Hope in Higher Education.



Happiness Personified. Robyn (left) graduated in 2023 and Brigitte (right) graduates in 2026. (Photo used with permission)

Veterinary Education - Paying it Forward.

Professions usually have a number of unwritten behavioural and collegial expectations that seriously challenge the newcomer to “fit the mould”. These have their foundations in firmly held values and belief structures that hold the new graduate in check and from my observation, are heavily influenced by the life experience of older colleagues during their formative years.

Most of our students arrive at our school at a highly formative period of their lives when they are testing their values and belief structures. This life stage is independent of our school; it just happens while they are here. It is inevitable that there will be times when the expression of intergenerational values and beliefs will be in tension. Students start to experience these tensions when they explore the interface of farming and veterinary clinic practical weeks away from the University.

Robyn sent me this photo, unsolicited, as she grasped the concept I teach, of paying it forward to our next-gen veterinarians when they spend time with her on their practice externships during BVSc5. Independently, students that have work experience with her often tell me of the great time they have when working with Robyn as she values them and puts them at ease as they attempt practical clinical skills for the first time in many cases.

Stuart Bruere – School of Veterinary Science.