitals have the benefit

of his leadership."

Perhaps best known for developing and maintaining the raccoon rabies vaccination program currently operating on Cape Cod, Rowell in 1998 received public health service awards from both the Massachusetts State Legislature and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

In addition, he has distinguished himself as an excellent teacher, receiving the Tufts University Outstanding Faculty Award in 1998. Serving as associate chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences since 1997 and previously as section head of the Department of Pathology, Rowell has lectured and led student discussions on material related to clinical pathology as well as challenged students to think and solve problems through the school's problem-based learning program.

Beyond his dedication to teaching and research, Rowell is also active in the community. Since 1992, he has been involved in the Boy Scout program and is currently assistant scoutmaster of Troop 4 in Westboro, Mass.

Veterinarians have an 'awesome

Told they hold "enormous power and influence in our society and in the world," 76 new doctors of veterinary medicine graduated from Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine on May 23.

Dispensing words of wisdom and inspiration was keynote speaker and renowned environmentalist Dr. Eric Chivian, co-founder of the Nobel prize-winning organization International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and director of Harvard Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment.

Calling the lack of connection to the environment "the most important problem we face in the years ahead," Chivian, a physician, reminded the graduates of emerging diseases, global warming and other health threats to animals and humans resulting from global environmental damage. As health professionals, Chivian said, veterinarians have the "awesome responsibility" and also the "incredible privilege" to slow down changes to the environment and "to turn them around."

The graduation ceremonies highlighted the veterinary school's commitment to global health through the emerging new field of conservation medicine. In addition to Chivian's presence, Hale and Dorr attorney Martin Kaplan received the 1999 Dean's Medal for playing a key role in the establishment of the Center for Conservation Medicine at Tufts. Kaplan serves as a trustee to Tufts' primary partner in the project, Wildlife Preservation Trust International, as well as to the center's primary funder, the V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation.



An 'exceptional' experience



Student speaker and class president Patricia Caisse, V99.

Calling her four years at Tufts "exceptional," graduation speaker and class president Patricia Caisse, V99, recalled the moment when becoming a veterinarian was no longer a dream.

"It was about two thirds of the way through my senior year, and I suddenly realized one day how comfortable I was," said Caisse, who credits her confidence to the "warm and inspirational" teaching at Tufts. "I was no longer intimidated by the vast amounts of knowledge or the process, and I realized, my God, I can do this!"

Like many other V99 graduates, Caisse emerged as a high-achieving student, receiving an invitation into the Phi Zeta Veterinary National Honor Society as well as being awarded this year's Upjohn Pharmaceutical Small Animal Award and the Tufts Emergency Critical Care Award.

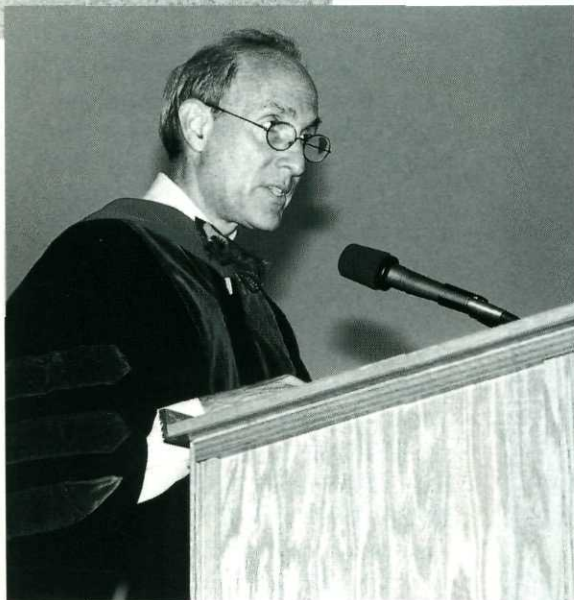
Supported by her achievements and education, Caisse is looking forward to her professional life as a practicing veterinarian at the Sterling Veterinary Clinic in Sterling, Mass. In addition to practicing "good medicine," Caisse said her mission is to pass on the kind of guidance and mentoring she experienced at Tufts.

"I love teaching, and so many of the people who taught me at Tufts took an interest in me and gave me what I needed," she said. "I hope to do the same."

responsibility'



The Class of V99.



Keynote speaker Dr. Eric Chivian, director of Harvard Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment.

Photos by Chris Christo

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Veterinary graduates were treated to a special poetry reading by Robert Pinsky, 39th Poet Laureate of the United States, whose daughter, Caroline, was among the graduates. To honor her and the Class of V99, Pinsky penned and presented this original verse.

GENEROSITY AND INTELLIGENCE

*Abundance of generation, a yielding more.
And a picking-out of insight from afar.*

*For instance, Babe the cat: old, fat, demure,
Fond of routine arrangements: her dry food here,*

*Wet food and water there. The basement door,
For access to her litter box, always ajar.*

*Intelligence distinguishes, in her,
The sound of not just one, but another car*

*As well, among so many. But the blur
Of difference is a gulf or barrier*

*Between the species that intelligence's fire
Can't leap unaided—Generosity's frontier;*

*As when the real estate agent, unaware,
Clicked shut that basement door and left. Nowhere*

*For Babe to move her bowels, and no one there
To work the door she scratched at. No one to hear.*

*Mewling, upset, uncomfortable, unsure,
She paced the Persian carpet, passed the armoire*

*And closets with their inviting atmosphere
Of cloth and leather. She quested everywhere,*

*All through the house in her confusion, before
Generosity and Intelligence made clear*

*The place to drop her pellets; the bathtub floor
Of the spare upstairs bathroom, eerily near*

*Means of disposal and clean-up—that austere
Room of cold tile, where she least would interfere*

*With the dark customs of us other ones who share
Her dwelling, our needs that she did not ignore,*

*Though they be tangled, shifting and obscure—
Generous animal, pet, fellow-fumbler, seer.*

by Robert Pinsky

Risks and Rewards

by Wendy King

While the sun beat down high above the forest canopy, Dr. Michele Goldsmith traipsed through the murky, leaf-strewn forest floor, searching for clues to the diet and ranging behaviors of the endangered western lowland gorilla. As was typical, Goldsmith had been tracking for hours, finding little. Then, without warning, a large male gorilla stood upright and charged Goldsmith, stopping just inches from her face.

"I was scared, and my heart was racing," she said. "But the adrenaline left me hoping he would do it again!"

Goldsmith, assistant professor of environmental and population health at the veterinary school's Center for Animals and Public Policy, conducts research on endangered lowland and mountain gorilla populations in the remote rain forests of Africa. A behavioral ecologist, she has spent the last seven years studying environmental influences on the ranging and grouping patterns of gorillas, comparing how ecology and behavior differ between lowland gorillas in the Central African Republic and highland gorillas in Uganda.

Risk and danger are inherent in Goldsmith's work, which often requires spending months alone at isolated research sites. Watching for tree falls during rainstorms and snakes camouflaged in limbs and the threat of elephants destroying her camp and laboratory are just a few of Goldsmith's concerns in the field. Even more threatening is tropical illness; in early 1995, she was hospitalized for nine days with a serious case of cerebral malaria. But perhaps the most ominous and unpredictable danger in Goldsmith's line of work is political unrest and violence.

Last March, Hutu rebels kidnapped and murdered nine people at the Bwindi-Impenetrable National Park in Uganda where Goldsmith had been only six weeks before. Goldsmith knew two of the victims—a park ranger who was killed and a colleague who was kidnapped and later released.

Facing these dangers is not easy, and Goldsmith does not take them lightly. But she sees her profession as no different from other high-risk jobs.



Deep in the African rain forests, Michele Goldsmith works to protect endangered gorillas

Photo by Alexa Hanke

A male silverback mountain gorilla in Bwindi-Impenetrable National Park in Uganda. Because of growing tourism and habituation, Goldsmith believes the world's gorillas eventually will be "under our care."



Photo by Mark Morelli

Dr. Michele Goldsmith plans to return this winter to conduct more research on endangered mountain gorillas in Uganda's Bwindi-Impenetrable National Park.

"Just as police are out there saving human lives, wildlife researchers and biologists are out there saving the lives of species other than ourselves," she said.

IN THE WILD

Goldsmith earned her undergraduate degree in biology and psychology from SUNY Plattsburgh and went on to receive a master's degree in animal behavior from Bucknell University and master's and doctoral degrees in biological anthropology from SUNY Stony Brook. While at SUNY, she had the opportunity to meet renowned scientist Dian Fossey, who spent years living with and studying mountain gorillas in the Virunga region of Uganda. Fossey's work and dedication left a deep impression on Goldsmith.

In 1993, armed with a Fulbright scholarship and three other research grants, Goldsmith first landed in the rain forest of the Central African Republic. There she rebuilt the site called Bai Hokou and assisted by BaAka pygmies, began the difficult task of examining the ecology and behavior of the elusive and poorly understood western lowland gorilla.

It was her first taste of being alone in the wild. Home was a bamboo-thatched hut without electricity or running water; breakfast was rice and beans, and the only shower was a nearby waterfall. But the work was compelling: Because these gorillas had not had any contact with humans, virtually nothing was known about them. Goldsmith followed feeding trails, collected dung and studied nesting sites to learn more about the gorillas. What she found reversed all that previously had been accepted about gorilla behavior.

"Until then, gorillas had always been referred to as *folivores*, meaning they eat leaves and herbs; always as terrestrial, meaning they live primarily on the ground, and always as living in large, stable one-male groups," Goldsmith said. "My studies on lowland gorillas, along with those of my colleagues, showed that this was not necessarily the case."

What was accepted as true of all gorilla behavior had been based exclusively on the research of Fossey and others who had studied a population of 300 mountain gorillas living at the highest elevation in the Virunga region of

Uganda. What Goldsmith found was surprising: In every behavioral aspect, lowland gorillas differed, sometimes radically, from their highland cousins.

"They spent a lot of time in the trees. They traveled, on average, five miles further per day, and they often had more than one silverback male to a group," said Goldsmith, noting that all these behaviors were a result of one major factor—fruit. Because they ate fruit as a major part of their diet, lowland gorillas were forced to cover longer distances for their seasonally determined food source as well as spend a substantial amount of time up in trees, harvesting. In addition, to make sure each one had enough to eat, they sometimes had to split up into smaller feeding parties, which explains the presence of more than one male in lowland gorilla groups.

Goldsmith's findings also showed that the management of lowland gorillas in captivity was "all wrong." Instead of fashioning their habitats like those of mountain gorillas, lowlands need trees; they need to eat fruit, and they need larger areas to accommodate their ranging and fruit-foraging habits.

ALL ARE NOT ALIKE

Having discovered such marked differences in lowland gorillas, Goldsmith began to wonder about another unstudied population of gorillas—those living in the Bwindi-Impenetrable National Park. These are mountain gorillas, but



Photo by Alexa Hanke

Like all gorilla subspecies, mountain gorillas in Bwindi share 98 percent of their genetic material with humans. According to Goldsmith: "To know about them is to know more about us."

they live at an elevation 2,000 feet lower than those in the Virunga region. To find out whether they, too, deviated from gorilla textbooks, Goldsmith traveled to Africa again, this time in December 1996, as the McKennan postdoctoral fellow at Dartmouth.

What she suspected, was true. The Bwindi gorillas did eat fruit sometimes, and when they did, they ranged, harvested and grouped themselves less like their mountain relatives in Virunga and more like their lowland cousins. "It's not relevant to generalize what we know about Virunga gorillas to all others in the wild, just as we can't for those in captivity," concluded Goldsmith, who published her findings in the *International Journal of Primatology*. "It's no longer okay to assume a gorilla is a gorilla is a gorilla. It's just not true."

Since joining Tufts last year, Goldsmith has shifted the focus of her work to studying the effects of eco-tourism on gorilla behavior. Gorilla tourism, which means big dollars in Uganda, has led to new health concerns for both the gorilla and human communities. Because the gorillas have lost their fear of humans, they spend more and more time outside the park boundary. As they come out of the forest, they reduce how far they travel each day and live in a more cohesive fashion—behavioral changes that may lead to health problems like obesity and increases in parasites and disease transmission.

In addition, Goldsmith is concerned that the gorillas are coming into more direct contact with humans since they have become habituated and expanded their ranging areas, which could mean more disease transmission from animal to human and vice-versa.

Providing the political climate in Uganda is stable, Goldsmith plans to return to Bwindi in December, funded by National Geographic, to further study the effects of eco-tourism on the gorillas. She suspects things may be different now. The Ugandan government has increased camp security and placed tight restrictions on researchers. Now, more than ever, Goldsmith feels compelled to return. Once the gorillas adapt to the presence of humans, she said, "we are the caretakers of their lives. We are responsible for them."

Simpson Trust endows chair in equine medicine



Marilyn Simpson

It's the School of Veterinary Medicine's third endowed professorship, and the celebration that occurred to recognize this philanthropy was an impressive and joyous affair.

As the first recipient of the Marilyn M. Simpson Chair in Equine Medicine, Dr. Carl A. Kirker-Head, associate professor in the Department of Clinical Services at Tufts, delivered the inaugural lecture May 6 to a large group of veterinary school supporters.

"As we today celebrate the establishment of the Simpson Chair, we confirm the importance of scholarship to the Tufts community," Dean Philip C. Kosch told the guests. "At the same time, we recognize a member of our faculty who has earned the respect of his colleagues, students and clients through his contributions to the intellectual vitality of our institution and profession."

A graduate of Magdelene College, University of Cambridge, England, Kirker-Head serves as director of the Orthopedic Research Laboratory and head of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, encompassing faculty who provide clinical service and teaching in the Hospital for Large Animals.

Attending the lecture and dedication was Shermane Bilal, philanthropic associate of the Marilyn M. Simpson Trust, who said that the \$1.25 million gift to Tufts to endow the chair builds on the trust's history of supporting the School of Veterinary Medicine.

"The trustees of the estate are proud to have fulfilled Marilyn's wishes by having the trust play a role in the education of tomorrow's veterinary leaders," said Bilal. "Tufts is well known around the world for its leadership in veterinary education and research, and this significant gift from the trust will help carry on that work and honor Marilyn's interests."

Marilyn Simpson was a lover of horses and was supportive of animal welfare throughout her life. When she passed away in 1980 at age 49, the Marilyn M. Simpson Trust was created to carry on her philanthropy. Simpson is survived by her husband, William Kelly Simpson, and their daughters, Laura Knickerbacker Simpson Thorn and Abby Rockefeller Simpson Mydland.

Tufts President John DiBiaggio was on hand for the dedication and spoke glowingly of the Simpsons. "We respect our responsibility to the Simpson Trust and to the Simpson family," he said. "Marilyn Simpson's name is now permanently connected to the work of Tufts, and our achievements will be part of her legacy."

DiBiaggio also noted that the Simpson Trust pledged its support for the chair early in the *Tufts Tomorrow* campaign, sparking momentum for the 13 new chairs that have been created across the university.

Kirker-Head, one of the school's most popular teachers, discussed in his lecture the use of BMPs or bone morphogenic proteins. Horses risk injury when they race or jump, and Tufts has led the way in exploring different methods for attaching "internal fixators," or screwed-in plates, that hold broken bones together. However, the long healing time incurred in such procedures often leads to the loss of muscle mass. Kirker-Head showed how BMPs can significantly enhance the speed and success of bone growth.



Top: Tufts President John DiBiaggio, left, congratulates Dr. Carl Kirker-Head on his inaugural lecture. Kirker-Head's parents, Thelma and James, far right, flew in from England to attend the dedication.

Above: Attending the dedication, from left, are Tufts trustee and chair of the veterinary overseers Dr. Henry L. Foster, V83, H92; Dean Philip C. Kosch, philanthropic associate Shermane Bilal, Simpson Chair holder Dr. Carl A. Kirker-Head and Tufts President John DiBiaggio.

Photos by Richard Howard

Fairlee Hersey endows library fund



Fairlee (Towsley) Hersey, J35, with Stonegate Juneau (just Juno to friends), a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel descended from Liz Spaulding's dogs in Falmouth, Maine. This breed of spaniel is known to have heart problems, and Hersey hopes her gift expanding the veterinary library will aid research in this area.

by John LoDico

Fairlee (Towsley) Hersey remembers very clearly how she would sit in bed as a little girl, back against the footboard, toes facing the headboard, as her father, Prentice Towsley, E10, read the classics to her from beautiful hardcover books.

"I love books," she said. "Just the way my father would cup the spine in his hand or turn the pages made you love and respect them. To this day, I would never think of dog-earing a page—except perhaps a cheap paperback."

Hersey, J35, spoke recently from a book-cluttered room that she designed herself and had built onto the Norton, Mass., home she shares with her husband of 64 years, Bill Hersey, A32. She talked about her \$100,000 gift to Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine that created the Fairlee Towsley Hersey Endowed Library Fund for the purchase of books and materials on dogs and wildlife for the school's Webster Library.

"I've had some very good friends who were German shepherds or cocker spaniels," she said. "I love dogs, and I love books, and I thought this would be the best way to make a gift to Tufts, which has been a very large part of my family's life."

Her grandfather, William Hutchins, graduated from Tufts in 1879, her father in 1910 and her sister, Lona, in 1947. Her uncle, Frank Towsley, was a 1914 graduate, and aunt, Alice Towsley, received her degree in 1924. Fairlee and Bill's daughter, Donna, was a Phi Beta Kappa Tufts graduate in 1960 and was married in Goddard Chapel.

"My folks wanted so badly for me to go to Tufts that they borrowed against their insurance to pay for it," Fairlee said. Later, while her children were growing up, she took the train to Boston Univer-

sity and earned her journalism degree. She landed a job as social editor on a daily newspaper to earn enough money with Bill to keep their house and nine acres in Norton. When the newspaper folded, she did volunteer work with the developmentally disabled at the Paul Dever State School in Taunton. She began a new career as special education teacher in the public schools.

"If you specialize in something too soon, I think you hurt yourself," she says. "You need a broad foundation, and Tufts certainly gave me that."

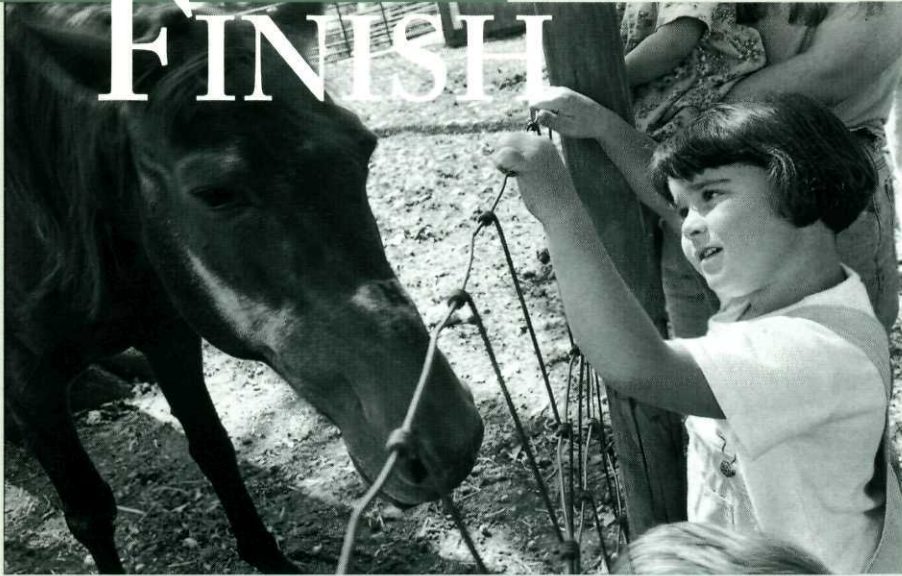
The current stock market prompted Hersey to take action to preserve significant gains in a stock she held. She spoke with Tufts' Office of Estate and Gift Planning to learn how she could protect the value of her stock, both for her current financial needs and for the future gift to the school. The answer was a charitable gift annuity, which enabled Hersey to donate her stock to the veterinary school, receive a guaranteed annual income for her lifetime, reduce capital gains taxes and receive a charitable income tax deduction.

Hersey directed \$90,000 of the donated stock to fund the charitable gift annuity. She also gave \$10,000 outright to immediately establish the Fairlee Towsley Hersey Endowed Library Fund. Eventually, the assets from her charitable gift annuity will be added to the endowment fund, making it the veterinary school's largest endowed library fund.

Fairlee Hersey, whose family has been intertwined with Tufts' history since the 1870s, is able to unite with her gift her two great interests—books and dogs. She also dramatically increases and enriches the veterinary school's resources for students and faculty in the years to come.

P H O T O

FINISH



Photos by Mark Morelli



YOU'RE INVITED TO 'OUR HOUSE!'

Come on over—rain or shine—on Saturday, September 18, when Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine once again opens its doors to the public for its 16th annual Open House. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 200 Westboro Road (Rte. 30) in North Grafton and will feature animal demonstrations, science and wildlife exhibits and an array of activities for kids, including:

- dog obedience and agility demonstrations
- police canine and guide dog demonstrations
- animal rescue exhibits
- miniature horse show
- live birds of prey
- equine treadmill demonstration
- self-guided tours through the veterinary hospitals

The event is free. For safety reasons and because of state rabies public health regulations, please leave your pets at home. For more information, call (508) 839-5395, ext. 84899.

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