



***2011 has been designated as "World Veterinary Year"  
in celebration of the 250th anniversary of veterinary medicine!***

***Dr. Donna Bouley ("Dr. B") receives a  
2010 Distinguished Alumni Award***

In 2010 Dr. B was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN (UTCVM). Dr. B received her DVM degree from the UTCVM in 1985, and returned there to do a combined anatomic pathology residency/Ph.D program from 1988-1995. Her Ph.D degree was awarded through the Comparative and Experimental Medicine Program, and her dissertation was entitled "Characterization of HSV-1 Induced Corneal Lesions and Immunopathological Mechanisms in Reconstituted SCID and IFN-gamma Knockout Mice". She became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 1996. After two years as a clinical instructor at Texas A & M CVM, Dr. B joined the Department of Comparative Medicine, Stanford School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor in 1997. An excerpt from the information provided to the Alumni Awards committee follows:



"Dr. Bouley has proven to be a productive researcher and collaborator with almost 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals. She provides pathology support for researchers and clinicians working in several disciplines including radiation oncology, infectious disease host-pathogen interactions, minimally-invasive cancer therapeutics (HIFU, cryoablation), medical device development, and phenotypic characterization of genetically engineered mice. Her accomplishments resulted in a relatively fast advancement (by Stanford's standards) from Assistant to Full Professor within 11 years.

Much more importantly, Dr. Bouley has single-handedly promoted pre-veterinary medicine to undergraduate students at Stanford University, not only by counseling them as to requirements to entering veterinary school but also promoting "less traditional" veterinary career paths such as laboratory animal medicine, pathology, and research. Her Freshman Seminar "Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of Mammals" is recognized as one of the more popular Freshman/Sophomore seminar classes taught at Stanford, and provides the perfect opportunity to identify students interested in veterinary medicine early in their college careers. Her unquestionable dedication and encouragement to Stanford undergraduates was acknowledged in 2007 with the Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award for Distinctive Contributions to Undergraduate Education. More recently Dr. Bouley has taken her educational outreach a step further by hosting the first Pre-Veterinary Expo at Stanford University in 2008. This successful endeavor will be repeated in Spring 2010."

***2011 Update— Pre-Vet Expo II, May 22, 2010, was a great success!***

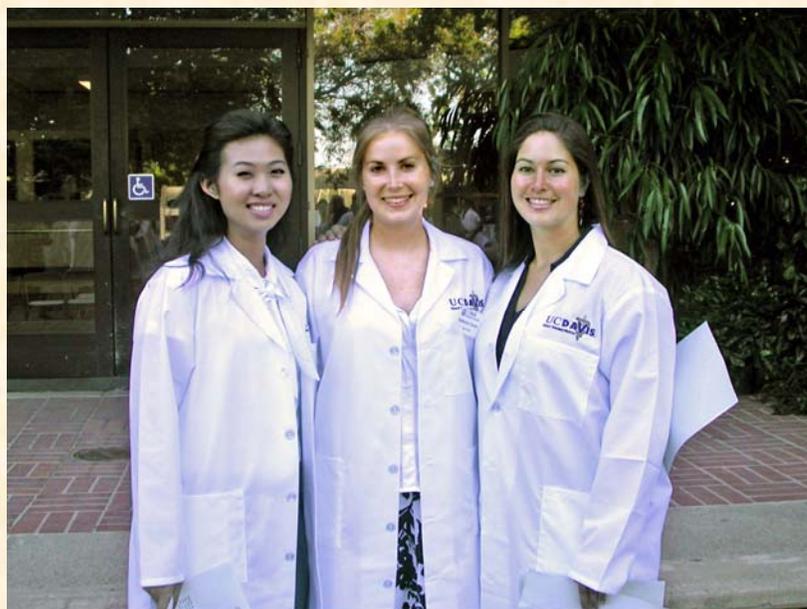


## UC Davis White Coat Ceremony

By Dr. B

In September, 2009, I was invited to attend the “White Coat “Ceremony for the incoming veterinary school class at UC Davis. We had three Stanford graduates starting in this class (to graduate in 2013).

This is a wonderful ceremony that officially welcomes the incoming students, announcing where they came from and what area of veterinary medicine they plan on pursuing while in vet school. Our 3 new UC Davis Vet students, who were active SUPVC members, were Lisa Rincon, Willie Phan and Kate Farrell. While visiting them, I also got to see some of our former students – currently in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year – Christina Alarcon and Kat Tomalty. Finally, I met another former Stanford graduate there who is in the 1<sup>st</sup> year class, Cathy Nguyen, a '06 Stanford graduate.



From left to right – Willie Phan, Kate Farrel and Lisa Rincon proudly wearing their white coats. Congratulations!!

Eating pizza after the ceremony - from left to right - Kat Tomalty, Christina Alarcon, Lisa Rincon, Cathy Nguyen, Willie Phan, and (standing in back row) Dr. B.

**2011 Update—  
Kat and Christina are about to enter their 4th year, and Lisa, Kate, Willie and Cathy are finishing their 2nd year.**



*SUPVC students who applied to veterinary school in the fall of 2009 and were accepted to various schools to start Fall 2010. We are very proud of you all!!*

Name	School graduated/ yr	Major/ Degrees	Vet Schools Applied to	Vet Schools Accepted at	Going to?
Mary Thurber	Stanford, 2010	BS Honors Bio "Ecology & Evolution" tract	U Penn U Wisc UC Davis Colorado State	U Wisc UC Davis Colorado State	U Wisc for DVM/Ph.D
Stacey Kang	Stanford 2009	BS Bio	UC Davis, U Wisconsin, U Illinois, U Tennessee, U Penn	UC Davis, U Wisconsin, Declined Interviews at U Illinois and U Tennessee	UC Davis Lab Animal Medicine
Rebecca Hall	Stanford 2007	BA Hum Bio	UC Davis, Washington State, Oregon State, U Illinois, U Tennessee, Colorado State, U Penn, and Royal Veterinary College of London	UC Davis, Washington State, Oregon State, U Illinois, RVC London,  Waitlisted: Colorado	UC Davis Equine Medicine
Mori Afraz					UC Davis

2011 Update — currently Mary Thurber is completing her first year at University of Wisconsin, and Stacey Kang, Rebecca Hall and Mori Afraz are completing their first year at UC Davis.

This Fall Andrew Wicklund will begin veterinary school at Washington State University, and Sabrina Wilson and Betsy Smartt will begin veterinary school at UC Davis.



## *Pre-Vet Student Correspondence from Around the Country...*

Here are some emails that I have received during  
the past year from former Stanford Pre-vets

By Angela Chang  
4th year Texas A & M College of Veterinary Medicine

(Angela spent 4 weeks with us in the Dept of Comparative Medicine doing a lab Animal Medicine Externship)

(I hope everything is going well in California. I just got back to Texas from my externships. I definitely miss Stanford.)

In regards to clinics, my advice is - "keep your chin up!" Everyday you will feel like you don't know anything and you just have to tough it out and keep working at it and don't let it discourage you. You have to remember that you have worked so hard to get where you are and this will be a lifelong learning career and not to worry if you don't know that answer right then, but that you know where to find the answers and when to ask for help. Vet school will be a grueling challenge - none that you have never experience before, but it makes you proud to think that you have worked this hard to be part of the select group to be called veterinarians. It's a great experience and tough at times, but definitely worth it.

My other advice to veterinary students is take advantage of your education and the experiences that are now available to you. I have traveled all over the world while in vet school - going to Germany, London and hopefully to Asia next. I have classmates that have gone to South Africa, Australia, Keys, Cayman Islands, China, Plum Island, etc. There are opportunities out there for you if you look for them to experience veterinary medicine on so many levels. Missions, government work, conservation efforts, research, international relations, public health. Unlike any other profession, veterinary medicine has so many varied areas that make your professional opportunities limitless. Take advantage of this as a student. There are so many people willing to mentor you and foster your interests, even interests you didn't even know you had. Vet school is great and the experience is priceless.

I didn't mean to keep rambling on about how I feel about vet school, but from what I have experienced - it's been wonderful. I hope this information helps and please let me know if you need any help with anything further. I can try to send you some A&M posters or information if you would like. Please don't hesitate to ask if you need any other information.

**2011 Update - Now Angela Chang DVM, will be joining the Department of Comparative Medicine as a laboratory animal resident this Fall. WELCOME ANGELA!**



By David Sender  
Stanford '09

First Year Veterinary Student

[University of Illinois Urbana, College of Veterinary Medicine](#)

Illinois just started a new curriculum this year, so my class has been the guinea pig group for their new system. It starts out with 8 weeks in the clinics, which is exciting because most of the time you don't even get to see an animal until your 3rd year doing spays and neuters. Although the hours spent in the clinics could get a little intense (like my occasional 13 hour orthopedic surgery days), it was a very informative and fun experience. The next 8 weeks of that semester were spent in the books. Even though the overall volume of information to learn greatly increased compared to undergrad, I was surprised at how well an undergrad career at Stanford prepared me to deal with the course load. To any prospective vet students: I did not take a particularly challenging course load at Stanford compared to what most of you are probably doing, so if I'm saying I was well-prepared, you all will be absolutely fine! Don't get me wrong, you're going to have to work—a lot—but it's absolutely manageable. Another difference is that you're learning the information that you're interested in (at least most of the time—although I'm learning more and more than I just find histology incredibly boring). There are no more obnoxious organic chemistry classes that make you want to somehow shut off your brain the first time you actually dream about in mechanisms. Despite the course load, I'm really having a great time. I suppose this letter wouldn't be complete without at least a couple suggestions for the pre-vets reading this. Really, there are only a few things to keep in mind:

1. Keep everything simple. This goes for school work and life outside of the classroom. Always keep the big picture in mind. Simplifying things will absolutely reduce your stress, and **STRESS IS BAD!** (You will learn)
2. Make time to do things you enjoy. Pick up the random tango class your school has, exercise, go out with friends, or just watch that weekly TV show you can't live without. It's part of keeping a balanced life. I promise if you keep yourself happy, you'll be incredibly surprised with how easy it is to keep up with everything.
3. **RELAX AND ENJOY THE RIDE!** Once you get into vet school, you've already done the hardest part. That probably sounds simple or even stupid, but once you're in vet school, it's all about learning the information you love so that you can use it to continue your passion for the profession. Get excited!

*Additional news...*

I'm part of the Wildlife program they have here, and my team has been treating a "juvenile" bald eagle (we're guessing around 2-2.5 years old because she's only starting to get her crown) for the last 2 weeks. She came in with some swelling in her left elbow, malnutrition, and anemia. She's doing pretty well although she still has issues with her elbow that we're trying to resolve, and still technically anemic (but MUCH better). Now that she's feeling better, she pretty much wants to kill us everytime we have to handle her, which is lots of fun. It's a fairly challenging case, but it's pretty sweet that we get to treat a bald eagle.

**2011 Update— David is finishing his 2nd year at University of Illinois Veterinary School.**



## Research in Africa

By Mary Thurber

During the summer of 2008, I was fortunate enough to spend seven weeks living in the middle of Etosha National Park in Namibia studying elephant behavior and parasites with Dr. Caitlin O'Connell-Rodwell, PhD, and Colleen Kinzley, Curator of the Oakland Zoo. This extraordinary experience allowed me to combine my love for animals with my passion for traveling and conservation of wildlife. Dr. O'Connell-Rodwell has been studying the African elephants at the Mushara waterhole for 15 years: she has studied the methods of elephant communication, and discovered that elephants can communicate seismically. She has also initiated a new study on the dominance hierarchies among bull elephants, and conducts fecal analyses to determine their testosterone levels and their genetic relationships. When I was invited to join her research team, she had just begun a new project aiming to assess parasite loads in the elephants. There



Four bulls at the Mushara waterhole, [Etosha National Park](#)

have been no previous studies describing gastrointestinal parasites specifically in *Loxodonta africana*; therefore, we set out to assess the burdens of one major group of parasites (Strongyles) in elephants and to determine whether age, herd composition (bulls vs. herd members), hormone status of male (musth vs. non-musth), or climate conditions (dry vs. wet) would affect the parasite loads. I am very lucky because I have been invited to return to Namibia this summer – along with fellow SUPVC member Andrew Wicklund – in order to complete my research to write my honors thesis. Our research on elephant behavior and health will hopefully become an important resource for the maintenance of these beautiful creatures, and will help protect them for future generations.

L to R: Megan Albertelli,  
Andrew Wicklund and  
Mary Thurber





*Justin Krumm*  
Stanford Class of 2012

Last summer, I worked with an equine vet, Dr. Cleanth Toledano, at Middleburg Equine Clinic. I went with Dr. Toledano on her house calls and helped with a few surgeries in the clinic. I helped with ultrasounding, radiography, euthanasia, and body work among other things. For example, we ultrasounded mares to check on pregnancies or to determine readiness for artificial insemination, and we x-rayed broken bones. Dr. Toledano was keen on teaching me about anatomy, diseases, and treatment. She let me dissect a front limb to observe the inner workings of horses' legs. I also learned a lot about diagnostics, handling horses and the common ailments encountered. The experience was really enlightening and gave me a good picture of equine medical practice.

Later, in the fall, I was abroad with the Stanford in Australia program. Part of the program was a Targeted Research Project (TRP). For my project, I analyzed the behavioral budgets of captive reared agile wallabies (*Macropus agilis*) and compared the behavior to that expressed in wild agile wallabies. The project established patterns of agile wallaby vigilance (being alert) in relation to time of day, supplemental feeding regime, and other behaviors. Many young agile wallabies are injured, orphaned, or abandoned as a result of development, car accidents, predation, fire, and unknown other reasons. Because of this, wildlife rescue carers will care for and rehabilitate such wallabies until they are ready for release.

However, little is known about how the captive raised wallabies fare in the wild and whether the captive rearing affects survival rates. Vigilant behavior is vital to wallabies' survival, so we especially wanted to see how the captive care affects this agile wallaby behavior. One of my professors was a rescue carer and had six agile wallabies she was looking after in a paddock behind her house. Another student and I collected data by sitting on a troopie and recording the wallabies' behaviors in the mornings, midday, and evenings. We recorded foraging, vigilance, locomotion, and other behavior. It was really fun watching the little macropods hop and scrounge around all day, and after our observations, we got to enter the paddock and feed them.





***Justin Krumm***  
**Stanford Class of 2012**  
**continued**

In addition, I stayed at a cattle station during one of our Australia courses. Fortunately for me, a pregnant cow went into labor while we were there. I asked if I could help, and the station manager actually let me birth the calf. Because the birth was taking longer than expected, I got to pull the calf out by its front legs. The manager and I then shook it by its back legs to get all of the fluids out of its airways so that it could breath. It was really gratifying seeing the first breath of life of something I helped bring into the world.



**2011 Update— Justin will be participating in various veterinary related activities in Africa this summer. HAVE FUN JUSTIN!**



## Taipei Zoo

By Claudia Chern



I spent this summer in Taiwan as an intern in the Animal Hospital at the Taipei City Zoo. It was an amazing experience both culturally and career-wise. I spent the two months in the departmental intern program, which regularly hosts 14 vet students from the four veterinary schools in Taiwan and this year, myself and a vet student from Canada. The first two weeks consisted of classes on a wide range of topics in the afternoon and assisting one of the six vets the rest of the day. Classes ranged from slideshows of past cases at Taipei Zoo to an introduction to taxidermy to learning to make and shoot blow darts!



My partner and I also worked on a group project to present at the end of our internship at Taipei Zoo and with our umbrella internship program. We worked on enrichment with an Asian Small Clawed Otter and a Taiwan Black Bear exhibiting stereotypical behaviors.

The otter has an interesting history as a family pet until age 2, and as a result did not like water or swimming. We also realized the otter was a very poor swimmer, which is a natural discouragement to swim. Initially, the otter was unable to catch the Asian pond loaches or goldfish in the small pond. However, by the end of our project, his swimming technique as well as dislike for water was improved, and he was able to catch live fish in the pond. We also designed and implemented six different feed acquisition devices based on his regular feed (frozen or live fish) to extend feeding time, increase mental stimulation, and decrease boredom. For the black bear, we implemented a positive reinforcement training regime to create mental challenges, decrease boredom, and increase ease of vets to observe, clean, and medicate wounds on his belly.

Overall, I added a lot both in my medical knowledge, as well as understanding of the job as a career. And it was a lot of fun!



**2011 Update - Claudia is graduating this June and has accepted a full time position as an "Animal Care Associate" with the Community Veterinary Services Department, San Francisco SPCA Veterinary Hospital. GOOD LUCK CLAUDIA!!**



## *Veterinary School Interviews: The not so scary version*

By Lori Westmoreland

If you had talked to me May of 2010, I would have told you that I was downright nervous about applying to veterinary school. At first I focused on clearing the hurdles of turning in my general and secondary applications in a timely manner. After all the paperwork was finished, my celebratory dance was short-lived, as my dreams of acceptance turned into nightmares of intimidating interviews. However, what I didn't realize was that interviews and visiting the schools would be the fun parts of applying to veterinary school.

My interview experiences were all positive, but different from each other. My first interview was at the University of Pennsylvania in early December. Penn was the only school that did not allow any parents/visitors to come along with me on the tour. At Penn, the interview process is run a bit differently in that current veterinary students spend time getting to know you, and they have a say during the decision process to decide which students are admitted. After a tour of the facilities, I sat in a room with about 20 other interviewees meeting ~8 current veterinary students. It was a relaxed atmosphere, and meeting so many current students really afforded me insight into what it would be like to attend Penn. My interview was 30 minutes long with a professor and a veterinarian. One interviewer knew nothing about me and was blind to my application, while the other interviewer had read everything. Here I was asked a set of questions that came up in almost every interview:

1. Tell us about yourself
2. Why do you want to attend Penn?
3. Why do you want to be a veterinarian?
4. Where will you be in 5 or 10 years as a veterinarian?
5. What are your hobbies/what do you do for fun?
6. Do you have any questions for us?

I also had my first situation where I did not know the answer to a question regarding fish farming (my application indicated an interest in aquatic medicine). However, after the interview was over, I realized that it truly is acceptable to admit you do not know the answer and would need more information to have an educated opinion about a situation.

My second interview came in February at Auburn University. Every school except Penn welcomed visitors on tours and had waiting rooms with refreshments for parents etc. I was a bit surprised to discover that Auburn has a dress code at all times: dress clothes and ties for guys, nice clothes for girls, and no jeans. There is also a designated building in case of tornadoes, welcome to the south! My tour was followed by a short 20 minute interview. There were three professors who had all read my application. Additional common questions that came up were:

1. Do you know what out of state tuition is/how will you finance that?
2. Many animals are used in veterinary school (dissections, terminal procedures), how do you feel about this?

My next interview was in early March at the University of Tennessee. Tennessee is different, because all of the veterinary school facilities are in one huge building. Tennessee is also on limited accreditation from the AVMA due to some facility updates that have not been finished. The school assured everyone interviewing that these updates would be finished in time to keep AVMA accreditation. My interview was ~40 minutes long, and consisted of two faculty members and one visiting local clinician. This was a relaxed interview that was very conversational. All of the interviewers had read my application, and were interested in asking me questions about my animal experiences, my undergraduate thesis, and various other topics I had discussed in my application.



My last interview was in late March at the University of Florida. A couple of weeks before my interview I was contacted by a first year veterinary student telling me about the school and asking me if I had any questions about the interview process. On the day of the interview there were a lot of current veterinary students available to give tours and answer questions. My interview consisted of one faculty member, a local veterinarian, and a current third year veterinary student. This was my only interview with a current student present in the interview room. My interview was an hour long, and all the interviewers had read my application. This large amount of time and previous knowledge of my application left lots of time for questions about ethical situations and various what-if scenarios. Examples of these questions are:

1. A client is moving and brings her healthy dog into the clinic for euthanasia, what do you do?
2. Would you euthanize, release, or keep Tilikum, the orca whale that killed its trainer?
3. Name a time when you were working in a group and had to make a stand.
4. Rank yourself 1-10 on how important success is to you, how important it is for you to be in control of a stressful situation etc.

After completing all of my interviews I realized that interview committees really just want to have a conversation and get to know you off paper. Just remember to breathe and grab a bottle of water.

Feel free to contact me with questions about the application/interview process:  
*Lori Westmoreland: lwestmo@gmail.com*

**2011 Update—Lori is finishing her first year at North Carolina State Veterinary School.**