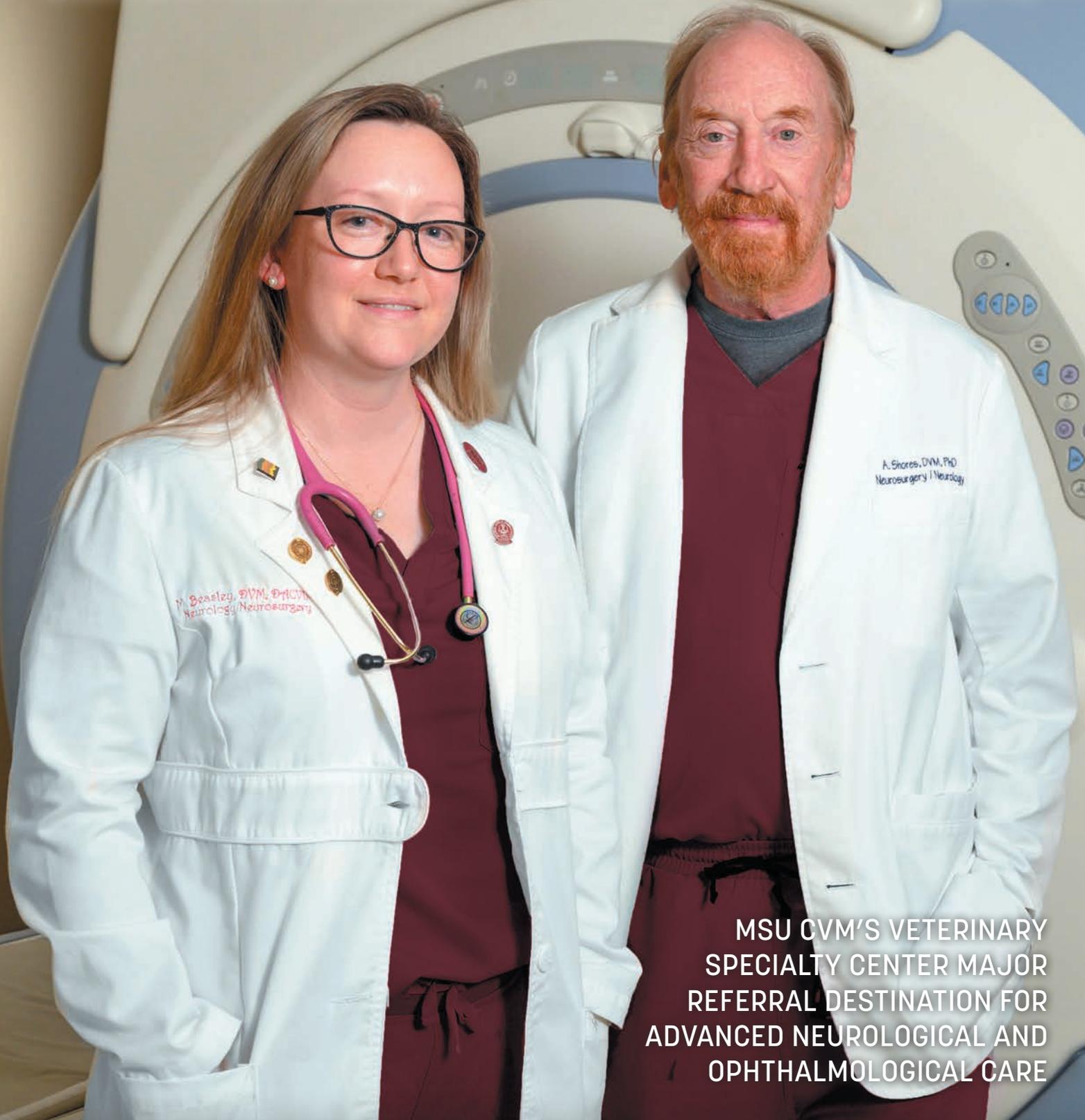


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MSU CVM'S VETERINARY
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REFERRAL DESTINATION FOR
ADVANCED NEUROLOGICAL AND
OPHTHALMOLOGICAL CARE

EARNING RESPECT BY EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DR. KENT HOBLET

40 Years & Forward! This year, the College graduated its 40th class of veterinary students. And, although the current spike by the delta variant of the COVID virus precluded a large-scale celebration, we were able to hold an informal reception to acknowledge this important milestone.

Attendees included alumni, faculty, friends of the CVM, and current students. In this column, I'll provide a short overview of the topics presented.

From its inception, the CVM was known for innovations and creativity. This was initiated and encouraged by founding dean Dr. James G. Miller, who now lives in Tallahassee and sent comments to be shared at the reception. He began by stating, "40 years and the memories are as vivid as yesterday," and noting the successful careers of the many DVM graduates from MSU CVM. He concluded by reminding attendees, "the horizons are opening up as each new day dawns."

Dr. Phil Bushby, who joined the faculty in 1978—and, even though officially retired, is at work nearly every day—discussed a range of innovations to the curriculum during the early years. Some have continued, some have not, and some disappeared but returned. Our CVM was the first to require students to have a personal computer. In the 1980s, the College implemented a plan to have two years of preclinical courses followed by two full years of mentored clinical instruction. This continues, and the two years of clinical instruction have proven to be key factors in successful student recruitment. An early program that required students to spend time in private practices was discontinued but will begin anew in 2023 as the Enhanced Clinical Practicum program.

Dr. Mikell Davis, professor emeritus, discussed some of the budget challenges occurring in the 1980s and how this ultimately contributed to cohesiveness of purpose in the CVM. Dr. Davis led our admissions program for many years. He created the Early Entry Program—a program that enables outstanding graduating high school seniors to be pre-admitted to CVM pending successful completion of prerequisite courses in their MSU undergraduate programs. In addition, Dr. Davis began our B.S. in Veterinary Medical Technology program, which has also proven successful and important to the College.

My comments focused on several points of pride, including the relationship between CVM and the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport which permits all of our students to participate in rescue and conservation of dolphins and endangered sea turtles; the USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish which CVM leads in Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Zambia, Bangladesh, and Cambodia; the six locations in Mississippi where CVM has faculty and student involvement; and the new 14,000-square-foot addition to our Animal Emergency & Referral Center currently under construction in Flowood.

Special attention was also called to two impressive achievements of our students. For the past six years, our graduating students have achieved an average 98% pass rate on the national board exam (NAVLE) compared to an overall national average of 94%. Data from AVMA indicate for the past five years that MSU graduates going into practice boasted starting salaries exceeding the national average by 9%!

Jimmy Kight, the College's development director, ended the program by discussing plans to add an updated entry area to the front of the Wise Center and three-story towers to the ends of both the current academic and clinic wings of the main building to allow further growth of our curriculum and services.

The College continues to fulfill the vision of the founders. To date, we have graduated more than 2,200 veterinarians and 215 veterinary medical technologists. "40 years and Forward..." Enthusiasm is high, and the future looks bright!

Dr. Kent Hoblet

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COVER PHOTOS

FRONT: MSU CVM Chief of Neurology/Neurosurgery Dr. Andy Shores and Associate Professor of Neurology/Neurosurgery Dr. Michaela Beasley pose in front of a 3-Tesla MRI unit, one of several pieces of state-of-the-art imaging equipment housed at VSC and used by CVM's neurology and ophthalmology teams to provide highly advanced care.

BACK: MSU CVM Ophthalmologist Dr. Becky Telle conducts a pre-op eye exam on patient Peter Brown in preparation for his upcoming cataract surgery.

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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 20 and 21. The group was welcomed at a reception at a local restaurant the evening they arrived and enjoyed presentations at the College on Friday. This was the first in-person meeting of the Council since 2019; meetings in 2020 were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Friday's meeting began with an overview of the MSU Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine (DAFVM) delivered by the division's recently appointed vice president, Dr. Keith Coble. The Council also heard highlights of CVM student recruitment and admission efforts, as well as an overview of the class of 2025, provided by MSU CVM Director of Admissions Dr. Brittany Moore-Henderson, Admissions Manager Robin Graves, and Admissions Coordinator Meredith Nagel.

Several current MSU CVM students and MSU Provost Dr. David Shaw also addressed the group, as well as MSU Vice President for Development and Alumni John Rush, who offered an update on the MSU Foundation's fundraising initiatives. Dr. Ron McLaughlin provided an update on CVM's upcoming accreditation site visit by the AVMA Council on Education, and Dr. Jack Smith spoke to the council about changes to the DVM curriculum—including the implementation of the Enhanced Clinical Practicum program. Prior to the meeting's conclusion, the Council heard about new and proposed improvements to the Wise Center from CVM Director of Development Jimmy Kight and received a tour of the recent renovations to the facilities.

The Council's next meeting will be held in Starkville at the CVM this winter; the exact date is to be determined.

DEAN'S COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



Mrs. Terri Nusz received a Bachelor of Science in interior design from Mississippi State University in 1982. She followed her passion in interior design after graduation and established a design company. Nusz oversees the Nusz family's various interests in equine sports, including TnT Equine Partners, Amalaya Investments, and Oasis Stables. She and her husband established the Terri Nusz Endowed Equine Professorship at MSU CVM.



Dr. David Dale received his Bachelor of Science from Mississippi State University and earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from MSU CVM in 2004. He began practicing medicine at both Briarwood Animal Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi, and Millcreek Animal Clinic in Brandon, Mississippi, in 2004. Dr. and Mrs. Dale established the Briarwood Animal Hospital/Campbell G. Dale Memorial Scholarship at MSU CVM.



Dr. Rebekah List received a Bachelor of Science from Mississippi State University and earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from MSU CVM in 2001. Dr. List was in private practice at Bienville Animal Medical Center in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, for 10 years. She now serves as the professional consulting veterinarian and US professional digital lead for Hill's Pet Nutrition, a large-scale producer of pet nutrition that sponsors a college-wide feeding program. Hill's Pet Nutrition also supports Safe Haven, Homeward Bound, the veterinary medical technology program and other student and faculty enhancement programs at MSU CVM.

The MSU CVM family is deeply saddened by the loss of Dean's Council member **Stephen B. Imes**. An inaugural member of the Council, Imes, who resided in Columbus, Mississippi, where he owned and operated Waukaway Springs Bottling Company, passed away on July 31. He was an active participant in all Council meetings and was a generous supporter of the College, having established the Mac, Stephen, and Dava Imes Endowed Scholarship in memory of his Maine Coon cat, Mac; the scholarship supports a student with an interest in feline medicine. Imes also endowed the Mac Imes Client Consultation Room in the Animal Health Center where clients meet with CVM staff to discuss their pet's veterinary care. The College is most appreciative of his support and dedication through the years, and he will be greatly missed.



MSU CVM NEUROLOGY TEAM Provides Advanced Medical Care and Outstanding Learning Opportunities

When a pet suddenly loses function in its legs or starts developing seizures, owners may understandably panic. After evaluation at an emergency clinic or their local practitioner, animals showing signs of neurological problems are often referred to MSU CVM's Neurology/Neurosurgery team.

At the helm of this team are clinical professor and service chief Dr. Andy Shores and associate clinical professor Dr. Michaela Beasley. Both Dr. Shores and Dr. Beasley are board certified in neurology/neurosurgery—making MSU CVM a referral hub for more complicated neurosurgical procedures and care.

The service offers secondary and tertiary referral services for much of the southeastern US, with referrals occasionally coming from as far away as California and Wisconsin and routinely from local practitioners, as well as veterinary surgeons and other veterinary neurosurgeons. They offer treatment for seizures; inflammatory/autoimmune brain and spinal conditions; neoplasia of the spine and brain (medical, surgical, and radiation treatment); spinal fracture repair; intervertebral disk herniations; atlantoaxial subluxations; lumbosacral disease treatment; and Chiari malformation.

“The most rewarding aspect of our careers is the joy we see in students' and owners' faces when they see their patient or pet recovering from paralysis,” Dr. Beasley said. “The paralysis often comes on acutely and out of the blue for our patients, which is very stressful for their humans to witness. Luckily, we are here and able to offer surgical (when indicated) or medical and

rehabilitative treatments to allow the best possible recovery for our patients.”

Dr. Beasley earned her DVM from MSU CVM in 2008, before completing both a small animal internship and neurology/neurosurgery residency at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine. She returned to MSU CVM in January of 2011 to help Dr. Shores build the neurology service, while continuing to work on her master's in biomedical sciences at Auburn, completing her degree in 2012.

“My residency was very neurosurgically driven, so I am able to offer surgical treatments that other surgeons and neurosurgeons might not feel as comfortable performing. This allows us to train additional high-caliber neurosurgeons to increase the availability of complex neurosurgical treatments,” she said. “Dr. Shores and I both hold advanced training in acupuncture and rehabilitation, respectively; we feel that quality post-operative care and rehabilitation are just as important as the surgery itself in each patient's recovery. We have worked with some very talented veterinary technicians and generous donors to help build an outstanding rehabilitation service at MSU CVM.” The rehab team offers inpatient and outpatient treatment for post-operative patients, aging patients, and pets undergoing rehabilitation for non-surgical spinal cord diseases.

Dr. Shores is a 1977 Auburn CVM graduate who practiced in Atlanta for three years prior to completing a residency in small animal surgery at Purdue University, where he also earned a master's

“The most rewarding aspect of our careers is the joy we see in students’ and owners’ faces when they see their patient or pet recovering from paralysis”

– DR. MICHAELA BEASLEY

in clinical medicine in 1982. He then completed a neurology/neurosurgery residency at Auburn and earned his PhD in 1985. Dr. Shores joined the faculty at MSU CVM in January 2011 and has also been a faculty member at Auburn University and Michigan State University. He is involved with a multi-center study funded by the National Institutes of Health related to glial cell tumors that has led to cutting-edge therapy in both humans and canines. Dr. Shores travels internationally to provide continuing education and offer training related to advanced neurological procedures.

In addition to Drs. Shores and Beasley, the neurology service is comprised of four residents, a specialty intern, three veterinary technicians, and has the support of the College’s rehabilitation service and its two certified veterinary technicians.

“Our residents and interns are involved in daily activities with patients and are a strong driving force of our service from both a clinical and teaching aspect,” Dr. Shores noted. “Not only do they take care of clinical patients and teach our rotating interns through after-hours consultations and students on service with daily patient interactions, but they also hone their didactic teaching skills by teaching the students in the second-year small animal surgery and medicine class.”

Drs. Shores and Beasley believe allowing the residents to teach a topic each year offers students a chance to interact with high-energy, budding veterinary neurologists, who they will see on the clinic floor later, while also allowing the residents a chance to review different topics of veterinary neurology.

“Our junior residents become skilled at surgical approaches and closures under the tutelage of myself, Dr. Beasley, and the senior residents, as the more senior residents focus on the intricate aspects of the neurosurgeries under my and Dr. Beasley’s guidance while the junior residents observe,” Dr. Shores explained.

Advanced equipment such as a 3T MRI and Cavitron Ultrasonic Surgical Aspirator® assist the neurology team in every complicated

procedure, but their day-to-day work would not be possible without the support staff and technical staff at both the College and the Veterinary Specialty Center in west Starkville. The team’s three veterinary technicians help with every aspect of the service, from initial patient intake to sedation and anesthesia for imaging scans, to patient care while in the hospital and communication with referring veterinarians. The team also relies heavily on ICU staff to care for their critical and post-operative patients, as well as the operating room staff, central sterile staff, anesthesia service, and rehabilitation technicians to ensure all around superb patient care.

Outside of the clinic, Dr. Beasley is responsible for introducing the first-year veterinary students to neuroanatomy and neurolocalization during the neuroscience course taken during the first semester of veterinary school.

As students matriculate into the second year, they receive more exposure to neurology through the small animal medicine and surgery course, and they’re introduced to diseases and treatments that go along with signalment and specific localizations. However, according to Dr. Beasley, “the light bulb actually comes on” as they rotate through clinical neurology and neurosurgery as fourth-year veterinary students.

“Once they get to see patients firsthand as a fourth-year student, they finally put it all together: localizing the area of the patient’s lesion, imaging and diagnosing the patient, providing treatments, and finally, witnessing the improvements a neurologic patient can make,” she said. “A number of schools do not have any neurologists on staff, so our students come out ahead of the curve on neurology knowledge.”

“Almost every year we have a student who decides they want to be a neurologist, and we have been very successful in getting our students into internships and residency programs,” Dr. Beasley continued. “But just knowing that every student is actively exposed to the subject is incredibly rewarding.”





VSC NEUROSURGEONS HELP BELLA WALK

Around midnight on July 2, Bella, a black lab owned by Edward and Sydney Aldag of Birmingham, Alabama, was hit by a car traveling at a very high rate of speed.

“We took her to the 24-hour emergency veterinarian in Mobile, where she was stabilized,” Edward Aldag said. “We talked to several veterinarians throughout the state of Alabama who told us that the best place for her would be MSU CVM, and we were able to airlift her to Starkville from Mobile within hours.”

Once she arrived at the Wise Center, the emergency department wasted no time getting Bella into ICU. Upon initial exam, the neurology team noticed that she was unable to walk on all four legs, and she was demonstrating mental changes that led the team to suspect she might have suffered an injury to her brain.

“We deal with many trauma cases here at MSU CVM, so our radiology services team has developed a ‘trauma CT’ which allows us to get a 3D picture of the whole patient so that we can assess for soft tissue, brain, and bone damage,” MSU CVM Associate Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery Dr. Michaela Beasley said. “From this scan, we were able to see that Bella had a fractured jaw that would heal without surgery, as well as a fracture of her second cervical vertebra—but luckily,

there was no obvious bleeding in Bella’s brain. We immediately braced Bella’s neck to take pressure off her fractured vertebra and started conservative management for the fracture since we were hesitant to place Bella under anesthesia so close to her car accident.”

Unfortunately, Bella did not progress the way the team hoped she would over the next few days, so the decision was made to take her to surgery. During surgery, Bella’s surgeons were able to remove some bone fragments and blood clots that were compressing her spinal cord and re-align some of the fragments of her fractured vertebra. The surgery took nearly five hours, but Bella’s team of doctors, technicians, and students brought her through it successfully. Bella spent the next four weeks recovering at MSU CVM.

“In the beginning, since Bella wasn’t able to move on her own, she required nursing care every hour, which was provided by our intensive care staff and the students assigned to her case, who really doted on her,” Dr. Beasley said. “Once she was able to move around her kennel on her own, she was able to graduate from ICU to the rehabilitation ward, where she received formal rehabilitation twice daily along with walks by students between those sessions. At first, Bella required a quad

“At first, Bella required a quad cart for support and would only move her back legs, but by the time she went home, we were having to use a harness to slow her down!”

— DR. MICHAELA BEASLEY

(four-wheeled) cart for support and would only move her back legs, but by the time she went home, we were having to use a harness to slow her down!”

Fourth-year veterinary students Maryanna Hudson, Hannah Robertson, and Kendall Alexander all played a role in helping Bella through her treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery as they rotated through the neurology service. Maryanna noted that helping Bella get back on her feet and to her family will be one of her favorite veterinary school memories for years to come.

“Veterinary school is tough, but just when you think you can’t go much further, you get a ‘win’ that pushes you through,” Hudson noted. “Bella is that win for me. I’ve learned so much from her journey, and I’m thankful to have been a small part of it.”

On August 1, after 31 days at MSU CVM, the Aldag family was finally able to take Bella home.

“Bella’s medical treatment at MSU was truly second to none. From the moment we arrived, doctors and nurses were waiting on her in the parking lot and within minutes had her in the evaluation room,” Aldag said. “Now that she’s home, she is doing fantastic! She is so happy to be back with her family and familiar places. However, she is still walking around the house looking for the CVM pharmacy to get her snacks and is missing the incredible loving she got from Dr. Beasley, Maryanna, Hannah, and Kendall.”

Though Bella still has some rehabilitation and recovery ahead of her, the neurology team could not be prouder of the progress she has made. Dr. Beasley plans to use Bella’s story as a teaching aid for her future students. “It can sometimes be hard for our students and pet owners to believe that a patient who is so severely affected and unable to walk can indeed be normal again, so it is great to have videos of such cases to show in class—plus, it is very rewarding for us as doctors to see these patients thrive,” she said.





VSC OPHTHALMOLOGY ACCOMPLISHES VISION of Providing Outstanding Teaching & Excellent Care

Our eyesight is easily taken for granted; however, when it's lost or in jeopardy, we quickly realize just how valuable it is. Fortunately, many pet owners love and care for their animals enough to seek ophthalmic care for them just as they would for themselves.

For those in this area and the surrounding region, that's where the knowledge and expertise of board-certified veterinary ophthalmologists Drs. Caroline Betbeze and Becky Telle come in. Drs. Betbeze and Telle provide advanced ophthalmic care at MSU CVM's Veterinary Specialty Center (VSC) located in west Starkville, as well as at two of the College's other locations. They also provide ophthalmic care for resident and rehabilitating animals at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport.

Dr. Betbeze, who received her DVM from MSU CVM in 2002 followed by a small animal rotating internship, completed her Master of Science degree and residency in comparative veterinary ophthalmology at Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2006. She practiced at Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson in Tucson, Arizona, for six years prior to returning to MSU CVM to join the faculty in 2013.

Upon her arrival, Dr. Betbeze was charged with developing the College's ophthalmology service into a complete teaching and referral service. Over the course of six years, she shouldered the

responsibility of running the service, built caseload in the large and small animal hospital, and developed a specialty internship program. Now, the service is fully staffed, CVM students are excelling, and the VSC is a well-established referral destination for patients in need of ophthalmic care.

Dr. Telle, who came on board in 2019, received her DVM from MSU CVM in 2015 and completed a small animal rotating internship at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in 2016. She finished her residency in comparative ophthalmology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine just prior to returning to MSU.

The two doctors, along with the team's two ophthalmology residents and two well-trained veterinary medical technicians, work together to offer a full scope of services and procedures for animals of clients and referring veterinarians, including preventive procedures and care as well as glaucoma care, cataract surgery, eyelid reconstruction, intraocular surgery, corneal surgery, third eyelid gland replacements, and prosthetic globe implants.

"We practice with the highest quality ophthalmic diagnostic and therapeutic equipment, including a high-resolution ultrasound machine that enables us to gain detailed information about the

anatomy of the eye in relation to treatment of diseases such as corneal infections, glaucoma, cysts, and neoplasia. We are the only practice in the area that has an ultrasound of this magnitude,” Dr. Betbeze said. “We also have an MLT/ARC Laser that is used with a special dye that provides therapy for tumors of the eyelid, skin, cornea and conjunctiva, iris cysts, and different types of corneal inflammation in horses, and we have an HMS electroretinography machine that provides diagnostic information regarding retinal disease in all species.”

The ophthalmology residents are very involved in cases by serving as the primary doctor on each case, according to Dr. Betbeze; however, she and Dr. Telle are heavily involved in case management and routinely provide surgical and medical services on the more difficult procedures and cases.

“Our work is truly a team effort, but as the faculty ophthalmologists, Dr. Telle and I look at every case that comes through,” the service chief said. “And the service would be lost without our two technicians, who are the glue that holds us together! They go above and beyond in their duties and work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly.”

Dr. Betbeze particularly enjoys surgery, specifically corneal surgery, and said one of her favorite things about teaching is having former students reach out to her after graduation to consult about cases, tell her about surgeries they have performed, or to refer cases.

“Our students are learning a lot and sharing their knowledge with their fellow practitioners. They are guiding their practices to get up-to-date resources, medications, and equipment,” she said. “They are knowledgeable about referral-level ophthalmology services and are some of our best referring DVMs.”

Dr. Telle, who is especially interested in treating glaucoma, specifically in dogs, said she thoroughly enjoys the time she



spends with students. “Working with the students is so rewarding; I really enjoy their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. They keep me on my toes, and I love being able to help mold the next generation of veterinarians,” she said.

According to Dr. Telle, the most rewarding cases in her career are sometimes the most straightforward ones. “For instance, patients that come in unable to see from cataracts, restoring their vision with surgery is such a wonderful experience,” she said. “Typically, the patient and the owner are so relieved and excited, and it is such a great feeling!”

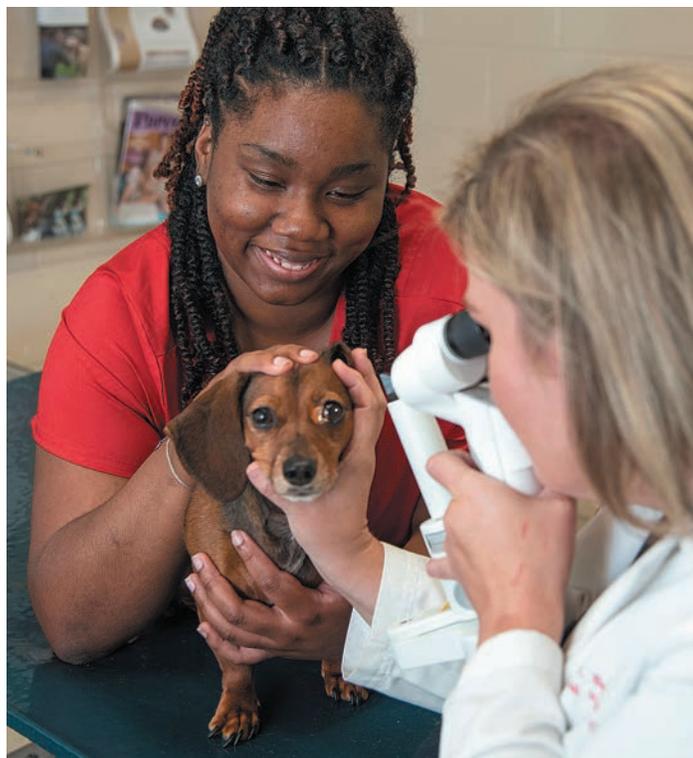
Through the years, Dr. Betbeze has had many cases that presented specific medical or logistical challenges, and she said she is proud to have often gone the extra mile to help the animals. “I have examined over 75 dogs from a veterinary hoarding situation; I have driven to farms to examine animals that could not come to the veterinary school/practice; I have delivered medications to owners at their homes,” she said. “I have dealt with many challenging situations and cases, helped many animals, guided many clients, and I am proud that I still am passionate about veterinary medicine and thankful that it is my job every day.”

“Being the service chief and the course director for the student rotation can be hard at times because there are many responsibilities to juggle—in addition to seeing patients and making sure that everyone involved in cases is learning and that the patient is getting good care at the same time,” she continued. “But I pride myself in the fact that we provide great service and are very service-oriented to RDVMs and clients. We provide terrific learning for students and provide great care for the animals.”

Dr. Telle said she is most proud of the fact that the ophthalmology service did not exist just a few years ago and has now grown into a multi-doctor, multi-location service that serves patients and clients all over the Southeast.

“This was a much-needed service for our state and our students, and we can now confidently send our students out into practice with a wealth of ophthalmic knowledge,” she said.

“Eight years ago, when I returned to MSU CVM, the administration and I had a dream to have a thriving ophthalmology service. We began by ordering equipment, starting to teach students—rather than just sending them on ophthalmology externships—and working to develop a clinical rotation for students. So much has changed,” Dr. Betbeze said. “However, through hard work—teaching, reaching out to RDVMs and former students, speaking at CE events—and through each ophthalmic case seen, we’ve built an outstanding program, one that we can all be proud of.”





VSC Ophthalmology Team SETS SIGHTS ON SAVING BLUE'S VISION

Seems like kids and pets always pick the weekend or holidays to get sick. And such was the case over Memorial Day weekend for Blue, the Barlow family's three-year-old French bulldog.

"Blue has never been sick at all before with anything. He has been such a healthy boy his whole life," said Tonya Barlow. "But, one day in late May, I knew looking at his red eyes that something was wrong. The next day they were swollen, so we took him to our local veterinarian, and he gave us some medicine for his eyes."

Barlow went out of town for the holiday weekend, and when she returned home, Blue's eyes were no better. In fact, they were worse. His right eye was beginning to look cloudy. "Of course, no veterinary clinics were open because it was Memorial Day, so I called the MSU Animal Health Center's emergency room," she said. "Blue's eyes were red and swollen, and he was pawing at them."

A veterinary medical technologist, Barlow was familiar with the AHC and knew the team would know what to do. "When we arrived at the ER, I wasn't able to go in due to COVID restrictions, but I knew Blue would receive the best

care available," Barlow said. "When I graduated in 2000, the ophthalmology service wasn't yet developed, but over the last several years, the College has really invested in it. I had heard what outstanding care the ophthalmologists delivered, and they didn't disappoint."

The MSU CVM Ophthalmology team came through for Blue, but, as is sometimes the case, it took some time to get him on the right path to recovery. According to assistant clinical professor and board-certified ophthalmologist Dr. Becky Telle, who sees patients at the College's Veterinary Specialty Center in west Starkville and who took Blue's case when the antibiotics prescribed in the AHC ER still didn't clear up the problem, Blue was 'one of those cases' that presents a challenge, requiring several different strategies before being successfully treated.

"Blue presented with what was thought to be a simple corneal ulcer on his right eye, but it didn't respond to treatment as expected," Dr. Telle said. "Over time, he also started exhibiting signs of canine herpesvirus, which is a relatively rare diagnosis for a male dog his age. The virus is serious and often fatal in puppies, but in adult dogs—especially males—treatment is

“ They were so good to Blue... Waiting on test results to come in was the biggest hold up. Once they had them, they were able to get him on the right meds, and he began improving quickly. ”

– BLUE’S OWNER TONYA BARLOW

rarely needed; it can, however, cause a variety of symptoms, including eye disease.”

Barlow said Dr. Telle, her colleague Dr. Caroline Betbeze, and their team members began to feel like family, as the process of getting an accurate diagnosis for Blue required twice weekly trips to the VSC to see them for several weeks. “They were so good to Blue, but he just wasn’t getting any better, and his right eye was actually getting worse,” Barlow said. “Waiting on test results to come in was the biggest hold up. Once they had them, they were able to get him on the right meds, and he began improving quickly.”

“The most challenging cases to me are the ones that involve trying many different options before getting to the correct or best treatment regimen,” Dr. Telle said. “Fortunately, in large part because of her training, Tonya understood this process. She was extremely diligent with Blue’s treatment protocol and

his follow-up visits, and with the right combination of meds, we were finally able to get the ulcer healed and his eyes cleared up.”

Barlow said getting Blue well wasn’t easy. There were times that he was on four different eye drops several times per day, plus oral medication, but she knew he was in good hands. “It took some time to get to the root of the problem, but I was impressed with the VSC doctors and staff,” she said. “They were committed to getting him well, and Blue is my ‘fourth child,’ so I was willing to do whatever it took for that to happen!”

Blue is now back to his old self, according to Barlow. “He feels great, looks great, and other than a small scar on his eye, you’d never know we went through a very long summer with him,” she said. “He’s back demanding all our attention, bossing his two Frenchie siblings, and playing fetch non-stop!”



FISH INNOVATION LAB ADDS PROJECTS ACROSS AFRICA AND ASIA

As part of the US Government's Feed the Future program and funded by the US Agency for International Development, the Fish Innovation Lab at Mississippi State University works to reduce poverty and improve nutrition, food security, and livelihoods in developing countries by supporting research on sustainable aquaculture and fisheries systems. The lab, which is under the direction of MSU CVM veterinary microbiologist Dr. Mark Lawrence, added six projects to its portfolio since last June.

Selected as direct commissioned activities under the Fish Innovation Lab, the six newest projects were awarded a total of \$1.15 million in grants. These projects include two in Bangladesh, two in Zambia, and one each in Malawi and Ghana.

According to Dr. Lawrence, improving human outcomes and mitigating risk are key components of the Fish Innovation Lab's research. To do this, project teams work to understand socioeconomic factors, improve market access, and enhance nutrition.

For example, "Nourishing Nations: Improving the Quality and Safety of Processed Fish Products in Nigeria" is a project working toward educating women and youth fish processors about the benefits of fish as part of a healthy diet. Additionally, the team is developing low-literacy approaches to teach fish processors safe processing methods and the economic advantages of selling quality fish products.

Another project team seeks to determine ways to increase access to nutritious fish among vulnerable family members, particularly mothers and infants. "FishFirst! Zambia: Research for Development and Scaling Staple-Fish Products for Enhanced Nutrition in the First 1,000 Days of Life" is led by Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale of the MSU Social Science Research Center.

A third project, "Identifying Major Sources of Fecal Pathogens in Bangladeshi Aquaculture Value Chains and the Most Cost-Effective Risk Reduction Strategies," is providing science-based decisions on the most effective methods and key actors/locations to intervene to reduce microbial contamination of fish in informal markets of Bangladesh. This is an important step toward addressing food safety in aquaculture systems in the country.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fish Innovation Lab made strides toward its mission by improving human outcomes and mitigating risk through supporting the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture systems.

"Fish are an essential source of animal protein and income for people in developing countries," Dr. Lawrence said. "These new projects expand the Fish Innovation Lab's work to ensure more people can access fish as part of their diet and benefit from livelihoods in aquaculture and fisheries sectors."



One of the dried fish vendors in the local town food market in Oyo State, Nigeria. Photo by Brianna Bradley, WorldFish



Fishers in Zambia. Photo by Kathleen Ragsdale, MSU



Image taken during hands-on training. Photo by Khorshed Alam, MD



Cast net fisher, Kainji Lake, NW Nigeria. Photo by David Mills, WorldFish 2

COLLEGE UPGRADES SURGICAL TEACHING FACILITIES

According to MSU CVM Associate Dean for Administration Dr. Ron McLaughlin, the College recently renovated and expanded its surgical teaching facilities.

The photos at right are of CVM's new surgical lab on the Wise Center's third floor, constructed to make more efficient use of existing space while simultaneously updating the utilities (vacuum, oxygen, etc.), equipment (tables, monitors, surgical lighting, anesthesia machines, patient monitors), and technology.

Dr. McLaughlin said this area is just one example of the work being done to improve facilities and student instruction. "Planning the new surgery facility was a collaborative process that included all stakeholders involved in the various teaching aspect of SAMS lab," he said. "This included the lab instructors, anesthesia faculty, surgery faculty, and the laboratory support staff. Most of the renovation was conducted by our CVM facilities team, and they did an excellent job in creating a state-of-the-art surgical facility for our students."

MSU CVM Assistant Clinical Professor Dr. Jesse Grady, who coordinates the surgery laboratory class for veterinary students, explained that the new surgical prep room and surgery suite are significantly larger and updated with all new equipment.

"The addition of a camera-enabled microscope, document camera for demonstrating various techniques, and a wearable wireless camera allows instructors to demonstrate clinical skills to a large group of students simultaneously," Dr. Grady said, noting the new lab space has transformed an already stellar lab experience for students into an even better one, where the College more efficiently cares for the shelter animals being spayed/neutered.

"The additional space and technology allow us to more efficiently teach, which lets us explore new avenues of education with these animals," he said. "A greater amount of time is now being spent on physical examination skills—otoscopy, ophthalmology, dermatology, etc.—to better prepare our students for clinics and their future careers."



MEET the FACULTY



DR. SETH KETTLEMAN

Clinical Instructor, Department of Clinical Sciences

Dr. Seth Kettleman joined the MSU CVM faculty in April as a clinical instructor in small animal surgery. Dr. Kettleman received his Bachelor of Science in biological sciences from MSU in 2014 and earned his DVM from MSU CVM in 2018. After graduation, Dr. Kettleman completed a small animal rotating internship at the University of Missouri Veterinary Health Center before starting a small animal surgery residency at MSU CVM. In August 2022, Dr. Kettleman will become the newest faculty surgeon at the Animal Emergency and Referral Center in Flowood.



DR. CHARLEE MULLIGAN

Clinical Instructor, Animal Emergency & Referral Center

Dr. Charlee Mulligan joined the MSU CVM faculty in May as a clinical instructor at the Animal Emergency and Referral Center in Flowood. Dr. Mulligan completed her Bachelor of Science in 2011 and Master of Science in 2014 from Mississippi College before earning her DVM from MSU CVM in 2021.



DR. BRYAN WALDRIDGE

Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Sciences

Dr. Bryan Waldrige joined the MSU CVM faculty as an associate clinical professor in May. Dr. Waldrige earned both his DVM and Master of Science from Auburn University. After receiving his DVM, he worked in private practice and has served on the faculty at both Tuskegee University and Auburn University. Before coming to MSU CVM, Dr. Waldrige served as an internal medicine clinician at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, and as a veterinarian at both Park Equine Hospital and Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farm—both in Lexington. He has also served as the treating veterinarian for the equine quarantine facility at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, and as the treating veterinarian for the 2015 Breeder's Cup at Keeneland Race Course. Dr. Waldrige is a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners and the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR JOBS WELL DONE



ASHLEY WHITTEN

Ashley Whitten has worked as a surgical technologist with the College's neurology service and at the Veterinary Specialty Center since 2011. As lead technologist, she oversees the other techs in the neurology service; teaches fourth-year veterinary students how to perform neurological evaluations; manages all medical and product orders for VSC; scrubs into neuro surgeries; and assists Dr. Shores in managing surgical sample collection, shipments, and patient data for the Phase I Clinical Trial of M032 in Canine Patients with Glial Brain Tumors.

Whitten received her Associate's of Applied Science degree in surgical technology from Holmes Community College in 2009 and says she loves her work. "During my surgical tech schooling, we had to write a thesis paper on our dream job. I wrote mine on working at the CVM with animals needing surgery," she said.

Outside of work, Whitten enjoys spending time camping and exploring the outdoors with her husband and daughter.



KELLY STEWART

Kelly Stewart has served as an accountant in the MSU CVM Dean's Office since 2019. Her day-to-day responsibilities include assisting with the management of the several hundred accounts at the College by paying invoices; keeping a daily log of clinical income; reconciling accounts; and keying journal vouchers.

Stewart received her Associate of Arts degree from Meridian Community College in 2014 and Bachelor of Accountancy from Mississippi State University in 2016. During her undergraduate studies, she completed a 10-week auditing internship with Horne, LLP.

When she isn't at work, Stewart enjoys binge-watching Netflix shows with her husband Blake and snuggling on the couch with her three dogs and cat.

CVM EMPLOYEES COMPLETE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Fifteen Mississippi State employees—four of whom are members of the CVM family—graduated from the university's 2020–21 Leadership Development Program. The nine-month LDP empowers new supervisors and high-performing employees with heightened self-awareness, advanced knowledge, and value-added leadership in a secure and

challenging environment. Congratulations to Doug Bedsaul, project manager, Center for Environmental Health Sciences; Robin Graves, admissions manager, Academic Affairs; Meredith Nagel, admissions coordinator, Academic Affairs; and Nancy Wilson, ICU supervisor, Department of Clinical Sciences, who completed this year's program.

KHAITSA NAMED TO GLOBAL ONE HEALTH HIGH-LEVEL EXPERT PANEL

MSU CVM Professor of International Veterinary Epidemiology Dr. Margaret Khaitisa was recently named to the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), an international panel focused on the ways humans, animals, and the environment interact to impact global health.

One of 26 selected to serve from a pool of more than 700 applicants worldwide, Dr. Khaitisa is now serving to advise key international organizations on the potential emergence and spread of new diseases, among other areas. The panel advises the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

One Health is a growing initiative that focuses on the connection among the health of humans, animals, and the environment. Almost three quarters of all new infectious diseases originate in animals; therefore, factors contributing to the emergence of zoonotic diseases such as urbanization, international trade, biodiversity loss, and climate change will be examined by the panel.

Dr. Khaitisa said she feels honored and privileged to serve on the OHHLEP. “The chance to serve with this distinguished group committed to improving global health is a humbling opportunity,” she said. “Our efforts will hopefully further expand the understanding and acceptance of One Health concepts, which will improve the lives of animals and people throughout the world.”

A native of Uganda, Dr. Khaitisa is a graduate of Makerere University in Uganda and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. She earned her doctorate in veterinary preventive medicine and epidemiology from The Ohio State University in 1999 and joined the MSU CVM pathobiology and population medicine faculty in 2013. Board certified by the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, her research interests include epidemiology of zoonoses, food safety, transboundary animal diseases, food security, and empowerment of women.

Dr. Khaitisa has been actively involved with a number of international veterinary medicine programs and One Health

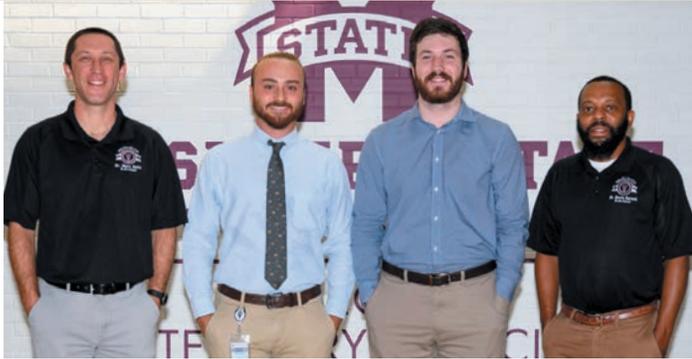


initiatives during her career, with research funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. She has mentored numerous junior faculty/students and continues to train the next-generation global workforce through One Health in the Global Environment and a study abroad in Tropical Veterinary Medicine and One Health courses.

A 2020-2021 Fulbright US Scholar, Dr. Khaitisa has served on the MSU President's Commission on the Status of Women and received the university's Outstanding Faculty Woman Award as well as two Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowships. Dr. Khaitisa is currently leading a \$974K USDA-FAS grant to help implement new requirements for secure agricultural commerce throughout the African Union.

“Dr. Khaitisa's selection to the One Health High-Level Expert Panel is a testament to her globally relevant expertise in the ways human, animal, and plant health interact,” MSU Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine Keith Coble said in a university *Newsroom* article announcing Khaitisa's selection. “She has also demonstrated outstanding leadership capabilities in her work with several national and international organizations. As Dr. Khaitisa's appointment shows, our faculty at MSU are at the forefront of tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges. I know this panel will greatly benefit from her contributions.”

MSU CVM PRE-VETERINARY CLUB HONORED AT NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



In April, the MSU Pre-Veterinary Club participated in the American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA) Symposium, where they were recognized as an APVMA Outstanding Club. As one of only three recipients out of the 70 pre-vet clubs in attendance, the club was selected based on success in membership, their outreach efforts on a local and national scale, and preparation and education of its members through bi-weekly meetings.

Current first-year DVM student Nicholas Mosby served as the Pre-Veterinary Club president for the 2020-2021 academic year alongside Jalissa Young, Jeremy Woolard, Dawson Dew,

Peyton Wright, Arian Ross, and Emma Reynolds who also served as chapter officers.

“Through nationwide speakers, impactful service opportunities, veterinary experience, and social events, we strive to equip our students with the tools they need to have a rewarding and enjoyable experience during the rigorous curriculum,” Mosby said. “Our club has worked endlessly, and this national recognition is a testament to the dedication of our members, faculty advisors, and university in the goal of strengthening the future of the veterinary profession.”

According to MSU Pre-Veterinary Club Advisor Dr. Marc Seitz, the club transitioned to COVID protocols seamlessly and found creative solutions to maintain a successful year for its members.

“Winning this award was such an honor because the club has worked really hard the past five years to expand its membership and expand its impact on the local community,” Dr. Seitz said. “The club is supportive of the Oktibbeha County Animal Shelter, the Horse Rescue Park, and other local animal organizations. The club also promotes animal health and veterinary medicine among elementary-aged children in the community via the VetCo program.”

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 2025.

Receiving Bardsley Scholarships are Sarah-Ashlyn Barber, Kayla Mercer, Anna Katherine Mitchell, Nicholas Mosby and Sabrina Swistek of Mississippi, Caitlyn Burke of Arkansas, Jeanette Searles and Rebecca Younts of Maryland, Reid Alley of North Carolina, Ashlyn Brown and Mika McAnally of South Carolina, and Julia Johnson 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 their 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 Partners with IMMS & MS Coastal Cleanup Program to BEAUTIFY BEACHES & PROTECT WILDLIFE

A recent collaboration among MSU CVM, the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, and the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup program has been deemed a huge success and is being developed into an ongoing service effort. MSU CVM fourth-year DVM student Jill Western worked closely with leaders at all three of the involved entities to organize and make the project a reality.

According to Western, the new beach cleanup effort kicked off in April, when more than 50 volunteers from the CVM, IMMS, MCCP, and local community members came together to clean several miles of beach in Harrison County.

“Our very first cleanup was held in conjunction with Earth Day—April 24 and 25—which was obviously very fitting. It was really successful and, I feel like, a good experience for everyone involved,” Western said. “MCCP provided all the required supplies, and IMMS staffed the event.”

MSU CVM Assistant Dean for Clinical Services Dr. Joey Burt participated in the event and shared Western’s assessment. “This was a well-organized event that included people of all

ages and backgrounds,” he said. “We enjoyed visiting with each other as we completed this worthwhile endeavor.”

According to Western, trash left behind on beaches and other natural environments poses a threat to the wildlife that inhabits those areas through consumption or entanglement. “It’s so important that we do our part to help protect these beautiful animals that are such an important part of our ecosystem,” she said.

Since April, an additional four cleanup efforts have been conducted across the Mississippi Coastline, from Biloxi on May 29, Pass Christian on June 26, Bay St. Louis on July 31, to Ocean Springs on August 21. Dr. Burt and his wife, Julie, who hosted a gathering at their beachside home following one of these cleanup efforts, said sharing the Mississippi beaches with others is one of their favorite pastimes. “The Mississippi Gulf is a secret slice of heaven; we should all help keep our beaches beautiful,” Julie Burt said.

All has gone so well that Western says an expansion of the cleanup effort is already taking place. “We are excited that



this effort has actually led to us to try and expand our work to include areas beyond the coastline, including in and around Starkville,” Western said. “We are now teaming up an inland division of the MCCP with the MSU CVM student chapter of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association for an initial cleanup event. Details are coming soon!”

Eric Sparks, who serves as program leader for the MCCP, director of the MSU Coastal and Marine Extension Program, and an associate Extension professor stationed in Biloxi, has been actively involved with the evolution of this cleanup effort.

“We often don’t stop to think about it, but litter is an issue that affects all of us,” Sparks said. “Cleanups not only remove the trash, but they also help educate those in the community about the importance of protecting the environment. Partnering with MSU CVM and IMMS to expand these types of efforts is a win-win that will hopefully help spread litter awareness throughout the state.”

IMMS Stranding Coordinator Theresa Madrigal oversaw IMMS’s involvement in the cleanup efforts and added, “It is our moral obligation to ‘leave no trace’ to ensure these species do not become injured or die due to our negligence. And when others fail to do so, it’s up to those of us who feel passionately about the cause to help with cleanup and sharing the message of protecting the environment and these animals.”

“This collaboration between MSU CVM, IMMS, and the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup program is another extraordinary way for us to positively impact the coastal environment,” said Dr. Stephen Reichley, CVM assistant clinical professor and associate director of the Global Center for Aquatic Food Security. “I thank our partners at IMMS and MCCP and commend Jill for all her efforts in initiating and expanding these efforts. It is wonderful to see the passion and dedication of CVM faculty, staff, and students.”

“We often don’t stop to think about it, but litter is an issue that affects all of us. Cleanups not only remove the trash, but they also help educate those in the community about the importance of protecting the environment.”

– ERIC SPARKS

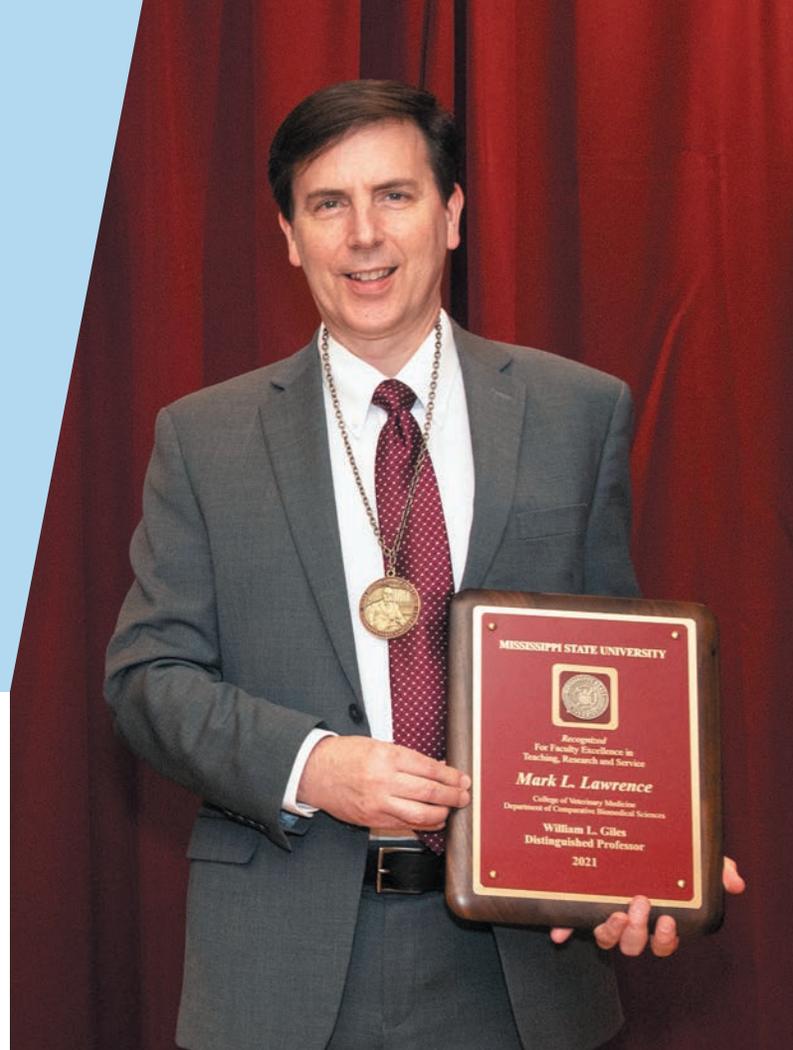
CVM'S LAWRENCE HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS WILLIAM T. GILES DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP

Those who know Mark Lawrence know he's not one to boast about his accomplishments. In fact, one would be hard pressed to find anyone more humble. However, this man of science certainly has the data to prove that he is most deserving of recognition! This past spring, Dr. Lawrence, who serves as director of both the USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish and the MSU Global Center for Aquatic Food Security—in addition to teaching and mentoring students, conducting research, working in the CVM Fish Diagnostic Laboratory, and serving on many state, national, and international committees—was named an MSU William T. Giles Distinguished Professor.

University policy outlines the Giles Professorship in part as follows:

One of the highest honors the University can bestow upon a faculty member is that of Giles Distinguished Professor. It is not a faculty rank but an honorary distinction. This recognition is based on distinguished scholarship as evidenced by a record of outstanding research, teaching, and service and is conferred only on a faculty member who has attained national or international status. This distinction is designed to recognize a continuing commitment to establishing career recognition and faculty excellence at Mississippi State University... The criteria for selection include a distinguished record as a scholar, demonstrated research achievements, and national or international prominence as verified by external reviewers from the candidate's specific field. Outstanding performance in teaching and service and motivating colleagues and students toward their best professional career goals and objectives are also to be considered.

Dr. Lawrence meets all these requirements—and exceeds many of them. He has been recognized time and again in his somewhat young career. He joined MSU CVM as an assistant professor in June 1998, and, according to MSU CVM Dean



Dr. Kent Hoblet, during his tenure has grown from a bright, young, ambitious veterinary scientist to an accomplished and well-respected leader in aquatic animal health throughout the US and world.

“Dr. Lawrence has received many honors and much recognition at our university and within the College. He is also involved with a number of professional organizations and serves on several state, national, and international committees,” Dr. Hoblet said. “Mark has a strategic vision, and he is almost always successful in reaching his goals. He is also a great mentor for graduate students and young researchers, maintaining a humble disposition and remaining approachable after having grown to be considered an expert in his field. He’s a man of good character, who leads by example.”

Without a doubt, Dr. Lawrence’s guidance and leadership have resulted in the growth and prosperity of many researchers and veterinarians from all over the world. The MSU CVM family is pleased he has been recognized for his outstanding contributions, achievements, and dedicated service to the University, College, veterinary profession, and to improving aquatic animal health and food safety all over the world. Congratulations, Dr. Lawrence! We are so proud of you!

COLLEGE SENDS TEAM TO UGANDA



Over the summer, MSU undergraduate and veterinary students and faculty worked alongside veterinary students and faculty from Makerere University at Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda on a trip made possible through the College's Study Abroad program. The team participated in biodiversity monitoring by truck and boat observing numerous animals including elephants, leopards, hippopotamuses, forest cobras, ungulates, and many bird species. They interacted with Uganda Wildlife Authority veterinarians and officials to discuss wildlife management and conservation efforts practiced in

Ugandan National Parks. Working alongside the veterinarian and rangers, the team performed chemical immobilization, physical exams, and sample collections on a water buffalo and a Ugandan kob. They also visited communities within the country to discuss local fishing practices and One Health issues at the interface of people, livestock, and wildlife. The MSU CVM Study Abroad program has recently expanded to offer a number of outstanding learning opportunities in a variety of different settings. Watch for details about the program in an upcoming issue of *Pegasus Press*!

CLASSES OF 2024 AND 2025 COATING CEREMONY



Members of the MSU CVM DVM classes of 2024 and 2025 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, at ceremonial coating ceremonies over the



summer. The class of 2024 was coated in a delayed ceremony on July 9, following completion of their first year, due to safety precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The class of 2025 was coated on June 18 at the conclusion of their first-year orientation.

WELLNESS PROGRAM GROWS, SEEKS SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED IMPACT



MSU CVM Clinical Psychologist Dr. Pauline Prince

Over the last few years, MSU CVM has worked to develop and implement a wellness plan with the intent of improving the lives of members of the CVM family. The College is now embracing a comprehensive service delivery model in which mental health and wellness services are fully embedded in every aspect of student education—from the classroom to the clinical rotations. This model is designed to meet the needs of students, house officers, faculty, and staff through counseling, consultation, professional development, and wellness activities.

My team members and I employ evidenced-based and data-driven interventions to support learning, memory, and emotional regulation for all who learn and work at our College.

A comprehensive mental health and wellness program must be multifaceted and extend beyond counseling services. Physical health and social connectedness are essential components to the emotional management of the stressors of everyday life. To help ensure that the MSU CVM community can lead long, successful careers with well-developed, emotional-regulation skills and proper work-life balance, we must view counseling services, physical health, and social connectedness as ESSENTIAL components—not luxuries. There are evidenced-based strategies, with proven effectiveness, for emotional well-being.

As we move forward with our wellness program, four areas that will play an important role in our success have been identified. They are on our “wish list,” and financial support is needed for them to be fully realized:

MINI GYM: Movement improves the functioning of the neurotransmitters necessary for learning, memory, attention, and the management of anxiety and depression. The College is in the process of creating a small gym in an existing space and would appreciate support to help equip the area and improve its aesthetics.

OUTDOOR SPACE: Vitamin D helps support learning, attention, and emotional regulation. The long hours and intensive curriculum minimize access to fresh air and sunlight as a source of vitamin D for all who are involved in veterinary medicine. There are two existing areas at the College that could be greatly improved and serve this purpose well. Our goal is for these spaces to include a variety of porch swings, gliders, and benches for outdoor seating, as well as a variety of plants, birdfeeders, etc. to invite butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. We also plan

to construct a disc golf course in an area across from the Wise Center front entrance.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACTIVITIES: MSU CVM is proud of its tradition of FAMILY. To that end, we have created a house system through which all students are assigned to one of four groups. The system is being used to support friendly competitions and activities such as scavenger hunts, field days, trivia nights, brain break activities, and others that promote team-building, encourage collaborative professional relationships, and support mental health by reducing stress, anxiety, and isolation. Various materials, supplies, and prizes are needed for these activities to take place.

MINDFULNESS AND BRAIN BREAK ROOMS: CVM students are actively engaged in cognitive tasks for 8 to 16 hours per day. Allowing opportunities for a “cognitive shift” gives them the opportunity to return to cognitively demanding tasks with improved mental clarity, thereby promoting more efficient and effective learning and memory, as well as improved mental health. Spaces are needed for these activities (puzzles, board games, etc.) to take place. These areas can also be used without activities as quiet rooms for de-stressing and restoring energy.

MSU CVM is very grateful to the many generous donors who have supported the College through the years and is hopeful that these individuals and others will see the potential for and value of these wellness-related needs. If you are interested in helping make these goals a reality, or if you would like more information, please contact me or Director of Development Jimmy Kight. Thank you!

Pauline Prince, Ph.D., ABN

Dr. Pauline Prince
MSU CVM CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

MSU CVM RESEARCHERS HONORED

Several MSU CVM research scientists were honored for their work by the MSU Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) and the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine (DAFVM) in April. The annual awards are presented each spring as part of a celebration to recognize faculty, staff, and students from each of MSU's academic colleges along with the University's research administration, centers, and institutes. This year's honorees at CVM include Dr. Todd Pharr, Michael Dewberry, Dr. Isaac Jumper, Claire E. Cross, and Anne-Marie Ross.



Faculty honoree **DR. TODD PHARR** is an associate professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences. The primary focus of his research is to understand B lymphocyte development in the bursa of Fabricius in chicken embryos. His research is also aimed at understanding the genetic diversity of *E. coli* strains causing disease in poultry. Dr. Pharr's work is funded by grants from the USDA NIFA and USDA ARS Cooperative Agreement.



MICHAEL DEWBERRY, this year's research support honoree, is a research program manager in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences. Dewberry assists with research proposal submissions, handles all post awards for external grants, and serves as the business manager for the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence, and the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. "MSU CVM's research initiatives would not be as successful without the skills and knowledge of Michael Dewberry," said MSU CVM Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Dr. David Smith.



DR. ISAAC JUMPER is this year's graduate student honoree. Dr. Jumper completed his DVM at MSU CVM in 2018, a residency in population medicine at MSU CVM in June of 2021, and is now a PhD student in veterinary medical science with a concentration in population medicine. His research focuses on the collection and use of data by cow-calf

producers to improve cattle health and production outcomes. Dr. Jumper hopes to improve the methods of collecting cattle health and production data available to cow-calf producers, create opportunities for veterinarians to assist their clients in managing their cattle health and production records, and educate producers on the value of evidence-based decision-making for improving the health, efficiency, and production of their herd. Dr. Jumper is a clinical instructor in the population medicine service, where he works with veterinarians and livestock producers across the state to investigate causes of disease and decreased production in livestock populations, while also serving in the large animal clinical emergency service.



Biochemistry major **ANNE-MARIE ROSS** and biomedical engineering major **CLAIRE E. CROSS**, who graduated in May, are this year's undergraduate student honorees. From Starkville and Pearl River, Louisiana, respectively, Ross and Cross are conducting research in the Varela-

Stokes lab on the development of the guinea pig as a biomedical model for the study of tick-borne rickettsial disease. Cross is currently a graduate student at Vanderbilt University. Ross is finishing her BS in biochemistry with a minor in microbiology and hopes to attend medical school.

MSU President Mark E. Keenum, along with Vice President for Research and Economic Development Julie Jordan and Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine Keith Coble, applauded the accomplishments of these CVM researchers and other researchers across the University, despite the challenges faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that their efforts helped place MSU as a top 100 research university nationally and the leading research university in Mississippi.

MSU CVM Dean Dr. Kent Hoblet added that the CVM's research portfolio has continued to increase despite the pandemic, with a total of \$18.6 million in research expenditures over the last year. "We are especially proud of the work these individuals have done during a time when so many obstacles threatened their success, and we commend them for a job well done," he said.

BRIGHT COMMISSIONED



MSU CVM now second-year student Megan Bright was selected as the 2021 first-year CVM student to be commissioned into the Army. Megan's official commissioning ceremony took place on Wednesday, February 3 and was attended by members of her family, friends, MSU CVM leaders, and representatives of the US Army.

As the recipient of the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship, she will receive three years of tuition paid by the US Army and a monthly stipend in exchange for her commitment to serve as an officer in the Army Veterinary Corps upon completion of her DVM degree.

Pictured at left, Megan is flanked by MSU CVM Dean Kent Hoblet and Captain Henry D. Biemann at her commissioning ceremony.

Since the College of Veterinary Medicine was established in 1974, we have made it our responsibility to provide a higher standard of living not just for animals and those involved in animal agriculture, but for all Mississippians. Our primary goal as being a part of Mississippi State University—a modern land-grant institution—is making advancements in teaching, research, globalization, and community service. This year, as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the College's first graduating class, we stand committed to providing quality education, advancing research, and serving the community through excellent diagnostics, clinical care, and shared learning.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE... *40 Years and Forward.*

The following are examples of points of pride the College is sharing via social media to acknowledge our accomplishments in teaching, serving, and discovering in recognition of this milestone:

TEACHING

- 1 MSU CVM is one of only several US colleges of veterinary medicine that requires two full years of mentored clinical education. Our students receive core instruction in all major domestic species and do not “track,” providing graduates with a strong, multi-species foundation and allowing opportunity to focus on species or discipline interests.
- 2 MSU CVM provides unparalleled surgery experience for our students. The typical MSU CVM student will have completed as primary surgeon approximately 55 surgeries at the time of graduation.
- 3 For the past five years, MSU CVM graduates have boasted a national board examination (NAVLE) passage rate of 98% compared to a 94% national average. In addition, our graduates have secured starting salaries averaging 9% above the national average for the past five years.

SERVING

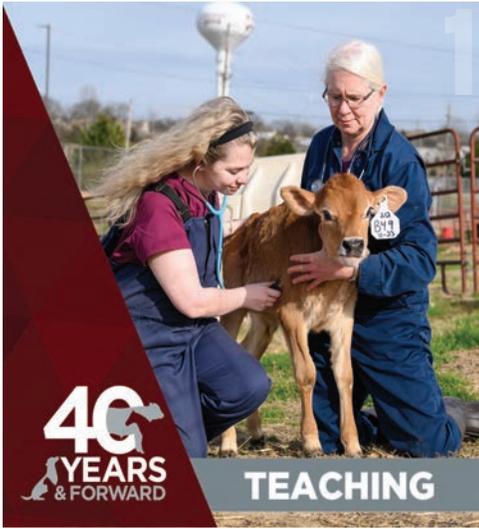
- 1 MSU CVM offers a series of fun, educational summer camps specifically for students age 10 to 17 with animal-focused career aspirations. Led by actual veterinary medicine professors with the assistance of current veterinary students, Vet Camp is a hands-on experience, allowing participants to explore animal anatomy, microbiology, radiology, and an array of other real-life aspects of a career caring for animals. Campers also learn about different avenues available in the field from small to large animal, public health, pathology, research, rehabilitation, and more!
- 2 The impact of the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program is significant for the animals, shelters, students, and, ultimately, communities across Mississippi and other states. The program equips students with practical, hands-on experience and helps move healthy dogs and cats from euthanasia lists to loving homes. Since the program's inception, under the guidance of faculty mentors, our students have performed more than 98,000 spay/neuter surgeries, greatly increasing the chance of adoptions at shelters, as well as preventing scores of additional litters of unwanted animals.
- 3 In the fall of 2020, MSU President Mark Keenum called on MSU CVM to work with the Longest Student Health Center to help ensure COVID-19 diagnostic tests were being processed effectively and efficiently. Samples from nasal swabs obtained from patients at LSHC began being—and continue to be—transported to CVM in sealed tubes where they are processed in a CVM biosafety level-2 laboratory. Teams of CVM staff are using polymerase chain reaction, or PCR tests, which are considered the gold standard and have processed 9,688 tests to date.

DISCOVERING

- 1 MSU CVM is currently the only college of veterinary medicine to lead a US Agency for International Development (USAID) innovation lab. Under the direction of CVM veterinary microbiologist Dr. Mark Lawrence, the Feed the Future Lab for Fish is working to improve food and nutrition security and alleviate poverty at a global level through sustainable aquaculture development efforts in developing countries.
- 2 MSU CVM offers one of only 16 National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded summer research experience programs. Known as the Summer Research Experience, this 12-week program provides students with training in biomedical research and teaches them skills that will help them develop into leaders in the veterinary profession.
- 3 Dr. Jan Chambers and the Center for Environmental Health Sciences (CEHS) at MSU CVM are currently leading a newly NIH-funded \$3.3 million project to identify better therapeutic medical countermeasures to protect the brain against chemical threats. Permanent brain damage from seizures is a major concern for chemical attack survivors. Dr. Chambers and her team hope to develop an antidote to help prevent such long-term effects.

40
YEARS
& FORWARD





40
YEARS
& FORWARD

TEACHING



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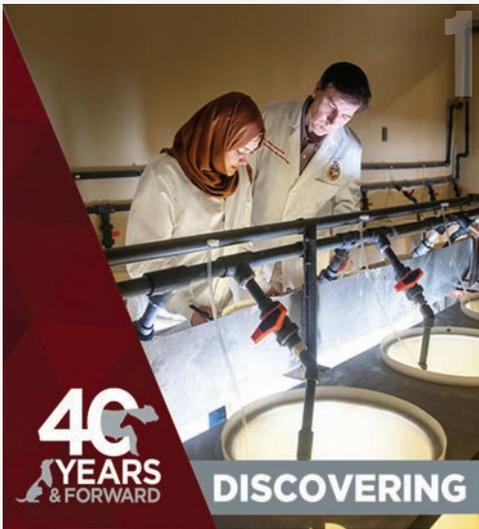
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DISCOVERING



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40
YEARS
& FORWARD

DISCOVERING

Details about each of these programs and accomplishments are available on the College's website, vetmed.msstate.edu.



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

COLLEGE'S FIRST GRAD STUDENT NAMED 2021 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

“When Dean Hoblet called me, I was beyond shocked,” Dr. Ruth Francis-Floyd said of being notified of her selection as the College’s 2021 Alumnus of the Year. “Later I learned I had been nominated by some of the faculty in the aquatics section, and I was so humbled. I appreciate the honor and recognition, but I mostly enjoyed the opportunity to come visit campus and connect with old and new colleagues.”

A California native who was raised in Florida, Dr. Francis-Floyd obtained a bachelor’s degree from St. Olaf College in 1979 and a DVM from the University of Florida in 1983. While studying at the University of Florida, she realized her interest in aquaculture when working as a vet tech at a large aquarium.

At that time, Mississippi State was among the few universities with aquaculture programming, and Francis-Floyd subsequently enrolled to pursue post-DVM studies and clinical experience in the newly emerging field. In 1985, she became the first student to earn a master’s degree from MSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

“The experience I got at MSU shaped everything about the way my early career evolved,” Dr. Francis-Floyd said. “I developed competence with the technical skills I needed for aquaculture practice, was given the opportunity to develop the knowledge base required to support the technical training, and then given a wonderful opportunity for professional development.”

Dr. Francis-Floyd then spent two years conducting research on catfish at MSU’s Delta Branch Experiment Station in Stoneville before joining the faculty at the University of Florida. Today, she is a professor and Extension specialist for aquatic medicine



within the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, where she previously held the position of director of the aquatic animal health program from 2004 to 2013.

Dr. Francis-Floyd holds a joint appointment in the UF program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and is an affiliate Extension specialist with Florida Sea Grant. Her area of expertise is production aquaculture and clinical fish medicine, but her Extension and outreach efforts also include marine mammal activities.

“While at MSU, I developed confidence and got enough experience to sell the aquaculture medicine idea to the University of Florida very early in the evolution of their fisheries and aquaculture program,” she said. “I was able to adapt what I had learned working with Mississippi’s aquaculture industry to the situation in Florida, and we have a very successful and effective program here. There is significant collaboration between MSU faculty and UF faculty on issues related to aquatic animal health, and Mississippi continues to be a leader in innovative production practices and fish health management.”

There is significant collaboration between MSU faculty and UF faculty on issues related to aquatic animal health, and Mississippi continues to be a leader in innovative production practices and fish health management.

– DR. RUTH FRANCIS-FLOYD

RECENT GRADUATE ESTABLISHES VETERINARY MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP



Alumni giving is an important tradition at MSU CVM and a way for alumni to pay it forward while bolstering the program and student experience. It is not unusual for recent graduates to have plans to support their alma mater, but it often takes several years before young graduates are able to make a transformational gift. Megan Fayard, a 2020 graduate of the College's Veterinary Medical Technology (VMT) program felt

strongly about supporting students, so she made establishing a scholarship the same year she graduated a priority. Thanks to her commitment and generosity, The M.K. Fayard Annual Vet Tech Scholarship will now assist a full-time, rising senior student enrolled in the MSU CVM VMT program.

"I was led to start the scholarship because I felt I could help students with the financial burden," Fayard said. "The program is amazing but costly, especially in the second year, with tuition and extra costs including state boards, the Veterinary Technician National Exam, externships, equipment, and scrubs. I hope my gift helps at least one person with their expenses."

A Houston, Texas, native, Fayard credits the MSU CVM VMT program with preparing her for future pursuits. "The veterinary

technology program gave me the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed at a small animal practice from the start. I knew so much more than I thought I did; the knowledge I gained in school was invaluable," she said. "Our professors are passionate about what they are teaching, and they go out of their way to make sure you understand the material and succeed at the skills. I feel that I learned so much that I would not have learned at another program."

The first recipient of The M.K. Fayard Annual Vet Tech Scholarship is Dixie Jackson from Philadelphia, Mississippi. With the establishment of the scholarship, Fayard illustrates the connection to MSU CVM does not end at graduation, and that a variety of activities and opportunities for giving are available, so new graduates can give back to the College at various levels in meaningful ways. Recent graduates have a unique perspective—and an important role to play in helping ensure the experiences they had as a student are available for current and future students, as well.

MSU CVM was the third college of veterinary medicine in the United States to offer a four-year bachelor's degree VMT program; nationwide, there are only 22. The final two years of the program is housed within the Wise Center, allowing students to train alongside DVM students in the same clinical settings, and VMT students enjoy the opportunity to participate in clinical experiences their entire senior year.

BULLY'S BOOKS: THE CVM COMMUNITY LIBRARY



MSU CVM students, faculty, and staff now have access to a leisure reading book exchange within the Wise Center.

Clinical professor Dr. Sharon Grace and associate professor and CVM library coordinator Derek Marshall collaborated over the past year to create "Bully's Books" for all members of the CVM family to enjoy.

"Derek and I were talking about a CVM book exchange just as COVID-19 hit in the spring of 2020," Dr. Grace said. "The 'little libraries' on the streets of Starkville played a role in developing this idea, but many other professional health schools have similar programs."

An article in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* overviews research that shows one major benefit to leisure reading is an increase in empathy and a decrease in stress.

Dr. Grace and Marshall collaborated with the College's clinical psychologist, Dr. Pauline Prince; CVM Associate Dean for Administration Dr. Ron McLaughlin; CVM Building Services Manager Kevin Moore; and the Mitchell Memorial Library to bring this project to fruition.

"Bully's Books" officially opened to the CVM community in July to encourage faculty, staff, and students alike to read for relaxation and no cost to themselves. Anyone may take or leave a book or video in the library as long as the material is not veterinary-school related.

"We know with certainty that the library is being used," Dr. Grace said. "Some of the first books placed in the library are gone, and many new ones have been added. We're happy to provide this free access to leisure reading material for the CVM family."





Student-Founded Transport Program BENEFITS HOMELESS PETS

In 2007, when three MSU CVM students from the Northeast noticed the imbalance between the large supply of adoptable dogs in the South and the high demand in the Northeast, they set out to create the first successful transport program developed, maintained and operated by students at a veterinary school—The Homeward Bound Project of Mississippi.

“Shortly after Megan, Amy, and I started veterinary school, we noticed the amount of stray animals and also the amount of animals in local shelters,” Dr. Krista Gazzola said. “I had recently adopted a puppy in New Hampshire before coming to MSU, and it was difficult to find one in the shelter to adopt. Knowing that there was a ‘shortage’ of adoptable puppies in the areas that we came from, we decided to try to create a program that could relocate these puppies and find them adoptable homes.”

Amy White, Krista Gazzola, and Megan Caulfield (pictured above left to right) have all graduated MSU CVM since then and now live in North Carolina, Michigan, and New York, respectively, but their life-saving program and hard work live on. Their mission was to take adoptable puppies and young adult dogs from overcrowded shelters in the South and transport them to adoption guaranteed shelters in the Northeast.

The program’s initial transports were managed by the three students along with volunteers. The very first was as they

traveled home to New England; they loaded 22 puppies into two SUVs— along with their own dogs and luggage.

“All of the puppies and dogs were adopted in a few days. This was the point when we felt like we could actually do this, and that puppies and dogs could be adopted readily; all they needed was a ride!”

As things evolved, the students had to adapt and determine a way to ensure all the canines had foster care before being transported. On top of that, they needed to organize vaccines, spays and neuters, testing for infectious diseases and the transportation itself.

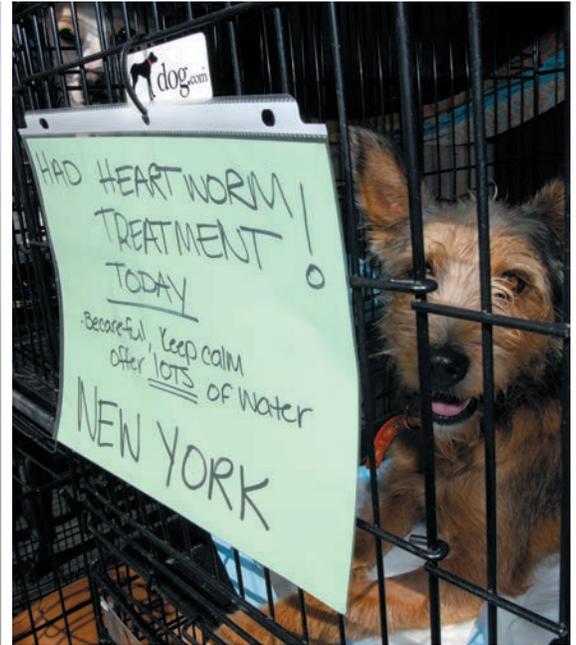
As the program grew, the students were asking for faculty, staff, and students within MSU CVM to foster puppies and dogs awaiting transport. That’s when Terri Snead, a certified veterinary technician with the College’s large animal ambulatory service team got involved. Today, Terri serves as the director of operations for Homeward Bound.

“I couldn’t help but notice that the program needed a bit of structure,” Snead said. “I thought to myself, ‘Instead of just fostering, why don’t I help with that?’”

Now, Snead is the backbone of the program, handling organization and logistics and overseeing the students and



After a long drive, the maiden voyage of Homeward Bound—made by Megan Caulfield (left), Krista Gazzola, two SUVs, and 26 dogs including their own pets—comes to an end in New York.



volunteers who donate their nights and weekends to the program's success.

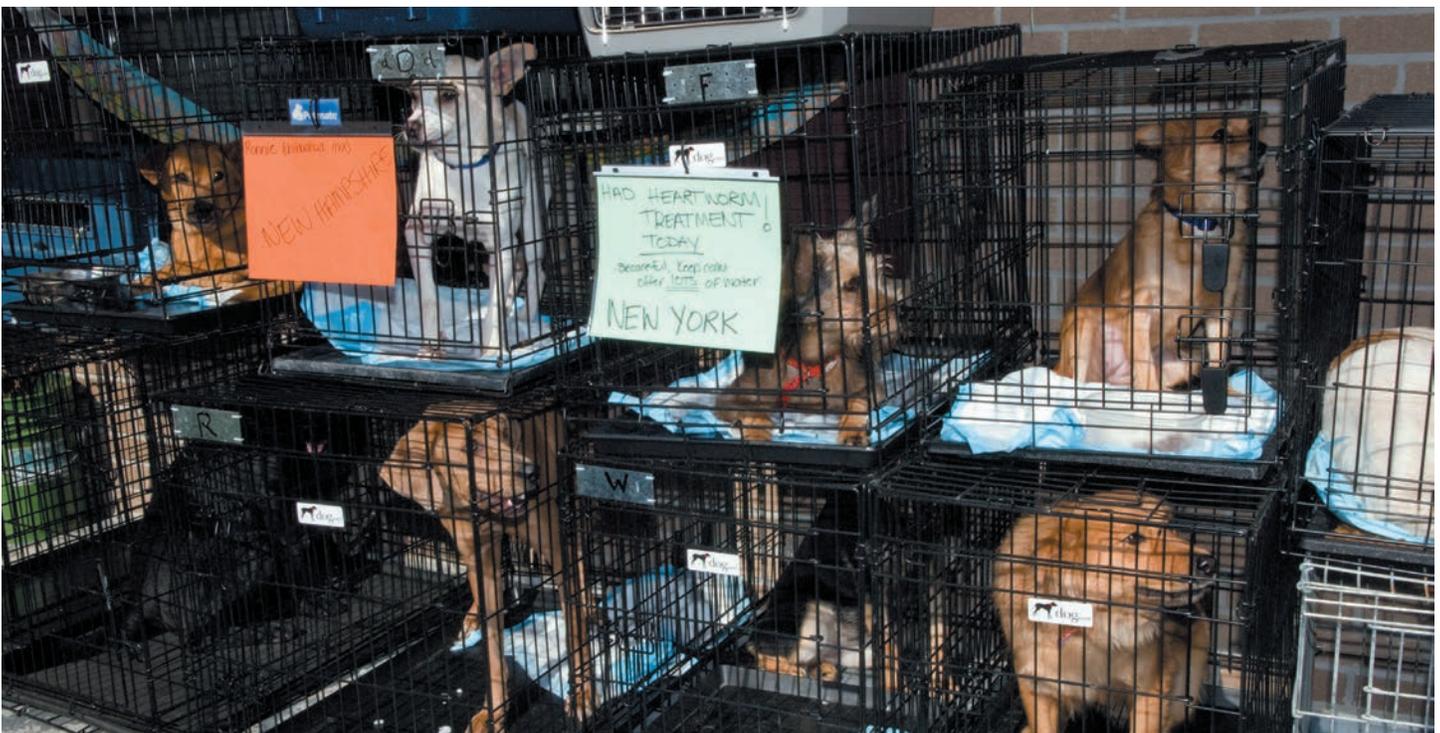
Although many of the animals Homeward Bound takes in come from shelters within a three-hour radius of MSU, some animals become part of the program through Homeward Bound's affiliation with the College while they are patients in the Animal Health Center. Once in the care of Homeward Bound, the animals receive age-appropriate vaccinations and are spayed or neutered and screened for diseases.

Before their journey home begins, all of the dogs (and any cats) spend a week or more in foster care with volunteers. Every six weeks, the dogs are loaded up to head to Virginia, where they'll be transferred to the hands of representatives from partner shelters in New York and New Hampshire. Homeward

Bound's feline friends are generally matched with families and adopted locally. To date, Homeward Bound has placed more than 6,000 animals.

"When we enter into veterinary medicine, we take an oath that says, 'being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health and welfare...,'" Dr. Gazzola said. "Through Homeward Bound, we have been able to provide veterinary students with the opportunity to participate in a program that embraces those values and truly gives personal meaning to this oath."

"And, it goes without saying that the lives of 6,000-plus animals have been changed for the better," Snead added.



A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN AND DELIVERED THROUGH HOMEWARD BOUND

It's been said there is no greater treasure in this world than somebody who loves you just as you are. It's also been said that not all angels have wings; some have whiskers. And, Charles Dickens said, "What greater gift than the love of a cat."

These three things all hold true for a child in Connecticut with special needs and a runt of the litter kitten from MSU CVM's Homeward Bound Program. Maybe it was destiny. Maybe it was divine intervention. Whatever the case, it's obvious that four-year-old Eliza Goldberg and this "Kitty Baby" were meant to be together.

Last spring when the COVID pandemic arrived and changed our lives, life as Eliza knew it came to an abrupt halt. Change is hard on all of us, but for an autistic child, saying this change was hard is a gross understatement.

"Eliza had started preschool in the district special education program just weeks before schools closed in March and had only just started adapting to it and enjoying it. We had begun going to story times and seeing her grandparents regularly; we had a routine. And then, it stopped," Estelle Goldberg said, explaining that autism exists on a spectrum, but not the way people think. The spectrum is not "mild to severe" but one of asynchronous development.

"Eliza's speech is phenomenal, but her ability to hold a conversation is stunted. She can process information quickly and far 'above her age' but can't process sensory stimuli," Estelle continued. "She is extremely rigid, agoraphobic, and very limited in foods she will eat. She doesn't sleep much. She can follow a recipe and make a batch of cookies with nearly no assistance, but she doesn't feed herself."

Needless to say, life with Eliza is anything but "normal"—whatever normal is. She lives in a busy household with her two moms and two teenage brothers. One brother is in the school band, and the other plays sports. There's also Hattie, their Homeward Bound dog, and two adopted cats. Things are busy and can get chaotic.

"We exist in a very rigid, ordered household and deal with a lot of meltdowns. Imagine a full-blown mega tantrum in a toddler, but in Eliza's case, she isn't in control of the outburst, it's in control of her," Estelle explained. "It's hard for us, but it's so much harder for her. We use weighted blankets,



compression clothing, music, meditation, and specific scents to try and ground her and bring her back to herself."

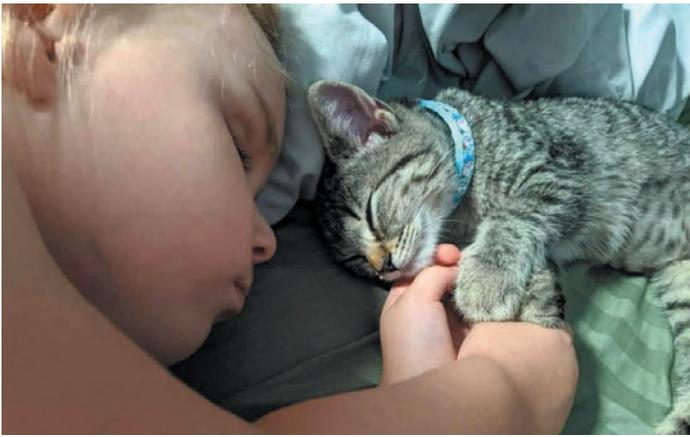
But then there was Kitty Baby...

"A few years ago, a Connecticut family adopted one of our Homeward Bound dogs, and afterwards, they emailed me with an update," MSU CVM Homeward Bound Program Coordinator Terri Snead said, noting that she and Estelle quickly became friends and have since stayed in touch through social media. "Last year, Estelle contacted me about a kitten, and the program just happened to be doing a transport."

"When it was clear we likely had another year of restrictions ahead of us due to the pandemic, we decided Eliza needed a pet of her own. Hattie loves her and is endlessly patient with her, but Eliza adores our cats; unfortunately, they are not lap cats, and we wanted a lap cat for her," Estelle said. "I contacted Terri and told her what we were looking for. We had been so very happy with Hattie, it seemed only logical to try again!"

Snead could have easily directed Estelle to any of the cats in the Homeward Bound program. Instead, she listened to what the family needed and worked closely with cat program coordinator Emily Childers and then second-year student Keegan Jones, who served as cat foster coordinator at the time.

"Terri and her team narrowed the choices down for us. They sent us so many pictures, answered loads of questions, made sure we were getting the right cat for our household," Estelle said. "And, boy did we!"



“We had gotten this kitten from the Oktibbeha County Humane Society because she was the only one in her litter that wasn’t growing. After some tests and TLC, we decided she was just going to be a small cat,” Snead said. “We hoped she’d be a good match, but we truly didn’t know she was destined to be this child’s emotional support cat.”



Knowing Eliza’s challenges, one might assume a dog would be a better choice. Goodness knows, cats generally do have a mind of their own; however, Estelle and her family had high hopes.

“Cats being what they are, we had hopes but certainly no expectations! We wanted a cat that would be attached to Eliza and want to be with her. So, we decided only Eliza would feed her and, at least in the beginning, only Eliza would play with her,” Estelle said. “And honestly, that cat slotted herself in like she had just been waiting for us from day one.”

Eliza was a bit opposed to the idea that kittens aren’t “on demand snuggle bots,” Estelle said, so at first, there were a lot of tears with “we have to let Kitty Baby come to you” discussions.

But now, Kitty Baby is always there. According to Estelle, the two play together all day. “I cannot believe the cat lottery we hit. She is everything we needed,” Estelle said. “She sleeps in our daughter’s arms. She sits on her lap to watch TV. She rests beside her as she eats. If she cannot find her ‘mama,’ she cries for her. Liza feeds her ‘baby’ and brushes her.”



“When Eliza cries and rages, Kitty Baby shows up. She crawls into her lap and calms her,” Estelle continued.

Many autistic kids use weighted blankets and vests for calming and centering. Now, Eliza has a weighted lap pad that’s never far from her side. “She’s calmer; she sleeps better; she eats better,” Estelle said. “Our beloved Kitty Baby has been the most effective therapy she’s had.”

The therapy Kitty Baby provides has also benefitted Estelle by providing a window into her daughter’s thoughts and dreams. Kitty Bay sleeps with Eliza and is there when she awakens each morning, a time when the two seem to share their secrets. “This child that cannot communicate with her peers has no shortage of things to tell this kitten; through Kitty Baby, I hear my daughter,” Estelle said. “I hear what she’s thinking, what she’s scared of, what she dreamed about. It’s like having a diary into the mind of a sometimes-unreachable child.”

Through this kitten, Estelle says Eliza has learned to provide care for another being, and she has a friend.

“Kitty Baby is a grounding presence in Eliza’s overwhelmed mind and heart. She accepts that she exists for this child and this child for her,” Estelle concluded. “In Judaism, the word beshert is used to mean something inevitable, something preordained by a higher power. Kitty Baby is truly Eliza’s beshert.”

“She’s calmer; she sleeps better; she eats better. Our beloved Kitty Baby has been the most effective therapy she’s had.”

– ESTELLE GOLDBERG

HOMeward BOUND TEAM KEEPS PROJECT MOVING FORWARD



Emily Childers, cat team coordinator; Allison Brunner, cat foster coordinator; Ian Evans, volunteer coordinator; Mary Katherine Beard, dog adoption coordinator; Lea Cornelius, dog medical records coordinator; Cassidy Harrison, cat medical records coordinator; Anna Loyd, social media director; Courtney Leblanc, cat medical coordinator; Wesley Richards, cat adoption coordinator; Terri Snead, dog team coordinator and director of operations
Not pictured: Morgan Tarnalicki, dog adoption coordinator

According to Homeward Bound Project Director Terri Snead, whose “real job” is working as a veterinary technician with the College’s large animal ambulatory team, the program wouldn’t function without the many volunteers who are committed to improving the lives of these animals.

Snead explained that she oversees the dog team, and Emily Childers, who works as a veterinary technician with the College’s shelter medicine program, oversees the cat team; however, the real wheels of the program are the CVM students who serve as program officers during their second year of studies and the many families and individuals in the local area who serve as fosters for the animals until the time of transport.

“There’s no way the Homeward Bound Project would exist without the many hours of selfless service from our volunteers,” Snead said. “With the help of the Shelter Medicine faculty veterinarians, the animals are assessed and treated prior to their placement with loving foster families. Folks in

the community open their hearts and homes to these animals while they’re waiting for their forever homes. The time and effort these volunteers so readily share literally saves lives.”

According to Snead, there are a total of eight official roles handled by DVM and/or VMT students. These include foster, adoption, and medical records coordinators for both the dog and cat programs, as well as a dog volunteer coordinator and an overall program social media coordinator. Each year, a new set of second-year students steps into these roles. In addition, they review applications of, conduct interviews for, and help train the first-year students who will fill their roles the following year.

“Accomplishing our mission is definitely a team effort,” Snead said. “We all love these animals and want what’s best for them.”



The new Homeward Bound transport van, graciously given to the program by an anonymous donor, can accommodate up to 40 dogs for transport to homes in the Northeast. The new van not only provides more room to transport more animals but ensures a smoother and safer ride for all parties on the journey.

Of special note is the adorable pup, Drake, featured in the Homeward Bound logo on the van, who himself was a Homeward Bound Project transport in June 2019. He now resides in Mineola, New York, with his “forever” family, the Galeas, which includes a Siberian husky rescue brother, three feline sisters, and two human siblings. Drake enjoys wrestling with his husky brother as well as escorting his human siblings to the school bus every morning.

DUNCANS ESTABLISH FIRST PATHOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS



Veterinarians keep animals healthy and their patients' owners happy while remaining engaged in advancing veterinary medicine. Many are also passionate about investing in students. One such alumni couple, Drs. Joe Duncan and Beth Duncan of Eupora, Mississippi, recently established an endowed and an annual scholarship in pathology at MSU CVM. These scholarships

are the first scholarships to support students specifically interested in pathology.

Dr. Beth Duncan earned a bachelor's degree in apparel, textiles, & design from the University of Texas, a master's from the University of Tennessee in textile science, and a PhD from Mississippi State University in agricultural & extension education. She was a faculty member in the MSU Extension Service and School of Human Sciences for 33 years. Dr. Joe Duncan earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from MSU in 1975, and in September 1976, while MSU's veterinary college was being built, Dr. Duncan, who grew up in Memphis, began his veterinary studies at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in Knoxville.

Dr. Duncan was a member of the UT's first Doctor of Veterinary Medicine class which consisted of only 40 members who were all Tennessee residents. In 1979, following the completion of a three-year, year-round veterinary curriculum, Dr. Duncan received his DVM. He returned to Mississippi where he opened Duncan Veterinary Clinic in Eupora. The practice today is geared to mostly small animals, a big change from the 4 a.m. trips to the dairies, beef cattle work, and equine services from early on. The Duncans are especially fond of bull terriers and even showed their own "Miss High Cotton" at Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

As a veterinary student, Dr. Duncan understood the importance of working hard and gaining hands-on experience. Between

quarters at UT, he worked several different jobs to help pay his tuition and living expenses. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and visiting Cade's Cove while living near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee.

"My surgery suite at my clinic might be UT orange and white, but I still love maroon in loyalty to Mississippi State University," Dr. Duncan said. "The clinical pathology service at MSU CVM has significantly helped my practice over the years. The faculty and staff have played an important role in my practice and help me better evaluate and treat my clients through their findings." Dr. Duncan is especially grateful to Dr. Roger Easley, who was one of his professors at UT and later became head of the Clinical Pathology Department at MSU CVM.

"I would like for these scholarships to enable students to gain a greater understanding of the needed relationship between the practitioner and the pathologist. The many benefits of this discipline to the practitioner may range from closure for the grieving pet owner to a solution for the agricultural producer that may save his livelihood when faced with a disease process affecting his bottom line," he said.

"We have seen new animal diseases spreading across our country yearly that concern the safety of our pets, livestock, and even ourselves. The threat of a pandemic became a reality this last year, making the pathologist a first line of defense," Dr. Duncan continued. "The importance of the many roles of the pathologist is something that I hope is deeply ingrained in students being trained today."

Candidates for the Drs. Joe and Beth Duncan Endowed and Annual Scholarships must be full-time students enrolled in the DVM program at MSU CVM and maintain a minimum of 2.5 GPA. Selection preference is given to students interested in pathology.

For more information on MSU CVM or how to support scholarships, contact Jimmy Kight, director of development, at 662-325-5893 or jkight@foundation.msstate.edu.

CARTER RETIRES



Ruby Lynn Carter, animal health technician, has retired after 18 years of service to the College. Carter came to MSU CVM in 2003 after almost ten years at a private clinic in Madison, Mississippi. A certified canine rehabilitation practitioner, she was instrumental in the development of the College's now thriving small animal rehabilitation unit.

During her tenure, Carter spent time with nearly every DVM and VMT student as they rotated through the rehabilitation service in the Animal Health Center, and she impacted the

lives of countless patients and clients. The care she provided and the positive impact she had on the family of patient Jack Moore led to the establishment of the Jack Moore and Ruby Lynn Fund, which greatly benefits the rehabilitation unit through the purchase of vital equipment and supplies, including an endless pool with a hoist, a clinic quad cart, and an adjustable therapy stand.

MSU CVM greatly appreciates Carter's years of service and wishes her the very best in the years to come!



COLLEGE LAUNCHES MARINE MONDAY! SEMINAR SERIES

It's no secret that MSU CVM has greatly expanded its presence and gained notoriety in the field of aquatic animal health in recent years. The College is one of only two colleges of veterinary medicine in the country that provides all students with training in marine animal medicine. MSU CVM leads the only United States Agency for International Development Innovation Lab housed by a college of veterinary medicine; the lab is dedicated to alleviating poverty and improving nutrition in vulnerable populations throughout the world through the provision of fish, a nutrient-rich animal source food. In addition, the College boasts the largest team of aquatic animal health specialists among US colleges of veterinary medicine. These 13 faculty members specialize in virology, bacteriology, parasitology, toxicology, pathology and immunology and have become recognized as experts in their fields nationally and internationally. MSU CVM's interest in and impact on aquatic animal health is definitely growing!

A recent addition to this program is the Marine Monday! seminar series now available to all CVM faculty, staff, house officers, and students interested in marine animal health. It is one component of the Marine Animal Health course on

Canvas, MSU's learning management system. The 100% online, external, free, non-graded course is increasing in popularity, according to course leader Dr. Stephen Reichley, who is an assistant clinical professor in the College's Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine and the associate director of the MSU Global Center for Aquatic Food Security.

"Marine Monday! has been embraced by the CVM family. The seminar series began in March, and we now have more than 400 people enrolled in the course," Dr. Reichley said. "Our DVM and VMT students are becoming increasingly interested in marine medicine. This course is a convenient resource for them, providing the opportunity to learn more about these amazing animals, advancing research in the field, research opportunities, conservation and more."

The seminar meets the second Monday of every month at 4 p.m., providing participants with a dose of information related to the marine environment presented by MSU CVM faculty and other experts from throughout the country. Guest speakers have included a staff veterinarian at the St. Louis Zoo, a sea star researcher, and several MSU CVM faculty, and topics

...expanding our faculty and curriculum to include as many areas of training and interest as possible allows students...to pursue those interests and prepare for further study and careers in them.

– DR. JACK SMITH

have focused on everything from marine mammal and turtle conservation to population health and restoration activities.

In addition to Marine Monday!, the Marine Animal Health Canvas course also houses aquatic animal health resources, recordings of cold-stunned sea turtle rounds, and recordings by students participating in the MSU CVM Marine Animal Veterinary Externship Program. A module of videos of common procedures performed on marine animals is also being developed.

“This course is an excellent resource for DVM and VMT students to learn more about marine animal medicine and prepare them for advanced clinical rotations and externships,” Dr. Reichley said, explaining the College has two faculty members stationed at IMMS who provide all DVM students hands-on experience working with marine mammals such as common bottlenose dolphins, Kemp’s ridley sea turtles, California sea lions and other animals. In addition, the College offers the MSU CVM Marine Animal Veterinary Externship Program to veterinary and veterinary technician students from around the world.

According to Dr. Reichley, the Marine Monday! seminar evolved from efforts to share the clinical rounds conducted on a group of cold-stunned turtles from the Northeast undergoing treatment and being rehabilitated at IMMS since last winter. MSU CVM veterinarians directed the medical care for these turtles during their rehabilitation, and many CVM specialists continue to be involved in ensuring the turtles are healthy for release.

“Everyone was so interested in how these young turtles faired and to see them successfully get released back into the Gulf,” he said. “And, the more they watched and asked questions, the more Dr. Lawrence and I realized there was a definite interest in and need for more information and instruction in this area of our expanding aquatic animal health program.”

“In fact, the Marine Monday! course has been so well received that, we began offering a new elective marine life course for fourth-year DVM students this fall,” Dr. Reichley continued. “That two-week course is led by Drs. Tim Morgan and Debra Moore with involvement by many CVM faculty and residents, the managing veterinarian of the US Navy Marine Mammal Program, and veterinarians at the Mississippi Aquarium. Aquatic medicine is a growing field, and it’s exciting to be a part of helping expand MSU CVM’s already outstanding offerings in this area of veterinary medicine.”

MSU CVM Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Jack Smith said expanding the College’s offerings in aquatic medicine has enhanced student experiences and educational opportunities. “We pride ourselves in graduating well-rounded general practitioners, who are practice-ready day one,” he said. “However, expanding our faculty and curriculum to include as many areas of training and interest as possible allows students who feel called to certain specialty areas to pursue those interests and prepare for further study and careers in them.”



MSU Vet Camp Returns

MSU Vet Camp was back full force this summer with more than 180 campers attending, representing 17 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 to microbiology, radiology, and an array of other real-life aspects of a career caring for animals.



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY HELD FOR AERC EXPANSION PROJECT

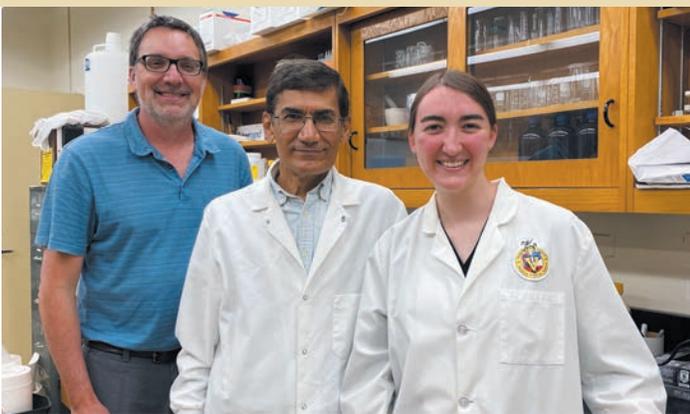
A \$5.6M expansion to the Animal Emergency & Referral Center (AERC), a Flowood satellite clinic of the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, officially began with a groundbreaking ceremony May 19. The 14,000-square-foot addition will include a much-needed increase in clinical space for staff and students to render emergency and referral services, as well as shell space for a future residential area for students. A conference room for teaching and outreach programs for the local veterinary community is also part of the plan. The AERC's animal rehabilitation center, currently located in leased space a few blocks away, will move onsite through the project as well.

The AERC will remain fully functional throughout the construction process, with no anticipated interruption of service to referring veterinarians or their clients or to the training of CVM students. The project is scheduled for completion in spring 2023.



Those participating in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Animal Emergency & Referral Center expansion project included (from left to right) Bradford Jones with Machado Patano Design Group in Biloxi; Mississippi House of Representatives District 59 Rep. Brent Powell; MSU President Mark E. Keenum; Flowood Mayor Gary Rhoads; MSU College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Kent Hoblet; Vice President for MSU's Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine Keith Coble; Mississippi Senate District 20 Sen. Josh Harkins; and Justin Word with Madison-based ARCON Group.

SCHEAFFER RECOGNIZED AT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



MSU graduate Hannah Scheaffer, who recently earned her Bachelor of Science in bio-chemistry, has once again been recognized for her work in the lab of MSU CVM Professor Dr. Matthew Ross. Scheaffer worked in Dr. Ross's laboratory in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences for three years as an undergraduate researcher.

During her time at MSU and in Dr. Ross's lab, Scheaffer, who was both a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship recipient and MSU Provost Scholar, earned much recognition, including last year as the MSU Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) Undergraduate Student of the Year, two awards from the American Society of Toxicology, and, most recently, for her work presented at the MSU Undergraduate Research Symposium, where she garnered a second-place finish for "The Interference of PGD2 in the IL4 Anti-inflammatory Pathway in THP1 Macrophages."

According to Dr. Ross, Scheaffer's work in cancer research involved studying how immune cells called macrophages respond to molecular signals in their microenvironment. "There are certain extracellular signals that tell macrophages to begin producing anti-inflammatory molecules that help disable inflammation," Dr. Ross explained. "Hannah showed that a lipid mediator called prostaglandin D2 (PGD2)—a signaling molecule in the body derived from polyunsaturated fatty acids—could strongly reduce macrophage activation by the cytokine protein interleukin-4, which normally awakens anti-inflammatory activities in these cells. This result adds to a growing list of biological activities that PGD2 participates in during immunity and suggests that by selectively decreasing PGD2 levels during chronic inflammatory disease, the extent of inflammation-resolving activity exhibited by the macrophages might be augmented."

Scheaffer considers Dr. Ross and research scientist Dr. Abdolsamad "Sam" Borazjani, who also works in the CVM's DCBS Department, her mentors and said they have taught her a great deal about hands-on work in the lab as well as writing for the scientific audience. She recently enrolled in the molecular cancer biology PhD graduate program at Duke University. Her plans are to become a research professor at an academic institution, where she can share her passion for research and discovery through teaching and mentorship.

"Cancer is an unsolved puzzle and is so prevalent in society today. It would be such a huge blessing to take (it) away by doing research and finding treatments," Scheaffer said.

MSU CVM GRADUATES 91 IN DVM CLASS OF 2021



Ninety-one new doctors of veterinary medicine earned their diplomas from the MSU CVM at the College's 2021 commencement ceremonies held at 2:30 p.m. in The Humphrey Coliseum on May 5. Following the invocation offered by class member Josh Vowell, MSU CVM Dean Dr. Kent Hoblet welcomed all attending. Assistant Clinical Professor Matthew Williams then delivered a message to the graduates, and Class of 2021 President AudreyAnne Estess 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 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 of Academic Affairs Dr. Jack Smith administering the Veterinarian's Oath.



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

VET MED TECH PINNING CEREMONY 2021

The MSU CVM Veterinary Technology Program graduated 31 students this year—its largest class yet!

The pinning and awards ceremony for the class of 2021 was held Friday, April 30 at 8:30 a.m. in the CVM auditorium. In addition to their pins, graduates were presented with a formal certificate, personalized cowbell, and delicious dog bone cookie from the MSU Bakery.

Class members represented eight different states with graduates pursuing careers in eight different states following graduation and eight graduates remaining at the CVM, six of whom are joining the CVM staff and two of whom are entering the DVM program.

Congrats and best wishes to the grads!



COVID precautions prevented a class photo from being taken, so each graduate was photographed individually and with their special guests following the ceremony. Pictured at left is 2021 VMT Graduate Christy McCaskill, and right is 2021 VMT Graduate Zachary Spangler with his mother, father, and brother. Individual bios for the Class of 2021 can be found online at vetmed.msstate.edu/alumni-friends/class-of-2021.

DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY 2021



Four MSU CVM Doctoral students were hooded on April 29 in conjunction with the University's doctoral hooding ceremony at commencement on the MSU Campus. Pictured left to right are Moses Ayoola, PhD Computational Biology; Sandeepreddy Kondakala, PhD Environmental Toxicology; Brittany Szafran, PhD Environmental Toxicology; Kaitlyn Waters, PhD Veterinary Medical Sciences.



MEMBERS OF CVM CLASS OF 2021 HONORED AT ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

The MSU CVM Annual Awards Program was hosted at 1 p.m. at Humphrey Coliseum on Wednesday, May 5. The program was recorded and live streamed by MSTV and is available for viewing at vetmed.msstate.edu/alumni-friends/class-of-2021.

Congratulations to the following graduates who were recognized during the event:



DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARD RECIPIENT

Travis Noto

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

Lindsey Schmeiser

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 RECIPIENT

Gunnar Dunnam

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

Leslie Reed-Jones

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. Alyssa Sullivant

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. Bob Linford and Dr. Cate Mochal.

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

Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Companion Animal Award: Leslie Reed-Jones

Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Economic & Performance Animal Award: Gunnar Dunnam

Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Large Animal Award: Josh Vowell

American College of Veterinary Surgeons Large Animal Award: Caitlin Jael Wenzel

American College of Veterinary Surgeons Small Animal Award: Lindsey Schmeiser

American College of Veterinary Pathologists Award for Excellence in Pathology: Clare Brown and Alexandra Frankovich

Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society Award for Proficiency in ER/CC: Jordan Ziegler

American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Clinical Excellence - Small Animal: Robyn Jolly

American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Clinical Excellence - Neurology: Kara Majors

American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Clinical Excellence - Large Animal: Samantha Sanders Oswald

Veterinary Cancer Society Award: Leslie Reed-Jones

Student American Veterinary Medical Association Award: Monica Kay Peebles

American Association of Feline Practitioners Feline Medicine Award: Tobi Ku Sones

American College of Veterinary Radiology Award: Hamilton Lence

American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology Award: Katherine L.C. White

American Animal Hospital Association Award for Proficiency in Primary Care: Price Coleman

Proficiency in Theriogenology Award: Haley Brazell

Tonya Graham Proficiency in Anesthesia Award: Kaitlyn Junkin

American College of Veterinary Dermatology Proficiency in Dermatology Award: Price Coleman

Veterinary Business Management Association Honors Business Certificate recipients: Tobi Ku Sones

Veterinary Business Management Association Business Certificate Recipients: Jake Adkins, Pasarin Aujchariyapirom, Nicole Blankenship, Clare Brown, Sara Celec, Rebecca Cobb, Kara Cobun, Natalie Daniel, Anika Eidson, Hannah Finney, Bethany Foust, Bethany Granger, Kirstie Harris, Megan Kuenast, Kara Majors, Sydney McConnell, Travis Noto, Monica Peebles, Gabrielle Rands, Leslie Reed-Jones, Shaira Rivera, Samantha Sanders, Maria Schwartz, Aumbriel Schwirian, Taylor Sheley, Hannah Simmons, Danica Wilson, Marguerite Yelverton

Phi Zeta Veterinary Honor Society Inductees: Pasarin Aujchariyapirom, Robyn Beattie, Kara Cobun, Nancy Davis, Gunnar Dunnam, Bethany Grace Foust, Alexandra Frankovich, Bethany Granger, Kirstie Rose Harris, Kaitlyn Junkin, Amy Kimble, Chris Kurtz, Aaron Oldanie, Samantha Sanders Oswald, Danielle Overton, Leslie Reed-Jones, Lindsey Schmeiser, Aumbriel Schwirian, Taylor Sheley, Jordan Ziegler

Clinical Pathological Conference Award: Shelby Rogers

Clinical Pathological Conference Attendance Award: Hannah Finney

Wise Scholars (GPA between 3.5 and 3.79): Harlie Sara Amport, Pasarin Aujchariyapirom, Robyn Beattie, Clare Brown, Teresa Chapman, Kara Cobun, Andrew Cox, Nancy Davis, Lindsey Elswick, Alexandra Frankovich, Bethany Granger, Anne Herlong, Brook Hudson, Robyn Jolly, Kim Klunk, Mary Hannah Lawrence, Kara Majors, Rachel McKinnerney, Kaylee Moog, Mekayla Norden, Danielle Overton, Casey-Lynn Ray, Shelby Rogers, Maria Schwartz, Aumbriel Schwirian, Taylor Sheley, Tobi Ku Sones, Deanna Thead

Giles Scholars (GPA of 3.8 and greater): Gunnar Dunnam, Bethany Foust, Kirstie Harris, Kaitlyn Junkin, Amy Kimble, Chris Kurtz, Aaron Oldanie, Samantha Oswald, Leslie Reed-Jones, Lindsey Schmeiser, Jordan Ziegler



2021 SCHOLARSHIPS & RECIPIENTS

Drs. Mark and Carol Akin Equine Annual Scholarship

Recipient: Lauren Ingraham

Dr. Carol Akin Feline Medicine Scholarship Recipient:

Keegan Jones

Hugh M. & Kathryn C. Arant, Sr. Scholarship in Veterinary

Medicine Recipient: Grace Stringer

Frank Austin & Class of 2012 Endowed Scholarship Recipient:

AudreyAnne Estess

Arthur, Sammy, and Lulabelle Endowed Scholarship Recipient:

Maria Schwartz

Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association Annual Scholarship

Recipients: Kaitlyn Barnett, Kaylee Casey, Sophia Mauldin, Ashley Smith, Kaci Squires

Charles E. & Viola G. Bardsley Annual Scholarship in Veterinary

Medicine Recipient: Lindsey Schmeiser

Dr. Tracy Busbee Connelly Memorial Annual Scholarship

Recipient: Kaylee Casey

Paul Bass Annual Scholarship Recipient: Amy Wallace

Bedenbaugh Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine Recipients:

Sophia Polnow, Maria Schwartz

Rona & Dan Belser Endowed Scholarship Recipient:

Lindsey Elswick

Briarwood Animal Hospital/Campbell G. Dale Memorial Annual

Scholarship Recipient: Mary Douglass Kerby

William Tyler Brady Annual Scholarship Recipient: Hannah

Simmons

James D. & Kay B. Bryan Endowed Scholarship Recipients: Carter

Arnold, Ashlyn McNaughton

Buddy the Elf Scholarship Recipient: Amanda Fowler

Dr. Robert Cooper Endowed Scholarship Recipient:

Kaylynn Cantrell

C. Edward Couvillion, DVM, PhD, Endowed Graduate Scholarship

Recipient: Ethan Woodyard

Georgiana and Kevin Cox Memorial Annual Scholarship

Recipient: Carly Campbell

Dr. Leon and Mrs. Sherrill Dale Annual Scholarship Recipient:

Kimberly Klunk

Dr. P. Mikell & Mary Cheek Hall Davis Beef Cattle Endowed

Scholarship: MaryAnna Hudson

Dr. P. Mikell & Mary Cheek Hall Davis Beef Cattle-Early Entry

Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Anna Katherine Mitchell

Dr. P. Mikell & Mary Cheek Hall Davis Feline Medicine Endowed

Scholarship Recipient: Jordyn Dehaan

Dr. P. Mikell & Mary Cheek Hall Davis Veterinary Technology

Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Courtney Roberson

Isabel M. Devine Endowed Scholarship Recipients:

Rachel McKinnerney, Dallas Riley

Drs. Beth T. and Joe L. Duncan Annual Scholarship Recipient:

Alexandra Frankovich

Dr. Elizabeth B. Ezelle and Mr. Robert Ezelle Annual Scholarship

Recipient: Meghan Courey

M.K. Fayard Annual Vet Tech Scholarship Recipient:

Dixie Jackson

A.B. Bubba Fort Memorial Annual Scholarship Recipient:

Lindsey Elswick

Morgan Freeman Endowment for Veterinary Medicine Recipient:

Karrigan Bowers

Drs. Karen G. and Jeff D. Grady Annual Scholarship Recipient:

Peter McGinn

Greenville Animal Clinic and Hospital/Dr. Thomas E. Royal

Memorial Annual Scholarship Recipient: Keturah Ollie-Hayes

Dr. Tip Hailey Scholarship Recipient: Chris Kurtz

Greenville Mississippi Kennel Club Annual Scholarship

Recipient: Logan Tucker

Dr. A. Wayne Groce Alumni Society Annual Scholarship

Recipient: Joseph Evans

Haynes-Carpenter Annual Scholarship: Joshua Burnett

Mac, Stephen, and Dava Imes Endowed Scholarship:

Morgan Currin

Clarice C. Jackson Memorial Scholarship Recipients:

Elizabeth Czapor, Kirstie Harris

Dr. Margaret R. Kern Memorial Scholarship Recipient:

Grace Stringer

George B. Kerr Memorial Scholarship Recipients:

Hannah Haynes, Graham Smith

The "Dempsey" & "Ruby" Lazar Endowed Scholarship Recipient:

Katelyn Nelson

Dr. Michael J. Lee Endowed Scholarship Recipient:

Zoe Dudiak

Lehman Food Animal Endowed Scholarship Recipient:

Rachel Doenges

Mary Ann Long Endowed Scholarship Recipients:

Kaitlyn Junkin, Leslie Reed-Jones, Lindsey Schmeiser

Linda and Jim Longton Annual Scholarship Recipient:

Townes Hillier

Fannie B. Loudermilk Memorial Scholarship Recipient:

Megan Kuenast

Karen J. & John G. McCord Endowed Scholarship Recipient:

Natalie Daniel

Hortense & Bill McClain Endowed Scholarship Recipients: Payton White, Kelsey Yates

James Miller & First Class 1981 Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Emily Fuller

Dr. Craig & Jennifer Mohaghegh Annual Scholarship Recipient: Elizabeth Czapor

David Waide Scholarship Recipient: Kim Klunk, Josh Vowell
Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Year 1 Scholarship Recipient: Skyler Turner

Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Year 2 Scholarship Recipient: Reece Paulk

Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Year 3 Scholarship Recipient: Chris Deignan

Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Dr. Harvey F. McCrory Memorial Scholarship Recipients: Gunnar Dunnam, Marguerite Yelverton

Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Veterinary Technician Scholarship (Junior Year) Recipient: Krista Box

Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Veterinary Technician Scholarship (Senior Year) Recipient: Zachary Spangler

Billy C. Mullican Endowed Scholarship Recipients: Sara Amport, Brook Hudson

Nestle' Purina Award for Excellence in Companion Animal Nutrition Recipient: Gabrielle Rands

Recycled Pets Are Best Annual Scholarship Recipients: Dallas Riley, Aumbriel Schwirian

PetSmart Charities Scholarship Recipients: Hanna Boehn, Dallas Riley, Michelle Ryan, Lauren Scott

Poco & Clio Gentle Doctor Award Recipients: Leslie Reed-Jones

Dr. James F. Perkins Annual Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine Recipient: Price Coleman

Thomas A. Plein Endowed Scholarship Recipients: Lauren Ellison, Danielle Fischer

Thomas A. Plein Veterinary Technology Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Tricia Pounders

Thomas C. Randolph, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Recipient: Kaitlyn Barnett, Emerald Ford

Jean & Walter W. Rotchild, Jr. Endowed Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine Recipients: Joshua Burnett, Alison Stewart

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

Barry Schieb Memorial Annual Scholarship Recipient: Sara Celec

Linda "Big Lou" Schuerer Memorial Annual Scholarship Recipient: Audrey Pugh

Paul H. Schuerer Memorial Scholarship Recipient: Bailey Haynes

Greta Somerville Endowed Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine Recipient: Samantha Oswald, Jordan Ziegler

South Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association Annual Scholarship Recipient: Meagan Coleman

Dr. Clyde E. Taylor Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Nicholas Smith

Tupelo Small Animal Hospital Annual Scholarship Recipient: Kayla Lewis

Cynthia Lee & Carl Turner Annual Scholarship Recipient: Sophia Polnow

Vicksburg Kennel Club of Mississippi, Inc. Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Maggie Thomas

West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association Annual Scholarship Recipients: Courtney Caugh, Laura Fidler

Dr. Alexander Lane "Bam" Williams Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Hannah Carter

Robert O. Williams Memorial Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Savannah Matthews

The Luran & Dean Wingo Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Dave Dispenza

Daniel M. Thomas, DVM, Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Molly McAdams

The Ellie Anne Ashley Scholarship Recipient: Misty Walsh
Addie Scholarship Recipients:

Gabrielle Alonzo

Emma Brown

Carli Bryant

Leah Burns

Haven Bynum

Carly Campbell

Hannah Carter

Teresa Chapman

Kristen Chisholm

Rebecca Cobb

Price Coleman

Meagan Coleman

Heather Daw

Chris Deignan

Jacob Dix

Rachel Doenges

Casey Durfey

AudreyAnne Estess

Victoria Fields

Tyler Floyd

Emerald Ford

Lauren Glenn

Marissa Gonzalez

Leah Hadskey

Townes Hillier

Walker Hyché

Kaitlyn Junkin

Amy Kimble

Kim Klunk

Mary Hannah Lawrence

Kayla Lewis

Savannah Matthews

Emili McClure

Hannah McDowell

Christopher McGee

Travis Noto

Keturah Ollie-Hayes

Reece Paulk

Casey-Lynn Ray

Leslie Reed-Jones

Dallas Riley

Rebekah Roberts

Laura Rottenberk

Taylor Sheley

Tobi Ku Sones

Sydney Tamashiro

Logan Tucker

Emily Vowell

Caitlin Wenzel

Marguerite Yelverton

MSU DVM GRADS CONSISTENTLY EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

Students Excel on NAVLE

	2021	2021	2020	2020	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017	2016	2016
	ALL	MS State	ALL	MS State	ALL	MS State	ALL	MS State	ALL	MS State	ALL	MS State
First Takes Only (% Pass)	87	98	88	90	88	97	89	94	88	89	90	96
Mean Score	498	518	498	504	503	534	505	526	505	506	509	524
Ultimate Performance (% Pass)	92	99	95	97	94	99	95	96	95	99	95	99
Mean Score	501	518	503	508	507	535	509	527	509	516	513	526
Total Test (% items correct)	70	72	70	71	69	73	69	72	69	70	71	73
Small Animal	71	74	71	72	71	74	71	73	71	71	72	74
Canine	72	74	72	73	72	75	72	75	71	71	73	75
Feline	72	75	72	73	72	76	71	75	71	73	73	76
Food Animal	67	70	67	68	67	73	68	71	68	68	68	72
Bovine	68	73	68	69	68	74	69	74	68	71	68	73
Porcine	67	66	67	68	65	68	66	65	66	62	68	69
Equine	69	71	69	70	70	74	70	71	70	71	71	73
Data gathering/interpretation							70	72	70	69	71	72
Health Maint/Prob Mgmt							68	72	69	70	70	72
Cardiovascular	70	72	71	70	71	72	72	73	72	71	74	75
Endocrine	76	78	77	77	74	79	72	72	70	72	75	75
Gastrointestinal	69	72	69	73	69	73	69	71	69	68	69	71
Hemic & Lymphatic	72	77	71	74	70	73	69	72	69	72	71	74
Integumentary	68	71	69	70	69	72	70	74	70	70	73	76
Musculoskeletal	70	73	70	72	70	74	70	73	69	69	70	71
Nervous	73	75	73	73	70	75	69	70	70	67	70	71
Respiratory	69	71	69	67	68	73	69	70	69	70	69	69
Special Senses	72	75	71	72	70	74	73	77	71	72	71	72
Renal/Urinary	70	71	70	70	68	73	69	70	69	69	71	74
Reproductive	68	72	68	71	68	73	69	73	69	71	70	75
Multiple Organ Systems	70	71	70	69	70	74	69	72	69	69	70	72
Clinical Practice	70	73	70	71	69	74						
Communication	71	71	70	69	72	74						
Prev. Med and Animal Welfare	68	71	67	70	66	70						
Professionalism, Pract Mgmt, Wellness	69	68										
	Below Avg											
	Avg											
	Above Avg											

MSU CVM Boasts Excellent VIRMP Match Rates & Outstanding Gradate Starting Salaries

VIRMP Matching Rates for MSU Compared with National Average:

	2018	2019	2020	2021
MSU CVM	72.2%	80.0%	75.0%	70%
National Average	67.0%	70.1%	72.1%	69%

Average Starting Salaries for MSU Graduates Compared with National Average:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MSU CVM	\$67,243	\$74,023	\$74,138	\$82,422	\$88,807
National Average	\$61,709	\$65,992	\$70,128	\$74,844	\$80,485

GRANTS & CONTRACTS

AWARDED TO CVM FACULTY

EXTERNAL GRANTS

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

Barbara Kaplan (PI), Stephen Pruett (CoPI), Boehringer Ingelheim. Summer Research Experience for veterinary students 2021. \$10,000

Amelia Woolums (PI), Joo Youn Park (CoPI), Robert W. Wills (CoPI), Rhonda C. Vann (CoPI), Merck Animal Health. Development of assays to measure humoral responses of preweaning calves to clostridial vaccination. \$36,559

David R. Smith (PI), Alicia K. Olivier (CoPI), University of Missouri (NIH). Impact of repeated vaccination on the effectiveness of seasonal influenza vaccines. \$46,056

Matthew J. Griffin (PI), University of California Davis (USDA-NIFA). Antigenic profiling of distinct *Flavobacterium columnare* genetic groups affecting cold and warmwater cultured fish species for vaccine development. \$17,258

Brittany Moore-Henderson (PI), Purdue University (NIH). See Us-Be Us: Inspiring future veterinarians using a Veterinary STEM Ecosystem. \$1,500

Stephen B. Pruett (PI), Barbara L. Kaplan (CoPI), Keun Seok Seo (CoPI), National Institutes of Health (NIH). Summer Research Experience for Veterinary Students 2021. \$72,987

Amelia Woolums (PI), Alicia Olivier (CoPI), Boehringer Ingelheim. Confirmation of virulence of BRSV challenge isolate in colostrum-deprived calves, #2021021. \$66,895

Russell Carr (PI), National Institutes of Health (NIH). Molecular and Behavioral Impacts of Development OP Neurotoxicity. \$436,465

Lanny W. Pace (PI), Lifang Yan (CoPI), Martha Pulido Landinez (CoPI), Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS). MAHLN Level I: MS 2021. \$250,000

Alejandro Banda (PI), Lanny W. Pace (CoPI), Lifang Yan (CoPI), Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS). Development & validation of real-time quaking-induced conversion (RT-QulC) as confirmatory testing for CWD. \$141,433

Alicia Olivier (PI), University of Missouri (NIH). Use of Clinical Samples to Identify Influenza Variants. \$14,326

Larry A. Hanson (PI), Matthew J. Griffin (CoPI), Hossam Abdelhamed (CoPI), Hasan Tekedar (CoPI), Harun Pirim (CoPI), Mohammad Marufuzzaman (CoPI), USDA-NIFA. Functional elucidation of virulence associated proteins encoded by *Flavobacterium columnare*, an important fish pathogen. \$500,000

Amelia Woolums (PI), Heath King (CoPI), USDA-NIFA. Engineered mRNA expressed antibodies to treat or prevent *Tritrichomonas foetus* in bulls. \$207,143

Lora Petrie-Hanson (PI), Hannah Knight (PI), Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR). Innate immunomodulation resulting from epigenetic reprogramming improves health and increases production efficiency in aquaculture. \$10,000

John Thomason (PI), Skyler Caldwell (CoPI), Andrew Mackin (CoPI), American College Veterinary Emergency/Critical Care (ACVECC). Impact of Three Different Wash Solutions on Canine Erythrocytes in Units of Stored Whole Blood. \$5,664

Lanny Pace (PI), Martha Pulido Landinez (CoPI), United States Food and Drug Administration, (FDA) (DHHS). Using MVRDL to increase the FDA Vet-LRN sample analysis capacity during animal food/feed emergency events. \$43,650 (Year-5 funds)

T. Graham Rosser (PI), Matthew J. Griffin (CoPI), David J. Wise (CoPI), USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). Management of fish-borne trematodes in pond-raised catfish. \$310,000

CVM NOTES & NEWS

ALUMNI NEWS



Dr. Kenneth R. Boschert (DVM 1984) was honored with the Charles A. Griffin Award from the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) earlier this year. The award is considered one of the most prestigious in the lab animal medicine field and recognizes those who demonstrate ethical scientific

or technological advancements in humane experimentation or improved animal care practices.

Dr. Boschert currently serves as associate director of the Division of Comparative Medicine at Washington University (WU) School of Medicine in St. Louis. He is a member of AALAS, American Society of Lab Animal Professionals, and American Veterinary Medical Association, a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, and was named MSU CVM's distinguished Alumni Fellow in 1997.

Noted for creating and moderating a popular computer network called CompMed for the 12,000 member AALAS, Dr. Boschert joined the faculty at WU in 1989 and started the network in 1992. The platform now connects professionals who work with laboratory animals in biomedical research in the areas of academia, government, and private business.

2021 PROMOTIONS & TENURE

Attila Karsi – granted tenure and promoted to professor

Bindu Nanduri – promoted to professor

Jack Smith – promoted to professor

Andrea Varela-Stokes – promoted to professor

Jake Shivley – 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. You can also keep up with your fellow MSU CVM graduates on our social media pages!

HELP US STAY IN TOUCH!

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



Dr. Deanna A. Brown (DVM 1990) currently serves as president of the National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV). She has been a member of the NAFV, American Veterinary Medical Association, and American Association of Food Safety and Public Health Veterinarians for most of her professional career. She has served

two terms as NAFV secretary-treasurer and as a Food Safety and Inspection Service representative to the board of directors.

Dr. Brown served for 20 years in the US Army Veterinary Corps and retired from military service in 2010. She transitioned to the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service where she currently serves as a frontline supervisor covering northeast Arkansas and southeast Missouri. Her responsibilities include regulatory oversight of livestock and poultry slaughter and processing plants within her area.

She earned her master's in Public Health from the University of Texas School of Public Health in San Antonio, Texas, and is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.

The NAFV is a constituent organization of the AVMA that serves as the representative body for federally employed veterinarians. Serving as an advocate on their behalf and promoting continuing education, teamwork, and a standard of excellence, the organization also has an official management relationship with USDA.

Dr. Brown's term as NAFV president began in January and runs through December 2022.



CVM OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT NEWS

GIFTS IN HONOR OR MEMORY of Friends/Family, Vets, and Pets

One of the more common questions we receive is, “Can I make a gift in memory or honor of an individual or a pet?” The short answer is “yes.” We receive many gifts that fall into this category on an annual basis. Some of you have made these type gifts through your clinics in memory of patients, and others have made them in support of friends who have lost pets. Recently, I visited with someone over the phone who made a gift online in honor of a friend’s birthday. She didn’t know what to buy them but thought they would appreciate helping animals.

Many of these gifts go to support our CARE Fund that benefits the facility, equipment, and staffing needs of our hospitals. This fund has recently helped with adding exam rooms and renovating our surgery, oncology, dentistry, and clinical veterinary services wards. The upgrades to these spaces help us address vital needs so we can continue to offer a top level of care to our patients.

The amount of these gifts varies significantly. Sometimes it’s \$20, and other times people make major gifts establishing endowments in a parent’s, friend’s, or veterinarian’s name. By creating an endowment, the donor allows for the person’s or pet’s legacy to have an impact in perpetuity. The College has scholarships, client assistance funds, faculty positions, facilities, program support funds, and others named for loved ones.

We certainly appreciate every gift. They all make a difference in the lives of patients, students, and faculty. Please contact me or Advancement Coordinator Melissa Montgomery if we can ever help you honor a person or pet that has had an impact in your life.

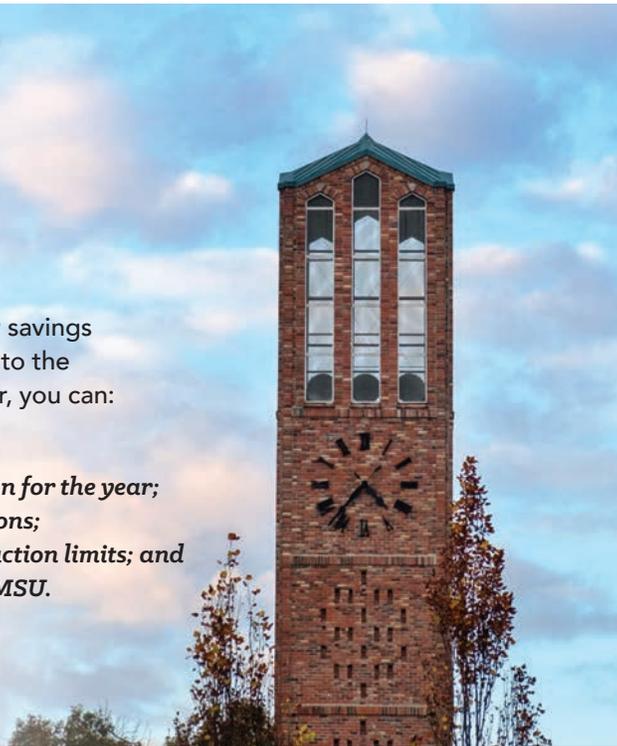
Jimmy Kight
Director of Development

Your savings, your legacy

You have worked hard and saved for retirement. Now use your savings to create your legacy by making an IRA charitable rollover gift to the Mississippi State University Foundation. If you are 70½ or older, you can:

- *avoid taxes on IRA transfers up to \$100,000;*
- *may satisfy some or all of your required minimum distribution for the year;*
- *reduce your taxable income, even if you don’t itemize deductions;*
- *make a gift that is not subject to charitable contribution deduction limits; and*
- *use your rollover to make payments on an existing pledge to MSU.*

For more information on IRA charitable rollover giving, contact the MSU Foundation Office of Gift Planning.



Wes Gordon, Director of Gift Planning
(662) 325-3707 | wgordon@foundation.msstate.edu



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Proceeds from all sales benefit the College's CARE (Companion Animals Require Excellence) Fund, created in 1989 to address the need for constant improvements in veterinary medical teaching, research, and service. The Fund provides resources for the College of Veterinary Medicine hospitals to offer advanced veterinary services along with teaching and learning experiences for veterinary students, technology students, clinicians, and referring veterinarians.

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