

Alumni Spotlight: Mariann Holst

By *Erin Maser*

Do you remember when you were a kid and you and your parents would take Fluffy to see the animal doctor? There were so many different animals around, smells, noises, visual stimulations, and friendly people hugging and kissing your best friend, Fluffy. Mariann Holst is one of those special people who are doing what they do today because of those experiences, and more.

Mariann is a 2011 Manor College graduate from the Veterinary Technology program. If you know Mariann, you would never have any inkling that she hasn't worked with animals her whole life. Joining the Vet Tech program was a decision that she made later on in life while searching for colleges for her children. Working with animals had always intrigued her since she was a child, but she was unable to afford the tuition at that time. Mariann went on to work full-time in Healthcare Management for Insurance companies; all while being a full time mom and raising a family. Along with her children, Mariann has four cats named Baby, Boo Boo, Booger and Stinky, one mixed breed dog named Riley, and a Ball Python named Bo.



Working in Healthcare Management wasn't something Mariann saw herself doing for the rest of her life, and when it came to looking for colleges for her kids, Manor's Vet Tech program stuck out to her and she decided it was time to make the switch. Mariann attended Manor from 2008-2011, shortly thereafter after taking her VTNE and earning her license.

"My experience at Manor was great, but also very demanding at the same time. Although the classes were difficult and sometimes challenging, Dr. Bassert and Dr. Komurek were always so supportive and were always there to offer their help."

During her years at Manor, Mariann not only attended all of the required, rigorous courses, but was also a pertinent member of the Horse Care Team. She went on to become the team leader for some time, guiding and teaching other members of the team. Being a member of the Horse Care Team requires the upmost dedication; being at the barn early and late hours, taking care of the ani-

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Dr. Komurek Speaks at AVTE Conference

Drs. Kathianne Komurek and John Thomas (Cuyahoga Community College Veterinary Technology Program) were invited to speak at the 23rd biennial symposium of the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators (AVTE) in July, 2013. Their presentation, entitled Seeking the Perfect Rubric: are your rubrics passing your students but killing their patients?, focused on improving student assessment of clinical skills through the use of novel, non-traditional rubrics developed by Dr. Thomas. The interactive lecture generated much excitement among the audience of fellow educators who, during the presentation, were able to craft rubrics specific to their own needs and share their ideas with each other.



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mals, and doing all of the hard, physical labor that comes along with job.

“Being a part of the Horse Care Team taught me a lot about hard work, determination and a sense of accomplishment. I found out that working with large animals was a bit more of a challenge than with small animals,” says Mariann, “but is just as rewarding.”

Taking care of the horses along with attending Manor’s Large Animal class, had a big influence on Mariann’s decision when it came to choosing sophomore externship sites. The first site she chose was Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center (VSEC) in Langhorne, PA, and the second was the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, VA. Mariann enjoyed her time at both sites but says she would have considered staying at the Equine Center if not for the fact that she had her family back in Pennsylvania. “I think there is more of a feeling of accomplishment when you can get a 1200lb animal to behave in the manner in which you want. They are not as easily fooled by a treat or a jar of peanut butter like a dog.”

Some advice from Mariann to sophomores who are soon going to be choosing their externship sites is that she “definitely recommends going outside of your comfort zone. You are being given an opportunity, so challenge yourself and consider doing something different.”

Mariann is now working as a CVT at Rau Animal Hospital in Glenside, PA, a small animal practice and says she “truly loves it.” “Their (Rau’s) compassion for animals is outstanding and the doctors and techs are always available and willing to help you grow and improve your career.”

Mariann is a perfect example of the saying “it’s never too late.” This is something she has always wanted to do, but didn’t have the means earlier in life. As time went on, things fell into place and her opportunity arose. She grasped onto that opportunity and is living out her passion every day, caring for and treating animals in need. Mariann is one of those people that you remember as a kid, getting on her knees to greet your furry friend with a wide smile and a loving heart.

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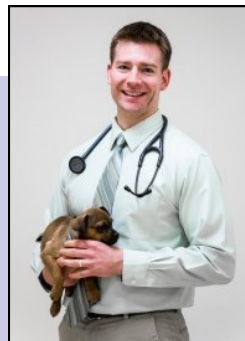
We are looking for homes for mice, rats and rabbits. If you or someone you know is interested in adopting a small furry friend (or two!), please contact Beverly Bisaccia at bbisaccia@manor.edu or 215 885 2360 ext. 227.





Meet the Faculty: Josh Roesener, VMD

Dr. Josh Roesener, a 2007 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, joined the Vet Tech Program in 2010 when he became the adjunct instructor for the VT212 Animal Radiology course. Then, in 2011, Dr. Roesener took on the additional challenge of teaching the brand-new VT204 Animal Dentistry course. Dr. Roesener is a small animal practitioner at the Glenmoore Animal Hospital. In his spare time Dr. Roesener enjoys backpacking and watching Philadelphia Flyers games.



Alumni Achievements—2013

Sheila Mills, CVT is pursuing her certification in Canine Rehabilitation from the University of Tennessee

Tasha McNerney, CVT was appointed chair of the membership committee for the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management (IVAPM) and is pursuing her certification as a veterinary pain practitioner (CVPP) through IVAPM.

Amanda Raboy, CVT was selected as the May 2013 “Star of the Month” at the Center for Animal Referral and Emergency Services (CARES).

Jessica Shissler, CVT was chosen as the July 2013 “Star of the Month” at the Center for Animal Referral and Emergency Services (CARES).

Samantha Fritz Waibel, CVT was chosen as the October 2013 “Star of the Month” at the Center for Animal Referral and Emergency Services (CARES).

This past fall, the Small Animal Clinical Procedures students heart-worm tested 80 dogs at the ACCT Philly shelter!

Share your achievements!!

Have you pursued a specialty certification? Published an article? Given a lecture? Spearheaded an outreach event? Become a committee member on a professional board? Received an honor or award? Or any other of the many professional achievements we know our alumni are receiving?! We want to know!! Email Dr. Komurek at kkomurek@manor.edu or Facebook message her at www.facebook.com/kathi.komurek



Prince Huey is recovering well under the careful ministrations of the Horse Care Team after having emergency surgery at the New Bolton Center for a gas colic and splenic entrapment on February 22, 2014. We all wish him a healthy and speedy recovery!



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