

SPRING & SUMMER 2022

# PEGASUS PRESS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



ANIMAL-CRUELTY VICTIM,  
BUDDY, RECOVERS, INSPIRES  
STATE LEGISLATION, AND  
BEGINS LIVING HIS BEST LIFE

EARNING RESPECT BY EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DR. KENT HOBLET

There are many good and memorable days during the academic year at MSU CVM. However, there are two days that really stand out: The day we celebrate commencement of graduating students and the day we celebrate coating of incoming students.

On May 11, we hosted the commencement ceremony for the Class of 2022 where 94 students received their DVM degrees. This year's graduates were outstanding and will continue to represent our CVM very well. At the time of graduation, 98% of the class had passed the national board examination (NAVLE). While we have not yet received the national data for all U.S. DVM students graduating this year, we are very proud of the fact that our graduates have averaged a 98% pass rate over the past 12 years!

Also at the time of graduation, 99% of our graduates had accepted positions in the veterinary profession. We tell students the primary reason to seek an internship/residency is if they want to specialize; consequently, in comparison to many colleges, we generally have a lower percentage of graduates applying for internships and residencies. Nevertheless, all 15 of our graduates

who sought internships or residencies this year were successful in landing one of these coveted slots.

This year, 35 students received their diplomas from our B.S. in Veterinary Medical Technology program. Veterinary technologists have become increasingly valued members of the veterinary healthcare team. We are forever grateful to former MSU CVM Student Affairs Coordinator Dr. Mikell Davis for his vision for this program and for his willingness to “unretire” and come back on faculty to get it started in 2010.

On June 18, we hosted the coating ceremony to officially welcome the Class of 2026 into the College. This 114-member class has tremendous potential. Their average GPA from undergraduate studies is a 3.6. The students are from Mississippi and 20 other states, Puerto Rico, and Canada. Among the members are 97 women and 17 men. Twenty-two students (19%) are from underrepresented populations; 32 (28%) are first generation college students; and 32 (28%) are reapplicants to our program.

Since the last edition of *Pegasus Press*, numerous members of the CVM family have been recognized for their outstanding work and contributions to our College, the field of veterinary medicine, and/or the overall university. Dr. Jan Chambers was honored with a national appointment, and Drs. Stephen Reichley and Jake Shivley have received prestigious MSU recognition. Ethan Woodyard, a PhD student in Dr. Graham Rosser's laboratory, has been elected to the MSU Graduate Student Hall of Fame.

Many readers may not be aware of MSU CVM's international reach. Recent examples include three veterinary students completing UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) externships, and the FAO recently naming MSU CVM as one of only four International Reference Centers for Aquatic Antimicrobial Resistance. The CVM remains the only U.S. college of veterinary medicine to lead one of 22 United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Feed the Future Labs. Our program is the Fish Innovation Lab and has faculty and students traveling to locations such as Bangladesh, Nigeria and Zambia. Faculty members Drs. Graham Rosser and Stephen Reichley recently led a study abroad experience in Uganda. And, yet another faculty member, Dr. Margaret Khaitsa, is currently completing a one-year assignment in Nairobi, Kenya.

Lastly, on June 16, I began my 17th year as dean of the College. I have been extremely privileged to work with talented faculty, staff, and students. For several reasons, I have decided to step down as dean. I have agreed to stay until a new dean is in place, and I will remain on the CVM faculty in a reduced time commitment to work on several special projects.

**Dr. Kent Hoblet**

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## COVER PHOTOS

**FRONT:** *Buddy, the yellow Labrador retriever mix brought to MSU CVM last spring after being intentionally burned by a juvenile in North Mississippi, was officially discharged in March following almost a full year of specialized veterinary care. MSU CVM Associate Professor and Small Animal Surgeon Dr. Elizabeth Swanson, with whom Buddy grew to share a special bond, has adopted him.*

**BACK:** *Participants in MSU CVM VetCamp enjoy a variety of hands-on activities and experiences, including a Teddy bear surgery lab to gain insight into the many aspects of a career caring for animals.*

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# DEAN'S COUNCIL GATHERS FOR SPRING SESSION

The CVM Dean's Council gathered for their semi-annual meeting in Starkville on May 19 and 20. Thursday afternoon, council members were invited to a reception at the Wise Center celebrating the CVM Shelter Medicine Program's 100,000th surgery and honoring longtime program supporter and friend of the College Marcia Lane. Afterwards, members were invited to gather on the Left Field Lofts Rooftop at Dudy Noble Field for the first game of the Diamond Dawgs' final home series of the season.

Friday's meeting began with a continental breakfast and presentation delivered by Mississippi State University President Dr. Mark Keenum. Before lunch, council members heard from CVM Associate Dean for Administration Dr. Ron McLaughlin, who discussed involvement with and participation in AVMA Council on Education (COE) site visits; Associate Dean for Academic

Affairs Dr. Jack Smith, regarding CVM Class of 2022 graduates and the College's new curriculum; Director of Admissions Dr. Brittany Moore-Henderson, who provided an update on the Class of 2026; and Marcia P. Lane Endowed Chair in Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare Dr. Phil Bushby, regarding the CVM Shelter Medicine Program.

That afternoon, several second- and third-year DVM students addressed the Council, as did Dr. Bill Epperson, head, department of pathobiology and population medicine (PPM) and several members of the PPM faculty. Prior to the meeting's conclusion, council members received an update from CVM Director of Development Jimmy Kight and a tour of the recent renovations to the facilities.

The Council's next meeting is scheduled for October 13-14 in Starkville.

## DEAN'S COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



**Dr. Paula Schuerer** received her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, and Master of Business Administration from Mississippi State University. Since graduation in 1995, she has practiced small animal medicine in the Franklin and Nashville, Tenn., area. In 2017, Dr. Schuerer received her Master of Science in Biomedical Science from the University of Missouri, and in 2009, she became board-certified in the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners—Canine and Feline Practice. Dr. Schuerer is a CVM donor and received the Dean's Pegasus Award in 2014.



**Wayne Wilkerson** is a graduate of Mississippi State University and was a long-time MSU faculty member, serving both in the Department of Landscape Architecture and as director of the Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute before his retirement in 2014. Wilkerson and his wife, Sandra Sistrunk, reside in Starkville and are advocates for improving the lives of animals. Clients of the College's Animal Health Center, they support the CVM Dog Walk Improvement Fund, which was established to help with renovation and expansion of the outdoor area for dogs located adjacent to the Animal Health Center's critical care facilities and rehabilitation unit.



## BUDDY'S NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Forgive and move on... It's a lesson humans can learn from the most loving, accepting, and forgiving animals in our lives—dogs. A classic example of this is Buddy, the yellow Labrador retriever mix that was choked with an extension cord and badly burned by a juvenile in Tate County. After almost a year of treatment and recovery, Buddy has put that terrible incident behind him and is now living the good life!

The cruelty Buddy experienced on April 22, 2021, is indeed a thing of the past, but not without many, many hours of teamwork and dedication from humane society volunteers and veterinary caregivers.

During his 10-month stay at MSU CVM, Buddy underwent numerous treatments and surgeries, as well as scores of daily ointment applications, bandage changes, and more, in the lengthy process of reconstruction and healing of his badly burned face, eyelids, and ears. According to Buddy's lead veterinarian Dr. Elizabeth Swanson, an associate professor and small animal surgeon in CVM's Animal Health Center, when Buddy presented, he had second-degree burns over most of his face, several third-degree burns on his forehead and cheeks, and fourth-degree burns to his ears.

"Buddy's forehead, ears, cheeks, eye area, and top of his muzzle, as well as the inside of his right front leg were badly burned; his eyes were swollen closed. Seeing this and knowing that someone he knew—and maybe even trusted—purposefully did this to him was heartbreaking," Dr. Swanson said. "Yet he still wagged his tail when we spoke to him. This sweet dog immediately won our hearts and had our commitment to doing everything we could to restore his quality of life."

Buddy's first—of many—debridement procedures to remove damaged skin took place that very same afternoon, and then daily for the first week thereafter. The process ultimately required more than 10 surgeries.

In addition, Buddy required heavy pain management for weeks and routine bandage changes for the first several months of his care.

"We were focused on keeping him as comfortable as possible while treating and preventing infection in his burns," Dr. Swanson said. "We also had to put him on a special diet to keep his protein levels up and to help him maintain his weight."



The specialized care Buddy received at CVM over the next several months required the involvement of numerous specialty services. The AHC's community veterinary services unit was even involved in Buddy's care because, in addition to all the trauma he suffered, he also had heartworms.

"Seeing Buddy through the many hurdles he faced to get to recovery required attention to detail and a great deal of patience with the process. Removing all the damaged skin and finally getting down to healthy tissue was just the beginning of his healing," Dr. Swanson said. "Grafting procedures then began and continued for six weeks, and bandage changes under anesthesia continued during this time as well."

Supplies and a specially trained nurse for these grafts were generously donated by KerecisVet, which produces an advanced grafting material made from North Atlantic codfish skin that proved ideal for restoring Buddy's badly burned face. The value of this donation was close to \$25K.

In addition to the codfish skin grafts, Buddy also required special procedures to try to keep his eyelids from distorting during the healing process, as well as eyelid reconstruction surgery once the new skin around his eyes had grown in.

"One very special time for all of us was the moment his bandages came off and he could see us for the first time; he made eye contact and made a beeline to me," Dr. Swanson said. "It was so exciting! It brought tears to my eyes!"

Buddy's case was challenging and emotionally difficult. There were setbacks with his healing, and there was the challenge of finding an appropriate foster environment for him. Due to his situation and condition, specific parameters had to be met. However, Dr. Swanson said the teaching opportunity was fantastic for CVM students.

"Our students are responsible for every part of their assigned patient's life for the entire time the animal is in our hospital. Needless to say, Buddy's students became very emotionally involved in his care and helped keep him comfortable, provided exercise and mental stimulation, and worked on obedience training," Dr. Swanson said. "They benefited from learning about wound care, as well as about the importance of good public relations and working with the media."

And a media circus there was! Buddy's story was covered around the world. Local and state media followed his prognosis



and progress closely; however, outlets including *People* and *Newsweek* magazines also picked up his story and used it to bring awareness to the sad issue of animal cruelty.

"Buddy's awesome personality and good outcome made him a perfect ambassador for this topic and for change. Despite the horror he faced, he is a happy-go-lucky dog that loves people; he's smart, and he loves to run, play fetch, chew on his toys—and he will go on as many walks as you are willing to take," Dr. Swanson said. "There is something about Buddy that draws you to him; it's hard not to fall in love with him."

Sandy Williams with the Tunica Humane Society, who actually took Buddy in and sought out CVM, deserves a great deal of credit for his successful outcome. Williams and THS conducted many different fundraisers and solicited donations to cover the cost of his care—upwards of \$45K.

"Sandy and the THS staff went above and beyond," Dr. Swanson said. "They did so much for him, and they have and continue to do so much for animals in need in their area of the state. Their efforts to get Buddy's Law passed contributed to that huge win for Mississippians who love animals and want what's best for them."

Buddy has completely healed from his trauma. While he will bear the physical scars for life, his personality and love for people have remained intact. The truth is, even when Buddy was at the worst point in his injury and recovery, he was still wagging his tail, greeting people, and giving kisses.

"The trauma Buddy endured did not break his love and trust, which is certainly a lesson for all of us," Dr. Swanson said. "This sweet, forgiving dog has taught me so much. Maybe that's why it just felt right to have him in my home living the good life!"

"Buddy was my very first patient when I began clinical rotations. Being assigned to his case taught me so much about patient care in general, and I gained a wealth of knowledge about wound management. He was such a good patient and is such a sweet dog. I'll never forget the experience of caring for him!"

- Fourth-year DVM student Logan Tucker



"People all over the world followed and supported Buddy throughout his healing and recovery. Being a part of his medical team was a great experience and taught me so much. His case helped me learn patience with the wound healing process, and it illustrated the importance of choosing antibiotics based on culture and sensitivity results."

- Fourth-year DVM student Kay Cantrell



"As a third-year student during one of the hardest rotations in veterinary school, caring for Buddy taught me more about myself, medicine, and this career field than I could have ever imagined! It was inspiring to see the how multiple facets of the hospital... came together to provide the treatments necessary to nurse Buddy back to health. That collaboration strengthened my resolve to remain in academia. As someone who is interested in how policy changes can impact veterinary medicine, it was a unique experience to be a student taking care of Buddy's daily needs while seeing the greater impact his case had on the community and state legislature."

- PPM graduate student Tyler McMurray



# BUDDY LAYS DOWN THE LAW

Good things always find a way of coming out of something bad. Such is true in the case of Buddy, the young yellow lab mix who captured the heart of the nation after being found in Tate County in April 2021 with an extension cord around his neck and terrible burns to his face and head. Buddy had been intentionally set on fire by a 12-year-old boy and spent the next 10 months undergoing specialized care at MSU CVM. Thanks to the knowledge and expertise of his caregivers—and the TLC they provided—he's now fully recovered and living his best life. And, his tragic story—that thankfully has a happy ending—also inspired Mississippi Senate Bill 2245, or “Buddy’s Law,” which was signed by Governor Tate Reeves on May 19.

Simply put, Buddy’s Law requires psychological evaluations, counseling, and/or treatments for children who torture domesticated cats and dogs. Additionally, the law holds the offender’s parent and/or guardian accountable if they don’t provide the recommended help for their child. Lastly, it forces the offender’s parent and/or guardian to pay for the necessary care.

Senator Angela Hill led the push for the creation of this anti-animal cruelty measure; however, making it a law was anything but easy. It passed the Senate unopposed earlier in the year but later died in the House and ultimately got tacked onto a different bill.

Aside from making the torture incidences (drowning, burning, suffocating, etc.) more specific, Senator Hill said very little changed from the original version of Buddy’s Law that she authored to the version signed by Governor Reeves.

In addition to requiring juveniles to receive counseling sessions for a time determined by the youth court, the law also forbids criminals to possess a domestic animal or work and/or live in a business/household where a domestic animal is present “for any period of time not exceeding five years from the date of sentencing, or any period of time not exceeding 15 years from the date of sentencing if the conviction involved four (4) or more counts of simple cruelty.”

The new law has certainly strengthened animal advocates’ fight against animal cruelty in the state, which Sandy Williams, founder and executive director of the Tunica Humane Society—the organization responsible for getting Buddy transferred to MSU CVM and that conducted a great deal of fundraising to cover the expenses associated with his care—has long since wanted.

“From the very start, we wanted Buddy’s Law. It was our goal for something positive to come out of this horrific event,” Williams said. “People were outraged at what happened to this sweet dog, and when it came to light that it was a child that had committed



the crime, it just kind of took it to a whole different level since there were no legal repercussions.”

“In reality, this is about more than just the animals. With Buddy’s Law, if and when something like this happens in the future, the child will get the mental help he or she so desperately needs,” Williams continued.

Buddy attended the ceremony for the bill signing at the State Capitol in Jackson. He was accompanied by his new owner, MSU CVM Associate Professor and Small Animal Surgeon Dr. Elizabeth Swanson, and Dr. Lisa Godfrey representing the Tunica Humane Society.

“Buddy’s Law” went into effect July 1.

# COLLEGE GRANTED ACCREDITATION BY AVMA COUNCIL ON EDUCATION



Accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education® (AVMA COE®) represents the highest standard of achievement for veterinary medical education in the United States. Institutions that earn accreditation confirm their commitment to quality and continuous improvement through a rigorous and comprehensive peer review. MSU CVM underwent a COE site visit in the fall of 2021 and was notified in March that the College had earned high marks during the survey, leading to accreditation.

According to MSU CVM Associate Dean for Administration Dr. Ron McLaughlin, who served as lead for CVM's preparation for the site visit, the process was a huge team effort that began in earnest years prior to the COE team's visit.

"The accreditation process determines whether an educational institution or program meets accepted standards of quality. Within the field of veterinary medicine, the AVMA COE develops these standards and conducts reviews of DVM educational programs," Dr. McLaughlin said. "There are high standards to be met, and preparation for accreditation never really stops. We approached this as an opportunity to make the College even better than required."

According to the AVMA website, the quality of veterinary care is protected and elevated by COE accreditation as follows:

- Prospective students are assured that they will meet a competency threshold for entry into practice, including eligibility for professional credentialing and/or licensure.
- Employers are assured that graduates have achieved specified learning goals and are prepared to begin professional practice.
- Faculty, deans, and administrators know their programs measure satisfactorily against national standards and their own stated missions and goals.
- The veterinary profession can remain confident that the science and art of veterinary medicine are being advanced through contemporary curricula.

MSU CVM Dean Dr. Kent Hoblet said the official follow-up report received from the AVMA COE indicated the "Council grants the College an accreditation classification of 'Accredited for up to seven years,' which is the maximum period that can be granted."

Dean Hoblet said, "The College also received a commendation—which is rarely awarded—stating, 'The College is commended for providing a student spay/neuter exposure that provides an excellent learning opportunity and service to the community.'"

This commendation seemed timely and fitting considering CVM's Shelter Medicine Program—through which most of the spay/neuter procedures are completed—had just recently reached its 100K surgery milestone.

Other positive comments on the report included:

- The Veterinary Specialty Center is a true working example of One Health with collaboration and sharing of resources and staff between veterinary and human medicine.
- The Institute of Marine Mammal Studies is a unique learning experience and a great resource and draw for the students.
- Students spoken with were well aware of the wellness programs available, utilized the services, and were unanimously supportive and appreciative of Dr. Prince, the neuropsychologist at the veterinary college.
- The College has had consistently high NAVLE results. Graduating students expressed confidence in competencies as entry level veterinarians. This was confirmed in alumni interviews.

Dr. McLaughlin said the College takes great pride in its role as an accredited college of veterinary medicine and the opportunities this bestows.

"Accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement in veterinary medicine," he said. "Accreditation illustrates...that MSU CVM is a top-notch program that meets the very highest standards of quality in the field of veterinary medical education."

**The College is commended for providing a student spay/neuter exposure that provides an excellent learning opportunity and service to the community.**

— AVMA COUNCIL ON EDUCATION

# AKIN NAMED CVM ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

“I was very humbled and surprised to be selected,” Dr. Mark Akin said of being notified of his selection as the 2022 College of Veterinary Medicine Alumnus of the Year. “I love MSU, and I consider being honored as the 1995 Alumni Fellow and this year’s Alumnus of the Year two of my proudest moments.”

The Shannon, Miss., native always knew he was destined to be an equine veterinarian. After receiving his Bachelor of Science in animal science from MSU, he went on to complete his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at MSU CVM in 1986.

“The four years I spent with my classmates at MSU CVM include some of my favorite memories,” he said. “There were only 25 of us in the class of 1986. There are only 24 of us left, and I miss them every day.”



After graduation, Dr. Akin practiced on the thoroughbred racetracks of Maryland, where he was lucky enough to have four Kentucky Derby runners, six Preakness Stakes runners, and five Belmont Stakes runners. He later went on to open Akin Equine Veterinary Services in Collierville, Tenn., where he specializes in providing equine ambulatory practices.

Dr. Akin has been in equine sports medicine practice for 36 years. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association, Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Horse Council. Within the AAEP, he has served on several committees, including the Equine Welfare and Public Policy Committee, Show Horse Committee, and the Purchase Committee. Dr. Akin is also active with The Foundation for The Horse.

He credits MSU CVM’s top-quality education with preparing him for success in his career. “I truly believe MSU produces the best veterinarians in the country,” Dr. Akin said. “MSU CVM



equipped me to become the equine veterinarian I am today, and I will forever be grateful. I’ve said this 1,000 times, but MSU CVM students not only know why—they also know how!”

Dr. Akin is a longtime friend of the College and supports many scholarships and projects within the CVM, including the Drs. Mark and Carol Akin Equine Scholarship, the Dr. Carol Akin Feline Scholarship, the Drs. Mark and Carol Akin Equine Client Consultation Room, and most recently, the inception of Bully’s Bowl.

“On a personal note, I would like to thank Dean Kent Hoblet and CVM Director of Development Jimmy Kight,” Dr. Akin said. “Both men have become friends and have allowed my family and me to give back to the school in ways I could never imagine.”

Congratulations once again to MSU CVM 2022 Alumnus of the Year Dr. Mark Akin!

**MSU CVM equipped  
me to become the  
equine veterinarian  
I am today, and  
I will forever be  
grateful.**

— DR. MARK AKIN



## CVM DVM-PHD GRAD EXCELS IN CAREER PATH, Earns Role as Fellow at ATSDR

Traditionally, when we hear the word “veterinarian,” our minds jump to doctors in white coats or scrubs taking care of our furry, feathered or scaly friends. In actuality, doctors of veterinary medicine work in a variety of fields—and Dr. Brittany Szafran is no stranger to the many different opportunities the veterinary medical profession offers.

Dr. Szafran, who completed the formal DVM-PhD program at MSU CVM in 2020, has always been interested in the different modalities a career in veterinary medicine could provide. Her interest in veterinary medicine and research was sparked early in life when she was training to volunteer at a local zoo during middle school, and a group exercise simulated the bioaccumulation and biomagnification of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) metabolites in the environment.

“The second time my interest in these areas sparked was during high school while I was working for a small animal clinic,” she noted. “I witnessed the euthanasia of a cat that was diagnosed with an injection-site sarcoma. From those experiences, I realized that sometimes actions we take to enhance our lives can also have unintended negative consequences.”

From that point on, Dr. Szafran made it her career goal to help protect people, animals, and the environment from hazardous

substances—which led to her choosing to pursue the field of toxicology.

“I discovered combined degree programs while browsing veterinary school websites my freshmen year of college. I knew immediately I wanted to pursue a DVM-PhD program, so I spent some time reading up on various options,” Dr. Szafran said. “The research side would give me the knowledge I need to formulate a research question and then do research to pursue that question.”

She noted that her interest in pursuing environmental toxicology was due to her desire to protect all living things from the chemicals that we as humans create or release into the environment. During her graduate work, Dr. Szafran won many awards and first-authored several publications.

By the time she completed her undergraduate degree, DVM, and her PhD, Dr. Szafran had spent a total of 12 years in higher education. Although the education was necessary, she believes that the opportunities she took advantage of during her studies were of utmost importance. “I met people throughout my educational journey who became my support system,” she said. “Rather than accept the bare minimum, I took on leadership roles, pursued side projects during my PhD, presented my research at every opportunity, and took the time to network at

**The more involved I became in the world of toxicology, the more I realized...that networking within the field can be crucial to success.**

– DR. BRITTANY SZAFRAN

every meeting I attended. The more involved I became in the world of toxicology, the more I realized it is a small world and that networking within the field can be crucial to success.”

In 2021, Dr. Szafran received the Boehringer Ingelheim Graduate Research Veterinarian Award for her research focusing on the *Effects of Chlorpyrifos on Serine Hydrolase Activities, Lipid Mediators, and Immune Responses in Lungs of Neonatal and Adult Mice*. More simply put, her work has focused on the underlying biochemical and immunologic mechanisms in response to a toxicant—which helps us to understand and help protect the health of humans, animals, and the environment from the harmful effects of toxic chemicals such as the one she studied.

That award was just one of several she earned during her time at MSU. In 2020 alone, Dr. Szafran was named to the MSU Graduate Student Hall of Fame; grand champion runner-up in the Graduate School’s 3MT® (three-minute thesis) competition; second-place winner in the Life and Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Students category of the Graduate Student Research Symposium; and received CVM’s graduate student award at MSU’s annual Research Awards Banquet. Dr. Szafran also received honors and awards from the Society of Toxicology. In 2019, she was awarded an Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Award for her work as the student representative for SOT’s Comparative and Veterinary Specialty Section, and in 2018, she was awarded the Roger O. McClellan Student Endowment Award, an award designed to encourage more DVMS to pursue work in toxicology.

In 2014 and 2017, Dr. Szafran visited the CDC for “A Day at CDC for Veterinary Students,” but she wasn’t yet sold on government work. That spark was ignited in 2019 when she was able to invite Dr. Brian Berridge of the National Toxicology Program to speak at MSU CVM’s Annual Research Day. Afterward, Dr. Berridge invited Dr. Szafran to visit Research Triangle Park in North Carolina, which allowed her to meet with toxicologists from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Environmental Protection Agency, and various universities in the area.

Dr. Szafran is now an associate service fellow at the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)—a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency administered by the Center for Disease Control. The ATSDR is mandated by Congress to prepare toxicological profiles for substances on the National Priorities List (priority list of hazardous waste sites); determine significant human exposure levels for hazardous substances in the environment and associated health effects; and assure the initiation of a research program to meet identified data needs associated with the hazardous substances.

“Within ATSDR, I am part of the group that develops Toxicological Profiles and minimal risk levels (MRLs),” Dr. Szafran said. “An MRL is an estimate of the daily human exposure to a hazardous



substance that is likely to be without appreciable risk of adverse non-cancer health effects over a specified duration of exposure. These substance-specific estimates, which are intended to serve as screening levels, are used by ATSDR health assessors and other responders to identify contaminants and potential health effects that may be of concern at hazardous waste sites.”

“The part I love most about my position is that I interact with a team of individuals from various backgrounds and expertise towards a common goal,” Dr. Szafran continued. “I definitely have not unlocked the full potential of my position, and I am looking forward to a diverse range of opportunities offered by ATSDR. It is an honor to be working for an agency with a mission that aligns with my career goals.”

Most days, Dr. Szafran reviews literature pertinent to the team’s profiles in development. Outside of the profiles, she may be called upon to review documents or provide expertise to internal partners or other agents. She says her PhD coursework in environmental toxicology provided her with a solid foundation in toxicology and an introduction to risk assessment, while her dissertation work was highly lab-based and allowed her to be involved in all aspects of the research process such as formulating the research question, designing the experiment, conducting the experiment, and preparing it for publication—all of which gave her the expertise needed to critically evaluate the studies and information that ATSDR includes in Toxicological Profiles.

“In addition to the curriculum and work completed, the faculty and staff at MSU CVM were also instrumental in preparing me for my career,” Dr. Szafran said. “Without their support—especially that of my two advisors, Dr. Matthew Ross and Dr. Barbara Kaplan—I would not be where I am today.”

# CVM ROLLS OUT THE MAROON CARPET FOR 35TH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE:

After a nearly three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MSU CVM hosted its 35th annual Open House on April 1 and 2. As with tradition, the event was organized by the second-year DVM class and executed with the help of the first-year class. This year's theme was "Welcome to Hollywood!"

On Friday, the College saw more than 20 school groups, with roughly 1,000 K-12 students attending, and on Saturday the general public was invited to join the fun! Exhibits included a petting zoo, exotic animal presentations, large animal exhibits,

and presentations on everything from aquatic medicine to parasitology and pathology.

The return of the event was a big success and a great opportunity for members of the Starkville and MSU community, as well as scores of school children from throughout the region, to visit the CVM. Over the course of the two-day event, the College welcomed nearly 2,500 visitors! Next year's Open House is tentatively slated for the first weekend in April.



# Welcome <sup>TO</sup> Hollywood!



# MSU RESEARCH WEEK INCREASES AWARENESS OF IMPORTANT RESEARCH TAKING PLACE IN CVM



Mississippi State University Research Week, a new campus-wide event, was established to celebrate and showcase MSU's research conducted by faculty, staff, and students. MSU CVM-housed entities participated in the inaugural, weeklong event in April, showcasing research aimed to increase animal health and welfare while also positively impacting people in the state, country, and around the world.

The MSU CVM Global Center for Aquatic Health and Food Security (GCAHFS) and the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish showed their portfolio of research, which protects marine animals and reduces global hunger through improving aquaculture and fisheries management.

Additionally, the CVM Office of Laboratory Animal Resources highlighted the importance of animal research and its role in both human and animal health through the celebration of Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD).

## GCAHFS: PROMOTING AQUATIC HEALTH AND FOOD SECURITY

During Research Week, Dr. Mark Lawrence, director of the GCAHFS and Fish Innovation Lab and William L. Giles Distinguished Professor in the College of the Veterinary Medicine Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, presented an overview of the global aquatic research taking place under the GCAHFS such as the USAID-funded Fish Innovation Lab and the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Health, Monitoring, and Conservation Program. Additionally, two booths were set up to encourage students to consider different aquatic research opportunities.

"The overarching goal of the Fish Innovation Lab is improved nutrition and livelihoods in developing countries. MSU leads a group of universities in the U.S. to manage this program, but it is a global program," Dr. Lawrence said. "There are many other universities abroad as well as other organizations that are a part of this applied research program, which includes 25 projects in Africa and Asia. Faculty from over six departments across MSU are involved in the management of, or projects funded by, the Fish Innovation Lab to support a wide array of activities."

The GCAHFS is partnered with the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, Miss., as a part of the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Health, Monitoring, and Conservation Program.

"We aim to enhance the response to dolphins and sea turtles that strand in the Mississippi Sound, as well improve our mortality investigations of marine animals and rehabilitation of critically endangered sea turtles," said Dr. Stephen Reichley, GCAHFS associate director and assistant clinical professor in the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine.

## LABORATORY ANIMAL RESOURCES: PROMOTING WELFARE OF LABORATORY ANIMALS

The Office of Laboratory Animal Resources also participated in MSU's Research Week to highlight the importance of animal research as well as promote BRAD.

BRAD is an international outreach program through Americans for Medical Progress seeking to increase public awareness about animal roles in biomedical research and the resulting medical advancements that benefit both humans and animals. Since 2016, BRAD participation has grown to over 200 celebrations annually around the world.

"Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine is proud to be part of that celebration," said Director of the Office of Laboratory Animal Resources and University Lab Animal Veterinarian Dr. Bridget Willeford.

During the event, students, faculty, and staff participated in creative games and quizzes related to lab animal enrichment activities, and a running video highlighted the wonderful pets that were currently up for adoption at MSU.

"Animal care technicians, veterinarians, and scientists are all dedicated to the welfare of laboratory animals, and celebrating BRAD is just one way that we can show the community how much we care," Dr. Willeford said. "Animals are important to many global scientific advancements, and we are excited to be a part of those efforts."

## CVM'S CHAMBERS NAMED AAAS FELLOW



MSU CVM William L. Giles Distinguished Professor Dr. Jan Chambers was recently selected for a prestigious honor from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Dr. Chambers, who leads the Center for Environmental Health Sciences at CVM, is part of the 2021 class of AAAS Fellows, one of the most distinct honors within the scientific community. AAAS is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the Science family of journals. Dr. Chambers joins 564 inductees being recognized this year for their scientifically and socially distinguished achievements.

"AAAS is a large and highly respected scientific society that promotes excellence in science as well as advocacy for the use of science in matters that affect the public," Dr. Chambers said. "Only a relatively few AAAS members are elected to fellowship each year. I feel highly honored to be among this group since this national recognition endorses the quality of scientific research that is possible here at MSU."

Dr. Chambers is being honored as part of the AAAS biological sciences section, with the organization citing her contributions in toxicology, particularly her study of toxicants found in insecticides and chemical warfare agents. She and her late husband, Howard, worked to develop chemical compounds that can be used as antidotes to nerve agents. The compounds have since been patented and licensed.

The principal investigator of more than \$30 million in federally funded competitive grants in the field of toxicology, Dr. Chambers is a fellow of the Academy of Toxicologic Sciences, board-certified by the American Board of Toxicology, and has received the international award for research in agrochemicals from the American Chemical Society. She has been recognized with MSU's Ralph E. Powe Research Excellence Award and the MSU Alumni Association's Faculty Achievement Award in Research. In 2017, she received a Faculty Achievement Award from the Southeastern Conference.

Dr. Chambers was nominated for the AAAS fellowship by MSU Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. David Shaw, with two independent AAAS Fellows also submitting letters of support.

"Dr. Jan Chambers is most deserving of this honor from AAAS, and I am proud of her selection to this prestigious group," Dr. Shaw said. "Her research center continues to make groundbreaking discoveries while preparing scientists to excel in their careers. She has made a substantial impact on MSU and the scientific community as a whole."

The AAAS Fellows program dates back to 1874, forming a distinguished group of scientists, engineers, and innovators who have been recognized for their achievements across disciplines ranging from research, teaching, and technology, to administration in academia, industry, and government, to excellence in communicating and interpreting science to the public.

## NANDURI NAMED INAUGURAL ADIF FELLOW



Dr. Bindu Nanduri, professor in the MSU CVM Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences and chair of the CVM Diversity Committee, has been named to the inaugural class of MSU Access, Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Fellows.

Dr. Nanduri and four other MSU faculty members, who were named to the new program earlier this spring, are charged with assisting the MSU Division of Access, Diversity and Inclusion with key initiatives, including increasing diversity among faculty and staff, providing support to first-generation, limited-income students, and enhancing international student experiences. They were selected following an application and interview process and are required to invest at least 20 hours to the program monthly.

Dr. Nanduri said those participating in the program enjoy valuable guidance as well as collaboration and networking opportunities with executive leaders at the university. They also have the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on transformative access, diversity, and inclusion initiatives.

This spring, Dr. Nanduri conducted a project focused on internal assessment and review of the university's Future Faculty Exploration Program, which included input from several university leaders and led to a number of suggested changes to the program related to personnel and process as well as to recommendations for increasing its visibility and expanding its reach.

"I truly believe that the ADIF Fellow program will prove a great benefit to everyone involved," Dr. Nanduri said. "Enhancing access, diversity, and inclusion is such an important aspect of ensuring that each of us has the very best opportunities to excel in our studies, work, and personal experiences here at MSU. I'm honored to have been named an ADIF Fellow, and I look forward to serving in this capacity."

# CVM'S REICHLEY NAMED TO MSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REVEILLE 25

MSU CVM faculty member Dr. Stephen Reichley has been named to the inaugural class of outstanding young alumni honored through the Mississippi State University Alumni Association's (MSU AA) The Reveille 25 program.

Launched last fall, The Reveille 25 was designed to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of the university's growing number of young alumni. According to the MSU AA, the program name was derived from MSU's former yearbook, *The Reveille*, which chronicled student life throughout the institution's history, and paid tribute to the university's foundational military history.

Accordingly, the signature program will annually honor 25 high-achieving, young alumni who are "answering the call" of the university's mission for educational excellence and inspiring others through the positive impact they are making in their communities and professions.

Dr. Reichley certainly fits this bill. A native of Stow, Ohio, he completed his bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Findlay and his DVM at The Ohio State University before earning a doctoral degree in veterinary medical science from MSU CVM in 2017. Dr. Reichley served as the director of fish health and research and development at Clear Springs Foods in Idaho, the world's largest trout farm, raising and processing more than 25 million pounds of trout annually. He returned to MSU CVM in 2020.



A member of the American Association of Fish Veterinarians and president of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association, Dr. Reichley is also actively involved with the CVM Study Abroad in Uganda program. He is credited with development of MSU CVM's Marine Monday! seminar series and has played an instrumental role in initiating student involvement in projects underway in the USAID Innovation Lab for Fish managed by MSU CVM, as well as those at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport where CVM students gain hands-on training in marine animal medicine under the direction of CVM faculty.

"Dr. Reichley was one of the most productive students I have worked with, and he demonstrated outstanding potential for leadership," CVM Professor and Global Center for Aquatic Food Security Dr. Mark Lawrence said in his nomination letter for Dr. Reichley. "In 2017, he received the College's Outstanding Graduate Student award, and since he graduated, he has clearly demonstrated exemplary qualities and accomplishments as a young alumnus."

Dr. Reichley currently serves as an assistant clinical professor in the College's Pathobiology and Population Management Department and as associate director of the MSU Global Center for Aquatic Food Security.

He and the other 24 inaugural members of The Reveille 25 were honored at a banquet hosted by MSU AA on March 26.

**“ Dr. Reichley was one of the most productive students I have worked with... and since he graduated, he has clearly demonstrated exemplary qualities and accomplishments as a young alumnus. ”**

– DR. MARK LAWRENCE

# CVM'S SHIVLEY HONORED WITH MSU AA GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

MSU CVM Associate Clinical Professor Dr. Jake Shivley was recently honored with a 2022 MSU Alumni Association Graduate and Professional Teaching Excellence Award. The award is MSU's most prestigious award for graduate and professional teaching.

A 2008 MSU CVM DVM graduate, Dr. Shivley joined the CVM faculty in 2014 and has since earned his Master of Science degree with a focus on educational psychology. An associate clinical professor, his major time commitment is as course leader and major instructor in CVM's extremely popular shelter medicine elective course where students develop and hone their surgery skills to a level well above national standards. Dr. Shivley also serves as course leader in two other shelter medicine courses which he developed; one is an advanced clinical rotation taught through a partnership with the Oktibbeha County Humane Society, and the other is an externship enabling students from other colleges of veterinary medicine to travel to MSU CVM to experientially learn high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter procedures. In addition, Dr. Shivley is a course leader in one of the College's core professional development courses and serves as an instructor in the second-year DVM small animal surgery course.

According to MSU CVM Professor of Small Animal Medicine and Department of Clinical Sciences Head Dr. Andrew Mackin, Dr. Shivley is unrelenting in his quest to deliver superior learning experiences for MSU CVM students, and his outstanding efforts in this area not only benefit students but also the animals and organizations impacted as a result.

"Jake is a wonderful example of the excellent clinical teaching that happens all over MSU CVM, and I am thrilled that the folks



that recognize teaching excellence on main campus got to see high-stakes, practical clinical teaching in action with the spay and neuter rotation," Dr. Mackin said. "I think they now have a greater appreciation of what we do!"

According to MSU CVM Dean Dr. Kent Hoblet, since Dr. Shivley was accepted as a DVM student at MSU CVM he has been focused on not only becoming an outstanding veterinary surgeon, but also on refining his skills in educating the next generation of outstanding veterinary surgeons.

"Dr. Shivley is a gifted teacher who truly cares about his students. He engages them, challenges them, and recognizes their accomplishments. He adjusts his approach to meet student needs and provides encouragement to help students realize their full potential," Dean Hoblet said.

In 2016, Dr. Shivley received the Dean's Pegasus Award for Outstanding Teaching. Earlier this year, he was selected to represent MSU CVM in the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges Leadership Academy, a series of leadership experiences that culminated in March with a visit to the Mississippi Congressional Delegation on Capitol Hill.

Dr. Shivley is also an active participant in the College's Vet Camp and VetAspire programs, which are important outreach activities of the College, and he is also one of 10 faculty members selected to serve on the College's student recruitment team.

The MSU AA Graduate and Professional Teaching Excellence Award was presented to Dr. Shivley by MSU Alumni Association Director Jeff Davis along with only two other faculty recipients at a reception hosted in their honor in April.

**“Dr. Shivley is a gifted teacher who truly cares about his students. He engages them, challenges them, and recognizes their accomplishments. He adjusts his approach to meet student needs and provides encouragement to help students realize their full potential.”**

— DR. KENT HOBLET

# MEET the FACULTY



## **DR. WILL CROSBY**

Clinical Instructor, Department of Clinical Sciences

Dr. Will Crosby joined the MSU CVM faculty in April as a clinical instructor for food animal medicine and surgery. Dr. Crosby received two Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin, one in 2014 and one in 2015. He earned his DVM from MSU CVM in 2020. After earning his DVM, Dr. Crosby began working as a graduate research assistant at MSU CVM while working towards his PhD and as an on-call veterinarian for the College's food animal and ambulatory emergency services.



## **DR. KRISTEN FIZZANO**

Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Sciences

Dr. Kristen Fizzano joined the MSU CVM faculty in March as an assistant clinical professor of anesthesiology. Dr. Fizzano received her Bachelor of Science from Daemen College in 2004. She earned her DVM from Colorado State University in 2013, before pursuing her Master of Science in veterinary medical sciences at MSU CVM during her anesthesiology residency. She comes to MSU CVM after spending five years as an anesthesiologist at Gulf Coast Veterinary Specialists in Houston, Texas. Dr. Fizzano is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia.



## **DR. HOLLY SMITH**

Clinical Instructor, Animal Emergency & Referral Center

Dr. Holly Smith joined the MSU CVM faculty in June as a clinical instructor for emergency medicine at the Animal Emergency & Referral Center in Flowood. Dr. Smith received her Bachelor of Science from Mississippi State University in 2012, before earning her DVM from MSU CVM in 2016. Prior to joining the team at AERC, she worked as a veterinarian at Big Dog Ranch Rescue in Loxahatchee, Fla., and as an associate veterinarian at Banfield Pet Hospital in Flowood, Miss.



## **DR. MARGUERITE YELVERTON**

Clinical Instructor, Animal Emergency & Referral Center

Dr. Marguerite Yelverton joined the MSU CVM faculty in July as a clinical instructor for emergency medicine at the Animal Emergency & Referral Center in Flowood. Dr. Yelverton received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2014, before pursuing a Master of Science in biology and medical sciences at Mississippi College. Dr. Yelverton earned her DVM from MSU CVM in 2021. Since earning her DVM, she has been working as an associate veterinarian at Mannsdale Animal Clinic in Madison, Miss., and part-time as an emergency veterinarian at AERC.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR JOBS WELL DONE



**MEREDITH NAGEL** serves as admissions outreach manager in the College's Office of Admissions where she coordinates technology, processes, and procedures for admissions, advises Early Entry Program students and prospective students, helps process applications, and oversees VetAspire, VetChat, VetCamp, and This Is How We Role.

Before joining the MSU CVM family in 2019, Nagel worked as an admissions assistant with

the MSU Graduate School, and prior to that role, she worked with the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services.

"In my job at CVM, I am extremely lucky to work with students of all ages," Nagel said. "I am able to spark young students' curiosity, assist high school and college students in creating plans to achieve their dreams, and work alongside veterinary students during four of the most exciting years of their lives."



**JOE SHEWMAKE** previously served as an inventory control assistant in the CVM storeroom where he was the prime example of a team player and was always willing to help others. It was not uncommon for Shewmake to volunteer to perform additional tasks in the office or offer his assistance to anyone who might need it. He constantly asked how everyone was doing and how he could make their job easier or day better.

Unfortunately, this outstanding co-worker with a cheerful, loving demeanor, great work ethic, and incredible selflessness passed away on March 8 before he could officially be informed of

his selection to be recognized for his service and devotion to MSU CVM.

"Joe dedicated years of service to the College and was always willing to do more than his part to help others or to lighten someone else's load," said MSU CVM Business Manager Caleb Alford, who worked closely with Shoemake. "He went about his duties in a cheerful manner and was kind to everyone who had the pleasure of working with him. He is truly missed by all of us!"

Shewmake will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, friend, and a well-loved member of the MSU CVM family.



**MORGAN FANT** serves as a certified veterinary technologist in the CVM Animal Health Center small animal ICU/ER. On a daily basis, she can be found tending to the most critical patients in the small animal hospital while also teaching students.

Fant graduated from the College's veterinary medical technology program in May 2016 and began working for MSU CVM almost immediately. She is currently finishing coursework for her MBA—also from MSU. Outside of work, Fant

enjoys traveling and hiking with her two pitties, Edna and Agnes, and caring for her numerous plants.

"24/7 patient care of the most critical patients in the hospital while simultaneously taking in emergencies is no easy task, but being able to work hard alongside students and laugh even harder through the stress makes it worth it," Fant said. "I learn something new from every rotation, and the students continue to make me better professionally and personally."



## FOREVER MAROON AND WHITE: Salmon Family Honors Father and His Lifelong Love of Animals

Siblings Sally Bradshaw, Mary Laura Bragg, and Thomas Griffis “Griff” Salmon share a profound love for Mississippi State University, Starkville, and all things maroon due in part to their father’s unwavering support of MSU. While growing up, home for the Salmon Family was in Greenville, Miss., but the MSU campus was a close second, as they spent nearly every weekend in Starkville attending football, baseball, basketball games, and tennis matches. Dr. Thomas G. Salmon, Jr., has proudly donned maroon his entire life. His fondness for MSU athletics is only paralleled with his true passion for animals. Dr. Salmon has always owned and nurtured pets.

“Our dad loves Mississippi State, and he loves animals. Our first family pet was a dog named Bully!” said Bragg. “And he passed both loves down to the three of us.”

Dr. Salmon was born and raised in Houston, Miss. His father was an MSU alumnus, so after high school, it was an easy choice for him to enroll at State.

“My dad infected all of us at an early age with a passion for the maroon and white, and that stays with us wherever we go. We have all lived in multiple cities around the country, and that connection with State has never waned,” said Griff Salmon,

**“My dad infected all of us at an early age with a passion for the maroon and white, and that stays with us wherever we go.”**

— GRIFF SALMON

**“We want more pet owners to experience MSU veterinarians, and we hope this scholarship will allow that to happen.”**

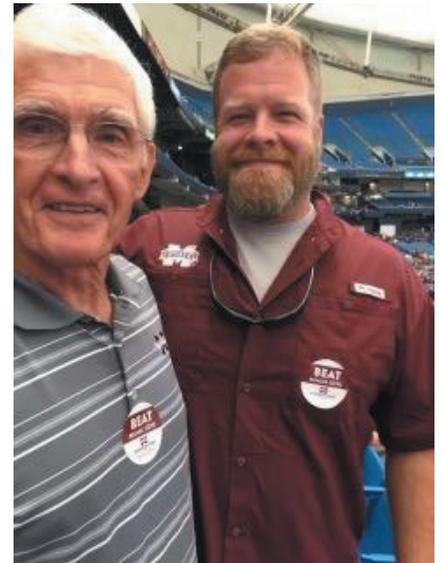
– MARY LAURA BRAGG

who earned a Master of Public Policy and Administration from MSU in 2006. “I am in the heart of Gator Country in Orlando and just love it when I pass someone at Disney or Universal with a State shirt on. Being able to say, ‘Hail State’ and hearing it back is a cool connection.”

After finishing classes at MSU in 1959, Dr. Salmon enrolled in the University of Tennessee dental school in Memphis, Tenn. He graduated in 1962, and one year later, he married Helen Buck who grew up in Memphis.

Dr. Salmon served in the United States Army from 1963 to 1965 and then completed a pediatric dentistry residency before opening his private practice, Thomas G. Salmon Dentistry for Children, in Greenville, Miss., where he served the community until 2002. He later retired to Destin, Fla., where he and Helen live with Ryder, their beloved Sealyham Terrier.

Dr. Salmon may have spent his entire career as a pediatric dentist, but his profound love for animals has convinced his family that if he had it do over again, he would likely choose veterinary school at MSU instead of dental school! In January 2022, the Salmon siblings honored their father by establishing the Dr. Thomas G. Salmon, Jr., Endowed Scholarship at MSU CVM.



“State has one of the best veterinary schools in the nation; my dad brags on the CVM often. Because he is such an animal lover, when we began to think of a way to honor him, establishing an endowed scholarship at MSU CVM seemed like an appropriate way to do so while supporting future veterinarians,” said Bradshaw. “I’ve never seen him so moved as he was when we presented him with his endowed scholarship on Father’s Day!”

“The veterinary clinic in our hometown of Greenville was established by two MSU grads, and they were wonderfully compassionate with the many pets we had growing up. We want more pet owners to experience MSU veterinarians, and we hope this scholarship will allow that to happen,” said Bragg.

“To honor him and all he has done for us, we wanted to do something that would leave a lasting impression. Knowing that the scholarship has the potential to help someone pursue their dreams will accomplish just that,” Griff Salmon said. “Our hope is that whoever this scholarship benefits will have a profound impact on others, in a similar way that our father has helped others. We were all fortunate to celebrate his 86th birthday in August of 2022 in Destin, and he mentioned how much he appreciated being a part of this effort.”

“I really think his name being on the scholarship wasn’t nearly as meaningful to him as just knowing how much it could benefit CVM students. It is special for us to have a small part in this,” the younger Salmon continued.

Candidates for the Dr. Thomas G. Salmon, Jr., Endowed Scholarship must be full-time students enrolled in the DVM professional program at MSU CVM. Students must have demonstrated academic achievement, maintain a minimum of 2.5 GPA, and be of good moral character.

**“State has one of the best veterinary schools in the nation; my dad brags on the CVM often.”**

– SALLY BRADSHAW

# AERC EXPANSION PROJECT WELL UNDERWAY, SLATED FOR COMPLETION IN EARLY 2023



Progress on MSU CVM's expansion project at the Animal Emergency & Referral Center in Flowood, Miss., is well underway with a goal of completion in February next year.

Bids for the project, which includes a 14,156-square-foot addition to the existing 4,929-square-foot facility, were sought in fall of 2020, and the project was awarded to Arcon Construction in early 2021. Groundbreaking and initial construction began in May 2021 but was soon impacted by supply chain delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to MSU CVM Assistant Dean for Clinical Services Dr. Joey Burt, who oversees operations at the AERC, structural steel components were delayed almost six months, putting construction on hold. However, once this vital material arrived on site last fall, construction has proceeded full steam ahead.

"Exterior construction is complete with the brick façade and roof finished and exterior doors and windows installed," Dr. Burt said. "On the interior, drywall installation is now complete, and they've begun the finishing work. We are

hopeful grading of the new parking lot and the sidewalk and curbs will take place by the end of this month."

The much-anticipated project will allow for all services offered by the AERC to be located under one roof; At present, rehabilitation services provided through AERC are rendered in a facility a few blocks away. The new facilities will also provide for housing of the College's DVM students during their fourth-year clinical rotation at AERC, as well as expansion of emergency and referral care to patients, and, ultimately, overall better service to clients.

According to Dr. Burt, renovation of the existing facility, which will begin simultaneously during the finishing touches to the new facility, is being done to offer an improved surgery center. A full-time veterinary surgeon began seeing patients at AERC earlier this month.

The overall project is projected to cost around \$6.5-7M, with \$5.1M for expansion and building construction and another \$1-2M for furnishings and equipment. Once completed, it will allow not only for better service to referring veterinarians and their clients, but also enhanced teaching of veterinary students, strengthening the College's commitment to educating and preparing the next generation of veterinarians and veterinary technologists.

"This has been an exciting project for me to work on. It is being accomplished through cooperation from numerous entities," Dr. Burt said. "The benefits it will provide the veterinarians and pet-owning public of central Mississippi are tremendous, and it will have a significant impact on our students now and well into the future."

## DVM STUDENTS ADDRESS STATE LEGISLATORS



CVM DVM students (left to right) Anabel Debruhl, Rachel Claus, and Meghan Brino (class of 2023) and Mary Douglass Kerby and Tyler Floyd (class of 2022) attended the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association's annual Legislative Luncheon at the Mississippi Cattleman's Association office on March 16, where they spoke to the group about their experiences at MSU CVM and their future plans in the field of veterinary medicine. The students were accompanied by CVM Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Jack Smith (far left), who said the College values the opportunity to spotlight the caliber of students and the opportunities they are provided at CVM to the state's legislative leaders at the event each year.

## TWELVE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS NAMED BARDSLEY SCHOLARS



This spring, MSU CVM awarded prestigious Bardsley Scholarships to 12 members of the incoming, 114-member Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) class of 2026.

Receiving Bardsley Scholarships are Autumn Carroll, William Greer, Alyssa Heath, and Alicia Hulitt of Mississippi; Reagan Smith of Alabama; Sierra Light of Arkansas; Landon Snapp of Ohio; Hannah Schweizer of Illinois; Savannah Finley and Sarah Hobbs of South Carolina; Amelie Signorel of Tennessee; and Courtney Walker of West Virginia.

Bardsley Scholars must have demonstrated high academic performance by achieving at least a 3.75 GPA on a four-point scale in their undergraduate studies. In addition, they must apply and are selected by a further in-depth, second review of their application conducted by a committee of MSU CVM faculty, who review students' extracurricular activities and evaluate their demonstrated leadership potential before making final recommendations for who is to receive the scholarships.

The scholarships are made possible by a gift from the estate of Dr. Charles and Mrs. Viola Bardsley, who lived on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and took a special interest in the MSU CVM. They are awarded to approximately one dozen students entering the College and meeting the requirements each year. Mississippi residents and students from West Virginia and South Carolina, who receive in-state tuition rates as a result of contract arrangements through the respective state legislatures, qualify for \$25,000 scholarships, and those from other states, who pay out-of-state tuition, qualify for \$50,000 scholarships.

To retain their scholarship, each Bardsley Scholar must maintain at least a 3.5 GPA in their studies while in the CVM. In addition to the scholarship monies, they are given preferential scheduling of courses, externships, research experiences, and clinical rotations, as well as additional leadership training, during their time at MSU CVM.

## CVM FACULTY AND STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MSU'S BIG EVENT



On Saturday, March 26, MSU CVM students, faculty, and staff participated in MSU's "Big Event"—a one-day service event that gives the MSU family an opportunity to give back to the Starkville community. CVM volunteers spent the day at a local Habitat for Humanity site cleaning up the area and installing a basketball goal. Among the volunteers were Drs. Michael and Tracy Jaffe, who said that participating in community service projects has always been important to their family. "We love the fact that when we devote a small amount of our time to projects, it benefits so many others," Dr. Michael Jaffe said. "We especially enjoy working side by side with students, staff, and other faculty members while giving something back to our community."

# CVM STUDENTS GAIN EXPERIENCE WITH UN-FAO



Three MSU CVM DVM students were selected to participate in global animal and One Health projects under a Memorandum of Understanding between MSU and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO). The hallmark agreement provides preferential placement for any MSU student interested in the fields of agriculture, food safety and security, animal health, and One Health to FAO offices in one of over 130 UN member countries across the world.

These three students are the first chosen since the agreement was signed just prior to the worldwide pandemic restrictions.

Class of 2023 student Marie Cozzarelli completed a remote assignment with the UN-FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy during the Fall 2021 semester; class of 2022 student Tyler McMurray completed her assignment in Rome this past spring; and class of 2022 student Emerald Ford worked in the UN-FAO offices in Togo, West Africa this past spring.

McMurray, who was selected to spend eight weeks during her fourth year in CVM at the FAO headquarters in Rome within the Animal Production and Health Department, said the experience she gained was invaluable to her career plans.

“I worked under the direct supervision of four veterinarians from different parts of the world— each working on very specific projects. From editing concept notes that would aide

in the implementation of epidemiologic networks, to analyzing the current biosecurity threats of Rinderpest in the post-eradication era, I quickly learned the importance of organized veterinary medicine at the international level,” McMurray said. “This experience solidified my interest in how policy can impact food safety and security, and I am so thankful for MSU CVM helping me achieve my dreams. I’m excited to utilize the skills I learned in Rome as the new population medicine resident at MSU CVM.”

According to MSU CVM Enhanced Clinical Education Director Dr. Carla Huston, working with the FAO is a tremendous opportunity for CVM students. “The FAO is charged with helping to provide the necessary resources for countries around the world to defeat hunger by increasing sustainable agriculture and reducing food insecurity. Students gain knowledge and skills required to excel in food and agriculture fields and get to participate in global efforts to reduce hunger and poverty through working alongside experts in a variety of areas related to global animal and One Health initiatives,” Dr. Huston said. “We are proud to be able to make opportunities like this available to them.”



**MARIE COZZARELLI**



**TYLER MCMURRAY**



**EMERALD FORD**

# CVM FACULTY AND STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD IN UGANDA

In June, MSU veterinary students and an undergraduate pre-veterinary student from West Virginia University traveled overseas for the College's Tropical Veterinary Medicine and One Health in Uganda study abroad program. The students were accompanied by MSU CVM faculty members Dr. Stephen Reichley, assistant clinical professor and associate director MSU Global Center for Aquatic Food Security, and Department of Biomedical Sciences Assistant Research Professor Dr. Graham Rosser.

Hosted in collaboration with Makerere University College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources, and Biosecurity, the program enables students and faculty from MSU and MU to participate in a wide variety of experiential, hands-on learning activities across three of Uganda's national parks.

This year, the team worked alongside Uganda Wildlife Authority veterinarians and rangers to perform chemical immobilizations, physical exams, and sample collection from wild animals. They also participated in biodiversity and wild animal health monitoring by truck and boat of various wildlife including elephants, lions, giraffes, zebras, mice, birds, and other species. A highlight of the trip included the opportunity to work with veterinarians from Gorilla Doctors, an organization focused on the conservation of mountain and eastern lowland gorillas. The team also visited communities throughout the country to observe and discuss wild animal-human-livestock interaction and promote the principles of One Health. In addition, they toured national health labs and



visited with human health professionals to discuss disease monitoring and management.

The Tropical Veterinary Medicine and One Health in Uganda study abroad program is open to undergraduate, veterinary, and graduate students at MSU and other U.S. academic institutions. It focuses on animal production and health management, wildlife health, disease surveillance, public health, food safety and security, as well as other One Health principles while incorporating multicultural experiences. Check out the College's YouTube channel for a video about the program and the November 2021 episode of Pegasus TV where Dr. Reichley addresses this study abroad opportunity. For more information, email [stephen.reichley@msstate.edu](mailto:stephen.reichley@msstate.edu).



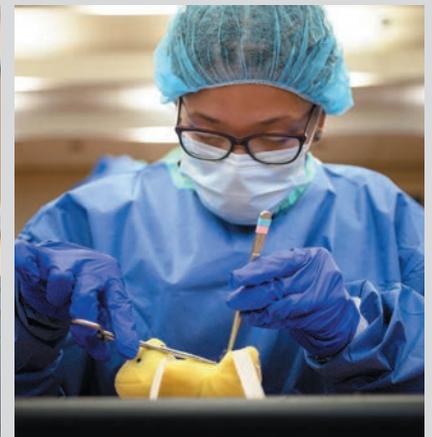
# A Good Time Was Had By All!



“I didn’t think I would like the microbiology or the fish labs— but they were really fun, and I learned a lot!”



“Everyone has been so nice, and we’ve had so much fun! I really hope to stay in touch with everyone we’ve met—including our counselors! They could still be in vet school when we’re freshmen in college, so it’d be nice to have that connection with them.”



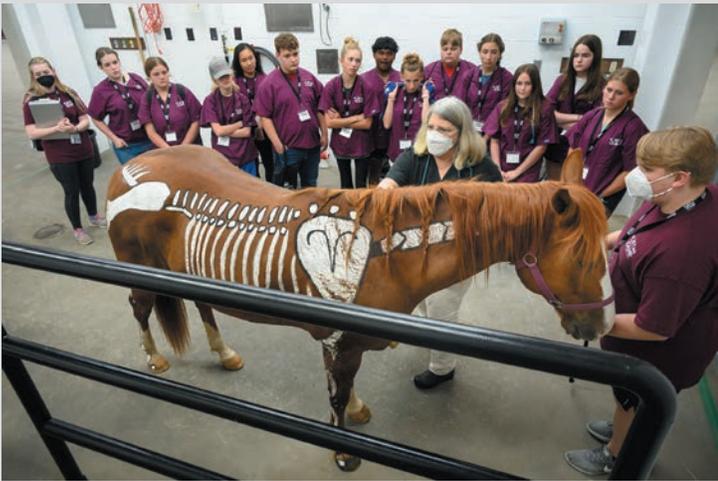
MSU Vet Camp was another great success this summer with more than 180 campers attending, representing 16 different states! Both day camps and overnight camps were offered to accommodate students aged 10 to 17 with animal-focused career aspirations. Camps were led by CVM faculty with the assistance of current veterinary students and included a variety of interactive labs, allowing participants to explore everything from animal anatomy and microbiology to surgery, radiology, and pathology, and an array of other real-life aspects of a career caring for animals.

CVM Admissions Outreach Manager Meredith Nagel, who manages the administrative team and counselors who staff Vet Camp, noted that the faculty and students at MSU CVM share not only their knowledge but also their excitement about veterinary medicine with the campers throughout each session.

“Vet Camp at MSU CVM helps students discover new or different ways they can be involved in veterinary medicine,” said Nagel. “It gives aspiring veterinarians a chance to make connections with veterinarians and veterinary students, as well as learn how they can best prepare for their academic and career journey.”

Nagel added that being accepted to Vet Camp is competitive; the College receives hundreds of applications for only a set number of slots each year. Therefore, those interested in participating should visit the CVM website, [vetmed.msstate.edu](http://vetmed.msstate.edu), to learn more about camp and the application process well in advance of the annual application period, which lasts only one month and opens in late January each year. Camp info is available by clicking the Outreach tab on the top right of the homepage and then the Summer Veterinary Camp button.

**“I worked with a farrier last summer so that really solidified my interest in being an equine veterinarian. The career coach at my high school told me about this camp, and I knew I had to apply. I’ve learned so much about the different areas of veterinary medicine—even though I still want to be an equine veterinarian.”**



**“My mom saw a Facebook post for Vet Camp, and I’ve wanted to be a veterinarian since I was knee-high to a grasshopper, so it was a natural fit. I really enjoyed the catfish lab and the bone lab—it was really cool to see how the same bone is different in multiple species.”**

# DVM STUDENTS HONORED WITH SPIRIT OF STATE AWARDS



Each year, Mississippi State University honors students who have excelled in campus involvement, service to the university, and have made an impact on their peers and broader campus community with the university's premiere student award—the Spirit of State Award.

The award recognizes exceptional personal contributions to student life at MSU. Eligible nominees must have a minimum 2.5 GPA and be in good academic and disciplinary standing.

This past spring, MSU CVM was proud to have two students receive this honor: class of 2022 DVM student Peter McGinn and class of 2024 DVM student Ian Evans. The two were recognized in April along with 27 other MSU students who garnered the award.

Evans, originally from Memphis, Tenn., has been described as one of the most reliable students at MSU CVM. Only mid-way through the DVM program, he has already accomplished so much, serving in many leadership roles within the College—including club officer, class vice-president, Envoy, and as an operating room technician for the small animal surgery service. Perhaps most notably, Evans has organized CVM volunteer groups for MSU's community service days each semester, and he singlehandedly secured funding to build a disc golf course at the Wise Center.

McGinn, an Andover, Mass., native, served MSU CVM in a variety of ways during his time on campus. He gave prospective student tours as an Envoy, led and represented his class as class president, spent time as a student instructor for the VetAspire and This is How We Role programs, mentored applicants as they navigated admission interviews, served on the CVM Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and was a member of many CVM clubs and organizations. At the class of 2022's commencement and awards ceremony, McGinn was awarded the Dean's Pegasus Award for his service, commitment, outstanding character, and unbelievable work ethic—all qualities that certainly led to him receiving the Spirit of State Award.



In a press release from the university, MSU President Dr. Mark Keenum cited this year's winners as part of Mississippi State's 144-year commitment to meaningful and impactful service. "I appreciate all of the many contributions these outstanding students have made to our campus and to the community we call home," Dr. Keenum said. "They embody our institutional values of integrity, hard work, and respect for others, and I am very proud of them."

Congratulations, Peter and Ian! MSU CVM is proud to educate and graduate veterinarians with your commitment and character!

**They embody our institutional values of integrity, hard work, and respect for others, and I am very proud of them.**

— MSU PRESIDENT DR. MARK KEENUM

# AVMA CONFERENCE RECEPTION



The annual alumni reception the College hosts at the AVMA Conference each summer was well attended this year. Alums, students, and faculty members and their guests gathered at Tradesman's in Philadelphia, Penn., the evening of July 2

where they heard an update from the dean, enjoyed good food and fellowship, and snagged some VetMed swag!

Make plans now to join us in Denver, Colo., next summer!



# 2022 GRAD HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS NANDI SCHOLARSHIP



CVM class of 2022 graduate Rachel Doenges was named one of four recipients of the 2022 Theriogenology Foundation's prestigious Nandi Theriogenology Scholarship. Selected from a pool of 22 applicants representing 14 different veterinary schools, Dr. Doenges was recognized

and presented with the \$10K scholarship at the Society for Theriogenology Annual Conference in Bellevue, Wa., on July 22. MSU CVM alumnus Dr. Mike Thompson, who is currently president of the Theriogenology Foundation, made the

presentation. Dr. Doenges was accompanied by Dr. Heath King, associate clinical professor in the CVM Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine, who served as her faculty mentor and nominated her for the award.

While at CVM, Dr. Doenges was a leader in various veterinary student organizations, displaying exemplary organizational skills. She coordinated pet adoptions for the Homeward Bound Project and took every opportunity to widen her theriogenology experiences—including externship experiences at different veterinary schools and private practices. Dr. Doenges also made case presentations at two theriogenology annual conferences. After graduation in May, she began a one-year internship at Rood and Riddle in Lexington, Ky. After completion of her internship, she will seek a residency in comparative theriogenology and pursue a career in academia.

# CVM VMT CLASS OF 2022 HONORED AT PINNING AND AWARDS PROGRAM

The CVM Veterinary Medical Technology Program held its annual pinning ceremony at the Wise Center on May 13. The Class of 2022 included thirty-five graduates, making it the College's largest VMT class to date.



of the profession and offering graduates sound advice on how to make the most of their careers.

Following the address, Dr. Mandy Kohler, Kyla Wilcher, CVT, and Dana Cooper, CVT, recognized each graduate, presented them with a

The ceremony opened with CVM VMT Program Director Dr. Maralyn Jackson initiating the processional of graduates into the auditorium. Once seated, the audience and graduates were welcomed by CVM Associate Dean for Administration Dr. Ron McLaughlin.

certificate of completion, and officially pinned them. Cooper then administered the Veterinary Technician's Oath to the class.

Lesley Beck, CVT, MSU CVM VMT Class of 2018, offered the commencement address, focusing on the challenges and rewards

The awards program immediately followed, and the ceremony concluded with a slideshow created by members of the class.

*Congratulations to the following students who were recognized for their accomplishments:*

## VMT PROGRAM AWARDS



(left to right): **Alexis Green**, Leadership Award presented by Dr. Mandy Kohler; **Laurel Peckham**, Award for Academic Excellence presented by Dr. Mandy Kohler; **Jamie Cantey**, Award for Clinical and Technical Proficiency presented by Dr. Mandy Kohler; **Ravyn Jones**, Most Reliable Student presented by Dr. Mandy Kohler; **Abbye Blocker**, VMT Student of the Year presented by Dana Cooper, CVT

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**MISSISSIPPI VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION SENIOR VMT SCHOLARSHIP** presented by Kyla Wilcher, CVT: awarded to Dameisha Jenkins

**DR. P. MIKELL AND MARY CHEEK HALL DAVIS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP** presented by Kyla Wilcher, CVT: awarded to Brandy Graves

## CLINICAL AWARDS

**EXCELLENCE IN EQUINE** presented by Masyn Voss: awarded to Abbye Blocker and Jaide Jones

**EXCELLENCE IN FOOD ANIMAL/THERIOGENOLOGY** presented by Jordan Holding: awarded to Angel Rivera

**EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY VETERINARY SERVICES** presented by Lora Leigh Patridge, CVT: awarded to Tara Cook

**EXCELLENCE IN AMBULATORY** presented by Jordan Holding, CVT: awarded to Jamie Cantey and Dixie Jackson

**EXCELLENCE IN LABORATORY ANIMAL** presented by Jamie Walker, CVT: awarded to John Windsor and Saoirse Myers

**EXCELLENCE IN NEUROLOGY** presented by Madison Dye, CVT: awarded to Alexis Green

**EXCELLENCE IN REHABILITATION** presented by Lesley Beck, CVT: awarded to Macie Carpenter

**EXCELLENCE IN INTERNAL MEDICINE** presented by Nicole Briones, CVT: awarded to John Windsor and Maggie Walsh

**EXCELLENCE IN EMERGENCY & ICU** presented by Nancy Wilson, CVT: awarded to Abbye Blocker

**EXCELLENCE IN OPHTHALMOLOGY** presented by Nancy Wilson, CVT: awarded to Dominique Oates

**EXCELLENCE IN SURGERY** presented by Nancy Wilson, CVT: awarded to Tara Cook, Jaide Jones, and Krista Box

**TONYA GRAHAM ANESTHESIA AWARD** presented by Nancy Wilson, CVT: awarded to Paige Graves



# MEMBERS OF DVM CLASS OF 2022 HONORED AT ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST AND AWARDS PROGRAM

*Students, including those pictured on this page, benefitted from scholarships totaling more than \$1M, thanks to the generous contributions of MSU CVM alumni and friends. Donors and recipients were celebrated at a breakfast hosted the morning of the College's 2022 commencement festivities. For a complete listing of these scholarships, see pages 34–35.*

Prior to commencement ceremonies, members of the DVM class of 2022 gathered for events slated to recognize scholarship recipients and honor donors and for awards to be presented for outstanding grades and performance.

The Annual Scholarship Breakfast was hosted at 8:30 a.m. in the Mize Pavilion at Humphrey Coliseum and provided an

opportunity for CVM scholarship donors and recipients to meet and become acquainted over a continental breakfast.

Afterwards, members of the DVM class of 2022 were welcomed to the Annual Awards Program at 10 a.m. by MSU CVM Dean Dr. Kent Hoblet and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Jack Smith.



About three dozen different awards were presented to outstanding and deserving graduates by CVM faculty members at the Annual Awards Program. Recognition was awarded for excellence in specific areas of the clinical curriculum as well for high academic achievement.

In addition to students being recognized, Dr. Kent Hoblet presented the 2022 Zoetis Teaching Award, selected annually by the graduating class. The program concluded with the traditional White Coat Ceremony, which symbolizes the transition the graduates are making from being students into the actual profession of veterinary medicine.

### ***Congratulations to the following who were recognized during the event:***



#### **DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARD RECIPIENT**

Peter McGinn

The Dean's Pegasus Award is the highest award given to a member of the graduating class. The award is based on an assessment by the College's administration of a student's displayed qualities of character, professionalism, leadership, and the promise of a career of service to the veterinary profession as demonstrated by his/her service before and while in the College of Veterinary Medicine.



#### **BARDSLEY AWARD FOR HIGHEST ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT RECIPIENT**

Mary Douglass Kerby

The late Dr. Charles Bardsley and Mrs. Viola Bardsley of Ocean Springs on Mississippi's Gulf Coast were very interested in the academic success of students studying veterinary medicine. Because of this interest, they established a scholarship at MSU CVM more than 20 years ago to recognize academic excellence. The Dr. Charles and Mrs. Viola Bardsley Scholarship is given to the graduating student who has achieved the highest grade point average during their time in the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. This scholarship is in the amount of \$10,000.



#### **ASSOCIATE DEAN'S AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Mary Douglass Kerby and Tyler McMurray

The Associate Dean's Award is among the highest awards given to a member of the graduating class. Based on an assessment of displayed qualities of character, professionalism, leadership, and the promise of a career of service in veterinary medicine, it is given to a graduating senior who is not entering private clinical practice.



#### **POCO AND CLIO GENTLE DOCTOR AWARD RECIPIENT**

Natalie Dale Parkins

The Poco and Clio Gentle Doctor Award is presented by members of the graduating class to a classmate whom they would choose to treat their own animals. The award takes into consideration the ability of the recipient to effectively treat his or her patients while demonstrating kindness and compassion toward those animals under his or her care.



#### **ZOETIS TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENT**

Dr. Mike Pesato

The Zoetis Teaching Award is presented by the graduating class to the faculty member they believe has most significantly contributed to the advancement of the profession through their teaching, dedication, and leadership.

Other nominees for the award this year included Dr. Jeb Cade and Dr. Graham Rosser.

## In addition to the previous awards, the following graduates were also recognized at the awards program:

**Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Companion Animal Award:** Natalie Dale Parkins

**Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Economic & Performance Animal Award:** Carter Glynn Arnold

**Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Large Animal Award:** Maryanna M. Hudson

**Farm Bureau Scholarships:** Tyler M. Floyd and Natalie McCormick

**American College of Veterinary Surgeons Large Animal Award:** Laura Fidler

**American College of Veterinary Surgeons Small Animal Award:** Mary Douglass Kerby

**American College of Veterinary Pathologists Award for Excellence in Pathology:** Peter N. McGinn and Amelia Andersson

**Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society Award for Proficiency in ER/CC:** Sara Dietz

**American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Clinical Excellence - Small Animal:** Natalie Dale Parkins

**American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Clinical Excellence - Neurology:** Allison Kathleen Eardley

**American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Clinical Excellence - Large Animal:** Hannah Faith Carter

**American College of Veterinary Dermatology Proficiency in Dermatology Award:** Elizabeth C. Czapor

**Dechra Excellence in Small Animal Internal Med Award:** Natalie Floyd

**Dechra Excellence in Dermatology Award:** Audrey E. Pugh

**Dechra Excellence in Equine Sports Medicine Award & AQHA Scholarship:** Hannah Faith Carter

**Veterinary Cancer Society Award:** Lauren Blalock Glenn

**Student American Veterinary Medical Association Award:** Hannah Faith Carter

**American Association of Feline Practitioners Feline Medicine Award:** Meisha M. Mychajlonka

**American College of Veterinary Radiology Award:** Victoria Scites Renner

**North American Veterinary Anesthesia Society Award:** Natalie Floyd

**Tonya Graham Proficiency in Anesthesia Award:** Allison Kathleen Eardley

**American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology Award:** Christopher Warren Deignan

**Merck Animal Health Vet Student Innovation:** Elizabeth C. Czapor

**American Animal Hospital Association Award for Proficiency in Primary Care:** Christopher Warren Deignan

**Proficiency in Theriogenology Award:** Rachel J. Doenges

**Therio Foundation Nandi Scholarship:** Rachel J. Doenges

**Veterinary Business Management Association Business Certificate recipients:** Morgan Lachicotte Currin, Elizabeth C. Czapor, Jaymie Danford, Rachel J. Doenges, Lauren Blalcock Glenn, Katie Howard, Mary Douglass Kerby, Mandy Liesenfeld, Peter N. McGinn, Natalie Dale Parkins, Mimi Pelanne, Rebekah Roberts, Hannah R. Robertson, Andrea M. Rodriguez, Lauren Scott, Lindsay Thomas, Jillian L. Western, Kristen Williams

**Phi Zeta Veterinary Honor Society Inductees:** Gabrielle Rae Alonzo, Carter Glynn Arnold, J. Katelyn Barnett, Hannah Faith Carter, Meagan Rose Coleman, Elizabeth C. Czapor, Christopher Warren Deignan, Rachel J. Doenges, Laura Fidler, Tori Fields, Townes Hillier, Jennifer Hu, Mary Douglass Kerby, Kayla Lewis, Elizabeth Mitchell, Natalie Dale Parkins, Mimi Pelanne, Sophie Polnow, Savanna L. Richmond, Eric Schrand

**Clinical Pathological Conference Award:** Meghan Courey

**Clinical Pathological Conference Attendance Award:** Brianna Christine Mitchell

**Wise Scholars (GPA between 3.5 and 3.79):** Jasmine Summer Alam, Gabrielle Rae Alonzo, Leah Burns Anderson, Bailey Claudia Archey, J. Katelyn Barnett, Abigail Bassett, Courtney Caugh, Meghan Courey, Elizabeth C. Czapor, Jordyn M. deHaan, Christopher Warren Deignan, Sara Dietz, Allison Kathleen Eardley, Emerald J. Ford, Lauren Blalock Glenn, Patrick Hatch, Brittany Hearn, Townes Hillier, Kathryn Hoppensteadt, Maryanna M. Hudson, Lauren Ingraham, Kayla Lewis, Mandy Liesenfeld, Tyler B. McMurray, Jose Moralejo, Meisha M. Mychajlonka, Morgan Rhea Myers, Keturah Ollie-Hayes, Natalie Dale Parkins, Mimi Pelanne, Victoria Scites Renner, Madison Rose Seifert, Katie C. Zornow

**Giles Scholars (GPA of 3.8 and greater):** Carter Glynn Arnold, Hannah Faith Carter, Meagan Rose Coleman, Rachel J. Doenges, Laura Fidler, Tori Fields, Jennifer Hu, Mary Douglass Kerby, Elizabeth Mitchell, Sophie Polnow, Savanna L. Richmond, Eric Schrand

# MSU CVM GRADUATES 94 IN DVM CLASS OF 2022

Ninety-four new doctors of veterinary medicine earned their diplomas from the MSU CVM at the College's 2022 commencement ceremonies held at 11:30 a.m. in the Humphrey Coliseum on May 11.

Following the invocation offered by class member Briana Mitchell, MSU CVM Dean Dr. Kent Hoblet welcomed all attending. MSU CVM Professor Dr. Robert Linford then delivered a message to the graduates, and Class of 2022 President Peter McGinn addressed the class.

MSU CVM Assistant Clinical Professor Dr. Alyssa Sullivant provided class member introductions, and hooding was conducted by MSU President Dr. Mark Keenum and Dean Hoblet. MSU Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. David Shaw and MSU Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine Dr. Keith Coble presented diplomas.

Afterwards, Dr. Keenum addressed the class and officially conferred their degrees. The ceremony concluded with MSU CVM Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Jack Smith administering the Veterinarian's Oath.

Congrats to all the graduates and best of luck in all your future endeavors!



# CLASS OF 2022 CONTRIBUTES TO DOG WALK



The MSU CVM DVM Class of 2022 understands the responsibility that comes with becoming a veterinary professional. Such dedication and commitment allow veterinarians to help improve the lives of both pets and their human companions throughout communities and throughout the world. Though the Class of 2022 just recently graduated, and members are just beginning their professional careers, the class has already collectively made a gift to benefit the College, its students and the animals they serve, having contributed towards developing and enhancing the existing Dog Walk area located outside of the Animal Health Center.

"Our class gives this gift as thanks and goodwill for the education, mentorship, and world-class training we received at the MSU CVM campus and the hospital," said Dr. Peter

McGinn, Class of 2022 President. "Our hope is that this small contribution raised by our class can help provide seating or bench areas for students and faculty to use in this area for generations to come."

McGinn said he and fellow class officers Dr. Christopher McGee, vice president, and Dr. Rebecca Flinchbaugh, secretary and treasurer, along with the entire class feel a tremendous debt of gratitude to the MSU CVM family who has done so much for them and the veterinary profession.

The College previously announced plans for new facilities, classrooms, office spaces, expansion of the Animal Health Center, and the development of outdoor areas to accommodate the ongoing growth and development of CVM programs and services, with a major focus on improving the existing grounds to better serve students, faculty, staff, visitors, and clients. The proposed plan features a large outdoor space which includes a dog park, walking trail, pavilion and learning spaces. These exciting changes in the coming years reflect the CVM's commitment to provide quality education, advanced research, and service to the community through diagnostics, clinical care, and shared learning. Private support such as the gift from the Class of 2022 helps fund these enhancement projects.



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

# CAREER EXPO

*Open to veterinary practitioners, employers, practice managers and other animal-health related professionals who wish to recruit DVM and VMT students for employment.*

## Friday, September 16 @ The Wise Center

**9 - 11:30 a.m.**    **Company/employer registration and set-up**  
Wise Center 2nd Floor Lobby

**10 & 10:30 a.m.**    **Tours of College**

**11:30 a.m. - Noon**    **“What Do Today’s Graduates Expect?”**  
Tait Butler Classroom    Presented by Joey Burt, DVM, MSU CVM Animal Health Center Director  
Maralyn Jackson, DVM, MSU CVM Veterinary Medical Technology Program Director

**Noon - 1 p.m.**    **Lunch for Exhibitors**

**1 - 4 p.m.**    **Career Expo**  
2nd Floor Lobby    Meet and Greet MSU CVM DVM & VMT Students  
\*Beverages available for all participants.

*For more information, email [Joey.Burt@msstate.edu](mailto:Joey.Burt@msstate.edu) or call (662) 325-1342.*

<https://www.career.msstate.edu/>



# 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS & RECIPIENTS

**Drs. Mark and Carol Akin Equine Annual Scholarship:** Laura Fidler

**Dr. Carol Akin Feline Medicine Scholarship:** Jordyn M. deHaan  
**Hugh M. & Kathryn C. Arant, Sr. Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine:** Madison Mertz

**Frank Austin & Class of 2012 Endowed Scholarship:** Hannah Knight

**Arthur, Sammy, and Lulabelle Endowed Scholarship:** Audrey E. Pugh

**Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association Annual Scholarship:** J. Katelyn Barnett, Ashley Smith

**Auxiliary to the Arkansas VMA Annual Scholarship:** Kaci Squires

**Dr. Tracy Busbee Connelly Memorial Annual Scholarship:** Bailey Claudia Archey

**Paul Bass Annual Scholarship:** Mimi Pelanne

**Bedenbaugh Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine:** Hannah Faith Carter, Rachel Claus, Rachel J. Doenges, Laura Fidler, Jessica Jones, Keegan Jones, Hannah Kruse McDowell, Sophie Polnow, Savanna L. Richmond

**Rona & Dan Belser Endowed Scholarship:** Mandy Liesenfeld

**William Tyler Brady Annual Scholarship:** Maryanna M. Hudson

**James D. & Kay B. Bryan Endowed Scholarship:** Maryanna M. Hudson, Emily Vowell

**Buddy the Elf Scholarship:** Leah Hadskey, Dania Cervantes-Linares

**Dr. Robert Cooper Endowed Scholarship:** Mary Douglass Kerby

**Georgiana and Kevin Cox Memorial Annual Scholarship:** Kayla Lewis

**Ida L. Cunetto Annual Scholarship:** Grace Dewberry

**Dr. Leon and Mrs. Sherrill Dale Annual Scholarship:** Katie Howard

**Dr. P. Mikell & Mary Cheek Hall Davis Beef Cattle Endowed Scholarship:** Caleb Glover

**Dr. P. Mikell & Mary Cheek Hall Davis Beef Cattle-Early Entry Endowed Scholarship:** Reagan Smith

**Dr. P. Mikell & Mary Cheek Hall Davis Feline Medicine Endowed Scholarship:** Sydney Tamashiro

**Isabel M. Devine Endowed Scholarship:** Morgan Lachicotte Currin, Amanda Whitman

**Drs. Beth T. and Joe L. Duncan Annual Scholarship:** Peter N. McGinn

**Dr. Elizabeth B. Ezelle and Mr. Robert Ezelle Annual Scholarship:** Ashlyn McNaughton

**A.B. Bubba Fort Memorial Annual Scholarship:** Brittany Hearn

**Morgan Freeman Endowment for Veterinary Medicine:** Dania Cervantes Linares

**Drs. Karen G. and Jeff D. Grady Annual Scholarship:** Bailee Pipkin

**Greenville Animal Clinic and Hospital/Dr. Thomas E. Royal Memorial Annual Scholarship:** Caleb Glover

**Dr. Tip Hailey Scholarship:** Andrea Rodriguez

**Greenville Mississippi Kennel Club Annual Scholarship:** Logan Tucker

**Dr. A. Wayne Groce Alumni Society Annual Scholarship:** Katie Howard

**Mac, Stephen, and Dava Imes Endowed Scholarship:** Kristin Miller

**Clarice C. Jackson Memorial Scholarship:** Carter Glynn Arnold, Gunner Edgell, Joseph Evans, Sophie Polnow, Sophia Prandini

**Dr. Margaret R. Kern Memorial Scholarship:** Maxi Edwards

**George B. Kerr Memorial Scholarship:** Abigail Bassett, Courtney Caugh

**The "Dempsey" & "Ruby" Lazar Endowed Scholarship:** Rebekah Roberts

**Dr. Michael J. Lee Endowed Scholarship:** Meagan Rose Coleman

**Lehman Food Animal Endowed Scholarship:** Haley Daniels

**Dr. Betsy Lipscomb Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine:** Rachel Claus

**Mary Ann Long Endowed Scholarship:** Townes Hillier, Mary Douglass Kerby, Kelsey Yates

**Linda and Jim Longton Annual Scholarship:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Fannie B. Loudermilk Memorial Scholarship:** Jordyn M. deHaan

**Karen J. & John G. McCord Endowed Scholarship:** Carey McClain

**Hortense & Bill McClain Endowed Scholarship:** Meghan Courey, McKenzie Pinto

**James Miller & First Class 1981 Endowed Scholarship:** Reece Paulk

**Dr. Craig & Jennifer Mohaghegh Annual Scholarship:** Peter N. McGinn

**David Waide Scholarship:** Tyler M. Floyd, Natalie McCormick

**Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Year 1 Scholarship:** Ashleigh Nicaise

**Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Year 2 Scholarship:** Skyler Turner

**Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Year 3 Scholarship:** Walker Hyché

**Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Dr. Harvey F. McCrory Memorial Scholarship:** Christopher Warren Deignan, Savannah Nelson

**Billy C. Mullican Endowed Scholarship:** Brianna Christine Mitchell, Maggie Tu Wood

**Nestle' Purina Award for Excellence in Companion Animal Nutrition:** Lauren Blalock Glenn

**The Pet Hospitals Annual Scholarship:** Chloe Cates

**Recycled Pets Are Best Annual Scholarship:** Elizabeth C. Czapor, Tori Fields

**Poco & Clio Gentle Doctor Award:** Natalie Dale Parkins

**Dr. James F. Perkins Annual Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine:** Breanna Lynch

**Daniel M. Thomas, DVM Endowed Scholarship:** Krystle Mary Helen Criscione

**Thomas A. Plein Endowed Scholarship:** Yaimarie Berrios-Irene, Emily Sherman

**Thomas C. Randolph, Jr. Memorial Scholarship:** Caleb Glover, Alec Lucas

**Jean & Walter W. Rotchild, Jr. Endowed Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine:**

Elizabeth C. Czapor, Christopher Warren Deignan

**Louis Roycraft Smith, Jr. Memorial Scholarship:** Haley Reichenbach

**Kathleen and Cornelius Albert Ryan Endowed Fund:** Dr. Cari Chisholm

**Barry Schieb Memorial Annual Scholarship:** Jasmine Summer Alam

**Linda "Big Lou" Schuerer Memorial Annual Scholarship:** Lauren Ingraham

**Paul H. Schuerer Memorial Scholarship:** Sabrina Swistek

**Greta Somerville Endowed Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine:** Tori Fields, Mary Douglass Kerby

**Dr. Clyde E. Taylor Endowed Scholarship:** Amalea Holtcamp

**Tri-State Educational Foundation Scholarship:** Keturah Ollie-Hayes, Alexandria Jones

**Tupelo Small Animal Hospital Annual Scholarship:** Jake Eldridge

**Cynthia Lee & Carl Turner Annual Scholarship:** Heather Daw

**Vicksburg Kennel Club of Mississippi, Inc. Endowed Scholarship:** Emily Fuller Leflore

**West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association Annual Scholarship:** Cassandra Barber, Amanda Whitman

**Dr. Alexander Lane "Bam" Williams Endowed Scholarship:** Laura Fidler

**Robert O. Williams Memorial Endowed Scholarship:** Meisha M. Mychajlonka

**The Lauran & Dean Wingo Endowed Scholarship:** Jillian L. Western

**Ellie Anne Ashley Scholarship:** Fallon Dubay

**Addie Scholarship Recipients:**

Gabrielle Rae Alonzo

Leah Burns Anderson

Amelia Andersson

Meghan Brino

Emma Brown

Carli Bryant

Hannah Faith Carter

Meagan Rose Coleman

Morgan Lachicotte Currin

Curt Davis

Heather Daw

Anabel DeBruhl

Christopher Warren Deignan

Rachel J. Doenges

Faith Lauren Ellison

Tori Fields

Tyler M. Floyd

Emerald J. Ford

Marissa Gonzalez

Emily Haag

Leah Hadskey

Lucie Henein

Townes Hillier

Kristen Hipp

Walker Hyche

Katie Jones

Hannah Knight

Emily Fuller Leflore

Kayla Lewis

Emili McClure

Natalie McCormick

Hannah Kruse McDowell

Tyler B. McMurray

Savannah Nelson

Keturah Ollie-Hayes

Reece Paulk

Reid L. Pearlman

Rebekah Roberts

Alison Stewart

Sydney Tamishiro

Kaylyn D. Tarver

Anna Taylor

Logan Tucker

Skyler Turner

Emily Vowell

Marion Welsh

Ember West

Kristen Williams

Katie Wright

Haley Zetterholm

## MSU CVM DVM CLASS OF 2026 COATING CEREMONY



Members of the MSU CVM DVM class of 2026 participated in the College's annual Coating Ceremony for the incoming class on June 17 at the conclusion of their first-year orientation. Students were presented an MSU cowbell compliments of the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association along with their official lab coats, which were donated by MSU CVM supporter Rona Johnson Belser.

# PRDL GRAD STUDENTS HONORED WITH CONFERENCE AWARDS

Two graduate students at the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory in Pearl were recently honored at regional and international poultry conferences.



Dr. Gunnar Dunnam, who earned his DVM from MSU in 2021 and is currently a student in the College's poultry Master's program at PRDL, recently received the B.S. Pomeroy Award for Student Achievement in Avian Diseases Research. The award was presented at the North Central Avian Disease Conference hosted in conjunction with the Midwest Poultry Federation Convention in Minneapolis, Minn., earlier this year.

Dr. Dunnam presented a clinical field investigation on an outbreak of gangrenous dermatitis in broiler breeder pullets, which is a very unusual presentation of this disease and not often observed. He described the clinical signs, lesions, and found evidence of a possible association with fowl pox. Dr. Dunnam is currently preparing a manuscript addressing the investigation and his findings to be published in a peer reviewed journal.

According to Dr. Alejandro Banda, MSU CVM professor of veterinary virology at PRDL and Dr. Dunnam's major professor, this particular award is presented for the best graduate student presentation at the conference. "Dr. Dunnam is doing an excellent job in the laboratory and at the poultry companies," Dr. Banda said. "We have received excellent evaluations during his internships. He is an outstanding student and is destined for a brilliant and distinguished career as a poultry veterinarian."

Dr. Rachel Thiemann, an Indiana native who earned her DVM degree from North Carolina State in 2020, recently completed her Master of Science in Veterinary Medical Science (Poultry) at PRDL. She garnered the Best Student Presentation award at the 2022 International Poultry Scientific Forum in Atlanta,

Ga., in January for her project titled "Comparison of ATP Bioluminescence to Traditional Colony Counting for Bacterial Enumeration of Treated and Non-Treated Hatching Eggs."

Bacterial contamination of hatching eggs can have a significant negative economic impact to the poultry industry because it results in embryo death with consequent decreased egg hatchability and an increase in chick mortality in the first week of life. Traditionally, evaluation of bacterial loads on the surface of hatching eggs has relied on bacterial culture and colony counting, a labor-intensive process. Rapid adenosine triphosphate (ATP) bioluminescence assays provide an indirect measurement of surface contamination by quantifying ATP levels and are increasingly used in the food and healthcare sectors to evaluate cleanliness.



In the study, Dr. Thiemann and her major professor, Dr. Natalie Armour, associate clinical professor of avian medicine, compared the results of ATP bioluminescence with traditional colony counting on broiler breeder hatching eggs treated with different disinfectants. Their results showed a highly statistically significant positive correlation between these two methods, demonstrating for the first time that rapid ATP bioluminescence can be used to evaluate hatching egg contamination.

"I am very pleased that Dr. Thiemann's hard work and excellent presentation skills were recognized by the Southern Conference of Avian Diseases, who presented her with this award for her oral presentation at IPSF meeting this year," Dr. Armour said. "Dr. Thiemann's findings provide valuable information to the poultry industry regarding the application of ATP bioluminescence in the hatchery. She is currently employed as a production veterinarian by a large U.S. broiler integrator and has a very bright future ahead of her in the poultry industry."

# CVM PHD STUDENT NAMED TO MSU GRAD STUDENT HALL OF FAME



Ethan Woodyard, a PhD student in the College's Veterinary Medical Sciences program, was inducted into MSU's Graduate Student Hall of Fame in April.

The Graduate Student Hall of Fame Award annually recognizes one outstanding graduate student from each

college who has contributed significantly to the growth of MSU through their exemplary leadership abilities. Recipients receive a monetary award, and a commemorative canvas of the student is displayed in the Graduate Hall of Fame during the coming year.

This year's winners were recognized at a reception in Mitchell Memorial Library's Grisham Room on April 12 and at the annual Graduate Student Association Awards Ceremony on April 13 at the Hunter Henry Center.

Woodyard, who has been involved with research at MSU CVM for nearly 10 years, has been deemed a "rising star" in the field of wildlife parasitology by his advisors. Since joining the lab of MSU CVM Research Professor Dr. Matt Griffin in 2019, Woodyard has established himself as a global reference for pentastomes (commonly known as tongueworms) which are largely understudied crustacean parasites of birds, reptiles, mammals, and fish. The young researcher already has 26 Scopus-listed publications at this point in his career—with several more in-press or in various stages of preparation and review.

"As a fellow MSU alum, I'm extremely proud of the research programs at Mississippi State," Dr. Griffin said. "It is an additional source of pride when my students can contribute to the high level of research activity being done on campus. I have been blessed with several high-achieving graduate students, and if I'm being honest, Ethan may be the best one yet. He's set a bar that will be difficult for future students to attain."

## PPE DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING

MSU CVM second-year veterinary students participate in a personal protective equipment (PPE) and disaster response training exercise during a laboratory exercise in their Veterinary Preventive Medicine (CVM 5133) course. During this exercise, students perform sample collection while appropriately utilizing Level D PPE in a simulated hazardous disaster situation. Learning objectives for the laboratory include gaining proficiency in the following skills: donning, doffing, decontamination, and appropriate use of cold, warm, and hot zones. Additionally, students gain first-hand experience in the challenges of communication, fine motor skills (e.g. collecting a small sample while wearing thick rubber gloves), and avoiding contamination while dressed in Level C PPE. Simulated hazardous material (powder that glows in ultraviolet light) is used to test each student's ability to appropriately use PPE and avoid contamination.



# CVM STUDENT COMPLETES INTERNATIONAL AQUATICS ADVANCED CLINICAL ROTATION



MSU CVM DVM student Amanda Rowe completed an international internship with the Global Center for Aquatic Health and Food Security (GCAHFS) last fall. The four-week trip allowed her to earn academic credit through an International Aquatics Advanced Clinical Rotation available to MSU veterinary students.

The internship program, which leverages MSU's and the GCAHFS's aquatic health and food security expertise as well as their vast network of collaborators, placed Rowe with a Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish research project in Zambia. There, she and GCAHFS Associate Director and CVM Assistant Clinical Professor of Pathobiology and Population Medicine Dr. Stephen Reichley worked with Zambian researchers to understand diseases impacting tilapia in the country and help develop a vaccine to address them.

"The Fish Innovation Lab and its many research projects offer MSU CVM veterinary students the opportunity to gain research experience in an international setting," Dr. Reichley said. "The research experience is often quite different than what they would have in the U.S. The availability of resources and facilities can be different in developing countries, and participating in research in these environments gives students lifelong skills."

The first two weeks, Rowe traveled around Zambia with Dr. Reichley, Dr. Bernard Hang'ombe of the University of Zambia, and others from Zambia, along with a group from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences who were there at the same time. This provided various opportunities to learn about and analyze the country's tilapia aquaculture.



"We traveled to different farms and collected information about aquaculture operations, and we also collected samples," Rowe said. "For example, we collected fish eggs, fry, and fingerlings (which are small, young fish) samples from a farm that was having a problem with fingerlings displaying odd behaviors and then dying."

The second half of Rowe's trip was spent in the laboratory. There, she further developed her skills by processing samples and running analyses.

"I was able to work with every aspect of my project from the ground up; I drew blood to make my own blood agar plates for bacterial growth, which is typically purchased pre-mixed in the U.S. I also helped with other tasks in the lab," she said. "I learned so much from my labmates; they all took the time to ensure I understood every step of the process and why it was important."

"Also, the farmers were open about their operations and extremely helpful," Rowe added, noting that Dr. Reichley ensured she worked through the problems facing the farms and understood the "why" behind the production issues facing the farmers and how they could be resolved.

Rowe said the trip did more than advance her skills in aquatic veterinary medicine.

"I grew on a personal level during this trip," she said. "It expanded my worldview and exposed me to a dramatically different culture than my own. Everyone I dealt with was kind, warm, and welcoming. I would love to return to Zambia one day and continue working on this project."

According to Dr. Reichley, MSU's Fish Innovation Lab benefited greatly as well from Rowe's involvement in the project and her help in accomplishing critical research goals.

"Amanda approached the research question and tasks from a different perspective than those in Zambia," he said. "Diversity of thought and perspective is important as we help tackle the important issues society faces today concerning aquatic health and food security."

## MAGEE RETIRES



Longtime MSU CVM faculty member Dr. Danny Magee, who influenced many undergraduate students to consider careers in the poultry industry, including veterinary careers, and many veterinary students to pursue careers as poultry veterinarians, retired earlier this year after more than 30 years of service to the College.

Dr. Magee's 41-year career included positions allowing him to make a huge positive impact on the poultry industry and CVM students. Those roles included working at a primary breeder/broiler production company and a pharmaceutical company

in addition to holding faculty positions at CVM three different times. Dr. Magee's longest appointment, as a clinical professor, began in 1995 and ended with his recent retirement. During that time, he also served as director of the Poultry Research & Diagnostic Laboratory from the time the laboratory was established. A post-DVM poultry graduate program/residency, which qualifies graduate students for the American College of Poultry Veterinarians board certification examination, was also established under his leadership.

Dr. Magee's understanding of and respect garnered from the commercial poultry industry in Mississippi and throughout the country greatly benefited the PRDL, CVM and MSU.

Congratulations, Dr. Magee. We wish you all the best!

## SHELTER MEDICINE MILESTONE RECEPTION



On May 19, MSU CVM hosted a reception at the Wise Center to celebrate the 100K surgery milestone of the College's Shelter Medicine service and to honor MSU CVM Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare Program donor and friend of the College Marcia P. Lane. Dr. Phil Bushby, who holds the endowed

chair established by Lane, was also recognized for his role in developing the shelter medicine program to a point of national recognition. Pictured are members of the shelter medicine team and Lane along with the delicious 100K-celebratory cakes prepared for the event by the MSU Bakery.

# TEW JOINS CVM MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM



MSU CVM Clinical Psychologist Dr. Pauline Prince

MSU CVM is proud to welcome Dr. Kristin Tew as a Boehringer-Ingelheim Animal Health (BIAH) Post-Doctoral Fellow. Dr. Tew's position establishes a unique partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim, Mississippi State University Psychology Department and MSU CVM for the purpose of creating a training program for psychologists who wish to specialize in working with the veterinary medical community.

The training program is the first of its kind in a much-needed area of service. The veterinary medical community faces some unique wellness challenges in their day-to-day work lives. A training program for psychologists that focuses on meeting the mental health and wellness needs of this community holds a promising career path for psychologists as well as a means of expanding the number of mental health professionals who are trained specifically to care for those who care for our animals.

MSU CVM is excited about this partnership with BI and the MSU Psychology Department and the benefits it will ultimately lead to for those in the veterinary medical profession.



Originally from Forest, Miss., Dr. Tew attended the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., before earning a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. She received her commission as an officer from Air Force ROTC Detachment 432 at USM and served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force for five years. In 2012, Dr. Tew earned a Master of Arts in marriage and

family counseling from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She then worked in the mental health field for three years as provisional licensed professional counselor

on an adult inpatient unit and helped found a community clinic where she provided low-cost counseling services. Dr. Tew returned to school in 2015 to pursue her doctorate in clinical psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology at Xavier University in New Orleans, La. Through her doctoral practicum experiences, she has worked with the LSU Behavioral Science Center, New Orleans, La.; Pine Grove Hospital, Hattiesburg, Miss.; Opportunities Academy, New Orleans, La.; and Ellisville State School, Ellisville, Miss. Dr. Tew's practicum experiences range from working with children ages 2-22 in both a community mental health setting and an acute inpatient unit and providing therapy for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. She completed her doctoral internship at MSU's Student Counseling Services, Office of Survivor Support, Autism Liaison Services, and here at MSU CVM.

In this new role, her primary responsibilities at MSU CVM include counseling, psychological evaluations, professional development, consultation, and health and wellness activities, where she works alongside me and others within the College's mental health and wellness service to help meet the mental health needs and improve the overall educational experiences of CVM faculty, staff, and students.

*Pauline Prince, Ph.D., ABN*

Dr. Pauline Prince  
MSU CVM CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

# CALENDAR of Events

All events and dates are subject to change.  
Please check the College's social media sites  
for the most up-to-date information.

## SEPTEMBER

### Annual CVM Career Expo

Friday, September 16 • 9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
The Wise Center

Visit [vetmed.msstate.edu](http://vetmed.msstate.edu), click on Academics,  
then Careers/Practicing Building for details!

## OCTOBER

### Dean's Council Fall Meeting

Thursday, October 13 – Friday, October 14  
The Wise Center

## NOVEMBER

### CVM Alumni Fellow

Friday, November 4  
The Wise Center

## DECEMBER

### CVM All College Day

Date TBA  
The Wise Center  
Awards Program 11 a.m.  
Cobbler & Ice Cream 12:30-1:30 p.m.

## Veterinary school may not be all fun and games, *but it sure starts out that way at MSU CVM!*

Each June, the College's incoming DVM class gathers at the MSU Horsepark to kick-off orientation with a variety of fun-filled, team-building activities. The class of 2026—consisting of 114 members, representing Mississippi, 20 other states, Puerto Rico, and Canada and boasting 22 students from underrepresented populations and 32 first generation college students—rose to the challenge, proving that we always accomplish more working together and embracing our differences!



# GRANTS & CONTRACTS

## AWARDED TO CVM FACULTY

### EXTERNAL GRANTS

**Basant Mahmoud Ali Gomaa (PI), Mark L. Lawrence (CoPI), Lesya M. Pinchuk (CoPI).** USDA-NIFA. Development of a dual live attenuated vaccine to prevent motile Aeromonas septicemia and enteric septicemia of catfish. \$180,000

**Michael Minaldi (PI), Mary Rebecca Telle (CoPI), Caroline Betbeze (CoPI), Robin Fontenot (CoPI).** American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. Effects of topical ropivacaine hydrochloride 0.5% and lidocaine hydrochloride 2% on corneal sensitivity in horses. \$1,385

**Matthew Griffin (PI).** USDA-NIFA-Southern Regional Aquaculture Center. Investigating the emergence of vibriosis in catfish hatcheries in the Mississippi Delta. \$17,205 (Year 2 funding)

**Lanny W. Pace (PI), Alejandro Banda (CoPI).** USDA APHIS. Enhancement of chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing capacity. \$101,548

**Matthew K. Ross (PI), Barbara L. Kaplan (CoPI).** National Institutes of Health (NIH). Crosstalk between CES1 and PPAR gamma and LXR alpha in macrophages. \$420,691

**James Andrew Shores (PI).** The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB – NIH). Canine Comparative Genomics, Oncology, and Neurotherapeutics. \$42,243 (Year 5)

**Matthew J. Griffin (PI).** USDA SRAC. Development of Effective Vaccines for Flavobacterium columnare (Columnaris) in the U.S. catfish industry. \$13,773

**Matthew J. Griffin (PI).** USDA SRAC. Development of a rapid, confirmatory test for Erysipelothrix piscisarius, a potential emergent pathogen in catfish and ornamental aquaculture. \$27,890

**Catana M. Capps (PI), Alison M. Lee (CoPI), Marc A. Seitz (CoPI), Jeb C. Cade (CoPI).** American College of Veterinary Radiology. Ultrasonographic appearance of the spleen of growing kittens using a high frequency linear transducer. \$3,350

**William S. Stevenson (PI), Marc A Seitz (CoPI), Alison M. Lee (CoPI).** American College of Veterinary Radiology. Predicting malignancy of splenic nodules and masses in dogs by assessing the vascular patterns using B-Flow, color Doppler, and power Doppler. \$6,600

**Gabriel A. Gonzalez (PI), Robin L. Fontenot (CoPI), Caroline Betbeze Ivy (CoPI), Cathleen A. Mochal (CoPI), Alison L. Eddy (CoPI).** American College of Veterinary Surgeons. The effects of subconjunctival ropivacaine and liposomal bupivacaine on corneal sensitivity in healthy horses. \$8,100

**Barbara L. Kaplan (PI), Stephen B. Pruett (CoPI).** Boehringer Ingelheim. Research Experience Program for Veterinary Students 2022. \$28,100

**Matthew J. Griffin (PI).** Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR). Mitigating antimicrobial use in aquaculture through vaccination: Development of inactivated and live attenuated vaccines against Edwardsiella piscicida for use in farmed fish. \$645,390

**David R. Smith (PI), Alicia K. Olivier (CoPI).** University of Missouri (NIH). Impact of repeated vaccination on the effectiveness of seasonal influenza vaccines. \$46,058 (Year 3 funds)

**Stephen B. Pruett (PI), Barbara L. Kaplan (CoPI).** National Institutes of Health (NIH). Summer Research Experience for Veterinary Students. \$114,222

**Lanny W. Pace (PI), Lifang Yan (CoPI), Martha Pulido Landinez (CoPI).** USDA APHIS – NAHLN Level 1: MS 2022. \$250,000

**Lanny W. Pace (PI), Martha Pulido Landinez (CoPI), Lifang Yan (CoPI).** United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Using MVRDL to increase the FDA Vet-LRN sample analysis capacity during animal food/feed emergency events. \$43,650

### INTERNAL GRANTS

**Lora Petrie-Hanson (PI).** MSU CVM MAFES. Channel catfish nonspecific cytotoxic cell dynamics and granzyme gene changes during Edwardsiella ictaluri and E. piscicida infections. \$9,975

# CVM NOTES & NEWS

## ALUMNI & FRIENDS NEWS



Congratulations to **DR. KATHERINE RAINES**, who received her Diplomate in the International College of Veterinary Pharmacy. Dr. Raines, who is now one of 50 diplomates in the world to reach this level of achievement in veterinary pharmacology, is a clinical pharmacist in CVM's Animal Health Center.



Congratulations to **DR. MELODY WHITNEY**, who received her Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Dr. Whitney is a small animal surgeon in CVM's Animal Health Center.



Kudos to **DR. ROBERT PARKER** (DVM 1982), who is currently serving as president of the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Parker, who established Shelby Center Hospital for Animals in Bartlett, Tenn., in 1986 and grew the practice to include five veterinarians and more than 30 support staff employees, recently sold the practice and is now with Mainstreet Animal Clinic in Oakland, Tenn. Certified by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association in 2005, he operates Memphis Mobile K-9 Chiropractic and Veterinary Care in his spare time. Dr. Parker's special interests include veterinary orthopedics, functional neurology, and chiropractic care.

**DR. JOHN HARKNESS**, longtime MSU CVM faculty member and special friend of the College, was posthumously recognized for his contributions as a valued mentor to the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine with the presentation of the ACLAM Mentor Award during the ACLAM Forum in San Antonio, Texas, in May. The award was accepted by MSU Veterinarian and Director of Laboratory Animal Resources Dr. Bridget Willeford with Dr. Harkness' wife and adult children in attendance. Dr. Harkness dedicated a lifetime of exceptional service and significant contributions in the promotion of animal care in research, testing, and educational programs and was an extraordinary mentor to many students at MSU CVM and throughout the profession.

## 2022 PROMOTIONS & TENURE

**Todd Archer** – promoted to professor

**Patty Lathan** – promoted to professor

**Heidi Rose** – promoted to associate clinical professor

**Lifang Yan** – promoted to associate clinical professor

**Marc Seitz** – promoted to associate clinical professor

### NOTE TO ALUMNI:

Please send us your news! We want to hear about and share your career-related happenings, such as new jobs and titles; state, national, and international committee appointments; awards and recognition, etc. Please direct this info to the attention of MSU CVM Outreach Director Mel Thurlow, [mel.thurlow@msstate.edu](mailto:mel.thurlow@msstate.edu). You can also keep up with your fellow MSU CVM graduates on our social media pages!

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### HELP US STAY IN TOUCH!

Update your contact info quickly and easily by visiting [vetmed.msstate.edu/alumni-friends/update-information](http://vetmed.msstate.edu/alumni-friends/update-information) and filling out the short form!



# CVM OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## HOW DONORS IMPACT EXPERIENCES

The experiences that students and clients have while at MSU CVM leave a lasting impression. Our program, faculty, facility, and services play a big role in both the education students receive as well as care that we provide patients and their owners. There are many unique stories about how private gifts have a constant impact in the lives of all of those who walk through the doors at the Wise Center.

We are proud that nearly \$1.1M in scholarships was awarded to our students in 2022. However, we have many other gifts that make an impact in the lives of our students. For example, every student receives a lab coat to wear throughout the course of their four-year education with us. For the last four years, each coat has had “RB” on it, which stands for Rona Belser, an incredible person and donor from Birmingham, Ala. Rona was interested in a way to make a difference in the life of each student, so she made a gift that provides lab coats for the entering class annually. Her initials on each coat serve as a reminder that there are many people investing in the education of our students. They also act as a conversation starter with clients about private giving while students are managing the care of their beloved animals.

We have six total client consultation rooms in the Wise Center where owners can spend time with their patients and visit with our faculty and students regarding their cases. Each of these rooms has been named and has an endowment attached to it, allowing the college to use the investment returns to upgrade and maintain them. Sharon Oswald, Helen Oswald, Dava and Stephen Imes, Carol and Mark Akin, Betty and W.C. Ramsey, and K.C. and Taylor Lyne all recognized the pivotal role these rooms play in the experience owners have in what we consider rendering top-level care for our patients.

These are only a few examples of how CVM donors invest in making a difference in the experiences of both people and patients. There are many ways to make an impact both through outright giving and estates. We are incredibly grateful for each gift to the college. Please let either Melissa Montgomery or me know if we can ever answer any questions or provide information about the options available to make a gift.

With many thanks,

  
**Jimmy Knight**  
Director of Development

## If you were there when we beat the Bear, it might be time to start planning your legacy.



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