(April 19, 2011 Stillwater, OK) – Excitement filled the Wes Watkins Center on Tuesday, April 12, as OSU's Center for Veterinary Health Sciences hosted its Annual Awards Banquet. More than $318,794 in scholarships and awards were given to veterinary students, staff and faculty.

"Our donors continue to support Oklahoma's only veterinary college even in these difficult economic times," says Dr. Michael Lorenz, dean and professor of the veterinary center. "Veterinary students graduate with considerable debt. Anything we can do to help alleviate that burden is greatly appreciated. We were able to increase scholarships by $42,000 more than last year thanks to the gifts of individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations."

Top veterinary student honors went to James Michael Rogers of Madill, Okla., Class of 2011. Rogers received the Dean Clarence H. McElroy Award, the highest honor a veterinary student can earn. Jason Duell of Hennessey, Okla., Class of 2012, received the Dean Harry W. Orr Memorial Award for his academic achievements.

First time scholarships presented included: Abbott Animal Health-VECCS Award for Proficiency in Emergency and Critical Care ($700), ACVIM Certificate of Clinical Excellence, Vickie and James Cupps Scholarship ($1,800), Dr. Steven and Melissa Lucas Vet Med Scholarship ($1,500), Oklahoma Thoroughbred Association Scholarship ($2,000), and Veterinary Cancer Society Student Award for Proficiency in Clinical Oncology ($500).

In addition to the 134 veterinary students recognized, these staff and faculty were honored: 1st year Class Teaching Award, Dr. Jim Lish; 2nd year Class Teaching Award, Dr. Susan Little; 3rd year Class Teaching Award, Dr. Sandra Morgan; and 4th year Teaching Award, Dr. Katharine Simpson; Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award, Dr. Melanie Breshears; Pfizer Award for Research Excellence, Dr. Anthony Confer; and the Stratton Staff Award, Marilyn Wilson.

The Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences is one of 28 veterinary colleges in the United States and is fully accredited by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association. The center's Boren Veterinary Medial Teaching Hospital is open to the public and provides routine and specialized care for small and large animals. It also offers 24 hour emergency care and is certified by the American Animal Hospital Association. For more information, visit www.cvhs.okstate.edu or call (405) 744-7000.

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