



# AESCULAPIAN

## ONE HEART

Pacemaker donation  
program helps dogs  
at UGA





**56<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Veterinary Conference  
& Alumni Weekend**

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March 22-23, 2019

Athens, GA

[ugaannualvetconference-alumniweekend.com](http://ugaannualvetconference-alumniweekend.com)



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# FROM THE DEAN

The fall is an exciting time of year full of new beginnings – no exception here at the College of Veterinary Medicine! We welcomed the Class of 2022 – who have almost finished their first semester – added 13 new faculty, and celebrated a three-spot jump in the *U.S. News* rankings for UGA overall. And that’s all just since August!

We continue to work toward our goal of being the world’s best place to grow a career in veterinary medicine and to become ‘the’ opinion leaders across our mission of teaching, research and service. While this alumna thinks our college is already wonderful, we strive to be even better through our dedicated hard work and true commitment to excellence in all that we do. The first step in our journey to excellence has been to develop a 10-year strategic plan. Using the feedback provided by our alumni, faculty, staff, students and external stakeholders, the strategic planning committee is crafting a dynamic and focused plan that will be our “North Star” for the next decade. To date, this committee has produced our new vision, mission and values statements that I believe capture our essence, belief in a great future, and our role in making that future happen. I am proud of these statements and hope you will be, too. Though I suspect the committee would tell you that it has been a ‘labor of love’, they would probably also say it has been a challenge to balance a bold vision of our shared future with the realities of budget and facilities! We expect them to complete their work by the end of the year and look forward to sharing the final product with you.

We also continue to work toward our accreditation site visit, scheduled for February 2020. Our goal here is not to be just good enough to be accredited – we want our reviewers to leave our campus impressed by our ability to educate the next generation of veterinarians! In keeping with that desire, several other initiatives are ongoing to improve our program, including a complete curricular review, an analysis of our facilities, with remediation to follow, and the planning of a clinical skills laboratory. We have also added a first-rate assessment team, who are helping us take a hard look at our curriculum – and ask ourselves, “how can we better prepare our graduates for a competitive workplace?”

So, I hope you realize we are working hard to make you as proud of us as we are of you, our exemplary graduates, who are out and about in the world making it a better place every day!

Onward and Upward!!!



Dean Lisa K. Nolan



## **VISION**

**Create a world in which healthy animals and people enhance each other's lives.**

## **MISSION**

**Improve animal and human health through excellence in veterinary and biomedical education, research, and clinical service.**

## **CORE VALUES**

### **- COMPASSION -**

**for one's self, colleagues, clients and patients**

### **- OPENNESS -**

**always act with integrity, be transparent and truthful in everything we do**

### **- RESPECT -**

**for all people and ideas, and for our traditions and community**

### **- ENTREPRENEURIALISM -**

**be forward thinking thought leaders and lifelong learners, modeling an innovative spirit and keen business acumen**



### Office of Academic Affairs welcomes two new team members

**THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS WELCOMED** two new faculty members over the summer. Sam Karpen and Sherry Clouser will play pivotal roles in key learning-focused initiatives at the College. Karpen is director of assessment for the DVM program where he will implement and oversee the DVM program's Outcomes Assessment Plan. Clouser is the director of instructional curricular innovation and will develop a program for continuous curricular review and revision, learning technology and instructional design. These positions will help the College move forward in a thoughtful, data-driven way as we implement a new strategic plan and prepare for our 2020 accreditation site visit.



### In Memorium: Steeve Giguère

**THE COLLEGE MOURNED THE LOSS** of one of their own over the summer. Steeve Giguère, long-time UGA faculty member, passed away in an accident over Memorial Day weekend.

Steeve was professor and Marguerite Hodgson Chair in Equine Studies in the Department of Large Animal Medicine. Steeve's honesty, dedication, mentorship, and generosity – coupled with his expertise in the equine field – shaped the knowledge, training and careers of so many students and colleagues. He is greatly missed throughout the CVM and the entire profession.



### Class of 2021 student in national writing competition

**LAST SPRING**, then first-year student Shelby Baden entered the American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition (AAVN) student blogger competition – and placed in the national competition! Congratulations, Shelby!



## CVM Joins U.S.-China Joint DVM Scholarship Program

**IN JUNE**, representatives from the CVM attended their first annual homecoming of the U.S.-China Joint DVM scholarship program, held at Kansas State University. Established in 2012 by the U.S.-China Center for Animal Health at K-State, this program brings Chinese students to the U.S. for veterinary school through partnerships with universities, government and the animal health industry. This year marks the first time UGA has participated in this program – one student started in August as a first-year veterinary student.

Each year, the program recruits four top students who are junior or senior undergraduate students, or graduate students from universities in China, to pursue a DVM degree in the U.S. The selected students study pre-veterinary courses at K-State for a year and then apply to their selected veterinary college. Upon acceptance into vet school, each student receives a scholarship from the joint DVM program that covers tuition and living expenses during their time in the U.S.

The U.S.-China Joint DVM Scholarship Program is sponsored by the China Scholarship Council, Kansas State University, Zoetis/ International Veterinary Collaboration for China, the Chinese Veterinary Medical Association, and Banfield Pet Hospital. In addition to UGA and Kansas State, Iowa State, the University of Minnesota and 12 agricultural universities in China are part of the program. In return for their participation in the program, students must agree to go back to China for at least six years following the completion of their DVM program where they will teach or conduct research at China's universities or veterinary medicine research institutions, government agencies, or other public institutions.



## Vet School for a Day

**THE COLLEGE'S ANNUAL VET SCHOOL FOR A DAY** was once again a hands down success. This year marked a 180% increase in applications for the event – so competition to be accepted was fierce. In the end, we hosted 50 high school juniors and seniors from around Georgia and South Carolina who learned about the admissions process, toured the hospital, and got an overview of the different specialty areas they could study.

## Starting the school year off right

FACULTY AND STAFF OF THE COLLEGE ENJOYED the start of a new tradition in early August. Convocation 2018 featured a re-cap of last year from Dean Lisa Nolan, a visit from Hairy Dawg, and a welcome back breakfast. We look forward to many more great back-to-school celebrations with this event!



PHOTOS BY WHITNEY MATHESEN



SAVMA SYMPOSIUM 2019  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
College of Veterinary Medicine



## College to host 2019 SAVMA Symposium

THE COLLEGE IS HONORED TO BE HOSTING the SAVMA symposium in March 2019 – we are excited to have almost 1000 veterinary students from across the country visit our school! This is a student-planned event, although the College is providing guidance and support. If you are interested in learning more – or helping our students with this event – please email [savmasymposium2019@gmail.com](mailto:savmasymposium2019@gmail.com) or visit the event's website: [SAVMA Symposium 2019.com](http://SAVMA Symposium 2019.com).



PHOTOS BY WHITNEY MATHESEN

The SAVMA planning committee is hard at work on the 1000+ person event.



PHOTOS BY WHITNEY MAHISEN



## Temple Grandin visits the CVM

**RENOWNED EXPERT ON ANIMAL BEHAVIOR** and professor of animal science at Colorado State University Temple Grandin visited the College late last spring. She spoke to a packed house, signed books, and generated quite a buzz around the College!



WHITNEY MAHISEN

## Georgia Veterinary Scholars

The premier student research program in the College, GVSP scholars ended their summer program by presenting their projects in “3-minute thesis” style on Research Day.

The GVSP Program provides students the opportunity to work on biomedical research, enhancing awareness of the importance of research in the veterinary profession. This summer 22 students were selected to this highly competitive program.



WHITNEY MATHESEN

# Welcome TO THE CLASS OF 2022!

**From 12 states +  
Puerto Rico & China**

**Avg. GPA: 3.65**

**114 STUDENTS ADMITTED  
over 1,400 applicants**

**66% FROM GA**

**TOP UNDERGRAD MAJORS:**  
Biology  
Animal Science

**TOP 3 COLLEGES THEY CAME FROM:**  
UGA  
Clemson  
Berry

**AVG. AGE  
22.4**

## Animal health gets hacked



**THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA** and Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health co-hosted the first-ever Georgia Animal Health Hackathon in Athens last April to explore new ideas and technologies for improving the care of pets and livestock. Students from varied disciplines, degrees, majors and colleges from the University of Georgia and other area universities joined scientists and business leaders from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, and members of the Georgia startup community at this weekend-long event, to brainstorm and explore advances that have the potential to improve the human-animal bond, lead to more sustainable agricultural practices and improve both human and animal health.

Nearly 100 students applied inspiration and expertise spanning multiple disciplines to develop a number of potential solutions for the care and welfare of pets and livestock. Ideas ranging from a fitness tracker for owners and their pets to a thermo-detection drone for early identification of sick livestock were developed into four-minute pitches, many of which even featured prototypes developed over the course of the weekend. The grand prize-winning team, PetSense, developed an Alexa-compatible intelligent feeding and weight monitoring system for cats and dogs.

More details on the 2019 event will be on our website soon!



## Vet Med and Pharmacy hit the “DawgTrail”

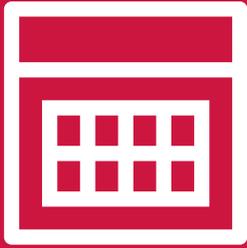
**THE DAWGTRAILS PROGRAM** is one of the 2017 recipients of a Diversity and Inclusion grant from the University of Georgia. It is a joint effort between the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Pharmacy designed to support the education, recruitment, and retention of underserved populations and first-generation college students in Georgia.

During Spring Break 2018, student ambassadors from both Colleges traveled to Lee and Dougherty counties in Southwest Georgia to visit high schools and meet with prospective students. The Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy will continue to cultivate the relationships with these high school students through continued engagement via social media, mailed/emailed literature, and increased exposure to opportunities available to them at the Colleges. The program will visit high schools in North Georgia for Spring Break 2019.

## Introducing Peaches!

Peaches is a new clinical skills teaching tool purchased by the college this summer. She is a full-sized Black Baldie cow that will be used to teach students.





# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>NOVEMBER 10</b>	Dean's Tailgate (3 hours before kickoff)
<b>DECEMBER 3</b>	Alumni Reception at AAEP, San Francisco
<b>JANUARY 20</b>	Alumni Reception at VMX, Orlando
<b>JANUARY 26</b>	RDVM Appreciation Event, Athens
<b>FEBRUARY 17-20</b>	Alumni Reception at Western States Veterinary Conference, Las Vegas
<b>MARCH 21-22</b>	Alumni Weekend, Athens

### Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study honored at AFWA meeting

**THE SOUTHEASTERN COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE DISEASE STUDY** received AFWA's prestigious Earnest Thompson Seton Award for leadership in scientific management. The award, given to the state, provincial, or federal agency which has best promoted a public awareness of the need to support the science and practice of wildlife management, was accepted by SCWDS director John Fischer at the AFWA annual meeting in September.

**THE CVM WAS HONORED TO HOST** Dr. Juan Lubroth, chief veterinary officer for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, and Dr. Emily Thomas, mixed animal veterinarian from the National Geographic channel show The Incredible Dr. Pol, in Athens in October. Both are alumni and were excited to be back in Athens to talk with students and faculty.



**Two visitors, one week!**

Dr. Lubroth, a 1985 graduate of the CVM, is arguably the most important veterinarian in the world. In his current role, he oversees the animal production and health division and the agriculture and consumer protection departments of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations -- which means he works with governments all over the world, helping them analyze and build their capacity and infrastructure for veterinary care and public health.

Dr. Thomas graduated with her DVM in 2010, completed a large animal internship at UGA the year after graduation, and currently is a mixed animal practitioner in Michigan where she works for Dr. Jan Pol, appearing on his hit TV show regularly. She talked candidly about finding balance in her life as a mixed animal practitioner and a mother of three young children.



HERE & NOW

THE CVM PARTNERED WITH the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the GVMA at this this year's Georgia National Fair to introduce a new exhibit in the newly-expanded Georgia Grown building. The Baby Barn featured a live birthing center and nursery area for farm animals, giving fair-goers the opportunity to be up close during the birth of a calf. Faculty and staff from the CVM were on-site for the duration of the fair. The goal of the new exhibit was to strengthen the connection to, and awareness of, the state's important agricultural sector. Overall, it was a success – there were 30 births over the course of the 11-day fair and plenty of time for visitors to observe the babies and their mamas up close!





# Some Love for the Dogs



- Article reprinted courtesy of True North Custom -

**THE NAVICENT HEALTH AND UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA** Pacemaker Donation Program helps provide man's best friend with much-needed medical devices.

At the end of a long day, nothing warms the heart quite like a nuzzle from a wet nose. But like human beings, dogs are also at risk for developing cardiac complications that can interfere with length and quality of life.

Knowing that surgeries to address heart problems in dogs can be very expensive, two animal lovers at Navicent Health decided to take action and help furry friends in need of cardiac care.

"The similarities between how animals and humans are treated for certain diseases are very strong," says Terri Matula, RN, board-certified cardiovascular nurse and clinical nurse at The Medical Center, Navicent Health. "And when I was studying to become a nurse 20 years ago, I learned that pacemakers for human beings could be utilized in dogs, as well."

At the time, Matula was the owner of a Cocker Spaniel that suffered from third-degree heart block dysrhythmia. She knew that pacemaker implantation might be a solution to help her dog live a longer and healthier life. But being a student, she did not have the means to pay for the operation that would cost thousands of dollars.

That memory came to Matula's mind when her husband, Robert Driver, needed to have his own pacemaker upgraded.

"Robert's pacemaker was only two years old and still working, so it seemed wasteful to simply get rid of it," Matula says. "I asked his cardiology team if I could keep it after they removed it and then called the University of Georgia [UGA] to find out if I could donate the device to the College of Veterinary Medicine."

Matula felt confident that the experts at UGA, who saved one of her animals from being paralyzed years before, would be able to make good use of the pacemaker.

### **A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP**

Matula's instincts were right on target. Her recommendation launched a thriving collaboration between Navicent Health and the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. What she had envisioned would not only help the one animal who received her husband's pacemaker, but also countless other animals who could be the beneficiaries of other donations.

"Terri brought this to me and it sounded like a wonderful opportunity," says Beth Mann, RN, MSN, Vice President for Cardiovascular Services and Nursing Strategy, Navicent Health. "She arranged a meeting with the cardiac administration team and a team from UGA, and together everyone brainstormed about the best ways to set the plan in motion. Everyone was excited to save the lives of animals with reusable devices."

The Navicent Health and University of Georgia Pacemaker Donation Program became a reality on Feb. 8, 2018, when Navicent shipped 27 pacemakers, which had been explanted from patients and sterilized, to the university. Only the pacemakers of living donors are used for the program.

Many of the pacemakers they sent had at least five and a half years of battery life left, offering aging dogs the opportunity for many more evening walks and games of fetch. And the pacemakers with less battery life could still prove useful as teaching tools in the classroom for UGA veterinary students.

"Developing a relationship with Navicent Health and our cardiology service has been a really rewarding experience," says Gregg Rapaport, DVM, DACVIM, veterinary cardiologist with the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. "It has been a great example of teamwork and of selflessness and generosity on the part of Navicent Health and its patients. None of this would be possible without Terri Matula and Gordon Thomas, a member of our development team here at UGA."

### **Patient and Pooch Participation**

Any pet owner whose animal receives care from the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine can participate in the pacemaker program, and the school has already benefitted from the program. UGA typically implants between 5-10 pacemakers into dogs each year, and as of early fall, four dogs had received pacemakers donated by patients at Navicent Health.

**"This project demonstrates that with some creativity and a desire to share with others, solutions can be found. Each donated pacemaker that has benefited a person will now have benefited a dog, as well. The same resource will have positively impacted twice as many lives with no downside to anyone, and we can all feel good about that."**

—Gregg Rapaport, DVM, DACVIM, veterinary cardiologist with the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine



## *In Development*

### **Introducing Kelley Gibson, new senior director of development**

**KELLEY JOINS THE CVM** after six years at Young Harris College where she served as the assistant vice president for advancement. In this role she partnered with the vice president for advancement on all fundraising efforts for the 1100-student private college. This included annual strategic and engagement plans for prospects and donors – both major gifts and annual giving. Prior to that, she spent six years at Columbus State University in a variety of development-related positions, most notably two years as the director of annual giving, where they recorded a \$1.3 million increase in annual fundraising during her last year there. She holds a BA from the University of Georgia and an MPA from Columbus State University.

In her new role, she will lead the College's development office, working to build funds for research, increase scholarship funding, grow endowments and increase donations that support the work of faculty. She will be responsible for major gifts (over \$25,000), as well as for providing strategy, leadership and management of all levels of giving for the College – including annual gifts and stewardship. Her team is comprised of the development and alumni relations functions – roles currently held by Elizabeth Guest as assistant director of development, Gordon Thomas as major gift officer, Karen Aiken as client advocate, and Tanya Eidson as alumni and event coordinator. We took the time to sit down with Kelley to ask her a few questions.

#### ► **What drew you into development work?**

Since graduating from the University of Georgia, I've tackled my duties with the utmost pride and passion – after all, I'm a Bulldog! I've always wanted to make a difference in my little corner of the world, to take care of others in my community. It was a natural next step to answer the call to service and make higher education advancement my home. I'm driven by the idea that my work makes an impact. It's a rewarding experience knowing that a long day's work can remove barriers and open doors for students that might think a college education is out of their reach and support critical research that will solve the grand challenges for our state and world. I consider my role an awesome responsibility and I'm honored to back at the University of Georgia.

#### ► **What are the challenges that face today's development professionals?**

Individual giving plays a remarkable role in American philanthropy and continues to rise each year. This is an exciting opportunity for colleges and universities that rely on private support now, more than ever! The challenge is that there are so many wonderful and deserving organizations out there needing private support, we're all essentially in a constant competition with each other for the attention of our alumni and donors. I read this once, and it stopped me in my tracks. They are not your donors; you are one of their charities. The great news is that we have very powerful and diverse stories to tell.

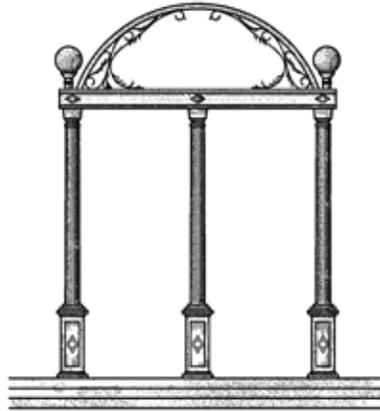
#### ► **How do you plan to approach development for vet med?**

I come to work every morning thinking about the strategic plan and how we can provide funding for that plan to come to fruition. We have a lot of endowment needs for student scholarship and faculty support, and capital projects to work on. How do we get the message out there? How do we maintain relevancy to young alumni and alumni all over the country? All of these things form an ongoing conversation with our alumni and friends about the college's mission and how we're hoping to fulfill that for current students and the next generation. It really is about figuring out the donor's interest and matching that up with the priorities of the CVM. My job is to know about the CVM's many programs and investment opportunities, so I can help translate and match donors with their interest. There are so many amazing things happening at the CVM, there should be something that resonates with whomever we're across the table from.

- continued on page 11

► **So far, what has excited you the most about returning to UGA?**

The people. The people. The people. No one can be successful in this line of work alone. Successful fundraising requires help from alumni, friends, corporate partners, faculty, staff and students. It takes everyone to be in the fundraising and friend-raising game. Whether I'm meeting with faculty or alumni, I always feel an unbelievable sense of pride in their work and the CVM. I'm fortunate to interact with so many wonderful people at the CVM who truly want to advance the mission and goals of the College. There is just something about the passion that alumni, students, faculty and staff at the University of Georgia exude that makes all facets of development work more rewarding. Go Dawgs!



**DEAN'S TAILGATE**  
**NOVEMBER 10, 2018**

3 HOURS BEFORE KICKOFF

BEHIND THE CVM IN THE  
OLD LAMENESS PADDOCK

**GEORGIA**  
**VS.**  
**AUBURN**



## Some like it hot

*As part of the study, mosquitos are infected with the Zika virus.*

**ZIKA WAS ONCE THOUGHT OF AS A PROBLEM** contained to tropical and sub-tropical parts of the world. Today we know better. With 3.9 billion people in 120 countries around the globe at risk of contracting some type of arboviral disease, Zika and related diseases like dengue and chikungunya are spreading, opening up the threat to more and more of the world's population as our climate changes.

In a study published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* in August, researchers from the University of Georgia, Stanford University, Harvard University, and the University of Florida have found that temperature is a driving factor in the transmission of the Zika virus. The team, led by Dr. Courtney Murdock, an assistant professor of infectious disease and ecology at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and Odum School of Ecology, and Blanka Tesla, a graduate student at UGA, measured the effect of temperature on the probability of transmission from an infectious mosquito to a human, how quickly the virus spreads throughout the mosquito's body, allowing it to get into their saliva and become infectious, and areas in the world most suitable for Zika transmission.

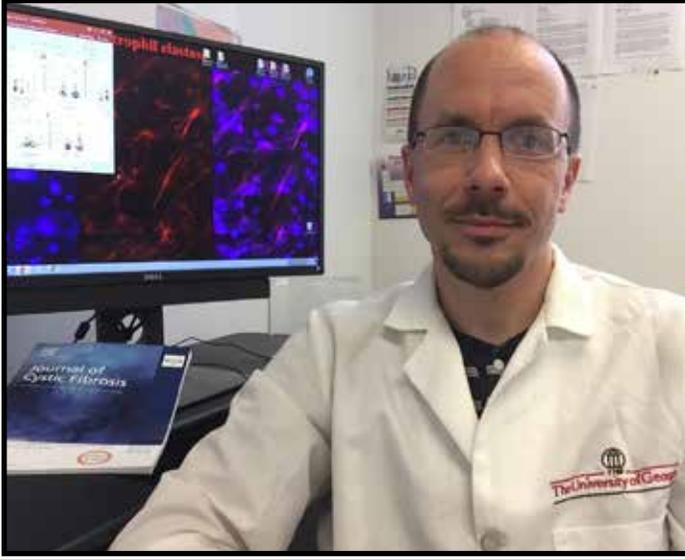
They discovered that temperature had a strong effect on mosquito infection and survival traits, and that the least optimal temperatures

for transmission were the highest and the lowest temperatures they tested. Thus, as temperatures edge upwards due to climate change, increasing urbanization, or with time of the year, the environmental suitability for Zika transmission should increase. This would result in an expansion of Zika further north and into longer seasons. In contrast, areas that are already permissive or near the thermal optimum for Zika transmission are predicted to experience a decrease in overall environmental suitability.

They then compared the Zika transmission model to one used to predict dengue. Here they discovered that Zika is transmitted more readily at warmer temperatures than dengue virus, which means that current estimates on the global environmental suitability for Zika transmission using dengue as a surrogate are vastly over-predicting its possible range.

"While there are certainly other factors that need to be examined when it comes to the transmission of Zika, this study established that temperature plays a very important role," said Murdock. "As climate change continues to evolve world-wide, this shows us that we need to keep a watchful eye on how rising temperatures impact the spread of these types of disease."

## UGA and Emory awarded four-year \$2.6M NIH grant to study cystic fibrosis



**A COLLABORATION BETWEEN RESEARCHERS** at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Public Health and Emory University's Cystic Fibrosis Center recently was awarded a four-year grant that will lead to a better understanding of lung inflammation in cystic fibrosis patients. The team led by Balázs Rada, associate professor of infectious diseases, will study how white blood cells called neutrophils contribute to lung disease in cystic fibrosis (CF).

"In healthy people, neutrophils act as antimicrobial immune cells that fight pathogens by several mechanisms. In CF patients, however, neutrophils are unable to eliminate airway infections caused by a select group of microorganisms and contribute to lung damage," said Balázs Rada, principal investigator on the project. "Our goal here is to study one particular antimicrobial mechanism of neutrophils called neutrophil extracellular traps or NETs. NETs represent a powerful microbial trapping mechanism that also has the potential to carry out significant tissue damage. Our research will give a better understanding of the role of NETs in CF lung disease and lay down the basics for potential future NET-targeting therapies."

Despite recent advances, CF still remains an incurable disease that affects 80,000 people worldwide. Lung complications are responsible for the majority of deaths in CF often characterized by chronic bacterial infections.

The study will be done in three parts. The first phase mainly performed at UGA examines how neutrophils isolated from healthy volunteers normally kill CF pathogens and how these processes are impaired in CF neutrophils obtained from Emory. Second, the contribution of NETs to lung disease will also be studied in CF mouse models at both UGA and Emory. Lastly, the team will follow a cohort of adolescent CF patients at the Emory CF Center over four years to link clinical symptoms to novel NET-related markers measured at UGA.

"CF teenagers represent a very unique patient cohort available here at Emory since these years witness the start and steepest decline in lung function of CF patients. Our collaborative effort leverages on the accessibility of this special patient population," said Arlene Stecenko, lead Emory investigator on the grant.

"Although we have known for decades that neutrophils are clinically highly relevant to CF, their exact role in disease pathogenesis has not been studied intensely. Due to major recent advances in neutrophil biology, we hope to change this and move the field forward," said Rada. "The assembled UGA-Emory team aims to establish the exact role of NETs in CF lung disease using this NIH grant support and the unique combination of expertise in NETs, neutrophils, CF microbiology, immunology and patient care."

**"OUR RESEARCH WILL  
GIVE A BETTER  
UNDERSTANDING  
OF THE ROLE OF NETS  
IN CF LUNG DISEASE  
AND LAY DOWN  
THE BASICS FOR  
POTENTIAL  
FUTURE NET-TARGETING  
THERAPIES."**



## Mark Ruder accepted into leadership program

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK RUDER**, assistant research scientist with the College's Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, who has been accepted into the prestigious National Conservation Leadership Institute (NCLI). As part of the 2018 cohort, Ruder is participating in a four-part leadership development experience over the course of nine months.

The NCLI, founded in 2005, strives to prepare leaders who work in the natural resource conservation community by offering an exceptional professional development program to individuals in a wide variety of natural resource-related organizations – from federal, state, and tribal agencies to nongovernmental organizations. Participants must go through a rigorous nomination and application process before being accepted into the program.

The course consists of pre-work, residencies and individual and collaborative leadership activities. Pre-work introduces the concept of adaptive leadership through selected readings. This is followed by a 12-day residency at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia where the leadership training expands from personal to teams to entire organizations. The second residency comes at the end of the course and is held at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Whiskey Mountain Conservation Course. In between the residencies, each participant works on a team to address a previously identified conservation challenge and on their own individual leadership skills.



## Susan Sanchez elected to National Institutes of Health Council of Councils

**SUSAN SANCHEZ**, professor of infectious diseases, assistant director of the UGA Biomedical Health Science Institute, and chair of One Health, was elected to the National Institute of Health's Council of Councils, beginning a five-year term on October 1.

The 27-member Council of Councils advises the NIH Director on matters related to the policies and activities of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI). The Council also acts as an external advisory panel for the NIH Institutes and Center Directors during their "concept approval" stage of the NIH Roadmap Initiative review process. Roadmap Initiatives foster high-risk/high-reward research, enable the development of transformative tools and methodologies, fill fundamental knowledge gaps, and/or change academic culture to foster collaboration. These initiatives are designed to pursue major opportunities and gaps in biomedical research that no single NIH institute could tackle alone, but which the agency as a whole can address to make the biggest impact possible on the progress of biomedical research.



## SCWDS director receives service award

**JOHN FISCHER**, director of the College's Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, was awarded the George Bird Grinnell Award for Distinguished Service to Natural Resource Conservation from the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) during the 83rd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference held in Norfolk, Virginia. The award, established to honor a person who has dedicated their career to professional science, management, and conservation of natural resources, is WMI's highest individual honor and one of the most prestigious in the natural resource management profession. All the best, Dr. Fischer!



## Infectious disease professor named Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist

**RAY KAPLAN**, PROFESSOR IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE, was recently awarded the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP) Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist Award. It is the highest award the AAVP gives, honoring exceptional contributions to the field of parasitology. He is an alumnus of Virginia Tech and the University of Florida who has been on the faculty at UGA since 1998. Congratulations, Ray!

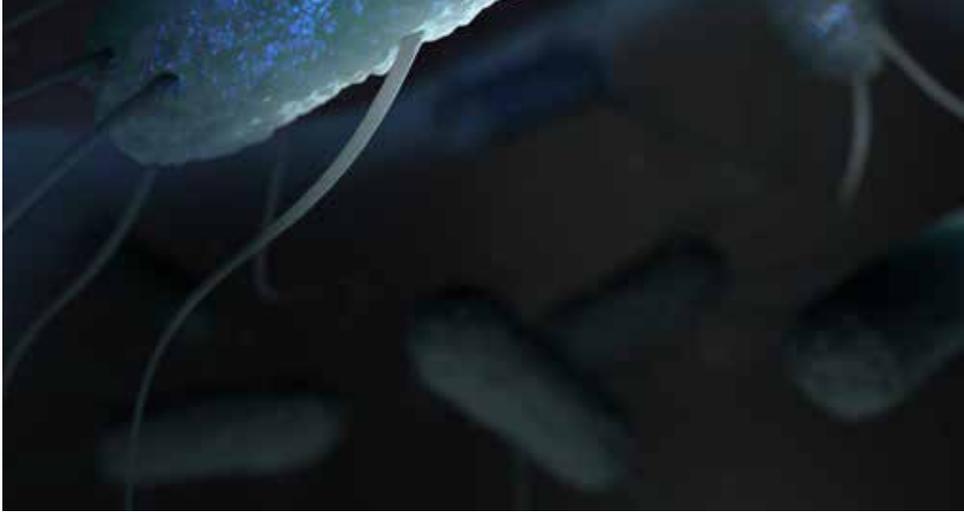
## New grant program supports innovative teaching

**THE INAUGURAL GROUP** of faculty recipients of a new DVM Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grants program will begin their projects this fall. The program is designed to support innovative, evidence-based teaching practices, and encourage scholarly activity around teaching and learning. There were nine initial proposals submitted, with five receiving funding this year. The funded grants range in scope and cover a wide variety of topics from exploring the use of virtual reality technologies in teaching to evaluating online tools that facilitate student wellbeing.

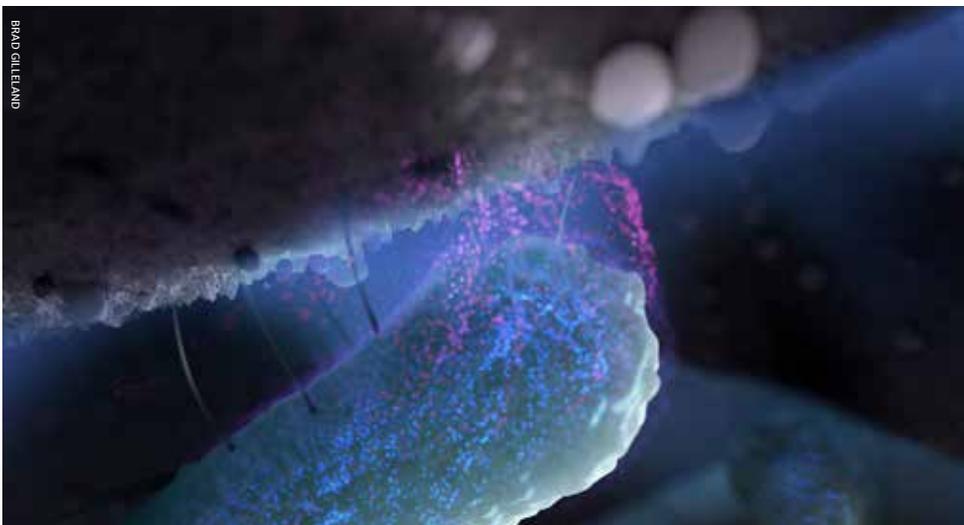


## Buffy Howerth received the CVM Distinguished Alumni Award from Michigan State University

**BUFFY HOWERTH**, PROFESSOR OF ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY at the College, was awarded the CVM Distinguished Alumni Award from Michigan State University. She received her DVM from MSU in 1978, along with a PhD from UGA in 1986. Congrats, Dr. Howerth!



*When in close proximity to the host cells, ETEC senses oxygen seeping (blue) from intestinal cells to increase expression of adhesions and secreted toxins (magenta).*



BRAD GILLELAND



## Two separate studies by Trent lab helping to solve common medical problems

**TWO SEPARATE STUDIES RUN BY THE LAB OF STEPHEN TRENT**, UGA Foundation Distinguished Professor in Infectious Diseases, are exploring some common medical issues with the hopes of finding solutions.

The first provides insight into how and why bacteria become resistant to commonly used antibiotics over time. The UGA team showed that a human pathogen, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, can modify its surface to become resistant to commonly used antibiotics.

*A. baumannii* is considered a critical priority human pathogen by the World Health Organization for new antibiotics. It primarily causes soft tissue infections and historically has been a problem in war zones and hospitals. These infections became so prevalent in war-zone medical facilities the bacterium was also known as “Iraqibacter.”

“This study contributes to our general understanding of cell envelope biology in bacteria and how bacteria can become resistant to commonly used antimicrobials,” said Trent, “The more we understand about how bacteria can alter their outer surface, the better we will be able to solve the growing problems of antibiotic resistance.”

The second study, a collaboration between Trent’s lab and researchers from the University of Texas at Austin, describes how “traveler’s diarrhea” bacteria causes disease. A major cause of traveler’s diarrhea are bacteria called Enterotoxigenic *E. coli*, or

ETEC. The team discovered how ETEC works to cause disease in hopes of developing a preventive vaccine for travelers.

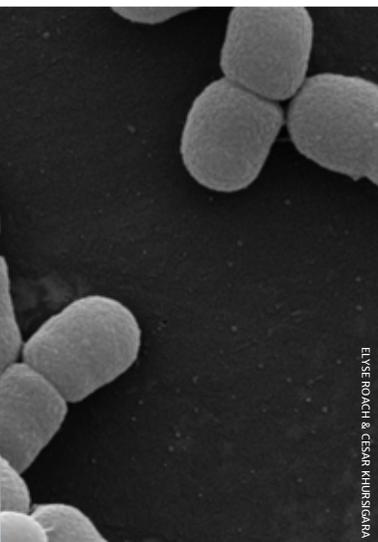
The researchers teamed up with the U.S. Navy Medical Research Center and the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health to study samples taken directly from citizens that volunteered to become infected with ETEC.

“If we can understand how ETEC causes disease we can develop new vaccines to prevent infections,” Trent said.

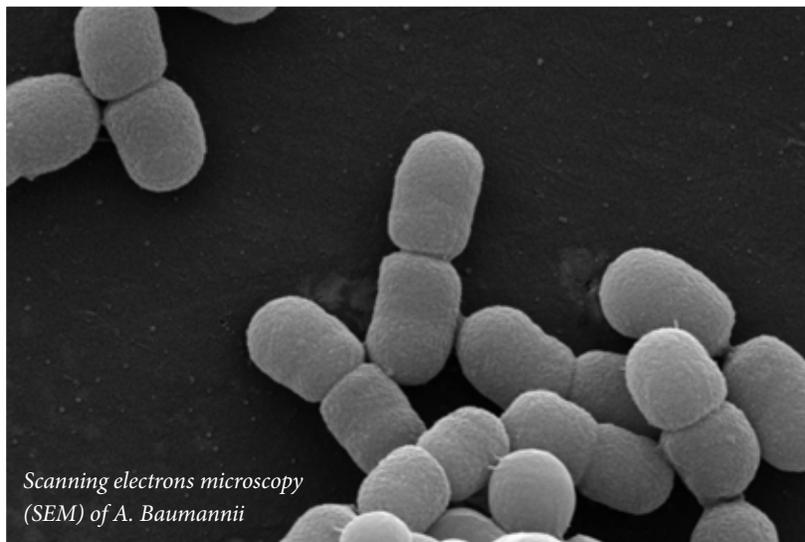
Ingesting contaminated food or water can lead to ETEC infection and profuse diarrhea for up to a week. Considering up to 200 million people become infected annually, an estimated billion days of human productivity are lost every year due to ETEC infections.

The group discovered that ETEC could sense oxygen in the atmosphere to control when it produces toxins. This breakthrough gives researchers hope they have identified the “cue” that ETEC uses to determine when to make toxins that cause disease.

The group now hopes to use this oxygen-sensitive ETEC response against the bacteria to prevent infections. “Beyond toxins, we found ETEC regulates many other factors in response to oxygen, and some of those are promising new targets for future vaccines,” explained Dr. Trent. “ETEC is a global burden on society, and we are doing all we can to advance our understanding of the disease.”



ELISE KROGH & CESAR KHUSHFAGHA



Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) of *A. Baumannii*



Dr. Trent



PHOTOS BY CATHERINE LOGUE



## Annual AVMA conference brings alumni to Denver

THE ANNUAL AVMA conference was held in Denver in July, bringing professionals from all over the United States together for a week of learning and networking. The College hosted an alumni reception while there, with over 50 alums attending.





## A Conversation With... Dr. Wayne Rush

### Did you always want to be a vet?

After much pleading, my parents relented and we got a family dog when I was five. Peppie was a Boston terrier and thus began my love affair with flat nosed dogs.

By the time I was twelve I knew I wanted to be a veterinarian. In high school I took a heavy science course load to help me prepare. I never wavered from that – my major in undergrad was pre-vet until I was a senior and my adviser made me choose. To me there was never another option. Fortunately, I was able to graduate from the UGA College of Ag with an animal science degree in 1982 and completed vet school at UGA four years later.

After graduating I worked as an associate at Roswell Animal Hospital for 10 years but knew I wanted to own my own clinic. In 1996 I purchased DeKalb Animal Hospital. I still love flat-nosed dogs – my wife, Kathie, and I have an English Bulldog named Little Bit, a French Bulldog named Maddie and a (not so flat faced) American Staffordshire Terrier named Tigger.

### What do you think you can bring to the table on the alumni board that will help the college going forward, and what do you see is the role of the alumni board?

I hope my experience as a small animal vet and clinic owner will allow me to provide some insight into how to select and prepare students to be outstanding small animal veterinarians after graduation. I also hope to provide input into the business of the board from a non-academic viewpoint, as well as serve in any other capacity the board feels I can help with. I think the role of the alumni board is to work together to steer the UGA CVM towards meeting their goal of becoming the best CVM in the country.

### What do you see as the Colleges strengths and challenges?

The new facility is a tremendous asset in recruiting not only the best faculty but the best future graduates as well. I do believe that having the teaching hospital as a referral center for the Atlanta area is a huge strength and should be developed even more!

As for challenges, I think we should work toward eventually getting all the students in one location. I feel it is a disadvantage to have the students being taught on two separate campuses three miles apart. Much of my early learning occurred during study breaks when I could walk downstairs into the clinics to look at cases or speak with faculty and senior students.

In addition, I think the CVM needs to continue to select the very best students possible – and it's competitive out there! I feel that to graduate the best veterinarians, emphasis needs to be placed not only on academics but students must be chosen for their personality and other talents. Behind each pet is an owner. Veterinarians must be able to communicate effectively – with owners and other team members. So, I would say that teaching communication skills is imperative.

### What do you see for the future of vet med and how can the College best fit into that future?

I can only speak to what I know best, the companion animal side of veterinary medicine. Pets will continue to become even more important to our clients in the future. I feel the human-animal bond is only growing closer, and we must be prepared to meet the needs of our clients. They will expect more, and better, medicine for their pets, as well as increased communication so they feel a part of their pets' medical care. It's important for the College to continue to keep that in mind.

# Alumni Notes

▶ **Dr. Royce E. Roberts Jr.**, DVM, DACVR, former anatomy and radiology department head at the College, passed away on Aug. 14, 2018, at the age of 74 years. Royce was born on Oct. 28, 1943, in Corpus Christi, Texas. He graduated from Austin High School in 1961 and went on to get his DVM at Texas A&M University in 1967. He had a long and distinguished career on faculty at the University of Georgia, the University of Tennessee, Auburn University and Mississippi State University before retiring in 2006. After his retirement, Dr. Roberts was head of the radioiodine program for veterinary hospitals in Atlanta and Austin.

▶ **Dr. Charles E. Hamner** (DVM '60, MS '62, PhD 64) of Chapel Hill, NC, recently received a World Changer Award by The Research Triangle Park Rotary Club honoring those who have contributed greatly to STEAM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and/or Math] in their respective fields. Dr. Hamner was former president of The North Carolina Biotechnology Center. Last year he was honored by Tech Wire and was named to the Hall of Fame for life-time contributions to NC's high tech and life sciences.

▶ **Dr. Edward B. Breitschwerdt** (DVM 1974) was named the Melanie S. Steele Distinguished Professorship of Medicine at North Carolina State University.

▶ **Dr. Richard Beverly Best**, DVM, MS, born Aug. 19, 1946, of Marietta, Ga., passed away August 12, 2018. Dr. Best earned his doctorate from the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine in 1977 before earning double Master of Science degrees in Wildlife Diseases and Parasitology.

▶ **Lt. Col. Thomas J. Doker**, DVM, MPH, DACVPM/ Epidemiology, CPH, Class of 1990, was recently awarded the James H. Steele Veterinary Public Health Award. This award, sponsored by CDC veterinarians in partnership with

the CDC Foundation, recognizes a current Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer or alumnus who has made outstanding contributions in the field of veterinary public health or One Health disciplines. Contributions may include investigation, control, or prevention of zoonotic diseases or other animal-related human health problems. Lt. Col. Doker is currently an active duty Public Health Officer in the U.S. Air Force working as the chief of infectious diseases and countermeasures division at the National Center for Medical Intelligence at Ft. Detrick, Maryland.

▶ **Dr. Claire Andreasen** (MS 1987, PhD 1990) was named the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Roger and Marilyn Mahr Professorship in One Health at Iowa State University.

▶ **Dr. Joel Cline** (DVM '96, MAM '97) was elected by his peers to the board of governors of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians. Dr. Cline lives in Elba, Alabama, and is a corporate Veterinarian for Wayne Farms, LLC.

▶ Pineywood Animal Hospital, owned by **Dr. Amanda Perry** (DVM '97) was recognized by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors as Leading Business of the Week in late April.

▶ **Dr. Koren Custer**, DVM, Class of 2012 and District 1 Assistant Director at the USDA-APHIS Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services was recognized as supervisor of the quarter.



## WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have some news to share, email it to [vetnews@uga.edu](mailto:vetnews@uga.edu)

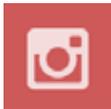
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