

# HOOF PRINTS - VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

SUMMER 2007

MANOR COLLEGE



[www.manorvettech.com](http://www.manorvettech.com)

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## THE COUNTS ARE IN!

The sophomore student surgical assisting and dentistry labs saw an impressive total of 82 cats from PACCA this spring semester. Of those cats, sixty-four were spayed or neutered; surpassing our projected goal of forty-five animals. We are pleased that through working with PACCA we have increased the hands-on training offered to the students, in addition to helping the welfare of our feline friends.

Over the years, I have observed many student-run Horse Care Teams perform their job of caring for the Program's teaching horses. A team captain sets the animal care schedule, orders the feed, hay and bedding, attends to the tools and equipment, and manages the communication between team members and myself. In addition to feeding, haying and mucking out stalls, each team member performs a plethora of duties such as cleaning away cobwebs, emptying trash, doing laundry, dropping hay from the hay barn, giving medications, bathing, grooming and hand walking the horses. The barn is a quiet place for the most part, and these tasks are carried out amongst the rich smells, soft breezes and peaceful sounds of horses chewing, buckets rattling, weight shifting and an occasional snort or swishing of a long, coarse tail. It is no wonder, that students sometimes call this work "barn therapy" as it offers a welcomed reprieve from the hectic stresses of student-life.

This year, however, was extraordinary. Three teaching horses, Frosty, Donovan and Leroy, all died of old age-



Horse Care Team Captain, Sarah Dusavage (left) with incoming captain, Anita Kaufman

related disorders in three consecutive months this spring. It was an unprecedented loss for the Program, and in particular, for the Horse Care Team who slept in the barn and worked round-the-clock to ensure maximal care of the critically ill horses. No effort was spared. As I worked with the Team members, particularly team captain, Sarah Dusavage, through these difficult months; I was moved by their dedication to the horses and by their tenacity and determination to keep going. To acknowledge their outstanding care of the Program horses, four Horse Care Team members were honored at the Pinning Ceremony in April. They are: Sarah Dusavage, Jennifer Harrison, Alison Wagner, and Kirsten Stajkowski. The Pro-

gram is grateful to them for their hard work.

As sophomores prepare for externships, a new Horse Care Team is assembling and training to care for a new group of horses. Anita Kaufman will lead the new Team and we are now in the process of "interviewing" horses for the "positions" of Program teaching horse. The Program has much of which to be proud, and the large animal program and its corresponding Horse Care Team is one of its jewels.

Redds is the last of the original horses acquired by me for the Program in the early 1990s. He turned 30 years old this spring and we are cherishing the time that we have left with him. May all horses live to be so old!

## 2007 PINNING CEREMONY

Our annual pinning ceremony this year was held on Friday April 27, 2007. This was an exciting year for the Program as we pinned our largest class to date; thirty-one students! Including freshman and sophomore students, 46 students received certificates based on their outstanding cumulative GPA's and 13 special veterinary technology awards were also granted.



## Advisory Committee 2008 Meetings

Save the Date...

Thursday January 10, 2008

Thursday June 19, 2008

Thursday October 23, 2008

Thank you for your enthusiastic  
and continued support.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### EMERGENCY AND CRITICAL CARE FOR THE FELINE PATIENT

**Speaker:** Alison Gottlieb BS, RVT, VTS(ECC)  
Veterinary Educator and Consultant  
Four Paws Consulting LLC

**Place:** Manor College, Basilian Spirituality Center

**Date:** Wednesday October 17, 2007

**Time:** 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**Fee:** \$45

Cats are special! Let's treat them that way. Feline trauma and advanced disease are some of our most challenging cases; let's discuss how to provide them with the best possible care.

**CREDITS: 2 CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS**

### DENTISTRY 101

**Speaker:** Jeanette Hernandez CVT, RDH  
Certified Veterinary Technician at the  
Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital and  
a practicing Registered Dental Hygienist

**Place:** Manor College, Basilian Spirituality Center

**Date:** Thursday November 15, 2007

**Time:** 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**Fee:** \$45

This lecture will provide technicians with an overview of dental charting, intra-oral and extra-oral examination, instrumentation, homecare, oral abnormalities, and a slight touch of ergonomics. This course will aid technicians to become proficient in the basic dentistry skills used in private practice.

**CREDITS: 2 CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS**

## FOCUS ON MANOR ALUMNI, BY JENNIFER HARRISON '07

Last summer, veterinary technology student, Jennifer Harrison, traveled to a number of veterinary practices to interview Manor College graduates to find out where they were in their professional and personal lives. Here is the final interview in this series.

### Bio:

**Alumna:** Nancy Lewis-Gruber, CVT, BA, DVM

**Class of:** 2000

**Area of Interest:** Emergency Medicine and Critical Care

**Current Position:** Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Emergency Clinic St. Paul, Minnesota

### Interview:

**Jennifer:** What is your current job title/field?

**Nancy:** I am a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine working in emergency and critical care medicine with small and exotic animals.

**Jennifer:** How did you become interested in your field?

**Nancy:** I have always been interested in the field for as long as I can remember. I went to Manor College. Dr. Bassert mentored me while I was there. I was the only member of the horse care team while I was there. I took care of the horses 365 days a year. It was a great experience for me. I have always loved animals.

**Jennifer:** What is your most exciting professional moment so far?

**Nancy:** The most exciting moment so far has to be the bobcat in the picture. It was my first case as a veterinarian. I really enjoyed it.

**Jennifer:** What was your career path to your current job?

**Nancy:** I went to Manor College. I was offered a job at my externship site, which was an exotic practice. I graduated from Manor and attained my CVT in 2000. Afterwards, I went to Delaware Valley College and took additional classes to round out my resume. I applied to veterinary school and got in without a Bachelor's degree. While I attended the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota from 2002 - 2006, I worked as a veterinary technician for three years at the Animal Emergency Clinic. I graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's in Arts, as well as my Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine.

**Jennifer:** How has your family played a role in your career?

**Nancy:** My mother was not so supportive. She thought me being a veterinary technician was a dead-end job, she didn't understand the potential of the job. My father was very supportive; he was an animal lover like I am.

**Jennifer:** What do you like best about your current job?



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(September through December)

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### Laboratory Times\*:

VT212LA Tuesday 1:30 to 3:30pm  
VT212LB Tuesday 3:30 to 5:30pm  
VT212LC Thursday 11:30 to  
1:30pm  
VT212LD Thursday 1:30 to 3:30pm  
VT212LE Thursday 3:30 to  
5:30pm

\*Schedule may be flexible

If interested, contact:

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**Nancy:** I love helping animals and their people when they are in their hour of need. I learn from people and I teach them things. It is never a dull experience. It's an experience everyday and I love it.

**Jennifer:** What is your recommendation to others interested in your field?

**Nancy:** Know what you're getting into. It has great outcomes, not in money but in experiences and the animals you help. Choose your practice carefully. They are not all the same. Look around at all aspects of medicine before you decide where you want to work. Also, do not rule out alternative medicine, it can help save a life or better an animal's life.

**Jennifer:** Any other information about your field you would like to tell people to get them interested in your field?

**Nancy:** Being a technician helped me become a good doctor and being a doctor helped me be a good technician. The field has changed my life so much. The field is growing and has so many opportunities, keep your eyes open and do well.

**Jennifer:** Thank you Nancy, I hope this interview opens the minds of students who never thought of going on to veterinary school after Manor College.

## HORSE MEMORIAL DEDICATION, Sarah DuSavage, Horse Care Team Captain



On April 25, 2007, the day of the graduation picnic at Manor College, a memorial was held to remember our beloved teaching horses from the veterinary technology program: Frosty, Donovan, and Leroy. To honor these horses, three Service Berry trees were planted on the college grounds. In attendance were horse care team members from the past and present, faculty, staff and students as well as the horses' previous owners. Everyone stood in a large circle next to the trees where stories were told of the funny personalities of each one of the horses. Dr. Joanna Bassert then read the Horse's Prayer. White roses were distributed, and everyone placed a single rose under each one of the trees. As these trees grow and thrive, they will serve as a reminder of the grace, beauty and service these three horses brought to the program and the lives of those they touched.

## YOUR STATE ASSOCIATION

Pennsylvania's state veterinary technician association has restructured and now is called Pennsylvania Veterinary Technician Association (PVTa). Since the restructuring, they have had two very successful continuing education seminars and will be co-sponsoring the Keystone Veterinary Conference in Hershey, this August. PVTa is also offering a Vet Tech of the Year award this year and a Vet Tech Student Scholarship. They also mail out PVTa Connection twice a year and e-mail a monthly E-news letter. If you are not a member you can still become one. For more information please go to [www.pavta.org](http://www.pavta.org).