

FALL & WINTER 2021

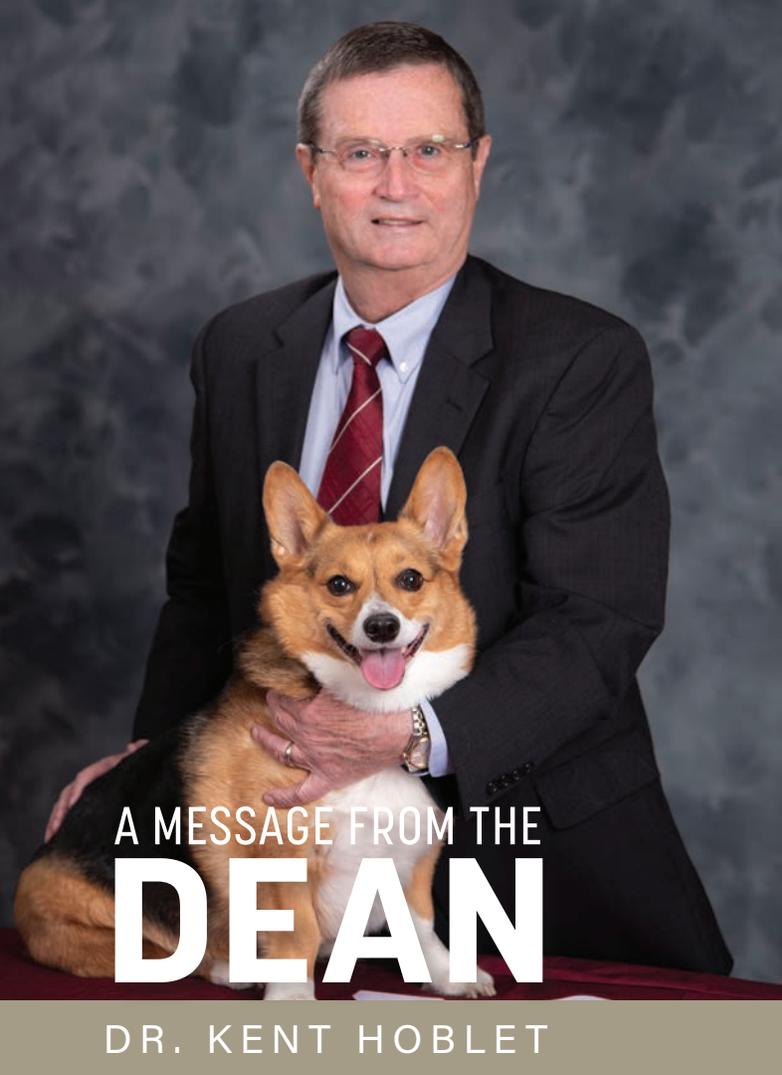
# PEGASUS PRESS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



- COLLEGE'S HUMANE ETHICS &  
ANIMAL WELFARE, SHELTER MEDICINE  
PROGRAMS CELEBRATE MILESTONE

EARNING RESPECT BY EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



# A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DR. KENT HOBLET

As we finalize this issue of *Pegasus Press*, spring is on the horizon. Baseball season is now underway, and after almost two years, it appears we may finally be emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Lots of good things are happening at MSU CVM, and you will read about many of them in this issue of the magazine.

The CVM's comprehensive and spectacular Shelter Medicine program is highlighted in this issue. You will learn how an idea to help shelters and homeless animals while increasing surgical experience for our students has become one of the College's signature services and one of the most respected shelter medicine programs in the country. As a new dean in 2006 when the program began its dramatic growth through where we are today, I have learned much about the creative thinking, commitment to teaching and learning, and desire to help animals present in our CVM by witnessing this remarkable transformation.

Every seven years, all accredited colleges of veterinary medicine must undergo a comprehensive site visit by a team from the AVMA Council on Education (COE) to maintain accreditation. Our visit occurred November 6-11, and it went very well. The team's initial report to us included several positive statements. Among items receiving special comments were the shelter medicine program, the marine animal program we share with the Institute for Marine Animal Studies in Gulfport, the equine reproductive elective course, "Bully's Bowl" (the free kitchen provided to CVM students and staff to alleviate food insecurity issues), and the CVM student counseling program. Our faculty and staff worked diligently for several years to get the College into a position for a successful accreditation visit. They, and our

students, make us all proud! The full Council on Education will consider and vote on our official accreditation status in March.

Construction continues on two exciting projects. Last May, we broke ground on a 14,000-square-foot addition to our Animal Emergency and Referral Center in the Jackson suburb of Flowood. When completed, that new facility will include housing for students. Construction was slowed by the weather and supply chain issues, but we now have elevator shafts and stairwells completed, and the steel framework is in place. The projected occupancy is February 2023!

Construction is also underway on a complete renovation of the deans' office suite in the Wise Center. This renovation, which will gain us two additional offices and an enlarged conference room, has been made possible by a generous gift from Mr. Turner Wingo. Mr. Wingo is a graduate of MSU's College of Business and is a dog lover. We are excited to watch progress in an area that hosts many visitors and is truly the welcome center for business operations of the College.

In this issue of *Pegasus Press* you will also read about the activities and accomplishments of many of our students, faculty, and staff, as well as about the extremely valuable contributions to our CVM by several people from outside of the College. These individuals were recognized at our Annual All College Day festivities because of all they have done—and continue to do—to support CVM.

I am so proud of our faculty. As a group they provide outstanding learning opportunities for our students and top-tier clinical and diagnostic services. Our research accomplishments exceed expectations in addressing food safety, world food security, and human health concerns such as development of an award-winning test for COVID-19 antibodies and an antidote for nerve gas poisoning.

Give us a call if you have comments or questions. If you are going to be in the Starkville area, please let us know and come by for a visit and tour of the College.

**Dr. Kent Hoblet**

Dean & Professor | CVM Office of the Dean | (662) 325-1131



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## COVER PHOTOS

**FRONT:** MSU CVM donor and friend Marcia Lane is passionate about animal welfare. In 2006, she established the Marcia P. Lane Endowed Chair in Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare at the College, which is held by longtime faculty member Dr. Phil Bushby, who specializes in veterinary shelter medicine and is responsible for founding and growing MSU CVM's shelter medicine program to a point of national recognition.

**BACK:** MSU CVM Associate Professor and Small Animal Surgeon Dr. Elizabeth Swanson has a special connection with Buddy, the two-year-old yellow Labrador retriever mix brought to MSU CVM for advanced care in April 2021 after being intentionally burned by a juvenile in Tate County, Miss. Watch for Buddy's story in the next issue of Pegasus Press!

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# DEAN'S COUNCIL BRIEFED on CVM Endeavors and Progress

Due to a variety of extenuating circumstances, the MSU CVM Dean's Council was unable to gather for a fall meeting; however, since their most recent meeting hosted in Starkville at the College last spring, the Council has been briefed regarding CVM programs and plans by MSU CVM Dean Dr. Kent Hoblet via email on a variety of occasions.

The Council was provided with an overview of the College's recent accreditation site visit conducted by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education in November. The visit went very well, and a final report should be issued soon. Watch for a follow-up story in the next issue of *Pegasus Press*.

Council members were also updated about the current recruitment and admissions status for the DVM class of 2026. CVM Office of Admissions staff members had reviewed applications, interviewed, and extended offers to 42 prospective students representing 18 states as of late December. They have since conducted another round of interviews and made an additional 61 offers. CVM Dean's Council members continue to remain actively involved in recruitment efforts and are currently writing letters to those who have received offers from the College thus far.

Plans are for the Council to gather for their spring meeting in Starkville in April; the exact date is to be determined.

## DEAN'S COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



**Mrs. Rona Johnson-Belser** is a 1974 Mississippi State University College of Education graduate. She holds a Bachelor of Science, and her specialty is in special education. She is a retired early childhood teacher with the Jefferson County School System in Birmingham, Ala. Mrs. Johnson-Belser and her husband established the Rona and Dan Belser Endowed Scholarship Fund and the T. Daniel and Rona Johnson-Belser Advancing Care Fund at MSU CVM.



**Mr. John Lewis** is president of Lewis Investment Company, a privately held company focused on strategic real estate investing, venture capital opportunities, and special situation funding. A lifelong Jacksonian, John graduated from MSU in 1985 and is married to the former Jan Farlow, who is a certified public accountant and tax partner at Haddox Reid Eubank Betts, PLLC, and serves on MSU's Adkerson School of Accountancy Advisory Board.



**Dr. Kevin Smith**, a native of Picayune, attended Pearl River Community College for his undergraduate education and then Mississippi State University, where he earned his DVM in 1984. Dr. Smith is the former owner of Animal Health Clinic, a multi-doctor general veterinary practice in Picayune. A past president of the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association, he is married and has two children.



## The History and Evolution of the CVM SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM

In the early 1990s, a veterinary student named Sandy Kerr Thomas walked into Dr. Philip Bushby's office with an idea. She had been volunteering at the Columbus-Lowndes County Animal Shelter and wondered if it would be possible for MSU CVM to take students there to provide spay-neuter services. After several months of working out details, Dr. Bushby and the College were able to make the idea—which developed into the CVM Shelter Medicine Program—a reality.

The Columbus shelter had a small surgery room at that time, and in the beginning, CVM staff would load surgical supplies into a pickup truck, and Dr. Bushby would take three third-year students there to perform spays and neuters on adoptable dogs and cats once every three weeks. Each student performed three or four surgeries with Dr. Bushby assisting. His role was to guide the students by talking them through each step, stopping them before they made a mistake, and helping them out if they did make a mistake. At that time, they only averaged between 10 and 12 surgeries per month; however, the students loved the experience, the shelter was happy to get animals spayed and neutered for no cost, and the sterilized animals had a greater chance of being adopted. For a decade, this was the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program.

Fast forward through the next 30 years—including numerous donations and grants, a devastating hurricane on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, mobile veterinary units purchased, additional shelters added to the program, increased faculty and staff, establishment of a stationary spay-neuter facility on the CVM campus, and a partnership with the local humane society—and the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program is recognized as one of the best in the nation.

This opportunity for about 60 students each year to gain extra surgical experience and to help one shelter and a couple hundred animals annually has far exceeded its humble beginnings. Today, the program enables all DVM students to complete a minimum of 50 surgeries prior to graduation, and those completing the program's advanced clinical rotation may complete as many as 100–150. The program also provides services to more than two dozen shelters and rescue groups in the state and offers consultation to improve management, biosecurity, and disease prevention, recognition, and management.

The impact of the shelter medicine program is significant for the animals, shelters, students, and, ultimately, communities across Mississippi and other states. Many of the shelters served initially had high euthanasia rates of 60% or more. In most shelters, euthanasia rates have dropped significantly, and the adoption rates of the sterilized animals are extremely high. Obviously, the great benefit for the shelters is the increase in adoption of healthy, sterilized dogs and cats, but the biggest impact of the program is likely the graduation of a new generation of veterinarians who understand the problems animal shelters face and that the overpopulation of homeless dogs and cats is real, while being fully equipped to go out in local communities and help solve the problem.

Just this January, the program hit the milestone of 100,000 surgeries completed since acquisition of its first mobile unit. This illustrates the impact the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program has had—and will continue to have—on addressing pet overpopulation, improving the lives of companion animals, and preparing students to be beyond practice-ready on day one.

# PROGRAM TIMELINE

## EARLY 90s

- Sandy Kerr Thomas approaches Dr. Bushby about students providing spay-neuter services to Columbus-Lowndes County Animal Shelter
- Dr. Bushby begins taking three junior students to CLCAS once every three weeks to perform 3-4 surgeries each; Program averaged 10-12 surgeries per month

## 2006

- Marcia Lane, a long-time supporter of CLCAS, commits \$1.5M to establish the Marcia P. Lane Endowed Chair in Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare; Dr. Bushby named chair

## 2007

- CVM receives a \$900K grant from HSUS
- First mobile unit, a 32-foot gooseneck trailer fully equipped as an emergency response vehicle and a spay-neuter clinic, is delivered and goes on the road four days/week, visiting a different shelter each day

## 2010

- Dr. Bushby explains to freshman class that only 50 of the 85 students would be able to participate in the shelter medicine elective rotation
- The Class of 2014 votes to raise funds to purchase a second mobile unit and raises \$65K in six months; PetSmart Charities donates \$250K towards the purchase

## 2014

- Dr. Bushby retires, but comes back as part-time faculty
- Dr. Cooper Brookshire joins Shelter Medicine faculty
- Second mobile unit, a 38-foot gooseneck trailer, is delivered and hits the road

## 2020

- COVID-19 pandemic takes Mobile Unit 2 off the road
- New partnership established with OCHS; Unit 2 is stationed at the shelter; and Dr. Alex Shealy hired through funding with the OCHS partnership

## 2005

- Oktibbeha County Humane Society builds new shelter and CVM Shelter Medicine Program expands—students now get two trips to shelter
- Hurricane Katrina devastates much of Mississippi Gulf Coast, bringing national attention to pet overpopulation in Mississippi and the South
- Shelter program receives \$100K grant from American Kennel Club's Companion Animal Recovery division to purchase an "emergency response" vehicle
- CVM negotiates with AKC-CAR to obtain a unit dually equipped for emergency response and spay-neuter; College raises additional \$103K toward purchase of first mobile unit

## 2008

- Marcia Lane donates additional \$200K to establish an internship and fully funds endowed chair
- Dr. Kimberly Woodruff accepts internship position upon graduation and subsequently accepts three-year shelter medicine residency

## 2012

- Dr. Kimberly Woodruff joins shelter medicine faculty

## 2013

- Dr. Jake Shivley joins Shelter Medicine faculty

## 2018

- Mobile Unit 1 is retired and College establishes Stay and Spay clinic on campus

## 2019

- Dr. Chase Seyer joins the shelter medicine team part-time

## JANUARY 6, 2022

- Shelter Medicine Program celebrates 100K-surgery milestone

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 25-30** Average surgeries per day per location
- 10-12** Surgeries performed by third-year students
- 55-60** Surgeries performed by fourth-year students
- 1300** Students trained in HQHVSN techniques since 2007
- 100K+** Total surgeries since 2007

## BUDGET

- Salaries funded by CVM
- Operational expenses funded through grants and donations
- Surgeries performed at no cost to shelters and rescue organizations

# PHILIP A. BUSHBY, DVM, MS, DACVS

Dr. Phil Bushby's career is marked by a profound dedication to the care and welfare of animals. His contributions to the field of veterinary medicine have resulted in better quality of care for hundreds of thousands of homeless companion animals and have saved countless animals lives.

The seed was planted for him to become a veterinarian when his father, who bred Dalmatians and was a puppy supplier for Spiegel (yes, Spiegel, through their catalogue), allowed him as a young child to help care for the puppies—especially those that were not doing well. Years later, in 1972, this young animal-lover earned his DVM and went on to complete his internship and surgical residency at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Henry Bergh Memorial Hospital (HBMH) in New York City. His experiences there, coupled with those in his childhood, left him destined for a career path in animal welfare, although he took a few turns along the way.

Dr. Bushby completed an additional surgical residency, then earned his master's degree, and worked in private practice before joining the faculty at MSU CVM in 1978. He worked predominantly as a referral-level surgeon for a number of years before moving into an administrative role. It was during his time as an administrator that he began taking junior veterinary students to the Columbus Animal Shelter to perform spay-neuter surgeries, and the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program began in its infancy.

Dr. Bushby's love of surgery and experience at HBMH clearly fueled development of the College's shelter medicine program. While he was in New York completing his internship, the ASPCA euthanized more than 130,000 homeless dogs and cats in one year—basically 500 animals every workday every week. His knowledge of this, passion for surgery, experience at the Columbus shelter, and desire for change were at the heart of the CVM program, which is now recognized on a national level.



Dr. Bushby was named Marcia P. Lane Endowed Chair in Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare at MSU CVM in 2006, and after much blood, sweat, and tears—including a variety of shelters, mobile units, and a stationary location, thousands of students and graduates, retirement and returning to work, reaching significant milestones, and garnering numerous awards and recognition—he's come to realize there are two very rewarding and equally important aspects of his role. The first is preparing veterinary students to be capable, confident surgeons and practitioners who enter the workforce with an appreciation and understanding of pet overpopulation and the skills needed to help solve the problem. The second is a given: Knowing that he is giving homeless animals a chance for adoption into loving homes and a second chance at life.

## SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM MISSION

*The MSU College of Veterinary Medicine Shelter Medicine Program is committed to providing an unsurpassed learning environment while being recognized as a leader in teaching and training in the profession. We dedicate ourselves to the advancement of shelter medicine—and veterinary medicine as a whole—through excellent teaching, community service, and quality research.*

*We will work to strengthen the human-animal bond and support community animal shelters, as well as to support the relationship between animal shelters and local veterinarians.*

*We will help shelters combat pet overpopulation through high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter.*

# SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM SERVICES

The MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program is a comprehensive program, providing a wide range of services to aggressively combat pet overpopulation and improve the well-being of shelter animals. These services benefit about two dozen shelters and rescue groups across the state, while providing a wealth of hands-on clinical and surgical training for CVM students.

In addition to the vitally important spay-neuter services provided, the service also provides shelters and rescue organizations with consultation services to improve shelter management, biosecurity, as well as disease prevention, recognition, and management. The basic diagnostic and disease treatment services offered decrease shelter intake, reduce euthanasia, and improve the health and, therefore, adoptability of dogs and cats in shelters.

Shelter medicine consultation services address topics such as:

- Staff education and training on shelter and animal management
- Record keeping, animal handling, and restraint



- Shelter design, animal flow, and population management
- Medical and behavioral health and well-being, group housing, and transport
- Infectious disease prevention and management
- Biosecurity, disinfection, and implementation
- Outbreak investigation and discussions related to canine parvovirus and kennel cough, feline upper respiratory infection, ringworm, etc.
- Protocol writing, development, and implementation
- Forensic necropsy services and assistance with criminal neglect and abuse cases

These services are made possible through the MSU CVM Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare Program and, combined with the consultation services provided, are an important part of ensuring CVM graduates understand the importance of becoming veterinarians that give back to their communities by offering their knowledge and support to animal sheltering organizations.



## PASSION FOR ANIMALS AND GENEROUS SPIRIT Lead Marcia Lane to Establish Endowed Chair

Marcia Lane has long had a passion for animals. The first “love of her life” was an Arabian gelding named Kafar, who came to be hers as a result of being lame.

One of Lane’s dreams has been to make a difference in the lives of animals not fortunate enough to have loving homes of their own. In January, when the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program performed its 100,000th surgery—in large part made possible by her generosity—Lane, who just this month celebrated her 90th birthday, realized her passion truly had made a difference in the lives of scores of animals, as well as the veterinarians and people who love and care for them every day.

Lane says her love for animals “predates her memory,” and she had long wanted to do something of benefit to them but just didn’t know where to turn. However, as luck would have it, she was introduced to Dr. Phil Bushby, an MSU CVM professor with special interest in humane ethics and animal welfare (HEAW).

“Sitting with him for the first time, I was struck by how amazing he was—his sense of mission, his organization and knowledge, and his passion for animals,” she said. “I was so impressed when he told me his history of starting as an intern at Henry Berg Memorial Hospital, which was also an SPCA shelter, where he was appalled to learn that 130,000 animals were euthanized there each year. This realization, and the desire to change it, shaped the direction of his career. I wanted to do anything I could do to help change the trajectory of those horrible statistics, and I knew Bushby was the man for the job.”

In 2006, Lane committed to donating \$1.5 million to establish the Marcia P. Lane Endowed Chair in Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare at MSU CVM, and Dr. Phil Bushby has held it ever since. Through the chair, the College has developed collaborative relationships with animal sheltering organizations throughout Mississippi and the surrounding region. In 2008, Lane committed to donating another \$200,000 to fund a shelter medicine internship and residency to increase program staffing and further the work being done through the College’s HEAW program.

“Many people have contributed to and supported our program through the years, but none to the extent of Marcia Lane,” Dr. Bushby said. “Through the chair she endowed, MSU CVM is aggressively combating the pet overpopulation problem and addressing what can be done to resolve the problem of pet homelessness.”

Dr. Bushby, who retired from the CVM in 2014 only to return to his previous role just three short months later, said the transformational gifts provided by Lane, coupled with the support of other donors, have enabled the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program to not only provide sterilization procedures but other much-needed surgeries and medical care to animals in need, while also allowing veterinary students to gain vital surgical skills and knowledge about the field of shelter medicine.

“The unbelievably successful outcome of funding the HEAW chair at MSU CVM makes me very proud,” Lane said. “The impact

it has on veterinary students' future practices is far reaching. These students will go out into the world and take these skills to underserved communities and animals in need."

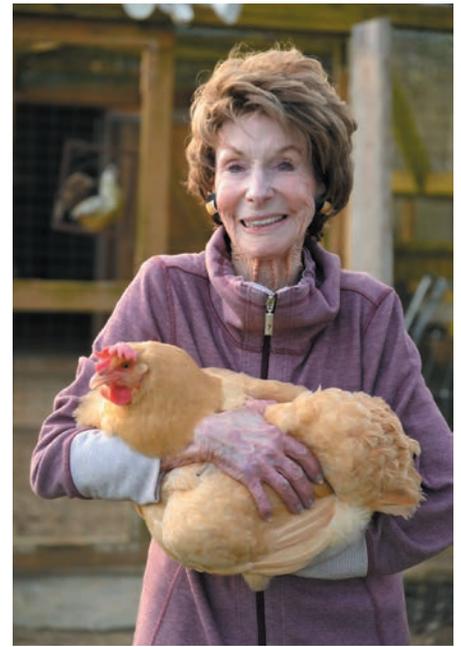
Lane also created the Rocky Lane Pets in Need fund at MSU CVM, which provides financial aid to Animal Health Center clients who cannot afford the critical veterinary care their pets need.

"I named the fund for one of my rescued dogs, Rocky, who had such a kind and care-giving soul. I'm glad his spirit can live on through this fund," she said. "Because animals and their welfare are so important to me, I concentrate my philanthropic efforts on charities and causes that will create better lives for them. You won't find my name on any hospital wings, but

you will find it on sanctuaries across the United States."

"As I've supported these causes and brought homeless animals to my farm and into my home, my intention was to make their lives better," Lane continued. "I had no idea what a gift they would be and that they would actually make my life better."

"Marcia Lane is a true champion of animal welfare. She supports too many shelters, rescue groups, and animal welfare organizations to count, and the work she has made possible through her gifts to MSU CVM helps ensure a better life for animals day in and day out," Dr. Bushby said. "Our program, our graduates, and our overall College are better because of her. MSU CVM is grateful for her passion for animals, generosity, and friendship."



**My most unique animal rescue was a white leghorn chicken that I rescued from rush-hour traffic on the 405, the busiest freeway in Los Angeles. He had fallen off a poultry truck and already been hit by one car. When I stopped to help him, a Budweiser Beer truck driver, thinking it was my pet, stopped to help as well. So, there were two humans chasing one chicken on the side of the freeway. We must have been a sight. He survived suffering only a broken leg that quickly healed. He came to live with us, and believe it or not, loved to have his toenails painted when I did mine.**

— MARCIA LANE

## MARCIA P. LANE



Marcia Lane had an interesting childhood. Her family was directly involved in efforts to develop Catalina Island. Her father was mayor of Avalon at the time of her birth, and her grandfather had been president of the famed Wrigley-entity Santa Catalina Island Company which held controlling interest in the island.

However, at the age of 4, Lane left Catalina behind when her family moved to Beverly Hills. It

was there that she began entertaining aspirations of becoming a Hollywood actress. Years later, she earned a drama degree from Pomona College in Claremont and began acting in 1954. Then, just as her career began taking off, Lane started her family and opted to "retire" to devote her time to motherhood, ultimately having four children.

Eventually, the search for wide-open spaces far away from the hustle and bustle of city life led the California native all the way

to the Black Prairie area between Columbus and Macon, where she purchased acreage and built a home, some outbuildings, and a stocked lake. Lane spends much of her time gardening and enjoying the quiet life there with her menagerie of animals, most of whom have been adopted or rescued and are now living the good life in her care.

Lane's love of animals began at an early age and grew through the years. Once her children were grown and flown, she had more time on her hands and became increasingly aware of the need for education and activism related to animal health and welfare. She supports numerous animal welfare programs and organizations.

A strong supporter of the Lowndes County Humane Society, Lane became familiar with the work of MSU CVM professor Dr. Phil Bushby, who began bringing veterinary students to the Columbus-Lowndes County Animal Shelter to perform spay-neuter surgeries in the early 90's. Recognizing the value of the program providing free spays and neuters at the shelter, Lane decided to support Dr. Bushby's work through the establishment of the Marcia P. Lane Endowed Chair of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare at MSU CVM in 2006, and she remains a loyal supporter and friend of the College.

# CVM HEAW AND SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



MSU CVM's Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare Program (HEAWP) may have started small in the early 1990s, but its impact has always been huge. Since its inception, the multiplying effect of engagement and support has led to numerous accomplishments, including the program's recent 100,000 spay-and-neuter surgery milestone and countless animals having been adopted into loving, forever homes.

The passionate commitment of donors shapes the HEAW program and grows the momentum that continues to enhance the widespread impact that the College and this program have on shelters, animals, veterinary students, and pet owners in Mississippi—and throughout the entire world. The College is deeply grateful for this generous support.

From the HEAWP's earliest days through today, gifts of all

sizes have made progress possible. Each and every person who has contributed has helped grow the program, and each person's contributions has extended our reach and helped us accomplish so much! Every gift DOES matter!

MSU CVM is excited to celebrate these achievements and wants to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our amazing donors for their outstanding support!

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Dr. Caitlin M. Allori  
American Veterinary Med. Assoc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Norman E. Ammons  
Ms. Tammie Anderson  
Ms. Heather L. Andrews  
Association of Shelter Veterinarians Inc.  
Mr. James L. Bailey, Jr.  
Charles and Georgia Banes  
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Baranello  
Mr. and Mrs. Perry D. Barnhart  
Mr. Colin Bernier  
Ms. Annie J. Berry  
Big Hill Foundation  
Mrs. Taylor B. Bigham  
Bissell Pet Foundation

Boehringer Ingelheim  
Mr. Bryan Booker  
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Boschert  
Ms. Barbara L. Bouchillon  
Mr. Robert Box  
Dr. Kelli L. Boyd  
Dr. William T. Brady  
Brookshire Construction Management  
Drs. Robert and Rebecca Burcham  
Ms. Jennifer L. Burns  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Bush  
Mr. and Mrs. Robin Callender  
Ms. Susan A. Carleson  
Carmeuse Lime and Stone  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Case  
Mr. and Mrs. William N. Cassell  
Mr. John W. Chambers  
Dr. Dennis A. Clark, II  
Class of 2011  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Coggin  
The Copwood Hill Foundation  
Drs. Billy and Amy Corbin  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald S. Crabtree  
Dr. and Mrs. Christopher C. Croot  
Mrs. Ethel B. Daniels  
Doris Day Animal Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Randa M. Dray  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dressman  
Mrs. Diane Eggert

Mr. and Mrs. Denis Everett  
Charitable Gift Fund  
Ms. Tanya K. Finch  
Mr. Brent Foshee  
Dr. Terese Gaboury-Jones  
Mr. Gary Gardo  
Drs. Patricia and Stephen Gaunt  
Mr. and Mrs. James F. George  
Mr. Gerald R. Griggs  
Mr. and Dr. Daniel B. Gully  
Ms. Vickie A. Hall  
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Hammons  
Mr. Thomas A. Hargrove, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott C. Harper  
Ms. Deena P. Heath  
Ms. Susan S. Heath  
Dr. Vera Heidolph  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Henderson, IV  
Ms. Mary Henry  
Mr. Nicholas Hillier  
Dr. and Mrs. Kent H. Hoblet  
Mr. and Dr. Jonathan D. Bell  
Mr. and Mrs. David W. Jones  
Dr. Jeanne C. Jones  
Ms. Catherine R. Kalmbach  
Dr. and Mrs. Jason M. Keith  
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy C. Kight  
Ms. Pamela J. Kilby  
Mr. and Mrs. William F. King, Jr.

Ms. Brenda L. Lambert  
 Ms. Brooke D. Lane  
 Ms. Marcia P. Lane  
 Mrs. Beth M. Lightsey-Kilgore  
 Ms. Michelle A. Lowrie  
 Ms. Mary J. Martinsen  
 Ms. Susan R. McBride  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Miller  
 Miss. State Univ. Women's Club  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Mooney  
 Mrs. Ardra I. Morgan  
 MSU CVM Class of 2013  
 MSU CVM Class of 2014  
 MSU-CVM Class of 2019  
 MSU-CVM Class Of 2020  
 Dr. and Mrs. Jon E. Nash  
 Ms. Julia Nash  
 Oktibbeha County Humane Society  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Olsen  
 Mr. Kent Olson  
 Oxford Lafayette Humane Society  
 Ms. Judy Pace  
 Parvin Animal Clinic LLC  
 PETCO Foundation  
 Ms. Corine Peterson  
 PETSMAART Charities

Piedmont Trust Company  
 Mr. and Mrs. Eduardo Rangel  
 Mr. Julio C. Rangel  
 Reliant Specialty Equipment Corp.  
 Mr. Robert Robinson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sean L. Sanford  
 Dr. Sharon H. Scates and Mr. Jimmy L. Scates  
 Mr. Clark J. Seal  
 Drs. Marc and Holli Seitz  
 Mr. and Mrs. Larry Shook  
 Ms. Frances Simpson  
 Ms. Sandra C. Sistrunk and Mr. Gerald W. Wilkerson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Douglas L. Skurzewski  
 Ms. Hannah M. Skurzewski  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steven P. Smith  
 Dr. Nancy A. Smith  
 Ms. D. Lynn Spruill  
 Ms. Lori J. Stackhouse  
 Mr. and Mrs. Leon F. Stanley  
 Stern Courtesy Committee  
 Mrs. Amy Thigpen Streetman and Mr. Jim Streetman  
 Dr. Todd J. Sullivan  
 Summerlee Foundation  
 Sweetbay Foundation

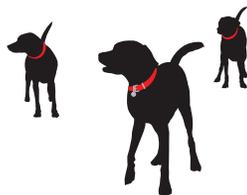
The Humane Society of the United States  
 The Schwab Charitable Fund  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Thurlow  
 Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas A. Timmerman  
 Mr. and Mrs. James R. Tompkins, Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Turner  
 Ms. Patricia K. Turner  
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin A. Van Wick  
 Ms. Angela Bell Vaughn  
 Ms. Laura Vercelli  
 Ms. Kim Vernon  
 Dr. Diane E. Wall  
 Mr. and Mrs. John M. Walley, Jr.  
 Ms. Mary Anne Walls  
 Dr. Barry R. Stewart & Dr. Penny J. Walsh, M.D.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Herman R. Ware  
 Dr. Janet M. Welter  
 Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Werner  
 Dr. Wanda L. West  
 Dr. and Mrs. A. Randle White  
 Ms. Amy Whitten  
 Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Wood, Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lee C. Wood, Jr.  
 Ms. Sarah Wormwood  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald S. Wright

## BISSELL PET FOUNDATION AND SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM STRIVE TO ENSURE EVERY PET HAS A HOME

The motto of the Bissell Pet Foundation is “Until every pet has a home.” Founded by Cathy Bissell, the foundation is focused on bringing awareness to animal welfare, increasing adoptions of pets from animal shelters, and reducing pet overpopulation. Bissell and her foundation began working with the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program in 2019, after she visited the College and was impressed with the work being done through the program.

Much of the foundation’s work involves transporting pets from overcrowded shelters to adoption-guarantee-destination shelters, providing financial assistance to struggling shelters and rescues, and supporting spay-neuter programs for shelter animals and pets of low-income families.

“The Bissell Pet Foundation provided a \$25,000 grant to the shelter medicine program to help offset the cost of surgical materials and anesthetic drugs after Cathy’s visit here in 2019, but the relationship between the foundation and our program involves more than just financial support,” Dr. Phil Bushby, MSU CVM Professor Emeritus Marcia Lane Endowed Chair of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare said, noting that he has worked closely with Bissell on the evaluation of shelters and rescue of animals from overcrowded shelters in the Southeast.



**BISSELL PET FOUNDATION™**  
 Until every pet has a home.

In 2019, Dr. Bushby provided Bissell Pet Foundation an evaluation of the animal shelter in St. Landry’s Parish, La., and he and Bissell met with parish leaders to discuss needs of the shelter and to promote transport. In 2020, Dr. Bushby assisted Bissell and a team of shelter managers from Michigan

in evaluating dogs at the Humane Society of the Delta in West Helena, Ark., to determine eligibility for transport. This event was filmed for the television series “To the Rescue.” In 2021, Dr. Bushby was asked by Bissell to once again visit and assess the welfare of the animals at Humane Society of the Delta; his report back to her ultimately led to the removal of nearly 300 dogs and cats from the shelter.

“Cathy and the Bissell Pet Foundation are accomplishing wonderful things through advocacy efforts, generous contributions to shelters and animal welfare organizations, adoption initiatives, and the many other tools and resources they provide to benefit the health and well-being of homeless animals,” Dr. Bushby said. “Those of us at MSU CVM are thankful for the opportunity to be a part of these endeavors, as well as for the investment they’ve made in our shelter medicine program and to so many other programs that are committed to reducing pet overpopulation and improving animal welfare.”

# ENDOWMENT HONORS PROGRAM'S FOUNDING VETERINARIAN, BENEFITS SHELTER ANIMALS



When MSU CVM obtained the Shelter Medicine Program's first mobile veterinary unit in 2007, the Oxford-Lafayette Animal Shelter, which was at that time operated by the Oxford Humane Society (OHS), was the very first place the unit was taken. This began a relationship that lasted more than a decade. And when in 2019 the OHS received a generous donation left by Dr. Leslie Tubb, a newly developed partnership was initiated, unleashing even greater benefits for the animals served by the College's shelter medicine program.

An Oxford, Miss., resident and longtime dentist, Dr. Tubb grew passionate about animal welfare later in life and recognized the severity of the pet overpopulation problem in northern Mississippi. To help solve this overwhelming problem, he asked that his donation be used specifically to fund a low-cost spay

and neuter program bearing his name. After receiving that donation, the Board of the Oxford Humane Society decided not to renew the contract to operate the Oxford-Lafayette Animal Shelter and to focus exclusively on spay-neuter, as well as to reorganize to the now non-profit Tubb Spay Neuter Project. In keeping with the wishes of Dr. Tubb, the project elected to contribute part of their funds to support spay-neuter services provided by the CVM program as well as honor its founder, Dr. Phil Bushby. That \$100,000 contribution, recognizing Dr. Bushby's vision and efforts to address the pet overpopulation problem, established the Philip A. Bushby Spay and Neuter Endowed Fund at MSU, which now supports low-cost and no-cost spay neuter in perpetuity.

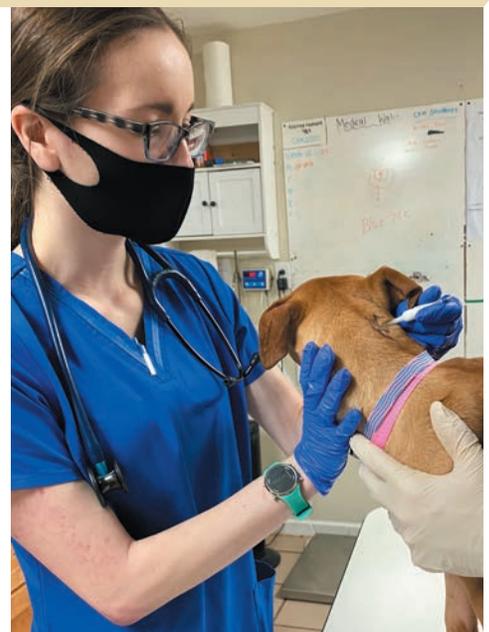
According to Dr. Bushby, this generous gift has been a significant part of the College's ability to continue the high level of surgery support for the numerous shelters and rescue organizations it supports across the state.

"The College fully funds the salaries for our program veterinarians and support staff members, but we rely on grants and donations for operational expenses and to provide our services free or at a greatly reduced cost," Dr. Bushby said. "As grant funds have become increasingly more difficult to obtain, support from individuals and humane groups has become more and more important. We are extremely grateful for the Tubb Spay Neuter Project's generous gift and for all gifts made in support of our program," Dr. Bushby said.

# BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM CONTRIBUTIONS



In 2021 Boehringer Ingelheim donated more than \$130,000 of products to the College's shelter medicine program. Donations included heartworm preventatives, flea and tick medications, vaccines, and analgesics. The corporation's generous contribution has benefitted scores of homeless animals, improving their health and well-being and overall quality of life, and they are on track to make a similar contribution in 2022.



# PETCO LOVE GRANT BENEFITS SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM

A recently awarded \$25,000 grant from Petco Love is helping the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program extend its efforts in providing lifesaving work for animals in Mississippi. The funding will support spay-neuter services provided by the program to animal shelters and rescue organizations throughout the state free of charge.

A nonprofit organization, Petco Love is leading change for pets nationally by making communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since their founding in 1999 as the Petco Foundation, they've empowered organizations with \$300 million invested to date in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. And they've helped find loving homes for more than 6.5 million pets in partnership with more than 4,000 organizations nationwide.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



According to MSU CVM Associate Clinical Professor and Shelter Medicine Service Chief Dr. Jake Shively, Petco Love's investment in MSU CVM and hundreds of other organizations across the nation committed to improving animal health and welfare is helping to create a future in which no pet is unnecessarily euthanized.

"This grant from Petco Love will fund over 1,000 spay neuter surgeries for adoptable pets in animal shelters and rescues, which translates to the prevention of scores of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens," he said. "We are grateful for the funds provided by Petco Love, as well as the support and gifts provided to us by other organizations and individuals. Without their generosity, we would not be able to offer this invaluable program."



## ***Support the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program***

With the exception of faculty salaries, the entire program is funded by grants and gifts. The upside to this method of funding is that we can provide our services at no cost to the animal shelters; the majority of those we service could not afford to pay even a nominal fee.

## ***Make a Gift Now!***

If you would like additional information about supporting the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine Program, contact Jimmy Kight, director of development, at [jkight@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jkight@foundation.msstate.edu).

# THE STAY AND SPAY: TRAINING SURGEONS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS

A small building tucked in the southeastern corner of MSU CVM's main campus is home to one of the College's signature services. Affectionately called the "Stay and Spay" by CVM students, the former necropsy facility was renovated in 2018 and became home base for the ever-so-popular and incredibly busy MSU CVM Shelter Medicine program.

"In 2018, our first mobile veterinary unit was showing age and had to be retired, and that's when the 'Stay and Spay' was born," MSU CVM Associate Clinical Professor and Shelter Medicine Service Chief Dr. Kimberly Woodruff said. "The facility was renovated and outfitted to accommodate upwards of 30-40 animals depending on size and cage space. A surgical suite was constructed with the ability to provide oxygen and inhaled anesthetics to patients and accommodate four student surgeons performing surgery at the same time."

The newly renovated facility allowed the shelter medicine team to continue serving animal shelters and rescue organizations after retiring the initial mobile unit, as well as to maintain the number of surgeries performed each year. This was important so CVM students could continue to receive the high volume of soft tissue surgical experience for which the College is so well known. And as it turns out, the facility has been exactly what was needed for the service to be maintained throughout the travel and many other restrictions imposed as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"The facility hosts 120 students, interns, and residents annually, with our students averaging between 50 and 60 surgeries during the two weeks participating in the shelter med elective,"



Dr. Woodruff said. "Our partnership with more than 20 animal shelters and rescue organizations has us conducting close to 5,000 surgeries in the facility annually. In addition, another 2,000 or so are performed on Mobile Unit 2, which is currently stationed at the OCHS Shelter in Starkville."

The spay and neuter procedures performed in this facility are a huge component of the shelter medicine program's efforts to increase companion animal adoptions and reduce euthanasia rates, as well as to prepare DVM students to be practice-ready day one.

"The work we do in the Stay and Spay helps animals and helps prepare students who will be practitioners charged with the responsibility of caring for them in the future," Dr. Woodruff said. "In the Stay and Spay, we get to make a difference every day."



# COLLEGE'S PARTNERSHIP WITH OCHS BENEFITS ALL INVOLVED



When travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic forced MSU CVM to take its second mobile veterinary unit off the road in early 2020, the College established a partnership with the Oktibbeha County Humane Society (OCHS) to help maintain the shelter medicine clinical and surgical experiences provided students.

According to MSU CVM Professor Emeritus Marcia Lane Endowed Chair of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare Dr. Phil Bushby, OCHS provided funding for an additional veterinary faculty member and veterinary technician in the College's shelter medicine program. "Mobile Unit 2 became a stationary surgical clinic focusing on spay-neuter procedures at the shelter, and Dr. Alex Shealy (class of 2020) and M'Lee Couch (veterinary technology class of 2021) were hired into the shelter medicine program to work primarily at the shelter," Dr. Bushby explained. "Dr. Shealy and M'Lee supervise students in performing spay-neuter surgeries in the mobile unit and in performing intake examinations and basic medical care for animals in the shelter, along with developing biosecurity protocols and addressing One-Health-related issues."

"In essence, I am the veterinarian for the shelter. M'Lee and I work there four days a week and in the Stay & Spay facility on the College's main campus one day per week," Dr. Shealy said. "Depending upon what year they are and what rotation or elective they're in, CVM students experience a variety

of aspects of veterinary care for shelter animals under our supervision."

Each animal that enters the shelter as a new intake requires a series of treatments, including vaccinations, a full physical exam, and parasite prevention. Then, depending on the student's evaluation and Dr. Shealy's assessment, some animals require additional attention, such as surgical correction of a pre-existing problem, medication for a pre-existing illness, and/or referral for radiographs and bloodwork. All that are intact undergo spay-neuter surgery to help make them more adoptable, as well as to help achieve the shelter medicine program's mission of reducing pet overpopulation.

"The OCHS-CVM partnership provides an ideal situation for the shelter, the shelter animals, and the College's veterinary and veterinary technology students. It enables the shelter to continually improve protocols and biosecurity, ultimately allowing for a healthier environment for the animals and staff, and it improves the health of the animals and increases their likelihood of being adopted," Dr. Shealy said. "The large number of animals presenting with varying conditions allows us the opportunity to teach students through hands-on experience in diagnosing and treating each animal from start to finish. Many students express how helpful their shelter experience has been and how their technical and surgical confidence has increased following it."



# SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM REACHES MILESTONE

On January 6, third-year veterinary student **KRISTEN CHISOLM** performed the MSU CVM Shelter Medicine program's 100,000th surgery. The procedure was performed in the College's mobile veterinary unit currently stationed at the Starkville Animal Shelter and under the supervision of Dr. Phil Bushby, Professor Emeritus Marcia Lane Endowed Chair of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare at MSU CVM. The program milestone was reached since acquisition of the College's first mobile veterinary unit in early 2007.

While completing 100,000 surgeries is a significant accomplishment, according to Dr. Bushby, the full impact of the program is a product of the skills of the more than 1,000 veterinary students who have developed highly efficient skills in spay-neuter surgeries, graduated, and entered practices all over the country with knowledge of—and the surgical skills to assist animal shelters in reducing—pet overpopulation.



"To truly realize the impact of this milestone, one must imagine the number of puppies and kittens that would have been born if these 100,000 dogs and cats were placed in homes unsterilized," he said.

Funded primarily by grants and donations, the surgeries are performed at no cost to the shelters and rescue organizations.

*"IT CAN BE TOUGH TO SOLVE A MEDICAL CASE IN THE SHELTER SETTING. DEVELOPING A TREATMENT PLAN WITH LIMITED DIAGNOSTICS, ALMOST ALWAYS NO HISTORY, AND NO WAY TO HOSPITALIZE ANIMALS TAUGHT ME TO FOCUS MORE HEAVILY ON THE PHYSICAL EXAM AND PATIENT SIGNALMENT AND LESS SO ON THINGS SUCH AS BLOODWORK OR RADIOGRAPHS. IT ALSO TAUGHT ME TO COME UP WITH THE BEST TREATMENT PLAN WITHIN THE LIMITS OF WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT BE THE GOLD STANDARD. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT SKILL SET TO HAVE, BECAUSE IN VETERINARY MEDICINE, THERE ARE INEVITABLY CASES WHERE MONEY IS A LIMITING FACTOR."*

– TORRI FIELDS, CLASS OF 2022

# MEET THE SHELTER MEDICINE TEAM



**PHIL BUSHBY, DVM, MS, ACVS**  
Professor Emeritus  
Marcia Lane Endowed Chair of  
Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare  
Program Founder



**KIMBERLY WOODRUFF, DVM, MS, DACVPM  
(Epidemiology)**  
Associate Clinical Professor  
Program Director



**JACOB SHIVLEY, DVM, MS**  
Associate Clinical Professor  
Service Chief



**CHASE SEYER, DVM**  
Clinical Instructor



**ALEX SHEALY, DVM**  
Clinical Instructor



**COOPER BROOKSHIRE, DVM, MS, DACVPM  
(Epidemiology)**  
Assistant Clinical Professor



**EMILY CHILDERS, CVT**  
Head Technician



**PAULA MORGAN, CVT, BS**



**M'LEE COUCH, CVT**

*"The knowledge I gained during my Shelter Medicine rotations has been, without question, the most influential to my success as a general practitioner today. The entire experience was extraordinary!"*

— PRICE COLEMAN, CLASS OF 2021

# MEET the FACULTY



## **DR. JUSTIN STILWELL**

Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine

Dr. Justin Stilwell joined the MSU CVM faculty in August as an assistant clinical professor of anatomic pathology. Dr. Stilwell received his Bachelor of Science from the University of New Hampshire in 2011. He earned his DVM from the University of Florida in 2016 before completing a residency in aquatic and anatomic pathology at the University of Georgia in 2019. He comes to MSU CVM from the University of Georgia where he served as an aquatic/anatomic pathologist in the department of pathology. Dr. Stilwell is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.



## **DR. NATALIE STILWELL**

Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine

Dr. Natalie Stilwell joined the MSU CVM faculty in August as an assistant clinical professor of microbiology. Dr. Stilwell received her Bachelor of Science from Bellarmine University in 2005. She earned her DVM from Auburn University in 2010 before pursuing a Master of Science and a PhD in veterinary medical sciences from the University of Florida. Following the completion of her PhD in 2017, she began working for Seastar Communications and Consulting—a veterinary writing and aquatic veterinary service. Prior to joining the MSU CVM team, she served as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.



## **DR. ISAAC JUMPER**

Clinical Instructor, Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine

Dr. Isaac Jumper joined the MSU CVM faculty in July as a clinical instructor in the department of pathobiology and population medicine. Dr. Jumper received his Bachelor of Science from Mississippi State University in 2014 and earned his DVM from MSU CVM in 2018. After graduation, Dr. Jumper completed a population medicine residency at MSU CVM while working towards his PhD in veterinary medical science.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR JOBS WELL DONE



### JENNY BURNS

Jenny Burns has served as MSU CVM Academic Affairs manager since December 2015. She works with students on all aspects of veterinary school—from evaluations, scheduling and exams to grades, financial aid, transcripts, and records. Simply put, there is not a student at the College who doesn't know her name and rely on her assistance.

"My favorite day of every school year is graduation day," Burns said. "It's really touching to see the culmination of the last four years and watch these students achieve their dreams."

Burns has a love for learning. She holds four degrees: a Bachelor of Science in secondary

science education, Master of Science in secondary science education, Master of Science in workforce educational leadership, and a Master of Business Administration—all from Mississippi State University.

"I've been at the College of Veterinary Medicine for the last 16 years—including four and one-half years working in the basement in the Central Sterile Department," Burns said. "Prior to coming to CVM, I worked in human medicine in a labor and delivery unit."

Outside of work, Burns enjoys spending time with her dogs, Kip and Doodle, and following MSU sports.



### PAULA MORGAN

Paula Morgan has been an animal health technician for the CVM shelter medicine program since 2018. In this role, she evaluates animals prior to their spay or neuter surgery, manages medical records, administers medications, vaccines, and sedation, and provides general nursing care to patients—all while helping educate veterinary students who are on the shelter medicine rotation.

"My favorite thing about my job is that we are making a difference every day and increasing the adoption rates of the dogs and cats that have been spayed or neutered," Morgan said.

"There is a desire to save them all, and it can be overwhelming, but with the right resources and constant hands-on education for the students and community, changes can and will be made."

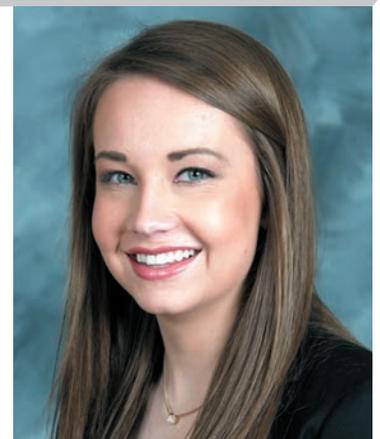
Morgan holds an associate degree from Meridian Community College and a Bachelor of Science in veterinary medical technology from MSU. While in community college, she volunteered at Coyote Hills Equine Rescue and Therapeutic Riding and worked part-time at a dog grooming salon.

Outside of work, she enjoys walking her dog, spending time with family and friends, and watercolor painting.

## AURORA PHARMACEUTICAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Aurora Pharmaceutical, Inc. awarded MSU CVM fourth-year students **HANNAH CARTER** (left) and **MARYANNA HUDSON** (right) scholarships from their inaugural Aurora Pharmaceutical DVM Student Scholarship Program. Carter received a \$5,000 scholarship, and Hudson received a \$2,500 scholarship that will help cover costs associated with obtaining their degrees. The two were selected from a pool of more than 80 applicants based upon academic achievement, community and university involvement, and goals. Congrats to both of these outstanding students!



# HOPKINS NAMED ALUMNI FELLOW



Ridgeland, Miss., native **DR. CAMILLE HOPKINS** was honored and humbled when MSU CVM Dean Kent Hoblet called to inform her of her selection as the College's 2021 Alumni Fellow.

Dr. Hopkins has always been fascinated by nature and passionate about the well-being of wild animals. After completing a Girl Scout Wider Opportunity experience with the Wildlife Conservation Society at the Bronx Zoo, she was determined to become a wildlife veterinarian.

Following graduation from the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, Dr. Hopkins earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Cornell University before returning to her home state to pursue a DVM from Mississippi State University. She completed her DVM in 2004 and then continued her studies, receiving a master's in veterinary medical science from MSU in 2005 and a doctorate in disease ecology from Virginia Tech in 2014.

"MSU provided me with the foundational knowledge and problem-based learning tools to prepare for a diverse veterinary career caring for pets, military working dogs, zoo animals, and free-ranging wildlife," Dr. Hopkins said.

As a student, Dr. Hopkins was awarded a prestigious National Institutes of Health Graduate Research Fellowship in 2009. The award provided enhanced support for her study of forest disturbance and its ecological impacts on the La Crosse virus, a mosquito-borne disease that can cause seizures, coma, paralysis, and permanent brain damage in severe pediatric cases.

Dr. Hopkins interned in the Republic of South Africa and at the Wildlife Center of Virginia, gained clinical experience at the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park, and completed arboviral diagnostics and surveillance training at the Center for Disease Control's Arboviral Diseases Branch. A veteran officer of the U.S. Army Reserves Veterinary Corps, she also cared for military working dogs during two overseas deployments.

After completing her graduate studies, she joined the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Reston, Vir., where she could apply her clinical and research experience as the wildlife disease coordinator in the Ecosystems Mission Area. In her current role, she oversees the national aquatic and terrestrial wildlife disease portfolio and represents USGS in interagency efforts to respond to wildlife diseases, including zoonotic diseases. She also participates in international discussions and meetings and contributes to Department of the Interior emergency management activities related to wildlife diseases.

"I also work with our communications and outreach staff to share our objective scientific results with our non-federal partners and the public," she said.

Dr. Hopkins's passion for her work, matched by an impressive resume, has propelled her successful career over the years. Beginning in individual animal wildlife medicine, she is now engaged in efforts with regional, national, and international implications. More importantly, because several diseases she studies can be transferred from wildlife to humans, her work has made significant contributions to the health and well-being of animals and humans alike.

One example is her recent work contributed to research on COVID-19 transmission in North American bats. Dr. Hopkins has also been involved in studies related to chronic wasting disease in white-tailed deer, a top game animal for Mississippi.

"I coordinate our research activities across the nation to support our wildlife disease congressional mandates like chronic wasting disease, avian influenza, white-nose syndrome, and stony coral tissue loss disease as well as integrate our science with ongoing interagency efforts to address wildlife zoonoses, including vector-borne diseases and SARS-COV-2," she said. "Related to that, I make funding recommendations for research priorities and participate in budget planning, budget execution, and strategic planning for our agency. As needed, I also participate in federal emergency response activities."

When addressing current MSU CVM students, Dr. Hopkins advised them to take the time to learn the diverse knowledge and develop skills to become a general veterinary practitioner. "You never know where your career may take you," she noted. "You may plan to head down one veterinary track, but doors may open for you to head down a different road. I would have never imagined that my career would include military working dog medicine and small animal emergency medicine in addition to wildlife medicine and One Health."

# NIH GRANT RENEWED FOR CHEMICAL ANTIDOTE RESEARCH AT CVM

MSU CVM Giles Distinguished Professor Dr. Jan Chambers, who serves as director of the MSU Center for Environmental Health Sciences (CEHS), recently received a new \$3.3M National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to continue her work related to improving chemical antidotes.

Dr. Chambers and her team, including CVM faculty and staff members Drs. Matthew Ross, Robert Wills, and Alicia Oliver, and Edward Meek, are focused on identifying better therapeutic medical countermeasures to protect the brain against chemical threats. The five-year Optimization UOI grant is the third award the CEHS and Dr. Chambers have received through the NIH CounterACT program.

This award will allow further development of novel antidotes to combat poisoning by nerve agents and some organophosphate insecticides which could be used in chemical attacks on the general public by terrorists or be released through an accidental spill. The CEHS currently holds a patent on a promising chemical platform to serve as antidotes; however, according to Dr. Chambers, the goal of the new project is to optimize the existing database on the effectiveness of the novel antidote against poisoning and on the safety of the novel antidote. This information will allow future advanced development of the antidote and, ultimately, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval.

Dr. Chambers explained that a major concern for chemical attack survivors is the potential for permanent brain damage as a result of seizures. "Because the brain cannot repair this



damage easily, there is a critical need for an antidote that enters the brain and is able to reverse early damage before long-term effects set in," she said. "The current FDA-approved antidote cannot protect the victim's brain, so we want to develop one that might replace it or be used in conjunction with it."

Although the current antidote protects the heart, lungs, and muscles, it cannot cross the blood-brain barrier. This layer of cells between the blood and brain prevents many chemicals, including some drugs, from moving from the blood into the brain.

Dr. Chambers and her team have used surrogates for nerve agents to develop antidotes that improve survival rates after exposure to threat chemicals, but if approved, these new antidotes could not only save lives but also preserve brain function. "Our goal is not to just save the life, but also the brain, allowing those exposed to this type of chemical the hope of having a normal life after the event," she said.

Prior to the antidote earning FDA approval, Dr. Chambers and her team must fully investigate its effectiveness as well as determine the best way to administer it to render the greatest protection and safety. Then, once approved, the antidote would be added to the Strategic National Stockpile of protective drugs and devices that is maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services to assist the public in the event of emergencies, such as terrorist attacks or accidents with these threat chemicals.



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. Last year, as we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the College’s first graduating class, we renewed our commitment 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.*

According to MSU CVM Development Director Jimmy Kight, the College has big plans for new facilities, including the addition of classroom and office spaces, expansion of the Animal Health Center, and development of outdoor areas, to accommodate the ongoing growth and development of programs and services. The following are the highlights of the design plans featured at right:

### **AREA 1**

An improved entry plaza to the academic area of the building is a major focus of future exterior additions and renovations. This would not only provide a more aesthetically pleasing entrance but would also serve as an outdoor common area. Currently, there is a grassy area adjacent to the main front entrance that is unusable. This area would be made accessible in the renovation and have tables and seating for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The new entry plaza would also provide space for a brick paver program allowing the opportunity for individuals to purchase bricks in memory or honor of a pet, veterinarian, friend, or family member. All gifts received through the brick program would be used for building enhancements.

### **AREA 2**

The Wise Center Campus could better serve not only faculty, staff, and students, but also clients, visitors, and members of the community with improvements to the existing grounds. The proposed plans feature a large outdoor space developed to include a dog park, walking trail, pavilion, and learning spaces.

### **AREA 3**

The northwest entrance to the Wise Center campus would undergo a change in the proposed plans, including a new way-finding display to better accommodate visitors and help direct traffic.

### **AREA 4**

Proposed plans also include an outdoor area specifically for students to gather. The space would be located behind the 2015 classroom addition and in proximity to the proposed academic tower addition.

### **AREA 5**

A 20,000-square-foot addition is proposed for the northwest corner of the building to expand learning areas. The multi-story tower would house classroom, office, and, potentially, laboratory spaces.

### **AREA 6**

The College continues to grow with an increased student enrollment and higher patient volume, and the proposed building plans include an expanded, three-story Animal Health Center. This addition would allow the College to add new services and better accommodate existing ones. The space includes additional exam and consultation rooms, student areas, clinical spaces, and offices.

For more information about these proposed plans and other development projects at the College, contact MSU CVM Development Director Jimmy Kight at [jkight@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jkight@foundation.msstate.edu).



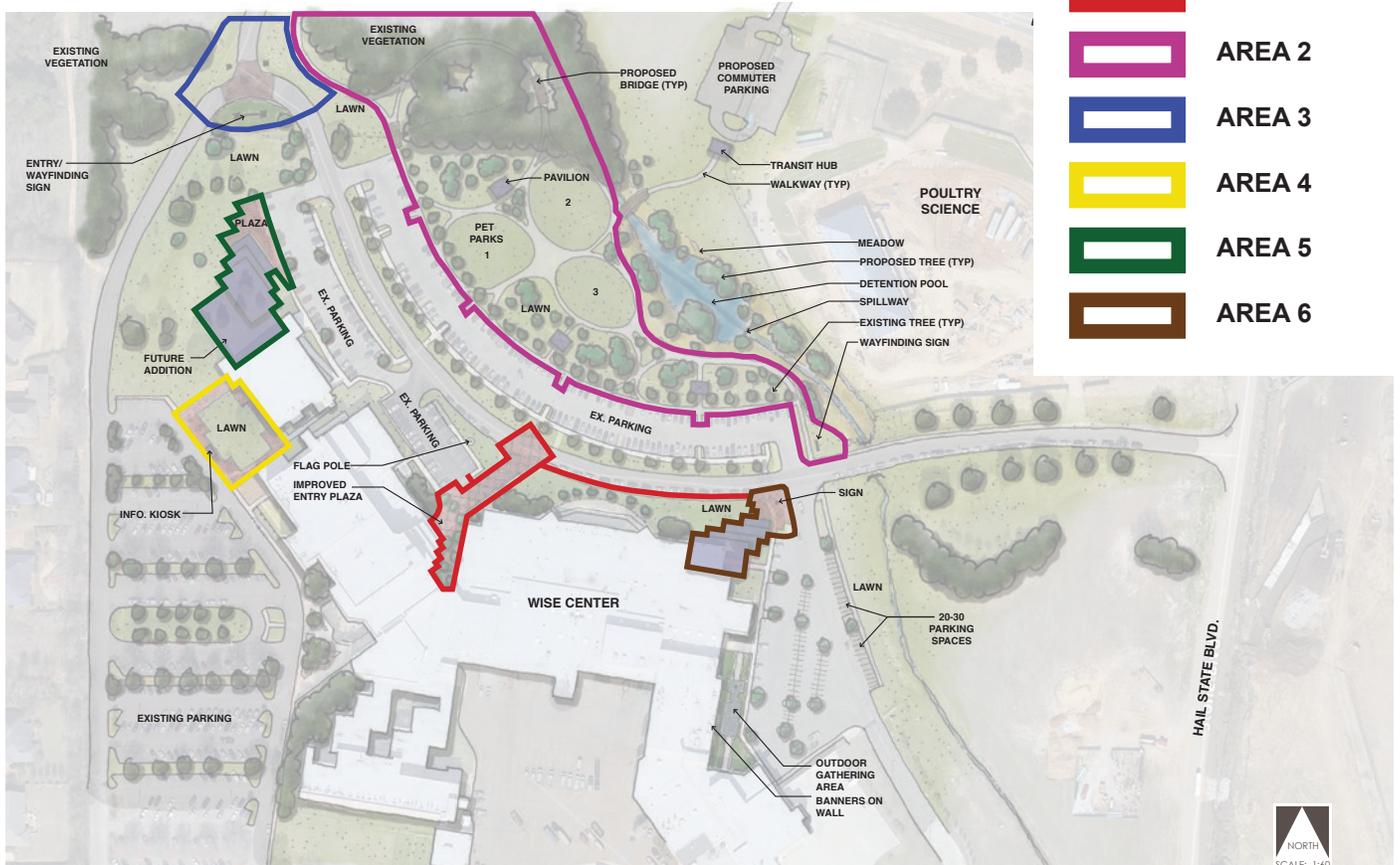


PRELIMINARY VISION FOR

**THE WISE CENTER**

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY, MISSISSIPPI

Preliminary - Not for Construction



PRELIMINARY PHASING AREAS FOR

**THE WISE CENTER**

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY, MISSISSIPPI

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## HOLLYWOOD'S HAPPY ENDING

Jay and Fran Fowler and their two daughters, Katherine, 10, and Carter, 8, live on a farm in Raymond, Miss., and enjoy participating in cutting horse shows. In the fall of 2020, the Fowlers bought a beautiful American Quarter Horse gelding, Hollywood, for their daughter Katherine to show. Unfortunately, Katherine was diagnosed with a congenital condition that would require brain surgery, so Hollywood and Katherine's time in the ring would have to be put on hold for the time being.

In the meantime, life went on—as normal as it possibly could with Katherine's surgery looming. Then, on January 31, 2021, a peaceful evening for the family ended with them being awakened to their barn almost fully engulfed in flames and Hollywood's life being forever changed.

"At 3 a.m., Jay and I were awakened to the very loud whinnying of a horse," Fran said. "I got up, thinking a horse had gotten out, but when I opened the front door, I could see the barn was up in flames. I started screaming and running toward it; Jay and his sister, who was visiting us and stayed over that night, heard me and followed."

"Jay ran straight into the barn to try and save the horses. Fortunately, as fate would have it, only K-Bob and Hollywood were put up that night, and the others were in the pasture," Fran continued. "Jay was able to get K-Bob out and noticed that

Hollywood's stall was open. He went back to check for Hollywood, but he wasn't there."

While Fran was communicating with 911 and reaching out for veterinary help, Jay's sister found Hollywood between the barn and the house. The fire had started over his stall, and Hollywood had literally turned himself into the flames and kicked his stall gate until the latch broke to escape and alert them of the situation.

"Seeing that gate in the light the next day—it showed his will to live and to get help," Fran said. "Hollywood is the reason K-Bob is still here and completely unharmed by some miracle. The other miracle is that our diesel tank was on the other side of the barn, and if Hollywood hadn't woken us up... Well, he's our hero."

The barn was a total loss, and Hollywood suffered severe burns over approximately half of his body; he was in grave condition. Dr. Donnie Vice at Dixie Equine Hospital in Madison, Miss., provided the initial care to stabilize Hollywood. Over the next ten days, Dr. Vice treated Hollywood for smoke inhalation and electrolyte abnormalities and cared for his wounds. Then, mainly due to concerns about the injuries to Hollywood's eyelids, Dr. Vice, referred him to MSU CVM.

According to Dr. Alison Eddy, an associate clinical professor in the College's equine services unit, when Hollywood arrived, he had third degree burns on his back, neck, face, and tips of his ears. These areas were covered with a burn eschar, a very thick dark

gray scab that forms after severe burns. His eyelids were intact, but swollen and red, and his eyelashes were all burned off.

“Surprisingly, Hollywood was bright and responsive and systemically in good health. I was expecting a horse that was dull and overtly painful, but Hollywood walked in the place with a swagger and acted like he owned it,” Dr. Eddy said. “I knew his determination to live would be a key part of his recovery.”

Dr. Becky Telle, a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist at CVM, also evaluated Hollywood. She noted swelling in both eyelids, corneal ulcers, severe injury to glands that produce part of the tear film, and inability to close his eyes completely.

“We were very concerned about the extent of Hollywood’s eyelid injuries, as they were painful and could lead to prolonged discomfort and blindness,” Dr. Telle said. “Although many horses can adapt to being blind in one or both eyes, our goals for Hollywood were to make him as comfortable as possible while also trying to preserve his ocular health to the best of our ability.”

Over the course of the next several months, the CVM equine and ophthalmology services provided top-notch care for Hollywood.

“Hollywood’s care was intensive and time consuming. There were months of baths, ointments and antibiotics to prevent infection and itching, and keeping his pain in check was a priority,” Dr. Eddy said. “Many weeks into his care, we applied fish skin grafts over the deepest wounds on his forehead, and we were eventually able to perform pinch grafting on his back, where he had the most third-degree burn damage. This required between 400-500 individual grafts, but it worked; over 90 percent of them survived.”

Healing Hollywood’s eyes and saving his vision proved equally as arduous. A combination of drops was used, and special materials were applied to his eyelids to promote healing and reduce the chance of eyelid retraction. In time, Hollywood was able to fully close his left eye, but his right eyelids were too scared to fully close. Dr. Telle decided to try a procedure to hopefully expand the skin; however, it had not been previously reported for this particular purpose. Fortunately, it allowed the corneal ulcers to heal and achieved the desired results, and he regained full function of his eyelids.

Through it all, Hollywood was extremely cooperative. Unlike many horses with this degree of injury, he continued to eat and had a positive demeanor. His toughness in the face of overwhelming injury won everyone’s respect.

Horses with severe burn injuries require multimodal treatment, repeated assessments, and adjustments to their treatment, so Hollywood’s case offered numerous CVM students opportunities and experiences that will prove beneficial to them in the future.

“Hollywood’s case was extensive, so it was important to reassess his needs daily,” fourth-year DVM student Sam Harrison said. “As future veterinarians, it is crucial for us to learn how to research, be creative, and prioritize treatment ideas, and this was all part of optimizing Hollywood’s healing.”

“I was very intimidated when I first learned I was to assist with Hollywood’s pinch grafts; however, over the course of three procedures, I became more confident and competent. I went from just passing sterile instruments to harvesting and placing



dozens of pinch grafts,” third-year DVM student Hannah Kruse said. “Hollywood’s resilience inspired me; it was an honor to be a part of his care team and to help get him home to his sweet family.”

“Hollywood’s drive for life was truly inspiring! Caring for him not only taught me essential skills for management of large wounds, but also the importance of perseverance in challenging cases,” fourth-year DVM student Kayla Lewis added.

The Fowlers, who visited as often as they could, developed a close relationship with Hollywood’s caregivers. “Words can’t adequately describe our feelings for the practitioners and students at CVM. Drs. Eddy and Telle and the rest of the team are amazing,” Fran said. “They thought outside of the box, trying new and different treatments to give Hollywood the best outcome possible. They were truly invested in our family, just like they were him.”

“On the day of Katherine’s surgery, one of the students FaceTimed Katherine while with Hollywood to let her know ‘he’ was thinking about her. Dr. Alli Salinger sent flowers and a Teddy bear to Katherine in the hospital ‘from’ Hollywood,” Fran continued. “Honestly, the day he came home was bittersweet. We were thrilled he was with us and well enough to be home, but his caregivers had become like family, and I knew I was going to miss them.”

Because the skin on Hollywood’s back is fragile, he can no longer be ridden. He also requires special care and protection from the sun; however, his prognosis for a happy life is excellent.

“Hollywood is loving life and is so very spoiled! He still goes to shows with us; we let him romp and play in the practice pens at night. He is such a huge part of our family and our testimony—I truly think that he got Katherine through her brain surgery and recovery,” Fran said. “We are so incredibly thankful for everyone at MSU CVM. They are simply the best!”

# FACULTY AND STUDENTS INVOLVED WITH SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION AND CARE



Every winter, the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, Miss., takes in cold-stunned Kemp's ridley sea turtles that are flown south from the northeast. The team at IMMS spends months rehabilitating the turtles before releasing them into the Mississippi Sound once they are well.

In December, the last cold-stunned turtle of 2021 was cleared for release by MSU CVM Veterinarians Dr. Debra Moore and Dr. Christa Barrett, who are stationed at IMMS. Several CVM faculty, staff, and students traveled to Gulfport for the release of turtle 182 – affectionately named “Squirt.”

Just a few days after Squirt's release, the IMMS team and additional faculty and students from MSU CVM leapt into action as they took in 25 more cold-stunned Kemp's ridley sea turtles. During intake, each student is assigned a turtle that they stay with throughout the initial medical exam, which includes measurements, x-rays, blood tests, and an eye exam.

“There have been a few reports on cold-stunned turtles and their ocular problems; up to 47% of these turtles have ocular lesions,” said MSU CVM Associate Clinical Professor and Ophthalmologist Dr. Caroline Betbeze. “This can be anything from corneal ulcerations to inflammation within the eye.”



The 25 turtles taken in during December will spend the next few months being rehabilitated and treated for any medical problems before they are hopefully ready to be released into the Mississippi Sound in the spring. Before they are released, each turtle is equipped with a satellite tag, a metal flipper tag, and a microchip tag.

“Every time the turtle breathes or breaches the surface of the water, it sends a signal to the satellite passing over, and the signal is transferred back to a data tracking system,” Dr. Moore said. “That data is directly accessed by the IMMS staff, and the location is plotted on a map. The tracking allows scientists to identify what habitats the turtles are using for feeding, ideal locations that the animal prefers to live in, and helps them to decide what areas need to be protected.”

The metal flipper tags are placed on the fore flippers of the turtle to identify that the turtle has been in a rehabilitation facility, marked during nesting activity on the beach, or part of capture and release studies. The flipper tags have identification numbers that can be traced back to the individual organization that placed it, and the microchip is placed in a muscle so that it can be scanned – similar to ones placed in pets by veterinarians.

The annual turtle stranding event provides a wonderful opportunity for CVM students to get involved with conservation while gaining exposure to aquatic animal medicine and the services MSU CVM veterinarians provide at IMMS.



## ACVP RECOGNIZES MSU CVM PATHOLOGY STUDENTS, RESIDENT, AND FACULTY MEMBER



Third-year anatomic pathology resident and MSU CVM alumnae **DR. KAYLIN MCNULTY** received the Pathology Training Scholarship Award from the Davis-Thompson Foundation, which recognizes a pathology trainee demonstrating academic and diagnostic excellence as well as leadership, teaching, and mentoring abilities. Dr. McNulty was cited for her outstanding work as a pathologist and teacher, specifically her thorough post-mortem and microscopic examinations and completion of clear, detailed reports in a timely manner. Her interest in marine pathology and work with the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, as well as her efforts assisting with the development of a marine animal short course for third- and fourth-year DVM students was also noted.

MSU CVM was well represented at the virtual American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) meeting in November. Seven veterinary students presented diagnostic cases or summer research projects. The anatomic pathology residents also presented their work and helped prepare the veterinary students for their presentations.

Second-year veterinary student **SKYLER TURNER** received first place in the Veterinary Student Clinical Case Poster category. He presented his summer research project titled “Speciation of the etiologic agent of canine leproid granuloma syndrome using PCR on FFPE tissue samples.”

**PETER MCGINN**, a fourth-year DVM student, was presented the ACVP William Inskoop Scholarship. This scholarship was established by the ACVP to recognize veterinary students who have an interest in pursuing a career in veterinary pathology. McGinn has been interested in pathology since his first year of veterinary school and recently accepted an anatomic residency position following graduation in the comparative pathology program at North Carolina State and University of North Carolina School of Medicine.



MSU CVM Associate Professor of Pathobiology and Population Medicine **DR. ALICIA OLIVIER** was also recognized during the conference. She was presented the Presidential Award in honor of her service to the ACVP. A member since 2010, Dr. Olivier has served the ACVP in numerous roles, including chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee and the Lifelong Learning Committee. Her work with the Lifelong

Learning Committee, which provides continuing education opportunities for veterinary pathologists that enhance scientific knowledge, support professional development and work-life balance, was cited with special attention to her help developing and launching the first ACVP professional mentoring program last year.

# CHANGE, MINDSET, AND PERSPECTIVE



MSU CVM Clinical Psychologist Dr. Pauline Prince

At MSU CVM, change is all around us! A new semester brings different classes, rotations, daily routines, and learning experiences. If you haven't been in our building in a while, you might not know about our new wellness offices, the new student study areas, or the new sophomore surgery suite. Even the dean's office suite is under renovation thanks to private support!

Change is often met with some level of grumbling, resistance, and/or discontent. Some of us navigate change easier than others, but it is human nature to prefer our "normal" routines, habits, and surroundings, as they provide us a sense of safety and comfort. "Normal" requires less cognitive energy because it is **KNOWN**, and there is a level of expectancy. Change shakes our "normal" up in a way that our anxiety can increase from the lack of the familiarity and the increase in the unknowns. **NEW** requires more cognitive energy and more novel problem-solving. When our day-to-day lives are already busy enough with the various to-do lists and tasks to accomplish, having to give cognitive energy to problem solving the "new" in our lives is unsettling, exhausting, and just plain undesirable. However, our perspective and our mindset are two traits that can help us manage change with less stress.

Mindset refers to an established set of attitudes/beliefs. Growth versus fixed mindset is a current topic in the field of psychology, first proposed by psychologist Carol Dweck from Stanford University. Mindset basically refers to how we see ourselves, our attitudes, and skills. If I have a growth mindset, I believe that I can learn and grow from life experiences. A fixed mindset is one that believes "I am who I am" and "life is what it is" and neither belief changes. Those with a growth mindset tend to perceive more control over life circumstances, and when we are in control, we tend to experience less stress. Those with a fixed mindset can feel at the mercy of life experiences

and struggle to see how they can actively influence change, outcome, and growth in a manner that suits their goals best. A fixed mindset can be shifted to a growth mindset with a shift in perspective.

Perspective is the way we view circumstances, our attitude about life events. If we have the perspective that "I've been here before. I can handle this,"—even if this attitude is about the change **process** rather than the **precise set of circumstances**—then we manage the bumps in the road easier. Anticipation of bumpy roads allows us time to think through potential problem situations and create a plan of action for the scary "what ifs." Having a plan of action, even if it is never needed, provides that sense of safety and confidence that reduces our anxiety. Those of us in the counseling/health and wellness suite are always happy to help shift perspective so individuals can more easily see their strengths, successes, and gifts. We can then help the individuals to develop a growth mindset allowing them to better navigate change, which is and inevitable part of our day-to-day lives. Change is just part of life; stress and anxiety about it can be minimized.

*Pauline Prince, Ph.D., ABN*

Dr. Pauline Prince  
MSU CVM CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

# DISC GOLF COMES TO MSU CVM



Disc golf has been sweeping the nation as a recreational outdoor activity, and MSU CVM has joined the movement!

Second-year DVM student **IAN EVANS** led the charge of creating a disc golf course on the CVM campus, and the course was officially opened for use in December.

“I wanted to construct the course as a wellness opportunity for students and professors as well,” Evans said. “Disc golf is a quickly growing sport that anyone can learn, so I was interested in creating an area for people to get away for an hour and reset before getting back to work or their studies. It was also a great opportunity to forge a closer relationship with the Starkville community and beyond.”

Evans began getting approval from administration in August. By mid-September, he was selling sponsorships for each hole to purchase the baskets, tee pads, signs, and items needed for construction. Installation began in early October and wrapped up at the beginning of December.

Since opening in December, the course has been played more than 1,500 times—with an average of 20 rounds played per day. Disc golfers can be seen on the course throughout the day—even despite some really cold weather.

“The most rewarding part of completing this project was being able to see people enjoy some recreation outdoors with friends as well as strangers,” Evans said. “I hope that the sport continues to grow within our community here at MSU CVM, and that future students and staff can enjoy learning a new sport, making new friends, and taking a little time to unwind in our own front yard!”

Evans noted that the course would not be possible without the support of Dr. Jeb Cade, Dr. Ron McLaughlin, Dr. Pauline Prince, the MSU Disc Golf Team, the Starkville Disc Golf Association, and Andy Hunt. The nine-hole course was sponsored by Eat Local Starkville, the Eiland family, the Evans family, and Hill’s Pet Nutrition.

The positive response to the nine-hole course has brought about interest in growing it to 18 holes. Anyone interested in supporting this growth may contact MSU CVM Director of Development Jimmy Kight at [jkight@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jkight@foundation.msstate.edu).

# ASSOCIATE DEAN MCLAUGHLIN SELECTED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF ACVS



MSU CVM Associate Dean for Administration **DR. RON MCLAUGHLIN** was named president-elect of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons during the 2021 ACVS Virtual Surgery Summit.

Founded in 1965, the ACVS is the specialty board that sets the certification standards for advanced professionalism in veterinary surgery and provides the latest in surgical education programs. It is the AVMA-recognized veterinary specialty organization for certification of veterinarians in large and small animal surgery.

Dr. McLaughlin, who earned his DVM from the University of Missouri in 1985, is a board-

certified small animal surgeon with special interest in orthopedics. He became an ACVS Diplomate in 1992 and has served on the ACVS Board of Regents, the Veterinary Orthopedic Society Board of Directors, the AO North America Veterinary Trauma Education Committee, and as president of the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians.

Since joining the CVM faculty in 2000, Dr. McLaughlin has served in various roles, including chief of small animal surgery, interim director of the veterinary technology program, Animal Health Center chief of staff, hospital director, and head of the department of clinical sciences. He was named associate dean in 2015.

# COLLEGE CELEBRATES NATIONAL VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WEEK

The MSU CVM Veterinary Medical Technology program celebrated National VMT Week 2021 with a variety of activities. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some of this year's celebration was modified; however, fun was still had by all!

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



According to assistant clinical professor Dr. Mandy Kohler, the program always enjoys celebrating this week each year, and the VMT students take an active role in planning the activities.

“Again this year, we had several local businesses contribute to our gift baskets and prizes for the week,” Dr. Kohler said. “It was great to have so much support from the Starkville community!”

The week kicked off with a presentation on self-care from MSU CVM Clinical Psychologist Dr. Pauline Prince along with a catered lunch from Brian Michael's for all VMT students and veterinary technicians who work in the Animal Health Center.

Lane Cress, RVT and outreach and intern coordinator for Charlotte Animal Referral and Emergency (CARE) in Charlotte, N.C., shared about the competitive rotating internship available to veterinary technicians at CARE and provided a pizza lunch for all VMT students.

On Friday, October 22, the week wrapped up with a visit from the Blue Plate Mafia food truck, which offered a special discount to all VMT students and veterinary technicians at CVM.

“Our College recognizes that veterinary medical technologists are a vital part of the veterinary services team and is deeply appreciative of their contributions to the veterinary profession,” Dr. Kohler said.



MSU CVM is proud to offer one of less than two dozen four-year VMT programs in the country and be one of the few programs where technologists train alongside the DVM students in the same clinical setting. VMT students also enjoy the opportunity to participate in clinical experiences their entire senior year.

“We pride ourselves in offering a collaborative learning environment. Our faculty members are committed to providing an excellent education, and they genuinely care about our students,” VMT Program Director Dr. Maralyn Jackson said. “We offer a family-like atmosphere where students receive the training and support they need to reach their goals and be successful in their careers. We also offer a variety of animal-related clubs and organizations, where students can build relationships with their peers outside of the classroom, further their experience working with animals, and make a difference in the world around them.”

MSU CVM's rigorous classroom and clinical curriculum and supportive, family-like environment produce well-rounded graduates who are well prepared to enter the workforce.

“In the last few years, there has been a significant increase in the demand for well-trained VMTs,” Dr. Jackson said. “They have become increasingly and justifiably recognized as integral players on the veterinary team. Whether our graduates are interested in working in clinics, laboratories, or operating rooms, they've had no problem securing jobs!”

**“Our College recognizes that veterinary medical technologists are a vital part of the veterinary services team and is deeply appreciative of their contributions to the veterinary profession.”**

— DR. MANDY KOHLER

# BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AWARENESS DAY



Members of the MSU CVM student chapter of the American Society of Lab Animal Professionals (ASLAP) set up an information booth at the College last fall in recognition of Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD). Those manning the booth provided materials spotlighting the critical role lab animals play in medical advances and treatments for both humans and other animals, as well as information about career opportunities in biomedical research and laboratory animal medicine.

# BULLY'S BOWL OPENS WITH RAVE REVIEWS

Thanks to the generosity of CVM donors Drs. Carol and Mark Akin, as well as contributions from CVM supporters and members of the CVM family, the College recently opened Bully's Bowl, a new kitchen area open to all CVM students, faculty, and staff free of charge.

Located on the Wise Center's fourth floor and accessible 24-hours per day, seven days per week, the kitchen area features a pantry, refrigerator, sink, and microwave and is stocked with a variety of snack, quick-fix, and staple food items.

According to CVM dean's office administrative assistant Cindy Ratcliff, who helped establish the area, Bully's Bowl was much needed and has been very well-received. "This idea has been in the works for quite some time, and it's really exciting to see it become a reality," she said. "We are wowed by the number of CVM family members who have already benefited from this service. It's a good feeling to know the kitchen is serving the purpose intended."

The kitchen more or less operates on the slogan, "Take a Meal, Share a Meal!" with volunteers helping ensure basic supplies and popular items are kept in inventory.

"We wanted folks to be able to walk in and grab something like a granola bar or piece of fruit if they needed a snack; a pasta cup or frozen dinner if they needed a meal; even a bag of beans, jar of peanut butter, or pasta sauce and noodles if they needed them at home," Ratcliff said.

Bully's Bowl isn't funded by the College; it's made possible through the kindness and generosity of those who understand the need for the service it provides.

To contribute, visit [vetmed.msstate.edu](http://vetmed.msstate.edu); click Make A Gift; select Other; and designate Bully's Bowl: MSU CVM Kitchen/Fund 313144. Those in need of more information or interested in making a corporate gift to the project may contact MSU CVM Development Director Jimmy Kight at [jkight@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jkight@foundation.msstate.edu).

## Bully's Bowl

The CVM Community Kitchen

*Take a Meal,  
Share a Meal!*



**VET MED**



# CVM RESEARCHERS RECEIVE INNOVATION AWARD FOR RAPID COVID-19 ANTIBODY TEST



MSU CVM Associate Professor **DR. KEUN SEOK SEO** and a team of researchers, including assistant research professor **JOO YOUN PARK** and postdoctoral associate **NOGI PARK**, in the College's Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences were recognized for their rapid COVID-19 antibody test at the TechConnect World Innovation Conference and Expo held in Washington, D.C., last fall. The group received an Innovation Award for the test, which has the potential to fill a significant void within the existing diagnostic testing market.

"The current commercially available blood tests cannot differentiate between neutralizing and non-neutralizing antibodies; however, this test is able to do so by using an innovative chimeric receptor protein. It offers results from a finger prick blood sample in 15 minutes," Dr. Seo explained. "It's a quick and affordable way to test for COVID-19 neutralizing antibodies."

This will be very helpful in mitigating the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, according to Dr. Seo, in that the test can determine

if a person maintains high levels of protective immunity so he or she does not develop asymptomatic infection and unknowingly transmit COVID-19 to vulnerable populations. In addition, the test can also help determine if an individual should receive a booster vaccination.

The test is patent-pending and currently being evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. Clinical trials are being conducted on it at MSU as well as at Micro Biomed USA to whom the researchers have non-exclusively licensed the technology for commercial use.

According to MSU CVM Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Dr. David Smith, Dr. Seo and his team have done a great deal of research related to the SARS-CoV-2 virus with findings to help mitigate its spread, but this technology in particular holds a great deal of promise. "We are extremely proud of Dr. Seo and Drs. Joo Youn Park and Nogi Park for the work they have done and continue to do. It is quite impressive and has brought a great deal of positive recognition to our College," Dr. Smith said. "This rapid antibody test holds great promise to help fight COVID-19, end the pandemic, and eventually get our lives back to some sense of normalcy."



# CVM'S LAWRENCE CURRENTLY SERVING ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BOARDS



MSU CVM Professor **DR. MARK LAWRENCE**, who serves as director of both the MSU Global Center for Aquatic Health and Food Security and USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish, was recently reappointed to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) Technical Working Group for the Progressive Management Pathway for Aquaculture Biosecurity.

Consisting of individuals representing government, regional, and international intergovernmental organizations, industry, academe and development, and aid agencies and foundations, the group is charged with the ongoing development and

implementation of a risk management pathway to assist national and international improvement of biosecurity in aquaculture production. Dr. Lawrence initially joined the UN FAO group in December 2020.

Last fall, Dr. Lawrence was also appointed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board. He joins seven additional new board members and six reappointed members. The NAREEE Board provides feedback to the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA's Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area, and to land-grant colleges and universities on food and agricultural research, education, extension, and economics priorities and policies. The Board also provides reports and recommendations to the appropriate agricultural committees of the U.S. Congress. Members are selected and appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and serve one- to three-year terms.

# CVM TEAM MEMBERS HONORED BY DAFVM

Several MSU CVM faculty and staff members were honored by the MSU Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine at a COVID-modified version of the division's annual Summer Celebration last fall.

The CVM COVID-19 Testing Laboratory was presented the 2021 Rosalind and Rodney Foil Teamwork Award. The Foil Award is given in recognition of an individual or group of employees who go beyond the short-term self-interest of their department or college to forge alliances with colleagues from across the division and university. Members of the CVM COVID-19 Testing Laboratory include Tad Ballard, Missy Bolin, Sam Borazjani, Heather Cunningham, Mary Beth Dail, Michael Dawkins, Terry Doler, Chris Gardner, Joey Kellum, Adef Kordon, Liyuan Liu, Eda Ozdemir, Ozan Ozdemir, Lanny Pace, Joo Youn Park, Nogi Park, Beth Peterman, Stephen Pruett, Matt Ross, Shirley Guo-Ross, Keun Seok Seo, Hui Wang, and Lifang Yan.

The team was recognized for their outstanding efforts to establish, staff, and gain CLIA certification for a Biosafety Level 2 laboratory dedicated to processing all COVID tests collected at MSU's Longest Student Health Center in an effective and efficient manner. The lab was established at CVM in the fall of 2020 at the request of MSU



President Dr. Mark Keenum during a time when access to reliable and rapid testing was severely lacking.

“The College was pleased to make PCR testing and results readily available to the Mississippi State University family,” MSU CVM Associate Dean Dr. Ron McLaughlin said. “CVM faculty and staff charged with facilitating this testing capability went above and beyond their responsibilities, and we are pleased they have been recognized for their efforts.”

The following CVM faculty members were honored with 2021 Regions Bank-DAFVM Superior Faculty Awards:



Dr. Sharon Grace



Dr. Mark Lawrence



Dr. Caroline Betbeze

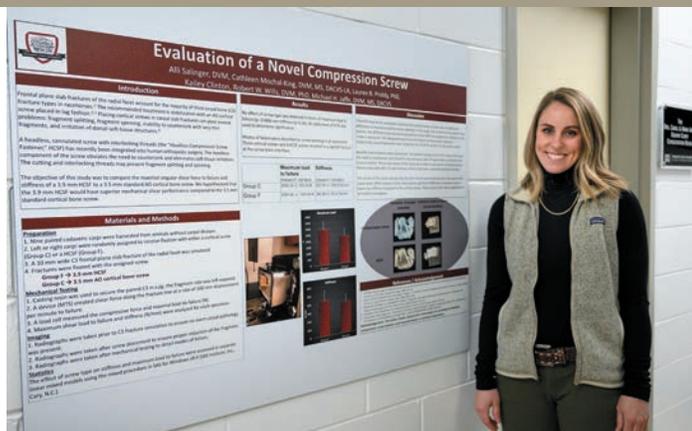


Kristi Carter

- MSU CVM Clinical Professor **DR. SHARON GRACE** - Teaching
- MSU CVM Associate Clinical Professor **DR. CAROLINE BETBEZE** - Service
- MSU CVM Professor, Global Center for Aquatic Food Security Director and USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish Director **DR. MARK LAWRENCE** - International

In addition, Animal Health Center Clinical Admissions Assistant **KRISTI CARTER** was also recognized with one of two Robert L. Williams Stellar Staff Awards presented by the division.

# SALINGER RECOGNIZED BY ACVS



MSU CVM equine surgery resident **DR. ALLISON SALINGER** won first place in the poster presentation of Outstanding Surgery Residents' Awards at the annual American College of Veterinary Surgeons Summit for her presentation on biomechanical comparison of “Headless Compression Screw Fasteners and Cortical Bone Screws for Fixation of Equine Third Carpal Bone Fractures.” The OSR Awards were established to encourage development of clinically important research and the dissemination of the results of those investigations—particularly those conducted by surgery residents.



# 2021 ALL COLLEGE AWARDS DAY

## PRESIDENT'S PEGASUS AWARD

The Honorable Lynn Spruill, Mayor of Starkville

## VICE PRESIDENT'S PEGASUS AWARD

Dr. Reuben Moore

## DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARD

Lee Weiskopf

## PEGASUS FACULTY AWARDS

Dr. John Thomason | Award for Teaching  
Dr. Graham Rosser | Award for Research  
Dr. Skip Jack | Award for Service  
Dr. Alison Lee | Award for Service

## ZOETIS AWARD FOR

## VETERINARY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Dr. Amelia Woolums

## E. WYNN JONES AWARD

Michael Dawkins

## STAFF AWARDS

Asha Bolton  
Lorelei "Lori" Ford  
Mencil Miles

## PRESIDENT'S PEGASUS AWARD



Presented by MSU President Mark Keenum

*Each year the President's Pegasus Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the various missions of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, the University, and the veterinary medical profession.*

The Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine is fortunate to have the support of individuals in a variety of leadership positions across our great state and country; however, we all know success is rarely possible without local assistance and support—without cultivated relationships and partnerships right here at home. MSU CVM is fortunate to have such a relationship with Starkville Mayor **LYNN SPRUILL**. She is a loyal and valued friend of the University and College and has been for many years.

A native Starkvillian, Spruill is a graduate of Starkville High School and Mississippi State University. She received her Bachelor of Science in business at MSU in 1974 and later earned her JD/MPA joint degree from Georgia State University in Atlanta. Spruill served in the U.S. Navy from 1975–1981 and is a former United States naval officer and pilot; she became the first woman in the history of the Navy to qualify as a carrier pilot. She is also a former pilot for Delta Air Lines, and she served as city administrator for two Starkville mayors before being elected to the office herself in 2017 and then re-elected in 2021.

Spruill is and has been involved in the local community with roles in several organizations such as board member of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, the Starkville Community Theater Board, and the Volunteer Starkville

Board. She has also been named by the *Mississippi Business Journal* as one of the 50 leading businesswomen in the state.

In addition to these many accomplishments and areas of service, Spruill is also a great friend to MSU CVM. For almost two decades, she has passionately and generously supported animal welfare.

Spruill also assists the dean with promotion, growth, and sustainability of the College as an active member of the inaugural CVM Dean's Council. In this important role, she works with a team of extraordinary people to provide strategic

advice regarding vision, direction, and long-term planning of the College, as well as to assist with acquiring resources from private, corporate, state, and federal levels and assisting with the College's student recruitment efforts.

It has been said that good deeds should be done with intention, not for attention. Lynn Spruill truly lives by this motto. The MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and the students, clients, and animals it serves are better because of her kindness and generosity, and we are pleased to recognize Lynn Spruill with the 2021 MSU CVM President's Pegasus Award.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S PEGASUS AWARD



Presented by MSU DAFVM  
Vice President Dr. Keith Coble

*The Vice President's Award is given to a person not currently employed by Mississippi State University who has made significant contributions to the veterinary medical profession and has benefitted the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.*

The 2021 Vice President's Pegasus Award was presented to former MSU Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine Interim Vice President **DR. REUBEN MOORE**.

Dr. Moore, who owned and operated a dairy farm near Philadelphia, Miss., for 10 years before joining the MSU Extension Service, is a veteran MSU agriculture administrator. He served as an Extension dairy specialist for 11 years and as head of the North Mississippi Research and Extension Center in Verona for four years, as well as associate director and interim director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. Dr. Moore was serving as the associate

vice president of DAFVM when he was chosen by President Keenum to serve as the division's interim vice president in 2019, while Dr. Greg Bohach was dealing with health issues.

In this role, Dr. Moore served the Division exceedingly well, bringing decisive and effective leadership, until his retirement in 2021.

In March 2020, with little warning, the COVID pandemic struck Mississippi and Mississippi State University. This greatly impacted how the CVM operated. Like the rest of the campus, CVM faculty teaching in the first two years of the professional curriculum adapted to providing online lectures. However, for the College to continue to meet needs of providing students a clinical learning experience, as well as to continue providing the animal-owning public critical clinical and diagnostic laboratory services, adaptation of the rules mandated by the "shut down" became necessary; in short, clinical operations and diagnostic laboratory services were in peril.

Several administrators and faculty at MSU stepped forward at that critical time to ensure that clinical and diagnostic services continued; however, no one—no one—was more important and helpful than Reuben Moore! His perspective, leadership style, and knowledge of biology and infectious diseases, as well as his understanding of the potential broad capabilities of a college of veterinary medicine, proved essential to keeping our CVM open and functional throughout those trying times. The beneficiaries were the students, the state's animal industries, the animal-owning public, and, ultimately, Mississippi State University. Reuben Moore was the right leader at the right time for DAFVM.

MSU CVM is grateful for the leadership and support he provided during his tenure and has continued to provide since his retirement. We are pleased to honor him with the 2021 MSU CVM Vice President's Pegasus Award.

## DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARD



Presented by Dean Hoblet

*The Dean's Pegasus Award is presented by the Dean to a person or persons who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in teaching, research, and/or service on behalf of the University and MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.*

The 2021 Dean's Pegasus Award was presented

to **LEE WEISKOPF**, the University's special assistant to the president for governmental affairs.

Weiskopf holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a Master of Public Policy and Administration from Mississippi State University. He began his professional career at the MSU Social Science Research Center where he directed the Mississippi Public Safety Data Laboratory and Mississippi eCite Project, both in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Public Safety and Mississippi Highway Patrol.

Prior to his current role at MSU, Weiskopf served as director of policy for former Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves. He joined the lieutenant governor's office in 2012, where he assisted Lt. Governor Reeves in planning and coordinating policy decisions, adoption, and implementation.

Since the summer of 2016, Weiskopf has been the university's primary contact to executive and legislative branches of state government, as well as the legislative and policy liaison to other institutions of higher learning as system-wide initiatives are developed. He is also the university's lead lobbyist in the

Mississippi Legislature, working as an advocate for MSU and higher education in the state.

Weiskopf connects MSU's world-class faculty and staff with existing businesses, potential partners, and public agencies to help the university and, in turn, move the entire state of Mississippi forward. This is a tall order.

Because MSU CVM is a separately budgeted unit within the overall budget of the state of Mississippi, each year we must prepare and submit a budget request for the legislature to consider prior to them passing a separate budget bill for the College that the governor will sign into law.

For a democratic government to work effectively and fairly, the legislators and those in the executive branch must understand the needs of those they represent, and in turn, support them through resources which are always limited. Weiskopf works diligently to understand the missions and needs of our University and our College, and he represents us and advocates for us with state government.

Weiskopf doesn't just work during the formal legislative session; some of his most effective work occurs during the remaining nine months of the year. His work is year-round and involves many nights on the road and in Jackson. He is diligent in informing decision-makers regarding what MSU CVM contributes to the state and its people, and he effectively communicates the resources it will take to accomplish our missions.

Lee Weiskopf is tireless as he represents MSU CVM. He is available any day at any time and is truly committed to our University and College. He is a valued colleague and friend. MSU CVM is proud to honor him with the 2021 Dean's Pegasus Award.

## DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARD FOR TEACHING



Presented by Dr. Andrew Mackin

**DR. JOHN THOMASON** is the recipient of the 2021 Dean's Pegasus Award for Teaching. He was recognized not only for his work within the classroom and clinic instructing students, but also for his work to help ensure the MSU CVM boasts a rigorous curriculum that

adequately prepares students to be practice-ready on day one.

Dr. Thomason has led the Curriculum Implementation Committee for almost two years and, despite all the challenges presented by the pandemic, somehow managed to effectively and efficiently get all the curricular changes formulated, proposed, and approved. His letter of nomination noted that

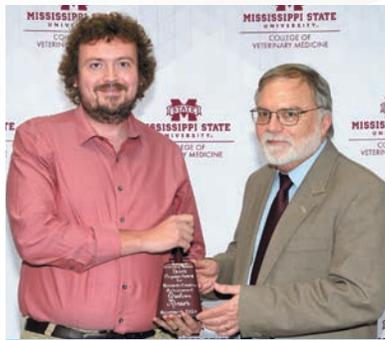
this process was, "like herding cats... but despite working with numerous personalities—that could at times be difficult—Dr. Thomason was never negative or complained and was calm and helpful."

In addition, the letter of nomination cited the tremendous help Dr. Thomason was with the implementation of the Enhanced Clinical Practicum program, as well as his efforts to make the transition to the new curriculum as smooth as possible for both faculty and students.

Dr. Thomason has made exceptional contributions to the College. His outstanding service will impact CVM academic endeavors for many years to come. He is a proven leader, valuable colleague, and an all-around nice guy who truly cares about the College, its students, and the veterinary profession.

Congratulations to Dr. John Thomason, the 2021 recipient of the Dean's Pegasus Award for Teaching.

# DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARD FOR RESEARCH



Presented by Dr. Bob Wills

**DR. GRAHAM ROSSER**, the recipient of this year's Dean's Pegasus Award for Research, quickly established himself as a leader among his peers as an excellent scientist. His ambition, determination, and intellect have impressed researchers not only at MSU, but across the country.

Dr. Rosser is an extremely versatile modern scientist, utilizing a broad range of tools from field work to sophisticated microscopy and use of molecular data, from traditional Sanger sequencing to genomic and metagenomic research. Among peers, he is considered one of the most broadly prepared scientists of his generation. Dr. Rosser's body of work spanning basic and applied research has exceedingly advanced the knowledge of parasites relevant to veterinary medicine, including fish production and health management, wildlife health, and One Health.

Dr. Rosser has been recognized by national and international colleagues, receiving more than 12 awards and honors in the past nine years—including the Ashton Cuckler New Investigator Award and the Ashton Cuckler Early Career Award from the American Society of Parasitologists.

In addition to being extremely knowledgeable and versatile in his research endeavors, Dr. Rosser is a kind and enthusiastic individual with a passion for teaching and mentoring students.

Congratulations to Dr. Graham Rosser, who is most deserving of the 2021 Dean's Pegasus Award for Research!

Since joining the CVM Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences faculty in 2017, Dr. Rosser has authored 38 Scopus-listed publications, which is an excellent indication of his productivity. His open-mindedness has been demonstrated by a willingness to accept new ideas from collaborators and colleagues, and he demonstrates an exquisite level of detail when planning experiments.

# DEAN'S PEGASUS AWARDS FOR SERVICE

*Two faculty members were honored with the Dean's Pegasus Award for Service this year. One is a long-time faculty member who has made a tremendous impact on scores of students over the years. The other helped her clinical service excel despite seemingly insurmountable hurdles.*

**DR. SKIP JACK** was nominated for the Dean's Pegasus Award for Service in recognition of his faithful service and willingness to do whatever asked for the benefit of the College and its students.

An outstanding leader, Dr. Jack has also proven to be the consummate team player. Despite his many course responsibilities, he stepped forward to carry the load of the expanded class size in Anatomy. He has also served on the Admissions Committee; he even agreed to remain in this time-consuming—but critical—role for additional years to help assist Dr. Henderson during staffing changes. In addition, he is an active participant in the multi-university Aqua Vet program each year.

Dr. Jack truly has a servant's heart. He is very involved in his church, prison ministry, and the community at large, and he sets a wonderful example of how to "give back." He is club advisor for CVM's Christian Veterinary Fellowship and has taken students on multiple mission trips to other countries. He also invites students into his home for meals and to celebrate holidays.

Dr. Skip Jack is an outstanding role model for both students and peers. He goes about his duties cheerfully and is always lifting the spirits of others. MSU CVM is fortunate to have him as part of the family and is pleased to honor him with the Dean's Pegasus Award for Service.

MSU CVM Diagnostic Imaging Service Chief **DR. ALISON LEE** was nominated for the Dean's Pegasus Award for Service in recognition of not only her excellence in clinical service, but also her outstanding accomplishments in managing her clinical service—specifically overcoming what could have been "a perfect storm"



Presented by Dr. Bill Epperson

that would have resulted in the CVM Radiology Service losing its residency program and being left literally without faculty or house officers.

Thanks to Dr. Lee's leadership, knowledge, insight, work ethic, passion for patients, and dedication to MSU CVM, this would-be disaster actually led to improved patient care and service, increased efficiency, and a unique new residency plan never before approved by the respective accrediting college of veterinary medicine. This process took months—during the challenges and trials presented by the COVID pandemic (and during the pregnancy of her first child and then with a newborn)—but Dr. Lee remained committed, and not only is the program successful here at CVM, but it is also now serving as a model nationally for other residencies to follow.

In addition, Dr. Lee has achieved a perfect pass rate for residents from her program taking both the preliminary and certifying examinations. The CVM's program also served as a model that was recently adopted by the University of Georgia, and it is one of the many ways the College is establishing a national reputation.

As stated in one of her letters of nomination, most individuals who found themselves in a similar situation would have resigned, but Dr. Lee's leadership truly "enabled a phoenix to arise from the ashes."

Dr. Alison Lee is an outstanding leader, clinician, and a loyal team member. Her dedication and service to MSU CVM and its students over the last couple of years is unsurpassed. She is most deserving of the Dean's Pegasus Award for Service.



Presented by Dr. Andrew Mackin

## ZOETIS AWARD FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



*The Zoetis Award for Research Excellence is awarded annually to a faculty member of MSU CVM from their peers. Nominees are principal investigators in research that has been conducted within the past three years and has or is likely to attain national or international recognition. The award consists of a congratulatory letter, an engraved plaque, and a cash award of \$1,000.*

The 2021 recipient of the Zoetis Award for Research is MSU CVM Professor of Pathobiology and Population Medicine **DR. AMELIA WOOLUMS**, a nationally recognized authority on bovine respiratory disease.

A tenured professor with a wealth of experience, an impressive list of post-graduate awards and accomplishments, and an extensive research portfolio, Dr. Woolums joined the CVM faculty in July 2015 and is highly regarded as a mentor to graduate students and veterinary students participating in the MSU CVM Summer Research Experience program. She has served on a variety of committees at college, university,

and national levels and is the current president of both the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists and the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases. Her 10 peer-reviewed publications in 2020–2021 serve as evidence of her productivity.

Dr. Woolums is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine as well as the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. She has served as editor for special issues of *Veterinary Microbiology* and *Vaccines for Viral Diseases of Livestock*.

Her research involves understanding the immune response during bovine respiratory disease with the goal of improving vaccines for this condition and for developing better bovine respiratory disease diagnostics. She uses state-of-the-art methods including mRNA therapeutics/vaccines/diagnostics and RNASeq analysis to assess expression changes in genes of interest.

Dr. Amelia Woolums is an outstanding and well-respected researcher and member of the MSU CVM faculty. She is most deserving of the 2021 Zoetis Award for Research Excellence in Animal Health.

## E. WYNN JONES AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE



Presented by Dean Hoblet

*The Dr. E. Wynn Jones Award for Exceptional Service recognizes individuals who have provided exceptional service to the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Wynn Jones was among the first faculty at MSU CVM, and even after he retired, he worked tirelessly on behalf of the College. Dr. Jones passed*

*away in 2016 but left a lasting legacy and example for all in the CVM family.*

MSU CVM ITS Director **MICHAEL DAWKINS** is the recipient of the 2021 E. Wynn Jones Award. Dawkins came to CVM in 2011 and through the years has demonstrated a firm commitment to the College. Most anyone at CVM can tell you what a valuable member he is of our team. The following are just a few such comments from faculty and staff:

- Michael and his team do a tremendous job of supporting the many missions of the College. Their support of desktop computers for faculty, staff, and students, the College's database systems, the hospital and laboratory electronic records systems, and the technology used in all the classrooms is vital to our success. Our College is extremely dependent on computers and technology, and we couldn't ask for a better person to make sure we stay operational.
- We are thankful for the top-notch services Michael ensures that his team provides for our College on a daily basis. He always does an outstanding job; however, he has truly risen

to the challenge and performed exceptionally well under tremendous pressure during the pandemic. No request is ever too large to manage or too small to entertain; he is always accommodating and helpful, and he completes his duties with a smile.

- When Michael was hired, he was given the task of re-vamping the ITS department and the services it provides. Foremost in the requested improvements was to instill a sense of customer service within his team, and he has excelled with this endeavor. However, many of the improvements made are never really "seen" by the end users. These include upgrading the ITS infrastructure in such ways as fiber optics, faster switches with more capacity, ensuring backup power and cooling of server rooms, oversight of installation of security solutions such as cameras and access points, conversion of several electronic medical record systems, and management of the voiceover internet protocol college-wide telephone system. What is evident has been his willingness to assist wherever and whenever his help is needed. The COVID-19 pandemic led to many more examples of his leadership. The sudden and necessary change in delivery of education by CVM mandated drastic changes in ITS support from web-based lecture/meeting setup to dual-classroom delivery with remote learning capability to structuring a coronavirus laboratory testing framework. Throughout this change and chaotic challenges, he and his team have excelled.

MSU CVM ITS Director Michael Dawkins has done exceptional work to ensure the College has the latest technology that is operating effectively and efficiently, and he is a model recipient of the Dr. E. Wynn Jones Award.

# DISTINGUISHED STAFF AWARDS

## ASHA BOLTON – Animal Health Technician (Ophthalmology)

The role of an animal health technician is busy and demanding, but Asha Bolton greets each day with patience and quiet confidence. From the moment she joined the ophthalmology team, she wasted no time learning the intricacies of their specialized procedures, instruments, and surgical equipment. She routinely devises improved methods of organization for the ophthalmology service and works to correct systems that are inefficient, helping the service run smoothly for faculty, students, clients, and patients. Bolton has taken on several responsibilities of the ophthalmology fourth-year core clinical rotations. She is in charge of orientation, setting up emergency schedules for students, communication methods, helping students choose threshold tasks, setting up labs for exams, administering and grading the exams, and much more. She is quiet, patient, calm, and helpful—traits that shine when teaching students and explaining complex cases to clients and referring veterinarians. When the ophthalmology service added a new technician during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bolton worked diligently to be sure that her transition was smooth and served as a role model for the new technician. Congratulations to MSU CVM Animal Health Technician Asha Bolton for being selected as a 2021 CVM Distinguished Staff Award recipient.

## LORELEI “LORI” FORD – Senior Research Associate, CVM Diagnostic and Aquatic Lab

When graduate students, interns/externs, and summer research students need help troubleshooting a new technique, their first stop is often Lorelei “Lori” Ford. Over the past two decades, Ford has established herself as a valuable resource at CVM given her vast experience with an impressive number of molecular and microbiological techniques. She has played a significant role in dissertation or thesis projects of every graduate student who has worked in the Hanson laboratory

and many others who train under different faculty. Her efforts have garnered her co-authorship on 12 Scopus-listed publications. On the periphery of her role as a senior research associate, Ford makes a concerted effort to unify and welcome international students. She has helped organize and host numerous lunches and dinners on U.S. holidays that are not always recognized by every member of the department. To put it briefly, she champions inclusivity and promotes diversity. Congratulations to MSU CVM Senior Research Associate Lori Ford for being selected as a 2021 CVM Distinguished Staff Award recipient.

## MENCIL MILES – Custodian II

Over the past year, all of us have faced many significant challenges. On the professional stage, we have dealt with varying COVID protocols and ongoing COE preparations, while on a personal level, we have had to juggle personal and family health issues in addition to ensuring we maintain the expectations of CVM. Within the CVM’s Building Services team, Mencil Miles has consistently stepped up and answered the call. The custodial crew has played a significant role in ensuring a clean and safe environment throughout the pandemic, and Miles was at the center of ensuring that the building was at its peak and ready for the COE site visit. During the months and weeks leading up to the COE visit, he developed a plan to ensure that the floors shined and dealt with many of the details of cleaning areas that needed attention. He came in early and worked on several weekends to minimize conflicts with various CVM operations. Miles recently retired but was always a reliable and steady resource and displayed unselfish leadership characteristics to others. He is a fine, dependable man who earned the respect of not only the facilities department but also the entire CVM. Congratulations to former MSU CVM Custodian Mencil Miles for being selected as a 2021 Distinguished Staff Award recipient.



Lori Ford, Mencil Miles, and Asha Bolton with award presenter Dr. Ron McLaughlin

# ANNUAL CAREER EXPO CONNECTS GRADS AND EMPLOYERS

In September, the College hosted its annual career expo, providing MSU CVM Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and veterinary medical technology students the opportunity to connect with potential employers from across the country. The event was once again a huge success, with more than 189 students—127 DVM and 44 VMT—participating and 30 different practices/organizations representing hundreds of positions onsite to share career opportunities.

MSU CVM Animal Health Center Director Dr. Joey Burt, who coordinates the College's Art of Practice and Business Management class and organizes the event each year, said exhibitors represented employment opportunities at private, corporate, industry, and government entities, including the United States Department of Agriculture.

In addition to the opportunities presented to MSU CVM students, the event also included resources for the vendors

and employers in attendance, who were provided with a complimentary lunch and an MSU CVM swag bag.

"The participating practices and organizations were invited to tour the College and to attend a presentation on the expectations of today's graduates prior to the exhibits opening," Dr. Burt said. "Most participants have expressed that they found the information provided to be extremely useful in navigating the rapidly changing veterinary employment market."

The 2022 Expo is slated to be held in early fall with exact dates and pre-registration to be announced. MSU CVM students actively seeking employment, veterinarians in private practice looking to expand their staff, and organizations seeking new veterinary graduates can watch for details about the annual event on social media and the College's website, [vetmed.mssstate.edu](http://vetmed.mssstate.edu), in early summer.



# MSU CVM PARTICIPATES IN MLK DAY OF SERVICE



Several MSU CVM students and faculty spent part of their holiday on January 17 giving back to the Starkville community.

MSU encourages students, faculty, and staff to participate in three official service day events each year—the MSU Service

Dawgs Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, and the MSU Big Event. During these days, the College coordinates with the Maroon Volunteer Center on campus to offer volunteers who dedicate a few hours of their time to perform community service at sites throughout Starkville.

Most recently, CVM volunteers spent time at Camp Seminole—a 208-acre facility dedicated to the Boy Scouts of America and various other youth camps—where they spent time cleaning the dining hall and various meeting spaces as well as removing debris that had collected on the grounds and outside of the facilities.

MSU CVM second-year student Ian Evans has taken the lead on coordinating these events and said while the number of volunteers varies for each opportunity, the enthusiasm of the group never wavers.

# ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY 2021



## SUMMER RESEARCH STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION

Mary Catherine Beard (1st place), Ian Evans (2nd place), and Lauren Ellison (3rd place), accompanied by Dr. Barbara Kaplan and Dr. David Smith



## GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATION

Darby Stanford (1st place), Hannah Urig (2nd place), and Liyuan Liu (3rd place), accompanied by Dr. David Smith



## GRADUATE STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION

Chiquita Price (1st place), Alexis Thompson (2nd place), and William Crosby (3rd place), accompanied by Dr. David Smith

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

"Research Day is an opportunity for us to celebrate the extraordinary work of our graduate students and summer research students," CVM Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Dr. David Smith said. "The poster session and presentations help us to demonstrate the wide variety of research being conducted in the College of Veterinary Medicine and create a culture within the College that values discovery."

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

### SUMMER RESEARCH WINNERS

**FIRST PLACE:** Mary Catherine Beard

**SECOND PLACE:** Ian Evans

**THIRD PLACE:** Lauren Ellison

### GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER WINNERS

**FIRST PLACE:** Darby Stanford

**SECOND PLACE:** Hannah Urig

**THIRD PLACE:** Liyuan Liu

### GRADUATE STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION WINNERS

**FIRST PLACE:** Chiquita Price

**SECOND PLACE:** Alexis Thompson

**THIRD PLACE:** William Crosby

Dr. Barbara Kaplan, associate professor in the CVM Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, was presented the Boehringer Ingelheim Research Mentoring Award. Nominations for the award, which recognizes exemplary mentoring within the College's Summer Research Experience (SRE) program, are made by SRE students with the SRE Leadership Committee and previous year's winner selecting the recipient. Dr. Amelia Woolums, professor in the CVM Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine and the award's inaugural recipient in 2021, along with Drs. Sherrie O'Brien and Jody Ray from Boehringer Ingelheim presented the award.



This event is sponsored annually by

**nutramax**<sup>®</sup>  
LABORATORIES  
**VETERINARY SCIENCES, INC.**

# GRANTS & CONTRACTS

## AWARDED TO CVM FACULTY

### EXTERNAL GRANTS

**Hasan C. Tekedar (PI), Larry A. Hanson (CoPI). USDA-NIFA.** The role of the tight adherence operon genes of epidemic *Aeromonas Hydrophila* caused disease in channel catfish and use to develop vaccines. \$160,952

**Janice E. Chambers (PI), Edward C. Meek (CoPI), Matthew K Ross (CoPI), Robert W. Wills (CoPI), Alicia K. Olivier (CoPI). National Institutes of Health (NIH).** Optimization of Substituted Phenoxyalkyl Pyridinium Oximes as Therapies for Organophosphate Poisoning. \$706,875 (Year 1)

**James Andrew Shores (PI). The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).** Canine Comparative Genomics, Oncology, and Neurotherapeutics. \$120,813 (Year 4)

**Lester H. Khoo (PI). USDA-ARS.** Catfish Health Initiatives. \$397,783 (Year 1)

**Lanny W. Pace (PI), Lifang Yan (CoPI), Martha Pulido Landinez (CoPI). USDA APHIS.** NAHLN Level 1:MS2021 Infrastructure II. \$281,200

**Gregory T. Pharr (PI). USDA ARS.** Identification of the Molecular Determinants of Pathogenesis, Strain Variation, and Tissue Tropism of Different *E. coli* Strains. \$145,349 (Year 3)

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

**Amelia Woolums (PI), Alicia Olivier (CoPI). Boehringer Ingelheim.** Assuring health of colostrum-deprived calves for BRSV challenge studies. \$70,803

**Graham Rosser (PI), Matthew Griffin (CoPI), David Wise (CoPI), Charles Mischke (CoPI). USDA ARS.** Optimization of molluscicidal treatment strategies to disrupt trematode life cycles in catfish aquaculture ponds. \$45,346 (Year 2 funds)

**Lanny W. Pace (PI), Martha Pulido Landinez (CoPI). United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).** Using MVRDL to increase the FDA Vet-LRN sample analysis capacity during animal food/feed emergency events. \$10,000 (Year 6 funds)

**Alejandro Banda (PI). USDA APHIS NWRC.** Environmental Monitoring as Early Sentinel Warning for Presence of CWD. \$169,405

**Stephen Pruett (PI), Keun Seok Seo (CoPI). Syntactx.** Clinical trial of a rapid diagnostic kit for neutralizing antibody against Sars-Cov-2. \$68,743

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

**Bindu Nanduri (PI). National Institutes of Health (NIH).** EMCC-MSU Bridges to Baccalaureate Degree Program. \$8,907 (Year 4)

**Lifang Yan (PI). United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) (DHHS).** Application of Automatic Extraction Platform KingFisher Apex on Viral and Bacterial Pathogen to Increase the Capacity in Vet-LIRN Sample Analysis. \$60,000

**Janice E. Chambers (PI), Edward C. Meek (CoPI). AMVAC Chemical Corporation.** Intraspecies Variability of OP Inhibition. \$135,446.87

**Joo Youn Park (PI), Keun Seok Seo (CoPI). MiCo Biomed Co. Ltd.** Development of rapid diagnostic assay for yellow fever and tuberculosis. \$145,505

**Larry A. Hanson (PI). USDA APHIS.** Developing methods to quantify coliform contamination of oyster farms by fish-eating birds. \$20,000

**Russell Carr (PI), Barbara Kaplan (CoPI), Matthew Ross (CoPI), Elizabeth Swanson (CoPI). Nanomedical Systems, Inc.** Analysis of Blood Levels of CBD utilizing a Slow Release Device. \$28,141

**Hossam Abdelhamed (PI), Matthew Griffin (CoPI), Lora Petrie-Hanson (CoPI), Lesya Pinchuk (CoPI). USDA-NIFA.** Trans-cinnamaldehyde as an antimicrobial feed additive to control and prevent enteric septicemia of catfish. \$625,000

**Lora Petrie-Hanson (PI), Lesya Pinchuk (CoPI). USDA-NIFA.** Direct binding of non-specific cytotoxic cells (NCCs) to bacteria is an important innate immune mechanism in catfish. \$300,000

### INTERNAL GRANTS

**Cooper Brookshire (PI), Josh Burnette (CoPI). MSU CVM VSRI Research Program.** A Rapid, Sensitive, and Cost-Efficient Detection Assay for Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* (MRSP) and Other Pathogenic Coagulase Positive Staphylococcal Species. \$1,500

**Stephen Reichley (PI). MSU Fish Innovation Lab.** Development and Investigation of the Delivery Mode of a Multivalent Bacterial Fish Vaccine in Zambia. \$14,306

**George E. Howell (PI). COBRE Pilot Project.** Interaction of environmental exposures, adipose tissue microenvironment, and *S. aureus* pathogenicity. \$109,125

**Todd Pharr (PI). MSU CVM ORGS.** Identify the cellular source of leukocyte cell-derived chemotaxin 2 in the embryonic bursa of Fabricius. \$7,750

**Matthew Griffin (PI), Graham Rosser (CoPI). MSU CVM ORGS.** Investigating the myxozoan etiology of proliferative gill disease in blue x channel hybrid catfish in the southeastern United States. \$9,905

**Russell Carr (PI), MSU CVM ORGS.** Cannabidiol Exposure on the Immune Response in Juvenile Rats. \$10,000

**Hossam Abdelhamed (PI), MSU CVM ORGS.** Role of LysR-type transcriptional regulators in *Listeria monocytogenes* virulence. \$10,000

**Hossam Abdlehamed (PI) MSU CVM MAFES.** Characterization of multidrug-resistant plasmid isolated from *Plesiomonas shigelloides*. \$10,000

**Matthew Griffin (PI), Graham Rosser (CoPI), MSU CVM MAFES.** Megagenomic assessment of myxozoan community structure from intestinal contents of avian and reptilian piscivores. \$9,711

**Larry Hanson (PI), Lora Petrie-Hanson (CoPI), MSU CVM MAFES.** Effect of Anatoxin-a exposure on channel catfish leukocytes. \$10,000

**Graham Rosser (PI), Matthew Griffin (CoPI), MSU CVM MAFES.** Investigations into the life cycle and pathogenesis of *Bolbophorus* sp. type 2 in pond-raised catfish in Mississippi. \$9,985

**Michael Minaldi (PI), Rebecca Telle (CoPI), Caroline Betbeze (CoPI), MSU CVM ORGS.** Effects of topical ropivacaine hydrochloride 0.5% and lidocaine hydrochloride 2% gel on corneal sensitivity in horses. \$1,301

**Kaitlyn Ieradi (PI), Christine Lopp-Schurter (CoPI), Cathleen Mochal-King (CoPI), MSU CVM ORGS.** Comparing the efficacy of various suture types in a minimally-invasive threading technique for transection of the palmar/plantar annular ligament of horses. \$2,000

**Todd Gunderson (PI), David R. Smith (CoPI), Heath Kind (CoPI), Isaac Jumper (CoPI), Carla Huston (CoPI), MSU CVM ORGS.** Survey of current practices related to beef reproductive efficiency of Mississippi Beef producers and Southeaster veterinarians. \$2,000

**Gabriel Gonzalez (PI), Robin Fontenot (CoPI), Caroline Betbeze (CoPI), Alison Eddy (CoPI), Cathleen Mochal-King (CoPI), MSU CVM ORGS.** The effects of subconjunctival ropivacaine, tetracaine, proparacaine, and liposomal bupivacaine on corneal sensitivity in healthy horses. \$2,000

**Dallas Riley (PI), Kimberly Woodruff (CoPI), David R. Smith (CoPI), Cooper Brookshire (CoPI), Hannah Urig (CoPI), MSU CVM ORGS.** Prevalence of enteric parasites in cats and dogs on intake to northern Mississippi shelters. \$1,932

**Hannah Urig (PI), Kimberly Woodruff (CoPI), David R. Smith (CoPI), Dallas Riley (CoPI), MSU CVM ORGS.** Apparent and true prevalence of feline leukemia virus and feline immunodeficiency virus prevalence in high risk shelter cats in northern Mississippi. \$1,979

# CVM NOTES & NEWS

## ALUMNI NEWS



**DR. CARA COOK VOSS (DVM 1999)** is the current president of the Montana Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA).

A native of North Carolina, Dr. Voss earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from North Carolina State University and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from MSU CVM. Upon completion of veterinary school,

she practiced in mixed animal practices in Kansas, South Dakota, Texas, and Montana. She enjoys both equine and small animal

practice, with a particular interest in general equine medicine, equine reproduction, and small animal theriogenology.

Dr. Voss and her husband, **DR. KYLE VOSS (DVM 1999, MS 2000)**, are the current owners of the Dawson County Veterinary Clinic in Glendive, Mont., and have served that community since 2003.

MVMA's mission is to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine including their relationship to public health and agriculture in the state of Montana. The Association represents nearly 600 small, large, and exotic animal veterinarians across Montana.

### NOTE TO ALUMNI:

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

### HELP US STAY IN TOUCH!

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

# CALENDAR of Events

Please be advised that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all events and dates are subject to change. Please check the College's social media sites for the most up-to-date information.

## APRIL

### MSU CVM Dean's Council Spring Meeting

Date and Time TBA

### MSU CVM Annual Open House

Friday, April 1 - Registered school groups

Saturday, April 2 - Open to the public

## MAY

### Class of 2022 Graduation Festivities

May 11

Scholarship Breakfast 8:30 a.m.

Awards Program 10 a.m.

Commencement 11:30 a.m.

### MSU CVM Vet Camp Sessions

May 25-June 8



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