



LGVMA'S GOOD NEWS!

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2006 LGVMA Scholarship Winners

LGVMA congratulates our 2006 scholarships winners: Travis Reed (Michigan State, Class of '09) and Sara Stoll (Western University of Health Sciences, Class of '08).

Sara has served for 2 years as president of Western University's LGBT organization. In that position, she has initiated a seminar series on LGBT issues in health professions, involving students from many professional schools on campus. She also worked on a volunteer program to help *Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS-LA)*.

As an undergraduate, Travis received the 2005 MSU Outstanding Senior Award in recognition of scholarship, leadership, and community service. He recently served as coordinator for the *Take Back The Night Planning Coalition*. He is pursuing a Master in Public Health degree, and hopes to use his degrees to improve both animal and human health.

The LGVMA would like to thank everyone who applied in 2006. We received applications from many qualified students, and the decision was difficult for us. For information on applying for the **2007 LGVMA scholarship**, please see the newsletter insert or visit www.lgvma.org.



LGVMA scholarship recipient Sara Stoll



Travis Reed receiving his scholarship from Dr. Chris Brown, Dean of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

Come join us for LGVMA's Upcoming Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, July 14-18, 2007

LGVMA is planning several events for our 2007 Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the AVMA Annual Convention in Washington, DC.

The LGVMA is excited to present Joan Roughgarden as our keynote speaker during our Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 15, 2007. Roughgarden, a professor at Stanford University, will speak about sexual diversity in the animal kingdom, including zoological aspects of homosexuality in domestic animals and humans. "This talk is especially timely," Roughgarden says, "in view of the Oslo Musuem exhibit on homosexuality and animals that opened in 2006, and has been widely reported in the press. It would be wonderful if all the information on domesticated animals could be folded into the wider zoological picture that is emerging."



Dr. Joan Roughgarden

Professor Roughgarden has authored many books, including, *Evolution's Rainbow: Diversity, Gender, and Sexuality in Nature and People* (now available in paperback at www.joandistrict6.com) and her most recent book, *Evolution and Christian Faith: Reflections of an Evolutionary Biologist*.

We hope you will join us! Spread the word to your friends and colleagues, peers, and the press, and attend this groundbreaking discussion.

Please check our website at www.lgvma.org for up to date annual meeting event details.

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2006 LGVMA Membership Summary

The LGVMA currently has 163 members in the U.S., Canada, and France. The membership is diverse, including veterinarians, technicians, students, and other supporters.

In the U.S., 34 different states have at least one LGVMA member. It's no surprise that California has the most members (31). Slightly more than half of LGVMA members (53%) are male.

Members will be receiving information in the next month regarding 2007 dues.

For information on joining LGVMA, visit our website at www.lgvma.org

Paid members: 163

Veterinarians:	147 (133 DVM, 14 VMD)
Students:	12
Technicians:	2
Other:	2

Female	76
Male	87

USA	160 (34 states)
France	1
Canada	1
Virgin Islands	1

By USA state:

31	CA
12	IL
10	NY
9	PA, MA, VA
7	GA
6	CO, DC, MI
5	WI
4	AZ, FL, MD, MO, NC, OH
3	NJ, TN, TX
2	IN, NH, WA
1	CT, IA, KS, KY, ME, MN, NM, OK, OR, RI, SC

LGVMA's 2006 Annual Meeting Update

We had a rather informal meeting this past year in Honolulu. To assist those who could not attend, we set up a conference call so many mainlanders were there. After the usual membership and treasurer's report, we focused on becoming more of an e-organization. There is much to be done, so we will be making changes as we go. Eventually, all communications, invoicing, membership lists and information sources will be on our webpage under a members-only access.

- ▼ Plans are in place to allow membership dues to be paid electronically through PayPal.
- ▼ The board will expand use of Yahoo! Groups e-mail for communicating with members who have e-mail access.
- ▼ We will increase electronic distribution of the newsletter and move away from printing copies.

Some members may not be completely happy with these changes but we will do everything possible to address individual needs.

Michael McElvaine agreed to take on another term as president due to lack of any other nominees. Tim Withers remains as past president, Michael Miller as treasurer, Vic Spain as secretary, and Jen Thomas and Roseanne Hatcher as at-large board members.

Scholarships were presented to Travis Reed and Sara Stoll (see cover story). Our annual achievement award went to Vic Spain and Noel Rosales for their outstanding service to LGVMA.

We had much discussion about the 2007 annual meeting, which will include a guest speaker (see article on cover page) as well as a presentation at the Diversity Symposium (sponsored by Pfizer again – they deserve this plug) on "How to Make Your Practice Friendlier to the GLBT Community." Michael McElvaine is rapidly finishing a draft to submit for the convention notes CD.

After the meeting, a group of about 12 of us met at a local Thai restaurant for fish and meatless entrees, and fancy fruit drinks with umbrellas. We were a bit noisy but the atmosphere was friendly so no one complained.

▼ Mark your calendar for our 2007 LGVMA annual meeting July 14-18 in Washington, DC

At their Board of Trustees meeting this February, the **AVMA-GHLIT** made a historic decision in support of equal access to family health insurance for all veterinarians regardless of sexual orientation. Dr. Jody Johnson, Director of Member Services, made the long-awaited Announcement: "At the board meeting on February 19-20, 2007, the Trustees took action to extend coverage to domestic partners. They will be utilizing the California definition of domestic partner and the California proof of domestic partner requirements in order to provide such coverage for an established domestic partner relationship. New York Life is in the process of amending the policy to include coverage for domestic partners utilizing these California requirements. Domestic partner coverage will become effective once NYL finalizes the contract language."

LGVMA members around the country praised the decision. Many

had been pushing for this action for years and those voices joined together with hundreds of heterosexual allies in a recent campaign that included a national e-mail drive and a formal presentation by SAVMA President-Elect Justin Sobato before the AVMA-GHLIT Board late last fall.



Heather Trout, a second-year student at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine who helped launch the recent campaign said, "When I decided to go to vet school, it never occurred to me that the profession would not offer me the opportunity to buy health insurance for my partner. I am absolutely thrilled that the AVMA-GHLIT has

now decided to do the right thing and provide a mechanism by which everyone can gain access to family health insurance." Heather's partner of five years and friend for 20 is a self-employed horse trainer and has often had difficulty finding affordable health insurance. "This decision is wonderful news for my own household," said Trout.

The California Domestic Partnership Registry requires that both individuals are unrelated adults who share a common residence and are in an "intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring." Heterosexual couples are not permitted to register as domestic partners unless one or both of them is at least 62 years old.

Details can be found at <http://www.ss.ca.gov/dpreistry>.

Handbook on Animal-Assisted Therapy

Elsevier publishing is pleased to announce the publication of the second edition of a best-selling title, *Handbook on Animal-Assisted Therapy*.

The use of animal assisted therapy, also referred to as animal assisted interventions, has grown tremendously since the first edition of this work. Used with a far greater variety of patient populations and to treat more types of psychological problems, the research and practice literature in the field has expanded. This thoroughly revised edition high-

lights the evidence basis of these therapies, updates original chapters with new research information and it's application to practice, and includes three new chapters on the implementation of animal assisted therapies with children.

LGVMA members Ken Gorczyca and C. Victor Spain co-authored the chapter titled, "History, Development and Theory of Human-Animal Support Services for People with AIDS/HIV and Other Disabling Chronic Conditions," with Aubrey Fine, Dana Callaghan, Laura Nel-

son, Lori Popejoy, Belinda Wong, and Stephanie Wong.

For a limited time, LGVMA members and supporters are entitled to a 20% discount off the list price of this book. Contact the Elsevier customer service department toll-free at (800)545-2522 and reference promotion code #88979 to take advantage of this special offer. We ship via UPS™ and it's free with your purchase (sent in the United States), call today to place your order.



LGVMA ONLINE

Be sure to check out our colorful and informative website at www.lgvma.org. This entertaining website is voluntarily maintained by LGVMA member, Karen Hull, DVM.

This newsletter is available for downloading on our website. Other online services include an application for membership, how to contact us, a calendar of events, and important links to other sites. If you have ideas for things that you would like to see on the website, please let Karen know by emailing her at: webmaster@lgvma.org.

LGVMA members can place a free ad in the newsletter and on the website. Others may contact the editor for advertising prices. Simply e-mail: lgvma@lgvma.org.

LGVMA 2006-2007 Officers:

President	Michael D. McElvaine, DVM, MPH	Washington, DC
Secretary	Vic Spain, DVM, PhD	Philadelphia, PA
Treasurer	Michael Miller, DVM	Alameda, CA
Student Rep	Position vacant	

At-Large Board Members:

Chip Wells, DVM Washington, DC
Rosie Hatcher, DVM Salem, WI
Jennifer Thomas, DVM Ferndale, MI

GOOD NEWS! Staff:

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LGVMA maintains a Yahoo Groups listserv so you can exchange messages rapidly with other participating members. Subscribe by sending an email to: LGVMA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com Or visit our website at www.lgvma.org to subscribe.

GOOD NEWS! Needs You!

The next LGVMA newsletter will be published in the summer of 2007. Please send any news or other submissions to lgvma@lgvma.org.

We are particularly interested in news about LGVMA gatherings, meetings, or interesting news about members. Microsoft Word files attached to e-mail are the easiest for us to work with.

If you have any digital photos (related to LGVMA events, that is!), please e-mail them. Thank you for being involved!

GOOD NEWS! Editor

The LGVMA welcomes our newsletter editor for this issue, Lyn T. Garson, CVT. A Certified Veterinary Technician for over 20 years, Lyn is an officer and founding member of a national veterinary disaster response team, VMAT-1. She is also a freelance writer and photographer, and is currently working on a memoir about her differently-abled pets. She lives in Enfield, CT with her partner of 19 years.