

## Where are they now? Previous Dorothy Sidley Memorial Award Winners

### **2004 Jade Spence Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (University of Edinburgh)**

Project: the effects of two space allowances on the resting and sleep-wake behaviour of domestic sheep.

I received a Dorothy Sidley Memorial Award for my research project carried out as part of my MSc Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare degree at the University of Edinburgh. The aim of the work was to examine the effect on sheep of space allowances that might be experienced during transport and determine whether they can cause sheep to become fatigued. Since completing my MSc, I have continued to work in animal transport and farmed livestock welfare. Between 2005 and 2007 I worked as a research associate at the University of Edinburgh, where I produced a driver training DVD for livestock hauliers transporting cattle, calves, pigs and sheep. Copies of this DVD can be obtained from the Defra Welfare at Transport team. I currently work for the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) as a Technical Officer and I specialise in poultry welfare and livestock transport. The Dorothy Sidley Memorial Award was instrumental in allowing me to carry out my MSc research project and I am very grateful to the HSA for the award. That reward has now come full circle and I am able to contribute to the work of the HSA in my current role and strive for further improvements for livestock welfare during transport, marketing and slaughter. In particular, I am responsible for advertising the Dorothy Sidley Memorial Awards and processing the applications we receive. Generating interest in farmed animal welfare and these controversial topics is key to encouraging future generations of researchers to specialise in these areas and improve our understanding of the needs of livestock at these times. I am proud to be able to give other students a chance to carry out such work, just as I was given that chance myself in 2004.

### **1986 Gillian Weyman Hatfield Polytechnic**

Project: Cattle lorry tailboards and loading and unloading procedures

Since receiving the Dorothy Sidley Memorial Award, my career has been varied and far reaching. The Award was invaluable as a first start in academic life and provided funding to complete a project as part of a degree course. I graduated from Hatfield Polytechnic in 1987 with a BSc Hons in Environmental Studies and in 1987 was awarded a MSc in Environmental Science. I am now in the final stages of completing a PhD in Local community indicators of sustainable development in Ireland.

Since the award, I have had a wide range of experience. I worked in New Zealand on a sustainable transport project which was a pilot project involving school travel plans. As a result of the travel plan programme, which proved highly successful, travel plans have been adopted at a national level in New Zealand. I have also worked in animal conservation for Birdwatch Ireland and for Ireland Friends of the Earth. I am currently living in West Cork and working for Cork City Council where I am compiling a local travel plan for the city. In my spare time I assist with an animal rescue centre and chair the local branch of the Irish Wildlife Trust.

My aspirations are to continue working in some form where I can make changes and make some contribution to society. I hope to complete my PhD. I gratefully acknowledge the support of the HSA, especially Lt Colonel and Mrs Reynolds without whose enthusiasm and support I would not have had the startoff in life to achieve the many things I have.