Pursuing PIV5

Innovative researcher finds opportunities in vaccine development by using viruses
The new hospital for large and small animals, and a new classroom building, are slated to open in spring 2015.

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Dear Alumni and Friends of the College,

Change is inevitable. Sometimes we are active participants in it. Other times, we are swept up in it and only later recognize the transformation that took place.

The UGA College of Veterinary Medicine is actively preparing for a massive change: Our move to the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital and classroom building. We expect to be in these new facilities by March 2015! Don’t miss our update on the project in this issue.

As we focus on planning for our big move, those subtle, less obvious changes continue. Among the stories about our ever-changing College in this *Aesculapian*:

- We have a new director of continuing education: Dr. Karen Cornell, a professor of small animal surgery, who was named to the position earlier this year. Be sure to read Dr. Cornell’s story detailing the goals she has for our CE program.

- The CVM just launched a yearlong post-graduate training program for medical illustrators who have obtained a degree from an accredited school. That probably sounds like an odd program to find in a CVM, until you consider that two of the best medical illustrators in the United States are embedded in our CVM’s Educational Resources Unit.

- Biao He, PhD, a noted virologist and vaccine developer who is a professor of infectious diseases, has recently been named the Fred C. Davison Distinguished University Chair in Veterinary Medicine. Dr. He does some fascinating and extremely promising vaccine research utilizing canine parainfluenza virus, or PIV5, as a delivery mechanism.

- Our Alumni Association has a new president! In this issue, meet Dr. Chad Schmiedt, an associate professor of soft tissue surgery at our CVM and a member of the Class of 2000!

I’m sure you’ll enjoy reading all the interesting stories in this issue of the *Aesculapian*. As always, thank you for your support of our College!

Sincerely,

Sheila W. Allen
Dean

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**IS3D and Clarke County Schools build partnership for education, entrepreneurship and technology**

**Story and photos by Carolyn Crist**

Stella Guerrero smiles as green checkmarks appear next to her students’ names in her Advanced Placement Biology class. As they play their way through a simulation on individual laptops in the classroom, the Cedar Shoals High School teacher watches the progress from her own screen and notes which questions the students zoom through and which ones cause students to pause.

As part of the simulation, students act like scientists to solve the medical case of why Clark, a calf, is having seizures. They move through the scientific process and test different procedures to cure him, all while learning the underlying principles of osmosis.

A hand shoots skyward. “Mrs. Guerrero?”

She moves to the right side of the room to work one-on-one with a student who asks questions about the diffusion process. On the left side of the room, two students cheer quietly after they talk through one of the difficult steps and choose the right procedure. A third student leans closer to ask them for help.

“Moving in was one of the best things to happen to the company,” said Tom Robertson, CEO of IS3D and an associate professor of physiology and
pharmacology at the College of Veterinary Medicine. “ACC schools are the model customers for us, and when the customer says they like what we do so much that they want us to move in, there's no bigger endorsement. Now we're an embedded part of the community.”

Robertson and seven UGA faculty and staff members created IS3D in 2010 as an interactive software company to develop and commercialize inquiry-based 3D educational materials to increase high school student performance and interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The group has developed several case studies about osmosis, cell signaling, and membrane transport that are now being piloted in dozens of Georgia high schools. This year, the company was named Startup of the Year for 2013 by Four Athens, a Georgia high schools. This year, the company was named Startup of the Year for 2013 by Four Athens, a business incubator located in Athens, and one of the top 40 Innovative Technology Companies in Georgia for 2014 by the Technology Association of Georgia.

“Entrepreneurial and startup companies offer tremendous opportunities for kids to learn, and there’s no way we could replicate this in the classroom setting. What better way to reflect startup opportunities than to have it right in the school?”

**Using partnerships**

Each month, teachers from participating school districts meet with the IS3D design team to discuss concepts for new cases and changes that could make the user experience better — both for the teachers and students.

“When the teachers are talking through the program in class, I want to know when they would expect to ask students a question — and when to ask the right questions,” said David Ducrest, a development team leader for IS3D. “Where do the questions fit into the cognitive development of the subject, and how does it frame learning? We want to ask questions that not only test them but enhance understanding.”

“The latest addition to the system, Skills- and Assessments-Based Learning Environments (known affectionately as SABLE), is an online evaluation system that allows teachers to watch how their students are answering questions and progressing through the cases. Teachers can now see student responses to short answer questions alongside multiple-choice questions in real time via SABLE.”

“I love the new simulations online because they allow students to participate in an inquiry process where they not only have to problem solve, but they also have to be reflective concerning why they took certain steps during the problem solving process,” said Jennifer Lance Yauk, a biology teacher at Oconee County High School. “Students not only engage with the program, but they thrive on the challenge of solving the problem.”

At a meeting in March, IS3D developers walked through a new case study being developed about membrane transport. Teachers pitched in thoughts about the concepts and were visibly excited to see a new product coming their way.

“The premise of the case study is exactly in line with my teaching philosophy. When I first used them, I didn’t even mind that there were kinks in the technology,” said Anna Scott, a teacher at Athens Academy. “Now that I am serving as a sort of teacher consultant, I see that in addition to producing excellent case studies, the company is taking seriously the task of making teachers happy. The ability of SABLE to allow me to assess my students’ progress in real time is priceless.”

The IS3D team is also wrapping up development on Nurbits, a music-making game that teaches neuroscience concepts. After testing a prototype in schools, the group is now seeking federal small business grants to complete the full-scale version.

“The most important aspect of the partnership is the fact that it is built on a collaboration among scientists, technology experts and science educators who can develop products that are scientifically accurate while capturing students’ interest and supporting their learning,” said Jeremy Peacock, science department chair at Monroe Area High School. “I hope IS3D maintains a connection to its collaborative beginnings and continues to draw on the multiple areas of expertise represented in its team.”

**Moving forward**

By 2015, Robertson hopes IS3D will be able to send its first products to market. A three-year, $1.8 million grant awarded in 2013 from the National Institutes of Health has put them on pace to get there.

“That gives us headspace in terms of development and having the timeline to produce the best that we can,” he said. “In coming months, we can focus on the technology and reduce production time for every project we do.”

This year, the next challenge is attracting an investor. Grant money is great for bringing on more workers and creating more jobs, but it can’t be used for sales and marketing of the product.

“After going into schools, we know we have a winner in terms of the products, so now it’s the logistics of getting into the market,” Robertson said. “This is a new challenge that is different than writing grant applications.”

The group is seeking additional grant funding from the National Science Foundation, with the idea that $1 million in investor dollars brings in another value-added $500,000 from the NSF.

In addition, IS3D is working with UGA researchers to develop products for elementary schools. This new project, funded by NIH, will help...
The Georgia BioBusiness Center (GBBC) works with companies that have research and technology ties to the University of Georgia.

Located on UGA’s Athens campus, the GBBC enables startups to accelerate their early growth through access to space, state-of-the-art equipment and support services.

GBBC programs encourage the commercialization of UGA faculty, staff and student discoveries in medicine, agriculture, bioinformatics and environmental science.

IS3D is just one of the many companies that has taken advantage of GBBC resources.

Strong technology and intellectual property form the foundation of profitable companies, but success comes with equally strong business strategies. There are many legal, financial and organizational issues that startups must consider during formation, and the Georgia BioBusiness Center offers guidance for UGA entrepreneurs through the Start-Ups for Smarties program.

Priority consideration is given to companies that have a technology licensing agreement with the University of Georgia Research Foundation. UGA’s Technological Commercialization Office also offers advice about intellectual property, licensing and negotiating.

“The University is one of the most successful state institutions in issuing licenses. These technologies belong in the commercial sector,” said Tom Robertson, CEO of IS3D. “These companies create jobs in Georgia — particularly in Athens — and it’s a big win for the University and Athens communities to be part of this economic development.”

By Karen Cornell, DVM, PhD, DACVS
Director of Continuing Education

As some of you are aware, we have recently experienced several changes in the Office of Continuing Education at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Following the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Bruce Hollett, in April 2013, our coordinator of Continuing Education programs, Melissa Kilpatrick, did a remarkable job of carrying on the CE mission. On January 1, I was named the new director of Continuing Education. Melissa and I are working together to make changes to the CE program to best meet the CE needs of the veterinary community.

Changes implemented thus far include streamlining the online invitation and registration process, and providing novel continuing education opportunities for other members of the veterinary healthcare team, including veterinary technicians and client services representatives. Specific examples of our coming offerings include celebrating National Veterinary Technician Week in October by hosting a one-and-a-half day continuing education meeting with talks for both large and small animal technicians, scheduled for Oct. 18 and 19. Additionally, a program for veterinary front desk staff and entire practice teams, around the theme of “Delivering a Clear and Consistent Message in your Practice”, is under development and will be coming soon.

Other goals of the Office of Continuing Education include encouraging current veterinary students to discover the value of the veterinary community by creating an opportunity for interactions with practicing veterinarians during our annual veterinary conference in the spring. At the 2014 Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend in March, we hosted an interview “speed dating” event that allowed veterinary students the opportunity to “interview” with multiple practitioners in a one-on-one abbreviated format. Feedback from participating veterinary students and veterinarians indicate this was a huge success and we hope to expand this opportunity next year.

You may have noticed our new CE logo that utilizes the state tree of Georgia, the live oak, to symbolize our commitment to a strong core foundation of knowledge and continued growth of emerging interests. We hope that UGA CVM alumni and all veterinarians in the Southeast will investigate our unique programs. Importantly, a major goal of the CE team is to gather feedback from you, our constituents, regarding programs you would like to see offered at the CVM.

Many of you are already on our CE mailing list, but if you are not receiving our email invitations and would like to, please email Melissa at melissak@uga.edu and ask to be added.

And lastly, we are looking forward to offering CE events in the new Veterinary Education Center at the new campus, beginning in the spring of 2015!
Drs. Biao He and Corey Saba reviewed the CT images with excitement. After weeks of injecting a virus into the cancerous tumor on a dog’s face, the growth of the tumor seemed to stop. The patient, Libbie, a 10-year-old Chihuahua, had come to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital about a year earlier to be treated for the lump, which was diagnosed as oral fibrosarcoma. Her initial treatment included surgery, followed by four weeks of radiation therapy. But within a year, Libbie’s tumor had returned and was growing rapidly. Because few treatment options were available, Libbie’s owner enrolled her in a clinical trial to try another solution.

“The tumor seemed to stop growing, and it looked like the center of the tumor was dying,” said Saba, a veterinarian and board-certified oncologist who is an associate professor of oncology in the CVM’s Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery. “After 10 treatments, we stopped injecting the virus and the tumor started growing again.”

Saba and He, who is a PhD and a professor in the CVM’s Department of Infectious Diseases, used paramyxovirus parainfluenza virus 5 (PIV5, also known as canine parainfluenza virus) to attack the tumor. The two teamed up to find ways to connect his basic science background and her clinical research experience to help dogs with cancer.

“There tends to be a disconnect between what we do as clinical scientists in the hospital setting and what basic science researchers do, but Dr. He made the connection quickly during our collaboration,” Saba said. “He likes to come down to the clinic to see the dogs and what we do.”

The research team has applied for grant funding to continue the trial, moving PIV5 research “from bench top to cage side,” Saba said.

After being named to the Fred C. Davison Distinguished University Chair in Veterinary Medicine, in April, He is able to push forward with colleagues to investigate how to use PIV5 as a possible therapeutic agent for other cancers, because the endowed position provides him with additional funding to expand his research.

A renowned virologist, He is internationally known for his work on host interactions, anti-virals, innate immunity and vaccine development. His lab focuses on viral pathogenesis at the molecular level, particularly how viral proteins overcome host defense, and the idea that viruses such as PIV5 can be engineered to prevent disease and to promote healing.

“For most of us, it seems counterintuitive to use a virus as a means of delivering wellness,” He said. “But there’s a great sense of satisfaction in turning something bad into something good.”

Where it all started

After earning a PhD in microbiology and immunology in 1996 from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, He never imagined that he would study infections in animals or become a leading researcher in a veterinary college. But when he began working on PIV5 as a potential cancer therapeutic agent, he realized that studying canine cancer was exciting and dogs are a better model for the human immune system than rodents.

“I’m not a pet owner, so by chance, I talked to colleagues and found out that cancer is a big problem for dogs,” He said. “So if you have two populations in need — both dogs and humans — how can you connect them and help them?”

PIV5 was first discovered in the 1950s, and He first encountered it during his postdoctoral training at Northwestern University and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute between 1996 and 2001. For decades, the virus has served as a model to study virus-host interaction and how viral replication occurs in a cell. While studying PIV5, He developed the platform to make it possible to reverse engineer the virus and modify its genetic code.

“PIV5 is this amazing and tiny little virus that has a single-mindedness about trying to survive the host immune system,” He said. “It’s quite successful in replicating and being fruitful, so how can we use that for good?”

PIV5 is a virus that is transmitted easily and causes only mild infections in both dogs and humans.

“There’s a 30 percent chance you’ve been exposed to it and...
didn't even know," He said. "This tells me it's a safe virus, and we can use the tools of genetic engineering to modify it to target tumor cells and treat cancer as well as to use it as a vehicle to deliver antigens for vaccine development."

He's lab has used PIV5 as a vector for vaccine development and developed a novel avian influenza virus vaccine. Most current influenza vaccines are grown in embryonic chicken eggs, and humans with an egg allergy can't be vaccinated. In addition, avian influenza virus strains kill the embryonic chicken eggs quickly, which makes it difficult to produce enough doses to meet demand. He's lab has used PIV5 as a vector to express influenza virus antigens, which allows fast and inexpensive production of avian influenza virus vaccines. Trials in mice and guinea pigs have been very successful.

"PIV5 is a promising platform for vaccine development," He said. "I'm very excited about moving forward to trials in humans, especially as the second wave of H7N9 avian influenza outbreaks in China continues to develop."

Besides developing vaccines for influenza viruses, He is also funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop vaccines for Mycobacterium tuberculosis and HIV. In addition, He's lab works on mumps, which is a virus relative of PIV5. When the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced in 2000 that it wanted to eliminate mumps from the United States was first made in the 1960s and it is still used today. He lights up each time he presents the case.

With large outbreaks occurring outside of the U.S., He noted it was a matter of time before the country saw large outbreaks here as well. In 2006, He was funded by NIH to use genetic engineering to create a new vaccine that would be effective on these newer outbreak strains of mumps virus.

"We've been pretty successful in creating vaccine candidates and we've tested them in mice, but mumps is a human disease," He said. "We plan to take this to human trials in the near future."

Using new resources

Hoping to channel his work with PIV5 into a translational realm once he became an associate professor of virology at Pennsylvania State University, He began seeking collaborators to test the virus as a vector for vaccine development. He found Mark Tompkins, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Veterinary Medicine Department of Infectious Diseases, the two have published their work on influenza vaccines since 2007. Major funding from the NIH led to the development of an H5N1 vaccine for humans, which is "the most promising vaccine candidate among all viral vector-based vaccines at present," He said. They are now developing a vaccine for the newly emerging avian influenza virus H7N9. Testing in mice and guinea pigs demonstrated the vaccine candidate was very effective, and they are now working toward testing it in humans.

He moved to the University of Georgia in 2009, bringing along his team of four doctoral students, two senior scientists and one technician, which helped to maintain productivity in the lab. Named a Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Investigator, He joined the CVM as part of an initiative to recruit top scientists who conduct research in vaccines and therapeutics.

"When I saw that the College was investing resources in infectious disease research and I saw all of the phenomenal animal, human, pathogen and parasite expertise, it was an easy decision to move here," He said. "Since I've come here, we've tested and worked with guinea pigs, ferrets, hamsters, dogs, cats, horses, pigs, chickens and non-human primates. It's an exciting place to be, with all of this potential."

Humble about being named to the Davison Chair, He didn't tell his lab members about the announcement at first. Several of the students first heard about the honor when colleagues in the College congratulated him.

"This appointment is an affirmation of how supportive my colleagues are. They appreciate the vision of this research and the importance of research," He said. "Dean [Sheila] Allen has a great vision for where the College should go and knows how to take it to the next level. Conducting research in a collaborative manner is what resonates. I am very optimistic about the future."

The Davison Chair is named for Dr. Fred C. Davison, who graduated from the college in 1952 and returned in 1964 to serve as dean. He became vice chancellor of the University System of Georgia in 1966 and was named UGA's 17th president a year later. Davison served as president until 1986.

"I'm very excited for Dr. He because obtaining funding is difficult, and he's great about keeping the stress of funding out of the lab," said Adrian Picker, a fourth-year doctoral student from Maryland who works on both the basic science and mouse models for the mumps vaccine. "We never have to worry about it, and we can do what we need to do in the lab."

Davison is considered largely responsible for boosting UGA's recognition as a research institution. During his tenure as president, the university's funding for research grants climbed significantly, and by the 1970s UGA was ranked as one of the top 50 research institutions in the United States. Upon his retirement in 1986, alumni and donors contributed the funds to endow the chair in Davison's name.

"What's really great about Dr. He as a mentor is that he pushes us and expects a lot, but he also ensures that we know he's there for us and our careers," said Shannon Phan, a third-year doctoral student from California who is developing a novel respiratory syncytial virus vaccine using PIV5 as a vector. "Even if you think an experiment didn't produce the data you expected, he can look beyond that, synthesize it, and show you that it actually helps inform future directions of study."

The Davison Chair will allow He and lab members to run more clinical trials similar to the one in which Libbie was enrolled. "I'm always excited to see this case in front of me and think about the possibilities."

www.vet.uga.edu/id/labs/biao-he

For More Information

If you would like to read more about Dr. Biao He's projects involving PIV5 as a vector, his published research and his lab members, visit:
One Health @ UGA bolsters support for broad view encompassing human, animal, environmental health

By Carolyn Crist

Photo by Christina Cannon.

Quiz time:

Q: Malaria, a disease that affects more than 200 million people annually, also infects:
   (a) Monkeys, lizards, snakes, chickens, rodents, penguins, sparrows
   (b) Buffalo, goats, cats, pigs

A: The answer is (a).

The Malaria Symposium is one of the latest events sponsored by One Health @ UGA, a division of the Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute, which focuses on developing interdisciplinary collaborations that tackle research at the nexus of animal, human, and environmental health. The group promotes global understanding of infectious diseases through social, physical, and environmental components and their interactions.

“We may work on different species, but we can learn from each other,” said Susan Sanchez, MSc, PhD, CBIOl, FSB, an associate professor of entomology in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, who opened the 2014 Malaria Symposium with an overview of malaria, its lifecycle, and recent news about specific strains wiping out native bird populations in Hawaii.

“There are more than 200 species of plasmodium alone, and there's been explosive growth in newly identified species in the last 20 years,” she said. “One or two species of malaria tend to get all the press, but there are many other species out there causing a lot of damage.”

“The link between human and animal health was first discovered during the 1800s, and the term “One Medicine” was coined in the 1960s by Calvin Schwabe, DVM, ScD, MPH, who became the founding chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the Veterinary School at the University of California-Davis, the first department of its kind in a veterinary school.

The term “One Health” became popular in the mid-2000s, and in 2007 the American Medical Association passed a One Health resolution that called for a partnership between human and veterinary medicine. Two years later, experts from 23 countries developed a “One World, One Health” framework for countries to advance One Health concepts. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are among the long list of One Health endorsers, as well as the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Bank.

Sanchez first became interested in One Health when she researched HIV/AIDS as a doctoral student at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain. While using animal models to diagnose infections, she saw the disconnect between professors in the veterinary school, medical school, and health promotion department.

“They bring in the environment — not just trees and rivers, but also our homes, cars and sofas — to get the bigger picture about our health,” she said. “The University of Georgia has expertise in all of these areas, and we need to link them together for a broader perspective.”

One Health @ UGA hosts a monthly seminar series that features interdisciplinary work by University of Georgia researchers. In January, Sherry Sanderson, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, DACVSN, an associate professor of nutrition and physiology at the CVM, talked about the obesity epidemic from a veterinarian’s perspective. She researches the use of nutritional management for the prevention and treatment of diseases in dogs and cats, particularly the interaction of carnitine and taurine in canine dilated cardiomyopathy.

In February, Ralph Tripp, PhD, a professor of infectious diseases at the CVM who is also a Georgia Research Alliance (GRA) Eminent Scholar and the GRA Chair of Animal Health Vaccine Development, spoke about the genetic engineering of improved vaccine cell lines. He develops translational disease interventions and countermeasures for infectious diseases of zoonotic origin. He discussed mechanisms of immunity, the virus-host interface, and new strategies for vaccine development.

At the Malaria Symposium in March, professors across campus formed new connections and met researchers from Emory University and the CDC.

“Taking blood from a host is an invasive process, and mosquito saliva counteracts the body’s response to injury to maintain access to blood circulation,” Donald Champagne, PhD, an associate professor of entomology in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, explained during the symposium. “In rodents, we’ve been working on ways for the immune system to reduce that transmission, which shows great potential for what could occur in humans and future vaccines.”

In 2013, UGA and the University of Liverpool sponsored a One Health International Symposium in Athens, and more than 100 scientists gathered for three days to discuss disease treatment and prevention. In June 2014, the two universities held the second international symposium in Liverpool to discuss food-borne zoonotic diseases and food safety, emerging infections in companion animals, and the economic and societal effects of these issues.

As One Health @ UGA initiatives move forward, Sanchez is seeking opportunities to engage students in its collaborative process. Through the Georgia Veterinary Scholars Program, CVM students and students enrolled in the Georgia Regents University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership are able to participate in classes that expose them to biomedical research. Within the next year, Sanchez hopes UGA MD and DVM students will be able to participate in integrated rounds together.

“They need to do research together, get to know each other, and see how the curriculum and atmosphere is different, but more importantly, they need to understand how their disciplines are inextricably linked,” she said. “Ultimately, all our students need to have a more nuanced global perspective, and they must know how to build teams and collaborate to realize the promises of One Health — healthier people and healthier animals, living in a healthier environment.”

Pathologists, immunologists, geneticists and mathematicians packed a University of Georgia auditorium in March to discuss malaria and its wide reach across both humans and other animals.

While discussing malaria’s lifecycle, the biology of its multiple hosts, and the prevalence of various strains across the globe, the scientists laid out ideas about transmission and the possibility of vaccines.

“Ultimately, all our students need to have a more nuanced global perspective. They must know how to build teams and collaborate to realize the promises of One Health — healthier people and healthier animals, living in a healthier environment.”

For More Information

If you would like to read more about One Health, visit the UGA Division of One Health page at onehealth.uga.edu and the CDC’s One Health website at: www.cdc.gov/onehealth

Visit the UGA Division of One Health page at onehealth.uga.edu and the CDC’s One Health website at: www.cdc.gov/onehealth
Meet Sally and Pandy (right)!

In coming months, the piglet and baby chick will teach elementary school children in the Georgia 4-H programs across the state how to interact with farm animals — “No kissing, please!” — and to wash their hands afterwards to avoid getting sick.

As cute and cuddly as they might be, it took hours of work to make them that way. Pandy, short for “pandemic,” and Sally, short for “salmonella,” are just two 3D animations in a line of projects that Will McAbee, an illustrator in the College’s Educational Resources Center, has tackled this year.

McAbee, who graduated from the Medical College of Georgia’s medical illustration program in 2013, is the first student in the College of Veterinary Medicine’s new Certificate of Comparative Medical Illustration Program that started in June. Funded as the first of three one-year certificate students by the veterinary pharmaceutical company Zoetis, McAbee will complete a one-year program in which he will take one-on-one graduate-level courses to further extend his training.

“The best part about working here is that I get to do everything — illustration, animation, iBooks, 3D printing,” McAbee said. “When you go into medical illustration, you don’t think about character animation, but here I am creating a model of a pig and thinking about how to guide children through a lesson about the spread of disease from animals to humans.”

Brad Gilleland and Kip Carter, both members of the Association of Medical Illustrators and considered to be two of the top illustrators in the country, work alongside McAbee in the College’s Educational Resources Center and serve as adjunct faculty for the certificate program. CVM professors Jim Moore and Scott Brown, who have been involved in several projects around the College related to simulations and educational materials, serve as program directors.

“One of the difficulties in teaching, particularly anatomy and physiology, is that a flat picture in a book only gives you so much,” said Elizabeth Settles, a veterinarian and associate director of Corporate Development Alliances and Solutions for Zoetis. Settles worked with Moore and Brown to fund the certificate program.

“We saw this opportunity as a very innovative way to use technology to educate and better the profession, not only for veterinarians but also the clients,” she said. “When we think about teaching with technology, usually it’s taking something on paper and putting it in a digital form, whereas this is creating a whole new way to teach and learn.”

While illustrating at UGA, McAbee has worked with various departments to create artwork. The Pandy and Sally project is a collaboration with Mandy Marable and Melanie Beirmth, two of UGAs 4-H coordinators, as well as infectious disease experts at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For another project, McAbee helped to create a simulation of a petri dish for students to perform a laboratory procedure before doing it in class. He’s also worked on a project with the College of Engineering’s Virtual Experiences Lab, where he created artwork while an engineering graduate student programmed the virtual reality headset.

“We’re always collaborating with someone, which is great because so many areas are open for me to gain experience in animation and illustration,” McAbee said. “For the engineering project, I gave the programmer pointers on how to make things look appealing, and he told me what I could and couldn’t do with my models.”

Included as a member of the Educational Resources team, McAbee attends Monday morning meetings with Brown and Moore to lead discussions about the business aspects of the department and what new projects are in development. On Fridays, the 3D visualization group meets to discuss their current projects and share new tips and tricks they learned throughout the week.

“The MCG training program is all human illustration, so this program is a great way to get into what veterinary illustration is all about,” McAbee said. “I’ve learned human anatomy and physiology, and it’ll be great to have a more specific academic program that prepares me for an entire section of the field that most illustrators aren’t getting into right now.”

As a part of the certificate program, McAbee will take eight courses in the CVM that will help him apply his training to animal models and veterinary concepts.

“Some medical illustrators earn an MD or DVM, but they don’t get additional illustration training,” McAbee said. “No one in the field has a certificate like this, so I feel that I’m really going to be prepared for a wide open field coming out of this program.”

After he completes the certificate program, McAbee hopes to start his own business or land a position at a university or hospital similar to the one he has now at the CVM.

“Right now I get to do a variety of projects in one of the best veterinary schools in the country,” he said. “I’m also getting a firsthand lesson in how to run a department that creates educational materials for all types of disciplines. It’s great preparation for any position in the future.”

McAbee first developed a love for art as a child when he watched stop-motion animation with his father. He enjoyed drawing the monsters from the movies and at first struggled with his dream of translating that into a viable career. Armed with a 2008 bachelor’s degree in biology from UGA and a MCG medical illustration degree, McAbee is happy to see his childhood love for art and science finally combine into a career.

“It’s liberating to get back to what you wanted to do,” he said. “As a kid, you have dreams of working while doing something you truly love to do. With this program, I can do that.”
UGA, Merial receive 2014 Phoenix Award for collaborative partnership

The University of Georgia and Merial are among the recipients of the 2014 Phoenix Awards, sponsored by the Metro Atlanta Chamber. The award recognizes Merial’s university-wide partnership, including the many ways in which Merial partners with the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Phoenix Awards are presented annually by the Metro Atlanta Chamber Bioscience Leadership Council in conjunction with Georgia Bio to recognize the year’s best collaboration between an academic institution and a company that has made an outstanding contribution to the growth of Georgia’s bioscience industry.

The UGA CVM and Merial have worked together since 1985 in a variety of ways aimed at improving both human and animal health, as well as the education provided to the College’s students. Examples of our partnership include:

- An ongoing exchange of information between UGA CVM faculty and Merial’s scientists that impacts both product development and research at UGA;
- Funding from Merial to the CVM that supports the College’s research and service activities;
- Funding from Merial that supports the CVM’s annual Georgia Veterinary Scholars Program;
- Funding from Merial that supports an emerging/re-emerging infectious diseases residency program within the College’s Department of Infectious Diseases, which results in more comprehensive training with a better view of industry needs;
- $2 million in license revenue to the University of Georgia through poultry vaccines developed at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center, which is based within the College’s Department of Population Health; this money is re-invested in research at UGA;
- The 2013 UGA-Merial Innovation Forum, a day-long event featuring speakers from Merial and UGA which resulted in more formalized guidance of additional joint activities, a new master services agreement, and continued discussions about development of products based on UGA technologies.

While Merial has an active partnership with the CVM that benefits the College, its students, and its programs in many ways, the above examples are among the specific reasons why Merial and UGA were chosen for the 2014 Phoenix Award.

“While Merial has an active partnership with the CVM that benefits the College, its students, and its programs in many ways, the above examples are among the specific reasons why Merial and UGA were chosen for the 2014 Phoenix Award. It is deeply gratifying to see this recognition of the productive and synergistic collaboration between UGA and Merial,” said Dr. Harry W. Dickerson, associate dean for research and graduate affairs, and Bob Nordgren, head of external innovation for Merial, accept their 2014 Phoenix Award.

Photo courtesy of Mahon Photography.

Emory and UGA receive $3.6 million NIH influenza contract

A partnership between Emory University and the University of Georgia that plays a key role in the nation’s influenza research and surveillance programs has received a $3.6 million contract, with potential funding up to a total of $26.7 million available over seven years, from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The Emory-UGA Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance was originally launched and funded in 2007, when the NIAID, part of the National Institutes of Health, created a network of six national centers.

The Emory-UGA CEIRS is led by principal investigator Walter A. Orenstein, MD, a professor of infectious diseases and associate director of the Emory Vaccine Center, and co-principal investigator Richard W. Comans, MD, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Emory University. The project leaders at UGA are Ralph Tripp, PhD, a professor of infectious diseases, Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar and the GRA Chair of Animal Health Vaccine Development in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and co-project leader Mark Tompkins, PhD, an associate professor of infectious diseases. Hualan Chen is project leader at the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute in China. A group of other researchers will lead individual cores and projects under the contract.

The Emory-UGA CEIRS will focus on surveillance of swine influenza viruses and investigations of swine immune responses to virus infection. With collaborators at the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute in China, animal surveillance efforts will include swine and poultry. Basic research projects at Emory-UGA CEIRS will include efforts to better understand the human immune response to influenza vaccination, including responses of pregnant women. Planned studies of long-lasting flu antibodies could aid in the development of influenza vaccines that would provide years-long immunity to multiple strains of flu.

“Our research team at UGA is excited to continue our multidisciplinary studies investigating the natural history of influenza virus in swine with our CEIRS and Emory colleagues, and swine industry partners,” Tripp said.

“The objectives of the proposal address questions of substantial public health interest that include defining the overall prevalence and diversity of swine influenza viruses in pig populations in the U.S. and understanding the risk to humans. Our UGA research team has the resources, biosecurity facilities and acumen to address influenza virus replication and reassortment in swine and related animal models and develop disease intervention approaches to offset threats related to emerging influenza viruses,” he said.

The new NIAID contracts fund five institutions that now comprise the CEIRS network. In addition to Emory and UGA, these are the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York; Johns Hopkins University; St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital; and the University of Rochester Medical Center.

The CEIRS network conducts collaborative influenza research that is closely integrated with surveillance data from human and animal populations in the U.S. and around the world. The network played a significant role in the nation’s response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic by quickly characterizing the virus and preparing for pre-clinical testing, leading to vaccine development.

“We are extremely pleased to again be part of this important national and international research and surveillance network,” said Orenstein.

It is critically important to have a coordinated and focused response to the emerging threat of globally circulating influenza viruses. Our center is well-positioned to continue our research into understanding how influenza viruses can become pandemic threats and the factors that can lead to optimal immune response to emerging flu viruses, including basic understanding of immunity that can underpin development of vaccines active against all strains of influenza (i.e., universal vaccine to lose to community),” he said.

Under its new funding, the international CEIRS network will continue to conduct basic laboratory research and integrate discoveries with surveillance data and virus sample collection, particularly in locations where new influenza outbreaks are known to originate, such as Southeast Asia. Collaborations are also established or planned at more than two dozen sites in the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South America, Europe and Australia.

Sixth Shelter Medicine Symposium boasts successful event

The sixth annual Shelter Medicine Symposium was held at the College of Veterinary Medicine on Sunday, Jan. 12. The daylong event focused on the best management and medicine practices for local and regional animal shelters. More than 140 attendees came from four states for the symposium and included veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal control officers, shelter directors, rescue groups, kennel staff, shelter volunteers, and CVM faculty, veterinary students and pre-veterinary students.

The event was hosted by the student chapter of the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine.

Sixth Shelter Medicine Symposium

The next time you’re at an alumni event, look for Cindy Rice and Bridget Harden and welcome them to the CVM! Rice joined the UGA Veterinary Medicine faculty as its director of communications. Prior to joining our staff, Cindy served as the assistant director of communications and then later as the associate director of communications for the UGA College of Law, where she wrote press releases, helped create an alumni annual magazine, handled media inquiries, disseminated an electronic newsletter and helped write copy, design and print a variety of brochures. Cindy spent nearly seven years at the School of Law. She has also worked for a local nonprofit organization handling advertising and printing for their bi-monthly magazine.

Harden joined the College in April as the assistant director of development. Her experience includes higher education fundraising, board management, donor communications, and stewardship programming initiatives. In her 14-year career at UGA, she has served in alumni and development roles in many areas on campus including the Georgia Museum of Art, Law School, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and most recently the Office of donor Relations and Stewardship. She is a native of Charlotte, N.C., and a graduate of the University of Georgia.
mutations over time have given them a competitive advantage with just one host have specialized, or adapted, to do so: genetic both of those things to happen. “We were interested in the mechanisms that may allow in the Odum School and the UGA College of Veterinary medicine and curriculum specialist for Target Zero Institute and the former director for Miami-Dade County Animal Services; Staci Cannon (DVM, 10), who is currently in the highly acclaimed residency program in shelter medicine at the University of Florida, and Dr. Janet Martin, a shelter medicine veterinarian at the UGA CVM.

Research offers new insights into cross-species parasite transmission

Researchers at the University of Georgia have developed a new mathematical model that helps to explain how some parasites predominantly associate with one particular host species — but are still capable of infecting other species. Their work, recently published in Theoretical Population Biology, could eventually help public health officials develop intervention strategies for diseases that jump between species. The relationships between parasites and hosts have long been thought of in one of two ways: a parasite is either a specialist infecting one particular host species, or a generalist able to jump routinely between host species. But in nature, many parasites do both, infecting a primary host species and causing frequent cross-species transmission events.

Authors James Haven and Andrew W. Park of the UGA Odum School of Ecology, who study the ecology of infectious diseases, were not satisfied with the conventional explanations for the mechanics of parasite-host relationships, which rely exclusively on adaptation — the process by which favorable genes are selected, improving fitness. “A lot of the evolutionary arguments on host specialization tend to be rather incompatible with the frequent cross-species transmissions that we observe,” said Park, an associate professor in the Odum School and the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. “We were interested in the mechanisms that may allow both of those things to happen.”

The evolutionary explanation is that parasites that associate with just one host have specialized, or adapted, to do so: genetic mutations over time have given them a competitive advantage in that particular host. Parasites that are able to jump to more species are thought to have evolved by a similar process to become competitive in new hosts. “People will essentially argue that generalist parasites are adapting to multiple host species again and again, but I think mutations that confer adaptive advantage are relatively rare,” said Haven, a postdoctoral research associate in the Odum School.

“I sought other explanations for how a parasite can appear to be associated with different host species,” and I thought superinfection could be a mechanism to account for it.”

Superinfection — when a parasite infects a host that is already infected by another strain — happens when a spontaneous mutation makes one parasite strain more aggressive. “With superinfection, the mutant strain takes over; whatever parasite was inside that infected host gets replaced, essentially, by the more aggressive version,” he said. “That’s the good news, from the parasite’s point of view. The downside for the parasite is that it has a greater chance of killing its host,” thus reducing its own chances of survival.

To test their theory that superinfection could allow a parasite to both specialize and infect other host species, Haven and Park created a mathematical model to simulate superinfection in a system with multiple hosts and parasites. It showed that superinfection could lead to parasite-host association while causing frequent cross-species transmission events.

“In the absence of this theory, cross-species transmissions would be expected by invoking recurrent adaptive mutations,” said Haven. “The take-home message is that cross-species transmissions may be more likely to occur in the presence of superinfecting strains.”

Park said that their hypothesis offers a helpful alternative to the conventional thinking. “Previously we may have been overstating the role of adaptation,” he said. “What we’ve done here is not predictive — it’s theoretical — but it could eventually have implications for predicting disease emergence.”

Haven agreed. “Anything that helps us understand parasites that are generalists, that can infect multiple host species, is important,” he said.
New facilities on track to open in 2015

Story by Cindy H. Rice
Photograph by Sue Myers Smith

After a year and a half of construction, the Veterinary Medical Learning Center is well under way. The site will include a new teaching hospital for small and large animals, a covered equine performance arena, a building dedicated to Field Services and Theriogenology, and an academic building for teaching students and continuing education courses.

We are currently on schedule to complete construction in early 2015, with the goal of occupying the new facilities by that spring. The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital will move to the new site, along with all clinical faculty, hospital staff, clinical pathology and third- and fourth-year students. The new facilities are located approximately three miles from the main College of Veterinary Medicine campus.

The Community Practice Clinic will remain in its current location on the main CVM campus and the current hospital building will be repurposed for much-needed research and instructional space.

As of May 31, the CVM had raised $27,530,000 toward the construction and equipping of these facilities. The College is still fundraising for this project. If you would like to make a gift, contact: 706.542.1807 or give2vet@uga.edu
Identifying the Need
The current hospital opened in 1979. Since that time, our caseload has increased substantially, our number of students has increased, and our faculty and staff have tripled. We have become encumbered by the lack of space to train new veterinarians and to meet the demands of a growing population that expects higher levels of pet care.

Highlights of the New Hospital
The new hospital will allow us to address these issues and includes the following features:
• 3X larger than the current facility
• A flexible design to meet current needs and to allow for future expansion
• Numerous teaching spaces including a dedicated rounds room for each service
• Expanded imaging capabilities and radiation therapy for all species
• Open lobbies and corridors with picturesque windows to let in plenty of natural light
• An outdoor courtyard and green space around the buildings
• Dining area for clients, faculty, staff and students
• A physical address that can be found using GPS

Construction WebCam
vet.uga.edu/vmlc/webcam

Help Us Build the New Hospital
If you would like to support the building of our Veterinary Medical Learning Center, please contact the College’s Office for Veterinary External Affairs: 706.542.1807 or give2vet@uga.edu

Small Animal Hospital
• Separate covered entrance and parking for emergencies
• Intermediate care ward
• Designated physical therapy and rehabilitation area
• Interventional radiology suite
• Long corridors with multiple seating alcoves for clients
• Expanded isolation facility
• Dedicated zoological wards for different species

Large Animal Hospital
• Large, flat parking lot specifically designed for trailers
• Separate equine receiving and discharge area
• Outpatient wing
• Dedicated food animal treatment area
• Colic wing
• Separate isolation facility
• Large Animal ICU wing

Equine Performance Arena
This covered arena will be used to evaluate equine performance and lameness issues and will feature:
• Different surfaces on which to examine horses, including arena footing
• Force plates (that contain sensors) for computerized gait evaluation
• Two exam rooms, one with farrier access

Field Services Building
This facility will be next to the large animal hospital and will house Theriogenology, Production Medicine and Field Services. Features include:
• Dedicated equine dental suite
• Palpation stocks
• An area for housing mares and foals
• Collection room for reproductive services
• Laboratory for processing field samples
• Covered canopy for truck parking

Academic Building
The academic building will be used by third-year students as their main classroom and will include:
• 160-seat auditorium for student instruction, continuing education courses, guest speakers and more
• 80-seat classroom
• Two 40-seat classrooms
• Flexible reception, seminar and dining space
• A UGA Food Services eatery that is open to hospital clients, faculty, staff and students
Involvement in SAVMA offers many rewards
By Amanda DiMascio (DVM 2015)

During 2013 AVMA Annual Convention, held in Chicago, I was fortunate enough to be elected by my peers in the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) House of Delegates to the position of Vet Gazette Editor-Elect. This position is one of 13 held by students on the SAVMA Executive Board. In March 2014, at the SAVMA symposium hosted by Colorado State University, I officially took office as Editor. The Vet Gazette (TVG) is unfamiliar to many, yet it could be one of the most utilized websites for veterinary students. It is the official online journal of the SAVMA. TVG serves mostly as a creative outlet for students, as well as a source of information regarding externship and internship opportunities, and scholarship opportunities through SAVMA, AVMA and other organizations. To get published on TVG, a student needs to submit his or her entry during a one month “call for submissions” period. Categories to which students can submit entries include: Life as A Vet Student, Creative Corner, Foot In Mouth Disease, Abstracts and Case Reports, and Trivia. To give busy veterinary students incentive to take time to create good entries, monetary awards are given for the most creative and well-written entries. There are monetary awards for the individual winners in each of the categories, ranging from $25 to $200, as well as an award for the veterinary school with the most submissions. This past year, UGA SCAVMA had the most student submissions on two separate occasions, earning $400 total for their chapter. (Go Dawgs!)

As a member of the SAVMA executive board, my job entails not only managing TVG but also working closely with the Information Technology Officer (ITO) to manage the social media outlets for SAVMA. These social media outlets currently include Twitter and Facebook accounts, which have more than 1,000 and 4,500 followers respectively. This coming year I will be editing the 50th Volume of The Vet Gazette, and also work with the ITO to start both Instagram and Pinterest accounts, and to revive the currently underutilized SAVMA Google calendar. Updating the Google calendar would provide students with reminders of scholarship deadlines, upcoming events, and Vet Gazette submission deadlines for the coming year. Currently, students can follow the SAVMA Facebook page and Twitter to find information on meetings and events, be reminded of scholarship deadlines, and get a glimpse of the happenings outside of your school.

My overall goal as Editor is to broaden our social network presence in the student community and to increase the number of entries TVG receives per issue. This past year we averaged well over 100 entries for every issue, with some students submitting multiple entries to each issue. Our most popular category is Creative Corner, which includes photography, short poems and other visual art. I would like to see more submissions to our less popular categories, such as Life as a Vet Student, and Foot In Mouth Disease. These categories require more thought than just submitting a picture, and are often composed of funny essays of experiences and stories, which change with every issue based on the topic we choose to focus on (e.g., “Clinic Horror Stories” or “Funny Client Compliance Misunderstandings”).

Currently all of our SAVMA scholarship winners, especially those who receive funding for foreign travel, are required to write an article for publication on TVG. For example, in summer of 2013, my classmate Elodie Huguet (DVM 2013) received one of the SAVMA travel scholarships to help with her externship in France, and wrote a wonderful scholarship article that was posted to TVG.

It has been a fantastic experience, thus far, to serve on the SAVMA executive board. Despite the workload that it requires while on clinical rotations, the experience has opened so many doors for my future. Networking with students across the country, making acquaintances with AVMA leadership, and learning the ins-and-outs of organized veterinary medicine has opened my eyes to the possibilities aside from clinical practice, internships and residencies. I encourage any student interested in giving back, being involved with, or wanting to learn more about what role the AVMA plays in our profession to apply for one of their externships, scholarships, or to even attend the AVMA Legislative Fly-In.

This February, the Fly-In hosted its sixth conference and opened its registration to practicing veterinarians for the first time. I attended the Fly-In during my freshman year at the UGA CVM, and was awed by the week the Government Affairs and Political Action committees do for our profession. Not only did it inspire me to become more politically active, but it also inspired me to get more involved with SAVMA and my position as Delegate. Hopefully, the same can be true for my peers and future veterinary students. With the hot topics of a daunting debt-to-income ratio, increasingly competitive job market, and loan repayment, students are intimidated about their future in veterinary medicine.

I believe that students can only benefit from being more active within SAVMA and the AVMA. At the very least, they will gain more network connections. Every student, even fourth-year students, will benefit from diversifying himself or herself by reaching out through SAVMA, applying for externship scholarships, attending continuing education events held by your state veterinary medical association or veterinary college, or submitting entries to The Vet Gazette, you are setting yourself up for more opportunities to make yourself a well-rounded candidate. The AVMA especially wants more young leaders involved in organized veterinary medicine. One way to get involved is to start with your state veterinary medical association, so you can get a feel for what areas and issues pique your interest.

With 83 percent of veterinarians in the United States belonging to the AVMA, our level of participation far surpasses that of other professional organizations (e.g., the American Medical Association, with only 15 percent membership from practicing doctors). With new students graduating every year, we need to maintain our presence and activity within our umbrella organization, so that we can work together to make the AVMA even better for future students and practitioners. There are many incentives the AVMA offers to recent graduates, such as automatic conversion upon graduation (saving hundreds of dollars in membership dues for your first three years after graduation), and the option to apply for the AVMA Future Leaders Program. Current veterinary students who want to find ways to get involved should visit the SAVMA Facebook page, follow SAVMA on Twitter, or visit the AVMA website.
A ‘Tremendous Man, Dependable Friend, Phenomenal Son’

By Taylor “Eve” Winkleman (DVM 2015)

Photos compiled by Atticus Mabry (DVM 2015) and Patrick Singletary (DVM 2016)

There are people you meet in life who have a presence. They walk into a room and others are drawn to them, to their light. They are the best of us and we all want to share in that light. Zachary Cowart was one of those people. And on Jan. 9, the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine lost a little bit of its light.

Zach was a member of the Class of 2017 and of the Omega Tau Sigma (OTS) fraternity, and was one of those rare people who are both well-known and universally liked. When I first met him, what really struck me was his quiet confidence. He was a person you really trusted, with a genuine and warm smile for everyone he met. The way Zachary carried himself told those around him that he had a strong and generous heart, and that he was a man who could be depended upon. He was a true brother, in every sense of the word, to his family, his friends, and to the veterinary college community, and his loss is an almost unfathomable tragedy.

“Part of making those around us better is serving others,” said close friend Patrick Singletary (DVM 2016), the current president of OTS, during a memorial service held at the college earlier this year. “His expectations for himself and expectations for others were very high, which made everyone around him strive for continual success. Going through the motions was not an option for anyone around Zach,” Singletary said.

Zach was a natural leader, and he led by example. “He did what it took to get past it no matter how much it tried to knock him down,” said Singletary.

Zach was an active member of Alpha Gamma Rho's Alpha Eta Chapter during his time as an undergraduate student at the University of Georgia. He was also the recipient of the Governor Sonny Perdue Scholarship for students in the Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program, which provides funding for training future veterinarians to serve rural communities.

There is no doubt that Zach would have been a great veterinarian. He was a credit to his family, his class, his school, and his profession, and we are all lucky to have known him.

“We must learn from Zach’s life as we work hard, serve others, and be the best individuals we can be,” Singletary reminded us.

In his brief life, Zach inspired others. And now, due to his example, his memory will live on in exactly the way he would have chosen: through serving others. This school, and our profession, are and will be better because Zachary Cowart lived as a member of our community.

UGA remembers Zachary Cowart with two scholarships

Two scholarships are being established to commemorate Cowart. In October 2011, he was inducted into the Order of Omega, an honor society that selects the top three percent of students in Greek Life. In 2012, he was inducted into AGHON Agricultural Honorary Society, and in April 2013, he was inducted into the UGA Blue Key Honor Society.

The Zachary Cowart Memorial Scholarship Fund (based at the CVM): The fund will provide support for students selected into the Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program, which is a partnership between the UGA CVM and UGA CAES. Students may apply for the scholarship during their senior year of undergraduate study or any year of their veterinary degree study. A minimum of $25,000 must be raised to endow this fund. The College gave its first scholarship in memory of Zach Cowart at its 2014 Honors and Awards Banquet. Tyson Strickland (DVM 2016) was the first recipient of this scholarship, and received a $1,000 award (see page 34). If you would like to contribute toward this scholarship, contact: 706.542.1807 or give2vet@uga.edu

The Zachary D. Cowart Memorial Scholarship (based at the Alpha Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho): Cowart was an active member of Alpha Gamma Rho’s Alpha Eta Chapter during his time as an undergraduate. AGR is both a social and a professional agricultural fraternity that is part of the Interfraternity Council within the Greek Life Division of Student Affairs at the University of Georgia. For his Chapter, Cowart served as vice president of planning, and on multiple committees. To contribute toward this scholarship, you may mail a check (made payable to the “Zach Cowart Memorial Fund”) to Alpha Eta Education Foundation, P. O. Box 7051, Athens, GA 30605, or donate online at georgiaagr.com/donate

Scholarship Information

The College of Veterinary Medicine lost a little bit of its light.

Zachary Cowart smiles during the Class of 2017 White Coat Ceremony. Photo provided by the Cowart family.

Zachary Cowart and his parents. Photo provided by the Cowart family.
From snowfall to cherry blossoms: My time as an AVMA Extern on the Hill

Story and photos by Taylor “Eve” Winkleman (DVM 2015)

There are people you meet and experiences you have that shape your life and your career. We give these things special names: destiny, serendipity, kismet. Whatever you choose to call them, you go through the rest of your life forever grateful to/for them. For me, one of those people is Mary Hondalus, DVM, PhD, and one of those experiences is my externship at the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Government Relations Division (GRD).

Dr. Hondalus is an associate professor of infectious diseases, and is one of those advisers who is steadfastly in your corner, but will push you to do better and to live up to your potential. She has put so many opportunities in my path, and provided me with great guidance during my application process for the DVM-MPH program. She is also the one who introduced me to the world of policy and the externship at the AVMA.

The AVMA externship is an opportunity granted to only 10 veterinary students per year, and the externship is what you make of it. The externship goes beyond lobbying.

There are a lot of federal agencies in Washington and, surprisingly, many have veterinarians on staff. There are veterinarians in the obvious places like the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but also in places like congressional offices, the U.S. Department of State, and...
New Student Ambassadors from the Class of 2017

New Student Ambassadors were selected earlier this year from the Class of 2017. Student Ambassadors are representatives of the veterinary student body and assist with recruitment, outreach and College-related activities. They are selected based on strong interpersonal skills, leadership qualities, and their sense of school spirit and pride.


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Not pictured: Papillon Collins. Photo by Christopher B. Herron.

For More Information

AVMA Student Externs maintain a blog called "Externs on the Hill." You can read "Eve" Winkleman's blog posts here: www.externsonthehill.com/2014/03/

Winkleman begins the MPH program in January 2015.
The Class of 2014, were awarded Certificates of Merit for Proficiency in Anatomic Pathology.

Catherine Griner (DVM 2015) and Adriana Weil (DVM 2016) were awarded the Frances Wood Wilson Scholarship, a $5,000 scholarship given to students in the second and third year of the DVM program who demonstrate leadership, active involvement in extracurricular activities, and a need for financial assistance.

Wade Won (DVM 2014) received the American College of Veterinary Radiology Award for demonstrating outstanding enthusiasm for and understanding of diagnostic and therapeutic radiology.

Hannah Brooks (DVM 2014) was awarded the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Certificate of Clinical Excellence for demonstrating a sincere interest in internal medicine and having outstanding didactic and clinical expertise in internal medicine.

Kathryn Sullivan (DVM 2014) received the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Award for excellence in large animal surgery.

Abbett Hudson (DVM 2014) received the Field Service Award for demonstrating exceptional clinical proficiency and a genuine interest in large animal medicine to the field service faculty.

Sarah Blanton (DVM 2014) received the Large Animal “In- House” Award for exhibiting exceptional proficiency in large animal medicine and surgery.

Sable Allen (DVM 2014) and Tyler Vaughn (DVM 2014) received the John Morton Award for Humane Animal Care for demonstrating the most concern for the humane treatment of animals in the hospital. This award is given in memory of Dr. Morton, a retired College of Veterinary Medicine faculty member who was the Head of the Department of Medicine and Surgery.

Erin Edwards, Wade Edwards, Erica Noland and Jana Powell, all from the Class of 2014, were awarded Certificates of Merit for Proficiency in Anatomic Pathology.

Rebecca Adkins (DVM 2014), Kathryn Bucky (DVM 2014), Emily Burke, Jennifer Freeman, Jenna Gilkeson, Whitney Kiser, Savannah Landrum, Bethany Pavlik, Jana Powell, Aimee Vaughn and Lydia Young were awarded Certificates of Merit for Proficiency in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery.

Kari Fine, left, received the Dean Emeritus Thomas J. Jones Cup, which honors an outstanding fourth-year student selected on the basis of personality, professional proficiency and scholastic achievement. Fine recently graduated from the CVM’s DVM-PhD program. Photo by Sue Myers Smith.

Erin Edwards (DVM 2014) was awarded the America College of Veterinary Pathologists Award for Excellence in Veterinary Pathology for demonstrating exceptional proficiency and interest in anatomic and clinical pathology.

Tyson Strickland (DVM 2016) was awarded the first Zach Cowart Memorial Scholarship, which is presented to a student selected into the Veterinary Incentive Program, a collaboration between the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine, and who also demonstrate a passion for the well-being of people and animals. The scholarship was established in the memory of Zach Cowart, a member of the Class of 2017. (See story about the Zach Cowart Memorial Scholarship on page 28).

Bethany Pavlik (DVM 2014) was awarded the Food Animal Production Medicine Clinical Proficiency Award for demonstrating a sincere passion and outstanding performance in the field of beef, dairy or swine production medicine.

Lauren Dempsey (DVM 2014) was awarded the American College of Feline Practitioners Outstanding Senior Award for her interest in feline medicine and surgery.

Leslie Shelnut (DVM 2014) was awarded the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Award for excelling in small animal surgery.

Emily Burke (DVM 2014) was awarded the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia Clinical Proficiency Award for exemplifying clinical proficiency in anesthesia.

Justin Fyne and Amanda Vance, both from the Class of 2014, were awarded the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Certificate of Clinical Excellence for demonstrating a sincere interest in internal medicine and showing outstanding didactic and clinical expertise in internal medicine.

Hannah Visers (DVM 2014) received the Award for Academic Excellence in Veterinary Ophthalmology for demonstrating a sincere interest and aptitude for veterinary ophthalmology.

Kelly Cummings (DVM 2014) was awarded the Award for Proficiency in Emergency & Critical Care for demonstrating extraordinary commitment and exceptional proficiency in caring for emergency and critical care patients.

Scarlett Timmons (DVM 2014) was awarded the Bayer Excellence in Communication Award for demonstrating the strongest key communication skills during a client interview.

Andrew Durden (DVM 2014) was awarded the Martha F. Cannon Scholarship for Clinical Excellence in Ophthalmology for demonstrating excellence in clinical ophthalmology.

Amber Coffman (DVM 2014) was awarded the Blanch D. Hayes Award for demonstrating excellence in the care and treatment of feline patients and having an exemplary “cage-side manner.”

Scott Fowler (DVM 2014) was awarded the Kaytee Avian and Special Species Excellence Award for demonstrating excellence in the field of companion bird and non-domestic avian medicine, surgery and management.

Courtney Sampson (DVM 2014) was awarded the John Oliver Neurology Award for demonstrating exceptional proficiency and interest in clinical neurology.

Stuart Ann Varner (DVM 2014) was awarded the Outstanding Senior Intern Medicine Student Scholarship for demonstrating exemplary proficiency in internal medicine.

Andrew Durden (DVM 2014) was awarded the Outstanding Senior Oncology Student Scholarship for demonstrating exemplary proficiency in oncology.

Wade Edwards (DVM 2014) was awarded the Rafter Memorial Scholarship for demonstrating proficiency in oncology and compassion for both patient and client.

Molly Homes (DVM 2014) was awarded the Bob Rosenhall Senior Student Award for Proficiency in Clinical Oncology for demonstrating superior aptitude in the diagnosis, treatment and general care of companion animals affected by malignant disease.

Jessica Adams, Jennifer Covington, Kelly Cummings, Lauren Dempsey, Morgan Fyre, Nathan Harpe, Jacob Liu, Courtney Sampson, Brenna Stapleton, Stuart Ann Varner and Lydia Young, all from the Class of 2014, were awarded Certificates of Merit for Proficiency in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.
Three UGA CVM students receive scholarships from Merck Animal Health and American Veterinary Medical Foundation

Merck Animal Health announced the recipients of the Merck Animal Health Veterinary Student Scholarship Program, awarding $100,000 in scholarships to 20 veterinary students. Through a partnership with the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF), the program recognizes outstanding second- and third-year students who are pursuing careers in large animal and companion animal medicine. More than 800 students from 13 veterinary schools accredited through the AVMA applied for the scholarships. Award recipients were selected based on academic excellence, financial need, leadership and area of interest within the profession. Three students from UGA CVM were selected to receive a $5,000 scholarship each:

Jenny Munhofen (DVM 2016), from Alpharetta, Ga., is a second-year student who plans to pursue a career in fish pathology and serve in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. Munhofen served as a field director for the Jumbo Bay Hawksbill Turtle Project in Antigua, West Indies. Last summer, she participated in the Cornell Leadership Program and studied molecular biology. More recently, she completed an independent study that identified sturgeon lymphocytes using immunohistochemistry and presented the results at the annual American College of Veterinary Pathologists meeting. She holds a bachelor of science in Agriculture and Life Sciences from Cornell University, and a master of science with a major emphasis in Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences from UGA. Jenny is currently the president of the student chapter of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, class president, officer of the Christian veterinary fellowship, and a UGA CVM student ambassador. In May, Munhofen was awarded the U.S. Army Health Professions Scholarship.

Eric McGee Shepherd (DVM 2016), from Griffin, Calif., is a second-year student who hopes to be accepted into the CVM’s Master of Avian Medicine program, where he will specialize in becoming a poultry veterinarian. Shepherd holds a bachelor of science degree in agriculture, with a focus in poultry science, and he has already earned a master's degree in poultry science; both his undergraduate and master's degrees are from UGA. During graduate school Shepherd researched Footpad Dermatitis and its effect on broilers; he was mentored by Brian Fairchild, PhD, MS, a graduate school Shepherd researched Footpad Dermatitis and its effect on broilers; he was mentored by Brian Fairchild, PhD, MS, a graduate school.

Brandi Flanagan (DVM 2016), from Lilzella, Ga., is a second-year student who plans to pursue board certification in oncology, as well as utilize her skills as a researcher and clinician in an academic setting. During this past year, Flanagan was a member of the Small Animal Treatment Crew, which serves patients in the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Intensive Care Unit. Last year, she conducted research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine under the mentorship of Timothy L. Steen, DVM, PhD, DAC Vijm (Oncology) and Esther Chon, DVM, DAC Vm (Oncology). Her research in Wisconsin focused on gaining a better understanding of the factors that influence the development and progression of canine malignant melanoma, in order to develop better disease treatments. Flanagan holds a bachelor of science in Architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology. She is a member of the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee and represented the UGA CVM in the AVMA House of Delegates.

Justin Brown (DVM 2016), Eve Winklemann (DVM 2015) and Jennifer Safka (DVM 2015) traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the American Veterinary Medical Association’s 2014 Legislative Fly-in. They were among 100 veterinary students and veterinarians who participated in the two-day event, which gave participants the chance to learn more about the federal legislative process and urge their members of Congress to support legislation that impacts veterinarians and the health and welfare of animals. Seventy-one of the participants were students, representing nearly every veterinary college in the United States. The remaining participants included members of the AVMA Executive Board and veterinarians from throughout the country.

Melissa Miller, a second-year PhD student in infectious diseases who is enrolled in the CVM’s DVM-PhD program, received the 2013 Georgia Cattlemen’s of the Year award from the Georgia Cattlemen’s Association.

Congratulations!

The following clinical residents recently completed their residencies at our College and passed their specialty boards:

Dr. Bryan Torres — a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons

Dr. Kevin Coleman — a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons

Dr. Wesley Roach — a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons

Dr. Jordan Scherk — a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care

Dr. Lisa Fultz — Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Large Animal)

Alexandra Burton, DVM, a graduate assistant in the College’s Department of Large Animal Medicine, was one of two winners of the Phi Zeta Manuscript Competition. Burton’s manuscript was entitled, “Macrolide- and Rifampin-Resistant Rhodoccus equi on a Horse Breeding Farm, Kentucky, USA.”

The awards listed on these pages represent the senior clinical awards and a sampling of the scholarships that were bestowed upon UGA CVM students during the 2014 Honors and Awards Banquet, held in April.

2014 Picture Your Pet Photo Contest

Call for Entries

The photo contest is open to any UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital or Community Practice Clinic client.

Submissions will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. August 29, 2014.

The photo contest is open to any UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital or Community Practice Clinic client.

To submit your photo, please visit: vet.uga.edu/photo-contest

Winning entries will be displayed in the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital when it opens in 2015! Photos must be high-resolution using a camera 6 megapixels or higher. A brief description of the picture and your pet’s experience at the VTH or CPC must accompany each entry.

Photos can also be loaded on a non-returnable disk and dropped off at the VTH or CPC, or mailed to:

The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Attn: Picture Your Pet Photo Contest, 501 DW Brooks Dr., Athens, GA 30602

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Dr. Jordan Scherk — a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care

Dr. Lisa Fultz — Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Large Animal)

Melissa Miller
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association honors UGA professor of avian medicine with top research award

Mark W. Jackwood, PhD, a professor and molecular virologist at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center, is the 2014 recipient of the Charles Beard Research Excellence Award from the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association.

Jackwood was selected based on his exceptional work to advance the understanding and control of infectious bronchitis, including the development of new vaccines, the introduction of new methods for classification of the virus, and his promotion of improved methods for controlling the disease, said selection officials from the association.

"Dr. Beard's long and productive career is an inspiration, and I have a lot of respect for him. I am truly honored to receive this award that bears his name," said Jackwood, who is widely recognized as one of the world's leading experts on infectious bronchitis virus in poultry.

The award is named for Charles Beard (DVM '55), a former director of the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory and former president of research at USPOULTRY; Mark jackwood, professor and head of the Department of Population Health at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine; and John Glisson, vice president of research programs for USPOULTRY.

Three CVM faculty members were recognized for their contributions to the students’ education during this past academic year: Cherylyn Roberts, DVM, a senior lecturer in anatomy, by the Class of 2017; Kate Myrna, DVM, MS, DACVIM, an assistant professor of ophthalmology, by the Class of 2016; and Kevin Clarke, DVM, DACVS, a clinical associate professor of orthopedics, by both the Class of 2015 and the Class of 2014.

Dr. Myrna also received the Zoetis Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award, which is presented to a teaching member of the faculty, selected on the basis of character, leadership, and teaching ability as judged by the responsiveness of her students.

The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine
The Charles Dobbins Award for Excellence in Service was awarded to Holly Sellers, MS, PhD, a professor of avian medicine at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center. Sellers was recognized for her dedication to helping poultry production veterinarians maintain the health of their flocks, particularly during outbreaks of new disease strains during the last few years.

Sonia M. Hernandez, DVM, PhD, DACZM, an assistant professor in the College’s Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study who is jointly appointed to the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, received more than $60,000 from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the American Bird Conservancy to use kitty cams to study the effects of island cats on wildlife mortality. Kitty cams are special cameras placed on cats that provide a cat’s-eye-view of their behavior. Hernandez and her collaborators will follow the activities of feral cats on a barrier island off the Georgia coast to see how feral cats affect their environment and what steps may be taken to reduce the damage they cause.

The Outstanding Laboratory Service Award was presented to Paula Krimer-Rollison, DVM, DVS, DACVP, an associate professor of clinical pathology in the Department of Pathology who is assigned to the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (AVDL). While Krimer-Rollison is known for consistently providing outstanding biopsy and cytology services to AVDL clients, she was recognized for her leadership in addressing issues and making improvements to benefit the Georgia Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories in Athens and Tifton. She played a key role in establishing an online test catalog for AVDL, and leads a transition team that is implementing a new electronic laboratory management records system (VetView, www.vetview.org) in the diagnostic laboratories.

Leanne Alworth, DVM, MS, DAACLAM, an associate professor in the Department of Population Health, was appointed to serve as the American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners representative on the AVMA’s Animal Welfare Committee.

Monique Franca, DVM, PhD, DACFP, DACVP, was one of two winners of the Phi Zeta Manuscript competition for her manuscript, “Co-Infection of Mallards with Low-Virulence Newcastle Disease Virus and Low-Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus.” Franca is an assistant professor of avian pathology at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center.

Mary Hondalus, DVM, PhD, was awarded the David Tyler Award for Advances in Teaching for innovations in the area of instruction that have had a significant impact on the educational efforts of the college. Hondalus was recognized for her efforts to enhance student engagement and critical thinking in a laboratory course called Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology (IDIS 5130), which all first-year veterinary students are required to take. Working with a colleague (Sreekumari Rajeev, BVSc, PhD, DACVM, DACVP, an associate professor of infectious diseases), and with the help of a $5,000 Innovative Instruction Faculty Grant awarded by the College to Holly Sellers, MS, PhD, a professor of avian medicine at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center, Hondalus was recognized for her dedication to helping poultry production veterinarians maintain the health of their flocks, particularly during outbreaks of new disease strains during the last few years.

The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine; the Fred C. Davison Distinguished University Chair in Veterinary Dental College in the new specialty of Equine Dentistry. As of May 2014, he is one of only five veterinarians on faculty at AVMC-member schools worldwide to receive this board certification. (The AVMC, or the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, provides leadership for and promotes academic excellence among its member institutions.)

UGA research team selected to receive 2014 Interdisciplinary Proposal Development program funding

A research team based within the UGA colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Public Health and the Odum School of Ecology comprise one of six teams selected from the university community-at-large to receive funding through the 2014 Interdisciplinary Proposal Development program. The UGA program provides cross-disciplinary teams of faculty with seed money that allows them to generate preliminary data that can give them a competitive edge as they apply for large grants and program project funds from federal agencies and private foundations.

The projects were selected on the basis of their competitiveness for the indicated funding opportunity. The UGA-CPL-Odum team proposes to develop a new animal model for studying tuberculosis infection and transmission, which has the potential to lead to new vaccine development.

Their project is entitled “The Ferret as a Model of Tuberculosis Transmission.” Fred Quinn, MS, PhD, head of the Department of Infectious Diseases and the Athletic Association Professor of Infectious Diseases will lead the team. Co-investigators include: Biao He, PhD, a professor of infectious diseases and the Fred C. Davison Distinguished University Chair in Veterinary Medicine; Christopher Whalen, MS, MD, the Earnest Corn Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the College of Public Health, who will provide expertise in epidemiology and biostatistics; Vanessa Ezenwa, PhD, an associate professor of infectious diseases who is jointly appointed to the Odum School of Ecology; Russ Karls, PhD, an associate research scientist, and Tahmina Gupta, PhD, an assistant research scientist, both of whom are based within the Department of Infectious Diseases; Mark Tompkins, PhD, an associate professor of infectious diseases; Balazs Rada, PhD, an assistant professor of infectious diseases; Kaori Sakamoto, DVM, PhD, DACVP, an associate professor of anatomic pathology in the CVM’s Department of Pathology; and Steve Harvey, DVM, MS, an associate professor in the CVM’s Department of Population Health and the assistant director of the University Research Animal Resources department.
**Greetings from your Alumni Association!**

Hello UGA Alumni!

I am honored to assume the role of president of the College’s Alumni Association. The storied tenure of our past president, Dr. Flynn Nance, has left our collegial union as strong and vigorous as it ever has been and we sincerely thank him for past, present and continued service to our Association and College. Also a special thanks to those rotating off of the Board: Drs. Stephen Arbitter (’96), Charlie Brousard (’84), Scott Bryant (’94) and Jan Sosnowski Nichol (’80). Finally, our past president, Dr. Michael Topper (’80), is rotating off as well and we thank him for all the energy and guidance he gave our Association. Although it is hard to replace these two fine folks, we welcome Drs. Eddie Crittendon Jr. (’91), Brett Levitzke (’00), Pat Hill (’84), Karen Duncan (’84) and Marian Shuler Holladay (’01) onto the board and look forward to working with them in the future.

The CVM’s new hospital and classroom building are coming to life! The once quiet and quaint horse pastures are now a bustle of construction and assembly. The buildings are now recognizable and their form will enable state-of-the-art service and education. I recently had a tour of the facilities and was “jaw-droppingly” impressed.

My service on the Alumni Board began four years ago, and it has been a rewarding opportunity to interact with many of the Alumni. I am always fascinated by the breadth of our collective. My own world is the College and its people and walls, dogs and cats, and surgery, but our Association is so much larger, with people from industry, equine, dairy, zoo and exotic animals, private practitioners, generalists, specialists, academics, entrepreneurs, country vets, city vets, and everything in between. It is impressive and it makes me proud to have the opportunity to serve you.

Remember, just because the hammers are swinging at the new school does not mean our help is not needed. In Fiscal Year 2013, the UGA CVM had a 16 percent alumni participation rate for giving, and we can do better! All donations help support the College activities, student scholarships and alumni activities. I give a little bit every month, which is automatically charged to my credit card. I think it is an extraordinarily easy way to give and would encourage everyone to do the same. If we each gave a little bit, together we could significantly help.

To make a donation to the College, contact 706.542.1807 or give2vet@uga.edu. All UGA CVM graduates are automatically members of the Alumni Association and we do not collect dues. If you want to get more involved or have questions or comments, contact Marti Brick, our director of alumni relations, at 706.542.7049 or vetalums@uga.edu. Go Dawgs!

Sincerely,

Chad Schmiedt

DVM (’00), DACVS

President

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**Meet Dr. Chad Schmiedt, Alumni Association president**

Editor’s Note: Chad Schmiedt (DVM ’00), became president of the Alumni Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine on March 28, 2014, and will serve in this capacity until spring 2016. Dr. Schmiedt is an associate professor of soft tissue surgery at the UGA CVM. He is a board-certified surgeon and one of a handful of veterinary surgeons worldwide whose work includes a focus on feline kidney transplants.

Why did you decide to become a veterinarian?

When I was growing up in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., my mom, Olivia, was a veterinary technician. I spent a few summers hanging around the practice where she worked. We always had dogs and cats, and mom would bring home squirls, ducks, kittens, chickens, and anything else people left at the clinic’s front door. So I had a love for animals from an early age. I also had a love for science, but honestly, I thought I would go into human medicine and even applied to medical school in Charleston. Then I got an Old English Sheepdog. He opened my eyes to how strong those human-animal bonds can be. Then I thought maybe hanging out with dogs all day would be better than dealing with the stress of sick people and the families of those sick people. I was naive about how much of a business the animal business really is, but that’s where I decided to apply to veterinary school.

What do you love about it today?

I really love being able to help people and their pets. As veterinarians, we have a unique and important opportunity to exist within the relationship and the bond people have with their pets. Helping animals is very gratifying, but seeing the relief and joy on the owners’ faces when their pet is coming home after a successful surgery and the family is reunited is what makes it really worthwhile for me.

What first interested you in feline kidney transplants?

I got into transplants during my surgery residency at the University of Wisconsin. My mentor at Wisconsin, Jon McAnulty (DVM ’81), ran a transplantation lab and focused on solutions after knee surgery after knee surgery. Coming to Georgia meant into answering all of the transplant questions and the overall academic experience. I just couldn’t see doing knee surgery after knee surgery after knee surgery. Coming to Georgia meant an opportunity to work with great faculty members who have experience and interests in nephrology, surgery, critical care, medicine, and anesthesia. I love Athens, my family is close by, and I was lured by the new hospital (which is currently under construction).

What do you enjoy about being a surgeon?

I get to fix things. Honestly, it’s the stereotypical answer of instant gratification. During my internship, I flirted with the idea of becoming an internal medicine specialist, but then I managed a ketchupic diabetic cat and that put the idea of internal medicine to bed. On soft tissue we get to help all sorts of different patients, it is very satisfying, challenging, and rewarding.

As a surgeon who practices in the hospital, how will your service improve and patients benefit once you move to the new teaching hospital?

Space is so tight right now. We are housing animals cheek to jowl and sometimes that is not always the best. Our ICU serves as an emergency room, surgical recovery, intermediate care, and critical care, so separating those things out will help improve the care of those animals that need it the most. Animals with wounds and infections will be able to be separated and isolated to protect non-infected pets. In addition, services compete for rounds space with treatment areas. Now professors and students can spend more time talking about a topic without a dog barking or people talking two feet away.

What is the opportunity for the College’s graduates to get involved in the Alumni Association?

The Alumni Association can and would love to be able to help new graduates from our alma mater. We have an amazing, talented, and diverse network of alumni. We can offer support with finding a job, keeping a job, contract negotiations, mentorship, medical decision making, and career goals. The more people become an active part of our network will only make our network stronger, our College more vibrant, and all of our alumni will benefit.

Do you have any plans you’d like to implement that might change how the Alumni Association interacts with alumni in coming years?

I think we need to keep focusing on reaching out, as personally as we can, to all the alumni. We put a lot of effort into building relationships with students and recent graduates, but the people who are 5–10 years out are also critical. I would like to see those folks play a bigger role in the Alumni Association.
The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine recognized five alumni with awards for service to the College and to the veterinary profession. The awards were presented by the Alumni Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine during the College’s 51st Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend, held in Athens.

Young Achiever Award

Wesley Roach (DVM ’05), of Nashville, Tenn., received the Young Achiever award for 2014. Dr. Roach is a veterinary surgeon at Nashville Veterinary Specialists, where he is known as a skilled surgeon who enjoys all aspects of veterinary surgery, including orthopedic, oncology, soft tissue and neurological surgeries.

In 2011, Dr. Roach established a fund to help provide surgery and after-care for injured homeless dogs and cats that have repairable injuries. Named after his own dog, the Merle's Angels Advised Fund has helped multiple animals undergo treatment for injuries, all of which later moved on to permanent loving homes. The Fund can only send grants to other nonprofit organizations, so all of the animals in the program are associated with local rescue agencies and nonprofit groups.

While the Fund will occasionally send small grants to other veterinarians in the area to provide routine surgeries for rescue animals, it is Dr. Roach who performs the bulk of the surgeries at the practice where he works. Most of the cases are strays that have been hit by cars and brought into NVS's emergency clinic, or calls for help from local shelter veterinarian and rescue groups that contact Roach through the Merle’s Angels Facebook page (www.facebook.com/merles.angels).

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Esco Hall Jr. (DVM ’73), of Baxley, Ga., bought a mixed-animal veterinary practice in Baxley a week after he graduated from the UGA CVM, and has been a pillar of his community ever since. Described by his nominators as “not ego-driven or attention-seeking,” “quiet, confident and rather unassuming” and “a man of great ethics and character,” Dr. Hall is known as a man who helps all.

In his community, since 1982 he has served Baxley as a city councilman, and, since 1997, also as its Mayor Pro Tem. Additionally, he has served on the Appling County Development Authority, the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission and its predecessors, and on the Georgia Secretary of State Advisory Board on Rural Development. From 1979 to 1997, he served as president of the Appling County Branch of the NAACP; from 1980 to 1996, he served as president and secretary of the Progressive Club. He has also been active in his local Chamber of Commerce, 100 Black Men of Southeast Georgia, and numerous other organizations. He has owned and operated the Appling Animal Hospital since 1973, and the Baxley Funeral Home since 1991. Dr. Hall has received multiple awards through the years, including Leadership of the Year 2009, from 100 Black Men of Southeast Georgia, Citizen of the Year 1991, from the Emancipation Proclamation Committee, Outstanding Leadership Award for 1987 and Man of the Year for 1982, both from the NAACP.

Susan M. LaRue (DVM ’77) is a professor of radiation oncology at the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, where she teaches undergraduates, DVM students and graduate students, and trains residents in radiation oncology.

After earning her DVM from UGA, Dr. LaRue became a partner in a companion animal practice in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. She left in 1982 to enter a small animal internship at the UGA CVM, followed by a surgical residency at CSU. She joined CSU as a research associate in 1989, and by 1992 was an assistant professor of radiation oncology. During her early years at CSU, Dr. LaRue earned both an MS in the clinical sciences, in 1986, and a PhD in 1992, in radiation biology with a focus on tumor cell kinetics in canine osteosarcoma and lymphoma. Today, her research focuses on experimental therapeutics and tumor microenvironment, utilizing the canine spontaneous tumor model.

Dr. LaRue has been an active faculty member at CSU, and has served on numerous committees within her department, teaching hospital, and college, as well as on the campus at large. Her service
to CSU includes a position on the Faculty Council Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics, on which she has served since 2003, she has chaired the committee since 2007.

Dr. LaRue is board certified by both the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and the American College of Veterinary Radiology, in the specialty of Radiation Oncology. She was a charter diplomate of ACVR's Radiation Oncology specialty, and has served as president of that organization.

Jan Sosnowski Nichol (DVM ’80) is a devoted servant to her profession, her alma mater and her local community.

In the decade following her graduation from UGA CVM, Dr. Sosnowski Nichol earned certificates in both large animal medicine and large animal surgery at the University of Guelph, and in 1986 founded Delmarva Equine Clinic, in Dover, Del. She has grown Delmarva from a solo practitioner to a five-vestiarian practice, and recently oversaw a second renovation to the clinic — which is now an 8,500-square-foot facility grossing $3 million annually.

Many members of her clinic staff have been with her more than 15 years. With their help, she works with a variety of students and others to provide foster care for animals in need, and to sponsor underprivileged families during the holiday season.

Sosnowski Nichol has been an active member of the Delaware Veterinary Medical Association since 1982, and has lobbied on behalf of the DVMA at the state level. She has served on state committees to address dangerous dogs as well as pet overpopulation in Delaware. For DVMA, she has served as vice president, president-elect, on multiple committees, and for seven years as its delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association’s House of Delegates.

In 2008, he was elected as vice president of the AVMA and served two terms. Currently, he serves as the District V Representative to the AVMA Executive Board, which encompasses the states of Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia. His term expires in July 2019.

Gary Brown (DVM ’84), of Princeton, W. Va., is well-known for his commitment to enhancing education, and for his dedication to serving his profession.

Throughout his career, Dr. Brown has taken an active interest in the education of young people. He has served on multiple boards for high schools and colleges, including 16 years on the veterinary technician program board for Fairmont State College, and 22 years on the board of a vocational program for human nurses. For multiple years, he has served as a judge for the West Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair.

His service as a mentor to veterinary students in the Virginia-Maryland region earned him 2013 Mentor of the Year awards from the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition, in 2013, he was named the West Virginia VMA’s Veterinarian of the Year.

He has served as an extremely active member of the West Virginia VMA, and has served as its president, regional representative, president-elect, on multiple committees, and for seven years as its delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association’s House of Delegates.

In 2008, Dr. Kaplan was named the West Virginia VMA's Veterinarian of the Year award.

Kevin M. Clarke, DVM, DACVS, received the 2014 A. M. Mills Award from Alpha Psi.

Kevin M. Clarke, DVM, PhD, DEVPC, DACVM, received the 2014 Dr. Fred C. Davison Award for Distinguished Service. Dr. Kaplan is a professor of parasitology in the UGA CVM’s Department of Infectious Diseases. He has received numerous research and service awards including the Pfizer Award for Excellence in Research, and the Charles Dobbins Award for Excellence in Service. He has served the Omega Tau Sigma fraternity’s Eta Chapter as faculty advisor for several years.

The Davison award was established in 1986 by the Eta Chapter in recognition of Davison’s many contributions to the University of Georgia and the veterinary profession. The recipients are recognized for their sustained public service and leadership role in their community, the University and the fraternity.

The students chose Dr. Kaplan for the work-life balance he exemplifies. In addition to being a world-renowned expert in his field, Dr. Kaplan is a devoted father to two children and devoted husband to his wife of 30 years, Holly, a clinical professor of audiology the UGA College of Education. He provides service to the veterinary parasitology professional community in a variety of roles, including his current service as the vice president of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists. In addition, he is very active in his synagogue, serving as a Temple Board member and on the finance committee. He also loves to cook, and is an avid fan of sports and Bruce Springsteen.

Ray Kaplan, DVM, PhD, DEVPC, DACVM, received the 2014 Dr. Fred C. Davison Award from Omega Tau Sigma.

Kevin M. Clarke, DVM, DACVS, received the 2014 A. M. Mills Award from the Lambda Chapter of Alpha Psi. Dr. Clarke is a clinical associate professor of orthopedic surgery in the UGA CVM’s Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery. Dr. Clarke spent 12 years in academic positions at both the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine and the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He then worked in private specialty practice prior to arriving at UGA in July of 2012.

The A. M. Mills Award was established in 1961 by the Lambda Chapter to honor Dr. Adrian M. Mills, who was known for boundless energy, numerous ideas and endless patience. He had a great respect for individuals and animals alike, and a strong desire to better the veterinary profession.

The students chose Dr. Clarke for being an "amazing clinician" with "a big heart."

"His passion for teaching medicine and making a personal connection with each student is something unique. He shows he cares about our present learning experience as well as our future careers. His soft-spoken nature, enthusiasm, and patience make him the perfect candidate for this award,” said Lambda Chapter representatives.
Alumnus Sean Altekruse serves as Corps captain and epidemiologist

Interview by Carolyn Crist

Sean Altekruse is a captain in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and an epidemiologist in the Data Analysis and Interpretation Branch of the Surveillance Research Program for the National Cancer Institute. He received a DVM from the University of Georgia in 1987, an MPH from the University of South Carolina in 1988, and a PhD in veterinary medical sciences, jointly awarded by the University of Maryland at College Park and Virginia Polytechnic Institute, in 2001. He has completed assignments at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health. Altekruse is an honorary diplomate of the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society and is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM) and the ACVPM Epidemiology Specialty. He now serves as secretary for the Epidemiology Specialty. In 2013, he was awarded the Rear Admiral James H. Steele One Health Outstanding PHS Veterinary Career Award.

Where are you from and what brought you to UGA CVM?

My father was a doctor in the U.S. Army and then a faculty member at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. Before veterinary school I lived in a lot of places — the San Francisco Bay area, Germany, Ireland and England. During high school my family had a farm in Edgefield County, S.C., where we raised cattle and horses. I enjoyed working with animals and decided to apply to vet school. In 1983, when I started veterinary school, I planned to become a country vet, which is ironic since I’ve worked in offices and laboratories in metropolitan areas ever since.

How did your years at the CVM aid your career?

Veterinary school was always a challenge for me, but mentors helped me along the way, such as David W. Dreesen (who taught microbiology), Dilmus M. Blackmon (who taught large animal medicine and surgery), Charles Wallace (who taught large animal medicine and surgery), David Tyler (who taught pathology), Wayne Crowell (who taught pathology), Cindi Ward (who teaches small animal internal medicine), and Lisa Williamson (who teaches large animal internal medicine). They covered the technical aspects of veterinary medicine expertly, but what I recall most after 25 years was the personal character they demonstrated as teachers.

What do you research specifically?

My program’s mission is to support cutting-edge research on the occurrence of cancer in the population. Until recently, cancer was regarded as a set of diseases affecting about 20 anatomic sites, including the lung, colon, breast and prostate. Now it is understood that there are thousands of subtypes of cancer defined by unique tumor markers such as proteins, patterns of gene expression and changes to DNA. Understanding cancer defined by unique tumor markers such as proteins, patterns of gene expression and changes to DNA. Understanding cancer defined by unique tumor markers such as proteins, patterns of gene expression and changes to DNA. Understanding cancer defined by unique tumor markers such as proteins, patterns of gene expression and changes to DNA. Understanding cancer defined by unique tumor markers such as proteins, patterns of gene expression and changes to DNA. Understanding cancer defined by unique tumor markers such as proteins, patterns of gene expression and changes to DNA.

What sparked your interest in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps?

My parents were Public Health Service Commissioned Corps physicians for a while. I learned more about the Commissioned Corps during my CVM externship at CDC, where most professionals wore the PHS uniform. When responsibility for human salmonellosis from eggs was transferred from USDA to the FDA in 1991, I transferred from the USDA to become a Commissioned Corps Lieutenant in the FDA. In addition to the new assignment, the Commissioned Corps emphasis on changing agency and geographic location every few years and maintaining fitness and readiness to deploy in time of national emergency also appealed to me. Benefits like tuition assistance and a retirement pension are also attractive.

What’s your favorite aspect of your current job?

Epidemiology is a team sport. At the National Cancer Institute, smart people surround me. My colleagues are constantly developing new research resources. It is an environment that values collaboration to develop hypotheses and publish research. It’s a lot like being a kid in a candy store.

What interested you in cancer research?

My interest in cancer surveillance developed gradually. I spent the first decade of my career working on foodborne diseases at the USDA, the FDA and the CDC. Because the FDA regulates cosmetics, I was asked to work with the American Cancer Society to study the relationship between hair dye use and cancer in a population of half a million women. The evidence of a link between hair dye and cancer was weak at best, but I discovered that I enjoyed cancer research. Several years later I worked at the National Cancer Institute with GlaxoSmithKline on a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine trial in Costa Rica.

What do you research specifically?

My program’s mission is to support cutting-edge research on the occurrence of cancer in the population. Until recently, cancer was regarded as a set of diseases affecting about 20 anatomic sites, including the lung, colon, breast and prostate. In the mid-1980s was a great time to be in Athens. There was great live music at local venues, world-class exhibits at the Georgia Museum of Art, and the mountains were a short drive away. The CVM and Athens left an indelible mark on me. I learned, made lifelong friends and met my wonderful wife there.
is valuable for setting cancer research priorities. In the 21st century, developing targeted therapies for these cancer subtypes is one of the NCI's main research objectives. My interests include the geographic distribution of cancer, time trends and effects of socioeconomic status on incidence, stage and survival. To better characterize the prevalence of tumor markers, I lead efforts to obtain tissue specimens from patients.

What is it about these areas that interest you in particular?

This is an exciting time in cancer research. Thanks to improved treatments, five year cancer survival has nearly doubled to 70 percent in the past 50 years, with even better improvement in survival for lymphoma and childhood cancers. These rapid breakthroughs have taken on new and personal meaning following my wife’s recent diagnosis of breast cancer. There is good reason to believe she will be a long-term survivor, however, this experience has given me a new and deeper appreciation of the mission of NCI.

What does it mean to you to be recognized by the Rear Admiral James H. Steele One Health Outstanding PHS Veterinary Career Award?

It’s an honor. I particularly appreciated that this award was from my colleagues in the veterinary category. I’m also humbled because the previous recipients of this award set a high bar with their professional achievements. I was the first recipient of the award after it was renamed for Rear Admiral Steele, the “father of veterinary public health.” Dr. Steele’s career was exemplary. He was a mentor to many veterinarians, including me, and his death in 2013 affected me deeply.

What other career goals do you have in the next two decades?

I generally can’t predict what I’ll be doing more than two years from the present. During the next two years I’ll be working to develop a cancer tissue bank at NCI. At some point, I’d like to be detailed to the International Organization of Research on Cancer in Lyon, France.

Do you have advice for soon-to-be graduates?

Look for opportunities, embrace change, and cultivate a diverse network of friends and colleagues. When Bill Foege, the former Director of the CDC, retired to work at the Gates Foundation, he told us, “At the end of a career, no one ever says they wish they had spent more time in the lab.”

Don’t forget to grab a spot at the 11th annual Hawaii Dawg-O on Aug. 2. The Swingin’ Medallions and Hairy Dawg will welcome you to the historic Georgia Theatre at 7 p.m. for a night of fun, heavy appetizers, and an open beer and wine bar. The Grace Memorial Foundation will hold both a live and silent auction to raise money for the G.R.A.C.E. Fund, an endowment that helps pet owners pay for medical care at the University of Georgia’s College of Veterinary Medicine Small Animal Teaching Hospital. They also give scholarships to two veterinary students and a graduate student in the College of Environment and Design, as well as contributions to the building fund for the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

“I am especially proud of the Grace Memorial Foundation’s board and our many supporters through the years for continuing the vision of our founder, the late Jim Shearon,” said Dr. Flynn Nance, president of the Grace Memorial Foundation board. “We were especially blessed to have Sheryl McGarity join our board two years ago. Her tireless efforts in this event has made our fundraiser one of the premier events in the Classic City. Come dine, dance and meet Greg and Sheryl, along with many other current and former ‘greats’ of the Bulldawg Nation.”

Featuring food by the Classic City Chef, the night will be hosted by UGA celebrities at each table, including Coach Mark Fox, Coach Scott Stricklin, Scott Howard, Chuck Dowdle, and more. The roof tables will feature video and sound to show what’s happening live on stage. Blocks of rooms are available at the Holiday Inn (706.549.4433) for $70 per night. Ask for the Hawaii Dawg-O rate, and join us for a night of entertainment!

For more information call Dr. Nance at 770.483.7225.
Joe N. Kornegay, DVM (MS ‘80, PhD ’82), a Texas A&M University professor in the departments of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences and Veterinary Pathobiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the Institute for Neuroscience, was selected to give the 2014 Recognition Lecture at the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges Annual Conference held in March. This is an honor given to an individual whose leadership and vision has made a significant contribution to academic veterinary medicine and the veterinary profession. Kornegay’s lecture on “One Man’s View of One Health” centered on the importance of the broad concept of One Health and how this relates to the broader concepts of “One Health” and “One Medicine.”

Juan Lubroth (DVM ‘85, MS ‘82) was the keynote speaker for the 2014 AAVMC Annual Conference, which was structured to help develop a common understanding and vision for One Health and featured scores of presentations by government, NGO and academic leaders from around the world. Lubroth is the chief of the Animal Health Service and chief veterinary officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He previously served for seven years as the senior officer of FAO’s Animal Health Service and head of the Infectious Diseases Group/Emergency Prevention System in charge of worldwide surveillance, capacity building, and progressive control of transboundary animal diseases.

Richard Wilkes (DVM ‘77) was selected as the 2014 Distinguished Veterinarian of the Year by the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association. Wilkes is the state veterinarian and director of the Division of Animal and Food Industry Services at the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

David M. Pinson (DVM ‘78), DACVP, DACLAM, was selected to receive a teaching excellence award in general pathology by the medical class of 2015 at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. Pinson is a professor of clinical pathology and teaches general and systems pathology to second-year medical students using active learning models. He also presented a platform presentation at the Central Group of “Second-year medical student performance correlated to USMLE Step 1.”

Nicole Nemeth, DVM, PhD, is now an assistant professor of wildlife zoo pathology at the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph. Nemeth left the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) in 2013 after completing her three-year residency in the Wildlife Pathology Residency Program that SCWDS co-sponsors with the CVMG Department of Veterinary Pathology. She was the first participant in that program. Her husband, Paul Oesterle, PhD, also left SCWDS, where he had worked since 2011 as a post-doctoral research associate in the area of AIV epidemiology.

Jamie Phillips (MS ’09, PhD ’11) has joined the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine as a research scientist in the department of pathology, microbiology and immunology. Phillips began working at SCWDS as a post-doctoral research associate in 2011, following completion of her PhD in Avian Medicine at the UGA CVM’s Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center. In 2012, she proved invaluable by conducting the diagnostic tests for hemorrhagic disease viruses during the largest outbreak SCWDS has ever observed.

Justin Brown, DVM, PhD (’07), is now a wildlife veterinarian for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Brown studied the epidemiology of avian influenza viruses in wild birds at SCWDS while obtaining his PhD. He later worked for SCWDS as both a post-doctoral research associate and an assistant research scientist.

Obituaries:

Luther P. Murphy Jr. (DVM ’51), Tampa, Fla., died March 9, 2013.
William “Dave” Miller (DVM ’61), Forest, Va., died March 21, 2013.
Jerry L. Dawson (DVM ’64), Williamsburg, Va., died April 15, 2013.
William G. Young (DVM ’59), Titusville, Fla., died April 23, 2013.
William C. Davis (DVM ’61), Brandenburg, Ky., died June 9, 2013.
Charles L. McWhorter (DVM ’78), Fitzgerald, Ga., died June 13, 2013.
Conrad L. Williams (DVM ’56), Atlantic Beach, Fla., died June 25, 2013.
Seaborn J. Harden II (DVM ’68), Eastman, Ga., died Aug. 17, 2013.
Frank B. Maxson (DVM ’63), Rapid City, S.D., died Dec. 23, 2013.
Donald M. Rothgeb (DVM ’68), Myrtle Beach, S.C., died Jan. 26, 2014.
Dallas “Everette” Hudson (DVM ’51), Amherst, Va., died March 1, 2014.

Henry Brubaker (DVM ’84) was selected as the 2013 Veterinarian of the Year by the Georgia Cattlemens Association. The award was presented to him by his long-time friend and mentee, Leslie Hart Fordham (DVM ’90). Photo provided by the Georgia Cattlemens Association.
Why We Give: Scott and Dey Mathews

Tell us a bit about yourself — what do you do?

We met in Atlanta while working for Southern Bell and have been married for 34 years. Although neither of us are from Georgia, we have lived here on three different occasions and now call it home. We are the parents of two sons, one yellow lab, three cats and two Koi fish that are quickly outgrowing their pond. Our oldest son, James, is a student in the UGA CVM’s Class of 2016. Bradley, our younger son, is a graduate assistant for the Tulane University football program.

Scott retired after 28 years with BellSouth as executive director of External Affairs. During this period, he also served 21 years in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. For the past four years, Scott has worked in the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He recently completed a yearlong international public health fellowship that included a three-month assignment to South Africa.

When our sons were younger, Dey became a substitute teacher and taught an array of courses at both Blessed Sacrament School (Washington D.C) and Christ the King School (Atlanta). For the past seven years, she has worked as a sales representative at Ginger Howard Selections, a women’s couture clothing store located in the Buckhead area of Atlanta.

Tell us about your degree of study and graduation years.

Scott graduated from The Citadel in 1974 and obtained a master’s degree in economics from the University of Utah in 1978. Dey graduated from Sweet Briar College (Virginia) in 1975 with a degree in foreign languages.

What is your relationship with the CVM?

Our son James is in the CVM’s Class of 2016.

To which fund(s) do you donate and why?

We contribute to the College’s “Vet Med Support Fund.” We considered several ways to give, but thought our gift to the general fund, because of its unrestricted nature, would be most useful to the school.

Why did you choose to begin donating?

Philanthropy has always been very important to both of us. We have supported a variety of worthwhile causes, including the nonprofit boards Scott has served on and the schools we, and our sons, have attended. Consistent with that approach, after James was accepted to the CVM, we discussed with Molly Thomas, the College’s associate director of development, various ways in which we could support the program. We believe that the best support parents can give their children is to contribute to the growth of educational opportunities and excellence in their children’s field of study.

Why is it important to you to donate to the CVM? Do you talk to family or friends about giving, and did your parents or relatives talk to you about giving?

Of all the causes we support, veterinary medicine resonates the most with both of us. We were both raised with a variety of pets and our animals are family to us. We support a number of shelters as well as the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Additionally, two of the veterinarians who cared for our pets throughout their lives [Steve Winokur (DVM ‘89) and Sherri Almand (DVM ’88)] are UGA CVM graduates. The extraordinary care they have provided for our pets is a testament to the training and education they received at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine.

With that in mind, state financial support and tuition only go so far. To continue its tradition of being one of the top veterinary schools in the country, and in order to attract highly-qualified professors and produce well-educated graduates, the CVM requires support from external sources.

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

It’s a great feeling to know that by helping an important initiative, you feel part of its success. We believe our gifts, in some small way, allow a great program to become even better. As construction for the new teaching hospital is completed, the school will have room to expand and improve on an already outstanding program.

As part of an international public health fellowship at CDC, Scott Mathews recently completed a three-month assignment to South Africa. His wife Dey visited him during his assignment and they travelled to Kruger National Park, the oldest and largest animal reserve on the continent of Africa. Photo provided by Scott and Dey Mathews.
Dates to remember:

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<td>July 25-29</td>
<td>AVMA Annual Convention (Denver, Colo.)</td>
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<td>August 2</td>
<td>Hawaii Dawg-O, at the Georgia Theater</td>
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<td>August 17</td>
<td>White Coat Ceremony</td>
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<td>August 30</td>
<td>Dean’s Tailgate (Clemson game)</td>
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<td>September 24</td>
<td>Vet School for a Day</td>
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<td>March 27-28, 2015</td>
<td>52nd Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend (at The Georgia Center)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18-19, 2016</td>
<td>53rd Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend</td>
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Continuing Education Courses:

CE dates and topics are subject to change.

Questions about CE? Contact Melissa Kilpatrick at vetmedce@uga.edu or 706.542.1451, or online at www.vet.uga.edu/ce

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<tr>
<td>October 18-19</td>
<td>GVTAA Fall Conference</td>
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<td>Small Animal Medicine</td>
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<td>Equine Encore</td>
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