

FALL & WINTER 2019

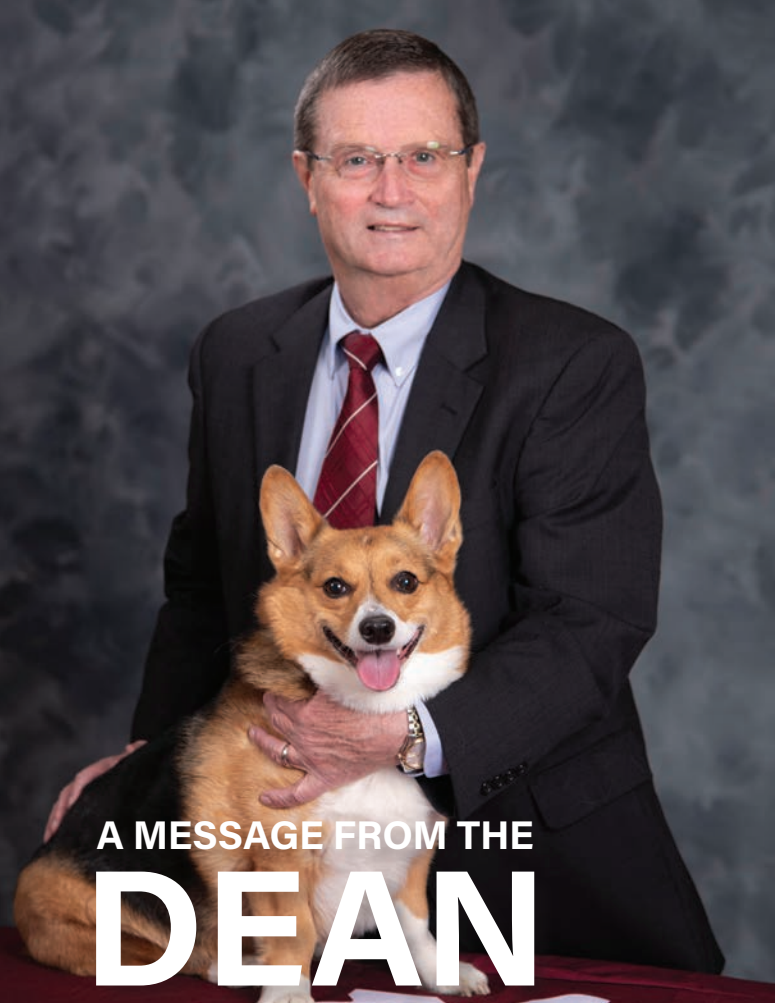
PEGASUS PRESS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



MSU CVM EQUINE MEDICINE &
SURGERY SERVICE PROVIDES
STATE-OF-THE-ART CARE FOR HORSES
THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHEAST

EARNING RESPECT BY EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DR. KENT HOBLET

We recently completed five days of on-campus interviews of candidates seeking admission to the MSU CVM Class of 2024. Candidates came to Starkville from 28 states (plus Puerto Rico) that stretched from California to New York and from Florida to Texas. Of the more than 1,400 students that began the application process last summer, 321 were interviewed, and 95 will officially begin their journey in our College on June 17.

The overall Mississippi State University capital campaign has just surpassed its one-billion-dollar goal and will conclude in December. The goal for the CVM was \$52M, and we recently passed \$54M. Our three priorities are scholarships, faculty support such as endowed chairs and professorships, and facilities.

The College's main facility is the 40-plus-year-old Wise Center, which has been generally well-maintained, but veterinary medicine has changed greatly in the past 40 years. Specialties that have advanced practice capabilities have emerged well beyond what was thought possible when our CVM started. Veterinary class size has increased beyond the initial 80 visualized, and we now also have a vibrant veterinary medical technology training program.

Because of endowed funds and other gifts directed toward facilities over the past several years, we have been able to renovate and remodel rooms in several areas of the teaching hospital. Among areas that have received attention include the small animal intensive care unit, which is currently being prepared to have its third expansion. The new ICU renovation will increase the level of patient care and associated teaching we

are able to deliver. Other areas that have been updated include client consultation rooms, examination rooms, and student rounds rooms in small animal, food animal, equine areas.

Mississippi State University and the MSU CVM have so much to offer, and, unfortunately, both are frequently overlooked. Over the past few years there has been a concerted effort to "brand" MSU. In the last 18 months, the College has been an integral part of that effort, and from feedback I am receiving from alumni and others who have visited the Wise Center or our social media sites, it appears to be gaining some traction. To get an idea of how some of these efforts are impacting the appearance of our facilities and overall image, see the article on page 30.

Dean Emeritus Dr. Dwight Mercer was honored at the 2019 All College Day, receiving the MSU President's Pegasus Award (page 39). As dean from 1987 -1999, he played a significant role in the CVM's success. Thank you, Dean Mercer. We see and appreciate the impact of your work every day!

I continue to be impressed with graduates from our College. So many are doing such remarkable things for their profession and in their communities. One such alum is Dr. Taylor Lyne, Class of 1994, who was selected as our 2019 CVM Alumni Fellow (page 24). Based on his own experiences, both during veterinary school and since, Dr. Lyne developed a passion for mentoring veterinary students and is in the process of formalizing a plan that would actively involve other alumni.

Our College and our graduates are continuing to thrive in today's highly competitive market, which is, once again, evidenced in the content of this issue of *Pegasus Press*. I hope you enjoy this issue. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have ideas or questions.

Dr. Kent Hoblet
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COVER PHOTOS

FRONT: *Equine surgeon Dr. Alison Eddy poses with client Karen McCord of Madison and her horse Rio, who is one of the MSU CVM Equine Service's many success stories.*

BACK: *MSU Mascot Bully XXI, "Jak," poses in front of his favorite wall wrap in the Wise Center, which was recently installed as part of the College's branding initiative.*

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DEAN'S COUNCIL GATHERS for Fall Session

The CVM Dean's Council gathered for their semi-annual meeting at one of the College's off-campus locations on November 7-8, 2019. The group was welcomed at a reception the evening they arrived and enjoyed presentations at the Mississippi Veterinary Research & Diagnostic Laboratory (MVRDL) and Poultry Research & Diagnostic Laboratory (PRDL) in the Jackson suburb of Pearl.

The group heard an overview of the laboratory system and an update on chronic wasting disease provided by the laboratory's executive director Dr. Lanny Pace. They also heard highlights of CVM legislative efforts provided by MSU Director of State Governmental Affairs Lee Weiskopf and about CVM student involvement with the

laboratory animal medicine program at University of Mississippi Medical Center from Dr. Andrew Grady, director of the UMMC program. The group also heard from several current MSU CVM students and Dr. Jim Anderson, who played a significant role in the College establishing a clinical presence in the Jackson area. Prior to the meeting's conclusion, the Council toured the MVRDL and PRDL as well as the Animal Emergency & Referral Center (AERC) and AERC Rehabilitation Center in Flowood, both of which are core clinical experiences for fourth-year DVM students.

The Council's spring meeting will be held in Starkville at the CVM on March 26-27.

DEAN'S COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



Dr. Mac Huddleston received a Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi State University and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University in 1973. He is a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives and has served in the Legislature since 2008. Dr. Huddleston served on the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine faculty from 1981-1989. During his career, he has practiced veterinary medicine in North Mississippi, most recently in Pontotoc, Mississippi. In 2010, he received the MSU CVM Vice President's Pegasus Award.



Mr. Stephen Imes is a businessman and the president and owner of Waukaway Springs Bottling Company in Columbus, Mississippi. He and his wife, Dava, support the College's Homeward Bound Program. They established the Mac, Stephen, and Dava Imes Endowed Scholarship and the Mac, Stephen and Dava Imes Annual Scholarship. Mr. Imes also named the Mac Imes Endowed Client Consultation Room in the MSU CVM Animal Health Center.



Dr. Wanda West graduated from Mississippi State University with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1988. She also holds a PhD and is board-certified in laboratory animal medicine. Her career has been focused in biomedical research. Dr. West is the director of the Global Animal Welfare Office and an attending veterinarian with Boehringer-Ingelheim, Inc., a top-20 pharmaceutical company with 50,000 employees and a global presence. She was recognized as the MSU CVM Alumni Fellow in 2014.



MSU CVM Equine Service **LEADING BY THE REINS**

Robin Fontenot has been all about horses since she was old enough to walk. In fact, she started asking for a horse as soon as she could talk. At nine years old when that wish came true, she says her life was changed forever. Now an assistant clinical professor and board-certified equine surgeon at MSU CVM, Dr. Fontenot says that very horse is, in fact, why she chose this career.

“There’s a special bond that you form with a horse; it’s different from what you have with a pet or a person. It’s really hard to explain but all ‘horse people’ understand it,” she said. “That first horse that was so special to me lives on every time I’m able to help someone else keep that special horse in their life.”

According to Dr. Fontenot, the best kept secret about the MSU CVM Equine Medicine and Surgery Service is the impressive range of specialty services offered.

“We welcome the opportunity to provide routine care but also to teach our students the principles of equine health maintenance,” she said. “We handle everything from Coggins testing and vaccination programs to nutritional counseling, parasite control, dentistry, and disease surveillance; however, we boast the knowledge and expertise to provide a variety of types of advanced referral specialty and surgical care.”

The equine internal medicine service cares for sick neonatal foals, horses with upper and lower airway diseases, non-surgical gastrointestinal disorders, and neurologic abnormalities. The equine surgical service performs both

soft-tissue and orthopedic surgeries. Minimally invasive diagnostic and treatment modalities and specialty services are also offered, including gastroscopy, upper airway endoscopy, sinoscopy, laparoscopy, thoracoscopy, arthroscopy, angular and flexural limb deformity repair, tenoscopy/burascopy, and urethrocystoscopy.

Ultrasonography of the pulmonary, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, and musculoskeletal systems is performed, as well, as is digital radiography and CT diagnostic imaging, enabling the team to gain images of all regions of the horse. This type of imaging is a huge asset in the diagnosis and management of complex equine medical and surgical conditions.

Yet another member of the College’s equine team, Dr. Cathleen Mochal-King, who is also a board-certified surgeon and the current service chief, has special interest in sports medicine and orthopedics and works with a large number of rodeo, show, and other competition-focused horses.

“Our surgery service also performs lameness examinations and both surgical and non-surgical treatment to relieve pain and promote the athletic potential of our patients,” said Dr. Mochal-King, who grew up in a family that raised and showed quarter horses. She was also a member of the Iowa State University Rodeo Team.

“I have loved horses since childhood. Because of my background and training, I really understand how they move and what the goals of their specific careers are,” she

“There’s a special bond that you form with a horse... It’s really hard to explain but all ‘horse people’ understand it.”

– DR. ROBIN FONTENOT

continued. “I love their power and beauty. They are such extreme athletes; watching them is awe inspiring.”

With the support of College administration, the MSU CVM Equine Medicine and Surgery Service is continually expanding their equipment, technology, and training to offer their patients the most comprehensive and very best services possible.

According to Dr. Alison Eddy, also an associate clinical professor and board-certified surgeon with the equine team, several new services are in the works. “I am very excited about a couple of new treatment modalities that we have on the horizon. Dr. Caroline Betbeze, one of our ophthalmologists, will soon begin performing photodynamic laser treatment, which will allow us to treat the most common types of tumors in horses more efficiently and effectively,” Dr. Eddy said.

In addition, Dr. Eddy is currently studying a new type of therapy. “I’m taking a course in veterinary acupuncture at the Chi Institute of Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine,” she said. “Having these skills will definitely complement my Western veterinary training. I’m excited that I will be able to use them for the benefit of not only our equine patients, but also a variety of small animals, as well.”

Members of the College’s equine team are able to offer the special facilities for their patients, including air-conditioned and heated stalls, isolation stalls, neurologic stall, sand stall for laminitic patients, stocks for standing procedures, anesthetic induction and recovery stalls, and state-of-the-art surgical suites.

In addition, the team also provides emergency care 24/7 for sick and injured horses, and they work with the College’s theriogenology service to offer reproductive-related services and the College’s ambulatory service to offer field service to farms and stables.

Other services provided include specialized hoof trimming and shoeing rendered by Dr. Ben Nabors, a veterinarian who has conducted extensive research and is especially interested in how appropriate shoeing affects lameness. Equine physical therapy and rehabilitation services are provided by Dr. Allison Gardner, a veterinarian certified in equine rehabilitation who works closely with the equine team to offer physical therapy and rehabilitation services targeted to treat each horse’s injury and return them to soundness more quickly.

Dr. Cyprianna Swiderski, an associate professor and board-certified internist with the equine team, also works in the clinic but spends most of her time in the area of equine respiratory disease research, specifically related to equine asthma.

“My role has evolved over the course of the last 15 years, and my efforts are predominantly focused on my research,” Dr. Swiderski said. “Practicing veterinary medicine at the highest level and helping future veterinarians to do the same involves the integration of teaching, clinical medicine, and research. It is only through research that we can continue to improve veterinary medicine and how we actually treat animals.”

Dr. Swiderski’s research shows promise to not only benefit horses, but to one day possibly benefit people with neutrophilic asthma. Her knowledge and expertise in equine respiratory disease is a tremendous resource for horse owners throughout the region, as well as to MSU CVM students who are able to gain experience in this important aspect of equine medicine.

“MSU CVM’s Equine Medicine and Surgery Service continues to add impressive faculty and expand their offerings,” MSU CVM Dean Kent Hoblet said. “We are proud that our equine service so thoroughly comprehends horses.”



MEET THE MSU CVM EQUINE TEAM

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Michael Brashier, DVM, MS, DACVIM
Cyprianna Swiderski, DVM, PhD, DACVIM
Amy Lack, DVM, MS

SURGERY

Alison Eddy, DVM, DACVS
Cathleen Mochal-King, DVM, MS, DACVS
Robin Fontenot, DVM, MS, DACVS
Christine Lopp, DVM, MS

The team also includes two residents, two rotating interns, and three technicians, as well as a team of DVM and VMT students.



RIO'S GRAND RECOVERY

Most horse owners will tell you that a great horse will change your life, but a truly special one will define it. Such is the case with Diamante Del Rio, a 23-year-old Peruvian gelding belonging to longtime horse enthusiast Karen McCord of Madison, Mississippi.

A current MSU CVM Dean's Council member, Karen and her husband John are also donors and friends of the College, having established the Karen J. and John G. McCord Endowed Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine in 2004—well before she even sought care for one of her horses at the College.

Even though McCord still hadn't been a client, she already had a positive impression of the service by early 2007, when she worked with a friend to organize an event that involved current MSU CVM Equine Service Chief and Terri Nusz Endowed Equine Professor Dr. Cathleen Mochal-King in Canton.

"Dr. Mochal took a day from her busy schedule to present lectures and labs on equine general health maintenance, emergencies, dentistry, and lameness at a free horse-owner's workshop I helped organize," McCord said. "It was a very successful event, and her participation and enthusiasm

reflected her dedication to horses and sincere desire to improve their well-being. This was back in 2007; Dr. Mochal has since cared for my horses and has become very special to me through the years."

McCord's first experience bringing a horse to MSU CVM was actually in 2008, when she brought her now 22-year-old Peruvian gelding Celere' in for hind limb lameness. Celere' was diagnosed with suspensory ligament degeneration—a condition common in Peruvian horses—and was prescribed a course of special injections. Although he never fully recovered, McCord was impressed with the care he received.

"I found the doctors, students, and staff members to all be so kind and compassionate, and there was no doubt they offered Celere', who's now enjoying a life of leisure in the pasture, top-notch care," McCord said. "After experiencing the level of professionalism, care, and compassion the CVM team provided him, I knew I'd be back if any of my other horses needed advanced veterinary care."

Returning would come sooner than McCord hoped when her horse Rio began experiencing soreness in his feet later that year. However, with the equine team's care and through

the help of MSU CVM Assistant Clinical Professor Dr. Ben Nabors, who is also a podiatrist specializing in corrective shoeing to address lameness, he made a full recovery and remained in good health for quite some time.

Unfortunately, a little over a year ago, Rio suffered a significant foot injury, resulting in a serious abscess, and after more than a week working with their local veterinarian, was referred to MSU CVM and admitted under the care of associate clinical professor and equine surgeon Dr. Alison Eddy.

“When we arrived, Dr. Eddy evaluated Rio and explained the seriousness of his condition. We discussed the results of his x-rays, and she recommended a CT the next morning to get a clearer picture of what was going on,” McCord said. “She was very candid and straightforward regarding his condition and prognosis, explaining that there would be two options depending upon the outcome of the CT—perform surgery or euthanize him. This was not an easy message for her to deliver—or for me to hear—but she knew I needed to be prepared to make that difficult decision if necessary.”

“While Rio’s radiographs informed us that he had infected bone, the three dimensional images obtained using CT showed us that the adjacent structures were not infected. CT also allowed precise planning of the surgery,” Dr. Eddy explained. “Typically infected portions of the coffin bone can be removed from the bottom of the hoof. In Rio’s case, we needed to remove part of his hoof wall to gain access to the infected area.”

As fate would have it, the CT indicated surgery was, in fact, an option, and after receiving a great deal of information from Dr. Eddy, McCord elected to proceed. She couldn’t bare not giving her beloved Rio the chance to recover.

“The major concern I had about Rio at time of his admission was his profound level of pain. Once we had the CT information, planning and performing the surgery became pretty



From state-of-the-art facilities to excellent diagnosis, treatment and follow up, obvious concern and love for the animals, and attention to the owner’s needs, MSU CVM definitely gets the blue ribbon!

— KAREN MCCORD

care Rio received was exceptional,” she said. “And with their help, he was given a chance to, and ultimately made, a full recovery.”

McCord went on to say that the compassionate care provided by the equine services team was often as much for her as for her horse. “Although Rio was the patient, they understood my fears, concerns, and needs. Dr. Eddy called each day Rio was hospitalized with an update, not withholding good or bad news, and she was always straightforward with me, which I really needed and appreciated,” McCord said, noting that the update was also always presented in terms she could fully understand. “It was obvious she and her team were concerned for me, the owner, as well as my horse.”

“Words can’t really express the satisfaction, gratitude, and respect I have for the vet school,” she continued. “From state-of-the-art facilities to excellent diagnosis, treatment and follow up, obvious concern and love for the animals, and attention to the owner’s needs, MSU CVM definitely gets the blue ribbon!”

straightforward,” Dr. Eddy said. “I told Karen that surgery could save Rio’s life, but he had a long road ahead of him. Karen authorized surgery, knowing that this was his only chance.”

“While still anesthetized following his CT, Dr. Nabors removed the hoof wall that covered the infected bone, then I removed the infected bone until only healthy tissue remained. After surgery, his comfort level started improving within two or three days,” she continued.

Rio did fine with the surgery, but the following two months were difficult on many levels. According to McCord, Rio faced numerous setbacks, but Dr. Eddy never gave up. “Through each challenge that Rio presented, she and her team came up with a treatment. The



FINDING THE PERFECT FIT with Dr. Nabors

There's a common saying among horse folk: No foot, no horse. And it really couldn't be truer. However, thanks to veterinarians like MSU CVM's Ben Nabors, a lot of horses' "feet" couldn't be in better hands!

An assistant clinical professor in the College's department of clinical sciences, Dr. Nabors is one of a small group of veterinarians who specialize in podiatry, specifically, how appropriate shoeing impacts equine lameness, and he's in high demand.

The metal-filled shop often covered in a veil of smoke is far removed from where Dr. Nabors got his start—having graduated from Mississippi State University with a sociology degree in 1988 and afterwards serving a stint in the Peace Corps. Although, it was in the Peace Corps where Dr. Nabors learned the tools of his trade. After returning home and beginning to shoe horses in the Columbus area, a newspaper ad caught his attention.

"I saw an ad in the paper for an animal technician at MSU CVM, called to see what that was, and was told I had to be certified. So I left my job and entered the veterinary technician

program at Hinds Community College in Raymond," Dr. Nabors said, noting at the time, the College didn't have a veterinary technology program, and the Hinds program required one year there and one year here at CVM. "I ended up getting hired as a technician in the MSU Equine Service in 1998, and Drs. Linford, Brashier, and Rashmir encouraged me to take my prerequisites to apply for veterinary school. I took one class every semester and, after about 5 years, applied and was accepted into the DVM class of 2007."

After graduation, Dr. Nabors, along with his wife and three daughters, moved to Florida where he joined an equine practice. However, their time in the Sunshine State ended when Dr. Nabors was asked to return to MSU CVM as a clinical instructor in sophomore surgery and veterinary anatomy. It was an opportunity he felt he couldn't pass up.

"Once I returned to the College, I started a podiatry service in the equine clinical service, and I began working on my PhD in the department of veterinary clinical sciences. Dr. Linford served as my advisor with my studies focused on the mechanical properties of the laminae of the equine hoof," Dr. Nabors said. "I finished that in 2019 and really haven't looked

up. The last 15-plus years have been pretty darn busy.”

What sometimes feels like a herd of horses waiting to be evaluated and shod by this well-credentialed and respected veterinary podiatrist has proven an ideal opportunity for many CVM students, including now third-year student Andrew Cox.

“I’ve always loved horses and wanted to be an equine veterinarian,” Cox said, noting he met Dr. Nabors in 2009 when Nabors’ wife, Misty, became the MSU Rodeo Team coach. “Dr. Nabors knew I had an interest in equine medicine and would give me advice. When I started veterinary school, I started riding with him on the weekends and learning how to trim hooves and shoe horses.”

“As time progressed, I started working more in Dr. Nabors’ shop at the school and learning how to add modifications to shoes and advancing my knowledge in equine podiatry,” he continued. “As cases came in each week, we would talk about the pathologies associated with each and a therapeutic plan for managing it, as well as how we might change our plan over time.”

According to Cox, this time spent with Dr. Nabors has solidified his goal of practicing equine medicine and helped him decide to specialize in lameness. “So far I have learned the foundational principles for correct manipulation of the equine digit. I am currently working on my American Farriers Association Certification with a goal of having it completed by this summer,” he said. “Most of the time, lameness involves the distal limb of the horse and can be improved—or even corrected—with therapeutic shoeing, yet this is an area that many equine practitioners seem to have very little knowledge. My plan is to advance my knowledge of lameness in horses and the therapeutic options of shoeing; seeing the difference proper shoeing makes for both the horse and the owner is very rewarding.”

Dr. Nabors added that, in his opinion, “The influence of horseshoes on lameness is currently primarily art with very little science,” and said he plans to do more research to understand and advance the science of how the hoof functions and how best to shoe it.

Continuing to help other horse lovers “ride off into the sunset” appears to be Dr. Nabors’ plan for the present. He can do so knowing with the many students he’s taught, there will be someone ready and able to step into his shoes.



MEET the STAFF

NEW FACULTY



DR. MARY REBECCA "BECKY" TELLE

Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Sciences

Dr. Becky Telle returned to MSU CVM as an assistant clinical professor August 1. She graduated from Mississippi State University with a BS in animal and dairy sciences in 2011 and then earned her DVM from the CVM in 2015. Dr. Telle completed a rotating small animal internship at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in 2016, before going on to complete a residency in comparative ophthalmology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 2019.



DR. DARCIÉ SIDELINGER

Clinical Instructor, Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine

Dr. Darcie Sidelinger officially joined the MSU CVM family as a clinical instructor in pathobiology and population medicine last fall, after serving as a theriogenology resident since 2016. Dr. Sidelinger received her DVM from the University of Missouri in 2016. She also holds a certification in equine and canine massage therapy from Equissage in Round Hill, Virginia.



DR. JENNIFER BEAM

Clinical Instructor, Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine

Dr. Jennifer Beam joined the pathobiology and population medicine team as a clinical instructor in the food animal service in 2019. Dr. Beam completed her undergraduate degree in animal and dairy science at Mississippi State University in 2012 and earned her DVM from MSU CVM in 2016. Before joining the MSU CVM faculty, she completed a food animal internship here and spent two years in private practice.



DR. RYAN TAYLOR

Clinical Instructor, Department of Clinical Sciences

Dr. Ryan Taylor recently joined the MSU CVM faculty as a clinical instructor after completing a residency in anatomic pathology here. Dr. Taylor completed his undergraduate degree at Mississippi State University in 2012 and earned his DVM from MSU CVM in 2017. During his veterinary medicine studies, Dr. Taylor completed two study abroad trips to Makerere University in Uganda to study tropical veterinary medicine.



DR. MICHAEL JAFFEE

Associate Professor and Surgery Service Chief, Department of Clinical Sciences

Dr. Michael Jaffe joined the MSU CVM family as associate professor and surgery service chief last fall. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts, a DVM degree from the University of Missouri, and an MS from Louisiana State University. Dr. Jaffe is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and is a certified canine rehabilitation practitioner. Prior to joining MSU CVM, Dr. Jaffee spent 17 years in private practice and was a member of the faculty at Midwestern University.



DR. MARTHA FRANCES DALTON

Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine

Dr. Martha Frances Dalton returned to MSU CVM in 2019 as an assistant clinical professor in pathobiology and population medicine at the Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory in Pearl. Dr. Dalton is a 2016 graduate of MSU CVM. Before joining our faculty, she completed an anatomic pathology residency at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



HEATHER CUNNINGHAM

Heather Cunningham, who was initially hired as a medical technologist and currently serves as the supervisor of the clinical pathology laboratory in the department of pathobiology and population medicine, has worked at MSU for 21 years.

Serving as supervisor for the last five years, Cunningham oversees the everyday duties of the laboratory, which performs hematology, chemistry, special chemistry, urinalysis, serology, coagulation, and referral testing.

Cunningham also works with three technologists and is the supervisor of the emergency laboratory technician program during summer months. This program is composed of four or five veterinary students and veterinary technology students.

“Heather is a hard worker and has excellent technical skills, but most of all, she makes coming to work fun! We are lucky to have her working in the laboratory,” senior medical technologist Missy Bolin, said.

Before joining MSU CVM, Cunningham attended University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she received a degree in microbiology and clinical laboratory science. A certified medical technologist, Cunningham did not originally plan to work with animals, but after being given the opportunity to do so, she quickly realized how much passion she has for the work.

Today, she and her husband, John, who was her high school sweetheart, have been happily married 10 years and have four boys. Cunningham loves cooking, spending time with her family, and her job.

“I love working here! This has been my dream job since the day I arrived,” she said. “Everybody is so friendly, and they help one another. You just feel like you’re part of a family.”

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH continued on next page



KRISTINA KING

Kristina King has worked as a certified veterinary emergency technician at MSU CVM for the past five years. After initially enrolling at South West Community College, King transferred to MSU with plans to attend veterinary school but ultimately decided working as veterinary technician was a better fit for her.

Following graduation from the MSU CVM Veterinary Medical Technology program, King went to work for a private practice in Alabama, where she assisted supervisors and continued learning through an externship. However, when she learned of an opportunity at MSU CVM, she decided to come back to become a full-time Bulldog!

“When I first interviewed to start working here, one of the doctors told me that being an emergency/ICU tech is one of the best things you can do, because you learn so much. That alone made me want to do the job, but the people I work with is what has kept me here,” King said. “There are a lot of great people that have taught me over the years, and that has helped me become the person that I am. I also really love working with the animals and getting to know their individual personalities.”

Working 12-hour shifts does not prevent King from hanging out with her friends, reading, or enjoying the company of her pets. When she is on duty, she works with seven or eight veterinary students each shift. She also assists one or two veterinary technology students. King’s supervisor, ICU supervisor Nancy Wilson, assists King whenever needed.

“Kristina is a pleasure to work with; she is so extremely dedicated to her patients and their quality of care. She is one of the hardest workers I have had the pleasure to work alongside,” Wilson said. “She is eager to learn and always open to improving her already advanced skill set. She has a passion for paying it forward and taking time to teach veterinary students and veterinary medical technology students in order to help prepare them for the clinical field.”

“Kristina is so dedicated to her team and her patients that we actually have to make her leave the hospital after shift change,” Wilson continued. “Kristina is a real asset to our profession, and it is a pleasure to have her as a teammate.”

STRATEGIC PLAN FINALIZED

Last fall, with the help of numerous stakeholders and constituents, the College finalized work on its strategic plan, *Strategy for Excellence: 2020-2026*. This important guiding document was completed to function simultaneously with the overall University’s newly developed strategic plan.

Six teams of CVM faculty and staff addressed strategic goals focusing on the following key areas with the intent to (1) Foster Teaching and Learning, (2) Promote Research and Creativity, (3) Expand Outreach and Engagement, (4) Encourage Globalization, (5) Enhance Institutional Culture and Environment, and (6) Maintain a Stable Financial Base. Objectives and measures of success were developed for each of these areas to facilitate and help monitor progress toward reaching goals. After compilation, the plan was reviewed by numerous groups, including College faculty and staff, students, alumni, and the Dean’s Council before a final version was prepared and accepted by the CVM Cabinet.

According to MSU CVM Associate Dean for Administration Ron McLaughlin, who chaired the strategic planning process, the plan is a critical aspect of ensuring the College not only achieves its missions and expectations but exceeds them in the future. “This is a working plan that should serve us well through our upcoming Council on Education site visit next year, 50th anniversary celebration in 2024, and well into 2027,” he said. “It effectively addresses our mission, values, and strengths, as well as provides a well-thought-out map for negotiating potential challenges. I appreciate everyone’s time, effort, and input, and I’m confident the plan will contribute greatly to our continued success.”

Strategy for Excellence: 2020-2026 is accessible online at vetmed.msstate.edu/about/mission.



ESTES ELECTED TO NATIONAL SAVMA BOARD



AudreyAnne Estes, a second-year MSU CVM DVM student, has been elected to serve on the national executive board of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA). Estes was encouraged to run for the office of treasurer by her peers and mentors while representing the College at the SAVMA House of Delegates meeting held in Washington, DC, last August. She will serve as treasurer-elect until this August, when she will transition into the role of treasurer during her final year of veterinary school. In this position, Estes will oversee the organization's national budget and assist with distribution of scholarships and grants to veterinary students across the country. She will also attend SAVMA symposiums and AVMA conventions while in office.

CVM TEAM MEMBERS HONORED BY DAFVM

MSU CVM faculty and staff working in the Animal Health Center and in the College's state diagnostic laboratory were honored at the annual Summer Celebration hosted by the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine last fall. The Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (MVRDL) and the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (PRDL) were jointly presented the Foil Teamwork Award for 2019.

The Foil Award is presented in recognition of an individual or group of employees who go beyond the short-term self-interest of their department or college to forge alliances with colleagues from across the division and university. The MVRDL and PRDL were recognized for their efforts in providing surveillance tests required by state and federal regulations, as well as interacting with other MSU units to provide information and training about animal disease outbreaks to animal agriculture industry groups and citizens of Mississippi.

Dr. Lanny Pace, executive director of the laboratory system, accepted the award and stressed the lab system's commitment to protecting the health of animals, humans, and the state's bustling agricultural economy. "Our labs are positioned to provide the best level of protection, providing required regulatory testing as well as diagnostic testing in an efficient, professional, and courteous manner," he said. "We have a great team of employees, and it's nice to be recognized for the time and effort we put into our work and for doing that work well."

Employees of the College's Animal Health Center, Ruby Lynn Carter of the rehabilitation services unit and Maggie Horner of community veterinary services, were also honored by DAFVM at the event. Carter was named a Stellar Staff Award recipient in the support category, and Horner was named a Wise Support Staff Award recipient in the technical/paraprofessional category.

Congratulations to these outstanding members of the CVM team. We truly appreciate your commitment and hard work!



Dr. Lanny Pace, executive director of the College's diagnostic laboratory system, accepts the Foil Award on behalf of the Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory and the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine's Summer Celebration last August.



Ruby Lynn Carter
STELLAR STAFF AWARD RECIPIENT



Maggie Horner
WISE SUPPORT STAFF
AWARD RECIPIENT

CVM ENVOYS SERVE IMPORTANT ROLE AS AMBASSADORS FOR THE COLLEGE

You might say that the MSU CVM Envoys are the “welcoming committee” for the College. A select group of students who assist the College in the promotion of the profession and in the recruitment of prospective students, Envoys serve as official ambassadors for MSU CVM, providing tours and assisting with other College-sponsored activities, including the admissions interview process and orientation activities for incoming classes.

This tight-knit group is made up of a variety of CVM students who are predominantly in their first and second year of the DVM program; however, there are a few long-timers in the group. Despite the academic and clinical demands of being a third-year student, Travis Noto of Kenner, Louisiana, is one of them.

“My favorite part of being an Envoy is forming relationships and sharing the story of my journey to veterinary school with others who aspire to be veterinarians—including the bits of information that I never had someone tell me about becoming a veterinarian,” said Noto, who has conducted dozens of tours and worked scores of events since joining the program in 2017. “I strive to have honest conversations with each of my tours and mentees about the application process, the joys of veterinary school acceptance and admission, the curriculum, tips and tricks around the campus and Starkville, the amazing faculty and staff at MSU. I even share my story and prospective of veterinary school rejection and how it has made me into a better future veterinarian.”

The main responsibility of the Envoys is, in fact, providing tours of the College to prospective students and their families. These tours typically take place at lunchtime on weekdays; however, there are occasionally requests for tours outside these timeframes, as well as for them to work special events after business hours.

According to Eric Schrand, who is from Cincinnati, Ohio, and currently a second-year CVM student and Envoy, his favorite time to work is always interview week. “I love meeting the candidates and getting to know them and answer any questions they have! I remember how nervous I was for my interview, so it’s nice to be able to help relieve some of that stress for them.”

“I really believe the Envoy program is part of what makes MSU CVM feel like family! Envoys get to show potential students the school and all it has to offer, and a crucial part of that is making them feel welcome and a part of the family,” Schrand continued. “That ‘family’ feeling is truly one of the best things about our college. The class sizes are smaller which means you get to know all your classmates and your professors, and everyone truly does help each other out and really cares that everyone is successful!”

Both Noto and Schrand agree that aside from the family-like environment, one of the College’s bestselling points is the two full years of clinical training students receive.



(front) Laura Fidler, Morgan Currin, Kelsey Yates
(middle) Nicole Zimmerman, Jaymie Danford, Amanda Whitman, Laken Armstrong, Callie Ward, Emili McClure
(back) Joseph Evans, Eric Schrand, Mary Douglass Kerby, Peter McMinn, Emily Vowell, Logan Tucker, Reece Paulk

“The job they do for us is a vital part of recruiting the best students to our College and to our profession.”

— DR. KENT HOBLET

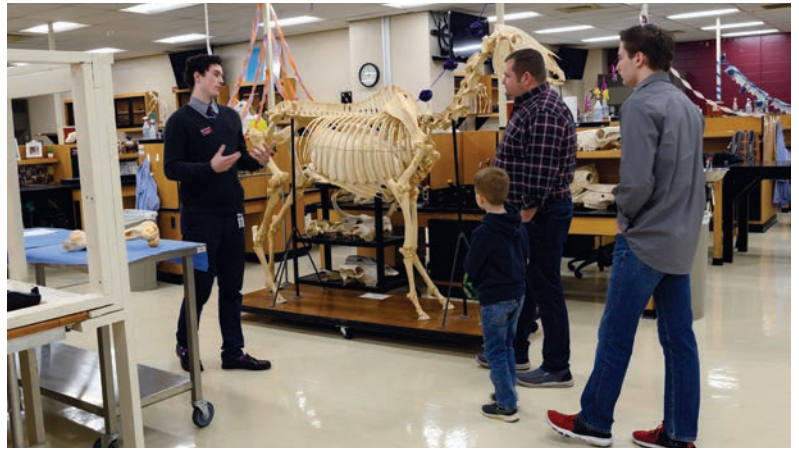
“For me, the faculty and staff make MSU CVM what it is, and the two-plus-two curriculum is what sets it apart,” Noto said.

“I believe having two years of clinics and rotations truly gives our students an advantage when they are looking for jobs or applying for internships/residencies. The program is the reason I chose MSU CVM over other schools; I knew I would have more hands-on clinical experience,” Schrand added.

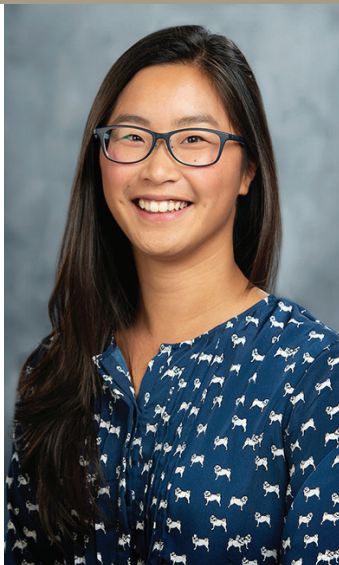
In addition to Noto and Schrand, 15 other students currently serve as Envoys. After being chosen through a small-group interview process, Envoys are required to maintain a 2.5 grade point average in the veterinary curriculum and must participate in three to four mandatory meetings per school year, as well as complete a brief program orientation and training.

“The CVM is extremely grateful to this special group of veterinary students,” MSU CVM Dean Kent Hoblet said. “The job they do for us is a vital part of recruiting the best students to our College and to our profession. Veterinary school is quite demanding, and the fact that these students make time to serve the College while navigating the curriculum and maintaining their grades is a good indication of their future success.”

For more information about the MSU CVM Envoy program, contact the College’s Office of Admissions and Academic Affairs or visit our website at vetmed.msstate.edu/why-msu-cvm.



SONES EARNS NATIONAL AWARD FOR ANIMAL BEHAVIOR RESEARCH



Tobi Ku Sones, a third-year student at MSU CVM, won the prestigious 2019 Whitney Joy Engler Memorial Veterinary Student Research Award from the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB) for exceptional research in the field of animal behavior. The award was presented at the 12th International Veterinary Research Behavior Meeting in Washington, DC, in August.

Sones’ study, titled “Positive reinforcement of a foundation behavior to reduce perceived anxiety of kenneled dogs,” was mentored by Dr. Christine Calder, former assistant clinical professor in the clinical sciences department, and Dr. Lucy Senter, who recently retired as the University’s director

of animal resources and attending lab animal veterinarian at MSU CVM.

Sones received a plaque and \$1,000 as recipient of the award. Her participation in the ACVBA meeting was made possible by a Graduate Student Travel Assistance Grant from the University’s graduate school and support from the College’s Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

A Columbus, Mississippi, native, Sones is a past officer of the student chapter of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, Christian Veterinary Fellowship, and the Veterinary Business Management Association student organization at MSU CVM.



FLYING HIGH with Dr. Janzen

Dr. Ashley Janzen has always loved animals, but her affinity for birds, which developed while still an undergraduate during a stint as an animal care intern at the Philadelphia Zoo, has bird lovers near and far seeking her to care for their avian friends.

A current PhD student in the department of clinical sciences at MSU CVM, Dr. Janzen has experience working with a variety of bird species; however, she is especially interested in parrots and birds of prey. “I have a scientific fascination with hawks and owls. Their intelligence, behavior, and ability to maintain poise and focus in all conditions amazes me,” she said. “I do enjoy working with all types of birds though; this is pretty obvious when you visit my home.”

Dr. Janzen has personally owned a yellow-sided green-cheeked conure named Ptak, and she currently has a



blue-throated macaw named Keiko, who frequently visits the College to assist with avian- and exotic-related instruction for students. “Keiko is a year-and-a-half old and serves as an ambassador animal for her critically endangered species—which is native to a small area in Bolivia—through the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It is estimated that there are less than 250 blue-throated macaws currently residing in the wild,” Dr. Janzen said. “However, breeding and conservation programs have been established to help save the species, and about 1,400 currently live in the private sector and zoos.”

According to Dr. Janzen, Keiko enjoys spending time outside of her aviary on her indoor play stand and in her outdoor enclosure. Other hobbies include screaming and shredding wooden toys. “Keiko’s vocabulary is slowly developing, and she is currently

“I love all animals, but birds are my passion. While working in the CVM clinics, I’ve had the opportunity to treat owls, herrings, turkey vultures, parrots, budgies, and eagles.”

– DR. ASHLEY JANZEN

able to say, ‘Hail State,’ ‘How now brown cow,’ ‘What’re doin,’ ‘Hello,’ and ‘Stop screaming,’” Dr. Janzen said.

She and her husband, Matthew, whom she married right after earning her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from MSU CVM in 2018, also have a variety of other birds, and rounding out their menagerie are three dogs and two horses they enjoy spending time with and training.

“I love all animals, but birds are my passion,” Dr. Janzen said. “While working in the CVM clinics, I’ve had the opportunity to treat owls, herrings, turkey vultures, parrots, budgies, and eagles.”

Dr. Janzen recently cared for a barred owl that she and her students affectionately named Al, who was brought to the Animal Health Center (AHC) by good Samaritans. After a battery of tests and a five-day stay, along with a lot of TLC, they were able to release him back into the wild. “All went well with this case. The students were able to expand their experience with the avian species,” Dr. Janzen said. “I’ve since had one of those students contact me about an owl they found near their home and provide me a report on the physical exam they conducted and their proposed care plan. I can’t help but think their experience with Al prepared them for this situation.”

One of Dr. Janzen’s current patients, a cochin hen named Henrietta, has defied the odds. “Henrietta presented to us last fall with respiratory distress and a distended abdomen. After



determining she had heart disease and was in the beginning stages of liver failure, we conducted diagnostic modalities to formulate a treatment plan,” Dr. Janzen said. “I’m happy to say she has done exceptionally well and exceeded our expectations for survival. She is definitely one of my favorite patients thus far in my career.”

The feeling is mutual, according to Henrietta’s owner Claire Geneser, who credits Dr. Janzen and her team with saving Henrietta’s life—and, consequently, dramatically improving the life of her boyfriend. “When I purchased her, I had no idea the impact she would have on my boyfriend, whose military career left him with PTSD. Upon arrival, she quickly became known as the happiest bird in the yard—and has since become the happiest bird in our house,” Geneser said, noting that when Henrietta first became sick, her boyfriend brought her inside and hand fed her for over two months. “She never fully returned to her previous active self and couldn’t keep up with the chickens outside, so we made a coop for her indoors.”

According to Geneser, Henrietta is incredibly social, spending time daily sitting on their laps and, when left alone, sitting as close as possible to their great dane. “Months of care for this bird have provided a goal and reward for my boyfriend. She has truly become an emotional support companion for him.”

“We are so grateful to have found Dr. Janzen,” Geneser continued. “She and each of the students on her team have gone above and beyond to care for Henrietta, and we know she is still around because of that care.”



CVM CAREER EXPO CONNECTS GRADS AND EMPLOYERS

Last fall, the College hosted its first career expo, providing MSU CVM Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and veterinary medical technology students the opportunity to connect with potential employers from across the country. With more than 100 students and two dozen different practices/organizations participating, the event was deemed a huge success and is now set to become an annual event at MSU CVM.

MSU CVM Animal Health Center Director Dr. Joey Burt, who coordinates the College's Art of Practice & Business Management class, organized the event.

"We are thrilled with the interest in our first MSU CVM Career Expo! It was well attended by both prospective employers and students," he said. "There was a definite 'buzz' in the exhibit area, and it was a lot of fun to see the excitement from our students as they engaged representatives at each of the individual booths."

According to Dr. Burt, those exhibiting at the event represented 11 different states across the country as well as corporate entities also offering positions in numerous other states. Representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture were also on site to recruit students.

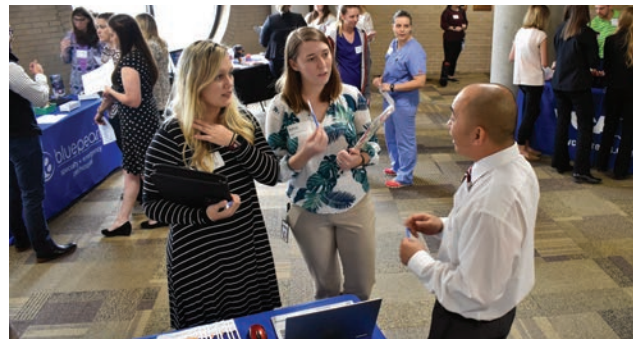
MSU CVM fourth-year student Jalin Myrick participated in the Expo and was not only impressed with the practice opportunities shared at the event, but also had the good fortune of actually securing a position as a result of contacts she made while there.

"I had never been to a career fair before, so I really didn't know what to expect; however, I had a lot of fun and took advantage of the chance to practice my interview skills. As it turned out, I not only secured an externship opportunity from attending, but I also met my future employer! You really just never know who you might meet at an event like this or the opportunities it might provide at present or even down the road!"

In addition to the opportunities presented to MSU CVM students, the event also included resources for the vendors and employers in attendance, along with complimentary lunch and an MSU CVM swag bag.

"The participating practices and organizations were invited to attend a special CE event sponsored by Merck Animal Health prior to the exhibits opening," Dr. Burt said. "We were pleased to have Dr. Taylor Tillery, a professional services veterinarian with Merck, onsite to address attracting, training and motivating staff members. He provided a wealth of beneficial information related to not only salaries and schedules but also fringe benefits that should certainly prove helpful to those seeking to hire new and recent graduates in our field."

The date for the 2020 Expo has been set for Friday, October 16, so if you're an MSU CVM student actively searching for a job, a veterinarian in private practice looking to expand your staff, or if you're working with an organization seeking new veterinary graduates, mark your calendar and plan to attend! Details about the second annual event are forthcoming and will be posted on social media and to the College's website, vetmed.mssstate.edu, in early summer.



MSU CVM WELL REPRESENTED AT CRWAD CONFERENCE

Several MSU CVM faculty and students attended the 100th Annual Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) in Chicago in November. Oral presenters from MSU CVM included Dr. Dave Smith, Dr. Bob Wills, Dr. Cyprianna Swiderski, and Dr. Isaac Jumper, as well as students Tyler McMurray, Hannah Carter, Matt Scott, Cassie Cain, and Alexis Thompson. The College was also represented in poster presentations by Dr. Carla Huston, Dr. Isaac Jumper, and Cassie Cain, as well as many others.



Dr. Amelia Woolums, professor in the MSU CVM Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine, who served as the 2019 vice-president for CRWAD and will be the 2020 president, said the poster presentation format for CRWAD is a great opportunity for student researchers. "It's a great meeting for students to present research. It's a supportive meeting, and they're encouraged to present and participate," she said. "It doesn't have to be a completed project yet, either. They could potentially give an update every year on their research."

Dr. Dave Smith, Hall-Davis Endowed Professor in the MSU CVM Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine, was a featured speaker for the conference and addressed using systems thinking as a way of approaching complex

problems in animal health. "Most of the problems we look at are big, complex things, yet the research that we do is very focused," he explained. "Earlier in my career, I spent a lot of years studying *E. coli* that cause food-borne illnesses. We worked on testing interventions; we spent a lot of time studying why the animals shed *E. coli* and how they do it, but no one was utilizing vaccines to prevent it."

MSU CVM Basic Sciences Department Head Dr. Bob Wills also presented his research, which focuses on a system dynamics model

to facilitate the control and eradication of brucellosis in sheep within the Gansu Province of China. The infectious disease not only affects sheep, but also cattle, pigs, and dogs and can be transmitted to humans. Dr. Wills said the conference was very informative, and he was very pleased to see so many faculty and students representing MSU CVM this year.

"I recall in years past that Dave Smith and I would be the only representation from MSU. I think it really bodes well for us that we have strong involvement at an important conference like this," Dr. Wills said. "We commonly say that MSU CVM is a very well-kept secret, and these kinds of conferences let the secret out a little. It's an opportunity for students and faculty alike to present research to people from all over the world!"

VSC NEUROSURGEON PRESENTS CE COURSE IN CHINA



MSU CVM Clinical Professor and Neurosurgery/Neurology Chief Dr. Andy Shores presented a neurosurgery continuing education course in Nanjing, China last September. Held at the Chinese School for Advanced Veterinary Studies, the course not only focused on surgical techniques, but also a systematic approach to disease diagnosis. It included two and one-half days of lecture and one and one-half days of laboratories and was attended by more than 70 veterinary students and practitioners.

ONE DOZEN HEALTHY HABITS FOR SELF-CARE

Veterinarians, like most of those in demanding medical fields, are so very good at caring for others that they often neglect their own self-care, placing them at great risk of exhaustion, poor physical and mental health, and dissatisfaction with life—factors which could potentially lead to them ending their careers well before time to do so. There is a very good reason all airline attendants remind you on each and every flight to put your mask on before helping others. None of us can function at *enduring* peak efficiency without first taking care of ourselves.

Self-care is essential for emotional and physical well-being. My review of evidence-based research has convinced me of the veracity of the following dozen health habits of self-care.

1) SLEEP

- a. Allows for the brain to form pathways necessary for learning and consolidating information
- b. Deprivation impacts mood, energy, memory, academic & physical performance, and focus & concentration

2) NUTRITION & HYDRATION

- a. Physical and mental tasks demand fuel; the body can't operate at peak effectiveness without fuel
- b. Protein snacks provide quick, grab-and-go energy
- c. Meal planning is essential for maintaining healthy eating
- d. Water influences the neural systems important for attention, memory, and mood
- e. Water is essential for stress management and effective cortisol functioning

3) MOVEMENT

- a. 20-30 minutes of a cardiovascular activity improves serotonin and dopamine—which improves
 - sleep
 - emotional and physical wellness
 - learning and memory
- b. Essential for academic success in a marathon setting

4) PLAY

- a. Improves problem solving and executive functioning skills (planning, organization, etc.)
- b. Improves motor routines and motor efficiency

5) YOGA AND MINDFULNESS

- a. Essential for emotional well-being
- b. Anterior insula shows positive physical and functional changes which allows for
 - improved sense of control
 - reduction in anxiety and depression symptoms

6) SOCIALIZATION

- a. Social isolation has been associated with increased rates of suicidal ideation
- b. Access to social connections also improves resiliency and recovery from depressive episodes



MSU CVM Clinical Psychologist Dr. Pauline Prince

- c. Positive mood spreads more easily than low mood and serves as a protective factor against depression

7) CONNECTIONS

- a. Provide for a sense of “family,” community, and stability
- b. Reduce workloads and allow for the sharing of mutually beneficial information
- c. Provide a sense of safety

8) BRAIN BREAKS

- a. Decompress from the stressors of the day
- b. Relax and restore energy
- c. Allow for better decision making
- d. Generate more creative ideas
- e. Refocus attention
- f. Consolidate learning

9) HUMOR

- a. Limbic system involved with all emotion, including laughter
- b. Laughter reduces muscle tension, increases energy, and improves focus
- c. Laughter activates specific parts of the brain associated with pleasurable feelings

10) COMPARTMENTALIZING

- a. Reduces procrastination
- b. Allows for overwhelming tasks to be broken into smaller, more manageable components

11) SUNSHINE

- a. Essential for vitamin D level
- b. Air exchange is better outside than inside
- c. Protective factor for the “blues”

12) GRATITUDE

- a. Contributes to a sense of well-being and good self-esteem
- b. Helps shift out of negative thinking patterns
- c. Increases opportunities for social connectedness
- d. Improves the quality of sleep

Juggling requires that we can stand on both legs, move with ease and flexibility, have sufficient stamina, AND BREATHE, while managing each of the demands we are facing.

Dr. Pauline Prince
MSU CVM CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

CVM HOLDS FIRST Grateful Dawg Day

MSU CVM students, faculty, and staff recently participated in the College's first "Grateful Dawg Day" celebration. During the course of the event, more than 250 participants took a few minutes of their time to express their gratitude to generous CVM donors by writing thank you notes and posing for social media photo messages. The event was a celebration of our donors and an important time, especially for students, to show appreciation to the many alumni and friends who so generously invest in MSU CVM students and faculty.

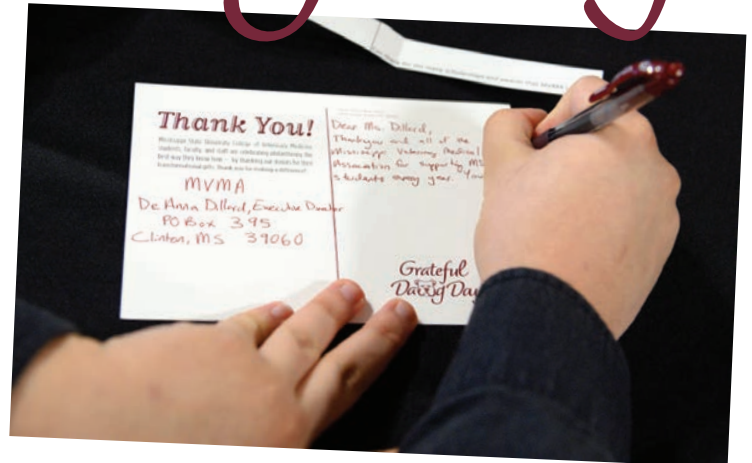
Many of our students receive scholarships and have benefited from gifts, helping them to achieve their goals and dreams in the field of veterinary medicine. Grateful Dawg Day is slated to be held annually to help build a better understanding of what occurs behind the scenes with philanthropy and will hopefully remind students, faculty, and staff to show gratitude every day.

Sydney J. Tamashiro, MSU CVM DVM class of 2023 participated in the event and wrote,

"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bryan,

Thank you for your generous donations to Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Donors like you allow the college to make incredible advances in veterinary medicine and to produce the next generation of veterinarians. Thank you for all that you do!"

"Grateful Dawg Day is a new addition to our stewardship efforts to help enhance a culture of thankfulness at MSU CVM," Melissa Montgomery, advancement coordinator said.



"We gathered together to reflect on donor impact and write hundreds of personal notes—which are a small gesture to express how grateful we are for opportunities made possible through gifts."

Donor support affects everyday life at the College, and it helps make the experience invaluable, whether it's making an international trip possible, funding an award or student scholarship, helping attract talented professors, or bringing in expert guest speakers.

Regardless of how much or how often an individual contributes, their gift plays an important role in changing the lives of people and pets, and for that we are GRATEFUL DAWGS!





LEARNING BEYOND BORDERS

Beyond the classroom and laboratory, MSU CVM students pursue learning opportunities across the globe, combining foreign travel and cultural immersion with veterinary training, gained experience, and outreach.

Thanks to generous alumni and friends who support the College's international travel funds, in 2019, CVM students traveled to Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Uganda, and Kenya. The purpose for each student's trip varied. Many students visited isolated areas to provide basic veterinary care and owner education while being exposed to how local veterinarians approach veterinary care, herd management, and wildlife and large animal health. Collaborations with educational institutions and communities facing difficult conditions exposed students to the importance of idea sharing and working together on large scale issues that affect the entire globe.

Support for CVM-funded student trips is available through a competitive application process. To be considered to receive travel support, students must be enrolled at MSU CVM in

the professional program. They are required to submit an application, and they must meet any guidelines set forth for each specific fund. Currently, the CVM offers students support from five travel funds including the following:

- **Paul Eggert International Education Travel Fund**
This fund was established by Mrs. Diane Eggert in memory of Paul Eggert. The award is given to a full-time student enrolled in the professional program in the CVM who has demonstrated academic achievement, maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA. The student must be of good moral character. Preference is given to a student pursuing an experience related to animal agriculture or global food safety and security.
- **International Veterinary Humanitarian Endowed Fund**
This fund is endowed by a gift from former dean Dr. John and Kay Thomson and is given to a student with a demonstrated interest in humanitarian work in underdeveloped countries.
- **Dr. Paul Farmer Memorial and Nutramax Laboratories Student Travel Support Fund**

This fund was established by Nutramax Laboratories and Dr. Todd Henderson in memory of Dr. Paul Farmer. The award is available to a full-time CVM student in good academic standing who has demonstrated leadership ability and a desire to improve the quality of life for others. The recipient must be an active member of Christian Veterinary Fellowship.

- **Pegasus Partners Fund**

This fund is endowed by many generous “Pegasus Partners” who fulfilled a gift of \$10,000 toward the Pegasus Partners Endowment, which can be used to provide critical support for various supplemental activities that complement, enhance, or expand the mission of the CVM, including scholarships or travel for students and faculty.

- **Rural Practice Externship Travel Grant**

This fund was established by a gift from an anonymous donor. The award is available to students participating in experiences with rural practice or public practice located outside of the state of Mississippi.

Students who study abroad always return with a wealth of professional and practical experience frequently referred to as “life-changing.” This is often evidenced in the comments they



share on their follow-up report and survey, such as seen below:

“I improved my ultrasound skills and my clinical mind. We had to treat animals with limited supplies and resources. I could not be happier with my experience, and I’m grateful that donors support this experience. I feel that international veterinary work, public health, and agriculture should be experienced by every veterinarian at some point.”

2nd-year student Peter McGinn, who traveled to Peru

“I enjoyed learning about new species that I have never worked with before, and I experienced how to be resourceful and think outside of the box.”

2nd-year student Kiley Walker, who traveled to Belize.

“I was taught by amazing veterinarians, and I saw firsthand that having compassion for a hurting animal knows no cultural boundaries. A trip like this gives you a greater appreciation for your country, for the education available, and for the people who entrust their animals to you. It will give you renewed resolve and vigor to work hard to become the best veterinarian you can possibly become to be able to serve your clients.”

2nd-year student Lea Burns, who traveled to Haiti.

The opportunities are endless for alumni and friends to support MSU CVM students. For more information on how to establish a fund or make a gift to a current travel fund, please contact Jimmy Kight at (662)325-5893 or jkight@foundation.msstate.edu.

HUSTON NAMED AAEV VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR



MSU CVM Professor of Pathobiology and Population Medicine Dr. Carla Huston was named the American Association of Extension Veterinarians (AAEV) 2019 Veterinarian of the Year. The award was presented at the annual AAEV meeting held in Providence, Rhode Island, last fall.

Dr. Huston, who joined MSU CVM in 2001 and also serves as Mississippi State University’s Beef Extension Veterinarian and Outreach Coordinator, has been actively involved with the AAEV since 2004. She currently serves as the organization’s treasurer.

According to Dr. Huston, her work with the MSU Extension Service began to evolve in 2006 and has increased dramatically through the years. “I always wanted to be an Extension veterinarian. When I was completing my undergraduate degree at Ohio State, I worked with Dr. Hoblet (current CVM Dean) and Dr. Bill Shulaw, who were both Extension veterinarians,” she said. “I came to truly admire their roles because they essentially bridged the gap between hard core research work and clinical medicine and the farmers, producers, and public in general.”

“And, now, I get to do that same type of work. My job is rarely the same on any given day,” Dr. Huston continued. “I’m basically a problem-solving consultant in the area of beef cattle; I work with other veterinarians to help solve client problems and to troubleshoot management issues. I have to work a lot of nights and weekends, but it’s so worth it.”

A great deal of Dr. Huston’s time is spent conducting programs and providing education to veterinarians and producers related to herd health, disease management, and judicious antimicrobial use. She leads and/or coordinates a number of classes; however, all of them are not related only to beef cattle. As an expert in disaster management and response, Dr. Huston also conducts disaster management, large animal response, and other such classes. She is also credited with helping develop a working canine class for law enforcement officers and emergency responders.

“I get to work with so many talented people across the country and world,” Dr. Huston said. “I’m very thankful for the support I receive from both CVM and Extension administration. I have so many dedicated and talented colleagues, and I really love what I do.”

Dr. Huston earned her bachelor’s degree, DVM degree, and PhD from Ohio State University. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and a previous recipient of the Mississippi Veterinarian of the Year award.

CVM WELCOMES TAYLOR LYNE AS ALUMNI FELLOW

Dr. Taylor Lyne pushed the letter from the Mississippi State University Alumni Association aside as he went through the mail. He assumed it was another pamphlet or something thanking him for his support of the university and the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, but something told him to go back and open it.

Inside was congratulations on being named the 2019 MSU CVM Alumni Fellow. He read over it a couple of times before calling Jimmy Kight, the College's director of development, to ask if it was legit. "I really couldn't believe it," Dr. Lyne said. "It's truly humbling to receive this honor."

Dr. Lyne's father was a veterinarian, a graduate of the University of Georgia. His parents opened a small clinic near Richmond, Virginia, when he was young. That's where he grew up and where he decided he wanted to be a veterinarian and take over the practice one day.

"I wasn't a great student. I was diagnosed with dyslexia and sometimes really struggled with school. I remember one day my teachers called my parents and said, 'Taylor should really lean towards going into a trade. We don't think college is for him.' That didn't sit well with me, so with my parents' blessing, I went to military school."

After graduating from Fork Union Military Academy in 1984, Dr. Lyne went on to Emory and Henry College in Abington, Virginia, for his undergraduate studies. During his time at Emory and Henry, Dr. Lyne's father became ill. Ultimately, he decided to move home to help his parents and continue his studies nearer to Richmond.

Studying closer to home allowed Dr. Lyne to buckle down and make better grades, but his cumulative GPA was still not high enough to gain admission to veterinary school. A professor suggested Ross University on Saint Kitts Island. After a few conversations, Dr. Lyne agreed to give it a try.

"When I started, we had a class of eight. By the second semester, we had a class of six," he said. "In the beginning of my third semester, our Dean gathered everyone in the courtyard to let us know that a hurricane was headed straight for Saint Kitts and encouraged all students to leave, but I wouldn't. Hurricane Hugo devastated the island a few days later."

Hurricane Hugo left the island and Ross University without water for 30 days and without power for nearly two months. Still, Dr. Lyne stayed.



"In my third semester, the dean called me into his office and said that the university could not continue to educate me alone. He wanted me to fall back into the next incoming class, but with my mom at home running the practice alone, I didn't see that as an option," Dr. Lyne said. "After some discussion, we decided that I should transfer. Mississippi State's program with two full years in clinical rotations appealed to me, so I applied, was admitted, and off I went."

Admittedly, Dr. Lyne was nervous about joining the class of 1994 in the third quarter of their first year of study. The 45-person class had already been together for two quarters and had created a bond. Luckily, class president, Edward Koronowski, took Dr. Lyne under his wing from day one—integrating him into a study group and suggesting he find an activity to help de-stress from the ins and outs of vet school. Outside of studying, Dr. Lyne played rugby.

In 1994, Dr. Lyne earned his DVM degree from MSU CVM and returned to Chester, Virginia, with his wife, KC, to take over the family practice. In 1998, the Lyne family decided to donate the original clinic, Chesterfield Veterinary Clinic, to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

Today, the Lyne family operates two clinics, Chester Animal Clinic and Courthouse Road Animal Hospital, as well as the West Chester Pet Resort—a daycare, boarding resort, and animal park facility. Dr. Lyne credits much of his success to mentors from MSU CVM, the support of KC, and the resilience that got him through school.

Congratulations to 2019 MSU CVM Alumni Fellow Dr. Taylor Lyne!

“Mississippi State’s program with two full years in clinical rotations appealed to me, so I applied, was admitted, and off I went.”

— DR. TAYLOR LYNE

SENER RETIRES



Dr. Lucy Senter, university veterinarian and director of laboratory animal resources, has retired after 15 years of service. Dr. Senter came to MSU CVM in 2005 after many years of work with Johnson and Johnson in Cincinnati, Ohio. Through her mentorship during her tenure, 15 MSU CVM graduates elected to go on to either residency programs or have become board-certified in laboratory animal medicine. The College is super grateful to Dr. Senter for her outstanding service and for the positive influence she had on our students. Dr. Senter, we wish you all the best; you will be missed!

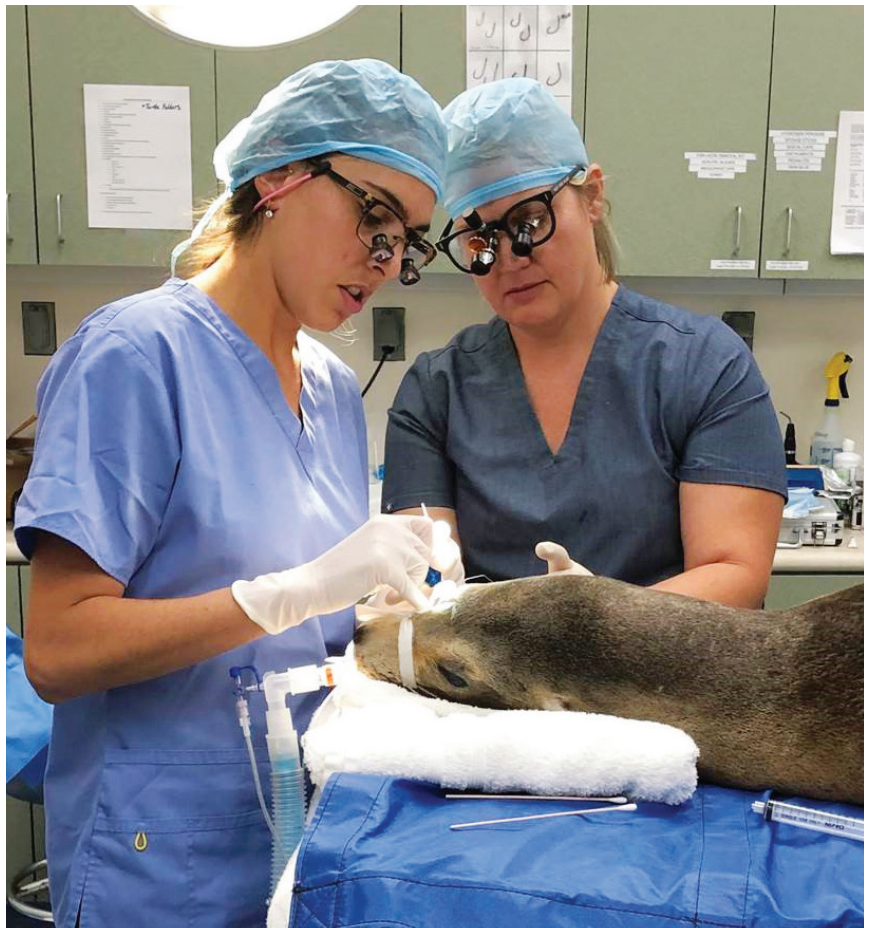
PARTNERSHIP WITH IMMS BENEFITS ANIMALS AND STUDENTS

The College's partnership with the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) in Gulfport, which is made possible by a grant provided through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality by the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, continues to offer our faculty, residents, interns, and students exposure to a variety of different species of marine animals, providing a wealth of unsurpassed learning opportunities.

As seen in these photos, it's not uncommon to find team members caring for bottle-nosed dolphins, Kemp's ridley sea turtles, and California sea lions. MSU CVM Assistant Clinical Professor Dr. Debra Moore is stationed at IMMS to oversee the veterinary care provided as well as the work of all CVM students while on that rotation. Other faculty routinely working with this program include veterinary pathologist Dr. Tim Morgan, veterinary microbiologist Dr. Mark Lawrence, veterinary epidemiologist Dr. Bill Epperson, and veterinary radiologist Dr. Alison Lee. Dr. Christa Barrett, who joined the program last fall, is the College's first full-time intern at IMMS.

Others from CVM providing expertise to support the care of IMMS animals include veterinary internist Dr. John Thomason, ophthalmologist Dr. Caroline Betbeze, ophthalmology intern Dr. Lindsey Seyer, neurologists/neurosurgeons Dr. Andrew Shores and Dr. Michaela Beasley, and clinical pathologist Dr. Matt Williams.

As a result of the partnership with IMMS, MSU CVM is one of only two US colleges of veterinary medicine able to offer all students marine animal medicine training, and scores of sick, injured and/or stranded animals receive the much-needed care they deserve.





PIT BULL'S SWEET SPIRIT an Example for All

It's often said that if people had the hearts of dogs, the world would be a better place. A young female pit bull found near death, who has since made an almost miraculous recovery, is an example of that very saying. Despite all she's been through, Jelly Bean, as she is now known, is routinely described as gentle, affectionate, trusting, and eager to please.

Last October, Amber Burrus, founder and director of Coco's House Senior Sanctuary and Rescue in Terry, Mississippi, found Jelly Bean in a ditch, thrown out like a piece of trash. Her situation appeared grim, but as an experienced animal rescue worker, Burrus knew the Animal Emergency & Referral Center (AERC) in Flowood was where Jelly Bean needed to be if there was any hope for her survival.

"My best guess is that she was used as a 'bait dog' in dogfighting. I don't know exactly how she ended up near my home," Burrus said. "I'm just glad I found her when I did, because she was already living on borrowed time. Thankfully, I knew where to go to give her the best chance."

"Our organization has an established relationship with the AERC. Through the years, they have probably taken care of at least 75 of our dogs," she continued. "They are absolutely wonderful!"

Dr. Clay Ivey, a veterinarian at the AERC, which is an affiliate location of the MSU CVM, was there to care for Jelly Bean upon her arrival.

"When Jelly Bean arrived at AERC, it was a grave situation; she was literally covered in wounds from her head to her toes. She was emaciated, weak, dehydrated, and dull; she was having cardiac arrhythmias, and her blood pressure was very low," Dr. Ivey said. "She also had a mass on her abdomen that was roughly the size of a tennis ball. Bloodwork showed severe anemia, very high white blood cell count, low blood sugar, and—to top things off—she had heartworms as well."

Jelly Bean's initial diagnosis was critically ill with sepsis resultant from dog bite wounds and yet-to-be-determined internal trauma.

I'm just glad I found her when I did, because she was already living on borrowed time. Thankfully, I knew where to go to give her the best chance.

— AMBER BURRUS

"Jelly Bean was by no means stable enough to go straight to surgery, which she desperately needed, so she was stabilized with IV fluids, pain medicine, broad spectrum antibiotics, a blood transfusion, and a procedure called a thoracocentesis, wherein the air trapped outside of her lungs was removed with a needle and syringe," Dr. Ivey explained.

"Hearing just exactly how bad off she was and Dr. Ivey's long-term prognosis wasn't easy. What made it the most difficult was how sweet and gentle she was," Burrus said. "I've dealt with a lot of sick and injured dogs, and most aren't like this. When they are in pain and scared, they can be aggressive towards anyone trying to help them."

According to Dr. Ivey, Jelly Bean improved as a result of the AERC team's stabilization efforts, and she was eventually deemed stable enough for surgery; however, she did very poorly under anesthesia. "She was on the bare minimum anesthetic agents to keep her on the table for the procedure," he said.

During surgery, Dr. Ivey found that Jelly Bean's left kidney was badly damaged and leaking urine into her abdomen; her spleen was lacerated into three distinct pieces, and she had a large tear in her adjacent body wall. He also found Jelly Bean's uterus to be filled with pus.

"I had to remove her left kidney, spleen, and uterus. I also repaired the body wall tear," he said. "Unfortunately, she recovered very sluggishly post-operatively, and she had to be given an additional blood transfusion that night."

However, over the course of the next several days, Jelly Bean's vital signs stabilized; her lab work normalized, and she began eating. "She became much brighter, and we started seeing glimmers of her personality," Dr. Ivey said. "After all she had been through—being abused and abandoned on death's door—she maintained the sweetest, most cheery disposition. She never showed any signs of aggression to the people that were taking



Dr. Christine Eaves and Emily Austin are part of the team that cared for Jelly Bean.



care of her, despite how miserable she was."

Dr. Ivey said Jelly Bean required a third blood transfusion during her recovery from her first surgery, and she later had her mammary tumor removed, which fortunately turned out to be a benign mass. She did, however, develop a complication, requiring a fourth blood transfusion and an additional surgery but ultimately recovered very well from that point.

"When I would visit Jelly Bean while she was hospitalized, I would always take her a few treats and a toy or two. Sadly, at first she had no idea what the toys were; however, she finally figured it out," Burrus said. "It was wonderful to see her radiate happiness and excitement."

"Jelly Bean's story is one of my favorites thus far in my career because she is a genuine 'underdog' story. She is a tough-as-nails pit bull with a sweet, docile personality you can't help but love," Dr. Ivey said. "And she is a real testament to the power of crowdsourcing—the donations Coco's House collected on her behalf enabled us to provide her with the very best care possible!"

"This sweet-spirited dog has been cared for by our

rescue organization, the AERC's amazing doctors, and her sweet fosters, and she is now, very deservedly, living her best life," Burrus added. "She was adopted by a retired veteran in Texas and now has a big yard to run and play in. She sleeps in the bed with him; they go on walks, and both are basically enjoying each day to the fullest!"

Coco's House Senior Sanctuary and Rescue was created as a tribute to Burrus' first senior sanctuary/rescue dog, Coco, who was left alone in a shelter after her owner passed away. The organization takes on cases that few other rescues will take, such as those with special needs and chronic medical conditions. To learn more, visit them on Facebook at [cocohouserescue](https://www.facebook.com/cocohouserescue).

MSU CVM-OLHS PARTNERSHIP UNLEASHES BRIGHTER TOMORROW FOR SHELTER ANIMALS



Dr. Philip Bushby

Almost thirty years ago, Dr. Phil Bushby, Marcia Lane Endowed Chair of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare, pioneered the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Spay-Neuter Program by taking veterinary students to shelters to perform spay and neuter surgeries and basic wellness care. For nearly fifteen years, the program was small, involving only one or two shelters, but had an important and significant impact, performing 4,255 spay and neuter surgeries at shelters with their own surgical suites. In 2007, the program received much-needed grant support that helped purchase a mobile veterinary unit. This 32-foot gooseneck trailer was fully equipped as an emergency response vehicle and a spay-neuter clinic, and from there forward, the program rapidly expanded. That same year, the shelter program partnered with Oxford Lafayette Humane Society (OLHS), setting a precedent that would ultimately be duplicated many times over with other shelters throughout the state in the months and years to come.

As the first official stop for the mobile veterinary unit during those early years of operation, OLHS, which opened its doors in 1982 to serve Lafayette County and surrounding areas in Mississippi, became the shelter medicine program's foundation to build upon. During bi-monthly visits there, an average of 28 animal surgeries—approximately 650 surgeries per year—were performed at no cost to the OLHS. The program enabled all OLHS's animals to be altered before they went to their adopted homes, and the shelter was able to provide better facilities and care for the animals remaining there as a result of the cost-savings afforded by the mobile unit.

In 2013, a second mobile veterinary unit, also fully equipped for spay-neuter surgeries, was acquired, further expanding the shelter medicine program's reach and impact. In 2018, the first mobile unit had to be retired due to excessive wear and tear; however, the program added a dedicated spay and neuter clinic on the MSU CVM campus, ultimately increasing the number of animals that could be altered in the same timeframe due to increased operating room space and travel time saved.

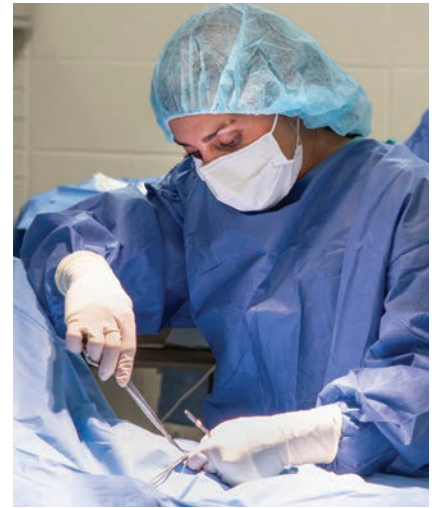
Today, the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program performs approximately 7,500 spay and neuter surgeries per year. While this number is impressive, another important impact of the program is the training offered to the veterinary students participating in the shelter medicine rotation. Students graduate highly skilled in high-volume spay-neuter techniques, and they have a strong understanding of the problems facing shelters. They go into local communities well-equipped to help solve problems.

Through the years, a strong and lasting relationship between OLHS and MSU CVM has developed; veterinary students and clinicians have provided invaluable resources for the shelter in addition to spay-neuter services, including consultations to improve shelter management, biosecurity, disease prevention, vaccination protocols, and overall healthcare for shelter animals.

"We have been and will always be greatly appreciative and indebted to Dr. Bushby and his program's success in our community," Cyd Dunlap, president of what is now the Tubb Spay Neuter Project, said, noting that OLHS, a nonprofit organization, re-purposed and renamed itself in 2018 when it stopped operating the city's animal shelter to focus on offering low-cost spay and neuter services to cats and dogs.

To honor Dr. Bushby's vision and efforts to address the pet overpopulation problem, the Tubb Spay Neuter Project established the Philip A. Bushby Spay and Neuter Endowed Fund at MSU. This endowment will provide continued support of the spay-neuter program, specifically for the cost of surgical supplies, anesthetic drugs, and other operational expenses not only in the Oxford area but also all other areas serviced by the program.

According to Dr. Bushby, this gift will help make it possible for the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program to continue the high level of surgery support for the 28 animal shelters and rescues it now serves across Mississippi. "As grant funds to support college spay neuter programs are becoming more difficult to obtain, support from individuals and humane groups is more and more important. We are so grateful for this generous gift that will help educate and train future veterinarians as well as benefit countless animals now and in the days to come," he said.



Dr. Jake Shivley

UNIVERSITY AND CVM FORGE NEW TRAINING PARTNERSHIP WITH FAO



Dr. Carla Huston, a professor in the MSU CVM Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine, who also serves as the Mississippi Veterinary Beef Extension and Outreach Coordinator, was invited and spent eight weeks in Rome as a visiting faculty member with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Emergency Management Center for Animal Health (EMC-AH).

The EMC-AH offers technical and operational assistance to help countries affected by or at risk of high-impact transboundary animal diseases, including zoonoses. The center also organizes missions, provides training, and develops tools to assist veterinary services of member countries.

Dr. Huston has a focus in disaster management and response, and her main role was to assist with revisions to the FAO's Good Emergency Management Practices (GEMP) guide, which serves to assist countries in developing disaster planning, preparedness, prevention, detection, response, and recovery. In addition to this work, she was involved in activities surrounding other potentially devastating diseases such as rinderpest, Rift Valley Fever, and foot-and-mouth disease. Dr. Huston also had the opportunity to

interact with the ebola virus working group and provide input to the WHO Global Outbreak and Response Network on disaster management training needs for other health professionals during a global leadership workshop.

The experience provided at the FAO complemented Dr. Huston's current work at the CVM, incorporating population medicine, livestock diseases, and disaster management into applied and practical disaster management concepts. The work also fostered collaborative relationships that are mutually beneficial to both the FAO and Mississippi stakeholders through the development and strengthening of relationships in global animal and public health arenas.

According to Dr. Huston, in addition to having representation on the GEMP technical working group, MSU now has the opportunity to send students and faculty to the FAO under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MSU International Institute and the FAO. Students and faculty have the opportunity to participate in externships, fellowships, and visiting faculty positions.

"Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, and a livestock disease outbreak would severely affect our economy. But on a larger scale—globally—so many people depend on animals for their livelihood, whether for food and fiber, transportation, or draught power," Dr. Huston said. "Disease outbreaks or widespread, natural disasters in developing countries can result in increased animal and human deaths due to disease, starvation, unemployment, increased migration, and increased unrest. By helping countries prevent, prepare, respond to, and recover from a disaster, we are helping to ensure food security and protecting lives worldwide."

MSU CVM Dean Kent Hoblet said this new partnership being forged with the FAO is a welcomed opportunity for both students and faculty at MSU CVM. "The learning opportunities afforded our students through these externships and internships will provide a wealth of valuable knowledge and experience related to animal and public health, which is obviously an integral part of local, state, national, and world economies and well-being," he said. "And the visiting faculty positions will be just as worthwhile, allowing the College to share our knowledge and expertise in a variety of areas for the benefit of those throughout the world, as well as stateside."

Dr. Huston echoed the Dean's sentiments, adding that, ultimately, by helping other countries prevent or respond to disease outbreaks, we are protecting US livestock. "Helping countries deal with devastating livestock diseases such as African Swine Fever or foot-and-mouth disease lessens the chance that such diseases will make their way into the US," she said. "This partnership will truly strengthen global capacities in animal disaster response."

By helping countries prevent, prepare, respond to, and recover from a disaster, we are helping to ensure food security and protecting lives worldwide.

— DR. CARLA HUSTON

CVM BRANDING INITIATIVE WELL UNDERWAY

Over the course of the last 18 months, the MSU CVM Dean's Office and Outreach Services have been actively working to establish an official brand for the College. This effort, which began at a foundational level, has now graduated to the point of branding components being readily identifiable by CVM faculty, staff, and students, as well as actively engaged alumni, donors, and friends of the College. Although there is still much work to be done to build brand recognition among MSU CVM's external audiences, the effort is well underway and appears destined to be extremely successful.

To date, the branding initiative has included:

- refinement of a "VetMed" logo created predominantly for engaging students and recruitment efforts.



- development of artwork, posters, displays, and digital templates and presentations for recruitment, outreach, and other promotional purposes.
- the addition of wall wraps and hanging banners within the Wise Center and Animal Health Center.
- revision of existing marketing materials and development of new pieces for legislative appropriations, giving opportunities, scholarships, recruitment, community outreach/engagement, and other such promotional efforts.
- creation of collateral materials including folders, notecards, event program books, stickers, a photo backdrop, and other such items.
- development and launch of the College's new website, vetmed.msstate.edu.

All faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, and friends of the College are encouraged to help promote the brand by sharing our new look at every opportunity given. With the foundation in place, now is the time to grow and expand upon these efforts. Check out the photos accompanying this article and visit the new website to get a good feel for where we're headed; this is only the beginning. The best is yet to come!



ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY 2019



SUMMER RESEARCH STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION
Hannah Carter (1st place), Maggie Tu (2nd place), Tyler McMurray (3rd place)



GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATION
Darby Stanford (1st place), Ethan Woodyard (2nd place), James Nichols (3rd place)



GRADUATE STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION
Moses Ayoola (1st place), Alexis Thompson (2nd place), Isaac Jumper (3rd place)

MSU CVM's Annual Research Day provides veterinary students, graduate students, and faculty the chance to showcase their accomplishments in research for the year through presentations to their professors and peers. Contributions from Nutramax Laboratories help make the event possible.

"As a 1992 MSU CVM graduate and president of Nutramax Laboratories, a leader in researching quality veterinary supplements, I want to see the College continue as a trailblazer in veterinary research," Dr. Todd Henderson said. "Nutramax Laboratories is proud to support MSU CVM Annual Research Day. The event is a great opportunity to showcase some of the amazing things that are being done at the College, and it offers graduate students and veterinary students valuable experience in presenting and defending their research, as well as provides them with some much-deserved recognition.

Students are recognized in three categories at the annual event: Summer Research Student and Graduate Student Posters and Graduate Student Oral presentations. This year's winners included:

SUMMER RESEARCH WINNERS

- FIRST PLACE:** Hannah Carter
- SECOND PLACE:** Maggie Tu
- THIRD PLACE:** Tyler McMurray

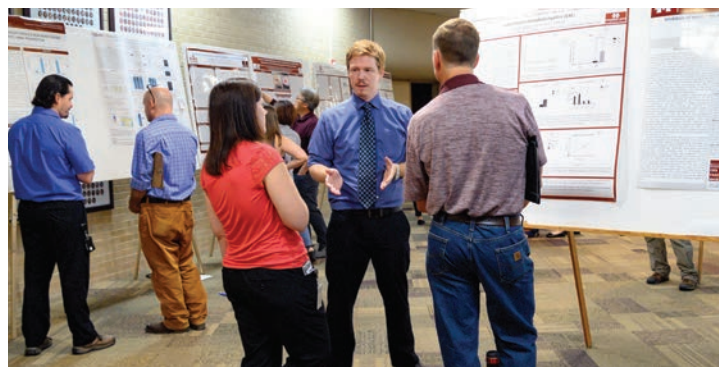
GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER WINNERS

- FIRST PLACE:** Darby Stanford
- SECOND PLACE:** Ethan Woodyard
- THIRD PLACE:** James Nichols

GRADUATE STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION WINNERS

- FIRST PLACE:** Moses Ayoola
- SECOND PLACE:** Alexis Thompson
- THIRD PLACE:** Isaac Jumper

This event is sponsored annually by





DR. BEN PICKIN

Dr. Ben Pickin was ready to get his hands dirty when he arrived in Starkville, Mississippi. After completing a bachelor's in animal and poultry science and a master's degree in dairy science at Virginia Tech, he was eager to dive into the curriculum at Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

"I applied to Mississippi State's College of Veterinary Medicine, because the two years of clinical rotations really appealed to me," Dr. Pickin said.

Dr. Pickin knew this journey wouldn't be easy, but he didn't face the challenges of veterinary school alone. "My wife got me through it," he said, noting that she received her PhD in biomedical and veterinary science from Virginia Tech. "When we got married, she had 6 months left in her program. Once she finished, she joined me in Starkville and did post-doctoral research in toxicology with Dr. Jan Chambers."

During his time at MSU CVM, Dr. Pickin served as class president for the class of 2008 and credits much of his success to the mentors he found in Drs. Carla Huston, David Christiansen, and Jim Brett.

"Ben was always interested and engaged in food animal production and medicine during his time here," Dr. Carla Huston said. "I enjoyed having him as one of five students who took the advanced beef elective with me and traveled throughout Texas and Oklahoma learning more about the industry. We are all very proud of the veterinarian he has become and the positive impact he's had on his community."

"I grew up in Virginia, and I wanted to go back to the mid-Atlantic because it's home," Dr. Pickin said. He imagined that when he went back after receiving his DVM, he'd be doing a lot of work with horses. However, as the time came for Dr. Pickin to complete a one-month externship, he called a friend from

It's always a pleasure to see that our alumni are doing well in their practices, and it truly benefits the College when they come back often to share their path to success with our students.

— DR. KENT HOBLET, MSU CVM DEAN



his undergraduate studies at Virginia Tech who worked for the largest food animal veterinary clinic in Virginia. “I went up for a month, and very soon they offered me a job, and I’m still there,” he said. “As one of the five partners of Ashby Herd Health Services, I serve the many beef producers as well as the 250 dairies within the Shenandoah Valley.”

Dr. Kent Hoblet, MSU CVM dean, says that successful alumni like Dr. Pickin are an asset to MSU CVM faculty and students alike. “It’s always a pleasure to see that our alumni are doing well in their practices, and it truly benefits the College when they come back often to share their path to success with our students.”

Dr. Pickin attributes much of his success to finding a field he’s passionate about and hopes that more DVM students will pursue what truly makes them happy. “It’s not just about graduating

and being a veterinarian. It’s finding what you’re passionate about,” he said. “If you’re not happy with your vocation, you aren’t going to do a good job. It’s important to be happy in what you do. Don’t settle for less!”

Dr. Pickin says one of the greatest things about MSU CVM is how personable those involved with the school are—and that’s what keeps him coming back to the college. “It’s the fact that I can call members of the faculty as I’m driving down from Virginia and say, ‘Let me take you to lunch on Thursday.’ Everyone here is approachable, and I’m truly proud to be a part of this community,” Dr. Pickin said. “The four years I spent at MSU CVM allowed me to establish connections and friendships both personal and professional. I am thankful for the experiences and opportunities I found at MSU CVM.”



Q & A WITH FORMER MSU CVM DEAN DWIGHT MERCER



Q: What aspects of MSU CVM are you most proud of and why?

A: Top of my list is quality—quality of our students, quality of the DVM program, and the quality and integrity of our faculty and staff. Birthing and growing this program took many long hours of hard work (and good luck), and I'm proud to have the honor of being a part of something this important.

Q: What is something about the College that has surprised you since your tenure here or what has changed the most?

A: There have been many structural and physical additions/changes to the Wise Center. The educational complex and the necropsy labs are very impressive.

Q: What do you believe are the greatest challenges that lie ahead for the College and for the profession?

A: The fabric of the profession is in the quality of students interested in it. This certainly does not seem to be an issue with a steady pool of highly qualified candidates each year. Funding is now, and always has been, an issue. The intrinsic value of the College to the state has been proven time and again and seems to have stabilized. Student debt may well be the greatest threat at this time.

Q: What is your advice to graduating veterinary students?

A: Survey the world of our fabulous profession! The wide variety of professional options has always been a strong attribute of the DVM degree. So often I think students get "tunnel vision" about the practice options, and they fail to appreciate the vast diversity of the DVM degree.

Q: How have you spent your time since leaving the College?

A: NOT going to meetings! My love for golf, duck and quail hunting, and fishing certainly has not diminished! I enjoy toxicology consulting, and I especially enjoy public hearings and expert testimony in the field of electromagnetic field effects on farm animals and humans. And a cool, quiet evening in the north Georgia mountains with my wife of 60 years is nice!

H. Dwight Mercer was Dean of the MSU CVM from 1987-1999. He is credited with playing a vital role in the development of the College's didactic curriculum, which requires two full years of mentored clinical training in addition to two years of classwork and labs. Dr. Mercer also had a huge hand in development of the College's and state's veterinary diagnostic laboratory system. For more information about his many accomplishments, see page 39, where he is recognized as the recipient of the 2019 President's Pegasus Award.

CALENDAR of Events

January 29

MSU CVM Veterinary Camp

Application open online and will remain open through February 28. Visit vetmed.msstate.edu/outreach to apply or for additional information!

March 26-27

MSU CVM Dean's Council Spring Meeting

April 3-4

MSU CVM Annual Open House

April 29

Class of 2020 Commencement
2:00 p.m. at Humphrey Coliseum

May 27-June 14

MSU CVM Vet Camp Sessions

CVM CELEBRATES NATIONAL VETERINARY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN WEEK

The College's Veterinary Medical Technology program celebrated National VMT Week 2019 with a variety of fun and educational activities. Four speakers, including certified veterinary technician Donna Todd with the Jackson Zoo, as well as CVTs from practices in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Louisiana, addressed students during the week. In addition, an official "Thank You" banner filled with messages of appreciation was hung adjacent to the Animal Health Center, and junior students provided treats for CVM technicians daily.

National Veterinary Technician Week takes place the third week of October each year to recognize the varied and vital work VMTs do working alongside veterinarians and other clinicians to provide animals—and their owners—a level of care and comfort that wouldn't be possible without their help.



Continuing education and increased specialization in the VMT profession allow for veterinary technicians to learn more about and gain certification in areas that interest them, such as dentistry, dermatology, anesthesiology, or nutrition. MSU CVM Animal Health Center VMT Lanette Jordan, who joined the AHC's anesthesia section after completing her Bachelor of Science in veterinary medical technology in 2014, completed an intensive program and passed the exam to become a certified veterinary technician specialist in anesthesia and analgesia last fall.



"Qualifying for AVTAA certification is an extremely time-consuming task. Lanette worked and studied very hard to meet the qualifications and to then pass the exam," Simone Hinz, assistant clinical professor and anesthesia service chief, said. "She is a much-needed and appreciated member of our team. Not only is she a highly skilled technician, but she's pleasant to work with, self-motivated, and very service-oriented."

MSU CVM is pleased to offer one of less than two dozen four-year VMT programs in the country and be one of the few programs where technologists train alongside the DVM students in the same clinical setting. Our College recognizes that veterinary medical technologists are a vital part of the veterinary services team and is deeply appreciative of their contributions to the veterinary profession.

WORLD-RENOWNED ANIMAL BEHAVIORIST VISITS MSU CVM



Donning one of her iconic Western-style shirts, best-selling author, animal welfare advocate, and professor of animal science, Dr. Temple Grandin celebrated her 72nd birthday with a visit to Starkville and MSU CVM in August.

Dr. Grandin, who is known world-wide for her contributions to the livestock industry, spoke to the first- and second-year DVM students about understanding animal behavior and how living with autism has helped shape her career.

"Everything I think about, I see as a picture," Dr. Grandin said. "Animals are similar. They make visual, auditory, and olfactory connections. If you want to serve them better, you have to become a better observer."

Dr. Grandin also emphasized the importance of using fear-free methods in veterinary medicine to create a safer experience for animals and humans alike.





2019 ALL COLLEGE AWARDS DAY

As with tradition, those attending the MSU CVM All College Awards Day festivities were treated to delicious barbecue served by members of the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Board and volunteers following the annual awards ceremony.

PRESIDENT'S PEGASUS AWARD

Dr. H. Dwight Mercer

DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARD

Dr. Ron McLaughlin

VICE PRESIDENT'S PEGASUS AWARD

Mrs. Rona Johnson-Belser

ZOETIS AWARD FOR VETERINARY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Dr. John Thomason

PEGASUS FACULTY AWARDS

Dr. Michaela Beasely | Award for Teaching
Dr. Amelia Woolums | Award for Research
Dr. Heath King | Award for Service

STAFF AWARDS

Tad Ballard
Tia Perkins
Kain Elinburg



PRESIDENT'S PEGASUS AWARD



MSU Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Dr. Peter Ryan presents Dr. H. Dwight Mercer with the President's Pegasus Award on behalf of MSU President Mark Keenum

Each year the President's Pegasus Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in teaching, research, and/or service on behalf of the University and veterinary medicine.

DR. H. DWIGHT MERCER earned his DVM degree from the University of Georgia in 1963 before earning his MS from the University of Florida and his PhD from The Ohio State University. Dr. Mercer, who is a board-certified veterinary toxicologist, was employed at the Food and Drug Administration for nine years where he served as deputy director of the division of veterinary medical research before coming to Mississippi State.

When Dr. Mercer arrived at MSU in 1977, he was the seventh faculty member of what was being established as the new college of veterinary medicine. Housed in the Scales Building, veterinary classes were held in dairy science classrooms, and the clinic was conducted in a double-wide trailer. Dr. Mercer served as associate dean while the Wise Center was being constructed and was the very first head of research and academics, serving in this role for a decade before being named dean in 1987. The problem-based curriculum he helped develop for our College became the basis of the highly touted two years of classroom and two years of clinical education MSU CVM prides itself in providing today.

As dean of MSU CVM from 1987-1999, Dr. Mercer guided the College during some difficult financial times and was also instrumental in the development of the diagnostic laboratory system that is now a point of pride for the CVM and the state of Mississippi. When he began his tenure, there was no centralized laboratory system: poultry farmers relied on the industry; fish diagnostics were handled by the MSU Extension Service; and the state of Mississippi did not have a board-certified pathologist. There was little to no structure, but with the help of a few legislators and a lot of blood, sweat, and tears, Dr. Mercer

accomplished the amazing feat of pulling all the different entities together to provide a four academic-based laboratory system with sound pathology, microbiology, and virology diagnostics conducted through MSU CVM. In addition to the laboratory here in the CVM, he added facilities in the Delta—the fish diagnostic laboratory— and a newly constructed poultry diagnostic laboratory in Pearl... and his original plan for the state's diagnostic laboratory system is still in place today.

It is also important to note that it is in part to his credit that the Charles G. and Viola Bardsley Scholarship program is now available to MSU CVM students. In 1996, Dr. Mercer took time out of his busy schedule to visit with and conduct a tour for a couple (who just so happened to be the Bardsleys) when they popped into his office unannounced. His willingness to accommodate their request and sincere pride in the College laid the foundation for a friendship that ultimately led to the Bardsley's \$7.2M gift to MSU CVM.

VICE PRESIDENT'S PEGASUS AWARD



Mrs. Rona Johnson-Belser & Interim Vice President Dr. Reuben Moore

The Vice President's Award is given to a person who has made significant contributions to veterinary medicine in the state of Mississippi. **MRS. RONA JOHNSON-BELSER** is a 1974 Mississippi State University College of Education graduate. She holds a Bachelor of Science, and her specialty is special education. She is a retired early childhood teacher with the Jefferson County School System in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mrs. Johnson-Belser and her husband, Dan, established the Rona and Dan Belser Endowed Scholarship Fund in 2011. This scholarship is awarded to MSU CVM students who demonstrate academic achievement and show promise for an outstanding career in veterinary medicine. The Belsers also established the T. Daniel and Rona Johnson-Belser Advancing Care Fund to address many areas of need for MSU CVM animals, clinicians, and students with support specifically directed to upgrading equipment in the MSU CVM Animal Health Center.

Mrs. Johnson-Belser has been—and continues to be—a strong supporter of the MSU CVM, having not only contributed financially to numerous areas of the College but also sharing her expertise and time by serving as an inaugural member of the CVM Dean's Council. Her most recent gift

directly benefitted our students. Last spring, she covered the expense of the official MSU CVM lab coat for each member of the class of 2023; the coats are presented at the College's annual coating ceremony at the conclusion of first-year orientation each year.

Mrs. Johnson-Belser is a true friend of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, and we are deeply appreciative of her generosity and ongoing support.

DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARD



Dr. Kent Hoblet & Dr. Ron McLaughlin

The Dean's Pegasus Award is presented to a person who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in teaching, research, and/or service on behalf of Mississippi State University and the College of Veterinary Medicine. This person can be a member of the CVM faculty or staff or can be someone from the great group of friends of the College. **DR. RON MCLAUGHLIN** has been a member of the CVM faculty for more than 20 years. He has taught and mentored veterinary and graduate students; managed research programs; and served in academic and professional association leadership roles. He is also a frequent invited speaker at national and international scientific and continuing education conferences.

Dr. McLaughlin has been honored with numerous awards, including the Dean's Pegasus Award for Creative Achievement and the College's highest teaching award. He is a scholar with more than 100 referred journal articles and has served as president-elect, president, and past president of the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians.

During his tenure at MSU CVM, Dr. McLaughlin has also successfully completed numerous projects and initiatives to improve efficiency, availability and quality of services, student learning, and patient care. His many accomplishments are too long to list but high points include coordinating the partnership with Premier Imaging that led to the opening of the Veterinary Specialty Center and serving as the president of CVM's not-for-profit corporation, managing operations for both Veterinary Specialty Center and Animal Emergency and Referral Center. He has also worked with administration and faculty to add or expand services such as neurology, ophthalmology, oncology, and physical rehabilitation, as well as to secure the advanced equipment required to operate these and many other services. Dr. McLaughlin also oversees the College's preparation for COE accreditation site visits as well as its strategic planning process.

Since his arrival at MSU CVM, Dr. McLaughlin has served as chief of small animal surgery, interim director of the veterinary technology program, director of special operations, animal health center chief of staff, and head of the department of clinical sciences.

In 2014, he was named interim associate dean for administration and, ultimately, associate dean for administration. Our College clearly would not be what it is today without the effort, contributions, and many accomplishments of Dr. Ron McLaughlin.

DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARD FOR TEACHING



Dr. Michaela Beasley &
Dr. Andrew Mackin

The 2019 Dean's Pegasus Award for Teaching was presented to **DR. MICHAELA BEASLEY**, who earned her DVM from MSU in 2008 and her MS from Auburn in 2011 before completing her neurology residency between MSU and Auburn. Dr. Beasley joined the CVM faculty in 2012 and currently serves as associate clinical professor.

She was recognized for her willingness to accept responsibility for the first-year neuroscience class in 2018 and the outstanding job she did of totally reorganizing the content as well as faculty participation. According to her nomination form, the changes Dr. Beasley implemented to the course resulted in a very strong neuroscience program that is both comprehensive and practical. In addition, she shares course coordinator status for the neurology-ophthalmology clinical rotation, and she does an excellent job while managing a very busy clinical schedule.

Dr. Beasley is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and has special interest in the management of epilepsy and inflammatory brain diseases. She is a member of the newly established MSU CVM Recruitment Team, where she is volunteering her time to help recruit outstanding students for future enrollment at the College.

DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARD FOR RESEARCH/ CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT



Dr. Amelia Woolums

A tenured professor with a wealth of experience, an impressive list of post-graduate awards and accomplishments, and an extensive research portfolio, **DR. AMELIA WOOLUMS** is the recipient of the 2019 Dean's Pegasus Award for Research/Creative Achievement.

Dr. Woolums earned her DVM from Purdue University and her PhD in comparative pathology from UC Davis. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

Her career has spanned more than three decades and includes time spent as a faculty member at Purdue, UC Davis, and the University of Georgia, where she was honored with numerous awards for excellence in teaching, prior to her arrival at MSU CVM in July 2015. Since then, Dr. Woolums has continued to have a meaningful impact on the field of veterinary medicine. Just last fall, she was awarded the Purdue CVM Distinguished Alumna Award.

Through the years, Dr. Woolums has served on a variety of committees at college, university, and national levels. Her service on a national scale includes a variety of roles with the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists and American Dairy Science Association.

During her career, she has advised, supervised, and mentored scores of students, interns, and residents and presented too many hours of continuing education to count! In addition, her scholarly activities have included editing more than 100 book chapters (all of which are included in what is considered the reference "bible" of food animal medicine) and authoring or co-authoring more than 90 journal articles and published abstracts.

Dr. Woolums' impressive and well-respected research portfolio focuses on three main areas: immune response to bovine respiratory disease, mechanisms of action and efficacy of bovine respiratory vaccines, and neonatal calf immunity and response to vaccination. To date, she has participated in more than 45 funded projects, in addition to the numerous projects she has supervised for graduate and professional students. At present, she is serving as either project director, PI, or co-investigator for 10 current or ongoing projects with more than \$1M in funding.

Dr. Amelia Woolums is an outstanding professor, presenter, and researcher. She is an ideal combination of scientist and veterinary practitioner, and her commitment to learning and research are evidenced by her many accomplishments.

DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARD FOR SERVICE



Dr. Heath King &
Dr. Gretchen Grissett

DR. HEATH KING, associate clinical professor, is the recipient of the 2019 Dean's Pegasus Award for Service. He was nominated in recognition of his unselfish devotion to his clients, patients, and colleagues at MSU CVM. Dr. King was cited for working countless late nights and weekends without ever complaining; for being an extremely knowledgeable clinician; and for being a good role model for both his students and his peers. He not only provides primary case responsibility for the CVM equine theriogenology (reproduction) service and all animals in the food animal clinic, but also performs routine farm calls for the large animal ambulatory service. In addition, Dr. King provides breeding management for the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station equine unit and MAFES beef cattle farms.

Dr. King earned his BS, DVM, and MS at MSU, completing a large animal internship in 2008, serving as a theriogenology resident until 2010, and being named a clinical instructor in 2010. He received the Charles and Viola Bardsley Scholarship for earning the highest overall cumulative GPA in the DVM class of 2007 and earned diplomate status in the American College of Theriogenologists in 2010. Dr. King has served on the MSU CVM Strategic Planning Committee and is a long-time member of the MSU CVM Curriculum Committee.

ZOETIS AWARD FOR VETERINARY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



Dr. John Thomason
& Dr. Stephen Pruett

The Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence is presented annually to a member of the MSU CVM faculty who demonstrates outstanding achievement and dedication in the area of research in the field of veterinary medicine.

DR. JOHN THOMASON, who came to MSU CVM as a small animal rotating intern in 2006 and has since completed his master's and been promoted to the rank of tenured associate professor, is the recipient of the 2019 Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence. Dr. Thomason was cited for being an outstanding faculty member who is hard-working and intensely collaborative.

Despite maintaining a challenging clinical, teaching, and administrative service load, Dr. Thomason has developed a strong research portfolio, publishing more than two dozen papers. In addition, he has had 10 book chapters published, with another eight submitted for publication, and he consistently presents the clinical applications of his research at the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Forum each year.

Dr. Thomason's accomplishments as a researcher are truly impressive. His expertise in the areas of hematology, hemostasis, and transfusion is widely recognized nationally, as evidenced by regular invitations to speak at national meetings and, in the past year alone, invitations to serve on two scientific consensus report committees for national or international professional organizations.

Considering Dr. Thomason's research time commitment is less than half that of many non-clinical faculty members, he has been remarkably productive, having had more than 25 funded research grant applications as PI or co-PI and another dozen where he is a contributing scientist.

In addition, Dr. Thomason has also contributed greatly to the College's graduate and house officer programs. He has mentored and/or advised numerous interns, residents, and graduate students, as well as served on many graduate committees. He has also developed graduate-level courses, served as course leader of the Veterinary Student Research Initiative program, and been actively involved with Summer Research Experience students.

However, perhaps Dr. Thomason's greatest research strength is his commitment to collaboration. He is known to be meticulous, highly organized, and committed to deadlines while remaining extremely collegial and being very generous with his time and resources. He is especially helpful to new researchers and new faculty members. Dr. Thomason's collaborative nature also extends beyond the walls of MSU CVM, as evidenced by his research endeavors with colleagues at other colleges of veterinary medicine.

Dr. John Thomason sets the bar for being a respected clinician, teacher, and researcher while remaining a kind, helpful, and down-to-earth colleague, teacher, and friend.

DISTINGUISHED STAFF AWARDS



KAIN ELINBURG – BUILDING MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN (left)

Over the past several years, there have been a number of remodeling, building repurposing, and improvement projects around the Wise Center, and the CVM Facilities crew has provided in-house solutions and overall cost savings for most, if not all, of them. Within each of these projects, Kain Elinburg has played a leading role, being the central contact and chief consultant. Before coming to CVM approximately seven years ago, Kain worked in the construction world, and his experience there has been very beneficial in his duties here. Through the years, he has completed specialized training in computerized HVAC controls, and this year, he became certified to install a special type of flooring we are gradually installing throughout the building. Kain's dedication and "roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-it-done" approach have made him the go-to person for these types of projects and extremely valuable to the CVM. Kain is truly a distinguished member of the CVM staff.

TIA PERKINS – COORDINATOR, OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (center)

Office Coordinator Tia Perkins was cited for handling all of the "nuts and bolts" issues of the CVM's graduate programs. Her organizational skills, work ethic, and interpersonal skills were described as making her ideally suited for her role here. One of the traits said to uniquely qualify Tia for her job is how she always greets students and faculty with a smile and makes them feel comfortable, which is especially important for international students, who are often adjusting to a new culture. Her respectfulness of different and diverse backgrounds helps put those she is working with at ease. Tia is also willing to put in extra effort to help solve students' problems and help them meet deadlines, and she is courteous to both students and faculty at all times. Tia is truly a distinguished member of the CVM staff.

TAD BALLARD – PROGRAMMER ANALYST (right)

Programmer Analyst Tad Ballard has been with the University almost 18 years and with the college of veterinary medicine for nearly seven years. Tad helps ensure that VetView®—the electronic hospital and laboratory information system that is used by the Animal Hospital, CVM, MVRDL/PRDL labs, and the Stoneville Lab—is up and running 24/7/365. He also ensures the pharmacy Cubex medication dispensing system is operational and communicating correctly with VetView and that billing charges are correctly being assessed. In fact, Tad has set up many laboratory diagnostic machines to communicate results directly into VetView, saving the process of hand keying results. Tad is willing to do what it takes to make sure the customer is happy, while having the technical foresight to know what will work in the long run. Tad is truly a distinguished member of the CVM staff.

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GRANTS & CONTRACTS

AWARDED TO CVM FACULTY

EXTERNAL GRANTS

Amelia Woolums (PI). Long Island University (USDA NIFA) – The role of small RNAs and Hgq in regulation of *Histophilus somni* virulence factors. \$59,864

Mark Lawrence (PI), Andrea Varela-Stokes (CoPI). NIH. Summer Research Experience for Veterinary Students. \$102,502

Janice Chambers (PI), Matthew Ross (CoPI), Robert Wills (CoPI). NIH. Identification of Novel Brain-penetrating Phenoxyalkyl Pyridinium Oxime Countermeasures. \$425,136 (year 2)

Lanny Pace (PI). USDA APHIS. NAHLN Level 2: MS 2019. \$137,000

Larry Hanson (PI), Lora Petrie-Hanson (CoPI). USDA NIFA. Effect of microcystin LR exposure on the susceptibility of channel catfish to microbial diseases. \$194,000

Lanny Pace (PI), Martha Pulido Landinez (CoPI). FDA DHHS. Using MVRDL to increase the FDA Vet-LRN sample analysis capacity during animal food/feed emergency events. \$43,650 (year 3)

Janice Chambers (PI), Matthew Ross (CoPI), Robert Wills (CoPI). NIH. Supplement award. \$43,168

Janice Chambers (PI), Matthew Ross (CoPI), Steven Gwaltney (CoPI). NIH. Identification of novel brain-penetrating oxime antidotes for phorate toxicity. Year 2. \$179,129

Lifang Yan (PI), Lanny Pace (CoPI). United States Food and Drug Administration. Application of gel imaging system to increase efficiency when determine presence of PCR amplicon of bacterial pathogens in Vet-LRN sample analysis. \$34,328

David Smith (PI), Alicia K Olivier (CoPI). University of Missouri (NIH). Use of Clinical Samples to Identify Influenza Variants. \$32,751

Gregory T. Pharr (PI). USDA Agricultural Research Service. Identification of the Molecular Determinants of Pathogenesis, Strain Variation, and Tissue Tropism of Different *E. coli* Strains. \$150,000

George Howell (PI), Keun Seo (CoPI), Elizabeth Swanson (CoPI). Organochlorine compound-induced alterations in adipocyte/macrophage crosstalk and effects on wound healing. National Institute of Health. \$218,250 (year 1)

Amelia Woolums (PI), Brandi Karisch (CoPI), Jane Parish (CoPI). Impact of management decisions during the cow-calf, backgrounding and feedlot phases of beef production on BRD morbidity and mortality risk. Texas A&M AgriLife Research (USDA NIFA)

Wilson C. Brookshire (PI), Keun Seo (CoPI). Pilot Study to assess airborne bacteria typically present in a veterinary teaching hospital. Steris. \$2,184

Bindu Nanduri (CoPI). EMCC-MSU Brides to Baccalaureate Degree Program. \$8,907 (year 2 funds)

INTERNAL GRANTS

Barbara Kaplan (PI), Matthew Ross (CoPI). Investigation of mechanisms for cannabinoid-mediated suppression of TH1/TC1 Immunity. CVM ORGS Internal. \$10,000

Graham Rosser (PI), Matthew Griffin (CoPI), Geoff Waldbieser (CoPI), Robert Wills (CoPI). Oxford Nanopore Technology as a high-throughput means for obtaining mitochondrial genomes for parasitic trematode phylogenomics. CVM ORGS Internal. \$10,000

Lora Petrie-Hanson (PI). Optimization of confocal microscopy, flow cytometry, electron microscopy and fluorescent microscopy methods to visualize direct microbial killing by catfish and zebrafish cytotoxic cells. CVM ORGS Internal. \$10,000

Claudio Natalini (PI), Patricia De Carvalho Obeid Ellrich (CoPI), Trey Howell (CoPI), Cyprianna Swiderski (CoPI). Cytotoxicity and Biotransformation of Isoflurane and Sevoflurane Loaded Nanoemulsions in Dog and Human Hepatocytes. \$10,000

Alison Lee (PI). Computed tomography angiography of biliary disease and comparison of computed tomography to abdominal ultrasound in the diagnosis of biliary disease manifesting as acute abdominal pain in the dog. CVM ORGS Internal. \$10,000

Larry Hanson (PI). The establishment of an adult Zebrafish model for influenza A virus infection. CVM ORGS Internal. \$10,000

Matthew Griffin (PI), Larry Hanson (CoPI), David Wise (CoPI). A temporal survey of the genomes of genetic variants of channel catfish virus recovered from farm-raised catfish. CVM ORGS Internal. \$10,000

Russell Carr (PI), Matthew Ross (CoPI). Investigations into the Basis for Developmental Organophosphate Insecticide Toxicity. CVM ORGS Internal. \$10,000

Amelia Woolums (PI), Merrilee Thoresen (CoPI), Heath King (CoPI). Engineered mRNA-expressed antibodies to treat or prevent *Tritrichomonas foetus* infection in bulls. CVM ORGS MAFES Internal. \$9,992

Graham Rosser (PI), Matthew Griffin (CoPI), David Wise (CoPI), Lester Khoo (CoPI). Investigations into the life cycle of an emerging trematode and its pathology in pond-raised largemouth bass *Micropterus salmoides* in the southeastern US. CVM ORGS MAFES Internal. \$10,000

Attila Karsi (PI), Adef Kordon (CoPI), Lesya Pinchuk (CoPI). Morphological and Functional Characterization of Channel Catfish Dendritic Cells in Vitro. CVM ORGS MAFES Internal. \$10,000

Hossam Abdelhamed (PI). Study transfer and fitness cost of multidrug-resistant plasmid isolated from *Edwardsiella piscicida*. CVM ORGS MAFES Internal. \$10,000

Matthew Griffin (PI), Larry Hanson (CoPI), David Wise (CoPI). Investigations into prevalence of latent Channel Catfish Virus genotypes on commercial catfish hatcheries and virulence in channel and channel x blue hybrid catfish. CVM ORGS MAFES Internal. \$10,000



CVM OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT NEWS

NO PLACE LIKE HOME: The Wise Center

We have a tremendous facility for the College of Veterinary Medicine. The over-360,000-square-foot structure was built in sections in the late 1970s and continues to serve our students, faculty, and patients. Our founding dean Dr. Jim Miller, Dr. Wynn Jones, architect Skip Wyatt, and others had the foresight and planning to construct the building to be efficient, while still allowing for the growth that the College has experienced over the last 40 years. It is remarkable to me how they were able to virtually simultaneously develop the new professional DVM degree program, lobby the state for funding, manage the construction of Mississippi State University's largest facility, admit the first few classes, and all of the other things that went into the creation of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

With a building this large, there are countless opportunities to improve and update the facility through private gifts. Over the last several years, we have worked with donors to name and endow a number of rooms. The goal is to provide a face-lift, new equipment, and maintain areas of the building as needed into the future. We have named the client consultation rooms

in the Animal Health Center and equine service, the emergency consultation entrance, an exam room, the nutrition center, student center, and the pharmacy. The Joe Ann Ward Critical Care unit has been endowed for a number of years, and we continue to use the return that comes from that investment to add equipment and expand and upgrade the unit as needed to meet the needs of our clinicians and patients.

It is our goal to continue to work with donors to name rooms and areas in the Wise Center, as well as begin working with individuals on giving to support a necessary expansion at the Animal Emergency and Referral Center in Flowood, Mississippi. Please contact Melissa Montgomery at 662-325-5170 or me at 662-325-5893 with any questions about helping to advance our College.

Thank you!

Jimmy Kight
Director of Development

CVM NOTES & NEWS

2019 PROMOTIONS & TENURE

Allison Gardner – Associate Clinical Professor
Barbara Kaplan – Associate Professor w/tenure
Keun Seok Seo – Associate Professor w/tenure
George Trey Howell – Associate Professor w/tenure
Matt Ross – Professor
Carla Huston – Professor

ALUMNI NEWS

Tamara Loeffler (DVM 2016) and husband Raphael Cohen welcomed their first child, daughter Daisy, November 24, 2019.

Amanda Leigh Wagoner (DVM 2011) recently married Robert "Bob" Rathgeber at the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, South Carolina.

Lisa Quinn (DVM 2016) recently had a paper she authored, "Helicobacter pylori antibiotic eradication coupled with a

NOTE TO ALUMNI:

Please send us your news! We want to hear about and share new jobs and titles, marriages, births, and awards and recognition. Please direct to the attention of CVM Outreach Director Mel Thurlow at mel.thurlow@msstate.edu. You can also keep up with your fellow MSU CVM graduates on Facebook at facebook.com/alumnimsucvm.

chemically defined diet in INS-GAS mice triggers dysbiosis and vitamin K deficiency resulting in gastric hemorrhage," published, allowing her to sit for her ACLAM Boards next summer.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Dr. Cory Langston, professor, department of clinical sciences, was awarded distinguished fellow status in the American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics at their biennial meeting last August in Kansas City, Missouri. The distinguished fellow category is reserved for fellows who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of veterinary pharmacology.

Dr. Jan Chambers, William L. Giles Distinguished Professor and Center for Environmental Health Sciences director, was recently appointed to a second three-year term on the US Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board. This prestigious panel of science experts are tasked with providing independent advice to the EPA administrator on scientific and technical issues underlying EPA's policies and decision making. Dr. Chambers was appointed because of her expertise with environmental chemicals.



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