

Meeting Minutes

UC Davis Veterinary Student Panel | Wednesday, 11/17/21

On the 17th we had a panel of seven current UC Davis vet students come to talk about their experiences and to give advice! We heard from students from all four years of vet school, with most having completed their undergraduate education at UC Davis. They discussed pre-vet experiences, applications, and interviews. General advice included going to office hours to get to know professors, getting strong letters of recommendation, getting a variety of experiences, and using connections and networking to gain experience.

Pre-Veterinary Resume Workshop | Wednesday, 11/10/21

In this meeting we heard from Spencer Atkinson, a career advisor at the Internship and Career Center on campus, about how to craft a strong resume. Spencer gave general guidelines for formatting your resume, required and optional resume categories, and how to create strong accomplishment statements when describing your experiences. For the details of the presentation, check out the slides in the “Presentation Powerpoints” section of our website. A general recording of the resume basics presentation can be found here. Additionally, for help crafting a strong resume, be sure to utilize resources from the Internship and Career Center! These include document review, the ICC Career Resource Manual, drop-in advising, and advising by appointment. For any questions about resumes, career development, or the ICC, Spencer can be reached at rsatkinson@ucdavis.edu.

Oregon State University Veterinary Medicine Admissions | Wednesday, 11/3/21

In this meeting we heard from Tess Collins, the director of admissions at the Oregon State University School of Veterinary Medicine, along with two OSU veterinary student ambassadors. Oregon State is located in Corvallis, OR, a college town that is very bike-friendly and close to many outdoor activities! Tess talked about the DVM program at OSU, which is a non-tracked program with flexible focus path options, where you choose from one of four focus paths in your later years. The possible focus paths are small animal, large animal, general, and non-traditional. They have small class sizes, with 72 students per class which leads to a high faculty to student ratio and high

caseload exposure. The considerations for admissions are academic background, experience, letters of recommendation, personal statements, and interviews (for residents). For the class of 2025, the average cumulative GPA was 3.53, the average science GPA was 3.47, and the average GRE score was the 52nd percentile. Tess can be reached at tess.collins@oregonstate.edu with any questions!

University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine Admissions | Wednesday, 10/27/21

Today we heard from Violeta Bonneville, the Admissions and Scholarship Coordinator for University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. UM CVM is located in St. Paul, Minnesota. The admissions process consists of three stages: Academic Review, Non-Academic Review, and Interviews. To move on to the next stage, applicants must pass the previous one. To apply, UM CVM requires a minimum GPA of 2.75, and 3 letters of rec (at least 1 from a DVM). The class of 2025 mean GPA was 3.64, with an average GRE score of 310. UM CVM admits 150 students into their DVM program (53 in-state, 52 out of state). Years one-three are spent in the classroom, in their third year students will select a specialization, and their fourth year is spent in clinical rotations. You can contact Violeta Bonneville at vbonnevi@umn.edu with any questions, or find their website at <https://vetmed.umn.edu/dvm>

Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine | Wednesday, 10/20/21

Today we heard from a Philip Jaroslow, the National Associate Director from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Ross University is an AVMA accredited vet school located in the Caribbean on St. Kitts island. The curriculum consists of seven semesters, in which students are taking classes at Ross's campus in St. Kitts, followed by the final year spent doing clinical rotations with one of their affiliated veterinary schools, either in the US or abroad. The whole program takes three years and four months to complete. They also offer three different start dates throughout the year, once in January, May, and September. Students can apply to Ross University's veterinary program through VMCAS or through their website. The average GPA of admitted students is 3.2 and the average GRE score is 300. However, the GRE is optional for this cycle. They also require a minimum of 150 vet hours for admission. Any questions can be directed to Philip at philipjaroslow@rossu.edu.

Foal Team | Wednesday, 10/13/21

During our meeting this week we heard from Mitchell Callahan, the current leader of the Foal Team. He explained that volunteering with the Foal Team involves caring for foals in the equine neonatal ICU at the VMTH by assisting the technicians and restraining/handling foals for procedures. Volunteering does not require extensive clinical horse experience, but members must be familiar enough with horses to be comfortable with basic handling and restraint. There are also paid positions with the Foal Team to work the overnight shifts, and applications for paid positions will be sent out via the Foal Team listserv in the coming weeks. Sign up for the listserv [here](#). You can also email Mitchell at mjcallahan@ucdavis.edu with any questions!

1st General Meeting | Wednesday 10/6/21

During our first meeting for the 2021-2022 school year, we introduced our new officer team and how meetings and internships are going to be conducted this quarter. We will be holding weekly meetings on Wednesday's at 7:10pm in 66 Roessler Hall, and a few select meetings will be held via Zoom at the links provided under our 'Meetings' tab. Our general meetings may consist of vet student or veterinarian panels/interviews, resume workshops, foster/adoption agencies, and overviews of different fields and specialties in veterinary medicine. We explained that there will be no VMTH internships this quarter due COVID-19, and as a result we will not be collecting club dues this quarter from our members. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to resume VMTH internships in Winter 2022. There are small animal internships in 11 different specialties and large animal internships in 4 different specialties. We also went into detail about member requirements and listed our social media pages, all of which can be found within our website. All new and returning members should complete the membership application, ensure they are signed up for VAC's email listserv, follow us on Instagram [@ucdvetaideclub](#), and join our Facebook group, "Vet Aide Club at UC Davis." The powerpoint slides that were presented at this meeting are also posted to our website under the 'Presentation Powerpoints' section of the 'Meetings' tab.

Dr. Crystal Heath | Meeting 5/26/21

In this meeting we heard from Dr. Crystal Heath, a shelter veterinarian and advocate for animal welfare legislation and reforms. Dr. Heath talked to us about her education and career path as well as current ethical issues in veterinary medicine. In terms of her education, Dr. Heath went to UC Davis vet school and was class of 2012. She did not get in on her first application, but encourages students to apply even if you're considering gap year or not confident in application just to go through the process and gain the experience. She currently works as a shelter veterinarian and also volunteers in other countries as well as with low-income veterinary services. She discussed ethical issues in veterinary medicine, including the practice of terminal surgeries in education of vet students. Some of these ethical issues have improved in recent years, for example, the trend towards treating distemper and parvo dogs in shelters instead of euthanasia. However, many ethical issues remain. Dr. Heath showed several examples of inhumane treatment of both livestock animals and companion animals. She discussed barriers to improving these conditions, including powerful industry players with economic investment in the mistreatment of animals as well as a lack of awareness and willingness to discuss these issues among veterinarians. Dr. Heath encourages students to reach out to her with any questions at cheath@ourhonor.org. She is more than willing to answer any questions about the topics discussed here, vet school, shelter medicine, or anything else you're wondering about!

One Health Institute UCD | Meeting 5/20/21

During this meeting we heard from David Wolking, a representative from the One Health Institute at the UC Davis vet school. One Health is an approach that recognizes the growing connection between the health of animals, people and the environment. It understands that humans do not exist in isolation, but are part of the larger, total living ecosystem. The One Health institute does a wide array of interesting research and projects. Check out their website for more information about their current and past projects: <https://ohi.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/>

Ross University of Vet Med | Meeting 5/19/21

In this meeting we heard from Philip Jaroslow, a representative from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Ross University is located on St. Kitts island in the

Carribbean but is still an AVMA accredited vet school. Philip highlighted some aspects of the Ross curriculum and the admissions process. The curriculum is unique in that there are 7 semesters spent taking classes at the campus in St. Kitts, and then the final year is spent going clinical rotations with one of their affiliated universities, either in the US or abroad. They place emphasis on supporting the mental health and other needs of students and having dedicated faculty members. They are also unique because they offer three different start dates throughout the year, one in January, one in May, and one in September. Students can apply to their program through VMCAS or through their website. They encourage students to take the GRE, but the GRE is not required for consideration. They also require a minimum of 150 vet hours for admission. Any questions can be directed to Philip at philipjaroslow@rossu.edu.

Western University School of Vet Med | Meeting 5/12/21

On the 12th we heard from Alberto Nunez, a representative for the Western University School of Veterinary Medicine. Western University is located in Pomona, California and is one of two vet schools in the state of California. Alberto discussed the curriculum of the school, the application process, and application requirements. The curriculum of WesternU is unique because the first two years of the program are completely case study based. Students have about one case study a week that they work on with a group of 7-8 students and 1 faculty member. There are also clinical experiences in the first two years of the curriculum at the pet health center on campus. The third year of the curriculum consists of rotating clinical experiences in all different areas of veterinary medicine. Finally, the fourth year consists of clinical rotations that are chosen by the student in their area of interest. The application for WesternU is through VMCAS and there is no supplemental application or supplemental fee. They require 500 hours of animal or vet experience, 3 letters of recommendation (1 from a vet), and pre-requisite courses. They have a prerequisite database that can tell you if classes you have taken meet the prerequisite requirement, and some prerequisites can be taken P/NP but it is not recommended. The ideal candidate has good academics, good exposure to the profession, community service, leadership qualities, with all of those qualities being weighted equally in the application process.

Dr. Roxanne Ratner - Ophthalmologist Resident | Meeting 5/5/21

On the fifth we had a meeting with Dr. Roxanne Ratner, an ophthalmology resident at a private ophthalmology clinic in Texas. She talked to us about the process of specializing within veterinary medicine in general and her personal experience with her journey to ophthalmology residency. In general, the path to specialization starts with a one year long rotating internship after graduating vet school. Then, a doctor will often go into a specialty internship for another year or two. After that, the doctor will apply for residency in their specialty of choice, which typically lasts three to four years. Finally, the doctor takes a boards exam for official certification in the specialty. Dr. Ratner discussed her own journey through this process. She attended vet school at Ohio State, did a rotating small animal internship, and then went into an ophthalmology residency program at a private practice in Texas. A recording of this meeting will be available on our website. Dr. Ratner can be contacted at roxanne1130@gmail.com with any questions!

(If you would like a recording of this meeting, please email btcohen@ucdavis.edu)

Officer Applications | Meeting 4/14/21

During this meeting the officers introduced the applications to become a Vet Aide Club Officer for the 2021-2022 school year! General responsibilities of an officer include selecting for and coordinating VMTH Internships, holding officer hours, attending club meetings, working together to establish club goals, and organizing/attending tabling and community events. Each officer then went over what responsibilities their position has. The officer positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Meeting Coordinator, Treasurer, Webmaster, and Events Coordinator. However, applications for President and Vice President positions are only open to the current officer team. All other positions are open to any Vet Aide Club member! Summaries of officer-specific responsibilities can be found in the slides for this meeting (under Presentation Powerpoints on our website) or within the application. Officer applications open 4/14 and close 4/30, and can be found here. Good luck!

Royal Vet College | Wednesday 3/4/2021

During this meeting we got to hear from five UC Davis alumni who currently attend the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). RVC is currently the number one ranked vet school in the entire world, and UC Davis is consistently the top feeder school for their program.

Upon graduation from RVC, veterinarians can practice in many different countries, including the United States. RVC has two programs, an accelerated four year program and a five year program. In the four year program, students spend their first year taking classes at the London campus and subsequent years are spent at the country campus. The five year program is the same with the exception that the first two years are spent at the London campus. More information about their program and curriculum can be found on their website here. Overall, the UC Davis alumni described having great experiences attending RVC! They highlighted the many extra-curricular activities that they participate in, including sports teams. They also emphasized how going to school in the UK allows them to travel often and get an enriching international experience.

Mercer Clinic | Wednesday 3/3/2021

During our meeting on the third we heard from three second year UC Davis vet students who are liaisons for Mercer clinic. Mercer is a student-run volunteer veterinary clinic that serves the homeless pets of Sacramento. They take undergraduate volunteers, which is a great opportunity for pre-vet students. Volunteering can provide undergraduates with great experience in a clinical setting while working towards an important mission! Responsibilities of undergraduate volunteers include helping with restraint, taking TPR, grabbing supplies, filling out the rabies book, scribing, and asking questions. If you are interested in volunteering, there is a mandatory orientation that occurs monthly and those interested in scribing must go through an additional brief presentation. No prior experience is needed to volunteer! Currently, the clinic is taking very limited numbers of volunteers due to the pandemic. In order to get added to the listserv or with any questions, email mercervolunteer@gmail.com.

Sacramento SPCA Volunteer | Wednesday 2/10/21

On Wednesday the 10th we had a presentation from Rayla, the volunteer supervisor at the Sacramento SPCA. The SPCA currently has adjusted volunteer protocols due to the pandemic, but there are still volunteer opportunities available. Those include opportunities in dog and cat socialization, fostering, their drive through paw pantry, and the vaccine clinic. Volunteers in the drive through paw pantry and the vaccine clinic typically do more coordination and clerical duties, such as sorting food or answering the phones. However, Rayla is eager to use whatever skills you have as a volunteer, so if

you have experience preparing or administering vaccines you may be able to help in that area! For more information about the Sacramento SPCA, you can check their website here. For volunteer orientation sign ups and applications, check out their volunteer page here. Finally, if you want to discuss any volunteering positions or logistics, you can email Rayla at rmaier@sspca.org.

Rachel Ellard, exotics veterinarian | Wednesday 1/20/21

On the 20th we had Rachel Ellard, a fourth year vet student at Texas A&M University specializing in exotics, come speak to us about her experiences. In undergrad, Rachel was involved in her school's pre-vet club. She was also involved in research, which she recommends getting involved in as an undergraduate. She got less clinical experience than many of her classmates in vet school but she had a lot of animal hours and worked as a research assistant. When asked about how to get experience with exotic animals, Rachel recommended reaching out to zoos, aquariums, and/or wildlife centers to volunteer. She also talked about her GRE experience, as she struggled with the vocab section and thinks it can be beneficial to take the GRE while high school vocab is still fresh in your mind. Additionally, she discussed her vet school experience. She said that she applied to ten schools but in retrospect she feels that was too many, she ended up choosing her in-state school, Texas A&M. Rachel told us that Texas A&M does not require you to track until your fourth year, and she has enjoyed study abroad opportunities offered through the school. If you have any questions about any aspects of Rachel's experience or interests, you can reach out to her on instagram [@exotic.pet.vet](https://www.instagram.com/exotic.pet.vet).

OKP | Wednesday 1/6/21

On the 7th we received a presentation from the Orphan Kitten Project (OKP), a group run by UC Davis vet school students that rescues and adopts out orphaned neonatal kittens. The main opportunity for undergraduate students to get involved with OKP is to become a foster, taking in kittens for short periods of time until they are adopted. Those who are interested in fostering can fill out this google form to be added to the listserv of potential fosters. All medications and materials for the kittens are provided by OKP, the fosters only need to provide time and care! Unfortunately there are currently not volunteering opportunities with OKP outside of fostering due to the pandemic. For more

information or with any questions, you can visit the OKP website or email the organization at orphankittenproject@gmail.com.

Dr. Melanie Bowden | Wednesday 12/2/20

On the 2nd we had a guest speaker, Dr. Melanie Bowden. Dr. Bowden is a small animal emergency veterinarian who enjoys public speaking and teaching about her profession. You can watch her TED talk [here](#). Dr. Bowden expressed how important it is to maintain mental wellness throughout your time as a student and later as a professional. She recommended taking care of yourself before you take care of others in order to avoid burnout, taking time to do things that make you happy, and learning how to say no to others without explaining yourself. She emphasized the importance of starting those wellness habits as soon as you can. Dr. Bowden also answered some questions about her day-to-day life as a veterinarian. She explained that veterinarians can be paid a regular salary, or they can be paid a base salary with a possible extra percentage based on productivity called a pro sal. She said that she prefers a regular salary, but there are many veterinarians who prefer a pro sal. Finally, Dr. Bowden answered some questions about veterinary school. She explained that there is a build up in the time intensity of vet school but a healthy school-life balance is still possible. She also highlighted the importance of forming study groups in vet school and selecting a vet school that supports your hobbies.

Resume Presentation | Wednesday 11/18/20

In our meeting on the 18th our club advisor from the Internship and Career Center, Spencer Atkinson, came to give a resume workshop presentation. The slides for the presentation can be found in the “Presentation Powerpoints” subsection on the VAC website. In his presentation, Spencer discussed the formatting guidelines for a resume. Standard resume categories are name and contact information, education, and experience but there are also optional categories that undergraduate students may want to use, including projects, research, and community service. It also may be useful when applying to positions in the veterinary field to have a “animal skills” subsection in your resume. Spencer emphasized that the most desired skills by employers are transferable skills, or skills that are not specific to one field, such as communication and problem solving. Therefore, it is important to demonstrate these skills on a resume. It is also

important to tailor your resume to the position you are applying for. Pick the most relevant experiences you have and include key qualifications and skills from the job posting. Spencer ended the presentation by highlighting all of the Internship and Career Center resources, including document review, the ICC Career Resource Manual, drop-in advising, and advising by appointment. Spencer can also be reached at rsatkinson@ucdavis.edu with any career development questions.

1st General Meeting | Wednesday 10/7/20

During our first meeting of the year we introduced this year's officers and discussed normal club operations and how they have changed due to COVID-19. There will be no suture clinics, in-person meetings, or field trips for Fall quarter this year. However, there are new internships at the VMTH available. In these positions, students will work with the Central Receiving team at the VMTH to help communicate with clients and check in patients. Applications are open from 10/7/2020 through 10/14/2020 at 5pm, and the link to the application can be found on the "Home" and "Internships" pages of our website. These internships will include minimal animal handling and will not count towards veterinary experience hours, however they will provide great client communication experience! Despite the lack of in-person events, we will be hosting virtual events including panels and interviews with veterinarians and/or vet students, overviews of different veterinary fields, and presentations from foster/adoption agencies. All new and returning members should complete the membership application, make sure they are signed up for the listserv, and follow us on social media to stay updated. Links can be found on the "Home" page of our website. Additionally, the slides we went over at the meeting can be found under the "Presentation Powerpoints" section of the website.

Vet Student Panel | Wednesday 3/4/20

Three vet students from the UC Davis Vet School came to answer questions from Vet Aide Club. They talked about gaining clinical experience recommended doing shelter medicine or using networking skills to find veterinarians to work with. Additionally, they discussed the importance of GPA above all other aspects of your application, specifically with regard to the UC Davis Vet School. The vet students explained that, while you are in vet school, your GPA is not as important unless you plan on

specializing. They also discussed how it's normal to change your interests as you progress through vet school, and most vet students flip between specialties. The students concluded the meeting with a discussion about balancing their personal and academic lives.

Orphan Kitten Project with Ellie Purpura | Wednesday 2/19/20

The Orphan Kitten Project exists in order to assist local shelters by providing additional care for orphaned kittens when shelters become overrun. Volunteers have the opportunity to help care for sick kittens through fostering, which typically entails a few weeks/months commitment. During this time, volunteers are responsible for feeding and medical care until kittens' condition improves enough to be returned to the shelter. OKP provides all necessary supplies for the foster period. While you are fostering, you will be paired with a vet student who can answer questions and offer assistance as necessary. Foster opportunities are offered by joining the OKP newsletter and come on a first come first serve basis. Fostering typically goes on until kittens are healthy, spayed/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, dewormed, and tested for FELV. If you are interested in OKP, email orphankittenproject@gmail.com to be added to the listerv. Additionally, you can get involved in OKP by becoming a clinical trial intern, getting involved with trapping and spay/neuter, or helping out with fundraising and workshops (email elliepurpura@gmail.com). (CC z_elegans@yahoo.com for trapping/spay/neuter too).

Opportunities for Veterinarians in the U.S. Army with LT Justin Runtal | Wednesday 1/8/20

This week, we were joined by LT Justin Runtal, an Army Reservist, who discussed opportunities for pre-veterinary students and veterinarians to work for the U.S. Army and pay for vet school. The first route he discussed was the Active Duty route, by which students can apply for the Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) after being accepted to vet school. The scholarship is very competitive, and offers full paid tuition, a monthly stipend, a \$20,000 sign on bonus, and many other perks in exchange for 4-6 years of active duty and reserve service (combined) after graduation depending on how long you use the scholarship for. The second route he discussed was the Reserves route, in which you contract with the Army Reserves for a minimum of one year as an Animal Care Specialist (68T) either before or during vet school. During this experience,

you receive private salary and military perks while gaining experience in a job similar to that of a vet-tech. After serving in the reserves, you may either reapply to HPSP (military service makes your application more competitive) or do the Green to Gold program, by which you can have up to \$60,000 of loans repaid in exchange for military service. Any further questions can be directed to Army recruiter Liz Ilagan (elizabeth.a.ilagan.mil@mail.mil).

Application Tips with Lynn Fowler | Wednesday 11/13/19

In this meeting, our club adviser, Lynn Fowler, came to talk about resumes, as they are a crucial factor in picking interns for our internship application. Most resumes are looked at for less than thirty seconds during the selection process. Therefore, it is important that resumes are easy to read and DO NOT follow a template, as resumes that are harder to read will result in a decreased chance in getting a job/internship. Furthermore, use an easy to read font that is black. When listing experiences, put them in reverse chronological order, putting a separate header if your most relevant experience is not the most recent. Most resumes consist of a name, education, relevant experiences, other experiences, and some include research. Avoid using particles and first person pronouns in your resume and use action words to describe what tasks you accomplished. It is also crucial to read job/internship descriptions before tailoring your resume to what the employer is looking for. For more detailed information, go to our meetings tab and click on presentation powerpoints. You will find the powerpoint that was used during our meeting.

Foal Team Presentation | Wednesday 10/30/19

In today's general meeting, we had a representative from the foal team, Skylar Campbell, come in and talk about what it is and what volunteers are to expect. In order to be a foal team volunteer, students must attend the foal team orientation as well as the large animal safety training. The Foal Team orientation is on November 2, 2019 at 8 am in 1071 VMTH. The Large Animal Safety Training is on November 20, 2019 from 6-8:30 pm at 1071 VMTH. As a foal team volunteer, you would snuggle with sick baby horses since they can't stand up yet. The volunteer times are from 7 am to 11:30 pm with 4 hour interval shifts. The foal team is usually busy around January to mid July as this is when horses are in parturition. Since there are many volunteers, it may be difficult to be scheduled for a shift, but substitutes are almost always needed as some people are unable to make their shifts. There are also opportunities for a paid job in the foal team. However, requirements include having prior experience working with horses. As a paid foal team member, you may be required to work graveyard shifts and may be on call several

times throughout the month. This would mean that you do not have to physically be at the barn, but if you receive a call, then you have certain time interval to get there. For more information and to apply, email Skylar (skycampbell@ucdavis.edu) with your resume and cover letter by November 14th. There will be an interview in January for those who pass the first round of the application. If you do not have horse experience but want to work as a paid member, an easy way to get some experience includes taking ANS49 introduction class to horses. If you want to be a foal team member/volunteer, email Skylar, showing your interest and in December, emails will be sent out about the Foal Team.

PSSD/VAC Joint Meeting | Wednesday 10/23/19

During this joint meeting with PSSD, admissions representatives came from various schools, national and international, to talk about the criteria and aspects that are taken into consideration for admittance into vet school. Specific statistics about the schools can be found on their websites. The representatives included Ross University, Western University, Midwestern University, Iowa State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Louisiana State University. Out of these schools, Ross University was the only international vet school that came to speak about their admissions process. It is also the only vet school that has rolling admissions and an application cycle that is open all year (January, May, September). The requirements to apply is similar to that of all other vet schools in the country, but another aspect that makes it unique is that if you apply and are not accepted, you can apply for the Vet Prep Program that is designed to prepare students to meet the rigorous demands of the vet school curriculum. If you pass, then you are guaranteed admittance for first semester. The tuition for Ross is \$20,872.60 per semester for a total of 10 semesters. However, scholarships and financial aid is provided upon request, as it is for all vet schools. The next speaker was Western University, who emphasized their PBL (Problem Based Learning) curriculum in which lectures are not mandatory. Instead, 64 case studies are given throughout year 1 and 2 for a more memorable and immersive learning strategy. In year 3, you gain clinical experience in various veterinary fields, and finally in year 4, you are considered a “entry level veterinarian”. You will work individually in eight, four week clinical rotations and focus on your career during this time. The average cost to attend this school is \$53,000 but again, you can apply for scholarships and financial aid if applicable. Next, Midwestern University was one of the schools that did not require the GRE, but did require a on campus interview. The curriculum at this school is didactic, meaning it consists of lectures and lab during the first two years and clinical work starts the spring quarter of junior year. The next speaker was from Iowa State University, another school that does not require a GRE to apply. No interviews are required here and during your fourth

year, you will take part in preceptorships which are off campus rotations at various clinics/locations. University of Wisconsin-Madison was the next presenter, stating that there was a supplemental application in addition to the general one that needed to be completed. Finally, the last school that presented was Louisiana State University. In addition to presentations about veterinary school was a speaker from VIN (“Veterinary Information Network”) a website that connects veterinarians with other veterinarians. This is a platform that can be used to communicate with veterinarians around the world and also includes resources about in state and out of state tuition. In this meeting minute, unique aspects of each school were noted. However, if you would like to know more general information about the application process, you can look up each school online and their specific requirements/applicants. Below are some contacts of the presenters if you have any questions and want to reach out to them.

Ross University- Philip Jaroslow (philipjaroslow@rossu.edu)

Western University- Alberto Nunez (anunez@westernu.edu)

University of Wisconsin- Jenna Henshue (jenna.henshue@wisc.edu)

GRE Preparation | Wednesday 10/16/19

For our second meeting of the year, we had a representative from HPA, Douglas McLemore, come in to talk about GRE prep. The GRE is the SAT equivalent for veterinary school. It is comprised of three parts: analytical, verbal, and quantitative. There are two essays each timed at 30 minutes in the analytical part of the exam and two sections each for verbal (20 questions for 30 minutes per section) and quantitative (20 questions for 35 minutes per section). The analytical section that is comprised of two essays, should not be a concern since the essays are not usually as important as the other sections. However, it is important to choose a side when analyzing an argument. The verbal part of the standardized test is comprised of funky words that are not well known. As a result, you should prepare for the vocabulary by studying them through apps or flashcards. This section typically has three types of questions that appear on the test: reading comprehension, text completion, and sentence equivalence. Finally, the quantitative section consists of quantitative comparison questions. There is also an unscored section of the GRE that is given as an experimental part, but the test taker is not told which until he or she has completed the test. Overall, it is important to read all the answer choices before choosing one and be critical of each choice than rather than only supporting them. It is recommended to spend 150 hours (about 2 months) actively studying by doing practice questions and official exams, but remember to take breaks. Furthermore, it is important to plan

out the day of the GRE depending on which cycle you decide to apply for. Since vet school applications are released in late May and close in August, you should plan out when to study and take the test. The HPA is planning to hold a mock GRE exam on November 9th, 2019 from 9 am to 1 pm at 180 Med Science Building. If you are interested, reach out to the HPA and sign up on their website. If you have any questions regarding the GRE, you can reach out to Douglas through his email at dkmclmore@ucdavis.edu. His office hours are Tue, Wed, Thurs (11am-2pm) with an appointment or drops in on Thursdays (2-5pm).

VMCAS Workshop | Wednesday 5/29/19

For our last meeting of the year a peer advisor from Health Professions Advising talked to the clubs about VMCAS. VMCAS is the Veterinary Medical College Application Service that all US vet schools (and some foreign and Canadian) besides Texas A&M use for their applications. However, many schools do require a supplementary application in addition to VMCAS, so be on the lookout for what the schools you are interested in want. Additionally, each application and supplementary application costs money. For VMCAS, this cycle the first application is \$210 and any additional are \$110. The application checks your prerequisites completed or in progress, your letters of recommendation, your animal and work experience, GRE scores, personal statement, and transcripts. It opens in May and closes in September for each application cycle. HPA recommends to submit the application by August 15, so there is a month of grace period for your application to be verified. Your GRE scores and official transcripts are sent to VMCAS to verify the transcript and score information that you submit in your application. This can take anywhere from a week to a month typically. When you are inputting your transcripts, make sure to input them exactly as your official transcript lists it. Do not enter your course work as it is listed when you register for classes. They are different. In addition, letters of recommendation must be submitted directly to VMCAS by your advocate. You send them a link through the app. Be sure to notify them in advance of applying, so, they can submit before the deadline. In regards to animal and work experience, make sure to save the contact information and exact time frame and hours worked for every experience that you have. The application will ask for this information. Your personal statements are based on three questions that are 2000 characters each (this includes spaces). This will average to 200-300 words possibly, so when writing be concise and to the point. There are also supplemental questions and responses within VMCAS that need to be answered for some schools. Pay attention to this while you are going through your application. There is a power point for this meeting posted that contains helpful links for navigating VMCAS. Also, be sure to meet with the HPA office quarterly to help

you stay on track. There is also a free Pre-Vet boot camp June 24-28 to help you figure out your path to vet school and the Pre-Health conference this fall will have a lot of vet related activities and many schools will be there. This has been a fun and rewarding year and we look forward to seeing you all in the Fall!

2019-2020 VAC Officer Elections | Wednesday 5/8/19

Congratulations to our new officer team for the 2019-2020 school year!

President - Aidan Romo

Vice President - April Pandosh

Secretary - Cassandra Ramirez

Meeting Coordinator - Shaye Fortney

Events Coordinator - Alexandria Yu

Treasurer - Francesca Mortel

Publicity - Elani Hunter

Webmaster - Alexis McBride

Accepted Vet Student Panel | Wednesday 5/1/19

This week we hosted an accepted vet school student Q&A panel of three individuals accepted the UC Davis Vet School. The topics discussed included grades, the GRE, experience, MMI's, financing, and advice on the application process itself. In relation to grades, the advice the students gave was to work hard and maintain a good grade point average, but if your grade point average is not the best you can compensate with your GRE score. For the GRE, the math score is the most important. They recommended heavily studying for that portion specifically using books and online tests, practicing online is a must. While the test is similar to the STA, the testing process is much different. It is online and the location has heavy security procedures. Animal experiences are important as well, and the more interesting the experiences the better. It is highly valuable to build long-term relationships with small animals hospitals at home and at school, but service trips, internships with "different" animals, and volunteer work are highly recommended as well. Anything off the beaten path that will help you cultivate your story. The MMI's are the series of interviews that vet schools, including Davis, use to evaluate prospective students. These questions are designed to show the school who you are as a person and how you think and handle stressful or difficult situations. Answer truthfully and not in a way you think that they'd want you too. Be sure to mention both sides of an issue when answering as well. Additionally, utilize the counseling services on campus to help you practice and prepare for

MMI's (and the entire application process). Be sure to set aside a fair amount of money for the application process as well. The students recommended approximately \$3,000 for application fees and travel expenses. In addition to VEMCAS most schools have a supplemental applications that costs additional funds. If a school offers you an interview, then money for flights and hotels has to be considered also. Once you are accepted, financing for school needs to be considered as well. As graduate students, many of the FAFSA funds and school scholarships are more difficult to acquire, so keep in mind that you will have to take out more loans. The biggest advice in relation to the application process was to start the process early and utilize the on-campus resources available for you to prepare. Your major advisor/counselor, the HPA office, and even the ICC will be able to help you craft the best application you can. Everyone has a unique story and path, and with the right preparation you can make your chosen schools see what an amazing applicant you are!

Orphan Kitten Project | Wednesday 4/17/19

This meeting the Orphan Kitten Project shared their fostering opportunities. Orphan Kitten Project is a nonprofit organization run by UC Davis veterinary students. They take in neonatal, ill, and injured kittens, which are at a higher risk of euthanasia in shelters. Participants will foster kittens anywhere from 2-4 weeks or 4-8 weeks depending on the case. OKP provides all of the supplies and medicines needed, and one-on-one support is provided by a vet student assigned to your kitten's case. Before making the fostering commitment, foster parents are provided with the kitten's age, condition, and treatment plan, so you can decide if you can provide that kitten the level of care it needs before you agree to foster. Fostering with OKP provides an immense amount of opportunities to learn and observe medical skills, as foster parents are providing all of the day to day medical care for these sick and injured kittens and accompany their kittens to their veterinary appointments. If you are unable to foster at this time, OKP also need volunteers to drive kittens to appointments, babysit kittens for foster parents, help trap and release feral cats for spaying/neutering, and help fundraising. Please email Ellie at epurpurakittenstudy@gmail.com or the orphan kitten project at orphankittenproject@gmail.com

Presenting our New Internship | Wednesday 4/3/19

At this meeting we had presentations on the Phood Drive and about a new internship opportunity. The Phood drive's events are Wednesday-Thursday (4/17-4/18) Social Media Likes and Shares Contest, Friday (4/19) W.I.D. Conference, and Saturday (4/20) Community Food Drive. The new internship will be long term, at least 1 year, shadowing veterinarian Dr. Gourley.

This is a truly unique opportunity to view different surgeries on shelter animals. There are three tears to the internship: introductory kennel cleaning and support work, enrichment and socialization, and shadowing surgeries and working with surgical staff. Applicants will require an in-person interview in addition to the online application for the internship cycle. There will be about 15 spots available per quarter. If you have any questions feel free to email Nina or Faith.

Princeton Review | Wednesday 3/6/19, Everson 176

This weeks meeting we had a member of the Princeton Review team walk us through an overview of the test and then some specific strategies for each section. Free information and preparation materials are available through gre.org. Keep in mind that while you are studying, it is a good idea to practice in a semi trafficked area and to build your mental endurance for the 3 ½ hour test. You play like you practice, so find the best snacks, caffeine dose, and break strategies that work for you to stave off the mental fatigue during the last sections of the test. The first part of the test is the essay portion. It requires the composition of two different essays. The Issue prompt gives a statement that is looking for a hard argument with real world examples. Be sure not to use personal examples, and the more global the example the better (i.e. from history or current events). Be sure to take a firm stance and defend it. The second essay topic will be an Argument prompt that you are meant to evaluate. This is not the essay to take a stance on, but the one to provide a critique of the statement. Discuss why the argument is flawed, not if you agree or disagree with it. Essays are scored from 0-6, with a 4 or higher being most desired by schools. If you are feeling apprehensive about this section, all of the current in use prompts are posted on gre.org. The multiple-choice sections are broken into Verbal and Quantitative categories with two sections per category. They are given on an adaptive bisectional difficulty adjustment. This first section of each is given at medium difficulty, and then the second is given as an easy, medium, or hard section based upon your performance on the first section. You want to receive the hard section for your 2nd section, as this is the only way to earn a top score. There is also a 5th section that is an ungraded experimental section. This section will be towards the beginning of the test and does not count for any points. You will not be able to tell which section this is, so do your best on all sections. The Verbal portion contains text completion, sentence equivalence, and reading comprehension questions. The text completion and sentence equivalence sections are vocabulary based, so it is a good idea to start exposing yourself to GRE level vocab. The Princeton Review has their Word Smart book in an audio or text format that provides definitions and sentence context for GRE level words, if you would like a formatted approach. The Quantitative section has problem

solving, quantitative comparison, and graphs/charts questions. The graph/charts sections are about interpretation and typically will be given in non user-friendly ways that need to be translated for use in the problem. The problem solving questions typically require some sort of manipulation or assumption to solve. Do not choose the easily at a glance calculated answer, these are typically given to trick you. The quantitative comparison questions are testing basic math principles and typically don't include any math concepts above algebra. Choose a couple of test values for each statement, and be sure to include 1 as a test number. Overall, be aware of trap answers and look to eliminate answers through a couple of different tests. Our Princeton Review representative is Rida and her email is ridali@ucdavis.edu, feel free to contact her if you have any questions about the Princeton Review.

Orphan Kitten Project and Study Abroad | Wednesday 2/20/19, Everson 176

The Orphan Kitten Project (OKP) is a nonprofit club based out of the UC Davis Veterinary School campus run by vet students. They take in neonatal, ill, and injured kittens, which are at a higher risk of euthanasia in shelters. Participants will foster kittens anywhere from 2-4 weeks or 4-8 weeks depending on the case. OKP provides all of the supplies and medicines needed, and one-on-one support is provided by a vet student assigned to your kitten's case. Before making the fostering commitment, foster parents are provided with the kitten's age, condition, and treatment plan, so you can decide if you can provide that kitten the level of care it needs before you agree to foster. Fostering with OKP provides an immense amount of opportunities to learn and observe medical skills, as foster parents are providing all of the day to day medical care for these sick and injured kittens and accompany their kittens to their veterinary appointments. If you are unable to foster at this time, OKP also need volunteers to drive kittens to appointments, babysit kittens for foster parents, help trap and release feral cats for spaying/neutering, and help fundraising. If you are interested, feel free to email members of the Orphan Kitten Project for more information. Their contact info is on the powerpoint that will be posted to the website soon.

UCEAP provides an 8 week summer study abroad session that covers the Physics 7 series. Students can choose from a number of campuses in several European countries. As many veterinary schools require physics, this is an optimal way to get a year of physics and a physics lab done quickly. Classes are Monday through Thursday covering 2-3 chapters a day. However, since the class is so condensed, you don't receive too overwhelming amounts of extraneous details. Financial aid covers study abroad and there are a large number of scholarship opportunities provided to help pay for the trip. Outside of school, students have time for

exploration around their host city, country, and Europe. Participants also have the amazing opportunity to experience into their host country's culture and discover what it is like to live in a different country. For more information visit <https://studyabroad.ucdavis.edu/programs/uceap> or stop by the study abroad office in the international center!

All Things Internships | Wednesday 2/6/19, Everson 176

Our Faculty Advisor Lynn Fowler talked about resume basics. Her talk focused on three points: format, content order, and tailoring your resume to the position you're applying for. Resumes should be one single page highlighting your direct relevant skills and transferable skills applicable to the position you're applying to. You don't need to put everything you've done on your resume, just what experience you have that highlights your strengths for the position. The format should be easy to read, not from a template, and with no colored font or boxes. If you'd like to emphasize a heading, use bold text. The order that you choose to list your information categories in is up to you, but a personal information, education, and experience heading is standard and items should be listed in chronological order under each heading. For Vet Aide resumes specifically, if you have received an internship through the Vet Aide Club, put it on your resume. For resume help, contact Lynn Fowler: lmfowler@ucdavis.edu or refer to the slides posted on the website under "PowerPoint Presentations".

The second part of the meeting focused on upcoming Spring Quarter Internship applications. Internships vary in prerequisites and minimum and maximum veterinary experience hour requirements. These are both firm requirements. Specifically, pay attention to the hour requirements, as this will define your eligibility for an internship. We want to match you to an internship that matches your experience level! Applications are now completely online, and you will need a resume and the ACU 101 course certificate of completion (taken through LMS) in addition to filling out the application. When applying be sure to click the "accept any internship" option to get evaluated for remaining positions if you are not chosen for one of your first three choices. Please do not apply if you cannot attend either of the orientations once you are accepted. Orientation is mandatory and these dates are non negotiable (dates listed in the slides). Be aware that Large Animal Internships have a different orientation than Small Animal Internships. Interns are selected based upon their year, experience, resume, and availability. Do not apply for an internship if you are not available for its entire shift. If you don't get an internship Spring Quarter, keep applying! We receive so many wonderful applications for a limited number

of spots, so we try to give everyone an opportunity during different quarters if we can. The internship presentation can be found on the website under "Powerpoint Presentations".

VIDA Volunteer | Wednesday 1/23/19, Haring 1227

This week we had a presentation about a volunteer opportunity through Volunteers for Intercultural and Definitive Adventures. VIDA provides health, dental, and veterinary care, following the one health initiative, to communities in need in Central America. This summer's trip is to Costa Rica July 21st to August 2nd. This experience is a two-week opportunity where volunteers work 6 days (with 2-3 days for recreation) from 8am-5pm in clinics earning hands on experience supervised by veterinarians and veterinary technicians. Pre-Vet participants will help intake patients, assist in surgery and recovery, assist with large animal cases, and learn various other essential skills. The trip is \$1900, which includes travel in country, most food, and lodging. Participants will have to provide for their own airfare, health and travel insurance, vaccinations, and pocket money. For more information visit www.vidavolunteertravel.org or email ucdavis@vidavolunteertravel.org.

Foal Team and Wildlands Studies | Wednesday 10/17/18, Storer 1342

Caroline Leichter, a first year vet student and 2018 UC Davis graduate, gave a presentation on her experience as Foal Team Leader. Foal Team is a group of volunteers and paid members who operate out of the Equine Neonatal ICU at the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. No equine experience is needed to participate in this amazing opportunity--the only requirements are that you attend Large Animal Safety Training and Foal Team Orientation. This is an excellent opportunity to gain large animal experience and introduce you to the VMTH and how it runs. If you are interested, contact celeichter@ucdavis.edu.

We also had a presentation from Ruby Baruth, a campus representative for Wildlands Studies. Wildlands Studies offers several study abroad programs that are designed to provide students with outdoor classrooms, research opportunities, and field experiments led by distinguished professors in countries all over the world. Academic credit is also provided for the Wildlands Studies programs, which are offered year round. You can learn more and apply on their website.

First Meeting of the Year | Thursday 10/4/18, Memorial Union

The first meeting of the year had a great turn out! We are so excited for the upcoming school year and the fun events we have planned this year. During the meeting we introduced officers,

and collected membership and Fall Quarter VMTH Internship applications. We look forward to getting to know the new members and welcoming back returning vet aides! Meeting announcements were brief, but be sure to subscribe to our list serve if you haven't already. The link can be found on the homepage of the website. We will send out important meeting dates as well as information about upcoming events via email. Also, stay connected by following us on social media. We have a Facebook group page where in which members can communicate and hear of meeting reminders. We are also on Instagram, @ucdvetaideclub, where important flyers and club social events will be posted. Lastly, get ready for our annual Dinner With a Vet Student, coming up in November! We hope everyone has a great Fall Q!!