

A Wonderful Time at the First-Ever Alumni Reunion



On the evening of January 15, 2011, the Program of Veterinary Technology celebrated its first all-inclusive Alumni Reunion with great success. The Alumni Reunion Committee composed of Beverly Bisaccia, Jen Pirrello, Kim Callahan, Gina DiPasquale, Samantha Fritz and Erin Maser, put together a lovely evening of dining, dancing and reminiscing! The evening started with a meet and greet and progressed to an incredible sit-down dinner,

where guests could continue to reconnect with one another. Following dinner was a slide show presentation featuring photos from the start of the Program to present day. It was amazing to see the growth of the Program and all the changing hairstyles!

And then, of course, the evening concluded with dancing, dancing and more dancing!



Desiree Saraceno heading home after a fun night!



Beverly Bisaccia welcomes reunion guests



Dr. Bassert, Sami Fritz and Tricia Luddecke out on the dance floor!

Alumni Speak at Penn Annual Conference

Manor VT alumni Jacqueline Wivel and Jennifer Nanni each gave presentations at this year's Penn Annual Conference.

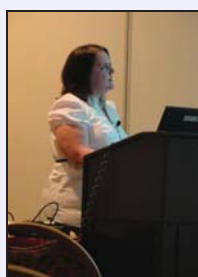
Jacqueline, along with co-presenter Kendra Rhodes, gave a very informative lecture on the role, and care, of cats in laboratory animal medicine. Jacqui elucidated the value of the cat as a research model



Jacqueline Wivel

and spoke of important advancements made in medicine using the feline model.

Jennifer presented a lecture on how to make a visit to the vet a stress-free experience for the feline patient, a topic of importance as the number of cats being seeing in the veterinary office per year has declined, with owners often citing the



Jennifer Nanni

stress on the cat as a reason.

We are proud to have Jacqueline and Jennifer join a long list of distinguished VT alumni who have presented at the Penn Annual Conferences.

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Program Director's Corner... The New VTNE

As many of you know, the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) has changed a good deal over the past several years. One important change is that it is now a computer-based examination offered at numerous Prometric Testing Centers throughout the United States and Canada. There are several centers in the Philadelphia area, so that students no longer need to pile into cars, as they once did, and drive to Harrisburg to take the infamous Friday exam. Now, each student is given a specific date, time and location near their home. Gone too is the long anxious wait to learn whether or not you passed. The computer spits out a "tentative" score immediately after completion. In addition, the exam is now available during three one-month-long windows, making it more accessible than ever before.

In addition, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), who has owned the VTNE since

1995, recently ruled that only graduates of AVMA-accredited programs of veterinary technology are permitted to take the exam. This change has had far reaching implications for the profession because many states require successful completion of the VTNE for credentialing.

The process of applying and taking the VTNE has become a solitary experience. Unlike the old days, when I used to pass out application packets to groups of externship students, Manor sophomores now log on to the AAVSB website (see below) independently and set up a "MyAAVSB" account. Once established, applicants can download and print an application form. The application has two parts, one to verify eligibility to take the exam, and the other to apply to take the exam and pay the examination fee, which is currently \$300.

It has been 26 years since the Animal Technician Testing Committee, an ad hoc committee of the AVMA, together with Professional Education Services (PES), developed the first national examination. Then called the Animal Technician National

Examination (ATNE), it was first offered in 1986 in the state of Maine.

The VTNE is more challenging today. Pass rates among VT Programs in Pennsylvania plummeted after the Veterinary Technician Testing Committee (VTTC) performed a comprehensive overhaul of exam questions and threw out ones that most on-the-job trained personnel could answer. The digital age has created a more clinically-centered exam and one that may soon include photos and film clips. As the Program of Veterinary Technology at Manor College flexes to accommodate change, it enjoys the benefit of Tricia Luddecke's genius for curriculum development and passion for teaching. The VTNE review course that she developed two years ago offers invaluable support to students and graduates by preparing them for the modern VTNE.

It is clear that the new VTNE honors the profession of veterinary technology through its rigor and asks all of us, students, graduates and teachers to not only raise expectations of one another, but in particular, to ask more of ourselves.

The next VTNE review course starts in September. Go to manorvettech.com to print out your registration form now!

Helpful Information

Step-by-Step Guidelines for VTNE Application and PA licensure : <http://manorvettech.com/references.htm>

VTNE application materials: www.aavsb.org/VTNE/HowtoApply

Official Manor Transcript Request: <http://manor.edu/Forms/transcript.pdf>

Veterinary Technician National Exam
Testing Windows: July 15—August 15; November 15—December 15 and March 15—April 15.

PA State Board of Veterinary Medicine
Licensing information: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/>



Meet the Faculty: Barb Dugan, CVT

Barbara Dugan graduated from Manor College in 2001 and joined the Manor Vet Tech team in 2006 as a lab instructor for the VT105 Large Animal Clinical Procedures course. In 2008, Barb also became the lecture instructor for the course. Barb was instrumental in the development and coordination of the VT105 labs that take place at the University of Pennsylvania New Bolton Center. Barb is a nurse at the New Bolton Center and during her 9-year career there she has provided nursing care to a wide variety of patients ranging from horses to goats to reindeer.

Program Welcomes Back Joanne Kellenbenz, CVT



Joanne demonstrating sheep restraint to a student

Alumna Joanne Kellenbenz (MVT '93) returned to Manor College this year to the great joy of the instructors and students of the VT105 Large Animal Clinical Procedures course. Joanne was the Program's Education Coordinator from 1994—1998 and during that time also taught the Intro to VT, the Animal Management and Nutrition and the Large Animal courses. She returned this year as the VT105 laboratory teaching assistant for all lab sections. As our clinical labs expand in both the number of skills being taught and the number of students enrolled, Joanne provides critical support and instruction to our students on a one-to-one basis; something both her and the students enjoy!

The Program of Veterinary Technology's student-composed Honor Code was ratified for its third year during the Plenary Meeting in April

Silver and Trouble Enjoying the Life of House Cats

During this academic year both Silver and Trouble, "the barn cats", were placed in new homes!

Last summer Silver's allergies, presenting in the form of eosinophilic ulcers and granulomas, became so severe that she was moved into Room 15 to be monitored and treated. She improved and adjusted rather quickly to being a lap cat, so we decided to find a new home for her. In October, a VT student took Silver into her home and Silver has never looked back! Rumor has it she spent the first day in her new home lounging on the

couch watching an Eagles game!

Two days before New Year's, the Horse Care Team noticed that Trouble's face was swollen. Sure enough, one of the new semi-feral cats down at the barn had given him a good swap to the face. Dr. Komurek treated him and took him home to continue his antibiotics and treat-

ments. During his convalescence Trouble, now 12 years old!, quickly made friends with Dr. K's other cats and won a place in her heart with lots of snuggling and purring. His bid for a new home was overwhelmingly successful!



Left: Silver soaking up the sun. Above: Trouble lounging on his new bed.

The Veterinary Technology Best Classmate Award

Mariann Holst became the first student to win the Veterinary Technology Best Classmate award at the Spring 2011 Allied Health Pinning Ceremony. The Veterinary Technology Best Classmate Award is a new award sponsored by our Student Chapter of the North American Veterinary Technicians Association (SCNAVTA). The Best Classmate award was created by SCNAVTA to formally recognize one member of the sophomore class who has consistently demonstrated a help-

ful, respectful and professional attitude towards all members of the Veterinary Technology and Manor College community. The student body voted for the recipient of this award during plenary in April.

As captain of the Horse Care Team, in the classroom and around campus Mariann has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and has been a dependable source of support for all of her classmates. Mariann is

well deserved of this award and we congratulate her for this recognition and thank her for her commitment to the Veterinary Technology community.



President Sister Cecilia Jurasinski, Mariann, Dr. Bassert and Dean Mydlowec

Working with PAWS and ACCT, the Program neutered 120 cats, and heartworm tested 77 dogs as part of the clinical labs this year!

SCNAVTA Annual Update by Ania Watrucki

What do you get when you have a group of Vet Tech students, shampoo, nail trimmers, a bunch of towels, and a ton of dirty dogs? An amazing time at our semi-annual dog washes!! That is one of the most exciting events that the SCNAVTA club does every semester. It's moments like those where new and old students get together and do what they love most: be around animals. What's a better way to break the ice between Freshmen and Sophomores than to laugh while getting completely soaked from head to



toe? With those smiles comes along teamwork, bonding, kisses from our furry friends, and, of course, pizza. With the money raised, we are able to create our program t-shirts and hoodies to spread the animal love and support. You don't even have to worry about our merchandise clashing with your style; they're always amazing! This year, our t-shirt and

hoodies fundraiser allowed us to donate \$200 to the digital radiography fund.

Another fantastic activity that SCNAVTA provides is volunteer weekends at the shelter. The two shelters that are currently partnered with us are ACCT and the PSPCA. Students are allowed the chance to help care for the shelter animals, including giving medications and helping intake dogs and cats. It's a great opportunity to get injection practice and begin to learn about the multitudes of medications used. Especially for those students who have little clinical experience, the Shelter Days Program is a perfect way to build your skills.

For Manor's Vet Tech community, the SCNAVTA club is a great way for us animal-lovers to unite and do what we love. It helps build lasting friendships, confidence, and most importantly, gets us all covered in fur.





Pinning Ceremony Awards 2011

Certificate of Distinguished Service:

Ania Watrucki—SCNAVTA leader
 Mariann Holst—VT 217 surgical assistant

PA Veterinary Foundation Award in Veterinary Technology:

Cynthia Escobedo



Compassionate Animal Care Award:

Horse Care Team: Mariann Holst, Stephanie Ayala, Dana Burkhart, Mark Livizey, Tiffany Matthews, Lisa Wagner, Ania Watrucki, Hope Crawl, Amanda Raboy, Cindy Escobedo, Adrienne Klein, April Rattigan, Jennifer Sulpizio, John Volz, Sammy Weed and Paul Williams.

Clinical Compassion:

Lisa Wagner and Robert Cantagallo

Clinical Proficiency Award:

Iris Brettle—Small Animal
 Cindy Potvin—Large Animal

PSBR Award for Excellence in Laboratory Animal Science:

Theresa Young

PVMA/PVTA Leadership Award:

Mariann Holst

Do you want to keep in touch with other alumni? To keep up with Program events? To see more photos? Like us on Facebook!



Reciting the Veterinary Technician Oath....

Congratulations to our students heading into externships! (listed alphabetically, not as pictured)

Elena Ballard, Denna Bauer, Samantha Bedford, Iris Brettle, Dana Burkart, Rob Cantagallo, Kariisa Deissinger, Joanna DiStefano, Ashley Dively, Denise Dobrowolski, Al Feinberg, Alexis Grech, Sean Hawley, Mariann Holst, Nicole Kulp, Lisa Katlyn Lawrysh, Tiffany Ann Matthews, April Rattigan, Caryn Reitenbaugh, Susan Sites, Elizabeth Steiner, Kristen Tomassetti, Lisa Wagner, Ania Watrucki, Theresamary Young

Congratulations & Welcome New Alumni: Class of 2011 (MVT '10)

Audrey Alt	Samantha Fritz	Kim Lodise	Alicia Pell
Sean Barton	Laura Fuller	Christina Lunski	Desiree Saraceno
Heather Beissel	Amber Hart	Erin Maser	Joyce Scott
Nicole Burg	Dana Hinderliter	Shannon Mason	Brittany Smith
Ruth Codling	Scott Klipstein	Jewels Mauro	Caoimhe Sontag
Brittany Demenczuk	Marley Kuechler	Heather Neuman	
Donna Fisher	Robin Lawson	Marissa Paul	



Sisters of Saint Basil the Great—Celebrating 100 years in America

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Phone: (215) 885-2360
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www.manorvettech.com

Help Wanted

Shelter Animal Transport Driver

We are seeking a driver to help with transport of the shelter animals (mostly cats) to and from Manor. We currently work with both the Animal Control Shelter and PAWS Shelter on Gray's Ferry. A driver is needed from September to November and February to April, with transport happening primarily on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

If you are interested, please contact Dr. Komurek for further information.

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