

SPRING & SUMMER 2018

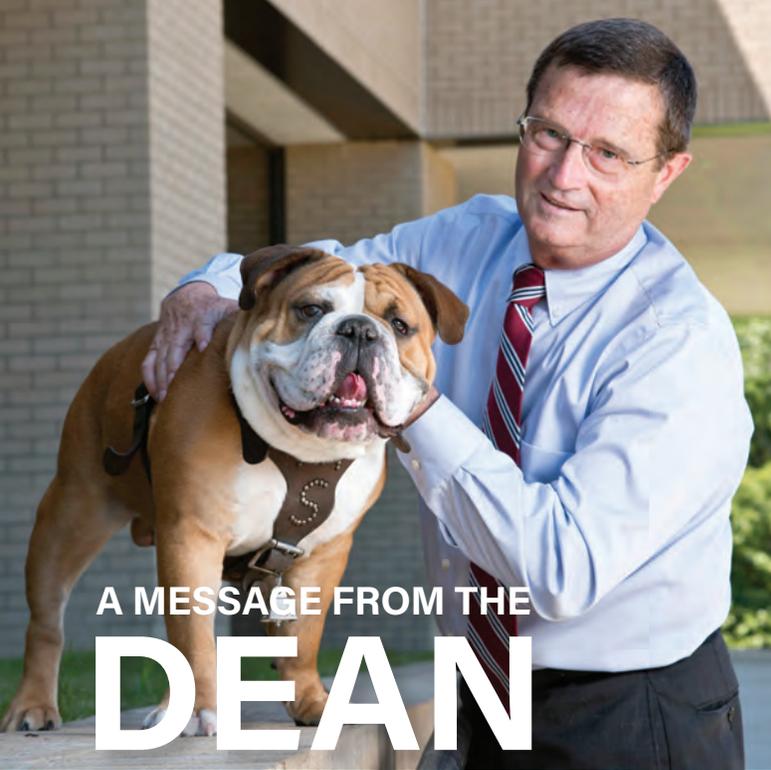
# PEGASUS PRESS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



MSU-CVM DIVES DEEP ON  
COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTE  
FOR MARINE MAMMAL STUDIES

EARNING RESPECT BY EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DR. KENT HOBLET

Change is inevitable, especially within institutions of higher learning. The College of Veterinary Medicine is no exception to that, and it is our strategic planning initiatives over the years that have allowed us to embrace, plan, and adapt to the changes we face. Much of the environment in which our College operates—such as university priorities, support from the legislature, and the needs of our state—has changed over the past six years. Strategic plans provide the opportunity to plan for and anticipate change. Our current strategic plan, Strategies for Excellence, was developed in 2011–2012 and carried us through the years 2012–2018, undergoing an update at its midpoint in 2016.

Our plan was aspirational and goal-oriented, and it is remarkable to see how our College followed the plan, matching needs with resources, and both achieved and exceeded a number of goals. It is now time to conduct an in-depth review and assess where we are as a College, create the vision of what we want to become, and then strategize how we will realize our vision.

When size of student body or overall budget are considered, our CVM is relatively small compared to most of the other U.S. colleges of veterinary medicine. Even so, we must address the same functions—such as admitting highly qualified students, providing them with a professional education, providing research experiences—as the larger Council on Education accredited colleges. In fact, there are a number of areas, such as having a large aquatic animal health program and a B.S. in veterinary medical technology program that integrates with the DVM program, where we are fairly unique among colleges of veterinary medicine.

At the present time, we are in a process of brainstorming, or considering what we really envision for the several areas of our mission as well as what might be barriers to achieving our goals. We are doing this using interest groups from the various areas within the CVM. In this column, I want to provide a sample of a few of the topics that faculty are exploring.

**Teaching.** The body of knowledge keeps expanding in veterinary medicine, and a challenge is how to present a curriculum in the best way to give our graduates the base on which to begin their careers. For the past year, we have had a group of 16 faculty working as a Curriculum Visioning Task Force. They are addressing topics such as enhancing educational efficiencies, identifying and reducing redundancies in both Phase 1 and Phase 2, strategies to reduce student stress, and moving toward a competency-based curriculum.

**Clinical Services.** A hallmark of veterinary medical education at Mississippi State University is that our students have two full years of clinical experience that includes an abundance of animal contact. Since our last strategic plan was developed, we have fully implemented satellite clinics in the Jackson suburb of Flowood (Animal Emergency and Referral Center) and Starkville (Veterinary Specialty Center with neurology and ophthalmology services). All students complete required rotations in both of these off-campus clinics, providing unique learning experiences at each location. We have also added standalone required rotations in ambulatory medicine and population medicine. A challenge is to determine the optimal length of rotations and still enable the students to have time for electives and externships.

**Diagnostic Laboratory System.** At the present time, 16 of the 30 U.S. colleges of veterinary medicine have the state diagnostic laboratory as part of their college. We are one of the 16 and have a four-laboratory diagnostic system with faculty and facilities in Starkville, Pearl (regulatory and poultry laboratories), and Stoneville in the Mississippi delta (aquatic research and diagnostic laboratory). Having the state's diagnostic laboratory in the college brings a number of advantages in research, outreach, and teaching to the college, as well as to the animal industries in the state.

**Research.** Since 2012 when the current strategic plan was put into place, research productivity in the CVM has grown tremendously. A big change has been the increased number of our faculty funded by NIH to conduct studies of disease that occur in humans. Nine of our faculty investigators have such projects ranging from influenza (chickens, swine, people), staphylococcus infections (cattle and people), to developing an antidote against nerve gas. Others in the College are funded by the USDA and pharmaceutical companies to study conditions such as bovine respiratory diseases, infectious diseases of fish, and parasitic infections. While investigating a range of diseases that impact animal and human health, we are also able to prepare graduate and postdoctoral students as well as veterinary students to meet future needs in research and practice.

The College's motto is "Earning respect by exceeding expectations." I am extremely proud of what our faculty, staff, and students have accomplished. Every day, they are exceeding expectations—and I truly believe the best is yet to come. We are interested in hearing your thoughts and ideas as we go forward in the strategic planning process, so please feel free to reach out via phone, e-mail, or a visit to my office if it is convenient for you.

**Dr. Kent Hoblet**

Dean & Professor | CVM Office of the Dean  
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## COVER PHOTOS

**FRONT:** *Dr. Debra Moore poses for a picture with a dolphin at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies.*

**BACK:** *Parakeets at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies enjoy the sunshine.*

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## MS - 4

Degrees Attained

**3.7**

Average GPA

**11%**

Minority Student Representation

## CLASS OF 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

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# BARDSLEY SCHOLARS PROGRAM SEEKS TO ATTRACT TOP VETERINARY STUDENTS

The Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine is offering a new scholarship program to 10 incoming, first-year veterinary students.

The Bardsley Scholars Program, provided for by a \$7.2 million endowment by the Charles E. and Viola G. Bardsley family estate, will support students with undergraduate GPAs of at least 3.75 and a history of academic achievement. The Bardsley Scholars will then be expected to maintain a 3.5 GPA during their time in veterinary school.

“These scholarships will help us attract some of the best and brightest students to the College of Veterinary Medicine,” Dr. Richard Meiring, former assistant dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, said. “They will also help reduce student debt, supporting our students’ successful futures.”

In this initial year of the program, scholarships will be offered to eight Mississippi residents and two out-of-state students. Over the four years they attend the College of Veterinary Medicine, each out-of-state student will receive a total award of \$50,000, and each in-state student will receive a total award of \$25,000.

“We are grateful for the recruitment opportunity the Bardsley Scholars Program creates,” said Dr. Kent Hoblet, dean of the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. “It is our hope that these scholarship funds will enable us to attract the top veterinary students in the country, while at the same time allowing us to help relieve the financial burden that often comes with deciding to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine.”

Jimmy Kight, director of development for the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, said the Bardsley Scholars Program endowment is the largest single gift ever given to MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

“It will produce scholarships for successful students for years to come,” Kight said. “These scholarship recipients will go on to have an impact in veterinary medicine not only in this region, but around the country, based on an education they received at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.”

More information on the Bardsley Scholarship Program can be found online at [cvm.msstate.edu](http://cvm.msstate.edu) or by calling the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine’s Admissions Office at (662) 325-9065.



## DIVING IN:

### MARINE MAMMAL OPPORTUNITIES AROUND FOR MSU-CVM FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT THE INSTITUTE FOR MARINE MAMMAL STUDIES

Atlantic bottle-nosed dolphins, Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, and California sea lions might be a rare sight to see at Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in Starkville, Mississippi, but they are frequent sights to behold at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) in Gulfport. A partnership between the two institutions over the years has continued to grow and offers unique learning opportunities in marine mammal veterinary medicine to MSU-CVM faculty and students. The partnership is symbiotic in nature, providing assistance to IMMS in their capabilities to care for sick and injured marine mammals, while at the same time also providing valuable hands-on learning experiences to MSU-CVM faculty and students who would otherwise have little exposure to marine animals.

The Institute for Marine Mammal Studies was founded in 1984 and was established for the purposes of public education, conservation, and research of marine mammals in both the wild and under human care.

"We have one of the largest dolphin populations in the U.S. here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast," said Dr. Moby Solangi, president and executive director of the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies. "We want the state of Mississippi to be the world leader in marine mammal care and wildlife conservation."

Federal funding has provided opportunities to expand collaborative efforts between the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and IMMS. The Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies (RESTORE) of the Gulf Coast States Act was signed into law in July 2012, a response to the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and provides funding for research associated with and care of marine mammal life in the Gulf areas affected by the largest offshore oil spill in the United States. The RESTORE Act has provided important funding that, among other things, allows organizations such as IMMS and the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine to collaborate in an effort to better understand the environmental impacts from the oil spill that are still affecting marine animal life today.

Dr. Tim Morgan, veterinary pathologist at MSU-CVM, has been working with IMMS for many years in a number of ways. He describes the opportunities he's had to work with and connect MSU-CVM students to IMMS as unique and beneficial to many involved.

"With IMMS, we are responsible for the rescue or recovery of stranded dolphins and turtles," said Morgan. "If they are found alive, we figure out what's wrong with them, try to treat them, and then release them. If they are dead, we try to figure out the cause of death so that we can help monitor the population and reduce future deaths in the population."

Building upon opportunities to further bolster collaborative efforts between the two institutions, MSU-CVM hired Dr. Debra Moore in January 2018 as an assistant clinical professor. Moore will be located in Gulfport and oversee the veterinary care provided to animals at IMMS. A two-time alumna of Tuskegee University, Moore previously worked as owner of a mixed animal practice and also co-founded the Caribbean Center for Marine Studies. She also has previous experience training with the U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program in San Diego, the NOAA Sea Turtle Necropsy Training Program in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and the Cetacean Stranding and Necropsy Workshop in Puerto Rico and Florida.

Moore's location in Gulfport will not only allow her to oversee the veterinary care of animals at IMMS, but it will also enable her to mentor MSU-CVM veterinary students who come to IMMS for externship opportunities.

"We do endoscopy, ultrasounds, and surgery in our hospital (at IMMS)," said Moore. "Today, we had a hooked Kemp's Ridley sea turtle brought in. They are actually the smallest and most endangered species of turtle in the world, and it is really important for veterinary students to be able to work with these turtles."

Moore's enthusiasm for veterinary medicine, especially working with marine mammals, has already spilled over to many MSU-CVM students who have had the opportunity to work closely alongside her at IMMS.

Recently, fourth-year veterinary student Alicia Pownall had the opportunity to complete an externship at IMMS working with Moore and her staff. The experiences she was able to have while there were invaluable to her learning experience as a student.

"The externship was an excellent supplement to my education at MSU-CVM," said Pownall. "I had the opportunity to spend a day with the research team at IMMS, in which we conducted a survey via boat of dolphins in the area. On other days, I was able to participate in stranding responses on the beach to rescue stranded sea turtles and dolphins. This was a wonderful opportunity to educate the public on our mission as conservationists as well."



Pownall recalls her hands-on learning experiences at IMMS as varied and invaluable. In addition to surveying and observing, she had the opportunity to assist the dolphin and sea lion trainers with food preparation, as well as discussing how these mammals' trained behaviors assisted in their daily husbandry and veterinary care.

"This externship was an excellent way to broaden my exposure of veterinary medicine," said Pownall. "Dr. Moore was a phenomenal mentor, ensuring that I received a well-rounded experience, while challenging me to continually ask questions and further broaden my understanding."

Third-year veterinary student Alex Shealy also had the opportunity to spend two months at IMMS, working under the supervision of Moore, where he was afforded a variety of hands-on learning opportunities.

"The clinical experience at IMMS was my favorite aspect," Shealy said. "While there, when I wasn't doing research, I got to shadow Dr. Moore and she would talk to me about her opinions and thoughts on certain cases."

Shealy noted that his experience at IMMS and working with Dr. Moore only furthered his interest in marine mammal life and that he hopes to continue this passion in the future. Perhaps one of his most memorable experiences was the opportunity to assist with the successful rehabilitation of Kemp's Ridley sea turtles.

"We went out with a news crew and were filmed releasing two Kemp's Ridley sea turtles back into the ocean," Shealy said.

Shealy and Powell are two of many MSU-CVM students who have had the opportunity to benefit from the College's partnership with IMMS, and both note that the experience is invaluable to their education as veterinary students and their future as veterinarians.

Dr. Kent Hoblet, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, is proud of the College's continued and growing partnership with IMMS and notes the benefits it provides not only to our veterinary students and clinicians, but also the state of Mississippi.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to expand our IMMS partnership with the addition of Dr. Debra Moore to our faculty and the mentorship she will provide to our students", said Hoblet. "We are proud of the continued collaboration and veterinary care that our faculty members can bring to marine mammals and sea turtles on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, which will benefit the state of Mississippi now and many years to come."

BY KATIE TIMMERMAN



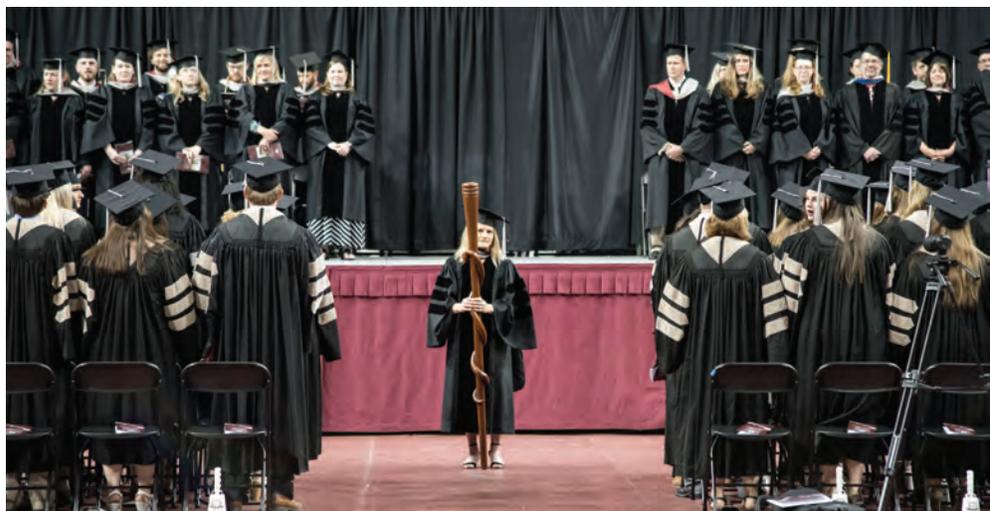


# GRADUATION



## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2018!

Our warmest congratulations go to the 82 DVM students who graduated from MSU-CVM on May 2, 2018. You did it!





# GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

## AMBER CHAVEZ CLASS OF 2018

Every year in school, Amber Chavez's April 29 birthday had fallen on final exam week.

But this past year, her birthday fell on a day she had been working toward her whole life—her last day of school as a veterinary student in Mississippi State's College of Veterinary Medicine before graduation.

She became the first person in her family to graduate from college.

"Big things happened that week," Chavez said. "I was a little nervous but mostly excited."

Born in Mobile, Alabama, to parents who both worked two jobs to support their family, Chavez knew the value of hard work from a young age.

"I wouldn't have had the work ethic I have if it wasn't for them," she said. "They wanted something better, for them and for me, and they did what had to be done."

Her parents divorced when Chavez was 15, and her father struggled to support their household on his own. Chavez immediately dropped out of high school and began working two jobs to help her family.

Eventually, things improved and Chavez was able to earn her GED certificate. She continued to work full time while attending community college and then enrolled at Mississippi State for a bachelor's degree in biology.

Against the odds and after overcoming many obstacles, Chavez enrolled in veterinary college shortly after her 28th birthday.

"Since I was a kid, I've always said I wanted to go to veterinary school," Chavez said. "I think when I dropped out of high school, my parents thought that it was never going to happen. When I told them I was going to make it happen, they were very supportive. They said, 'You've made it this far, why couldn't you make it that far?'"

Chavez's time in veterinary college was difficult, not only academically, but also financially. With the long days she spent on campus, it was hard to work enough hours to pay her bills, even with student loans. At times, she lost both power and water and could not afford to pay her cell phone bill.

Things were made worse when her father was diagnosed with lung cancer, and Chavez needed to support him. Fortunately, when she needed help the most, Chavez received an award from the Addie Scholarship Fund, a scholarship for full-time College of Veterinary Medicine students with demonstrated financial need.

"If it hadn't been for those scholarships, I probably would have been living in my car," Chavez said. "They really helped me make it through those tough times."

As her father's health improved, Chavez was faced with another struggle: her mother had a major stroke and needed care. All the while, Chavez was on clinical rotation as a student and working part-time in the CVM Animal Health Center (AHC). Additionally, she took shifts at a fast food restaurant from midnight to 4 a.m.

Her work in the AHC led Chavez to develop an interest in surgery, something she pursued when she began working at a Wisconsin general practice.

Chavez's primary career goal is to have her own practice and hopes to one day repay the generosity shown to her while a veterinary student by establishing a scholarship in the College of Veterinary Medicine for those like her.

"It's hard to focus on learning as well as some of your peers do when you're worried about where your next meal is going to come from or when the power is going to get cut off," Chavez said. "Someone helped me, so I want to pay it forward."

BY SAMANTHA GIBSON



## RESCUING RALPH AT MSU-CVM

Cathy and John Rano, who live in Manchester, Vermont, never expected they'd have to take their 18-month-old Gordon setter, Ralph, for veterinary treatment in the deep South.

However, after Ralph received life-saving surgery at MSU-CVM's Animal Health Center, the Ranos couldn't have been happier with their experience.

Ralph was brought to the Animal Health Center after John noticed he had become lethargic and wouldn't eat while the pair were returning from a hunting trip in the western United States. John, who is an instructor for an outdoors company, was scheduled to stop in West Point, MS for a few days on his way home to teach a class.

He took Ralph to a local veterinarian, who found he had fluid around his lungs. The veterinarian immediately referred him to the MSU-CVM Animal Health Center's emergency service.

A CT scan revealed that Ralph had ingested several small foreign bodies, which had migrated from his chest to his lungs, creating a severe infection. This had caused an abscess to develop in two of Ralph's lung lobes, which would have to be surgically removed.

"John called me and said, 'You better come down,' because we were both very concerned," Cathy said. "I got on a plane as soon



as I could. When I got here, Ralph hardly knew who we were. It was so depressing.”

Ralph remained lethargic several days after the operation, and his surgery team was concerned he was taking a turn for the worse. John was worried to see his normally active, happy dog so sluggish and sick.

“There were a few nights we thought he might not make it,” he said.

However, to the Ranos’ delight, Ralph began to improve with round-the-clock care.

“His treatments took an hour each morning and night, and we formed a bond from spending so much time together,” said Elizabeth Gregory, a veterinary student on Ralph’s medical team. “It was an amazing feeling the first time he wagged his tail when I walked up to his cage.”

The Ranos could see the change in Ralph immediately.

“We came back one morning, and he was doing great,” Cathy said. “I had treats in my pocket, and he started sniffing for them, and I knew. He was like a miracle dog.”

After a long week spent in the Animal Health Center, Cathy and John could not have been more pleased with the care Ralph received.

“Everyone was wonderful,” Cathy said. “People here were phenomenal. They kept us updated every step of the way.”



Ralph and the Ranos made a big impact on Gregory as well.

“I loved being able to celebrate with them when he was doing well enough to go home,” she said. “Ralph inspired me to want to get into critical care, and it’s now what I’ll be pursuing after graduation. I’ll always be grateful for having him as a patient.”

After his recovery, the Ranos were able to start their long 19 hour drive back to Vermont with their healthy canine companion in tow.

Ralph is back to his usual active, outdoor lifestyle and goes on hikes with Cathy and the couple’s other dogs every day.

BY SAMANTHA GIBSON





## STANLEY FAMILY LEAVES MARK OF EXCELLENCE

Many people have a connection with Mississippi State University in one way or another. Some call it the “Bulldog Experience.” Such experiences often encompass moments over the course of a lifetime—attending sporting events, obtaining an education, visiting campus for a lecture, or other special connections.

Carolyn Stanley’s Bulldog Experience has lasted her lifetime, beginning as a child growing up on a dairy farm in Starkville. Mississippi State University Athletics was an enormous part of her childhood. She often jokes that she was practically born with a cowbell in her hand. Her father, an avid baseball fan, often took Carolyn along to Dudy Noble Field to enjoy games, where she always kept careful score. Back at home, farm life included many cows, horses, dogs, and cats. The cats were considered “employees” and were all well loved. Stanley recalls several local veterinarians making farm calls to provide routine care. At the time, MSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine didn’t exist.

After graduating from Starkville High School, Stanley enrolled at the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in economics and political science. Stanley returned to Starkville and attended Mississippi State University to pursue a master’s degree. While on campus, she worked as a graduate student and had teaching responsibilities. She remembers being excited to hear that the College of Veterinary Medicine was being built. Pursuing her education, Carolyn transferred to the University of Alabama at Huntsville where she completed a Master’s of Public Administration. Stanley interned with the U.S. Army. She spent the majority of her career as a U.S. Army civilian logistics management specialist. Her job led her to travel around the world, including her two favorite destinations, Israel and the Netherlands.

Carolyn and Leon Stanley married in January of 1980. They reside between homes in Huntsville, Alabama, and Starkville,

Mississippi. Together, they are avid fans of Mississippi State University. They own and love two cairn terriers, Sophie (seven years old) and Daniel Boone (five years old), affectionately called “Boone.”

Following retirement from the U.S. Army, the Stanleys have been able to focus more time on their passion for pets and helping others. An appreciation of MSU and their strong love for animals led them to become involved with the College of Veterinary Medicine. Recognizing bright students and the potential to advance veterinary medicine, the Stanleys chose to establish the Carolyn Stanley CVM Excellence Endowment. The endowment will provide support in perpetuity for several CVM programs including Vets for Vets, Safe Haven, Homeward Bound, and Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare/Shelter Medicine Program.

“We enjoy being part of the Bulldog Family. We wanted to make an investment to a top veterinary college in the United States, and we knew that MSU was the one. The work being done to train veterinary students and help animals means the world to us,” said Carolyn Stanley.

Each program supported through the Carolyn Stanley CVM Excellence Endowment will continue to grow and have a greater impact on the pet population. The gift will also further the educational experiences of students who volunteer many hours working with these outreach programs.

The Stanley family’s gift is helping shape the experiences of CVM students while having an enormous impact on the betterment of animals. Their generosity has only just begun its goal of leaving a lasting mark on people and pets.

BY MELISSA MONTGOMERY

# MEET THE FACULTY



## **GRETCHEN GRISSETT, DVM, MS**

Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine  
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Large Animal)

After graduating as a student from MSU-CVM in 2010, it was Gretchen Grissett's long-term goal to one day return to the college that taught her so much. She just didn't realize how soon after graduation that would actually happen. Four years after her graduation and completing an internship and residency and master's degree in food animal medicine and surgery at Kansas State University, she returned to her alma mater.

"Returning to MSU-CVM has always been a long-term career goal of mine, and I'm thrilled I was able to return so soon," said Grissett, an assistant clinical professor in pathobiology and population medicine. "My time as a student was some of my hardest, but most memorable, so I wanted to be able to give that same success and preparation I was given to our current and future students."

Grissett has many teaching interests, but one in particular is her passion for teaching students clinical skills, especially surgery.

"I strongly feel that if a student is armed with good technical skills,

they'll feel confident tackling the more challenging cases that test their comfort level, and ultimately, that's how they'll grow as a veterinarian," said Grissett. "When we have cases in the clinic, I want the student very engaged in doing and learning from the procedure or case at hand."

Grissett thinks that learning the basic technical skills like surgery and the ability to appropriately research a case are the most important skills for veterinary students to learn.

"Learning these things prepares them, so when they're faced with a case they're unfamiliar with, they will be able to successfully treat by finding the information needed and utilize and grow their skills for a successful outcome," said Grissett.

Surgery and teaching are all very exciting, but Grissett says it is the students that make her job worthwhile.

"Hands down, the students are my favorite thing about my job," said Grissett. "I enjoy watching them grow and become more confident as they move through their clinical years and eventually become successful doctors!"

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## NEW FACULTY



## **DR. AIMEE KIRK DANIEL**

Dr. Aimee Kirk Daniel joined the MSU-CVM family in May as a clinical instructor. She previously worked as a small animal veterinary intern at Texas A & M University, as well as an emergency veterinarian for the MSU-Affiliate Animal Emergency and Referral Center in the Jackson, MS suburb of Flowood. Daniel earned her DVM at Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine and has also completed a B.S. in biological science and an M.S. in veterinary medical science from MSU.



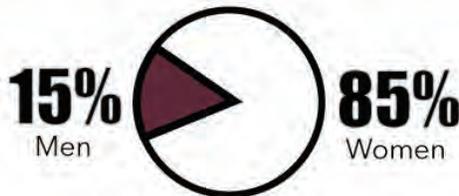
## DR. DEBRA P. MOORE

Dr. Debra P. Moore joined the College of Veterinary Medicine in January as an assistant clinical professor. She is located at the Institute of Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, MS as a veterinarian. She teaches veterinary students through IMMS mentoring, educating, and establishing investigative projects with cetaceans and sea turtles. Moore earned her DVM and completed a B.S. in animal and poultry science at Tuskegee University. Prior to working at MSU-CVM, Moore established and owned a mixed-animal practice, co-founded the Caribbean Center for Marine Studies, and was a relief veterinarian for the Puerto Rico Zoo. Additionally, she trained in the US Navy Marine Mammal Program in California, the NOAA Sea Turtle Necropsy Training Program in Pascagoula, and the Cetacean Stranding and Necropsy Workshop in Puerto Rico and Florida.

# DVM CLASS OF 2022

## BY THE NUMBERS

**95**   
Students



**23**  
Average Age

**BS - 93**

**MS - 4**

**PhD - 1**

Degrees Attained

**17**  
Early Entry  
Program Students

**3.7**  
Average GPA

**23**   
States Represented

**11%**  
Minority Student  
Representation



# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

## DECEMBER 2017



**HARRIS**

Nikki Harris has been working as an IC/ER tech in the Animal Health Center for four years. Harris said her favorite thing about her job is seeing a patient get to go home after a hard battle. “The moment a patient who was extremely sick walks out of the ICU to go home happy and healthy always makes my heart happy,” said Harris. Her motivation to do her job well is thinking of every patient in her care as her own and knowing if that were the case, she would want only the best for her animal.

Harris is married to her high school sweetheart, Tyler, and in her free time she likes to spend time with family and friends, play video games, read books, and play with her three fur babies—two cats and one dog.

## FEBRUARY 2018



**CARTER**

Kristi Carter has been a clinical admissions assistant for the Animal Health Center for over four years. Carter said the favorite thing about her job is interacting with the clients, patients, doctors, and students she encounters. “Seeing all the cute animals will brighten up any day,” said Carter, who always strives to do her best and prides herself on being helpful to her clients and coworkers. In her spare time, Carter enjoys reading, relaxing, spending time with friends and family, and traveling. Her husband is a semi-

retired truck owner-operator, and because of this, she has traveled all over the country. She and her husband have two children, two grandchildren, and a great-grandchild that arrived in August.

## APRIL 2018



**McKINLEY**

Sharon McKinley has been working at the CVM since 1990. She worked in the library until 2002, then moved to academic affairs where she works as the exam & academic records assistant. What McKinley most enjoys about her job is being able to work with the students. “I do all that I can to effectively communicate with students and their professors to help them succeed,” said McKinley. In her spare time, McKinley enjoys spending time with her family, shopping, and traveling. She is married and has a daughter who is in her second year at MSU.

## MAY 2018



**ALFORD**

Caleb Alford has been a CVM accountant for three years. He has been at the CVM for four years and on campus a total of six years. Alford’s favorite thing about his job is helping solve problems. “I feel good about what I do on days I’ve been able to help someone find a successful solution to a problem,” said Alford. His motivation to do his job well comes from feeling like he’s a part of something bigger than just one department. “Being able to say I am a piece of the puzzle of educating veterinarians and assisting in the

research we do and the medical care that we are able to provide is what motivates me,” said Alford, who is married and has a two-year-old daughter. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, as well as going to Mississippi State sporting events and fishing with his dad.

# MATCH DAY RESULTS 2018

MSU-CVM graduates received the results of the 2018 American Association of Veterinary Clinician's Veterinary Internship and Residency Matching Program in March. Students were matched with programs based on their mutual fields of interest, and the MSU-CVM Class of 2018 has been paired with a variety of successful, competitive programs.

## 2018 CVM GRADUATES MATCHED FOR INTERNSHIPS

Dr. Colleen Embersics, **small animal medicine and surgery internship**, Purdue University, Indiana

Dr. Josey Frazier, **small animal rotating medicine and surgery internship**, Bluepearl Veterinary Partners, San Antonio, Texas

Dr. Kaitlyn Havill, **small animal medicine and surgery internship**, Animal Medical Hospital, Charlotte, North Carolina

Dr. William Poppell, **small animal rotating medicine and surgery internship**, Bluepearl Veterinary Partners, Florida

Dr. Katrina Quinn, **shelter medicine internship**, Denver Dumb Friends League, Denver, Colorado

Dr. Rebecca Stokes, **small animal clinical sciences internship**, Texas A&M University, Texas

Dr. William Kettleman, **small animal rotating internship**, University of Missouri

Dr. Leah Moody, **small animal rotating internship**, Iowa State University

Dr. Megan Pratt, **food animal medicine and surgery internship**, MSU-CVM

Dr. Isaac Jumper, **population medicine residency**, MSU-CVM

Dr. Rebecca Gele', **emergency and critical care internship**, BluePearl Veterinary Partners, Sandy Springs, GA

## INTERNS WHO CAME TO MSU

### SMALL ANIMAL ROTATING

Dr. Tien Tien, Auburn University

Dr. Javier Avendano, St. George's University

Dr. Christy Buckley, University of Missouri

Dr. Danielle Daw, University of Georgia

Dr. Kristina Pascutti, University of Georgia

### DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

Dr. Tannis Lochhead, Oklahoma State University

### EQUINE SURGERY

Dr. Sabyl Sprinkle, University of Melbourne

### FOOD ANIMAL/AMBULATORY

Dr. Deanna Fredriks, Ohio State University

Dr. Katelyn Waters, Auburn University

### OPHTHALMOLOGY

Dr. Lindsay Seyer, St. George's University

## RESIDENTS WHO CAME TO MSU

Dr. Kamille Cormier, **equine surgery resident**, Atlantic Veterinary College

Dr. Christopher Tollefson, **diagnostic imaging resident**, Ross University

Dr. Sarah Shane, **anesthesiology residency**, Ross University

Dr. Melody Whitney, **small animal surgery resident**, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Pam Galati, **small animal internal medicine resident**, Royal Veterinary College, UK

## CVM ALUMNI MATCHED FOR INTERNSHIPS AND RESIDENCIES

Dr. Stephen Millar, **residency in small animal critical care/emergency medicine**, Colorado State University

Dr. Courtney Hunter, **clinical training program in laboratory animal medicine**, University of Michigan Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine

Dr. Emily Pearce, **small animal surgery residency**, Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital / Metropolitan Veterinary Referral Group, Akron, OH

Dr. Marc Seitz, **diagnostic imaging residency**, MSU-CVM

Dr. Jennifer Merkle, **medical oncology internship**, Louisiana State University

Dr. Ryan Gibson, **residency in neurology/neurosurgery**, MSU-CVM

## CVM INTERNS MATCHED FOR SPECIALTY INTERNSHIPS AND RESIDENCIES

Dr. Claire Totari, **ABVP residency**, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Greg Kaiman, **neurology residency**, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Angela Harrington, **internship in emergency and critical care**, Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Ashley Coll, **small animal internal medicine residency**, MSU-CVM

Dr. Jessica Chin, **oncology internship**, VCA Veterinary Care Animal Hospital and Referral Center, Albuquerque, NM

Dr. Christopher Tollefson, **small animal diagnostic imaging residency**, MSU-CVM



# CVM OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Since 1981, the College of Veterinary Medicine has seen over 2,200 graduates from the DVM program. From 1981-1990, we graduated fewer than 300 students. Today, as a result of the foundation that was established and tremendous leadership over the years, our College has a reputation for offering one of the top student experiences in the country. Students come here to receive more hands-on training than many of our peer institutions. We have over 1,200 to apply and a class of 95 students. Over the past five years, we boast a 98.5% pass rate on the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). The MSU-CVM has proven its worth to the State of Mississippi and industry. Dr. Mark Keenum, president of MSU since 2009 and a three-time MSU graduate, often states that his goal is to make sure that a Mississippi State University diploma continues to increase in value.

As of 2018, the CVM boasts an ever-growing \$24 million endowment that primarily supports student scholarships. In 2013 the CVM offered \$158,000 in scholarship monies to students. This year, because of a couple of estate gifts and many new endowments, we awarded over \$600,000 in scholarships to new and current students. These donors designated their gifts to specifically impact students through scholarships. Many of these donors were personally impacted by the College of Veterinary Medicine in some way and made a decision to give back based on their experiences. Investing in scholarships helps address the increasing debt-load that many face and encourages students to pursue veterinary medicine by decreasing financial barriers.

Private giving assists with enhancing the student experience. Gifts come in all shapes and sizes, from cash and checks to bequests, IRAs, and property. The generosity of our donors helps provide students with scholarships, state-of-the-art equipment, upgraded facilities, travel stipends, and some of the best faculty in the country from which to learn. MSU boasts an alumni

participation rate of 18%, which makes the university one of the leaders in the Southeastern Conference. Participation rate is defined as an alumnus who makes an annual gift of any amount to the university. The College of Veterinary Medicine carries an alumni participation rate of 7%. We have a goal to increase that number.

Recently, we established the CVM Alumni Association Fund for alumni to make annual gifts that will directly benefit the student experience. This fund will be used to the purchase of name pins upon graduation, lab coats, lunches, breakfasts, and anything else that will help to enhance the student experience. Students are why Mississippi State University exists. I ask that you consider making a gift at any level to this fund to support our students in a tangible way.

Thank you for what you do for Mississippi State University and the College of Veterinary Medicine. You are always welcome in the Wise Center and on campus. I hope to see you this fall.

For more information, contact Advancement Coordinator Melissa Montgomery (662-325-5170 or [mmontgomery@cvm.msstate.edu](mailto:mmontgomery@cvm.msstate.edu)) or Director of Development Jimmy Kight (662-325-5893 or [jkight@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jkight@foundation.msstate.edu)).

Checks can be made payable to the MSU Foundation, Inc. with "CVM Alumni Association Fund" in the memo section. Please mail any checks to the Attn: CVM Development at PO Box 6100, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Online giving is available through the tab at the top right corner on the [msufoundation.com](http://msufoundation.com) website.

**Jimmy Kight**  
Director of Development

# GRANTS & CONTRACTS

## AWARDED TO CVM FACULTY

### EXTERNAL GRANTS

**Henry Wan (PI).** Firstline Biopharmaceuticals Corporation. Test the Vaccine Efficacy of a Novel Influenza Vaccine Candidate. \$208,242

**Mark Lawrence (PI).** Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations . FAOLW Biosecurity Workshop. \$ 60,000

**Mark Lawrence (PI).** Sano Chemical, Incorporated. Analysis of Effects of Occidofungin in a Mouse Model of Metastatic Melanoma. \$7,743

**Andrew Shores (PI).** University of Alabama, NIH. Canine Comparative Genomics, Oncology and Neurotherapeutics. \$42,243

**Andrea Varela-Stokes (PI).** American Kennel Club. Active Surveillance of Hepatozoon americanum in Mississippi Populations of the Tick Vector, Amblyomma maculatum. \$12,480

**Hossam Abdelhamed (PI), Mark Lawrence (CoPI), Attila Karsi (CoPI).** BioWish Technologies. Antimicrobial Activities of BioWish Probiotics against Main Catfish Pathogens. \$3,272

**Wade Won (PI), Erin Brinkman (CoPI), Jennifer Gambino (CoPI).** Correlation of Meniscal Injury to Joint Space Width on Standing Lateral Radiographs and Standard Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy Radiographic Projection of the Canine Stifle. American College of Veterinary Radiology. \$2,500

**Mark Lawrence (PI), Timothy Morgan (CoPI), Debra Moore (CoPI), William Epperson (CoPI), Frank Austin (CoPI).** Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Mississippi Marine Mammal and Turtle Conservation, Recovery and Monitoring Program. \$ 6,573,033

**Thomas G. Rosser (PI), Ethan Woodyard (CoPI).** The American Society of Parasitologists (ASP). Investigations into the life cycle of Neodiplostomum spp. in Mississippi. \$500

**Jonathan Blakely (PI), James Ryan Butler (CoPI), Steven Elder (CoPI), Lauren Beatty Priddy (CoPI).** American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS). Ex Vivo Biomechanical Comparison of 2.7 mm String-of-Pearl Plate versus screw/wire/Polymethylmethacrylate Composite Fixation and 2.7 mm Veterinary Acetabular Plate for Repair of Simulated Canine Acetabular. \$3,800

**Michaela Beasley (PI).** American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Foundation. Determination of activated T-cell mRNA IL-2 expression and its comparison to whole blood cyclosporine levels as a measure of immunosuppression in dogs with meningoencephalitis of unknown origin undergoing treatment with cyclosporine. \$7,500

**Matthew Ross (PI), Barbara Kaplan (CoPI).** National Institutes of Health. Role of Carboxylesterases in Innate Immunity. \$420,691

**Janice Chambers (PI).** FMC Corporation. Metabolism of Malathion/Malaoxon and Dimethoate/Omethoate by Human and Rat Hepatic Microsomes. \$39,475

**Mark Lawrence (PI), Stephen Pruett (CoPI), William Epperson (CoPI).** USDA ARS. National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Training Support. \$871,200

**Andrea Varela-Stokes (PI), Mark Lawrence (CoPI).** Boehringer Ingelheim. Research Experience Program for Veterinary Students 2018. \$10,000

**Hossam Abdelhamed (PI), Mark Lawrence (CoPI), Attila Karsi (CoPI), Wes Baumgartner (CoPI).** BiOWiSH Technologies. Efficacy of BiOWiSH AquaFarm-MultiBio 3PS on Catfish Growth Performance. \$104,278

**Mark Lawrence (PI), Jean-Magloire Nguerkam Feugang (CoPI).** Morris Animal Foundation. Enhancing Wild Animal Semen Quality through Nanotechnology Tools. \$5,000

**Jeb Cade (PI).** The Stanton Foundation. Stanton Next Gen Canine Research Fellowship. \$143,750

**Mark Lawrence (PI), Barbara Kaplan (CoPI), Andrea Varela-Stokes (CoPI).** National Institutes of Health. Summer Research Experience for Veterinary Students. \$99,290

**Lora Petrie-Hanson (PI), Henry Wan (CoPI).** USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The Role of Trained Macrophages in Non-Specific Protection against E. ictaluri and E. piscicida in Channel Catfish. \$200,000

# CVM NOTES & NEWS

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Susan Akers (DVM 2009)**, together with her husband, welcomed their third daughter, Lia Grace, on October 11, 2017. She joins big sisters Cecilia (5) and Emma (3).

**Jennifer Potts Williams (DVM 2013)**, along with her husband Casey Williams, welcomed a baby boy, Ronan Roy Williams, on January 25, 2018.

**Dr. Melissa Pounders (DVM 2006)** married Andrew Hale on June 9, 2018, in Tishomingo, MS. Dr. Pounders Hale is an associate veterinarian at West Lauderdale Veterinary Hospital in Florence, AL. She and Andrew reside in Tishomingo, MS.

## FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

**Dr. Barbara Kaplan**, assistant professor in the Department of Basic Sciences' Center for Environmental Health Sciences, has been elected as 2018-2019 councilor for the Society of Toxicology.

**Dr. Richard Meiring**, assistant dean for admissions, retired from the College on June 30, 2018, after a decade of service.

### NOTE TO ALUMNI:

Please send us your news! If you would like to share announcements such as new positions, new titles, marriages, births, deaths, or awards, please let us know. You can send your news to Mel Thurlow at [mmt89@msstate.edu](mailto:mmt89@msstate.edu).

Another place to keep up with your fellow graduates is on Facebook at [facebook.com/alumnimsucvm](https://www.facebook.com/alumnimsucvm).

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**Wes Gordon, Director of Planned Giving**  
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