



Three from Edmond admitted into OSU veterinary program

STILLWATER — Oklahoma State University's Center for Veterinary Health Sciences recently welcomed 106 members of the class of 2022. Among those admitted to OSU's DVM program were Shay McClain-McConnell, Haleigh Skinner, and Mackenzie Skinner all of Edmond.



McClain-McConnell

McClain-McConnell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology/Cell and Molecular Biology from Oklahoma State University. She is the daughter of Tod and Brenda McClain of Edmond and married to Brycen McConnell.

The Skinners are the twin daughters of Christy and Stephen Skinner, also of Edmond. Both Haleigh and Mackenzie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Oklahoma.

"We are excited to welcome the class of 2022 to our campus," said Dr. Carlos Risco, dean of the veterinary center. "Our faculty look forward to teaching them and are committed to providing them with an education that will exceed their expectations."

Oklahoma State is known for graduating career ready veterinarians who follow a variety of career paths including private practice, biomedical research, military service, the pharmaceutical industry, and academia. Students historically have a 98 to 100 percent pass rate on the North

American Veterinary Licensing Examination. The veterinary center is one of only seven U.S. veterinary colleges to score in the U.S. Department of Education's acceptable range for the annual loan payment to income ratio.



H. Skinner

"Since kindergarten we've been going to school together so this will be no different," Haleigh said. "We went to the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics together. We were roommates there. We were roommates at OU, so this is just another step in our academic journey together."

"We're very close," Mackenzie said. "Being a veterinarian has been a lifelong dream for me. I've never really wanted to do anything else. I started pursuing volunteer work opportunities in high school."

"I thought about it (being a veterinarian) when I was a kid and then I thought about other opportunities as well — medical school or research, things like that. So I was in college when I started getting my experience," Haleigh added.

Proximity and the cost of higher education played a part in selection of OSU for the twins.

"Financial reasons, of course, in-state tuition is very nice," agreed Haleigh. "Our parents live in Edmond so I would still be close to them. I have always liked OSU when I have been up here. The

people are super nice and it's a good school."

"Everyone I've dealt with here (Oklahoma State) has been very kind," Mackenzie said. "I really



M. Skinner

like Stillwater as a community and it's close to home. I really like having my parents around, so it will be nice to be close to them."

The twins did their undergraduate studies at the University of Oklahoma, each earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

"I'm excited to start veterinary college," Haleigh said. "A little nervous and it's like starting over again. I know every big journey starts with a little step."

"I know it will be challenging, but I'm up for it," Mackenzie added. "I know it will also be really rewarding. I'm very ready to join the profession."

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The class of 2022 includes 17 males and 89 females. Fifty-eight are residents and 48 are non-residents representing Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Texas, and China.

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