MSC Veterinary Technology students hard at work in summer externships

Summer externships are underway for the second-year students in Murray State College’s Veterinary Technology Program. The eleven students are working throughout the area, getting hands-on training in their new careers. The externship is an 8 week-long program that is designed to give the students real-world experience before they head out into the workforce. It is also a requirement for graduation of the program.

“Clinical externship is the culmination of a student’s Veterinary Technician education,” says Debbie Reed, Registered Veterinary Technician and Co-Director of the Murray State College Veterinary Technology Program. “It is the training ground where students are challenged to integrate all aspects of their education. This phase of training offers students the excitement and responsibility of applying the knowledge and skills they have learned.”

The students are working in clinics in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Kentucky. Foster, Oklahoma native Rebecca Daniel is spending her externship in Lexington, Kentucky at Equine Medical Associates. She says growing up on a 350-acre farm influenced her career choice.

“My whole life has been all about animals, big or small,” says Daniel. “It wasn't a hard decision to make. I love helping animals, and people.”

Under the guidance of Dr. Jim Morehead and his staff, Daniel is getting hands on training in the care and handling of animals. Daniel says her externship is going well. She says she is learning about new techniques, clinical management skills, communication, and client education. Dr. Morehead says Daniel is doing well in her externship.

“She has a great attitude and is willing to do anything that is asked of her,” says Dr. Morehead. “Having graduates from MSC come to our practice allows them the opportunity to experience the real world of veterinary medicine.”

Marlow native, Jillian Morris, is staying closer to home for her externship. She is working under the direction of Dr. Tristan Graf at the Osage Animal Hospital in Duncan. She says she is learning new skills including ultrasound, echocardiograms, anesthesia protocols, and cytology. Her love of animals and working with people drove Morris to enter the Veterinary Technology Program. Morris says she hopes to use her new experience to advance her career.

Daniel says her experience at Murray State College is something she will treasure, calling MSC Veterinary Technology her second home.

“My instructors were friends, family and parents,” Daniel says. “They are wonderful and amazing for putting up with all of us. For me, they were a godsend. They never stopped believing in me, even when I doubted myself. I always hear Debbie Reed's voice in my head on a daily basis, guiding me.”

The students and their externship locations are: Kristen Baker from Sulphur, Oklahoma - Ada Veterinary Clinic in Ada, Oklahoma; Cara Calvert from Jones, Oklahoma – All Pets Medical Center in Altus, Oklahoma; Codi Critchlow from Rattan, Oklahoma – Boswell Animal Kare in Boswell, Oklahoma; Rebecca Daniel from Foster, Oklahoma – Equine Medical Associates in Lexington, Kentucky; Johnna DeFoor from Wilson, Oklahoma – Ardmore Animal Hospital in Ardmore, Oklahoma; Halli Keeling from Tupelo, Oklahoma – Atoka Veterinary Clinic in Atoka, Oklahoma; Jillian Morris from Marlow, Oklahoma – Osage Animal
Hospital in Duncan, Oklahoma; Kaitlyn Pletcher from Colwich, Kansas – Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, Kansas; Dena Reynolds from Sherman, Texas – Best Friends Animal Hospital in Denison, Texas; Taylor Smith from Ada, Oklahoma – Animal Health Services in Ada, Oklahoma; and Dawn Tarves from Stratford, Oklahoma – Walnut Creek Veterinary Clinic in Purcell, Oklahoma.

The externships end on July 11.

For more on the Murray State College Veterinary Technology Program, visit www.mscok.edu.