LEADER OF THE PACK
Dr. Michael Huerkamp, Director
Division of Animal Resources

My last column was on the topic of being on a winning team and I would like to continue that theme with a focus on a specific challenge we at DAR may face.

The word team can imply opposition, that you have an opponent trying to defeat you. In our case, except for animal rights extremists, we are fortunate to have no serious opponent dedicated to opposing us, defeating us or creating obstacles in our workplace.

Generally, folks at Emory want us to be successful. While that is almost always true, sometimes we have to deal with a difficult person at work. Maybe that person is a researcher or perhaps even a coworker.

The difficulty may arise from a personality conflict, an inability to communicate diplomatically, or whenever expectations, both realistic and unrealistic alike, are not met.

Sometimes, it can appear as if the problems that arise between people are because one is trying to control the other. As members of the same team, we at DAR need to keep one another in mind and act and speak in ways that show we are not trying to control anyone. Show others that we are acting in their best interests and trying to help them.

While difficulties and difficult people can be distressful, they do not always have to be bad. Challenging people often raise issues that serve a good purpose. They heighten our awareness and cause us to reevaluate and reconsider what we are doing in order to ensure that we do the best that we can.

In my experience, most people, if they understand that we care about them and are trying to help them, will come around to our way of doing things. Let’s not let people who seem difficult distract us from our goals. Instead, let’s try to appreciate the situation from their eyes and use their perspective appropriately to our advantage to better our program.

UNDER THE SCOPE

Name: Minida Dowdy
Position: Colony Manager
Location: Whitehead Facility
Longevity: 6 years

Personal Background:
Born at Tyndal Air Force Base, Minida grew up in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia. Her father was in the Air Force and her mom was a medical technologist who later taught at a junior college. Minida’s only sibling, a sister 9 years her junior, currently lives with her family in Kansas.

Minida has been married 21 years and has three kids, Christopher (18), Amy (16) and Robbie (14). Chris just graduated high school and after Amy graduates next year, she will attend Emory. Minida attended Auburn University for two years and got her degrees in Business and Animal Science from Kansas St. Univ. She started as a vet tech in 1976 while still in high school and continued until 1994, when she went to work for a quarantine facility for swine importation. She came to Emory in 1997.

Her hobbies are breeding, training and showing Patterdale terriers and Fila Brasileiros. Her dog Kiowa last year was #4 in the nation for Rare Breeds. She also has three Paso Fino horses and loves to ride.

Most Rewarding Aspect of your Job:
That I am able to generate mice for use in research and later hear or read about some advancement in science or medicine that has been made and know that I helped make it possible.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?
Brazil. I’d like to see the home country of my favorite dog and see what Filas look like in their native country.

If you could have any luxury item in the world, what would you get?
Does it have to be real? I’d like to have a transporter out of Star Trek that I could step on at home and step off at work and not have to drive every day. Kind of a “beam me up, Scotty” sort of thing, ya know?
Kudos to Will Brooks, from Natalie Thorn, Kasie Moore and Karen Lieber for being the Staff Fest limbo champion!

Kudos to Michelle Kulasewicz from Kim Benjamin for all of her help with my rodent shipments. Even with all your other duties you still fit me in. This is well overdue, so thanks!

Kudos to Carol Westbury, from Minida Dowdy, for helping me make sense out of my chaos of cagecards. Thanks.

Kudos to Kathy McCormack and Sharmyn Gipsen from Kim Benjamin for their help with rodent orders. Even if I continuously forget to fill out the new order form, they are always cheerful about it. Thanks a bunch!

Kudos to Darlene Wyche-Alha-De from Kim Benjamin for helping me with life and my orders. :)

Kudos to Dr. Andy Matchett, from Kasie Moore, for racing in on a Sunday to assist a sick monkey. You rock!

Kudos to Dr. Jennifer Pullum from Kim Benjamin for being such a great boss! Thanks for all that you have done!

Kudos to Karen Lieber from Susan Martin for responding to sick calls at Eye Center so promptly and thoroughly. You make a huge difference!

Kudos to Jonathon Deer from Kim Benjamin for being an amazing work student for DAR and the vet staff for the past 3 years. You will be greatly missed!

Kudos to Nancy Lou Miller from Susan Martin for sending me cages and bottles when I needed them. It helped a lot.

Kudos to Zarinah McAdams-Mahmoud, from Kim Benjamin for helping me over the past semester. Have a great time in Malaysia and I will see you in the fall!

Kudos to April Langley from Dr. Jen Pullum, for doing such a great job with the Clegg pig!

Kudos to Dr. Andy Matchett from Dr. Jen Pullum, for being a great "psychiatrist" as well as lab animal vet.

Kudos to Greg Kable from Dr. Huerkamp for installing our new server and making all the necessary conversions well within schedule.

Kudos to Natalie Thorn from Kasie Moore, for helping me run a successful April course. Great job!

Kudos to Kim Benjamin from Dr. Jen Pullum, for going the extra mile for David Archer at the last minute.

Kudos to Dona Ward, from Dr. Jen Pullum, for being so vigilant and doing a great job with the Sands rats.

---

Birthdays

- Sylvia Banks 6/7
- Leroy Davis 6/16
- Wesley Thompson 6/20
- Alex Glazkov 6/23
- Carol Westbury 6/25
- Mike Shelton 6/30
- Lisa Tillmon 6/30
- Darryl Evans 7/3
- Kathleen Visocky 7/14
- Neville Whitehead 7/15
- William Brooks 7/26
- Agnes Narje 7/26
- Susan Martin 7/29

Milestones

Congratulations to Daniel Amankwah for successfully achieving ALAT certification! Way to go!

Anniversaries

- Lynne Morelock-Roy 22 yrs June 16
- Wesley Thompson 7 yrs June 17
- Lisa Tillmon 1yr June 24
- Thais Vinson 1yr June 24
- Dr. Jen Pullum 5 yrs June 28
- Daniel Amankwah 5 yrs June 29
- Dr. Dirck Dillehay 15 yrs July 1
- Dr. Andy Matchett 1yr July 1
- Dr. Pablo Morales 1yr July 1
- Dr. Tim Ford 2 yrs July 2
- Dr. Deb Mook 2 yrs July 9
- Kathleen Visocky 2 yrs July 9
- Kim Benjamin 5 yrs July 20
THE WORLD OF EMMY

Go Electronic
For your convenience, you can receive benefit plan
documents electronically. To sign up, go to the link
below. A web page will be displayed and you can make
your selection. It's that easy to go paperless!
https://emory.hr.emory.edu/hr/spds.nsf/seleciion
If you have already sent in a form, congratulations, you
do not need to re-elect. If you have any questions
regarding the paperless option, please contact your
benefits specialist at 7-7613.

Year-round Blanket and Clothing Drive
Sponsored by the School of Medicine
A GOOD REASON TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS
Please help start a regular collection of clothing, bedding
and food items for distribution among those in need in
the immediate area. A collection box is located in the
Steiner Building, next to Grady, 2nd floor, room 217
Through November 2003
Monday thru Friday, 9am to 6pm
For more information, contact:
Cristen Suhr
404-616-3617
cjsuhr@emory.edu

Ramesses I: Search for the Lost Pharaoh
Sponsored by the Carlos Museum
The mummy believed to be Ramesses I, founder of one of
Egypt's most powerful dynasties from 1293 - 1291 BC, is
the centerpiece of this exhibit. Since acquiring the
mummy in 1999, the Carlos' intention has been to return
it to its rightful place in Egypt. Upon conclusion of this
exhibition, the transfer will be made with all appropriate
celebration and fanfare. Emory's Carlos Museum is the
only U.S. venue for this exhibit before it returns to Egypt.
Tuesdays thru Saturdays, 10am to 5pm
Sundays noon to 5pm.
$5 requested donation
Free to Emory students, staff and faculty.
For more information, contact:
Receptionist desk
404-727-4282
Carlos@emory.edu

Proven Stress Reducers
From the American Lung Association

• Get up 15 minutes earlier in the
  morning. The inevitable morning
  mishaps will be less stressful.
• Turn 'needs' into preferences. Our
  basic physical needs translate into
  food, water, and keeping warm.
  Everything else is a preference. Don't
  get attached to preferences.
• Practice preventative maintenance.
  Your car, appliances, home and
  relationships will be less likely to break
  down 'at the worst possible moment.'
• Eliminate (or restrict) the amount of
  caffeine in your diet.
• Ask questions. Taking a few moments
  to repeat back the directions that
  someone expects of you, etc., can save
  hours.
• Do nothing you have to lie about later.
• Procrastination is stressful. Whatever
  you want to do tomorrow, do it today.
  Whatever you want to do today, do it
  now.

Editor's squawk
It is the tension between creativity and skepticism that has produced the stunning and unexpected findings of
science.
Carl Sagan, astronomer, teacher and author 1934-1996
Susan Martin, Editor

Sylvia Banks, Co-Editor