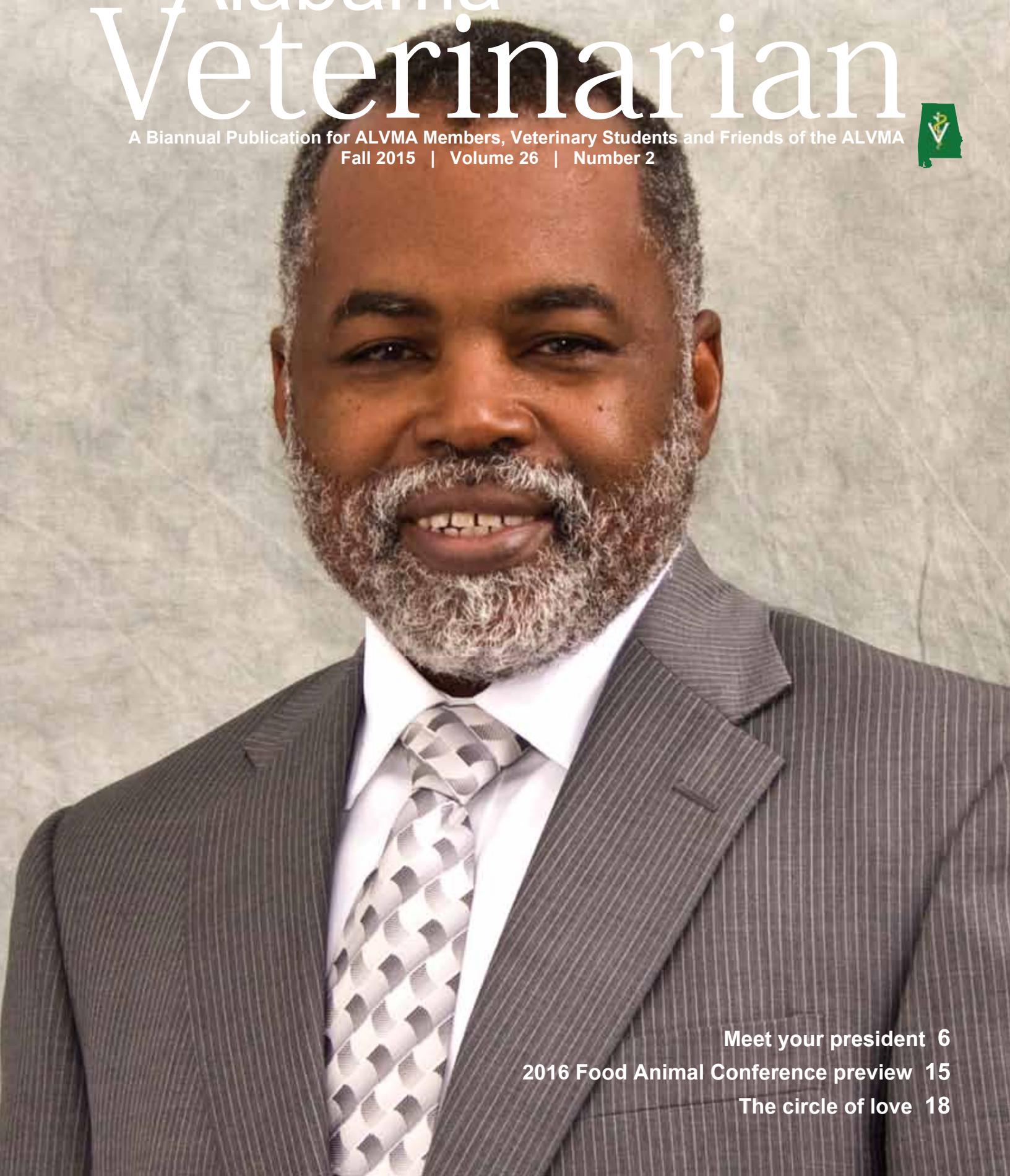


# Alabama Veterinarian

A Biannual Publication for ALVMA Members, Veterinary Students and Friends of the ALVMA  
Fall 2015 | Volume 26 | Number 2



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**SAVE THE DATE**  
**ECVC Conference**  
**June 1-5, 2016**  
**Sandestin Golf and**  
**Beach Resort**



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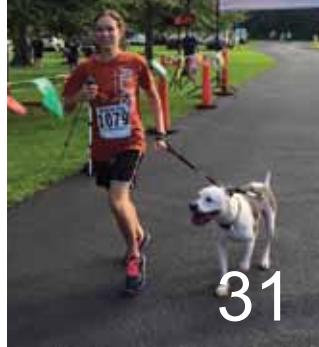
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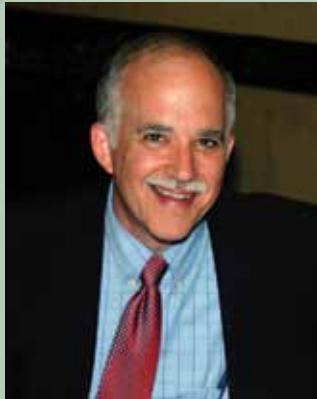
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## Alabama Veterinary Medical Association Executive Director Dr. Charles Franz



### From the executive director

Do you want to get involved in your association? The ALVMA has many opportunities for you to serve and participate and I would like to highlight a few in this column.

As you have seen in a recent issue of the ALVMA E-news, nominations are open for two positions on the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. Drs. Sam Eidt and Patrick Trotter have worked hard these past four years, and we all appreciate their service in these positions of tremendous responsibility. These two terms will end in the first half of 2016 and the ALVMA is now responsible for submitting three names for each position to the Governor. As you probably know, the Alabama Veterinary Practice Act charges the Alabama VMA with nominating three individuals for each open position on the ASBVME. Your ALVMA Board of Directors has set the procedure for the selection of these three names. Historically, these individuals were nominated and voted on at the general membership meeting of the ALVMA. The current procedure calls for nominations to be solicited from the membership and those

nominations to be provided to the ALVMA Nomination Committee. Nominations are due in this office by November 20 at which time the committee will review the nominations for compliance with the requirements established in the Veterinary Practice Act. In late December when this review is complete, the names of nominees for each open position will be sent to the membership by mailed ballot for voting. The names of the three individuals receiving the largest number of votes for each position will be submitted to Governor Bentley for his selection of one person for a four-year term for each position on the ASBVME. All the requirements for holding the position and other information can be found on page 32 of this issue of the Alabama Veterinarian.

Where do you come in as a key part of this process? If you are interested in serving in this capacity, you could nominate yourself for one of these positions. If you know someone whom you feel would make a good board member of the ASBVME, you could nominate that person (with his/her permission of course). Ultimately, you can participate in the process by carefully considering the nominees and casting your vote. Elections are often decided by a small number of the eligible voters casting their vote. We encourage you to exercise your member privilege by voting on these nominees.

There are other avenues for involvement in the association as well. Dr. Hal Pate as President-elect of the ALVMA, is soliciting your involvement as he works to set up his 2016-2017 committees. He would appreciate knowing your areas of interest in working on various ALVMA committees. Please contact Dr. Pate directly or let us know in the office of your interest or any questions. The ALVMA committees are listed on page 34. Dr. Pate would like your input on this or any other items as he prepares to take the helm as president next June.

For those of you who have graduated in the last eight years, registration for the Power of 10 Program is still open. More details can be found on page 24. With no out of pocket costs, this is a tremendous opportunity that will pay you dividends for many years. Please consider getting involved.

Our association promotes public health and general veterinary topics with talking points and additional information. Much of this is sent first to our ALVMA group of Media Vets for use in their TV, radio and print programs. Consider becoming a member of our Media Vets group, especially if you have interest in providing content in your local media market.

The spay-neuter license plate program was founded through a cooperative effort of your association and foundation. The plate has recently been redesigned, and the program is administered through the ALVMA office. You can participate in this worthwhile effort by providing surgeries and/or purchasing and promoting the license plate.

This issue is full of news for you on the efforts currently going on in the ALVMA. Whatever your interests, we have the opportunities for you to be involved. Call us with your ideas; we welcome your input.

Thank you for your membership! Without you, there would be no Alabama VMA. As dues investment statements hit your inboxes or mailboxes in November, please know that the Board appreciates your membership and your input in the ALVMA. You will be happy to know that the ALVMA has held dues at the current level for six years in a row. If we can be of assistance in any way, please let any of the staff in the office or your officers and board members know.

Charles Franz, DVM  
ALVMA Executive Director

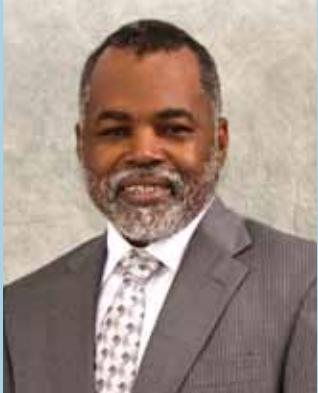


## 2015 – 16

### Alabama Veterinary Medical Association

### President Dr. T. C. Branch

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#### A letter from the president

Dear Colleagues,

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as the president of the ALVMA. The ALVMA has been representing Alabama's veterinarians for over 100 years, having an impact at the local, state, and national levels. Members of the ALVMA have represented veterinary medicine on many levels and continue to chart the future of veterinary medicine.

In July of this year I attended the AVMA convention in Boston, where I got to witness the impact our members have in representing the ALVMA in many areas. We are truly well respected. We had discussions in our district meetings and continued those discussions in the delegate meetings. I also attended the veterinary executives meeting where it was quite clear why our executive director was a previous recipient of the Executive Director of the Year Award.

I have had the opportunity to interact with the students at Auburn University and Tuskegee University and I assure you, the future of veterinary medicine is in good hands.

This year I have set some ambitious goals. We welcome those who are interested in leadership to develop those skills through our Power of 10 leadership initiative. This program will develop future leaders and is free to its participants. Each constituent association is planned to receive a visit from an officer or myself. We have scheduled several regional meetings throughout the state, and will continue to support you with world-class continuing education through the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, free webinars and legislative representation. We will improve contact with our members through our newly developed website, email, Facebook, Twitter and other social platforms.

We also plan to offer even more tangible benefits, which we are now in the process of finalizing, such as online CE Certificate repository, highlighting member veterinarians and their practices, just to name a couple.

Let us all look to a positive future by working together. We welcome your input. "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."

Yes, the future of veterinary medicine and the ALVMA is bright and with your continued support, the ALVMA will continue to positively represent you and the veterinary community now and in the future.

T.C. Branch, DVM  
ALVMA President

# MEET YOUR President

**Dr. T.C. Branch**

Birmingham, AL

## What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

Growing up I had a dachshund who thought he was a German Shepherd. He was severely injured after he was attacked by some larger dogs. After surgery and his recovery the seed was planted.

## What type of veterinary medicine do you practice and why did you choose it?

I have practiced zoo and exotic medicine that has now transformed into a primarily companion animal practice.

## Where did you study?

My veterinary studies were at Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University).

## Who is your role model/mentor?

Many individuals instilled a sense of service and knowledge in me. My parents and family sacrificed much, giving me the opportunity to pursue and achieve my goals.

## What advice can you offer someone coming into this profession?

Become involved in your professional organizations. They have much to offer. Veterinary medicine is one of the most challenging and most rewarding career choices you will experience.



## What do you enjoy most about your job?

Every day I get to interact with clients and their animal companions and play a part in their health and well being.

## Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

This is your ALVMA. There are many benefits ranging from excellent continuing education, free webinars , just to name a few. We are actively pursing some new member benefits that we hope to announce soon.

## How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

Upon graduation it was expected to become a part of my professional

organization. It is a relationship that I have continued and have enjoyed since graduation.

## What is the hardest part of your job?

Walking the tightrope between career and family is a challenge, also dealing with the grief that comes with the loss of a beloved companion animal.

## What is the most memorable experience of your career?

Veterinary medicine is a memorable experience every day. I have extracted polar bear teeth, played with lion cubs, used my track and field skills to escape bodily harm, and sewn up a stuffed animal that a dog was jealous of.

## **What do you think has been the most significant change/ advancement in veterinary medicine?**

Many forms of technology have allowed veterinary medicine to advance by leaps and bounds. The advancements in 3-D printing will revolutionize veterinary medicine as we know it.

## **How has being a member of ALVMA helped you professionally?**

Our members are passionate about the ALVMA. Being a member has allowed me to interact with some of the finest people you could ever meet.

## **What is the last movie you watched?**

I think it was probably "Finding Nemo."

## **When I'm not working, you'll find me...**

working on an unfinished project on my to do list.

## **What was the last song you sang?**

The Sound of Music was recently here at the theater. The Do-Re-Mi song is contagious.

## **Where do you see yourself in five years?**

I will still be passionate about veterinary medicine.

## **Where would you go if you could go anywhere? Why?**

I would tour the USA to enjoy the history and nature of our country.

## **If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want to have?**

Many things come to mind, but a good book, music and fire would make my time there bearable.



## **What accomplishment are you most proud of?**

The fact that my wife said yes and our family.

## **What is your favorite quote?**

There are so many. Certainly the golden rule comes to mind. Another is "Make sure your words are sweet; One day you may have to eat them."

## **What is your simplest pleasure?**

Enjoying time with family and friends.

## **What makes you laugh out loud?**

The antics of pets and children playing is entertainment that can't be beat.

## **If you could meet anyone (dead or living) who would it be and what would you ask them?**

I have always admired the discipline of George Washington Carver and his commitment to his students and research. He achieved so much with so little. I would love to talk to him about his inspirations.

## **What book are you reading?**

I am re-reading "The Road Less Traveled" by M. Scott Peck

## **What other hobbies do you enjoy?**

I enjoy playing the drums in my spare time and tinkering around with my guitar. Most of my life I've played in different bands and music was my college major. We had a traveling percussion ensemble that exposed a lot of youth to the joys of music.

## **What five adjectives best describe you?**

Trustworthy, reliable, considerate, committed and disciplined are some that come to mind.

## **Professionally, if you could change something, what would it be?**

I would address student debt and I would be thrilled if all veterinarians would engage in organized veterinary medicine.

## **When was the last time you did something for someone else and what was it?**

Just a few days ago at a McDonalds drive thru, I paid for breakfast for the individual in the car behind me.

## **I still want to learn how to...**

Play golf.

# MATTERS OF LAW

"Matters of Law" is provided courtesy of F & B Law Firm, P.C. of Huntsville, Alabama. Mr. Jeffrey Roth practices in the areas of employment law; commercial and contract law; general corporate law; business transactional and regulatory law; and governmental contracting. He is a frequent lecturer, and has published numerous materials and presented numerous programs on various aspects of business and employment law, including programs for the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Meeting. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Law Association, and his wife, Wilma, is a Veterinary Practice Manager in Huntsville, Alabama. Mr. Roth is admitted to practice law in the states of Alabama and Ohio, and is a member of the American, Federal, Alabama, and Huntsville Madison County Bar Associations. Mr. Roth holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Dayton, and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Cincinnati in business administration.

## Potential New Overtime Requirements with Respect to "White-Collar" Employees

The United States Department of Labor ("DOL") announced in June highly anticipated, proposed rules that would, among other things, extend overtime payments to a significant amount of "white-collar" workers. Although the rule is currently being considered, and comments from the private sector are being solicited, the rules could be implemented as early as next year.

Currently, executive, administrative, or professional employees are exempt from payment of overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), if they fall under one of these "white-collar" exemptions. To be exempt from payment of overtime: (1) the job requirements of an individual must correlate to one of the exempt categories, (2) the employee must be paid on a "salary basis" and generally receive the same weekly pay, and (3) must make at least \$455 per week (\$23,660 per year).

Under the rule proposed by DOL, this salary threshold of \$23,660, or \$455 per week, would be raised to \$50,440 per year, or \$970 per week. As such, employees who are currently exempt from payment of overtime under the "white-collar" exceptions, who make more than \$23,660 or \$455 per week, but less than \$50,440 per year, or \$970 per week, would now be nonexempt, and entitled to payment of overtime for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week, at time and a half their regular hourly rate.

The DOL indicated that this higher-level is a salary level equal to the 40th percentile of weekly earnings of all full-time salaried workers. According to a document issued by the Obama administration, only 8% of full-time salaried workers fall below the current threshold, and the current threshold is below



the poverty level for a family of four.

Critics of the new proposed regulations claim that compensation budgets will significantly increase; low-end mid-level management positions may be limited or eliminated, curtailing career advancement; and employees who are reclassified from exempt and nonexempt positions will view this as a lowering of their

**Employees who are currently exempt from payment of overtime under the "white-collar" exceptions, would now be nonexempt, and entitled to payment of overtime for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week, at time and a half their regular hourly rate.**

status in the organization, with related morale problems.

The practical effect of the proposed rules, if implemented, would be that if, in your practice, you have administrative or other exempt employees who fall below the new proposed threshold for payment of overtime, such employees will be required to be paid overtime for hours worked in excess of 40 in any weekly pay period. There is no requirement to pay employees any additional payments beyond the additional overtime required.

Remember that if the proposed rule becomes law, there will be no effect on payroll if a person who was previously exempt from overtime becomes eligible for overtime, in situations where they do not work more than 40 hours in one week.

Note that, under the FLSA, veterinarians are exempt from overtime requirements AND not subject to the salary requirements discussed in this article (as are lawyers). As such, veterinarians who might be paid below the higher threshold, should the rules be enacted, would still not be eligible for overtime pay.

As always, with respect to these FLSA payment issues, and payment of minimum wage and overtime, it is imperative to have appropriate job descriptions which accurately characterize employees as either exempt or nonexempt from the minimum wage and overtime requirements of the FLSA. Mischaracterization of an employee as exempt from overtime, when that employee works overtime on a regular basis, can add up to a significant liability for your practice, particularly under the new proposed rules.

Stay tuned and watch this column for further updates.

# Report from the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation



As most of you know, Dr. John MacDonald resigned his position as President of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation (ALVMF) due to medical reasons. I know you join me and the ALVMF board members in thanking him for his service and wishing him well. Although John will be missed, it is important that we all continue our support of the foundation at this important time in our history.

In 2003, the ALVMF was established to promote animal welfare through educating the public in animal health and welfare; promoting and fostering research in animal health and welfare and promoting and fostering educational opportunities for students pursuing a veterinary medicine or technology degree.

Since that time, there have been many programs introduced to support animal welfare including providing scholarships for veterinary medical and tech students and increasing spay/neuter surgeries financed by the ALVMF license plate program. These two core programs have greatly benefitted the animals in our state.

I especially appreciate your support of the ALVMF License Plate Program which has resulted in thousands of spay/neuter surgeries for the family pets of indigent families, thus helping reduce pet overpopulation in Alabama. We still have much work to do and need your continued support in promotion of the license plates.

As the new president, I will be leading the organization by addressing clarification of our mission and purpose; improvement of our identity/visibility; identification of ways to increase funding; strengthening our commitment to the well-being of animals; and enhancing the human-animal bond.

Your participation and involvement are important. I encourage you to share your concerns and offer ideas by sending them to me at drjeromebwilliams@gmail.com or calling me at 205-326-8080.

The ALVMF is vitally important to our state and needs your commitment and financial support. If you haven't already, please purchase a spay-neuter license plate in support of reducing pet overpopulation in our state. We gratefully accept additional contributions to help our state's animals and veterinary students. Checks can be mailed to: ALVMF, P. O. Box 3514, Montgomery, AL 36109 or donations can be made online at [www.alvma.com](http://www.alvma.com).

It will take all of us working together to advance the mission of the ALVMF, better serve the people and animals in our state, and have a bright future. Be watching for exciting updates from your Foundation.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerome B. Williams, DVM".

Jerome B. Williams, DVM

President, ALVMF

## ALVMF License Plate Program



### How to participate

#### Enroll in the program

We encourage your clinic to get involved. To participate, all veterinarians in the hospital must be members of the ALVMA or have applied for membership. The hospital must be located in Alabama. Once enrolled, surgeries are pre-approved at the ALVMF office by messaging through the ALVMA website, email, fax or phone. Reports from the hospital consisting of surgical forms, copies of Medicaid cards, photo ID, Program Report Forms and reimbursement amounts must be submitted to the ALVMF office on a monthly basis and then payment is disbursed to your clinic.

The ALVMF invites you to join us in this program designed to help the less fortunate and their pets! By spaying and neutering these pets, we will help reduce the needless deaths of dogs and cats across our state due to overpopulation. Visit [www.alvma.com](http://www.alvma.com) for enrollment information and forms or call 334-395-0086.

#### Encourage tag sales

We are excited to have a fresh new look to the ALVMF spay/neuter tag. These will go into production early next year. We hope you will encourage clients and friends to purchase a tag and/or make a donation to the Spay/Neuter Fund through the ALVMA website. Our primary source of funding for this program comes from the sale of these license plates and the donation check-off on the Alabama income tax return. Flyers to distribute at your clinic promoting the license plate program are available for free through the ALVMF office. These will also be mailed to participating clinics. Please contact us for additional flyers as needed and they will be sent upon your request at no cost to you.

# 'Another great event' 2015 ECVC wrap up

by Roberta Norris



## CE in the morning, fun all day long!

The word seems to be spreading far and wide among veterinarians about how blending the beautiful white sand beaches of the Florida gulf coast and 20 plus hours of outstanding continuing education at the same time works very well. The 2015 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, held June 3-7, proved once again that sun, fun and CE do mix. A total of 815 veterinarians, veterinary technicians, pharmacists and exhibitors from 33 locations, including Puerto Rico, Canada and India, met this year to learn about new techniques and brush up on current skills, all while catching up with old friends, classmates and colleagues, meeting new acquaintances and vendors and spending some quality family time.

On Wednesday, June 3, the ALVMA board held their meeting and then a general business meeting which was open to all ALVMA members. At 5:30 that evening, the doors to the exhibit hall opened and all attendees and their families were invited in to enjoy light snacks and drinks, and the vendors provided games for the kids to enjoy.



Dr. Richard Ford, from the North Carolina State University, started things off on Thursday with a keynote address on "Infectious disease and bioterrorism; implications for veterinary medicine" sponsored by Merial. Dr. Ford also provided other CE on vaccination updates and had a quiz at the end for those attendees. Other CE was provided on clinical pathology, laser therapy and rehab, practice management and backyard poultry.

The ALVMA awards lunch was held immediately after Thursday's CE sessions. ALVMA members were recognized with awards and new officers were installed. Families gathered again for the annual bike ride sponsored by Elanco. The Mingle at the Marina started off with the band Cool Rayz playing music while attendees enjoyed dinner. About an hour into the event, the skies turned dark and the marina suddenly became a wading pool, putting an early end to the fun and festivities. Several attendees sought refuge on the various porches around the marina to wait out the showers before heading back to their rooms.





Friday had continuing education sessions on hematology, urology, respiratory/pulmonology, and anesthesia, parasitology and poultry sessions were sponsored by CEVA. After the morning's educational offerings were completed, the ECVC golf competition got under way on the Links golf course. Tennis buffs gathered at the Sandestin courts for a friendly round robin. We had a great turnout this year and look forward to next year's fun on the court. Volleyball was also offered for those who wanted some beach fun.

Saturday morning started out with the 5k Adult Walk/Run and Fun Run for the early risers, and then Saturday offered education on geriatrics, orthopedics, respiratory/pulmonology, radiology, the USDA national



veterinary accreditation program and two days of sessions for veterinary technicians, sponsored by Zoetis. Saturday evening there were alumni reunion receptions held by Auburn, Georgia, Tuskegee and Florida colleges of veterinary medicine. Sunday morning after the annual fellowship breakfast there were sessions on pharmacy, critical care medicine, geriatrics, shelter medicine, ultrasound and LEAP, sponsored by AVMA Professional Liability Insurance Trust, then everyone headed back to their respective hometowns.



The 2016 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference will be June 1-5 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach resort. Plan now to attend and invite a former classmate, coworker or friend to attend with you, making it a mini reunion, twice the fun!



## Business meeting and officer installment

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association held its annual general business meeting June 3 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in conjunction with the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference held June 3-7. During the ALVMA Annual Awards Luncheon on June 4 several individuals were honored and Dr. Clark Fobian, AVMA past president, installed new ALVMA officers.

New officers were sworn in on Thursday, June 4, 2015 as follows; President T. C. Branch, DVM of Birmingham; President Elect Harold Pate, DVM of Lowndesboro; Vice President Charles Ashwander, DVM of Decatur; Treasurer Ralph Womer, DVM of Auburn and Board Member at Large James H. Lee, DVM of Atmore. John Hammons, DVM of Athens will serve as immediate past president.

Pictured are: President T.C. Branch, DVM of Birmingham; President Elect Harold Pate Jr., DVM of Lowndesboro; Vice President Charles Ashwander, DVM of Decatur; Treasurer Ralph W. Womer, Jr., DVM of Auburn and Board Member at Large James H. Lee, DVM of Atmore.



# 2015 ALVMA AWARDS

## 2015 Distinguished Service Award



On Thursday, June 4 the ALVMA held their Awards Lunch to honor and present awards to the 2015 recipients. Dr. Jan K. Strother, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award, the highest award given by the Association; given only to ALVMA members that have given of their time and energies beyond all reasonable expectations and have made exceptional achievements and contributions to the advancement of the profession.

Dr. Strother received her doctorate of veterinary medicine from Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1986, but her work in the veterinary field began years earlier. Prior to entering veterinary school, she worked as a veterinary technician: serving as the hospital and nursery director at Lion Country Safari south of Atlanta, Georgia in the early 1970's and at the San Antonio Zoo in Texas from 1975 to 1978.

After graduation, she opened North Alabama Cat & Bird Veterinary Clinic in Hartselle, Alabama, in June of 1987. She is currently the founder and hospital director for the four-doctor clinic, seeing companion animals, birds and a wide variety of exotic pets.

Dr. Strother has been actively engaged in leadership roles with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the ALVMA.

Dr. Strother has been a member of the AVMA since 1986, and she served on the AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) as Delegate or Alternate Delegate from Alabama from 2003 – present, with a break from 2010-2012 when she served as AVMA



Immediate Past President Dr. Bill Bledsoe (left) presents the ALVMA Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Jan Strother in recognition of outstanding service to the ALVMA.

serves as chair of the Vet Tech Advisory Committee.

In addition, she is a member of the Association of Avian Veterinarians, the American Association of Feline Practitioners, the Association for Veterinary Family Practice, the North Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and the Madison County Veterinary Medical Association. She was elected a member of the National Academies of Practice in 2010.

Dr. Strother has also won a number of professional awards. She was the ALVMA Veterinarian of the Year in 2002, won the ALVMA Service Award in 1991 and 1993, and received the ALVMA Auxiliary Service Award in 1993.

Dr. Strother is a frequent speaker on veterinary health care topics and has been a guest on Good Morning America, the Today Show, FOX Pet News, and many other radio and television shows to discuss pet health issues.

She is married, and her husband, Dr. Michael Newman, is also a veterinarian. They reside on a small farm with nine cats, two dogs, two horses and a donkey named Milton.

## 2015 Service Award



The ALVMA Service Award is awarded to members who have contributed generously of their time and energies to the Association for the advancement of the profession. Dr. Barry Stewart was honored with the Service Award this year.

Dr. Stewart graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1985. He has served the North Alabama VMA as secretary for 19 years. He also served as the ALVMA State Diagnostic Lab Chair from 2005-2014. Dr. Stewart has been very active in the production animal organizations as well. He is active in the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. He also served on the Academy of Veterinary Consultants Board of Directors and served on many of their committees. Dr. Stewart resides in Hartselle, Ala. and is a general practitioner at Hartselle Animal Clinic, PC.



Past President Dr. John Hammons (right) presents the ALVMA Service Award to Dr. Barry Stewart at the NAVMA meeting in recognition of his service.

# ALVMA 2016 Awards Nomination Form

The Alabama VMA (ALVMA) conducts an awards program to honor individuals whose service has contributed significantly to the veterinary profession in Alabama. The 2016 Awards Program will be presented during the 2016 Emerald Coast Veterinary Convention, June 1-5. Deadline for nominations is **January 15, 2016**.

**SERVICE AWARD:** To be awarded to members who have contributed generously of their time and energies to the Association for the advancement of the profession. Candidates shall be recommended by a member of the Association and receive the unanimous approval of the Awards Committee. Not more than two recipients shall come from a constituent association and a plaque shall be the award. The immediate past president is not eligible for this award.

**VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD:** One shall be awarded each year to a member distinguished by unselfish dedication to the Association for the advancement of the profession. Candidates shall be nominated by a constituent association and receive unanimous approval of the Awards Committee. A plaque shall be the award. The immediate past president is not eligible for this award.

**LAYMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD:** To be awarded to a non-veterinarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession and the Association. Candidates shall be nominated by a member in good standing of the Association and receive unanimous approval of the Awards Committee and the Executive Board. A plaque shall be the award.

**SPECIAL AWARDS:** From time to time, other awards may be given to individuals for exceptional and outstanding service to the veterinary medical profession. The awards may be proposed to the Executive Board by any member of the Association in writing, documenting the achievements of the individual. The award will then be conferred by the unanimous approval of the Executive Board. The award shall be a plaque. The immediate past president is not eligible for this award.

**ALVMA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD:** The highest award of the Association shall be given only to members dedicated to the profession who have given of their time and energies beyond all reasonable expectation and have made exceptional achievements and contributions to the advancement of the profession. The candidates shall be nominated by a constituent association, endorsed by two additional constituent associations and have the unanimous approval of the Awards Committee. The award shall then be conferred by unanimous approval of the Executive Board. A plaque shall be the award and not more than one award shall be given each year. The immediate past president is not eligible for this award.

\*\*To submit nominations fill out the online form on the ALVMA website, email Charles Franz at [charles@franzmgt.com](mailto:charles@franzmgt.com), mail this form to ALVMA, PO Box 3514, Montgomery, AL 36109, or fax to 334-270-3399. Please remember to include supporting documents.

Please fill out form below and attach a statement about each nominee including their qualifications, professional activities and any other information that would be helpful to the Awards Committee.

Date _____	Nominated by _____		
From the _____	VMA, a Constituent Association		
Address _____	City _____		
State _____	Zip _____	Phone _____	Fax _____
E-mail _____			
Service Award Nominee _____			
Veterinarian of the Year Nominee _____			
Layman of the Year Nominee _____			
Special Award Nominee _____			
Distinguished Service Award Nominee _____			

# What practitioners should know about avian influenza

A news article from your state veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier

A while back, I approached Dr. Charles Franz and the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association concerning the growing population of backyard poultry and the need to involve the private practitioner in that segment of the poultry industry. As a result, a segment was added to the annual meeting last summer that dealt with poultry disease with the private practitioner in mind. That segment of the program was well attended and has even resulted in a private practitioner referring a case to the lab of backyard chickens that had signs consistent with avian influenza. It turned out that the case was not avian influenza (AI), but if it had been the real thing, the private practitioner would have been the boots on the ground serving as the first line of defense.

In case you were on a mission trip to Africa or the jungles of South America, or in a coma from last December until this past June, I want to bring you up to speed on the outbreak of highly pathogenic AI we had here in the United States. The outbreak began in Washington and moved to Oregon and California, then east to involve several of the states in the Midwest. There were 223 detections and over 48 million birds affected, either died or were euthanized in an effort to contain the disease. Fifteen states had cases that involved domestic and commercial poultry. Six other states had findings in wild birds only. The state nearest Alabama to have a positive case was Arkansas in a commercial turkey farm back in March. All of that is the bad news. The good news is that it did not affect ten times as many birds as it did. The fact that Arkansas is in the top three broiler producing states in the country and only had one positive case seems significant to me.

In Alabama, the poultry industry generates over \$15 billion annually. It accounts for 65% of annual farming revenue and employs over 86,000 workers, according to the Alabama Poultry and Egg Association. We usually run



pretty close to Georgia and Arkansas in broiler production, processing around 22 million birds weekly. An outbreak of AI in our state would at best be cause for great concern. At worst, it could be economically devastating for many families and the State as a whole.

So if you are a small animal practitioner reading this, you could be saying to yourself, "I do not want somebody bringing a rooster that is acting drunk into my clinic." Well, if that's what you are saying, that's ok with me. I would like you to keep the radar tuned in though. When a client says, "I have a neighbor who has backyard chickens and twelve out of eighteen died last week," I would like for you to give them my phone number and have them get in touch with me. Or you get in touch with me. We can follow up on such death losses and other high morbidity poultry diseases.

As I write this article, we are fine tuning our response plans here in Alabama and around the Southeast, and the whole country as well. Flu season for birds generally coincides with human flu season. It is generally believed that the AI virus is introduced by water fowl that come over to Alaska and Canada from northern Europe and eventually come across the United States to vacation over the winter in South America, since it is summer down there. Anyway, the majority of these birds generally use what are referred to as flyways as they

make their way back and forth. Alabama does not sit directly under one of those four flyways, but we get plenty of those migratory fowl passing over our state.

These migratory water fowl tend to be asymptomatic carriers. The virus is generally spread primarily in the feces, saliva, and other body secretions. For this reason, it is important that poultry farmers and backyard poultry owners practice strict biosecurity. It is extremely important that these poultry producers and owners make sure that migratory fowl are strictly separated from chickens and turkeys, as well as keeping the environment clean.

The AI virus is a strange character---maybe no stranger than other influenza viruses. Back in 2005 and 2006, when AI was in the news every night because in Asia the virus was often going from chickens to humans. We were told that this particular virus (H5N1) was on the verge of mutating to the point that it could be transferred from human to human and consequently about a third of the earth's population would die. The prediction of the high mortality rate was based on the fact that over one-third of the people in Asia who contracted the virus from their chickens ended up dying. As you know that did not happen.

The current AI strain of the virus is H5N2. This virus has not shown much ability to cause disease in humans. But the flu virus is capable of mutating. This virus could become more virulent, less virulent, more infectious, less infectious, or become more of a threat to humans. There is not a good way to know that. We just know that flu season is nearly upon us. We need all veterinarians to be engaged as we prepare to deal with this disease if it shows up here. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My phone number is 334-240-7253.



## ALVMA's Food Animal Conference co-founder retires

by Jamie R. Bellah, DVM, Diplomate, ACVS

Congratulations to Dr. Dwight Wolfe on his retirement after many years of service to the veterinary profession, he will be greatly missed. Dr. Dwight Wolfe was born in Memphis, Tennessee and eventually graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B.S. in Animal Science in 1973. He entered the College of Veterinary Medicine in the fall of that year and received his DVM from Auburn University in 1977. After three years of private clinical practice in Jefferson City, Tennessee, Dr. Wolfe returned to Auburn University to enter a Theriogenology Residency Program which he completed in 1983. In that same year he became a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists after receiving an M.S. in Theriogenology in 1982. Dr. Wolfe joined the Auburn University CVM faculty as an Assistant Professor in 1983. Dr. Wolfe, over 35 years of service, was promoted to Associate Professor (1988) and to Professor (1993) and has also served as Adjunct Professor for the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences since 2006. Dr. Wolfe held leadership roles in the Beef Section, Food Animal Section, and served as Head of the Department of Large Animal Surgery and Medicine for seven years.



Dr. Dwight Wolfe has contributed to the instruction of over 4000 veterinary students and has participated on graduate committees for over 30 graduate students. He has served on countless Department, College, and University committees over the years and has served on working groups and task forces for the State of Alabama and nationally. He has been active in the AVMA, the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the Society for Theriogenology and other national organizations. Dr. Wolfe has been elected president by the members of the Society for Theriogenology and the American College of Theriogenologists, respectively. He has served on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Theriogenology and has reviewed manuscripts for numerous veterinary journals. Dr. Wolfe has received numerous awards during his career including being named Alabama Veterinarian of the Year (2004), named to the Alabama Livestock Hall of Fame (2006), received the Distinguished Service Award from the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (2009), and received the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2010. Dedication of the D. F. Wolfe Food Animal Barn occurred in 2006. Dr. Wolfe received the Bartlett Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Society for Theriogenology in 2011, and he was recognized as an Auburn University CVM Distinguished Alumnus in 2012.

Dr. Wolfe has edited and co-authored a text on Large Animal Urogenital Surgery and authored or co-authored 25 other book chapters. He has authored or co-authored 41 abstracts, 69 refereed journal articles and has made 116 invited presentations at 65 state, regional, national or international meetings with published proceedings as well. Dr. Wolfe has obtained over \$600,000 in research funding during his tenure at Auburn University.

Dr. Dwight Wolfe's contributions to veterinary medical education, to the specialty of theriogenology, and to advancing the science of bovine reproduction and beef cattle herd health are clearly significant. Dr. Wolfe has been an ambassador for Auburn University and the College of Veterinary Medicine, a leader in the veterinary profession, and a wonderful colleague and friend to many. We wish you well.



## 2016 Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians

by Roberta Norris

Things to look forward to during the upcoming 25th Annual Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians:

- Review of recommended bull breeding soundness evaluation best practices and wet lab, to include orientation to the Society for Theriogenology's electronic bull breeding soundness evaluation form, with Drs. Chance Armstrong (Diplomate, American College of Theriogenologists; Assistant Professor, Farm Animal Health Management, Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine) and Andrew Lovelady (Diplomate, American College of Theriogenologists).
- Discussion of the FDA's new guidance related to Veterinary Feed Directives and Beef Quality Assurance certification with Drs. Gatz Riddell (AABP Executive Vice President) and Soren Rodning.
- Completion of APHIS approved supplemental training (AAST) module(s) in partial fulfillment of USDA accreditation with Dr. Mel Stephens (Emergency Coordinator for USDA-APHIS-VS).
- Completion of the required two hours of legal CE with discussion of current 'Trends in the Veterinary Practice Marketplace' with Mr. Ray Baas (Principal, DVM Consultants).

Conference dates are February 19-21, 2016 at the 4H Center in Columbiana, AL. Join us and receive 22.4 hours of CE.





# — REGISTRATION —

## 25th ANNUAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE FOR FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

February 19-21, 2016

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nickname** (Please print name, as it should appear on nametag) \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

(No spouse activities have been planned. If your spouse/guest would like to have a nametag printed, please print his/her name below)

## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

\* Main conference registration fee includes 22.4 hours of quality CE, including two hours of legal CE. If you are not from the state of Alabama, please check with your state board for their policy on CE credit.

Registration also includes meals for one person for Friday lunch and dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner (a steak dinner with all the fixin's), Sunday breakfast and lunch, and all breaks during the conference. Additional meal vouchers are available for purchase below.

	Pre-Registration	Late/On-Site (After Jan. 15)	\$ _____
<b>Member of _____ Veterinary Medical Association</b> (Must be a member of one of the 50 state VMA's for member discount)	\$250.00	\$325.00	\$ _____
<b>Non-Member</b>	\$350.00	\$425.00	\$ _____
<b>Veterinary Technician</b>	\$200.00	\$275.00	\$ _____
<b>Veterinary Students</b> (Student responsible for payment of meals and hotel room)	\$ N/C	\$65.00	\$ _____
<b>Meals and Breaks</b> (for Veterinary Student, Spouse or Guest – includes Saturday Dinner)	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$ _____

## MEALS

I will attend the following meal functions, PLEASE ONLY CHECK THE MEALS THAT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING:

Friday, February 19  
Saturday, February 20  
Sunday, February 21

- Breakfast
- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Lunch
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Dinner

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Enclosed is a check payable to the ALABAMA VMA
  - MasterCard
  - Visa

Card #

Expires \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Code on Back of Card \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Occupancy in the 4-H Center motel is two per room. If you have a preference of roommate, please indicate that person below. If preference is NOT listed, rooms will be assigned as registrations are received (on first come, first serve basis).

Roommate Preference (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  
(All rooms are non-smoking)

**\*\*You may request a room to your self, but please note that you will be charged the \$100.00.**

\_\_\_\_ Roommate 4-H Center Friday  
Double occupancy (registrar) \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Registrant & Spouse Occupancy \$100.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Single occupancy (registrar) \$100.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate 4-H Center Saturday  
Double occupancy (registrar) \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Registrant & Spouse Occupancy \$100.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Single occupancy (registrar) \$100.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL** \$

You may also register online at [www.alvma.com](http://www.alvma.com)

Make all checks or money orders payable to: ALABAMA VMA

MAIL TO: Alabama VMA, Attn: F.A., P.O. Box 3514, Montgomery, AL 36109 or Fax (334) 270-3399

For further information contact Roberta Norris by calling (334) 395-0086 or via e-mail at roberta@franzngt.com



# AGENDA

## 24th ANNUAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE FOR FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

February 19-21, 2016

### Friday, February 19, 2016

- Noon** Lunch
- 1:00 PM** Trends in the Veterinary Practice Marketplace  
Mr. Ray Baas
- 2:50 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 3:00 PM** Update from the United States Department of Agriculture and completion of APHIS approved supplemental training (AAST) module(s) in partial fulfillment of USDA accreditation  
Dr. Mel Stephens
- 4:30 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 4:40 PM** Preparing for the FDA's new guidance related to Veterinary Feed Directives  
Dr. Gatz Riddell
- 6:00 PM** Happy Hour (visit with exhibitors)
- 6:30 PM** Dinner

### Saturday, February 20, 2016

- 7:00 AM** Breakfast
- 8:00 AM** Update from the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries  
Dr. Tony Frazier
- 9:30 AM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 10:00 AM** Beef cattle economic outlook for 2016
- 11:00 AM** Using Production Management to Increase Veterinary Impact in Beef Cattle Operations  
1. Practical Applications of Population Strategies in Beef Practice  
Dr. Dale Grotelueschen
- Noon** Lunch
- 1:00 PM** Using Production Management to Increase Veterinary Impact in Beef Cattle Operations  
2. Proactive Herd Health with Biosecurity and Biocontainment  
Dr. Dale Grotelueschen
- 2:00 PM** Using Production Management to Increase Veterinary Impact in Beef Cattle Operations  
3. Data Driven Decision Making Using Production Data  
Dr. Dale Grotelueschen
- 3:00 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 3:30 PM** How beef cattle record keeping can establish or expand Veterinarian-Client Relationships – overview of new online record keeping system to improve herd management  
Mrs. Michelle Elmore

- 4:00 PM** Updates from the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Alabama Cattlemen's Association, Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.
- 6:30 PM** Dinner – steak with all the fixins!
- 7:30 PM** Happy Hour, Practice Tips and Downie Awards.

### Sunday, February 21, 2016

- 6:45 AM** Devotional
- 7:00 AM** Breakfast
- 8:00 AM** Bull breeding soundness evaluations and application of the Society for Theriogenology electronic bull evaluation form  
Dr. Andrew Lovelady
- 9:00 AM** Proper sample collection and submission for diagnosis of Tritrichomonas foetus and Campylobacter fetus  
Drs. Chance Armstrong and Andrew Lovelady
- 9:30 AM** Break (visit with exhibitors and check out of rooms)
- 10:00 AM** Morphology slide preparation and sperm cell abnormalities/semen evaluation  
Dr. Chance Armstrong
- 11:00 AM** Bull breeding soundness evaluation wet lab  
Drs. Chance Armstrong and Andrew Lovelady
- Noon** Lunch
- Meeting adjourned**

### ALVMA General Membership Meeting

The next general business meeting of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association will be held during the Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in Classroom 1 which is located in the Environmental Science Education Center downstairs. The conference and business meetings will be held at the Alabama 4-H Center, 892 4-H Road, Columbiana, AL 35051. All ALVMA members are invited to attend.



Stories from the Heart

“ I am constantly grounded in the “now” of reality because I never forget for a moment that Hank is by my side. He always has my back. Hank saved me, Hank saves me everyday. ”

- Sgt. Joshua Grantham (Ret) US Marine Corp,  
Special Operations, PTSD

## The circle of Love Rescuing dogs, rescuing people

by Linda Tynan

Listening to the low chatter in the Wilson Auditorium at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, you could feel the excitement in the room. It was August 2, 2015, graduation day for the participants of the Service Dogs Alabama program. Everyone was anxious to see the new graduates. The recipients proudly walked down the aisles of the auditorium with their new Service Dogs. They made their way up onto the stage where each one took a seat. It was amazing to see all 26 dogs on stage laying quietly by their owners. Everyone was in awe.



A video played, which gave an overview of the program. That was all it took to realize the magnitude of the work SDA is doing. Very touching video testimonials left quite the impression as the Kleenex® came out. And that was just the beginning.

Former inmate Beth Dodd took the podium and talked about how her life had hit rock bottom as a teenager, but was now forever changed. Beth was convicted of manslaughter, the result of an automobile accident when she was high on heroin speeding through a school zone. She struck and killed an eight-year old girl and seriously injured her mother. At 19 years old, Beth was making all the wrong choices and it cost her and her victims dearly.

As she was serving out her 17-year sentence in prison, she had no real meaning in her life. When she became involved with the SDA training program, things began to change. She felt like she had a purpose. By training these dogs, she was giving back. She was helping the dogs, and through this she was helping the people who would eventually receive these dogs. This feeling of being a part of something so worthwhile changed everything for Beth. After her release from prison two years ago, she continues to work with the SDA program and helps with training the dogs for future graduates.

Sgt. Joshua Grantham (Ret) US Marine Corp, Special Operations took the podium next and explained the effects that PTSD had on him after he returned from Iraq. Joshua did not return to life as he knew it. He was having problems adjusting to family responsibilities, holding a job, and getting back into an everyday routine. He was haunted by an incident he experienced in the Iraqi War which involved an infant that was seriously injured when a bomb went off. He would have nightmares reliving the raid, and whenever he heard a young child crying he felt anxious, panicked and paralyzed. Even the cry of his own baby would trigger those PTSD episodes. Joshua applied for assistance through the SDA program and he was given Hank, a black Labrador retriever.

“ Training Service Dogs gave me a new perspective on life. I never knew that giving back could feel so good. I feel like I have a purpose greater than myself for the first time in my life. ”

- Beth Dodd, Released Inmate



Ashley Taylor, Head Trainer at SDA, Beth Dodd and Frances McGowin at the 2014 graduation ceremony.



Hank and Sgt. Joshua Grantham (Ret) US Marine Corp.

Hank has brought stability to Joshua's life. He recognizes when Joshua is getting anxious and calms him down. Hank alerts Joshua when someone approaches from behind, and he is trained to wake him up from night terrors. Hank has made it possible for Joshua to deal with his PTSD, and to move forward with his life.

Ginger Henry followed Joshua with her testimonial. Ginger shared her story about how her young son Matthew was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. She talked about how he became more and more troubled, and all the difficulties he was having coping with the real world. He was unable to make friends at school, hiding under his desk, not wanting to interact with other children. Teachers were constantly calling, and there seemed to be no answer for helping Matthew. Ginger tearfully described how helpless she felt watching her son disappear from her and not knowing how to help him. At the time when she thought she had no where else to turn, she learned about SDA. She frantically called their director, Frances McGowin, determined to talk to her immediately. Could SDA help Matthew? Would they qualify? How long was the wait? After an emotional conversation with Frances, Ginger felt like there was hope for the first time in many years. Eight months later, Matthew was introduced to a yellow Labrador retriever named Hazel, and they began working together. Everything changed. Matthew is now able to attend class and feel comfortable at

*continued on p. 20*



Hazel and Matthew sharing a moment.

**“**To see the confidence on the face of a marine veteran who suffers from PTSD as he hugs his Service Dog and tells me 'thank you for helping save my life,' makes everything I do for this program worthwhile.**”**

- Cade Armstrong, DVM, Volunteer Veterinarian

### ALVMA's Cade Armstrong honored with the SDA Veterinarian Volunteer Award



Dr. Cade Armstrong examines Daisy, a Service Dog in training.

Cade Armstrong, DVM of Montgomery Veterinary Associates became involved with Service Dogs Alabama six years ago. Cade was approached by their director, Frances McGowin. She asked him if he would be interested in helping them with veterinary care for their Service Dogs in training. For Cade it was an easy decision.

At this year's Graduation ceremony, Cade was honored by SDA for his unselfish dedication and generous donation of his time and services.

"Dr. Armstrong is one of the most generous people that I know. Aside from regular maintenance care for

all of our Service Dogs in training, we have had a few dogs who have needed surgeries and intensive care to continue in the program. Dr. Armstrong always takes care of our dogs no matter what the problem. He knows every Service Dog that we have awarded to a child or veteran. Service Dogs Alabama could not rescue so many dogs and change so many lives without Dr. Armstrong's support," says SDA Executive Director Frances McGowin.

"I was inspired to help this service group because they help so many dogs and people including children and veterans with disabilities who are awarded the dogs."

Cade believes that as a group, veterinarians are very giving individuals. "In this situation, we have been able to help play a small role in creating a human animal bond that benefits everyone involved. There is no way to express how this makes me feel, but it always puts a smile on my face," says Cade.

If asked by another veterinarian why they should get involved with Service Dogs Alabama, Cade would encourage them to go speak to one of the recipients of a Service Dog and listen to that individual's personal story on how their Service Dog has changed their life. Cade emphasizes, "To see the confidence on the face of a marine veteran who suffers from PTSD as he hugs his Service Dog and tells me 'thank you for helping save my life,' makes everything I do for this program worthwhile. If that won't convince them to give their time and skill set to help these dogs nothing will."

**“**Our world changed when Hazel saw Matthew for who he is - precious and wonderful, and through Hazel's eyes, Matthew found himself.**”**

- Ginger Henry, Mother of Matthew, Asperger's Syndrome



Jessica and School Service Dog, Captain. Jessica is Captain's guardian, he lives with her, travels with her and she takes him to school every day.

school. He interacts with classmates, friends and family and is confident in social and public situations. Matthew is now an honor roll student, he plays in the band and has many friends, but Hazel is Matthew's best friend.

Last but certainly not least, Jessica Shields, a counselor and educator with Elmore County Schools talked about how Captain, a chocolate Labrador/golden retriever mix, helped her reach students when nothing else would work. Children who were troubled or were having issues at school and had shut down, would now open up to her. The unconditional acceptance of Captain opened the door for communication through his ability to make the children feel at ease. Captain allows students to get past their behavior problems and get to the core issues. Some children are troubled by bullying and others by peer isolation. Something as simple as walking Captain can break the barrier with other schoolmates and give a child confidence. Captain lives with Jessica, and is one of 13 School Dogs placed in the Elmore County School System this year.



### Then and now

The K9s 4 Kids and K9s 4 Heroes programs were formerly under the Easter Seals Alabama nonprofit umbrella. Due to the rapid growth of the SDA organization, they incorporated as an independent nonprofit organization with their own board of directors in March of 2015. Service Dogs trained by SDA are provided to children and veterans with disabilities and qualifying nonprofit facilities and schools **free of**

**“The School Service Dog program, called Follow the Lead, changes the way teachers and counselors manage their students. It defies popular theory, but really pays off in the end.”**

- **Jessica Shields, Counselor and Educator at Holtville Elementary**

**charge.** SDA is a multi-functional organization, which is always on the cutting-edge of training dogs to be a catalyst for change.

### Four missions of SDA:

**1) To rescue dogs.** Puppies and dogs that have been abandoned are rescued from shelters and rescue organizations, socialized, raised by volunteers and given a second chance. A small number of dogs are donated from reputable breeders. SDA takes these dogs and trains them to be Service Dogs through a program designed to help prison inmates.

**2) To rehabilitate inmates.** When puppies reach the age of 10 months, they are sent to prison to be trained. Here they learn the lifestyle of how to be a Service Dog, and prisoners discover the value of doing something meaningful in their life. Prisoners that participate in the SDA training program have a recidivism rate of zero percent. They never reoffend.

**3) To provide trained service dogs to children and veterans with disabilities.** In the United States, 22 veterans commit suicide every day. The program of SDA provides a lifeline to our disabled veterans. SDA places dogs with children and veterans to help them live a more normal life. SDA trains dogs for diabetic alert, seizure detection, Asperger's Syndrome, wheelchair assistance and PTSD. These dogs prevent their owners from serious attacks and build their confidence to be able to live as productive citizens.

**4) To provide full time working school dogs to assist educators.** School Dogs take away the stress of socialization and connecting with other students. Teachers have praised the use of dogs in the classroom to break though to children dealing with issues.

K9s 4 Kids, K9s 4 Heroes and K9s 4 Schools provides training and placement of Service and School Dogs through generous

### SDA Mission fulfillment:

1. To save dogs from rescues and shelters and promote shelter adoption.
  - Dogs saved: Approaching 100
2. To rehabilitate prison inmates through the therapeutic benefits of training Service Dogs.
  - Inmates rehabilitated: 78
3. To change the lives of disabled children and Veterans in Alabama by awarding them a Service Dog specifically trained to meet their needs. (Also place Emotional Support Dogs (ESD) and trained companion pets.)
  - Successful placements: Approximately 96%
4. To assist teachers and schools in building confidence and easing anxieties of struggling students.

- Thirteen School Dogs assigned to start schools Fall 2015

*SDA has a 1-2 year wait for Service Dogs, and have increased the number of dogs they have in the training process from 12 to 26.*

[www.servicedogsalabama.com](http://www.servicedogsalabama.com)

donations, volunteers, puppy-raisers, and veterinarians who offer their services. SDA is based in Montgomery, and is in the process of purchasing 43 acres of land just off of I-65 in Hope Hull where they plan to build a Service Dog Training Center, a Retreat Center and Public Boarding and Training facility.

### How you can help

SDA adopt dogs from rescues and shelters around the state. Many of the rescued dogs need medical services before they can train to become service dogs. Veterinarian volunteers are needed primarily in the Decatur, Huntsville, Tuscaloosa and Mobile areas to donate vaccinations, spay/neuter surgeries, and provide occasional care to the puppies and dogs that are rescued and/or fostered in these communities. These rescued puppies and dogs will go on to change someone's life, you can be a part of that process. Presently, the participating clinics donate all services, and allow SDA to purchase medications and treatments at cost. If you would be interested in helping SDA with their mission of rescuing, training and placing Service Dogs across the state of Alabama, or simply making a monetary donation, please contact Frances McGowin at 334-462-2463. It is your opportunity to change someone's life forever.

# Relief veterinarians

**Dr. Lauri Bates, AUB '96**

8207 Lochwood Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
Phone: 334.590.8525  
Email: drlauribates@yahoo.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL & GA  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Central/East Alabama, West Georgia

**Dr. Mary Battistella, AUB '83**

39 Alabama Drive  
Alexander City, AL 35010-3050  
Phone: 256.825.6202  
Cell: 256.496.3013  
Fax: 256.825.6202  
Email: marybdvm@mindspring.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Specialty Training: Acupuncture, Chiropractics and Nutrition

**Dr. Nikki N. Brown, UGA '07**

P.O. Box 2994  
Phenix City, AL 36868  
Phone: 706.577.4365  
Email: dnnikkibrown@gmail.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL, GA  
Kind of Practice: Mixed  
Region of Relief: East Alabama, would prefer within 50 miles of Auburn or Phenix City

**Dr. Caroline Conrad, LSU '13**

117 Cedar Grove Parkway  
Maylene, AL 35114  
Phone: 770-401-8247  
Email: cconrad@veterinarymedicine.lsuhsc.edu  
State(s) where licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: SA, Emergency  
Specialty Training: VECCs CPR certification, internship trained  
Region of Relief: Jefferson and Shelby counties, will travel up to 1 hour out

**Dr. Emily Davis, TUSK '14**

702 McDonalds Dr.  
Opelika, AL 36801  
Phone: 225.938.7962  
Email: partnersreliefvet@gmail.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL, GA  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Lee County, willing to travel extended distance

**Dr. Lisa Durso, MS '14**

3783 Pine Lane SE  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
Phone: 610.999.6106  
Email: lisa.durso@gmail.com  
State(s) where licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: Small animal general practice, emergency, feline only  
Work Region: Tuscaloosa, Birmingham

**Dr. Joe Hastings, AUB '81**

904 2nd Ave. E  
Oneonta, AL 35121-2506  
Phone: 205-446-0938  
Email: onevet2000@yahoo.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: SA, mixed  
Region of Relief: Central and North Alabama

**Dr. Christie Kimbrell, MIS '99**

2364 Altadena Crest Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
Phone: 205.240.1215  
Email: cwallace@jeffstateonline.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Shelby/Jefferson counties

**Dr. Noel McKnight, AUB '13**

853 Marion Lane  
Birmingham, AL 35235  
Phone: 205.836.6434  
Cell phone: 205.240.0062  
Email: cmn0010@tigermail.auburn.edu  
State(s) where Licensed: AL, NC  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Birmingham and surrounding areas, will commute up to 1 hour  
Additional information: Completed small animal medicine, surgery and emergency medicine internship

**Dr. Shelley Williams Parsons, AUB '02**

2906 Fairway Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35213  
Phone: 256.609.7002  
Email: shelleywparsons@yahoo.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Birmingham Area

**Dr. H. Winston Pirtle, Sr., AUB '67**

8237 U.S. Hwy 311  
Montgomery, AL 36105  
Cell Phone: 334.399.2059 on call 24/7  
FAX: 334.284.5173  
Email: pirtledvmjd@aol.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: Mixed  
Region of Relief: State of Alabama - prefer within 100 miles of Montgomery  
Additional Information: Will bring vehicle stocked and equipped for equine and cattle calls

**Dr. Jordan Towns, AUB '12**

1016 Narrows Point Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
Phone: 205.706.2541  
Email: townstj@auburn.edu  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: Small Animal, Emergency  
Region of Relief: Jefferson and Shelby counties  
Additional Information: Will consider travel up to 1 hours drive

**Dr. Ashley Warren, AUB '09**

20 Castaway Island Road  
Eclectic, AL 36024  
Phone: 334.301.0371  
Email: awarrendvm09@yahoo.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: Small Animal  
Region of Relief: Central Alabama  
Additional Information: Will travel

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## New ALVMA Member Benefit

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**ALVMA members use coupon code PVDALVMA**



# ALVMA spreading the word

## ALVMA gets social

The ALVMA has added a social media web page to the ALVMA website to help everyone spread the word about ALVMA events and topics of interest to your clients. The page has graphics and promotional copy you may use in your social media posts. Look under Veterinary Resources for the Social Media page. There are links to talking points and other information, which are always available on the site. We also encourage you to like the ALVMA on Facebook and share our posts. Help spread the word about your association and the veterinary profession.



## Alabama citizens vote on the ALVMF Spay/Neuter tag redesign

The ALVMF took the opportunity to give the Spay/Neuter license plate a fresh new look with a redesign. Two versions of the design were posted on the ALVMA Facebook page and viewers were invited to vote on the design of their choice. A Facebook ad was also posted, and the numbers began to rise quickly. The Montgomery television station WSFA got in on the voting, and posted the link on their news page. After all votes were cast, we had 2,226 votes total, with 1,439 (64.6%) votes cast for the winning design. Thanks to everyone who participated. We will be posting the design regularly on the ALVMA Facebook page to promote sales of the new tag. Please be sure to share the post and to encourage folks to buy a tag when they renew. The new tags will go into production this fall and will be available next year. There will also be new Spay/Neuter tag flyers printed to distribute to promote the program. Please contact the ALVMF office if you would like flyers to distribute in your area.

## ALVMA in the news

The ALVMA continues to promote the association, the achievements of our members, and preventive veterinary medical care to the public through press releases and special events. This summer the ALVMA sent out press releases to announce new officers, acknowledge award recipients, promote World Rabies Day, and the Our Oath in Action event held in Auburn.

## Visiting your neighborhood

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association partnered with Merial to offer two hours of legal continuing education to all Alabama veterinarians free of charge. These CE courses, held at Montgomery, Birmingham, Mobile and Dothan offered information on valuable topics such as tax laws, retirement accounts, estate tax laws, single owner practices, partnerships, buyout agreements and life insurance. The seminar was designed to make attendees aware of the numerous legal facets to consider when planning for your business. Veterinarians who attended will have a better understanding of the basic legal documents and instruments required for themselves and their single or multi-partner practices to protect their assets, families, and general health and well being.

The seminar entitled "Legal and Financial Strategies for Protecting Your Business and Personal Assets" was presented by Ethan Dawe of Auburn, AL. Mr. Dawe has many years of experience providing financial and business consulting to veterinary associates and practice owners all over the eastern half of the USA. Postcards were mailed statewide and the program was promoted through ALVMA eNews. The seminar for Northern Alabama will be held on January 26 in Cullman. Register on the ALVMA website if you wish to attend.



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## Tiger Orientation Leadership Experience (TOLE)

The Alabama VMA supported the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA) by generously supporting their Tiger Orientation Leadership Experience (TOLE) held on August 12-14 at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana, AL. The success of this Tiger Orientation Leadership Experience (TOLE) program was achieved through the hard work and dedication of veterinary students at Tuskegee, which were able to make this memorable experience for the Class of 2019. As one of the Golden Tiger Sponsors for TOLE, the ALVMA's financial contribution was pivotal in bringing the success to this event. The mission for TOLE is to provide a unique environment for the incoming Class of 2019. The forum was used to create a space for them to become familiar with Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine (TUSVM), and to get to know one another in a casual environment before they began classes. TOLE provides upperclassmen, speakers, and a variety of ice-breaker activities for them to get to know one another, and challenge them to go outside of their comfort zone. ALVMA member, AVMA Delegate and TUSVM alumna Dr. Jan Strother was a keynote speaker for this event. Student leaders presented a visual report at the ALVMA board meeting and thanked the ALVMA for their support of this event.



## TUSVM SCAVMA Week Participation

On September 2, Drs. Jan Strother and Brad Fields presented to the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine's SCAVMA chapter in support of SCAVMA week at the school. Organized veterinary medicine, leadership, involvement, and the importance of communication were discussed. The Tuskegee VBMA was presented \$2,500.00 from the ALVMA in support of their freshmen Leadership experience (TOLE) which was held in August. The Tuskegee SCAVMA chapter was presented with \$1,500.00 from the ALVMA to support their student activities for the year.

Drs. Strother and Fields met with Dean Perry afterwards to further enhance the bonds and relationship between the ALVMA and the school, and to determine ways to enhance communications and relationships.



## Veterinary Leadership Day at Auburn University with Class of 2019

Leaders representing Organized Veterinary Medicine and Regulatory Medicine spent an hour with the freshman Veterinary Students at AUCVM on the afternoon of August 26, 2015. Present for this event were Drs. T.C. Branch, Libby Todd, Jerome Williams, Hal Pate, Brad Fields, and Charles Franz. Each Veterinarian present discussed their philosophy on leadership and development, the importance of being involved in organized veterinary medicine and leadership positions, professional and personal wellness, and most importantly welcomed the new student colleagues into the profession.

This annual Leadership Day is hosted and coordinated by Dr. Charlie Hendrix and the Dean's office at AUCVM. It has been in place for a few years, and continues to be a great event and well attended. This event serves as another method the ALVMA is utilizing to stay in touch and engaged with our student population, and shape our programs to better meet the needs of our next generation of leaders!



From left: Drs. Hal Pate, Charles Franz, T.C. Branch, Libby Todd, Jerome Williams and Brad Fields.



## 2015 Our Oath in Action Event

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association was again successful in partnering with the American Veterinary Medical Foundation's Our Oath In Action (OOIA) program that showcases and highlight the importance of veterinarians, the human-animal bond, and the importance of animals within our communities. We participated in our 3rd Our Oath In Action day with Auburn University at their annual Ag Roundup homecoming game tailgate. Over 2,500 members of the public participated in the event, which the ALVMA displayed one of our Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers (CAMET), and partnered with AUCVM to discuss pet preparedness, common poisons for pets, and benefits of micro-chipping and animal identification. Dr. Jim Floyd brought some VAPORWAKE® detector puppies in training to participate with the participants. The event raised \$193.00 for the American Veterinary Medical Foundation.

As a history note, the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation, and American Veterinary Medical Foundation partnered up on a disaster preparedness project that placed two CAMET trailers in Alabama. These mobile assets are capable of being deployed into an affected area and provide the necessary supplies and equipment to establish a companion animal shelter within an existing structure. Each of the CAMETs provides equipment that can facilitate sheltering nearly 80 animals, providing immediate capabilities that have never been possible in Alabama before this partnership. We utilized these trailers during the 2011 tornados in North Alabama to shelter companion animals, and have them displayed routinely at events around Alabama to foster a climate of preparedness.

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and American Veterinary Medical Foundation expresses deep gratitude for all of the volunteers and participants who made this event and the Alabama Our Oath in Action an enormous success for the third year, and look forward to further expanding this program in the future!



## Power of 10 - Update

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association's "Power of 10" Leadership Development program is taking shape after a few months of promotion. We currently have five veterinarians in the program, and are nearing our kickoff. There is still space available in the 2015-2016 class, so if you are interested in participating, or have a friend or associate that should participate, please contact Dr. Fields at [brad@franzmgt.com](mailto:brad@franzmgt.com) or visit [www.ALVMA.com](http://www.ALVMA.com) to apply.

The Power of 10 Leadership Program will provide up to ten recent graduates (graduated from a college of veterinary medicine with a DVM degree in the years 2008-2015) with leadership development sessions over an approximate 12-month period. ALVMA will provide topic experts and meeting expenses at no charge for participants to attend sessions that not only convey the key learning points about leadership, but also deepen the understanding of leaders on a number of related topics. Sessions will include a minimum of four face-to-face leadership development sessions, which may be held at a state park, botanical garden, or other attraction that will facilitate teamwork and leadership development for all involved. As part of a national effort to develop our future veterinary leaders, the ALVMA has partnered with the American Association of Veterinary Association Executives, Elanco Animal Health, and now AVMA's Professional Liability Insurance Trust to offer this leadership development curriculum that has a proven track record of success!

Effective immediately, veterinarians who have graduated in 2008 or later are eligible to apply for this exciting program. Application details may be found on our website at [www.ALVMA.com](http://www.ALVMA.com).

The program topics will cover a wide range of subjects to include:

- 1) Personality assessments – understanding yourself and others to develop effective strategies to deal with different or difficult people/ colleagues
- 2) Self knowledge
- 3) Self management
- 4) Interpersonal effectiveness
- 5) Communication skills
- 6) Managing conflict
- 7) Building trust
- 8) Wellness
- 9) Professional issues
- 10) Potpourri Day – a full day of key opinion leaders who will cover time management, goal-setting, legal issues, organized veterinary medicine and financial matters.

Please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Fields at [brad@franzmgt.com](mailto:brad@franzmgt.com) if you have any questions about this new and exciting program!





## In memoriam

**Dr. Robert Lea Carson, Jr.**, 66, passed away Saturday March 21, 2015. He was a retired professor after 36 years from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, where he served as department head for food animal medicine with his specialty being reproduction, particularly in cattle. His love for cattle started young growing up on a farm in Vonore in east Tennessee. He was a 1973 graduate of Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. He was in private practice for several years in North Carolina, but returned to the University of Georgia to complete a residency and master's program. He joined the faculty at Auburn in 1979. He was board certified in the American College of Theriogenologists. Although he has received many awards for his service and teaching, he was especially proud to have received the David E. Bartlett Award in 2010 given for lifetime achievement in Theriogenology. The highest honor given by the Society for Theriogenology.

He served cattle producers, not only as a veterinarian, but also as a cattle producer himself. He ran with the help of his family, Granite Knoll Farm in Gold Hill, Alabama. He was a member of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association and the Southeastern Livestock Exposition. He was inducted into the Alabama Cattlemen's Association Hall of Fame in 2011.

Dr. Carson loved Auburn and Auburn football. He believed in honesty, truthfulness, and the human touch. He was a true Auburn man.

Although he has accomplished a great deal in his career and was loved and respected by many, his greatest joy and pride was his family. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Karen, his daughters Jennie Hill (Joel), Kelly Barrett ( Jay) and his son Robert Carson III "Trace" ( Sara Beth) and his grandson Jackson Hill. He is also survived by one sister, Ann Howell of Asheville, NC, his Aunt Patsy Carson of Madisonville, Tennessee, and many nieces, nephew, and cousins.

**Dr. G. S. Killian**, 92, of Fort Payne, passed away Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, at his home.

Dr. Killian was a charter member of Gault Avenue Baptist Church. He graduated from the Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) in 1948 with a doctorate in veterinary medicine. Doc practiced for 63 years, serving DeKalb County and the surrounding areas. He was a member and a past president of the Alabama Cattleman's Association and the Southeastern Livestock Exposition. He also served as a member and past president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and the Auburn University Alumni board.

Dr. Killian is survived by his daughters Rhonda George Killian, Angela Killian (Jon) Shugart and Victoria Frances Killian, all of Fort Payne; his grandchildren, Denie Bridges (Sean Bridges) of Fort

## Welcome new members

Please welcome those who have joined the Association since March 2015

Michael Atchison	Columbiana, AL	AUB15
Bryan L. Bingham	Florence, AL	TEN10
James Bowler	Auburn, AL	ROS15
Courtney Brunson	Troy, AL	AUB15
Joseph D. Caldwell	Birmingham, AL	TUS15
Jennifer Carney	Irvington, AL	MIS14
Mason Thomas Chandler	Trussville, AL	AUB15
Jessica Wilkison Clemons	Montgomery, AL	AUB15
Holly Marie Couger	Grant, AL	AUB15
Emily E. Davis	Opelika, AL	TUS14
Lacey Davis	Loxley, AL	AUB15
Lybby Epperson	Opelika, AL	TUS06
Ryan Garner	Tallassee, AL	TUS11
Thomas Pete Giambrone III	Pinson, AL	AUB15
Lauren Jernigan	Vandiver, AL	AUB15
David Blanton Kuykendall II	Auburn, AL	AUB94
Matthew A. Lackey	Boaz, AL	STG15
Martha Lukey	Hartselle, AL	AUB15
Justin Padgett	Dothan, AL	AUB15
Jennifer Purcell	Spanish Fort, AL	TUS10
Elaine Suever Schilling	Madison, AL	AUB15
Elizabeth Sellers	Birmingham, AL	AUB15
Ashley Strong	Gulf Shores, AL	AUB15
Amelia Mason Teague	Birmingham, AL	AUB15
Karyn W. Ware	Auburn, AL	AUB09

### Reinstatements

Dawn M. Boothe
Jerry C. Latham
Michelle J. Mitchell
Hugh Palmer

Payne, Payton Shugart (Myles) Tatum, of Opelika, Dr. Jonathan (Jenna) Shugart, of Birmingham, Ginny Boone (Chris) Hairell, of Fort Payne, and Constance Price (Joshua) Jolley, of Fort Payne; his great-grandchildren, Victor, Sean Evan, George and Dennis Paul Bridges, Myles Jr. and Banks Tatum, Emery Shugart, Logan and Caden Hairell and Lucy Jolley; several nieces and nephews and numerous beloved friends.

Dr. Killian is preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Payton Killian; his daughter Donna Killian James; his parents, Shake and Bessie Killian; his brother, Lawrence Killian; and his sister, Bessie Mae Hansard.

**Dr. James Fox Metcalf**, 65, a native of Enterprise, AL and a longtime resident of Mobile, died on Wednesday, July 15, 2015. Dr. Metcalf was a graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University. He is survived by his wife, Debra Metcalf; one sister, Joanne Kilpatrick and one brother, Johnny Metcalf and other relatives and friends.

# AVMA Delegate Report

The 2015 AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) Regular Summer Session was held July 9-10, during the Annual Conference in Boston. The ALVMA was well represented by Dr. Jan Strother, the HOD action is noted below.

Dear ALVMA Members,

As always, there are many interesting and important topics that are being discussed at the AVMA. I am including some of the more important topics for your review. I would also encourage every ALVMA member to consider volunteering for leadership positions that are now open within Councils, Committees, and Advisory Panels. Take a look at the variety of positions at [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org), and please let me or Dr. Winston Pirtle (ALVMA Alternate Delegate) know if you have any interest or questions about any leadership opportunities.

I hope you will consider attending the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago on January 7th through 10th 2016. It's a great opportunity to attend leadership workshops, network with other veterinarians around the country, and attend the House of Delegates meeting. If Dr Pirtle and I can provide any further information regarding this meeting please don't hesitate to ask us.

It is always an honor and my pleasure to represent the ALVMA as the Delegate in the AVMA House of Delegates.

Dr. Jan K Strother

ALVMA Delegate, AVMA HOD

(256)773-0844

[drjanvet@aol.com](mailto:drjanvet@aol.com)

## AVMA Report on Veterinary Capacity

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) released its 2015 AVMA Report on Veterinary Capacity. The fifth installment of the AVMA's six-part 2015 Veterinary Economic Report series, the report focuses on the capacity of the market for veterinary services.

Are there too many veterinarians? Some in the profession think so. But if you take a closer look at the numbers, that's not necessarily the case. In fact, the AVMA takes the position that there are not too many veterinarians in the workforce. What the U.S. veterinary profession is experiencing is a situation of excess capacity, in which a certain percentage of veterinarians' capacity to provide services is going unused. Excess capacity means that services are being provided in excess of the quantity demanded at a specific price.

The concept of excess capacity is new to the veterinary profession, having been first introduced in the 2013 AVMA Workforce Study. The confusion over the difference between an oversupply of veterinarians and excess

capacity continues to linger in the profession. The difference between the two is the use of price in determining what excess capacity is versus oversupply.

The report series is designed to help veterinarians better understand the markets they operate in and the factors that affect their livelihood. The 2015 AVMA Report on Veterinary Capacity can be purchased online from the AVMA Store as part of the six-installment series, and free summaries of the first five published reports also are available.

## Compounding Drugs for Veterinary Medicine:

Compounding – any manipulation of a drug beyond that stipulated on the drug label – is needed in veterinary medicine to provide individually mixed drugs for specific patients with special needs not met by FDA-approved drugs. Manipulation might include mixing, diluting, concentrating, flavoring, or changing a drug's dosage form to accommodate a specific patient's needs.

Examples of compounding include:

- Mixing two injectable drugs
- Creating an oral suspension from crushed tablets or an injectable solution
- Adding flavoring to a commercially available drug

Compounded preparations can sometimes provide effective therapies for treating painful or life-threatening medical conditions in animal patients. Compounding is a needed tool and provides much-needed therapeutic flexibility for veterinarians, especially considering the wide range of species and breeds veterinarians treat.

However, if done incorrectly or inappropriately, the use of compounded preparations can lead to prolonged treatment needs; adverse events, including treatment failure; liability; or even enforcement action by federal or state authorities.

Compounding should be implemented based on a licensed practitioner's prescription, and only to meet the medical needs of a specific patient.

## What Are the Rules?

Discussion of compounding rules often centers on two issues: compounding from FDA-approved drugs, and compounding from bulk substances. Compounding from FDA-approved drugs is legal, as long as FDA's Extralabel Drug Use Rules and all state rules are followed. Compounding from bulk substances is more complex. The FDA asserts that it has jurisdiction to bar any compounding from bulk substances, but generally acknowledges that veterinarians sometimes need to use compounds made from bulk ingredients. Compounding: What Are the Rules? provides a deep dive into the rules that you need to follow, whether working with FDA-approved drugs or bulk substances. To make certain you understand the rules fully, you might also want to view our recorded webinar, Compounding: Are You Playing By the Rules (available to AVMA members only).

Contact your liability insurance carrier, such as AVMA PLIT, for any questions you have regarding specifics of your liability coverage.

## What Is AVMA's Role?

Because compounding is a critical tool for veterinarians, the AVMA works hard to ensure that veterinary concerns are heard and considered in regulatory rule-making and in Congress, and to keep our member veterinarians informed of the rules and compounding best practices.

- AVMA communicates frequently with the FDA to safeguard

veterinary access to compounded drugs and ensure that the needs of veterinarians and our animal patients are protected.

- AVMA educates Congress and regulatory agencies that compounding for animals is a complex issue, and that AVMA and our member veterinarians are available for consultation should other parties seek legislative changes.

- AVMA educates veterinarians about the finer points of using compounded drugs. An informed veterinarian prescribes drugs conscientiously for patients and avoids inappropriate compounding practices.

- AVMA cultivates collaborative working relationships with pharmacy organizations, the animal drug manufacturing industry, and other affected stakeholders, building coalitions that advance and protect the interests of veterinarians and animals.

- AVMA monitors the courts on issues of regulatory jurisdiction.

Although the FDA has interpreted all compounding from bulk as being outside of the rules, the agency has expressed a willingness to show enforcement discretion in circumstances where there is no drug available to treat a particular animal with a particular condition.

## We Need Your Help

In May 2015, FDA officials published new draft guidance outlining a framework by which the agency would regulate the compounding of animal drugs from bulk drug substances. This guidance lays out provisions for compounding by state-licensed pharmacies and veterinarians, as well as by outsourcing facilities.

Among the provisions, the guidance provides for the FDA to compile a “positive list” of bulk ingredients that an outsourcing facility would be allowed to use to prepare compounds for use by veterinarians in treating animals. (See Appendix A of the draft guidance - PDF.) The FDA is seeking feedback on the proposed guidance, as well as comments on specific questions related to the issue. The FDA also is soliciting nominations through Nov. 16, 2015, for bulk ingredients to include on the “positive list.”

The AVMA worked closely with members to compile and submit comprehensive response to the FDA in August 2015, making clear that compounding is absolutely necessary for veterinary medicine because of the limited number of FDA-approved drug products for the many species and conditions that veterinarians treat. However, we also are compiling a list of bulk ingredients for suggested inclusion on the “positive list,” and for this effort we need the help of member veterinarians.

If you have suggestions for ingredients that should be included on this list, please send those to us – along with any evidence to support the inclusion of the product – via email at [regulatorycomments@avma.org](mailto:regulatorycomments@avma.org). Please make your comments as specific as possible, including:

- A list of the most commonly used compounded medications in your clinic and why they are medically necessary, in which species, and for what conditions.
- Suggestions for specific ingredients to include on the list, and justification for their inclusion.
- Any scientific evidence of safety and efficacy of the products proposed, such as peer-reviewed literature.

## Prescription writing mandate is unnecessary for veterinarians

Whether it's a routine visit to the veterinarian or an emergency, we all want our pets to receive the best veterinary care. Veterinarians understand

that their clients must make financial decisions when planning and paying for those services and medications, which is exactly why we support policies that give our clients the flexibility to choose where they fill their prescriptions. However, some in Congress are working to pass a federal mandate that would require veterinarians to provide a written copy of every prescription for a companion animal, whether or not the client needs or even wants it. This will place undue regulatory and administrative burdens on veterinarians and small businesses.

We feel that this bill—the Fairness to Pet Owners Act (H.R. 3174/S. 1200)—is unnecessary because clients already have the ability to fill a prescription at a pharmacy of their choice. Though not required by federal law, the AVMA’s Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics and its guide on Client Requests for Prescriptions encourage veterinarians to write a prescription in lieu of dispensing a medication when asked by a client, and a majority of states have similar laws or policies. In some cases, veterinary medications are only available through a veterinarian, negating the need for a written prescription. In other situations, the client might want to have the medication dispensed by their veterinarian. But if this bill were to pass, veterinarians would still be required to provide the written prescription, take the piece of paper back, and then dispense the medication. This creates an administrative burden for veterinarians and staff who should be spending their time and resources taking care of their animal patients, not on paperwork.

Although some of the bill’s advocates claim that veterinarians are only interested in profiting from filling prescriptions in-house, we do not believe that is the case. A recent report issued by the Federal Trade Commission did not find evidence of veterinarians withholding written prescriptions from their clients and determined more information would be needed to understand the impact on consumers. Until we hear from them that a problem actually exists, it seems premature to consider such a sweeping federal mandate.

At the AVMA, we have seen the number of visits to the veterinarian declining in recent years and understand the financial burdens facing many of our clients. We all want what is best for a pet’s health and well-being and for our clients, but we do not believe the Fairness to Pet Owners Act is necessary to accomplish these goals. Next time you need a prescription—just ask!

Tell Congress to oppose mandatory prescription writing for veterinarians! Need a prescription? Just ask!

## ALVMA General Membership Meeting

The next general business meeting of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association will be held during the Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in Classroom 1 which is located in the Environmental Science Education Center downstairs. The conference and business meetings will be held at the Alabama 4-H Center, 892 4-H Road, Columbiana, AL 35051. All ALVMA members are invited to attend.

# Auburn University

College of Veterinary Medicine  
[www.vetmed.auburn.edu](http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu)



## College welcomed Class of 2019 to veterinary medical education

The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine welcomed the Class of 2019, who joined fellow veterinary students with the start of the 123rd year of classes.

The 120-member first-year class is majority women, which is the national trend in veterinary medicine, and includes 91 women, and 29 men.

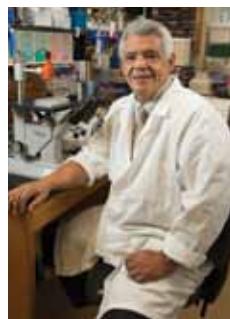
The class has 41 Alabama residents and 38 Kentucky residents, through a longstanding cooperative agreement with the Southern Regional Education Board and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The remaining one-third of the class are from around the U.S: California, 2; Florida, 8; Georgia, 4; Illinois, 1; Massachusetts, 2; Mississippi, 2; North Carolina, 4; New Jersey, 1; New York, 2; Ohio, 1; Pennsylvania, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 5; Texas, 4; and Virginia, 3.

Dr. Dan Givens, associate dean of Academic Affairs, encouraged students to "enjoy and embrace the challenges and opportunities that are inherent to a rigorous and evolving medical curriculum."

During orientation, students received new tablet computers, an integral part of the college's delivery of educational resources, as well as a bone box, a time-honored tradition which has occurred at Auburn since 1893, when the program's first dean, Charles Allen Cary came to Auburn. He insisted that students receive complete skeletons of

different species. "This pattern of true hands-on learning has continued to this day," Dr. Givens said. "Generations of Auburn veterinary students remember receiving their bone box at the beginning of their educational process in the college."

## Toro recognized by the American Association of Avian Pathologists



Dr. Haroldo Toro, an Alumni Professor in Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, was recently honored by the American Association of Avian Pathologists for his significant and important research into Infectious Bronchitis, a disease a disease continuously impacting the poultry industry.

The AAAP recognized Toro, a faculty member in the college's Department of Pathobiology, during the AVMA/AAAP meeting in Boston for his research into developing novel vaccine technology to control infectious bronchitis virus (IBV), a virus causing enormous economic losses from reduced production performance and increased condemnations in chicken production.

Dr. Toro's scientific endeavors are focused on developing vaccines to protect chickens against distinct viral diseases. A team of researchers, including Dr. Vicky van Santen, a professor in the Department of Pathobiology, and Dr. Qingzhong Yu of the USDA's Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory, have developed vaccine technology conferring cross protection against strains showing dissimilar genetic makeup.

## Dr. Dwight Wolfe recognized as one of 20 influential farm animal veterinarians

Dr. Dwight Wolfe, a professor at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, was recognized by a veterinary website as

one of 20 influential farm animal veterinary professors nationally.

Vet Tech Colleges ([www.vettechcolleges.com](http://www.vettechcolleges.com)) developed the list, which includes faculty in farm animal science and veterinary medicine from 14 different universities across the U.S. They were selected based on their active teaching, publications, research and speaking engagements, and their extracurricular involvement in the farm animal field.

Respected internationally in the field of Theriogenology, Dr. Wolfe is board-certified by the American College of Theriogenologists and has served as president of that organization as well as the Society for Theriogenology.

## Auburn DVM students win top five in national theriogenology competitions

Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine students represented the college well during the summer at the annual Therio Conference in San Antonio, placing in the top five in all competitions.

Two Auburn CVM students earned top-place finishes in the Student Case presentations. Veterinary students across the U.S. were asked to submit a case abstract in advance; the top six were invited to present at the conference for competition.

Christine Garrett, a third-year student from Albertville, Ala., won first place for her presentation, "Endometrial Cyst Ablation in a 23-year old Dutch Warmblood Mare." Amelie Rivaleau, a third-year student from Charleston, S.C., placed fourth for her presentation "Treatment for Agalactia in a 2 year old queen."

In the Student Poster Presentation competition, Drew Hested, a fourth-year student from Lexington, Ky., placed second for his poster titled "Diagnosis and Treatment of an Enlarged Ovary in a Mare."

The Auburn student chapter also placed second for the Student Chapter of the Year Award and first in a T-shirt design competition.





Dean Ruby Perry (left) is the principal investigator for the COE grant and Cheryl Davis (right) is the COE coordinator for the college.

## Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine receives \$7.1 million grant award

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded a grant of \$7,181,671 to the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine within the College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health. Formal notification was sent covering a three-year funding period of 2015-2018. The centers of excellence in minority veterinary medical and public health education's multimillion dollar grant is through HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce's Centers of Excellence (COE) program.

The grant will enable the veterinary program to expand its ability to recruit, train and retain African American and other under-represented minority veterinary medical students and faculty as well as continue to educate culturally competent veterinarians and public health professionals.

It will also assist with improving the School's educational infrastructures including enhanced e-learning environments (information/communication technologies), more counselors, peer and faculty tutors, plus strengthen the mentoring program (consisting of peer and veterinary/alumni mentors), researchers and educators.

### Biomedical Research Symposium addresses infectious diseases, health disparities and nanobiotechnology at Tuskegee University

For the 16th year, world renowned scientists and researchers from around the nation gathered at Tuskegee University to present the latest in scientific information and help make the world a healthier place for humans and animals. "Infectious Disease, Health Disparities and Nanotechnology" was the theme for the Annual Biomedical Research Symposium and 4th Annual Phi Zeta Research Day. The two-day symposium was Sept. 17-19 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center and College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied

# Tuskegee University

College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health  
[www.onemedicine.tuskegee.edu](http://www.onemedicine.tuskegee.edu) and [www.tuskegee.edu](http://www.tuskegee.edu)



TUSVM alums and keynote speakers Captain Charlotte Spires (USPHS) and Captain Johnny Braddy, senior policy advisor (USFDA), engage students after the luncheon presentation on the "Challenges of Special Needs Populations in Disasters: U.S. Public Health Service Perspective."

Health (CVMNAH) at Tuskegee University.

The annual symposium is organized by the Office of Research and Advanced Studies and the Biomedical Research Symposium Organizing Committee

under the directorship of Dr. Ruby Perry, dean of the CVMNAH, and Dr. Ayman Sayegh, associate dean for Research and Advanced Studies. Dr. John Health served as chair of the biomedical research symposium committee.

On Friday afternoon, the "Fourth Annual Phi Zeta Research Day" closed out the symposium with students sharing their research with the scientific community.

### Tuskegee veterinary students join national vigil in memory of the untimely deaths of veterinary students at three other campuses

The Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine's (TUSVM) students responded to the request of the national Student American



Veterinary Medical Association's request to host a Candlelight Vigil in memory of those veterinary students who have lost their precious lives from Auburn University, the University of California - Davis, and Michigan State University. The event was initiated by the TUSVM's Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA). TUSVM also sent three signed cards to the SCAVMA chapters at the three veterinary schools to show support.

### Tuskegee's School of Veterinary Medicine receives the AVMA President's Award



Dean Ruby Perry (left) accepts the AVMA President's Award on behalf of TUSVM from outgoing AVMA president Dr. Ted Cohn (right). The plaque reads: "From a grateful alumnus, in humble recognition of the exceptional contribution that the TUSVM has bequeathed to the veterinary medical profession, through its tireless promotion of diversity and inclusion."

The Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine (TUSVM) was one of three recipients of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) President's Award. TUSVM was recognized for its promotion of diversity and inclusion. The school was honored by outgoing AVMA President Dr. Ted Cohn, also a TUSVM alumnus, during the 152nd annual convention which was held on July 10-14 in Boston, Mass. Cohn received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Tuskegee University in 1975.

TUSVM is the only veterinary school located at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). It is the leader among graduating the nation's largest percentage of black veterinarians. TUSVM is also the leader in being the most diverse among the 30 veterinary schools in the United States.

# SCAVMA Tuskegee



The 2015-2016 Tuskegee SCAVMA E-board has worked diligently over the summer to make this school year a complete success! To ensure a successful year Tuskegee SCAVMA is planning to have one large event for the students and faculty to participate in each month of the year. To start the year off right we recently had a SCAVMA Week during the first week of September. The purpose of SCAVMA week was to get our students excited about joining SCAVMA and to promote the benefits of organized veterinary medicine. To make this a success we hosted two lunch and learns, one with ALVMA members Dr. Jan Strother and Dr. Brad Fields and the other with AVMA member Dr. Anna Reddish. The speakers spoke on the topics of how to succeed in veterinary school, getting involved in



veterinary medicine and the benefits of organized veterinary medicine. During SCAVMA week we hosted a dessert bake off, and our annual Back to School Barbecue, which was sponsored by New York Life Insurance.

SCAVMA is also hosting a Back to School Supply Drive for the local public schools in Macon County

this September. In October, SCAVMA will also be hosting a "Night of Frights" for the community members in Tuskegee and students/faculty families to come and have a safe, fun evening filled with Halloween celebration. Our SCAVMA chapter prides itself on assisting the Tuskegee community and to continue that tradition we are also holding a Food Drive in November along with a Food for the Soul event hosted at Tuskegee's



Housing Authority. At this event TUSVM students will be serving hot meal to the community along with donated can goods and supplies that will be collected.

This December, we are also organizing an Adopt-a-Family event with our Christian Veterinary Fellowship Club. At this event we assign each class a family in need and purchase Christmas gifts the family needs for the holiday season. A Toy and Coat Drive is also hosted to collect used/new toys and coats for families in need in the Macon county area.

Our spring semester will also be filled with activities as well for our Tuskegee community. Being a Historically Black College and University, we want to ensure our students are culturally aware, so during Black History Month we will be setting up exhibits each week to highlight and celebrate the life of African Americans who have made an impact to the society we live in today. Finally, we

are very excited to host a spay/neuter event this February with our Shelter Medicine Club for National Spay/Neuter Day sponsored by the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. At this event we are hoping to create 20 surgery teams consisting of a student from each class to offer valuable hands-on experience for all of our students while assisting local shelters in the Macon County area with low cost spay/neuters for their animals.



We will also be hosting our second annual SCAVMA Health Week in March where we hold sessions on mental, nutritional, and physical health throughout the week. Also in March during Tuskegee School of Veterinary Medicine's Annual Symposium we will be hosting a silent auction. Our TUSVM SCAVMA would be very grateful for any donations from the ALVMA readers.

Adam Griffith  
TUSVM Class of 2017  
SCAVMA President

# SCAVMA Auburn



The Fall semester is underway with a calendar full of events planned by Auburn's SCAVMA. The chapter started off with the Tails & Trails 5K – a One Health Event for the Auburn community and its dogs. We had over 130 participants

on the hot August morning, and were able to raise over \$2,000.00. Half of our proceeds have been donated to Alzheimer's research, and the Auburn OTS/SCAVMA team will be walking in the Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 25th as well.

Dr. Anna Reddish, a 2013 Auburn graduate and the new Student Initiatives Director for the eastern schools, returned to Auburn in August to introduce the AVMA, SAVMA, and SCAVMA to the new students and explain the new programs and benefits.

The first schoolwide dinner meeting of the semester was hosted by Auburn's own Dr. Hathcock DVM, MS, DACVR to discuss important information regarding the pursuit of internships and residencies after receiving our DVM. He brought along almost thirty residents and interns



to give advice on different programs and discuss their experiences. Later this semester, a joint meeting with the Auburn VBMA and Southern Veterinary Partners (SVP) will be held to discuss practice ownership. Additionally, another dinner meeting will consist of a panel of professionals who practice in alternative areas of veterinary medicine, including relief, military, USDA, and acupuncture, will entertain student questions.

In terms of wellness events at Auburn, we provided a whole Stress and Wellness Week in the spring semester and look to do that again in the upcoming spring semester as well. This week included chair massages, smoothies and healthy treats, a nutrition class, and yoga classes, among other programs. The program was fully funded by the All for Students Grant. This semester's wellness events included a Suicide Prevention Awareness day on September 10th, National Suicide Prevention Day. We suggested students wear teal or purple, the colors of suicide awareness, and gave out teal or purple ribbons to wear for a donation, resulting in \$105.00 to go towards the National Suicide Prevention Foundation. For the second year in a row, SCAVMA will provide flu vaccinations at a subsidized cost to students. The Auburn University Medical Clinic will come to the vet school during a lunch period in October and administer vaccines to students who wish to receive them.

Rachel Maloney  
AUCVM Class of 2017  
SCAVMA President

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# Nominations needed for the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

Nominations are solicited from the membership twice annually, as needed to replace individuals in expiring positions on the ASBVME, leading up to the summer and winter meetings of the ALVMA. Nominations may come from others or a person may self-nominate.

All nominees will be required to submit a statement showing willingness to serve, CV and letters of reference, which will all be reviewed by the Nominating Committee. The ALVMA membership will vote by mailed ballot on the nominations for each position.

Two terms on the ASBVME expire in March and June of 2016 and we are soliciting your nominations at this time. Those nominations must be in the office before November 20, 2015 for consideration. The two positions follow.

1. Veterinary position currently held by Dr. Sam Eidt (Dr. Eidt is eligible for reappointment). His term expires on March 16, 2016.
2. Veterinary position currently held by Dr. Patrick Trotter (Dr. Trotter is eligible for reappointment). His term expires on June 1, 2016.

As a reminder, nominees must meet the following criteria established in the Veterinary Practice Act:

1. Graduate of an accredited school of veterinary medicine
2. Legal resident of Alabama
3. Currently and validly licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Alabama
4. Actively employed and licensed in the practice of veterinary medicine in the State of Alabama for the five years immediately prior to appointment
5. Continuing at least 35 hours per week in the practice of veterinary medicine while serving on the board

We encourage you to submit your nominations now using the form linked below. Completed and signed nomination forms, along with a CV and reference letters, are due in the ALVMA office by November 20, 2015. Additional details are listed on the form. Ballots for voting on the nominees for both positions will be sent to you by postal mail in December. The three individuals with the highest number of votes for each position will be submitted to the Governor for his selection.

## Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine Practice Management Rotation



AUBURN

UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
Practice Management Group

Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine (AU CVM) has a fresh new look to its Practice Management rotation for 4th year students and they are looking for Alabama practice owners to participate.

In the fall of 2014 AU CVM began a pilot rotation for 4th year students. In this new rotation, six students travel to a practice and perform a real practice assessment that includes both quantitative and qualitative analysis. At the end of the week these six students deliver an evaluation report of between 75 and 120 pages, all packed with great information specific to that practice.

The students are able to get hands on experience with real financial documents and a full week of assessing multiple aspects of owning and running a veterinary practice.

The practice owners receive a very detailed and complete evaluation on their practice.

Mr. Ethan Dawe facilitates the rotation for the students and coordinates with the practice owners to make sure this is a smooth, beneficial experience.

"Every practice owner that we have worked with has been thrilled with the experience and are surprised at how unobtrusive and informative the process is," said Mr. Dawe. "We are looking for additional practices to assess in the coming year."

How can you get on the list of practices to be assessed or find out more information?

Contact Ethan Dawe at 251-243-6038 or ethan@ethandawe.com for more information.

# Nomination of candidates for ASBVME by the ALVMA

The ALVMA Executive Board approved motions in February and June of 2014 changing the way nominees are selected for service on the ASBVME. Future nominees will be selected by a paper ballot of the ALVMA membership after a vetting by the ALVMA Nominating Committee.

## Procedure:

1. An announcement will be published in the ALVMA e-news and possibly the Alabama Veterinarian, depending on publications schedule, calling for nominations at least 4 weeks prior to the deadline for nomination
  - a. Nominations will be sent to the Executive Director
  - b. Nominations may be from a nominator or by self-nomination
  - c. Nominations must include a signature of willingness to serve
  - d. Nominations must include an abbreviated CV, not to exceed 4 pages
  - e. Nominations must include two letters of support from current ALVMA members recommending the candidate for the position. (For LVT position, one letter from ALVMA member and one from Alabama Veterinary Technician Association member)
  - f. The deadline for nominations will be at least 4 weeks prior to the ballot at which nominees will be considered
  - g. Non-public member candidates must meet the following criteria
    - i. Graduate of an accredited school of veterinary medicine
2. The ALVMA Nominating Committee will consider all candidates for compliance with the nomination requirement and Veterinary Practice Act stipulations.
3. The three top candidates will be selected by a ballot of the ALVMA membership with those top three chosen being submitted to the Governor for his/her selection.

Nomination for Service on the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association  
P. O. Box 3514  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
334.395.0086 / Charles@franzmgt.com

The ASBVME consists of eight members: six veterinarians, one licensed veterinary technician and one public member. Appointments to fill vacancies are made by the Governor from a list of three names submitted by the ALVMA. Terms normally are for four years and a member may serve no more than two consecutive terms, nor more than 13 years total.

Person Nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Position of nomination (circle one): Term currently held by Dr. Sam Eidt

Term currently held by Dr. Patrick Trotter

Attach: Abbreviated CV (no more than 4 pages) and two letters of reference (both must be from ALVMA members for veterinary and public position; one each from AVTA and ALVMA member for LVT) – Submit to Dr. Charles Franz, ALVMA Executive Director, Charles@franzmgt.com

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to willingly and honorably serve the people of the Great State of Alabama in the position of member of the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, if I am selected by the Governor. I have no prior felony convictions and have not pled nolo contendere or non vult to any criminal charge. I have not been disciplined by any veterinary medical licensing board jurisdiction within the previous ten years.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# ALVMA Executive Board 2015-16

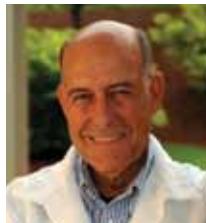
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Convention/Program	Hal Pate	334/548-2031
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Program	Charles Ashwander	256/353-7384
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Vet Tech Advisory	Dan Kuykendall	334/821-7730
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