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Professor Liliana Friedmann joins the NSF Directorate.
Dear Alumni and Friends of the College,

Let’s get our new year rolling with a shout-out: Thanks to you and your continued support, and the hard work by members of the construction crew building our new Hospital, just before the holidays the final steel beam was hoisted into its permanent spot in the steel framework of our Veterinary Medical Learning Center!

An update on our VMLC project is included in this issue. As you will see, we’re making progress, and the not-well-kept College “secret” is: We’ve scheduled our tentative moving dates!

We have many more exciting things to share with you in this issue of the Aesculapian, including:

- A story from one of our students on the many learning opportunities available to members of our Hospital’s Wildlife Treatment Crew. Some WTC members recently helped an injured owl find a new home at the local Athens zoo.

- Would you think of using a computer game to teach students about preparing for potential crises and catastrophes? Dr. Erik Hofmeister, an associate professor of anesthesia and our Hospital’s chief of staff for surgery and anesthesia, is utilizing a popular game to take UGA’s first-year students on an unusual learning “Odyssey.”

- In the last decade, small animal practices across the United States have seen a decline in the number of dog and cat visits to their clinics, according to Dr. Jeffrey Klausner (DVM ’72), the senior vice president and chief medical officer of Banfield® Pet Hospital. Klausner believes veterinarians need to bridge a communications gap to encourage clients to utilize veterinary expertise in caring for their precious pets.

- And what would you think of a device that, with a little help from transmitters and a few MRI scans, can map a cranial cavity much like a GPS works? It’s called a neuronavigator, and our Hospital now has one! Read about this, and other Hospital news, in our UGA VTH Update.

I hope you enjoy reading these and other stories in this issue about the exciting things going on in the College. There is so much being done to advance our profession and veterinary education. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend in late March. As always, thanks so much for all you do to help your College!

Sincerely,

Sheila W. Allen
Dean
A research team led by Ralph A. Tripp, PhD, a professor of infectious diseases, is receiving Phase II funding through Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE), an initiative created by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that enables individuals worldwide to test bold ideas to address persistent health and development challenges.

Tripp (pictured) and his co-collaborators are receiving $1,327,570 to support their project, titled “Improved Vaccine Production Technology for Rotavirus Vaccines.” Their research involves identifying genes in vaccine cell lines that resist virus replication. This information is then combined with state-of-the-art gene editing technologies to create a new generation of high-performance rotavirus vaccine manufacturing cell lines capable of sustained vaccine production at increased titers.

“As we demonstrated in our Phase I Polio program, also funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, single gene modulation events can enhance virus production by greater than twentyfold in cell lines currently employed in vaccine production,” said Tripp, who is the Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Vaccine and Therapeutic Studies in the College’s Department of Infectious Diseases. “In our next study, we will advance our innovative Phase I studies by demonstrating the applicability of this technology to a second vaccine-preventable disease, rotavirus. Rotavirus is the leading cause of acute gastroenteritis, which leads to severe diarrhea and vomiting. It is responsible for more than 500,000 deaths per year in children less than 5 years old.”

GCE grants seek to engage individuals worldwide who can apply innovative approaches to some of the world’s toughest and persistent global health and development challenges. To achieve this, GCE invests in early stage ideas that have the potential to help bring people out of poverty and realize their human potential. In 2011, Tripp was awarded a Phase I grant to test his theory that an enhanced poliovirus vaccine cell line could be created by silencing specific virus-resistant genes. The recent Accelerated Grand Challenges Explorations Phase II grant acknowledges the successes of the polio vaccine cell line program and offers a new avenue to provide affordable vaccine coverage worldwide through continued transition of genomics discoveries into the applied fields of biomanufacturing.

Co-investigators on the project include S. Mark Tompkins, an associate professor of infectious diseases at the College; Jon Karpilow, of Thermo Fisher Scientific, who has worked in programs associated with siRNA and shRNA design, as well as applications of RNAi technology to bioprocessing; Jon Gentsch and Baoming Jiang, scientists from the National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Diseases, Gastroenteritis and Respiratory Viruses Laboratory Branch, Division of Viral Diseases, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Carl Kirkwood, an associate professor at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (which is where rotavirus was discovered in 1973), in Victoria, Australia, and head of the Australian Rotavirus Surveillance Program.
Peter C. Doherty, the only veterinarian to have won the Nobel Prize, wants bird watchers, amateur astronomers and environmental advocates to play a vital role in science research.

Acting as a new breed of “citizen scientists,” members of the public can use their hobbies to help scientists collect data and contribute to major discoveries.

Doherty spoke about this aspect in two of his books — *Their Fate is Our Fate* and *Pandemics: What Everyone Needs to Know* — to a packed auditorium at the College of Veterinary Medicine on Sept. 10.

“What’s emerging is this citizen action to monitor the environment,” he said. “These are groups who watch birds, beaches, rivers and more. When organized properly to collect data, this citizen science is getting more people involved with the business of science.”

After he was awarded the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award in 1995, became a Nobel Laureate in 1996, and then named “Australian of the Year,” Doherty became an international public figure. His experiences in this realm led him to conclude that the scientific community should improve the way it communicates its values and the general nature of science to the general public — a mission that is at the core of his books and public talks.

For instance, education systems are built on a “top-down” teaching of science, he told the CVM audience. Although children learn how to conduct simple experiments in classrooms, they don’t often continue this

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**Nobel Prize Laureate calls for non-scientists to participate in research through hobbies**

By Carolyn Crist

Peter C. Doherty, the only veterinarian to have won the Nobel Prize, wants bird watchers, amateur astronomers and environmental advocates to play a vital role in science research.

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*After the lecture, Peter C. Doherty signed his books for students, faculty and staff. Photo by Sue Myers Smith.*

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**College News**

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exploration as adults.

“What’s much better is when people get involved from the ground up,” Doherty said. “By taking photos of the stars, coastal organisms, or rivers with their cell phone cameras, they’re collecting an enormous amount of data.”

The key is organizing that data. For example, the North American Butterfly Association holds annual butterfly counts to observe the geographical distribution and population of butterflies in a one-day period. By comparing the results across the years, the group monitors changes in butterfly populations and studies the effects of weather and habitat change on North American butterflies. Other groups can do the same, Doherty said.

“I’m very interested in this ecological approach, this interdisciplinary work,” he said. “Biology evolves and environments change. We’re part of this ecosystem, and watching the changes will tell us what will affect us as humans.”

Doherty paid attention to change when he focused his research on immunology and white blood cells. He and colleague Rolf Zinkernagel, MD, PhD, published research in 1974 with a controversial idea about how the immune system recognizes virus-infected cells. Two decades later, they were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. When Doherty turned his attention to avian influenza, he began to see the connections to the environment and pandemic illnesses in humans.

His latest book about pandemics, published as part of an Oxford University series, uses a question-and-answer format to help readers understand various immunology topics, including the basics of the immune system, the facts behind recent scares such as SARS and H1N1, and why influenza causes the most concern for a pandemic spread.

“Hundreds of infections can kill you in a ghastly way, but you don’t have to worry as much because they don’t spread to us from bats, birds, pigs, or mice,” he said. “What we have to watch are the infections that indeed do come to us from other species.”

In Their Fate is Our Fate, Doherty uses a narrative approach to explain how the movements of birds explain changes in the environment and how non-scientists can become aware of the changes in their own backyard. When a bird population drops by half, it’s likely due to overfishing in the area or commercial development that leads to weaker wetlands, he explained.

“Birds tell us about ourselves and our infections and how the world is changing,” he said. “Several stories in the book show the serious situation and how our effects on the environment cause long-term destruction of species.”

Doherty, who first became interested in veterinary medicine at age 16 after visiting an open house at the nearby veterinary school, continues to make it a mission to help non-scientists connect the dots between their personal interests and science.

“What’s happening in science right now is enormously important, and we need people to engage with what’s happening in the environment and climate change,” he said. “Many aspects of geology, biology, meteorology and others are related, and to understand what’s happening in the world, you need some familiarity with the science.”

Doherty, a native of Australia, earned both his veterinary degrees, BVSc (1962) and MVSc (1966), from the University of Queensland, Australia, and later his PhD from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He joined St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in 1988 as chair of the Department of Immunology. Doherty remains a faculty member in the immunology department at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, in Memphis, Tenn., where he holds the Michael F. Tamer Chair of Biomedical Research, and heads the Department of Immunology. He divides his time between Memphis and Australia, where he is also on faculty at the University of Melbourne as a Laureate Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.
There is simply no one quite like Corrie Brown. Naturally funny, unassuming, and enthusiastic, Dr. Brown, a professor of anatomic pathology, has a reputation at the CVM for being a bit unorthodox in her teaching style. Sit in on a class taught by Brown, and you quickly discover that her passion for learning, life and veterinary medicine is downright infectious. In fact, to Corrie Brown, the message “find your passion in life” may be as important as any lesson you will learn from her about veterinary medicine.

“It doesn’t matter how smart you are. You are in veterinary school; you’ve made it here. You are smart enough,” she said. “If you can find your passion, so that your career is not only a vocation but an avocation, you’ll be really happy. I found that, and I want everyone else to do that, too. I want each person to discover what it is they do love, and then our profession will be better for it!”

Doing what she loves has led to an array of accolades for Brown. Just to name a few: Since she joined the CVM in 1996, she has won 14 teaching awards, including the Josiah Meigs Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2004, the highest teaching honor awarded by the University of Georgia, and in that same year, she also received the Student American Veterinary Medical Association award for top educator nationally. She received Certificates of Appreciation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2009 and 2010 for her work in helping to rebuild the animal health infrastructures in Afghanistan and Iraq.
She also helped develop and teach a Veterinary Stability Operations Course for the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, which in 2010 earned her a letter of commendation from Brig. Gen. T. Adams (who retired in 2012).

In 2013, Brown garnered two more significant awards: the XIIth International Veterinary Congress Prize, awarded by the American Veterinary Medical Association, and a core Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award.

Brown, who has worked with veterinarians in more than 30 countries, chose to use her Fulbright scholarship to teach systemic pathology and global animal health at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid. As part of her quest to help shore up animal health infrastructures in international settings, Brown has been working with the school’s founding dean for over a decade. In Jordan, veterinary school is a five-year program that begins right after high school. “The whole university teaches in English because it’s the language of science,” said Brown, who has been furiously studying Arabic.

“I love going to all kinds of places, but the Middle East might be my favorite, because it’s the most different from here,” said Brown prior to her departure for Jordan. “Every time I go to a place that’s different, I learn a lot.”

Brown, who earned her DVM at the University of Guelph, discovered her interest in international cultures early in her career. While working toward her PhD (in comparative pathology) at the University of California-Davis, Brown worked on a U.S. Agency for International Development program studying caseous lymphadenitis in goats in Brazil.

After earning her PhD in 1986, she taught at the School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University. By 1987, she was working for the USDA Plum Island Animal Disease Center, which is responsible for researching and diagnosing foreign animal diseases of livestock that could be introduced to the U.S. accidentally or deliberately (through an act of agro-terrorism). She left Plum Island for the University of Georgia CVM in 1996.

Brown’s background uniquely positions her to help train veterinarians and veterinary professionals in developing countries and nations devastated by war to shore up their animal health programs. Better animal health translates to a stronger agrarian society through improved economy of the smallholder farmer and
enhanced nutrition for the population of the whole nation. Her focus is on human resource capacity rather than sophisticated technologies. She believes that enhanced critical thinking skills about animal disease diagnostics is the most sustainable strategy for improving animal health.

“She teaches international veterinarians the importance of diagnosing disease, and teaches them how to do it themselves with the resources they have,” said R. Keith Harris, DVM, DACVP, who heads the College’s pathology department. “She has a way of making people feel comfortable and is accepted everywhere.”

“When I saw pictures of Dr. Brown giving the keynote speech at the Afghanistan Veterinary Association meeting — one woman speaking to hundreds of bearded men — well, her trans-cultural likeability is unmistakable,” said Harris.

In addition to influencing the lives of the CVM’s students over the last two decades, Brown “… adds to the international culture of the College, and has become a role model for leadership and thinking outside the box,” said Sheila W. Allen, dean of the College. “But her primary motivation is the benefit of the students, and that shows in everything she does.”

Students routinely seek out Brown for career advice, and for life advice.

“Dr. Brown is the one who pointed me toward lab animal medicine,” noted Rebecca Welch (DVM 2015). “Without her, I probably never would have wanted to go into that field, or it would have taken me a lot longer to figure it out. And, when she first met with me and told me she didn’t see me going into private practice (and blew apart all my future plans in the process), she encouraged me to come back and talk some more after I had thought about it. We’ve talked several times since and it’s always refreshing to talk to someone who is really concerned about you, your well-being and your future.”

Jennifer Safko, also in the Class of 2015, spent a summer in the exchange program in Brazil and was recently awarded the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps Health Professions Scholarship. Safko credits Brown’s influence for opening her eyes to opportunities she might otherwise have missed.

“The exchange program gave me the awesome opportunity to learn not only another language and how veterinary medicine is practiced in another country, but also allowed me to become completely immersed in the beautiful Brazilian culture and be surrounded by new family and friends there,” she said. “Dr. Brown gave me a new appreciation for veterinary medicine and how it is perceived around the world while also giving me a new respect for people and culture.”

Just before leaving for Jordan, the Class of 2015 took a group picture to give to Dr. Brown. She responded with a letter to the class inviting everyone to her home “for Arabic coffee and to tell me your plans for clinics and the future.”

“I love what I do, and students are the most important thing to me,” said Brown. “In my book, any day that I get to interact with students — in the classroom, in the lab, in the hallway, or on the street — that is a good day.”
The UGA CVM held its annual Science of Veterinary Medicine Symposium on Oct. 10. The symposium featured a keynote address from Noah Cohen, PhD, MPH, VMD, a professor of equine internal medicine and director of the Equine Infectious Disease Laboratory at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Cohen’s lecture on “Clinical Research and Scholarly Veterinary Practice” focused on the role of epidemiology in patient-based research. His work in equine infectious diseases was recognized internationally when he received the 2008 Schering-Plough Animal Health Applied Equine Research Award, which was presented at the 10th World Equine Veterinary Association Congress in Moscow.

Other speakers included: Biao He, PhD, a professor of infectious diseases at the College and a Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Investigator; Kate Creevy, DVM, MS, DACVIM, an assistant professor of internal medicine; and Robert Gogal Jr., DVM, an associate professor of immunology and immunotoxicology.

The symposium focused on several questions:
- Ever wonder why there are so many basic science courses in the first year of the veterinary curriculum?
- Have you wondered how biochemistry or microbiology research findings are used to provide tools for medicine?
- Why do veterinarians pursue research when they could focus on practicing clinical medicine?

Julie Rushmore (PhD ’13; DVM 2017) received an award for the “Best Overall Oral Presentation.”

The event was supported by donations from Merial, Zoetis, Hill’s, Purina, Iams, Novartis, Abbott Animal Health and Boehringer Ingelheim.
Disaster can strike anywhere, at any time. Flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters can leave behind billions of dollars in damage, along with a reminder of how important it is to be prepared.

Using the video game Minecraft, Erik Hofmeister, an associate professor of veterinary anesthesiology, is giving his students a first-hand experience on how to manage themselves in a crisis through Crisis and Catastrophe Management, a University of Georgia First-Year Odyssey class.

In this virtual, 3D-generated world, students are placed in an apocalyptic scenario that requires them to apply real life skills. They have to gather wood, rock, clay and other raw materials to build the resources they need to survive.

“Their goal is to get enough resources and build a place to live that will prepare them for some kind of crisis that I will throw at them,” said Hofmeister, who also serves as chief of staff for surgery and anesthesia for the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

As an anesthesiologist, Hofmeister is experienced in making plans with what information he has, all the while trying to be prepared for what could go wrong. He wanted to share this knowledge with students.

Hofmeister had been playing Minecraft himself and was going into his second year of teaching the Odyssey course when a friend introduced him to the game’s educational potential.

“It’s fun because it’s a creative and open platform; you can just do whatever you want with it,” Hofmeister said.

In the game, students must have some form of shelter built before nightfall to protect themselves from zombies and other monsters that hunt mainly at night. While collecting resources and protecting themselves from monsters, students must also address their hunger and maintain good health. This means finding first-aid materials and gathering farm animals for food.

Hofmeister uses Minecraft three times throughout
the semester. Students meet once a week for about an hour, except on Minecraft session days when the class will last for two hours.

Jessica Wright, a first-year UGA student, was frustrated when she started playing the game. She said it was hard to figure out what needed to be done and to get it done in an appropriate amount of time.

“I was talking to my mom, while trying to do it at home, about how it didn’t feel like a game, it was just that you had to survive,” Wright said.

Now that she has become a more skilled player, Wright recognizes how much she is learning about preparation, especially for a scenario in which technology would not be available.

“I feel like (the game is) very important for what we’re learning in the class … [and] it teaches you time management,” Wright said.

As part of the class, students are reading, One Second After. The book is a fictional detail about how a small town in North Carolina survives a nuclear weapon attack on the United States that wipes out every form of technology, from the Internet and electricity to transportation.

As students pace through the game, Hofmeister reminds them to cultivate resources but also plants obstacles in their way.

“My purpose behind assigning it was to give them insight from the start of a disaster through to its conclusion.”

Hofmeister said he decided to use the book in his third year of teaching the Odyssey course because it is a good portrayal of what might happen if all of technology is lost.

“My purpose behind assigning it was to give them insight from the start of a disaster through to its conclusion,” Hofmeister said.

In class discussions, students identify different crisis situations throughout the chapters and devise not only ways that those situations could have been prevented but also ways to deal with what happened. Hofmeister said this exercise can help students execute better plans for their own crisis situations.

Throughout the game, Hofmeister has a bird’s eye view of what each of his 15 students are doing and offers suggestions, such as: “If you need more wood, you’ll have to replant some trees,” or “Are you sure you want to build your house out of earth?”

Just when things are cruising along fairly well for each of the class’s three teams, Hofmeister gives them another obstacle — more monsters to fight off, or shelter destruction from a volcanic eruption or dynamite explosion — to handle. Christopher Tran, a first-year UGA student, said he is learning the importance of being prepared for many possibilities and adapting to the unexpected.

“The game gives us a good overall, first-hand experience,” Tran said. “Our team thought that we were well-prepared for the scenario that was coming but when it actually happened, a lot of things that we did not expect actually went wrong.”

Tran said he is enjoying the class and the game is effective in allowing him to apply what he is learning. He said he believes the class has taught him how to think more quickly in a crisis situation.

Hofmeister is not the first to use Minecraft as a teaching tool. Joel Levin, a former computer teacher in New York, is credited with using and promoting the
game among educators.

Minecraft creator, Markus Persson, did not intentionally construct the game for educational purposes, according to the game’s website (https://minecraft.net/). It was officially released in 2011 as a fun, virtual way of breaking and building blocks made of different materials.

Now the game is highly popular among the educational community and is used for a variety of subjects, such as math and history and at both primary and secondary education levels. Hofmeister said in addition to students learning to work collaboratively, he wants them to know they can react in a rational manner when faced with a crisis.

“What I really would hope from this class is that at the end of it the students can feel comfortable knowing what they would need to do to prepare for some kind of disaster,” he said. “And I’ve talked to them about generalizing these skills even to interpersonal conflict management and other scenarios outside of the actual disaster.”
Connections found between wetland cover, disease transmission

Ecologists at the University of Georgia have discovered complex and surprising relationships between land cover and rates of transmission, illness and death from hemorrhagic disease in white-tailed deer.

A pair of studies recently published in PLOS ONE and the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* show that areas with the highest rates of disease transmission have the lowest rates of actual disease. Outbreaks of illness instead appear to be related to moderate rates of transmission and to increases in wetland cover nearby. The researchers found no evidence of a link between increases in wetland cover and increases in deaths from the disease, however.

Hemorrhagic disease occurs extensively throughout the U.S. and chiefly affects white-tailed deer. Caused by viruses carried by biting midges, it is often — but not always — fatal. Deer that become ill exhibit symptoms including sloughing of hooves and lesions on the tongue or mouth. Hemorrhagic disease is not transmissible to humans.

Andrew Park, an assistant professor in the Odum School of Ecology and the College of Veterinary Medicine, leads a group that studies the ecological factors that impact the spread of infectious diseases. Because habitat disturbance has been shown to influence infectious diseases transmitted by insects, he and his colleagues wondered if changes in land cover could be related to a recent increase in hemorrhagic disease. The paper that appeared in the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* examined that possibility.

Researchers with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study in the College of Veterinary Medicine, including study co-author David Stallknecht, had compiled reports of hemorrhagic disease by county from across the U.S. from 1980 to 2007.

This allowed the team to track changes in where the disease was occurring from one year to the next and where rates of illness and death were increasing, decreasing or remaining steady.

The researchers found no relationship between increasing rates of death and increasing wetlands, or any other land cover type, for that matter.

“The mortality story is complicated,” Park said, “but it seems to be related to how frequently a region experiences disease.” This was the focus of the paper published in PLOS ONE.

“If there are long gaps between outbreaks — if they occur every five years instead of every year, for instance — then the deer would lose those antibodies, and the new fawns wouldn’t have any immunological protection,” Park said. “When the disease does come back, it’s going to come back and kill.”

Don’t miss the College of Veterinary Medicine’s next

**OPEN HOUSE**

**Friday, April 4th, 2014**

For more information or for directions to the College, please visit us at:

[www.vet.uga.edu/openhouse](http://www.vet.uga.edu/openhouse)
December marked two celebrations to commemorate a milestone in the building of the Veterinary Medical Learning Center (VMLC): the placement of the final steel beam in the steel framework of the VMLC.

The 32-foot-long beam made the 2.7-mile journey from the job site to the College of Veterinary Medicine in early December, where it was placed in the student lobby for a signing party. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, deans from other UGA colleges, members of the UGA administration, and representatives from Turner Construction Company, which is building the facility, were on hand to sign the beam and celebrate the progress in the construction of the CVM’s new hospital and classroom facility.

“It was great to see everyone celebrate this major milestone in the construction progress,” said Sheila W. Allen, dean of the College. “Those who attended and signed the beam have been supportive of this project and look forward to its completion.”

A day later, the beam was returned to the job site for a second celebration: a “topping off” party, hosted by Turner Construction. Faculty and staff from the CVM were invited to attend the luncheon, during which members of the construction crew added their names to the beam. At the luncheon, Jeff Brown, a project manager for Turner Construction, presented Dr. Gary Baxter, director of the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, with a check for $8,100 to benefit the College’s G.R.A.C.E. Fund, which provides financial assistance for dogs whose owners qualify for the aid. The money was donated by all of the construction companies that are participating in building the facility.

“I was overwhelmed by the generosity of these companies that are building our new Hospital!” said Kathy Bangle, director of veterinary external affairs for the College. “Jeff Brown told me that collecting the donations to our G.R.A.C.E. Fund was the easiest fundraising project he has ever done! This generosity speaks highly of these companies, and to me, is a strong indication of their belief in our mission. Thank you!”

Following the luncheon, spectators watched as the crew’s cranes hoisted the signed beam to its permanent location in the steel framework of the academic building, marking the last structural component to be placed in the facility. The VMLC is slated for completion in 2015.

As of Dec. 31, the CVM had raised $27,336,000 toward its goal of $32.7 million.
Above photos by Sue Myers Smith. Construction of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine’s Veterinary Medical Learning Center began in March 2013 and is slated for completion in early 2015. The facility will include a new hospital for both large and small animals, as well as a new classroom building for students. Below photo by Aerial Innovations of Georgia, Inc./Jan. 2014; photo provided by the Turner Construction Company.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to support the building of our new Hospital and classroom facility, please contact the College’s development office at 706.542.1807 or give2vet@uga.edu. To monitor our progress via our VMLC WebCam, visit: www.vet.uga.edu/vmlc/webcam
Absorbing all of the medical knowledge taught in veterinary school is a difficult task, but integrating all of that data to make non-clear-cut medical decisions for a sick patient — especially your first patient — can be even more daunting.

Case studies used for class discussions can help students build critical thinking skills, but not every student chooses to participate in discussions held in a group setting. A newly developed web-based teaching tool, deployed in fall 2013, can help students hone their critical thinking skills, and provide practice for making difficult medical decisions — all before a student sees his or her first real patient.

Students who use the Internet-based tool, called “Case-Based Learning for Veterinary Clinical Decision Making,” have access to:

- a video case scenario that reveals: the client’s information about the patient; the doctor’s approach to presenting the patient’s prognosis to the owner; what financial resources are required and available for patient care; information shared with the doctor by the veterinary technician, etc.;
- the patient’s medical records;
- videos of three course professors sharing their (frequently divergent) real-life experience with the topic;
- a “digital textbook,” that includes a labeled diagram of the small intestine; description of normal abdominal radiographs; information on diseases of the stomach, gastritis and pancreatitis, canine pancreatic disease; published studies that could be helpful to the case; an explanation of the possible surgery required; information on suturing techniques, pain assessment and management;
- quizzes to assess the students’ progress.

As students work their way through the material, they are asked to diagnose the patient’s condition and recommend treatment. Students can compare their opinions to those shared by their professors, and alter their diagnosis or recommended treatments based on new information that becomes available.

The tool was developed over the last three years by four faculty members from the CVM’s Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, who collaborated with an associate professor of learning, design and technology from the College of Education, as well as graduate students from that department. While it is currently aimed at third-year students taking an elective course on digestive diseases, the tool was developed with modular programming technology that could be re-populated with information pertinent to a variety of veterinary courses. Collaborators plan to track the performance of veterinary students.
who use the tool during the fall term prior to their clinical year of training, versus students who learn through the traditional classroom case discussions.

The CVM faculty on the project are Karen Cornell, a professor of soft tissue surgery; Kate E. Creevy, an assistant professor of internal medicine; MaryAnn Radlinsky, an associate professor of soft tissue surgery; and Chad Schmiedt, an associate professor of soft tissue surgery. The collaborators are working with Ikseon Choi, an associate professor of learning, design and technology in the College of Education, and several graduate students including Hyojin Park, Hui Rong, Yunseok Lee, and Yingxiao Qian. Funding for their project has been provided by the UGA Learning Technologies Grant Program ($29,680) and the UGA Junior Faculty Grant Program ($9,750).

$1.95 million awarded to UGA researchers on quest to create better tools to teach science

Two federal grants totaling $1.95 million will provide jobs and research support for a growing University of Georgia startup company that aims to change the way science is taught in classrooms by employing modern technologies to engage high school students in their learning experiences.

Funding totaling $1.8 million from a National Institutes of Health grant will be used to create new software-based case studies, apps and iBooks to teach important concepts relating to how nerve cells function, and how they can be affected by various diseases, said Tom Robertson, CEO of IS3D LLC and an associate professor of physiology and pharmacology at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. A second grant totaling $150,000 from the National Science Foundation will fund the development of a web portal for teachers and students to use. The portal will help teachers analyze students’ problem-solving skills, according to Robertson. Together, the grants will provide eight technology jobs for the next three years, Robertson noted.

Both grants were awarded July 1. The NIH funding is provided for a proposal entitled “Stimulating Young Neuroscientists and Physiology in Science Education (SYNAPSE).” The NSF funding is provided for a proposal entitled “SBIR Phase I: Skills- and Assessments-Based Learning Environments (SABLE).”

IS3D LLC was founded in 2010 by eight UGA faculty and staff members who share the philosophy that today’s high school and elementary students could become more interested in learning science, and better master its principles, by the use of interactive software to engage students in the learning process.

UGA hosts first international One Health Symposium

More than 100 of the world’s leading health, medicine and disease experts gathered in Athens to participate in the first international One Health Symposium. For three days, packed auditoriums heard discussions on the latest research in disease treatment and prevention from the unique One Health perspective, which focuses on improving health of people, animals and the environment on a global scale.

“We cannot think of the world as isolated pockets of people anymore,” said Susan Sanchez, professor of infectious diseases in the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine and head of the University’s One Health initiative. “We are a global community that depends on each other.”

The event was hosted by the UGA Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute, the Faculty of Infectious Diseases, and the University of Liverpool, and it was made financially possible by a generous gift from VetHeart of Georgia, the charitable arm of the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association.

The second One Health International Symposium will be held in Liverpool, England, in June 2014. For more information about the University’s One Health Initiative or the 2014 conference in Liverpool, visit onehealth.uga.edu

AVMA Council on Education gives CVM full accreditation

The UGA College of Veterinary Medicine is pleased to announce it has once again received full accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education.

The AVMA COE uses clearly defined standards to evaluate veterinary medical education programs, including facilities, clinical resources, curriculum, faculty and research programs. The standards are applied by the COE to each college in relation to its mission.

“The College of Veterinary Medicine is pleased that the COE has reaffirmed our full accreditation,” said Sheila W. Allen, dean of the College. “Accreditation by the COE is recognized internationally as the gold standard for veterinary medical education. Thanks to the work of many throughout the College, we have earned this well-deserved recognition.”

The accreditation process takes about one year, which includes a self-study that is reviewed by the site team prior to a five-day visit to the College. After the visit, the team files a report to the AVMA COE. The Council then votes on whether to award full accreditation or limited accreditation. The COE site team reviews everything in the College that relates to DVM students’ education.
The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital now offers patient status reports to referring veterinarians (RDVMs) who have patients that have been admitted to our hospital. The reporting system, which began Nov. 1, is part of the Hospital’s ongoing effort to improve communication with its RDVMs.

The patient status reports are faxed or emailed to RDVMs (based on correspondence preferences on file) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Every patient hospitalized in our facility will have a status report sent to its referring veterinarian. This effort is being made across all services for both large and small animals.

“The goal is to keep RDVMs in-the-know on hospitalized patients,” said Gary Baxter, VMD, MS, DACVS, director of the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. “This is information RDVMs may share with their clients. If the client or RDVM has additional questions about the case, we can be contacted for further information.”

Neuronavigator

Thanks to a generous equipment donation from Emory University Hospital Midtown, in Atlanta, the VTH’s Neurology & Neurosurgery service now has a refurbished Medtronic StealthStation® TREON® Surgical Navigation System, or “neuronavigator.”

The system, which is about the size of a modern ultrasound unit, can be used to diagnose diseases of the brain and to deliver therapeutic treatments to the brain.

“It maps the skull’s size and shape, then navigates within the cranial cavity much like a Global Positioning System, or GPS, would work,” explained Simon Platt, BVM&S, MRCVS, DACVIM (Neurology), DECVN, and a professor of neurology at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

A patient must first undergo an MRI sequence while wearing markers that collect data about that patient’s skull and brain. Later, when that patient is in front of the neuronavigator, the veterinarian points a wand toward the patient’s head, and the wand utilizes the information from the MRIs and the data transmitted by the markers to create a 3-D map of the patient’s skull and brain.

The neuronavigator can then guide doctors to deliver therapeutics to a precise location, or to take a biopsy of an area of the brain that cannot otherwise be accessed without surgery (or, in some cases, not accessed at all due to location).

“This allows us to treat any type of brain lesion, but particularly tumors, because we can get there accurately with minimal risk to the patients,” said Platt.

The equipment we received was designed for human patients and is less cumbersome to use than the veterinary neuronavigators. Roughly three veterinary teaching hospitals in North America currently have neuronavigators; to the best of our knowledge, only the UGA VTH has a model that is typically used on human patients.

New Faculty

Three specialists have been added to our faculty in recent months.

**Sam Franklin**, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVS, DACVSMR, joins us as an assistant professor of small animal orthopedics. Dr. Franklin did his residency and PhD (in veterinary pathobiology) at the University of Missouri. He is board-certified by both the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation.

**Koichi Nagata**, DVM, DACVR, joins our Oncology service as an assistant professor of radiation oncology. He is board-certified in radiation oncology by the American College of Veterinary Radiology. Prior to joining our faculty, Dr. Nagata was a radiation oncologist at the Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center, in Pittsburgh, Pa. With the addition of Dr. Nagata, the Oncology Service now offers intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) for the treatment of tumors in small animals (see above for more information).

**Robert Stawicki**, DVM, joins the Hospital as a clinical assistant professor of theriogenology. Dr. Stawicki did his residency in large animal reproduction at the University of Pennsylvania’s New Bolton Center.
Clinical Trials

The Hospital is continuing its clinical trial to study the post-surgical delivery of Cetuximab via convection enhanced delivery (CED) for treatment of canine brain tumors (specifically gliomas). Up to 15 dogs will be accepted into the trial. All dogs will undergo surgery to remove/debulk the tumor as much as surgically possible. At the time of the surgery, a small catheter is inserted into the residual tumor, which enables the treatment to be slowly delivered to the tumor site over a 12 to 24 hour period. Follow-up MRI examinations occur at 30 days and 3 months after surgery. Patients must meet specific criteria, including diagnosis, for enrollment in the trial, and pet owners must consent to participation in the trial. Referring veterinarians are encouraged to refer dogs with brain disease as possible candidates for the trial.

In addition, a new clinical trial has been launched to test a hand-held device that safely stimulates the vagus nerve transcutaneously for treatment of refractory seizure activity associated with canine epilepsy. The device has been used to treat people who suffer from primary headaches and acute asthma. As part of a pilot study, the UGA VTH tested the device on eight dogs with seizure disorders; the owners of the patients did not report any side effects or safety concerns. Patients must meet specific criteria, including diagnosis, for enrollment in the trial, and pet owners must consent to participation in the trial. Once enrolled, study participation lasts 24 weeks.

For more information on these and other clinical trials, visit vet.uga.edu/research/clinical/current or call the UGA VTH at 706.542.3221.

Oncology now offers IMRT

The Hospital now offers intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) for the treatment of tumors in small animals. Using this technology, clinicians can conform the shape of the area receiving the prescribed dose of radiation to closely match the outline of the tumor being treated. This allows for a more targeted, higher dose of radiation to be delivered to the tumor, which may lead to a longer tumor-control time. Using the IMRT technique leads to a lower dose of radiation to the sensitive vital organs that surround the tumor, which results in fewer side effects for the animal.

IMRT is especially useful when the tumor has a complicated shape and/or surrounds sensitive organs. Multiple tumors that are close to each other can also be treated with a better radiation dose distribution, compared to radiation therapy without using IMRT. It is administered using the Hospital’s linear accelerator in conjunction with specialized radiation-planning computer software, which is able to perform highly complicated calculations that are required to generate an IMRT plan.

The IMRT procedure was first used in a select few human cancer centers in the late 1990s. While it is now available in veterinary medicine as well, there are only a handful of veterinary teaching hospitals across the United States that offer it.
Alton sits on his roost at Bear Hollow Zoo.
His name is Alton, and he is a handsome barred owl. I should know, because I got to work on his case. Alton was brought to the Wildlife Treatment Center, based in the Zoological Medicine service at the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, by a good Samaritan. All wildlife patients come to us from good Samaritans, and all are treated by members of the Wildlife Treatment Crew (WTC). The “Crew” is a course that DVM students enroll in to learn how to treat wildlife. Crew members, like myself, are supervised by the interns, residents and faculty on the Zoological Medicine service. If you are a member of the WTC and you are on-call, a patient you are called in to see could be anything from a bald eagle to a box turtle, and anything could be wrong. As a veterinary student, being a member of the WTC offers me a plethora of hands-on learning experiences long before I begin my year-long clinical rotations in the spring of my third-year of veterinary school.

When we examined Alton, he had a corneal ulcer. Unlike most mammals and reptiles, a raptor depends so much on its eyesight that any serious defect in vision often renders the bird unfit for return to the wild. But as students who are future doctors, we try to do our best for every patient we treat. If we have a wildlife patient that can be successfully treated and live out its life at a wildlife rehabilitation center or educational facility, we try to make that happen. So, I picked up the phone and called Clinton Murphy, zoo coordinator for the Bear Hollow Zoo, a sanctuary for wildlife that cannot return to the wild. Like us, it is located in Athens. Murphy cleared us to treat Alton, and said the zoo would give him a home.

Those of us who comprise the WTC are first-, second- and third-year students. When we receive a patient, Crew members on-call act as “the doctor” on the case. We examine, diagnose and treat every wildlife case brought into the Hospital, which allows us to gain invaluable clinical experience while simultaneously learning how the Hospital works. We have rounds every month, and we share our knowledge with each other. We continuously apply what we learn in our classes to the patients we see. Because we get to work with really cool patients, and get experience “being doctors” well before our clinical year begins, being a member of the Wildlife Treatment Crew is a “hot ticket” at the CVM. Not everyone who wants to be a member of our Crew gets a spot on the Crew. Each year, when prospective students come to visit our campus, they often tell us that the reason they want to attend our CVM is because they want to be members of our Crew.

The learning opportunities available to members of the Crew have grown exponentially in recent years, corresponding to the rise in our caseload. The number of patients brought into the Wildlife Treatment Center has more than doubled, from roughly 200 cases a year to close to 400 cases this year. From an educational standpoint, this is great, because the more patients we see, the more hands-on learning experiences we get. But this means our unit’s costs have significantly increased.

Each year, the College provides the Center with a small amount of funding to treat wildlife patients to support student education. We also encourage good Samaritans to leave a donation for the Kate Grant Wildlife Fund, which we tap to help offset the cost of patient care. In order to increase our operating budget, the Crew holds periodic fundraisers. We have also worked with the Hospital’s administration to find ways to curb costs. Both the Hospital and College provide funding for the Wildlife Treatment Center.

All of this combined — from the wide variety of patients treated by the Crew, to my first encounter with the reality of operating such a popular service for Georgia’s sick and injured wildlife on a small budget — has provided me with an education that complements what I’ve learned in the CVM’s classrooms. Before coming to UGA, I had never so much as held a bird before, and now I have handled, examined and treated all kinds of raptors. I have learned how to balance the best treatment for the individual patient with the best interests of the entire year’s patients. It has not always been easy, working with and for my peers, trying to balance my sympathies for the stresses in our lives with ensuring the best patient care possible. But it has always been rewarding to be able to measure my growth and the growth of our
new students as they continue to work on Crew semester after semester.

This year, in addition to the cases presented to the Crew, we have also learned a large variety of medical and surgical facts, such as raptor wing anatomy and turtle physiology. In the fall, some of our Crew members helped document the first case of a specific cancer found in a wild rat snake (see sidebar). Being a part of the Wildlife Treatment Crew has been an incredible journey and an honor for me, and it has provided some of the most productive learning experiences I have had thus far in veterinary school.

“Being part of the Crew has provided some of the most productive learning experiences I have had thus far in veterinary school.”

So what happened to Alton? When I last saw him, just before our winter break, he had settled into his new place, looked well nourished and happy, and was still acclimating to his human visitors. As a Bear Hollow resident and demonstration animal, Alton will help educate young eager minds about the benefits of having wild animals living with us in close proximity. He has been working with the Zoo’s trainers, and was expected to begin free-flight training before Christmas. Because of the Bear Hollow Zoo, we were able to perform surgery on Alton’s eye and save his life, and as a byproduct I got to assist in my very first ocular surgery.

Working with rat snakes

Working on the Wildlife Treatment Crew has many unexpected educational benefits, as Haley Olsen (DVM 2016) and Jessica Comolli (DVM 2016) discovered when they were assigned to the case of a common black rat snake with a swollen jaw. What they found was no less than a scientific discovery: The first documented carcinoma (that was not a squamous cell carcinoma) in the oral cavity of a wild black rat snake. The students got to follow and participate in the entire case, from working with third-year exotic medicine resident Dr. Rodney Schnellbacher on the intake to working with Dr. Kaori Sakamoto on the pathology, identifying the cancer. Below is excerpt from Dr. Sakamoto’s report:

_We received two partial biopsies of a mass that expanded the right side of the mouth over the mandible of a wild black rat snake (Pantherophis alleghaniensis). The tumor was composed of islands and anastomosing cords of neoplastic epithelial cells. The islands were separated by mesenchymal cells and myxomatous material. Immunohistochemistry could only confirm the epithelial origin of this neoplasm. Special stains suggested an odontogenic tumor. Morphologically, this neoplasm was most similar to acanthomatous epulis, a common tumor observed in the canine; however, only fibrosarcomas and squamous cell carcinomas have been reported in the snake oral cavity._

— Taylor “Eve” Winkleman

For More Information

For more information about the Wildlife Treatment Center, or to make a donation to the Kate Grant Wildlife Fund, visit: vet.uga.edu/hospital/services/wildlife_treatment
Members from the CVM’s Shelter Medicine Club attended the Pets for Life event in Atlanta, held in October. Four veterinarians, nine veterinary students and 11 undergraduate pre-veterinary students — all from the University of Georgia — joined veterinary students from Tuskegee University and other volunteers to vaccinate more than 500 cats and dogs, owned by low-income families, for free. **Back row, left to right:** Laura Adkins (DVM 2016); Bradley Buckallew (DVM 2016); Amanda Wonn, pre-veterinary student; Alison Blackshire, pre-veterinary student; Jennifer Velasco (DVM 2017). **Second row, left to right:** Jennifer Dill, DVM, a graduate student in the CVM’s pathology department; Julia Azarcon, pre-veterinary student; Brooke Salehzadeh, pre-veterinary student; Maggie Schwartzmiller, pre-veterinary student; Monique Green, pre-veterinary student; Ukachi Ugorji (DVM 2016); Kate Larson (DVM 2016); Ryan Alwiel, pre-veterinary student. **First row, left to right:** Janet Martin, DVM, faculty adviser to the UGA CVM Shelter Medicine Club; Jenny Taylor (DVM 2017); Elizabeth Rose (DVM 2017); Melinda Cindea, pre-veterinary student; Kayla Hargrove, pre-veterinary student; Nicky Pettry (DVM 2016); Emi Kooyman (DVM 2016); Susan Fogelson, DVM, a graduate student in the CVM’s pathology department. **Not pictured:** Lisa Last (DVM 2010); Ansley McKinney, pre-veterinary student. 

*Photo provided by Dr. Janet Martin.*

Omega Tau Sigma’s Eta Chapter hosted the annual OTS Grand Council, the national meeting of all chapters of the veterinary fraternity. The weekend-long event, held in November, showcased the UGA CVM chapter and brought together OTS members from throughout the United States and Canada. The weekend included a Grand Council Banquet, held at the Tate Student Center. Pictured are members of the OTS Executive Committee with Gov. Sonny Perdue, an alumnus who attended the event; from left: Alyson Frederick (DVM 2015), Thomas Griner (DVM 2015), Gov. Sonny Perdue (DVM ’71), Atticus Mabry (DVM 2015), Shannon Larsen (DVM 2015), Paige Williams (DVM 2016). *Photo provided by Omega Tau Sigma, Eta Chapter*.
Justin Thomason, DVM, DACVIM (Small Animal Internal Medicine), has joined the faculty at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine as an assistant professor of cardiology. Dr. Thomason completed his cardiology residency at the UGA CVM in May 2013.

Amie Goedeke (DVM 2015) was named a Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholar. The Morris Animal Foundation provides stipends of up to $4,000 to veterinary students to allow them to participate in animal health and welfare research. Goedeke is investigating neural cell damage in canine companions, particularly acute intervertebral disk disease (IVDD) in beagles, dachshunds and bassett hounds. In a study that will collect cells for reprogramming via centrifugation of canine urine, Goedeke will be in charge of data collection, participate in data analysis and will disseminate findings through presentations.

Julie Rushmore (PhD '13; DVM 2017) won the Volterra Award for Best Talk in Theoretical Ecology at the Ecological Society of America meeting in August.

Amanda DiMascio (DVM 2015) was elected to the Student AVMA Executive Board. She is SCAVMA’s current Senior Delegate and editor-elect for AVMA’s Vet Gazette, available at www.thevetgazette.com

Kristen Hamsley (DVM 2015) and Taylor “Eve” Winkleman (DVM 2015) were selected for the 2014 AVMA externship program. The program provides students with a four-week, hands-on introduction to public policy development and advocacy for the veterinary profession in Washington, D.C. They will work with the AVMA Governmental Relations Division staff to educate congressional staffers on the organization’s legislative priorities and meet with a wide variety of veterinarians in the federal government and nonprofit organizations.

Congratulations!
The following students recently completed residencies and passed board certifications:

Shawn Zimmerman — a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathology.

Paola Cazzini — a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathology.

Mercedes
14-year-old Arabian
Owned by Christy Yarbrough
Auburn, Georgia

One spring evening, Mercedes was running in our back pasture while I was taking pictures of her. As I snapped a photo and looked at her, I realized she was standing with her right front leg up and her ears back.

Our veterinarian, a UGA CVM graduate, splinted her leg, and we took Mercedes to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Her leg was severely broken, and we were told that in order for the surgical repair to remain intact, Mercedes would have to be extremely cautious during her anesthetic recovery and the postoperative convalescent period.

Following nine hours of surgery, two 18-inch titanium plates and 38 screws, Mercedes stayed at the VTH for 16 weeks. Twice during her stay, the UGA veterinarians fought off laminitis and multiple infections — either of which could have led to her demise.

Today, Mercedes walks, trots and canters, all thanks to the students, doctors and staff at UGA!

Mercedes’ story and photo, provided by her owner, are featured in the 2014 Large Animal Success Stories Calendar from the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. If you would like to share a UGA VTH Success Story with us, visit vet.uga.edu/pr/successtories.php
The CVM welcomed the Class of 2017 during its annual White Coat Ceremony, held Aug. 11. Sponsored by the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, the event officially recognized 102 members of the incoming class by donning them in lab coats to be worn during their veterinary education.

The hour-long ceremony was held in Mahler Auditorium at the UGA Hotel and Conference Center. After the ceremony, Denise Funk (DVM ’92), president of the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, led the two-block recessional of coated students to the College of Veterinary Medicine for a class photo, followed by a reception with the students’ families and members of the College’s faculty and staff.

The incoming class is made up of 72 women and 30 men. The students have a wide variety of veterinary interests: 25 percent are interested in companion animal medicine; 25 percent in mixed-animal medicine; 10 percent in zoo animal and wildlife medicine; 8 percent in food animal medicine; 2 percent in public health; 3 percent in equine medicine; 23 percent in pursuing a post-DVM internship/residency, and, 4 percent in research.
Amelia Woolums, DVM, MVSc, PhD, DACVIM, DACVM, has been recognized as one of the 20 most influential beef and dairy veterinarians by the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. As a researcher, Woolums, a professor of large animal internal medicine, has focused on the immune response to respiratory diseases and respiratory vaccination in cattle, and she’s well known for practical outreach to producers. She’s also made a mark as a teacher and student advisor.

Steeve Giguère, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, a professor of large animal internal medicine and the Marguerite Thomas Hodgson Research Chair in Equine Studies, is co-editor on the newly revised *Fifth Edition of Antimicrobial Therapy in Veterinary Medicine*. It is the most comprehensive reference available on veterinary antimicrobial drug use and has been thoroughly revised and updated to reflect the rapid advancements in the field of antimicrobial therapy.

Kurt Selberg, DVM, MS, is now board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Radiologists. Selberg is an assistant professor of diagnostic imaging.

Sreekumari Rajeev, BVSc, PhD, DACVM, is now board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Rajeev is an associate professor of infectious diseases.

Liliana Jaso-Friedmann, MS, PhD, will spend 2014 serving a one-year appointment as a program director for the National Science Foundation. (See story on page 30.) Friedmann is professor of infectious diseases and director of the CVM’s MS-VBS, PhD-BVS and DVM-PhD graduate programs.

Ray M. Kaplan, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, DEVPC, was invited to give the keynote address for the Phi Zeta induction ceremony held in October at St. George’s University School of Veterinary Medicine. Kaplan is a professor of parasitology.

Bridget Garner, DVM, PhD, DACVP, an assistant professor of clinical pathology, received the 2013 American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathologists Educator of the Year Award.

Monique S. Franca, DVM, PhD, DACPV, is now board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Franca is an assistant professor of avian medicine.

Angela Ellis, DVM, PhD, is now board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Ellis is an assistant professor of pathology, and a clinical pathologist at the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Kate Myrna, DVM, MS, is now board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. Myrna is an assistant professor of ophthalmology.

Jerry Saliki, DVM, PhD, DACVM, received the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians Distinguished Service Award at the Association’s annual meeting. His service to the organization includes multiple terms as editor of the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*. Saliki is a professor of infectious diseases and director of the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Karen Cornell, DVM, PhD, DACVS, a professor of small animal surgery, has agreed to serve the College as its Director of Continuing Education.

Mark Tompkins, PhD, was elected to the board of the International Society for Influenza and other Respiratory Virus Diseases (isirv). Tompkins is an associate professor of infectious diseases.
## New Faculty

**Robert Stawicki, DVM**, clinical assistant professor of theriogenology; Large Animal Medicine

**Sam Franklin, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVS, DACVSMR**, assistant professor of orthopedics; Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

**Koichi Nagata, DVM, DACVR**, assistant professor of radiation oncology; Veterinary Biosciences and Diagnostic Imaging

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## Obituary: Richard Wooley

Richard Wooley, DVM, MS, PhD, died on Nov. 18. Dr. Wooley joined the CVM faculty in 1965 and served the College for more than 35 years, including time as head of the department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology (now known as the Department of Infectious Diseases). Dr. Wooley earned both his MS ('67) and PhD ('69) degrees from the University of Georgia.

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## Four faculty members from the CVM received Learning Technologies Grants

The grant program, which has been in place for more than 15 years, is funded through the Student Technology Fee and is designed to enhance teaching and learning at UGA through the innovative use of technology. The program, which funds projects for one year, supports the exploration and evaluation of new teaching methods and is administered by the Center for Teaching and Learning with guidance from the Learning Technologies Advisory Group. The four recipients from the CVM are:

**Allison C. Haley, DVM, MRCVS, DACVIM (Neurology)**, an assistant professor of neurology and neurosurgery in the department of small animal medicine and surgery; the project is titled “Use of a 3D Animated Interactive Dog Model as a Clinical Simulator.”

**Marc Kent, DVM, DACVIM (Internal Medicine, and Neurology)**, an associate professor of neurology and neurosurgery in the department of small animal medicine and surgery; the project is titled “Biomedical Engineering: Education Engineering Students through Clinical Immersions and Physician Partnerships;” the grant is shared with Zion Tsz Ho Tse, from the College of Engineering, and Kent Nilsson, from the GRU/UGA Medical Partnership.

**Michelle H. Barton, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Large Animal)**, the Fuller E. Callaway Chair and a professor of large animal medicine in the department of large animal medicine; the project is titled “3D Computerized Models to Teaching Diagnostic Thoracic Ultrasonography.”

**Simon Platt, BVM&S, MRCVS, DACVIM (Neurology), DECVN**, a professor of neurology and neurosurgery in the department of small animal medicine and surgery; the project is titled “Development of an Open Access Video Case-Based Teaching Site for Veterinary Medicine.”
Friedmann begins appointment as NSF program director

Liliana Jaso-Friedmann, MS, PhD, is now part of a National Science Foundation team that makes funding decisions for proposals submitted in 2014.

Dr. Friedmann, CVM director of the MS-VBS, PhD-VBS and DVM-PhD graduate programs and a professor of infectious diseases, was appointed as a temporary program director for the NSF Directorate of Biological Sciences within Physiological and Structural Systems. She will interact with potential principal investigators, create and facilitate review panels, and recommend funding as part of NSF’s “gold standard” merit review process.

“Nobody ever thinks they will be able to manage a group of independently minded scientists, and I’m looking forward to that challenge,” she said with a laugh. “Every program director has influence on the direction of his or her field and the proposals that will be funded, and that is a responsibility that I take very seriously.”

Dr. Friedmann was surprised by the invitation to apply for the NSF program director position. She had served on NSF panels as a reviewer in the past, but when the current program director contacted her in May and suggested that she apply, she didn’t know if she wanted to leave Athens, colleagues, and her research. When she was chosen, she met and talked with Dean Sheila Allen before accepting the position.

“What has been surprising while talking to Dean Allen, department heads, associate deans, and my collaborators is that no one asked me if I was going to take the position,” she said. “They all said they would help me find a way for me to accept the position. That’s amazing, because I know I’m leaving more work for others with my lab and in the classroom.”

As part of the application process, Dr. Friedmann presented a seminar to the Directorate of Biological Sciences. She explained how her specific fields of expertise — comparative immunology and innate immune mechanisms — fit into the bigger picture of the evolution of life-and-death genes in different biological systems. Dr. Friedmann believes her approach mirrored the types of proposals that will come to the panel to explore the symbiotic, commensal and parasitic relationships between different organisms.

“Anybody who looks at my curriculum vitae or types my name into PubMed.gov knows what I do, but the panel receives proposals outside of our areas of expertise,” she said. “Program directors must know the context and how to bring in experts for the panel.”

The Directorate also noted her abilities as a manager. Dr. Friedmann is proud to encourage diversity in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. “Many countries have institutes and universities doing cutting-edge research, but nobody has as many varied and rich opportunities as the USA,” she said. “I owe a lot to this country, and I hope to serve it well while aiding the next group of emerging researchers.”

During the one-year appointment, Dr. Friedmann will live in Washington, D.C., and return to campus for 55 days intermittently throughout the year to continue her research. “That’s why the NSF employs this temporary rotator program,” she said. “It’s important that the program directors who make these funding decisions run labs of their own and have practical experience.”

The NSF appoints temporary directors to add new expertise to the program office and allow visiting scholars to share their experiences with home institutions. Dr. Friedmann is especially proud to encourage diversity in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. “Many countries have institutes and universities doing cutting-edge research, but nobody has as many varied and rich opportunities as the USA,” she said. “I owe a lot to this country, and I hope to serve it well while aiding the next group of emerging researchers.”

As a naturalized citizen, Dr. Friedmann is especially proud to encourage diversity in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. “Many countries have institutes and universities doing cutting-edge research, but nobody has as many varied and rich opportunities as the USA,” she said. “I owe a lot to this country, and I hope to serve it well while aiding the next group of emerging researchers.”

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During the one-year appointment, Dr. Friedmann will live in Washington, D.C., and return to campus for 55 days intermittently throughout the year to continue her research. “That’s why the NSF employs this temporary rotator program,” she said. “It’s important that the program directors who make these funding decisions run labs of their own and have practical experience.”

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Dr. Friedmann said. “Program directors must know the context and how to improve the proposal.”

As part of the appointment, Dr. Friedmann will go through an NSF boot camp to understand how the Directorate and funding process works, particularly regarding conflict of interest and ethics policies. After the first deadline for grant proposals in January, she will sort the pre-proposals and contact researchers around the country to serve on panels. After an initial pre-proposal review in the spring, she will send out invitations for scientists to submit full proposals in August for the final panel meetings in October.

“One of the major missions of NSF is the advancement of minorities, and that includes young investigators. A general shortage of resources has created an exodus of young minds into more secure jobs in industry rather than academia,” she said. “I’m looking forward to learning about the different funding mechanisms for young investigators and traveling around the country to talk to underrepresented colleges.”

Dr. Friedmann is looking forward to collaborating with CVM and UGA colleagues on funding proposals in the future.

“This is an outstanding professional opportunity, and I’m excited to share it when I get back,” she said. “It’s the opportunity of a lifetime to be immersed in science for the sake of new knowledge.”

Aesculapian Fall 2013/Winter 2014 30
Greetings from your Alumni Association!

Hello fellow Alumni!

I hope each of you enjoyed a happy holiday season, and that your new year is off to a great start! Our Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Weekend is just a few weeks away, and I am looking forward to seeing all of you there!

The members of your UGA Veterinary Alumni Association board have had a very busy fall preparing for our upcoming alumni awards presentations, and finding members of our alumni community to serve on our Association’s board.

Dr. Catherine McClelland (’83) and members of the New Graduate Advisory Committee have been working to get newer graduates involved in our Association, and exploring ways to help bond newer graduates to the College through various activities. Dr. Bill Seantor (’83) and members of the Awards Committee are selecting the 2014 Distinguished Alumni and Young Achiever winners from an outstanding pool of nominees. Our immediate past president, Dr. Mike Topper (’80), and the nominating committee members have identified five alumni to replace outgoing board members. I would like to welcome Drs. Eddie Crittendon (’91), Karen Duncan (’84), Pat Hill (’84) and Brett Levitzke (’00) to the board, and extend a special thanks to Dr. Marian Shuler Holladay (’05), who has agreed to be president-elect.

In addition, I wish to express gratitude to the outgoing board members: Drs. Stephen Arbitter (’96), Charlie Broussard (’84), Scott Bryant (’94), Jan Sosnowski Nichol (’80), and Mike Topper for their dedication and loyalty to the College. Dr. Chad Schmeidt (’00) will take over as the new president in March, as I move to the role of immediate past president.

As a reminder: All UGA CVM graduates are members of the Alumni Association. The purpose of the Association is partially to promote a closer union and fellowship among alumni, faculty, friends and students of the College, and to advance the interests of our alma mater by making it among the best colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States. If you are interested in getting involved with the Association, please contact a board member (see side panel for contact information) or Ms. Marti Brick, director of alumni relations for the College, at 706.542.7049 or vetalums@uga.edu.

I look forward to seeing each of you March 28-29 at the Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Weekend. These are exciting times for our alma mater. Thank you for continuing to support the College with your time, energy and resources.

Sincerely,

R. Flynn Nance
DVM, MS
President, Class of 1983
Dr. Jeffrey Klausner (DVM ’72) believes educating pet owners about preventative veterinary care for companion animals is the best way to help both small animal practices and veterinary schools.

“Veterinarians are the center of education for clients,” said Klausner, senior vice president and chief medical officer of Banfield® Pet Hospital, during a lecture he gave at the CVM in December. “They come to the veterinarian to learn about health care for their pets, and we cannot allow that to disappear.”

According to Klausner, in the past 10 years, small animal practices have seen a decline in the number of dog and cat visits. To make up for lost revenue, veterinarians typically increase prices for services — which can further the decline in office visits.

“Clients don’t understand why the prices are going up, so they start looking elsewhere to get their needs met, such as spay/neuter clinics or online shopping for flea and tick medicine,” he said. “They ask their friends or people on the Internet for advice they would have asked their veterinarians. We have to get out of this vicious cycle.”

As veterinary professionals have tried to understand this cycle, some have suggested that there are too many veterinarians in the field and schools should reduce their numbers. This is the wrong type of thinking, Klausner said. “It’s not that we shouldn’t increase the number of veterinary students,” he said. “It’s that we need to increase the number of clients.”

But many veterinarians are not trained to handle this dilemma, Klausner added. In school, veterinary training is centered on diagnosing and treating diseases, not disease prevention, he said.

“Clients want happy, healthy pets,” he said. “They desperately don’t want disease, and that’s a disconnect.”

The focus, he believes, should shift from just diagnosing and treating disease to including early detection, with the goal of reducing the prevalence of disease. Though giving 10 “normal” physical exams per day may be boring, it’s time to “celebrate normal,” Klausner said.

“This preventive care is the essence of what clients want,” he said. “And we need this preventive care mindset starting on day one in the CVM curriculum.”

This means veterinary students need even more basic knowledge on topics already taught in veterinary school: nutrition, behavior, dentistry, parasites and breed and age risk — the most common topics that spark questions for clients. Students should also learn to communicate “what’s next” to their clients, such as stressing the importance of regular six-month checkups (because our pets age faster than we do).

“What we want for our own health is what clients want for their pet’s health,” Klausner said. “Set the tone of consistent appointments, not ‘See you when there’s something wrong.’”

Most of all, this means students and practicing veterinarians should work on their communication skills, he said. To successfully communicate the value of their services and build relationships with clients, veterinarians must ensure that “trust” is at the center of each relationship.

“You can be smart and have the best surgical skills around, but if people don’t like you and don’t trust you, they won’t take your advice,” he said. “If you can communicate in a way that conveys that you mean it and want the clients to learn, they will listen.”

Small animals practices don’t need to reorganize their businesses, and veterinary schools don’t need to overhaul curriculum. Instead, the veterinary culture needs to shift its mindset to emphasize prevention, Klausner said.

“We live in a system where veterinary schools affect internships, residencies, the workforce, veterinary practices and applications to vet school,” he said. “If we change our approach, we can get clients back into veterinary hospitals and become the center of veterinary education again.”

Klausner joined Banfield in 2009 as vice president of professional relations. Before that, he was the president and chief executive officer for The Animal Medical Center, a nonprofit academic and clinical center in New York City.

For more than nine years, he served as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota, where he led a national effort to enhance the skills, knowledge and aptitudes of entering veterinary students. He was also responsible for implementing the nation’s largest veterinary public health program, and for establishing Minnesota’s first veterinary oncology teaching, research and clinical program.

He is a 2006 recipient of the American Veterinary Medical Association President’s Award and a 2004 Distinguished Alumnus of the UGA CVM.
Emmanuel Rollin is a clinical assistant professor of dairy production medicine who researches milk quality and transition health. He is a 2007 UGA CVM graduate and was the first graduate of the Master’s in Food Animal Medicine (MFAM) program in 2008. Dr. Rollin joined the CVM faculty in 2013.

Where are you from and what brought you to UGA?

I was born in Paris and moved to Atlanta when I was 8 years old. My interest in problem solving and science led me to UGA as an undergraduate biology major, and I then decided to apply to the CVM after working in Dr. Gaylen Edwards’ physiology lab. It seems like I haven’t been able to leave. (Dr. Edwards heads the CVM’s Department of Physiology and Pharmacology.)

After graduating with a DVM and a Certificate in International Veterinary Medicine in May 2007, you then completed the MFAM degree in December 2008. What made you want to pursue that?

The DVM program prepared me extremely well for diagnosing and treating disease in individual animals, but I felt that, to be an effective food animal practitioner, I needed more tools in my tool box in order to prevent and control disease in populations within the context of a farm business.

The MFAM program gave me a broader understanding of epidemiology, preventive medicine, and the economics of disease in the beef and dairy industries.

What aspects of the program were most beneficial to you?

The part that appealed to me the most was the integration of class work and field work — you must understand the scientific reasons behind the recommendations you make on a farm, and you must understand how the farm works in order to prioritize the science. During the program, I worked part-time in a private dairy practice in Eatonton and provided services to local dairies; this really helped me to solidify the concepts I was learning in the MFAM program, and understand their importance in the real world.

You were the first graduate of the MFAM program. What do you want your students to know about the program?

The MFAM program is a unique post-DVM opportunity. It is a flexible program that you can mold to your career goals, whether that is modern food animal private practice, applied food animal research, the pharmaceutical industry, or even academia. It’s short enough at 18 months not to delay your career for too long, but still delivers a very solid base on which to build a successful career as a food animal veterinarian.

What made you want to be a professor?

I’ve always found satisfaction in problem-solving and working with others to solve problems. Here at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, I can have a bigger impact on the veterinary community through collaborative research and teaching. This job gives me the opportunities to work with people with similar interests from around the country, as well as train the next generation of problem solvers. As I develop as an academician, I’m looking forward to finding my niche and pursuing projects that I think are important, including transition health management of dairy cows and mastitis control.

How did your education here at the UGA CVM prepare you for your current position?

The excellent faculty members who teach at the UGA CVM are great examples of lifelong learners, clinical teachers and collaborative researchers. They continue to be positive examples for me. My MFAM training also helped me to understand that there is more to animal health than treating sick animals — we can have a much bigger impact by preventing disease within populations with interventions that don’t require syringes and needles. My education here didn’t stop when I was handed a degree, and I look forward to many more years of learning.

What have you taught so far?

Right now I’m teaching senior clinical rotations in food animal practice and dairy production medicine, the dairy portion of the food animal production medicine
class for third-year students, and I’m helping in the bacteriology lab for first-year students. In the future, I’m interested in starting a course on milk quality that integrates microbiology, physiology, chemistry and physics.

**What’s your favorite part of your current job?**

I really like interacting with all of the great minds here in the College — both the faculty and the students. I enjoy seeing the students’ knowledge, skills and confidence grow in the three-week clinical blocks. The best part of the job is being able to do all that while also working with producers to improve animal health and wellness.

**What sparked your interest in milk and dairy cattle?**

I am an active learner, so I was drawn to the hands-on approach to food animal veterinary medicine. Dairy cattle and dairy farms are very complex, and there is always something that can be improved, and always a puzzle that needs solving, which really interested me. I was also drawn by the knowledge that I am helping to create a safe, wholesome food supply, and supporting a local family business. The more I work with dairy cattle, the more I consider them to be role models: calm, hardworking, and consistent.
When Heidi Hausmann's dog was diagnosed with prostate cancer, her veterinarian provided a technical explanation of the possible next steps. “He explained the details properly and thoroughly but without compassion,” she said. “As pet owners, we put our emotions into our pets. I want someone who can express empathy and relate to me as a human being,” she said.

After Hausmann lost her dog to cancer, she adopted a new pit bull puppy. The rescue pup had a skin infection and temperament issues. Following several visits to the UGA CVM Community Practice Clinic (CPC) for behavior training, 6-month-old Freja is well behaved and happy.

“I’ve never seen a dog get so excited to go to the vet,” Hausmann said. “At this point, I think the Clinic’s staff knows Freja better than they know me.”

Hausmann is one of many clients who work with students as they move through clinical rotations in the Community Practice Clinic each year. As a frequent visitor this fall, Hausmann has interacted with several students enrolled in a core rotation that helps them to improve communication in the exam rooms. Each week the students focus on open-ended questions, expressions of empathy, and nonverbal cues while their interactions are recorded. Then they review the video with professors and set goals for the next week.

When Wade Edwards (DVM 2014) talks to pet owners in the clinic, he imagines himself in their shoes.

“If my animal was sick, what would I want to know?” said Edwards, who took the Community Practice rotation in the fall. “How would I want the veterinarian to talk to me?”

During the first week of the three-week rotation, professors discuss communication skills, practice scenarios with clients, and review video footage with students using a communications scoring sheet. The students assess themselves during the second week, and in the final week, after an additional review of video with faculty, the students note their improvements.

“When we first started this, I thought the students would be worried about having their client interactions recorded, but they really enjoy the feedback,” said Ira Roth (DVM ’86), director of the CPC and a clinical assistant professor of small animal medicine and surgery.
“Sometimes they’re harder on themselves than we are during the evaluation.”

More than 95 percent of the CPC’s clients agree to be taped. They’re openly eager to help the students, Roth said.

“Athletes film themselves to get better and to decide what they could have done differently for each play,” Hausmann said. “It makes sense that the Clinic’s students want to record interactions, and some of the students are really professional when they communicate with me.”

Jessica Izlar (DVM 2014) has become more comfortable with eliminating jargon and asking clients if they understand what she’s saying.

“I’m better at changing my language once I step into the room,” she said. “I think it’s easy for us to want to talk in medical terminology when we’re studying that for school.”

In 2003, Bayer Animal Health contracted with the Institute for Healthcare Communication (www.healthcarecomm.org), which provides communication training to health care professionals, to train faculty in veterinary medical schools. Karen Cornell, a professor of small animal surgery at the CVM, attended that first year, and about 25 veterinarians from 10 different academic institutions participated to learn how to implement communications into their curriculum. Now Cornell is a national trainer, and UGA CVM has six trained faculty on staff. The American Veterinary Medical Association now includes communication as a part of accreditation standards and requires it to be one of the nine clinical competencies that all students must achieve to graduate.

“The skills are the same whether you’re in human medicine or veterinary medicine, but the training programs have been lacking in veterinary schools,” said Cornell. “When you can put a name on the skill, it provides specific understanding and feedback for students to improve.”

Studies show that up to 85 percent of the data needed to make an accurate diagnosis comes from the history, she added.

“It’s important for owners to be involved in the decision-making process for their pets,” she said. “That relationship-centered care can set you apart from other clinics and practices.”

Taryn McDonald (DVM 2014) enjoys setting goals to stay on track. During each conversation, she asks at least three open-ended questions to encourage clients to talk.

“It can be difficult to keep that in the back of your mind while also telling owners the right thing,” McDonald said. “But it’s great practice to be conscious of it.”
Charles E. Hamner Jr. (DVM ’60, MS ’62, PhD ’64) was awarded the 2013 Alumni of Distinction Award by the University of Georgia Graduate School for achieving exceptional success in his professional career and in service to the community. Hamner is the founder and chair of the board of directors of the Hamner Institute for Health Sciences. He previously served as the president and CEO of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center while also teaching in the obstetrics and gynecology department at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. In 2011, he received the North Carolina Award for Public Service, the highest honor a civilian can be awarded.

Walt A. McPhail (DVM ’68) was named NATIONAL Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year by the American Tree Farm System at the group’s 2012 National Tree Farmer Convention. McPhail was selected Southern Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for 2012 and was the Forest Landowner Association’s 2011 National Forest Landowner of the Year.

Sean Altekruse (DVM ’83) was awarded the first RADM James H. Steele One Health Outstanding PHS Veterinary Career Award of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. In his current position as a senior epidemiologist with NIH’s National Cancer Institute, Capt. Altekruse made significant contributions to cancer surveillance research, publishing studies on liver, childhood and cervical cancer.

Timothy Montgomery (DVM ’83) was elected to the AVMA House Advisory Committee at the organization's annual convention.

Patty Scharko (DVM ’83) was elected president-elect/treasurer of the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners.

Todd C. Holbrook (DVM ’89) recently became board certified by the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation in the equine specialty.

Lisa Nolan (DVM ’92) was elected as secretary of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC). She is dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University.

John E. Deaton (DVM ’93) was appointed by Brig. Gen. John Poppe to serve as the Senior Civilian Advisor to the U.S. Veterinary Corps Chief, the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School Civilian Corps Chief, and the Surgeon General. For the last five years, Deaton has served as deputy chief of the Department of Veterinary Science at the Academy of Health Sciences Fort Sam Houston.

Scott Bryant (DVM ’94), of Westside Veterinary Hospital in Spartanburg, S.C., was selected for the 2014 Bulldog 100 list by the UGA Alumni Association. This annual program recognizes the fastest-growing businesses owned or operated by UGA alumni.

Carrie Jurney (DVM ’05) joined as a partner at Animal Internal Medicine and Specialty Services, a new specialty and emergency hospital in San Francisco.
Kimberly Keeton (DVM ’05), who owns Coyote Creek Equine Veterinary Services near Athens, won the preliminary amateur title at the Nutrena/U.S. Eventing Association’s American Eventing Championships.

Stephan Schaefbauer (DVM ’06) is now serving on the AVMA Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine.

Stanley B. Baker (DVM ’08) has joined Husch Blackwell as Senior Counsel. Baker will advise clients on intellectual property law matters, specifically for the food and agribusiness industry.

Stic Harris (DVM ’09) of Gaithersburg, Md., was named a 2013-14 Future Leader by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Steven Kubiski (DVM ’09) received the Harold W. Casey Scholarship Award at the 2013 American College of Veterinary Pathologists meeting. The award recognizes outstanding individuals training in pathology. Kubiski worked for a year at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study following graduation from the UGA CVM, and is the senior resident at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

Erin Casey (DVM ’10) is on a fellowship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Casey is working within the Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction, which is part of the U.S. Department of State.

Denise L. Brinson (DVM ’10, MAM ’11) was selected to be the Senior Coordinator of the National Poultry Improvement Plan. The NPIP is a disease monitoring and control program for poultry.

Christina Figueroa (DVM ’10) was awarded the Sertoman of the Year award from the Carrollton, Ga., Evening Sertoma Club, a civic organization that promotes volunteerism in the community. She was also named one of the recipients of the University of West Georgia’s “30 under 30,” an annual program that recognizes 30 alumni under age 30 who have made a significant impact in their career industry.

Annie Page-Karjian (DVM ’11) received a Wild Animal Health Fund grant from the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians to support her dissertation research.

Jennifer Swanagan (DVM ’12) completed an internship at Carolina Veterinary Specialists in Charlotte, N.C., and began a zoo/exotics internship at Kansas State University.

The Curtis family (Andrew, DVM ’10, is second from the right) shares their joys and memorials through the UGA CVM “Step by Step, Brick by Brick” program. Celebrating Andrew’s graduation, remembering beloved family pets, and thanking grandparents are all wonderful reasons to purchase a brick or horseshoe that supports the College of Veterinary Medicine! Funds raised through the “Step by Step, Brick by Brick” program are used toward the building of the Veterinary Medical Learning Center.

For more information contact the Office of Veterinary External Affairs:
706.542.1807 or give2vet@uga.edu
GVMA Veterinarian of the Year

Jim McClearen (DVM ’74) was named GVMA Veterinarian of the Year 2013. The award is bestowed upon the GVMA member who has made a significant contribution to the organization during his or her active years in the profession and the organization.

McClearen is an associate veterinarian for Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital P.C. in Young Harris, Ga.; he helped establish, and operates the Tri-County Animal Clinic in Murphy, N.C. He is a past president of GVMA and has served on numerous committees for the organization. He was the founder and owner of Bells Ferry Veterinary Hospital in Acworth, Ga., from 1984 until he sold the practice in 2007.

In 2006, McClearen received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association.

Alumni News: CE opportunity for large animal veterinarians

Novartis Animal Health is providing continuing education credit opportunities online through the ability to review four lectures focused on new research about the potential negative effects of Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) Modified-Live Vaccines (MLVs) on reproductive performance in beef and dairy cattle.

The presentations were captured at the 2013 Western Veterinary Conference Seminar, and provide insights into IBR MLVs and reproduction from every angle — university studies, lab diagnostics and on-farm findings.

For more information, visit: https://videoapp.eventkaddy.net

Obituaries:

William Derwood Allen (DVM ’57); died March 24, 2013.
Donald Eugene Ellis (DVM ’61); died Nov. 5, 2013.
Edward M. Taylor (DVM ’71, BSA ’68); died May 1, 2013.
Lawrence J. “Larry” Roberts (DVM ’73); died Nov. 6, 2013.
Keith Contarino (DVM ’84); died Dec. 6, 2013.
Jack G. Tuttle (DVM ’50); died Jan. 8, 2014.
Zachary Cowart (DVM 2017); died Jan. 9, 2014.
Please join us for the
51st Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend

Friday & Saturday, March 28-29, 2014
The Classic Center • Downtown Athens, Georgia

Bring your Techs too!
Saturday, March 29: GVTAAn Technician CE conference
For more information, visit
www.gvtaa.org, or contact Lynn Reese:
706.542.5822; lreesee@uga.edu

From Our Classroom to YOUR CLINIC

Featuring
:: CE for Your Daily Practice ::

www.vet.uga.edu/conference
K9 Lakota honored in 2013 Hero Dog Awards

Lakota, the K9 officer successfully treated at our UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) in October 2011, was among the dogs honored at the 2013 Hero Dog Awards™, which aired on the Hallmark Channel on Oct. 30.

Lakota was the winner in the law enforcement/arson dog category. Lakota served alongside Officer Travis Fox for less than four years, but made remarkable achievements in his short career, among them: more than 80 apprehensions, 28 drug seizures, six vehicle seizures, the recovery of stolen property, and the seizure of $60,000. K9 Lakota’s career was ended prematurely by a serious car accident, which occurred as Officer Fox and Lakota were en route to a home invasion. The accident split the car in two, and both Fox and Lakota were ejected from the vehicle. Lakota was not expected to live. Now, following multiple surgeries at the UGA VTH, Lakota is enjoying life in retirement. His story is now being used to help change laws to help better protect K9 officers injured in the line of duty.

Officer Travis Fox, K9 Lakota and Corey Fox attend the 2013 Hero Dog Awards. Photo by Michael Reuter.

Pet Memorials

Meaningful to clients, veterinarians and the College

“It is hard to find anything positive about the death of a pet, but this is one thing that adds more meaning. The Pet Memorial donation is something very positive, and the clients are not expecting it.”

— Mark Mosher, DVM ’81

“The Pet Memorials are a win/win. They are good for the client and good for the clinic.”

— Tom Nemetz, DVM ’81 PhD

For more information, please contact us:
Phone: 706.542.1807
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For more information, please contact us:
Phone: 706.542.1807
E-mail: give2vet@uga.edu
Web: www.vet.uga.edu/GO/memorial
Why I give: Michael S. Gelb
With his horses Caesar, Dylan, Ahna, Blinton, Buzz, Woody, Domingo, Emotion, Bernie, Have’ and Mati

As president of The Matworks, Ltd., Sterling Creek Enterprises, and American Products Group of GA, I stay busy. When I’m not working, I like to spend time with my horses. I am extremely lucky to have horses on two continents. In the United States, I train at Hunters Glen Equestrian Center in Alpharetta, Ga. Overseas, my horses reside in Delden, a small community in the eastern region of the Netherlands. Delden produces some of the best riders and horses in the world. I have toured veterinary facilities and training centers in the area, which has been a great learning experience. I am fortunate to be able to share what I learn about equine facilities with experts in both countries.

In recent years, I have brought some of my horses to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital — and I have been so impressed with the care and treatment provided to them. My horses are my friends, my family and my co-athletes. To me, their care is priceless. On my first visit, I made a discovery: The care provided to each patient is outstanding. I have received letters from students who told me they stopped by my horse’s stall to say “Hello!” and that he was doing well. (They took time to write me a note!) Although not every patient can be healed, those who work in the Hospital put forth their best effort to try to heal them all.

The Hospital and the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine need our support. The current Hospital — well-known for its superior patient care — is outdated and a new facility is under construction. Donations to the Veterinary Medicine Hospital Building fund supports construction of the UGA Veterinary Medical Learning Center, in which future veterinarians will be trained, and future patients treated.

I also support research, because I believe little breakthroughs can become cures. My first horse Caesar is a two-time survivor of colic surgery (thanks to the veterinary surgeons at UGA!). I am hopeful that one day a new technology or medicine will replace the invasive surgery that is often required to remedy this condition. I am thankful for researchers like Dr. James Moore, a professor of large animal medicine, who work tirelessly toward finding better treatments for equine patients.

I believe whatever you do for others will come back to you tenfold at some point. Work hard, share what you have been lucky enough to earn, and take a moment every day to see how you can contribute to make the world a better place. Your support of the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine will help those around you today, as well as many others long after you are gone!

For More Information

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

### Dates to remember:

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<td>51st Annual Veterinary Conference &amp; Alumni Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>UGA Alumni Reception (GVMA annual meeting: Sandestin, Fla.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13-19</td>
<td>VetCAMP</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 25-29</td>
<td>AVMA Annual Convention (Denver, Colo.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>Hawaii Dawg-O at the Georgia Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>White Coat Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Vet School for a Day</td>
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</table>

### Continuing Education Courses:

CE dates and topics are subject to change.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 28-29</td>
<td>51st Annual Veterinary Conference &amp; Alumni Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5-6</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Treatment of Ear Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26-27</td>
<td>Small Animal Basic and Intermediate Ultrasound</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3-4</td>
<td>Rabbit and Rodent Endoscopy</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 18-19</td>
<td>Gastrointestinal Endoscopy</td>
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<td>July 19</td>
<td>Practical Dentistry for Technicians</td>
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<td>July 20</td>
<td>Veterinary Dentistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20-21</td>
<td>Soft Tissue Rigid Endoscopy</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6-7</td>
<td>Exotic Endoscopy</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 11-12</td>
<td>Small Animal Arthroscopy</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 13-14</td>
<td>Advanced Laparoscopic/Thoracosopic Surgery</td>
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