



Newsletter

Spring 2008

Annual Conference St. Louis, Missouri August 12-16, 2008

Special Events...

TUESDAY – AUGUST 12TH, 2008

5:00 p.m. Happy Hour Abstracts

7:00 p.m. Happy Hour Abstracts Reception

WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 13TH, 2008

8:00 a.m. Bartlett Address

9:00 a.m. Competitive Abstracts

11:00 a.m. THERIO Business Meeting

1:30 p.m. ACT Business Meeting

3:30 p.m. Student Case Presentations

5:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open – Reception

6:30 p.m. Family Fun Night

THURSDAY – AUGUST 14TH, 2008

8:00 a.m. **General Session** Infectious Causes of Embryonic and Fetal Mortality-
Dr. Dan Givens

9:00 a.m. **(General Session)** Effect of Dietary Modulation of Intestinal Microflora on Reproduction and Early Growth - *Dr. Gail Czarnecki-Maulden*

6:30 p.m. Therio Awards Banquet

7:30 p.m. ACT Educators Forum



Report from the president...

Dr. Gary Nie

Dear Colleagues:

As I write this message much of the Midwest is dealing with the aftermath of recent heavy rains and widespread flooding. My thoughts and prayers go out to those struggling with these challenges.

Your executive board recently met in St. Louis for our winter meetings. We had two full days working on a number of issues and I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the highlights with you.

As we continue to address a few remaining items from the 2005 Strategic Planning session, the board approved funding to help support ACT Diplomates speaking at student group programs (see additional information on page 14). Drs. Regina Turner and Rocky Crisman (ACT Board Directors) are developing the funding guidelines for the program. We believe this program will directly enhance our efforts to raise awareness of our college and plant seed with a key audience, veterinary students.

Two diplomates, Drs. Michelle Kutzler and Anne Traas, were appointed to fill scheduled openings on the Scientific Abstract Committee. The abstract presentations are a wonderful part of the annual meeting and submissions have grown considerably since I was a resident many years ago and participated in the poster sessions of those days. However, the growth has brought a considerable increase in workload for the abstract committee members and it has become increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers to serve on the committee in part due to the considerable commitment required by its members. Therefore, on behalf of the board and entire college, I would like to thank Drs. Kutzler and Traas for volunteering as well as all of the committee members for their service. In order to assist future recruiting efforts, the ACT and SFT boards have jointly agreed to provide a complimentary registration for each committee member to the annual meeting.

Two very important committee efforts are underway and their progress was reported to the board. First, Dr. Travis Meredith (ACT Treasurer, chair) reported receiving no response from the membership to his call for volunteers following the Monterey meeting to serve on the ACT Mission Committee. Attempting to address issues brought up in discussions stimulated by the SFT branding efforts, this committee was formed to gather input from the membership and develop recommendations to the executive board regarding the fundamental questions of who are we and what is our mission? Mission statements (or in this case "Purpose" as it is titled in our Constitution) should be reviewed periodically and refined or improved as deemed appropriate by the organization. Does ours adequately address what we feel the mission of our college is today? Are we accomplishing our mission? The Mission committee was charged with exploring these questions.

Second, Drs. Peggy Root (ACT Past President) and Ahmed Tibary (ACT President-Elect) reported on the activities and considerable efforts of the Therio Educators group. During our discussions it became apparent a formal committee was needed to facilitate the group's efforts and reporting to the board. Therefore the board approved the formation of an Education Committee. Dr. Tibary will chair the committee and coalesce the group's activities as they move forward on a number of important issues including core curriculum recommendations for veterinary students, residency requirements, cooperative teaching arrangements and credentialing requirements for the standard and alternate certification routes. The committee will bring recommendations developed from their work to the executive board for consideration.

The work of these two newly formed committees, Mission and Education, are vitally important to and will ultimately shape the future of our college.

(Continued on page 2)

Report From the President- (continued from page one)

Therefore, I strongly encourage everyone wanting to have a voice in the future direction of our college to volunteer for service and/or provide input to these committees.

Dr. Charles Estill (ACT Vice-President) reported on his trip to Hannover Germany where he represented the ACT at the 2007 board and exam committee meetings of the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR). Our ongoing exchange of board members with ECAR has facilitated open communications about similar issues facing each group. Unfortunately Dr. Romagnoli (ECAR board member) was not able to attend our winter meeting due to illness. However he is expected to attend our summer meeting in St. Louis.

Dr. Phil Prater (ACT Secretary) presented applications from individuals wishing to sit the 2008 certifying exam. Approval was given to 21 standard route and 5 alternate route applicants. It is great to see such a robust applicant pool recently. As a result the executive board is exploring the possibility of forming a Credentialing committee. The committee would assume responsibility from the executive board for reviewing all credentialing packets submitted. Recommendations would be put forth for each applicant by the committee to the executive board for final consideration and approval. We feel a committee dedicated to reviewing credentials would help ensure a more consistent review process while relieving the board of the additional workload just prior to the winter meeting.

Dr. Travis Meredith (ACT Treasurer) reported our college's financial position remains sound. In order to help maintain our financial strength and avoid the need to play catch-up again in the future, the board approved a change of our SOP to include an annual review of dues with the intent of ensuring revenue keeps pace with inflation. As a result, this year the board approved a small increase in dues to \$210 for 2009.

The SFT and ACT boards also met for a combined meeting. The boards considered a proposal put forth by Dr. Regina Turner (ACT Board Director) to support an effort to establish a scholarship fund in honor of Dr. Robert ("Bob") Kenney. I am pleased to announce the boards approved a \$1,000 donation from the reserve fund to support this effort.

We also heard a report on the Society's progress toward establishing a clinical journal of Theriogenology. I have been participating in the efforts of a joint ACT/SFT task force established last year to explore and develop this publication. I am happy to report great progress is being made. Dr. Patrick Hearn (SFT President) will be providing more information in the upcoming SFT newsletter. The ACT board has pledged to help this effort in any way we can.

Finally the nominating committee finished its work and has put forth an outstanding slate of candidates. Please read the bios carefully and give thoughtful consideration to who you want to represent us and lead our college into the future. Make your selections on the enclosed ballot and return it by the deadline indicated.

As always please consider volunteering to serve the college as opportunities present. Your efforts help make our College great. We also want your input. The Executive Board members are your representatives and before we meet again this summer in St. Louis we would like to hear from you about the issues we're working on or other issues that may be of concern to you. The summer meeting will be here before you know it so don't delay. We would like to take your comments and concerns into consideration as we set the agenda for our summer meeting. If you would like to contact any of the Executive Board members before our next meeting, please find our contact information in this newsletter or visit the ACT website (www.theriogenology.org).

Finally make plans now to attend the 2008 Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO. It promises to be a great meeting with over 93 hours of CE available.



CONFERENCE & SYMPOSIA
August 12-16, 2008



Thank you to Our Sponsors



Research makes the difference



Welcome to the Class of 2007 Diplomates!

Drs.: Orsolya Balogh, Charles Broaddus, Deirdre Carver, Soon Hon Cheong, Bronwyne Crane, Adam Eichelberger, Annett Heise, Aaron D.J. Hodder, Amie Johnson, Kara Kolster, Christianne Magee, Scott Pretzer, Tal Raz, David Stanford, Daniela Steckler, Michael Thompson, Brian Whitlock, Robyn Wilborn, Jeanine Woods.

2007 Exam Statistics Would you like more information and statistics from the certifying exam data? Please visit the ACT website and follow the link "Becoming a Diplomate."

<u>Species</u>	<u>Sat the exam</u>	<u>Passed the exam</u>
Multi-species	14	11
Equine	5	4
Bovine	1	0
Small Animal	4	4
TOTAL	24	19 (79%)

American College of Theriogenologists 4/01/08

COUNTRY	ACTIVE	EMERITUS	HONORARY	TOTAL
United States	264	49	16	329
Canada	36	3	1	40
Argentina	1			1
Australia	11			11
Colombia	1			1
Denmark	1			1
Germany	2			2
Jordan	3			3
Netherlands	1		1	2
New Zealand	5			5
South Africa	6			6
Sweden		1	1	2
Switzerland	1			1
United Kingdom	1		1	2
Venezuela	1			1
	334	53	20	407

Breakdown By Employment Type

ACADEMIA	144	PRIVATE PRACTICE	116
GOVERNMENT	10	RETIRED	42
INDUSTRY	23	NOT NOTED	57
OTHER	15		

From the ACT Certifying Examination Committee:

Philip E. Prater, DVM, PhD, Diplomate
ACT Secretary

The Exam Committee of the ACT met in St. Augustine, Florida, from January 13-17, 2008. The following committee members were in attendance: Drs. Sylvia Bedford-Guaus, Chair; Beverly Purswell, In-coming Chair; Herris Maxwell, Past Chair; John Kastelic; Reed Holyoak; Mary Beth Stanton; and Philip Prater, Secretary ACT

The committee began in earnest Sunday afternoon and continued, almost non-stop, through the multiple choice and essay questions until Tuesday night. The practical exam was completed by noon on Wednesday. The committee worked diligently to ensure the questions for the examination were concise and unambiguous and that the various species-specific portions of the examinations (bovine, equine, small animal, and multiple species) were fairly and equitably constructed. There were no applicants for the swine exam this year. All sections were edited, scored, and pass points assigned by Wednesday afternoon. Drs. Bedford-Guaus and Maxwell spent the remainder of the afternoon and evening training Drs. Purswell and Holyoak on SMT Write.

The committee was unanimously positive about the SMT Write question management system. The software is functioning well and is making exam development quicker and more efficient. Because of the user-friendly nature of the software, the chair stated that she only used approximately one hour of support time this year. The chair spent several hours training the in-coming chair, which was deemed as time well spent. Some committee members commented that it would be very advantageous to have the SMT Write placed on the ACT website, for ease of question submission from the ACT membership. Drs. Franz and Maxwell are currently spearheading this addition to the website.

Question development teams are slowly but surely adding to the bank of questions in the ACT question data base. One committee member commented that some exam candidates had questioned why there were not more bio-technology topics on the exam. The chair stated that there was a dire need for questions in the area of bio-technology, therefore, if there are those of you who have a battery of bio-tech questions, please feel free to forward them to the ACT office.

We have some very large shoes to fill on the exam committee this year, as Dr. Herris Maxwell will be rotating off. Herris is an encyclopedia of reproductive knowledge and he will be greatly missed. We are currently in the process of seeking his replacement, and will be submitting names to the ACT Board soon.

The committee would like to extend its deepest appreciation to Dr. John Kastelic for attending his seventh exam preparation session. Dr. Kastelic's broad knowledge base and extraordinary editing skills were incredibly important to the construction of this year's exam. He is truly the ACT Exam "Iron Man"!

The 2008 ACT Certifying Examination will be held prior to the Therio meeting, on August 11 and 12, 2008, in St. Louis.

Dr. Dobrinski Receives 2008 Theriogenologist of the Year

Ina Dobrinski, D.V.M., Ph.D, DIPL-ACT, has been selected to receive the "Theriogenologist of the Year" award for 2008 according to an announcement by Dr. Ahmed Tibary, Awards Committee Chairman of the American College of Theriogenologists. Dr. Dobrinski is the 9th recipient since the award was established in 1999.

Dr. Dobrinski is being recognized for her contributions to the field of Theriogenology as an expert in andrology and an outstanding researcher. Those who nominated Dr. Dobrinski all mentioned her ability to be a mentor for others, both seasoned Theriogenologists and those who are young trainees. In 1987 Dr. Dobrinski became a Graduate Veterinarian of the Hannover College of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, Germany. In 1989 she received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, magna cum laude from the same university and went on to receive her Master of Veterinary Science from Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Canada in 1993. That same year she became a Diplomate in the American College of Theriogenologists. In 1997 she earned her Ph.D. from New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University.

Dr. Dobrinski is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2004 Pfizer Award for Research Excellence.

Currently, Dr. Dobrinski is the Director of the Animal Transgenesis and Germ Cell Research, New Bolton Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Kennett Square, PA., and the Associate Professor (with tenure) of Large Animal Reproduction. Dr. Dobrinski is also the Visiting Professor, Inner Mongolia University, Huhhot, Inner Mongolia, China.

Dr. Dobrinski will be honored at the Therio Awards Banquet slated for 6:30 p.m., Thursday, August 14th during the annual Therio Conference and Symposia to be held in St. Louis, Missouri.



Register today for the 2008 Therio Conference & Symposia
August 12 –16 St. Louis, Missouri
Register online

WWW.THERIO.ORG

Nominees for Officers and Directors of the College

The newly elected vice-president will assume the offices of president-elect and president in 2009 and 2010, respectively. Please mark the enclosed ballot and return in the pre-addressed envelope. Your ballot should be mailed in order for it to reach the ACT office by June 13, 2008.

Vice-President

Dr. Augustine T. Peter obtained his veterinary degree from India in 1975. While serving on the faculty of his *alma mater* for 6 years he earned an MVSc researching in buffaloes. He earned his MSc from the University of Guelph in 1983, a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1987, and an MBA from the Purdue University in 2000. In 1988 Dr. Peter completed his residency at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which is the same year he attained ACT Diplomate status.

Augustine has been on the faculty at Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine since 1989 and currently is a professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. He has been recognized with awards by the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association and the Department of Veterinary Science at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Augustine has adequate international exposure; He has given many presentations at his *alma mater* and has conducted wet labs at the veterinary school in Jordan. He has spent sabbaticals with Drs. C. Linde-Forsberg and G.C. van de Weijden, two renowned theriogenologists and ECAR diplomates. He also chaired a workshop on postpartum cows in the 2004 ICAR in Brazil.

Augustine has served on the ACT Scientific Information/Abstract Committee and has been the faculty advisor for the student chapter of Purdue University for the past 4 years. He has been the president of the Purdue Chapter of Sigma Xi and the Omicron chapter of Phi Zeta of Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Peter is honored and humbled to have been nominated for the vice-president position of ACT. Although he believes in the comparative (species) aspect of theriogenology during undergraduate/graduate/residency training programs, when it comes to career development and making an impact in the society one is better served by sticking to one species. However, there are instances in practice where you should be able to do more than theriogenology in one species to make the practice economically viable. Strong undergraduate/residency/graduate training in our specialty is important to generate future theriogenologists to meet the societal/academic/industry needs. A better communication between the ACT and the AAVMC is imperative to accomplish this goal. During his tenure on the ACT executive board he will strive to make a difference in this area.

Dr. R. Bruce Hollett graduated from The University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine in 1972. He became a Diplomate in 2002 through completion of a residency from Oklahoma State University.

Bruce's species of emphasis include canine, bovine and equine during instruction of senior veterinary students in clinical block rotations and junior theriogenology courses with lectures and laboratories.

Dr. Hollett's qualifications are based upon serving as a solo and associate practitioner, an executive for a large non-profit organization; previous Section Chief for the UGA veterinary teaching hospital faculty; charter member, secretary/treasurer and president of the Georgia Equine Practitioners Association; former director of the audiovisual library for AAEP; Director of Continuing Education for the College of Veterinary Medicine and currently Acting Associate Dean for Public Service and Outreach. He received a BS in Animal Science from Virginia Tech, a DVM from The University of Georgia and a Masters in Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology from Purdue University. His vision for this assignment will be an honest, open effort to initiate and maintain educational opportunities for every diplomate or candidate.

Treasurer

Dr. Sara Lyle is a 1985 graduate of the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine. Following two years in a private equine practice, she completed a clinical residency combined with a Master's of Science at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine. She became a Diplomate of the ACT in 1990. After ten years in private practice, she returned to academia as a Visiting Clinical Instructor at North Carolina State's College of Veterinary Medicine.

In 2002 Sara joined the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine as a Clinical Instructor, and is simultaneously completing a PhD focused on immunologic and endocrinologic aspects of infective preterm delivery in mares. She is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on equine and canine reproduction, and is the section editor of Theriogenology for The 5-Minute Veterinary Consult. Dr. Lyle is the chair of the Animal Welfare Committee (joint ACT/SFT), and looks forward to serving in any capacity that would contribute to the missions of the College.

Dr. Stuart Meyers received his DVM from Michigan State University in 1985. He then spent 2 years in a Maryland dairy practice before completing a residency in Large Animal Reproduction at Texas A&M University in 1989. For the next 3 years, Dr. Meyers was a resident veterinarian on a large Illinois Standardbred breeding farm.

After becoming board certified by the American College of Theriogenologists in 1990, he returned to academia and obtained a PhD in Comparative Pathology at UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 1995. Later that year, Dr. Meyers joined the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania as an Assistant Professor of Large Animal Reproduction in the Department of Clinical Studies-New Bolton Center where he established an independent research program and performed clinical service and teaching in theriogenology. In 1999, Stuart moved to the University of California at Davis in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology, and Cell Biology in the School of Veterinary Medicine where he is currently a Professor. His work includes teaching veterinary students and training clinical equine reproduction residents.

His NIH-funded research program focuses on the study of sperm biology, cryobiology, and the effects of osmotic and oxidative stress on sperm cell function in a number of mammalian species.

Stuart believes that the specialty of theriogenology should be at the forefront of the future of Veterinary Medicine. Many breakthroughs in medicine are based in reproductive technologies that we, as theriogenologists have been and should be developing. This leadership role will start with the education of veterinary students and young theriogenologists. In this regard, Dr. Meyers is familiar with the education issues facing the profession and he is an advocate for new and improved teaching methods and philosophies. He believes that theriogenology training programs should prepare veterinarians for a wide variety of careers ranging from private practice to academia to industry and should include training in diverse areas such as animal reproduction, genetics, and ecosystems health.

Dr. Meyers has been on the Scientific Abstract committee and served as its Chair in 2005 and he would like to continue his service to the ACT as treasurer.

Executive Board Member Director-At-Large

Dr. Benjamin (Ben) Espy received his undergraduate biology degree at Duke University in 1991 before receiving his DVM from Texas A&M University in 1996.

After practicing mixed-animal medicine and surgery in Brenham, Texas, Ben moved in 1999 with his wife and child to Lexington, Kentucky to practice at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute (formerly Hagyard, Davidson, and McGee Equine Associates). He practiced full time at Hagyard's until 2002 and then returned for the spring breeding season for two additional years. These 6 breeding seasons in Kentucky satisfied the prerequisites for an alternate (non-academic) residency route.

Ben received his Diplomate status in the American College of Theriogenology in 2005 after stating a primary interest in the equine species. He is a solo, ambulatory, equine-only practitioner in the San Antonio area. His wife is a small-animal veterinarian and they have three children, ages 8, 6, and 3.

Ben is a committee chairman in the AAEP, member of the AVMA, TVMA, SFT, the head veterinarian for the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo and advisor to the PRCA for Animal Welfare issues, and recently named an adjunct professor in the Texas A&M University System (TAMU-Kingsville). He believes that mixed-animal practice, equine-only referral practice in Central Kentucky, and being a solo practitioner in South Texas gives him a wealth of practical knowledge to share with the leadership of the ACT. A non-academic residency route and well-respected case volume in Lexington, Kentucky should add to Ben's ability to relate to the concerns of both the academician and the regional/local practitioner who is board-certified in theriogenology.

Dr. Espy has recently appeared in many lay publications as a reference for theriogenology-related concerns in the horse. Some of the magazines that have featured his work are *Q Journal (AQHA)*, *Q Racing (AQHA)*, *The Horse*, *America's Horse*, *Arabian Horse Journal*, *Paint Horse Journal*, *Veterinary Practice News*, and *Practical Horseman*.

Dr. Etta Agan Bradecamp, a 1999 graduate from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, received her Diplomate status of ACT and ABVP in 2005. After graduation, Dr. Bradecamp worked in a private equine practice in Virginia before returning to the academic environment and doing an Equine Practice Residency at Louisiana State University and Goulburn Valley Equine Hospital, Victoria, Australia. Currently Etta is an associate veterinarian at Old Waterloo Equine Clinic, Warrenton, Virginia and Director, Old Waterloo Equine Clinic Equine Reproduction Center.

As a theriogenologist in private practice, Etta regularly interacts with the public, educating them about equine reproduction and the benefits of having a specialist for their reproductive needs. She holds an annual equine reproduction seminar for horse owners and for several years has organized an Equine Reproduction Forum for veterinarians in Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.

In addition to educating other veterinarians and encouraging them to advance their knowledge in theriogenology, Etta feels it is very important to do the same with veterinary students. As a resident Etta worked closely with students and now routinely works with students doing their externships or preceptorships.

The ACT is currently addressing numerous issues that will shape our future, including raising awareness of our college and helping define the education of future diplomates while they are students and/or residents. As a new diplomate and having recently completed a residency training program, Etta feels these topics are jugular to the future growth and vitality of the College.

Etta also believes that participation in organized veterinary medicine is an extremely important responsibility and continued growth and development of an organization is dependent on the contributions of its members. Since graduation she has been active in the Virginia Association of Equine Practitioners (VAEP), serving as secretary and currently as co-chair for continuing education. She has also served on the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association board of directors as a liaison for the VAEP.

Dr. Bradecamp looks forward to seeing the college grow and meet the challenges that it faces. She feels well qualified to contribute as an ACT board member on these vital issues and would genuinely appreciate your support.

**MAKE SURE YOU MARK YOUR
BALLOT AND RETURN IT
IN THE ENCLOSED
PREADDRESSED ENVELOPE
BY THE
JUNE 16, 2008 DEADLINE.**

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Have You Paid Your 2008 Dues?

As of the date of this printing, 32 Diplomates have not paid their 2008 dues. If you have any question concerning the status of your membership in the college, please contact the executive office today. The complete Bylaws may be found on the website (www.theriogenology.org) by following the link "About ACT." Pertinent sections of the Bylaws are included below.

From the ACT Bylaws (as amended, August 5, 2004):

Article I, Section 4. The annual dues for all Diplomates, except Emeritus and Inactive Diplomates, shall be established by the officers and shall be payable at the commencement of the fiscal year. Dues or assessments not paid by March 31 of each calendar year shall remove said Diplomate from good standing as well as all College mailing lists and rosters. Diplomates not in good standing shall not be eligible to vote or hold office until dues and assessments in arrears are paid in full.

Article VII Maintenance of Certification

Section 1. Any Diplomate may be expelled, asked to resign, or otherwise disciplined for nonprofessional or unethical conduct, misstatement, or misrepresentation of facts in his/her application for certification, nonpayment of dues for two years, or other action against the best interest of, or in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of the College. The accused person will be given opportunity to reply to charges in writing or in person to the Board before final action.

Section 2. In case of revocation of certification, it shall be the duty of the person having possession of the same to return the certificate attesting to his/her status to the Secretary of the College upon demand by the Board to do so. The Board shall have powers to proceed in any manner permitted by law to enforce the return of any certificate which shall have been revoked.



Dr. Howard Levine, a member of the Tufts Cummings Veterinary School faculty for 23 years and long time Member of the American College of Theriogenologists and Society for Theriogenology passed away on February 14, 2008 following an extended illness.

Dr. Levine was the head of Tufts Ambulatory Service and the Associate Chair of the Department of Environmental and Population Health.

As a board certified Theriogenologist he was course director for Theriogenology and Theriogenology Laboratory. He created and had been course director for the largest course in the school, Clinical Skills and Animal Behavior. He lectured extensively in the Large Animal Medicine course. He taught in Large Animal Medical Procedures laboratory; facilitated in Problem Based Learning; guest lectured in numerous courses such as Human Animal Relations, Reproductive Physiology, and International Veterinary Medicine; and offered electives. In addition, he was the faculty advisor to the Grafton-based Tufts Student Livestock Club.

Dr. Levine received funding for and completed an interactive CD on dairy nutrition. He did this project cooperatively with two faculty members from the University of Connecticut.

Not limited to teaching in the United States, Dr. Levine was active in Heifer International and found the time to travel to a number of countries such as Nicaragua, Indonesia, and Armenia to train veterinarians.

An accomplished musician, his group, the Rambling Pitchforks Contradance Band was well known for many years throughout the region. Students fondly remember their music at an annual barn celebration, "Heifer Hoedown."

He is survived by his wife Jo, Daughter Corinna and son Jeb.

Dr. Levine's family has requested gifts in

his memory be made to Tufts' Cummings Veterinary School, 200 Westboro Road, North Grafton, MA 01536, Attn. Development Office. Donations will support Tufts Ambulatory Service.

Scientific Committee Report...

"Change" appears to be a defining word right now, and the Abstract Committee is certainly experiencing change in 2008 – some helpful and some difficult. First off, the current and in-coming members would like to express our gratitude to the SFT and ACT boards for their recent decision to provide complementary registration to the annual meeting for all Abstract Committee members. This will significantly reduce the financial burden to regular and ad hoc members attending, respectively, four or two consecutive meetings while fulfilling committee obligations.

The Abstract Committee solicits abstracts for the annual meeting, scores all of the competitive and non-competitive submitted abstracts using an objective and uniform score sheet (which was updated this year), makes decisions regarding the abstract program, chairs the abstract sessions, and, probably the job that is the most difficult and the most fun, scores the oral competitive abstract presentations.

Two members are completing their terms on the committee this year, immediate past chairman, Augustine Peter, and ad hoc member, Ramanathan Kasimanickam. Ram had graciously agreed to extend his term on the committee from the usual 2 years to 3 years so that the terms of the two ad hoc members would be staggered. Ram has served the committee with diligence and professionalism. As for Auggie, I will need to start preparing for the meeting in August now if I am to come close to the grace and polish that he demonstrated at last year's meeting. I am grateful for the support and guidance that Auggie has provided to this committee and to the start of my chairmanship. The committee is thrilled to be joined this year by Michelle Kutzler (4 year term, mixed species emphasis) and Anne Traas (2 year term, recent diplomate ad hoc member). Next year, we will seek nominations for a regular member with an emphasis in small animal theriogenology and for an unrestricted ad hoc member. These nominations are open to all ACT diplomates with

an interest in basic or applied therio-
genology research. We wish to empha-
size that diplomates with either a re-
search or predominantly clinical back-
ground are encouraged to nominate
themselves since our goal is to represent
diverse perspectives on the committee.

Some small changes have been made to
the abstract submission guidelines and
will be included in next year's Call for
Abstracts. In particular, those having
completed a residency or graduate de-
gree may still qualify for the abstract
competition if less than a year has
passed since the completion of their
training program at the time of the ab-
stract deadline. A much bigger change in
the abstract program is that groundwork
has been laid to include a poster session
at the annual meeting. Interest in having
a poster session has increased in recent
years as the number of abstracts submit-
ted had exceeded room in the program
for oral presentations. In addition, it has
been pointed out that veterinary students
who have been involved in research pro-
jects do not qualify for the abstract com-
petition, but should still be encouraged to
participate in the meeting and could do
so by presenting a non-competitive ab-
stract in an oral or poster session. That
said, in order to have a viable poster
session (i.e., at least 10 posters), we
need more submitted abstracts. The
number of both competitive (9) and non-
competitive (20) abstracts submitted this
year is one-half of the number received
last year. This may be in part due to
competition from the reproduction meet-
ings in Hawaii and Budapest in July this
year. However, it is up to ACT and SFT
members to support our meeting by sub-
mitting abstracts and encouraging our
trainees and non-ACT/SFT colleagues to
submit abstracts. The topic of "Evidence-
Based Medicine" has been discussed in
depth in recent meetings, but we need to
generate and present this evidence if we
want our field to advance.

As I write this report, the Abstract Com-
mittee is completing review of the ab-
stracts submitted for the 2008 meeting.
Even with the reduced pool, we still ex-
pect to have a full slate of interesting
abstracts on incredibly diverse topics in
basic and applied therio-
genology for the opening night Happy Hour abstracts on
Tuesday, Competitive Abstracts session
on Wednesday and species-themed ab-
stract sessions on Thursday. We hope to
see you there! Best regards,

Hannah Galantino-Homer, Chair

Scientific Information/Abstracts

Zemjanis Outreach

Funds Available

Therio members are reminded that funds are available for partial support of veterinarians traveling from developing countries to the United States for educational purposes.

The Zemjanis Outreach Fund was established in 1994 to honor the memory of Dr. Ray Zemjanis, a longtime member of the Society and Charter Member of the ACT.

Full details for requesting funds can be found by going to www.theriogenology.org and clicking on "**Zemjanis Fund Guidelines.**"

Sponsors of a visiting veterinarian should keep in mind that funding, if granted, will require a minimum of 45 days from the time the Society receives the request until reimbursement can be approved by the board members and processed.

Both members of the Society and the ACT are eligible to sponsor a visiting veterinarian under the guidelines of this fund. This is a tremendous opportunity to assist veterinarians from developing countries in furthering their education.

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August 12-16, 2008

St. Louis, Missouri

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Happy Hour Abstracts; Happy Hour Abstracts Reception; Bartlett Address; Competitive Abstracts; Therio Awards Banquet; Society for Theriogenology Business Meeting; American College of Theriogenologists Business Meeting; Student Case Presentations; Family Fun Night at the St. Louis Zoo; ACT Educators Forum; Companion Tours

EDUCATIONAL TRACKS

GENERAL SESSION

Infectious Causes of Embryonic and Fetal Mortality -*Dr. Dan Givens*

Effect of Dietary Modulation of Intestinal Microflora on Reproduction and Early Growth -*Dr. Gail Czarnecki-Maulden*

SMALL ANIMAL

Physiology of Pregnancy - Endocrinology (In Depth - Canine Pregnancy) -*Dr. Karine Onclin-Verstegen*

Physiology of Pregnancy - Fetal Development -*Dr. Scott Pretzer*

Physiology of Pregnancy - Nutrition and Management -*Dr. Cheri Johnson*

Pregnancy Toxemia & Gestational Diabetes -*Dr. Cheri Johnson*

Defining and Monitoring the High Risk Pregnancy -*Dr. Cheri Johnson*

Hypoluteoidism -*Dr. Cheri Johnson*

Viral Causes of Pregnancy Loss in the Bitch -*Dr. John Verstegen*

Non-Infectious Causes of Pregnancy Loss in the Bitch -*Dr. John Verstegen*

Bacterial and Protozoal Causes of Pregnancy Loss in the Bitch and Queen -*Dr. Scott Pretzer*

Viral Causes of Pregnancy Loss in the Queen -*Dr. Karine Onclin-Verstegen*

Non-Infectious Causes of Pregnancy Loss in the Queen -*Dr. Karine Onclin-Verstegen*

Abortion Diagnostics -*Dr. Don Schlafer*

How to Choose the Type of Semen and the Type of Breeding to Utilize -*Drs. Dietrich Volkman, John Hamil, Cindy Smith*

Semen Extenders - Chilled -*Drs. Jack Smith, Norman Roskin, John Verstegen*

Semen Extenders - Frozen -*Drs. Ana Adams, Dana Bleifer, Melissa Goodman*

Chilled Semen Evaluation and Preparation for Shipping -*Drs. Bruce Eilts, Norman Roskin, Steve Escobar*

Ovulation Timing – Basics – Point/Counterpoint -*Drs. Karine Onclin-Verstegen, Jeanine Woods*

Ovulation Timing – Natural/Fresh Breedings - Cases -*Drs. Dale Paccamonti, Mary Ann Sheller, Phyllis Giroux*

Ovulation Timing – Chilled Breedings - Cases -*Drs. Kara Kolster, Ray Calkins, Katherine Settle*

Ovulation Timing – Frozen Breedings -*Drs. Ann Huntington, Anita Migday, Ana Adams*

Breeding Management of the Subfertile Male -*Drs. Bruce Eilts, Phyllis Giroux, Katherine Settle*

Semen Handling in the Subfertile Male -*Drs. Cheryl Lopate, Scott Pretzer*

Medical Management of Dystocia - Canine/Feline -*Dr. Scott Pretzer*

Surgical Management of Dystocia - Canine/Feline -*Dr. Anne Traas*

Resuscitation of Neonates -*Dr. Anne Traas*

Pathophysiology of CEH/Pyometra (In Depth: Endometritis / CEH / Pyometra complex) -*Dr. Don Schlafer*

Use of Uterine Culture and Biopsy for Determining Prognosis in CEH -*Dr. Don Schlafer*

Clinical Presentation of Mucometra and Pyometra -*Dr. Scott Pretzer*

Mucometra, Hydrometra, Hematometra - What Does it Mean to Future Fertility -*Dr. Karine Onclin-Verstegen*

Medical Management of Pyometra – Fundamentals of Therapy -*Dr. John Verstegen*

Medical Management of Pyometra – Additional Treatment -*Dr. John Verstegen*

2008 THERIO CONFERENCE

SMALL ANIMAL CONTINUED

- Medical and Surgical Management of Bitches Who Relapse with Pyometra -*Dr. John Verstegen*
- Anatomy and Physiology of the Prostate (In Depth - Prostatic Disease) -*Dr. Jack Smith*
- Infectious Prostatic Disease -*Dr. Jack Smith*
- Non-Infectious Prostatic Disease -*Dr. Jack Smith*
- Neoplasia of the Prostate -*Dr. Jack Smith*
- Interpreting Vaginal and Semen Cultures -*Drs. Jack Smith, Jeanine Woods, Melissa Goodman*
- Monitoring and Supplementing Progesterone During Pregnancy -*Drs. Dale Paccamonti, John Verstegen, and Kit Kampschmidt*
- Adding TCI to Your Practice -*Drs. Ana Adams, Ray Calkins, Ann Huntington*
- Adding Semen Freezing to Your Practice -*Drs. Mary Ann Sheller, Anita Migday, Dana Bleifer*
- How-To and Practice Tips -*Dr. Carlos Pinto*
- Unusual Reproductive Pathology of the Male -*Drs. Don Schlafer, Cheryl Lopate*
- Unusual Reproductive Pathology of the Female -*Drs. Don Schlafer, Peggy Root Kustritz*
- Abnormal Cycles and Anovulation -*Drs. Cathy Gartley, Sara Lyle, Kit Kampschmidt*
- Anesthetic Protocols and Pain Management for C-section -*Drs. Anne Traas, Kirk Esmond, Steve Escobar*
- Skull Session -Roundtable -*Drs. Scott Pretzer, Karine Onclin-Verstegen, Sara Lyle, Cheryl Lopate*

FOOD ANIMAL

- Breeding Soundness Evaluation: A Practitioner's Perspective -*Dr. James Alexander*
- "Sperm Morphology: Its Relevance to Compensable and Uncompensable Traits in Semen -*Dr. Dick Saacke*
- Insemination Factors Related to Timed AI in Cattle" -*Dr. Dick Saacke*
- Factors Affecting Pubertal Development *Bos Taurus* -*Dr. Albert Barth*
- Seminal Vesiculitis: Update on Treatment -*Dr. Albert Barth*
- Pathogens That Cause Infertility of Bulls and Transmission Via Semen -*Dr. Dan Givens*
- Update of Bovine Congenital Abnormalities -*Dr. Brian Whitlock*
- Review of Pregnancy- Associated Glycoproteins and Pregnancy Wastage in Cattle -*Dr. Brian Whitlock*
- Interpretation of Diagnostic Tests -*Dr. Bob Larson*
- Epidemiology & Disease Control in Beef Practice -*Dr. Bob Larson*
- Beef Heifer Development -*Dr. Terry Engelken*
- Beef Bull Development -*Dr. Terry Engelken*
- Effect of Nutrition on Reproduction in Camelids -*Dr. B. Van Saun*
- Emergencies in Camelid Reproduction -*Dr. Ahmed Tibary*
- Neonatology in Camelids -*Dr. David Pugh*
- Infertility in the Male and Female: Case Studies (*Panel Discussion*)

EQUINE

- EVA; Current Status and Management -*Dr. Reed Holyoak*
- Diagnosis and Therapies for Early Embryonic Death -*Dr. Dave Hartman*
- Diagnosis and Treatment of Endometritis Yesterday and Today -*Dr. Irwin Liu*
- When Should You Refer a Problem Mare? -*Dr. Michelle Leblanc*
- Research Update: Mare -*Dr. Dale Paccamonti*
- Clinical Case Presentations -*Drs. Dave Hartman, Irwin Liu, Michelle Leblanc and Reed Holyoak*

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EQUINE

Diagnosis and Therapy for Ascending Placentitis -*Dr. Margo Macpherson*

When Should a Mare Go for ART (Oocyte Transfer, ICSI) -*Dr. Marco Coutinho da Silva*

Estrus Manipulation: Why Some Do and Some Don't Respond -*Dr. Juan Samper*

What Should We Look for in Stallion Fertility Exams -*Dr. Dickson Varner*

Maximizing the Use of Frozen Semen -*Dr. Corey Miller*

Research Update: Stallion -*Dr. Tracey Chenier*

Clinical Case Presentations -*Drs. Dickson Varner, Wendy Schofield, Margo Macpherson and Marco Coutinho da Silva*

EXTRA SESSIONS

Competitive Abstracts

Happy Hour Abstracts

Equine, Bovine Abstracts

Endometrial Biopsy - Basics of Interpreting Biopsies -*Dr. Don Schlafer*

Endometrial Biopsy - Dry Lab - All Species

Endometrial Cytology - Dry Lab - Basics of Interpretation and Cell Types

Vaginal Cytology - Dry Labs - Canine / Feline -*Dr. Carlos Pinto, Kirk Esmond, Rebecca Kestle, Kara Kolster, John Hamil, Dietrich Volkmann, Cindy Smith*

How To Session: Camelid / Small Ruminant

Endometrial Cytology - Dry Lab - Equine

Sperm Defects and Their Effects on Fertility - All Species

Sperm Morphology - Dry Lab - All Species

General Public Alpaca Health and Reproduction

Breeder's Seminar and Veterinary Symposia

August 15th & 16th, 2008

FRIDAY – AUGUST 15, 2008 (MEMBERS ONLY)

Effect of Nutrition on Reproduction in Camelids -*Dr. B. Van Saun*

Emergencies in Camelid Reproduction -*Dr. Ahmed Tibary*

Neonatology in Camelids -*Dr. David Pugh*

Infertility in the Male and Female: Case Studies (Panel presentations and discussion)

SATURDAY – AUGUST 16, 2008 (MEMBERS AND PUBLIC)

Nutritional Management in Alpaca Herds -*Dr. B. Van Saun*

Biosecurity and Herd Health Programs -*Dr. David Pugh*

Reproductive Management and Infertility in Alpacas -*Dr. Ahmed Tibary*

Pregnancy and Birthing Complications -*Dr. Ahmed Tibary*

Congenital Defects and Care of the Newborn Cria -*Dr. David Pugh*

Panel discussion with questions and answers

August 12-16, 2008

2008 THERIO CONFERENCE

Companion Tours

Thursday, August 14, 2008

The Anheuser-Busch Connection 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Your day will begin with a visit to Grant's Farm, the 281-acre estate of the late August A. Busch, Jr., which is owned and operated by Anheuser-Busch Companies and includes a visit to the Clydesdale stallion barn. Then stroll to the historic Bauernhof, built just after the turn of the century. Here you will have a chance to enjoy refreshments while viewing the elegant stables and one of the largest carriage collections. Your air conditioned motor coach will then take you for lunch to the historic German restaurant Bevo Mill, located in South St. Louis. Bevo Mill was completed in 1916 and was designed by August Busch, Sr.

En route to the King of Beers-the Anheuser-Busch Brewery, your tour guide will familiarize you with the rich history of the colorful Busch family. Situated in a complex with over 70 red brick structures on 100 acres, the brewery buildings are known for their unique architecture and several are National Historic Landmarks.

During the tour you will see the world famous Clydesdales, the fermentation building, the packaging and bottling plant, and the brew house. To complete your day of the Anheuser-Busch Connection you will stop in the hospitality room to sample the family of Anheuser-Busch products.

A great way to spend the day with lunch included for just \$54 per person

Friday, August 15, 2008

Majestic St. Louis Tour 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Experience the majestic side of St. Louis through two of its most influential neighborhoods, the Central West End and Midtown. Your first stop is Cupples House located on the grounds of St. Louis University, the oldest university west of the Mississippi. Cupples house is a forty-two room mansion built by Samuel Cupples, a successful wood merchant in 1889. You will view a lavish interior which includes intricately carved paneling of imported woods, parquet floors and fine examples of Tiffany stained glass.

Next, experience the fabulous Fox Theater in style. Built in 1929 as a movie theater at a cost of six million dollars, the Fox Theater was built by William Fox of 20th Century Fox fame. Restored and Reopened in 1982, the Fox now hosts concerts and Broadway musicals. You will dine in the exclusive Fox Club located on the landing of the grand staircase which offers a glorious panorama of the lobby. A tour of the theater including backstage access will complete your visit.

Following your visit to the Fox Theater you will be taken to the St. Louis Cathedral, known to St. Louisans as the New Cathedral. Here you will be amazed by one of the largest collections of mosaics in the world – more than 84,000 square feet in 8,000 shades of glass! The fine pieces of stone and glass portray scenes from both the Old and New Testaments, the life of Saint Louis IX, King of France, and many men and women prominent in the history of St. Louis.

A day of fabulous historic beauty and a delicious meal all for only \$80 per person.

Register for one or both of these tours online at www.therio.org. Registration deadline is July 14th. Tours are subject to cancellation if minimum number of registrants is not met. Full refunds offered if cancellation occurs.

REGISTER ONLINE - WWW.THERIO.ORG

ACT Board Approves Student Outreach Funds

The ACT is seeking to promote awareness of the College and to encourage veterinary students to aspire to Diplomate status after graduation. As part of these goals, we have set up a Student Outreach Fund. The purpose of this fund is to facilitate travel and related expenses for non-local ACT Diplomates invited by student groups to visit and teach at veterinary schools. We hope that these visits will stimulate student enthusiasm for and interest in the College by broadening students' awareness of the many opportunities open to our Diplomates. This opportunity is open to all student groups. It is not required that the school has an active Student Chapter of the Society for Theriogenology. Each school must designate one student as its representative.

Amount: The ACT will pay up to \$1000 in travel-related and/or associated speaking expenses per application for up to 5 invited Diplomates annually. Each student group can submit more than one application per year. However, in the event that more than 5 quality proposals are received, preference will be given to those student groups that have not yet received an award.

Overview: Each student group is encouraged to submit one or more proposals outlining their plans for inviting a specific Diplomate to visit their Veterinary College. Invited Diplomates must not be affiliated with the student applicants' Veterinary College and must be an individual with whom the students would otherwise not have an interaction. The invited Diplomate should agree to provide education to the students. Education can be in the form of formal lectures, wet labs, round table discussions, etc. Topics can be of the students' and/or Diplomate's choosing but must in some way promote awareness of the discipline of theriogenology in general and, more specifically, should highlight one or more of the many varied advantages that Diplomate status carries.

Funds Available: 5 x \$1,000 stipends will be available annually.

Recommended Procedure: Interested student groups first should identify a Diplomate that they would like to invite to their school. Your faculty advisor is likely to be an excellent resource in choosing the right person and in selecting a topic that is of interest to your group. The student representative then should contact the Diplomate to confirm his or her interest in the program. Once the Diplomate has agreed to the visit, an application should be completed by the student group and submitted to the Awards Committee of the American College of Theriogenologists.

Application Process:

1) Interested student groups should complete an application form available from the American College of Theriogenologists main office or from the website. In addition to information on the student group and the visiting Diplomate, the application must include a detailed description of the proposed program and a budget. If costs of Diplomate travel and/or other program expenses will exceed the \$1,000 stipend, then the student group must provide additional information on how these expenses will be covered.

2) A letter of support from a representative of the Veterinary College must accompany the application. This letter must document that the Veterinary College supports the proposal and will allow use of its facilities if and as needed to support the program (e.g., lecture hall, hospital space, animals, etc.)

Only those proposals deemed appropriate will be approved for funding. Award money must be spent within 10 months of notification that a proposal has been funded.

Deadlines for Application:

Completed applications must be received by the Chair of the ACT Awards Committee by Nov. 1, 2008. Applications should be saved as MS Word files and sent in electronic form. Members of the Awards Committee will review all proposals and will make ranked recommendations to the ACT Executive Board in time for the Board's annual winter meeting. Rankings will be reviewed and approved by the Board. Student groups will be notified of the final decisions by February 14, 2009. Successful groups will be responsible for notifying the visiting Diplomate of the status of the application.

Student Outreach Funds Application Form

University Affiliation:

Student Group:

Estimated Number of Participating Students:

Designated Student Representative/Contact Person

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

E-mail address:

Faculty Contact Person

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

E-mail address:

Invited Diplomat

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

E-mail address:

Proposed Date(s) of Program:

Title of Program:

Format of Program (i.e., lecture, wet lab, round table, other (if other, please explain). Do not exceed space provided.

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

Student Outreach Funds Application Form (Continued)

Program Description (limit 1 page, single spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font, minimum of 1 inch margins)

If this program involves laboratories, please use additional pages to describe facilities available for use, animal availability, equipment availability, etc. You basically need to show us that you CAN do what you are proposing to do.

If live animals are involved, the use of these animals for the purposes listed in this proposal must be approved by the University's Animal Care and Use Committee. Has this approval been obtained? Yes No Approval Number _____.

Budget

Diplomate Travel Budget:

Airfare:

Hotel:

Ground Transportation:

Meals:

Other:

Total: _____

Other Expenses:

If there will be additional costs involved with your proposal (above and beyond the \$1,000 stipend), please list them here. Please also provide assurance that these additional costs will be covered. You need to show us that you can pay for what you are proposing.

NOTE: If application and budget are approved, funds will be dispersed. However, ACT MUST receive copies of all receipts documenting expenditures within thirty (30) days of completion of program.

**Send Applications to:
American College of Theriogenologists
Attn: Student Outreach Program
PO Box 3065
Montgomery, AL 36109-3065**

For additional information, please contact: Dr. Charles Franz, Executive Director
(334) 395-4666/charles@franzmgt.com