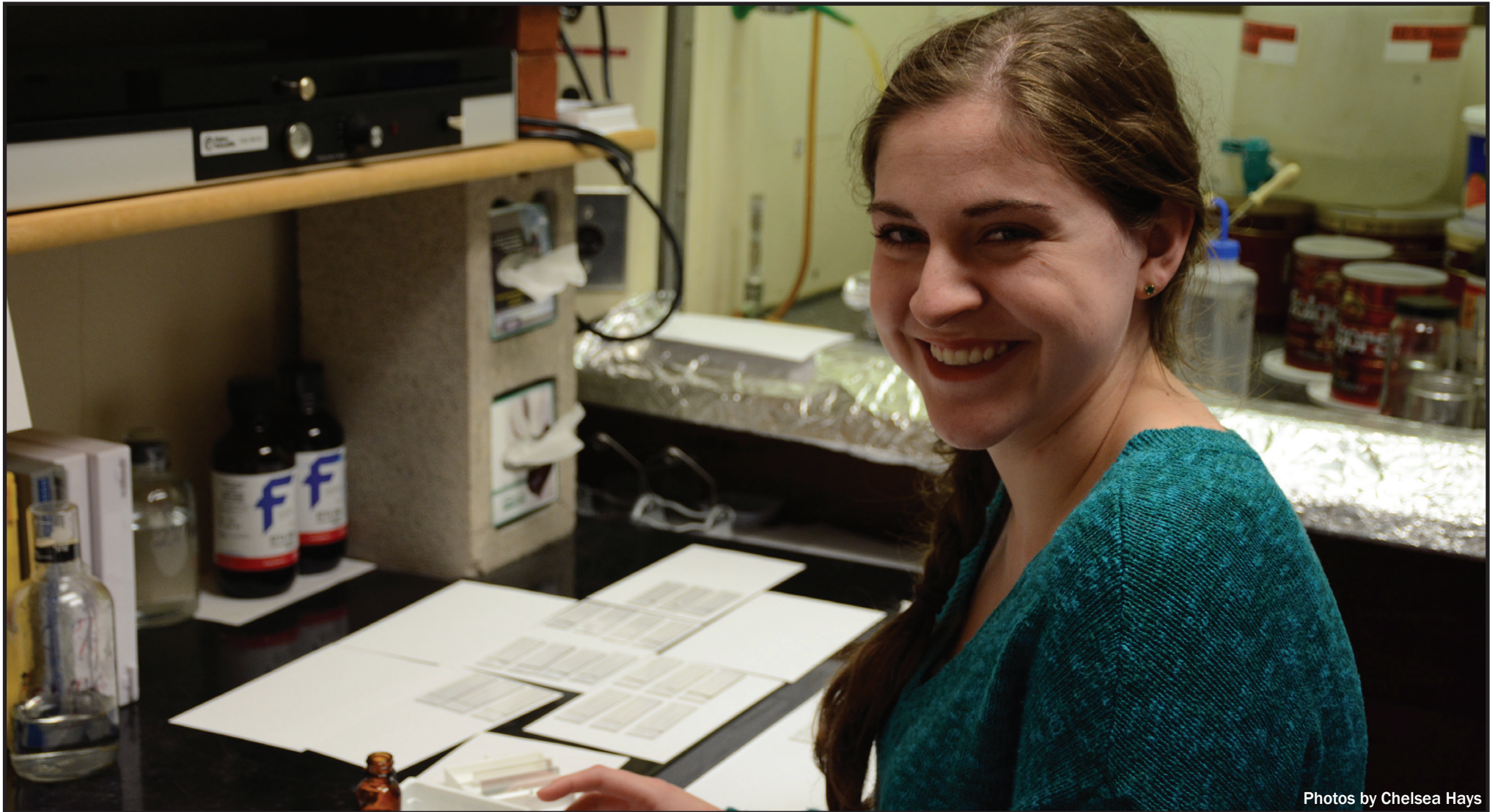


Love of Learning



Photos by Chelsea Hays

From cuddling cats to dissecting tree frogs, Holly Dodson can't get enough of the animal kingdom. Check out what's next for this biology major.

CHELSEA HAYS
PHOTO EDITOR

Honors student Holly Dodson is one of biology's most outstanding students. Dodson is an animal-loving senior biology major with pre-professional emphasis from Fort Smith. She spends most of her free time outside of class studying, working at a vet clinic and hanging out with her cat.

Dodson has decided that she wants to go to veterinary school after graduation. This is one reason she choose her biology major.

"I started as an animal science major I really did like it, but I realized I wanted to do veterinarian medicine with more exotic animals and small animals. So doing a lot of things with larger animals did not make as much sense to me," Dodson said.

Even though Dodson did leave the College of Agriculture, she cherished all the time she did spend there. Some of her favorite times were spent doing her research with sheep on the animal farm. This research also left a huge impact on one of her favorite professors from the College of Agriculture.

"Holly had such a reliable work ethic during her Honors Project involving the four-month-long sheep feeding research trial," said Dr. Stephanie Pulley, Instructor of Animal Science in the College of Agriculture.

Dodson has started conducting another research project this year dealing with tree frogs. She is doing this research under A-State's Dr. Stan Trauth with his graduate student Christopher Thigpen.

Dodson and Thigpen are researching the eating habits of tree frogs. In order to gather data, the re-

searchers cut open the frog's stomachs to observe their diet. So far, Dodson and Thigpen have found that they eat ants, a previously undiscovered fact.

"We are working on writing that paper up now but that is not the fun part. The fun part is actually looking at the frog stomachs," Dodson said.

Dodson also explained her excitement for getting to work with some of the new equipment during this research she never had the chance use before.

"This project has given me a chance to work with some cool instruments like the electron microscopes. Those are right next door to Dr. Trauth's lab so we got to work some of those," Dodson said. "I have also got the chance to learn how to prepare the slides, which are gold plated, so that's really cool."

Trauth is encouraging her to stay to go to graduate school at A-State and work as a graduate assistant with him. "She is quite great. I knew she could do this," Trauth said. Dodson's peers are in agreement with the faculty. Fellow science student Lindsey Hefner, a senior biology education major of Russellville, noted her admiration of Dodson.

"Holly is a great student because she understands how to balance and incorporate the knowledge obtained in the classroom with the practical application in real world problems," Hefner said.

Dodson has applied to so far to three veterinary schools: Louisiana State University, family favorite Oklahoma State University and University of Missouri, at which she has an upcoming interview.

Dodson said, "Veterinarian medicine is just something I love and it is what I want to do with my life."

