

school year include clinical dietitians, personal nutrition consultants and school food service coordinators.

"By listening to the speakers and asking questions, I have been able to understand the diverse careers available for dietitians, and I've begun to develop a vision of what I want to do in the future," said Ellen Easley, a junior from Cedar Bluff and SDA vice president for the 2005-06 school year.

SDA advisors are Sylvia Byrd and Brent Fountain, both

faculty members in the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion. It's a duty that extends beyond regular office hours.

"Our advisors are a crucial part of our success here at MSU," Easley said. "They do a great job of helping us stay on track, and are there for us any time we need them—they're even up at 4:30 in the morning to cook the alumni breakfasts with us."

Veterinary Students Enjoy Professional, Social Opportunities

Veterinary students are known for their discipline and commitment to studies, but occasionally they just need to have a little fun.

The Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the largest student organization at MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine, conducts activities to fulfill both the academic and social needs of its members.

The social activities of the organization provide stress relief for students who must spend a great deal of their time studying and attending classes. In April, the first-ever SCAVMA Alpha Psi semi-formal was such a success that organizers plan to make it an annual event. Held at the Hotel Chester in Starkville, the event was open to the entire CVM student body, faculty members, spouses and significant others.

"We had a wonderful time at the semi-formal, and we're already planning next year's event, which we may decide to make a full formal," said SCAVMA president Brian Maran. "It's a great chance before school gets out to get together and have some fun."

SCAVMA members also host pregame tailgates for each MSU home football game. Sponsored by Hill's Corporation, these tailgates provide a time of fun and fellowship for students, faculty, staff and CVM alumni.

While the social activities do help relieve stress for students, SCAVMA's main goal is to encourage students to be involved in the future of the veterinary profession.

"SCAVMA is a professional organization that operates

locally the way the American Veterinary Medical Association does nationally. SCAVMA is more involved with the student body, organizing social events, providing extra educational opportunities and guiding the philosophy of the student body through discussions and guest lectures," Maran said. "Guest speakers discuss a variety of topics, including ethics and the different political and legislative agendas that affect veterinarians."

Maran said the goal of these guest lectures is to provide key role models to discuss how best to practice veterinary medicine. SCAVMA invites speakers to discuss topics that are relevant to all veterinary students, and the six specialty organizations under SCAVMA's umbrella bring speakers who focus more on each club's interests. Maran said students are encouraged to join a specialty club that relates to their career goals.

The two largest student organizations under SCAVMA are WEZAAM, which stands for Wildlife, Exotic, Zoo, Avian and Aquatic Medicine, and the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Other specialty clubs include the Veterinary Business Management Association, the Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, the American Association of Feline Practitioners, the Food Animal Practitioners Group, Christian Veterinary Fellowship and Alpha Psi, the national veterinary social fraternity.

"In veterinary school, we all have to learn the same things and go through the same curriculum. Participating in SCAVMA and the specialty student organizations provides an avenue for us to learn more about the particular areas we're interested in," Maran said. "Another major benefit is that everybody here is motivated, which helps drive you in areas you may feel you lack knowledge or skills."

Seventy-one of the 72 freshman CVM students are members of SCAVMA, and Maran said the membership typically is well above 90 percent of all CVM students.

Drs. Robert Linford and John Tyler serve as SCAVMA faculty advisers. Linford said the top-quality student leaders of SCAVMA make his job very simple.

"Our students practically operate the entire organization



Libba Miller

themselves. They're very good. We just periodically give advice on organizational procedures and financial matters," Linford said. "With some student organizations, there is a potential for disagreements, but our students all get along really well."

In addition to being exposed to nationally known speakers, Linford said a major benefit to SCAVMA membership is that, as members, students are able to purchase liability insurance through the parent American Veterinary Medical Association at a much-reduced price.

"This insurance is required for students in their junior- and senior-year externship rotations," Linford said. "It's difficult for them to obtain externships without liability insurance because veterinarians are reluctant to let uninsured students come in and work for them."

Linford said SCAVMA members also participate in a national continuing education meeting each year. At this symposium, members have the opportunity to learn, have fun and meet veterinary students from all over the country.

CFR Organizations

- CFR Dean's Council
- Forest Products Society, MSU Chapter
- Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences
- MSU Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society
- Society of American Foresters (SAF)/Forestry Club
- The Wildlife Society
- Wildlife Law Enforcement Club
- Xi Sigma Pi



Karen Brasler

Wildlife Law Enforcement Club is Hands-on Experience

Patrolling Chadwick Lake to inform anglers of fishing regulations and permit requirements is one of the many activities of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Club.

The club patrols the lake and obtains catch and effort information from the users as part of their on-the-job training activities. Club members coordinate patrols with the MSU Campus Police and local conservation officers of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

"This opportunity has changed the focus of our club's activities from fundraising to concentrating on job training activities," said Mike Thrash, senior wildlife law enforcement student.

The lake patrol, as well as monitoring the game check stations in the MSU John W. Starr Memorial Forest, gives students an opportunity to work side-by-side with law enforcement officers.

In addition to these campus activities, members receive annual pistol and rifle training from the Starkville Police Department and participate in the Conservation Law Enforcement Internship program with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

"The Wildlife Law Enforcement Club gives its members many opportunities to network with professionals in the law

enforcement field," said Kevin Hunt, club advisor. "From attendance at professional meetings such as the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to the forensics workshop sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Berryman Institute, the students learn about law enforcement careers from the professionals."

The MSU Wildlife Law Enforcement Club was the first student organization inducted into the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association.



Kevin Hunt

Forestry Chapter Hailed as the Best in the Nation

The MSU student chapter of the Society of American Foresters is more than a club at MSU; it has been honored as the one of the outstanding student chapters in the nation for the last nine years. To follow the trend, the student chapter web site has won first place in the web site competition for the last two years.

"It is truly more than a club," said Donald Grebner, club advisor. "The students attend scientific meetings where they network with those in the profession and have many opportunities to give back to the community through civic-minded endeavors.

"Our goal is to not only be appreciative to what has been given to us, but to engender a sense of civic responsibility to its members," Grebner added.

The chapter has adopted part of Highway 25 South to pick up trash as part of Mississippi's Adopt-A-Highway program. Chapter members also help with local food drives for the needy and in the recent past made donations to the Palmer Home for Children.

There is an opportunity for fun in MSU's SAF. Each year

chapter members participate in forestry competitions at the Association of Southern Forestry Club's annual conclave. The annual conclave hosts an estimated 300 student lumberjacks from 14 universities testing their skills in a variety of physical and technical events.

Chapter member Eric Ezell, who competes in the crosscutting event, said "It was a lot of fun and it gave you an opportunity to meet peers from other universities."

Developing future leaders and forestry professionals is a chapter goal. The chapter hosts project learning tree events in local schools, sponsors student participation in MSU student leadership development workshops, and sends chapter officers to the SAF Leadership Academy in Nebraska each year.

Chapter President Dan Prevost said the SAF Leadership Academy was "a great experience," and that it "built confidence and taught many practical leadership skills."

MANRRS Offers Career Development

Minority students in natural resources and agriculture now have an opportunity to network with professionals in their fields through the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences.

Established at MSU in 2001, MANRRS prepares students for leadership roles by involving them in activities, educational opportunities and job readiness training, as well as facilitating internships and permanent employment.

MANRRS is a national organization established to develop a network between minority natural resources and agriculture students and professionals from academic institutions, government and industry.

The MSU MANRRS chapter has 23 student members from nine departments and two colleges. Students attend the annual MANRRS Conference and Career Fair. Students also participate in fund-raising activities and a can drive during the holidays.

Wildlife Society Offers Variety

The MSU student chapter of the Wildlife Society competes in identifying everything from frog calls to duck wings as part of the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave. These competitions give the MSU chapter a sense of team camaraderie in field events such as dendrology, archery, obstacle course, radio telemetry and the canoe race.

The Wildlife Society is an international, nonprofit scientific and educational organization serving professionals in all areas of wildlife conservation and resource management. Membership in the student chapter provides students with the tools they will need to be effective in school and on the job, said club advisor Ben West.

Members of the MSU student chapter attend professional meetings and help host events such as the National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet.

"The student chapter is designed to allow students the opportunities to network with professionals and help determine their niche in this challenging and dynamic profession," West said.

Through meetings, special projects and other functions, students become familiar with wildlife management techniques; become aware of local, national and international natural resources issues; and gain valuable experience in the wildlife profession.