Another semester has come and gone, and with it, we’ve sent out a newly minted group of bright and eager veterinarians and researchers into the workforce. While they’re spreading their wings and setting off on their life’s adventures, we’re back here in Athens growing and improving! Sawdust is flying all over our Classic Campus, as we seek to improve the learning environment for our students and prepare for our accreditation site visit, now scheduled for February 9 – 13, 2020.

Our biggest challenge has been our anatomy laboratory, but I am delighted to report that construction of a new lab was approved by the Board of Regents at their May meeting. To get to this point required the effort and expertise of many in our college and on our campus, who believe in our college and its mission and recognized that our old lab, in a 40-year old Butler Building, was no longer up to the task of educating the world’s best veterinarians. We are now moving into the design phase of the project with its ultimate completion scheduled for Spring, 2021. The new lab will be located in the large animal barn of the former teaching hospital. It will be approximately 17,000 square feet with greatly expanded cooler space and a rail system. It will have state-of-the-art ventilation, double the space per student (meeting industry norms), accommodate an increase in our class size and provide us with the flexibility to teach other courses there, such as pathology, and to use emerging instructional technologies, such as augmented reality. This will be a huge improvement for our college and a boon for our students!

Relocation of the anatomy lab also opens up space for our new clinical skills lab. We are currently one of only three vet schools without one or one in progress….that definitely needs to change!! Once the old anatomy lab is vacated, we will re-task it into a state-of-the-art lab, where our students can hone such clinical skills, as animal restraint, client communication, venipuncture, endoscopy and surgery from Day One of their education. As a result, I am confident that our students will enter the workplace as more confident veterinarians.

Additionally, we are renovating our Classic Campus Classrooms. First up was our VetLab where microbiology, parasitology and histology are taught. Here, we improved the acoustics, lighting, flooring and regulatory compliance of the lab. Underway now is the upgrade of our large lecture hall, H237 (or for those of us of a certain vintage, the Catsup Room). This room will be designed to accommodate modern teaching approaches with improved seating, lighting, acoustics, AV and electrical connections. Similarly, H203 (the Mustard Room) and 363 (the Purple Room) will be renovated to improve their utility. Our lobbies and the Reading Room will also be improved to expand the availability of high quality student study space.

We also have finished our strategic plan. I am proud of the work that our strategic planning committee did. It was no small effort and will prove an able guide for us over the next ten years. It is available to anyone who wishes to read it – by request and for download on our website. By the way – you should check out our website if you haven’t lately. We’ve launched a new one, and I think it’s pretty great! Throughout you will see that it highlights the fact that it is passion for our wonderful profession, patients, clients, students and other stakeholders that powers UGA CVM’s commitments to teaching, research and clinical and diagnostic service…

As always, we’ll keep everyone up to date on our progress. In the meantime, rest assured, we are working hard to make you as proud of us, as we are of you, our alumni and friends. Hope to see you at our Dean’s Tailgate, scheduled for October 12 against South Carolina….Go Dawgs…and cats, rabbits, cattle….!

Dean Lisa K. Nolan
The Tifton veterinary diagnostic laboratory has been routinely hosting undergraduate students from Fort Valley State University, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, as well as from local Tift county high school and area 4-H students for workshops on veterinary career options as part of UGA’s New Approaches to Diversity and Inclusion grant program. Faculty and staff at the Tifton lab present on the wide range of career paths within veterinary medicine – from jobs in veterinary diagnostics to research to working as a practicing veterinarian. Participating students get to experience the rigorous daily operations of a full species animal disease diagnostic laboratory where high quality diagnostic and surveillance testing services are offered on clinical samples from food animal, companion animal and wildlife/exotic species.

“We are thrilled at the opportunity to come to Tifton for the day,” said Rose-Ann Gillespie, lead veterinary technician for the Fort Valley State University Veterinary Technology program. “Dr. Naikare and his staff did a fantastic job of showing the students the breadth of career options in veterinary medicine. It is so important for them to see all the things they could do – in the real-world setting.”

This is the second year Dr. Hemant Naikare, the director of the Tifton diagnostic lab, and his staff have hosted the popular workshop, with additional dates in the planning stages. Said Gillespie, “This trip filled up in two hours – with a waiting list. Our students are hungry to learn about career options they didn’t even know existed. They’re already looking forward to the next workshop!”

Gillian Herbert (class of 2021) has been awarded the AVMA/AVMF Second Summer Research Scholarship to continue her research in Dr. Tina Meichner’s lab this summer. Only five of these scholarships are awarded each year, we’re proud to have a UGA student included in a such a prestigious group. Congratulations, Gillian!
Pathology faculty member awarded UGA’s Fulfilling the Dream award

Paige Carmichael, professor of veterinary pathology, was one of three awarded the President's Fulfilling the Dream award at UGA’s 2019 Freedom Breakfast. The award is given to people in the university and Athens community who are actively striving to make Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dreams of racial justice and equality a reality.

SAVMA Symposium 2019 was a huge success! This prestigious annual event, put together by our students, was hosted in March in and around Athens. A few highlights:

- We had over 1300 attendees from all over the country
- We had over 60 wet lab opportunities for attendees from Saturday through Monday, some of the wet labs included exotic darting and immobilization, honey bee handling, behavior tricks and tips, small animal dentistry extractions and radiographs, and poultry clinical techniques and necropsy
- Our exhibit hall had over 60 booths from vendors across the veterinary profession
- There were wellness spaces available with rotating activities, including massage therapy
- We hosted a very successful 5K on Saturday
- Opening and closing ceremonies featured a wonderful speaker, Dr. Ernie Ward, and a Southern Brewing Company special peach ale — called “Life's a Peach” — that was made just for our event. Sunday's carnival-themed “Dawgs After Dark” event gave attendees the chance to ride a mechanical bulldog, play video games and get their Athens-inspired caricatures done!
We wish Dr. Dickerson the best! It’s certainly evident that his will be huge shoes to fill, so while the search for his permanent replacement is conducted, we will welcome an interim associate dean to Athens. Dr. Sharron Quisenberry, former vice president of research and economic development and professor emeritus of entomology at Iowa State University, has joined us as interim associate Dean of Research and Graduate Affairs.

Dr. Quisenberry has over 20 years of higher education leadership experience. Prior to her retirement in 2013, she served as the vice president of research and economic development at Iowa State University for four years, where she led a research enterprise of over $300M annually. She has served as dean twice over the course of her career -- from 2003-2009 as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and from 1999-2003 as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station at Montana State University.
College launches new professional master's program

**The CVM is now offering** a one-year, non-thesis professional master’s program designed for students who are interested in pursuing careers in biomedical professions and wish to strengthen their knowledge in biomedical physiology before entering a professional degree program.

Part of the Comparative Biomedical Science graduate program, this is a structured, cohort-based, non-thesis degree that results in a Master of Science in comparative biomedical science with an emphasis in integrative biomedical physiology.

“We are excited to welcome our first students to this new program,” said Gaylen Edwards, professor and department head of physiology and pharmacology. “Our hope is that this program will benefit students seeking employment in biomedical-related fields or planning to attend professional school. After completing the program, they will be better-prepared and more competitive applicants to any professional program. The program will also provide a solid foundation in biomedical science for students planning to work in industry, advocacy or similar fields.”

The program’s goal is to provide foundational knowledge and professional skills that will prepare students for careers in a broad range of biomedical professions such as veterinary medicine, human medicine, biomedical engineering, and biomedical or diagnostic technology. The first cohort will begin this fall.

Student worker honored

**Elaine Cassandra**, a student worker in our rehab service was honored as UGA’s Student Employee of the Year this spring. Elaine has worked in rehab for the past three and a half years and does an amazing job supporting the service and its patients. We couldn’t be prouder of her as she now enters the national competition for student workers -- and we’re thrilled to have her as a member of the incoming class of 2023 where she’ll take her talents to vet school! Congratulations, Elaine!

Celebrating the Class of 2019!

**The CVM added 114 new alumni** in early May during the annual commencement ceremony at the UGA Performing Arts Center. This class was the first to complete their four years with our new teaching hospital open. Trey Callahan, class president and Jane Quandt, professor of anesthesiology addressed the class followed by the traditional hooding and conferring of degrees.
Do you ever wonder what would happen if a dangerous disease threatened our community? Who responds? What are the steps taken to contain it and protect the public’s health? Thirty-three students at the University of Georgia found out this spring when they participated in Spillover: A One Health Infectious Disease Outbreak Simulation.

Designed and organized by Katherine Franc, a dual degree DVM-MPH student in the College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Public Health, and Anna Chocallo, an MPH student concentrating in disaster management in the College of Public Health, the day-long event brought together facilitators from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as faculty from the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Public Health, to stage a simulated infectious disease outbreak in the Athens community.

The idea for this event came about when planning Franc’s assistantship project. She and her advisor, Dr. Danny Mead, a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, wanted to do something that would leave a lasting impact on the rising generation of health scientists and the future of public health.

“We were hoping to provide a hands-on opportunity in outbreak investigation that would inspire the next generation of public health experts and challenge them to work together with their peers as they apply the knowledge they’ve learned in the classroom in as close to a real-life setting as possible,” said Franc.

This was put into action as students from the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Public Health and Pharmacy, and the Odum School of Ecology learned from first-hand accounts by CDC professionals about the steps in solving a disease outbreak, proper donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE), handling unknown pathogens, analyzing epidemiological data, and effective public health risk communication.

Students were then divided into teams and challenged to work through a hypothetical outbreak that was caused by a novel pathogen. This pathogen had contaminated waterways used for a triathlon event in which heavy rains in the area had caused runoff from a local swine farm. The students had to act as real-life “disease detectives,” and work through simulated exercises to quickly identify the source of the outbreak and plan steps for containment and remediation to prevent more people from becoming infected.

“The tricky part about disease outbreaks is that you never know where the next pathogen is coming from. Viruses and bacteria can readily mutate, or spillover, acquiring an ability to infect new species and act in ways that we have never seen them behave before,” said Franc. “This is why we need the future of health scientists to be able to think and act quickly on their feet and be at the ready with knowledge from their own experiences and that of their colleagues to help guide the decisions that they make.”

By breaking down the barriers of traditionally isolated health and science professions early on in students’ careers through team centered exercises, the simulation promoted a more timely and effective response in solving infectious disease challenges of the future.

“I have never worked in a health care facility or outbreak setting where I had to interact with those only from my profession,” said Mary Pomeroy, a CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer who helped to facilitate the event. “Providing optimal patient or community level care means relying upon collaborative efforts of professionals with diverse backgrounds and determining how each
unique person can help accomplish a shared mission. The UGA outbreak scenario certainly modeled this approach, affording each participant a better understanding of how epidemiologists and other professionals operate in the real world.

The students involved with designing the simulation sought to foster a legacy of mutual respect and appreciation across professions to improve health outcomes for humans, animals, and the environment as a whole. This mission is the cornerstone of the One Health mantra, which is the idea that the health of humans, animals, and the environment are all inter-connected. The goal of the outbreak simulation was not only to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration among health disciplines, but also to inspire the next generation of health professionals to pursue careers in public health preparedness and One Health.

“This exercise was a great way for students to see the concept of One Health at work,” said Mary Hondalus, associate professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and coordinator of the DVM-MPH dual degree program. “By working collaboratively to solve a disease outbreak scenario, they see how complex and demanding situations like this can be. The hands-on experience they got by participating is invaluable.”

Participant and senior UGA veterinary student Jennifer Bloodgood, recalled, “I have always been taught that interdisciplinary collaboration is a great way to solve problems, as multiple perspectives from different backgrounds can shed new light on problems and solutions. The experience of working with students in the many disciplines really brought home the "One Health" message for me, and demonstrated how many minds together are always better than one.”

Marie Bosch, a DVM-MPH student who participated in the exercise said she would come to future events. “I think I learned the most about the proper etiquette when engaging with the public, whether it’s one on one interviews or making a formal statement,” she said. “It was good to learn how to do that and see how the whole thing comes together.”

Chocallo hopes to carry out similar events at UGA in the future which will involve collaboration among multiple health disciplines. “The need for cooperation and mutual respect in professional practice will only become more important in today’s ever-changing world, and exercises similar to the one recently completed might provide the skills necessary to solve the next big disaster in the world,” Chocallo said.

Funding for the event was generously provided by the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Georgia’s Learning through Interprofessional Development Experience (GLIDE) Program at UGA, and donations from the College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Public Health. Thanks to the success of this event, plans for the next Spillover are already in the works.

PHOTOS: REBECCA AYER

PHOTOS: REBECCA AYER
When Dr. Corrie Brown, a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor of pathology, gives workshops on behalf of the Department of State about food safety, it’s always about much more than that. In fact, the lessons are as much about empowerment, self-efficacy and confidence as they are about emerging diseases.

During a trip to Jordan in the winter of 2019, one moment in particular sticks out the most to Dr. Brown. While teaching a group of nomadic Bedouin women about leadership and food safety, she asked them to create two lists — one that makes a great leader and one that makes a poor leader. Then she asked them to check off the qualities they exhibited themselves and then discuss amongst their groups. At each table, she pointed out to them, many women had all of the characteristics of a good leader. In fact, she said, leaders don’t have to be at the top of a big organization. Instead, these women could be leaders among their friends, family and community.

Across the room, confidence soared as the women realized they could take a stand among their social groups. A moment later, however, one woman raised her hand and said she didn’t feel that she could be a good leader because she didn’t have confidence, her husband left her, she was sick, she was struggling, and she didn’t know what to do day-to-day.

“I have confidence in you,” Brown said. She looked at each table and asked, “Do you have confidence in her?” As women around
the room began nodding and rushing to hug her, the woman began crying. She had community support.

That moment was one among many that Brown recalls fondly from the trip to Jordan. She first traveled to the country in 2013 as part of a five-month Core Fulbright Scholar Award program, where she worked with colleagues to develop pathology-based diagnostic tests for transboundary animal diseases. Since then, she has traveled frequently to Jordan to help with various workshops organized by Jordanians. This most recent effort was part of the Department of State’s Middle East Partnership Initiative, which focuses on helping underserved populations, such as women, who may be outside of the traditional social system.

For this trip, Brown knew it would be smart to teach Bedouin women about food safety because Jordan has a high burden of brucellosis, a highly contagious zoonotic disease that is typically ingested through unpasteurized milk or cheese made from that milk. Often chronic, brucellosis is difficult to diagnose and hard to treat once acquired. Also known as Malta fever or Mediterranean fever, treatment typically involves a round of two or three antibiotics for six weeks, which can be burdensome for Bedouins who are always moving.

“A core mission of our profession as veterinarians, which is often poorly recognized, is to be responsible for the safety of food around the world,” Brown said.

As part of the education program in Jordan, Brown and her Jordanian colleagues taught the women about animal diseases and how they can move quickly through humans, as well as how to recognize illnesses and contact local veterinarians if needed. The women were provided with thermometers to measure pasteurization, and many women found they had not been sufficiently pasteurizing the milk, potentially passing brucellosis to their families and their customers.

“Every woman in the course had been affected by the disease, either through becoming infected herself or having a family member infected,” Brown said. “The women were very keen to learn about proper pasteurization techniques, to help prevent the spread of brucellosis.”
When Moges Woldemeskel Woldemariam, professor of veterinary pathology and section head of histopathology and necropsy at the Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Lab, taught in Ethiopia early in his career, he was the only trained pathologist at the only veterinary school in the country. Now, there are more than a dozen schools in Ethiopia, and many of his students from three decades ago teach today’s students.

That fact is hard to fathom, but it becomes even more inspiring when Woldemeskel talks about his first trip back to Ethiopia in 18 years. While there, he and colleagues conducted a pathology training workshop at a university in northern Ethiopia. They also visited two other universities to speak and teach veterinary students in March 2019, which was the first time Woldemeskel was able to secure grant funding to travel to his home country.

“I don’t have the words to express how I feel,” he said. “It was a dream and rewarding to see the response from the trainees there. It was unforgettable.”

As part of the week-long training, Woldemeskel and colleagues showed students how to look into the pathogenesis and mechanisms of a disease. They made the talks interactive by walking through examples in the necrosis lab, where they clinically diagnosed diseases together.

Woldemeskel also told them about his career, including how he earned a DVM degree in 1987 as one of the early graduates of the only veterinary college in Ethiopia at the time. He taught as an assistant lecturer and lecturer for five years and then completed graduate training and a PhD at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hanover, Germany. He returned to Ethiopia and taught pathology, clinical pathology, pathophysiology and parasitology for several years and then was at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar before joining the UGA Tifton campus in 2005.

The students in Ethiopia were inspired by his career path and experience. In fact, Woldemeskel once worked in a clinic at the

Pathologist trains future generations in Ethiopia
‘Everything is possible,’ he tells veterinary trainees

By Carolyn Crist
veterinary college in northern Ethiopia where the one-week workshop took place. At the time, a histopathology lab wasn’t available, and he didn’t have access to tissue processors. Instead, he collected tissues from the abattoir and used the medical school histopathology laboratory to process and read tissue slides.

“I told them the only secret to being successful is doing the job,” he said. “Decide what to do and do it well. There is no shortcut.”

During the trip, Woldemeskel visited another university in the southern part of Ethiopia, which was near his hometown. He shared with the students that he grew up in the area but had to travel away from home for his junior secondary, high school and college educations because they weren’t available in the area at the time.

“They’re lucky now to have a university in front of their house, and they were very happy and inspired,” he said. “Everything is possible, I tell them.”

Woldemeskel's trip was the second in a four-part training program that will help Ethiopian veterinarians work independently in the veterinary pathology field. He plans to develop collaborations with the animal science and veterinary programs to expand multi-country and multi-disciplinary research and training opportunities.

“UGA is a big university with a lot of highly experienced professionals, and it’s highly rewarding to go help people who need someone to train them,” he said. “I’m proud that I’m part of a university that has extended its arms to help internationally in areas of need.”
Imagine taking your daily evening run to the Coliseum in Rome, hearing colleagues down the hall speak in five different languages and running social media accounts for World Rabies Day.

That’s how Julie Thompson (DVM/MPH ‘19) spent her three-month internship with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during the summer of 2018. It’s tough to imagine a better way to satisfy the internship component of her Master’s in Public Health degree.

“It was the ideal experience for a student interested in global health,” she said. “One of my favorite aspects was being surrounded by people from all over the world in one place.”

During her time with FAO, Thompson became an integrated member of the Veterinary Public Health and Feed and Food Safety team, where she helped with many of the ongoing projects related to zoonotic infectious diseases. Her main work fell under the United Against Rabies collaboration, which links the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and FAO. The collaboration’s goal is to eliminate human deaths due to dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

For instance, Thompson helped to coordinate plans for World Rabies Day on Sept. 28, 2018, which included creating social media content to promote awareness. She launched a “Did You Know?” campaign that explained facts about rabies worldwide. She also learned about
integrated bite case management and how that plays a role in rabies transmission, as well as how some communities prioritize treatment post-exposure for those who have the highest risk of contracting the disease. As part of this, some communities have created templates for which authorities to contact first and what to do next, but not all heavily-affected areas have these guidelines. Thompson took on the task of creating an overall template for countries or regions that don’t yet have a resource to follow.

“Not every situation is the same, and one template doesn’t fit all scenarios, but it’s important for people to know what to do first — such as contact a veterinarian — and what will happen next,” she said.

Thompson heard about the FAO internship during a WHO internship in Switzerland, where she met a veterinarian who worked at FAO on influenza projects. Before Switzerland, Thompson studied emerging pandemic threats in Vietnam and food-borne pathogens in the wild bird population in Malaysia. Collaborating with others to help several populations across the globe has expanded her mind beyond the diseases in the United States.

“It was fascinating to be exposed to the main goals and objectives for other countries around human health, agriculture and production,” she said. “Even if it’s not in the U.S., it’s still important to know why we vaccinate animals and how humans can protect them.”

Now that she’s completed both degree programs, Thompson is ready to take her global health experience and apply it to her next step. She’s now attending Tulane University’s School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine for a combined PhD and postdoctoral position doing research on Chagas disease. Most commonly seen in South America, the disease has become more prevalent in Louisiana as the climate has changed.

“My internships around the world gave me perspective, and I’ve passed on the information to DVM students in classes behind me,” she said. “It’s amazing to see UGA graduates doing awesome things across the world.”

As part of the internship, Thompson was able to meet and work with Dr. Juan Lubroth (DVM ’85), who is the chief veterinary officer for FAO. He works daily with OIE, WHO, regional groups and the 193 countries that are part of the United Nations. As soon as they met in Italy and she expressed interest in the rabies collaboration, he joked with her and immediately began asking virology questions. They crossed paths several times during her internship.

“The veterinary profession is such a big brother and sisterhood that you can go into any community, and even if you don’t know the language, you can build a bond around caring for healthy animals and the people who rely on them for their livelihoods,” Lubroth said.

FAO, which houses the largest animal health program in the world, is present in 130 countries and deals with food systems, trade, animal health and animal care. Nearly 250 veterinarians work for FAO projects and programs, plus another 200 microbiologists, wildlife experts, communication and behavioral scientists who oversee animal health and its safe production. In fact, Lubroth helped to write the Manhattan Principles of One Health in 2004.

“Ensuring healthy, wholesome and safe food is one of the most important things we do as humans, and we tend to forget that,” he said.

Lubroth visited the CVM in October 2018, which was his first time back on campus in more than three decades. He was able to see the new CVM buildings, meet Thompson again and speak with students, researchers and other staff.

“It was heartwarming because I met my wife in Athens, and our son was born there,” he said. “It’s nice to see where the CVM is and what it’s become.”

One of his colleagues, Dr. Lee Myers (DVM ’84), also gained experience in Rome as the liaison between FAO and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Previously the state veterinarian of Georgia, Myers was a risk analyst with FAO’s Crisis Management Center. She interacted with Thompson during her internship as well.

“It’s important for students to know about the global opportunities to get more experience in animal health work,” Myers said.

For instance, with a presence in so many countries, FAO experts work in fisheries, forestry, and animal genetics, as well as other aspects of that affect food insecurities, such as floods, famine, human conflicts and climate change. Since 70 percent of the world’s poorest people rely on their livestock for their livelihood, FAO steps in to help with disease surveillance, preparedness and outbreak control.

“With an increase of connectivity in the world, both with transportation and information flow now more than ever, something happening in the developing world can impact the developed world,” she said. “Anything we can do to attack diseases at their source will offer protection for the U.S. as well.”

Previously an adjunct professor in the CVM’s Department of Infectious Diseases before she started the FAO contract, Myers is returning to campus this fall with new ideas about global and local partnerships that could expand emergency management experience for students. For instance, she’d like to incorporate more One Health initiatives into the CVM curriculum, as well as build a connection with FAO for internships and jobs.

“I want to see it as the norm for current professionals and future generations to train internationally,” she said. “It’s not about spending a few weeks in another country but building the mindset of contributing to the global good, knowing the current situation around the world, and being involved in your local community.”
When Pedro Melendez moved to the United States two decades ago for his veterinary residency and doctoral degree, he knew he’d maintain close ties to his home country, Chile. Now a bovine clinician at UGA’s Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Lab in Tifton and associate professor in the Department of Population Health, Melendez brings his dairy cattle expertise to more than a dozen partnerships he’s forged in Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay.

The research and service aspects often work both ways — with Melendez bringing students and trainees here to learn about U.S. policies around dairy cattle and also traveling elsewhere to learn the latest trends around infectious diseases such as brucellosis, tuberculosis and hand-foot-and-mouth disease that can affect bovine populations.

“The concept of One Health is important to trade and biosecurity, both here and in other countries,” he said. One Health recognizes that the health of people is connected to the health of animals and the environment.

His global health mentality applies at home as well. Melendez consults with Georgia dairy and beef farmers throughout the state, often providing help with dairy production medicine, transition cow management and periparturient diseases that can affect dairy cows’ fertility, milk fever and retained placenta around the time of calving. He also offers advice about dairy cattle nutrition and the association with milk yield.

“My main philosophy is the teamwork approach,” he said. “When people are flexible, humble and open to opportunities, collaborations can take you far in knowing more about diseases and how to prepare.”

For instance, Melendez developed cooperative agreements between UGA and the National University of La Pampa in Argentina and the University of Santo Tomas in Chile for ongoing research projects and trainings to stay up-to-date on dairy cattle trends. The 15-year partnership has sparked several dairy production medicine certificates for students in Chile, for example.

In June, National University of La Pampa expert Dr. Florencia Farcey will travel from Argentina to present a two-month training program in Tifton around laboratory techniques. Up-to-speed on the latest disease diagnostic equipment, she’ll teach an intensive program around how to use new machines installed at the Tifton campus.

“With the technology we didn’t have 20 years ago, we can connect by video for international training, but there’s nothing like learning these techniques in person,” Melendez said.

To boost this collaboration among practicing veterinarians, Melendez often leads tour groups at farms in Georgia and around the country in cattle-prominent states such as Missouri and Oklahoma. In 2018 alone, he taught continuing education courses for Argentinian, Chilean and Uruguayan veterinarians, both here and in Chile and Argentina. This October, another group of Argentinian veterinarians and cattle producers will visit Tifton and Athens to learn about U.S. trends. Coming in 2020, a continuing education program will bring Spanish-speaking veterinarians from several countries to Georgia for lectures by UGA faculty at the Tifton campus.

Melendez also serves as a main investigator on four research projects in Chile and Argentina. He and other faculty members from Tifton visit diagnostic labs in these countries to serve as auditors for quality control.

“I’m convinced that working by yourself isn’t good, especially when we have cattle across all these countries experiencing different diseases,” he said. “We need that team approach.”

Melendez is open to student collaborations as well. This summer, veterinary student Carlos Roeschmann will travel from Chile to study omega 3 fatty acids in dairy calves alongside Melendez. They’re investigating the nutritional components that may be able to boost the immune system’s response against inflammation and vaccination.

Earlier this year, veterinary student Vivaporn Pattarajinda traveled from Thailand for a two-month externship under Melendez to learn dairy cattle practices to take back to her country. While here, she and Melendez performed a C-section on an Angus cow that gave birth in Tifton.

“Students who haven’t traveled elsewhere may think everywhere is the same,” he said. “It’s good to know other places and more cultures, which makes our profession better.”
Six University of Georgia faculty members — two of which are faculty in the CVM — have been named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), an honor bestowed by their peers for "scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications."

The two from the CVM are Karen J.L. Burg, professor and Harbor Lights Chair in Small Animal Studies and a bioengineer whose work focuses on absorbable polymers, biofabrication and tissue engineering. Seven of her inventions have been patented, one of which is the basis of a biomedical company that builds 3D tissue models with a patient’s own tumor cells. The 3D tissues are used to test treatment options and identify “personalized” cancer therapies. Burg is noted for contributions in biofabrication development, commercial translation of predictive diagnostics tissue test systems, and exemplary service to the scientific community.

Pejman Rohani, professor with a joint appointment in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Odum School of Ecology, who focuses on the transmission, evolution and population dynamics of infectious diseases. He combines the analysis of existing data and data mining with mathematical and computational models to create biological models describing the transmission of a disease or infection. Rohani, editor of a forthcoming book on pertussis, is noted for contributions to the field of infectious disease dynamics, epidemiological theory and modeling, and model-based enquiry.

John Drake, Distinguished Research Professor in the Odum School of Ecology and director of UGA’s Center for the Ecology of Infectious Diseases, Xiaorong Lin, Gene E. Michaels Professor in Medical Mycology at the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences and Burroughs Wellcome Fund Investigator in Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease, Eric Stass, professor of microbiology at the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, and Karen F. Stanger-Hall, associate professor of plant biology at the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, round out UGA’s six new fellow.
Holly Sellers, a professor at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center (PDRC), was named UGA's Inventor of the Year. Inventor of the Year has been awarded since 2000, recognizing an inventor for a unique and innovative discovery that has made an impact on the community. Faculty from the College of Veterinary Medicine have won this award three of the past four years.

Sellers’ research has led to 12 invention disclosures and five U.S. patents, with another application pending and a multitude of foreign patents and applications. Sellers’ technologies have been made available to industry partners through more than 20 license agreements, leading to four commercial poultry vaccines as well as numerous autogenous vaccines that together support and secure Georgia’s $28 billion poultry industry.

“Dr. Seller’s accomplishments have truly been remarkable. As head of virology diagnostics at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center, she works closely with the poultry industry to improve the health and wellbeing of poultry across the state and the country,” said Mark Jackwood, the J.R. Glisson professor of avian medicine and head of the department of population health and PDRC. “Her tireless efforts have led to rapid diagnostic tests and innovative vaccines saving the industry millions of dollars year after year. We are very proud of her outstanding achievements.”

She pursues clinical and molecular virology research with an emphasis on viruses that cause respiratory, enteric and musculoskeletal diseases in poultry, focusing on the identification, characterization and control of those viruses. In addition, she directs virology services at the PDRC and mentors graduate and professional students. Sellers received both her master's and Ph.D. in medical microbiology from the College of Veterinary Medicine and a bachelor's degree in biology from Stephen F. Austin University.
Eric Lafontaine, professor of infectious diseases, has been selected as the recipient of a 2019 Zoetis Award for Research Excellence. This award recognizes researchers whose innovative studies have advanced the scientific standing of veterinary medicine. The purpose of this award is to foster innovative research, on which the scientific advancement of the profession depends.

Richard Keith Harris, professor and former department head of pathology and John Fischer, former director of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, were both appointed emeritus faculty by UGA President Jere Morehead.

Kidney Cat

Almost ten years post kidney transplant and still doing great! Shilo Barrett was one of the first cats to have a transplant done at our hospital. Today, we are still one of only a few animal hospitals in the nation that offer this specialized procedure.

CVM faculty contribute to leading text

The third edition of Mader’s Reptile and Amphibian Medicine and Surgery, widely considered the definitive text on herpetological medicine and surgery, is out and features contributions from 22 current or past CVM faculty!

New text on behavioral medicine

CVM Drs. Sharon Crowell-Davis and Leticia Mattos de Souza Dantas, along with a faculty member at Creighton University, co-edited a new textbook called Veterinary Psychopharmacology.
More than 150 alumni gathered in Athens recently for the CVM’s 56th Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Weekend. The two-day event featured continuing education, a celebration of the 50th class reunion of the class of 1969, and the announcement of the 2019 Alumni Award winners.

The Friday luncheon celebrated the alumni award winners. This year, the Young Achiever Awards went to Dr. Erin Casey and Dr. Stic Harris. The Distinguished Alumni Awards were given to Dr. Michael Connor and jointly to Drs. Randy Basinger and Louise Burpee.

Dr. Erin Casey is a 2010 graduate of the CVM who currently works as a Professional Services Veterinarian for Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health in Virginia. Prior to that, she served as a program officer and AAAS Fellow for the US Department of State from 2013-2015, overseeing biothreat reduction programming in Sub-Saharan Africa.

She is actively involved in the AVMA and the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Casey was one of 10 recent graduates selected to participate in the inaugural class of the AVMA Future Leaders Program and she has chaired the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference Planning Committee. In addition, she served on the search committee for the AVMA CEO and currently sits on the AVMA House of Delegates, representing Virginia. Dr. Casey holds a BS in biology from Mary Washington College, an MS in biology from Eastern Illinois University and a DVM from the University of Georgia.

The second Young Achiever award went to Dr. Stic Harris. Harris joined the U.S. Food & Drug Administration in August 2017 as the Director of the Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) Network. In this role, he oversees the FDA’s full-time staff dedicated to preventing, detecting, and investigating outbreaks related to human food, cosmetics, and dietary supplements.

Formerly with the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch (AFHSB), the central epidemiologic resource for the U.S. military, he created the Alert and Response Operations Team in the Integrated Biosurveillance division, where the work is focused on monitoring infectious diseases around the globe. Dr. Harris’ team was responsible for identifying, verifying, and delivering the latest information and assessments of outbreaks affecting the Department of Defense.

Prior to his four years at AFHSB, Dr. Harris was a veterinary medical officer at the Department of Homeland Security. He was based in the Office of Health Affairs, where he was the liaison to One Health, the global initiative to unite human and veterinary medicine. He also worked on strategy for the National Biosurveillance Integration Center, which integrates information about biological threats to human, animal, plant and environmental health, and served as the acting Biodefense Advisor.

From 2009-2010, he was a AAAS/AVMA (American Association for the Advancement of Science/American Veterinary Medical Association) Congressional Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the office of Minnesota Senator Al Franken, working on health care, food safety, infectious disease, agriculture, and biodefense.
Additionally, Dr. Harris served as Senator Al Franken’s lead on the Food Safety Modernization Act during the congressional review and committee hearings.

The first Distinguished Award winner was Dr. Michael Conner, who, after graduating from the CVM in 1979, pursued training in veterinary and comparative pathology at Harvard Medical School, including a two-year research fellowship at Children’s Hospital in Boston. After a postdoctoral fellowship at MIT in comparative pathology and toxicology, he served on faculty at Boston University School of Medicine. Simultaneously, and for 20 years after, he served as an adjunct faculty member at the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Since formally leaving academia, Dr. Conner went to work in the pharmaceutical industry where he served in a variety of roles in the nonclinical safety evaluation of drug candidates. Over the last 31 years he has participated in drug development at SmithKline Beckman (now Glaxo-SmithKline), Merck, Theravance and Global Blood Therapeutics. Programs for which he provided leadership in toxicology and pathology have brought a number of useful drugs to patients, including tirofiban for unstable angina and telavancin for drug resistant bacterial infections. He is currently focused on supporting development of drugs for sickle cell disease.

Dr. Conner is active in both the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and the Society for Toxicologic Pathology. He has served on the editorial board for Veterinary Pathology and chaired various committees or subcommittees in both organizations. He has participated in, or led, educational symposia and short courses at the annual meetings of both of these organizations as well as the Society of Toxicology. He holds a BS in life sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in addition to his DVM from UGA.

And the final Distinguished Award winner was a joint award made to Drs. Randy Basinger and Louis Burpee. After completing veterinary school at the Ohio State University and a rotating internship in Boston, Dr. Basinger completed his surgery residency and coursework for a Masters in Physiology degree at the University of Georgia in 1987. Today he runs VetSurg, LLC, a specialty surgery practice for dogs and cats in Irmo, South Carolina which he founded in 2012. Prior to that he founded and ran what is now the VCA Animal Specialty Center of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. Over his illustrious 30-year career, Dr. Basinger has been honored by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons for the best research publication by a resident, and was named the 2006 South Carolina Veterinarian of the Year. He was named a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1987, and has been actively involved in the ACVS, AVMA, and the South Carolina Veterinary Medical Association. He has published numerous book chapters and scientific articles and has completed successful research projects in university and clinical settings.

Dr. Louis Burpee started her career as a veterinarian as an exemplary student at the UGA CVM. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with her DVM in 1987, was a member of Phi Zeta and won the AAHA senior student award. Following graduation, she worked on her own as an associate veterinarian in a thriving clinic in Irmo, SC. She became a partner in 1991 and retired in 2012 having helped grow the business into a five-doctor practice now in its third facility.

Today, Dr. Burpee still serves as a relief veterinarian at three different clinics in Pawleys Island, Irmo, and Chapin, South Carolina. Over the years she has been active in the Greater Columbia Association of Veterinarians serving as secretary and vice president, the SC Association of Veterinarians and the AVMA. She holds an associate’s degree from Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont.
New pathology department head arrives in Athens

Dr. Jesse Hostetter recently took over as the leader of UGA’s renowned veterinary pathology department. Hostetter comes to Athens after serving as professor and director of comparative pathology and graduate education at Iowa State University, roles he had served in since 2012. He was on faculty at Iowa State since 2001, when he started there as an assistant professor. He holds a DVM and PhD, both from Iowa State and is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (anatomic pathology). In his new role at UGA’s CVM he will lead the pathology department and serve as Executive Director of the Athens and Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories.

In addition to hiring Jesse Hostetter, the College has also hired his spouse, Dr. Shannon Jones Hostetter. An outstanding faculty member and clinical pathologist at Iowa State, she will be working with Dr. Scott Brown, associate dean for academic affairs, facilitating active learning and professional skills training. At Iowa State, Shannon was an associate professor of clinical pathology and director of their Veterinary Clinical Pathology Laboratory. An accomplished teacher, she was awarded Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2012 and 2016 and the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine’s Zoetis Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award in 2015. In 2017, she received the Iowa State University Award for Early Achievement in Teaching. She holds a DVM and PhD, both from Iowa State University, and a BS in biology from Washington and Lee University.

We sat down with Dr. Hostetter to get his thoughts on the move to Athens...

Why UGA?

The College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary Pathology, and the Athens/Tifton veterinary diagnostic labs have outstanding national and international reputations. I was truly excited when I learned that there was an opportunity to join this team. When I visited UGA during the interview process I was amazed with the faculty, students, and staff and their commitment to the university missions. The enthusiasm and energy in the CVM were very clear and I knew that this was the place I wanted to be. The hospitality that the CVM demonstrated when my wife and I visited was first rate. We felt welcome and comfortable the minute we arrived. We have three sons (11,13,16 yrs.) and ensuring that they would be in a location with excellent schools and a positive and inclusive environment was essential. We learned that the Athens area is a wonderful place to live with excellent schools and opportunities to be involved in sports, music, and a broad range of cultural activities.

What are you most excited about?

First, I am looking forward to working the faculty, staff, and students in the Pathology Department and diagnostic labs. As I mentioned, this is an exceptional group. I am eager to meet with the stakeholders for the Pathology and Diagnostic Lab services. Meeting with veterinarians and producers to learn about the diagnostic needs unique to Georgia will be essential. My family is eager to explore the cultural opportunities in the Athens area. We have just started to explore downtown Athens and have been impressed with all that is going on there. Our boys are amazed with all that Georgia has to offer. They already have family trips planned to the mountains for camping and to the beach in Savannah.

What is the first thing you would like to make an impact on out of the gate?

A goal that I have right out of the gate is to interact with the folks that I am going to be working with. In the VDLs and Pathology department I hope to meet with faculty, staff, and students to learn about their interests and goals. I would also like to visit with other departments and the Dean’s team to discuss ways that the Pathology department and the VDLs can contribute to the CVM missions and meet stakeholder needs. As I mentioned earlier, I want to reach outside of the CVM and visit with the veterinarians and producers that support us. The leadership of the Pathology department and VDLs has been excellent and I feel that being engaged with the CVM community will provide me with a solid base to continue the momentum they have generated.

What do you think are our biggest opportunities?

There are amazing opportunities here at UGA and the CVM. The increase in class size will be an exiting addition to our student body and this will be a source of new veterinarians for the state of Georgia. The Pathology department is committed to excellence in teaching and the pathology courses are an essential part of the DVM curriculum at UGA. A goal will be to continue to deliver the highest level of instruction to all students in the incoming classes. The CVM is already working toward this goal with refurbishment of classrooms and the new anatomy laboratory. The AVMA COE site
The long-awaited Butler Garden is now underway on the Veterinary Medical Center campus. This outdoor memorial/celebration garden will honor the human-animal bond through bricks, plaques and statues spread throughout a beautiful garden that features walking paths, benches, and a private euthanasia area. The Garden will be a serene, beautiful space to honor the meaningful relationships shared with companion animals and those who care for them. If you would like more information about the Butler Garden, please call the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 706.541.1807.

accreditation visit is rapidly approaching and is an opportunity to showcase the CVM. The Pathology department and VDLs will play an integral role in this process and demonstrate our commitment to creating outstanding environment for training the next generation of veterinarians. I am also excited about the research that going on in the department and CVM. The caliber of the faculty and graduate students is outstanding, and they are at the leading edge of research in animal, human, and environmental health. With the progress in the One Health Initiative, I feel that there are tremendous opportunities for maintaining this level of research. The diagnostic services offered through the VDLs and Department are exceptional. With the growing needs for diagnostic services and the persistent threat of exotic diseases at our doorstep, these labs play a vital role in protecting companion and production animal health.
DON’T MISS OUT ON THESE UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS!

DEAN’S TAILGATE
OCTOBER 12, 2019

MARCH 13-14, 2020

REUNION
Alumni Notes

▶ **Thomas B. Kuhn**, class of ’77 was a North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association district representative for three years beginning in 2009. He then was invited to be on the executive board, completing the executive committee chairs over the next several years. Tom was the 2013 NCVMA Veterinarian of the Year and was nominated president of the NCVMA in 2016-2017.

▶ **Jack Sexton**, DVM, ’78 and 2018 CVM Distinguished Alumni Award winner was named this year’s recipient of the Paul F. Landis Veterinarian of the Year Award by the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association. This award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to veterinary medicine and the creation of a strong local and state veterinary association. Dr. Sexton has been practicing veterinary medicine for over 40 years — serving as the director of McLean Animal Hospital since 1993, but beginning his career there in 1979 as an associate. Dr. Sexton’s interest in his profession is highlighted by his willingness and commitment to serve. He has served as past president of both the Northern Virginia Veterinary Medical Association and the Virginia Veterinary Medicine Association. Dr. Sexton has also given his time to his community by serving on the Fairfax County Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, serving as an advisor for the Fairfax County Humane Society as well as the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine’s Teaching Hospital Advisory Committee. He has also volunteered his expertise and life experience to VMVCM’s mentorship program.

▶ **Dr. Rand Carpenter** (DVM ’98) was recently named the Deputy Director of the Mectizan® Donation Program, part of The Task Force for Global Health, based in Atlanta. This includes working with partner countries and the Mectizan Expert Committee to review applications for Mectizan and monitor the supply chain, as well as coordinating with Merck and Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., the World Health Organization, GSK, and NGO partners. Prior to joining MDP, Dr. Carpenter and his spouse Selena McCoy Carpenter (MEd ’98, Health Promotion and Behavior) served five years as Kenya country directors for Mennonite Central Committee, a global faith-based relief and development organization, where they led a staff of 15 technical experts in supporting community partners and work in health, agriculture, education, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.


**IN MEMORIUM**


Immediately after graduating from the University of Georgia School of Veterinary Medicine in 1958, Matthew joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School as its first-ever intern in equine surgery and medicine, where he became an inspiring teacher, motivating students with his enthusiasm, depth of knowledge and surgical skills. He received an advanced degree in orthopedics and epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1962 published his thesis on the subject of equine osteoarthritis when this was an emerging field.

In 1968 Matthew founded the Delaware Equine Center with partners Dr. Daniel Marks and Dr. Lawrence Cushing which grew to a twelve man practice described in the AVMA Journal as a “horseman’s practice.” While in an active and busy practice, Mackay-Smith published regularly in veterinary and lay journals and lectured extensively about a range of horse-related subjects.

He and his partner, Dr. Daniel Marks, developed many medical, surgical, and diagnostic innovations among which were the now universally used surgical procedure for Laryngeal Hemiplegia (roaring); identification, treatment and prognosis for forelimb proximal suspensory desmitis (this preceded diagnostic ultrasonography, which confirmed their original ideas); pinch grafting; demonstration that “epistaxis” was actually bleeding from the lung; interspinous back injections for diagnosis and treatment of dorsal spinous
impingement; coined the term “prepurchase exam” that established the presently accepted philosophy and standard that has largely replaced the “soundness exam” with its “pass-fail” outcome. They advocated taking routine radiographs as part of the exam, which was controversial at the time; repair of hind leg condylar fractures in a standing horse and other diagnostic and surgical procedures now in general use. They also filmed the first moving pictures of various laryngeal problems through a rigid endoscope, which was the instrument available at that time. This was screened at the AAEP convention in 1968.

While phasing out of full-time practice, Dr. Mackay-Smith became the first medical editor of *Equus* magazine. He was responsible for the quality of its veterinary and hippologic content.

Matthew was an all-around horseman himself. He grew up fox-hunting, which he continued until the age of 80, and he was an avid participant in endurance riding. He is in both the American Endurance Riders Conference Hall of Fame and the International Farrier’s Journal Veterinary Hall of Fame and was honored as “Veterinarian of the Year” in 2008 by the University of Georgia at his 50th class reunion.

**Dr. Fred Malone Garrett, Sr.** - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Fred Malone Garrett, Sr., of Dothan, Alabama. Dr. Garrett died on December 27, 2018. He was born in Arlington, Georgia, on July 10, 1933, the son of the late Billington Malone Garrett and Alice Colley Garrett and the nephew of the late Benjamin Abner Garrett.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Mae Jo Kicklighter Garrett; sons Billington Malone (Jenny) of Montgomery and Benjamin Abner Garrett II (Terri) and Fred Malone Garrett, Jr. (Kathy) of Dothan. In addition, Fred holds dear his seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

A graduate of the University of Georgia and also its College of Veterinary Medicine, Fred was licensed to practice in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. Over 40 years ago, he joined Dothan’s oldest continuously operating animal hospital, operating today as Dothan Animal Hospital. In the mid-1960’s, Dr. Don Kennington joined him; in 1974, the hospital became the first practice in South Alabama to be limited to small animals; and, in 1987, Fred’s son Ben joined the practice.

Fred was often first in the region to introduce innovative, advanced practices of medicine. He also served as the chairman of the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and, in 2011, received the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association’s Distinguished Service Award. Fred returned to his community many blessings bestowed upon him in his abundant life. In addition to serving many years on various committees at First United Methodist Church of Dothan, he taught Sunday school there for over 40 years. He also served many years on the Houston County Port Authority; the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority; and the Alabama Wing of the U.S. Civil Air Patrol, as a captain. He was an instrument-rated pilot and a leader in establishing the annual air show in Dothan. Giving back to the rural community of Arlington where he was raised and drawing from the abundance of the family’s farm Nantze Springs, in 1989, Fred founded Nantze Springs, a state-of-the-art water bottling facility located there. It remains a family business, with Fred’s son Malone as president. Fred also served as the president of the Southeastern Bottled Water Association.
If you have some news to share, email it to vetnews@uga.edu
Coming soon:
A newly designed website!
Keep an eye out for it.