

BREAKING NEW GROUND



Many of my friends will tell you that I enjoy reading and discussing all things about American history and politics. There is much to learn and debate when you look closely at the motives and ideas of our founding fathers and the political leaders of today. But one area where this country has historically found agreement is the

importance of a society that embraces philanthropy.

The word "philanthropy" is Greek in origin and means love of mankind. The American Heritage Dictionary explains that philanthropy is usually expressed by efforts to enhance the common good and well-being of humanity through personal acts of kindness or by financial support of a cause or causes.

As a professional fundraiser for the MSU Foundation, I have the unique opportunity to raise money for a college of veterinary medicine (there are only 28 such places in the United States) where people who care deeply about animals are actually working to better the health and life of animals and people everywhere.

In my mind, this is a very powerful mission that is sometimes not recognized by the general public. Like our sister institutions, so much of what goes on at the MSU CVM has direct benefits for humans as well as animals.

Veterinarians are making discoveries to help in the fight against many diseases and public health concerns, including arthritis, cancer, heart disease and infectious diseases like West

Nile virus, Lyme disease, tuberculosis and rabies. Doctors of veterinary medicine are also working to ensure the safety of our food and drinking water, which is a major concern of people today.

In other words, the mission of the MSU CVM is to advance veterinary medicine, and by extension, all science. I am often reminded by our faculty that the fundamental causes of disease are the same for humans and animals, and advances in one area such as oncology, have the potential to benefit the health of many species.

One of my favorite heroes in American history is Benjamin Franklin, who was a leading philanthropist of his day and gave of his resources in many areas. However, funding education and science was at the top of his list. He said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Alumni and friends from all over the country have become our partners in helping to fund many of our life-changing programs. Consider taking your love of MSU and animals further through financial support. Always remember that your gift might just be what the doctor ordered.

Keith Gaskin,
Senior Director of Development
College of Veterinary Medicine

Dogging Cancer Is Our Goal

Cancer and the need for proficient cancer therapy are becoming more and more important to pets and pet owners. Of the approximately 65 million dogs and 32 million cats in the U.S., the National Cancer Institute estimates that about 6 million dogs and 6 million cats will be diagnosed each year with cancers that share many characteristics with human malignancies. There is a great need for the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine to develop a state-of-the-art oncology facility.

Presently, advanced veterinary oncology and geriatric medical services are not available within a 240-mile radius of the CVM. Hardships on veterinary patients and owners often result from traveling long distances for cutting-edge cancer treatments. In some cases, prohibitive travel time may ultimately prevent pet owners from seeking needed care for their dogs or cats.

MSU CVM offers advanced diagnostic services, including digital radiography, ultrasonography, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). However, the veterinary college needs to further develop its radiation component of cancer treatment, expand its chemotherapy program and enhance its research program. Equipment, supplies and additional staff are needed to achieve these goals.

To date, 122 donors have given almost \$756,000 to the Malcolm H. Mabry Jr. and "Lulu" Oncology Unit Fund. The funds will be used to purchase equipment and supplies, but additional funding is still needed. A linear particle accelerator (LINAC), which allows cancer treatment with precise applications of radiation, costs millions of dollars.

CVM recently hired its first board-certified oncologist, Dr. Kim Johnson, who will enable the veterinary faculty to more effectively assist local veterinarians with cancer diagnoses, chemotherapeutic protocols, effective treatment options and up-to-date prognosis information. Dr. Johnson will work with the CVM oncology service team, whose goal is to provide hope, compassion and healing while also offering innovative treatment options for patients. In order to continue improving its medical, surgical and nutritional options for veterinary cancer patients, Mississippi State's CVM must attract more oncology staff and develop an advanced student-training program.

There are several giving opportunities that will help CVM reach its goal of "dogging" cancer in Mississippi's pets. If you would like to help, contact Keith Gaskin, senior director of development, at (662) 325-3815.

Give Me Liberty, and Pass the Turkey

A love for wildlife conservation inspired Polly Anderson Newsom, and a scholarship established in her name at Mississippi State continues to benefit the state's natural resources 20 years after her untimely death.

She and her late husband F.A. Anderson Jr. established Longleaf Farms in Liberty, transforming a former cattle and farming operation into forestland and wildlife habitat. The couple released wild turkeys purchased from Virginia and Pennsylvania on the property. They also established a large and growing herd of whitetail deer managed through the Deer Management Assistance Program.

"Longleaf Farms soon became, and still is to this day, a turkey hunter's paradise," said Jeff Little, development officer and avid turkey hunter. "Every spring, friends and family gather to hunt turkeys, enjoy fellowship and remember those who came before."

The Andersons' stocking effort was so successful that Longleaf Farms soon began supplying turkeys to Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for release into other areas. Many hunters in south Mississippi can thank them for the abundant turkey populations in the region, Little added.

To celebrate their work in forestry and wildlife, the Andersons were recognized as Conservationists of the Year by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation.

Polly Anderson later married her second husband Roy Newsom of Columbia. After her death in 1988, her family donated to the university a 1979 Silver Shadow Rolls-Royce, which had been driven to campus many times.

To celebrate the Liberty native's love of natural resources, her family established a scholarship in her name in 1996. The sale of the Rolls-Royce, along with funds donated by friends and family, helped establish the memorial fund awarded each year to College of Forest Resources students from Pike and Amite counties.

Roy Newsom died this spring, ironically, at the close of the turkey season. Numerous family and friends will remember his love for wildlife, conservation and Polly Anderson Newsom.

"It seems that oftentimes, those who inspire us to conserve and appreciate our natural resources are forgotten. This is not the case for Polly Anderson Newsom. Friends and loved ones have kept her memory alive through scholarships in her name," Little said.

If you are interested in contributing to the Polly Anderson Newsom scholarship or establishing a scholarship in the name of someone who has been an inspiration to you, please contact Little at (662) 325-8151 or jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu.

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Gift Establishes Andrews Agricultural Research Center

Although Lester Andrews now resides in Charlottesville, Va., he maintains strong ties to Mississippi and the state's largest university. A unique gift from Andrews will honor his late father, a former MSU professor of agronomy.

Andrews has made a significant gift of 690 acres of land located in Oktibbeha County. This gift will establish the W.B. Andrews Agricultural Systems Research Center in the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. MAFES is the principal research arm of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.

"I thought that our family farm would be an excellent site for Mississippi State to continue pioneering agricultural research. It is my hope that new discoveries will be made from experiments done on this farm that will benefit the farmers of Mississippi and people everywhere," Andrews said.

The late William Baker Andrews graduated from then-Mississippi A&M in 1929 and also earned a master's degree in 1931. After receiving a doctorate from Michigan State in 1936, he joined the Mississippi State College faculty. During his time as an agronomy professor, he was a pioneer in researching the use of anhydrous ammonia as a fertilizer, performing experiments on local small farms in the 1940s. The application of anhydrous ammonia as a fertilizer was later recognized as one of the top 10 agricultural developments of the 20th century.

The Andrews Center will be designed to meet the growing demands of agriculture. The new facility will provide an environment for MSU scientists and students to pursue state-of-the-art research with geographic information systems, new plant varieties, crop management systems and numerous other projects.

"The Andrews Center will be the site of research with cotton, soybeans, corn and other traditional Mississippi crops, as well as crops that are taking on new economic importance in the state," said Melissa Mixon, interim vice president for the division and interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Through his gift, Andrews wishes to further the groundbreaking agricultural research being done at Mississippi State just as his father did until he left the university in 1957 for a career with Mississippi Chemical Corporation.

Lester Andrews grew up in Starkville while his father was teaching at the university. He graduated from Mississippi State in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and earned a doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley in 1966. Andrews currently serves as a professor of chemistry at the University of Virginia, where his areas of expertise include spectroscopy and photochemistry. He was recognized earlier this year with that university's Distinguished Scientist Award.

For more information on supporting the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, contact Jud Skelton, director of development, at (662) 325-0643 or email jskelton@foundation.msstate.edu.

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