Dear Colleagues:

I cannot believe that we are already in April and by the time you get this newsletter almost half of the year will be gone. Time goes fast and particularly when there are a lot of things to accomplish.

I would like to start with a report on the activities of your executive board so far this year. We had quite a busy winter meeting in Albuquerque on January 30th and a combined ACT and SFT board meeting on Jan 31st. First, it is my pleasure to report that our college continues to grow and strengthen its financial position based on the financial report and budget that Dr. Stuart Meyers and Franz Management prepared. We definitely have several challenges that lay ahead and the college, with its various committees, continues to work towards making our specialty further recognized as a key discipline in veterinary practice.

The board also received a report from Dr. Mushtaq Memon, chair of the scientific abstract committee. Those who have attended past annual conferences are aware of the wonderful work this committee does, and the rapidly increasing number and quality of abstract submissions in both the competitive as well as the non-competitive categories. The committee oversaw the review process of well over 45 abstracts for this years conference. This is great news as most of the abstracts were submitted by Theriogenology residents and graduate students. I have no doubt the scientific abstracts will continue to grow and strengthen its financial position based on the financial report and budget that Dr. Stuart Meyers and Franz Management prepared. We definitely have several challenges that lay ahead and the college, with its various committees, continues to work towards making our specialty further recognized as a key discipline in veterinary practice.

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Dr. Phil Prater reported on the examination committee meeting. This committee which met in January to develop the 2009 certification examination devotes a huge amount of time to this mission of the college. They are all to be commended for their effort to continue diligent work on refining the exam and developing a strong question database. The ACT board would like to thank all the committee and the outgoing past chair, Dr. Sylvia Bedford-Guaus for their dedication and hard work. Dr. Leo Brito has been appointed as the newest member of this committee.

Dr. Prater presented 21 applications requesting approval to take the 2009 ACT certifying exam. The board also approved 13 new mentorship program applications. Dr. Prater reported that as of January 2009 there were 47 (36 standard and 11 alternate route) candidates eligible to take the certifying examination.

At their recent winter meeting the combined boards of the SFT and ACT voted to form the Theriogenology Foundation, whose mission will be to raise funds for the support and advancement of theriogenology. Plans are underway to file for 501c-3 status with the Internal Revenue Service, which, when completed, will allow tax deductible contributions to be made to the Foundation. The funds raised by the Foundation will be used for research grants, scholarships, speakers for student chapters, and awards honoring worthy theriogenologists.

Both boards expressed the desire to support the strengthening of the position of theriogenology in veterinary education.
Report from the President
Continued from page 1

This is another positive sign of the health of the college and the interest placed on our discipline. Given this increasing number of applications and the difficulty in maintaining an updated record on the progress of each candidate it has become increasingly important to have a mechanism of registration of candidates prior to their examination year. A proposal has been submitted by the residency committee.

Dr. Dale Paccamonti, our college’s representative to the ABVS, presented some important developments and issues currently under consideration including recertification of diplomates, insurance for specialty organizations, job analysis, examination writing and information on the National Organization of Competency Assurance. On behalf of all the college, I would like to thank Dr. Paccamonti for his devotion and hard work on behalf of the college. The board acted on the recommendation to form a separate credentialing committee and appoint an appeals committee. A credentialing committee will be formed by four diplomates and the ACT secretary serving as chair. Drs. Russell Crisman, Gary Nie, Stuart Meyers and Dale Paccamonti were appointed to a task force to work on a recertification policy as this has become one of the top issues considered by the ABVS.

Dr. Travis Meredith reported on the ACT Mission Committee. Despite his efforts, progress has been relatively slow due to a lack of response from the college membership. As you may have noticed from the exchange recently on the ACT Listserv, the issue of branding and marketing continues to be on the mind of the majority of our colleagues and needs to be addressed. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Meredith is willing to continue to lead this effort and I have also noticed that several members have responded positively and would like to join this committee. We look forward to hearing more from this committee as it addresses issues with a formal evaluation of the College’s awareness, reputation and credibility and makes recommendations for the use of resources for activities related to market research and any re-branding projects.

I reported on the residency training committee efforts. The main proposal of this committee was to initiate a process of registration of residency programs and residents. Registration forms and guidelines are being discussed and shall be in place on or after July 1, 2009, pending approval of the board. The committee also produced lists of recommended facilities and equipment for residency programs that will be posted on the college website.

The board felt that as the discussion on residency training program continues to develop there will be a need for changes to the constitution and bylaws (CBL). To this effect, a proposal was made to change the CBL to allow for development and maintenance of a General Information Guideline (GIG). If approved, this will allow for updating credentialing requirements in a more timely manner.

Dr. Augustine Peter reported on his attendance at the November, 2008 meeting of the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR) in France. There is a general agreement that our two colleges need to work more closely on several aspects of promoting the specialty.

The board discussed an invitation to participate in the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) consortium to address a national plan for veterinary medical education. The aim of the consortium is to develop agreement on societal need and skills and knowledge needed by graduates, explore educational models and discuss licensure and accreditation issues. The ACT as well as the SFT board felt that this is an opportunity to stress the importance of Theriogenology in veterinary education and voted to participate in this action of the AAVMC. Dr. Augustine Peter volunteered to serve on the steering committee of this AAVMC project.

Amongst several great accomplishments, the highlight of our traditional combined meeting with the SFT board was the finalization of the project of the new publication “Clinical Theriogenology”. This scientific journal will be officially launched this summer with the publication of the proceedings of the annual SFT/ACT conference and will be the official journal of both the SFT and ACT. This decision was reached by the Board because we felt that the journal is in good hands under the leadership of Dr. Robert Youngquist and the excellent editorial board which is in place. Also, this partnership will strengthen the excellent relationship that the ACT and the SFT have enjoyed for decades and serve Theriogenologists and the veterinary community in general with authoritative and timely publication of relevant clinical work. We hope that Theriogenologists in academia as well as in private practice will actively participate by submitting applied research findings and clinical observations in this journal. Other important developments discussed in the combined meeting included the establishment of the Theriogenology Foundation under the leadership of Dr. Tom Riddle and the Student Proficiency Award in Theriogenology. I am sure you have seen by now the wonderful CE opportunity of the Annual Conference scientific program under the theme of “Practical Pharmacology”. In addition, this year’s ACT Educator’s Forum, chaired by Dr. Stuart Meyers, will be on the theme of “How to teach Theriogenology” and will feature several speakers on curriculum teaching techniques.

Finally, the nominating committee has received an outstanding slate of candidates for the vice-president and board member positions. Please read the bios of the candidates put forth by the committee and approved by the board for this position. Your participation in the selection of the leadership of our college is extremely important so please consider these candidates and submit your ballot in a timely manner. Given the extremely varied and outstanding quality of the nominees the committee has requested that the list of volunteers be available for future positions.

In closing, I would like to renew my invitation to all colleagues to participate in the governance of the college through volunteering to serve on the various committees and task forces. We believe that the college needs the participation of every member. Please do not hesitate to contact executive board members directly. For contact details, please visit the ACT website (www.theriogenology.org). We are all looking forward to your comments and an opportunity to see you in person at the 2009 Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM. The scientific program as well as the social events put together by Dr. Riddle and his team of session chairs and Franz Management will be another great success!

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Thank you to Our 2009 Conference Sponsors
(as of 4.30.2009)

Fort Dodge
Intervet-Schering Plough L
Lane Manufacturing
Pfizer
Welcome to the Class of 2008 Diplomates!

Drs. Joy Altermatt, C. Scott Bailey, Marco Bregliano, Anthony Claes, Gurmeet Dhaliwal, Erica Gee, Allan Gunn, Stephen Hughes, Jason Johnson, Katherine Naughton, Angelika Stock

2008 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.”

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American College of Theriogenologists 4/01/09

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Breakdown By Employment Type

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2009 Therio Annual Conference & Symposia

ACT EDUCATOR'S FORUM

All members of the ACT and SFT are welcome to join the Educator's Forum immediately following the Theriogenology Awards Banquet at 8pm on Thursday, August 27th. The Educators group has been actively involved in discussions about residency training programs. This year's evening meeting will focus on “How We Teach Theriogenology” to veterinary students and will feature short talks by several of our most active teachers. Dr. Bruce Eilts will present an overview of Theriogenology teaching and learning at Louisiana State University; Drs. Wendell Cole and Josep "Pep" Rutllant will discuss preclinical and clinical teaching in a problem-based learning curriculum at Western University of the Health Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. Peggy Root Kustritz will present an overview of preclinical small animal teaching at the University of Minnesota, and Dr. Bruce Christensen from Iowa State University will discuss classroom technology in a “How I Do it” presentation. There will be time for active discussion in an informal atmosphere and we hope you will choose to attend this year's Educator's Forum. Looking forward to seeing you! Stu Meyers
ACT and SFT Plan to Form Foundation
Continued from page 1

Beginning with the renewal of membership for 2010, all members will be given the option to contribute through a dues check-off to the Theriogenology Foundation.

To kick off the formation of the Foundation, a live and silent auction will be held on Thursday evening, August 27th at the Theriogenologist of the Year Awards Dinner during the upcoming Therio conference in Albuquerque. Some of the items planned for the auctions include tickets to the opening ceremonies of the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Ky., a week’s stay at Kiawah Island, S.C., and recent books written by theriogenologists and signed by the authors. Members are encouraged to contribute items, such as books, jewelry, veterinary memorabilia, and trips to the auctions. Contact Tom Riddle (triddle@roodandriddle.com) with questions about contributions. Please plan to attend and support this exciting new event.

The committee was delighted to receive 49 abstracts this year for consideration for presentation at the 2009 annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The submitted abstracts included 17 for competitive and 32 for non-competitive categories. The committee received the abstracts without author names and the institutional affiliation for un-biased evaluation. Due to the large number of submitted abstracts, the committee is very happy to include a poster session as a part of the conference this year. More than 10 abstracts will be presented as posters in the exhibit area of the conference.

The committee is thrilled to be joined this year by Sara Lyle (4 year term, small animal emphasis) and Kristina Lu (multi-species, 2 year ad hoc member), replacing Mushtaq Memon and ad hoc member Rejean Lefebvre. The committee appreciates contributions made by out-going members and a special thanks to our immediate past chair, Hannah Galantino-Homer for her guidance provided to the committee during this year.

Next year we will seek nominations for a regular member with an emphasis in Food Animal Theriogenology and for a new ad hoc member with ACT certification of 2 years or less duration. These nominations are open to all ACT diplomates with an interest in basic or applied theriogenology research. We wish to emphasize that diplomates with either a research or predominantly clinical background are encouraged to nominate themselves since our goal is to represent diverse perspectives on the committee.

The oral presentations and posters will cover all species, and are based upon findings on basic and clinical theriogenology. The abstracts presentations will start at the opening night with Happy Hour abstracts on Tuesday, Competitive Abstracts session on Wednesday and species-themed abstract sessions on Thursday and Friday. We look forward to seeing you all!

Respectfully submitted by,
Mushtaq A. Memon, Chair
Scientific Information/Abstracts

NEW JOURNAL TO DEBUT

Clinical Theriogenology
Call for Papers
New Journal Dedicated to Animal Reproduction
Summer 2009

The Society for Theriogenology and the American College of Theriogenologists are pleased to announce the launch of their new official journal entitled Clinical Theriogenology. The purpose of the journal is to publish in a timely manner peer-reviewed manuscripts relevant to the clinical practice of theriogenology in livestock, companion animals, and wildlife for veterinary practitioners, academic clinicians, animal scientists, and veterinary students. Clinical Theriogenology will publish four quarterly issues annually.

Members of the editorial board are: Drs. Dwight Wolfe, Carlos Risco, Juan Samper, Dickson Varner, Peggy Root Kustritz, Cheryl Lopate, Lionel Dawson, David Pugh, Gary Althouse, Warren Wilson, Robert Van Saun, and Cliff Shipley. The editor is Dr. Robert Youngquist.

The editorial scope of the journal is broad and manuscripts are invited in the following categories:

- Research reports
- Reviews of the current literature
- Clinical reports
- Innovative techniques
- Book reviews
- Letters to the editor
- Editorial opinion

In addition, the proceedings of the Society’s Annual Meeting and Symposia will be published in Clinical Theriogenology.

Manuscripts are to be prepared in a Microsoft Word compatible program and are to be submitted on disk or as an e-mail attachment to the editorial office at:

Clinical Theriogenology
Society for Theriogenology
P.O. Box 3007
Montgomery, AL 36109
334-395-4666
clinicaltherio@therio.org

Instructions for Authors and other information can be obtained by contacting the editor at:

therioeditor@therio.org or
youngquistr@missouri.edu
573-884-6774
general practitioner and the bench top scientist.”

Dr. Steven P. Brinsko received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1985 from the University of Florida and worked for two years in a mixed animal practice. In 1990, he became a Diplomate in the American College of Theriogenologists after completing a 3-year combined Theriogenology Residency/Master’s degree program at Texas A&M University. His Master’s thesis established the minimum safe interval from breeding to performing uterine lavage in mares. In 1995, he earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Sciences from Cornell University with minors in Reproductive Physiology and Immunology.

After completing his Ph.D. training in 1994, he joined the Veterinary faculty at Colorado State University. In 1998, Dr. Brinsko returned to Texas A&M University where he is currently Associate Professor and Chief of Theriogenology. His responsibilities include the training of veterinary students, residents and graduate students; clinical evaluation and treatment of mares and stallions, as well as research in equine reproduction, with emphasis on the stallion. Dr. Brinsko has given numerous presentations at national and international meetings and has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific publications as well as 15 book chapters related to the field of reproduction. He is an active AAEP member having served as facilitator of the Reproduction/Perinatology Forum and Co-chairman of the Reproduction Terminology Task Force. He has also served as Chairman of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Reproductive Technology Committee, is currently Chairman of Texas A&M University’s Interdisciplinary Faculty of Reproduction’s membership committee and a member of both the American College of Theriogenologists’ Equine Examination Question Development Team and Educators Working Group on Residency Requirements.

“I am honored to be nominated for this position and fully understand the magnitude of the commitment that would be required over the next four years if elected. I look forward to interacting with fellow members of the board to address the numerous concerns facing the veterinary profession and especially the discipline of Theriogenology. Reproduction used to be a mainstay of veterinary education, but at many institutions, its emphasis in the veterinary curriculum has waned. I hope to work together with fellow Diplomates, academicians, administrators and private practitioners to reverse this trend.”

Dr. Juan C. Samper graduated from veterinary school in Colombia in 1982 and after 3 years of general dairy and equine practice enrolled at the University of Minnesota completing a residency and PhD in 1990. In 1991 he became an ACT Diplomate.

His professional life after achieving diplomate status has given him the opportunity to experience both academia and private practice. He continues to have interest in both, exemplified by owning an equine practice and with his continuous efforts to publish original research as well as editing textbooks. These books have been assembled, Dr. Samper states, “In an effort to bridge the informational gap that sometimes exists between the general practitioner and the bench top scientist.”

According to Dr. Samper, his goal as an officer for the college would be to increase exposure with lay people, general practitioners and faculty administrators. He believes the College needs to make sure all diplomates understand that in order to be successful professionally in whatever species or area of work, it is critical to understand and have clear knowledge of the particular industry.

Dr. Samper says people breed animals for economic and sentimental reasons and as a group the College must understand these motivations in order to provide comprehensive advice. Residency programs must address these issues and emphasize that we practice reproductive medicine, according to Dr. Samper.

Dr. Samper believes if we fail to train residents in all aspects of particular industries we will become technicians and will continue to lose ground to other professionals that have skills in particular techniques but have little or no knowledge of medicine.

“I am honored to have this opportunity to be a candidate for the position of vice president and will do my utmost to represent the College to the best of my ability,” Dr. Samper says.

Executive Board Member
Director-At-Large

Dr. Jane Barber attended the University of Georgia for both her undergraduate and DVM (Class of 1982) degrees.

Armed with her credentials, Jane spent the next five years in private mixed animal practice. In 1987 she was asked to return to UGA for a Master’s program and clinical training in Behavior through the Department of Anatomy and Radiology. She studied maternal behavior in a herd of Belgian draft horses for her Master’s thesis. In 1990 she moved to the Twin Cities to begin a residency and graduate program in theriogenology. She became an ACT diplomate in 1993. A strong supporter of the College, Jane has attended every annual meeting barring one since she became a member.

Dr. Barber started her private practice, Veterinary Specialties at the Lake, in 2000. About 90% of her practice consists of small animal theriogenology referral cases. She continues to teach even while in private practice. She gives continuing education programs to both general practitioners and breeders. In 2003, she contributed 3 chapters to Small Animal Theriogenology, Margaret V. Root Kustritz (Ed.). She served as co-chairman for the small animal program at the 2004 Society for Theriogenology Annual Meeting, and has presented small animal theriogenology programs at WVC and CVC Conferences. Jane is committed to seeing the College grow. A primary focus is public relations, including public awareness and education. She would like every general practitioner and referral hospital to know where their nearest ACT members are located.

Another goal of Dr. Barber is to stimulate Therio interest in undergraduate “hopefuls,” veterinary students and recent graduates through a college supported mentoring program. Jane is interested in keeping veterinary medicine in the hands of veterinarians, particularly when theriogenology is one of the areas already experiencing encroachment from lay “practitioners.”

Another interest is to promote and support the various breeds and breeders through education of the general public and animal rights groups, in an effort to highlight the value in maintaining breed distinction.

Dr. Barber said she would be honored to serve on the board of directors and would work diligently for the good of the College.

(Continue on page 6)
Executive Board Member
Director-At-Large (Continued from page 5)

Dr. Arun Phatak graduated in 1962 from the University of Bombay with a BVSC. He received two Masters and one PhD from the University of Minnesota. His Masters are in nutrition and dairy cattle genetics and his PhD is in theriogenology.

Dr. Phatak became a Board Certified theriogenologist and a member of the ACT in 1979. He has been practicing as a consulting veterinarian since 1982. Dr. Phatak has extensive experience in monitoring of bovine hormonal labs and bovine metabolic diseases. His personal experience is in rectal palpations, ultrasounds, ELISA assays and management of reproduction in large dairy herds. His species of focus is dairy cattle.

Dr. Phatak has proctored two examinations and has done so by traveling at his own expense as a contribution to the College. He believes it is important to increase the number of bovine practitioners as the need for milk and beef products is still very high.

According to Dr. Phatak, “The number of bovine theriogenologists in the college is dwindling and I would like to be involved in seeing those numbers reversed over the next several years. I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the board of directors of the College.”

Honorary ACT Member

Dr. Melvin Fahning is a 1964 graduate of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and completed his PhD that same year with a thesis entitled “Some chemical analyses of bovine uterine fluid.” He worked in the dairy industry, specifically in advanced reproduction techniques in cattle, and as a professor and head of the theriogenology section at the University for many years.

Dr. Fahning taught obstetrics and bovine reproduction to veterinary professional students for decades, receiving the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award in 1995. He advised 7 Masters and 2 PhD students, many of whom are now Diplomates in the ACT, and was on numerous graduate committees, contributing to the training of over forty theriogenologists. He and Dr. Ray Zemjanis produced the first commercial teaching videos describing examination of the bovine reproductive tract per rectum and use of rectal palpation for pregnancy diagnosis in cattle.

Dr. Fahning was a pioneer in the technology, having worked in the industry since 1972 and with multiple peer-reviewed publications to his credit. He has been a strong supporter of the field of theriogenology at every level, from incoming veterinary students through residents and graduate students. He is considered to be an excellent teacher and has propelled bovine theriogenology forward with his work in embryo transfer.

Board Revises Guidelines for Zemjanis Outreach Fund

The Zemjanis Outreach Fund was established in 1994 to honor the memory of Dr. Ray Zemjanis, a longtime member of the Society for Theriogenology and Charter Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists. The fund is supported by donations from members and corporate sponsors and is intended for partial support of veterinarians traveling from developing countries to the United States for educational purposes. As a result of a combined board action on January 31, 2009 the guidelines were amended to allow for sending a trainer to a developing country to conduct training on-site.

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.

Dr. John Steiner Memorial Fund Update

Immediately following the untimely death of former ACT president Dr. John Steiner in May of 2008, a joint memorial fund was established through the Foundation of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and included the American College of Theriogenologists and the Society for Theriogenology.

To date $21,860.00 has been contributed to this memorial. The memorial fund remains open for donations by going online at www.aaep.org/foundation_make_gift.htm or mailing a contribution in Dr. Steiner’s name to the AAEP Foundation, 4075 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, Kentucky 40511.

The boards of directors of the College and the Society wish to thank everyone who has made a contribution in Dr. Steiner’s memory.

MAKE SURE YOU MARK YOUR BALLOT AND RETURN IT IN THE ENCLOSED PRE-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE BY THE JUNE 30, 2009 DEADLINE.
See Albuquerque From a Hot Air Balloon!

When was the last time you did something for the first time in your life? While attending the 2009 Therio Conference and Symposia, make plans to take your family on a hot air balloon ride. Albuquerque is world famous for its balloon festivals. Get a group of your fellow conference-goers and reserve a flight at Rainbow Ryders, Inc; 1-800-725-2477. Go to www.rainbowriders.com for more information.

The true Southwest awaits you in historic Albuquerque!

Immerse yourself in rich culture and heritage, rooted in centuries of history. Soak in blue skies and sun that shines 310 days a year—perfect for outdoor activities. Breathe in the high desert air scented with sage and piñon, and you’ll understand why Albuquerque is a destination like no other!

Dr. John Kastelic Receives 2009 Theriogenologist of the Year

John P. Kastelic, DVM, PhD, Dip. ACT has been selected to receive the “Theriogenologist of the Year” award for 2009 according to an announcement by Dr. Charles Estill, Awards Committee Chair of the American College of Theriogenologists. Dr. Kastelic is the 10th recipient since the award was established in 1999.

Dr. Kastelic is being recognized for his contributions to the field of Theriogenology not only in the realm of research but for his willingness to support the College and the Society whenever he has been called upon.

Dr. Kastelic is a veterinary graduate from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Saskatchewan, where he also performed a residency in Theriogenology after two years in private practice. He then followed on with a PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After his graduate training, Dr. Kastelic stayed as a research assistant at the university for five years which led him into his present position as Senior Research Scientist at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Centre in Lethbridge, Alberta. He conducted pioneering studies determining the ultrasonographic characteristics of early gestation in cattle, which contributed to the development of pharmacological treatments for manipulation of the estrus cycle.

Proving to be a very versatile professional, Dr. Kastelic has also been a prolific researcher in the field of bovine andrology. Through various experimental designs, his work has provided new insights into the physiological mechanisms involved in testicular thermoregulation, the sources of variability in thermoregulatory capability among bulls, and the effects of increase testicular temperature.

When a temporary vacancy on the examination committee arose, Dr. Kastelic was asked to help. According to colleagues he never hesitated and unsatisfyingly donated his time to help with the annual construction of the instrument necessary for assessment of aspiring theriogenologists as they seek admittance to the College. This willingness came in spite of having just completed one of the longest ever examination committee tenures.

Make plans to attend the Therio conference scheduled for August 25-29, 2009 in Albuquerque, NM at which time Dr. Kastelic will be honored at the Therio Award Banquet slated for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 27th.

Congratulations Dr. Kastelic!

AMENDMENTS TO ACT CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS PROPOSED

As many of you know, there are several issues being discussed at the level of our college as well as at the level of the American Board of Veterinary Specialties concerning residency training and certification. The board will be certainly asked to act quickly on resolution of some of these issues in the future.

During our winter meeting the board decided to look into development of a General Information Guideline (GIG) to provide an easy mechanism to adjust requirements and other matters regarding Theriogenology training and certification. This approach has been adopted by several other specialty colleges. Changes to the ACT Constitution and Bylaws have been proposed by a group of diplomates led by Dr. Gary Nie who is familiar with GIG from other veterinary specialties and were accepted by the board. These changes are submitted to you for review (pages 8 and 9) and a vote is scheduled in the upcoming general meeting at the annual conference and symposia in Albuquerque, August 25-29, 2009.

Please review these proposed changes carefully and be prepared to vote.

Thank you - Ahmed Tibary - President

Page 7
Article II—Certification

Section 4. Diplomate

a) A Diplomate shall:

1. Meet the general requirements for certification as set forth in Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution and Article VI of the By Laws,
2. have advanced competency in theriogenology,
3. pass the certifying examination given by the college and
4. be unanimously approved by the Executive Board

b. A Diplomate shall have satisfactory standing in the profession.

c. Individuals may qualify as candidates for Diplomate status by either a standard route through formal education and training, or an alternative route:

1) Through the standard route, a candidate shall have completed at least one (1) year of clinical practice, or its equivalent, subsequent to attainment of a veterinary medical degree. In addition, the candidate shall have completed a minimum of two (2) years in an established/supervised training program, which includes experience in teaching, research, and/or practice of theriogenology. This training program shall be completed following attainment of a veterinary medical degree. This training program shall include a Diplomate of either the American College of Theriogenologists or European College of Animal Reproduction, or a Fellow of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (Animal Reproduction).

2) In the alternative route, to be eligible to sit the examination, a candidate with a veterinary medical degree but lacking formal advanced training shall have a minimum of six (6) years of practice experience with major emphasis in theriogenology, including successful completion of a 2-year pre-approved study and mentorship program. This study and mentorship program shall include a Diplomate of either the American College of Theriogenologists or European College of Animal Reproduction, or a Fellow of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (Animal Reproduction).

Article IV—Purpose

Section 1. The purposes of the College shall be the advancement of knowledge and competence, in the areas of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate education, research, and clinical service in theriogenology by:

a) the establishment of a certifying agency organization to recognize veterinarians as specialists in theriogenology,

b) establishing requirements for postgraduate education and experience prerequisites to certification in theriogenology,

c) examining and certifying veterinarians as specialists in theriogenology,

d) the encouragement of scientific investigation and research and the reporting of these,

e) the development of continuing education methods and programs for disseminating information to and increasing knowledge of all veterinarians, especially practitioners,

f) the promotion of graduate study and residency programs, and

g) the establishment of high standards and guidelines for professional attainment and specialization.

(Proposed amendment changes continued page 9)

Have You Paid Your 2009 Dues?

If you have any question concerning the status of your membership in the College, please contact the executive office today; 334.395.4666. Pertinent sections of the Bylaws pertaining to dues include Article I, Section 4, and Article VII Maintenance of Certification.

The complete Bylaws may be found on the website (www.theriogenology.org) by following the link “About ACT”
Article II—Executive Board

Section 9. The Executive Board shall first consider all business and policies pertaining to the affairs of the College. It shall receive and evaluate all applications, evaluate applicants, receive reports of the Training/Credentialing and Certifying Examination Committees, and grant certifications. Candidates must be unanimously approved by the Executive Board before they are recommended to the Certifying Examination Committee. Ballots for petitioners to candidacy may be cast through the mail or by electronic means such as fax or e-mail; dissent from unanimity must be resolved by the Executive Board in session. It shall consider and act upon charges against Diplomates for alleged offenses against the Constitution and By-Laws, written requests for excuse of absence, charges of unprofessional conduct, and expulsion of Diplomates. It shall receive nominations for officers and Delegates-at-Large from the Nominating Committee, select time and place of meetings, direct the use and investment of funds, and make recommendations for Honorary Member or Emeritus Diplomate status. An Executive Board report shall be made annually to the annual business meeting of the College. No decision of the Executive Board shall be binding except by majority vote of the Diplomates voting at the annual business meeting.

Article IV—Committees

Section 4. The Executive Board shall annually appoint an Appeals Committee whose duty it shall be to review any Petition for Reconsideration filed by an affected party. This committee shall consist of four (4) Diplomates comprising the Immediate Past President, who will serve as Chair, and three (3) other Diplomates of the College who are not currently members of the Executive Board or Certifying Examination Committee; at least 1 of those 3 members shall have served as a member of the Certifying Examination Committee of the College.

Section 5. The Executive Board may appoint other committees which are deemed necessary or are ordered by majority vote of the College. The Executive Board shall appoint a Training/Credentialing Committee whose duties shall be to establish requirements for postgraduate education and experience prerequisites to certification in theriogenology, establish standards for training and mentorship programs, review and approve training program and trainee registration applications, review credentialing applications and make recommendations to the Executive Board for approval.

   a) The committee shall consist of seven (7) Diplomates including The Immediate Past President and six (6) additional Diplomates.
   
   b) Diplomates shall serve a term of six (6) years except for the Immediate Past President who shall serve a term of one (1) year consistent with the term as The Immediate Past President of The College.

1) Initial committee appointments shall be for staggered terms from one (1) to six (6) years
2) Members shall serve as committee chair in their fifth year of service.
3) Members shall not serve concurrently on the Executive Board or Certifying Examination Committee.

c) Standards and requirement for postgraduate education and experience prerequisites to certification in theriogenology shall be established in a General Information Guide for The College.

1) The initial General Information Guide shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.
2) The General Information Guide shall be reviewed annually with recommendations, if any, for changes submitted to the Executive Board for approval at the summer board meeting.

d) Credentialing applications shall be reviewed with recommendations submitted to the Executive Board for approval at the winter board meeting.

Article VI. Requirements for Certification

Section 1. General requirements for certification are listed in the Constitution, Article II, Sections 2 and 4. Specific requirements for certification shall be published in a General Information Guide for The College.

   a) A minimum of three (3) years of experience after graduating from a recognized college or school of veterinary medicine is required for certification. The experience must include:

1) one (1) year of clinical practice or the equivalent as determined by the Training/Credentialing Committee and then approved by the Executive Board.
2) a minimum of two (2) years additional training in a program approved by the Training/Credentialing Committee and Executive Board.
3) trainees must register with the Executive Director of the College within 90 days of beginning their training to have their program reviewed and approved by the Training/Credentialing Committee. Failure to register may result in disqualification of all or part of the trainees program.

Please Note - Slight Changes in formatting will occur in the final document as a result of these amendments
The Exam Committee of the ACT met in St. Augustine Beach, Florida, from January 11-16, 2009. The following committee members were in attendance: Dr. Beverly Purswell, Chair; Dr. Sylvia Bedford-Guaus, Past-Chair; Dr. Reed Holyoak, In-coming Chair; Dr. Mary Beth Stanton; Dr. Sherrie Clarke; Dr. Jack Smith and Dr. Philip Prater, Secretary of the ACT.

The committee began in earnest Sunday evening and continued, almost non-stop, through the multiple choice and essay questions until Tuesday afternoon. The practical exam was completed by Tuesday night. 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 Tuesday night.

The committee continues to be overwhelmingly positive about the SMT Write question management system. The software is functioning well and is making exam development quicker and more efficient. The past-chair, spent several hours on Wednesday training the chair and incoming 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. Holyoak and Stanton expressed a strong need for questions in the areas of bio-technology and companion animal sciences, please feel free to forward them to the committee members.

Question development teams are slowly adding to the bank of questions in the ACT question data base. Exam committee members will begin to write some questions for the data base, as one of their functions for the committee. The committee is still in dire need for questions in the areas of bio-technology and companion animal, therefore, if there are those of you who have a battery of bio-tech and/or companion animal 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. Sylvia Bedford-Guaus will be rotating off. Sylvia is incredibly knowledgeable and efficient and she has been extremely valuable to the committee with her abilities on SMT Write software. She will be greatly missed. The committee is submitting names of three candidates to the Executive Board; one of which will be approved to fill Dr. Bedford-Guaus position.

The committee would like to extend its deepest appreciation to Dr. Mary Beth Stanton for her excellent culinary skills and feeding us so well during our time in confinement at the testing abode. Besides being an accomplished equine theriogenologist, Dr. Stanton is the true “Iron Chef” of the ACT. Thanks, Mary Beth.

The 2009 ACT Certifying Examination will be held immediately prior to the SFT meeting, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The American College of Theriogenologists fondly remembers Charter Diplomate Dr. D. John Williams of Watkinsville, GA, who passed away December 14, 2008 at the age of 81.

Following graduation from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in 1953, he was in private practice in Cordele, GA. Dr. Williams earned a Masters of Science Degree from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine and a FRVC degree in Stockholm Sweden. He taught theriogenology at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in the department of Large Animal Medicine until his retirement in 1989 as Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Williams will be remembered by many animal science students, veterinary students, graduate students and colleagues as a person who cared deeply for his patients and shared his knowledge and kindness with everyone he came in contact with.

Dr. Williams was a World War II veteran, serving in the United States Navy. He was an avid bible student and made numerous missions trips to South America accompanied by his wife Carolyne.

Dr. Williams is survived by his wife, a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren and one great grandson.

Dr. Williams will be remembered by many animal science students, veterinary students, graduate students and colleagues as a person who cared deeply for his patients and shared his knowledge and kindness with everyone he came in contact with.

STUDENT CASE PRESENTATIONS

2009 Therio Conference
Wednesday, August 26th, 2009

Serum anti-sperm antibodies associated with orchitis in a bull
— Ika Vlok – Kansas State University

Granulosa Cell Tumor in a 12 month-old heifer: clinical and endocrine evaluation
— Sam Nielsen – Washington State University

Artificial vagina induced circumferential preputial avulsion in the bovine
— Eric J. Behlke – Iowa State University

Clitoral Hypertrophy in a Weimaraner
— Randi Armstrong – Auburn University

Management of a Sertoli Cell Tumor in a Stallion
— Morgan Krause – University of Florida

Correction of uterine torsion in a 17-year old Belgian mare via bilateral flank laparotomy
— Kathleen Scarlett Black - Auburn University

Family Fun Night
2009 Therio Conference
Wednesday, August 26th, 2009

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
www.indianpueblo.org
Officers

President
Dr. Ahmed Tibary
Washington State University
Dept. of Veterinary Clinical Services
Pullman, WA 99164-6610
Phone: 509/335-1963
Fax: 509/335-3549
Tibary@vetmed.wsu.edu

President-Elect
Dr. Charles Estill
Oregon State University
158 Magruder Hall
Corvallis, OR 97333-8555
Phone: 541/737-7667
Fax: 541/737-8651
charles.estill@oregonstate.edu

Vice-President
Dr. Augustine Peter
625 Harrison St. Lynn Hall
Purdue University
West LaFayette, IN 47907-1249
Phone: 765/494-5808
Fax: 765/494-1108
petera@purdue.edu

Past President
Dr. Gary Nie
Worldwide Veterinary Consultants
1325 W. Sunshine #526
Springfield, MO 65807
Phone: 417/866-2923
Fax: 417/865-6959
niegary@earthlink.net

Secretary
Dr. Philip E. Prater
(Term Expires 2010)
Morehead State University
25 MSU Farm Drive
Morehead, KY 40351
Phone: 606/783-2326
p.prater@morehead-st.edu

Treasurer
Dr. Stuart Meyers
(Term Expires 2011)
University of CA Davis, SVM
Anatomy Physiology & Cell Biology
One Shields Ave
Davis, CA 95616
Phone: 530/752-9511
Fax: 530/752-7690
smeyers@ucdavis.edu

Directors

Dr. Rod Christmas
(Term Expires 2010)
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.
Manager, Veterinary Resources
2621 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506
Phone: 816/236-8245
Fax: 816/671-4995
rchristm@bi-vetmedica.com

Dr. Russell Crisman
(Term Expires 2009)
823 Wyatt Lane
Philomath, OR 97370-9012
Phone: 541/737-2858
Fax: 541/737-8651
russell.crisman@oregonstate.edu

Dr. Ben Espy
(Term Expires 2011)
203 Rosemary
San Antonio, TX 78209
Phone: 210/861-4765
benespys@excite.com

Committees

Exam - Drs. Beverly Purswell (chair), Sherrie Clark, Sylvia Bedford
Gaus, Reed Holyoak, Phil Prater, Jack Smith, Mary Beth Stanton

Scientific Information/Abstract - Drs. -
Mushtaq Memon (chair), Hannah
Galantino-Homer, Michelle Kutzler,
Rejean C. Lefebvre,
Marco A. Coutinho da Silva, AnnaTraas

Nominating - Drs. Ahmed Tibary (chair),
Margo Macpherson, Augustine
Peter, Craig Smith

Awards Nominating (2009) - Drs. Chuck
Estill (chair), Jane Barber,
Douglas Freeman, Michelle Kutzler,
Richard Linhart, Corey Miller,
Arun Phatak

Awards Nominating (2010) - Drs.
Augustine Peter (chair), Lionel Dawson,
Bruce Eilts, David Hanlon, Bruce Hollett,
Lloyd Kloppe, Harry Momont

Education - Drs. Ahmed Tibary (chair),
Claire Card, Wynne Collins,
Maria Ferrer Soledad, Aime Johnson,
Richard Linhart, Tiana Magee, Stuart
Meyers, Gary Nie, Dale Paccamonti,
Peggy Root Kustritz, Natalia Santos,
John Verstegen, Richard Wheeler,
Robyn R. Wilborn

Executive Offices of the College
P.O. Box 3065
Montgomery, AL  36109
Phone: 334/395-4666
Fax: 334/270-3399

Executive Director
Dr. Charles Franz
Charles@franzmgt.com

Director of PR/Communications
Mr. Rick Derrick
rick@franzmgt.com

Director of Membership/Meetings
Mrs. Tammy Wallace
tammy@franzmgt.com

Membership Coordinator
Ms. Linda Register linda@franzmgt.com

Saturday, August 29th, 2009
Therio Annual Conference
Small Animal Symposium

CASA demo and dry lab -
Dr. John Verstegen

The puppy puzzle -
Pat Hastings

Parturition management -
Karen Copley

Puppy resuscitation and neonatology -
Karen Copley

Update on canine brucellosis -
Dr. Bruce Hollett

Advanced semen diagnostics -
Dr. Cheryl Lopate

Computer-assisted sperm analysis (CASA) -
Dr. John Verstegen
Special Events
Family Fun Night at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center; Competitive Abstracts; Happy Hour Abstracts; ACT Educators Forum; SFT Business Meeting; ACT Business Meeting; Student Case Presentations; Bartlett Award & Address; Therio Awards Dinner

General Session
Ethical compounding - Dr. Scott Stanley
The challenges pharmaceutical companies face in getting a new product to market - Dr. Bob Stenbom

Small Animal Tracks
Maternal and neonatal nutrition and canine development - Dr. Russ Kelley
Antibiotic use in prostatic disease in dogs - Dr. Margaret Root Kustritz
Neoplasia of the reproductive tract of the dog - Dr. Margaret Root Kustritz
Orchitis and epididimitis - Dr. Bruce Hollett
AKC - Margaret Poindexter and Dr. Dana Bleifer
Endometritis Part I & II - Dr. Sara Lyle
TECT technique for endometrial biopsy - Dr. John Verstegen
Reproductive laparoscopy - Part I & II - Dr. Randy Hutchison
Neonatology - Dr. Autumn Davidson
Neonatal and pediatric ultrasonography - Part I & II - Drs. Autumn Davidson and Tom Baker
Semen preparation for chilled and fresh - Drs. Jane Barber and Steve Escobar
Pre-breeding exam and timing - Drs. Ana Adams and Kit Kampschmidt
Collection and evaluation of the stud dog - Dr. Melissa Goodman
Testicular abnormalities causing infertility - Drs. Bruce Hollett
Breeding methods - Drs. John Verstegen and Will Schultz
Pregnancy diagnosis and problems - Drs. Autumn Davidson, Tom Baker and Will Schultz
Parturition and neonatal resuscitation - Dr. Katherine Settle

Production Animal Track
Antimicrobial therapy in bovine reproduction - Dr. Misty Edmondson
Bovine estrus synchronization from a practitioner’s perspective - Dr. Herris Maxwell
Cystic ovarian disease in cattle - Dr. Jack D. Smith
Legal issues in the pharmaceutical management of bovine reproduction - Dr. Gatz Riddell
Applying ultrasound to individual dairy cow reproductive management - Dr. Kevin McSweeney
Managing the “problem” donor - Dr. John Shull
Applying ultrasound to dairy herd level reproductive management - Dr. Kevin McSweeney
A closer look at certain sperm abnormalities in the bull - Dr. Jack Smith
Ecobolic and tocolytic agents in bovine reproduction - Dr. Misty Edmondson
Utilizing dairy records to maximize reproduction - Dr. Bruce Clark
Current status of trichomoniasis in the United States - Dr. Lew Strickland

Equine Track
Stallion research update - Dr. Regina Turner
Drugs for behavior modification in stallions and geldings - Dr. Sue McDonnell
Nutraceuticals and other drugs used to enhance fertility in stallions - Dr. Steve Brinsko
Cryobiology and a new look at the preservation of stallion semen - Dr. Henrik Lehn-Jensen
Antibiotics and other additives for semen extenders to enhance fertility - Dr. Steve Brinsko
Endometritis in the mare with focus on streptococcus equi subspecies zooepidemicus - Dr. Henrik Lehn-Jensen
Antibiotics in mare reproduction (breeding) - Dr. John Dascanio
New treatment strategies for chronic endometritis and for post mating induced endometritis - Dr. Michelle LeBlanc
Drug therapy in the perinatal mare - Dr. Peter Morresey
Drug behavior modification in mares - Dr. Sue McDonnell
Keeping mares out of heat - Dr. Dirk Vanderwall
Equine metabolic syndrome and cushing’s disease: Possible role in infertility - Dr. Maria Cadario
Research update (Mare) - Dr. Dale Paccamonti