

From the College of Veterinary Medicine:

Kudos on accomplishments

And the debate continues. Not the presidential one, but the New York City carriage horse debate. DVM 2017 Sarah Mercer, and CVM Professor, Dr. Joe Bertone spent five days in August, 2014, in New York City collecting saliva and manure cortisol levels and eye temperature images to identify the level of wellbeing and stress in NYC carriage horses (an increased cortisol and eye temperature can indicate stress). The samples were collected for three working days of the horse tours of Central Park. CVM Associate Professor Dr. David Kersey supplied much needed technical expertise and consultation to design and complete the project. Cortisol in manure was also tested from carriage horses on furlough on a country farm. The research colleagues found no evidence of stress in these majestic and well maintained animals. In fact, the horses in pasture had a far wider range of cortisol in manure and, in several cases, far higher. The New York City Council was studying a proposal to ban the carriages and the horses. Dr. Bertone presented the data to members of the council at the Teamsters headquarters in NYC. Noted movie actor Liam Neeson, a fan of the industry, backed Dr. Bertone's study and feels that the work should sound the death knell for the debate. Neeson continues, "The horses, carriages and drivers should be allowed to continue their daily routes," echoing many on the city council. A recent proposal that appeared to be beneficial was seen for what it was, a way to destroy the industry. That, too, now has been put to rest, in part due to the efforts of Ms. Mercer, and Drs. Kersey and Bertone.

CVM Professor Dr. Beth Boynton spoke about careers in veterinary medicine to more than 130 students at the University Women's Math/Science Conference for Eighth Grade Girls. It was sponsored by the Greater Whittier Area Branch of the AAUW on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at Whittier College. The theme was "Unlimited Potential." There were 340 girls from various Los Angeles county schools who each attended six different career presentations.

Dr. Boynton also spoke on careers in veterinary medicine to more than 120 students on Feb. 5, 2016. For the past nine years the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has collaborated with Citrus College in providing a half-day program for more than 400 eighth-grade girls, mostly from low income families. These young ladies are selected by their math and science teachers as students who have shown an interest in and are doing well in one or both fields. Dr. Vicki Wedel of COMP/CDM was the keynote speaker.

CVM Associate Professor Brian Oakley was invited to the University of Arkansas recently to give a seminar titled "Managing the microbiomes of food animals for production and food safety" at the Departments of Food Science and Poultry Science.

CVM's Food and Fiber Club sponsored/organized/ran the Hobby Farm Symposium recently. CVM Assistant Professor, Dr. Spring Halland, said that the event was "awesome" and wanted to commend the student workers for their time and dedication.

DVM 2018 student Ty Marshall-Blanche contributed an article for the current Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association issue on Diversity Issues in Veterinary Medicine – A Student Perspective. The article can be found here:

http://www.hsvma.org/diversity_issues_in_veterinary_medicine?utm_source=snews021116&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=students#.Vr1damfSnmQ

CVM Associate Professor, Dr. Pedro Diniz, was recently notified that a paper on which he is first author was accepted at PLOS Neglected Tropical Disease. This was as a result of a long-term collaboration with a major medical school in Brazil where the authors truly implemented the One Health concept. The team had physicians, nurses, veterinarians, biologists and microbiologists working together to address the role of companion animals as reservoirs of a zoonotic pathogen – Bartonella. The paper is titled, “Risk Factors for Bartonella sp. Infection in Blood Donors in Southeast Brazil.” In addition, this is the third publication that Stanley Sowy (DVM 2014) participated as a co-author as part of his work on the Veterinary Summer Research (VSR) Program. These outcomes clearly support the importance and impact that the VSR program has for our students.