Open for Business!

Also: ‘Magic Bullets’ may treat brain tumors ■ Alumni Awards ■ Ezenwa Awarded Fulbright
Introducing the new UGA Veterinary Medical Center, which includes a state-of-the-art hospital and a new classroom building for our students! *Photo by Paul Efland.*

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On the Cover:
Minnie, a 10-year-old yellow Labrador retriever, was one of the first appointments seen on the opening day of the new UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital at 2200 College Station Road. From left to right are Tracy Hayden, small animal rehabilitation supervisor Jodi Seidel, Minnie’s owner John Gittleman, Minnie’s companion Brookie, Minnie, and veterinary technician Daina Rollor. Photo by Sue Myers Smith.
Dear Alumni and Friends of the College,

The doors to our new Veterinary Medical Center opened on March 25, 2015. It certainly was a long road to get to this point, and so many deserve our thanks for helping us get here. I look at the VMC and find myself filled with wonder, gratitude and pride stemming from all we have accomplished as a community and what this facility will mean to all who will benefit from it—students, patients, clients, faculty and staff—in the years ahead.

As I read the stories in this issue of the Aesculapian, I am reminded that we routinely make tremendous achievements as a College, as a community, and as individuals who comprise our community. To cite a few, which you can read about in this issue:

- Dr. Vanessa Ezenwa recently traveled to France on a Core Fulbright Scholarship to study patterns of diseases in people. She is the third member of our faculty to be named a Fulbright Scholar in recent years.
- Drs. Biao He and Zhen Fu have developed a rabies vaccine that interrupts the disease process in mice—a significant breakthrough offering hope that one day we can cure this deadly disease.
- Dr. Paige Carmichael became the 14th person to receive the Iverson Bell Award from the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, awarded for her work toward promoting greater diversity at our College and in veterinary education in general.

As a community, our achievements are seemingly never ending. Each spring we celebrate the accomplishments of our alumni during our annual alumni weekend. We follow that with a recognition of our students' achievements during our Honors and Awards night, and a few weeks later we celebrate graduation. The cycle is an annual reminder that our profession affords us all an ongoing opportunity to serve our world—whether you choose to be a doctor to animals, an educator to future generations of veterinarians, a diagnostician, a researcher, a consultant to industry, or to serve in the realm of public health.

Every day that I walk through the doors to our College, I am reminded of your individual and collective capacity to support the continued excellence of our fine institution. I am grateful for your service to the profession, your endless desire to advance veterinary medicine, and your continued financial support of all the missions of our College.

Thank you for all you do to distinguish yourselves, to celebrate one another's achievements, and to help advance veterinary medical education for generations to come!

Sincerely,

Sheila W. Allen
Dean
Patterns of Infection

Dr. Ezenwa wins Fulbright to study parasites in people

By Lee Adcock

In the field of infectious diseases, Vanessa Ezenwa (EH-zen-wa) looks at the big picture. Her interest in “community ecology”—like how an infection by one type of parasite or of one type of host can ripple across other species—has taken her from the wetlands of Louisiana to the savannahs of Kenya and South Africa. Lately, that quest has driven Ezenwa to France, for a Fulbright-backed study of the ecology of infectious diseases in humans.

Like many students attracted to the life sciences, Ezenwa started on the pre-med track when she was an undergraduate at Rice University in Houston, Texas. However, after her first taste of ecology research in the lab, she switched gears and pursued a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology at Princeton. “What was more interesting than pursuing medical school was asking questions about how things work,” said Ezenwa. “Or, instead of using the knowledge, discovering the knowledge.”

After teaching for five years at the University of Montana, Ezenwa was offered the chance to come to UGA in 2010. With her unique research experience, she was jointly appointed to the Odum School of Ecology and the CVM’s Department of Infectious Diseases. Such a position sounds extraordinary—but there are four other faculty with similar appointments at UGA.

Now an associate professor, Ezenwa studies parasites in wild mammals, but her research addresses major public health concerns. One of Ezenwa’s primary study subjects—parasitic worms, or helminths—infect about a third of the world’s population. In her study at Kruger National Park in South Africa, she looked at African buffalo infected with both worms and bovine tuberculosis to see how infection with each of the two pathogens would affect the host response to the other. Ezenwa treated half the buffalo for worms, and left the other half alone. As a result, the treated buffalo were nine times more likely to survive TB infection—but these survivors may continue to infect other individuals with TB within the population, potentially increasing the spread of TB. The results of the study were published in Science in January (http://tinyurl.com/nuqqtut).

Just as the interactions between two pathogens in one host can shake up the population’s overall health, one pathogen can also behave in unexpected ways when
introduced to multiple types of hosts. For her postdoctoral research, Ezenwa looked at how the West Nile Virus spread between various bird and mosquito species in the wetlands of Louisiana. In this case, the variety of hosts slowed the transmission of the virus.

The rationale behind this is still up for debate. “One reason could be that not all hosts are equal in their ability to allow the virus to grow,” said Ezenwa. “Some species are just bad hosts. In terms of West Nile virus, bad hosts might slow the rate of transmission by keeping mosquitos from biting hosts that would provide a more favorable species for viral growth.”

Ezenwa also observes animal behaviors and how they relate to the spread of an infection. In Kenya, she’s seen how male Grant’s gazelles accumulate more parasites through their aggressive mating strategies and how—at the same time—those parasites suppress the gazelles’ ability to mate. “All of the dynamic variability that we see—like when the male defends a territory in order to gain mates, and then suddenly stops—might be driven, in part, by the parasites in the system,” said Ezenwa. “You can’t understand that behavior without understanding this driving force.”

Ezenwa’s research in France draws on her experiences working on wild animal systems to examine infectious diseases in people. Rather than creating new data, she gathered datasets from one species—humans—on several diseases, including tuberculosis, malaria and worm infections.

Ezenwa first traveled to France in 2013, when a group of scientists invited her to a discussion on a familiar topic—the diversity of species and its impact on the spread of disease. “From meeting those colleagues, I thought, ‘Oh, this would be a great place to come and work with them more on this topic,’” said Ezenwa. So she applied for a Fulbright and was rewarded with the opportunity to spend six months in France on her proposed project. (Ezenwa was one of five UGA faculty members to receive a Core Fulbright Scholar Award for 2014-2015, and she is the third CVM faculty member to receive one within the last four years.)

Ezenwa is now back at UGA searching for patterns in the data she gathered while in France. “The nice thing about the Fulbright was the opportunity to really get this project started,” she said.
BRWD1, a protein necessary for fertility in both sexes, performs distinctly different roles in male and female gametes: it controls gene expression in maturing sperm, while promoting chromosome condensation and stability in female cells called oocytes, which become eggs. The study touting this groundbreaking finding, made by researchers from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, and The Jackson Laboratory, was recently published in the *Journal of Cell Biology*.

“These findings will give us important clues toward the goal of understanding the mechanisms involved in early pregnancy loss and infertility,” said Rabindranath De La Fuente, DVM, MSc, PhD, an associate professor in the CVM’s department of physiology and pharmacology. “We have known for a while that chromosome stability is crucial to a successful pregnancy. The BRWD1 protein is fascinating as it serves a completely different function in both sperm and eggs. In oocytes, we have yet to determine the epigenetic mechanisms that lead to chromosome instability. This study contributes to our understanding of the mechanisms of chromosome condensation in the female germ cell.”

The chromatin structure in both sperm and oocytes changes as each matures. In male mammals, when meiosis is complete, the resulting cells, called spermatids, undergo rapid structural changes to make them functional: they break free of their cytoplasm, sprout tails, and replace most of their histones with proteins called protamines, which further tightens their DNA. In pre-ovulatory oocytes, as the genes shut down, their heterochromatin gathers along the edge of the nucleolus. In their study, the researchers hypothesized that BRWD1 was responsible for orchestrating the postmeiotic changes that occur in both sexes.

The investigators determined that in sperm, when BRWD1 is absent, transcripts from hundreds of genes—all specific to spermatid development—were markedly reduced, suggesting that in males BRWD1 is responsible for regulating gene activity.

By contrast, in oocytes, a lack of BRWD1 results in a surge of bad information via noncoding RNAs, and only three genes showed a dramatic increase in expression. Chromosomes were often abnormally long or fractured; chromatids did not condense properly, or stuck to one another only to stretch or break when they tried to separate. Therefore, BRWD1 is necessary for chromosome stability during female meiosis.

“It is remarkable that the same protein, BRWD1, has evolved to perform different functions in the development of sperm and eggs showing that evolutionary processes can be very efficient,” noted John J. Eppig, PhD, a professor emeritus at the Jackson Laboratory, who collaborated on the project.

The study, “Mouse BRWD1 is critical for spermatid postmeiotic transcription and female meiotic chromosome stability,” was published on Dec. 29 in the *Journal of Cell Biology* (http://jcb.rupress.org/content/208/1/3). In addition, the study and its collaborators were the subject of a JCB “In Focus” article in the same publication.

The research team included Shrivatsav Pattabiraman, Daniela Guisado, and John C. Schimenti, of the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Center for Vertebrate Genomics, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine; Claudia Baumann and Rabindranath De La Fuente, of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine; and John J. Eppig, The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Funding for the study was provided by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, at the National Institutes of Health, grant P01 HD42134, to Eppig and Schimenti; and by NIH 2RO1-HD042740 and the Georgia Cancer Coalition to De La Fuente.
Ted M. Ross, PhD, one of the nation’s leading infectious disease researchers, joined the CVM in June as the Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Infectious Diseases.

Ross previously served as the director of the vaccines and viral immunity program at the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute of Florida.

His research focuses on designing, developing and testing vaccines for viral diseases such as influenza, dengue, respiratory syncytial virus, chikungunya, Ebola and HIV/AIDS. The work he began while a faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh to create a universal vaccine to protect against all strains of seasonal and pandemic influenza virus has resulted in a new vaccine platform. In 2012, an agreement was signed between Sanofi Pasteur and the University of Pittsburgh for continued development and commercialization of influenza vaccines based upon this platform.

Ross is conducting his research with nearly $18 million in external funding from a variety of federal agencies, foundations and corporate sponsors. Over the course of his nearly 20 year career, he has garnered more than $33 million in research funding from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Defense and PATH Vaccine Solutions/Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, among others.

Prior to joining VGTI Florida, Ross was an associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and a member of its Center for Vaccine Research. He began his academic career at the East Carolina School of Medicine in Greenville and conducted postdoctoral research at Emory University’s Vaccine Research Center and at Duke University.

Daniel R. Pérez, PhD, an influenza researcher whose work focuses on the interspecies transmission and pathogenesis of the virus, has joined the CVM as its new Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Investigator and Caswell Eidson Chair in Poultry Medicine.

Pérez assumed the endowed chair position when he joined the College in April. He is based at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center.

Pérez’s work on influenza A viruses dates back to the early 1990s when he was pursuing his PhD in the department of veterinary and biomedical sciences at the University of Nebraska. He later worked as a research associate in the department of infectious diseases at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and was involved in developing the first influenza H5N1 vaccine by reverse genetics. In 2003, he joined the faculty at the University of Maryland, where he built and directed the Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza in the U.S. research network, was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to coordinate research, education and outreach at 17 institutions. His lab is currently an integral part of the Center for Research on Influenza Pathogenesis, one of six NIH-funded Centers for Influenza Research and Surveillance (CEIRS).

In addition to studying the transmission and pathogenesis of influenza A viruses, Pérez also studies virus-to-virus and virus-to-host protein interactions in the influenza A virus lifecycle, as well as the role of land-based birds in the emergence of influenza A viruses with pandemic potential. He also works on the development of alternative influenza vaccination platforms, and the development of influenza virus as a vector for vaccinating against other diseases.

The Georgia Research Alliance has partnered with Georgia’s research universities to recruit world-class scientists who foster science- and technology-based economic development since 1990. The GRA also invests in technology for research labs, helps commercialize university-based inventions and facilitates collaboration among universities, business and government.
**Equine surgeon now leads Continuing Education**

Dr. P. O. Eric Mueller, a professor of large animal surgery and chief medical officer for the UGA Large Animal Teaching Hospital, now leads the CVM’s Continuing Education program.

Mueller, who also serves as the College’s director of equine programs, has authored more than 60 scientific publications and 20 veterinary book chapters. He is a frequent speaker at national and international scientific and continuing education meetings.

“Our continuing education programs are designed to provide the highest quality and most current information to our referring veterinarians and alumni, while at the same time serving as an avenue to establish long lasting personal relationships with our veterinarians,” said Mueller. “I will solicit and encourage input from our constituents in order to deliver clinically pertinent and high-quality CE.”

Mueller came to UGA more than 20 years ago to complete a residency in large animal surgery and a PhD in gastrointestinal physiology. He received his DVM from Michigan State University and his undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont.

His research interests have focused on the pathophysiology and treatment of tendon and ligament injuries and the prevention of postoperative intra-abdominal adhesion formation in horses.

For more information about Continuing Education programs at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, contact Melissa Kilpatrick, coordinator for the program, at melissak@uga.edu or 706.542.1451, or visit our website: vet.uga.edu/ce.

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**Athens DLAB can identify best antibiotics for treating drug-resistant organisms**

The Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory now uses the VITEK®2 to rapidly detect drug-resistant bacteria and help you determine the best drug to prescribe for treating these pathogens. The VITEK®2 rapidly checks the identified bacterial pathogen against a panel of antibiotics to determine susceptibility and also provides an MIC value for every drug contained within that panel. Four panels are available:

- Gram Negative bacteria
- Gram Positive bacteria other than *Enterococcus* spp.
- *Enterococcus* spp. specific panel
- *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* specific panel

Please note: The Athens DLAB still provides Urine MICs upon request ($18 cost). VITEK®2 tests are not available for Food Animals, Exotics/Fish and Eye illnesses.

For more information: athndlab@uga.edu or 706.542.5568.

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Left: The Class of 2015 and the family of Dr. R. Bruce Hollett recently donated to the College a painting of Dr. Hollett treating one of the Uga mascots. Hollett, who earned his DVM from UGA in 1972, served on the UGA CVM faculty from 1991 until his death in April 2013, including 22 years as director of the College’s Continuing Education program. During those years, he helped provide veterinary care to the Uga mascots owned by the Seiler family. The portrait, titled “The Check Up,” was painted by Greg Harris, an artist who resides in Athens. It was hung in a main public corridor in the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital, which opened March 25. Pictured from left: Hollett’s daughters, Andrea Hollett DeCook and Elyse Hollett Giles, his wife Libby, and their son Todd Hollett. Photo by Sue Myers Smith.
Successfully treating rabies can be a race against the clock. Those who suffer a bite from a rabid animal have a brief window of time to seek medical help before the virus takes root in the central nervous system, at which point the disease is almost invariably fatal.

Now, researchers at the CVM have successfully tested a new treatment on mice that cures the disease even after the virus has spread to the brain. Their study was published in the *Journal of Virology*.

“Basically, the best way to deal with rabies right now is simple: Don’t get rabies,” said study co-author Biao He, a professor of infectious diseases who holds the Fred C. Davison Distinguished University Chair in Veterinary Medicine. “We have vaccines that can prevent the disease, and we use the same vaccine as a kind of treatment after a bite, but it only works if the virus hasn’t progressed too far.

“Our team has developed a new vaccine that rescues mice much longer after infection than what was traditionally thought possible.”

In their mouse experiments, the animals were exposed to a strain of the rabies virus that generally reaches the brain of infected mice within three days. By day six, mice begin to exhibit the telltale physical symptoms that indicate the infection has become fatal.

However, 50 percent of mice treated with the new vaccine were saved, even after the onset of physical symptoms on day six.

“This is the most effective treatment we have seen reported in the scientific literature,” He said. “If we can improve these results and translate them to humans, we may have found one of the first useful treatments for advanced rabies infection.”

He and his colleagues developed their vaccine by inserting a protein from the rabies virus into another virus known as parainfluenza virus 5, or PIV5, which is thought to contribute to upper respiratory infections in dogs but is completely harmless to humans.

PIV5 acts as a delivery vehicle that carries the rabies protein to the immune system so it may create the antibodies necessary to fight off the virus.

“This is only the beginning of our work,” He said. “While these preliminary results are very exciting, we are confident that we can combine this new vaccine with other therapies to boost survival rates even higher and rescue animals even when symptoms are severe.”

Apart from being very effective in saving the infected mice, the researchers emphasized that their vaccine is much safer when compared to the best current treatment in mice, which uses a weakened version of the rabies virus.

“It doesn’t matter how we weaken the current vaccine, the virus inside it is still rabies,” said study co-author Zhen Fu, a professor in the department of pathology. “That is not a concern with our PIV5 vaccine.”

The researchers will continue to perfect their vaccine’s design and hope to move into more advanced animal trials soon.

“There is an urgent need in many parts of the world for a better rabies treatment, and we think this technology may serve as an excellent platform,” He said. “Ultimately, we just want to try to save more lives.”

Other study co-authors are Ying Huang, Zhenhai Chen and Junhua Huang from the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Their research was supported by grants from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease under award numbers AI-051560 and AI-093369.

For a full version of the paper in the *Journal of Virology*, see [http://tinyurl.com/pjrbnvp](http://tinyurl.com/pjrbnvp).
Please support Dr. Michael J. Topper for President-elect of the AVMA

Extensive experience in organized veterinary medicine

- Current delegate from Pennsylvania to the AVMA House of Delegates (HOD).
- Served as chair of the AVMA House Advisory Committee, and on other AVMA committees.
- Past president of the District of Columbia VMA and their delegate to the HOD.
- Past secretary/treasurer and councilor for the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Extensive service to the UGA CVM

- Served on the Executive Board of the Alumni Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine, 2004-2014.
- President of the CVM’s Alumni Association, 2010-2012.
- OTS trustee since 2000.
- Member of the UGA Heritage Society.
- Member of the UGA President's Club.
- Recognized with a Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2010.

Mike Topper is director of clinical pathology for Merck Research Laboratories in West Point, Pa. He is a retired colonel who served 22 years in U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.

The AVMA HOD elects the President-elect. To voice your support, contact the HOD Delegate from your state’s association!

July 2015 AVMA Convention - Announcement of Candidacy
August 2016 AVMA Convention – Voting
The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the College’s Veterinary Medical Center was held on a blustery Friday, February 13. Six weeks later the facility was fully operational and accepting patients by appointment as well as emergencies.

Top: The Veterinary Medical Center’s main entrance for small animal hospital clients makes a grand statement at nightfall. Around the building to the right is the 24-hour emergency entrance for small animal patients. Middle row, from left: UGA administration and government officials cut the ribbon to dedicate the new Veterinary Medical Center. Gov. Nathan Deal speaks to the crowd of 800+ gathered for the dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting (photos by Paul Efland, University of Georgia). Left: Dr. Ko Nagata, a radiation oncologist in the Department of Veterinary Biosciences and Diagnostic Imaging, explains how the linear accelerator (or LinAc) works to target a specific patient’s tumor during a treatment (photo by Paul Efland, University of Georgia).
This page, top left:  
Veterinary students on a theriogenology (reproductive medicine) rotation examine samples in one of the new laboratories in the VMC.  
From opening day, March 25 — Top right: Veterinary students gather in one of the service-specific rounds rooms to discuss cases on the opening day of the VMC. Middle row, from left:  
Kimberly Mitchell (DVM 2015) checks on Stella, a 13-year-old radiated tortoise who was brought in for a post-surgery checkup. Beth Lynn (DVM 2015) handles Warwick, a 7-year-old Fresian gelding, who was visiting the VMC for a gait evaluation. Christina Scanlon (DVM 2016) examines Ripley, a 10-year-old domestic longhair cat. Right: Veterinary technician Daina Rollo gives Minnie, a 10-year-old yellow Lab, a workout on the underwater treadmill to maintain Minnie’s mobility.
A. Oncologist Dr. Nicole Northrup with Mrs. Georgia Sobh in the oncology suite, named in honor of the Sobhs’ beloved dog, Nikita, who was an oncology patient.

B. Dr. Eric Mueller (R) explains the benefits of the new large animal anesthesia induction and surgery area.

C. One of eight small animal ORs in the new facility; this room was named by Don and Suzanne Leebern.

D. The powerful new 3T MRI unit is accessible from both the small animal and large animal areas of the hospital.

E. One of several conference rooms on the second floor of the new building; this room was named in honor of Dr. Melissa Kling-Newberry (DVM ’83) by her parents, Dr. J.M. (DVM ’59) and Mrs. Kling.

F. Dean Sheila W. Allen (L) talks about the small animal surgery ward, which was largely funded by donations from past small animal surgery residents.
Friends of the CVM attended a celebratory dinner the evening before the ribbon cutting at the Veterinary Medical Center, Thursday, February 12, 2015.

1: Veterinary student Matthew Jones (DVM 2016), Mrs. Susan Forehand, Mr. Tony Campbell, Mrs. Kathy Bangle.

2: Mrs. Cindy Bohn, Dean Sheila W. Allen, Dr. Henry Bohn (DVM ’62).

3. Mrs. Lindy Lukert and Dr. Phil Lukert Jr. (DVM ’85), student Patrick Singletary (DVM 2016), Dr. Keith (DVM ’84) and Mrs. Kelly Miller.

4. Mrs. Nancy Roberson, Dr. Flynn (DVM ’83) and Dr. Susan Nance (DVM ’84), Dr. Ed Roberson (DVM ’61, PhD ’72).

5. Dr. Gary Bullard (DVM ’69), Dr. Mark Mosher (DVM ’81), Dr. Ralph Askren (DVM ’88).

6. Mrs. Judith Neiss, Dr. Eric Mueller (PhD ’96), Mr. Edgar Neiss.

7. Dr. Amie Koenig, Mr. Bill and Mrs. Melanie Kress, student Jenny Munhofen (DVM 2016).

8. Dr. Sally Papp (DVM ’70), Ms. Jo Newell, Mr. Carlton Bain.

9. Dr. Doug Allen (MS ’87), Dr. Charles and Mrs. Marilyn Martin.
The University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital saw its first appointments on March 25 at its new location, 2200 College Station Road. Helping christen the facility were animals ranging from dogs and cats to turtles, horses and cows.

Minnie, a 10-year-old yellow Labrador retriever (on our cover), came to the Hospital's rehabilitation service to use one of the brand-new underwater treadmills. She has been a patient of the Hospital since January and uses the treadmill to help maintain her mobility and decrease pain caused by chronic osteoarthritis in both of her knees.

"The new facility is great," said Minnie’s owner, John Gittleman, dean of the UGA Odum School of Ecology. "It is bigger, brighter and is a much more comfortable environment for people and animals."

He added that he is also excited for the veterinary students, who will benefit from the advanced technologies featured in the new building. "When you learn from the best, you can then deliver the best care wherever you go. It's a win, win, win."

The Hospital is part of the new UGA Veterinary Medical Center, which also includes an education building for teaching third- and fourth-year veterinary students. The Center encompasses just over 300,000 gross square feet and was built to enable the College of Veterinary Medicine to better meet its students’ educational needs and its current and future patient care demands.

"We have been working toward this day for a long time," said Sheila W. Allen, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "We are so thankful to UGA, the board of regents, Govs. Perdue and Deal, the state legislature, the Georgia taxpayers and our donors for their support of this project. Veterinary medical education in Georgia will be well-served through these new facilities for many years to come."

The previous Hospital, which opened in 1979, handled more than 25,000 visits per year in one of the smallest veterinary teaching hospitals in the U.S. Now, the Hospital will operate out of a building more than double the size of the old facility and outfitted with top-of-the-line equipment and improved functionality.

"This facility will allow the College to be on more equal footing with peer veterinary hospitals in the Southeast and across the country," Associate Dean for Clinical Services Gary Baxter said. "This was an essential step to be able to attract the highest-caliber faculty, staff, interns, residents and students to the University of Georgia and to further improve clinical teaching, client service and patient care within the Hospital."

Other features of the new Hospital include a flexible design to meet current needs and allow for future expansion; separate emergency entrances for large and small animals; numerous teaching and collaboration spaces; expanded diagnostic imaging capabilities; and radiation therapy for all animal species.

The Veterinary Education Center, which is part of the Veterinary Medical Center campus, features a 160-seat auditorium, an 80-seat technology-enabled active learning classroom and two smaller classrooms for teaching veterinary students.

"Providing advanced animal healthcare for large and small animals while training the next generation of veterinarians is the hallmark of our program," Baxter said. "Our new Hospital and Education Center will allow us to continue this tradition of excellence."

The Veterinary Medical Center was designed by Perkins+Will and built by Turner Construction Co.

Third- and fourth-year veterinary students are now located at the new facilities along with all clinical faculty and staff. All other faculty, staff and students remain at the College’s original campus, located on D.W. Brooks Drive.

The UGA Community Practice Clinic, which offers primary care and wellness services—vaccinations, dentistry, wellness exams and other services—to small companion animals, also remains in its original location on the main UGA campus.
By the Numbers

187,000 net square feet Hospital for Small & Large Animals

2.5X our old facility

16,000 net square feet Education Center for Students & Continuing Ed.

Enhanced Imaging Technologies:

- 3T MRI Unit
- 64-Slice CT Scanner
- Linear Accelerator

In our old facility, we accommodated 24,516 animal visits in FY2014

Sustainable Building Practices Employed

- Water and energy conserving technologies
- 20% recycled materials incorporated
- 47% reduced energy use
- 40% reduction in potable water use
New equipment helps put VTH at the forefront of animal care

The new Veterinary Teaching Hospital features top-of-the-line equipment that is on the leading edge of what is currently being used in veterinary medicine.

These improvements can be found throughout the facility and range from LED surgery lights to food animal hydraulic chute systems for cattle. Some of the more significant technological advances in the new Hospital include the following:

**Linear Accelerator**
This new piece of equipment puts UGA at the forefront of veterinary radiation therapy. A more advanced model than what we had in our old hospital, its incredible precision allows for a higher dosage of radiation to be delivered to the tumor while sparing more of the surrounding normal tissue from damage than ever before. Not only does this result in fewer side effects each time the animal undergoes radiation therapy, but it also reduces the number of therapy sessions needed to treat the tumors that cannot be removed by surgery.

For example, the new “linac” may allow us to treat a small, well-defined brain tumor or a pituitary tumor with just one round of radiation therapy instead of 18 rounds. The speed of radiation delivery will also be about three times faster, shortening the length of the treatment sessions.

The new linac’s advanced precision will also allow us to treat more types of tumors. This may potentially include lung and liver tumors, osteosarcoma, and urogenital tumors, such as bladder/prostate tumors. Additionally, the room that houses the linac was strategically designed so that it would be large enough to allow large animal patients access to this new technology as well.

**64-Slice CT Scanner**
This new machine allows the Hospital to perform a wider variety of diagnostic procedures and can be used for both small and large animals. It features outstanding image sharpness and clarity combined with amazing speed. One benefit of its rapid image acquisition is we can perform more precise vascular and lung studies. The shorter scan times also allow some of our small animal patients to be sedated rather than put under general anesthesia, depending on the procedure.

Additionally, it provides instantaneous access to 3-D data by multiple users, which means our clinicians and students will be able to review the diagnostic images jointly. The significant improvements of this machine will enhance the patient experience, accuracy of diagnostics, and the learning environment.

**3T Open Bore MRI**
The MRI machine in our new facility is considered top-of-the-line by veterinary and human medical standards. It is more advanced than the model that was used at the old hospital and features exceptional quality and speed as well as state-of-the-art examination software that can sense motion and decrease artifacts in the final diagnostic images it produces.

Its open design can accommodate a wide variety of patient shapes and sizes, allowing both our large and small animal services to use it. It also allows for images to be taken of the entire body without having to reposition the patient. The machine is quieter and has improved clarity and resolution for optimal cardiac, joint, brain and abdominal imaging. Additionally, its speed has the potential to reduce exam times by up to 20 percent, which also reduces anesthesia times and overall stress on the animal.
Veterinarians at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine are exploring a new way to treat brain tumors that has the potential to impact the standard of care in human medicine as well.

According to Simon R. Platt, BVM&S, MRCVS, DACIVM (Neurology), DECVM, who is a professor of neurology and neurosurgery at UGA, decades have been spent trying to improve outcomes for dogs afflicted with aggressive brain tumors, to little avail. The same is true for human patients.

“Brain tumors in dogs are very similar to those in people, and are typically just as devastating and difficult to treat,” Platt said.

Given their location within the skull, many tumors are not accessible to surgical excision, the main treatment option for brain cancer. Radiation therapy can be a good option for certain brain cancers, such as meningioma, but there is little evidence that other tumors respond favorably. Likewise, chemotherapy has traditionally been ineffective. This is in part because of the brain’s own natural defense system.

In both people and animals, the brain is protected by a barrier called the Blood Brain Barrier (BBB). This BBB is responsible for blocking 100 percent of large molecules and 98 percent of small molecules from entering the brain, thereby stopping most chemotherapy from attacking these tumors.

The UGA “magic bullet” study explores the possibility of bypassing the BBB by directly implanting chemotherapy drugs into the brain tumor using absorbable microcylinder carriers. The carriers are tagged with a contrast agent to make them visible on an MRI and are delivered to the tumor using stereotactic implantation, a minimally-invasive procedure. Once in place, the microcylinder slowly dissolves, allowing the medication to be delivered over a prescribed period of time to the cancerous tissue. Not only do you bypass the BBB this way, but you also allow for a high dosage of chemotherapy to be successfully delivered to the tumor without the risk of systemic side effects.

“This study is the first attempt anywhere at using a new image-guided platform for the treatment of brain tumors,” Platt said. “Successful completion of this project may establish a new paradigm that, by extension, may one day impact treatment in man.”

If you have a patient that you feel would be a good fit for this study, please contact neurology resident and study team member Jill Hicks, DVM, at jhicks30@uga.edu.

Below are a few of our current clinical trials. To learn more about these and other clinical trial opportunities, visit: www.vet.uga.edu/research/clinical/current

**Dogs with elbow dysplasia**
Study to evaluate the utility of MRI for characterizing articular cartilage pathology in dogs with elbow dysplasia.

**Dogs and cats with localized measurable external tumors**
Study to determine the safety and potential efficacy of the AuroLase® system for the treatment of local tumors in dogs and cats.

**Dogs with arthritis of the elbow or knee**
Study to evaluate the efficacy of Tramadol on pain and dysfunction.

**Dogs with persistent renal proteinuria**
Study to evaluate the efficacy of Telmisartan for the treatment of proteinuria, as compared to the current standard, Enalapril.

**Horses with bladder stones**
Study investigating a new technique for the removal of cystic calculi (bladder stones) in standing, sedated horses.

If you would like to help fund the “Magic Bullet” study or other CVM initiatives, please visit: t.uga.edu/ivy
Prepared. Caring. Compassionate. Respectful. Always aware that her students and clients learn in a multitude of ways. Never forgetting that her presentation is key to their understanding. These are the hallmarks of Dr. Cynthia Ward’s teaching style, and the reasons why her students say she personifies the veterinary doctor they wish to be.

Ward is a professor of small animal internal medicine in the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery. She also serves as the chief medical officer for the Small Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital. She teaches First-Year Odyssey courses to UGA’s undergraduates; veterinary students in both the classroom and hospital setting; and she trains interns and residents in her specialty. Board-certified as a specialist and highly regarded as one of the world’s foremost experts in veterinary endocrinology (her niche area of internal medicine), Ward is also a sought-after instructor on the continuing education circuit, and she is invited to present lectures at five to six national meetings per year.

“Dr. Ward is able to let residents have enough freedom to manage their cases, but also sufficient oversight to feel guidance and back-up, a balance which is challenging to achieve, yet she does so with grace, allowing residents to gain confidence in their skills and develop as doctors,” said one of her graduate students.

She begins nurturing their confidence in the classroom: “I thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Ward’s teaching style—not too fast, not too slow, supplemented with actual cases, and a practical no-nonsense approach,” noted a former DVM student.

And her impact is everlasting: “How she would affect my life in one day in the hospital was even more significant than what she taught me in class,” noted Dr. Carolyn Karrh, from the Class of 2008, who recalled her first hospital encounter with Ward: Ward and her students entered an exam room to explain to an elderly couple that their elderly dog—their “child”—was sick with terminal cancer. “As it was clear the information was sinking in with the couple, Dr. Ward paused, knelt down in front of them, and with the most compassion I have EVER seen from ANY veterinarian in nearly 15 years, proceeded to truly connect with those people, to look them directly in the eyes, talk about their dog, how special he was, how sick he was and how euthanasia was a kind decision if they were to consider it. … I knew at that moment Dr. Ward was, without question or hesitation, the kind of veterinarian I wanted to be for the rest of my life. Thank you, Dr. Ward.”

Evidence illuminating Ward’s ability to inspire her pupils leads back to her earliest days as an educator at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, where she earned her doctorate in veterinary medicine and her PhD. By the time she arrived at the UGA CVM in 2005, she had already won one Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award (in 1999)—the highest veterinary teaching award presented at the college level. She won her second “Norden” in 2009, the same year she also earned the National Student American Veterinary Medical Association’s Award for Teacher of the Year. The DVM classes of 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2014 have all selected her as the CVM educator who most contributed to their education in a given year.

“Her teaching load is among the highest of all the faculty in her department, yet her students consistently remark about her level of energy and dedication,” noted Dr. Sheila W. Allen, dean of the College.

Each year, the University of Georgia names up to five faculty members as Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professors. Ward was one of four faculty members selected for this honor in 2015.
Maurer’s milestone
100+ undergrads and counting

By Lee Adcock

Dr. John Maurer knows how to get work done. Like his peers in the CVM, Maurer used to do research with only a handful of undergraduate students in his labs per semester. But now, with bigger and more complex projects on his plate, he brings in over a dozen—and, he has now trained more than 100 undergraduates in his labs.

“I’m no different than any of my other colleagues,” he said. “But I did something that I don’t think too many of my other colleagues have done, which is that I actually bring in 10 to 15 undergraduate students per semester.”

Maurer, a professor of microbiology in the department of population health who is based at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center, came to UGA from Indianapolis, Indiana. He went to Purdue University to pursue genetic engineering—but in the early 1980s, the field was so new that no such major existed. Instead, Maurer earned his bachelor’s degree in microbiology and went on to the University of Texas for a PhD in the same major.

By the time Maurer was at Washington University on a post-doctoral fellowship in 1993, his focus had shifted to infectious diseases. Washington University was also where he met his future wife Margie D. Lee, DVM (MS ’88, PhD ’90), who was a post-doc fellow in the same lab. After they finished their fellowships, she went back to her teaching post at the CVM’s medical microbiology and parasitology department (now the Department of Infectious Diseases), while he went to teach at Duquesne University in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. After shuttling between the two towns for months, Maurer was offered a position in the PDRC in 1996. “I could basically work on whatever I wanted to work on, as long as it was related to poultry,” he said. “So, I said, ‘Sure.’” And he’s been teaching at PDRC ever since. Maurer and Lee are jointly appointed to PDRC and the Department of Infectious Diseases.

Maurer has trained undergraduates since 1997—but for nearly 11 years, he only supervised one to three at a time.

Then, in 2008, he took on a project from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to identify more than 2,300 Salmonella isolates, with just a small grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It was Lee who suggested that he bring in undergraduates to help with the work. He was skeptical.

“There was no way I could have a student who could come in here and basically work Monday to Friday, from 9 to 5,” Maurer said. “And that would be just to do 25 isolates a week.”

But then Maurer looked at the protocol, which had been sent by the CDC. Though the procedure was lengthy, it was divided in to steps that could be handled by different people. Thus, Maurer decided to round up a team of undergraduates, so that at least two students would almost always be working in the lab.

To aid him in restructuring the protocol, Maurer hired Fernanda Dorea (MS ’09), who had just earned her master’s degree from the Department of Infectious Diseases.

Dorea also helped Maurer write detailed checklists and schedules to ensure that each team of students followed the previous team’s work as closely as possible. “One team would leave the samples in the incubator and the next team would be there at the right time to pick them out of the incubator and start the next step,” said Dorea, who later earned a PhD in epidemiology and now works as a veterinary epidemiologist at the National Veterinary Institute in Sweden. “I bet the students still remember how much they hated my checklists, though.”

With the new system in place, Maurer’s undergraduate students collectively finished the project in two years.

‘Jazzed up’ about research

The undergraduate students who come to Maurer’s lab usually aren’t all that interested in research when they sign up. “My initial motivation was to gain ‘laboratory experience’ to beef up my application to medical school,” said Dylan Burnette, who graduated with his bachelor’s in 2000 from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences and is now an assistant professor of cell and developmental biology at Vanderbilt University. His response is typical among the many undergraduates who passed through.
Maurer doesn’t mind that most undergraduates take his lab just to cross an item off their to-do list. However, while many commit to the pre-med track, others get hooked on research.

Burnette first came to the lab for a summer research program in 1998. When he stayed on for the fall semester, Maurer suggested that Burnette present his work at a local American Society for Microbiology meeting, “He got jazzed up about it,” Maurer said. In fact, Burnette won an award for giving the best presentation.

Later on, as the undergraduate was working on a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in the lab, he wondered if he could pursue research as a career. “For the short term, I decided that I would continue to do research as long as I kept getting paid,” Burnette said. “I have not had to reassess that decision.”

Ricky Zoller, who came to UGA in 2004, also thought he wanted to be a medical doctor when he signed up for Maurer’s lab. But after a brief stint in medical school, he realized that he’d rather go back to research. “Without Dr. Maurer’s guidance and expertise in research, I might be hating my life in a residency somewhere,” said Zoller, who earned both his undergraduate degree (2008) and his master’s of science (2013) from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. He now works at UGA’s Complex Carbohydrate Research Center in a start-up LLC, Nitrogen Genetics.

Chris Cornelison didn’t even know what career he wanted when he came to UGA. But he did know that he wanted to switch from chemistry to biology, and his friends pointed him toward Dr. Maurer in 2008. Soon Cornelison was set to work on a big commercial salmonella project—and after turning in solid results, Maurer allowed him to dig deeper into a project of his own.

“Maurer thought I had a good attitude/drive for research and should consider pursuing it as a career,” said Cornelison. “I had never considered myself talented enough, but the fact that he did gave me confidence.” Cornelison earned his bachelor’s degree from the Franklin College in 2009 and is now a postdoctoral research associate and adjunct professor at Georgia State University.

The biggest take-away
Maurer’s teaching hasn’t differed much over the years. He continues to divide research protocol into a series of techniques. Each student in the lab learns one step in that process—and, under Maurer’s guidance, they learn to do it well. “The biggest take-away I got from my time in Dr. Maurer’s lab was how to be thorough,” Zoller said.

Maurer delights in watching his undergraduates master complicated protocol. Whenever possible, he grants every student the chance to show off their skills. Old-timers in the lab introduce newcomers to the protocol. Students, like Burnette, are brought to local research conventions to present their work. And when Maurer meets with a research team to discuss how a project is coming along, he lets the students explain what they’re doing and justify their methods.

“I’ve had some colleagues tell me that, ‘Oh, you can’t get undergraduate students to run PCRs,’” said Maurer. “Well, yeah you can, and I have.”

Cornelison admired Maurer’s distinctly hands-off teaching. “He knew when to help the students and when to let us struggle and learn for ourselves,” he said. “He always made himself available if we needed help, but did not stand over your shoulder making you feel nervous.”

“He was stern at times,” said Zoller. “But that’s how he created great researchers and ensured that their work was only their best and nothing shy of that.”

Likewise, Maurer believes that he’s done some of his best teaching with undergraduates. “It gives me the opportunity to give them experience, and to teach them good lab practices and habits,” he said.
Dr. K. Paige Carmichael, a professor of veterinary pathology and the former associate dean for academic affairs at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, has been chosen as the recipient of the 2015 Iverson Bell Award, given by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges.

“I am shocked, delighted and humbled all at the same time,” said Carmichael. “I stand on the shoulders of many others who have paved the path that I have been lucky enough to walk. I hope to do the same for others.”

During her eight years as the CVM’s associate dean for academic affairs, Carmichael authored or co-authored multiple successful grants to address the recruitment of under-represented groups to veterinary medicine and to support their careers. She also created the CVM’s popular VetCAMP—or Veterinary Career Aptitude and Mentoring Program—which aims to recruit young under-represented minority students with an aptitude for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In addition, Carmichael mentors students and early career faculty, facilitates in the development of student diversity groups, and often speaks on minority opportunities in veterinary medicine.

While still an assistant professor for the College, she originated the “Dog Doctors” Outreach Program. This project, initially funded by a competitive grant through the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, and then by the College of Veterinary Medicine, reached out to elementary school students under-represented in veterinary medicine across the state of Georgia, telling them of the wide variety of paths a career in veterinary medicine.

“Dr. Carmichael’s efforts in promoting diversity in the College of Veterinary Medicine and in our profession are extraordinary,” said Dr. Sheila Allen, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. “The impact of her work will be long-lasting, and we are so pleased that it is being recognized with this award.”

The award was presented to Carmichael at AAVMC’s 2015 Annual Conference, held March 13-15 in Washington, D.C. The Iverson Bell Award is presented every other year to a member of AAVMC’s academic veterinary community in recognition of outstanding leadership and the promotion of diversity in veterinary education. Carmichael is the 14th veterinary educator to receive the Iverson Bell Award.

Carmichael graduated from the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1987 and earned her PhD, conferred in 1993, at the University of Georgia. She is board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

She joined the faculty of the UGA CVM in 1993 as an instructor and was hired as a tenure track assistant professor in 1994. In 2006, she was the first African American to be awarded the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorship, which is the highest teaching honor bestowed by the University of Georgia upon its educators. In 2014, Carmichael was selected by the Tuskegee University SVM to receive their Distinguished Alumna Award.

**Briefs**

**Gary Baxter, VMD, (MS '88), DACVS**, is now the associate dean for clinical services, overseeing the Veterinary Medical Center, which includes the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and the Veterinary Education Center.

**Erik Hofmeister, DVM, DACVAA, DECVAA, MA (Anesthesia)**, received the 2015 CURO Research Mentoring Award, which recognizes outstanding faculty who consistently engage undergraduates through CURO courses, symposia, fellowships, etc. Two awards are granted each year. Dr. Hofmeister is an associate professor of anesthesiology and section chief for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital areas of small animal surgery and anesthesia.

**Corrie Brown, DVM, PhD, DACVP**, a professor of anatomic pathology, received the National Excellence in Teaching Award from the Student American Veterinary Medical Association.

**John R. Fischer, DVM, PhD**, director of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, received the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Memorial Award from the Wildlife Disease Association and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians.

**Kathryn A. Seabaugh, DVM, DACVS, DACVSMR**, became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation this winter. Dr. Seabaugh joined the UGA VTH in 2013 and is an assistant professor of equine ambulatory and sports medicine.
Shiyou Chen, DVM, PhD, a professor of physiology and pharmacology, was one of five professors at UGA to receive a Creative Research Medal for 2015 from the UGA Research Foundation. Dr. Chen has developed two powerful cell model systems. One allows scientists to identify the fundamental regulatory mechanisms governing the different functional properties of vascular smooth muscle cells and how diversity in these cells may contribute to the onset of cardiovascular diseases. His other works have identified several molecular targets useful for the development of new drug-eluting stents, which are coated with medicine that prevents scar tissue from growing into the artery. Dr. Chen’s discoveries are beneficial to the development of new drugs to regulate the proliferation of smooth muscle and endothelial cells, and could lead to new coatings on stents that reduce blood clot risk.

Faculty and Service Awards presented on Phi Zeta Day

The Charles Dobbins Award for Excellence in Service was awarded to John Fischer, DVM, PhD, a professor of wildlife diseases and director of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study. Dr. Fischer was selected for his outstanding leadership of SCWDS since 2000 and for his overall service to the wildlife community. SCWDS assists 18 states and federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Geological Survey, with wildlife disease identification, management and surveillance. Dr. Fischer’s service to the community includes serving as chair of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Wildlife Diseases, from 2004 to 2009, and serving on the Board of Directors of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies since 1999. In addition, SCWDS publishes a quarterly newsletter that currently has more than 2,000 subscribers in the wildlife community.

Biao He, PhD, received the Zoetis Award for Excellence in Research. Dr. He is a professor of infectious diseases who collaborates with many faculty members throughout the College to develop and test vaccine therapeutics. He has published nearly 25 scientific papers, multiple in prestigious journals, since his arrival at the CVM in 2009. “Dr. He’s work is at the forefront of viral research and is expanding into vaccine development for a number of human, animal and zoonotic viral and non-viral pathogens,” said his department head, Fred D. Quinn, PhD, of the department of infectious diseases, in a letter of nomination. “I consider him to be an outstanding teacher, researcher, scholar and colleague. He is very knowledgeable and skilled in molecular biology, virology and vaccine development. As such, he is in a unique position to productively explore the areas where these fields overlap and contribute in a very meaningful way to the rapidly expanding vaccine development group in the CVM.”

The Clinical Research Award was presented to Amanda Erickson Coleman, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology), an assistant professor of cardiology in the department of small animal medicine and surgery. Her research focuses on pharmacologic interventions targeting the renin-antiotensin-aldosterone system, which regulates blood pressure and fluid balance, in dogs, cats and horses. “These are chronic conditions that affect many companion animals, and treatment with current drugs is imperfect,” noted her department head, Spencer A. Johnston, VMD, DACVS, in a letter of nomination. “By identifying better agents for therapy, the quality of life of companion animals and their owners can be improved.”
The Outstanding Laboratory Service Award was presented to Melinda Camus, DVM, DACVP, an assistant professor of clinical pathology who helped ensure that the clinical pathology service remained fully functional during an intense 14-week period when she was the only faculty member on the service. Dr. Camus single-handedly oversaw the service while also teaching senior students every morning during rotations. She routinely worked 10 or more hours per day, seven days per week. “She has a character that just takes every problem as it comes, and finds an answer that is palatable to all,” said Keith Harris, DVM, DACVP, who heads the department of pathology. “Even with her frenetic schedule, her demeanor never changed.” Dr. Camus also received the David Tyler Award for Advances in Teaching for implementing new teaching techniques for microscopy in VPAT 5250. She organized the digitization of more than 200 hematologic and cytologic samples, and worked with technical staff at Leica and the IT support staff at the CVM to put the slides in an electronic cloud that could be accessed by the students on their electronic devices. The change enhanced the learning experiences of the students, and also lowered the costs of teaching the course. Dr. Camus has an innate interest in teaching and has published a manuscript regarding students’ perceptions of online discussion forums in the college classroom. She recently submitted a follow-up study to another journal in veterinary education.

The Outstanding Hospital Service Award was presented to Ira Roth, (DVM ’86), a clinical assistant professor and director of the UGA Community Practice Clinic. “Dr. Roth’s enjoyment of his job is obvious in the gentle and affectionate way in which he interacts with his patients,” noted one of many nominators. “Time and again, aggressive or nervous animals calm down in his presence and animals that have been too nervous to even accept treats from other staff members will readily respond to him. Clients are similarly charmed by his friendly personality and many clients remark that they make return trips to the Community Practice Clinic specifically because they appreciate his interest in them as clients and the care that he gives their pets.”

Brian Jordan, (PhD ’12), received the John M. Bowen Award for Excellence in Animal/Biomedical Research. Dr. Jordan is an assistant professor in the departments of population health and poultry sciences in the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, respectively. Jordan joined the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center upon completion of his PhD. In a mere three years, he has built a solid and productive research program, supported by more than $480,000 in extramural funding, and authored or co-authored seven peer-reviewed journal articles. In addition, he has published 16 abstracts at national and international meetings. His research focuses on bridging the gap between the poultry house environment and infectious diseases. Thus far, he has been highly successful in gaining funding to support research in the key areas of understanding and control of avian coronavirus infectious bronchitis, and in determining that coronaviruses are not as prevalent in wild birds in the United States as they are in other parts of the world.
Greetings from your Alumni Association!

Hello UGA Alumni!

I was delighted for the opportunity to visit with so many of you during our 52nd Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend! It was both a humbling and proud moment for me to present the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards to Claude Kidd Jr. (DVM ’64), Sam Adams Jr. (DVM ’73) and Patricia Hill (DVM ’84)! If you were unable to join us, you can read more about these deserving alumni and their contributions to our profession in this section of the Aesculapian.

Please consider nominating one of your colleagues for the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards or for the Young Achiever Award! You’ll find a nomination form and criteria in this issue of the magazine, for your convenience. We need your nominations by Oct. 16!

During our spring Alumni Board meeting, we discussed ideas about incorporating more recent graduates into our active ranks and exploring ways our Association can help these members as they move through school and into practice.

We also welcomed new members to the board: Bradley Hines (DVM ’11, MFAM ’12), Jennifer Proctor (DVM ’96), Greg Winter (DVM ’91), and Michael Zager (DVM ’79)! Our outgoing board members, to whom we are grateful for their service, are: Jon Anderson (DVM ’03), Thomas Hutto (DVM ’85), Ginger Macaulay (DVM ’84), Bill Seantor (DVM ’83), and Catherine McClelland (DVM ’83).

Also this spring, I had the pleasure of attending a barbeque dinner with the South Carolina UGA Alumni in Spartanburg. Thank you, to Scott Bryant (DVM ’94) and his wife Jules, for hosting us!

If you would like to host a CVM alumni gathering in your area, please let us know so we can help and participate. Contact our alumni director, Marti Brick, for more information.

Remember, all graduates of the UGA CVM are automatically members of the Alumni Association and we do not collect dues. We hope you will join us for one of our alumni gatherings and get involved with the Association. Please contact Marti Brick, our director of alumni relations, at 706.542.7049 or vetalums@uga.edu, for more details.

Go Dawgs!

Sincerely,

Chad Schmiedt

DVM (’00), DACVS
President
Help us identify members of our alumni community who should be recognized for their contributions to our profession!

Send us your nominations for the Alumni Association’s “Young Achiever Award” and its highest honor, the “Distinguished Alumnus Award.” In two pages or less, describe your nominee’s contributions in one or more of the following areas:

- 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
- Young Achiever nominees must come from the classes of 2005, 2006 or 2007

Questions?
Phone: 706.542.7049 • Fax: 706.583.0242 • E-mail: vetalums@uga.edu

Don’t miss the fun!

More Information:
770.483.7225
dawgvet83@comcast.net
Dr. Michael Yabsley holds a coyote captured during a field course. As part of their fieldwork, Dr. Yabsley and his students collected biological samples for disease surveillance and put a radio-tracking collar on the coyote prior to releasing it back into the wild. Photo provided by Michael Yabsley.
Wild about Parasites!
A noted parasitologist and SCWDS attracted Yabsley to UGA
Interview By Lee Adcock

Michael J. Yabsley, MS, PhD (’04), FRES, is an associate professor of wildlife diseases jointly appointed to the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and the CVM’s Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, or “SCWDS.” He earned his PhD in medical microbiology and parasitology, and became a member of the faculty in 2006. In 2012, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London. We talked to him about why he came to UGA to study, and what he loves about wildlife, parasites and teaching.

Where are you from?

I’m from near Columbia, South Carolina. I did my undergraduate work at Clemson University in biology and stayed on to do a master’s degree in parasitology, with a minor in wildlife biology. I left there and wanted to work in wildlife and infectious diseases. So, I came to UGA to do my PhD under Randy Davidson, (MS ’74, PhD ’75). He was my predecessor, so he was in the same split (Warnell/CVM) position before he retired, and he was here at SCWDS.

What got you interested in parasitology?

I love parasites. Practically every animal has them and some parasites can be important to the health of their hosts. Most amazing is that these parasites can alter the behavior of their hosts and many have really complex life cycles. One has to admire the ability of these organisms to successfully complete transmission. For example: There are parasites that live in the intestine of a terrestrial animal; their eggs come out, and in order to develop, the eggs have to land in water to develop in an aquatic snail. After development, these parasites exit the snail and must find a fish to live in while they develop to their next stage of life. Then, this fish must get eaten by a terrestrial host for completion of the parasites’ life cycle. So, there are all of these steps by which parasites would lose the ability to complete their life cycle, but they obviously complete it anyway, and quite well.

Although I do love parasites, I am a generalist, so I work with a lot of wildlife diseases. I work on viruses and bacteria as well. Anything that has the potential to cause disease piques my curiosity.

Tell us about the intersection of parasitology and wildlife.

A lot of the parasites or pathogens that I study infect wildlife, food animals, domestic animals and people, so parasitology is important across all of those groups. Often when I study parasites in wildlife, I am focused on the role that wildlife plays in the ecology of that pathogen and how that role may be important to the health of domestic animals or people.

That’s what the One Health initiative is all about.

Most everything I do falls under the umbrella of “One Health,” because we’re looking at pathogens and wildlife, domestic animals, food animals, people, and most importantly, the environment. What is the role of habitat change and climate change and all those environmental factors that may influence the transmission of those pathogens among all those other groups?

Why did you choose to study at the UGA CVM?

I came here specifically to work with Dr. Randy Davidson. He had a funded project that was looking at ticks and tick-borne pathogens in deer, and Dr. Davidson had been doing parasitology for 30 years—he’s a big name in the field. It was really exciting for me to be able to come here and work with him. Also, SCWDS has been around since 1957, and they’re a very important group of researchers who have been working with wildlife disease, so to able to come here and work with those folks was also very intriguing.

When did you get involved with SCWDS?

I started here in 2000 as a graduate student. After I finished my graduate work, I stayed on as an assistant research scientist, which is a non-tenure track faculty position, until early 2006, when I started in my current split position. So I’ve gone nowhere—my office has been in nearly the same spot ever since I was a graduate student!

What does SCWDS do in general, and what is your role?

There are two major arms of SCWDS: One is the diagnostic service. SCWDS contracts with various state and federal wildlife agencies to conduct mortality investigations and perform diagnostics that occur within their area of authority. For example, if you find a dead raccoon or a dead bird, those remains can be sent to us to figure out why it died. We have a team of diagnosticians who receive those remains and do complete necropsies on them. I’m only peripherally involved in that service. I serve as the diagnostic parasitologist, so if any case comes in and it looks like it has a parasitology issue, I may be asked to examine and identify the parasites. Sometimes the diagnosticians don’t necessarily see parasites during a necropsy, but they may see them on the histology slides, so they’ll ask me to identify the parasites. My group also does a great deal of molecular assays to identify pathogens in wild animals.

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The second major arm of SCWDS is research. Many SCWDS faculty members do field and bench research on a variety of different wildlife disease issues, and all of us have students involved in research as well. This is my primary role at SCWDS—I mentor undergraduate, graduate and veterinary students who conduct research on a variety of wildlife health issues.

You were recently elected to the Companion Animal Parasite Council Board (www.capcvet.org). What is that?

This group aims to promote animal and human health through generating and disseminating information on the diagnosis, treatment and control of parasites. Currently there are 16 members on the board and together we work to provide expert information to the general public, veterinarians and pharmaceutical companies. About half the group is made up of academic parasitologists and the other half is made up of veterinarians in private practice. Although the group is mostly concerned about dogs and cats, and to a lesser degree horses and other companion animals—including some exotic animals—many of these parasites also infect wildlife and some can infect people.

An example of what we do is to develop prevalence maps of the most common parasitic disease issues. We release forecasts, based on weather from the previous months, including when we expect to start seeing transmission of parasites in a given area, so that veterinarians can discuss things like heartworm preventative with their clients to make sure that there’s no gap in heartworm prevention. We also do a good bit of continuing education for veterinarians and other professionals to give them the latest information on parasites. This may be in the form of oral presentations at various conferences or as articles on different parasites. Importantly, these articles are also on our companion website (www.petsandparasites.org) that is focused on pet owners. We also have a Facebook presence and a Twitter account to keep people up to speed on new things that are coming out.

Recently, there has been a lot of focus on ticks and tick-borne pathogens. That’s why I was brought on to join the board. They want to get more into modeling and forecasting where and when tick-borne pathogens are going to be a problem for dogs and cats.

How did your education prepare you for what you’re doing now?

I worked at SCWDS looking at wildlife disease issues, and that’s all I did for the four years that I was here as a graduate student. I did a little bit of work for my specific PhD project, which was ticks and tick-borne pathogens, but luckily for me, I was able to get some funding and grants that allowed me to look at other disease issues at the same time. These “extra” data provided me the preliminary data to obtain my first National Institutes of Health grant that allowed me to branch out and take several of the wildlife and wildlife disease classes offered at Warnell, which also set me up quite nicely for a split position between SCWDS and Warnell.

What accomplishment at this point are you most proud of, and why?

In 2012, I was honored to receive the CURO Research Mentoring Award from the UGA Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities.

What I enjoy most about my job is getting to work with students. My job offers me great flexibility to bring in students and work with them on a one-on-one basis. I have students coming in from a diverse set of programs, including high school students who want to work in the science, technology, engineering and math fields. I’m part of a National Science Foundation-sponsored “Research Experience for Undergraduates” program, administered through the UGA Odum School of Ecology, which looks at the ecology of infectious diseases. I also frequently participate in the Georgia Veterinary Scholars Program, which gives summer research opportunities to veterinary students interested in a career in biomedical research. The majority of my students who enter the lab come from Warnell to conduct research for their senior thesis, but I also have students from other departments, such as biology, ecology, animal science and entomology. It is exciting to work with students from a diverse set of backgrounds. Some want to go to medical school, some to veterinary school, and others to graduate school, so we work hard to help them get hands-on experience.

In addition, I have graduate students in the lab. Some of them work on degrees through the CVM and are interested in infectious diseases or population health. The remainder of my graduate students come from Warnell, and look at organisms and their hosts with more of an emphasis on wildlife population management. So it’s a very broad group of students. We get to talk about how the veterinarians are important, how wildlife management specialists are important, how the medical doctors are important, and we all work together and we get to learn about these disease issues.

For More Information

SCWDS: vet.uga.edu/scwds

Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources: www.warnell.uga.edu

UGA CVM Graduate Degrees: vet.uga.edu/graduate

www.petsandparasites.org for pet owners
The Alumni Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine recognized three colleagues with distinguished alumni awards during the 52nd Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend, held in March in Athens.

The association recognizes alumni contributions to animal and human health-related public service; involvement in the local community, state or nation, veterinary educational research and/or service to veterinary associations at various levels; contributions to the college's alumni association; and professional service.

Nominations for the 2016 awards must be submitted by Oct. 16. For more information, please see the nomination form on page 27.

Distinguished Alumni for 2015

Claude S. Kidd Jr. (DVM '64), of Greensboro, N.C., has steadfastly served the animals and citizens of his hometown for 51 years.

By the time he was accepted into the Class of 1964, Dr. Kidd had already served his country for two years as a medic in the U.S. Army. Upon his graduation from UGA, he headed home and took jobs at two practices that would play significant roles in his future: Carolina Veterinary Hospital and Lawndale Veterinary Hospital.

About six months later, he became a partner in Lawndale. And not long after that, Dr. Kidd accompanied his business partner to the Natural Science Center, which then owned a few animals requiring veterinary care. Dr. Kidd’s first visit to the Center led to a life-long commitment to what is now known as the Greensboro Science Center, which comprises an aquarium, a museum and a zoo. Dr. Kidd is largely responsible for turning this Center into a success story.

For well over 25 years, he oversaw the care of the Center’s live zoo animals. He also served on the Center’s board, including 11 years as president of its Board of Trustees. (He is a Life Member of the Board of Trustees.) The policies and organizational structure that he helped establish enabled the Center to grow its collection of animals, establish a partnership with the city of Greensboro that exists to this day, and helped propel the Center’s reputation to its current status as one of the top science/education centers in the Southeast.

And despite his heavy involvement in the Center, Dr. Kidd remained an avid private practitioner. After leaving Lawndale in 1973, he launched Church Street Veterinary Hospital, which he owned for about 15 years. After that, he came full circle and purchased Carolina Veterinary Hospital, which he owned until recently and where he still sees patients today.

In his spare time, Dr. Kidd still enjoys doing what he has always enjoyed doing: fishing, hunting, breeding and raising bird dogs, and participating in field trial hunting competitions.
Patricia W. Hill (DVM ’84), of Simpsonville, S.C., has served in every executive position of the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians—from secretary all the way up to president, and beyond. Under her leadership, the organization has been working with the state legislature to pass a law to more clearly define the health-related services that non-profit organizations can provide to animals.

Dr. Hill has long been an advocate for animal welfare within her state. In her post-presidency service to SCAV, she has been working to create a foundation to promote animal welfare and the human-animal-veterinary bond in South Carolina. She has also served as president of both the Greater Greenville Veterinary Medical Association and the Blue Ridge Veterinary Medical Association.

For a decade, beginning in 1998, she served on the board of the Animal Emergency Clinic of Greenville. During her time on the Animal Emergency Clinic board, she was heavily involved in two facility relocations; she also assisted the organization in negotiations that led to the first specialty practice in upstate South Carolina, called Upstate Veterinary Specialists.

Dr. Hill has also helped ensure that students who want to become veterinary technicians have access to accredited programs within her state. Through her position on the AVMA Accreditation Committee, Dr. Hill helped evaluate and accredit veterinary technician programs at two colleges: Tri County Technical College, in Pendleton, and Piedmont Technical College, in Newberry.

Through the midst of all of these volunteer efforts, Dr. Hill owned and operated her own successful practice (originally known as Fairview Pointe Animal Hospital and later as Hillcrest Animal Hospital). For 23 years, she was the sole owner of this small animal and exotic general practice, and she worked with one associate.

In addition, she currently serves on the board of the Alumni Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The relationships he developed helped lead to China’s establishment of its first Primate Center, and also to the importation of primates from China to the U.S. His contributions to the CDC earned him the U.S. Public Health Commendation Medal, in 1980, and the U.S. Public Health Service Unit Commendation, in 1989.

He was board-certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine in 1982, and has a lengthy history of service to ACLAM. He served on its exam committee, as well as its board of directors, including as president of the organization. He helped launch the ACLAM Foundation, and served six years on its board. In 2014, ACLAM rewarded his service to the organization and to the profession by presenting him the Nathan R. Brewer Career Achievement Award.

Dr. Adams has also served as president of the Southeastern Branch of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science; president of the Association of Primate Veterinarians; and two terms as president of the Alumni Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Samuel R. Adams Jr. (DVM ’73), of Buford, Ga., earned both a bachelor’s degree in animal science (1963) and a master’s of science in reproductive physiology (1965) from UGA, then landed a job as an animal scientist working for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 1969, he left his post to earn his third degree from UGA—his doctorate of veterinary medicine.

In 1973, Dr. Adams graduated cum laude from the CVM and returned to the CDC as chief of its Animal Resources Branch for the Lawrenceville and Atlanta offices. He left the CDC in 1992, as its assistant director for veterinary programs, to become a professor and director of the Division of Comparative Medicine for the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. He remained at SUNY until his retirement in 2014, and he was named a professor emeritus in 2013. During his two decades in New York, he also worked as a consultant and helped improve lab animal programs at multiple research institutions in the area.

In the 1970s, Adams became the first American laboratory animal veterinary consultant to visit China.

The relationships he developed helped lead to China’s establishment of its first Primate Center, and also to the importation of primates from China to the U.S. His contributions to the CDC earned him the U.S. Public Health Commendation Medal, in 1980, and the U.S. Public Health Service Unit Commendation, in 1989.

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Karen Cornell, DVM, PhD, DACVS, the associate dean for academic affairs for the CVM and a professor of small animal soft-tissue surgery, received this year’s A. M. Mills Award from Alpha Psi’s Lambda Chapter. “No one has done more for the students than Dr. Cornell,” the Chapter said in a statement about her selection for the award. “Her reach extends from communications, to general surgery, some clinical rotations, and now she is fighting for students as the associate dean (for academic affairs). She has already done countless things to improve the curriculum and really the overall experience for students. She is an outstanding doctor, great teacher, amazing mentor, and truly wants us to succeed. She represents everything this award stands for and we truly believe she would be extremely thankful to receive this recognition.”

Dr. Cornell joined the UGA CVM in 1998 as an assistant professor of soft-tissue surgery and by 2010 had earned the rank of a tenured professor. Through the years, she has served the College on multiple committees and in multiple significant leadership roles, including as director of continuing education, from 2014 to 2015, and as interim director of the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, from 2009 to 2010. She became the CVM’s associate dean for academic affairs on Jan. 1.

She is a two-time recipient of the Pfizer-Norden Teaching award and in 2011 was named a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor. She has published at least 27 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, co-authored multiple chapters for veterinary textbooks, and co-edited the textbook *Effective Communication in Veterinary Practice* (published by Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice, 2007).

Dr. Cornell earned both her DVM and PhD from Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine. She is board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Dr. Robert Gogal Jr., DVM, a professor of immunology and immunotoxicology in the CVM’s Department of Veterinary Biosciences & Diagnostic Imaging, was this year’s recipient of the Dr. Fred C. Davison Award from Omega Tau Sigma’s Eta Chapter.

Members of OTS’s Eta Chapter selected Dr. Gogal for his devoted service to the students, as well as for the example he sets for them. He is very dedicated in helping first-year students succeed at UGA, and accomplishes this, in part, by spending time getting to know them individually and being willing to meet with them outside of class time as often as needed. In addition, he regularly attends OTS functions to get to know his students on both a personal and professional level. The chapter is also grateful for his donation of a television to the fraternity house.

Dr. Gogal also sets an example for the students by keeping balance in his life. He likes building skeletons for the CVM, working with wood, “Mac” computers and is an avid model train collector and operator. He loves all animals (except snakes), tolerates the family cat and dotes over his three Collies. He is a very devoted father to his two sons, and a loving husband to his wife of more than 31 years.

An expert in ecotoxicology, environmental immunotoxicology and autoimmunity, Dr. Gogal teaches courses in cell biology, veterinary immunology, toxicology, organ system toxicology, developmental and reproductive toxicology and is also responsible for the live animal palpation component in the small and large animal veterinary anatomy courses. He has published more than 83 peer-reviewed scientific articles and is associate editor for four journals.

Dr. Gogal obtained his degree from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, Va.
Obituaries:

George T. Deriso (DVM ’65); St. Simons Island, Ga.; March 10, 2014 ◆ James C. Wilkinson (DVM ’57); Chilhowie, Va.; March 26, 2014 ◆ Peter B. McCoy (DVM ’69); Rembert, S.C.; April 2, 2014 ◆ William W. McPherson (DVM ’60); Augusta, Ga.; April 5, 2014 ◆ Walter G. Pearson (DVM ’53); Raleigh, N.C.; April 10, 2014 ◆ Gray F. Eubank (DVM ’79); Largo, Fla.; April 11, 2014 ◆ William F. Meriwether (DVM ’54); Decatur, Ga.; May 7, 2014 ◆ Don O. Gay (DVM ’68); Monticello, Ga.; May 19, 2014 ◆ Ralph D. MacPherson (DVM ’54); Saint Michaels, Md.; June 15, 2014 ◆ Frank D. Taylor (DVM ’60); Faison, N.C.; June 25, 2014 ◆ James R. Lindsey (DVM ’57); Mountain Brook, Ala.; July 30, 2014 ◆ Milton H. Hatcher (DVM ’58); Gray, Ga.; Aug. 5, 2014 ◆ Raymond H. Mason (DVM ’51); Swainsboro, Ga.; Aug. 21, 2014 ◆ Charles E. Franklin (DVM ’66); Jacksonville, N.C.; Aug. 28, 2014 ◆ William D. Stafford (DVM ’60); Narrows, Va.; Oct. 24, 2014 ◆ Ralph D. King (DVM ’61); Rockmart, Ga.; Nov. 10, 2014 ◆ Robert M. Kuhn (DVM ’52); Stuart, Fla.; Dec. 7, 2014 ◆ Stanley Steinberg (DVM ’59); Richmond, Va.; Dec. 25, 2014 ◆ Bradford E. Buell (DVM ’65); Pine Mountain, Ga.; Dec. 27, 2014 ◆ Michael M. Forney (DVM ’70); Morton, Md.; Dec. 31, 2014 ◆ Lauren Elizabeth Baldwin (DVM ’10); Clemson, S.C.; Jan. 31 ◆ Wilbur S. Higgs (DVM ’51); Cleveland, Tenn.; Feb. 8 ◆ James R. Hinton (DVM ’84); Gainesville, Ga.; Feb. 16 ◆ George W. Patton (DVM ’52); Fayetteville, Ga.; March 10 ◆ Robert L. Carson (DVM ’73); Auburn, Ala.; March 21 ◆ Stonewall J. Shirley (DVM ’54); Commerce, Ga.; April 6 ◆ Wiley J. “Dub” Greenway (DVM ’51); Roswell, Ga.; April 8 ◆ Edgar M. Ewing (DVM ’69); St. Augustine, Fla.; April 19

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:

Marti Brick
vetalums@uga.edu
or fax: 706.583.0242

Follow the CVM and Alumni Association’s current activities!

- vet.uga.edu
- facebook.com/ugavetmed
- twitter.com/ugavetmed
Grace Ashby, a PhD candidate in poultry science at the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, received a $100,000 scholarship from Merck Animal Health, to provide three years of support for her studies. Ashby is studying under Mark W. Jackwood, PhD, who heads the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center and also the College’s department of population health, and Brian Jordan, PhD, an assistant professor who is jointly appointed to the departments of poultry science, at the UGA CAES, and population health. Ashby began her program in 2014. Her scholarship was presented to her in January at the International Production & Processing Expo. Pictured, from left to right: Shannon Kellner, Business Unit Head – U.S. Poultry, Merck Animal Health; Delair Angelo Bolis, Global Poultry Business Unit, MSD Animal Health; Grace Ashby; Brian Jordan, PhD; Mark Jackwood, PhD; and, Harry Dickerson, BVSc, MS, PhD, DACVM, the associate dean for research and graduate affairs at the UGA CVM. Photo provided by Merck Animal Health.

Julie Rushmore, (PhD ’13, DVM 2017) received the Robert C. Anderson Memorial Award from the UGA Research Foundation. The award recognizes her recent doctoral work in behavioral ecology, which focuses on behavioral observations from a community of wild chimpanzees in Kibale National Park, Uganda, to examine how disease-causing pathogens are transmitted among the chimps and to evaluate the effectiveness of various disease intervention strategies.

Olivia Perwitasari, PhD, a postdoctoral researcher in the department of infectious diseases, received a Postdoctoral Research Award from the UGA Research Foundation for her contributions to the field of antiviral therapeutics and the host-virus interactions to govern infection outcome. Her work at UGA has focused on the repurposing of available drugs as new influenza treatments.

Brandi Flanagan (DVM 2016) received the Dr. Jack Walther Leadership Award from the Western Veterinary Conference.

Six students received UGA Freeman Asia grants to study in Southeast Asia during Summer 2015. The students wrote their own grants, with help from John Rossow (DVM 2017), a student in the CVM’s DVM/MPH dual degree program and also an officer in the International Veterinary Student’s Association. The students who were awarded grants are: Rossow, who will conduct research with the Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit in Vientiane, Laos; Stephanie Howell and Amanda Morvai, both from the Class of 2018, who will work with elephants at the Maetaman Elephant Camp in Chiang Mai, Thailand, through Friends for Asia; Scott Epperson (DVM 2018), who will be in Bangladesh evaluating avian influenza surveillance for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research; Ashlynn Turner (DVM 2018), who is doing an internship at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia; and Julie Thompson (DVM 2018), who will research Salmonella and Campylobacter in wetland birds at the Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang, Malaysia.

Andrea Josefina Ayala, a PhD student in the CVM’s Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences program, received the 2015 Ford Foundation (National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences) Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award, providing $72,000 for three years of support during her studies. Ayala is researching the bi-directionality of avian pathogens at the agricultural-wildlife interface and the mechanisms that may drive viruses to switch host species.
The College of Veterinary Medicine 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 April 9. Listed on this page are awards for students. Please see the Faculty News section for awards presented to faculty.

Jennifer Velasco (DVM 2017) 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 her award, Velasco will serve as vice president on the Phi Zeta Board for one year.

Eight students, who were nominated by their peers, were recognized for their leadership, service and outreach in the community, their place of worship, the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, student clubs or veterinary fraternities. The following students received the Bruce Hollett Student Leadership, Service and Outreach Award: Katie Griner and Tucker Avra, from the Class of 2015; Cody Mannino and Adriana Weil, from the Class of 2016; Sara Collins and Samantha Williams Roberts, from the Class of 2017; and Matthew Bradley and Ashlynn Turner, from the Class of 2018.

New student inductees into the Phi Zeta Honorary

Six residents/graduate students were inducted: Lorelei Clarke, DVM, who is doing a combined residency-PhD program, with a residency in anatomic pathology and PhD in veterinary pathology; Elizabeth Elsmo, DVM, a resident in anatomic pathology with a focus on wildlife; Susan Fogelson, DVM, MS, who is also doing the combined residency-PhD program, with her residency in anatomic pathology and her PhD in veterinary pathology with a focus in aquatic animal pathology; Stivalis Cardenas Garcia, MVZ, a PhD student in the Department of Pathology; Chien-Tsun Huang, DVM, (MS ’12, PhD ’14), and Annie Page-Karjian (DVM ’11), who is completing her PhD in veterinary pathology.

Daniel Rissi, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVP, a clinical assistant professor of pathology, was also inducted into Phi Zeta.
Honorary inductees this year were: Frederick D. Quinn, MS, PhD, head of the department of infectious diseases, and the Athletic Association Professor of Infectious Diseases, and, Eric R. LaFontaine, PhD, an associate professor of infectious diseases.

Winners of the Phi Zeta Manuscript Competition were: Tiago Afonso, DVM, a resident in large animal internal medicine, and Qingqing (Connie) Chai, DVM; both Drs. Afonso and Chai are also PhD candidates in the College’s Veterinary Biomedical Sciences program. Dr. Afonso’s manuscript, which was published in the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine in 2013 (27:1185-1192), was titled “Pharmacodynamic Evaluation of 4 Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors in Healthy Adult Horses.” Dr. Chai’s manuscript, titled “Enhancement of Blood-brain Barrier Permeability and Reduction of Tight Junction Protein Expression Are Modulated by Chemokines/Cytokines induced by Rabies Virus Infection,” was published in the Journal of Virology in 2014 (88:4698-4710).

The Morrow B. Thompson Award was presented to Chien-Tsun Huang, DVM, (MS ’12, PhD ’14). Huang is completing her residency in clinical pathology and finished her PhD, which focused on the rabies virus, this past December. 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 Annie Page-Karjian (DVM ’11) for her work with sea turtles. Page-Karjian is completing her PhD in pathology. 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.
Honors and Awards

Highlights from 2015 banquet

The awards listed below represent the senior clinical awards and a sampling of the scholarships that were bestowed upon UGA CVM students during the 2015 Honors and Awards Banquet, held in April. Photos by Christopher B. Herron.

**Elodie Huget (DVM 2015)** received the American College of Veterinary Radiology Award. Huget also received the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Award.

**Jennifer Abi Younes (DVM 2015)** received the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Certificate of Clinical Excellence.

**Wesley Mercer (DVM 2015)** received the Elanco/Ethicon Surgical Excellence Award.

**Zeb Duvall (DVM 2015)** received the Field Service Award.

**Shannon Larsen (DVM 2015)** received the Large Animal In-House Award.

**Alessandra Keenan (DVM 2015)** received the John Morton Award for Humane Animal Care. Keenan also received the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia Clinical Proficiency Award and the Martha F. Cannon Scholarship for Clinical Excellence in Ophthalmology, as well as a Certificate of Merit for Proficiency in Clinical Pathology.

**Katy Ellis (DVM 2015)** received the Proficiency in Theriogenology Award.

**Tucker Avra, Katey Ellis, Emily Hadaway, Jacob Hammond, Brittany Murphy, Natalia Rodriguez, Deanna Veal and Lansing Yarborough**, all from the Class of 2015, received Certificates of Merit for Proficiency in Anatomic Pathology.

**Alex Byas (DVM 2015)** received the American College of Veterinary Pathologists Award for Excellence in Veterinary Pathology. Byas also received the Bob Rosenthal Senior Student Award for Proficiency in Clinical Oncology, and Certificates of Merit for Proficiency in Anatomic Pathology and Proficiency in Clinical Pathology.

**Sheilena Brookshire, Whitney Hinson, Matthew Jenerette, Tiffany Jenkins, Rebecca Welch and Jessica Wong**, all from the Class of 2015, received Certificates of Merit for Proficiency in Anatomic Pathology.

**Do Young Kwak, Debra Gohr, Will Marscher and DG Sandu**, all from the Class of 2015, received Certificates of Merit for Proficiency in Clinical Pathology.

**Katie Rosenbalm (DVM 2015)** received the Food Animal Production Medicine Clinical Proficiency Award.

**Atticus Mabry (DVM 2015)** received the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology Senior Student Award.

**Chelsea Davis (DVM 2015)** received the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Certificate of Clinical Excellence.

**Whitney Hinson (DVM 2015)** received the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Award.

**Debra Gohr (DVM 2015)** received the American Association of Feline Practitioners Outstanding Senior Award.

**Kalyn Kitchings (DVM 2015)** received the Award for Academic Excellence in Veterinary Ophthalmology. Kitchings also received the Martha F. Cannon Scholarship for Clinical Excellence in Ophthalmology, and Certificates of Merit for Proficiency in Clinical Pathology, Proficiency in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery and also for Proficiency in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

**Paula Rodriguez (DVM 2015)** received the Award for Proficiency in Emergency & Critical Care. Rodriguez also received the John Morton Award for Humane Animal Care, and Certificates of Merit for Proficiency in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, as well as for Proficiency in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.
Jennifer James (DVM 2015) received the Bayer Excellence in Communication Award.

Rayle White (DVM 2015) received the Elanco/Ethicon Surgical Excellence Award. White also received the Outstanding Senior Oncology Student Scholarship.

Samantha Dockery (DVM 2015) received the Blanch D. Hayes Award for demonstrated excellence in caring for felines and for having an exemplary “cage-side manner.”

Allison Robillard (DVM 2015) received the Kaytee Avian and Special Species Excellence Award.

Amie Goedeke (DVM 2015) received the John Oliver Neurology Award.

Nicole Woller (DVM 2015) received the Outstanding Senior Internal Medicine Student Scholarship.

Heidi Gordon (DVM 2015) received the Rafter Memorial Scholarship. Gordon also received a Certificate of Merit for Proficiency in Clinical Pathology.

Tucker Avra, Lee Barton, Matthew Beeson, Chelsea Comer, Amie Goedeke, Jacob Hammond, Julia Hill, Jennifer James, Maren Mason, Zach Moore and Christopher Perry, all from the Class of 2015, also received Certificates of Merit for Proficiency in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

Jackie Marinoff (DVM 2018) received the Deanna Bowen Armstrong Memorial Scholarship.

Katie Malehorn (DVM 2015) received the Dr. David A. Forehand Scholarship.

Jamie Fendley (DVM 2015), Allison Graf (DVM 2018), Dane Knudsen (DVM 2017) and Christina Scanlon (DVM 2016) received the William Morris Grayson Scholarship.

Brittany Murphy (DVM 2015) received the Marguerite T. Hodgson Equine Fellowship in Veterinary Medicine.

Julianne Felton (DVM 2015) received the Dr. R. Bruce Hollett Fellowship in Veterinary Medicine.

Joel Noah (DVM 2015) received the Barbara C. Joslin Scholarship.

Betsy Andrews (DVM 2017), Brittany Bristol (DVM 2016), Elizabeth Cavender (DVM 2015), Chelsea Comer (DVM 2015), Jed Darden (DVM 2016), Annemarieke de Vlaming (DVM 2017), Alyson Frederick (DVM 2015), Lisa James (DVM 2017), Kelsey Robinson (DVM 2016), Priya Subbarayan (DVM 2018), Kellyn Sweeley (DVM 2018) and Katarina Yi (DVM 2018) received the Hugh and Victoria Leary Scholarship.

Shelbe Harry (DVM 2018) received the Steve Lee Memorial Research Scholarship.

Karolina Ferreira (DVM 2016) received the Robert Otto Lewis Scholarship.

Patrick Bales, Stephanie Howell, Tessa Sghiatte and Anna Slagle, all members of the Class of 2018, received the William and Florence McFarlane Scholarship.

Seth Stowers (DVM 2018) received the Donald E. McKinney Award.

Juliane Johnston (DVM 2016), Julie Rushmore (DVM 2017), Leo Sage (DVM 2016) and Alexandra Scharf (DVM 2018) received the Dorothy and Thomas Morris Scholarship. All are students in the CVM’s DVM-PhD dual degree program.

Bradley Buckallew, Christina Handford, Anna Hill, Katy Mayhew, Haley Olsen, Scott Robustelli and Brittnay Uhland, all members of the Class of 2016, received the Salsbury Foundation Scholarship.

Dawne Rowe (DVM 2016) received the American Veterinary Medical Association PLIT Student Scholarship.

Chrissy Casey (DVM 2018) received the Dr. Dilmus Blackmon Scholarship.
Maureen Kelly (DVM 2017) received the Bucks, Mueller and Moore Equine Scholarship.

Tiffany Jenkins (DVM 2015) and Yaritibel Torres-Mendoza (DVM 2017) received the John and Jeanne Capozzi Scholarship.

Elizabeth Crabtree (DVM 2016) received the Dr. Rinaldo DeNuzzo Family Memorial Scholarship.

Chrissy Casey (DVM 2018), Dylan Djani (DVM 2017), Aaron Galton (DVM 2017), Mackenzie Long (DVM 2018), Caitlin McManemon (DVM 2017), Victor Oppenheimer (DVM 2017), Mireya Smith (DVM 2018), Kevin Spiegel (DVM 2018), Alena Strelchick (DVM 2017), Scarlett Sumner (DVM 2018), Kell lyn Sweeley (DVM 2018) and Karen Wu (DVM 2018) were selected for the Georgia Veterinary Scholars Program.

John Rossow (DVM 2017) received the Dr. Paul Hoffman Scholarship.

Brynn Davis (DVM 2016) received the Edward E. Hood Foundation Companion Animal Scholarship.

Jamie Ashbrook (DVM 2016) received the Edward E. Hood Foundation Equine Scholarship.

Grace Vahey (DVM 2016) received the Dr. Kerry Young Jackson Scholarship.

Ryan Dover (DVM 2017) received the Dennis Wylie Jordan Memorial Scholarship.

Allison Williard (DVM 2016) received the Dr. John McCormack Scholarship.

Lacey Pepples (DVM 2017) received the Dr. J. T. Mercer Scholarship.

Nathan Foley (DVM 2017) received the North American Veterinary Conference Student Award.

Karen Christ (DVM 2016) received the Simmons Educational Fund Business Aptitude Award.

Grace Bonner (DVM 2017), Jennifer Velasco (DVM 2017) and Adriana Weil (DVM 2016) received the Frances Wood Wilson Scholarship.

Matthew Jenerette (DVM 2015) received the Dean Emeritus Thomas J. Jones Cup for being an outstanding fourth-year student. Jenerette was selected on the basis of personality, professional proficiency and scholastic achievement (upper 10%).

Matthew Beeson (DVM 2015) received the Clifford Westerfield Award for maintaining the highest scholastic average throughout the four-year DVM program at the CVM.

Marion Floyd (DVM 2015) received the Dr. David J. Wilhelm Scholarship.

Jessica Comolli (DVM 2016), Elizabeth Crabtree (DVM 2016), Sydney Crosby (DVM 2016), Dylan Djani (DVM 2017), Kevin Guzman (DVM 2017), Cher Hung (DVM 2017), Phil LaTourette (DVM 2017), Andrea Massa (DVM 2017), Leo Sage (DVM 2016), Eric Shepherd (DVM 2016), Alex Sigmund (DVM 2016), Ali Terrell (DVM 2016), Yaritbel Torres Mendoza (DVM 2017), Allison Williard (DVM 2016) and Chad Willman (DVM 2017) received the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship.

Laura Adkins (DVM 2016), Brittany Feldhaeusser (DVM 2017), Nina Griffin (DVM 2015) and Laura Roberts (DVM 2018) received the Atlanta Kennel Club Scholarship.

Meryl Anderson (DVM 2016) received the CH Forfox Liz Claiborn CDX Scholarship.

Marcie Eldred (DVM 2017) and Christopher Perry (DVM 2015) received the Conyers Kennel Club Scholarship.
We are John and Jeanne Capozzi, a retired couple from New Jersey. Jeanne worked as an educator for 32 years in the public school elementary system. John was art director for Channel Companies for several years before he opened his own business, Frame & Fancy Ltd. He also was active in the residential and commercial real estate market.

After a Christmas vacation trip to Savannah in 1986, we purchased a vacation home in the historic district of Savannah. Each visit increased our love for Savannah and we began to refer to our vacation home as “our piece of heaven.” When the time came for retirement, the historic district home was sold and another was purchased on Whitemarsh Island in Savannah.

John was a long time member of Rotary International, where he met Dr. Stanley Lester, a local veterinarian. When Dr. Lester became aware of our love for animals and our desire for estate planning that involved animal welfare, he suggested we contact the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. There, we had the good fortune to meet Kathy Bangle, the College’s director of veterinary external affairs, who invited us to tour the school. We were so impressed that we made arrangements in our will to bequeath a portion of our estate to the College. Since we earmarked a good portion of our estate for veterinary scholarships, we decided to start with two small annual scholarships while we were still alive. It has been a pleasure to meet the recipients each year at the annual honors and awards dinner in April.

Our relationship with UGA, and especially the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been such a positive one. All the staff and students are outstanding. It has been a very satisfying experience, one from which we feel we have received so much more than we have given.

If you would like to make a gift to the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, contact our Office of Veterinary External Affairs at 706.542.1807 or give2vet@uga.edu
The Anatomy of Exceptional Animal Care

Inside the new, state-of-the-art 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.
### Dates to remember:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>Hawaii Dawg-O (at the Georgia Theatre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 16</td>
<td>White Coat Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>GVMA Barbecue (at the Veterinary Medical Center)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Vet School for a Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Dean’s Tailgate (Homecoming weekend)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11-12, 2016</td>
<td>53rd Annual Veterinary Conference &amp; Alumni Weekend (at the Georgia Center)</td>
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</tbody>
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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](http://www.vet.uga.edu/ce)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 9</td>
<td>“S” is for Skin: A Day of Dermatology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 16</td>
<td>Laser Therapy in Veterinary Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10-11</td>
<td>Comparative Ocular Pathology (COPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Fall GVAA Veterinary Technician Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 10-11</td>
<td>Small Animal Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 24-25</td>
<td>Small Animal Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 12-13</td>
<td>11th Annual Equine Encore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Dentistry for Veterinary Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Veterinary Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5-6</td>
<td>Avian &amp; Reptile Endoscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5-6</td>
<td>Outpatient Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 11-12</td>
<td>Small Animal Arthroscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 12-13</td>
<td>Interventional Minimally Invasive Surgery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make plans to join us for the annual Dean’s Tailgate on October 17.  
**The fun starts 3 hours before kickoff!**