

Aesculapian

Vol. 10, No. 1



Dawg Docs

From the field of competition to the field of veterinary medicine, CVM alums benefit from their experiences as Georgia Bulldog athletes



Do you recognize these former UGA athletes? See page 8!



Aesculapian

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Dear Alumni and Friends of the College,

Much has transpired since our last issue of *Aesculapian*. Despite the challenges we are all facing in our personal and professional lives as a result of the downturn in the economy, there is still much to celebrate and be thankful for. The many achievements of those in our community who work so hard to bring recognition not only to themselves, but to the College and the University as well, are highlighted throughout this issue. From Dr. Jim Moore and his collaborators being awarded a \$1.3 million NIH grant to develop 3-D animated biological science lessons for high school students (page 3), to Dr. Ralph Tripp's study that shows RNA interference can facilitate vaccine development (page 5), to Dr. Cathy Brown being awarded for her collaborative paper on the melamine contamination of pet food, all of these achievements are a direct reflection of the efforts of everyone in our great community.

The College is sustaining a 6% cut to its main state allocation that supports instruction. The portion which supports our diagnostic labs, our research mission, our hospital, and our poultry and food animal units has sustained even deeper cuts, and both portions are likely to be cut further this year and in FY 2010. Hospital income also is decreased because of a diminished caseload, presumably caused by the economic downturn. In order to compensate for this loss of funding from multiple sources, faculty and staff positions vacated by retirements and resignations have been left open. The good news is that we have not had to lay off any of our valued employees. The University administration and the Board of Regents are aware of the impact of the loss of funding on our College, and are helping us minimize the negative impact on students, staff, and faculty.

In spite of budget cuts, the plans for the new teaching hospital continue. I and a group of faculty and students went to the state capitol in Atlanta in February to speak to legislators about this project and the new University library building that is in the FY 2010 proposed budget. Our goal was to educate our legislators about the need for our hospital facility so that they will be informed when it is presented for funding in the future. Dr. Doris Miller and I will be busy this year visiting with legislators about this critical project for the CVM.

Although the College is experiencing trying times, I continue to be inspired daily by those among us who continue to keep us moving forward in all of our missions. This is a very strong College, one that has persevered through difficult economic times in the past. I have every confidence that we will do so again, and that we will come through this stronger and more dedicated than ever.

Please take a few moments to read about the accomplishments of our dedicated faculty, staff and students in this issue. We also are proud to feature some of our CVM alums who were student athletes during their undergraduate days at the University of Georgia, including our own Governor Sonny Perdue! Their experiences as athletes helped shape their commitment to succeed and their dedication to their profession.

My personal thanks to all of you who care so much about the College. The support you provide is critical, and is much appreciated.

Dean Sheila W. Allen



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*This issue proudly supported
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Dr. Keith Harris named first holder of UGA's Barry G. Harmon professorship in veterinary pathology



The College has appointed Dr. Richard Keith Harris, a nationally recognized leader in pathology and research, as the first holder of the Barry G. Harmon professorship in veterinary pathology and the new head of the department of pathology. Harris comes from Wyeth Research in Chazy, NY, as the former vice president for bioresources and assistant vice president for pathology and bioresources.

The Barry G. Harmon professorship in veterinary pathology is an endowed professorship established by friends and family in memory of Dr. Harmon, the former head of the department, who passed away in January 2007.

"We are honored to have Dr. Harris join the College of Veterinary Medicine as department head and as the first holder of the Harmon professorship," said Dean Sheila W. Allen. "His talent and experience will contribute to the longstanding tradition of excellence in pathology teaching, research, and service at UGA, a legacy sustained in large measure through Dr. Harmon's leadership."

Dr. Harris brings 32 years of valuable veterinary experience to the University of Georgia, including head veterinary pathologist positions

in the United States Air Force and at several national pharmaceutical corporations. He served as chief of the anatomical pathology department in the veterinary sciences division at the School of Aerospace Medicine, and chief of the veterinary pathology division and chairman of the department of veterinary pathology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, DC, before retiring at the rank of colonel in 1997. For the last 11 years Dr. Harris held high-level pathology, toxicology, and bioresource positions at G.D. Searle & Co., Pharmacia Corporation, and Wyeth Research. Dr. Harris is a member of the board of governors of the ACVP/STP Coalition for Veterinary Pathology Fellows, and is immediate past president of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. He is the recipient of numerous military awards and earned the 2004 Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine.

In addition to his departmental administrative obligations, Dr. Harris works in cooperation with the two directors in overseeing the Georgia Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories in Athens and Tifton. These laboratories provide diagnostic consultation and assistance to practicing veterinarians and animal health regulatory officials in diagnosing diseases in livestock and companion animals.

A reception to honor Dr. Harris as the first holder of the Barry G. Harmon professorship in veterinary pathology was held at the College in November 2008.

Friends and family gathered on November 10, 2008, to celebrate the life of the late Dr. Barry Harmon, who passed away in 2007, and to welcome Dr. Keith Harris, the new pathology department head and first holder of the Barry G. Harmon professorship in veterinary pathology. (Left photo) Jan Harmon (center), wife of the late Dr. Barry Harmon, and other relatives view a slideshow honoring the life of Dr. Barry Harmon. (Right, L to R) Barry Harmon's parents, Billie and John Harmon, pose with Dr. Keith Harris and his wife Bonnie at the reception.



PHOTOS BY SUE MYERS SMITH

UGA researchers receive \$1.3 million NIH grant to develop 3D animated biological science lessons for high school students

After using three-dimensional models and animation successfully for years to help veterinary students understand complicated biological processes, University of Georgia researchers now want to take the user-friendly lessons to Georgia high school students.

J. Steve Oliver, associate department head of science and math education in UGA's College of Education, is principal investigator of the project, which received a 5-year \$ 1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Science Education Partnership Program. Oliver and several other UGA researchers, including Dr. James Moore of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and state partners will create and evaluate 3D animated biology lessons for high school students in hopes of enticing more of them to choose careers in science. The grant is funded by the National Center for Research Resources, a part of the NIH.

"We're deeply concerned about the general lack of interest in science among young people in our country," said Oliver. "We believe at least part of the reason is that many don't understand the relevance of science to their lives. The animated lessons will help them to see biology as 'real,' and not just a list of facts and terms."

Oliver's UGA co-PIs on the project include Jim Moore, Cindi Ward, and Scott Brown, professors in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Four other professors from vet med, Gaylen Edwards, David Hurley, Oliver Li and Tom Robertson, along with Randall Tackett, a professor in the College of Pharmacy, and Mike Hussey, an associate professor of dramatic media, will help create the 3D animations. Al Cohen and Sara Templin in the College of Education will coordinate the evaluation efforts when the new materials are used in schools. Other partners include faculty at Augusta State University, high school science teachers and the Biological Science Curriculum Study Organization, a group in Colorado Springs, Colorado that has been developing biology curricula for

middle and high school students across the nation for more than 50 years. The BSCS will guide aspects of the biology curriculum and oversee national distribution upon completion of the project.

Researchers will create and then evaluate the effectiveness of the lessons, which present five vital biological processes—filtration, passive and active transport, blood pressure and glucose homeostasis in the body. The 3D animations will compare the function and structure of a healthy kidney to one affected by diabetes. Students will examine each of the biological processes in the normal kidney, and then investigate how they are altered in the diseased kidney, subconsciously learning the material while enjoying the experience.

"The typical student doesn't appreciate the potentially damaging effects on their cells and organs of lifestyle choices they make every day," said Moore, who teaches UGA veterinary students. "For example, the incidence of diabetes is increasing in pet animals the same way it is in the human population—and perhaps for the same reasons: a lack of exercise and obesity. We believe that some high school students will be better able to explore the consequences of the disease in a pet animal than might be possible with a disease they believe only affects humans."

To introduce high school students to the clinical reality of diabetes in humans and pet animals, the researchers will host visits to UGA's Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy. During the visits, students will see animals with diabetes, learn how veterinarians and physicians evaluate kidney function in humans and animals, and see how clinical trials are performed to evaluate the effectiveness of new treatments.

"By coupling this unique learning method with on-site visits, we believe students will be far more receptive to choosing a science-based career path, be it as a scientist or a science teacher," said Oliver.

—Helen Fosgate

Dr. Jim Moore, professor of large animal medicine, helped secure a \$1.3 million NIH grant to aid high school students in understanding biological processes through a 3D animation program. Dr. Moore developed the Glass Horse project for veterinary students.



CVM ERC

Holladay named new head of anatomy and radiology

PHOTO BY ROBERT NEWCOMB



The College has hired a nationally recognized research professor to serve as the head of the anatomy and radiology department. Dr. Steven D. Holladay also will hold the University of Georgia Foundation professorship in veterinary medicine.

“Dr. Holladay has extensive experience in veterinary anatomy and toxicology, and has earned numerous awards in his discipline. He is revered by his colleagues and his students. We are honored to have Dr. Holladay join the College of Veterinary Medicine to contribute to our tradition of excellence in teaching, research, and service,” said Dean Sheila W. Allen.

Dr. Holladay comes from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine where he spent the last 16 years teaching veterinary anatomy and toxicology. He received his master’s and doctoral degrees in physiology and toxicology, respectively, from North Carolina State University, and conducted his post-doctoral research in immunotoxicology at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. He has earned numerous awards over the span of his career, including the 1996 Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence, the 1998 Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teaching Award at VMRCVM, and the VMRCVM Teaching Excellence Award in 1995. Dr. Holladay is editor-in-chief of *Advances in Pharmacological Sciences*, *BMC Pharmacology*, the *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health*, and the *International Journal of Toxicology*. He also serves on the Editorial Board of Scientific Reviewers and is the textbook editor of *Developmental Immunotoxicology*. Dr. Holladay has been awarded more than \$5.5 million in research support from the NIH and U.S. Army for his studies in immunotoxicology.

Dr. Chris King, assistant vice president for research and director of UGA’s Office of Animal Care and Use, was elected to the AALAS board of trustees.

PHOTO BY UGA PUBLIC AFFAIRS



King elected to AALAS board of trustees

The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science has elected Dr. Christopher King, director of the University of Georgia Office of Animal Care and Use and assistant vice president for research, to its board of trustees. The AALAS, a nonprofit association with over 13,000 members in the U.S. and over 35 countries, is dedicated to the humane care and use of laboratory animals. Its certification programs are internationally recognized and often required for laboratory researchers. King begins a three-year term in November.

“Dr. King is widely recognized for his ability to speak authoritatively on issues critical to the use of animal models in science,” said Dr. Christian Newcomer, AALAS president, citing King’s “professional background, experience and communication skills” as “a big boost” to the organization’s leadership.

King, also an associate professor in the department of population health in the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been instrumental in developing and improving UGA’s animal care infrastructure. Under King, the University Research Animal Resources program received full accreditation in 2008 by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care. In its review, the association representative noted that the university has “one of the best land grant-based animal care and use programs in the country.”

King earned his DVM from Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and has been a member of AALAS for 18 years, joining in 1990 while a doctoral fellow at Yale University School of Medicine. He has served in various capacities for the AALAS Southeastern chapter, including president and board member.

“The membership of AALAS is the keystone asset of the organization,” King explained of his long involvement. “They have an incredible spirit of volunteerism, passion and commitment about what they do.”—Laurie Anderson

Study first to show that RNA interference can facilitate vaccine development

Pharmaceutical companies and universities are racing to develop drugs that use the gene silencing mechanism known as RNA interference to treat a host of diseases. Now, a new study opens up an entirely new possibility for this powerful tool: Researchers at the University of Georgia have demonstrated for the first time that RNA interference can be used as a tool in the development of vaccines.

"Our data suggest that, at least in an animal model system, an RNAi prophylactic treatment can reduce infection and disease pathogenesis while also acting like a vaccine to engender immunity that protects against subsequent re-infection," said Ralph Tripp, Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Vaccine Development at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine.

Tripp, whose results appear in the December issue of the *Journal of Virology*, co-authored the study with doctoral student Wenliang Zhang. Previous studies by Tripp and other researchers have shown that treating mice with a small interfering RNA (siRNA) drug can reduce the replication of respiratory syncytial virus and reduce the duration of illness. RSV is a common virus that causes flu-like symptoms in otherwise healthy adults but can be fatal in infants, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems. Work from the Tripp lab has already contributed to the testing of an RNAi therapeutic for RSV infection known as ALN-RSV01, which is undergoing phase II clinical trials initiated by Cambridge, Mass.-based Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. In the latest study, Tripp explored how a related drug impacts the body's ability to respond to later infection.

The researchers treated mice with the siRNA drug, and, for control groups, treated mice with a non-specific siRNA or saline. In prophylactic treatments in which the mice were given the drug 12 hours before RSV infection, the siRNA drug reduced the viral load by up to 80 percent

compared to both controls. The drug also prevented detectable disease in the mice.

Tripp pointed out that RSV replication was reduced in a dose-dependent manner, meaning that the viral load decreased in proportion to the amount of drug administered. He said it's possible to halt viral replication entirely with higher doses of the drug, but that his goal was to expose the immune system to enough of the virus so that it could mount a strong response upon future exposure.

In the next phase of the study, the researchers took mice that three weeks earlier were exposed to RSV after being prophylactically treated with either the drug or the controls and challenged them with the virus for a second time. The researchers found that levels of specific cells associated with the memory immune response were substantially increased in the experimental group versus the control groups, while the mice treated with the siRNA drug have virus concentrations that were more than 80 percent less than the control groups and recovered an average of two days faster.

"This is the first study of its kind to show the utility of using any siRNA to improve the immune system's memory response to an infectious agent," Tripp said. "We were able to reduce virus replication enough to prevent the development of disease but still induce immunity later on."

Between 75,000 to 125,000 children under age one are hospitalized with complications of RSV annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Tripp notes that there is currently no effective vaccine for the virus. Unlike most viruses, the exact same strain of RSV can infect the same person repeatedly. Scientists just now are beginning to understand the many ways in which RSV evades the memory immune response, but Tripp's finding reveals that keeping RSV replication and protein expression at a low level prevents the virus from eluding the immune system.

—Sam Fahmy



CVM ERC

Dr. Ralph Tripp, Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Vaccine Development, has discovered that RNA interference can be used as a tool in the development of vaccines.



The Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory received official documentation for full accreditation through December 2012. This recognition is the result of the hard work and dedication on behalf of the faculty and staff in developing the self-study document, preparing for and conducting the site visit, and responding to the questions of the site review team.

New Georgia Aquarium chief veterinary officer gives lecture at CVM

The pathology department recently presented a seminar by Greg Bossart, VMD, PhD, the new Chief Veterinary Officer and Senior Vice President of Veterinary Services at the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta. Bossart's seminar, "Marine Mammals as Sentinel Species for Oceans and Human Health," was held on February 11. Bossart is an international expert in marine mammal medicine, particularly in immunology and pathology of marine mammals.

Bossart graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1973 with an undergraduate degree in biology and physical geography. He received his doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1978. From 1981-1985, he was a resident and NIH fellow in the Department of Pathology at the University of Miami School of Medicine. In 1995, he completed his PhD in manatee and dolphin immunology at Florida International University.

Bossart has spent the last 29 years working in clinical domestic, marine mammal, fish



(L to r) _____, Dr. Al Camus (CVM associate professor of pathology), Dr. Jeremiah Saliki (head of the Athens VDL), Dr. Greg Bossart, and Dr. Keith Harris (head of pathology at CVM).

and avian medicine and wildlife pathology on a national and international basis. He has written more than 100 publications focused primarily on the pathological basis of disease in wild animals.

He joined the Georgia Aquarium from Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc. where he served as the research professor, chief marine mammal veterinarian and head of pathology. He has been a clinical

veterinary consultant for Georgia Aquarium, Miami Seaquarium, Atlantis, as well as aquariums in Asia and Latin America. He also conducts manatee conservation outreach programs in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Belize and Guyana. Since 1981, he has been the Medical Director at the Falcon Batchelor Bird of Prey Center at the Miami Museum of Science.

PHOTO BY SUE MYERS SMITH



2008 Dean's Tailgate



PHOTOS BY SUE MYERS SMITH



SPECIAL

New medical college partnership between UGA and MCG

The dean for the UGA campus of the partnership with the Medical College of Georgia, Dr. Barbara Schuster, visited the College on January 7. She and some of our faculty are busy interviewing candidates to serve as the founding faculty of this important initiative for the state and the University. The accreditation team will visit again in April 2009.

The Athens campus plans to enroll its first students in fall 2010 as part of the School of Medicine's plan to increase its class size 60 percent to a total enrollment of 1,200 by 2020 and help meet Georgia's need for physicians. Recruiting is under way for 14 additional positions for the Athens campus, including chairs of basic and clinical sciences and an initial cohort of faculty.

Dr. Schuster is an internist and seasoned medical educator who chaired the Department of Internal Medicine at Wright State University's Boonshoft School of Medicine in Ohio for a dozen years.

"I am very excited and pleased that Dr. Bar-

bara Schuster has accepted our offer to become the first campus dean of the MCG/UGA Medical Partnership," said UGA Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Arnett C. Mace, Jr. "She possesses the expertise, experience and managerial and personal attributes to provide the leadership essential to address the education of physicians to meet Georgia's increasing shortage of doctors. I look forward to working with her, the Medical College of Georgia and the local medical community in advancing this partnership."

Dr. Schuster has served as professor and chair of at Wright State University since 1995, stepping down as chair in 2007 to pursue the AAMC sabbatical. Previously she served for 15 years on the faculty at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in New York, where she also completed medical school and an internal medicine residency. She completed a Public Health Service Primary Care Policy Fellowship in Bethesda, Md., in 1994.—Toni Baker; Cynthia Hoke



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Congrats!
Jim Smith, DVM
Class of 1998

Dawg Docs

From the field of competition to the field of veterinary medicine, CVM alums benefit from their experiences as Georgia Bulldog athletes

By Julie Denton Schmeidt

Over the years the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine has bestowed doctor of veterinary medicine degrees upon several students who were Georgia Bulldog athletes in their undergraduate careers. Their participation as student athletes in UGA collegiate sports helped them develop discipline in their studies and prepared them for careers as veterinary professionals. This is a tribute to a few of those students we are proud to call our own.



Foster Northrop





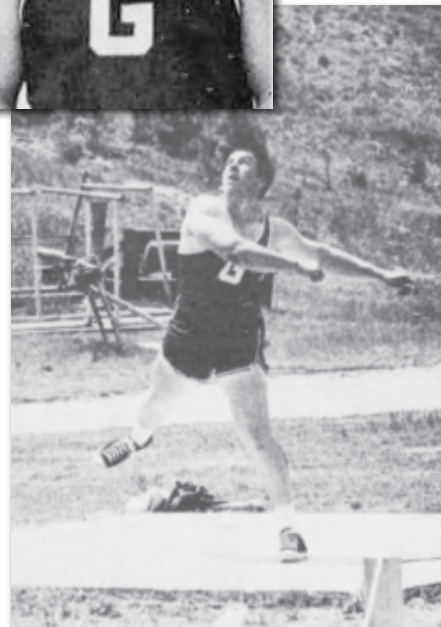
SPECIAL

Foster Northrop DVM '89

Dr. Northrop knew from a very early age he wanted to be a veterinarian like his uncle. He first came to UGA for his undergraduate degree and played tight end and center for the football team. "Those are the only positions they would let me play." His fondest memories from that time are "three SEC crowns and always beating Florida." Dr. Northrop's football days are behind him, but as a racetrack and performance horse veterinarian, he says, "I work with athletes subject to the same injuries as players. My experiences on the field correlate exactly with what I do everyday."



Dr. Glynn Griffin, DVM '78



COURTESY OF THE RED & BLACK

Dr. Glynn Griffin grew up in a small South Georgia town where he "listened to the Bulldogs on the radio." It was difficult growing up in "a football crazy state, in a football crazy nation at a school with no football." They did have track and field, and at age nine his brother gave him a shotput. He "parlayed it into a college education, and with academic success turned that into a veterinary education." Dr. Griffin was a two-time shotput champion winning both indoor and outdoor competitions in 1973. After years in large animal practice, he now works as a small animal relief vet in Waycross.



UGA ATHLETICS



CVM ERC

Stephanie Halmanski Leaden, DVM '06

Dr. Leaden was always sure of two things: veterinary medicine and softball. She was able to fulfill both of these dreams at UGA. As an undergraduate she played centerfield for UGA's first softball team. She is very proud her team was "the base" of what is now a very successful program. She remembers hitting a fifth-inning grand slam which won a lucky fan \$5,000. From softball she takes "memories and friendships for a lifetime," and brings to her profession "teamwork, dedication and discipline." Dr. Leaden is currently working at a small animal practice in Loganville, Ga.

Sonny Perdue, DVM '71



Governor Sonny Perdue has always been an avid sportsman. The Bonaire, Ga., native played quarterback in high school, then joined the University of Georgia football team for a year as a walk-on. After earning his DVM at UGA in 1971, he served in the U.S. Air Force and was honorably discharged in 1974 with the rank of captain. He went on to practice veterinary medicine briefly in Raleigh, NC. Perdue returned to his native Georgia and became a successful small business owner. He started two businesses from the ground up, concentrating in agribusiness and transportation. Today, those businesses have grown to include several locations across the Southeast. Sonny Perdue was sworn in as Georgia's 81st governor on January 13, 2003, after serving

11 years as a state senator. "My experiences at UGA and with Coach Vince Dooley have made a lasting impact on my life. Whether you are talking about football or life in general, we all have an important role to play that contributes to the success of others."



PANDORA



CVM ERC

Elizabeth Newsome Holmes, DVM '08

Dr. Holmes was a member of the UGA equestrian team during her undergraduate career, competing in hunter/jumper events—a very physically and mentally demanding sport. Her greatest achievements were helping her team earn two national titles and placing eighth individually in national competition. Holmes' favorite experience as a veterinary student was her large animal ambulatory rotation, a service that requires both mental and physical strength. Currently Dr. Holmes is completing a large animal field services internship under Dr. Michael Lowder at UGA, and she serves as the university equestrian team's emergency veterinarian. The competition mindset she learned as an athlete provides her with "a focus and absolute dedication to each case."

Alex Greenberg, DVM '03

Dr. Greenberg remembers being a student at the College of Veterinary Medicine as the first time in his life he "did not have practice twice a day." He credits his career as a swimmer for "making me who I am today." Dr. Greenberg has many fond memories as a member of the UGA swim team, but the best was "finishing the 800 relay in the NCAA championships, getting out and hugging my family and future wife." He is currently part owner at a mixed animal practice in Cairo, Ga., where he is thrilled "to be a member of the veterinary profession."



CVM ERC



UGA ATHLETICS

Barton named Callaway Chair

PHOTO BY ROBERT NEWCOMB



Michelle Henry Barton, a University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine professor known as an inspiring teacher and mentor and an accomplished researcher, has been appointed to a Full-

er E. Callaway Professorial Chair.

Barton is the latest in a long line of UGA faculty members to hold a Callaway Chair since the program was established in 1968. The chairs are funded through the Fuller E. Callaway Professorial Chairs Trust, established by the Callaway Foundation, Inc., and administered by Bank of America. The trust, which was created to help colleges and universities in Georgia retain or recruit superior faculty members, provides \$60,000 annually to support the professorship.

Callaway professors are chosen primarily for excellence in instruction, but must also have a distinguished record in scholarship and must provide valuable service to students and faculty outside their area of specialization.

"Some of the University of Georgia's most distinguished faculty members have held Callaway Chairs over the past four decades, and it's a pleasure to have Michelle Barton join this select group," said UGA President Michael F. Adams. "Through these endowed chairs the Callaway Foundation has strengthened, in a profound and lasting way, the quality of teaching and scholarship at the Univer-

sity of Georgia and at educational institutions throughout the state. We are deeply grateful for the foundation's contributions to educational excellence in Georgia."

Barton is a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor in the veterinary medicine college's department of large animal medicine with an adjunct appointment in the college's department of physiology and pharmacology. She joined the college as a clinical resident in 1986 and in 1990 earned a Ph.D. in physiology and joined the faculty in 1993. She became a full professor in 2000.

A specialist in large animal internal medicine, Barton is one of the college's most innovative and popular teachers and carries one of the heaviest teaching loads, teaching in up to 10 courses each year in the first three years of the professional veterinary curriculum, said Sheila Allen, dean of the college.

She also teaches fourth-year students in the large animal medicine clinical rotation, is a skilled and caring clinician in the college's large animal teaching hospital and is internationally known for her research and publications, according to Dean Sheila Allen and Dr. Andrew Parks, head of the large animal medicine department, who jointly nominated Barton for the Callaway Chair.

"Dr. Barton is truly a role model," Parks said. "She is an exceptional example of an accomplished educator, clinician and researcher and is fully deserving of the high honor of holding a Callaway Chair."

Barton engages students through several teaching techniques but relies heavily on a "story" approach in which she describes an

animal's medical problem, then asks real or rhetorical questions that encourage students to understand the problem and decide on a diagnosis and treatment.

She is also innovative in using technology for teaching and was one of the first instructors in the college to use Web-based technology in the classroom. Barton and three other faculty members received a grant to install some of the first equipment that integrates student responses to posed questions into classroom instruction.

Barton also developed computer-based teaching aids to help students learn to recognize sounds that may be associated with heart disease in horses such as cardiac arrhythmias and murmurs. She was part of a team that created a CD that shows a virtual three-dimensional transparent view of a horse's abdominal organs, allowing students to understand how diseases such as equine colic affect an animal.

Barton is widely known for her research on endotoxemia and diseases in newborn animals. She has published 60 articles in professional publications, written 31 book chapters and made more than 75 presentations at professional meetings in the U.S. and abroad. She has been either the lead investigator or a collaborator on about 45 grants for research and teaching totaling more than \$3.25 million.

Barton is active in several professional organizations and this year became president of the Specialty of Large Animal Internal Medicine in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

A specialist in large animal internal medicine, Dr. Barton (far left) is one of the college's most innovative and popular teachers.



Faculty Highlights



Dr. Erik Hofmeister has earned Board Certification from European College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists. This allows the College to maintain an ECVAA Training Program for anesthesia residents. Erik, Tina Braun, and Juliana Figueiredo are all Board Certified by the American College (as is Dr. Ben Brainard), an impressive accomplishment for this group.

Drs. John Peroni and Michael Weh were awarded \$922,000 of a \$4.5 million grant, along with Dr. Steve Stice from the CAES and colleagues from Baylor School of Medicine on a project that combines cells and gene therapy with adenoviral vectors in a large animal model to develop a substance that will facilitate fracture healing.

Drs. Scott Brown, Craig Greene, Marc Kent, Simon Platt and Scott Schatzberg received their grant, "Degenerate PCR for Detection of Viral, Bacterial, and Rickettsial Genera in Pugs and Maltese Dogs with Necrotizing and Granulomatous Meningoencephalitis." The total award is \$67,612.50.

Drs. Eric Lafontaine and Jeff Hogan received funding for their grant, "Development of an adhesin-based vaccine to protect against melioidosis and glanders," through the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Joint Science and Technology Office for Chemical and Biological Defense (JSTO-CBD) and the Department of Defense. Total funds are \$1,119,346.



Dr. Sandy Baldwin, DVM, PhD, MS, ACVM, AAVLD, is retiring as head of the Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory effective March 31, 2009. Dr. Baldwin has been in charge of the TVDIL since 2000, during which time he has been head of the virology and serology section, acting head of bacteriology, and associate professor of infectious diseases at the CVM. Dr. Baldwin came to the Col-

lege in 1992 as an assistant professor of medical microbiology.

Dr. Douglas Allen, DVM, MS, DACVS, professor of large animal medicine and director of the Teaching Hospital and External Affairs, is retiring after 27 years of service to the College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Allen came to the CVM in 1982 as a large animal resident after graduating from Auburn University and teaching at Mississippi State. He served as associate dean for public service and outreach in 2004-05, and he has been director of the Teaching Hospital since 1996.

Dr. Steven Harvey, assistant director of animal resources, was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves Veterinary Corps.

Dr. Margarethe Hoenig, former professor of physiology/pharmacology, received the Oxford Award for Best Basic Science Paper at the 2008 Society for Comparative Endocrinology meeting in San Antonio. The paper, "Insulin sensitivity, fat distribution and adipocytokine response to different diets in lean, and obese cats before and after weight loss," was co-authored by M. Waldron and D.C. Ferguson, and appeared in the January 2007 American Journal of Physiology.



Dr. Susan White, emeritus professor, received the 2008 AAEP Distinguished Service Award during the AAEP's 54th Annual Convention in San Diego. Presented to an individual who has provided exemplary service to the AAEP or a similar organization to the benefit of the horse, horse industry or the profession of equine veterinary medicine, the award was given to White during the President's Luncheon on Dec. 9.

Dr. Joseph Bartges, former UGA professor and current professor of medicine and nutrition at the University of Tennessee, was awarded a UT National Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award. He currently holds the Acree Family Chair in Small Animal Research.

Dr. Cathy Brown and her co-authors won one of the two best article awards of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD). The award, announced at the 51st Annual Conference of the AAVLD, recognized the best papers published in the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*. Dr. Brown's award is for the paper entitled "Outbreaks of renal failure associated with melamine and cyanuric acid in dogs and cats in 2004 and 2007," published in September 2007. This paper was the very first published description of renal disease resulting from melamine and cyanuric acid exposure in pet animals. Collaborators on the paper were Drs. Kyu-Shik Jeong, Robert H. Poppenga, Birgit Puschner, Doris M. Miller, Angela E. Ellis, Kyung-Il Kang, Steffen Sum, Alexis M. Cistola and Scott A. Brown.

Faculty joining us recently include:

Dr. Naola Ferguson-Noel (POPH)
Andrew Moorehead (IDIS)
Kaori Sakamoto (VPAT)
Nikolay Filipov (VPHY)
Shiyu Chen (VPHY)
James Oloya (POPH)
Sonia Hernandez-Divers (POPH)

Family tragedy fuels veterinarian's search for improved cancer treatment

Corey Saba was on a hard line career track in pathology while in veterinary school at LSU. She has always wanted to know more than the simple question, "What is this?" in the diagnoses of diseases in animals. She is driven by the "why's"—to get to the source of the underlying issues. However, while on clinical rotations in her senior year in LSU's veterinary teaching hospital, she realized that oncology was the perfect bridge between pathology and clinical medicine. It also helped her take a tragic event that occurred early in her life and apply it in a positive way to help animals and humans alike.

"My father died of cancer shortly after I finished veterinary school, and I saw how the cancer and treatments affected him and our entire family," she says. "I also saw the relationships he developed with his doctors and how they comforted him during times of fear and distress. These personal experiences steered me into a career in veterinary oncology, in hopes of making a contribution toward finding better treatments for cancer as well as helping family members cope with

the stresses of fighting this disease."

Saba received a \$30,000 grant from the American Association of Feline Practitioners in 2007—after just one year on the oncology staff at UGA's Small Animal Teaching Hospital—to conduct clinical trials using a chemotherapy drug lomustine. The study is in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin and Colorado State University, and so far it has seen positive results.

"Tumors are definitely shrinking in some of the cases we've seen to date. However, there is a lot of variability in cats in terms of their responses to treatment and the toxicities they experience. Dosing this drug can be difficult in cats because a standard drug dosage has not been firmly established. This grant has enabled us to better understand the appropriate range of drug dosages for using lomustine in cats."

Saba feels fortunate to treat a unique population of pets, as well as interact with their owners. "We develop valuable relationships with our clients; they trust us to make decisions that are best for their pets.

Typically the owners of the dogs and cats we treat are willing to spend the resources and time to make sure their pets suffer as little as possible. Since I've had a family member suffer from the disease, I feel like I'm able to have open discussions with them about their pets' treatment options and quality of life, and hopefully give them time to spend with their pets that they otherwise wouldn't have."

"The most exciting part of veterinary oncology is the impact we have on comparative oncology," Saba says. "Dogs and cats develop several of the same cancers that occur in people. Just as we use treatments for our patients that are used in humans, some treatments used in humans have been tried first in veterinary patients. Several trials are underway at UGA and across the country to investigate new cancer treatments. Through these trials, our clients' pets often benefit from the new treatments, and they in turn contribute to finding new cancer treatments for people."

Veterinary oncologist Dr. Corey Saba (left) examines patient Tonka Joe with Dr. Nicole Northrup. After her father died of cancer, Saba has worked toward finding better cancer treatments for animals.

SUE MYERS SMITH



Students coordinate first regional shelter medicine seminar

The College hosted more than 80 animal shelter professionals at its inaugural Shelter Medicine Seminar held on January 24. The one-day seminar focused on the best management and medicine practices for local and regional animal shelters. It was sponsored by the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Association (SCAVMA), Shelter Medicine Club, and Animal Welfare Club at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"This was the first time in this region that animal shelter professionals have been given the opportunity to learn practical approaches and management of animal shelters from leaders in the field of shelter medicine," said Ruth Usher, 2011 DVM candidate and vice president of the Animal Welfare Club and SCAVMA sophomore senator, who helped coordinate the Shelter Medicine Seminar.

The guest speakers at the seminar included officials from the Hilton Head Humane Association, one of the most successful animal shelters in the Southeast. Speakers were Franny Gerthoffer, Executive Director; Dr. Laurel Berry, Head Veterinarian; and Clare Senior, Operations Manager. Also speaking were three faculty members from the College of Veterinary Medicine: Dr. Andy Moorehead, assistant research scientist in infectious diseases; Dr. Michaela Austel, assistant professor of small animal medicine in dermatology; and Dr. Kathy Kero, clinical assistant professor in small animal medicine in the Community Practice Clinic.

The three members of the Hilton Head Humane Association (HHHA) also conducted a presentation the previous day on "How to Run a Successful No-kill Animal Shelter" that was attended by more than 150 veterinary students.

"It's important to learn how to handle disease outbreaks in shelters, as well as be informed of dermatology and parasite issues that can be easily controlled. The College wants to be engaged with the

community in a positive way while benefiting the students. Students who graduate from UGA-CVM with a better understanding of how shelter medicine works will be better prepared to assist local humane associations when asked to do so."

The student organizations hosting this event brought the HHHA to UGA in hopes of generating interest in funding for their Shelter Medicine Program, a fourth-year spay/neuter rotation with an elective course on Shelter Medicine. So far, the College has received two small donations and a recent \$40,000 donation which will go toward funding instruction and operating costs of the program; however, because space is limited in the College and Teaching Hospital, the program needs a mobile unit in which to conduct spays and neuters. Under the guidance of faculty members, the student clubs are currently writing several grants and seeking donations to come up with the money for the \$170,000 veterinary mobile surgical unit.

Nicole Northrup, associate professor of oncology at the College of Veterinary Medicine and faculty advisor to the Shelter Medicine Club gave opening remarks regarding the purpose of shelter medicine and its impact on society, as well as the College's desire to become more involved with Georgia's small animal shelters and humane associations through the establishment of a UGA-CVM shelter medicine program and curriculum.

"The importance of shelter medicine and animal welfare is unquestionable," stated Northrup. "The students, faculty and administration are engaged, and the time is right for a shelter medicine program at UGA."

For more information on UGA's Shelter Medicine and Animal Welfare clubs, as well as SCAVMA, please visit www.vet.uga.edu/academic/life/clubs.

(Left) Meg Scuderi, class of 2001, greets participants signing in for the Shelter Medicine Seminar held at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine on January 24, 2009. (Right) Franny Gerthoffer, HHHA executive director, answers questions during a break at the Shelter Medicine Seminar held at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine on January 24, 2009. Photos by Ruth Usher.





SPECIAL

By taking advantage of externships and other educational opportunities, senior student Steven Kubiski has traveled the world to gain valuable veterinary medical experience.

The Power of Persistence

Dividends for senior veterinary student pay more than monetary rewards

By Julie Denton-Schmiedt

The College of Veterinary Medicine provides students with excellent opportunities to pursue their area of interest while obtaining their DVM. Dr. Paige Carmichael, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, works hard to facilitate educational opportunities locally and internationally. Various scholarships, grants and externships available through Dr. Carmichael's office enable students to take advantage of these programs. Steven Kubiski, class of 2009, could probably teach a course in capitalizing on these opportunities. His basic advice is, "If you receive an e-mail from the Office of Academic Affairs about applying for money, do it." That is just what he has done, and it has led to a most rewarding educational experiences.

The curriculum at the College allows students to focus on their specific area of interest beginning in the spring of their first year. Kubiski realized a passion for disease ecology, an area that relates more to populations of animals and "investigation for disease prevention instead of treatment." This interest put him on the population health track. From there, he says, he really began to "enjoy the pursuit of something I discovered is exactly what I want to do."

Kubiski's educational travels have been supported by several awards, including an AVMA stipend, which he used to study in Vietnam, an Institutional Externship Stipend, which took him to South Africa, as well as the Salisbury Endowment and the SCAVMA Auxiliary Scholarship. He has also worked with Dr. Terry Norton at the Jekyll Island (Ga.) Sea Turtle Center on several occasions. In South Africa Steven learned about wildlife chemical immobilization and conservation and also spent a week at the Johannesburg Zoo. Most recently, he was back at Jekyll Island studying seabird populations, and is one of forty students accepted to the European Wildlife Association Student Workshop in France. "All of these externships have given me exposure to things I never thought would happen," says Kubiski, "being able to combine environmental work with medical work for the common goal of improving the life of animal populations."

Kubiski realizes all of these incredible opportunities to travel and learn are provided to him through generous donations to the College, which is one reason why he participated in the annual "Thank-a-Thon," where students volunteer to call donors and personally thank them for their contributions. He thought it was a simple gesture considering how much he "personally benefited" from their donations. In Kubiski's case, the benefits from these donations stretched all the way around the world.



In Stitches

After thousands of cuddles, dozens of tea parties and the occasional tragic run-in with the family dog, most stuffed animals could use a little TLC. In April 2008, children from the Athens community brought their over-loved creatures of all shapes and sizes to “teddy bear surgery” at the College’s annual open house. No procedure was too small or too extreme. Volunteer surgeons like then third-year vet student Stephen Everett patched up missing eyes, mended broken walrus flippers, re-attached stegosaurus spikes and performed delicate rhinoplasties on puppies with bitten-off noses. This year’s open house is scheduled for April 3, 2009.

—Amanda E. Swennes



PHOTO BY AMANDA SWENNES

For information on Open House, visit www.vet.uga.edu/erc/openhouse



SUE MYERS SMITH

The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine welcomed the class of 2012 as part of its annual White Coat Ceremony held on Sunday, August 17, 2008. Sponsored by the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, this event officially recognized 96 members of the incoming class of 2012 by donning them in bright white lab coats.

The hour-long ceremony was held at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. After the ceremony, Dr. Jim McClearn (DVM '74), president of the GVMA, led the two-block recessional of coated students to the College of Veterinary Medicine for a class photo and a reception with their families and veterinary faculty and staff.

This year’s incoming class includes 72 women and 24 men, with an average undergraduate GPA of 3.56 and an average GRE score of 1179.

Carrying on the Family Business

By Tracy Giese (ABJ '90)

Carla Case McCorvey (DVM '99) was born to practice veterinary medicine. The fourth generation veterinarian worked with her father, Jerry Case (DVM '75) as a young girl making cotton balls and sterilizing equipment in the animal hospital her great-grandfather Dr. Erle Case founded in 1909. Today, Case-McCorvey practices beside her father, using some of the most innovative techniques available in veterinary medicine.

"Obviously, I learned as much from Dad as I did from UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine, but I learned a lot from Papa too," Case-McCorvey says of her grandfather, Dr. Francis Case, Sr. "He had retired by the time I began working with Dad in 1999, but he lived right around the corner from the hospital, and he and my grandmother had me over for lunch more than once a week. I'd tell them all about what surgeries I had done that day, and they'd tell me stories about how it used to be."

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Case Veterinary Hospital and its recognition for the extraordinary expertise that pet owners in Savannah, Ga., have come to count on over the last century from the Case family. In late 2008, Case-McCorvey was named one of Georgia Trend Magazine's "Top 40 Under 40," an honor bestowed upon the highest achieving Georgians under the age of 40. Also in 2008, the Savannah Small Business Chamber of Commerce named her family's practice Business of the Year.

Although it is the oldest family veterinary practice in the country to have operated continuously—as far as the Case family has been able to find, it had modest beginnings. Erle Case received his veterinary training in Ontario, Canada, and accepted a job through correspondence in Savannah. He packed up all his belongings and spent his savings on a one-way steamship ticket to Savannah, only to find that there was no job waiting on him when he arrived. To make the best of the situation, he approached the town's only veterinarian who offered him a single stall in a building where large animals were treated in exchange for treating a growing number of small animal patients. From there Erle Case—the only degreed veterinarian in Savannah—grew his business and established Case Veterinary Hospital, providing treatments before the discovery of antibiotics and getting paid with chickens from his clients.

Today Case-McCorvey continues to push Case Veterinary Hospital to the forefront of veterinary medicine. By investing in continuing education and training for herself and her staff, Case-McCorvey has positioned her family's business as one of the only hospitals in the region to routinely offer endoscopic and laparoscopic procedures to its patients. This technology is comparable to human medicine, enabling less invasive procedures with faster recovery time and fewer complications.

"When you work with family in a business begun by your family, the quality of your work reflects on them," says Case-McCorvey. "If Grandpa Erle could look down and see how we are practicing veterinary medicine today, I think he'd be impressed, but I know he'd be proud."



Carla Case McCorvey (DVM '99), who helps run the family business with her dad, Jerry Case (DVM '75) was recently named to Georgia Trend Magazine's "Top 40 Under 40" list.

Case-McCorvey's great-grandfather Dr. Erle Case founded Case Veterinary Hospital in 1909 in Savannah, Ga. Erle is pictured in the early days of the practice with horses outside his mobile veterinary unit.



COURTESY CARLA CASE MCCORVEY

Class Notes

Wayland F. "Buddy" Hogan (DVM '55) is retiring after 50 years as founder and owner of South Ocala (Fla.) Animal Clinic. Hogan is the founder of Project PUP (Pets Uplifting People), an organization of volunteers who share friendly pets with people in convalescent centers, hospitals and Hospice. His clinic has also become known for its sense of humor, wherein first-time clients receive a small collection of "Dog Haiku."

James Peeples (DVM '61) of Hickory, N.C., has retired from mixed animal practice after 45 years as owner and operator of Viewmont Animal Clinic. His advice for future veterinary students: You must have a love for animals and compassion, a good work ethic, and make good grades. "It's hard to get into veterinary colleges."

Jimmy Gates (DVM '66) of Farmville, Va., placed fifth in his age bracket at the Richmond Marathon last fall, finishing with a time of 2:03:16—which is 9 min., 24 sec./mile!

Terry Noble (DVM '70) has published a book, "Starting at Sea Level" (Foggy River Books, 2007) about how his childhood experiences shaped his ambitions for a veterinary career and life. Noble is retired from 12 years of veterinary practice in Colorado and Maryland and from an animal vaccine research company he founded on 1985. He and his wife have lived on a ranch in Montana since he sold the company in 1997.

Jim McClearen (DVM '74), president of the GVMA, joined Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital in Young Harris, Ga., as an associate veterinarian. He is a 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and the founder and co-owner of Bells Ferry Veterinary Hospital in Acworth, Ga., until he sold it in 2007. Through his extensive involvement in organized veterinary medicine, Dr. McClearen also will provide new leadership and staff training expertise centered on the objective of lifelong learning and excellent client services.

Laura Hanson (DVM '81) recently opened Mill Creek Veterinary Hospital in Clarkesville, Ga. Hanson taught at UGA CVM, as well as Cornell University and Auburn University, and until opening the new clinic practiced veterinary medicine in Toccoa.

Michelle Tilghman (DVM '82) has been selected to serve on the Petpop.com panel of Health Experts, formed to address member questions about their pet's health. She is on the faculty of IVAS and has taught across North America and Europe.

Tracy Land (DVM '87) of Dawson County, Ga., was selected as a finalist in

Animal Planet's 2008 Hero of the Year. Land has dedicated her life to prevent cruelty, neglect, and needless deaths by fighting overpopulation through spaying and neutering pets. Since 1996 she has operated Project Spay/Neuter to provide low-cost sterilization for low-income families, performing more than 55,000 spays and neuters at or below cost.

Mark Lloyd (DVM '89) of Watkinsville, Ga., was appointed last year as Medical Director of the Emergency Services division of the Humane Society of the U.S. He also is a private consultant in wildlife, management and medicine, as well as in strategic planning for husbandry, health and institutional disaster planning.

Laura Smallwood, who completed her residency in internal medicine at UGA in 1989, has opened Saint Francis Animal Care Center of Decatur (Ga.), a clinic that serves patients with serious chronic or terminal illnesses. Dr. Jenifer Trimble Newton (DVM '92) is on staff at the clinic as a board-certified veterinary surgeon. Dr. Clarence Rawlings, UGA CVM professor emeritus, served as consultant on the new facility.

Roland Adrian "Tai" Federico (DVM '93) of Chattanooga, Tenn., received the 2009 Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association at the TVMA's Music City Veterinary Conference in March. He practices at Riverview Animal Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Laura Ann Yetzina (DVM '06) and James Daniel Holmes were married April 4, 2008, in Kona, Hawaii. A Hawaiian lei ceremony was performed prior to the wedding vows. Yetzina is a veterinarian at Royston (Ga.) Animal Hospital.

Dean A. Campbell (DVM '06) opened a veterinary clinic, Heart of Georgia Animal Care, in Milledgeville, Ga., in June 2008. The 1941 building was refurbished to include 4,000 square feet of hospital space, plus an addition on the back will provide 3,370 square feet for an ICU, cages and enclosed runs.

Banfield, The Pet Hospital®, the nation's largest private veterinary practice, recently hired ten graduates from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. Banfield employs more than 1,000 veterinarians nationwide. Among the UGA graduates hired are **Ken Mullis** (DVM '76) in Southlake, Ga.; **Ava Lambert** (DVM '82) in Kennesaw, Ga.;

Melissa Butts (DVM '92) in Frederick, Md.; **Kimberly Dusza**, (DVM '94) in Bradenton, Fla.; **Jeff Conrad** (DVM '01) in Mill Creek, Ga.; **Christine Sineath** (DVM '07) in Bluffton, S.C.; **Ian Scholer** (DVM '07) in Lawrenceville, Ga.; **Cecily Haught** (DVM '08) in Suwanee, Ga.; **Stephanie Smith** (DVM '08) in Jacksonville, N.C.; and **Latoya Hannon** (DVM '08) in Houston, Texas.

For a complete listing of Class Notes and Obituaries, please go to www.vet.uga.edu/alumni/classnotes.php.

Obits

Ollie M. Dodgen (DVM '50), Marietta, Ga., Dec. 17, 2007; **Leicester L. Landon** (DVM '51), Baton Rouge, La., Dec. 30, 2007; **William E. Pace** (DVM '51), Tallahassee, Fla., May 2, 2008; **John Thomas Bell** (DVM '52), Starkville, Miss., July 31, 2008; **Benjamin R. Page Jr.** (DVM '52), Young Harris, Ga., Oct. 26, 2008; **Richard Eugene Bradley** (DVM '53), Morganton, NC, Oct. 6, 2008; **Verlin A. Krabill** (DVM '53), Frederick, Md., May 20, 2008; **Julian Lamar Veatch** (DVM '53), Louisville, Ga., Aug. 24, 2008; **D. John Williams III** (DVM '53), Watkinsville, Ga., Dec. 14, 2008; **Millard V. Morrison** (DVM '54), Broadway, Va., June 16, 2008; **David L. Brown, Jr.** (DVM '55), Lake City, S.C., Sept. 6, 2008; **Diedrich O. Beusse** (DVM '58), Lakemont, Ga., Sept. 20, 2008; **Clarence H. Little** (DVM '59), Eason, Md., Sept. 26, 2007; **Kenneth Fortson** (DVM '76), Social Circle, Ga., Jan. 7, 2009; **Harry Lee Kemp** (DVM '78), Camilla, Ga., Nov. 16, 2008; **Stephen P. Maxwell** (DVM '78), Prince George, Va., July 3, 2008; **Charles V. Steiner Jr.** (DVM '78), Indialantic, Fla., Jan. 9, 2008.

We want to know what you're up to!

Your classmates want to know what's happening in your life. Have you received a promotion? Bought a practice? Retired? Had children? Or grandchildren? Drop us a line. And please include your hometown to help us keep our alumni database up to date. Vet Med Alumni Affairs, email: vetalum@uga.edu, or brickm@uga.edu. Fax: (706) 583-0242



Chicken Run!

Avian specialist masters the marathon

By Julie Denton-Schmiedt



Dr. Donald Waldrup (DVM '62) was destined to become a veterinarian. Growing up on a farm in Cumming, Ga., surrounded by animals, and raised by a family of educators, studying and learning came very naturally. This combination made veterinary school the perfect fit for him. Dr. Waldrup thoroughly enjoyed his time as a student at the College of Veterinary Medicine

in part because it taught him discipline.

"I quickly learned that output is based on input. The more you put in the more you get out," he says. This philosophy has taken him very far in his career and life.

After graduation Dr. Waldrup returned to his hometown, the number one poultry distributor in the country. With a growing

family at home, the poultry industry seemed like "the way to go." A career in poultry and his dedication to the field earned him the 2007 American Association of Avian Pathologists Special Service Award. This award is presented in honor of long-term dedication to the field, which Dr. Waldrup found "very humbling."

Going the distance is something in which he definitely excels. When Dr. Waldrup is not hard at work for Pfizer, the avian specialist is a master at endurance competition. He has participated in more than 20 marathons on five continents, including Beijing, Auckland, Paris, Mt. Kilimanjaro, and Vancouver, as well as closer to home in Atlanta. Despite an injurious fall resulting in a total hip replacement, he still has two continents on his list: South America and Antarctica. With the typical fortitude that has helped him achieve success over the years, he is registered for the Antarctica marathon in 2010. "I will do it even if I have to walk."

Don't miss the 46th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Reunion!

By Lauren Miller

The 46th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Reunion will be held on March 27-28, 2009, at The Classic Center in downtown Athens. All UGA CVM alumni, as well as any veterinarians interested in receiving continuing education credits, are invited to attend. In addition, honors will be awarded to distinguished alumni who have led accomplished careers in veterinary medicine.

The keynote speaker for the conference will be Dr. Michelle Henry Barton, Fuller E. Callaway Professional Chair Large Animal Medicine. Dr. Barton's presentation, "An Education on Education," will focus on innovative teaching methods for today's veterinary students.

A variety of small and large animal sessions will be available for CE credits. The joint sessions will include topics in public health, led by Lee Myers (DVM '84), the USDA State Federal Liaison for the National Stockpile at the CDC; Jim Wright (DVM '74), Associate Professor of Pathobiology at Auburn University who will speak on disaster preparedness and response; and Nina Marano (DVM '84), who will speak on global emerging infectious disease. Other notable attendees include Foster Northrop (DVM '89), speaking on racetrack practice, and Beckey Malphus (DVM '94), delivering the two-hour CE requirement for all veterinarians on ethics and rules for veterinarians and veterinary technicians. There will also be a practice tips panel with Corrie Barker (DVM '99), Fred Gent (DVM '79), Mike Zager (DVM '79) and Carla Case McCorvey

(DVM '99). Dr. Case-McCorvey was recently honored in *Georgia Trend Magazine's* "40 Under 40."

This is a great opportunity for veterinary technicians as well. The 6th Annual GVTAA Technician Continuing Education Conference will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at the Classic Center. The registration deadline for both events is March 13. Please visit www.gvtaa.org or contact Lynn Reece, lreece@uga.edu, for more information on the Technician CE Conference.

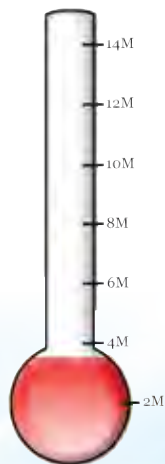
Please visit www.vet.uga.edu/conference.php for online registration, maps, and hotel information.



Development News

Gifts and pledges for the New Veterinary Teaching Hospital at the University of Georgia total \$3,831,083.90

For more information or to give to the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital Building Fund, please contact our development office at 706.542.1807.



Why does Georgia need a new Veterinary teaching hospital?

We need more space for:

- the technological advances our clients are demanding and expecting.
- the ability to meet caseload demand and reduce wait time for clients.
- increasing enrollment up to 150 students to help alleviate the world-wide shortage of veterinarians.
- appropriate workspaces for all faculty, residents, interns, students and technicians.

So what can you do? Be a catalyst for change!

- Lobby your legislators to provide funding for a new veterinary teaching hospital.
- Volunteer your time at fundraising events for the new veterinary teaching hospital, like the annual Atlanta Steeplechase.
- Give to the UGA CVM Veterinary Teaching Hospital Building Fund.



SUE MYERS SMITH

Meet Molly

Molly Muschamp is the newest addition to the development team as our major gifts officer. Molly received a BBA in marketing from the University of Georgia in 2001 and has experience in alumni relations, independent school fundraising and as a marketing director for a community bank. She is currently busy raising funds for our New Teaching Hospital Building Fund. Molly is an energetic and hard-working member of our staff, and we are excited to have her on board! If you would like to speak to Molly about making a major gift to the Teaching Hospital or any part of the College, please contact her at (706) 542-6807 or molly2@uga.edu.

A Grace-ful Goodbye

Jim Shearon, founder of Grace's Birthday Party, the annual fundraiser that each year draws about 400 people and 300 dogs, died October 1, 2008, at the age of 60. Part owner of Ashford Manor Bed & Breakfast in Watkinsville, Ga., Shearon created the fancy canine shindig in memory of his beloved Airedale terrier, Grace, who died from cancer in 1999.

Shearon founded the G.R.A.C.E. Fund, an endowment to help with medical procedures for pets at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. The fund is named for Grace and his other two dogs; G.R.A.C.E. stands for Grace, Rosemary, Athena Canine Emergency.

"Shearon's efforts raised more than \$130,000 for the endowment," says Kathy Bangle, director of development for the College.

"We get letters—some of them are heartwarming but heartbreaking at the same time," says Grace Foundation board member Teresa Bish, of people who've benefited from the fund. She says the party and the private fundraiser, Hawaii Dawg-0, will continue.

Bish and Bangle each credit Shearon not just for his creative ideas in raising money for the endowment, but for his implementation of those ideas.

"It was such a pleasure to brainstorm with him, and then watch what came from it," Bangle says. "He left a beautiful legacy. We're all better off because he came our way."

Shearon was diagnosed HIV positive 17 years ago, but died suddenly from a series of health complications. A celebration of his life was held Dec. 17 at Ashford Manor. Remembrance donations can be made to the G.R.A.C.E. Fund, c/o the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, Office of Development, Athens, GA 30602.

—Julie Phillips, *Athens Banner-Herald*



SPECIAL

Jim Shearon with his three dogs, Grace, Rosemary and Athena, the namesakes for the G.R.A.C.E. Fund which benefits dogs treated at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Shearon recently passed away after a lengthy illness.



Larry Corry



Gary Brown

Alums take leadership roles in AVMA

The AVMA House of Delegates elected Dr. Larry Corry (DVM '66) of Buford, Ga., as the Association's 2008-09 president-elect at the 2008 AVMA convention in New Orleans. In addition, Dr. Gary S. Brown (DVM '84) of Princeton, W.Va., was elected as AVMA vice president. Both candidates ran unopposed and were elected by unanimous consent.

Dr. Corry represented District IV (Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico) on the Executive Board since 2002, serving the final year of his term as board chair. The Georgia VMA nominated him to the office of president-elect with support from the California and Kansas VMAs.

Dr. Corry's career spans years in public service and private practice. After receiving his DVM degree from UGA in 1966, Dr. Corry served two years in the U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corps. Later, he entered private practice, and currently he owns two small animal practices.

In addition to his service to the AVMA, Dr. Corry has been engaged in organized veterinary medicine at the state level, including a term as president of the GVMA in 1981.

Dr. Brown was president of the West Virginia VMA from 2004-06. The owner of a small animal practice, Dr. Brown also was his state's representative in the House of Delegates.

The WVVMA nominated Dr. Brown to the vice presidency, and the Kentucky VMA and the student VMA seconded the nomination. The AVMA vice president is a voting member of the Executive Board and the Association's liaison to the Student VMA and student chapters.

(Courtesy *JAVMA*, Vol. 233, No. 5)



The Southern Gentleman

Soft-spoken alum is a life-long friend to the College

By Julie Denton-Schmiedt



erson (DVM '61, PhD '72) has always invested himself whole heartedly into his alma mater.

Born and raised in a small town in eastern North Carolina, Roberson received his undergraduate degree from Duke University and then came to UGA for veterinary school. Because he was from out of state and new to the area, he thought joining one of the veterinary school's social fraternities would be a great way to meet people.

"A friend influenced me to choose Alpha Psi, but [Alpha Psi and Omega Tau Sigma] are both good fraternities," Roberson says in his lilting Carolina Piedmont drawl which folks find so endearing.

"The fraternity is important to the College as a good social diversion for the students," he says. "It also serves to strengthen students' bond to the College, as evidenced by the fact that alumni continue to contribute to both the fraternities and the College." While the fraternity's role in developing leadership skills and social networking are pontificated in retrospect, Roberson recalls an added benefit. "I remember having a cook there who made us breakfast, lunch and dinner, which was definitely an attraction."

After graduation, Roberson joined the military where he found "a great respect for veterinarians" and realized his passion for teaching. This realization brought him first back to Duke, where he received a masters in teaching, and ultimately—a decade after receiving his

DVM—to UGA for his PhD. Roberson stayed on to teach parasitology for 24 years. He excelled in the classroom, receiving multiple awards and honors, including the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award (1982 & 1996), and the Outstanding Faculty Award presented by the classes of 1984, '87, '94, '97 and '98.

During his 24-year tenure he served as the graduate coordinator in the department of parasitology and as both president and vice president of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists, as well as secretary and president of the National Council of Alpha Psi. Since 1972 he has served as secretary-treasurer for the alumni Lambda Chapter of Alpha Psi.

Roberson also coordinates the newsletter for Alpha Psi alums, so he's an indispensable source for the alumni relations office in the College for keeping mailing lists up-to-date. He also has served on the College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Board. In addition to his service to the College, Dr. Roberson and his wife Nance have given annually throughout his career to the Vet Med Support Fund and has made a pledge to the New Teaching Hospital Building Fund. "Above all," says Kathy Bangle, director of development for the College, "he is a great communicator!"

Roberson thoroughly enjoyed his time at the College as a student and professor. "I have so much respect for the College," he says. "It has been good to me. I feel I should be good to it."

This explains why he continues to play such an active role during his retirement, serving as co-coordinator of the retired faculty group with Dr. Dwight Coulter as Alpha Psi secretary-treasurer, a role, he laughs, "No one seems anxious to take over." Perhaps it is because no one else could be so dedicated.

Leave A Legacy...

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Chuck and Brenda Horton have proudly designated the College of Veterinary Medicine in their estate plan. Brenda advised more than 2,000 students in the Academic Affairs Office before retiring in 2003.

Why I Give...

Dr. Marian Shuler Holladay (DVM '05)

Mt. Pleasant Animal Hospital, S.C.

Dr. Marian Shuler Holladay of Mt. Pleasant (S.C.) Animal Hospital believes in giving back and supporting the veterinary profession. The 2005 UGA CVM graduate also is following in the well-established footsteps of her family who have been long-time supporters of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

In 1953, Dr. F.L. Shuler, an Auburn graduate, started it all by opening his clinic in Saint George, S.C., to provide services for small and large animals. His son, Dr. Glenn Shuler (DVM '84) joined him in practice after graduating from the University of Georgia.

The late Dr. J.O. Shuler opened Mount Pleasant Animal Hospital in 1959 after graduating from UGA. His was the first full-time veterinary hospital in the town of Mount Pleasant! It housed the first x-ray machine "East of the Cooper" and was used in emergencies for both people and pets. In 1968, Dr. Kenneth (K.C.) Shuler (DVM '68) joined his uncle J.O. in practice. K.C. expanded the business in 1992 by building Shuler Veterinary Clinic, also in Mt. Pleasant. It was a good thing he did because his two sons, Kenneth, Jr. and Kevin, and their wives all became veterinarians. Drs. Kenneth (DVM '01) and Heather (DVM '01) Shuler own a practice in Santee, SC.

After Dr. K.C. Shuler retired in 2005, Drs. Kevin and Laura Shuler, Tuskegee University graduates, took over Mt. Pleasant Animal Hospital and Shuler Vet Clinic. In the spring of 2005, Dr. F.L. (Lanier) Shuler's granddaughter, Dr. Marian Shuler Holladay, was brought on to run Shuler Veterinary Clinic. Drs. Kevin and Laura Shuler have continued expanding the business by opening the new Mt. Pleasant Animal Hospital in October 2006 near the original building.

All of the doctors are proud of their heritage in both the veterinary profession and in the community in which they live and work. As always, they pledge to continue the long family tradition of providing the best quality care in a caring and professional manner.

And for Dr. Marian Shuler Holladay, pictured with her dog Captain Remley, this also means giving back to the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. "I give because I remember what it was like to be in need. If I can help alleviate that need, whether it's in student scholarships or to advance hospital capabilities, then I feel like I'm giving back to the place that helped me achieve my goals."



Dr. Marian Shuler Holladay (DVM '05) is seated on her wedding day beside her grandfather Dr. F.L. Shuler who started the long Shuler line of veterinarians. Standing, L to R: Drs. Glen Shuler (DVM '84), K.C. Shuler (DVM '68), Heather Stevenson Shuler (DVM '01), Kenneth Shuler (DVM '01), Kevin Shuler and Laura Shuler.



COURTESY MARIAN SHULER HOLLADAY



Rafter's Will

A legacy to cure canine cancer continues

The 2009 Trot for the Cure held on January 11 at Magnolia Gardens in Charleston, SC, had a special significance. It was the fifth Trot after Jane Hirsch swore to her family, friends and sponsors in 2005 that it was a "one time event."

"This year, we had an unprecedented amount of sponsorship money, which in today's economy says a lot about how much we love our four-legged family members. We also had a record attendance of more than 400 people," says Hirsch.

This was also the first Trot without Hirsch's Australian Shepherd, Rafter, who was the inspiration for starting the event. He was diagnosed with bone cancer in 2001 at two years of age. He lived "a miraculous seven healthy years" in remission and sadly succumbed to the return of osteosarcoma on Christmas Eve, eight days before his 10th birthday.

During those seven years, Rafter spent his time visiting children's hospitals in Charleston and Augusta, Ga. He also visited various assisted-living facilities and numerous schools and camps teaching children how to be responsible pet owners.

"He was known for his tricks and loved to entertain adults and children," says Hirsch. "The rest of his time was spent promoting the Trot, which raises awareness of canine cancer and provides funds for research. Over the past five years his work has generated \$65,000, all of which is used for cancer research."

Funds raised from the Trot currently support research involving pancreatic tumors and prostate cancer, as well as a test that allows researchers to diagnose tumors that are so abnormal in appearance that they cannot tell what they are. This test also tells if a dog's lymphoma is B or T cell, an important indicator of prognosis and factor for treatment decisions.

This is now offered to veterinarians all over the Southeast through the UGA Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Trot 2009 was a fitting memorial to Rafter. Almost \$3,000 of the more than \$19,000 in donations raised was in his memory. And to ensure his memory and the fight against canine cancer continues, Hirsch introduced the newest member of her family, an Australian Shepherd puppy named "Rafter's Legacy of Good Will," known to friends simply as Will.

"I am very grateful to the volunteers who worked extremely hard all day, to the veterinarians who gave their time and shared their knowledge, and to the participants who made it a success. Though Rafter will no longer physically be at future Trots, he will be there in spirit. While the Trot funds were too late for Rafter, it is my hope the research being funded by Trot money will save many dogs and cats in the future."





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Don your seersucker and grab your hat! The race is on!

Mark your calendars for the 2009 Atlanta Steeplechase to be held at Kingston Downs, Ga., on April 25, 2009. For the third straight year the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine is a beneficiary of the Atlanta Steeplechase. The College has received \$36,250 from the Atlanta Steeplechase over the past two years to go toward building a much-needed new teaching hospital!

And don't miss the Kick-off Party on April 23, 2009, hosted by India Watson, who is not only a friend and client of the Teaching Hospital, but who also is the marketing and sales director for the Atlanta Steeplechase. All proceeds go to the College of Veterinary Medicine New Teaching Hospital Building Fund. For more information about how to give to this fund, for naming opportunities for the new teaching hospital, or for volunteering at the 2009 Atlanta Steeplechase, please contact the Development Office at (706) 542-1807 or kbangle@uga.edu. More information on the Atlanta Steeplechase may be found at www.vet.uga.edu/giving/steeplechase or www.steeplechase.org.

Upcoming Events

March 27-28	46th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Reunion (Classic Center, Athens, Ga.)
April 3	Open House for College of Veterinary Medicine
April 10	Phi Zeta Day
April 17	Honors & Awards Night
April 25	Atlanta Steeplechase
May 2	Commencement
July 11-14	146th Annual AVMA Convention (Seattle, Wa.)

For a current listing of events go to www.vet.uga.edu/alumni.

Continuing Education Schedule

July 17-18	Basic Soft Tissue Rigid Endoscopy
July 19-20	Advanced Laparoscopic/Thoracoscopic Surgery
September 19-20	Small Animal Surgery
October 10-11	Internal Medicine
October 16	5th Annual Equine Encore
October 17-18	Small Animal Behavior
December 5-6	Exotic Animal Diagnostic Endoscopy
December 11-12	Small Animal Arthroscopy
December 12-13	Advanced Laparoscopic/Thoracoscopic Surgery

To register for Continuing Education courses, please contact Melissa Kilpatrick at (706) 542-1451 or melissak@uga.edu.