A picture-perfect spring

It’s been a photogenic spring, this edition of Aesculapian, we’re presenting a picture gallery of photographs depicting all the colorful events that have taken place at the College of Veterinary Medicine in the last two months.

Beginning with the reunion in April and ending with graduation in May, it’s been a joyous time for alums, students, faculty, and parents.

So please join us on this tour of celebrations. We hope these photos will bring back fond memories to our alumni, and a glimpse of the light-hearted side of the College for all our other readers.

Fifty years! Has it been that long? The Class of 1951 celebrated its half century mark at the 2001 annual reunion and conference in April. Next year’s annual reunion is scheduled for April 12-14, 2002. (See pages 4 and 5 for more reunion photos.)

Teddy bear surgery was a popular activity at the annual Open House last April. Many injured stuffed animals were anesthetized and sutured with the help of masked, fascinated children.

It’s a generational thing in the Shuler family. Kenneth and wife Heather, both in the graduating Class of 2001, were cheered on at graduation by Ken’s father, Dr. Kenneth C. Shuler, Class of ’68. Ken’s uncle is also a veterinarian, and his younger brother, along with his brother’s wife, is studying veterinary medicine. All the Shulers will be working in the senior Dr. Shuler’s practice in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.
The College applauds its outstanding alumni

Distinguished alumnus award winners

Up to three Distinguished Alumnus Awards are presented every year at the annual alumni conference to alums who have made a significant contribution to the veterinary profession.

Two awards go to veterinarians in private practice, and the third to an alum in another form of veterinary practice.

Nominations are made by alumni who must furnish supporting evidence of the nominee’s contributions to veterinary associations, professional service, veterinary research and/or service, human health public service, or the community, state, or nation.

The selection committee is made up of board members and past presidents of the Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association.

Outstanding Alumnus

Dr. Oswald H. (Sonny) King, Class of 1978

After earning his doctorate at the College in 1978, Sonny King moved from his native Georgia to South Carolina to practice in Smith Animal Hospital, one of the oldest full service veterinary practices in the Southeast.

His interest in sled dogs and sled dog races began when a friend gave him an Alaskan malamute. In 1993 he was selected to be one of 22 trail veterinarians for Alaska’s prestigious Iditarod. The following year, Dr. King became a musher himself, eventually finishing in the Iditarod’s top 8. He created the Veterinary Educational Team which actively involves hundreds of school children in South Carolina, and visits schools with his Alaskan Huskies.

In 1989, he founded the Spartanburg Veterinary Emergency Clinic for the care of animals outside of business hours. He served the professional community as the only veterinarian on the board of the Spartanburg Animal Welfare League, as a member of the Spartanburg Humane Society and the International Sled Dog Veterinary Medical Association, as well as past president of the Blue Ridge Veterinary Medical Association.

I want to say thank you to each and every member of the faculty and staff who have made the past four years of my veterinary education a tremendous success. . . .

To the faculty, thank you for your time and effort in teaching the curriculum in the expert fashion that you did. . . .

To the support staff and techs in the hospital and labs, I could not have learned the hands on stuff without your guidance...

To everyone else who made it possible for the system to operate, a big thank you. . . .

I will truly miss the college and the people here. I hope to return time and again and see the friends I have made these past four years.

Bob Ebert, dvm
Class of 2001

An alumnus looks forward

Distinguished Service

Dr. W. J. (Dub) Greenway, Class of 1951

Dr. Jan C. Hines, Class of 1966
After earning his DVM at the College in 1983, Timothy Leon Montgomery practiced large and small animal medicine and surgery for 17 years in Georgia. He began as an associate at Conyers Animal Hospital in Conyers from 1983 to 1986. He then purchased the Dacula Animal Hospital in Dacula where he practiced from 1986 until the present. He has been a leader in his profession, serving as past president of three organizations: the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, the Barrow County FFA Alumni, and the Barrow County Cattleman’s Association. Two years ago he was named Veterinarian of the Year by the Atlanta Veterinary Medical Society. For the past five years, Dr. Montgomery was the driving force behind the move to create a new Veterinary Practice Act. He drafted the new act, traveled the state to gain support for it, and lobbied legislative committees. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and serves as deacon of the Appalachian Baptist Church in Auburn, Georgia.

Outstanding Alumnus

Dr. Timothy L. Montgomery
Class of 1983

Outstanding Alumnus

Dr. Charles E. Hamner, Class of 1960

A 1960 graduate of the College, Charles E. Hamner went on to earn a master’s degree in chemistry and a doctorate in biochemistry at the University of Georgia. He has had a 40-year career in a variety of academic, industrial, and governmental endeavors including teaching, biomedical research, and economic development. In addition, he has been a key player in the establishment of 60 new companies offering pharmaceutical or environmental products and services. Dr. Hamner has had senior line responsibilities in pharmaceutical and health care industries, has been an academic administrator at all levels, has done research and teaching in biochemistry and molecular biology, and is licensed to practice veterinary medicine and surgery in Virginia and Georgia.

Outstanding Alumnus

Dr. Timothy L. Montgomery
Class of 1983

As you probably know, Veterinary Medicine means a lot to me in so many areas of my life. Veterinarians have a unique way of really getting to know their clients. Many of them relate to me how unhappy they are with their jobs. In contrast, I look forward to mine every day, even after 35 years. I am grateful to the University in general and the Veterinary College in particular for the wonderful life and opportunity that has been afforded me.

With kind regards,
J.C. Hines, DVM
Class of 1966

Distinguished Service

Dr. Hiram N. Lasher

After earning his DVM at the College in 1983, Timothy Leon Montgomery practiced large and small animal medicine and surgery for 17 years in Georgia. He began as an associate at Conyers Animal Hospital in Conyers from 1983 to 1986. He then purchased the Dacula Animal Hospital in Dacula where he practiced from 1986 until the present. He has been a leader in his profession, serving as past president of three organizations: the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, the Barrow County FFA Alumni, and the Barrow County Cattleman’s Association. Two years ago he was named Veterinarian of the Year by the Atlanta Veterinary Medical Society. For the past five years, Dr. Montgomery was the driving force behind the move to create a new Veterinary Practice Act. He drafted the new act, traveled the state to gain support for it, and lobbied legislative committees. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and serves as deacon of the Appalachia Baptist Church in Auburn, Georgia.

Young Achiever

Dr. Cheryl Greenacre

A 1991 graduate of the College, Cheryl Greenacre did her internship and residency in avian/zoo medicine at UGA. She taught at the College until the present year while serving as advisor to the Exotics Club. In her capacity as consulting veterinarian, she made regular rounds at Zoo Atlanta as well as the Athens Zoo. In addition, she responded to approximately 1,000 consulting calls per year. Actively involved in research on beak and feather disease, she also has been instrumental in educating clients of the small animal clinic about their exotic pets. Dr. Greenacre is a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Avian Practice, and a member of several professional organizations, including the Association of Avian Veterinarians, the Association of Amphibian and Reptile Veterinarians, and the American Association of Zoo and Wildlife Practitioners.
The Class of 1951 – It was their
Nine other classes exchanged smiles and memories.

Nine other classes exchanged smiles and memories.

There are more reunion photos on this website: www.vet.uga.edu/testbed
Click on Service, then Alumni, then Reunion 2001
Alumni who attended the annual conference were treated to a variety of courses in large and small animal medicine, faculty demonstrations, as well as a keynote address by a pioneering researcher.

Keynote speaker Dr. Steven Stice talked about animal cloning and genetic selection. Stice produced the first cloned transgenic calves in 1998 and holds the first U.S. patents on cloning animals and cattle embryonic stem cells. He is a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in the UGA Animal and Dairy Science Department.

Fritz Wood (r.), who talked about practice management at the conference, is shown with Dr. Bruce Hollett, Director of Continuing Education, and Cathy McCleland, alumnus and Hill’s representative.

A demonstration of laparoscopic surgery was among the faculty presentations made at the College during the reunion weekend. Here Dr. Clarence Rawlings (r.) is helping Dr. Bill Fletcher pick up jelly beans with a laparoscopic instrument.
A time for laughing

The 10th annual Doggie Dash, sponsored by the CVM Canine Club, was held on reunion weekend. Proceeds of the 2 kilometer owner-dog fun run/walk went to the College's Nicky Fund for Canine Cancer Research.

Dr. Dilmus M. Blackmon, Class of '56, regaled alumni at the Reunion Banquet with his anecdotes and reminiscences. Blackmon served as head of the Department of Large Animal Medicine from 1985 until his retirement in 1995.

At the College's Open House on reunion weekend, almost 2,500 elementary school children admired the large and small creatures on display on the front lawn.
It was time for honors and awards in April at the College’s annual Honors and Awards Banquet and throughout the University. Of the many people who were honored at that time, four stand out: two faculty members honored for teaching excellence and two students honored for scholarship and all-around achievement.

Top UGA teacher

Dr. Tom Purinton, professor of anatomy and radiology, was winner of one of four university-wide Meigs awards for excellence in teaching.

This is the fourth year in a row that one of the College’s faculty members has been honored with the Meigs award.

Dr. Purinton was described by a colleague as possessing understanding of his subject, passion and ability to instruct, development of effective and novel teaching methods, dedication to students, and unselfishness.

Meigs winners receive a permanent salary increase of $6,000 and a fund of $1,000 for departmental use. The award is named for Josiah Meigs who succeeded Abraham Baldwin in 1801 as president and sole professor of the fledgling University of Georgia.

Previous Meigs Award recipients were Dr. Craig Greene, 1994; Dr. Jeanne Barsanti, 1998; Dr. Michelle Barton, 1999; and Dr. Linda Medleau, 2000.

Highest scholastic average

Laura Steadman was awarded the Faculty Scholastic Plaque and Clifford E. Westerfield Award in recognition of her outstanding scholarship.

An engraved plaque, a certificate, and $100 from the Xi Chapter of Phi Zeta went to Steadman as the fourth-year student with the highest scholastic average for her entire four years at the College.

The award is made by the College in honor of Dr. Clifford E. Westerfield and is cosponsored by the Xi Chapter of Phi Zeta.

Best all-around senior

Ellen Matheson received the Dean Emeritus Thomas J. Jones Cup, which is given annually to a fourth-year student selected on the basis of personality, professional proficiency, and scholastic achievement.

She was awarded a $500 scholarship and a gold cup, engraved with her name. The cup is displayed in the College.

Outstanding College Teacher

Dr. Karen Cornell, assistant professor of small animal surgery, is the winner of the College’s highest recognition on the basis of character, leadership, and teaching ability as judged by the responsiveness of her students.

After receiving her DVM at Purdue, she did her internship and 3-year surgery residency there, and went on to earn a PhD with research in cancer biology. She is certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

In her three years at UGA, Dr. Cornell has produced 9 publications in print and continues to pursue cancer research.

In addition to an engraved plaque, she receives a gift of $1,000. The award is sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health.

Special offer to CVM alumni

Enhance the beauty of your home or office with this limited edition print of the College of Veterinary Medicine. Officially licensed by The University of Georgia, this full color, detailed lithograph print is made from an original watercolor by artist Jill E. Leite. Each print is signed and numbered by the artist.

Available unframed or double-matted and framed (18.5” x 22.5”) with superior craftsmanship and quality materials, the print is ready to hang. A history of the College of Veterinary Medicine is attached to each print.

Prices for this limited edition of 950 prints are $160 framed or $40 unframed, plus shipping and handling. 15% of the proceeds will benefit the Foundation for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

For inquiries or orders contact:

Jill E. Leite Studio
800/541.7913 ext. 84 or 706/549.4442
jilleite@aol.com

Open House 2001 was a hit with young and old alike. If you missed it this year, come see us next April!