

# Creating International Opportunities for Students

Interest in international experiences for College of Veterinary Medicine students has increased dramatically over the past few years. To help meet the demand for international experiences, two CVM faculty wrote a proposal for a project to help students seek out international experiences.

Drs. Jeff Beetham and James Roth received funding from the ISU Council for International Programs to enable 10 students to attend four international meetings, and for four students to travel to Washington DC.

The purpose of the project is to help students identify international opportunities for other students by giving them direct exposure to researchers, practitioners and government officials in other countries who could facilitate international opportunities. The grant provided funds for four students (2 vet med and 2 undergraduate students) to travel to Washington DC and meet with US and international agencies who provide funding for international projects and then share the information obtained with other students.

Two VM3 students, Nancy Belsley

and Bonnie Smith, attended the International Conference on Small Holder Livestock Production Systems in Developing Countries in Thrissur, Kerala, India in November. Adjunct Instructor Sarah Wagner accompanied the students. In December, Cary Adams (VM2) and Robert Sahaghian (VM3) accompanied Dr. Jim Roth to the XXI World Buiatrics Conference in Punta del Est, Uruguay. Plans are underway to send two students to the Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine and Wildlife Disease Association Meeting in Pilanesberg National Park, South Africa in July 2001; and four students to the World Small Animal Veterinary Association World Congress in Vancouver, Canada in August, 2001.

The students prepared a brochure with information about the types of international experiences being sought by ISU veterinary students and current international activities at the college. At each conference the students are to make contacts with individuals who could host students or who would be willing to help make arrangements for international experiences.

In August, Robert Paul (VM4) and Mike Van de Griend (VM3) traveled to Washington DC with Dr. Jeff Beetham and two undergraduate Microbiology students. They met with representatives of the USDAAPHIS, USDA ARS, and USDA FAS, the US Agency for International Development, the Fogarty Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and the Food and Agriculture Organization to discuss international opportunities related to veterinary medicine.

Students who participate in all of these trips will present a poster for display at the Committee for International Veterinary Opportunities International Fair in January and will give presentations on their experience to their peers. ♦



**Bonnie Smith visits with other delegates at Kerala Agriculture University in Thrissur, India.**

\*Jane Galyon is the program director for the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics.

Sarah Wagner, D.V.M.