Hathaway / Ritter Distinguished Achievement Award - Mrs. Alma Roy

Hathaway & Ritter are considered to be the fathers of professional mosquito control in Louisiana. Their professional camaraderie was directly responsible for establishing organized mosquito control in Louisiana in the late 1950s and early 1960s. They jointly sought to educate governmental officials and Louisiana citizens that mosquitoes could be controlled if the efforts were based on scientific knowledge, trained personnel and appropriate funding.

Our honoree is the embodiment of these gentlemen's traits we so greatly admire and hold in such high regard.

- The tireless commitment to scholastic excellence and academic achievement
- The zeal for knowledge and the dedication to teaching
- The focused efforts to promote and support professional mosquito control protecting the public health of Louisiana
- The joy for life, adventure and love for family

Colleagues, staff and students admire the recipient's professional acumen - her research in investigating novel detection and diagnostic methods as well as potential vaccines against vector borne pathogens - her academic accolades are too numerous to review tonight, but the significance of our awardees' contributions to mosquito control is boundless and impactful, not only to those present in the room tonight, but to every citizen of the communities we serve. Her organization and administration of the statewide Arbovirus detection system in conjunction with the LSU SVM LADDL providing genetic and molecular testing of mosquitoes, sentinels, veterinary and reservoir populations is indispensable. While these professional and career achievements are satisfying, I know tonight's guest of honor well enough to know that **Family** is her foundation and proudest achievement. Her dear husband **John**, daughters **Amy & Jennifer**, son in laws **Creighton & Charles** and 6 grandchildren **Madeline**, **Olivia**, **Thomas**, **Nathan**, **Megan** and **Caroline**.

It is my distinct and great pleasure to present the 2017 Hathaway Ritter Award recipient – my travel mate & fellow LSU sports fan **Dr. Alma Roy**. ~ **Herff Jones**

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Upon retirement, **Dr. Alma Roy** was the Associate Director of the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and an assistant professor in the Pathobiological Sciences department. She is currently teaches the clinical diagnostic microbiology course offered in the professional veterinary curriculum. Her professional veterinary and medical technologist skills are expanded with studies and insight into modern developments in the diagnostic technology in microbiology and immunology. She draws insight from current diagnostic problems from her role in the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. The diagnostic laboratory provides animal disease diagnostic services to the agricultural and general communities of the State of Louisiana primarily through the veterinary medical profession.

Dr. Roy research interested included West Nile virus, which is transmitted from reservoir species of birds to humans, horses, and other animals via mosquito bites. **Dr. Roy's** research involved working with others at the School of Veterinary Medicine in creating a vaccine that would produce specific humoral immune responses against West Nile virus that would be capable of neutralizing the virus and preventing disease in horses. **Dr. Roy's** lab also performs environmental surveillance for the state of Louisiana which monitors local WNV activity in vectors and non-human vertebrae hosts in advance of epidemic activity affecting humans. Involvement in environmental surveillance provides an opportunity for detection of the current strain of virus which can be used for vaccine development. **Dr. Roy 's** lab is currently working with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals **Dr. Roy's** interests include learning new things, gardening, and traveling with family and friends. She is active in her community and church. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for her neighborhood working on zoning, traffic and drainage issues. She is enrolled in the course Hunger for Change which explores the realities of food insecurity in the World.