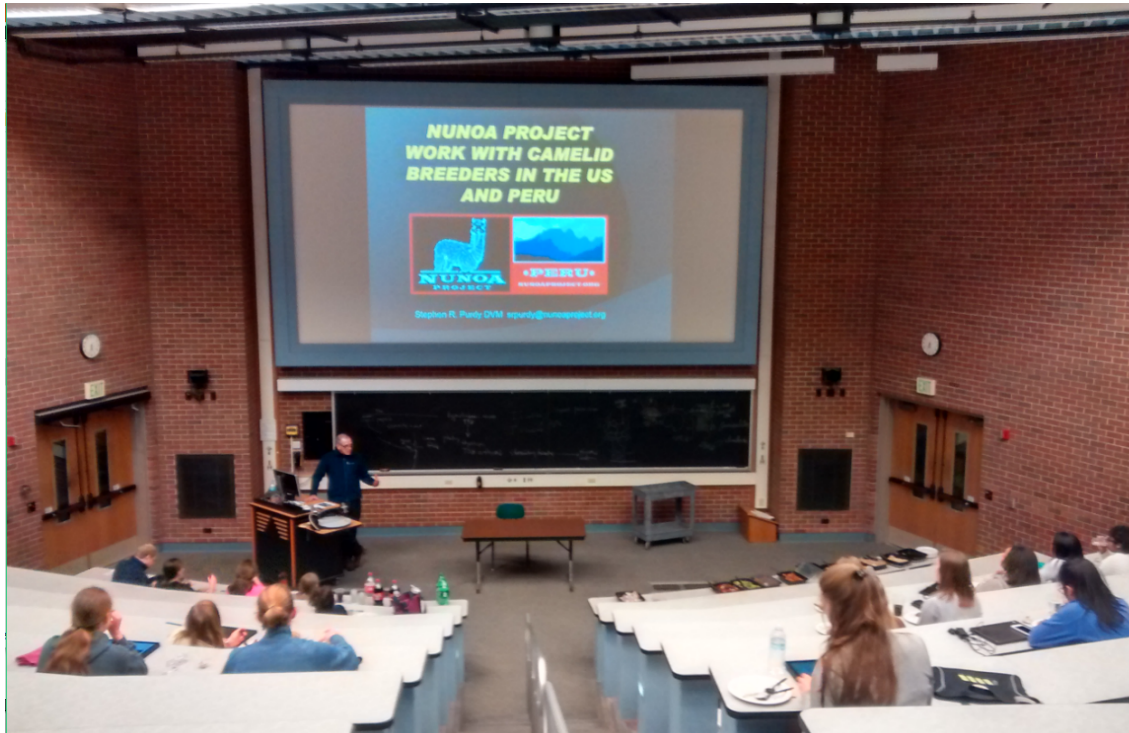


March 3, 2016

On Wednesday March 2nd, Dr. Stephen Purdy visited Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine. He gave two lectures over the course of the day to Veterinary Students who are members of the Purdue Chapter of the Society for Theriogenology (Therio Club) and/or the International Veterinary Student Association (IVSA).



As a former student, teaching assistant and employee of Dr. Purdy, As soon as I started Veterinary School I knew that I wanted to create an opportunity for him to travel to Purdue and speak with my peers. As a second year veterinary student and the Equine Chair for our chapter of SFT, I finally got the chance to plan such an event.

Dr. Purdy lectured to a group of 30 students in the morning about Practical Donkey Reproduction. In the evening he lectured to a room of about 30 students on Working with Camelids in the Southern Peruvian Highlands. Some of the attendees had gone to the morning lecture and others, who found the idea of international work appealing, joined us. To me this was a way to expose students to practical reproduction, non-profit organizations, International Veterinary Medicine and a chance to work with species of importance around the world.

Working with camelids and donkeys is something I am very passionate about, but these species are sadly underrepresented compared to other species at many Veterinary Colleges in the United States. My fellow students deserved a chance to learn about opportunities with alpacas and donkeys from an amazing teacher and veterinarian. Dr. Purdy was kind enough to travel to Indiana in early March to educate us all. Sparking the interest of students in Veterinary School to travel to Massachusetts and take the Summer NACSP courses, to travel to Peru on behalf of the Nuñoa Project, or to travel anywhere in the World for that matter to learn more about camelids was my real goal.

The work of the Nuñoa Project-Peru is not only about the animals, but it is about the People of Peru and the way International Work (veterinary or not) can change our perspectives on life. My own trip to Peru was extremely valuable and I wanted to share that with the people who will one day be my colleagues.

Thank You,

Nicole L. Rapa

