Leader of the Pack
By: Michael Huerkamp, Director

As I pen this column in the middle of calendar year 2009, I also find myself forced to reflect back over my career for, at the same time, I am also penning remarks to be given at the American Veterinary Medical Association meeting in July and in association with a major award. Contemplating the recognition to be bestowed on me gave me the opportunity to reflect upon the tradition of awards we have in the DAR. One only need walk down our office corridor to be reminded of those among us who have received awards of distinction and/or of lengthy service, national recognitions, or had journal articles featured as cover stories. Plans are in progress to mount a plaque in acknowledgment of our various SEAALAS award recipients over the years. Ours in this respect and in many ways is an enviable tradition and one that I hope that we sustain. Not all traditions, however, are desirable or necessarily good and so we must be careful in honoring and preserving them. Obviously, historical practices that discriminate unfairly, waste resources, or retard progress are those that should not be continued for many reasons but foremost, perhaps, in a utilitarian sense that they don’t allow for full potential to be realized. “Getting by on reputation” represents tradition gone awry because when an organization is all about tradition and without substance, it is functionally dead even if appearances still suggest a certain “dazzle”. Humanity from the very beginning of time has been characterized by change in the environment, society, technology and the like. I am reminded of the force of change recently in the swirl of news, sound bytes, and current events surrounding the nomination of Judge Sotomayor to the Supreme Court. Some people have criticized her for stating eight years ago “I would hope that a wise Latina woman with the richness of her experiences would more often than not reach a better conclusion than a white male who hasn’t lived that life”. I am not sure of the full context of that quote, but to me the inherent and universal message is that America is a better place because of a diverse judiciary (reflective of the citizenry) and certainly one more diverse than the Supreme Court when it was the exclusive domain of men of European heritage from 1790 to 1967. That’s change to be believed in! While it is good to reflect fondly and respect past performance, particularly when it serves to inspire, if the DAR is to continue to thrive in support of science we must continually challenge the traditional by imaging what can be better. As I conclude I would like to segue from the lofty to the practical. Some persons have elected to leave employment with us to seek other opportunities. While I it is my hope that we can provide a career home for all of our employees, I know we only get one chance at life and I encourage everyone to pursue their dreams. Sometimes these dreams lead one elsewhere. If they do, however, there is a tradition of giving a “two week notice” of separation. Failing to give this notice is to resign other than in good standing and generally carries with it ineligibility for rehire anywhere at Emory. This is an important matter because dreams of starting a new business, concentrating fulltime on education, or just taking a different job sometimes do not work out. If they do not, we encourage employees who have left in good standing to consider the tradition of returning home to their DAR.
Birthdays

Alyssa Kairdolf  June 3rd
Hanson Acheampong  June 22nd
Alex Glaskov  June 23rd
Carol Westbury  June 25th
Mike Shelton  June 30th
Antonio Mack  June 30th
Marilyn Arce  July 2nd
Neville Whitehead  July 15th
Agnes Nanjie  July 26th
Minida Dowdy  August 2nd
Marsha Howard  August 5th
Koya Alford  August 7th

Anniversaries

Tine Engle  June 15th (11)
Lynne Morelock-Roy  June 16th (28)
Sabrena Harvey  June 21st (5)
Lisa Copeland  June 25th (2)
Daniel Amankwah  June 29th (11)
Doug Taylor  July 1st (3)
Dondrae Coble  July 1st (1)
Marilyn Arce  July 8th (10)
Carol Westbury  July 9th (8)
Deb Mock  July 9th (2)
Kaja alford  August 1st (22)
Mike Huerkamp  August 11th (12)
Sharynn Gipson  August 27th (2)
Claude Pitt  August 29th (5)
Thomas Jackson

Milestones

Congratulations to Carol Westbury on her 10 years of service at DAR!
Congratulations to Sabrena Harvey on her 5 years of service at DAR!
Congratulations to Thomas Jackson on his 5 years of service at DAR!

Welcome

T. Tenneal Robinson - Animal Care Tech II
Shaharah Baskin-Hardy - Animal Care Tech II
Alberto Calderon - Animal Care Trainee Clinic B
Under the Scope

Name: Kathy Troyer
Position: Secretary of Systems and Operations
Longevity: 2 years
Personal Background: I was in the United States Marine Corps for nearly 6 years, working as an electrician on helicopters. I have been around the world three times but eventually found my home here in Atlanta. I have a Bachelors' Degree in Criminology and am currently working on a Masters' Degree in Business. I am expecting my first child soon and looking forward to this new chapter in my life.

Most Rewarding Aspect of your Job: I spend more hours at my job then I do anywhere else, at least while I am awake. I love the fact that I work with a great group of people whom I enjoy seeing each day. Working in Information Systems, I get first hand access to new technology and often am involved in making it work to our specifications, which is fun to me.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go: I have been around the world a few times now and have seen more countries then most. I believe travel is important, in order to understand the world we live in. If I could go anywhere, I would likely spend more time in Africa. Most of my time there was spent in North Africa but I would love to see South Africa as well.

If you could have any luxury item in the world, what would you get: A chauffer. I am not the best driver and don’t like it very much. I would love for someone to drive me around everywhere.

Kudos

Kudos to Alyssa Kairdolf from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for working so diligently to have Census and Billing done by the deadline. Alyssa, you have done an outstanding job on this as well as the Breeding and Weaning reports. Thanks so much!

Kudos to Tina Engle and Russell Neal from Lynne Morelock-Roy for keeping up with the cost accounting. Our busy time is coming and you have been on track all year, a stable rock during the chaos of our office changes.

Kudos to Koya Alford, Manny D Silva, Kaja Alford, Agnes Nanje, and Sierra Stallworth from Daniel Amankwah and Paul Jenkins for coming to our aid when we were short staffed.

Kudos to Paul Jenkins from Lisa Copeland for helping us get all of those room measurements.

Kudos to all WBRB Care Tech's from Daniel Amankwah and Paul Jenkins for showing much understanding and cooperation during the times when we were short staffed. You all did exhibit a good team spirit.

Kudos to Russell Neal from Kathy Troyer for striving for excellence, even if it means I have to do more cost accounting time cards :(

Kudos to the Animal Care staff from Janine Bellamy for calling in so few animal cases on my days to cover the phone. Gee – thanks! ☺

Kudos to Lisa Copeland from Lynne Morelock-Roy for a truly incredible website. You are sooooo close to going live!

Kudos to an incredible office staff from Lynne Morelock-Roy who kept everything running smoothly during the budget, grant preparation and my flu! Thanks to all of you.

Kudos to Kevin Quinn, Greg Kable, and Franklin Velasquez from Daniel Amankwah and Paul Jenkins for putting "Felix" back to work after misbehaving for some hours.

Kudos to Tulasi Ghimerey, Christina Caldwell, and Sabreena Harvey from Kristy Weed for always making my sentinel deployment run smoothly in their rooms!

Kudos to Daniel Amankwah from Kristy Weed for always bringing me supplies when I need it for the sentinel deployment!

Kudos to Alyssa Kairdolf and Darlene Wyche-Alha-De from Kathy Troyer for adjusting their way of life here in the front office :)

Kudos to Darlene Wyche-Alha-De from Janine Bellamy for trying to manage and teach me on billing – very difficult task. ☺

Kudos to Janine Bellamy, from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for the fine job you are doing with departmental Purchasing. I realize that this part of your job can be very hectic and time-consuming, but you are handling it very well. Many thanks!

Kudos to Rachelle Sparks from Lynne Morelock-Roy for your efforts to bring our External billing up to date! We're looking good!
Kudos

Kudos to Rachelle Sparks from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for quickly getting the Staff Bills sorted and mailed. Also for learning P-Card reconciliation in record speed, and for your assistance with the Census and Billing process. I also thank you for getting as far as January '09 with Animal order procurement and reconciliation. Great Job!

Kudos to Sharmyn Gipson and to Kathy McCormack from Lynne Morelock-Roy for being our stabilizing and constant presence while everything has been a maelstrom of change around you. You have been and always are a remarkable foundation of our customer service!

Kudos to Paul Jenkins from Kristy Weed for helping me figure out the mortality reports!

Kudos to Kathy Troyer from Lynne Morelock-Roy for managing the security audit and another successful year of compliance! It's good to see you getting out and about to the facilities despite the 6 pound addition that's been kicking you in the ribs!

Kudos to everyone from Janine Bellamy for putting together such an effective "Bake Sale"; I ate sold well.

A big Kudos to all the Cage Wash personnel at WBBR from Daniel Amankwah and Paul Jenkins for the excellent job done there few weeks past. Your enthusiasm is appreciated.

Kudos to Alyssa Kaidolf, Darlene Wyche-Alha-De, Rachelle Sparks and Greg Kable from Lynne Morelock-Roy for attacking the almost overwhelming task of learning census and catching up to date with our billing! Our round-table census training experience in the conference room was a tremendous learning experience!

Kudos to Sharmyn Gipson, from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for completing your March and April animal order reconciliations in record time and with accuracy. Also, for handling your vendors with finesse and grace under fire. Way to go Shar!

Kudos to Alyssa Kaidolf, Darlene Wyche-Alha-De, Lynne Morelock-Roy, Rachelle Sparks, and Greg Kable from Janine Bellamy for closing a huge gap in the Census billing.

Kudos to Greg Kable from Lynne Morelock-Roy for the time, the brain power, and the willingness to do any task to keep us going every single day.

Kudos to Tony Favaloro from Kristy Weed for helping me go through 6 months worth of yellow sheets only to NOT find what we were looking for!

Kudos to Mike Huerkamp from Lynne Morelock-Roy, an astonishing boss for orchestrating everyone through an incredibly busy time and still completing the grant with a day to spare!

Kudos to Kathy McCormack, from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for always being so professional and always getting the job done. Thank you for stepping in and making sure the February bills went out in a timely fashion. You are a Class Act!

Kudos to Sharmyn Gipson, Kathy McCormack, and Janine Bellamy from Lynne Morelock-Roy for maintaining our customer service relations and running the office while half of the office learned to do census and caught up the billing. Your quiet dedication and management of the myriad of daily problems is humbling.

Kudos to Russell Neal from Janine Bellamy for being most photogenic at the bake sale.

Kudos to Deb Mook and Dondrae Coble from Lynne Morelock-Roy for recognizing the efforts of the office and vet techs in April! It was totally appreciated!

Kudos to Russell Neal and Tina Engle, from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for all your never-ending assistance. You are always happy to help me and it is much appreciated. You guys are the best!

Kudos to Janine Bellamy from Lynne Morelock-Roy for your involvement on the Web Protocol team! You have been a splendid addition to our group and have demonstrated a good understanding of the needs for both the DAR and the IACUC.

Kudos to Kasie Moore from Kristy Weed for working from home to help with all the past-due billing!

Kudos to Alyssa Kaidolf and Darlene Wyche-Alha-De from Lynne Morelock-Roy for the LONG hours and changed plans over the past 6 months to bring our census back up to date. You have earned the title of Census Expert!

Kudos to Lynne Morelock-Roy from Janine Bellamy for juggling so much over such a long period of time.

Kudos to Neville Whitehead from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for your very thorough and informative tour of the Whitehead facility. It amazed me just how knowledgeable you are of every aspect of the facilities. Wow! I learned so much! Thank you!

Kudos to Sharmyn Gipson from Lynne Morelock-Roy for the rapid turnaround of reconciliations and the phenomenal communications you have with our PI's and lab techs.

Kudos to Greg Kable and Kathy Troyer from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for always remaining so pleasant and being so accommodating while I bombard you with my many I.T. requests. You guys are THE best!!!

Kudos to Nancy Miller from Janine Bellamy for a great "Relay for Life" experience for me.

Kathy McCormack, you are awesome! Kudos to you from Lynne Morelock-Roy for your strength and commitment and for being on top of your job, even when it means working weekends!

Kudos to Nancy Miller from Lynne Morelock-Roy who is a tremendously caring and empathetic co-worker. Thanks PK!
Congratulations Karen Lieber, for successfully coordinating the sending one of our research monkeys to the Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Center in Kedalia, Texas. Dr. Mark Goodman retired Moon, a rhesus macaque, and agreed to send him to the center. Karen worked long hours to answer all the questions posed by the Emory lawyers and the IACUC and to get all the paperwork necessary to send Moon to Texas. The feedback from the caregivers in Texas is that Moon has been fascinated by his new surroundings. The director went to visit him when he arrived and she has a black vulture that is imprinted on her and follows her around. Moon was fascinated with the bird. He is in a compound where he plays in his water and makes mud pies and tosses his toys. What a great place for Moon. Thank you, Karen, for your caring and dedication to the animals here at Emory. Thanks, too, to Dr. Goodman for his agreeing to donate Moon to the center.

Kudos

Kudos to Cisco Calderon and Gary Roesinger from Marlene Barnes for doing such a great job of delivering whatever I ask for at short notice. Thanks.
Kudos to Ann Griffey from Kristy Weed for always making deployment of sentinels in Woodruff a breeze! I appreciate all of your help.
Kudos to Neville Whitehead from Nancy Miller for responding to a water distribution problem at BT after hours. Thanks for making sure the rabbits had water.
Kudos to Kasie Moore from Marlene Barnes for always being on time whenever a sick case is reported and for being helpful in writing up sick cards if it is a lot of sick cases. Good job.
Kudos to Rashidat Ayantunji from Marlene Barnes for being the person you are. You have taught me so much about this job since I came on to Clinic B. I just want to let you know I really appreciate you.
Kudos to Cisco Calderon and Gary Roesinger from Nancy Miller for making sure I order enough warehouse supplies.
Kudos to Doug Taylor from Karen Lieber for giving me just the right words to reel in a cranky investigator.
Kudos to Karen Lieber from Kristy Weed for freeing Moon back into the wild, sort of.
Kudos to Lynne Morelock-Roy from Nancy Miller, for helping with all the “changes” in hiring new staff. Thanks

PK

Kudos to Kasie Moore from Thomas Jackson for showing me things that I didn’t know, and for teaching me new things. You are always on the job.
Kudos to Carol Westbury from Kristy Weed for reading ALL of the dreaded pelages from the largest group of sentinels for me in record time. I appreciate it greatly!
Kudos to the entire DAR from Dr. Huerkamp: Thanks to each of your invaluable and prodigious contributions, a federal grant to buy $500,000 in ventilated mouse cage racks was finished on time and successfully uploaded to the NIH for peer review. While only one person is listed as the PI on this grant, to succeed in this endeavor of proposal preparation required an entire team. While many senior level persons wrote, compiled data, created figures, rewrote, recreated figures, took and retook photographs and the like, none of that would have been possible if we had been distracted by responsibilities or events that were capably and quietly managed around us by our vet techs, residents, supervisors, animal care technicians, Cisco and Gary, and our coworkers in the office. Please know that I am extremely grateful for our entire team in making this possible. Now all of our hopes for more mouse caging rest upon our Director, his strategy in pursuing this opportunity, and his coherent execution of that strategy in the writing and compilation of the submission.