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WEB ONLY

New scholarship available for pre-vet, animal science students

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Cuyahoga Falls Veterinary Clinic in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio/flickr

New funds will be made available in spring 2016 to students studying animal science or pre-veterinary studies at UH Mānoa and UH Hilo thanks to an endowed scholarship established by a former professor.

Jim Carpenter, retired UH Mānoa professor, and his wife Jeanne gifted \$75,000 to the two campuses. At the moment, it's unclear how much each payment will be worth and how priority will be determined.

Rajesh Jha, assistant professor of Animal Nutrition and a colleague of Carpenter, said that Carpenter wanted to give back to department that gave to him, not only with his endowment, but by still being active in the Animal Sciences department and being an invaluable resource among Animal Science professors.

"Seeing how much Dr. Carpenter cared for his students actually affect my decision when I was deciding on applying for my position at UH. In fact, he actually hired me, and I met his wife and I could see that this scholarship is an extension of who he is," said Ashley Stokes, the pre-veterinary advisor for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resource's animal science program and a member of the department's scholarship committee. "Compared to a normal scholarship donation, which is dispersed directly, an endowment is invested and scholarships are paid out from the return on interest. Making it last much longer, if not indefinitely."

Prior to this endowment, the only scholarship available specifically for pre-veterinary students was the Dr. Charles Reid Scholarship. On average, it paid out around \$2,100 per award.

Becoming a veterinarian

Students wanting to attend veterinary school after finishing at UH Mānoa are advised on taking a plethora of science courses, ranging from Biology to Chemistry, to physics, along with math up to calculus.

When asked about funding available to students, Cara Madayag, a senior in the pre-veterinary program, said that the scholarships available to Animal Science students compared to students in other colleges didn't match up. There aren't many specifically for pre-veterinary students, she said.

According to the campus catalogue for academic year 2015-16, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) has 60 scholarships available.

Stokes is also the chairwoman for the Dr. Charles Reid Scholarship and a member of other committees. She said money is available for students but once they see the scholarship requirements that are discouraged. They'd be surprised what they might get, she said, they should just apply and see what happens.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, veterinarians make \$84,000 annually, or \$40 based on a 40 hour work week.

According to BLS, the top states for veterinarian employment are California, Texas, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania.

As the pre-veterinary advisor, Stokes hasn't seen many students leave the program at UH Mānoa because of costs or lack of funding available. But when students attend veterinary schools in the continental U.S., costs can overwhelm them.

"With this endowment, we'll be able to ease the burden for cost of attendance for undergraduates, and hopefully help them when they move on to the next step of their education," she said.

