The Perfect Blend

Veterinarian DeAnne Livingston (DVM ’88) and her husband Eric Seifarth own and operate Crane Creek Vineyards in Young Harris, Ga.
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In late September, these grapes are almost ready for the harvest at Crane Creek Vineyard in Young Harris, Ga.

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In late September, these grapes are almost ready for the harvest at Crane Creek Vineyard in Young Harris, Ga.

Photo by Sue Myers Smith

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Dear Alumni and Friends of the College,

Greetings from the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine! I hope this summer allows you some time to relax with family and friends. We are as busy as ever — seeing patients and clients in our Teaching Hospital and getting ready to welcome the Class of 2016 in August.

Our quest to replace our aging hospital is finally coming to fruition. Thanks to your support and enthusiasm, along with the help of many people within the University and the state government, we will break ground on this facility this fall! Our update on this project is among the many news items we share with you in this Spring/Summer issue of the Aesculapian. Here are other stories you don’t want to miss:

—Meet Dr. Flynn Nance, the new president of our alumni association. Dr. Nance has long been an active member of our alumni community. He’s also an active member of our veterinary referring group, and well known in our area for his organization of and participation in charitable drives that benefit animals. (page 40)

—Our students are working to keep at-risk pets and their owners together during these difficult times, by collecting pet food and distributing it to pet owners who are experiencing financial hardship, including homelessness. Find out how you can help. (page 27)

—Our students are also learning about our government and its role in veterinary medicine. Read rising third-year student Hannah Jackson's story about her experiences on Capitol Hill for AVMA's annual Veterinary Student Legislative Fly-In. (page 25)

—Our VTH now has a Regenerative Medicine service that offers a wide range of therapies to restore structure and function to tissues and organs damaged by injury or disease. Dr. John Peroni heads the program and is also the current chair of the North American Veterinary Regenerative Medicine Association. Read about the range of treatments we can offer your patients, and about the exciting research we are conducting in this cutting-edge area of medicine for animals and humans. (page 5)

—And don’t miss the delightful story about some of our clients who have been bringing their four-legged loved ones to us for veterinary care for decades — and by decades, I mean the 6+ decades our doors have been open! (page 9)

—Enjoy a photographic tour of Crane Creek Vineyards, owned by Dr. DeAnne Livingston (DVM '88) and her husband, Eric Seifarth. The couple has carved out an interesting and “fruitful” lifestyle in the picturesque setting of north Georgia — and they are producing award-winning wines! (page 13)

We hope you’ll enjoy these and many other stories in this issue. With the support of our alumni and veterinary community, combined with the hard work of the faculty, staff, and students, the College and its alumni continue to accomplish great things while serving our wonderful state.

As always, thanks for all you do to support our endeavors!

Sheila W. Allen
Jackwood now heads Department of Population Health

Mark W. Jackwood, a molecular virologist known for his work in avian diseases, has been appointed to head the College’s department of Population Health. The department includes the College’s Food Animal Health Management and Laboratory Animal Medicine programs, as well as the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center (PDRC) and the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS).

Jackwood joined the College in 1989 and is based in the PDRC. His primary research focus is the field of respiratory viruses, particularly avian coronaviruses, infectious bronchitis virus and avian influenza. He co-developed and co-owns patents on a rapid diagnostic technique for infectious bronchitis and an avian therapeutic compound; he has a third patent pending on an infectious bronchitis virus vaccine.

“We conducted an international search for this important leadership position in the College,” said Dean Sheila W. Allen. “We had an outstanding field of candidates, including Dr. Jackwood. We are fortunate to have someone with Dr. Jackwood’s breadth of experience and outstanding reputation lead this important department in the College.”

Jackwood’s research has earned him numerous honors and awards, including the Creative Research Medal from UGA’s Research Foundation; the Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence, the highest research honor awarded by the College and one that he has received twice; the Upjohn Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Avian Medicine Research, awarded by the American Association of Avian Pathologists; and the Bruce W. Calnek Applied Poultry Research Achievement Award.

During his time at UGA, Jackwood has served both the College and the University in various capacities. Currently, he serves as chair of the Veterinary Medical Agricultural Research Committee, a member of the Applied Life Sciences Faculty Research Grants Review Committee, as member of the CDC/UGA Infectious Disease Review Panel, a member of the Faculty of Infectious Diseases Executive Council, a member of the University Council, a member of the University Council Committee on Facilities, and a member of the College of Veterinary Medicine Ethics Committee.

“It is truly an honor to be selected to lead an outstanding group of faculty and staff in this important position in the College,” said Jackwood, who assumed his position on Dec. 15, 2011. “I look forward to working with my friends and colleagues here at the University, in the poultry industry, and in livestock and wildlife health management programs across the state.”

Since 2001, Jackwood has served as secretary/treasurer of the Southern Conference on Avian Diseases. In 2011, he co-organized the first International Avian Respiratory Disease Conference, held in Athens and attended by 179 scientists. He is also an active member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists and serves on the organization’s advisory board for avian diseases. He is a member of multiple professional organizations, and has served as a reviewer or editor of more than 25 professional publications worldwide.

Jackwood earned his BS and MS degrees at the University of Delaware and his PhD in the department of poultry science at The Ohio State University.
Imagine applying a putty substance to a bone fracture, and the injury heals in a fraction of the time it takes today. Or, imagine completely healing an animal’s lameness condition with a few injections instead of surgery. These scenarios are very close to becoming everyday reality thanks in part to Dr. John Peroni, DVM, MS, DACVS, and the researchers at the UGA Regenerative Medicine Service (UGA RMS).

The potential impact that regenerative medicine (RM) has not only on veterinary medicine, but also on human medicine, is incredible.

“Stem cells and regenerative medicine have far-reaching implications for everyone,” says Peroni.

Just as in humans, veterinary RM uses clinical treatment and therapy to restore structure and function to tissues and organs that have been damaged by injury or disease. These treatments offered at the UGA RMS feature blood-derived products, including platelet-rich plasma (PRP), conditioned serum (CS), bone marrow concentrate (BMC), and tissue-derived products based on adult mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs).

“The area of regenerative medicine that the UGA RM laboratory specializes in is cellular therapies, which utilize healthy donor cells, a patient’s own stem cells or genetically engineered cells as part of a medical treatment,” says Peroni, who also is the current chairperson of the North American Veterinary Regenerative Medicine Association (NAVRMA). “The main benefit is that regenerative medicine amplifies the natural healing processes and delivers cells that are capable of influencing healing where they are needed, when they are needed.”

Cellular therapies that are used in clinical applications involve the injection of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) that are collected from adult tissues such as bone marrow or fat. Currently, efforts are focused on understanding the benefits of several different treatment combinations in horses, including platelet-rich plasma (PRP) and MSCs to improve healing and recovery of soft tissue injuries in horses; the role of MSCs in decreasing joint inflammation and in cartilage repair; and the role of Interleukin-1 Receptor Antagonist Protein (IRAP) therapy as a potential treatment for osteoarthritis.

Broadly, the RMS and laboratory focus on bone, joint and soft tissue restoration, as these are three major structures of the musculoskeletal system. According to Peroni, repairing joint injuries through RM remains a major challenge at this time because regenerating cartilage lost to injury is difficult. While healing bone injuries with RM has come a long way recently, the most successful RM application to date is repairing soft tissue injury such as tendonitis.

“Soft tissue injuries seem to do very well with stem cell therapy and have a better rate of success than joint injuries at this time,” asserts Peroni.

Peroni, along with Dr. Steven Stice, a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Animal Reproductive Physiology, has been working with researchers from Baylor University, Rice University and the University of Texas to create a procedure using stem cells that are applied in the form of a putty-like substance to bone fractures for faster healing. Their research is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense.

“Following the successes obtained by our colleagues in Texas in lab animals, our role was to implement bone healing stem cell technology in large animals,” says Peroni. “We have been testing it in sheep and pigs. If we
get consistent results, the process then moves to further trials which ultimately will benefit animals and humans.”

“Fracture repair in animals is really, really vital because they are not good patients,” continues Peroni. “You can’t tell an animal not to walk around on a fracture repair.

I am very optimistic about applications of this in the veterinary field as it may expedite healing so that recovery times and treatment costs can be substantially decreased.”

For Dr. Ulrike M. Korte, an internist in human medicine practicing in Alpharetta, a PRP treatment combined with stem cell injections were recommended for her horse, Liberty, in October 2010. Liberty was lame due to a problem in his right leg flexor tendon. She took Liberty to the UGA Teaching Hospital, where Peroni spoke to her about the different types of treatment involving RM.

“Dr. Peroni was excellent at explaining the process,” says Korte. “There is a huge commitment to this treatment and it is important to know what you are getting into in terms of timing and rehabilitation. But, to have this type of treatment available is awesome and I am convinced it is going to help a lot of animals. This is only the beginning.”

In a routine follow-up with an ultrasound four weeks after the treatment, Liberty had experienced a nearly full recovery, and following several months of rehabilitation, Liberty is now being ridden again.

Liberty is just one example of the positive impact of RM, but there are other potential benefits of stem cell therapy that are constantly being studied. Areas that Peroni and the other UGA RMS researchers are investigating right now range from studies of logistics, including the best way to transport stem cells, to investigating the anti-inflammatory effects of MSCs. Peroni explains that most diseases and injuries result in significant inflammation and that stem cells have been shown to reduce inflammation in a biological way without using medications.

“Using stem cells to modulate inflammation is a realistic goal to accomplish relatively quickly,” says Peroni.

The impact of cellular therapies in animals is significant. Taken together, cell products or blood-derived products may complement traditional therapies, with the end result being a faster and improved healing process. The quicker veterinary patients can return to functioning normally, the better. This can lead to a decreased financial burden on animal owners and an increase in the quality of life for both owners and their animals. Additionally, by improving the quality of tissue healing with these treatments, it’s less likely the animal will hurt itself again, which is vital to return them to normal functioning.

And, all of these research implications translate from animals to humans.

“It is important to remember that stem cells are cross-species and this is not a veterinary-specific branch of science,” Peroni concludes. “It is wide-spread and not only about horses. There are lots of human applications.”
At the recent 2012 Annual Conference of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), veterinarians, veterinary medical educators, and representatives of the food animal production industry discussed the rapidly-changing nature of animal agriculture and how veterinary medical education and veterinary practice can respond.

Experts described a strong global demand for food combined with the changing dynamic resulting from the consolidation and regionalization of the swine, poultry, and dairy industries in the United States. The swine industry is primarily located in the upper Midwest and in North Carolina, while the poultry industry is primarily located in Southeast. In contrast, while some large dairies remain in Florida and the New England states, much of the dairy industry is migrating west, focusing in the upper Midwest, California, Oklahoma, Arizona, eastern New Mexico, and the Texas panhandle.

In each commodity, the number of farms is decreasing but the size of operations is increasing, reducing the number of veterinarians required to serve on a day-to-day basis. Instead, these industries are hiring veterinarians as consultants for specialized services related to education and management to minimize diseases, address food safety and animal welfare concerns, and become more involved in managing the impact of these operations on the environment. “Rural veterinary practitioners will need to respond to this changing dynamic by offering a diversity of services, including those that address the health of all species as well as the community’s public health and environmental management needs,” said veterinarian Bennie Osburn, interim executive director of the AAVMC.

Worldwide, experts expect that a great demand for agriculture and animal protein will expand the market for U.S.-produced food, increasing the need for the veterinary medical supervision and expertise. For example, China is about equal to or slightly smaller than the U.S. in size, but 70 percent of China’s land mass is mountains, plateaus, and hills, much of which is not conducive to agriculture, including raising livestock. With 1.34 billion people versus 313 million in the U.S., China is expected to experience a huge demand for food to feed its burgeoning population, as will other areas of the world.

“The animal health industry is at a crossroads,” said Rick Sibbel, director of technical services for U.S. cattle for Merck Animal Health, who pointed out that the veterinarians of tomorrow will need business and communication skills as well as medical skills. His observation aligns with the recommendations outlined in The Roadmap for Veterinary Medical Education in the 21st Century: Responsive, Collaborative, Flexible, a report produced by the AAVMC as part of the North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium (NAVMEC), which calls for an emphasis on the competencies required for practice. For rural practitioners, those competencies would include communication skills, personnel management, education of farmworkers, business skills, and leadership. The report also addressed the importance of reducing educational costs and student debt, as well as the recommended development of Centers of Excellence, which could be consolidated in areas of industry specialization and focus. The creation of Centers of Excellence would reduce the costs of specialized education for individual colleges and take advantage of the economies of scale available in areas where a concentration of livestock and specialized expertise exists.

Conference attendees also emphasized the need for loan repayment programs to assist those new graduates in repaying their student loans as they build practices in rural communities.

“The information from these sessions, which brought the veterinary industry and education together, will form the basis for reviewing and planning for more collaboration of colleges to address the changing educational needs of America’s diverse agricultural systems,” said Osburn.
Veterinarians are now listed under the “general eligibility requirements” for student loan repayment programs administered by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

To qualify for loan repayment, “you must have a health professional doctoral degree (MD, Psy. D, Pharm. D, DO, DDS, DMD, DPM, DC, ND, DVM, or equivalent doctoral degree) from an accredited institution.”

The specific inclusion of veterinarians resulted from meetings with NIH representatives, arranged by the AAVMC’s governmental affairs firm of Cavarocchi, Ruscio, Dennis (CRD) Associates, LLC.

“This is a breakthrough,” said Brian T. Smith, the AAVMC’s governmental affairs director. “AAVMC has consistently maintained that veterinarians have always met the general eligibility requirements and we appreciate that NIH publicly recognizes this fact on its website. This also aligns with our mission, as outlined in the NAVMEC report, to stress One Health and how veterinarians are important members of our nation’s healthcare team.”

AAVMC will continue to work with CRD Associates to expand the eligibility of veterinarians to include clinical NIH loan repayment programs.

For more information, see: www.lrp.nih.gov/eligibility/eligibility_of_individuals.aspx
Repeat clients bring generations of pets to the VTH and CPC

By Sarah Freeman

When Natalie Toney started bringing her Springer Spaniel puppy, Pinky, to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Harry Truman was president, there were 50 veterinary students in each graduating class and the clinic was in a barn because the new School of Veterinary Medicine building was not quite finished. (The name changed to the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1970). Sixty years, 11 presidents and seven dogs later, Toney is still bringing her beloved pets here.

“I have nothing but the highest praise for everyone over there,” Toney says about the reason she keeps coming back to the UGA VTH. “They have been terrific and have treated my pets like people.”

Toney, who had just moved to Athens from Chicago, says there were not very many veterinarians in Athens at the time. It was then that one of her neighbors, Thomas Jones, who coincidentally was the dean of the veterinary school, suggested she take Pinky to the school’s clinic for the dog’s required shots.

“The first time I went to the Veterinary Hospital, it was in a barn because that was before they built the new building,” Toney recalls. “But, when they opened that new building, oh my goodness! It was very first class.”

Brandy, Bob, Rufus, Priscilla, Trudy and now Francie have...
been through the Hospital and subsequent Community Practice Clinic (CPC) over the years, while Toney has been witness to an evolution at the VTH.

“The biggest change has been the tremendous growth,” says Toney. “These days there is so much specialization, too. And, when I started coming here years ago it was all men. Now the students are predominantly women.”

The increased specialization is something that Jack and Janet Damhorst have noticed, too. The Damhorsts have been clients since 1975 when their veterinarian referred their German Shepard, Shiloh, to the Hospital.

“There are so many different branches of specialization that you have now that you didn’t have years ago,” says Janet Damhorst.

The Damhorsts, who have brought several family pets to the VTH over the years for serious issues ranging from bladder infections to cancer to orthopedic surgeries, moved to Athens from Alpharetta in 2008, opening up new opportunities for involvement with the College. When their daughter, who stayed in Athens following graduation from UGA, suggested they start taking their dogs to the Community Practice Clinic (CPC), it was a logical step for the Damhorsts because of their previous experience at the VTH.

“When you are walking through the doors of the Hospital, you have a serious issue,” explains Jack Damhorst. “The biggest assets that give us confidence and reassurance coming over here are that you have state-of-the-art technology with excellent faculty and well-trained students, and you always have multiple sets of eyes looking at this serious problem. And that’s the biggest confidence factor for the Clinic, too.”

The Damhorsts admit that it is a time investment coming to the CPC since it will almost always take longer for an appointment at a teaching clinic, but for them, there is a comfort in knowing their pets have been thoroughly checked over by multiple people.

Another reason the Damhorsts keep coming back is that they know the students in the Hospital and CPC are carefully supervised by faculty members.

“Every time we had a pet at the Hospital,” Janet Damhorst says, “we always had some contact with a teaching faculty member. We know it’s a team back there working.”

The same thing is true at the CPC with the student supervision under the direction of Dr. Ira Roth.
“Dr. Roth is such an asset to the CPC,” explains Jack Damhorst. “His knowledge and personality combination serve Athens well.”

For the Damhorsts, an added benefit of bringing pets to the VTH for more than 35 years is working with the students — a few of whom were family friends. “There was one student we ran into at the Hospital a few years ago whom we have known since she was playing t-ball at four years old,” recounts Mrs. Damhorst. “It is a neat experience to run into kids you have known most of their lives and it is always good to talk with them.”

It is that same mission of working with the students and helping to further their education that has kept Judith DePaola coming back over the years. DePaola first brought her dog, Maggie, to the VTH to be spayed back in 1984 and 28 years later, she is still bringing animals to the CPC.

“It’s important to me to give back to the University that meant so much to me,” says DePaola, who now brings her two dogs, Nicole Grace and Logan, to the CPC for routine care. “I want to help the students learn and if I can do something to contribute, I will continue to take my animals there as long as the students are learning.”

In addition to routine care, the CPC also offers puppy training classes, in which DePaola enrolled Logan, her 1-year-old black Labrador Retriever, after the puppy ate through two pairs of expensive eyeglasses.

The biggest change DePaola has been witness to over the years, other than the CPC’s move to a free-standing building, is that the files have been computerized.

“Maggie used to have a huge file,” says DePaola. “Now all the information is accessed through a computer.”

While helping students learn may have been her initial reason for coming to the CPC, DePaola emphasizes that compassionate care and good customer service are bonuses.

“I can honestly say that every student I have had contact with has had an extra level of compassion and care,” said DePaola. “And, when a veterinary technician or faculty member comes out to greet you and asks about your dog, or recognizes you from class, that extra touch makes you feel very welcome.”

And it keeps them coming back through the years.

For More Information

For more information on our Teaching Hospital or our Community Practice Clinic: www.vet.uga.edu/hospital 706.542.3221 or hospital@uga.edu

To make an appointment at the CPC, call 706.542.1984
Cardiology Service Features Expanded Procedures

The Cardiology Service at the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital (UGA VTH) now offers several interventional procedures for congenital heart disease. These procedures have been made possible by the addition of a new fluoroscopy imaging system introduced to the hospital in 2011.

The new procedures include:
- Balloon Valvuloplasty (BVP)
- Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA) Occlusion
- Heartworm Extraction
- Pacemaker Implantation
- Electrical Cardioversion

The introduction of these procedures positions the UGA VTH as Georgia’s most comprehensive small animal cardiology care center.

Emergency & Critical Care Service Now Offers Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT)

The UGA VTH is now the only veterinary hospital in Georgia offering Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT), or hemofiltration/hemodialysis services, with its recent purchase of a Gambro Prisma.

CRRT is primarily used to treat acute renal failure that is unresponsive to traditional treatment, especially when accompanied by oliguria/anuria or fluid overload.

The new services are administered by the VTH’s two critical care doctors, Dr. Amie Koenig and Dr. Benjamin Brainard, along with the VTH’s staff of veterinary technicians and critical care residents. Dr. Koenig is board-certified in emergency/critical care and internal medicine; Dr. Brainard is board-certified in emergency/critical care and anesthesia.

Picture Your Pet Photo Contest Returns!

After a hiatus, the VTH’s popular Picture Your Pet Photo Contest is returning. Any VTH or Community Practice Clinic (CPC) client is invited to submit their pet’s photo, along with a brief written description. Photos will be accepted through August 31 and winners will be announced October 1. The winning pictures will be displayed in the VTH.

Visit www.vet.uga.edu/GO/photo-contest for more details or to enter.

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA® Veterinary Teaching Hospital
Call for Entries
Picture Your Pet Photo Contest

★ Photos must be of high-resolution using a camera 6 megapixels or higher
★ A brief description of the picture and/or pet must accompany each entry
★ Open to any UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital or Community Practice Clinic client
★ Winning entries will be displayed in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital
★ Visit vet.uga.edu/GO/photo-contest for more details

Submissions will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. August 31, 2012.
To submit your photo, please visit:
vet.uga.edu/GO/photo-contest

* Photos can also be loaded on a non-returnable disk and dropped off at the VTH or CPC, or mailed to: The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Attn: Picture Your Pet Photo Contest, 501 DW Brooks Dr., Athens, GA 30602
The Perfect Blend
Winemaking and veterinary medicine mix well for CVM alumna
Dr. DeAnne Livingston (DVM ’88) and her husband, Eric Seifarth, purchased the land for Crane Creek Vineyards in 1995, the same year that Livingston purchased her veterinary practice in Blairsville, Ga. They planted their first vines that same year, but it took until about 2001 for them to have enough grapes to begin producing wine. The pair met while serving in the U.S. Army—Livingston in the Veterinary Corps and Seifarth as an artillery officer—and became interested in the lifestyle associated with owning and running a winery while they were stationed for several years in Northern Italy. “We fell in love with wine in Italy, and were drawn to the connection you make with the land when you grow grapes and make wine,” says Livingston.

The original house on the property was built in 1886 and now serves as the winery’s tasting room. The couple lived in the old home with their two young sons when they first moved to Young Harris, but built a new house in 2000. In early 2011, they converted that home into a space that could accommodate their growing events calendar, and moved into the vineyard cottage in anticipation of building a new home. The couple says that it’s difficult to just be a winery—you have to have a hospitality side as well. Since the event side of their business has been growing, Livingston has been working more and more with their tasting room general manager, David Sanford, in addition to working full-time at her veterinary practice in Blairsville.

The goal is for the vineyard to be able to produce 6,000 cases of wine per year; currently they make about 4,200. They plant additional vines each year, particularly on an adjacent tract of land they purchased in 2010. Once they’ve reached their ideal production level, they will thin the vines so they are producing fewer fruits per plant, thus increasing the quality of the grapes they get from each vine.

The vineyard is staffed by three to four full-time employees, including vineyard manager Russell Shannon and assistant winemaker Matt Matteson, as well as seasonal pickers, vineyard techs, and even an intern, all of whom participate in the fall harvest.
Livingston and Seifarth enjoy their Hellbender Red in the winery’s pavilion, which overlooks the vineyard.

Catawba, Livingston’s and Seifarth’s female Australian shepherd, relaxes in the retail section of the tasting room. We are sad to report that Catawba died shortly before this publication went to press.
The harvest begins in early September and runs through early October—and it’s all hands on deck to get the vines picked at just the right time. In 2010, the harvest yielded 83,000 pounds of grapes; because of late spring frosts, however, Livingston and Seifarth expected about half that amount from the 2011 harvest. To combat any future losses from frost, the vineyard invested in a wind machine that circulates warm air from above the ground toward the grapes below.
Two of Crane Creek’s award-winning wines, the Seyval Blanc from their Barn Swallow label, and Hellbender Red, are both produced from a single varietal. The Hellbender Red is particularly unique because it is made from Norton grapes, a variety native to America. The Hellbender has won three awards, including a Gold Medal at the 2010 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. The Seyval Blanc was made from grapes from the first vines planted at Crane Creek; at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, this wine took home the 2009 Silver Medal and was the highest-rated Seyval.

Jacky Fortier pours a glass of Mountain Harvest Blush in the Crane Creek tasting room. Fortier has been with Crane Creek since 2007, and started the popular “Wine 4 Women” monthly wine education series.

Eric Seifarth cultivates a plot in the late spring before planting new vines in May 2010.
When Dr. Laura Adams (DVM ’11; MPH ’12) graduated from the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2012, she did not go on to an internship, residency, or private clinic like most of her classmates. Instead, this summer, Adams is among 84 physicians, scientists, public health professionals and veterinarians beginning a fellowship with the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“As soon as I heard about EIS, I knew that was what I wanted to do,” says Adams. “I love the science of public health and the epidemiology of diseases. I’m interested in making a difference on a larger scale.”

Started in 1951 in response to the threat of biological warfare, the Epidemic Intelligence Service is a two-year fellowship program designed to train officers as “disease detectives,” skilled in applied epidemiology, biostatistics, conducting outbreak investigations, emergency preparedness and response, and scientific communications. For the duration of the fellowship, officers are assigned to state and local health departments around the country, or can work within divisions at CDC, where they investigate disease outbreaks, respond to urgent public health problems, and perform routine research and surveillance.

Adams graduated with the CVM’s dual DVM/MPH degree, with the goal of being qualified to enter into EIS upon graduation. Designed primarily as a post-doctoral program, EIS requires veterinarians to also have a Master of Public Health or equivalent experience, and only accepts around 80 officers per year out of 500 applicants. Adams will be one of only 12 veterinarians in the EIS class of 2012.

“I’m excited to be able to put all that I’ve learned as a public health student and as a veterinary student into practice with EIS,” says Adams, who has already done an externship with CDC and did a capstone project for her MPH in Brazil, testing rabies diagnostics in livestock.

“Veterinarians bring a perspective to public health that medical doctors can’t,” says Doug Hamilton, director of the EIS program. “If you’re a veterinarian interested in public health, one of the most valuable credentials you can have in the United States is to have graduated from EIS.”

Adams is just one of many CVM grads to join EIS over the years, and thanks to a growing awareness of the importance of veterinarians in public health, she won’t be the last.

A unique perspective

Randolph Daley, now Chief of the Field Assignments Branch for EIS, had few options beyond private clinical practice when he
graduated from UGA with his DVM in 1983.

“I enjoyed private practice, but I always wanted to do something with a bigger impact,” says Daley, who practiced in Chamblee, Ga., for 12 years. “I was always interested in the CDC, but I didn’t see a pathway as a clinical veterinarian.”

Eventually, Daley got his MPH from Emory University and received a fellowship to work at the Food and Drug Administration before joining EIS in 1997. While finding a channel into public health was difficult for Daley, he says that his veterinary background translated well into his new career.

“The training we get as veterinarians gave me a clinical perspective that was also applicable to human health,” says Daley. “That time in practice was valuable and gave me a client-focused perspective that many of my colleagues [at EIS] didn’t have — now, my client is the public.”

Clinical veterinarians play a crucial role in the health of individual animals, but the education veterinarians receive as students follows the principles of population health, something that is not emphasized as much in physician training. The undeniable link between animal health and human health — now referred to as One Health — places veterinarians in a unique position to affect both. It’s veterinarians who are interested in this animal-human interface that go into public health, according to Hamilton.

L. Rand Carpenter (DVM ’98), an EIS grad now in the Tennessee Department of Health, worked in dairy practice before moving to Haiti as a consultant on the elimination of lymphatic filariasis, where his interest in public health was piqued.

“Treating the ill individual, whether it’s an animal or a human, usually isn’t the most effective way to deal with disease transmission in populations,” says Carpenter. “Prevention is more effective, and veterinarians understand that, especially those involved in agriculture.” Working on a dairy farm is not much different from working with human populations, according to Carpenter. “The switch from dairy to humans may seem extreme to some,” he says, “but it’s all about the approach — that emphasis on prevention and disease distribution.”

“Veterinarians make excellent epidemiologists because we’re trained in population health,” says Kirk Smith (PhD ’95), a veterinarian and EIS alumnus who now works as supervisor of the Food-borne, Vector-borne and Zoonotic Disease Unit for the Minnesota Department of Health.

Laura Adams (DVM ’11; MPH ’12) completed her DVM and MPH at UGA before becoming an EIS officer in 2012.

L. Rand Carpenter (DVM ’98), right, and a colleague distribute oral vaccine baits as part of the 2006 USDA raccoon oral rabies vaccine campaign in Tennessee.
Veterinarians exist in large part for human health because animals serve human needs. It is becoming more common to see veterinarians working in state health departments, international organizations and federal agencies alongside physicians and scientists, identifying and responding to disease outbreaks. While the first veterinarian was accepted into EIS in 1953, the number of veterinarians in the program remained low until recent decades. Now, the odds are good that your state epidemiologist or veterinarian went through EIS. About half of state epidemiologists are EIS graduates, and most veterinarians working at CDC now — there are around 80 — got their start in EIS, according to Hamilton.

Laura Edison (DVM ’03) began working at the CDC after seven years of clinical practice, and will begin EIS in the summer with Laura Adams. An externship during veterinary school in which she shadowed several public health veterinarians, most of whom were EIS grads, sparked her interest in public health, but she wanted to practice clinical medicine before making the switch.

While earning her MPH at Emory, she worked in the National Center for Environmental Health and the One Health office.

“I think the MPH coupled with the veterinary
training gives us an edge over MDs coming straight out of residency,” says Edison. “The MPH exposed me to the wide range of opportunities in public health and showed me how our diverse training as veterinarians can apply to so many different areas.”

With growing concerns over emerging zoonotic infections, bioterrorism and food safety, veterinary schools and public agencies are beginning to recognize the value of having veterinarians on the public health team. At least 10 of the country’s 28 veterinary schools offer dual degree DVM/MPH programs, including UGA, making the decision to become a public health veterinarian easier in terms of cost and time spent in school.

“I would probably have made the switch five years earlier if the path had been there,” says Daley.

Learning by doing

EIS might bring to mind images of the movie Contagion, in which Kate Winslet portrayed an EIS officer in the midst of a deadly outbreak; the reality is a less dramatic, but just as vital in protecting the health of the population.

Officers in the program do more than take classes; they apply their skills in real-world situations. Veterinarians were on the front lines during the H1N1 epidemic and have investigated everything from multi-drug resistant tuberculosis to human plague to a rabid hippo in Kenya.

While most veterinarians in EIS lean toward zoonotic diseases, they aren’t limited to any one area or division. Daley worked in environmental health during his time in EIS, responding to natural disasters and environmentally-induced illnesses like lead exposure in Russian children and chemical exposure on a Sioux reservation. Carpenter participated in one of the first campaigns to distribute flu vaccines in a Tennessee school system.

EIS officers also have the opportunity to impact policy, one of the most effective tools used to improve public health, through their investigations, particularly for foodborne illness — such as incorrect product labeling or inadequate monitoring of production. “Working in public health allows me to actually affect public policy,” says Kirk Smith, “and that’s very gratifying.”

Most of the veterinarians who graduate from EIS stay with local and state health departments, or continue to work for the CDC. A few go into academia, but it is rare for any to go back into private veterinary practice once they’ve had a taste of working from a population standpoint.

Whether they go straight into public health or practice before switching career trajectories, there’s no doubt that veterinarians play an essential role in improving the health and safety of people and animals.

“Working in public health gives you an idea of just how many things you actually touch as a veterinarian,” says Edison.

For More Information

For more information on EIS, visit www.cdc.gov/eis
Dr. Renee Barber, an intern on the hospital’s Neurology service, will receive funding from the Morris Animal Foundation for companion animal studies. Dr. Barber’s work involves mapping genes associated with inflammatory brain disorders in dogs.

Dr. Bradley Heins (DVM ’11) received the 2012 Western Veterinary Conference Food Animal Incentive Award, given by the Western Veterinary Conference to five veterinarians engaged in a university or private practice internship or residency in food animal medicine, surgery, production medicine, theriogenology or epidemiology. Heins is a graduate student in the department of population health earning his master’s of food animal health and management.

Dr. Robert Holly (DVM ’14) was accepted into the United States Army’s Health Professions Scholarship Program.

Erica Noland (DVM ’14) was selected as a Morris Animal Foundation Fellow, and awarded a $4,000 grant for her research on the role of chromatin remodeling proteins in chromosome instability in canine mammary gland carcinomas.

Jenna Shafer (DVM ’14) received the Outstanding Sophomore Student Award for having the highest cumulative grade point average in the second-year class. As part of her award, Shafer will serve as vice president of the Phi Zeta Committee for one year.

Winners* at the 2011 Science of Veterinary Medicine Research Symposium

**Best Overall Oral Presentation:**
Leo Sage (DVM ’16)

**Oral Presentations:**
Veterinary Students
First place: Leo Sage (DVM ’16)

Graduate Students
First place: Vijay Durairaj (Infectious Diseases)
Second place: Ming Fung (Pathology)
Third place: Kyung-il Kang (Infectious Diseases)

Post-Docs
First place: Patricia Jorquera (Infectious Diseases)
Second place: Claudia Baumann (Physiology and Pharmacology)
Third place: Abhijeet Bakre (Infectious Diseases)

Interns/Residents
First place: Natalia Andrade (Resident, Surgery)
Second place: Jill Maney (Resident, Anesthesiology)
Third place: Andrew Bugbee (Resident, Internal Medicine)

**Poster Presentations:**

**Veterinary Students**
Third place: Sarah Hooper (DVM ’13)

**Graduate Students**
First place: Sean Rowley (Infectious Diseases)
Second place: Simon Odera Owino (Infectious Diseases)
Third place: Monique Franca (Pathology)

**Post-Docs**
First place: Ying Cheng (Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center)
Second place: Tracy Sturgill (Large Animal)
Third place: Xuefeng Niu (Pathology)

**Interns/Residents**
First place: Balasubramanian Manickam (Resident, Pathology)
Second place: Ross Larson (Intern, Small Animal)
Third place: Bryan Torres (Resident, Surgery)

*This event is open to all undergraduate and graduate students at UGA. Only CVM winners are represented here.*
2012 Phi Zeta Veterinary Honor Society Induction Ceremony

The annual Phi Zeta Veterinary Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held April 13, 2012, at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Several faculty and students were honored with awards, and 25 students and one graduate student were inducted into the Society. Thirteen students, who were nominated by their peers, were recognized for their leadership, or for service and outreach in the community, their place of worship, the UGA CVM, student clubs or veterinary fraternities.

New Student Inductees
Zachary Vrono, Grayson Wallace, Natalie French, Alycia Cullen, Jessica Anderson, Kate Holmberg, Miranda Fowler, Cassandra Dyal, John Duncan, Michelle Garrison, Jamie Laity, Daniel Moore, Jamie Harmon-Partido, Carl Williams, and Jessica Zeird (all DVM ’12). Emily Waggoner, Elizabeth Antley, Ember Epperson, Dalis Collins, Meighan Dixon, Dustin Major, Clara Moran, Alexandra Craig, Christopher Ferrell, and Emily Fall (all DVM ’13). Dr. Natalie Armour, a graduate student in the college’s department of infectious diseases, was also inducted into the society.

Student Leadership, Service and Outreach Award Recipients
Left to right (back row): Jennifer Towner (DVM ’14), Alan Power (DVM ’14), Katie Griner (DVM ’15), Stephanie Pullin (DVM ’13), Alec Davern (DVM ’13), and Wade Edwards (DVM ’14). Left to right (front row): Shaylin Duncan (DVM ’13), Holly Burchfield (DVM ’15), Raley White (DVM ’15), Amanda DiMascio (DVM ’15), and John Gagnepain (DVM ’14).
Valentine’s Day on Capitol Hill

Photos and story by Hannah Jackson (DVM ’14)

While some people spent Valentine’s Day this year with their sweethearts, I spent it at our nation’s Capitol lobbying for the veterinary profession. On February 13, 2012, veterinary students from each of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association’s 30 chapters and two associate schools converged in Washington, D.C., to learn how we could impact legislation about veterinary matters. Let me walk you through my two days at the 4th Annual AVMA Veterinary Student Legislative Fly-In.

The first day we received an introduction from Dr. Ashley Morgan, assistant director for the AVMA Governmental Relations Division (GRD), and a video welcome from Dr. Ron DeHaven, chief executive officer of the AVMA, who was so personable, even via video, that I was tempted to clap at the end of his welcome. Gina Luke, another assistant director for the GRD, explained how the division works with the rest of the AVMA to support or oppose proposed legislation in the national and state governments.

This introduction was followed by a panel with former GRD Fellows, Dr. Doug Meckes and Dr. Whitney Miller. The AVMA Fellowship Program provides veterinarians with an $80,000 stipend to live in Washington, D.C., and to promote the AVMA’s scientific agenda to the U.S. Congress for one year.

Not all GRD Fellows are new graduates, evidenced by Dr. Meckes, who had been a private practitioner and multi-hospital owner for 30 years. He is now acting director of the Food, Agriculture and Veterinary Defense Division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and aims to run for mayor of Apex, N.C., in 2014. A few words of wisdom from this highly experienced man: Get involved in the profession, get involved in the community, and consider getting involved on a widespread scale.

Dr. Miller, a new grad when she became a Fellow, echoed the phrase that vet students hear repeatedly at conferences and veterinary meetings nationwide: The skills we learn in veterinary school will not only equip us to practice veterinary medicine, but also enable us to work in several arenas because we’ve learned how to build relationships, think critically and problem-solve.

In preparation for our legislative sessions, we went over the two pieces of legislation for which we would be advocating while on Capitol Hill: The Fairness to Pet Owners Act and The Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act. We also learned about big state issues under review right now, such as bills in multiple New England states that would prohibit gestation crates for sows and tethering of veal calves, bills fining or prohibiting the sale of unsterilized cats and dogs, and several state bills in favor of or opposing horse slaughter, to name a few. Most, if not all of the state bills reflect a clear intent to protect animals, but some are directed more by conscience than science.

By 9 a.m. on Valentine’s Day, we were on Capitol Hill in the Ag Hearing Room in the Longworth House Office listening to Nebraska Rep. Adrian Smith, one of AVMA’s most active supporters in Congress. Rep. Smith further stressed the need for veterinarians to give their feedback about veterinary issues to Congress because of their unique knowledge.

We were then released on the Hill to do our advocating. My day of advocacy was highly rewarding, although exhausting. I was awed and honored to walk where our forefathers walked and to talk with staff about important issues, and I am so grateful to have been afforded this enlightening opportunity.

The AVMA Veterinary Student Legislative Fly-In was a great introduction to show how easy this can be. I honestly believe that Congress values our informed opinions and appreciates when we take time to share our concerns.

I urge all of you to get involved, put together your thoughts about proposed legislation — veterinary and non-veterinary — and send them to your congressional representatives and senators. Your unique perspective could be the viewpoint that tips the scale one way or the other on how they vote on issues critical to our profession.

Hannah Jackson (right) and Amanda DiMascio (DVM ’15)
CVM students Isaac Hardee (DVM ’15), Sarah Holladay (DVM ’14) and Rachel Patrick (DVM ’15) have been selected to participate in the 2012 Pfizer Bovine Externship Program, an externship opportunity that is available to first- and second-year veterinary students at 28 veterinary schools across the United States.

The program, which is supported by Pfizer Animal Health, will provide a $2,000 stipend for each student for the four-week summer experience. During that time students will work with hosting veterinary clinics or cattle operations, where they will be exposed to different areas of bovine veterinary practice. Students are expected to complete a project focusing on either dairy or beef operations and prepare a report and presentation about their experience.

By providing students with experience in livestock medicine, the externship seeks to guide students toward careers in cattle practice.

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Graduate Studies

**Earn your:**

**MS and PhD in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences**
If you want a career in translational or clinical research.

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If, as a veterinarian, you want to address public health issues in environmental health, infectious diseases, global health, biosecurity, epidemiology and/or health policy.

**DVM-PhD**
If you want a career that will integrate clinical knowledge in comparative medicine to address questions in applied or basic research.

**Master’s in Avian Medicine or Food Animal Health and Management**
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vetgrad@uga.edu 706.542.5752
www.vet.uga.edu/research/students
Students at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine have partnered with faculty and community organizations to provide food for dogs and cats in need.

The number of pets whose owners are homeless is growing at an astounding rate. Many pet owners cannot afford to feed and care for their pets and end up relinquishing them to shelters. CVM rising third-year student Alan Power participated in the Leadership UGA program in fall 2011, and was shocked to learn just how poor Athens is — 33.5 percent of Athens residents live below the poverty level. In response, he decided to create a program to aid the pets of the homeless population and others in the community who struggle to care for their companion animals.

After working with a mobile veterinarian who understood the responsibility of servicing the homeless population in Savannah, Ga., Power saw the need to make a positive change in the Athens area.

Power says that the rigors of the academic program at the veterinary school often mean being cut off from the community beyond the campus. He wanted to have a personal connection with members of the Athens community, so he put out feelers for the idea of providing pet food to pet owners in need and got a positive response within the vet college from faculty, staff and students.

Drs. Mary Hondalus and Janet Martin, both CVM faculty members, approached Power and were willing to help.

Hondalus, an associate professor at the CVM who also directs the College’s dual DVM/MPH degree program, wants her students to assist the public as well as animals. “We serve animals, yes, but we serve people as well,” says Hondalus.

Hondalus has been in Athens for seven years and, like Power, realizes the extent of poverty in the area. She wants her students to serve even those not actively seeking veterinary care; students in her program are encouraged to work with underprivileged communities to help individuals keep their pets healthy.

Janet Martin, adviser for the CVM’s Shelter Medicine club, was eager to be involved. Martin
will help expose students to not only the needs of pets in shelters but also ways to work in the community to keep pets in their homes. She believes that exposing future veterinarians to the plight of impoverished pet owners in the community and educating them about the ways in which veterinarians can intervene will prevent more pets from becoming shelter statistics.

By including her students in this project and encouraging their participation in the pet food collections and distributions, Martin hopes they will graduate with a fuller understanding of the community and their roles in it.

Heather Tucker, a DVM-MPH dual-degree student and president of the Shelter Medicine Club, has also become involved in the efforts. She wants to complete an internship and residency to become a shelter medicine veterinarian. She hopes that her efforts with the food bank will help to deter the public from relinquishing their animals to shelters.

“The fields of public health and shelter medicine overlap in many ways,” says Tucker. “I hope to educate the public so that fewer pets are relinquished to already overcrowded animal shelters. As veterinarians, we have a responsibility to help not only animals, but the people who own them as well.”

**How the program works**

To obtain dog and cat food to be distributed, food is collected continuously throughout the year in large donation bins placed in high-traffic areas of the vet college. Student volunteers periodically sort the food and re-bag it into one-gallon plastic bags for easier distribution to those who might have a limited ability to store and transport the food. It is then handed out on a weekly basis to registered participants at Our Daily Bread (717 Oconee St.).

The Athens Area Humane Society, an Athens Pet Food Bank partner, also provides pet food for owners in need. Pet owners can fill out an online application and qualified applicants can make appointments to pick up a month’s supply of food.

Participants agree that the main goals for the Athens Pet Food Bank are to provide a needed service to the community, provide opportunities for UGA students to learn about issues involving pet owners in all areas of the Athens community, and provide ways to support the maintenance of the human-animal bond, thereby decreasing the number of pets going into shelters. And they feel that their efforts are proving successful.

An Athens-area homeless man with a well-known dog, “Cheeseburger,” has already told volunteers he is excited about the program and using the pet food bank. The program, in addition to making a difference in the community, is also providing students and faculty with life experiences that go beyond veterinary college.

“It started as a project idea, and now it’s a real program that is making a positive difference in our community,” says Power.
Athens-area pet owners may register through Action Ministries, Advantage Behaviors Homeless Services Program, and the Athens Area Humane Society.

Registered pet owners may pick up food on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Our Daily Bread (717 Oconee St.).

Participants must be 18 or older, and have a combined household income of less than $20,000. Homeless individuals can register on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Homeless Day Service Center (95 North Ave.). Others can register on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Action Ministries (717 Oconee St.).

Alternately, people can apply for temporary assistance through a partnering program with the Athens Area Humane Society. Their food distribution is monthly and by appointment.

For more information, contact the Athens Area Humane Society: 706.706.AAHS
Soyoung Kwon, who came to the U.S. in 2008 from South Korea, is the CVM’s first graduate of the PhD in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Program. The PhD-VBS program is designed to broaden the scope of biomedical training and research by including graduate faculty and resources of the College’s clinical departments with those in the basic sciences.

**What did you do before coming to UGA?**

I pursued Veterinary Medicine in Seoul, South Korea, where thoroughbred racing is an important sport and a major industry. After my veterinary training, I spent three months at the Equine Health Center at the Korean Racing Authority as a visiting veterinarian before joining the graduate program at UGA in 2008.

**What made you want to pursue the PhD in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences?**

During vet school training, I realized that research in basic and clinical sciences is essential for a better understanding of disease pathogenesis and the improvement of treatment regimens. I became interested in continuing my study with a focus on clinical sciences, especially equine medicine. The UGA CVM has one of the greatest equine research teams, and has various research topics that interest me, like equine colic and laminitis. Both conditions are major issues in equine health and I joined the team with the hope that I might be able to help horses suffering from such diseases.

**Which professors greatly influenced you during your time at UGA?**

There were so many outstanding mentors, including Jim Moore, Tom Robertson, Michel Vandenplas, and David Hurley. They all have different backgrounds from clinical sciences to molecular biology, and the unique perspectives each of them bring to the field broadened my understanding of medicine. I was truly fortunate to have worked with them, not only because of their incredible insights as scholars, but also because of their thoughtful and endless support of my studies.

**What aspects of the program were the most beneficial to you?**

My knowledge of equine immunity and diseases that I gained while studying at UGA gives me a deeper understanding of the diseases I see at the clinic. I am also continuing my latest clinical research to measure serum concentrations of flagellin and anti-flagellin antibodies in horses with colic.

**What are you doing now and what are your goals for the future?**

I shifted gears back into clinical settings, and I am currently working at Alamo Pintado Equine Medical Center in California as an intern. My goal after completing my clinical internship is to continue into an equine medicine residency, which is necessary to accomplish my long-term goal of devoting my experiences and knowledge to improve animal health and welfare.
Dr. Joerg Mayer, associate professor in the department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, successfully passed all requirements for the European College of Zoological Medicine and is now a European Veterinary Specialist in Zoological Medicine (Small mammal).

Dr. John E. Oliver Jr., professor emeritus in the departments of Physiology and Pharmacology and Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, was selected as the 2011 winner of the ACVIM Distinguished Service Award.

Drs. Uriel Blas-Machado and Nicole Nemeth's first author papers were published in the November 2011 issue of *Veterinary Pathology*. Dr. Blas-Machado's paper, “Pathogenesis of a Bovine Enterovirus-1 Isolate in Experimentally Infected Calves,” was co-authored by Drs. Corrie Brown, Steve Harvey, Jerry Saliki, Susan Sanchez, Amelia Woolums and research professional Jian Zhang. The cover of the journal was a photomicrograph from Dr. Nemeth's paper, “Clinical and Pathologic Response of American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and Fish Crows (*C. ossifragus*) to Experimental West Nile Virus Infection.”

Dr. James Moore was named a 2012 Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, the University’s highest recognition for superior instruction at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Moore is a Distinguished Research Professor in the department of Large Animal Medicine and has taught at the CVM for 30 years.

Dr. Susan Sanchez, a professor in the department of Infectious Diseases, was named a 2011-2012 Administrative Fellow. Dr. Sanchez was also awarded a five-year, $212,480 National Institutes of Health grant to fund the Georgia Veterinary Scholars program, which she directs at the CVM.

Drs. Sonia Hernandez, of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, and Maria Viveiros, of the department of Physiology and Pharmacology, were selected as inaugural participants in the UGA Teaching Academy Fellowship Program. The program supports early-career faculty members who are passionate about the importance of university teaching.

Dr. Ray Kaplan, professor of parasitology in the department of Infectious Diseases, has been awarded board certification as a charter diplomate certified in parasitology from the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

Dr. Jessica Lawrence, of the department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, will receive funding from the Morris Animal Foundation to study potential therapy for feline vaccine-associated cancers.

Dr. Margie Lee (MS ’88; PhD ’90), a professor in the department of Population Health, was elected to the AVMA Council on Biologic and therapeutic Agents (COBTA), representing Microbiology. Her term ends in July 2014.

Dr. Michael Yabsley (PhD ’04), of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, was selected for the CURO Undergraduate Research Mentoring Faculty Award at the Early Career level for 2012; he was also recognized by the UGA Student Government Association as an outstanding undergraduate instructor.

Dr. Gary Baxter (MS ’88), director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and a professor in the department of Large Animal Medicine, served as editor of the 6th edition of Adams and Stashak’s *Lameness in Horses*, considered to be the “Bible” of equine lameness. He also served as editor of the new *Manual of Equine Lameness*.

Dr. Spencer Johnston, who heads the department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, served as co-editor of the new *Veterinary Surgery: Small Animal* which focuses on surgical principles and procedures. Faculty in the department who contributed to the book include: Drs.
Steve Budsberg, Karen Cornell, MaryAnn Radlinsky, Chad Schmiedt (DVM ’00), Ben Brainard and Erik Hofmeister.

Dr. Tom Robertson, an associate professor in the department of Physiology and Pharmacology, was named the Georgia BioBusiness Center Entrepreneur of the Year by the University of Georgia Research Foundation. Dr. Robertson was recognized for his work launching IS3D LLC, which develops interactive learning products for science education. Dr. Robertson is also the recipient of a Creative Research Medal from the UGA Research Foundation.

Dr. Corrie Brown, a professor in the department of Pathology, was inducted as an honorary faculty member into the Agricultural Honor Society (AGHON). AGHON is an honor society encompassing the College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, the Warnell School of Forestry, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Drs. Karen Cornell, Kate Creevy, Ajay Sharma, Flint Buchanan, James Moore, and medical illustrator Brad Gilleland were awarded a $5,000 Innovative Instruction Faculty Grant for their project, “Computer Aided Radiographic Diagnosis of Canine Abdominal Diseases.” The grants are offered by the Office of the Vice President for Instruction in collaboration with the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost for faculty projects designed to improve teaching and learning.

Drs. Bridget Garner and Maria Viveiros were selected as Lilly Teaching Fellows. The fellowship is offered by the Center for Teaching and Learning, and is designed to provide instructors with opportunities to strengthen their teaching skills. Garner is an assistant professor in the department of Pathology, and Viveiros is an assistant professor in the department of Physiology and Pharmacology.

2012 Phi Zeta Award Ceremony

Dr. Xiaoqin Ye, an associate professor of Physiology and Pharmacology, was awarded the John M. Bowen Award for Excellence in Animal/Biomedical Research, sponsored by Pfizer. Ye’s studies of reproductive mechanisms will help lead to therapeutics to treat reproductive diseases in humans and animals.

Dr. Shiyou Chen was awarded the Pfizer Award for Research Excellence for his contributions to his department, Physiology and Pharmacology, as well as to the at-large research community. Chen serves on NIH and American Heart Association review panels, and reviews manuscripts for several medical journals.

Dr. Kate Creevy, an assistant professor of internal medicine, received the Outstanding Hospital Service Award for her role in re-vamping the consultation process for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Internal Medicine service. Creevy has also coordinated the hospital’s internship program for the past three years, and has helped implement beneficial changes in the program.

Drs. Marc Kent and Simon Platt were awarded the David Tyler Award for Advances in Teaching, sponsored by Pfizer, for their work in developing a web-based tool to help students learn clinical neurology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology. Kent is an associate professor of neurology and Platt is a professor of neurology.

Dr. Corey Saba, an assistant professor of veterinary oncology, received the Clinical Research Award, sponsored by Pfizer, for her contributions toward understanding the use of chemotherapeutic agents in animals, including the specific dosages used to treat neoplasia in small animals.

Inductees: Dr. Robert Gogal, an associate professor of immunology and immunotoxicology; Dr. Michelle Turek, an assistant professor of radiation oncology.

New Faculty

Dr. Tai Guo, associate professor, Anatomy and Radiology
CVM associate professor Mark Tompkins has been selected to receive a 2012 Fulbright U.S. Senior Scholarship to undertake research on Hendra and Nipah viruses in Australia. Tompkins and his family will live in Geelong, Australia, for roughly five months beginning in August 2012.

Tompkins will be working at the Australian Animal Health Labs (AAHL), which are part of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia’s national science agency. AAHL is an internationally recognized BSL3/BSL4 facility capable of studying high-consequence and emerging infectious diseases in small and large animals.

While there, Tompkins’ work will focus on the development of therapeutic drugs for Hendra and Nipah viruses, highly-pathogenic zoonotic viruses that pose a serious threat to human and animal health in Australia, as well as in other parts of the world. There are currently no effective vaccines or treatments for these pathogens, and Tompkins’ project will be to develop novel antiviral approaches for their treatment.

Nipah virus, first identified in pigs, has caused over 200 human fatalities in Asia since 1999 with evidence of human-to-human transmission and a mortality rate above 50 percent. Hendra virus, which infects bats, horses and now humans, has also been observed in Australia, with the first outbreaks reported in 1994 and rising sharply since 2007.

Tompkins is based within the CVM’s department of Infectious Diseases.

Coffield named new Associate Dean of Graduate School

Dr. Julie Coffield has been named the new Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Georgia. Dr. Coffield has been involved in graduate training and administration with the University for the past 17 years. She is an associate professor in the department of Physiology and Pharmacology within the College of Veterinary Medicine and was the director of the Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program, a campus-wide program that includes students and faculty from several different colleges who share common interests in the field of toxicology.

Dr. Coffield will serve as the chief of operations for the Graduate School, where she will work closely with the Graduate School staff in Admissions and Enrolled Student Services. Her focus will be on student affairs and program management as she assists Graduate Coordinators. She also will help the Graduate School implement its 2020 Strategic Plan.

CVM professor promotes FAMACHA© program in Australia

Dr. Ray Kaplan, a professor of parasitology in the department of Infectious Diseases at the CVM, traveled to Australia in February to promote the use of FAMACHA© among sheep and goat producers. Kaplan, the director of the U.S. FAMACHA© program, presented three workshops on integrated parasite control, which included instruction and hands-on training in the FAMACHA© method. He also presented four research seminars while visiting Australian universities.

FAMACHA© is a clinical on-farm system developed in South Africa for classifying animals into categories based upon level of anemia. Since anemia is the primary pathologic effect from infection with Haemonchus contortus, or Barber’s Pole worm, the system is an effective tool for identifying animals that require anthelmintic treatment. The system also provides a low-cost way to slow the development of anthelmintic resistance by reducing the number of animals treated with deworming drugs.

The trip was funded by Meat and Livestock Australia, a producer-owned company that works with industry and government to achieve a profitable and sustainable livestock industry in Australia.
Dr. John Glisson (DVM ’80; MAM ’83; PhD ’85), retired head of the CVM’s department of Population Health, has been appointed director of research for the U.S. Poultry & Egg Harold E. Ford Foundation (USPOULTRY Foundation).

As director of research, Glisson will administer the association’s comprehensive research program, which encompasses all components of poultry and egg production and processing. He will work with the Foundation’s Research Advisory Committee in receiving and evaluating research proposals and making recommendations to the board of directors for funding approval. Over the past 20 years, $22 million has been invested in research funding.

Glisson recently retired as head of the department of Population Health at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and has served as head of the department of avian medicine and associate dean of public service and outreach. He is a past-president of the American Association of Avian Pathologists and has received numerous honors for his work. He received his BS in Biology from Valdosta State and his DVM, Master of Avian Medicine, and PhD in Medical Microbiology from the University of Georgia.

“We are pleased to have Dr. Glisson join us in this vital research role. He has a very distinguished career and has been an active member of the research community, sharing and reaching out to industry. We look forward to his contribution to our research efforts,” said USPOULTRY Foundation chairman, Steve Willardsen.

“The USPOULTRY Foundation research program is an important source of support for innovation for the U.S. poultry industry. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to be involved in the future achievements of the research program,” said Dr. Glisson.

Dr. Glisson also recently received the 2011 J.T. Mercer Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association.

Get your own AnAtomic Dog!

If you’ve visited our student lobby recently, you’ve probably noticed our “AnAtomic Dog” — a colorful, more-than-life-sized bulldog that was presented to the College as a gift from the Class of 2009. Now you can have your very own, scaled-down version.

Omega Tau Sigma is selling miniature versions of the AnAtomic Dog to raise money for the fraternity. A portion of the proceeds also benefits the Veterinary Medicine Hospital Building Fund.

Like the original, the miniature was designed by Athens artist John Ahee. Each AnAtomic Dog statuette costs $30, plus shipping and handling. Prior to mailing your order, please contact Dr. Doris Miller for shipping and handling costs: miller@uga.edu or 706.542.5915.

Checks should be made payable to Omega Tau Sigma. Please include a note containing your name, shipping address, phone number, and email address. Mail your payment and contact/shipping information to:

OTS Alumni Treasurer
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Athens, GA 30605

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9th Annual Hawaii Dawg-O
August 4, 2012
Founders Garden on UGA’s Campus
This year’s hosts:
UGA Athletic Director Greg McGarity and his wife, Sheryl McGarity
Sponsored by the Grace Memorial Foundation
Over a century ago, German physician Robert Koch identified *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* as the causative agent of tuberculosis. Today, while other historically devastating diseases like smallpox, plague and typhoid fever no longer pose significant threats, researchers are still fighting to gain control of this persistent pathogen.

In the face of new challenges, such as antibiotic resistance and increasing co-infections with HIV, researchers at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine are working hard to develop new tools to diagnose, treat and prevent this tenacious disease.

“We need a game changer,” says Frederick Quinn, professor and head of the department of Infectious Diseases at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. “We need a new vaccine, a therapy that doesn’t take nine months to work, and a better set of diagnostic tests.”

**A global burden**

*M. tuberculosis*, the bacterium responsible for tuberculosis in humans, is one of the world’s most resourceful pathogens. Traces of it have been found in Egyptian mummies from about 3,000 B.C., and only in the past 70 years have humans developed effective anti-TB drugs, moderately useful diagnostic tests and a not-so-effective vaccine, said Quinn.

It is estimated that 1 in 3 people in the world is infected with *M. tuberculosis*, although the majority of these infections are latent, incapable of spreading and without symptoms. The problem occurs when the bacteria come out of hiding and grow when the infected person becomes immunocompromised — typically by developing diabetes, or contracting HIV or another immune-suppressing condition.

While most people in the Western world don’t consider tuberculosis to be a major health concern, the disease runs rampant in the developing world, often going undetected in its latent stage. “In the United States it’s a problem, but in other parts of the world it’s a crisis,” says Quinn. “We need to think about parts of the world where this [TB] isn’t under control.”

Currently, there is only one vaccine approved to prevent infection with *M. tuberculosis*. The bacille Calmette-Guerin vaccine, or BCG, is used widely around the world to prevent infection in children, but it has serious limitations; it does not protect into adolescence, and it can result in a false positive in the skin test often used to diagnose TB infection.

Available treatments for drug-susceptible tuberculosis, in the form of antibiotics, take anywhere from six to nine months to get rid of the infection -- if the patient takes the three daily drugs correctly.
The most widely used diagnostic test is the tuberculin skin test. It was developed nearly a century ago and requires an under-the-skin injection of purified *M. tuberculosis* proteins. As mentioned before, it can give false results in individuals vaccinated with BCG, but also in individuals exposed to other related bacteria or infected with HIV, and it cannot accurately identify latent infection.

One of the major challenges in the global effort to control TB is deciding which of these areas to focus on: diagnostics, therapeutics or vaccines. Researchers at UGA are working on a little bit of everything, from novel therapeutics to more sensitive diagnostics.

**UGA researchers making progress**

In 2010, Quinn was one of only six researchers in the United States to receive part of a $2.9 million grant from the FDA to develop a diagnostic test for latent tuberculosis infection. “A vast majority of the infections worldwide are latent, but there’s no way to diagnose them,” says Quinn.

Two years later, Quinn is making progress on diagnostic blood and urine tests based on bacterial responses; he has applied for a one-year extension to begin looking at the test’s effectiveness on clinical serum and urine samples.

Don Mark Estes, a professor in infectious diseases and an immunology expert, came to UGA in 2010. He says that the research opportunities available through the University’s Animal Health Research Center were a major draw for him as a TB researcher.

The Animal Health Research Center (AHRC), a bioccontainment facility opened on the UGA campus in 2006, is key for UGA’s capacity to study tuberculosis. The AHRC is designated ABSL-3 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and BSL3-Ag by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which means it can hold high-security pathogens and house large animals for research. It is currently one of only two university-operated facilities in the nation with labs that meet these standards.

“There is a lot of potential for collaborative work at UGA,” says Estes. His lab focuses on the genetics and immunology of *M. tuberculosis*, and he will be conducting the first high-containment animal study in the AHRC starting in the fall of 2012.

The AHRC’s ability to hold large animals means that instead of studying only smaller animal models, like mice and guinea pigs, for vaccine development, they can now use everything from nonhuman primates to cattle.

“That’s one of the advantages of the AHRC,” says Estes. “It has the capability for large animal studies that other universities don’t have.”

Animal modeling plays a pivotal role in testing vaccines; for any vaccines to go into human clinical trials, they must first be tested in animals.

“The problem with TB vaccine development is that we really don’t understand enough about the immune response to be able to create the ultimate vaccine,” says
Quinn. Because of this, he says, there is an abundance of vaccine “flavors”—modifications of BCG, adenoviral or DNA-based vaccines—and everyone is trying to find the right combination of factors to invoke a protective immune response.

“The immunology [of tuberculosis] is really interesting,” says Estes. “It’s a slow-growing organism, it goes into latency and becomes inactive. It can also become drug resistant.”

All of those factors make tuberculosis a complex and worrisome disease to work with. Quinn and Estes have a half a dozen vaccine candidates between them, in addition to their efforts to determine the best animal models to use in overall tuberculosis vaccine development.

By focusing on these complex models and their applicability to humans, UGA will serve as a conduit for all kinds of other tuberculosis research, says Quinn. “By doing the animal modeling, we think we can fill a crucial hole in testing before human trials,” he says.
Growing challenges

Vaccination may be one of the only channels left to combat drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis, which are on the rise. Overuse and incorrect use of anti-TB drugs have led to drug resistance on every continent. “Once people get over the night sweats and fever symptoms,” says Estes, “they think they are cured and stop taking the drugs, and that’s how you get drug-resistant strains.”

In addition to spreading drug resistance, high rates of HIV in the developing world pose another unique challenge. “The HIV connection changed the landscape of TB control,” says Quinn. These dual epidemics cause major problems in resource-poor countries and disadvantaged populations — Russian prisoners and South African miners, for example.

Infection with HIV raises the risk of reactivating latent tuberculosis disease, and having both infections together exacerbates the effects of both. Estes will focus his studies on HIV and TB co-infection, and he is also working on therapeutics for end-stage wasting in HIV-positive patients.

Quinn and Estes are optimistic that UGA is on the path to becoming a frontrunner in the race to control tuberculosis, thanks to the Animal Health Research Center and a dedicated, diverse group of researchers from different disciplines around UGA’s campus.

“We’ve got everything here — the genetics expertise, the immunological expertise, the vaccine development expertise, the animal modeling expertise,” says Quinn. “We’re the whole package.”

For More Information

About the CVM’s department of Infectious Diseases, visit:
www.vet.uga.edu/id

TB Facts*

Tuberculosis (TB) is the world’s second leading cause of death due to a single infectious agent. (HIV/AIDS is first.)

At least one-third of the estimated 34 million people worldwide who are infected with HIV are also infected with TB bacteria but do not yet have active TB. These people are 21 to 34 times more likely to develop active TB disease.

Over 95% of TB deaths occur in developing countries, and it is among the top three causes of death for women aged 15 to 44.

In 2009, about 10 million children were orphaned due to the death of their parents from TB.

In 2010, about 500,000 children, ages 14 and under, worldwide became ill with active TB. Between 58,000 and 71,000 children died from the disease.

People who are ill with active TB can infect up to 15 other people through close contact over the course of a year.

Drug-resistant strains of TB have been found in every country surveyed by the World Health Organization.

78 countries, including the United States, reported at least 1 case of TB in 2011.

TB is treatable, curable and preventable.

*Source: World Health Organization

TB Research at UGA

Multiple TB-related research projects are underway on the UGA campus, including at least five within the UGA CVM Department of Infectious Diseases.

The research ranges from development of novel therapeutics, such as vaccines, to development of new diagnostics.
Greetings from your Alumni Association!

The UGA CVM Alumni Association needs your support as a member. All veterinarians who have attended or taught at the College are members. The Association’s objectives are to promote fellowship among alumni, faculty and students; unite alumni and faculty interested in improving and developing the College; build a permanent endowment fund for the benefit of the CVM; fund student scholarships; fund alumni receptions at state, regional and national meetings; provide leadership for alumni reunions; select and grant annual alumni awards; and inform alumni about the College and its activities through printed and electronic publications.

Although the majority of the efforts to accomplish our objectives are conducted by the Executive Board with the expert assistance of the College’s staff, we cannot do it without your active involvement. Service is very important to the continued development of the CVM and its future graduates. We need you to serve as a board member or as a member of a standing committee. We are actively pursuing ways to better reach out to our recent graduates. Our New Graduate Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Catherine McClelland (DVM ’83), is striving to improve the interactions between the College, the Alumni Association, and these newest members. The Georgia Veterinary Medicine Association is our partner in this effort. Additionally, our Awards and Recognitions Committee is working to identify our best alumni to be honored with Distinguished Alumnus and Young Achiever awards.

I serve because the College has provided me with the education to become a veterinarian, the profession that I love. I want to give back to the College so that it will be able to provide even more for future generations of veterinarians. Contact Marti Brick at brickm@uga.edu and let her know you are willing to join me in this endeavor and serve the CVM.

Thank you for allowing me to be your president for the past two years. I will remain on the board for two more years in the capacity of immediate past-president, and I look forward to assisting our new president, Dr. Flynn Nance (DVM ’83), as he assumes the helm of our Association.

Warmest regards, and Go Dawgs!

Michael J. Topper, DVM ’80
Immediate Past President
A new president: Dr. Flynn Nance

Dr. Flynn Nance (BS ’77; MS ’79; DVM ’83) is the new president of the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association. Dr. Nance, a “triple dawg,” has served as a member and president of the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine; as president of the Lambda Chapter of Alpha Psi Professional Veterinary Fraternity; and as president of the fraternity’s alumni society. He co-owns Honey Creek Veterinary Hospital in Conyers, Ga., with his wife, Dr. Susan Aldridge Nance (DVM ’84).

I have always enjoyed being involved in UGA Vet Med Alumni functions, and having the opportunity to talk to friends, colleagues, students, faculty and staff members of the College is something I always look forward to. I agreed to serve as President of the Alumni Association because I feel the College is only as strong as its weakest link. Having a superb faculty and staff and well-qualified students aren’t enough to keep us competitive. We also need an active and supportive alumni base, as well as the proper facilities and financing to get the job done. This profession has been so good to me and my family, and I want to give back. I look forward to serving during this exciting time of growth for the College, and it is with great anticipation that I start my tenure as president of the Alumni Board of UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. — Flynn

Q&A

■ Why did you decide to become a veterinarian?

I decided my senior year of high school, upon the advice of my guidance counselor, to pursue a career in veterinary medicine and have never regretted the decision. Helping animals and enriching their owners’ well-being is very satisfying.

■ What makes your practice successful?

My wife and I have been fortunate to have many great clients and employees. We put emphasis on client education, so that hopefully they understand the dynamics of their pets’ problems, and staff education so that we can adequately explain those dynamics.

■ Why is it important for the College’s graduates to get involved in the Alumni Association?

I take great pride in the University and I feel it is important to be involved in organizations both physically and financially to ensure that the veterinary field and especially the College are the best they can be, ensuring our graduates are equal to or better than any other in the country. Why shouldn’t UGA have the best veterinary college in the country? Get involved, donate, and be proud of veterinary medicine and your alma mater.

■ What is your involvement with the GRACE Memorial Foundation?

I got involved with the Grace Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, in 2003 by doing an “Ask the Vet” article in Southern Living when they wrote about the Foundation’s annual fundraiser, Grace’s Birthday Party, which helps support the College’s G.R.A.C.E. Fund (that helps clients with demonstrated financial need help fund medical procedures for their dog). I have been the president of the Grace Foundation since 2004. We offer some yearly scholarships, sponsor seeing-eye dogs (Grace’s owner was blind), give Valentine gifts for pets of Meals-on-Wheels clients, and several other things. Our primary fundraiser now is Hawaii Dawg-O, held every August. Past guest hosts have included Larry Munson, Loran Smith, Kevin Butler and several other former football players.

■ What advice do you have for soon-to-be alumni of the College?

Practice veterinary medicine with professionalism and integrity and uphold the traditions that make us one of the most respected professions. Give something of yourself back to the field and the College so that they will continue to be the best they can be.
Dr. Mary Dickens Hicks (DVM ’88) was honored with an Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) Alumni Association award on March 3, 2012, at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village.

Dr. Earl Gaughan (DVM ’81) has joined the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech as a clinical professor of large animal surgery.

Dr. Matthew Booth (DVM ’97) has been certified as a Diplomate by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners specializing in Canine and Feline Practice. Dr. Booth practices at Alpenglow Veterinary Specialty + Emergency Center in Boulder, Colo.

Dr. Timothy Montgomery (DVM ’83) was inducted into the University of Georgia’s AGHON Honor Society on Nov. 6, 2011, for a lifetime of outstanding leadership.

Dr. Joseph Gaydos (PhD ’01) was elected to chair the Science Panel of the Puget Sound Partnership, Washington state’s comprehensive effort to restore Puget Sound.

Dr. Walter Gregg (DVM ’79) was named the 2011 SCAV Veterinarian of the Year. Dr. Gregg, one of three ABVP canine and feline diplomates in South Carolina, owns Gregg Animal Hospital in Columbia, S.C.

Dr. Erin Casey (DVM ’10) is a member of the inaugural class of the AVMA Future Leaders Program, which provides a one-year opportunity to help bolster leadership and problem-solving skills related to organized veterinary medicine.

Dr. Dale Bjorling (MS ’82) was named associate dean for research and graduate training at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine.

Drs. Rebecca Babcock (DVM ’98) and Karen Donovan (DVM ’04) opened Red Barn Veterinary Hospital, a fully computerized veterinary hospital that focuses on quality medicine and surgery in Dahlonega, Ga.

Drs. Angela Dodd (DVM ’00), Jenifer Gustafson (DVM ’91), Debbie A. Pinson (DVM ’83) and Edward Reid Pinson (DVM ’93) were selected for the Bulldog 100 Class of 2012, recognizing the fastest growing alumni businesses.

Drs. Dodd and Gustafson own Hope Animal Medical Center in Athens, Ga., and Debbie and Edward Pinson own North Oconee Animal Hospital in Bogart, Ga.

Dr. Amy Belew (DVM ’99) is Cobb County Animal Control’s first full-time veterinarian. The county commissioners approved the new position in February 2011. The county is part of the greater Atlanta region.

Dr. Jason Eisele (DVM ’02) purchased Specialists in Veterinary Surgery (SVS) in Estero, Fla. SVS is a small animal referral practice specializing in orthopedic, oncologic, neurologic and soft tissue surgical care.

Dr. Emily Hoppmann (DVM ’05) bought Elgin Veterinary Clinic in Elgin, S.C. She practices small animal and exotic animal medicine and surgery.

Dr. Gary Baxter (MS ’88) is a Professor Emeritus at Colorado State University, from which he retired in 2011. He is now director of the University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital and a professor in the department of large animal medicine. His wife, Dr. Margaret Baxter (DVM ’86), sold her practice, The Vets Animal Hospital, in Windsor, Colo.

Dr. Robert M. Cobb, Jr. (DVM ’81) was named Georgia’s state veterinarian by Commissioner of Agriculture Gary W. Black. The state veterinarian oversees the Animal Protection and Equine Health offices.
Dr. Heather Wilson Barron (DVM ’95) was named clinic director at the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife in Sanibel, Fla.

Dr. Theodore G. Westmoreland (DVM ’58) was named a 2012 Distinguished Service Award recipient by the Clemson Alumni Association. Dr. Westmoreland owns Boulevard Animal Hospital P.A. in Shelby, N.C.

Dr. Walter C. Cottingham (DVM ’61) received the 2011 Distinguished Veterinarian of the Year Award from the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians.

Dr. Donald G. Simmons (DVM ’67; MS ’69; PhD ’71) was recognized with the dedication of the 92nd Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases in his honor. Dr. Simmons is considered one of the founding leaders of the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Kelli Jones (MAM ’04) won the World Veterinary Poultry Association Young Veterinarian of the Year award. Dr. Jones is a clinical assistant professor in the department of pathobiology and population medicine at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Larry Corry (DVM ’66) was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal to serve on the Georgia Board of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Corry is the owner and practicing veterinarian of two small animal hospitals in Buford, Ga.

Obituaries

James Joseph Miller, DVM ’73, of Asheville, N.C., July 24, 2010
James Hamilton Van Etten, DVM ’78, Riverview, Fla., March 19, 2011
Francis Miller Jackson, DVM ’52, Morganton, N.C., March 24, 2011
Robert Lamar Meeks, DVM ’51, Eatonton, Ga., Apr. 28, 2011
William Robert Gaines, DVM ’64, Rapid City, S.D., May 2, 2011
Walter Hicks Rogers Jr., DVM ’52, Newman, Ga., May 7, 2011
John C. LeMay, DVM ’59, Durham, N.C., June 6, 2011
Thomas Earl Staton, DVM ’56, Goldsboro, N.C., July 7, 2011
Leonard Junior Steele, DVM ’51, Toccoa, Ga., Aug. 3, 2011
Douglas Michael Wall, DVM ’54, Hawthorne, Fla., Aug. 9, 2011
Herald Kimball Chandler, DVM ’51, Fredericksburg, Va., Sept. 23, 2011
Jack Riley Whittaker, DVM ’60, Spartanburg, S.C., Nov. 1, 2011
Frederick E. Ducey Jr., DVM ’50, Ridgeland, S.C., Nov. 17, 2011
John Morgan Springs Jr., DVM ’58, Santee, S.C., Nov. 18, 2011
Edwin Lee Broom, DVM ’76, Rossville, Ga., Dec. 7, 2011
Preston Miller Givens, DVM ’54, Richmond, Va., Jan. 16, 2012
Keith William Chapin, DVM ’74, West Palm Beach, Fla., March 2, 2012.

Your classmates want to know what’s happening in your life. Drop us a line. And please include your current contact information, including your phone number and email, to help us keep our alumni database up to date.

Email us:
vetalums@uga.edu or brickm@uga.edu
OR
Fax:
706.583.0242

Dr. Patrick Andrew Bremer (DVM ’83) of Bluffton, S.C., passed away Sunday, March 4, 2012. Dr. Bremer was an active alum, served on the CVM Alumni Board beginning in March 2011, and was named Veterinarian of the Year in his hometown of Savannah, Ga., in 1999.
Distinguished Alumni honored

On March 24, 2012, the College of Veterinary Medicine recognized two individuals as Distinguished Alumni and one as a Young Achiever in a ceremony at the 49th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Weekend. The College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association recognizes Distinguished Alumni each spring. Nominees must have graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine and made contributions in one or more of the following areas:

- Animal and human health-related public service
- Professional service
- Involvement in veterinary educational research and/or service
- Contributions to the local community, state or nation
- Involvement in veterinary associations at the local, state or national level
- Contributions to the College’s Alumni Association
- Nominees for the Young Achiever Award must meet the above criteria, and have graduated 9, 10 or 11 years prior to the year the award is presented

Dr. Michael Zager (DVM ’79) is a mixed-animal practitioner at Ocoee Animal Hospital, and is known for his expertise in camelids, particularly llamas and alpacas. Zager is a sought-after speaker in this area and is recognized throughout the Southeastern United States as a veterinary resource for these animals. Zager also provides mentoring to and learning opportunities for UGA’s veterinary students.

Dr. John R. Glisson (DVM ’80; MAM ’83; PhD ’85) is the retired head of the department of Population Health, and the University of Georgia Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center. Glisson has recently launched a second career as director of research for the U.S. Poultry & Egg Harold E. Ford Foundation. During his time at UGA, Glisson co-developed two vaccines and a DNA-encoding process, held editorial roles for five professional publications, and was awarded more than 80 research grants.

Dr. Kimberly Lewis Carney (DVM ’01) is a mixed-animal practitioner at Harrogate Hospital for Animals in rural East Tennessee and an adjunct professor at Lincoln Memorial University. Carney was responsible for making endoscopy, ultrasonography, laser surgery, and alternative therapies available to Harrogate’s clients. Carney recently accepted an offer to serve the Christian Veterinary Mission for three years in Bolivia, where she will teach at the veterinary college at Santa Cruz and work with indigenous subsistence farmers.

To nominate an alumnus for the 2013 awards, email vetalums@uga.edu for a nomination form.
Dr. Eric Mueller (PhD ’96) is the recipient of the 2012 A.M. Mills Award from the Lambda Chapter of Alpha Psi; Dr. James C. Waggoner (DVM ’69) is the 2012 recipient of the Fred C. Davison Award for Distinguished Service, from the Eta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma.

Dr. Mueller obtained his DVM from Michigan State University in 1989 and his PhD in physiology from the University of Georgia. Now a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, Dr. Mueller is the CVM’s director of Equine Programs, and has served on many departmental, college and university committees over the years. He has also been recognized for his excellence in scholarship, teaching and service with numerous awards over his 20-year career.

Dr. Waggoner built Stockbridge Veterinary Hospital in 1972, Henry County Veterinary Hospital in 1998, and East Lake Veterinary Hospital in 1995. He has been a member of Stockbridge Lion’s Club for 15 years, Lion of the Year five times, and has been on the Board of Directors of First State Bank — Stockbridge for 17 years. Dr. Waggoner is a long-time supporter of the CVM, the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, and Omega Tau Sigma.

Pet Memorials

Meaningful to clients, veterinarians and the College

“Pet memorials have been great for our business. They help us remember clients and their pets, as well as support the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine’s goal to build a new teaching hospital. The feedback we get is priceless.”

— Dr. Roy Brogdon, DVM ’73
Cleveland Veterinary Hospital
Cleveland, Georgia

For more information, please contact us:
Phone: 706.542.1807
E-mail: give2vet@uga.edu
Web: www.vet.uga.edu/GO/memorial

Dr. Roy Brogdon, co-owner of Cleveland Veterinary Hospital, donates regularly through our pet memorial program.
Georgia funds VMLC, but fundraising will continue

It was 14 years ago that the College administration first conceived the idea for a new Teaching Hospital to replace our aging facility. We are thrilled to report that this fall we will finally break ground on our Veterinary Medical Learning Center!

In early May, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed the state’s budget for FY13, which includes $52.3 million in bond funding for construction of our new hospital. Part of our ability to get funding from the state relied on our ability to raise a minimum of $15 million in private donations toward the project. Thanks to the on-going support from so many of you, we exceeded our goal by the time the legislature voted on the budget.

Everyone who supported this project in any way helped us achieve this milestone: our alumni; friends of the College; our faculty and staff; the upper-administration at the University of Georgia; the Board of Regents; former Gov. Sonny Perdue (DVM ’71); Gov. Nathan Deal, and the members of the Georgia General Assembly.

Despite our celebration, our work is not done. The funding provided by the state and the private donations received thus far will allow us to build most of the needed elements of the Learning Center. As with many major capital projects, some areas had to be deferred due to budgetary limitations. There are a number of deferred elements that we hope to include in the construction project if sufficient funds can be raised over the next few months.

Our total fundraising goal is now $25 million. As of press time, we had raised $21 million in gifts and pledges. If you wish to make a multi-year pledge or consider a naming opportunity, please contact our Development office at 706.542.1807. For more information about the need for the VMLC, the plans for the facility, our capital campaign, and the honor roll of donors, or to give a gift through our secured website, visit: www.vet.uga.edu/vmlc

Thanks so much to all of you for your continued support of this project, and for helping us create a new state-of-the-art facility that will serve our clients and patients, as well as our profession, for many decades to come!

A Damn Good Read!

Read a history of Uga, the University of Georgia mascots.

A sports classic, this version is updated to include new material on Uga VI, Uga VII, Uga VIII, and Russ.

The book is available from your bookseller of choice. UGA alums are eligible for a 30% discount if they order from the University of Georgia Press at 800.266.5842 or online at www.ugapress.org

A portion of the proceeds from sales of this book benefits the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.
My name is Edith Martin Rogers, and I am currently an associate at Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Atlanta. I received my bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Georgia in 1998, and a DVM from the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine in 2003.

Following graduation, I completed a one-year rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the Animal Medical Center in New York City and practiced small animal medicine in both Los Angeles and Los Altos, Calif., for a total of five years before moving back with my family to Georgia in 2009. I’m thrilled to be back in Georgia close to family, friends and the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine.

I am passionate about being a veterinarian, and I am so thankful to have a career that I love. I also recognize that the opportunity to have such a career came from the wonderful education I received and the experiences I had with my classmates, teachers, interns and residents at UGA. Living and working out of the state only adds to the pride I feel for my time in Athens. It is that pride and the responsibility that I feel as an alumna that compels me personally to give a portion of my income back to the institution that made my career possible. My children are too young to really understand charitable giving, but it is important to me that when the time comes they understand the importance of supporting their alma maters and the institutions that supported them.

I will also share with them my belief that, early in a career, the size of a donation to some degree is less significant than the participation itself. I believe it is important to condition oneself to give at any level. With that thought, I have made a concerted effort to give each year since my graduation, and I have increased my gifting when possible. For years, I contributed to the annual operations, but more recently, I have contributed to the capital campaign for the new Veterinary Medical Learning Center. I believe that the new Hospital is greatly needed and will provide an opportunity for UGA to shine in the veterinary world even more than it already does. As an alumna, I want to be a part of making that happen, and I will be excited and proud to visit the new facilities.
Dates to remember:

August 4    9th Annual Hawaii Dawg-O
August 12   White Coat Ceremony
September 26 Vet School for a Day
September 29 Dean's Tailgate
December 1-5 AAEP
March 22-23, 2013 The 50th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Weekend

Continuing Education Courses: (CE dates and topics subject to change)

October 4-5    8th Equine Encore
October 13-14  Internal Medicine
October 20-21  Small Animal Surgery
November 10-11 Rabbit/Rodent Endoscopy
December 1-2   Avian and Reptile Diagnostic Endoscopy
December 2     Neurology
December 8-9   Outpatient Medicine
December 8-9   Advanced Laparoscopic and Thoracoscopic Surgery

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