

Media Release

University of Calgary launches Canada's fifth veterinary program

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Calgary, AB – The University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) is proud to launch its innovative undergraduate veterinary program and introduce its inaugural class.

“This is a very exciting day for us,” says Dr. Alastair Cribb, dean. “Our faculty have put together an exceptional program to match the quality of the outstanding students who have been accepted.”

Thirty-four Alberta students, with excellent academic records and a variety of backgrounds, make up the first class in the U of C Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program. The first class will graduate in 2012, following completion of the unique DVM curriculum.

UCVM offers an exciting program that integrates active hands-on learning with scientific knowledge throughout the curriculum. The program is based on a partnership with the veterinary and animal health communities in Alberta and western Canada. Students will engage in off-campus, experiential learning activities in all semesters, with the majority of the final year spent learning with veterinarians across Alberta in the Distributed Veterinary Learning Community (DVLC).

All students will receive a general veterinary education that will prepare them for the range of professional careers in veterinary medicine. Students will also select an area of emphasis in which they will receive enriched educational opportunities. The program will prepare students to serve rural Alberta and the agri-food industries in Alberta, as well as the many other important areas where veterinarians contribute to animal and human health.

Erin Shields, a member of the Class of 2012 has a family history with the U of C. Her grandmother was part of the very first graduating class. Shields, who was born and raised on a horse ranch southwest of Okotoks says getting accepted to veterinary school fulfills a lifelong dream.

“I’m really looking forward to being part of the first class,” she says. “I’m proud to pave the way for future veterinarians in Alberta.”

The DVM students will join more than 30 graduate students already working under UCVM faculty.

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