Legacy of Leadership

Koi Fish Operation • Sonny Perdue Visit • Universal Flu Vaccine Work
Hello to our College of Veterinary Medicine family! I hope spring is finding its way to your corner of the world. It’s been a long winter here in Athens, and we’re thankful to finally see some trees budding and flowers blooming!

As we approach the end of the spring semester, I realize that I am closing in on my one year anniversary as dean. It’s gone by incredibly fast – and we have begun to lay a solid foundation that will help us achieve our goals over the next five years.

I’ve traveled to as many events as possible, talking about the long-term goals for the College. I truly believe that we have what it takes to be the top CVM in the nation. To get there, we will embark on a journey to become the best in teaching, research and service.

Earlier this year, we started a strategic planning process, using the JW Fanning Institute as our partner to facilitate the project. As of now, we are conducting focus groups and interviews of faculty and staff. Outreach to students and alumni will begin in the coming months. At the completion of this project in late fall, we will have a road map to get us through the next five years. It will help us to hone in on our purpose and direction so that we can confidently move forward toward our goals.

We will continue to work toward being thought leaders in both research and education. To help with this, we have put a strategic communications plan in place that will increase awareness and visibility for our faculty and student achievements. The Aesculapian, as you can see, has undergone a bit of a refresh that will allow us tell more of our stories in a highly readable format. In addition, you’ll see similar updates to our other materials in the coming months.

We are also preparing in earnest for our accreditation visit that will occur in early 2020. That seems far off, but in reality it is going to require all of the time we have between now and then. We owe it to each and every one of you, our alumni, to receive full accreditation during that site visit. Over the past four months we have been undergoing a complete curriculum review as the first step in our preparations.

I welcome your feedback, as transparency is important to me as we move forward. I hope you enjoy the new look of our magazine, and please remember to tell us what you’re up to – this is first and foremost a publication for alumni. We want to let you know what we’re doing, but we know that your classmates appreciate hearing about each other!

Dean Lisa K. Nolan
IN THIS ISSUE...

2
A TRIP TO BELIZE

5
STUDENT WINS BAYER AWARD

6
CVM’S TIE TO ROSE PARADE

9
A TRIP TO BELIZE

10
OPERATE ON A KOI FISH?

14
CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH

16
OPERATE ON A KOI FISH?

20
ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

23
We were honored to welcome U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (and UGA CVM alumnus) Sonny Perdue to campus Friday, November 3. Here to attend the ribbon-cutting of a new USDA facility in Athens, Secretary Perdue and his wife toured the hospital Friday morning then ate lunch with students from the College of Veterinary Medicine, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Warnell School of Forestry. He closed out the day by giving an open lecture to students, faculty and staff of the three colleges. The well-attended, hour-long question and answer session covered a wide variety of topics ranging from “Do you miss the flavor of Georgia?” – to which he answered “when people ask me how I like DC, I say I love my job. I just would rather do it from Georgia” – to more issues-based questions around the Farm Bill and the stifling regulatory environment. If there was a theme around his remarks it was for students to cherish their time here in Athens, and to cherish the education they are receiving. He said that even though he didn’t practice veterinary medicine for very long, his veterinary education has served him well in his personal and professional life. “A veterinary education helps teach you how to make choices in life. As a vet you have to go through the process of analyzing symptoms, differential diagnoses… this is much like life.”

Row Henson grew up on a cattle farm outside of Perry, Georgia, and at an early age knew that animals would be an important part of her life. After a cancer diagnosis and treatment in 2001 prompted life changes, she went from life revolving around work to working part time and rescuing a dog. Mac was a two-year old black lab – a former hunting dog who had spent most of those two years at a kennel in training or in the back of her owner’s truck. Row was blessed to have her for 13 years. She died last year at the age of 15.

Row and Mac first came to the University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital in 2011 and, over the next six years, they were...
back and forth many times seeing a number of specialists. During each of those visits, Row was amazed at the care and treatment of not only Mac, but all the animals and owners she met while at the veterinary hospital. After all those visits – and an introduction to a miracle dog named Cody – Row knew the stories of the hospital needed to be told.

Already a best-selling author thanks to her first book *Travels with Mac ‘n’ Row*, she set out writing *Miracles on College Station Road*. She selected 50 stories that represented a variety of illnesses and injuries as well as a variety of animals. Each story provides an understanding of the clinical aspect of the diagnosis and treatment, a glimpse into the emotional side of the animal and owner, and the recognition that miracles need both sides of the equation to happen. The book took almost two years to produce. During that time, Row had the amazing opportunity to meet and be inspired by most of the animals and owners in person.

The profits from the book will go to the Mac and Row Scholarship Fund, an endowed scholarship fund for the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. It is available for purchase on Amazon.
Our annual Vet School for a Day outreach program was once again a big success! We had 50 high school juniors and seniors from Georgia and South Carolina visit to learn about the admissions process, tour the hospital, and hear from faculty in a variety of specialty areas. Each year we have a few current students who will say that back in the day they attended Vet School for a Day and it made all the difference to them. Thanks to all of the faculty and students who made the day a success, and to the Office of Academic Affairs who did a great job organizing the event – it went off without a hitch! A special thanks go to the David Forehand Foundation for graciously sponsoring this annual event.

Congratulations to third-year pathology residents Carmen Jerry (anatomical pathology), Annabelle Burnum (anatomical pathology), and Corry Yeurokis (clinical pathology) for passing the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) Phase II Certifying Examination and becoming ACVP Diplomates! The residents put in an enormous amount of hard work, but the department’s training coordinators Buffy Howerth, James Stanton and Bridget Garner as well as the department’s Graduate Coordinator, Kaori Sakamoto, deserve special thanks for their dedication to the success of the pathology residency program.
Lee Drew, a second-year student, was recognized as one of the 10 recipients across the country to receive the Bayer American Royal Livestock Scholarship. In August, he had the opportunity to spend time at the Bayer Animal Health Institute, where he toured the Bayer facilities, learned about Bayer’s products and how the process for getting a medical product to market works. In addition, as part of the program, he participated in national livestock shows with experienced veterinary practitioners over the course of the fall.

Scott Epperson, a fourth-year MPH student, has been selected to receive not one but two international externships this year. He traveled to Cameroon and the Republic of Congo in October as a recipient of the CDC’s Hubert Global Health Fellowship. While there he worked to help a community assess interactions between themselves and wildlife which could carry and transmit monkey pox. In February, Scott left for a three-month stint at the World Organization for Animal Health, also known as OIE. It’s sure to be a fantastic learning experience and we look forward to updates from him!

In October, the Black Faculty and Student Organization held their 15th annual Founder’s Award Scholarship Luncheon where they honored the achievements of UGA’s African-American students and celebrated the university’s commitments to diversity and inclusion. As part of the luncheon, they award over $3500 in scholarship monies to seven students who show exemplary leadership and academic skills. Class of 2020 student Valerie Marcano was awarded one of only seven Founder’s Award Scholarships during the luncheon. Congrats, Valerie!
THREE YEARS AGO, a horse owned by David Helmuth of Milledgeville, Georgia, was referred to the University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital for a broken bone in his front leg. This year, Rusty led the first-ever six-horse stagecoach team for Wells Fargo Bank in the 2018 Tournament of Roses parade.

We at the CVM had the opportunity to celebrate not only a Dawgs Rose Bowl win but an appearance by a former patient in perhaps the most famous parade of the year!

Rusty is a 10-year old Belgian who works as a member of the Wells Fargo Bank stagecoach team. In 2014, Rusty was kicked in the shin by another horse right before pulling the stage in the Savannah St. Patrick’s Day parade. It didn’t appear serious at the time, but the next morning his leg was very swollen so David contacted his local veterinarian who referred them to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Once in Athens, Rusty’s veterinary team determined that extensive medical care and surgery would be required to treat the injury, but the prognosis wasn’t great. David was told that it was possible that Rusty may never be sound again.

Despite the risks, David decided to go ahead with the surgery. Rusty came through with flying colors thanks to the dedicated team at the VTH and now, three years later, Rusty can boast a 100% recovery. He hasn’t been lame a day since the surgery.

The Vet Med women’s flag football team nabbed the 2017 fall intramural league championship in October. Congrats to the team and thanks to all who came out to cheer them on!
When there’s an outbreak of disease, the CDC’s Epidemic Intelligences Service (EIS) officers are there. They support more than 100 public health investigations each year in the U.S. and worldwide. And next year there will be two Bulldogs in the program. John Rossow and Yaribel Torres were both recently selected for the highly competitive program in applied epidemiology.

They will begin a two-year, on-the-job training and service fellowship in epidemiology following their graduation in May. Both students are completing a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree while simultaneously earning a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in a dual degree program jointly offered by the Colleges of Public Health and Veterinary Medicine.

The DVM-MPH dual degree program provided the flexibility for Rossow and Torres to gain meaningful public health experience while learning the foundations of infectious disease epidemiology.

“Veterinarians with public health training, such as John and Yari will be, are uniquely equipped to address public health threats such as zoonotic infectious agents which affect both animals and humans, like influenza, West Nile virus and many other emerging diseases such as Zika and Ebola,” said Dr. Mary Hondalus, coordinator of the DVM-MPH dual degree program and associate professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Established in 1951, the program allows physicians, veterinarians, scientists, and other health professionals to serve their country while learning to apply epidemiology to solve public health problems. It is a two-year, post-graduate fellowship that is a unique mix of on-the-job training and service. After a month-long orientation, new EIS officers begin assignments as ready responders in infectious and noninfectious diseases, global health, injury prevention, environmental health, and occupational health. Only 70-80 out of a pool of roughly 600 applications are selected by the CDC each year, so having two students from the same class selected is quite an accomplishment!
Katherine Franc, a dual degree DVM/MPH program student, and I traveled to Belize in November. We went at the invitation of the Belize Poultry Association and the Belize Animal Health Agency to participate in a Newcastle disease vaccination program, and to determine if this would be a mutually beneficial program for Katherine to complete her master’s in public health capstone project in this coming summer. Newcastle is a devastating disease of poultry that can destroy a poultry industry and spread through villages, robbing poor farmers and their families of valuable protein and small cash income. From the first contact with our Belize counterparts, they were unfailingly welcoming!

Belize is snuggled up against the Caribbean, with northern and western borders to the Mexican Yucatan, and western and southern borders with Guatemala. The population of the country is small (350,000), with more than double that who come here for tourism annually. The Belizeans come in all varieties, with remarkable fluidity and coherence among groups. The majority are Mestizos, descended from Spanish and Indians. The second largest group are the Creoles who are Africans mixed with British, then the Mayans, a large smattering of East Indians, and then Garifunas, which are descendants from a slave ship which crashed on a nearby island a couple of centuries ago. There are also the Mennonites, yes, Mennonites, who still adhere to the old practices of not using electricity or any kind of motor. It is the Mennonites who actually drive much of the commercial agriculture in Belize.

The focus of our program was in the southern part of Belize, which is predominantly Mayan and very poor. Belize is rapidly growing their commercial poultry industry in the northern parts of the country, and in order to protect the industry, they need to know what kind of diseases are present in the backyard or family birds. Virtually every Mayan family keeps a group of chickens, the border between Belize and Guatemala is only intermittently present, and there have been multiple suspicions of Newcastle disease outbreaks in these communities. So, the Belize Poultry Association and the governmental Belize Animal Health Agency partnered on a program to educate small farmers and vaccinate backyard chickens throughout the south. It was this program that we worked with.
Private support is crucial to the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. Becoming a veterinarian isn't easy, or cheap. The College relies on the generosity of individuals, generosity that goes a long way towards helping our students, faculty and staff make a huge difference. We know at the College of Veterinary Medicine that our students and faculty can change the world. The encouragement our students and faculty receive from donors allows them to take full advantage of our unparalleled learning environment. Your support with scholarships and faculty research helps us continue to attract the best and brightest students and faculty.

But more students are finding it difficult to afford a DVM degree. Last year more than 72% of our students received a scholarship or an award of some sort; however, there is still a funding gap, and our hardworking students need support so they can continue their focused study and work.

Truly, it is up to you, as alumni of the College, to decide how you would like to give back and impact the lives of our students and faculty. Gifts can be made online, over the phone, via a monthly credit card payment, through stock or even pledged over a period of years. And, by taking advantage of a corporate matching gift program, your gift can have double or triple the impact.

Estate planning is an important step for anyone, and our development team would be happy to discuss your philanthropic interests and options to support decades of students and faculty. Regular, sustained giving and deferred gifts that leave a legacy have the largest impact on the College and its greatest needs. Gifts such as charitable annuities and charitable remainder trusts can generate income for you throughout your lifetime, and are another option for deferred giving. The CVM can benefit from bequests, assets and even life insurance policies. The financial stability that endowments provide enables our talented students and faculty to push boundaries, take risks and pursue solutions to any new issue that arises.

In summary, the College of Veterinary Medicine is humbled by and grateful for the support of folks like you as we continue to train excellent future veterinarians, conduct research related to animal and human diseases and provide veterinary services for animals and their owners.
Legacy of Leadership

It goes without saying that the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine produces leaders – every year a new class of highly skilled veterinarians and researchers go out into the workforce, ready to make an impact on their chosen field. But take a closer look. CVM alumni are leading the way in some of the top leadership positions in the state of Georgia – and the country.

A Lifelong Love

Boyd Parr (DVM ’78) has had a lifelong love of all-things dairy. Growing up on a registered Jersey dairy farm in Newberry, South Carolina, he learned the ins and outs of running a farm at an early age. Being a veterinarian, though, wasn’t top of mind. He credits his mother for planting that seed – she recognized that his love of dairy cows and the lack of a veterinarian in their area might lead to the perfect career path for her son.

So, Parr went off to Clemson, a pre-vet student with a plan. Two years later, he entered veterinary school at UGA and from there a career in veterinary medicine was cemented. Parr spent 26 years in private veterinary practice, focused on dairy and cow-calf operations, and today is the state veterinarian of South Carolina and the director of Clemson’s Livestock and Forages Program. But in between his first day of practice and today there have been countless leadership positions – including two terms on the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Animal Health for the USDA, as president of the US Animal Health Association, and as the South Carolina delegate in the AVMA House of Delegates.

Today he serves as the director of Clemson’s Livestock and Forages Program and as the State Veterinarian of South Carolina. He believes strong leadership skills stem from having a passion and wanting to make a difference. “Leadership is about service. If it’s about you, you might be doing it for the wrong reason.” The key, for him, is to surround yourself with outstanding people – and always be ready to pitch in. “The best supervisors are those who have done the job of those below them – when there’s understanding what someone is up against, it makes a better leader.”

He says it’s been a blessing to have been asked to lead for all these years – and that his time at UGA certainly helped him develop the connections that made being a leader in the veterinary profession easier. “It’s always nice to call someone who is a fellow Dawg, it helps to be able to draw on those common connections to get things accomplished.”
Similarly, Robert Cobb was a farm kid. Growing up in Moultrie, Georgia, his mother worked in a dentist’s office and his dad was a farmer—primarily row crops but there were always animals around. So, between farm chores and having an uncle who was a veterinarian in the area, Cobb was exposed to veterinary medicine at an early age. But it wasn’t a calling from the start— all he knew was that he wanted to do something in medicine. Initially he headed toward dental school. After much soul-searching, he decided he didn’t really want to spend the rest of his life looking into people’s mouths. So, he spent a year as an animal health technician for the USDA while waiting to apply to vet school, and the rest is history. That year would prove to influence his career path – he learned about the importance of veterinary medicine as it related to the larger community.

Cobb graduated from the CVM in 1981 and began his career at Ogeechee Veterinary Associates in Millen, Georgia – his love of dairy cattle work led him to tiny Jenkins county where, despite its small size, there were 55 dairies. For two years he focused on dairy theriogenology and herd health before buying a mixed animal practice in Dublin, Georgia, in 1983. Until 2008, he owned Dublin Animal Hospital, where he honed his leadership skills as managing partner. He found it difficult to find qualified employees to work with the animals there – so he organized and taught a Veterinary Assistants Program for six years at the Heart of Georgia Technical College. This program produced trained veterinary assistants to fill the gap he found when he took over the practice. Staying involved in the local community, and with regional and statewide veterinary associations, led him to joining the Georgia Department of Agriculture as assistant state veterinarian in 2010, and then state veterinarian in 2011 – a post he’s held since then.

Both his path to state veterinarian and vision of leadership echo Dr. Parr – solid leadership is ALL about the people. “Work your way up, spend time down in the ditches so that you know what you’re asking people to do.” A childhood spent learning the ins and outs of farming and years running a veterinary practice taught him well. “Veterinarians have to make life and death decisions on a sometimes-daily basis. There is no room for being wishy-washy, you must analyze problems and swiftly make a well-thought through decision – and that makes good leaders.”

- continued next page
Called to Serve

Mike Topper, a class of 1980 graduate and current president of the AVMA, took a very different path to high-level leadership positions. He grew up in Baltimore and made his way to UGA. He earned a BSA in 1976, DVM in 1980, and later achieved triple Dawg status with a PhD in 1997. Upon graduation, Topper entered the US Army Veterinary Corps. So began his path to leadership – some skills were inherent while others came straight out of an Army training manual.

His distinguished career in the Army vet corps spanned 22 years – he retired in 2002 as a colonel – but Topper can point to a single moment that has defined him as a leader. Just two years out of vet school, young Captain Topper was stationed in Germany in a field unit. Due to some unusual circumstances, command of the 35-man unit landed on the young officer. “The weight of that was defining,” says Topper. “I had to gain years of experience in a short period of time. Some of the guys in my command were older than me, I had to gain their trust and respect.” That experience stayed with him. He learned the value of learning everyone’s name. He learned to embrace a servant leadership style, to take care of those who work for you and that you can’t lead from behind a desk – the best way to manage is by walking around. Like Parr and Cobb, he believes it’s all about people.

Those beliefs have led Topper into the highest levels of leadership. He retired from the Army in 2002 after serving as the director for the division of pathology at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC. From there he went to Merck Research Laboratories where he spent 12 years as the director of clinical pathology. During his tenure, he was actively involved in state and national veterinary organizations, serving in a wide variety of positions culminating in being elected to the post of AVMA president in 2017.
Humble Beginnings

**Most people know the name Sonny Perdue**, but usually with the title Governor in front of it. But the two-term governor of Georgia and current U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has another title that many don't know – Doctor. Perdue – the first veterinarian to serve as secretary of agriculture -- is a 1971 graduate of the UGA CVM. His path to one of the highest leadership positions in the country, a Cabinet seat, is not unlike the others. Like Parr and Cobb, Perdue grew up on a farm in Bonaire, Georgia, and like Topper, he has a military background, serving in the U.S. Air Force.

After his graduation from vet school, Perdue practiced veterinary medicine in North Carolina for a brief period then decided to move back to Georgia and pursue a career in business. He started businesses in the agriculture and transportation sectors and became active in his Houston county community of Warner Robins-Perry. This led into public service. Perdue served on the Houston County Planning and Zoning Board in the 1980s before a successful state senate campaign sent him to Atlanta in 1990. Eleven years later he ran for governor and won – and went on to serve two terms. In early 2017 he was appointed by newly-elected President Donald Trump as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, a post that has elevated him to one of the highest levels of leadership.

But playing on the big stage of Washington, D.C. hasn't changed Perdue's outlook on what's important in life – and what makes a strong leader. Many of the principles he relies on today he learned from his farmer father, and he shares these wisdoms frequently. “Take care of the land and the land will take care of you,” he says. Or, “Whether you rent or own the land, we are all stewards and it is our responsibility to leave it better than we found it.” On his family's farm, Perdue learned the power of work ethic, and that to be a good leader it's vital to be hands-on and understand all the parts and duties of those within your organization. And that is Perdue's philosophy still today – in his first year as secretary of agriculture he visited 32 states, embarked on two RV tours covering 2,200 miles, toured countless facilities, and talked with thousands of farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers. He is hands-on, always striving to understand the problem and wanting to work as part of the team to find a solution.
Infectious disease team awarded $3.2M NIH grant to develop vaccine platform

A College of Veterinary Medicine research team has been awarded a five-year, $3.2 million grant by the National Institutes of Health to develop a vaccine platform that will optimize vaccine development and administration.

UGA Foundation Distinguished Professor M. Stephen Trent, along with Associate Professor Jeff Hogan and Post-Doctoral Fellow Shawn Zimmerman, have developed the Surface Antigen/Adjuvant Vaccine Engineering, or SAAVE, platform that engineers the surface of bacterium to be a vaccine.

This will allow the vaccine to be administered as an oral probiotic, which will improve efficiencies and create a versatile, interchangeable platform designed to help fight against multiple infectious diseases.

The grant, funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, will allow for the full development and expansion of the SAAVE platform, building on Trent’s research with engineered lipopolysaccharides as adjuvants, or LPS, a key part of making vaccines more effective.

“The most important factors in vaccine development and administration are vaccine efficacy, production time and cost,” said Trent. “The SAAVE platform will help us be able to offer vaccines to an infected population that can be delivered quickly, in a non-invasive manner, and at a lower cost. It has the potential to make a very large impact in regions of world where the costs of vaccine administration are prohibitive.”

Over the five years the team will work to pair a variety of antigens from different disease-causing organisms with the adjuvant MPL, an engineered form of LPS. They are currently working with the influenza virus and have made progress on a vaccine to fight cholera.

“We should never forget that vaccination is one of the greatest public health interventions of all time and is critical for maintaining the well-being of the human population,” Trent said.

Jerry Saliki, director of the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, was named to the executive board of the American Association of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD). He assumed his new role in October, 2017. Dr. Saliki has been involved in the AAVLD for 25 years, serving 11 years as the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation and receiving three awards from that association: distinguished service award (2013), life membership (2014), and EP Pope Memorial (2015). The AAVLD is the largest association dedicated to advancing the discipline of veterinary laboratory diagnostic medicine in the United States. Their executive board is comprised of 16 members from the U.S. and Canada.
Housing and health are essential to overall well-being, a fact as true for animals as it is for people. Now, a team of researchers at the University of Georgia is proposing a unique solution to help older adults living alone at home establish new social bonds by pairing them with homeless foster cats.

Funded by a two-year grant from the Human-Animal Bond Research Institute, faculty from UGA’s College of Public Health, College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Obesity Initiative are collaborating on the project, which will examine how feline and human participants can benefit from each other.

The team is led by Heidi Ewen, an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the Colleges of Public Health and Family and Consumer Sciences, and Sherry Sanderson, associate professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine. They are partnering with the Athens Area Humane Society and UGA’s Campus Cats organization, a rescue group that works with homeless cats on campus, to match foster parent and feline.

“As efforts around the country have increased to reduce euthanasia rates of homeless pets, there is an increasing reliance upon foster homes to bridge the time between intake and permanent adoption,” Sanderson said. “This study fulfills the needs of two populations, human and animal, that can mutually benefit each other and is the perfect example of One Health.”

The majority of people who live alone are 75 years or older and many of them tend to spend their days inside the home, Ewen said, and for those who are single, it can be hard for them to maintain social connections outside of their home.

Ewen knows many older adults living alone may struggle to find a reason to plan meals or engage in other daily activities without another person around to share them with. “But once they have a pet in the house, they have a reason to get up and to do things, a sense of purpose. They have something to care for who depends on them,” she said.

“We believe that older adults who live alone will be ideal foster parents because they can give the cat love and a lot more individualized attention, than somebody who works and has to leave the house for nine hours a day,” said Ewen. Sanderson added, “We’re also hoping that if we remove some of the barriers older people have for not wanting to adopt a pet that we may see enduring partnerships between the cats and their foster parents.”

The team has begun to identify older adults in the Athens area that are willing to foster cats. The 34 pairs of cats and seniors will then be interviewed and assessed throughout the study to determine whether having a pet in the house leads to changes in their emotional well-being. Assessments include loneliness, emotional well-being and purpose of life scales as well as measures of attachment to, and comfort from, the foster cat.

“We will monitor and analyze the results of the various scales we’re using in this study to help us determine the impact the cats have on the quality of life for the seniors,” said Ewen. “Our goal is to increase feelings of purpose and raise the quality of life for our participating older adults.”

About the photo: Dan is the inspiration for the larger study and grant. Overcome with grief after losing his wife of 61 years and 20-year-old cat within a two-month period; Dan adopted Sheldon, a six-month old foster cat from Circle of Friends Animal Society through PetSmart. The bond was instant, and Dan has said that he wasn’t sure he would have made it through the first Christmas holiday if it wasn’t for Sheldon.
Ray Kaplan, professor of parasitology in the department of infectious diseases, has two papers that are in the top 0.1% and 0.3% of the most highly cited papers in trade publications Parasitology and Vet Science, respectively. Based on the Web of Science indices, “An inconvenient truth: Global worming and anthelmintic resistance” was ranked sixth out of 25,569 articles in the parasitology category and “An evidence-based approach to equine parasite control: It ain’t the 60s anymore” was ranked 171 out of 70,466 articles in the veterinary science category. This is for all articles published between 2010 and 2014, ranking these two papers in the top 99.98 and 99.76 percentiles of all papers published in these topic areas over that five-year span.

This past year the hospital completed its first CT scan of a live Koi fish followed by a successful surgery to remove a fatty tumor.

Queeny was impacted by a rapidly progressing tumor in the summer of 2017, so her owner transported her to the UGA VTH to have her examined by the exotics team. A whole-body CT, ultrasound examination, and guided biopsy revealed a lipoma close to her spine. It was decided that Queeny was a good candidate for surgery to remove the 7-centimeter mass. In late August, Queeny underwent surgery and came through with no complications. She healed quickly in the weeks that followed and is now back in her pond, swimming around as if nothing was ever wrong!

We often get asked “How do you perform a CT scan on a fish?” It was definitely a team effort! Because of Queeny’s size, 33lbs, she was too big to stay in a container of water and still fit through the scanner. So, an anesthesia solution was added to Queeny’s water and then she was lifted onto the scanner using towels. Technicians used syringes to keep the water/anesthesia solution, as well as oxygen, running through her gills. When it was time to scan, everyone quickly cleared the room and then returned upon completion of each scan to continue with the syringe treatment. Queeny was then returned to her water for recovery. For the surgery, our exotics team created a specialized table that allowed a water/anesthesia solution to continuously run over Queeny’s gills while our clinicians operated.

Steeve Giguere named to Zoetis award list

Professor Steeve Giguere was recently named one of the winners of the 2017 Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence. This award is given annually to researchers whose innovative studies have advanced the scientific standing of veterinary medicine. Dr. Giguere is the Hodgson Chair in Equine Studies, focusing his research on equine cardiology, respiratory disorders, and neonatology.

Infectious disease faculty member boasts highly cited papers

Ray Kaplan, professor of parasitology in the department of infectious diseases has two papers that are in the top 0.1% and 0.3% of the most highly cited papers in trade publications Parasitology and Vet Science, respectively.

Based on the Web of Science indices, “An inconvenient truth: Global worming and anthelmintic resistance” was ranked sixth out of 25,569 articles in the parasitology category and “An evidence-based approach to equine parasite control: It ain’t the 60s anymore” was ranked 171 out of 70,466 articles in the veterinary science category. This is for all articles published between 2010 and 2014, ranking these two papers in the top 99.98 and 99.76 percentiles of all papers published in these topic areas over that five-year span.
Becky Wilkes, assistant professor in infectious diseases, was recently awarded a 2017 Boehringer Ingelheim Equine Research Award. Her project “Targeted next-generation sequencing panel for detection of equine pathogens” is for development of a single comprehensive test to diagnose all known significant infectious diseases of horses. She’s received $15,000 from BI to support the study. Dr. Wilkes’ research isn’t limited to equine studies. She also has a grant from the Georgia Beef Commission to evaluate strains of Moraxella species associated with the eyes of cattle with and without pinkeye. Additionally, she is a co-investigator on another grant funded by the Beef Commission to determine the prevalence of Anaplasma marginale in beef herds in Georgia.

Dr. Melissa Smith recently won the resident research award at the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia meeting for a podium presentation of her project “Perianesthetic Management of the Patient with Ocular Disease. Focus: Intraocular Pressure.” Congrats, Dr. Smith!

The CVI extends research collaboration, garners accolades

The University of Georgia’s Center for Vaccines and Immunology (CVI) and Sanofi Pasteur, the world’s largest manufacturer of influenza vaccines, have signed an agreement to extend and expand their existing research collaboration for an additional two years. Since 2012, the laboratory of Dr. Ted M. Ross and Sanofi Pasteur have been developing and testing broadly-reactive and universal influenza vaccines. Effective February 1, 2018, the extension will bring the total investment to $11M for four years of research at UGA. In this second phase, the focus will be to critically evaluate new H3N2 and B influenza candidates with the goal of moving the most promising candidates into the clinical trial stage.

Thanks in part to the above partnership with Sanofi Pasteur, the CVI has been awarded the 2017 Phoenix Award from GA Bio (pictured above). GA Bio is a non-profit organization that promotes the interests and growth of the life science industry in the state of Georgia. Their Phoenix Award represents the iconic “rising from the ashes” of the Phoenix, a symbol of strength, tenacity and leadership and is presented to celebrate the best Industry and Academic collaboration. The CVI and Sanofi Pasteur have forged a relationship that will drive translation and lead to new treatments and cures.

Team including CVM infectious disease professor garners $1.7M NIH grant

A team of researchers from Georgetown University, Penn State University, Emory University and the University of Georgia recently received a five-year $1.7M grant from the National Institutes of Health to examine trends in vaccine hesitancy in the United States. Pej Rohani (pictured above), professor in the School of Ecology and the College of Veterinary Medicine, along with Shweta Bansal, of Georgetown, Murali Haran of Penn State University, and Saad Omer of Emory University, will analyze data from health insurance claims to identify areas of the country where vaccine refusal is on the rise and use this information to study the emergence and spread of childhood diseases such as measles, whooping cough and chickenpox.

This will help policy makers understand why the number of anti-vaccine activists is growing in both number and influence, why people refuse vaccines and how this behavior drives vaccine-preventable disease spread.
**Rebecca Evans earns 40 under 40 award**

The UGA Alumni Association honored the young alumni named to the annual 40 Under 40 list in Atlanta in September. Rebecca Evans (DVM ’10) made this year’s list. Rebecca is an equine veterinarian in the Savannah area and owner of Evan Equine LLC. She is the in-house veterinarian for the Savannah College of Art and Design’s perennial ANRC National Champion Equestrian Team. In addition to serving as SCAD’s vet, Dr. Evans teaches Equine Anatomy and Systems Disorders and Lameness to juniors and seniors in the school’s Equestrian Studies major. In addition, she runs Evans Equine, a mobile veterinary practice serving the low country from Statesboro, Georgia to Charleston, South Carolina, specializing in equine sports medicine and dentistry.

**Hundreds turn out for Dean’s tailgate**

Our annual dean’s tailgate was once again a big hit and huge success. More than 300 people joined us homecoming weekend to catch up with old friends, have some barbeque and celebrate a UGA victory. It was great to see alumni, faculty, staff and students – even Uga paid us a visit before he headed to the stadium! Were you there and want to get some pictures? All the pics of the day are available for download on Smugmug. And mark your calendars for next year – Dean’s Tailgate will be held November 10, 2018!
Three CVM alumni-run businesses were named to the 2017 Bulldog 100 list this fall. Daniel Pike and John Elliott, owners of Piedmont Equine Associates in Madison, Georgia, are newcomers to the list while Rebecca Babcock (DVM ’98), Karen Donovan (DVM ’04) and Ella Scholz (DVM ’92), owners of Red Bard Veterinary Hospital in Dahlonega, Georgia, and Jason Eisele (DVM ’02), owner of Specialized Veterinary Services in Ft. Myers, Florida, were named for the second time. The UGA Alumni Association compiles the annual list, which celebrates the 100 fastest-growing companies owned or operated by a Georgia Bulldog.

Dr. Gene Maddox (DVM ’59) has had an illustrious, albeit two-part, career. He practiced veterinary medicine for 45 years in Cairo, Georgia and then he spent two terms as a state representative for the 172nd District. One of his proudest moments as a state representative was the passing of House Bill 60 – the bill that ultimately created the veterinarian student loan repayment program in Georgia. Representative Maddox first introduced the bill in 2007, and worked tirelessly in support of it until it finally passed in 2011, establishing the board that would develop and oversee of the program. From personal experience, he knew the rural areas needed help attracting and keeping large animal and food animal veterinarians. “It wasn't uncommon for me to be out at one or two a.m. working,” he says. “I knew I was making less money, and was working longer, harder hours than many others. We needed to do something to attract more veterinarians out to the rural areas.” His love for veterinary medicine and commitment to his local and regional community have translated into a program that will help ease the financial burden of veterinary school for countless students.
MORE THAN 200 ALUMNI gathered in Athens in early March for the CVM’s 55th Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend. The two-day event featured not only 15 hours of continuing education, but a celebration of the 50th class reunion of the class of 1968 and the announcement of the 2018 Alumni Award winners.

The Friday luncheon celebrated the alumni award winners. This year, the Young Achiever Award went to Dr. Brent Credille (DVM ’08), and the Distinguished Alumni Awards were given to Dr. Sheila McGuirk (DVM ’77) and Dr. Jack Sexton (DVM ’78).

Each year, nominations are taken for the two awards and the alumni board reviews and selects winners based on nominee’s contributions in public service, professional service, research, contributions to local community, state or nation, involvement in veterinary associations, and contribution to the CVM Alumni Association.

Young Achiever Award – This award is for alumni who are in the eighth, ninth or tenth year of their career post-graduation who have exhibited early career achievement that brings acclaim to the field and honor and distinction to the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine.

Brent Credille is an assistant professor in the department of population health, food animal health and management program at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. A clinical bovine veterinarian and specialist in beef production medicine, he received his DVM from UGA in 2008. After graduation, he practiced as a large animal ambulatory veterinarian for two months before completing an internship in livestock medicine and surgery at Colorado State University. He returned to UGA in 2009 as a resident in Large Animal Internal Medicine, and was awarded his PhD in physiology/pharmacology in 2014. He joined the faculty of the CVM in 2013.

Dr. Credille engages in service, teaching and research, making significant contributions to all three areas. He works closely with producers, local veterinarians, and the Georgia Cattlemen’s Association to provide continuing education and beef production medicine service, conducting over 375 farm visits since his hire at UGA and giving in excess of 80 presentations on health-related topics to cattlemen’s groups across the state. He has recently taken on the three-year role of field services section head at the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

In addition, his commitment to teaching is very strong. He is coordinator or co-coordinator for nine courses taught in the College, as well as a regular lecturer for 16 additional courses. He has served as major professor for Ph.D. and Master of Food Animal Medicine students and he has mentored DVM students in clinical rounds, in the Georgia Veterinary Scholars Program and on clinical service trips.

Dr. Credille’s accomplishments in research are also exceptional. He has been principal or co-investigator on grants totaling over $360,000. He has authored or coauthored 18 peer-reviewed publications and has made major contributions in the areas of antimicrobial pharmacokinetics and antimicrobial resistance in Mannheimia haemolytica.
Jack Sexton is a small animal practitioner and co-owner and medical director of McLean Animal Hospital in McLean, Virginia. He has practiced in McLean since 1979, earning a staunchly loyal client base thanks to his dedication to helping save beloved pets and his responsive, positive manner.

He is active in the community and has held leadership positions in state and regional professional organizations. He served on the Fairfax County (VA) Animal Shelter Advisory Committee and has been involved with the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine’s Teaching Hospital Advisory Committee and in their mentorship program. In addition, he is the past president of both the Northern Virginia Veterinary Medicine Association and the Virginia Veterinary Medicine Association.

Dr. Sexton holds a BS and MS in Veterinary Science from the University of Maryland and his DVM from the University of Georgia.

Sheila McGuirk has had a long and distinguished career in veterinary medicine, one that began when she received her DVM from the University of Georgia in 1977. From UGA she went on to complete her internship at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. She then moved to Columbus, Ohio where she completed a residency (food animal medicine and surgery), postdoctoral fellowship (physiology and pharmacology) and received a PhD in physiology and pharmacology from the Ohio State University between 1978 - 1985.

She became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in 1982 and has been active in a number of professional organizations such as the AVMA, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, and the Wisconsin Veterinary Medicine Association.

Dr. McGuirk joined the faculty in the department of medical sciences at the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1983 where she is currently an emeritus professor. She has received numerous accolades and honors over her 35-year career. To name a few, she was awarded the Walter Renk Distinguished Professor Award in 1994 and was the School of Veterinary Medicine’s Distinguished Teacher of the Year in 2016. In 2000 and 2016, she was named Veterinarian of the Year by the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association.

As a large animal veterinarian, Dr. McGuirk has taught classes ranging from dairy science to public health and biosecurity. Her clinical instruction covered large animal medicine, food animal surgery and food animal production medicine. Her clinical research support includes over 47 grants since 1986, over 200 refereed and non-refereed journal articles, and more than 150 invited presentations all over the world.
To get a nomination form, download the form at vet.uga.edu/alumni/alumni-awards.
Did you always want to be a veterinarian? How did you get to where you are now?

Yes, I always wanted to become a veterinarian! While spending virtually every day after school as a youngster at the local Saddlebred stable (Rack-a-Way Farms) in Summerville, South Carolina, I would stop what I was doing to watch with fascination whenever Dr. Westbury (Dr. Brunson Westbury) came to treat the horses. I was also heavily influenced by reading the complete James Herriot's All Creatures series in high school. After my family moved from South Carolina to Georgia, I gained experience with Drs. Felix Smith Sr. and Jr. at Perry Animal Hospital while fulfilling my pre-veterinary requirements. After graduating with my DVM in 1984, I practiced in North Carolina, Connecticut, Maryland and Virginia for nine years before an opportunity to complete a Masters and Residency in Veterinary Toxicology at the University of Illinois fell into my lap. I completed that program in 1997 and obtained board certification as a veterinary toxicologist. I just celebrated my 20th year at Merck Animal Health (previously Intervet, then Schering Plough) where I am currently associate director in quality control.

What do you see as the College’s strengths and challenges going forward?

The College's primary strength is as the leading state-of-the art veterinary school and hospital in the Southeast! Graduates from our College are exceptionally well-trained clinicians and researchers who move on to serve as esteemed veterinary practitioners or to find creative solutions to the challenging problems facing the profession.

The challenges that I see for the College are: 1. How to continue to provide an affordable education in the face of reduced funding and to attract talented candidates that reflect the diversity we see in our country.
2. How to mentally prepare our graduates to face the challenges they will encounter for which the classroom did not prepare them – cyber bullying, depression, isolation, and how to overcome thoughts of suicide. 3. Teaching our graduates how to add value to the veterinary visit while competing with Dr. Google. 4. With all of our veterinary advances, are we pricing ourselves out of pet ownership? We can’t let the beauty of the human-animal bond be limited to the wealthy.

This issue’s loose “theme” is Legacy of Leadership. What do you think is most important to being a good leader?

Most important is recognizing that we are influencing others whether we are an appointed leader or not. We have the opportunity to positively influence others through the hundreds of choices we make on a daily basis whether it is in our families, our community organizations or in our businesses. Someone is always watching and we have the opportunity through our choices to influence how others approach similar decisions. Leadership, as an elected or appointed official, provides the opportunity to inspire a group of like-minded people who share a common goal, to a future that could not be achieved alone. The best leaders are great listeners, capable of connecting and engaging with people and making them feel valued. They are able to assimilate information and make decisions and are excellent at communication.

How do you think the College can help build tomorrow’s leaders?

Tomorrow’s leaders are developed today in both the classroom and the clinic by first modeling leadership traits/behaviors such as active listening, respect for differing opinions, by demonstrating integrity and being willing to learn from each interaction. Recognizing and developing talent through “stretch” assignments can inspire students to reach a potential that they never knew existed. Programs like AQUAVET or MARVET provide great in-depth experience and could be expanded to include new programs like “Zoovet”, “MIssionvet”, or “Avivet”. By the time they graduate, our new DVMs would ideally have considerable experience with driving results that will easily position them as tomorrow’s leaders.

How do you envision the College five years down the road? 10 years?

We live in a rapidly changing world. Who knew 10 years ago that we would have cancer vaccines, DNA testing, and stem cell therapy, all commercially available? I cannot even imagine the advances that we will see in veterinary medicine in the next decade! I have no doubt that our College will be on the forefront of those cutting-edge technologies. But in the next five years, I am hopeful that our College will also take a leadership role in creating a complementary curriculum that teaches the next generation of veterinarians how to balance the demands of a 24/7 world with the need for soft skills, self-care, healthy boundaries, and a fulfilling personal and professional life. To be successful, they will need not only the technical savvy our curriculum provides but also a healthy dose of empathy, patience, compassion for both themselves and others, as well as a tremendous sense of humor.

Alumni Notes

Dr. Arve Lee Willingham (DVM ’96), currently the associate dean at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts, has been appointed as president to the Central American and Caribbean Association for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (ACACPMT). Dr. Willingham is the first veterinarian and first representative from an English-speaking nation to lead that organization.

Dr. Tom Rainey (DVM ’58), alumnus and former faculty member at the CVM, passed away in June at the age of 83. He taught veterinary medicine at UGA until 1965 when he moved to Miami and established Dixie Animal Hospital. He practiced there for 52 years, while also devoting much of his time to charitable causes. He was appointed to the Florida Game and Fish Commission in 1980 and 1985 by then-governor Bob Graham and served for 10 years. He was also active on the board of the Florida Veterinary Medical Association and he was a founding member of the Florida Wildlife Foundation. In 1985 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the FVMA, and in 2003 he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Georgia. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Loli, along with their three children.
UPCOMING EVENTS

April 13  Phi Zeta Ceremony
April 20  Honors & Awards Banquet
May 5  CVM Graduation (ticket required)
June 13-17  Emerald Coast Veterinarian Conference (ECVC)
June 17-23  VetCAMP
June 24-27  Southeast Veterinary Conference
July 13-17  AVMA Conference
July 13  Alumni Reception (during AVMA Conference)

CE dates and topics are subject to change. Questions about CE? Contact Melissa Kilpatrick at melissak@uga.edu or 706.542.1451, or online at www.vet.uga.edu/ce

JUNE 23  Dentistry for Technicians
JUNE 24  Dentistry for Veterinarians
JUNE 23-24  GI Endoscopy
JULY 28-29  Equine Ophthalmology
August 18-19  Forensic Pathology
August 25-26  Surgery - Practical techniques & surgeries for common conditions in cats
September 29-30  Advanced Laparoscopic & Thorascopic Surgery
October 11-12  Equine Encore
October 13-14  Internal Medicine
November 3  Southeast Veterinary Neurology
November 4  Vet Tech Annual Conference
November 14  LEAP (2 hours) - TBA
Nov. 30 - Dec. 2  Avian, Reptile & Mammal Endoscopy
December 8-9  Outpatient Medicine

This publication is paid for by private donations. It is available online at vet.uga.edu. For future mailings, if you would prefer to receive our Aesculapian electronically, please email us at vetnews@uga.edu and tell us what email address you would like us to notify when the publication goes online. Thank you for your support of the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine.