A New Era Begins

Veterinary Medical Center to open March 25!

Also: Pet Photo Contest Finalists  ■  Arthur’s Story  ■  A Beef Odyssey
NIH grant will lead to better understanding of current therapeutics for elephantiasis. Photo by Sue Myers Smith.

A Message from the Dean

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On the Cover:
It’s here! The new UGA Veterinary Medical Center, which includes a new Veterinary Teaching Hospital and the Veterinary Education Center, opens on March 25!
Dear Alumni and Friends of the College,

By the time this issue of the Aesculapian arrives in your mailbox, we will be within days of officially opening our new UGA Veterinary Medical Center!

I am thrilled to share with you that we will officially open our new UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, which is part of our new Center, on March 25! You can read more about this new facility, and some of the new technologies it will include, in this issue of the Aesculapian.

Other items I encourage you to read:

• Meet our new associate dean for academic affairs! Dr. Karen Cornell, a member of our small animal surgery faculty, began her new role on Jan. 1.

• Our Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center developed the isolates for Zoetis’s new vaccine to help reduce disease caused by the Georgia 2008 Type infectious bronchitis virus in poultry.

• The results of our 2014 Picture Your Pet Photo Contest are in! This issue includes photos and stories about our top finalists — some of which will be hung in our new Veterinary Medical Center!

• Enjoy reading about Rachel Morgan’s (DVM 2016) 3-week experience on an American Indian reservation in Arizona, where she helped them with a project aimed at lowering the reservation’s rate of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever infections.

• And don’t forget about our 52nd Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Weekend, which will be held at the Georgia Center, March 27-28. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

As always, thank you for your generous support of our College. With you, all things are possible!

Sincerely,

Sheila W. Allen
Dean

Meet our new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Professor of soft-tissue surgery to lead department

Dr. Karen Cornell, a board-certified veterinary surgeon and a professor of soft tissue surgery in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, began her new role, as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the UGA CVM, on Jan. 1.

“It will be my honor to work with my colleagues in the tradition of excellence in veterinary education at the University of Georgia by providing a program utilizing progressive educational methodologies in a supportive environment, so that veterinary students may develop the competencies necessary to succeed in our ever-changing society,” said Dr. Cornell.

Dr. Cornell joined the College in 1998 as an assistant professor of soft tissue surgery and by 2010 had earned the rank of a tenured professor. Through the years, she has served the College on multiple committees and in four significant leadership roles as:

• Director of Continuing Education, since January 2014;

• Assistant Department Head for Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, since 2011;

• Interim Director of the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, 2009-2010;

• and as Chief of Staff for Surgery, 2002-2008.

A gifted educator, Dr. Cornell has garnered multiple accolades for her educational efforts, including twice being awarded the highest teaching award presented to veterinary educators, the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award (now the Zoetis Distinguished Teacher Award), in 2001 and 2006. In 2011, she received the highest teaching award bestowed by the University of Georgia upon its faculty, the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor. Other teaching accolades include participation in the UGA Lilly Teaching Fellows Program (2001-2003), and her selection as a member of the UGA Teaching Academy (2006). She also served as a mentor in both programs.

Ever popular with veterinary students, Dr. Cornell has been recognized by veterinary students with awards, as well as being selected to “hood” their class on graduation day, and to give the commencement address. Dr. Cornell co-founded the College’s award-winning Vets for Pet and People program (www.vet.uga.edu/visitorsforsandpeople), which works to educate Georgia’s veterinarians about the links between animal abuse and domestic violence, and provide foster care for pets of victims of domestic violence who seek shelter through Project Safe (www.project-safe.org/).

An early proponent for strengthening the communication training provided to veterinary students, and to enhance their skills for communicating with future clients, Dr. Cornell was instrumental in bringing communication training to interns, residents and DVM students at UGA CVM through grants from the Bayer Animal Health Communication Project.
The interactive learning tool was developed over the last four years by Ikseon “Ike” Choi, an associate professor of learning, design and technology in the College of Education, in collaboration with faculty from the College of Veterinary Medicine: Karen Cornell, a professor of soft tissue surgery; Kate E. Creevy, an associate professor of internal medicine; and Mary Ann Radlinsky and Chad Schmiedt, both associate professors of soft tissue surgery.

The tool is populated with veterinary case studies to help third-year veterinary students hone critical thinking skills while also providing practice for making difficult medical decisions.

Athens D-Lab now offers courier service

The Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has partnered with the courier service Lab Express to offer pick up and delivery services to roughly 18 counties in the Athens and Atlanta areas.

The service covers most of Barrow, Clarke, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Jackson, Madison, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton counties, as well as parts of Clayton, Forsyth, Hall, Henry, Morgan, Newton and Rockdale counties. The cost is $10 per pickup, regardless of the number of samples in your order (including small necropsy samples).

For more information on the courier service, contact the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at 706.542.5568, athndlab@uga.edu, or visit ugavelab.org.

Web-based critical thinking tool wins national award

The “Case-Based E-Learning Module to Enhance Veterinary Students’ Diagnostic and Therapeutic Decision Making” won the 2014 Division of Distance Learning Crystal Award from the Association for Educational Communications and Technology.

PDRC developed isolates for new GA 08 IBV vaccine licensed by Zoetis

Zoetis Inc. has obtained a full license from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to sell Poulvac® Bron GA 08, the first commercially available vaccine to reduce disease caused by Georgia 2008 (GA 08) Type infectious bronchitis virus in poultry. The vaccine is based on viral isolates developed at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center and is the result of an industry-led task force created in 2013 to combat the rise of IBV.

Poulvac® Bron GA 08, a live vaccine, is licensed for vaccination of healthy chickens at one day of age or older as an aid in the reduction of disease caused by GA 08. First identified in Georgia in December 2007, GA 08 has since been isolated on farms in Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. Unlike other IBV strains, which typically affect the upper respiratory tract, GA 08 primarily affects the lower tract, particularly the airsacs.

The viral isolates were identified and vaccine candidates were developed by Holly S. Sellers, MS, PhD, a professor of avian medicine, and Mark W. Jackwood, MS, PhD, a professor of avian medicine, who heads the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center. According to Sellers, GA 08 rarely makes its presence known on the farm, but becomes a real issue at the processing plant due to higher incidence of airsacculitis. This results in increased condemnations, reduced plant efficiency and ultimately economic loss for producers.

“Outbreaks have taken a major economic toll on producers and processors in the Southeast, so making a vaccine available has been a top priority,” said Sellers. “Based on UGA’s initial research, which included isolation and characterization of the virus, Zoetis has developed a new vaccine that has performed well in areas hard hit by this costly virus, against which other IBV vaccines offer little protection. We are grateful for the support that Zoetis and the poultry industry have provided in this productive collaboration, and are confident that it will have a positive impact on producers in Georgia and in other affected states.”
Grant from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will fund research to combat norovirus

Ralph A. Tripp, PhD, a professor of infectious diseases, will lead a team in pursuit of an innovative global health and development research project, titled "Engineering Mammalian Cell Lines to Support Human Norovirus and Related Enteric Viruses." Tripp’s project is supported by a $100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations grant, an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Tripp and his research team will engineer mammalian cell lines that support norovirus and related enteric virus replication by silencing non-essential virus resistance genes in vaccine cell lines. Norovirus is highly infectious and can be transmitted from an infected person, contaminated food or water, or by touching contaminated surfaces. The illness can be serious for young children and older adults. While researchers have made advances in studying the virus and identifying some control measures, no efficient cell line exists currently to support studies for vaccine and therapeutic development.

Tripp’s study has the potential to provide novel platform enabling tools, specifically fully permissive mammalian cell lines that will fundamentally change disease intervention strategies for human norovirus and potentially other enteric viruses.

Norovirus is a common cause of acute gastroenteritis in humans, with greater than 22 million cases occurring in the United States annually. There are numerous challenges in culturing human noroviruses, a feature that has hindered vaccine and therapeutic development. The Gates Foundation recognizes that norovirus causes up to 200,000 deaths in children under 5 years of age in developing countries, and that there is an immediate need to develop a reliable cell culture system for human norovirus,” said Tripp. “Our research team has received several Gates Foundation grants to develop enhanced vaccine cell lines to facilitate the eradication of polio virus, and to control other vaccine-preventable diseases — including measles virus and rotavirus. We have successfully developed these enhanced vaccine cell lines using RNA interference platform-enabling technology, and are confident we can apply this to meet the needs for norovirus.”

The project team is comprised of members of the University of Georgia and the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute in Victoria, Australia.

The co-investigator on the project is Carl Kirkwood, an associate professor at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute. Dr. Kirkwood leads the Enteric Virus Research Group, which is internationally recognized for its contributions to the understanding of enteric diseases, including norovirus and rotavirus.
Researchers at the University of Georgia have been awarded a three-year $1.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to determine how two commonly administered drug combinations work to remove larvae from the bloodstream of people infected with lymphatic filariasis, also known as elephantiasis.

Lymphatic filariasis is a serious human tropical disease that is caused by several species of parasitic roundworm. The parasites are transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. More than 1.3 billion people in 73 countries are at risk of the disease and 120 million people are infected. Often, the disease is contracted during childhood and the patient’s lymphatic system, kidneys and immune system may be permanently damaged long before physical symptoms manifest. As the disease progresses, it can cause extreme swelling in extremities and other body parts, resulting in severe pain and, often, permanent disability. In addition, the victims can suffer social and financial losses. Worldwide, roughly 40 million people have been disfigured or incapacitated by this disease.

In parts of the world where the disease is endemic, it is controlled by annually giving a single dose of two drug combinations to the entire at-risk population: albendazole with diethylcarbamazine citrate if this disease alone is present, and albendazole with ivermectin if “river blindness,” which is caused by a different parasite, is also present. This is part of an ambitious project, led by the World Health Organization, to eliminate the disease by 2020.

“Billions of doses of these drugs have been distributed, yet we do not know how diethylcarbamazine citrate works against the parasites, and it is likely that our previous ideas of how ivermectin works against these parasites may be wrong,” said Adrian Wolstenholme, the principal investigator on the project. Wolstenholme is a professor of infectious diseases at the College of Veterinary Medicine and a faculty member within the UGA Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases.

The drug combinations eliminate larvae from the patient’s bloodstream, which prevents the larvae from being transmitted to mosquitoes and thus to other people. But, the drugs have a limited impact on the adult worms, which can live up to eight years inside the infected patient. This means that at least five consecutive years of annual treatments are required to prevent new infections before the existing adult parasites die, which can be difficult to achieve in some areas of the world.

“Understanding how our current drugs work, especially if they allow the infected person’s own immune system to eliminate the parasite, will help us to use them in the most effective way possible. It may also help us think of new ways in which to kill the adult parasites, and to ensure that this horrible disease is removed from the face of the earth as early as possible,” said Wolstenholme.

The other researchers on the project, all from the Department of Infectious Diseases, are: Ray Kaplan, a parasitologist and a professor of infectious diseases; Balazs Rada, an immunologist and assistant professor of infectious diseases; Barbara Reaves, a cell biologist and associate research scientist; and Andrew Moorhead, a parasitologist and assistant research scientist.

Walter Lorenz, an assistant research scientist at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, is also a member of the research team. As a member of the Institute of Bioinformatics’ Quantitative Biology Consulting Group, Lorenz will help the researchers analyze the large amount of data that will be generated by the project.

This research project is supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health under award number R01AI103140.
The Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre
De Wildt-Shingwedzi Wildlife Ranch, in South Africa, during ISV’s two-week summer program at the Ranch, held in 2014.

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If you know an undergraduate student who is contemplating a career in veterinary medicine, encourage him or her to consider spending part of the summer in South Africa as a volunteer working with wild animals on a cheetah reserve!

International Student Volunteers is accepting applications for the 2015 Pre-Vet Program, which is held at the Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre’s De Wildt Shingwedzi Wildlife Ranch, located about four hours from Johannesburg. Undergraduate students from universities throughout the world are eligible for the program, which is coordinated through ISV and co-led by Dr. MaryAnn Radlinsky, an associate professor of soft-tissue surgery at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. The 2015 trip will mark the program’s third consecutive year at the Ranch.

“This is an incredible opportunity for students who will help us — hands-on — with annual wellness examinations on cheetahs at the reserve,” said Radlinsky, who is also the adviser to the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club at UGA. “This includes every step we take with each of these animals, from anesthetizing them for the exams to recovering the cheetahs and escorting them back to their enclosures. We also work with wild dogs on the reserve, and, if the occasion permits, other wild animals. And every hour will count toward the volunteer hours that colleges of veterinary medicine expect you to have when you apply to school.”

In addition to assisting with veterinary care for the wild animals on the Ranch, the student volunteers are also tasked with feeding and socializing new cheetah cubs that are born on the Ranch, which serves as the breeding facility for the Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre. They also work alongside the Centre’s lead veterinarian, Dr. Peter Caldwell, an expert in zoo and wildlife medicine.

Caroline Hall Hawkins, who is currently pursuing her bachelor’s of science degree at the UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and plans to graduate in May, learned about the trip in the fall of 2013 through UGA’s “Pre-Vet” club. “Just the possibility of being able to interact with cubs was enough to sign on for the trip,” said Hawkins, who added that her “life-long dream is to become a veterinarian.”

Hawkins, along with her sister Laura (who graduated in 2014 from Eckerd College in Florida and plans to pursue a career in animal behavior), participated in the Shingwedzi program in 2014 and found it to be a life-altering experience.

“I grew up in a very horsey family, and had always dreamed of being an equine practitioner, yet after this experience, I am considering working with exotics in the future,” she said. “One of the highlights of the trip was observing and assisting with endoscopies, castrations, and orthopedic surgery with Dr. Caldwell.”

Hawkins’ mom, who is a certified veterinary acupuncturist working with both equine and small animals, earned her DVM (in 1986) as well as two undergraduate science degrees — in biology, in 1981, and in animal science, in 1982 — at UGA. Her daughter, Caroline, plans to apply to the CVM’s DVM program later this year.

“There are very few opportunities, if any, in the United States to be able to feed, touch, play with and attend surgery on animals like these. Especially for someone considering working with wildlife or exotics, this would be a very valuable experience!” said Caroline Hawkins.

The student volunteers spend two weeks at Shingwedzi, but can spend an additional two weeks on an ISV Southern Africa Adventure Tour. The Shingwedzi program tuition includes accommodations during the trip, meals, ground transportation fees in the host country, fees charged by the host organization, an ISV travel manual and resource documents. Tuition does not cover airfare and other expenses, including an extended stay. There is no application deadline, but there are a limited number of spaces available for the trip. Applicants accepted into the program are confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each group of volunteers to visit the Ranch leaves behind an indelible impression, noted Roy Johnston, who manages the reserve along with his wife Anna.

“Each task carried out by volunteers is a priceless mark left behind for the future,” Johnston said. “The volunteers make it possible for us to finance the necessary annual health checks on the animals, which are carried out by the best animal medical practitioners and the pre-vet students who assist with this mammoth task. The volunteers arrive and revive our enthusiasm, dedication, laughter and love. Our gates will always be open to you!”

To inquire about the program:
Kim Vera Yang
info@isvolunteers.org
www.isvolunteers.org
The Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre
De Wildt-Shingwedzi Wildlife Ranch
www.dewildt.co.za/

Know a budding veterinarian? Suggest a summer trip to Shingwedzi!

All photos courtesy of Dr. MaryAnn Radlinsky

www.isvolunteers.org
info@isvolunteers.org
Kim Vera Yang
12-13 The University of Georgia | College of Veterinary Medicine
Brand New!

Our Veterinary Teaching Hospital opens March 25

The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital is scheduled to open at its new location, near the intersection of College Station and Barnett Shoals roads, on March 25. This state-of-the-art facility will allow the Hospital to better meet its current patient care demands and the educational needs of the College while ensuring a bright future for both the CVM and the veterinary profession.

Highlights of the new facility include a separate small animal emergency entrance; dedicated small animal and large animal ICUs; a new small animal intermediate care area; a designated rehabilitation center for dogs; a covered equine performance arena; an updated chute system for food animals; and an updated linear accelerator with stereotactic radiosurgery capabilities. Please see page 9 for more details.

The College is still fundraising for new equipment for this important project. If you would like to make a gift, please contact the Office for Veterinary External Affairs at give2vet@uga.edu or 706.542.1807.

Cutting-edge equine cardiology procedure

The Hospital is now one of only a handful of places across the nation to offer an alternative treatment option for equine patients suffering from atrial fibrillation, a relatively common type of heart arrhythmia in horses.

The procedure, called transvenous electrical cardioversion, is more effective than the drugs that have been traditionally used to treat this condition, has fewer side effects and produces immediate results. Spearheading this initiative for the Hospital is Amanda Coleman, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology), and Steeve Giguère, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Large Animal). Dr. Giguère helped bring the technology to the U.S. in 2005.

To conduct the procedure, two specialized catheters are placed through a large vein in the horse’s neck. The catheters are strategically positioned in the heart with the help of an ultrasound machine. An electrical impulse is then delivered through them to the heart, converting the abnormal rhythm to a normal one.

“The electrical pulse basically forces the heart to reset,” said Dr. Giguère. “An electrocardiogram is done immediately after the procedure to confirm that it was successful.”

The horse is typically kept in the hospital overnight for observation, and after one to two weeks of rest it can go back to its normal activity level. While the treatment does require placing the horse under anesthesia, the procedure itself is relatively quick and is considered low risk.
This panoramic view of the large animal hospital and driveway shows the abundant green space and easy access our new facility provides.

The central courtyard allows natural light to reach the interior of the new facility and provides outdoor space that our visitors, students, staff and faculty will enjoy.

New technology streamlines patient care

This spring, the Hospital launched a new electronic medical record system (VetView) and new medical image viewing and storage systems. These technologies work together to pull all patient information into one centralized database that can be easily accessed by students, faculty and staff.

These new systems offer the ability not only to look through current and past medical information of a patient, but also to view color slides from pathology, videos from an endoscopy or arthroscopy, photos from dermatology, images from ophthalmology, MRIs, radiographs and other diagnostic images with just the click of a button within VetView.

“This change has really streamlined how we approach patient care,” said Hospital Director Gary Baxter, VMD, MS, DACVS. “Now you don’t have to hunt in several different locations for the information you need to make a diagnosis or to assess the patient. It is all there at your fingertips.”

It has also enhanced student learning by providing a more complete snapshot of what is going on with a patient. Additionally, faculty members can export information from the new data system, which will allow them to better use Hospital cases for classroom instruction.

Clinical Trials

The Hospital is currently conducting a study to determine the safety and potential efficacy of the AuroLase® system for the treatment of local tumors in dogs and cats. Once accepted into the study, the patient will be administered a one-time AuroLase® Therapy treatment. This includes an IV infusion of gold nanoshells, which are small particles specifically designed to accumulate only in cancerous tissues. The next day, a near-infrared laser treatment is delivered to the tumor, causing the nanoshells to heat up and thermally destroy the tumor. Follow-up visits are required.

There are also two studies looking at treatment options for dogs with naturally occurring arthritis of the elbow or knee. One is evaluating the efficacy of tramadol on pain and dysfunction. Medication (either tramadol, carprofen or a placebo) will be prescribed for 10 days. After that time, the dog’s overall condition will be reassessed. It will then go seven days without medication before starting the next treatment segment.

The other study is evaluating the effect of meloxicam, an NSAID, on a possible biomarker for joint pain in dogs with osteoarthritis. Each animal that qualifies for the study will be prescribed meloxicam to be administered orally once per day for 14 days. The dog will then be re-evaluated to see if there was any improvement.

Another ongoing study is evaluating the efficacy of the novel angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB), telmisartan, for the reduction of persistent renal proteinuria in dogs. Once accepted into the study, each dog will be randomized to receive telmisartan or the current standard of care, enalapril, with the opportunity to receive both drugs should proteinuria persist after treatment with a single agent. Dogs will then be rechecked at 1 week, 1 month and 4 months, or more often if needed.

On the large animal side, the Hospital is conducting a study that investigates a new technique for the removal of cystic calculi (bladder stones) in standing, sedated horses. Stones will be removed through an incision into the urethra after being fractured by a pneumatic lithotripsy instrument.

New Faculty

Five specialists have been added to our faculty in recent months.

Lisa Bazzle, DVM, joins the Hospital as a clinical instructor of emergency and critical care for small animals. She completed her residency in this area at North Carolina State University.

Andrew Bugbee, DVM, DACVIM, is a clinical assistant professor of small animal internal medicine. He is board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Dr. Bugbee completed his residency at UGA and returns to Athens after having gained additional experience at Purdue University.

Kathryn A. Diehl, DVM, MS, DACVO, joins us as an assistant professor of ophthalmology. Dr. Diehl completed a combined residency in comparative ophthalmology and fellowship in cellular biology at the University of Wisconsin. She is board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists.

Maria Ferrer, DVM, MS, DACT, comes to the Hospital as an associate professor of theriogenology. Dr. Ferrer did her residency at Louisiana State University. She is board-certified by the American College of Theriogenologists. With the addition of Dr. Ferrer, the Hospital is now expanding its theriogenology services to focus on both large and small animals.

Alison G. Meindl, DVM, joins the Community Practice Clinic as a clinical assistant professor. She comes to UGA with nearly 10 years of private practice experience, most recently at the Animal Clinic del Rancho in Scottsdale, Ariz.
Feline gets new lease on life, thanks to dedicated owners and an innovative surgeon

By Lee Adcock

The usage of stem cells in feline renal transplantation is still an emerging technique in veterinary medicine. But Chad Schmiedt (DVM ’00), a board-certified surgeon and associate professor of soft tissue surgery who directs the feline renal transplant program at the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, has been utilizing adult stem cells in kidney transplants since 2013. Schmiedt’s second surgery using this technique was performed last summer on Arthur, the cat that may not have survived a transplant with conventional medicine.

Only three veterinary teaching hospitals in the United States have active feline renal transplant programs: the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Georgia. UGAs is currently the only program that offers to utilize the patient’s own stem cells to optimize its recovery.

Arthur’s owners, Tony Lacaria and Fred Petrick, were not newcomers to renal disease in cats, or to helping a cat heal from renal transplantation. Both had endured the experience before through their cat, Teddy. But Arthur’s case was more complicated. He had tested positive for corona virus, the vector that leads to Feline Infectious Peritonitis, and was therefore turned away by the University of Pennsylvania’s transplant program. The veterinarians at Wisconsin did not want to do Arthur’s surgery because their tests showed his body experienced difficulty in absorbing cyclosporine, an immune suppressant.

In any transplant procedure, the body’s immune system will mount a defense against any foreign tissue unless the doctor can suppress the response with medication. Typically, cyclosporine is used to help protect feline kidneys from this reaction — but stem cells, Schmiedt said, can help, too. Even in humans, using adult stem cells to aid organ transplants is a very new practice. There is a growing body of studies detailing the results, but as Schmiedt points out: “No one knows yet whether the use of adult stem cells in transplantation surgery equates to longer overall survival.”

“A study published in 2012 found the use of mesenchymal stem cells during renal transplant surgery in humans lowered the risk of acute organ rejection, decreased the risk of infection, and the patients had better estimated renal function one year after surgery,” Schmiedt said, regarding what prompted him to try stem cell therapy in a feline renal transplantation in 2013. (“Induction Therapy With Autologous Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Living-Related Kidney Transplants,” Jianming Tan, MD, PhD; Weizhen Wu, MD, et. al.; published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 307, No. 11.) That first cat was still doing well in late 2014, more than 18 months after surgery.

By the time Petrick and Lacaria brought Arthur to UGA in late April, they had already lost several months trying to get him into the two other transplant programs. And they were worried. A local veterinarian had told them that Arthur had about two weeks to live. He weighed only seven pounds, half of his regular body weight.

During their first meeting, Schmiedt suggested utilizing the adult stem cell treatments during Arthur’s surgery and recovery, in addition to the cyclosporine. The couple embraced the idea at once. “It’d be his only chance for a normal life,” Petrick said.

Arthur was so weak, however, that his owners feared he would not last through the two procedures — as one surgery was required to harvest fat for growing stem cells, and the transplantation surgery would follow seven to 10 days later. “Arthur first got sick at 2 years old and now he was 3,” said Lacaria. “He was very lethargic when he arrived in Athens. This was his last chance. We had a lot to be worried about.”

MSCs, or mesenchymal stem cells — the kind used to treat Arthur — can be derived from fat, bone marrow and neonatal tissues such as placenta or umbilical cord. In Arthur’s case, the UGA Regenerative Medicine Service used his harvested fat tissue to grow the adult stem cells for use in his transplant surgery and recovery. The service laboratory is managed by research professionals Merrilee Thoresen, PhD, and Jenny Mumaw, PhD (who is also enrolled in the college’s doctor of veterinary medicine program and will graduate in 2016). Dr. John Peroni, a board-certified large animal surgeon and associate professor whose research focus includes stem cell therapeutics, heads the service.

“MSCs in veterinary species have been primarily used to treat musculoskeletal injury — problems with bones, tendons and joints — and those are our most frequent uses here at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine,” said Peroni, who is also past-chairman of the board for the North American Veterinary Regenerative Medicine Association. “But there is good evidence to support using stem cells to modulate the immune system and regulate inflammation. So, the transplant setting might be another optimal use for these types of stem cells.”

To Lacaria and Petrick, it was evident early on that Arthur was healing very quickly from the surgery. Teddy, they said, spent three months in a cage while he recuperated from the procedure. Arthur, however, “was acting better than his old self the next day,” according to Lacaria.

Cat owners who are contemplating a renal transplantation for their sick feline should know that the extra step of harvesting adult stem cells does increase the price of an ordinary feline transplant. In addition, a cat that receives a new kidney must be given immune suppressants every 12 hours for the rest of its life. And, at UGA, the transplant patient’s owners are required to adopt the cat that donated the kidney. For Lacaria and Petrick, that meant welcoming Joey into their multi-feline family.

Arthur’s harvest fat yielded an abundance of MSCs, which meant that he continued to receive stem cell treatments throughout his recovery, until his supply of adult stem cells was exhausted. Within months of his surgery, he had regained the weight he had lost and frolicked like a young cat, his owners said. “We have Arthur back,” said Petrick.

Schmiedt and his colleagues are continuing their work in this promising arena of transplant medicine. All owners of cats who bring them to the UGA VTH for renal transplantsations are urged to consider stem cell treatments as part of the surgery and recovery process.

And as for Arthur and Joey: Both are said to be “at home” amid their cadre of feline playmates.
Winning dogs, cats, horses, and more to hang in new UGA Veterinary Medical Center

By Cindy H. Rice

When the new UGA Veterinary Medical Center opens in late March, artwork hanging in some of the public spaces will include enlargements of the photographs from the 2014 Picture Your Pet Photo Contest!

Hospital clients submitted more than 350 entries to the contest. The entries were divided into four categories (cats, dogs, horses and miscellaneous pets) and critiqued by a panel of judges. The finalists were chosen based on overall photo quality, creativity, and the sense of emotion and/or personality exhibited.

The contest was open to current and former clients of the Hospital, the Field Services unit and the UGA Community Practice Clinic. Each client was invited to enter up to three pictures of their pet(s), along with a brief description of their experience at our Hospital or CPC.

We’ve highlighted a few winning entries on the following pages.

To view a slide show of the 23 photos chosen as this year’s winning entries, visit: www.vet.uga.edu/photo-contest

Alpine: Did Someone Say Treat?
Submitted by Stephanie Bender of McDonough, Ga.

Alpine, our Rhodesian Ridgeback, was admitted to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014. Two days later, we received a call informing us that he had multiple myeloma (a type of cancer). Alpine was only three. We were devastated!

Alpine had such a wonderful personality, and he was winning over hearts at the Hospital. The day he came home was an emotional one. We were happy to have him back in our lives, but at the time we didn’t know what the future would hold.

With very heavy hearts, we are sad to say Alpine passed in July 2014. However, thanks to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, we were able to enjoy precious quality time with him before his cancer became more aggressive. He was able to celebrate his fourth birthday and go on several vacations with us. We enjoyed every minute of it. We will forever be grateful to all the doctors and Hospital staff. We knew Alpine was very well taken care of during his time there! Our life is not the same without him, but was made better because of him.

Chewie: King of the Beach
Submitted by Gale Skipworth and Andy Runton of Roswell, Ga.

We first came to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital in February, desperate for help with our little Chewie, a 13-year-old Cairn Terrier. From the beginning, we were greeted by the most attentive, patient and knowledgeable staff, and instantly felt at ease. We were confident that everyone would do everything they could to help our little guy, and we were not disappointed. Every time we go in, there’s a team of dedicated professionals waiting to provide the best care. They take the time to explain every procedure and answer all of our questions. We have now had several appointments, and the level of care has never wavered. Our little guy is doing so much better, and we are so grateful!
Leila: Winter Beauty  
Submitted by Gina Greer of Aiken, S.C.  
Photo by Meg Francoeur

Leila was an orphaned nurse mare foal, rescued by Dream Equine Therapy Center of York, S.C. She came to us at 9 months old and has been part of the family ever since.

She has been to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital twice in the past three years, each time for colic. Her first trip was in November 2011, and she was full of sand in her colon. The second episode of colic was associated with a mild feed impaction in her small intestine. Both times we were able to resolve the issue through medical management.

It appears that Leila is somewhat of a “drama queen” and must go to the hospital every time her belly hurts. I think she likes UGA! Currently, she is so full of life and is doing great.

Tango: It Takes Two to “Tango”  
Submitted by Samantha Barton of Colbert, Ga.

Tango is a 14-year-old Argentine Warmblood gelding. In the spring of 2013, he came up from his pasture severely lame. He had torn the distal medial branch of his deep digital flexor tendon, a devastating injury that many horses do not recover from and are therefore unable to return to their former careers. Tango was admitted to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital for treatment.

Bone marrow was harvested from his sternum, and from the marrow, stem cells were isolated, matured and then injected into the torn tendon. Then the intense rehabilitation work began.

Tango loves his job and slow rehabilitation was hard for him to understand. But almost a year and a half later, Tango returned to the hunter ring for his first competition and won! There was an incredibly beautiful, calm and confident style to his work. He truly seemed the happiest we’ve seen him!

Harley: Harley the Frog  
Submitted by Larry McDermott of Rutherfordton, N.C.

Harley, our 5-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever, has always been an inquisitive but gentle dog. When he spotted this toad on the driveway, he laid down next to it for a long time. When the toad hopped, he would rise, move closer to it and lie down again. Harley came to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital in 2014 for surgery on his cranial cruciate ligament. The care he received was the finest we have ever seen! And the care both he and we were shown was remarkable.

Truman: Truman Always Finds the Light  
Submitted by Matt and Sue Smith of Athens, Ga.

I’ve been bringing my pets to the UGA Community Practice Clinic for several years now, and I have always had great experiences with the faculty and students. Truman, a 13-year-old medium-hair cat, is never on his best behavior when he’s at the veterinarian’s office, but the students and staff seem to be able to handle him just fine, which I really appreciate.
In August, Rylie began coughing, sneezing and had the sniffles, so we took her to see our veterinarian, who treated her with antibiotics for a possible respiratory infection. She continued getting worse.

When she began having trouble swallowing, we got a second opinion. Still baffled, we had her case referred to UGA, where the veterinarians found a parasite — a larva of the Cuterebra fly — burrowed into her throat! They recorded the removal of the worm so they could use the video to teach other veterinarians, including students.

We are sincerely grateful to the UGA doctors and staff for saving Rylie’s life and for using the opportunity to teach others! Thank you for taking such good care of her!
The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine welcomed the class of 2018 during its annual White Coat Ceremony held Sunday, Aug. 17, 2014. Sponsored by the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA), this event officially recognized 114 members of the incoming class by donning them in lab coats to be worn during their veterinary education.

The hour-long ceremony was held in the Hodgson Concert Hall at the UGA Performing Arts Center. It was followed by a reception with the students’ families and members of the College’s faculty and staff, held at the Veterinary College.

This class features a wide variety of interests, including:

• 19 percent interested in companion animal medicine;
• 30 percent interested in mixed-animal medicine;
• 10 percent interested in zoo animal and wildlife medicine;
• 10 percent in food animal medicine;
• 8 percent in public health;
• 3 percent in equine medicine;
• 20 percent in pursuing a post-DVM internship/residency.

“The white coat is a symbol of medical professionalism and of acceptance of the responsibilities, obligations and sacrifices that go with the privilege to study and practice veterinary medicine. Reciting the Veterinarian’s Oath for the first time denotes the beginning of their official journey in one of the most respected professions,” said Dr. Scott A. Brown, the College’s acting associate dean for academic affairs.
DVM student helps Arizona tribe combat Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Story and photos by Rachel Morgan, MS, (DVM 2016)

The first time I traveled to the Tohono O’odham Nation in early June 2014, I was with Jennifer McQuiston, DVM, MS, a Rickettsia expert from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. McQuiston was traveling to the Nation’s capital, in Sells, Ariz., to present information to the tribal council on Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, a life-threatening, tick-borne disease that occurs throughout the United States. The Nation wanted to implement a tick-control program to help curb the rise in RMSF cases in Arizona during the past decade, and Dr. McQuiston traveled there to talk to the tribe as the program was preparing to launch. I traveled there with her so that I could stay for three weeks on the reservation and help the tribe’s public health officer and epidemiologist, Eva Ybarra, MS, set up and execute the RMSF project.

I’m a DVM student and I have an interest in public health and infectious diseases. I wanted to spend my summer working on a public health project, so my adviser, Mary Hondalus, DVM, PhD, an associate professor of infectious diseases, helped me set up this experience. Since it was also a radically different cultural experience, I used it to complete the requirements for the CVM’s Certificate in International Veterinary Medicine.

People are seven times more likely to die from RMSF in eastern Arizona than in any other part of the United States, and American Indians have the highest RMSF incidence of any population. The Tohono O’odham Nation is the second-largest reservation in the United States, covering a combined area of more than 2.8 million acres, roughly the size of Connecticut, in the Sonoran Desert in southern Arizona.

Legally, non-residents have no right to be on tribal lands, so I had to be officially invited by the tribe. I spent a couple of months planning the trip. Dr. Rodrigo Villar, a pediatrician and public health officer who works with the Sells Indian Hospital, did all of the arrangements and preparations for me — including getting me invited by the tribe and picked up at the airport — and we worked out the details via email.

The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the Tucson International Airport was the heat. Before I left Athens, people told me that the dry heat of Arizona, despite the triple digits, was preferable to the humidity of Georgia. However, I don’t think any of those people have ever spent time in a desert! It was a dry heat, but I also felt like I had just stuck my head in an oven. When I arrived, I was warned by a few people about the heat, monsoons, wildlife, dust storms and potential dangers of being so close to the U.S.-Mexican border.
Dehydration is a real concern in that climate. The first day I was out in the field, working with a team from the Indian Health Services to drive to different villages and give rabies shots to dogs (which was unrelated to the RMSF project), I drank six bottles of water.

Sells is a small town of about 3,000 people. It’s home to one grocery store, a couple of small cafes, and a recreation center. It’s also home to a small hospital complex — the Sells Indian Hospital — where I stayed in housing they provide for staff.

This project was an agreement between the IHS, CDC and the tribe. For the project, I helped Ybarra organize the teams that would be gathering household information, spraying pesticide around homes, and handing out flea-and-tick collars. I also helped her gather supplies and separate them into boxes and bags for the teams. There were three to four people per team with five teams total. The project was approached in three ways: We sprayed insecticide around the homes, placed tick collars on dogs, and distributed educational material to residents to alert them to be on the look out for tick bites and early signs of RMSF. This experience allowed me a look into a culture that is thousands of years old and has to struggle with a modern emerging infectious disease. This was my first encounter with a Native American tribe and I took away an appreciation and respect for their way of life. I got to see how the tribe functions and some of the difficulties that can arise when working across cultural borders, especially given the history of mistreatment of Native American populations by the U.S. government. There is still some mistrust between the native population and the U.S. government, so when there is a need for a project like this, full cooperation and trust of the tribe is a must. Sometimes that can take a bit of patience.

In addition, I gained hands-on experience in handling an emerging infectious disease and how to communicate the dangers and prevention of the disease to a people who may not have an extensive science background. And finally, I got to see a part of the country that is very beautiful, but very harsh and wild.

The project was started in only one of the districts on the Tohono O’odham Nation, which had the highest number of reported cases of RMSF. If the project is successful, it will be expanded to the remaining districts. After the initial spray/visit, each home is revisited for three consecutive months to re-spray the insecticide and confirm whether tick collars are still on the dogs. The goal of the project is to reduce the number of ticks present down to where control can be done with just the collars alone. This experience allowed me a look into a culture that is thousands of years old and has to struggle with a modern emerging infectious disease. This was my first encounter with a Native American tribe and I took away an appreciation and respect for their way of life. I got to see how the tribe functions and some of the difficulties that can arise when working across cultural borders, especially given the history of mistreatment of Native American populations by the U.S. government. There is still some mistrust between the native population and the U.S. government, so when there is a need for a project like this, full cooperation and trust of the tribe is a must. Sometimes that can take a bit of patience.

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The Tohono O’odham Nation

The Tohono O’odham (pronounced: tah-hoe-no aut-um) Nation occupies four separate pieces of land, a combined area of more than 2.8 million acres (roughly the size of Connecticut), in the Sonoran Desert in southern Arizona. It is the second-largest reservation in the United States, and one of 22 federally recognized Indian tribes in Arizona.

The nation is organized into 11 districts. Nine contiguous districts comprise the main reservation. One, Gila River, is over the border in Mexico, and the other, San Xavier (pronounced: san a-veer), is located just south of Tucson. The nation has about 28,000 members, the majority of which live on reservation lands. Once known as the “Papago,” which meant “bean eaters,” the tribe rejected the name because it was assigned to them by the conquistadores. They changed their name in 1986 to Tohono O’odham, which means “Desert People.”

Traditionally, the Tohono O’odham farmed corn, beans, and cotton and gathered wild vegetable products. Farming crops still remains the major economic activity of the Tohono O’odham, but many now are engaged in raising cattle, too. Much of the land is open range for cattle, horses and wild donkey.

The Tohono O’odham women are well known for their basket weaving. The capital of the Tohono O’odham Nation and the population center is Sells, Ariz., a town of about 3,000 people. The rest of the reservation is scattered with small villages or communities, most of which include a church, feast house and pavilion for special occasions, and just a few houses.

The nation shares 74 miles of border with Mexico, which has lead to numerous problems involving the U.S. Border Patrol, drug running and human trafficking. Thousands of immigrants try crossing the border through the Nation’s land every year, but very few make it. The ones who fail are arrested or die of dehydration in the hot Sonoran sun. Smuggling has impacted many families on the Nation, who have had to deal with an increase in crime or theft/stealing of property. The stricter border regulations also impede movement of Tohono O’odham people, whose migratory and historical paths have led them across the border for thousands of years. Many tribal members have been stopped from traveling to Mexico and bringing back supplies needed for traditional medicines or ceremonial purposes.
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) is a life-threatening, tick-borne disease that occurs throughout the United States. It is caused by the bacterium *Rickettsia rickettsii*, and it can be transmitted to a dog or a human through the bite of an infected tick. (Cats are rarely infected with RMSF.)

Once in the bloodstream, the bacteria infect the endothelial cells, which line the interior surface of the blood vessels. These cells perform many functions, including preventing clotting of the blood. Symptoms appear two to 14 days after the bite. Early symptoms mimic typical flu symptoms: fever, headache, vomiting and muscle pain. As the bacteria spread and the patient experiences a full-body inflammatory response and becomes septic, the vessels become leaky and a spotty red rash may develop. RMSF is often severe or fatal if not treated within the first few days of symptoms. However, since the disease mimics other infectious diseases, it can be difficult to diagnose, especially because half of patients with RMSF do not remember seeing a tick bite them. Misdiagnoses have been fatal.

Before the rise of RMSF in the southwestern U.S., two tick species, *Dermacentor variabilis* (American dog tick), and *D. andersoni* (Rocky Mountain wood tick) were the recognized vectors. The first case of RMSF in Arizona was confirmed in 2003. Before 2003, it was considered unlikely that RMSF would be in Arizona since the Dermacentor species are not commonly found in the state. Since then, the number of cases of RMSF reported in Arizona has been on the rise. From 2003 to 2013 the Arizona Department of Health services reported 297 cases, including 20 fatalities. It was found that *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (the brown dog tick) is the vector for RMSF in the southwestern U.S. It had never been previously reported that *R. sanguineus* was a natural vector for RMSF.

Award recipients from the 2014 Science of Veterinary Medicine Symposium. Back row, left to right: Tiago Alonso, DVM, a resident in large animal medicine; Jennifer Wittingham-Lane, a graduate student in the Department of Infectious Diseases; Melanie Fratto (DVM 2017); Christian Lapp (DVM 2017). Third row, left to right: Erin McClenachon, DVM, DACVIM (Large Animal), a clinical specialist for the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital; Dr. Heidi Fishman (DVM ’10), a resident in theriogenology; Lindsey Wyatt, a graduate student in the Department of Infectious Diseases; Kay Mayhew (DVM 2016); Wilson You, a graduate student in the Department of Pathology. Second row, left to right: Mary Maclean, a graduate research assistant in the Department of Infectious Diseases; Tszonne Kuniniko, a graduate research assistant in the Department of Infectious Diseases; Melissa Miller, a graduate research assistant in the Department of Infectious Diseases; Claudia Baumann, a post doctoral student in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology; John Rossow (DVM 2017). First row, left to right: Ying Huang, a post doctoral student in the Department of Pathology; Lea Skahil, VMD, a resident in Diagnostic Imaging; Vanna Dickerson, a post doctoral research associate in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery; Jenny Mumaaw, PhD (DVM 2016); Mallory Little, an undergraduate student. Not pictured: Andrew Woolcock, DVM, a resident in small animal internal medicine; Vjay Durairaj, a post doctoral research associate in the Department of Population Health; Eric Shepherd (DVM 2016). Photo by Christopher R. Hennon.
Spotting disease in cattle has always been a concern in the beef industry. Yet, monitoring the health of one animal — let alone an entire herd — can be tedious, time-consuming, and for ranchers with small herds, potentially expensive. Practices for monitoring herd health can vary in different regions of the United States. In the Midwest, which is the heartland for cattle feedlots and beef processing plants, ranchers typically enlist veterinarians in the process of acquiring calves for their lots and also for advice on monitoring herd health.

To learn more about industry practices in the Midwest, a small group of DVM students and a faculty member from the Department of Infectious Diseases took a road trip with Lee Jones, DVM, MS, an assistant professor of beef production medicine in the College’s Food Animal Health and Management Program. Their six-day journey provided them with a behind-the-scenes look at beef operations in Mississippi, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri.

“Our profession is utilizing some leading-edge technologies and other practices with the goal of improving diagnostics, animal health programs and management to reduce and relieve animal disease, death and suffering while also improving livestock production and increasing the efficiency of production,” said Jones. “High-risk calves are common in the Southeast. We know there are things we can do on the farm to precondition these calves to improve their health and increase resistance to disease.”

Beef calves are typically born on farms in the Southeast, raised on that farm for several months, then auctioned to ranchers who raise that calf until it is ready to be sold, processed and shipped to grocers. Most of the calves sold at auction have never been vaccinated, said Jones. The roughly 30-day period that begins when the calf is brought to auction is the period when the calf is at greatest risk of illness because of its exposure to potential disease. In addition to lacking vaccinations, these high-risk calves also typically lack anthelmintic treatments, have not been castrated, and may have been abruptly weaned, he explained.

“Healthy calves grow better and produce better quality beef. Cattle disease is the most common animal welfare concern, and we can do a lot to prevent or reduce diseases in beef herds,” said Jones.

**REDI for the future?**

On most beef ranches, simply keeping an eye on your herd has historically been the best way to watch for disease in individual members — but a recently developed technological sentry offers us a glimpse of what the future may hold.

In Canton, Mo., the last stop on the tour, the travelers saw the prototype of the cattle-tracking Remote Early Disease Identification (REDI) system. Tags are attached to the cows, which monitor their location and activity level, including the number of times they visit the feed bunk and their vicinity to other animals. The data is then sent from the tag to a main computer server, where ranchers can read the reports. Jones believes the REDI system could replace the need for antimicrobials, which are given to high-risk calves to ward off disease.

In the United States, ranchers who want to implement the REDI system in their cattle operations must purchase it through Dan Goehl, DVM, and his colleagues at Professional Beef Services, LLC, who own the rights to market REDI in the U.S. Goehl met with the group to show them how the REDI system is being used on some area ranches. Studies conducted by PBS found REDI identified almost 40 percent of bovine respiratory disease cases in herds more than 48 hours prior to a trained human observer.

“Early identification means we can treat earlier, get better response to treatment and have fewer re-treatments,” noted Jones. “Also, because of the accuracy of the REDI system, healthy calves are not getting unnecessary antibiotics.”

**Stockering for a healthy herd**

In Mississippi, their first stop, the group toured the Mississippi State University CVM in Starkville and a livestock buying company in West Point called Prairie Livestock, or “PLI.”

PLI, established in 1964 to buy and resell stocker...
The electronic ear tag placed on each cow (left) sends a signal that is picked up by a nearby transmitter (right) and then relayed to a main computer, where the data can be reviewed by ranchers. The data collected includes the cow’s location, the number of times it visits the feed bunk, and its behavior of animals and learn to work cooperatively with them. "That's his way of promoting health and productivity. I think it was good for the students to hear him say this," noted Jones about Hazard, now in his early 90s.

"Meeting the 'Grass Guru,' Dr. Hazard, was very special," said Deana Veal (DVM 2015), who is interested in food animal medicine and who was one of three students on the journey. "Having him share his veterinary and practical knowledge combined with years of wisdom made visiting his operation a real treat!"

The trip also provided insight about the industry for Ray Kaplan, DVM, PhD, DEVPC, DACVM (Parasitology), a professor of infectious diseases who specializes in parasitology. "I gained a deeper understanding of how the industry works and the multiple priorities beef producers have, with parasite control being just one of them," Kaplan shared. "Thus I gained a much better appreciation of how to make recommendations for parasite control that can be integrated into the management priorities of the farm. It remains a challenge to figure out ways to make cattlemen appreciate that parasite surveillance — including testing for drug resistance — is a good investment because it can substantially improve profitability."

In Bartlesville, Okla., the students toured the Gallery Ranch, owned by Tom Gallery, and learned how its operations benefited from the services of livestock consultant Shaun Sweiger, DVM. As president of Cattle Stats, LLC, Sweiger provides cattle owners with strategies for preventing and eliminating bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) in their herds. Gallery explained to the group that hiring Sweiger has saved him a lot of money, because Sweiger has improved the health of his herds while also lowering his expenses for drugs.

"I want beef producers to think of veterinarians as an asset, not a liability," said Jones. "A good partnership between a beef producer and a veterinarian produces more beef and costs the rancher less money."

From Oklahoma the group traveled to De Soto, Kan., to tour the Merck Animal Health production facility and learn more about Merck's operations from its technical services manager, Mark Spire, DVM, MS, DACT. Spire showed the group how vaccines were made, led them through the research farm on site, and introduced them to other members of the Merck staff.

"Merck makes antibiotics and vaccines. But like a lot of companies, Merck sees that consumers want a more prevention-minded product from the food animal industry," said Jones. "So, the trend toward less antibiotic use in the future is brought about by a combination of improving consumer confidence in the industry and also reducing production costs."

Jones hopes the multi-state tour will encourage his students to bring more advanced production medicine practices to Georgia. "Veterinarians who work with small herd owners in the Southeast can assist the industry by encouraging these owners to vaccinate, deworm, castrate and manage calves to be more disease resistant. Calves from farms that have a documented health program are more valuable, in that due to their better health they weigh more and therefore sell for more."

"Many calves purchased by PLI have never had a health program," explained Jones.

PLI also wants to ensure that it continues to implement the best health practices, so it routinely taps the expertise of a veterinary epidemiologist, Bill Epperson, DVM, MS, ACVPM (Epidemiology), a professor and head of the Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine at MSU CVM. Dr. Epperson collects and analyses all health data on cattle purchased by PLI. "This helps PLI identify important risk factors that need to be managed, and also helps determine whether the treatments used are effective," explained Jones.

"Hazard's view is, 'Look at how these animals behave and use their behavior. Get to know the normal behavior of animals and learn to work cooperatively with them.' That's his way of promoting health and productivity. I think it was good for the students to hear him say this," noted Jones about Hazard, now in his early 90s.

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Inspiration for future veterinarians

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Matthew Abraham, DVM, MS, who is researching the role of SH gene in the pathogenesis of J paramyxovirus (JPV). Dr. Abraham came to UGA from India to pursue her master’s in poultry science from the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Carmen Jerry, DVM, a student in the College’s combined residency/phD program in anatomic pathology, with a poultry emphasis. Her PhD work is focused on avian influenza.

Congratulations!
The following former residents recently passed their specialty boards:

Leticia Dantas Divers, board certified by the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists

Lindsay Boozer (DVM ’08), by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, in Neurology

Jeremy O’Neill, by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, in Neurology

Kate Sycamore, by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, in Internal Medicine

Sophie Aschenbroich (DVM ’11, PhD 2017), by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists

Jennifer Dill, by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists

Sheryl Coutermarsch-Ott, by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists

Nancy Collicutt (MS ’16), by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists

Tory Watson (DVM ’09), by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists

Justin Thomason, by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, in Cardiology

Elise Myer (MAM ’13), by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians

Chad Malinak (MAM ’13), by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians

Vijay Durairaj (PhD ’12), by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians

Daina Stelmach (MS ’14), by the American College of Veterinary Radiologists

What’s the most effective test for identifying the causative agents of BRD?

Danielle Doyle, DVM (MFAM ’14), is conducting a study to compare the results, when sampled from a single calf, of all four diagnostic tests used to identify the causative agents of bovine respiratory disease (BRD) in affected cattle. BRD is the No. 1 cause of sickness and death in weaned dairy calves. Currently, the four tests used to identify the viruses and bacteria that contribute to BRD include nasal swabs, deep nasopharyngeal swabs, bronchoalveolar lavage, and trans-tracheal wash. To date, no research has been done to compare the agreement of these tests when sampling a single calf.

In her project, Doyle will identify dairy calves affected with BRD by examining the calves, scoring their clinical signs and inspecting their lungs with an ultrasound. Calves that meet a certain clinical score and have abnormal lungs on ultrasound will then be sampled with all four diagnostic tests, to accurately identify the causative agents of BRD.

Doyle’s collaborators include her mentors, Amelia Woolums, DVM, MVSc, PhD, DACVIM, DACVM, a professor of large animal internal medicine; Roy Berghaus, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVP, an associate professor of food animal health and medicine whose focus is on epidemiology; and Brent Credille, (DVM ’08, PhD ’14), DACVIM (Large Animal), an assistant professor of beef production medicine. Doyle is also collaborating with Terry Lehenbauer, DVM, MVPM, PhD, DACVP (Epidemiology), an associate professor and director of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine’s Veterinary Medicine Teaching & Research Center in Tulare, Calif.

The MFAM program is based in the department of Food Animal Health and Management, which is a division of the Department of Population Health.
StudentNews

Remembering Sina

Sina Shayegan's bright smile and kind, caring nature helped him leave an indelible mark on his colleagues in the Class of 2018. Just 26 years old and only seven days into his veterinary education, Shayegan passed away on Aug. 27.

Shayegan arrived at the University of Georgia by way of Cumming, Ga., where he had relocated with his mother, from Tehran, Iran, in 1999. He graduated from UGA in 2012 with a bachelor's of science degree in biology.

While he spent barely a month with his classmates, Shayegan left a lasting impression and is remembered fondly.

"He didn't expect anything in return for helping others, and he was passionate about helping others, pleasing them, and making sure their experience was good," recalled classmate Blake Hardin. "He was passionate about shelter medicine. He liked a good comedy. And, he volunteered his time with different shelter organizations and nursing homes around the Athens area."

Always considerate of others, Shayegan wore his nametag to every gathering with his class. "He saw the nametag as a way to break the ice and help you introduce yourself to someone," said Hardin.

"I was fortunate enough to have met him during his short time at the College," recalled classmate Katarina Yi. "In fact, he was the very first friend I made as I stood in line to check in on the first day of orientation, as he was right in front of me. He told me he wasn't great with names but was going to really make an effort to learn everyone's names. After a few minutes of conversation, he still struggled with my name, so I told him he could call me 'Kat,' but he strongly insisted against it. From then on, whenever we'd see each other in the hall between classes, he unfailingly said 'Hi' to me by name. He had a very genuine way of making people feel special."

After his death, to honor him, the Class of 2018 wore their nametags to UGA’s first football game and also to the annual Dean's Tailgate party.

"He was always smiling," remembered classmate Ashlynn Turner. "He made people around him happy, just by smiling."

"He was the sweetest, most kind person," recalled classmate Shelbe Lynn Harry, who said she also met Shayegan during the class's orientation and that he became her first friend at the CVM. "He would do anything to make you smile. I am so happy I got to spend the time with him that I did, because he changed a part of me."

To commemorate their friend's memory, the Class of 2018 raised money to buy a brick through the College's Brick & Horseshoe Campaign, which raises funds to help build the new UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital that opens in March 2015.

"Even though he wasn't here for long, he will always be a part of our class and the brick will always be a part of the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine," said Turner. The brick reads: "In honor of Sina Shayegan and his love for shelter animals. — UGA CVM 2018."

At 114 students, the Class of 2018 is the largest class to enter the CVM, and Shayegan's classmates are adamant that he will always be counted among them. After his death, the class adopted the hashtag #114STRONG, which was also printed on t-shirts for the Kudzu Olympics competition between the DVM classes, said Turner.

"Our UGA CVM Class of 2018 will always be 114," Turner stated firmly.

Sina Shayegan is survived by his mother, Farideh Pedrami, and father, Ben Chernobrov.

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Sina Shayegan is survived by his mother, Farideh Pedrami, and father, Ben Chernobrov.
Faculty/News

Col. Bob Walters, left, of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps presents Corrie Brown, DVM, PhD, DACVP, with an award in recognition of her contributions to the training of military veterinarians deployed to stability operations in resource-poor areas of the world. Dr. Brown, a professor of anatomic pathology, helped develop the Veterinary Support to Stability Operations training that is now mandatory for all military veterinarians who wish to deploy to these zones. Photo used with permission of U.S. Army Medical Command.

Heather Fenton, DVM, is now board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Dr. Fenton is a public service assistant for the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study.

Naola Ferguson-Noel, PhD, MAM, DVM, received the Bayer Snoeyenbos Award from the American Association of Avian Pathologists. Dr. Ferguson-Noel is an associate professor of avian medicine at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center. Dr. Hofacre is a professor of avian medicine and director of clinical services for the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center. Dr. Hofacre was also recently appointed to the Humane Heartland™ Scientific Advisory Committee.

Charles Hofacre, MS, DVM, (MAM ‘85, PhD ‘92), received the Lasher-Bottorff Award from the American Association of Avian Pathologists. Dr. Hofacre is a professor of avian medicine and director of clinical services for the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center. Dr. Hofacre was also recently appointed to the Humane Heartland™ Scientific Advisory Committee.

T. Douglas Byars, DVM, a noted equine veterinarian and former tenured professor in the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, died July 7 at his home in Georgetown, Ky. He was 70. Dr. Byars left UGA to be the head of equine medicine for the practice of Hagyard, Davidson, and McGee, later renamed the Hagyard Equine Medical Institute. He was the first private equine veterinarian to receive the Robert W. Kirk Award, in 2007, for professional excellence from private equine veterinarian to receive the Robert W. Kirk Award, in 2007, for professional excellence from the American College of Veterinary and Internal Medicine. Dr. Byars is a noted equine veterinarian and former tenured professor in the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, died July 7 at his home.

Recently Published Books

Many members of the CVM faculty are involved in writing or editing textbooks, or contributing book chapters on subjects within their areas of expertise. Below is a sampling of recent contributions to veterinary educational materials:

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Neurology (BSAVA; 4th edition; co-editor)

Small Animal Neurological Emergencies (CRC Press; 1st edition; co-authored)

Canine and Feline Epilepsy: Diagnosis and Management (CABE; co-authored)

— Simon Platt, BVM&S, MRCVS, DACVIM (Neurology), DECVM, a professor of neurology and neurosurgery in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Progress in Heritable Soft Connective Tissue Diseases (Springer; book editor and author of four chapters)

— Jaroslava Halper, MD, PhD, DABP, a professor of pathology in the Department of Pathology

Veterinary Anaesthesia (Saunders; co-authored)

— Cynthia M. Trim, BVSc, MRCVS, DVA, DACVA, DECAVA, a professor emeritus of anaesthesiology in the Department of Large Animal Medicine

New Faculty at UGA CVM

Lisa Bazzle, DVM, clinical instructor of emergency and critical care for small animals; Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Andrew Bugbee, DVM, DACVIM, clinical assistant professor of small animal internal medicine; Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Kathryn A. Diehl, DVM, MS, DACVO, assistant professor of ophthalmology; Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Maria Ferrer, DVM, MS, DACT, associate professor of theriogenology; Department of Large Animal Medicine

Alison G. Meindl, DVM, clinical assistant professor; Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Jaime Tarigo, DVM (’02), PhD, DACVP, assistant professor of clinical pathology; Department of Pathology

Charles Stephen Roney, DVM, (MAM ’87), DACVP, clinical associate professor, Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center; Department of Population Health

Brian Jordan, PhD, assistant professor, Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center; Department of Population Health (jointly appointed to the Department of Poultry Science in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences)

Courtney Murdock, PhD, assistant professor; Department of Infectious Diseases (jointly appointed to the Odum School of Ecology)

Melinda Brindley, PhD, assistant professor; Department of Infectious Diseases (jointly appointed to the Department of Population Health)

Clinical Veterinary Advisor: Birds and Exotic Pets (Saunders; co-authored)

— Jörg Mayer, DVM, MS, DABVP (ECM), DECPZ (Small mammal) DACZM, an associate professor of zoological medicine in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Small Animal Surgery (Elsevier; 4th edition; authored multiple chapters)

— MaryAnn Radlinsky, DVM, MS, DACVS, an associate professor of soft tissue surgery in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

A Field Manual of Animal Diseases by Syndromes with Emphasis on Transboundary Animal Diseases (Boca Publications Group; author)

— Corrie Brown, DVM, PhD, DACVP, a professor of anatomic pathology in the Department of Pathology

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Greetings from your Alumni Association!

Hello UGA Alumni!

We are just weeks away from moving into our new UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Veterinary Education Center. We can’t wait for you to see our new facility! I encourage you to join us on one of the tours that will be available during our Alumni Weekend.

We are always happy to welcome alumni back to Athens, but we realize the diaspora of our community is broad. The College historically hosts two Athens-based events per year: the annual Dean’s Tailgate, held each fall, and the Alumni Weekend, held each March. But because members of our community are everywhere, we look for other opportunities to bring our collective together. In October, alumni were able to visit with one another during a gathering held at the RJ Rockers Brewing Company in Spartanburg, S.C. The event was hosted by the College during the fall meeting of the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians. The College hosts similar events each year during the annual meetings of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the North American Veterinary Community, the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, the summer meeting of the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians, and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Your Alumni Association is a unique and incredible assemblage with expertise in every area of veterinary medicine. We encourage you to stay in touch with one another, to swap ideas, and to not be shy about sharing with us your ideas about how the College can do a better job at educating tomorrow’s veterinarians. If you would like to host an alumni gathering in your area, please contact our alumni director, Marti Brick (706.542.7049 or vetalums@uga.edu), and she will help you facilitate its success!

If you would like to help us support programs and scholarships for our students, the research endeavors of our faculty, funds to help clients and patients in need, or broader initiatives to support our CVM’s continued success, please consider making a gift to the College. If we each give a little bit, together we can help significantly.

Never forget that ALL graduates of the UGA CVM are automatically members of the Alumni Association! If you want to get more involved with us, please contact Marti Brick.

Go Dawgs!

Sincerely,

Chad Schmiedt
DVM (’00), DACVS
President

Dr. Chad Schmiedt, DVM, DACVS. Photo by Carolyn Crist.
Fascination with poultry lesions leads Franca to CVM's pathology program, and PDRC

By Lee Adcock

As an avian pathologist, Dr. Monique Franca loves to find new poultry lesions. She proudly displays one on her computer, a cecal crypt with numerous silver stain-positive spirochetes. “I really enjoy spending time looking through the microscope,” she shared, adding: “And I really get excited when I see some ‘cool’ lesions.”

Franca completed a combined PhD and residency program in veterinary pathology at the UGA CVM in 2013, and now is an assistant professor at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center. She is board certified by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians and the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. “There are not many pathologists specialized in avian pathology in the United States and other countries,” Franca said. “Since there is a high demand for pathologists specialized in poultry pathology, I felt like I could make a difference by being one of the people to teach and train veterinary students and pathology residents in this area.”

Franca was born in Santos, a coastal town in Brazil. She set out for veterinary school in 2002, when she was 18 years old. “I always loved all kinds of animals and I chose veterinary medicine because I believed there were so many things I could potentially do as a veterinary doctor.”

As Franca immersed herself in veterinary school at Sao Paulo State, she found a gap in her studies: “In the second year of the veterinary school, I learned all about poultry nutrition and management. In the third year of the veterinary school, I took courses on general and mammalian pathology — but we didn’t have much opportunity to learn about gross and microscopic pathology of poultry diseases.” The more Franca learned about pathology and poultry medicine, the more she yearned for a bridge between the two.

In 2005 she met H.L. Shivaprasad, BVSc, MS, PhD, DACVP — an avian pathologist from the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System (CAHFS), based at the University of California, Davis — at a pathology conference in Brazil. “I wrote an email to him, and in less than an hour I got this long email back from him that talked about all the things he did in the diagnostic lab, the interesting cases he was working on and how he loves to teach.” Shivaprasad offered Franca an externship and she accepted. “I learned so much there and saw so many cases, and so many interesting lesions. I just fell in love with it. After six months I applied for the poultry medicine residency at CAHFS and got accepted.”

At that point, Franca knew she had found her niche. But to practice and teach avian pathology, she still needed more training — and that’s why she came to UGA in 2009 to pursue a second residency and a PhD in veterinary pathology.

During her time at UGA, Franca learned many fine details about the pathology of various species, but what inspired her the most was the raw passion and expertise she witnessed in her mentor, Elizabeth Howerton, DVM, PhD, DACVP, a professor of anatomic pathology. Franca marvels at Howerton’s “outstanding teaching skills, hard work and supreme dedication” toward all her students. Today, Franca is a diagnostician, teacher and researcher at UGA’s Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center. She’s involved in multiple investigations on avian diseases, like avian influenza in wild birds and focal duodenal necrosis in egg layers. Her teaching duties expand beyond the physical classroom, as she also tutors students in an online training course. And, of course, being a pathologist means she gets to see many “cool” lesions in her office.

For many, that’d be a full workload — but Franca loves it all. “The favorite part of my job is that I never get bored.”
Gene Maddox (DVM ’59) received the 2014 Georgia Farm Bureau Commodity Award, which honors an individual who has supported and promoted Georgia agriculture. Maddox was elected as a house representative in 2004 and served eight years.

Sam Adams (DVM ’73) received the 2014 Nathan Brewer Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM). Only those who have made “rare and exceptional contributions to the field of laboratory/comparative medicine” can receive such an honor. To date, Dr. Adams is the fourth recipient of this award.

Tom Kuhn (DVM ’77) was selected to serve as vice president of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association.

David M. Pinson (DVM ’78), PhD, DACVP, DACLAM, received an Outstanding Teaching award from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. Dr. Pinson teaches in the pathology and pharmacology curriculum for M2 students of the College of Medicine.

Lisa K. Nolan (DVM ’88, MS ’89, PhD ’92) received the Phibro Animal Health Excellence in Poultry Research Award from the American Association of Avian Pathologists. Nolan is now the chief veterinarian for the Hawaiian Range Organic Egg Layers.

Two members of the CVM alumni community were named to the UGA Alumni Association’s 40 Under 40 Class of 2014: Chad Schmiedt (DVM ’00), DACVS, an associate professor of soft tissue surgery in the UGA CVM’s Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery; and Aleisha Gomes Swartz (DVM ’02), who is the chief veterinarian for the Hawaiian Humane Society. Dr. Schmiedt currently serves as president of the UGA Veterinary Alumni Association.

Christina Parr-Lindsey (DVM ’13) received the Reed Rumsey Award from the American Association of Avian Pathologists. Dr. Lindsey is currently a resident in poultry health management at North Carolina State University.

Chad Malinak (MAM ’13) received the Outstanding Field Case/Diagnostic Report Award from the American Association of Avian Pathologists for his presentation “Investigation of Clinical Disease in Free Range Organic Egg Layers.”

Sisters Kristen Merrick (DVM ’14) and Justin Brooke Merrick (DVM ’14) are both practicing veterinary medicine in Georgia. Kristen joined the staff of East Coweta Veterinary Hospital. Justin is practicing at Fayetteville Animal Hospital and Southern Crescent Animal Emergency Clinic.

Two members of the CVM alumni community were named to the UGA Alumni Association’s 40 Under 40 Class of 2014: Chad Schmiedt (DVM ’00), DACVS, an associate professor of soft tissue surgery in the UGA CVM’s Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery; and Aleisha Gomes Swartz (DVM ’02), who is the chief veterinarian for the Hawaiian Humane Society. Dr. Schmiedt currently serves as president of the UGA Veterinary Alumni Association.

Rebecca Stinson (DVM ’02) was elected vice president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. As vice president, Dr. Stinson will serve as liaison to the student chapters of the AVMA, and also as a voting member of the AVMA Executive Board. Dr. Stinson also currently serves on the UGA Veterinary Alumni Association board.

Jeffrey Klauser (DVM ’72), MS, DACVIM, received the 2014 Meritorious Service Award from the American Veterinary Medical Association for his efforts conducted outside the scope of his normal veterinary work to improve the lives of animals and people around the globe. Klauser is the senior vice president and chief medical officer for Banfield Pet Hospitals.

Gale Galland (DVM ’86), MS, DACVPM, received the 2014 Public Service Award from the American Veterinary Medical Association in recognition of her longtime service to the public health sector. Galland served 21 years as a commissioned officer with the U.S. Public Health Service working at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and eventually leading the CDC’s laboratory animal program. She retired in 2013.

Your classmates want to know what's happening in your life. Drop us a line! Please include your current contact information, including your phone number and email address, to help us keep our alumni database up to date. Send your information to:

Marti Brick
vetalums@uga.edu
or fax: 706.583.0242
Why I Give:
Melissa A. Kling-Newberry

Melissa A. Kling-Newberry (BSA ’80, DVM ’83) is the attending veterinarian for the Mercer University—Macon campus, and also director of the Animal Care Facility at the Mercer University School of Medicine. Previously, she worked in private practice for 28 years and she continues to see patients on a limited basis. She and her husband, Pep Newberry, who has been at Blue Bird Body Company as an engineering technician for 35 years, recently moved to rural Macon after living in Perry, Ga., for 30 years.

The Newberrys have five “children” — their dog Tank and four cats: indoor cats Tater and Ivan, and outdoor cats Minnie and Zoey. Tank loves them all.

Dr. Kling-Newberry has deep ties with the UGA CVM, as her father, J. Malcolm Kling, graduated in 1959, and she has friends on the faculty. Through the years, she has referred patients to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, including Tank, who was referred recently to the oncology and surgery services.

How do you donate to the CVM and why?

I donate toward the construction of the new Veterinary Medical Center (which opens in March). While in private practice I designated my pet memorials to this fund; now I just make an automatic monthly donation. I chose this fund over others as the project required such an enormous startup, and the new Teaching Hospital is in great need.

I also have a separate life insurance policy for which the CVM is the sole beneficiary to be used for the Wildlife/Zoological Medicine/Exotic Pets service. I pursued my passion for exotic animal species and wanted to have this particular policy as a way to give back after I am gone.

I feel it is important to “give back.” The College cannot run on the state funds it receives and needs donations to provide the education and vast array of services to students and clients. In recent years, private donations have become even more important. Because of the education I received, and the opportunities I had as a senior student, I have been able to pursue my passion in treating exotic species.

Why did you each choose to begin donating to the CVM? Do you donate to other causes?

Years ago, when I learned about the pet memorial program, it was the perfect way to honor my clients and memorialize my patients. I have received phone calls from both men and women who break down in tears while trying to thank me. I have also received thank you notes. I have always found it very touching that I receive the most heartfelt thanks from one of the worst situations an owner has to endure. I have had a couple clients give to the CVM as a result.

I also donate to Guiding Eyes for the Blind in New York, which is an internationally accredited guide dog school; Vital Ground Foundation in Montana, which permanently protects land for grizzly bears and other wide-ranging wildlife; and the World Wildlife Fund.

Donating money is a deeply personal experience. What would you share with others about giving?

I have had a few clients over the years ask me how they could help by making a donation to a charity or particular cause, and I have requested they donate to the CVM.

What would you tell others about the experience of giving to a cause?

I felt even stronger about giving back to the CVM after we had to take Tank for treatment for oral melanoma, which happened last fall.

We got Tank from a family friend when he was barely 6 weeks old and he barely fit into my two hands held together. He is a Pit Bull-Pointer-Labrador Retriever mix, and looks almost like a pure Pit Bull. He is the sweetest dog ever and he loves our cats. He’s now 7 and a half years old and weighs 78 pounds. Tank goes everywhere with my husband and they share a very special bond. So, needless to say, Pep was simply devastated when we got Tank’s cancer diagnosis. There was no decision to be made other than for me to refer him for a second opinion to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s Oncology service.

Being on the receiving end of the process was a new experience for me, and it could not have been better given the circumstances. The Hospital’s front desk receptionist was very welcoming and made us feel right at home. The student on Tank’s case, Daniel Carrig (a student from St. George’s University who was doing his clinical rotations at the UGA CVM), was very personable and Tank was very comfortable with him. Daniel kept us informed with updates on Tank’s status at least twice a day. Our oncology resident, Dr. Jessica Mobley Thuman (DVM ’12), was very caring and thorough at explaining all of our options with oral melanoma, as did our surgeon, Dr. Chad Schmiedt (DVM ’00). They both enabled us to make informed decisions that made us feel we were doing everything possible for Tank.

When we went to pick up Tank, we discovered that Daniel had spent extra time with him, and in fact Tank went to the exam room door that led back into the hospital as if he wanted to go back into the hospital. Imagine our surprise! The pathology reports from all the lesions came back in a very timely manner, and thankfully for now Tank is cancer free. Pep was very impressed with how our referral went, that everyone was so nice and caring, and he felt like we made the right choice by pursuing the referral.

Is there anything you’d like to add that has not been asked?

I cannot stress how important it is for alumni and other donors to contribute to the College and its programs, so the same type of service we received can be provided to all patients and clients.

I have always wanted to be a veterinarian and knew from a very early age that was what I wanted to do. I remember the day I had my interview and one of the people I was waiting with said: “You know, only one in three interviewees gets accepted!” Interestingly enough, on the first day of orientation I noticed all three of us had been accepted!
### Dates to remember:

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<td>Opening date for new UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27-28</td>
<td>52nd Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend (at the Georgia Center)</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Annual Open House at the UGA CVM</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
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<td>June 17-21</td>
<td>Southeast Veterinary Conference (SCAV Summer Meeting)</td>
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<td>June 17</td>
<td>UGA hosts SEVC Grand Opening/Reception (SCAV Summer meeting)</td>
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<td>Hawaii Dawg-O (at the Georgia Theatre)</td>
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### Continuing Education Courses:

CE dates and topics are subject to change. Questions about CE? Contact Melissa Kilpatrick at melissak@uga.edu or 706.542.1451, or online at www.vet.uga.edu/ce

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