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DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE:

As a veterinary medical college and training facility, we have a broad mission aimed at bettering the health of, as well as quality of life for, both animals and humans. And while our typical focus is on affecting change outside of our CVM’s brick-and-mortar boundary, more and more evidence suggests that our profession, like all health professions, should also focus on improving our wellness within.

Our College’s encroach to this realm began a few years ago, when we started offering the Bulldog Leadership Experience to our students, faculty and staff. But this year, we’ve kicked our efforts up a notch. We now have a licensed professional counselor available to students on both of our campuses. In addition, thanks to our counselor Stevie Stigler and also to Dr. Kaori Sakamoto, an associate professor of pathology, we’ve recently launched the Bulldawg Support Network to provide peer support to everyone who works and learns within our community.

The BLE aims to heighten our awareness of ourselves and how we impact those we encounter from day to day, whether in our places of work, our loved ones at home, or strangers in our communities. The BSN is different. It is comprised of compassionate people within our CVM who are volunteering to support peers in need—whether that need is for a listener or for guidance on finding professional help. This issue of the Aesculapiian contains stories about both initiatives, and I encourage you to read them. I also encourage you to become familiar with the BSN’s logo (see story on pg. 6), which is becoming more visible within our CVM, as this symbol identifies people who are there to help; it is also a reminder for us all to be mindful of others.

Our collective goal is to make a positive impact on people who will then help propagate the goodness of our health profession throughout the world. This theme resonates routinely through the stories we bring to you via the Aesculapiian. In this particular issue, you’ll learn that Julie Moore, a professor of infectious diseases, launched a program to help recent college graduates boost their science skills and with that, their ability to get into graduate school. You’ll also learn about David Balinsky, a student who is interested in sustainability, aquaponics and the future of food production. We’ve also begun bucking the old trend of having medical professionals train in silos for disaster response by offering UGA students an interprofessional class in disaster preparedness. Also included in this issue is an inspiring story about Dr. John Hayes (DVM ’63) and his passion for giving back.

None of our efforts would be possible without your steadfast support. Thank you, as always, for helping our students, staff and faculty achieve their goals.

Sheila W. Allen
Sheila W. Allen
Dean
About 55 students, faculty and staff from the UGA CVM met in late January for the fifth annual Bulldog Leadership Experience, a weekend workshop aimed at giving participants an experiential learning opportunity in professional skills associated with leadership and wellness.

Based on a weeklong leadership skills-building program, hosted annually since 2003 by the Veterinary Leadership Institute, this year’s BLE focused on why emotional intelligence is critical for success in veterinary leadership and how to build resilience. Dr. Betsy Charles, executive director of the VLI and an assistant professor of radiology at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California, and Dr. Karen Cornell, who previously served as the UGA CVM’s associate dean for academic affairs and as a professor of soft-tissue surgery, facilitated the workshop. (Dr. Cornell is now associate dean for Professional Programs at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine.)

“Our hope [was] to help veterinary students and faculty get practice and experience with a group of skillsets that they don’t get to spend a lot of time with in the veterinary curriculum: leadership, communication, conflict management—all those things,” Charles said. “Students at [the University of] Georgia get some experience with that, but in the veterinary profession we don’t have a whole lot of options for our people to get training in leadership.”

BLE facilitators approached presenting the weekend’s themes from many different angles. From lectures and one-on-one sessions to group activities and personal reflection, participants felt their engagement in the program was well worth it.

“I learned more about myself from interacting with others than I had in the past from other events I had attended,” noted LaDonna Allen, an administrative associate in the Department of Infectious Diseases. “I have also learned that although I may not understand every situation in life, I can empathize with others based on situations that I have had in my own life without letting my own life situations overshadow my ability to understand and possibly lend others a listening ear, helping hand or just a shoulder to cry on.”

“I wish there were little BLE sessions throughout the semester,” said Yaritbel Torres-Mendoza, a rising fourth-year DVM student.

Some sessions made participants feel uncomfortable as they dealt with contentious issues like conflict management and competition or divulged their vulnerabilities to a stranger.

“It felt awkward at times,” said Dr. Robert Gogal Jr., a professor of immunology and immunotoxicology in the Department of Veterinary Biosciences & Diagnostic Imaging, regarding sharing his personal struggles with the students he teaches. However, he still felt the program was enlightening and recognized its value.

“I wish that I had been exposed to [this] type of program when I was a vet student,” Gogal said. “It would have made me realize that I wasn’t alone regarding my feelings, doubts and anxieties during school.”

The Bulldog Leadership Experience also gave Gogal insight on how his students feel, and what he can do as a teacher to better himself and his charges.
“It reminded me that our students have some of the same doubts and insecurities that I had as a vet student,” Gogal said. “As a professor, I will continue to strive to create a positive learning environment to help diminish these feelings.”

Feelings, coping and resilience in the face of life’s professional and personal knocks are essential skills we should all strive to develop. “We are all a work in progress,” noted Cornell, who is also on the VLI’s board of directors. “These skills take practice and will never be completely perfected.” But, developing the skills is especially critical for those in the veterinary profession.

“Veterinary medicine has one of the highest rates of suicide among the health professions,” said Charles. “That’s a problem we need to address! We need skillsets to figure out ‘How do we handle stress?’ ‘How do we bounce back from what is really sometimes a very challenging profession?’ Teaching these essential skills when there is no time to add them into a science-heavy curriculum is why the Bulldog Leadership Experience and the Veterinary Leadership Institute exist, said Charles.

“Emotional intelligence—which includes self-awareness, self-management, relational competence and social awareness—is critical for success,” said Cornell. “Academic performance or IQ is really only a portion of the equation for success—no matter how you define success.”

Dr. Andy Moorhead, an associate research scientist in the Department of Infectious Diseases who orchestrated this year’s workshop logistics, also stressed the importance of building this skillset.

“These events are sometimes viewed as [teaching] what are known as soft skills,” said Moorhead. “Soft skills can have a negative connotation, in that [some may think] ‘Oh, they’re not needed.’ But the ability to communicate and lead are far from soft skills; they’re absolutely some of the most necessary things that a veterinarian needs in order to be a good practitioner.”

“Each time you’re trying to communicate with a client, there’s a leadership role there,” said Moorhead, who added that leadership starts from within. “To be a good leader, you really have to know yourself; know how you function; know how you react in different situations,” he said.

Gabriella Sandberg, a laboratory technician in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, credits the BLE with teaching her the components of that effective leadership. “I had a very naive understanding of being a leader and I was happy to learn that emotional intelligence and empathy are major components [of] leadership,” Sandberg said. “It seems obvious now, but I needed someone to open my eyes to these concepts.”

Each of us is a leader, noted Cornell. “Everyday we all lead by example. If we do not know what example we are setting, then we are unaware of the impact we have on people.”
The College of Veterinary Medicine is providing its students with better access to mental health care, and, providing students, faculty and staff with better access to other mental health resources. The promotion of greater mental health wellness is important because health care professions, including the veterinary profession, are among those cited as having the highest rates of suicide and depression.

A 2014 survey completed by more than 10,000 practicing veterinarians (about 69 percent of whom are small animal practitioners) found that 14.4 percent of men and 19.1 percent of women have considered suicide since graduation, which is three times the U.S. national mean. The survey also found that 1.1 percent of men and 1.4 percent of women in the profession have attempted suicide since veterinary school, which is below the national mean (the mean for attempts is 1.6 percent for men and 3.0 percent for women). The anonymous, online survey was made available to veterinarians by researchers from the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Auburn University and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The results were published by CDC in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report of Feb. 13, 2015 (tinyurl.com/jovvugc). The goal of the survey, investigators said, was to heighten awareness that veterinarians have a high prevalence of mental illness and that resources are available to those who need help.

The CVM’s initiatives began during the last academic year and will continue going forward. For several years, the College’s Office for Academic Affairs has had a cooperative arrangement with the University Health Center’s Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) to provide DVM students with access to the Center’s services, explained Dr. Scott Brown, associate dean for academic affairs. “This past year, we made these services available to graduate students, including interns and residents in the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital,” he said.

During the last academic year, the CVM embedded Licensed Professional Counselor Stevie Stigler, from CAPS, into its program to improve student access to CAPS services. Stigler is available to students at both the main CVM campus and the Veterinary Medical Center campus, or through the main CAPS office, throughout the week to give them the support they need in the manner most expedient to their hectic schedules. Stigler’s services are free to all DVM and graduate students enrolled at the CVM. (Stigler’s counseling services are currently not available to faculty or staff. CVM students who want to talk to Stigler may email her at sstigler@uga.edu.)

“Convenience and accessibility for these students is key,” Stigler said. “I wholeheartedly believe that it’s needed, and it has made a difference for these students as far as seeking therapy goes.”
Having a CAPS counselor embedded within a school program is rare at the University of Georgia. Currently, only the CVM and the UGA Athletic Association offer this service to their students. This ensures that students may be seen by a CAPS counselor beyond the short-term care to which students in other programs are restricted.

“The reason for that is you might need therapy throughout your four years here,” said Stigler. “If I give you 12 sessions and then send you into the community, that defeats the purpose of why I’m here.”

The students, themselves, are also getting involved in promoting wellness to their peers. In fall 2015, members of the CVM’s Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Wellness Committee worked with Stigler and Dr. Kaori Sakamoto, an associate professor in the Department of Pathology, to host a Veterinary Wellness Month. “We held one activity each week, that included a panel discussion about stress management, with practicing veterinarians from a variety of areas, such as the USDA, academia, equine medicine, small animal medicine, and Banfield,” said Sakamoto. “We also held a social evening of painting at ARTini’s, an art studio and lounge in Athens; a lecture on recognizing signs of stress and anxiety, from Alicia Carter, MSW, LMSW, who is on the CAPS staff; and, we had a swing dance lesson taught by Dr. Erik Hofmeister, an associate professor of anesthesiology at the CVM.”

Following the momentum gained during the month-long wellness campaign, Stigler and Sakamoto launched the UGA CVM Wellness Group, a Facebook page open to anyone. The page contains inspirational messages, as well as links to stories about wellness and mental health.

There is also a private Facebook page for members of the veterinary community called “Not One More Vet,” which launched in 2014. “That was started after the tragic suicide of Dr. Sophia Yin, who was a noted veterinary behaviorist,” said Sakamoto. “That really was a cry for help in the community; we realized that we need to pay more attention to this problem. It’s only open to vets, and it’s a safe place for people to be able to just vent, ask for help or reach out to others.” (To join this private community, message Dr. Sakamoto at kaoris@uga.edu.)

To give wellness a physical presence in our community, during this last academic year, a bulletin board located across from the student mailboxes on the main floor of the main CVM building became a daily reminder to students about the importance of overall wellness care. The board, maintained by Stigler, contains everything from adult coloring pages to tip sheets listing ideas for self-care.

“Exercise not only benefits your physical self, but your mental health as well,” noted Stigler. “Exercise makes you feel good because it releases chemicals like endorphins and serotonin that improve your mood. It provides you with an outlet for your emotions verses allowing your emotions to stay pent up and then manifest in negative ways. There are different types of exercise, including yoga, which are beneficial for your mental health because they improve present moment awareness. Other self-care activities that can be used to combat stress and promote wellness are to read, create something, meditation, learn something new, laugh, listen to favorite music, or pet an animal.”

Since students are not the only ones who need access to mental health care and resources, Sakamoto and Stigler worked together to create the Bulldawg Support Network (BSN), which launched in February and is available to everyone in the CVM community at no charge. The BSN is based on a similar program that Sakamoto participated in as a graduate student at Cornell University. BSN’s strength is in voluntary peer support from throughout all ranks of the CVM—from department heads and administrators to research personnel, to administrative associates and students. More than four dozen individuals voluntarily underwent basic training to help them recognize the signs of depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. Members of the BSN can be a compassionate listening ear and know where to direct individuals when more-extensive mental health services may be necessary.

Just being a good listener can go a long way toward providing support when someone needs a little human kindness and understanding. “Having someone who’s actually in your peer group, who is trained in recognizing signs of stress or anxiety, or even suicidal behavior, and who understands what the other person is going through, helps,” said Sakamoto.
Individuals who want to talk to a BSN volunteer can find names of volunteers, email addresses and their CVM affiliation (faculty, resident, student, etc.) on the BSN’s website (vet.uga.edu/bulldawg-support-network). BSN volunteers may also be identified by stickers, depicting the BSN’s heart and paw logo, placed on their office doors, cubicles, backpacks or laptops.

“It’s supposed to be like saying, ‘Hey, I’m available. Come on in and let’s talk,’” said Stigler about the stickers. “We kind of piggybacked this idea off the LGBTQ Safe Space stickers. With both, you have to go through training. So, our goal is for people to recognize that BSN volunteers have had training, and, will therefore be more sensitive and aware of someone else’s needs.”

Going forward, the entire UGA CVM community will see more coordinated efforts aimed at heightening awareness and access to resources for better overall wellness care. “The Office for Academic Affairs is enhancing our wellness program for DVM students,” noted Dr. Brown. “We have also established a college-wide wellness committee, comprised of student, faculty and staff members, which will serve to coordinate wellness activities throughout our college,” he said.

On May 9, the Office for Academic Affairs held its first “Summer Send-Off” for first- and second-year students, during which Stigler led discussions about wellness and strategies for recharging over the summer, he said.

“Everyone at the veterinary school needs to take [personal] wellness seriously,” emphasized Sakamoto. “It should be something ingrained into our everyday mindset. Don’t wait until something becomes a crisis. No one should be afraid to ask for help, and, they shouldn’t be embarrassed to ask for it, either.”

RESOURCES

CAPS Counselor Stevie Stigler
sstigler@uga.edu

Dr. Kaori Sakamoto
kaoris@uga.edu
(Message Dr. Sakamoto to be added to the “Not One More Vet” private Facebook page or to become a volunteer peer supporter in the Bulldawg Support Network.)

Bulldawg Support Network
vet.uga.edu/bulldawg-support-network

UGA CVM Wellness Group Facebook page (open to everyone)
https://www.facebook.com/groups/951002798326106/

AVMA’s Wellness and Peer Assistance page
tinyurl.com/jaavec3

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

2014 survey results for “Prevalence of Risk Factors for Suicide Among Veterinarians”
tinyurl.com/jovvugc
Though numbers of minority students and students with disabilities earning STEM degrees have increased in the last few decades, significant obstacles to entering a career in these fields continue to thin their ranks relative to their better-represented peers. According to a 2011 report by the National Academy of Sciences, despite making up 26 percent of enrolled undergraduate students in the United States, underrepresented minorities comprise only 5.4 percent of STEM doctorates awarded annually and just 8 percent of STEM professionals working at four-year colleges and universities.

PREP was established in an effort to increase those numbers and promote diversity in STEM graduate programs. Upon discovering PREP, Moore knew that the CVM was an ideal college to join the existing 33 PREP programs across the country. "At the CVM, we have such a strong focus on infectious diseases," said Moore. "We felt that we could draw on our broad expertise and strong research programs, and really make use of the already well-established and mature training environment here." Though eligibility to serve as a PREP mentor is open to professors throughout UGA, the CVM faculty's response to PREP was particularly enthusiastic. "All of the faculty that I reached out to expressed interest in being a part of the program," recalled Moore, "and the majority who have taken scholars have been in the College."

UGA PREP scholars come from a variety of backgrounds and degrees of research experience. Several are first generation college graduates, others are recent U.S. permanent residents or citizens, and many come from disadvantaged families. The one thing they all have in common is a passion for biomedical research. Julie Range, PREP at UGA's program coordinator, recalls one student whose graduate school eligibility suffered as a result of having to work several jobs through college to support her mother and siblings. "If she didn't have this drive for science and for research," recounts Range, "if she didn't receive this additional training, she may easily have had to go a different way." PREP hopes to help
nurture such talented students into competitive STEM graduate program applicants by providing a challenging but supportive training environment.

PREP at UGA is a multifaceted program with research training at its core. “We get them into a research environment as early as possible so they have time—almost a full year—to gain expertise in a particular project and bring it to the point where, optimally, they will gain a first author publication,” explained Moore. The scholars also are encouraged to present their research projects at regional, national or international-level meetings in order to develop experience in communicating data and networking with other researchers.

The program is also designed to counteract disparities in admissions counseling students from disadvantaged backgrounds receive. Scholars are enrolled in a preparatory course for the Graduate Record Examinations, or GRE, the standardized test required for admission to most graduate programs in the United States. Range and Moore help scholars identify suitable graduate programs and develop compelling applications. PREP even requires scholars to produce short videos telling their stories and explaining their research projects, which are then provided to admissions committees. “[Programs like PREP] level the playing field,” said Miller, an alumna of PREP’s first graduating class who is entering her second year at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she is enrolled in their neuroscience PhD program. “They let people who normally wouldn’t have such a broad or advanced training get that before they take on applying to graduate school, which can be overwhelming.”

In the end, however, what makes PREP such an enriching experience is that it is not designed to simply groom scholars into attractive application candidates and push them out the door. While developing the program, Moore and Range recognized that for scholars to truly thrive in top STEM PhD programs, they need to be prepared not only intellectually, but also emotionally and psychologically, for the challenges a graduate student faces. Thus, scholars receive coaching on all aspects of the graduate school experience in addition to their intensive research training.

At the beginning of the program, students are assigned a faculty mentor to direct their project as well as a research mentor—a graduate student who guides their daily experience in the lab and provides the scholar with the inside scoop on the life of a graduate student. “By forming that pair,” Moore explained, “the scholar experiences everything that graduate student does, and we believe that exposure will prepare the scholar for what they can expect from graduate school.” This interaction, in conjunction with an opportunity to take a light load of first-year graduate level courses, gives scholars a chance to live the life of a graduate student in a relatively low-pressure setting, demystifying the graduate school experience while building confidence in their ability to handle the heavy work load a PhD program entails. Range recalls one scholar, now a PhD student in one of the top Immunology and Infectious Disease programs in the country, wrote Moore and Range a note describing the self-assurance PREP helped her find. “She was appreciative that she finally believed in herself—we believed in her and she now has faith in herself.”

Miller also looks back on both of her mentors as playing a significant role in her adjustment to life as a STEM researcher. “Julie [Moore, Miller’s faculty mentor] let me be very independent very early on, so that really helped get my footing for how it was about to be—how it is now,” Miller said. “And my grad student mentor was awesome. She taught me everything I needed to know and asked questions to make sure I actually understood what I was doing and why. She showed me it’s one thing to learn a technique, but it’s better to understand why you’re doing it and that’s really going to help me later on.”

With just its second class graduating this May, the PREP program has already achieved remarkable success. Every PREP scholar to date has been accepted to a top graduate program with one exception, who chose to defer in order to apply to a joint MD/PhD program during the next application cycle. Range is unabashedly proud of the scholars’ growth and achievement over the course of a year. “They’ve grown completely,” she said. “They’re more confident in the lab, more comfortable with everything they’ve done.” Given the program’s current success and the recent allocation of funds from the UGA Office of the Vice President for Research to support a scholar exclusively on institutional funding, PREP’s future looks bright. Moore hopes that with continued interest, the program may even be able to create a spot reserved for scholars interested in pursuing a joint DVM/PhD.

In her time as a graduate student, Miller has seen first-hand the success of programs like PREP extending beyond the CVM. Though much remains to be done, she says she has seen improved representation of minority, disadvantaged and disabled students in STEM graduate programs. “Opportunities are getting better, a lot better, because there are these programs,” she said, “but a lot of graduate schools just don’t have those types of programs. We were lucky to have one at UGA.”
**DR. SCOTT BROWN IS UGA CVM’S NEW ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**Dr. Scott Brown** became the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine’s Associate Dean for Academic Affairs on March 1. Dr. Brown first came to the UGA CVM to complete an internship and residency in Small Animal Internal Medicine following his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1982. He is board-certified in internal medicine by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. In 1989, he received a PhD in renal pathophysiology from UGA and subsequently completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at the Nephrology Research and Training Center of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine.

Dr. Brown has garnered numerous teaching and research awards during his time on faculty at the UGA CVM, including the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorship in 2003. His service to the College has included serving as Acting Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, head of the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, and as Co-Director of the Educational Resources Center.

**NEW ROLES FOR FAMILIAR FACES IN DEAN’S OFFICE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Two familiar faces have taken on new duties at the CVM.

Tanya Eidson is now the event coordinator in the Office for Veterinary External Affairs. She coordinates the planning of all College events and also manages the Pet Memorial Program for the CVM’s Development Office. Eidson previously served for 15 years as the primary administrative support for Deans Keith Prasse and Sheila Allen. Prior to joining the CVM in September 2001, Eidson served as an administrative assistant for the UGA Athletic Association beginning in fall 1994. She first joined UGA in June 1993 in the Office of Financial Aid and later worked as an administrative assistant in the Office of Student Loans, Grants and Scholarships.

Vicki Eshelman assumed her new role as executive assistant to Dean Allen on May 2. Eshelman previously served, since 2010, as the assistant to Dr. Harry Dickerson, the CVM’s associate dean for research and graduate affairs. She joined UGA in May 2008 as an administrative assistant at the College of Law. Eshelman graduated in 2004 from Georgia State University with a degree in public relations and subsequently worked as a legal assistant. She is currently completing a master’s in special education from the UGA College of Education.
The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, in collaboration with the Atlanta Humane Society (AHS), has introduced a new, elective shelter medicine rotation for fourth-year veterinary students. This opportunity allows students to gain hands-on experience in a busy shelter environment, performing procedures such as spaying, neutering, basic surgeries, and dental care under the guidance of the AHS veterinarian.

The UGA College of Veterinary Medicine (UGA CVM) and AHS partnership marks the first formal agreement between the two entities, offering students valuable learning experiences in a shelter medicine setting. Shelter medicine was recently recognized as a veterinary specialty by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

“With this agreement, we aim to provide our students with a transformative learning experience in a setting that is integral to the field of veterinary medicine,” said Dr. Spencer Johnston, the head of the UGA CVM’s Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, who facilitated the partnership.

Students will participate in shelter rounds, medical assessments, the mobile spay/neuter program, and emergency animal rescues, in addition to joining adoption promotion efforts. The rotation is open to all UGA veterinary students seeking additional experience in surgery or shelter medicine.

Rebekah Packer (DVM 2016) examines a patient during her rotation at the Atlanta Humane Society in March 2016. Photo provided by the Atlanta Humane Society by Ron Goldfarb.

SHELTER MEDICINE ROTATION NOW AVAILABLE TO DVM STUDENTS

The UGA College of Veterinary Medicine and the Atlanta Humane Society (AHS) have partnered to provide veterinary students experiential learning opportunities in a shelter medicine setting.

The agreement allows fourth-year UGA veterinary students an elective shelter medicine rotation at the AHS, during which the students may perform spays, neuters, other basic surgeries, and dental procedures, all under the supervision of the AHS veterinarian. The partnership, representing the first formal agreement between the UGA CVM and the AHS, will provide students with valuable learning opportunities in a busy shelter environment. Shelter medicine was recently recognized as a veterinary specialty by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

“We believe this agreement is a valuable addition to our students’ clinical practice curriculum. It will provide our students with a valuable experiential learning opportunity to develop their skills and confidence as they prepare to join the veterinary workforce,” said Dr. Spencer Johnston, head of the UGA CVM’s Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, who helped broker the agreement.

Up to two students will be assigned to each three-week rotation, during which they will also participate in shelter animal rounds, provide medical assessments as part of animal admissions, assist with the AHS mobile spay/neuter program, participate in emergency animal rescues, and be involved in companion animal adoption promotions. The rotation is available to all UGA veterinary students who wish to gain additional experience in surgery or in a shelter medicine environment.
UGA, SANOFI PASTEUR DEVELOP MULTI-STRAIN H1N1 FLU VACCINE

Researchers at the University of Georgia and Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines division of Sanofi, have developed a vaccine that protects against multiple strains of both seasonal and pandemic H1N1 influenza in mouse models. The development was announced in March at the World Vaccine Congress US 2016, and the team’s findings were also published recently in the Journal of Virology (tinyurl.com/hehfhxj). Sanofi Pasteur has a research and development collaboration agreement with UGA.

Using a technique called Computationally Optimized Broadly Reactive Antigen, or COBRA, UGA researchers Donald Carter, Christopher Darby and Bradford Lefoley, along with Ted Ross, director of the University’s Center for Vaccines and Immunology, created nine prototype synthetic compound vaccines constructed using genetic sequences from multiple influenza virus strains.

The COBRA vaccines were designed to recognize H1N1 viruses isolated within the last 100 years, but many of the experimental vaccines produced immunity against influenza strains not included in the design. This means that scientists may be able to produce a vaccine that not only protects against recognized seasonal and pandemic influenza strains, but also strains that have yet to be discovered.

Because this vaccine is generated from the genetic sequences of multiple flu viruses, it may protect against many strains over several years, Ross said. That would also allow for year-round manufacturing of the vaccine, since scientists would not have to halt production every year to identify the most prevalent strains.

This research is part of a broader effort to create a universal influenza vaccine, which would protect against all strains of the virus. “We still have some work to do before we get a truly universal flu vaccine,” Ross said. “But the COBRA vaccine we’ve developed for H1N1 virus subtypes is a major step in the right direction.”

UGA, GEOVAX COLLABORATE ON ZIKA VACCINE

Dr. Ross and researchers from the Center for Vaccines and Immunology are also involved in a collaborative project with GeoVax Labs Inc. to develop and test a vaccine to prevent Zika virus infection.

The collaboration, announced in February, combines the vaccine development expertise of UGA researchers with GeoVax’s novel vaccine platform technology. Ross’s research group focuses on designing, developing and testing vaccines—including what are called VLP-based vaccines—for emerging viral diseases including dengue, chikungunya and Ebola, as well as influenza, respiratory syncytial virus and HIV/AIDS. (Zika is closely related to yellow fever, dengue and chikungunya viruses, which are also transmitted by mosquitoes.)

VLPs—virus-like particles—mimic a live virus but do not contain genetic material; they cannot replicate or cause infection, yet they elicit a strong immune response in the cells of the person being vaccinated. GeoVax’s novel vaccine platform technology takes a different approach with VLPs. Instead of introducing VLPs in the vaccine, it uses recombinant DNA or recombinant viruses to produce VLPs in the person being vaccinated so that they more closely resemble the virus generated in a person’s body during a natural infection. The company’s MVA-VLP platform is focused on vaccines against HIV and hemorrhagic fever viruses, including Ebola, Marburg and Lassa. The HIV vaccine has been proven safe in human clinical trials involving over 500 individuals. It also is being evaluated for use in cancer vaccines.

Ross is a professor and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Infectious Diseases. In addition to Ross, UGA researchers working on the Zika vaccine include Ralph Tripp, Georgia Research Alliance Chair in Vaccine and Therapeutic Development; Biao He, Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Investigator and Fred C. Davison Distinguished University Chair in Veterinary Medicine; and Mark Tompkins, a professor of infectious diseases.
Dr. Ben Brainard possesses a penchant for challenges and real-time physiology in crisis. On a near-daily basis in his role as a professor of emergency and critical care medicine at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Brainard works at the vortex of life and death.

His naturally calm demeanor is an asset amid the chaos of caring for patients in crisis and sets a tone for keeping the interns, residents and fourth-year veterinary students under his tutelage, as well as the veterinary technicians who assist them, focused on the sickest patient of the moment. As one of two clinicians who co-created and who co-directs the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s emergency and critical care service, when he is on the clinic floor, Dr. Brainard is the veterinarian in charge of both the Small Animal Emergency Room and the Small Animal Intensive Care Unit. He possesses two board certifications in two of the most challenging areas of medicine: emergency/critical care and anesthesia.

“My main interest is in physiology, in terms of understanding how the different body systems work to maintain oxygen and profusion to the tissues,” he explained, noting that in a laboratory, you may study one system at a time, but in his typical setting “there is so much interaction with all the organ systems of the body that you have to take a much larger view of everything. The clinical applications of physiology are intriguing and what’s best about anesthesia and critical care is you tend to see the extremes of physiology.”

Dr. Brainard didn’t grow up with pets, so it was his love of science and its never-ending questions that lured him into his career. After completing his veterinary degree at the University of Pennsylvania, he did what many of his students do: he entered a year-long small animal rotating internship, whereby he worked in a hospital on all the services. He did his internship at UGA.
A rigorous five-year dual residency training program at "Penn" came next—a program for which, he notes, he was better prepared to tackle, thanks to his strenuous year at UGA. Penn's SVM is known for having one of the busiest emergency rooms and highest caseloads of all veterinary teaching hospitals. Dr. Brainard's pursuit of an anesthesia specialty provided him with the added benefit of working with multiple species—even humans, thanks to a rotation at a human hospital.

"With anesthesia, you have to be able to anesthetize anything put in front of you, from sea horses to gorillas to horses," he said. “The real benefit of it was the exposure and having to think in a truly comparative physiological sense, as you have to know the idiosyncrasies of every species you anesthetize. It's helpful to have this background. We do anesthesia every day in critical care.”

As one who likes music and the arts, Brainard had enjoyed his time in Athens. As he neared the end of his residency and realized he wanted a future in teaching and conducting research, he applied for a job to become a clinical instructor of critical care medicine at the UGA CVM and to help launch the hospital's emergency and critical care service for small animals.

That was in 2006. A decade later, his services are now located at the new Veterinary Medical Center and have expanded to two rooms. Over the last two fiscal years, he said, their caseload has grown by 50 percent (30 percent in the last FY) and they now average about 411 cases per month.

When he's not working in the hospital, he's likely working on research. His specific areas of interest are pain management in ICU patients, long-term ventilation, and disorders involving coagulation and platelet function. He recently received a $180,000 award from the Morris Animal Foundation (see sidebar on "Clinical Trial for cats with history of arterial thromboembolism")—a significant award for a clinical study of a feline disorder—for a three-year multi-center study to evaluate two drugs in treatment of cats with recurring arterial thromboembolism.

Dr. Brainard credits his time at Penn with providing him a strong research background. "All discussions then were based on, 'This is what we know. What can we do to change the parameters?'” It's a methodology he strives to impart to his own students.

He believes research and dealing with patients go hand-in-hand. “This is why it's important to have a teaching hospital at a veterinary school, as what you see makes people think about new approaches and new ways around problems. Without one, you can't have the other.”

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**Benjamin Brainard**

Professor, Emergency & Critical Care Medicine  
Assistant Department Head  
Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery  
at UGA CVM since July 2006  
VMD, 2000, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine  
AB (Biophysical Chemistry) with Honors, 1996, Dartmouth College  
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Anesthesiology (2006)  
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (2006)

iBook:  
Coagulation (sells for $2.99, via ERC)  
www.vmerc.uga.edu/web/ibooks.html

Friends of the Georgia Museum of Art board member
Researchers at the University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital are seeking participants for a new multicenter randomized clinical trial. The three-year study dubbed “SUPER-CAT,” for “Study of the Utility of Rivaroxaban or Clopidogrel for prevention of recurrent Arterial Thromboembolism in cats,” aims to prolong life expectancy and improve quality of life in cats diagnosed with recurrent arterial thromboembolism ("saddle thrombus") through anticoagulant treatment. Qualified participants include cats with heart disease that have survived an arterial thromboembolism.

Arterial thromboembolism (ATE) is a serious, life-threatening condition in which a blood clot becomes lodged in the aorta or other major arteries. Though ATE is a common complication of heart disease in cats, there is no way to predict which cats will develop ATE. Few treatment options exist for cats that develop an ATE, and of those that survive the episode, the median life expectancy is approximately four months without therapy. A new therapeutic option to treat or prevent this life-threatening condition is critically needed but currently elusive.

A previous study (the FATCAT trial, for which a summary of findings can be found at www.vet.cornell.edu/news/FatCatStudy.cfm) found that treating cats with clopidogrel, a drug that blocks the pro-thrombotic activity of platelets, delayed the recurrence of ATE up to eight months longer than aspirin. The SUPER-CAT study builds on the previous study by comparing the effectiveness of clopidogrel treatment to that with rivaroxaban, a novel anticoagulant that directly inhibits Coagulation Factor Xa. The goal of SUPER-CAT is to further extend life expectancy and improve quality of life for cats following an ATE by preventing recurrence.

Cats diagnosed with cardiomyopathy that have experienced one ATE episode, have recovered from the acute syndrome, and have no other significant health conditions, may be referred by their veterinarian to enter the study. Study participants will receive a supply of either clopidogrel or rivaroxaban free of charge, as well as funds to defray the cost of four follow-up visits with board-certified veterinary cardiologists. Owners will be expected to fill out a ten-minute questionnaire every other month on their cat’s health and activity level. In the case of an ATE recurrence, owners can opt to continue or change their cat’s anticoagulant treatment.

The study is funded by the Morris Animal Foundation and is being conducted in collaboration with partners at Cornell University, North Carolina State University, Auburn University, Tufts University, Purdue University and Pharmaceutical Specialties, Inc.

For more information about the study please visit t.uga.edu/24x or visit the official SUPER-CAT study website, hosted by the Center for Veterinary Critical Care Research, at cvccr.com.

**ADDITIONAL CURRENT CLINICAL TRIALS**

Clinical trials provide vital answers for the future of animal health, and we appreciate your help in identifying animals that can be included in these programs. We have a number of studies going on right now, including:

- Cats diagnosed with diabetes for at least 12 months; study to determine the appearance of the pancreas in diabetic cats using computed tomography (CT) imaging.
- Dogs with arthritis of the elbow or knee; study to assess effectiveness of Tramadol in dogs with naturally occurring arthritis of the elbow or knee.
- Cats diagnosed with thromboembolism (blood clot) due to cardiac disease; study to compare the effectiveness of two different medications for preventing recurrent blood clots in cats.
- Dogs with proteinuria due to chronic kidney disease; study to determine the effectiveness of a new treatment to reduce urine protein loss in dogs.
- Dogs with osteosarcoma; study to determine the effectiveness of rapamycin chemotherapy in dogs with bone cancer.
- Horses with bladder stones; study to investigate a new technique for the removal of bladder stones in horses.

A full listing of our clinical trial opportunities is available at: vet.uga.edu/research/clinical/current
Inside the University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital, you’ll find a thoughtfully designed environment centered on the patient. It houses the latest technology, advanced diagnostics and dedicated treatment spaces for large and small animals. And at the heart of it is the staff – from doctors to nurses to students in training – providing our hallmark compassionate care.

Referrals • Emergencies • Consultations
Koichi Nagata, DVM, DACVR, who oversees the Hospital’s radiation oncology service, prepares to treat a brain tumor using stereotactic radiation therapy. *Photo by Christopher B. Herron.*

One of the treatment modalities used by our small animal rehabilitation service is an underwater treadmill. *Photo by Christopher B. Herron.*

The performance arena is used to evaluate lameness and performance issues in our equine patients. *Photo by Christopher B. Herron.*

Our Food Animal Treatment Area features specialized equipment for our cattle clientele, such as stalls with head catch and isolation gates allowing for stress-free evaluation and treatment. *Photo by Christopher B. Herron.*

The Veterinarian Education Center features an auditorium, referred to as Alumni Hall, for the instruction of third-year veterinary students. *Photo by Andrew Davis Tucker.*
This spring marked the Hospital’s one-year anniversary in its new, state-of-the-art building. Located at 2200 College Station Road, this facility was built to allow the Hospital to better meet its patient care demands and to help ensure a bright future for the College and its students. Our first-year highlights include:

• Using stereotactic radiation therapy for the treatment of tumors in cats and dogs, and becoming one of only a handful of hospitals across the nation to offer this advanced oncological treatment option.

• Adding two new clinicians to our Dermatology Service and re-launching our Behavioral Medicine Service.

• Launching a small animal Rehabilitation Service that has helped more than 100 dogs improve mobility, strength and endurance through therapeutic measures.

• Evaluating performance issues in horses rain or shine, thanks to our covered equine performance arena.

• Seeing a 10 percent increase in the number of cattle brought to the Hospital, which are treated in our new Food Animal Treatment Area—a dedicated facility equipped with a hydraulic tilt chute system, a room for standing surgical procedures, and stalls with head catch and isolation gates allowing for stress-free evaluation and treatment.

• Installing a state-of-the-art monitoring system in ICU that clinicians can access from any computer, whether at the Hospital or from home, to check on a patient.

• Welcoming our first class of students to the Veterinary Education Center, which has an auditorium and three smaller classrooms for teaching third-year students.

Referring veterinarian portal coming soon

Referring veterinarians will soon be able to login to the Hospital’s electronic medical records system through an online portal. This will give them real-time access to their patients’ records such as transfer information, lab reports, imaging results and discharge information. An announcement will be sent out to all referring veterinarians with more information and instructions once the portal is ready to go live. The goal is to have the portal up and running by the end of the year.

Small animal launches call center

To help improve customer service for our referring veterinarians and our clients, the small animal side of the Hospital has recently changed the way it handles incoming calls. Individuals calling into the Hospital are now directed to a customer care team based on which service area of the small animal hospital they are calling about. For example, a referring veterinarian with an orthopedics referral will be directed to the same care team as a client calling in to make an orthopedics appointment. By making this change, our staff will be able to integrate more fully with the areas they are serving and better handle the incoming call volume.

Hospital creates new website

The Hospital now has a new, mobile-friendly website that puts information about services, directions to the facility, and news and updates right at your fingertips. Visit www.vet.uga.edu/hospital to view the new site and let us know what you think. Feedback can be sent to Cindy Rice, hospital communications director, at cindyh@uga.edu.

Dog’s eye view tour

Check out our facility from a “Dog’s Eye View!” This video tour was created by the Class of 2019 and shows the Hospital from the viewpoint of a Boxer named Tess. You can watch the video at www.youtube.com/UGAvetmed.

Visit our new Hospital website at vet.uga.edu/hospital
coming soon
to the Veterinary Medical Center

This outdoor space will honor the meaningful relationships shared with companion animals and those who care for them. Previously purchased bricks, tiles and horseshoes will permanently reside in the garden walls. There are a variety of ways to support the Celebration Garden campaign by recognizing pets, friends, family and veterinarians. For more info, contact the CVM Development Office at 706.542.1807 or give2vet@uga.edu.
Snap & Share!

It is time for the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital's bi-annual photo contest, which is open to all current and former hospital or community practice clinic clients. Submissions will be accepted from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30, 2016.

For more details or to submit your photo, please visit: vet.uga.edu/hospital/photo-contest

Winning entries will be displayed in the Veterinary Education Center. All entries will be turned into a photobook that will be available for viewing in the Hospital lobbies.

Proceeds benefit veterinary student scholarships, sponsorship of a seeing eye dog, and the G.R.A.C.E. Fund at the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

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THE REAL COST OF
MASTITIS
IN DAIRY CATTLE

By Sandra McGill
Most of Georgia's dairy farmers have dealt with the problem of clinical mastitis in their cows at one time or another. If they haven't yet, it's likely to happen down the road.

Mastitis is an infection of the udder tissue, including the mammary gland where milk is produced. With clinical signs including swelling, heat, redness, hardness or pain in the udder, the milk of an infected cow often has a watery appearance, flakes or clots. It is the most common disease in dairy cattle in the United States (Dept. of Animal Science, 2003), occurring in an estimated 25 percent of cows (Jones and Bailey, 2009; New York State Cattle Health Assurance Program, 2013).

Statistics on mastitis have been around for years, but Dr. Emmanuel Rollin, clinical assistant professor of dairy production medicine at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, and his colleagues, Dr. Michael Overton and Kevin Dhuyvetter of Elanco Animal Health, wanted to update those figures based on current data. Factoring in items like the cost of feed and milk and data collected by other researchers, Rollin and colleagues crunched the numbers and arrived at a figure of $444 per infected cow, with $128 coming from direct costs including discarded milk, veterinary service, diagnostics, therapeutics, and cow death, and $316 from indirect costs including reduction in reproductive efficiency, decreased milk production, and culling of infected animals.

"What we were trying to do is find out 'What is the economic impact of one case [of clinical mastitis] in one cow?'" said Rollin. "I think that number is important, because then people can say, 'Okay, if I can prevent one case, this is the impact [it will have on my profit margin]. So how much money can I spend to prevent that case?'"

With an estimated 9 million dairy cattle in the United States (Blaney, 2002), up to 25 percent of which are at risk of being affected by mastitis, Rollin calculates the damage to the American dairy industry to be about $1 billion annually. In Georgia, where more than 85,000 dairy cows reside, that number is greater than $9.4 million per year. With southeastern cow numbers and milk production declining in the last 10 years, the industry has continued to flourish in Georgia, helping to feed its growing population and contributing $1.2 billion to Georgia's economy, according to Georgia Milk Producers, Inc.

Rollin said prevention is key, whatever form that takes.

"If you have some kind of preventive option—whether that's building a new barn or spending more money so the cows have cleaner bedding, or have some other kind of preventive action—you know how much you can actually spend and have a positive return," said Rollin. "Producers need to be very careful how they spend money if they want to be in business long-term. It's important for them to have good information to base their decisions on."

Rollin and colleagues conducted their study from February 2013 to fall 2015, publishing their results in the December 2015 issue of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (Rollin, 2015).
Total cost per incident case of clinical mastitis occurring in the first 30 days in milk

Mastitis Cost Overview

**Direct Costs**
- Discarded milk: $25
- Veterinary service: $4
- Diagnostics: $10
- Labor: $21
- Death: $32
- Therapeutics: $36

**Indirect Costs**
- Repro: $9
- Milk Production: $125
- Culling: $182

**Total Costs**
- $128
- $444
- $316

*Rollin, et al. 2015 tinyurl.com/z6c7cjp*
Sources


New York State Cattle Health Assurance Program. (2013). “Epidemiology of Mastitis.” (tinyurl.com/zu6358n)


Additional Resources

Georgia Milk Producers, Inc. (gamilk.org)

Georgia Department of Agriculture, Dairy Section (agr.georgia.gov/dairy.aspx)

Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc. (southeastdairy.org)

UGA Extension, Dairy (extension.uga.edu/agriculture/animals/dairy)

• Managing Mastitis through Proper Dry-Off Procedures (tinyurl.com/j75jjdb)
• Adoption of Mastitis Control Technologies in the Southeast to Reduce Mastitis and Improve Milk Quality (tinyurl.com/hdbsk5v)
• Management Strategies to Reduce Heat Stress, Prevent Mastitis and Improve Milk Quality in Dairy Cows and Heifers (tinyurl.com/zulukrb)
• Cutting Costs, Not Corners: Managing Cattle in Tough Times (tinyurl.com/jplyaqn)
Within 34 years, our global population is expected to swell by one-third to an estimated 9.7 billion people, according to projections from the United Nations. To meet the world’s food needs for 2050, the World Bank estimates that we need to produce at least 50 percent more food than we do now. In 2015, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said that our current agricultural model is no longer sustainable, a paradigm shift in global food production is needed, and urged that future food systems be smarter and more efficient.

How to tackle the conundrum of feeding an ever-growing population on limited resources is not a new discussion for our global society. We’ve been having this debate for at least hundreds of years (some of you may remember “An Essay on the Principle of Population,” published in 1798 by Thomas Robert Malthus, which is considered one of the most influential works of its era). Yet, we are now on the precipice of what may be the greatest global food challenge we have ever faced.

How are we going to feed almost 10 billion people while consuming less land, water and energy than we do today? And, is there a way to meet our future food needs without all the negative environmental impacts of today’s conventional agriculture, such as soil depletion, nitrogen poisoning, greenhouse gas emissions and ocean acidification?

I’m really excited about the future of food; there are so many smart, well-positioned people taking on this incredible challenge from many angles. I follow multiple online groups that are working on things like improving genetics, modulating gene expression through environmental control, transitioning to urban agriculture, and, using computers to monitor the health of animals and plants.
In an attempt to join the conversation, I wrote a proposal for a sustainability grant offered through the UGA Office of Sustainability. Dr. Mary Hondalus, the CVM’s Director of Pre-Clinical Academic Affairs, helped guide me through the process. Every year, the Office of Sustainability awards grants to students for projects that are allied with UGA’s 2020 Strategic Plan for Sustainability. I received a grant of $4545 to demonstrate sustainable solutions to food insecurity.

My project is working with an agricultural technology called aquaponics, the intentional growing of fish and plants in a closed ecosystem, where water and nutrients circulate between the two groups. Fish give off waste nitrogen metabolites in the form of ammonia, which is converted to nitrate, a plant fertilizer, by common bacteria. The plants then filter out the circulating nitrate, cleaning the water before it is returned to the fish.

My project has two parts: Phase I, completed earlier this year, is a small display garden located in the student lobby of the College of Veterinary Medicine. Phase II, which will be completed this summer, is building a much larger food-producing garden located at the UGArden. The plan is to create a food-producing aquaponics garden at a scale appropriate for feeding a family (about 10 times the scale of the display garden in the student lobby). Any food produced by the aquaponics installation at the UGArden can be incorporated into existing food distribution programs through groups such as the UGA Campus Kitchen and community organizations such as the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia.

The diversity of knowledge required to design and create working aquaponics gardens makes the process interdisciplinary by nature. The beauty of this project is that it connects groups of people that would not normally interact. I work with several groups within the University, including the UGA Science Library’s MakerSpace, and, researchers and students from the UGA Department of Horticulture, the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, and the Odum School of Ecology. I also work with Fin-Alley, an aquarium shop in Athens that donated six goldfish for my project; I’ve also purchased hardware from them.

So why, you might ask, is a veterinary student interested in the future of food production and how aquaponics might play a role in feeding almost 10 billion people? The veterinary profession has a roughly 250-year history of serving the public by ensuring a safe and healthy food supply, and our profession is still a central pillar in our global food system. From beef to poultry to swine, if you are eating them in the United States, then they have been deemed safe by at least one veterinarian. In addition to the services we provide today, I think that veterinarians are uniquely capable and will play a pivotal role in adapting to the current and future challenges of food security.
There is evidence that aquaculture dates back thousands of years, but only in recent decades have veterinarians become more involved in protecting the health of farmed fish. As a result, educational programs designed specifically for veterinary students who wish to pursue careers in aquaculture are still in their infancy.

My mantra is model nature. Veterinary school continues to teach me how nature solves the same problems in many different ways. From the details of comparative animal physiology to the big picture of taking complex problems apart and creating solutions, my education puts me in a unique position to take a bite out of the massive challenge of food insecurity. I hope that by planting this idea in the student lobby of the UGA CVM, I will encourage others to contemplate our future food needs and consider ways in which they can also help tackle this mounting global problem.

I am not sure where this journey will lead me, but I would like to take this experience into my professional career. I would like my niche to end up being at the interface between health and technology. Aquaponics is an idea that sits firmly at that intersection, and the idea is spreading. From my own observation, more and more individuals, families, and groups in Georgia are incorporating aquaponics into their lives, their businesses, their schools and their communities. And that's just the beginning.

If you are working on, or want some help with or ideas for incorporating sustainable healthy fresh food into your life, I'd love to hear from you. This is a mission that everyone can get behind; we all eat food. Unfortunately, today's food systems aren't sustainable. If we would like to maintain a secure and resilient food supply for tomorrow's world, then we need to make systemic changes to the way we produce, distribute and consume our food. Today's problem is to figure out the best path forward.

"My mantra is model nature."
Artwork by Katie Yost.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

David Balinsky
balinsky@uga.edu
Blueshell.co

UGArden
ugarden.uga.edu

UGA Campus Sustainability Plan:
t.uga.edu/2hd

World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association
www.wavma.org/

tinyurl.com/j2nc4z5
Members of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine’s Wildlife Treatment Crew won the 2016 GROW Wildlife VetMed Challenge, a fundraising competition. The UGA WTC competed against students from the University of Missouri to win the inaugural challenge. As champion, UGA received the 2016 trophy and a $2,000 grant from the GROW Wildlife Fund. The funds can be used to help pay for care of injured wildlife that is brought to the Center for treatment. Back row, from left: David Moses (DVM 2018); Dr. Steve Divers, a professor of zoological medicine and chair of the GROW Wildlife Veterinary Steering Committee; Dr. Jörg Mayer, an associate professor of zoological medicine; Amanda Barbosa (DVM 2018); Trey Callahan (DVM 2019); Joseph Morrissey (DVM 2019); Hana Kudela (DVM 2019). Front row, from left: Anna Slagle (DVM 2018); Amanda Morvai (DVM 2018); Hannah Gordon (DVM 2019); Clark Broughton (DVM 2018); Laura Burns (DVM 2018); Wai Hung (DVM 2018); Kellyn Sweeley (DVM 2018); Elaine Beck (DVM 2019). Photo © the University of Georgia 2016/by Cindy Rice.
Today around 12:30, a truck transporting chemicals to UGA labs crashed into the UGA Health Sciences Campus. The driver ran a red light at the intersection, hit several oncoming vehicles and flipped onto its side. A small fire is seen near the cab of the truck and the distinct odor of chlorine is present.”

So began an exercise realistic enough that local media outlets had to be informed in advance that the “emergency” was, in fact, just a drill. The four-hour interprofessional event, held on an otherwise calm Saturday afternoon in March, was a joint effort by the College of Pharmacy, the UGA Division of One Health and the UGA Medical Partnership to instruct veterinary, pharmacy and medical students in disaster management and the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation.

During the simulated disaster, participants were grouped randomly into teams and assigned tasks ranging from patient triage to community call center management. Students from every discipline were thrust into situations that did not necessarily coincide with their chosen course of study. Veterinary students were charged with managing the flow of patients within the suddenly overloaded hospital and pharmacy students were asked to triage—simulated—chlorine-poisoned dogs. Placing participants in these foreign situations and asking them to interact with students from different disciplines provided each with an opportunity to learn new skills, develop a better understanding of fields outside their own, and function more efficiently in unfamiliar situations.

“I believe that the professionals don’t talk to each other enough,” said Susan Sanchez, a professor of infectious diseases, chair of the UGA Division of One Health, and assistant director of the UGA Biomedical & Health Sciences Institute. (Sanchez also heads the Microbiology and Molecular Biology sections of the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.) “They live in their silos and try to deal with ‘One Health’-type problems by themselves,” she continued, referring to the concept that the health of humans, animals and their environments are inextricably linked and thus threats to any one of those areas should be approached with an interdisciplinary mindset. “I think if they knew each other and if they knew each others’ capabilities, they would really talk to each other and work more in groups, and, they would be more efficient.”

That sense of cooperation, cohesion and novel thinking permeated the day. Students were encouraged at every step to consult with each other and consider aspects of a problem outside of simple pharmacokinetics or first aid. At the Hospital Surge post, pharmacy and veterinary students managed the flow of patients and their families through Athens Regional Medical Center. A large, tabletop-sized map served as a planning table on which to strategize where to send not only patients, but also their families, doctors, hospital clergy and the worried well. At the incident command post, students were required to consider logistics, finances and the media response when formulating solutions to the challenges phoned in from the scene. Even ethical considerations became a concern for participants. “You kind of had to throw away this idea of ‘I want to help everybody’ and you had to put on your ‘This is an emergency situation’ hat,” noted one participant. “Realistically, who is going to benefit the most from being transported first?”

Drs. Lisa Bazzle and Ralph Askren (DVM ’88) were the veterinary team that led the pet decontamination and triage training module. A team consisting primarily of pharmacy students and a handful of veterinary students were presented with three “dogs”—lifelike dummies—apparently affected by the disaster. Bazzle, a clinical instructor of Emergency and Critical Care at the CVM, instructed the students on how to prioritize patients, how treating an animal differs from treating humans, and in particular how animals communicate injury and illness. Askren, an esteemed and active alumnus of the CVM, then supervised as the students worked together to triage the animals. “As a team, we’d like you guys to approach these animals as best you can,” he instructed. “Try to assess their state and needs. What do you want to know about the animals other than what you see?”

The students, clearly unsure of the exercise at its outset, quickly became active and engaged, asking questions, feeling the dog’s “pulse” and attempting to discover as much as possible about this dog to diagnose it. “Her eyes and mouth are watering,” said one pharmacy student. “She’s probably relatively non-responsive.” In response to the question in her voice, Askren claps in front of the stuffed dog’s nose and the students burst into laughter. “You could actually feel how their body language said, ‘Wow this is so cool! This is so interesting!’” said Sanchez, who participated in the
exercise. “It was really kind of cool,” agreed one pharmacy student, “because we were all kind of wondering how is pharmacy relevant to this anyway? So hearing her talk about the medicines and then having an ‘Aha!’ moment about how these things we learned are practical was really nice.” Sanchez highlighted the importance of imparting this sort of interest in students at an early stage in their training to encourage collaboration later in their careers. “It’s just they don’t know what the others do,” Sanchez said, “but it’s good to have this diversity. If they understand what other professionals do, they will be able to relate better, ask the right questions and integrate better to solve problems instead of thinking, ‘How do I talk to this person?’”

While the pharmacy school took the lead in organizing the event and recruiting first responders to participate in the simulated emergency, the veterinary students and One Health club also played an active role in making this event a reality. “The students did a lot of fund-raising last year which helped to fund the food, water and everything else,” explained Sanchez. Last year, the veterinary and pharmacy students joined together to organize a 5K race, which also helped fund the training exercise. Sanchez noted that while this exercise may become part of the veterinary curriculum in the future, the veterinary students who participated in the exercise and fund-raising this year did so for no reason other than a self-motivated desire to learn. “Everything the vet students did was voluntary,” she emphasized.

The collaborative zeal exhibited by veterinary, pharmacy and medical students alike shows promise that the One Health ideology will not only be practiced, but embraced, by the next generation of medical professionals.

Photos by Whitney Mathisen.
Twenty students from the class of 2019 were chosen to serve as student ambassadors. Ambassadors assist with recruitment, outreach and College-related activities to enhance the public image of the College, its students and its programs. The new ambassadors are listed above. *Photos by Christopher B. Herron.*
The College recognized outstanding faculty and students with honors for excellence in teaching, research and service at its annual Phi Zeta Veterinary Honor Society Induction Ceremony, held in April. For faculty awards, see the Faculty Notes section, beginning on page 44.

The following DVM students, residents, interns and other graduate students received awards during the 2016 ceremony:

The Morrow B. Thompson Award was presented to Lisa Kelly, DVM, MS, a resident in clinical pathology. The award is presented annually to a senior student, resident or graduate student who excels in veterinary clinical pathology, and is given in memory of Morrow B. Thompson (DVM ’76).

The Dennis Sikes Scholarship in Experimental Pathology was awarded to Stivalis Cardenas Garcia, DVM, a PhD candidate in pathology who has focused her research on novel vaccination strategies for Newcastle disease, which impacts birds, particularly poultry, worldwide. This award is presented to a pathology graduate student who excels in research of disease processes, also known as experimental or investigative pathology. It is given in memory of Dr. Dennis “Chock” Sikes, a research professor and veterinarian biologist at UGA who was the first Georgian to receive the Royal Society Award. He was a consultant pathologist for the Atomic Energy Commission.

Jenny Lynn Mumaw, PhD, (DVM 2016), won the Phi Zeta Manuscript competition’s basic science research category for “Feline mesenchymal stem cells and supernatant inhibit reactive oxygen species production in cultured feline neutrophils,” which was published in the September 2015 issue of Research in Veterinary Science (tinyurl.com/z5cdplv).

William Clark and Tessa Sghiatti, both from the class of 2018, received the Outstanding Sophomore Student Award for having the highest cumulative grade point average and outstanding professionalism in the second-year class. As part of their award, they will serve as co-vice presidents on the Phi Zeta Board for one year.
Four students, who were nominated by their peers, received the R. Bruce Hollett Student Leadership, Service and Outreach Awards: Joshua "Jed" Darden (DVM 2016), Yari Torres (DVM 2017), Scott Foster (DVM 2018) and Trey Callahan (DVM 2019). The award recognizes students for their leadership, service and outreach in the community, their place of worship, the College, student clubs or veterinary fraternities.


Seven residents/graduate students were inducted: Desiree Rosselli, DVM, Nicola Volstad, DVM, Brett Gulledge, DVM, and Jamie Brown, DVM, all residents in small animal soft-tissue surgery; Vanna Dickerson (DVM 2013), a master’s degree student in veterinary and biomedical sciences; Carmen Jerry, DVM, who is enrolled in the combined residency/PhD program in anatomic pathology, with a poultry emphasis; and Corry Yeouroukis, DVM, a resident in clinical pathology.

The awards were presented at the College’s annual Phi Zeta awards ceremony, held April 7. The Phi Zeta Veterinary Honor Society was formally established in 1925 at Cornell University for the advancement of the veterinary profession, for higher educational requirements and for high scholarship. Phi Zeta recognizes and promotes scholarship and research in matters pertaining to the welfare and diseases of animals. There are 27 chapters of Phi Zeta throughout the United States. The Xi chapter of Phi Zeta was established in 1959 at the University of Georgia.
ERIC SHEPHERD, MS, (DVM 2016) received a 2016 Poultry Scholarship from the American Association of Avian Pathologists. Dr. Shepherd is a Masters in Avian Medicine candidate who expects to complete his program in 2017.

TARA BRACKEN, a PhD student in infectious diseases who completes her program this summer, won the annual Three Minute Thesis competition hosted by the UGA Graduate School for her topic “Innocents Lost: Mitigating severe malaria in children and pregnant women through anticoagulation.” (The Three Minute Thesis was founded by the University of Queensland.) Bracken's presentation can be viewed online at: tinyurl.com/hvf99kn

JOSH SINGER (DVM 2017) was one of two veterinary students in the U.S. to receive the 2016-17 Coyote Rock Ranch Veterinary Scholarship, a $75,000 award from the American Quarter Horse Foundation.

VALERIE MARCANO (DVM 2017), a student in the CVM's DVM/PhD dual-degree program, was one of five veterinary students in the U.S. selected to receive a $5,000 scholarship from the American Association of Avian Pathologists Foundation and Merck Animal Health.

KATARINA VI (DVM 2018) won the “Name the Dog” contest to name a virtual dog that is featured in a web-based tool used to help students learn how to perform neurological evaluations and localize lesions. Yi named the dog GeNeRAL for Georgia Neurology Repository for Applied Learning. The contest was held by Dr. Simon Platt, a professor of neurology who helped create the web-based learning tool.

SHELBE RICE (DVM 2018) received a 2015-2016 Merck Animal Health Scholarship from the American Veterinary Medical Foundation. She was one of 20 students selected from veterinary schools in the U.S., Caribbean and Canada to receive the $5,000 award.

Nine students received Freeman-ASIA grants, sponsored by the Freeman Foundation. ANNA CATHERINE BOWDEN (DVM 2018) will do an externship with the Soi Dog Foundation in Phuket, Thailand. CAMARA CARTER (DVM 2019) will do an externship with the Madras Veterinary College in Chennai, India. TESSA SCHIATTI (DVM 2018) and JAYME DOUGLAS (DVM 2018) will both do two externships in Thailand; one at the Southern Elephant Hospital in Krabi and the other at the Elephant Nature Park in Chiang Mai Province. DAVID MOSES (DVM 2018) will do an externship in the Department of Pathology at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University, in Bangkok. JULIE THOMPSON (DVM 2018) will do a USAID PREDICT externship in Hanoi, Vietnam; the Vietnam program is a collaborative effort of the Department of Animal Health of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hanoi University of Agriculture, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. YARITBEL TORRES MENDOZA (DVM 2017) will do her externship at the
Residents Who Recently Passed Specialty Boards

The following veterinarians recently passed specialty board certification exams. All have served, or currently serve, as residents at our Veterinary Teaching Hospital or studied in specialty areas at the CVM.

**TIAGO AFONSO**, by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Large Animal)

**HARRY MARKWELL, DESIREE ROSELLI** and **MARKO STEJSKAL**, by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons

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2017 Scholarships from GFB Foundation for Agriculture

UGA CVM students who are interested in applying for a 2017 scholarship from the Georgia Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture should watch the organization’s website for details, which will be posted this fall: [www.gfbfoundation.org](http://www.gfbfoundation.org)

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Rebekah Cochran (DVM 2017) and Seth Sowers (DVM 2018) each received a $2,500 scholarship from the Georgia Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. The scholarship is awarded to two outstanding veterinary students interested in large animal/food animal medicine.
The awards listed below represent the senior clinical awards and a sampling of the scholarships that were bestowed upon UGA CVM students during the 2016 Honors and Awards Banquet, held in April.

**Brandi Flanagan** (DVM 2016) received the Peyton Anderson Foundation Veterinary Scholarship, and the American College of Veterinary Radiology Award.

**Sarah Clifton** (DVM 2016) received the Dr. John T. and Loraine Westbrook Bradberry Scholarship, the Anne Munroe Shapiro Memorial Scholarship, and a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Clinical Pathology.

**Scott Robustelli** (DVM 2016) received the Dr. David A. Forehand Scholarship, and, certificates of merit for Proficiency in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, and Anatomic Pathology; he also received the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Certificate of Clinical Excellence in Small Animal Medicine.

**Elizabeth Crabtree** (DVM 2016) received the Marguerite T. Hodgson Equine Fellowship in Veterinary Medicine, the Elanco/Ethicon Surgical Excellence Award for Large Animal Surgery, and the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia Clinical Proficiency Award.

**Kate Larson** (DVM 2016) received the Bobby L. Johnson Scholarship, and a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Anatomic Pathology.

**Christopher Greco** (DVM 2016) received the Outstanding Senior Internal Medicine Student Scholarship.

**Karolina Ferreira** (DVM 2016) received the Robert Otto Lewis Scholarship, and certificates of merit for Proficiency in Anatomic Pathology, and, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

**Rebekah Packer** (DVM 2016) received the Howard Hughes Medical Research Fellowship, sponsored by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. She will spend one year in a mentored research training program focused on fundamental biomedical research. Packer also received a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Clinical Pathology.

**Justin Brown** (DVM 2016) received the Berner Scholarship, the Field Service Award, the Proficiency in Theriogenology Award, certificates of merit for Proficiency in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, and, Anatomic Pathology; he also received the Food Animal Production Medicine Clinical Proficiency Award.

**Eric Shepherd** (DVM 2016) received the Berner Scholarship, the Christopher P. Wetherbee Scholarship, and a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Anatomic Pathology.

**Dawne Rowe** (DVM 2016) received the Dr. Gary and Brenda Bullard SCAVMA Scholarship and a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Anatomic Pathology.

**Will Wright** (DVM 2016) received certificates of merit for Proficiency in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, and Anatomic Pathology.

**Kimberly Pueblo** (DVM 2016) received the Noam Zelman Scholarship and a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

**Annette Louviere** (DVM 2016) received the American Association of Feline Practitioners Outstanding Senior Award, as well as the inaugural AAFP/Winn Scholarship.

**Jenny Munhofen** (DVM 2016) received the Bayer Excellence in Communication Award.
KASSI NICOPoulos (DVM 2016) received the John Morton Award for Humane Animal Care.

MEGAN CAUDILL (DVM 2016) received the American College of Veterinary Pathologists Award for Excellence in Veterinary Pathology, the Bob Rosenthal Senior Student Award for Proficiency in Clinical Oncology. (See also the Special Recognitions box in this section.)

ALLISON WILLIARD (DVM 2016) received the Large Animal “In-House” Award.

GRACE VAHEY (DVM 2016) received the Dennis Wylie Jordan Memorial Scholarship.

KATY MAYHEW (DVM 2016) received the Georgia S. Downing Trust scholarship and the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Award.

ALEX SIGMUND (DVM 2016) received the Jesse L. Roberts Award, the Award for Academic Excellence in Veterinary Ophthalmology, and certificates of merit for Proficiency in Clinical Pathology, and, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

ADRIANA ESTRELLA (DVM 2016) received the Dr. David J. Wilhelm Scholarship and an American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Certificate of Clinical Excellence.

MADELYNN GARRETT (DVM 2016) received the Award for Proficiency in Emergency & Critical Care.

WILL BASINGER (DVM 2016) received the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Award, and certificates of merit in for Proficiency in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, and, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

PAIGE WILLIAMS (DVM 2016) received the Mary Carroll Rowan Memorial Scholarship and the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Certificate of Clinical Excellence in Large Animal Medicine.

CODY MANNINO (DVM 2016) received the Dr. Benjamin Brainard Scholarship and a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

MEGAN MATHEWS (DVM 2016) received the Ben Tucker Memorial Scholarship, the John Oliver Neurology Award, and a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

KELSEY ROBINSON (DVM 2016) received the Gould Family Scholarship, the John Oliver Neurology Award, and a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

LAURA ADKINS (DVM 2016) received the Alumni Award (sponsored by the UGA Veterinary Alumni Association) and the Blanch D. Hayes Award.

JENNIFER MUMAW (DVM 2016) received the Rafter Memorial Scholarship for demonstrating proficiency in oncology and compassionate care for patients and clients; she also received a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

JED DARDEN (DVM 2016) received the Mary Katherine Ownby Scholarship and a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Clinical Pathology.

HAYLEY OLSN (DVM 2016) received the Hugh and Victoria Leary Scholarship, the Outstanding Senior Oncology Student Scholarship, and certificates of merit for Proficiency in Anatomic Pathology, and, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

PATY RODRIGUEZ (DVM 2016) received the Elanco/Ethicon Surgical Excellence Award for Small Animal Surgery.

KELSI ALEXANDER (DVM 2016) received a certificate of merit for Proficiency in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, and the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology Senior Student Award.
**Shannon Connard** (DVM 2017) received the Steve Lee Memorial Externship Scholarship, the Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners Award, and the Stephen B. Groover Memorial Scholarship.

**Jason Ginn** (DVM 2017) received the Steve Lee Memorial Externship Scholarship, and the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship.

**Maureen Kelly** (DVM 2017) received the Steve Lee Memorial Externship Scholarship, the Dr. Rinaldo DeNuzzo Family Memorial Scholarship, and the Mid America Alpaca Foundation Veterinary Student Camelid Externship Scholarship.

**Vivian McWilliams** (DVM 2017) received the Steve Lee Memorial Externship Scholarship, and the Salsbury Foundation Scholarship.

**Rachel Jarrett** (DVM 2017) received the Georgia S. Downing Trust scholarship and the Georgia Governor’s Veterinary Scholarship.

**Dylan Djani** (DVM 2017) received the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship and the Salsbury Foundation Scholarship.

**Lacey Pepples** (DVM 2017) received the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship, the Salsbury Foundation Scholarship, and the Dr. J.T. Mercer Scholarship (sponsored by VetHeart of Georgia).

**Marcie Eldred** (DVM 2017) received the Conyers Kennel Club Scholarship.

**Yaritbel Torres Mendoza** (DVM 2017) received the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship, the John and Jeanne Capozzi Scholarship, the Scott Satterfield Scholarship, the SCAVMA Outstanding Contribution Award (from the student chapter of the AVMA), and the International Veterinary Student Association Travel Stipend.
Amanda Jara (DVM 2017) received the American Veterinary Medical Association PLIT Student Scholarship, the SCAVMA Outstanding Contribution Award (from the student chapter of the AVMA), and the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship.

John Rossow (DVM 2017) received the Scott Satterfield Scholarship and the International Veterinary Student Association Travel Stipend.

Kaitlyn Koenning (DVM 2017) received the Gould Family Scholarship and the Simmons Educational Fund Business Aptitude Award.

Annemarieke deVlaming (DVM 2017) received the Salsbury Foundation Scholarship and the Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club Scholarship.

Other students from the Class of 2017 who received the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship: Antwan Cuffie, Jason Ginn, Cher Hung and Phil LaTourrette.

Amanda Morvai (DVM 2018) received the Francis Wood Wilson Scholarship, the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship, and the SCAVMA Outstanding Contribution Award (from the student chapter of the AVMA).

William Clark (DVM 2018) received the Georgia S. Downing Trust scholarship, the William L. Hanson Award, and the SCAVMA Outstanding Contribution Award (from the student chapter of the AVMA).

Allison Graf (DVM 2018) received the William Morris Grayson Scholarship, and the Mobley Veterinary Scholarship.

Caroline Roxon (DVM 2018) received the Dr. and Mrs. Bill Connolly Veterinary Scholarship.

Christine Casey (DVM 2018) received the Edward L. Roberson DVM Scholarship, sponsored by the Grace Shearon Foundation.

Kaitlin Iulo (DVM 2018) received the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians Leadership Award.

Patrick Bales (DVM 2018) received the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship and the Alumni Award (sponsored by the UGA Veterinary Alumni Association).

Tessa Sghiatti (DVM 2018) received the Bobby L. Johnson Scholarship, and the Elanco Award for Academic Excellence in Parasitology.

Matthew Bradley (DVM 2018) received the Frances Wood Wilson Scholarship.

Hunter Goldsmith (DVM 2018) received the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship.

Trey Callahan (DVM 2019) received the Dr. R. Bruce Hollett Fellowship in Veterinary Medicine, and the Alumni Award (sponsored by the UGA Veterinary Alumni Association).

Katie Carignan (DVM 2019) received the William and Florence McFarlane Scholarship, and the Conyers Kennel Club Scholarship.

Allison Haspel (DVM 2019) received the Steve Lee Memorial Research Scholarship.
**Rachel Harrison (DVM 2019)** received the Donald E. McKinney Award.

**Carly Iulo (DVM 2019)** received the Dr. Thomas A. Hutto Memorial Scholarship.

Five students enrolled in the DVM/PhD dual degree program received the Dorothy and Thomas Morris Scholarship: **Juliane Johnston (DVM 2016)**, **Matthew Jones (DVM 2016)**, **Julie Rushmore (DVM 2017)**, **Leo Sage (DVM 2016)** and **Alexandra Scharf (DVM 2018)**.


Four students were awarded the Atlanta Kennel Club Scholarship: **Gary Barnett (DVM 2019)**, **Danica Kim (DVM 2016)**, **David Moses (DVM 2018)** and **Lydia Peña (DVM 2017)**.

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**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Megan Caudill received the top two awards during the 2016 Honors and Awards Ceremony.

She received the Clifford Westerfield Award, sponsored by the CVM and the College’s Phi Zeta chapter, for maintaining the highest scholastic average for her entire four years at the CVM.

And, she received the Dean Emeritus Thomas J. Jones Cup, which is awarded annually to the outstanding fourth-year student selected on the basis of personality, professional proficiency and scholastic achievement.
Pet Memorials

Meaningful to clients, veterinarians and the College

“I support my alma mater through the Pet Memorials program, and my clients are always grateful!” said Dr. Brett Levitzke (DVM ’00), owner of the Veterinary Emergency and Referral Group in Brooklyn, New York.

Here is an excerpt from a recent card sent to Dr. Levitzke by one of his clients:

“You could only imagine our surprise when we received a letter from the University of Georgia acknowledging a donation that you made in Sasha’s memory. We were speechless. To us, one of the most touching things is that Sasha loved to learn new things, and to know that a donation was made to a teaching hospital made us both smile!”

For more information, please contact us:

706.542.1807
give2vet@uga.edu
vet.uga.edu/giving/honor

Step-by-Step, Brick-by-Brick Campaign

Honor or remember treasured pets, family members, recent graduates, special veterinarians or others with a personalized brick or horseshoe!

Your donation to this program supports fundraising efforts for an outdoor garden area on the grounds of the College’s new Veterinary Medical Center. Brick tiles and horseshoes will permanently reside in this space.

To order, please visit www.vet.uga.edu/giving/fundlisting or call us at 706.542.1807
**MARK W. JACKWOOD**, MS, PhD, who is head of the department of Population Health and the J.R. Glisson Professor of Avian Medicine, received the UGA Inventor’s Award.

**VANESSA EZENWA**, PhD, an associate professor who is jointly appointed to the Odum School of Ecology and the Department of Infectious Diseases, received a Creative Research Medal from UGA.

**JULIE M. MOORE**, PhD, a professor of infectious diseases in the Department of Infectious Diseases, received a Creative Teaching Award from UGA.

**MARK W. JACKWOOD**, MS, PhD, who is head of the department of Population Health and the J.R. Glisson Professor of Avian Medicine, received the UGA Inventor’s Award.

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**JULIE M. MOORE**, PhD, a professor of infectious diseases in the Department of Infectious Diseases, received a Creative Teaching Award from UGA.

**CORRIE BROWN**, VMD, PhD, DACVP, was named University Professor earlier this year, an annual honor, since 1974, reserved for just one faculty member who has made a significant impact on the University of Georgia beyond their normal academic responsibilities. Brown, who was named a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor in 2004, has built international partnerships to advance animal and human health. In her 20 years at UGA, her research, instruction and outreach have shaped global initiatives and transformed lives. Brown has worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the U.S. Agency for International Development, Veterinarians Without Borders and the federal departments of State, Defense, and Agriculture to create programs to help veterinarians understand how to build sustainable animal health systems that improve health, food security and economic stability. She has presented workshops or conducted training in more than 50 countries and authored several manuals that are in use across the globe. Dr. Brown is a professor of anatomic pathology in the Department of Pathology.

**GAYLEN EDWARDS**, DVM, PhD, was selected as a Senior Teaching Fellow for 2016-2017 by the UGA Center for Teaching and Learning. Dr. Edwards heads the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology and is a Georgia Athletic Association Professor of Veterinary Medicine.

**CYNTHIA WARD**, VMD, PhD, DACVIM (Small Animal), and **KEVIN CLARKE**, DVM, DACVS, were recognized at the annual UGA Faculty Recognition Banquet with Outstanding Teaching Faculty awards. Dr. Ward is a professor of small animal internal medicine and the Chief Medical Officer for the small animal side of the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Dr. Clarke is a clinical associate professor of orthopedics. Both are based in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

**JANE QUANDT**, DVM, MS, DACVAA, DACVECC (Anesthesia and ECC), an associate professor of anesthesiology in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, received the 2016 Zoetis Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award.

Each DVM class annually selects a faculty member who the class feels made the greatest contribution to their education during the last academic year. Faculty Recognition Awards for 2016 went to **PULIYUR SESHAHRI MOHANKUMAR**, BVSc, PhD, selected by the class of 2019; **DR. CORRIE BROWN**, selected by the class of 2018; **MICHTELLE BARTON**, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Large Animal), selected by the class of 2017; and, **DR. KEVIN CLARKE**, selected by the class of 2016. Dr. MohanKumar is a professor of anatomy in the Department of Veterinary Biosciences and Diagnostic Imaging. Dr. Barton is the Fuller E. Callaway Chair and a professor of large animal medicine in the Department of Large Animal Medicine; she is also the director of clinical academic affairs in the CVM’s Office for Academic Affairs. (See other entries on this page for more information on Drs. Brown and Clarke.)

**STEEVE GIGUÈRE**, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, the Marguerite Thomas Hodgson Chair in Equine Studies, received a $185,000 award from the Morris Animal Foundation for a three-year study to evaluate a new treatment for combatting antibiotic-resistant Rhodococcus equi infection in foals. Widespread resistance to the two types of antibiotics typically used to treat infection caused by R. equi is a major emerging problem facing the horse-breeding industry and might adversely impact human health. Dr. Giguère is a professor of large animal internal medicine in the Department of Large Animal Medicine.
Betsy Uhl, DVM, PhD, DACVP, an associate professor of anatomic pathology in the Department of Pathology, was designated a One Health Scholar by the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges. In addition, a case study on which Dr. Uhl served as lead author ("The Pathomechanics of Degenerative Joint Disease: A One Health Comparative Case Study Approach.") was accepted for publication by the AAVMC/Association for Prevention Teaching and Research One Health Interprofessional Education Working Group.

Erin McConachie, DVM, DACVIM (Large Animal), a clinical assistant professor of large animal medicine, won the Phi Zeta Manuscript Competition clinical research category for "Heart rate variability in horses with acute gastrointestinal disease requiring exploratory laparotomy," which was published in the March/April 2016 issue of the Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (tinyurl.com/nsmcaty).
The Zoetis Award for Excellence in Research was presented to M. Stephen Trent, PhD, the UGA Foundation Distinguished Professor of Infectious Diseases, whose research focuses on the study of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) biosynthesis in bacteria, and, more specifically on lipid A’s role in Gram-negative bacteria and its potential as a therapeutic agent. Nominators praised his contributions toward greater understanding of the mechanisms that regulate Gram-negative bacteria and greater understanding of the biology of other emerging bacterial pathogens. He was also praised for his robust research program (he currently has five active grants totaling more than $5.3 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health) and his ability to make significant contributions toward vaccine development, as well as other therapeutic development.

The Clinical Research Award was presented to Corey Saba, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology), an assistant professor of oncology, in recognition for her clinical research program and the expansion of treatment options available to UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital oncology patients through her efforts. During the last decade, Dr. Saba has led multiple clinical trials to evaluate the effectiveness of TANOVEA™ in treating dogs with lymphoma; the data obtained from the trials is currently being used to pursue FDA approval of this drug for dogs with lymphoma. In addition, UGA will be the lead trial site for evaluating the drug for use in cats with lymphoma. She has also worked to expand UGA’s participation in the National Cancer Institute’s Clinical Oncology Trials Consortium, and she has developed research collaborations with pharmaceutical companies investigating novel immunotherapies. Her efforts have helped to increase the Oncology Service’s caseload and enhance the level of treatment options available to the service’s patients.

The John M. Bowen Award for Excellence in Animal/Biomedical Research was awarded to Melinda Brindley, PhD, an assistant professor of virology who is jointly appointed to the departments of Population Health and Infectious Diseases. Dr. Brindley was recognized for her contributions toward the advancement of microbiology, her collaborations with other researchers within the College, as well as for her track record in writing successful grants and having her studies published in prestigious scientific journals.

The Outstanding Laboratory Service Award was presented to Bridget Garner, DVM, PhD, DACVP, an associate professor of clinical pathology, for her role in leading the team that planned and orchestrated the Clinical Pathology Laboratory’s move to the new UGA Veterinary Medical Center, which opened in March 2015. (The lab supports the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital and the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.) The committee’s work included everything from working out the details of the final construction of the new laboratory, to planning the move with minimal disruption of services, to the procurement and deployment of new equipment. Despite the extra work, nominators noted that Dr. Garner still carried a full teaching load, published six papers in peer-reviewed journals, and had a heavy service load for her lab work during 21 weeks of service duty.
The Outstanding Hospital Service Award was presented to **KATE MYRNA**, DVM, MS, DACVO, assistant professor of ophthalmology, for her dedication to patients, referring veterinarians, as well as to students and to her colleagues. The Ophthalmology Service at the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital serves both large and small animals. For 14 months, Dr. Myrna single-handedly ran this service while managing to increase the service’s already high caseload. During this time, she also became a mentor to a master’s student, taught all of the ophthalmology courses and labs in the pre-clinical curriculum, won two teaching awards, published three studies and submitted an additional four research papers for publication. She also made time to improve her service’s relationships with both small and large veterinarians within the UGA VTH, as well as with referring equine veterinarians. She improved both her service’s reputation and also the quality of care it provides—as evidenced by her service consistently receiving the highest level of client survey responses, which are overwhelmingly positive.

The David Tyler Award for Advances in Teaching was awarded to **ERIK H. HOFMEISTER**, DVM, DACVAA, DECVA, MA (Anesthesia), an associate professor of anesthesiology and chief of Small Animal Surgery and Anesthesia at the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Nominators praised Dr. Hofmeister for his enthusiasm in exploring new avenues of teaching, including teaching courses to introduce undergraduates to research and scientific principles, and designing an Academic Rotation course for fourth-year veterinary students who are interested in the various aspects of being an academic veterinarian.

**AMANDA ERICKSON COLEMAN**, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology), an assistant professor of cardiology, was inducted into Phi Zeta during the 2016 awards ceremony.

**STEVEN D. HOLLADAY**, MS, PhD, the head of the Department of Veterinary Biosciences and Diagnostic Imaging and a professor of anatomy and toxicology, was inducted as an honorary member of Phi Zeta during the 2016 awards ceremony.
FOUR CVM ALUMNI RECOGNIZED AT 2016 ALUMNI WEEKEND

This spring, four alumni received awards for service to the College and to the veterinary profession. The awards were presented during the 53rd Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend.

The Alumni Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine presents awards annually to alumni who have contributed to animal and human health-related public service; contributions to the local community, state or nation; professional service; involvement in veterinary educational research and/or service; involvement in veterinary associations at the local, state, or national level; contributions to the college’s alumni association. The 2016 awards were presented on March 11.

Stephan Schaefbauer (DVM ’06), MPH, of Ankeny, Iowa, has served her profession, her country and her local communities through her commitment to safeguarding animal and public health.

Following conferment of her DVM from the UGA CVM, Dr. Schaefbauer headed to the University of Minnesota to pursue a masters of public health degree and a residency at the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety. Near the end of her program, she landed her first job with USDA-APHIS as a veterinary medical officer based in St. Paul.

In 2008, she moved to the APHIS office in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she served for two years as an import risk analyst and four years as an epidemiology officer. During her last two years in the region, Dr. Schaefbauer also worked as an adjunct assistant professor at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

She left Raleigh in 2014 to join the APHIS office in Des Moines, Iowa, where she continues to serve as an epidemiology officer in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Dr. Schaefbauer currently serves on the AVMA’s Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine. Past leadership positions include: president of the American Association of Food Safety Veterinarians; vice president of Education for the Centennial Toastmasters; and serving on the AVMA Diversity Taskforce and the AVMA 20/20 Commission.

Still very early in her career, Dr. Schaefbauer has already been recognized for her outstanding work, including garnering: the AVMA Emerging Leader award; a Certificate of Appreciation for her contributions to leadership, from USDA-APHIS; a Certificate of Merit for her efforts on a Screwworm Risk Assessment, from USDA-APHIS; an Outstanding Young Alumni Award, received in 2011 from the United Negro College Fund, and, an APHIS Women of Character, Courage and Commitment Award in 2014.
Walter T. Stinson (DVM ’57), of Wilkesboro, North Carolina, grew up on a family farm, thus he always had great empathy for the farmers who relied on him to provide veterinary care for their food animals. Dr. Stinson also innately understood that providing excellent veterinary care was, and is, just part of providing good service. Equally as important, believes Dr. Stinson, is providing understanding, caring, compassion and friendship.

Five years after setting out as a lone practitioner, shortly after graduating cum laude, Dr. Stinson purchased some land and established the Animal Hospital of Wilkes, which still serves the community today. By 1971, he began adding associates to his practice. Through the years, they treated not only farm animals, but also cats, dogs, an occasional monkey, guinea pig, rabbit or raccoon, snakes and even a bear!

He has helped to educate farmers as well as local students on managing cattle, treating livestock for parasites, keeping them free from disease and providing them with good nutrition. He has also served his country as a member of the U.S. Army; his community, as a board member for the Yadkin Valley Bank, and as a nine-year member of the Wilkes Board of Health. He also served his profession as a member of the North Carolina Veterinary Medicine Executive Committee. And he has served his church—Wilkesboro Baptist Church—as a member, since 1958, and as a deacon for much of that time, which earned him the status of Deacon Emeritus.

In 2015, Dr. Stinson was inducted into the Wilkes County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Lisa K. Nolan (DVM ’88) became the Dr. Stephen G. Juelsgaard Dean of Veterinary Medicine and the 15th dean of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in January 2011. But Dr. Nolan started as a Triple Dawg, earning her DVM, MS (’89) and her PhD (’92) all from the UGA CVM—the latter two in medical microbiology.

Recalled by her nominators/classmates as having a “calm personality and obvious intellect,” and as one who could readily translate difficult course material to her peers, and as being an inspiring and natural leader, it should surprise no one that the president of the Class of 1988 has enjoyed an active and decorated career.

Known world-wide as an award winning researcher in the area of E. coli-caused diseases of animals and people, she has given invited presentations around the world, authored numerous refereed journal articles and book chapters, and garnered millions of dollars in research funds.

She is an award-winning teacher and academic advisor, and was named Distinguished Educator of the year in 2001 by the North Dakota State University’s Blue Key National Honor Society. She has helped to shape scores of scientists who trained under her as postdocs, graduate students, undergraduates and visiting scientists. Dr. Nolan received numerous accolades during her time on faculty at NDSU (1992-2003), and in 1999 founded the university’s Great Plains Institute of Food Safety.

In 2003, Dr. Nolan joined the ISU CVM faculty as chair of the Department of Veterinary Microbiology & Preventive Medicine, serving in that capacity until 2008. She also served as Executive Chair of the ISU CVM; Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, and, as Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies.

She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Avian Pathologists, the American Society for Microbiology, and the International Society of Plasmid Biology. Since 2008, she has served on the editorial review board of Avian Diseases, and, since 2005 as associate editor of Diseases of Poultry (12th and 13th editions).
Rebecca E. Stinson’s service to her profession at all levels has remained a constant in her life since she served the Student American Veterinary Medical Association, first as secretary, then, during her clinical year, as president—representing nearly 10,000 student members worldwide.

Her current post as AVMA Vice President caps a very busy nearly two solid decades of volunteer work within the national organization. She has also served on its Task Force on Governance and Member Participation, as a member of its Future Leaders Program, on its Membership Services Committee (representing private clinical practitioners), and on its Council on Veterinary Service. For four years, she represented the AVMA in discussions with state public health veterinarians to develop the “Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel” (published in JAVMA on Aug. 1, 2008).

The core of her professional world is as an equine practitioner in North Carolina, where she is a founding member of the Carolina Equine Hospital, located in Browns Summit and established in 2009. Working alongside her partners to grow their practice, including developing an internship program, she still finds time to serve her niche area of veterinary medicine, as well as her state and local community.

For six years, she served on the board of directors for Horsepower Therapeutic Learning Center, which provides equine-assisted activities to area residents who struggle with a range of emotional, physical or social challenges. She represented the veterinary community as a member of the Rockingham County Board of Health and Human Services. She served the American Association of Equine Practitioners as a member of its Student Relations Committee, and, since 2005, she has served the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association as its Large Animal Committee Chair.

Never far from her heart are students and the future of her profession. Since 2009, Dr. Stinson has taught at Averett University, in Virginia, as an adjunct professor of equine anatomy and physiology. And, at her alma mater, she has served since 2013 as a member of the Veterinary Alumni Association board.
ALUMNI, FACULTY RECOGNIZED BY ALPHA PSI, OTS

DURING ALUMNI WEEKEND, Alpha Psi and Omega Tau Sigma, the two veterinary fraternities, recognize members of the CVM community for the examples these professionals set for our students.

Edward L. Roberson Alumni Award

ROBERT FLYNN NANCE, MS ('79), DVM ('83), received the Edward L. Roberson Alumni Award from Alpha Psi. Nance was raised in Florida by a UGA alumnus and grew up to become a triple Dawg, earning his first UGA degree—a bachelor’s of science in biology—in 1977. He and his wife Susan Aldridge Nance (DVM ’84) have owned and operated Honey Creek Veterinary Hospital in Conyers since they opened it together in May 1987. In addition, Dr. Flynn Nance has served on the State Board of Veterinary Medicine (appointed by Gov. Zell Miller in 1998); served multiple terms on the UGA CVM Alumni Executive Board, including serving as president; and is a long-time member of Alpha Psi, serving as president from 2000-2012. He is also very active in his local community and is the president of the Grace Shearon Memorial Foundation; he chairs the Foundation’s annual fundraiser, Hawaii Dawg-O.

The Roberson award honors Dr. Edward L. Roberson, an alumnus and retired faculty member who taught parasitology for 34 years, until his retirement in 1996. Dr. Roberson also mentored Dr. Nance during Nance’s early years, and the two have been long-time friends.

A.M. Mills Award

Alpha Psi recognized MELINDA CAMUS, DVM, DACVP, an assistant professor of clinical pathology in the Department of Pathology, with the A.M. Mills Award. Dr. Camus received the award for her dedication to educating and helping her students. “Like Dr. Mills, she has boundless energy when she comes into the classroom that brightens and engages her students,” said nominators. “She works hard to present her material in an orderly, manageable way utilizing technology to challenge our comprehension of the material and engage us in the learning process in the classroom, versus leaving us to memorize at home.”

The award is named for Dr. Adrian M. Mills, who taught large animal medicine and surgery at UGA, beginning in 1952.

Fred C. Davison Award

This year, OTS recognized REBECCA E. STINSON (DVM ’02) by presenting her with the Fred C. Davison Award. Dr. Stinson received the award for the example she sets for the students by keeping balance in her life. “She has a farm which she shares with her husband, son, dogs, cats and her horse. She always has a smile on her face and a willingness to help and listen,” the OTS chapter members said. Dr. Stinson also has been active as a board member of the College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association and she is currently serving as Vice President of the AVMA.

The Davison award was established to recognize a UGA alumnus or faculty member who has shown a consistent dedication to the veterinary profession, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Georgia and the community in which they live. The award is named for Dr. Davison, who served as the second dean of the CVM and as president of UGA from 1967-1986.
Dear Alumni,

I am so pleased and honored to serve as president of our CVM Alumni Association for the next two years. This is such an exciting time to be a UGA CVM alum! The new Veterinary Teaching Hospital has been in operation since March 2015, which has enabled us to help animals from all species in ways our profession hasn’t been able to help them before.

The next exciting development for our new Veterinary Medical Center is the creation of the Celebration Garden, to be located outside the new VTH. This garden will be a place for clients, faculty, students and staff to celebrate and remember beloved animals and the ways they better our lives. Those who care for animals and are affiliated with the CVM also are recognized in the garden. I picture it as a calm and peaceful place to admire the relationships with our pets, a place to pass the time, or just a place to rest.

All of these things are possible because of the support of outstanding Alumni like you. The success of our College is greatly dependent upon those of us who once walked its halls. In whatever way you choose to give back to your alma mater, I promise you will receive so much more in return. Whether you choose to give back through financial support, a donation of your time at Alumni events, or by serving on the Alumni Board, or by just being an advocate for the school, your contributions are much needed and appreciated.

I am always excited to see the spectacular ways this profession grows and evolves, and, I am so thankful to still be a part of the place that is making the discoveries and developing new ideas. I encourage each of you to come back for some CE, visit the new VTH, make a monetary contribution, or ask how you can help in any way. You will be glad you did.

Sincerely,

Marian Shuler Holladay

Marian Shuler Holladay
DVM (’05), CCRP
President
**ALUMNI NOTES**

**DRS. BILLY MYERS** (DVM ’79) and **LEE M. MYERS** (DVM ’84) will be working in Rome, Italy for the next three years. Dr. Lee Myers has been assigned by the USDA to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, where she will help coordinate transboundary animal disease emergency preparedness events and emergency response missions for FAO-member countries. Dr. Billy Myers has been commissioned by the Christian Veterinary Mission to support Christian veterinarians in Europe by providing veterinary students with mentoring and coaching, and, to encourage them to start clubs in their colleges. He’ll also encourage established veterinarians to live out their faith and to also actively engage with veterinary students.

**INDIA LANE** (DVM ’88), a professor of medicine at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, has been promoted to associate vice president for academic affairs for the University of Tennessee state-wide system. She also received a National Gamma Award from The Ohio State University Omega Tau Sigma veterinary fraternity chapter for her contributions to the veterinary profession.

**MICHAEL KRAUN** (DVM ’10) is now a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in small animal surgery.

**LAURA K. BRYAN** (DVM ’11) received the Scholar Award from the Philanthropic Educational Organization for her PhD research on staphylococcal skin infections in dogs. Dr. Bryan is pursuing a PhD in veterinary microbiology at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

**CAPT. MARLAINA NELSON** (DVM ’13) received an award from 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson Commanding General Maj. Gen. Ryan F. Gonsalves for her work in helping the Fort Carson Veterinary Center achieve the American Animal Hospital Association Certification. Capt. Nelson is the officer in charge of the Fort Carson Veterinary Center, U.S. Army Public Health Command District—Carson, in Colorado.

**OBITUARIES**

- Doris B. Alexander (DVM ’52); Reno, Nev.; Feb. 4
- David E. Goodman (DVM ’59); Turbeville, S.C.; Feb. 8
- John T. Meyer (DVM ’60); Danville, Va.; Feb. 21
- John G. Murray (DVM ’66); Edisto Island, S.C.; March 6
- Carl D. Bird (DVM ’58); Covington, Va.; March 8
- Malcolm C. Johnson (DVM ’64); Camden, S.C.; March 18
- James A. Hawkins (DVM ’63); Punta Gorda, Fla.; March 21
- William B. Clark (DVM ’54); Richmond, Va.; April 6
- Russell Z. Edwards (DVM ’05); Milledgeville, Ga.; April 30
- James E. Heavner (DVM ’68); Lubbock, Tex.; May 18
- Brenna D. Segal (DVM ’05); Atlanta, Ga.; May 24
- Richard H. Long (DVM ’65); Laurel, Del.; June 2
- Joe W. Stone (DVM ’84); Rome, Ga.; June 19
- Roy L. Joyce (DVM ’81); White Stone, Va.; June 20

**WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU’RE UP TO!**

Your classmates want to know what’s happening in your life. Drop us a line!

Please include your current contact information, including your phone number and email address, to help us keep our alumni database up to date. Send your information to:

vetalums@uga.edu

or fax: 706.583.0242
Coming Home
After half a decade away, laboratory animal veterinarian Kate Storves returns to Athens

Interview by Tara Bracken

Kate Storves, DVM (’09), DACLAM, says her love of animals and curious nature pushed her toward a career in laboratory animal medicine. She sat down to speak with us about what a lab animal veterinarian does and how the UGA CVM advances the field’s primary objective—to champion research animal welfare.

What exactly does a lab animal veterinarian do?
Lab animal veterinarians provide clinical care to all animals that are a part of biomedical research, teaching and testing. We provide clinical care in the preventative capacity at a population health level, as well as on a case-by-case basis for specific animals involved in unique projects.

Animal welfare is a laboratory animal veterinarian’s sole purpose in life. And it goes so much farther than providing clinical care. We are involved in research planning and design to minimize pain and distress and ensure that the research is valid with minimal variables and good research subjects. We are also the front line at our organizations to ensure that we are meeting all of the regulatory agency requirements put in place to guard and protect our animal patients. The USDA and Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare both protect animals that are a part of research. I strongly feel that the ability to partner with animals in research is a privilege, not a given right, and we as laboratory animal veterinarians take that privilege very seriously.

What about your background made you want to be a lab animal vet? What was your first exposure to the field?
I was a Glaxo kid! My dad worked for Glaxo (currently GlaxoSmithKline) while I was growing up. He was not a part of research and discovery, but he would bring home stuffed toy “salmonella” and “anthrax” bugs. I thought they were fantastic! As a kid with asthma, I learned quickly about the importance of having the right treatments and learned that Glaxo made the medication that I used. Of course, I did not connect the dots of animal research with medications until I was older.

It wasn’t until I was in undergrad at Clemson that I realized a veterinarian was a hugely important part of that research. I was introduced to the laboratory animal veterinarian at Clemson my freshman year and began a student work program with her at the small research facility on campus. I would spend a lot of time mopping a very long hallway and providing enrichment to rodents, but the research community at Clemson made me feel just as important as the scientists designing experiments. I was hooked immediately.

What species do you primarily work with? Are there any “fun” animals you’ve had the experience to work with as a lab animal vet that you likely wouldn’t have had an opportunity to handle in another area of animal medicine?
I have had the incredible opportunities to work with so many different species ranging from mice to non-human primates. As a laboratory animal veterinarian, no species is off the table. Zebrafish, frogs, axolotls, chinchillas, ferrets, mini-pigs and baboons have been some of my favorite experiences, but if I had to choose my single favorite species to work with, I would have to choose mice. The mice that I worked with during my residency taught me so much and enabled me to complete the research required for my specialty. I am so grateful to them!
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE UGA FOR YOUR VETERINARY EDUCATION?
I knew I wanted to be a lab animal vet and UGA was the perfect place for that. I entered the field of lab animal medicine in undergrad and had a great mentor at Clemson. When I was asking her about where to apply, she said that UGA had a fantastic lab animal medicine program and she actually introduced me to Dr. Stephen Harvey, Dr. Chris King and Dr. Leanne Alworth, who are the lab animal vets here. When I started as a first year student, I immediately connected with them—having known of them at Clemson, I knew that this was a place that I wanted to be. They have a really strong program here and once they find out you’re interested in lab animal medicine, they just embrace you. (Editor’s note: Dr. Harvey is an associate professor of lab animal medicine and the assistant director of University Research Animal Resources. Dr. King is the associate vice president of research for UGA, director of the Office of Research Compliance, and a professor of lab animal medicine. Dr. Alworth is a professor of lab animal medicine and director of the Office of Animal Care & Use. All are based within the Department of Population Health.)

UGA has really created a great mentoring program; there have been numerous vets that have left here and gone through lab animal and they’re all over the place, including internationally. It’s a fantastic part of veterinary medicine most people don’t even realize is out there. I’m just really excited and glad it’s going to be talked about and shared for everybody to see. You can do anything as a lab animal vet, so it’s a really, really amazing profession. I’m so glad I chose it.

WHAT’S IT LIKE BEING BACK AFTER BEING GONE FOR A WHILE?
It’s great. I missed the South so much when I was up North. I love Athens and I missed the Southern culture and hospitality, so I was excited to come back to work with all my same mentors that I worked with in vet school. I’m at home here. And now with the new Veterinary Medical Center and new teaching hospital—when I got a tour of the new facility, I was blown away. It is incredible. Most human hospitals pale in comparison to that. (The VMC opened in 2015.)

DO YOU HAVE ANY PARTICULARLY FOND MEMORIES FROM BEING HERE THAT YOU’D LIKE TO SHARE?
I think one of my fondest memories is from right before we finished clinics as seniors, we had a big slideshow and party in the old junior auditorium. Just feeling like you finally are finished and have accomplished something was incredible. And then saying the veterinarian’s oath—we said it during freshman orientation and were told, “The next time you say this out loud will be graduation,” and at that time you think, “Oh, whatever.”

But then standing up at graduation and saying it again was just amazing. It seems so far away the whole time you’re in school and then all of a sudden it’s there.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT LAB ANIMAL VETS AND WHAT YOU DO?
I think that a lot of the hesitations around animal research stem from not understanding and not knowing the facts. Much of the public may not realize how closely involved veterinarians are with the animals and the investigators. We are their guardians and are put in place to assure that pain and distress are minimized and that the science is valuable. The “Three Rs” (Reduction of number of animals used in research; Replacement, which is using methods to replace or avoid using animals in research; and Refinement of methods to enhance the welfare of animals used in research) are what we work towards every day. We would be happy to put ourselves out of a job by finding alternatives to animals! Until that time, we will be intimately involved in every part of animal research.
John E. Hayes (DVM '63) attended a pre-veterinary program at the University of Maryland prior to entering veterinary school at the University of Georgia. “Dr. John,” as he is affectionately known, is well known in his home state for providing creatures, both great and small, with compassionate veterinary care, regardless of an owner’s ability to pay for his services. He has lent his time and expertise to animals in need—in addition to lending his time to other causes—throughout his career in daily practice and his 10 very active years as a “retiree.”

His exceptional care of both animal- and human-kind, combined with his tremendous heart, were just two of the many reasons he was recognized by the CVM’s Alumni Association with a Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2013.

We talked to Dr. John about why giving to the UGA CVM, and to causes in general, are important to him and his wife, Barbara.

**TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF.**

I am a lifelong veterinarian, and successfully owned/operated two different practices during my more than 50-year career. I graduated from the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine when I was 24, then worked for a couple of other veterinarians, got married and started a family. I opened my first practice, Squire Veterinary Clinic, in 1966 in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, where I did both small animal and large animal work, including a great deal of equine work for major thoroughbred breeders and foxhunters. I also provided 24/7 on-call veterinary services to the local animal control agency, as well as all the medical and spay-neuter work for the ASPCA, (local) Humane Society and a host of other animal welfare organizations across a six-county region in Southern Maryland.

In my personal life, my (first) wife, Terry, and I had four children and we operated a 110-acre farm, where we raised horses and a variety of crops. In 1985, I sold my practice to my protégé, Dr. Scott Anderson (a graduate of The Ohio State CVM), who started working for me when he was just 13. Shortly thereafter, I met and married my second wife, Barbara, and opened a second practice in Ruckersville, Virginia. Over the next 20 years, I worked on both small and large animals, but very few horses, as many of the owners in the region preferred to use only equine specialists. In 2006, I “retired” from daily practice.

Today, I spend the bulk of my time running a spay/neuter clinic and providing volunteer veterinary services for the Madison-Greene Humane Society, as well as helping several other local animal rescue groups.
TO WHICH FUND DO YOU DONATE AND WHY? DO YOU DO THIS AS A COUPLE, OR AS INDIVIDUALS?

Barbara and I, because we do everything together, donate to the College of Veterinary Medicine. We do this to help provide veterinary students the same opportunity that I had. I have always been grateful that I received such a fantastic education quite cheap (back then, it cost just $330 a year to attend veterinary school). Obviously, today's veterinary students face a much heavier financial burden than we did, so I am simply trying to give back, hopefully by helping to improve the experience of students or by helping students come through with a little less debt to deal with and a little bit easier start in their professional life. Giving back in this way has always been extremely important to me.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO BEGIN DONATING TO THE CVM? DO YOU DONATE TO OTHER CAUSES?

I've been donating to the CVM since 1975. I have always felt quite lucky to be a practicing veterinarian. I believe it to be an honorable and important profession and I want to support others who are pursuing that profession. I usually make a larger donation when my class gets together every five years for a class reunion, but I especially remember donating when the CVM started a private fund to raise money to build the new Veterinary Medical Center (which opened in March 2015). It is a tremendous facility, and I think we are all quite proud of it.

I donate to a lot of other causes. The one closest to my heart, of course, is (local) Humane Society and animal rescue work. I donate funds and my time to the Madison-Greene Humane Society in Stanardsville, Virginia, which offers not just rescue facilities, adoption services and medical care for unwanted cats, but also provides medical and spay/neuter services for low-income pet-owners. I also provide medical services for other animal rescue groups in Central Virginia. Other causes that I donate to are my high school, St. John's College High School, a private Catholic School in Washington, D.C., as well as the Lion's Club. I am also a regular, long-time reader for Learning Ally (learningally.org), which provides audiobooks for the blind and dyslexic.

DONATING MONEY TOWARD A CAUSE IS A DEEPLY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND OFTEN MEANS SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO DONATES. DO YOU TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN, OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ABOUT GIVING? AND DID YOUR PARENTS TALK TO YOU ABOUT GIVING? IF SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY, SHARE WITH OTHERS, ABOUT GIVING?

My parents and my grandmother on my mother's side believed very strongly in giving back, and to them, giving back meant making the world a better place when you leave. My mother was a social worker and helping others was pretty organic to her, and my father was quite heavily involved in the Lion's Club. So I learned at a very young age that you needed to be involved in civic organizations and other causes that make a difference. They instilled that philosophy in me and my brothers, and I have instilled it in my children. My children know how I feel, of course, and they are all extremely giving to causes they care about. They work hard in their individual careers, but they give a lot of their time and money back to the community and to the less fortunate. My youngest son, when he was in Rotary, donated a substantial amount of money to the relief efforts in Haiti after the earthquake and he continues to give. I recently held a fundraiser for the Madison-Greene Humane Society and its various services at my other son's restaurant. He donated the space and all his profits to the cause; my other children and one of my brothers attended and gave money as well. And when I had my 70th birthday party, I asked that guests donate to my favorite causes, instead of bringing me silly presents that I didn't need. We raised quite a bit of money from that. It was an excellent way to take money that was already going to be spent and re-channel it into a more meaningful direction—in this case, help for animals and the blind and dyslexic.

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL OTHERS ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE OF GIVING TO A CAUSE?

It's what you need to do. It's part and parcel of giving back, looking behind you and saying, “I have done very well in my life and I have a little bit extra money (or a little bit of extra time) and so let me give some of that back to the folks behind me.”

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU'D LIKE TO ADD THAT HAS NOT BEEN ASKED?

You can give back in a variety of ways, and one of my favorite ways is giving of my time and expertise. I think it's important to voluntarily offer my hard-earned experience, knowledge and skills as a veterinarian to the larger community. That is something I would like to see more veterinarians do. Not enough of them are willing to provide pro bono services to rescue and animal welfare organizations or provide significant discounts to low-income pet-owners, and I'd like to see more of them give back in that way because their services are invaluable. Clients and pet-owners look to us for not just medical care and surgery, but also for trust and reassurance. Animals today are more than ever a source of comfort and companionship for people, especially the elderly and those who live alone. I hope veterinarians never forget what a privilege it is to be a veterinarian and the esteem with which that profession is held within our society.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**AUGUST 5-9**  
AVMA Annual Convention (San Antonio)

**AUGUST 6**  
Hawaii Dawg-O (Georgia Theatre)

**AUGUST 8**  
UGA Alumni Reception (AVMA Annual Convention)

**AUGUST 14**  
White Coat Ceremony

**AUGUST 31**  
GVMA Barbeque (at the Veterinary Medical Center)

**MAR. 24-25, 2017**  
54th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Weekend (Georgia Center)

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**CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES**

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

**AUGUST 7**  
Ophthalmic Surgery

**AUGUST 13**  
Laser Therapy Symposium

**SEPTEMBER 17-18**  
Feline Surgery for the Private Practitioner

**SEPTEMBER 24**  
Southeastern Veterinary Neurology Conference

**OCTOBER 8-9**  
Internal Medicine

**OCTOBER 23**  
Dentistry for Veterinarians

**NOVEMBER 3-4**  
Equine Encore

**NOVEMBER 5**  
Fall GVTAA Technician Conference

**DECEMBER 3-4**  
Avian and Reptile Endoscopy

**DECEMBER 10-11**  
Outpatient Medicine

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