

Alabama Veterinarian



A Biannual Publication for ALVMA Members, Veterinary Students and Friends of the ALVMA
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2018 – 2019
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association President
Dr. Hank Lee



A letter from the president

Dear ALVMA Members,

If you are reading this, then you realize the importance of, and are to some degree involved in organized veterinary medicine. Many of you have seen the ALVMA in action and have watched its progress over the years. If you are like me, you look forward to addressing the legislative and societal changes that are forever occurring. That line of thought steers my mind to the Veterinary Practice Act.

The citizens of Alabama are lucky to be protected by one of the strongest Veterinary Practice Acts in the country. In my opinion, the Practice Act protects the consumer from the unlawful practice of veterinary medicine within this state in a couple of ways: (1) it requires that licensed veterinarians practice at a level equal to or above the acceptable standard of care by implementing and enforcing equipment, record-keeping, and medical competency standards and (2) it prevents unlicensed individuals from practicing veterinary medicine within the boundaries of this state. The prevention of the unlawful practice of veterinary medicine protects the licensed veterinarian from the unfair competitive advantage possessed by entities that do not put patient care as the cornerstone of their business model. Though the practice act is far from perfect, it does a good job of protecting us all.

There is a constant barrage of profit-centered veterinary entities attempting to gain access into Alabama. Again, these companies do not always have the best interests of the animal-owning public in mind. Just as in human medicine, when profitability overshadows quality of care the patient suffers. As practicing veterinarians in Alabama, we are morally obligated to initiate and maintain an acceptable standard of veterinary medical care. We all do this daily in conversations with our veterinary peers; we are all constantly trying to improve the way we practice. The Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners exists to ensure that everyone is doing their due diligence and meeting the requirements to practice in this state. We, as veterinary professionals in Alabama, should take the time to again familiarize ourselves with the practice act and stand in support of the ASBVME as it continues the arduous task of enforcement.

In closing, I would like to thank the men and women who have selflessly given of their time and effort to shape and nurture the ALVMA and the profession into what it is today. As always, I encourage each of you to look around in your local veterinary community for individuals who could benefit from more direct involvement in organized veterinary medicine and make the effort to develop that involvement. We can all use a little help.

Respectfully yours,

Hank Lee, DVM
ALVMA President

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MEET YOUR President

Dr. James “Hank” Lee Atmore, Alabama

What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

Animal Agriculture defined my life growing up. A faculty mentor (Dr. Hardin Rahe) in The Animal Science department at Auburn made the suggestion and guided me that direction.

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

Though I own a mixed-animal practice, I practice strictly large animal medicine and surgery. The majority of my time is devoted to equine lameness. Production medicine came natural to me. The equine interest was nurtured by clients.

Where did you study?

Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, Class of 2000

Who is your role model/mentor?

It is not possible for me to give a single specific example. I have taken something from every person I've worked with. I feel that everything I do is plagiary; I've learned it or seen it from someone else before. But certainly my parents, grandparents, Dr. Woody Ash, Dr. Bob Ebert, and the entire faculty at AUCVM during my time there were very influential in providing me direction.

What advice can you offer someone coming into this profession?

Be open-minded; you can learn something

from anyone. Follow your intuition; there are no limits to what direction you can go as a veterinarian; do what you love.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Helping people. Clients always comment that it must be great having my job and getting to work with horses all day. I let them know that horses provide me a media to work with people. Horses are easy; it is the owners that can be a challenge to treat sometimes.

at our hospital, do a really good job of keeping me on track and doing all the hard work for me.

Why would you recommend that someone join the ALVMA?

The ALVMA provides the veterinarians in our state a voice. It monitors the pulse of veterinary medicine across the nation and provides a route for addressing issues. The ALVMA allows veterinarians to network with others who care deeply about the profession.



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

The Great Slave Lake region of Canada. I would like to see the real wilderness.

What is the last movie you watched?

“Fury”. I don’t watch many movies, but I do like WWII films. The last Great War was such a big influence on my family; it changed the course of our lives and for that reason it has always intrigued me.

How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

A friend, Dr. John Grider, is a former ASBVME member and long-time ALVMA board member. He suggested that I take his place as the constituent representative from our local association. That is where it began.

What is the hardest part of your job?

Cleaning up after colic surgery. Just kidding, there is really nothing hard about my job. The associate veterinarians, along with the administrative and support staff

When I’m not working, you’ll find me...

Doing something with Lacey and the kids: working on the farm, riding around on the lake, playing sports with the kids, etc.

What five adjectives best describe you?

Motivated, trustworthy, determined, consistent, and chaotic. I realize the last two seem not to go together; however, I am consistently all over the place.

What is your simplest pleasure?

Chocolate milk



How has being a member of ALVMA helped you professionally?

All the great friends I have made. I learned that exotic animal veterinarians in California and feline practitioners in New York are not all that different from this country boy from South Alabama. We were all drawn to this lifestyle for the same reasons.

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

My wife, my Leatherman, and 5000 feet of 14 gauge galvanized steel wire. I could probably make it with that.

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

Yesterday. I changed a tire on the side of I-85 for an elderly couple from Georgia. It was the lady's 83rd birthday and they were on their way to the casino in Montgomery to celebrate.

What is the most memorable experience of your career?

During my early years as a veterinarian, lying on the ground for four hours in the summertime heat doing a fetotomy on a down cow. Euthanizing her just before we both died, and having the client be so grateful that I did everything I could to help. I gave her all I had, there was no more.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Having survived my twenties. No one ever thought that would happen.

What is your favorite quote?

'Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds'- Albert Einstein. It was a poster that I had hanging in my living room at Auburn. A passerby noticed it one day and stopped to discuss. He stated that he too held that quote close to his heart. His name was Dr. Ward Allen, retired English professor at AU. We became great friends; he was the last true southern gentleman.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Spending a lot of time at high school sporting events. Both of my children will be that age then.

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

I wish everyone practiced veterinary medicine for the reasons I envision. I realize that is a selfish answer, but you asked. I am concerned that profitability is surpassing quality of care as the prime motivator in some hospitals and that a generation of veterinarians may be steered down that path. I'm not saying that it is wrong; it is just contrary to mine and Lacey's life/work model.



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

For me, that answer is easy. The availability of digital radiography to equine practitioners immediately and forever changed my life.

What makes you laugh out loud?

Some of the crazy things my kids say.

What was the last song you sang?

The Star-Spangled Banner

What book are you reading?

"The Master Gunmaker's Guide to Building Bolt-Action Rifles"—Bill Holmes

I still want to learn how to...

Speak Spanish.

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

Again, Albert Einstein. I would ask him to please explain his "Theory of Relativity" that he was so famous for. I don't think I have grasped that one. ■



Recognition of Influenza in Dogs, a Recent Avian Influenza Outbreak in Commercial Poultry and Transmission of Influenza from Pigs at Fairs to People Illustrate the Ever Changing Epidemiology and Public Health Challenges of This Disease

by Dr. Jim Wright, Chair and Dr. John Keliher, member Alabama VMA Public Health Committee Chair

Background

Influenza viruses are in the family Orthomyxoviridae and three types (A, B, C) are recognized, but only influenza A viruses are considered to be important zoonoses. Recently a C type influenza virus has been detected in livestock and this may be designated Influenza D. Subtypes of influenza B and C are more antigenically stable than influenza A viruses which have 18 hemagglutinin and 11 neuraminidase surface proteins. Mutations can occur in single strains (antigenic drift) or more dramatic changes (antigenic shift) can occur through recombination if two different strains of influenza A infect the same cell. Both antigenic drift and shift of influenza viruses can result in subtypes that are easily transmitted among animals or people that they do not normally circulate in.

Avian Influenza

Domestic and wild birds can harbor a wide range of influenza viruses which have low or high pathogenicity and both of these types are a threat to the poultry industry in the United States. The H5 and H7 avian influenza viruses can mutate to highly pathogenic strains through multiple transmission cycles through birds. Detection of these subtypes must be reported to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and this results in restrictions on movement and trade of poultry and poultry products. Low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses can produce mild to severe respiratory signs, sinusitis and decreased egg production in poultry. High pathogenicity avian viruses often cause severe systemic disease and mortality in flocks can approach 100 percent.

Backyard chicken flocks are thought to be responsible for the 2014-2015 highly pathogenic influenza outbreak in commercial poultry in the United States. The outbreak first was detected in Oregon and Washington, and migratory birds possibly played a role in the spread of the virus from the West Coast to the eastern boundary of the Mississippi flyway. However, spread by migratory birds does not fully explain the rapid expansion of this outbreak in the Midwest. Movement of people



and poor biosecurity likely also contributed to the spread of the virus among commercial flocks. This outbreak resulted in the loss of over 50 million chickens and turkeys and export losses to the industry were estimated to be over 1.1 billion dollars.

Swine Influenza

Influenza subtypes H1N1 and H3N2 often circulate in pigs. The disease in swine herds can have a rapid onset with high morbidity and low mortality. Disease in individual pigs may be asymptomatic or result in coughing ("barking" or "thumps"), discharge from the eyes and nose and depression. Pigs may run a high temperature and show labored breathing and sows can experience spontaneous abortions or stillbirths due to the fever.

Pigs are considered to be a "mixing bowl" for possible antigenic shift of influenza viruses because of their susceptibility to avian and human viruses in addition to swine influenza subtypes. The influenza pandemic of 2009 resulted from the re-assortment of swine, bird and human influenza viruses (H1N1 swine variant) that further combined with a Eurasian pig influenza virus. An H3N2 swine variant virus recently has been detected in people in close contact with swine at agricultural fairs.

Canine Influenza

Two subtypes of influenza virus recently have been found in dogs in the United States. Both

canine influenza viruses are now widespread in the United States. Canine influenza can be asymptomatic or result in mild to severe respiratory signs with a fever, runny nose and persistent cough. Secondary infection with bacteria or mycoplasma can result in pneumonia or bronchopneumonia.

The canine H3N8 subtype is an equine virus that first spread into racing greyhounds in Florida possibly through ingestion of uncooked horse meat and lung being fed to the dogs. The virus was known to be present in horses exclusively for 40 years before 2004. Transmission in dogs has resulted in an equine origin virus that no longer is transmissible among horses. This influenza virus then spread from greyhounds to dogs housed in shelters and kennels.



The H3N2 subtype of canine influenza spread from birds to dogs and first was detected in South Korea and China. This influenza virus was first identified in the United States in 2015 where it affected more than 1000 dogs in Chicago and other parts of the Midwest. The H3N2 subtype of canine influenza also has caused respiratory illness in cats.

Prevention and Control

Influenza viruses most often are transmitted by aerosol over short distances. However, fecal-oral transmission is likely to occur in water fowl and poultry since large amounts of influenza viruses can be found in their feces. Studies have indicated that influenza viruses can survive and possibly be transmitted from

the environment for short periods of time. The possibility of environmental transmission increases if large amounts of virus are shed and they are protected by heavy mucus or feces. Influenza viruses are highly susceptible to sunlight and most disinfectants.

Backyard flocks of chickens are sentinels for early recognition of the entry of avian influenza viruses into a region; therefore, owners of backyard flocks are a first line of defense for detection of the virus. Veterinarians who have backyard flock owners as clients should stress to them the importance of reporting sick birds and achieving a diagnosis. Owners of backyard chickens are encouraged to exercise care when handling dead birds, thoroughly washing their hands with soap and warm water and disinfecting surfaces where sick birds were present. Dead birds can be placed in a plastic bag which is sprayed with disinfectant (dilute Clorox) and transported to a diagnostic laboratory or veterinarian on ice. Strict biosecurity measures in commercial flocks are essential for prevention of influenza.

Killed Vaccines are available for both H1N2 and H3N2 swine influenza. Good management and strict biosecurity can help to prevent the disease or reduce losses that can occur if a herd is infected. Any pigs used for fairs or petting zoos should be quarantined before re-entry into the herd.

Vaccines are available for both subtypes of canine influenza and dogs that are boarded or in contact with other dogs at parks or day care facilities should be vaccinated. Dogs presenting to a clinic with a respiratory illness should be isolated and biosecurity measures (use of gowns and gloves; cleaning and disinfecting surfaces) should be instituted. It is important to remember that canine influenza can be transmitted by direct contact (droplet borne) from dog to dog or from uninfected dogs coming into contact with contaminated objects. Clothing, equipment, and surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected after coming into contact with dogs showing signs of respiratory illness.

Prevention of Human Influenza and Impact of Influenza viruses on Private Practices

The importance of influenza viruses in both animals and people was noted by Farshid

Garmaroudi who labelled influenza “the last great uncontrolled plague of mankind”. Recent influenza outbreaks have emphasized the ever changing nature of this family of viruses and the challenges that this presents for prevention and control. Veterinarians play an important role in prevention of influenza in animals; however, human influenza can impact a practice through time lost from work by both veterinarians and the staff. Veterinarians not only should recommend flu shots for dogs, but they should urge their staff and clients to also receive yearly vaccinations for this disease. Other measures to prevent human flu from occurring in your practice include having people wash their hands regularly. Individuals who have a flu-like illness are recommended to stay away from work until they are afebrile



without medication. If this cannot be done they should be mindful of the risk they present to others and isolate themselves as much as possible through social distancing, hand washing and covering their cough.

Regular flu vaccination also is very important for individuals with close contact with poultry or pigs. People who are at higher risk from flu (those younger than 5 or older than 65; pregnant women; and individuals with asthma or immunosuppressive conditions) should avoid contact with pigs. Individuals with flu-like symptoms also should avoid contact with pigs since they could transmit a human strain to them.

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AVMA Board of Director's Update

Written by: Jan K. Strother, DVM
AVMA BOD, District 3
AVMFBOD, Immediate Past Chair

The AVMA BOD met in September and took action on a few things following our review of our Board Self-assessment and retreat. We have reached a place in our strategy management where we are reviewing current and older programs to determine what should stay, what should go, and what should be tweaked. This will allow us to better utilize resources and be more responsive to member needs.

Veterinary Information Forum

The topics from the Veterinary Information Forum at the July House of Delegates meeting were referred to various entities for follow-up and further action. The topic of globalization in veterinary medicine and its effects on the profession were referred to the Committee on International Veterinary Affairs while the topic of student debt and new ideas around loan repayment were referred to the Veterinary Economic Steering Committee and The State Advocacy Committee. The issue of Access to Care will be a major effort that will be spearheaded by the Animal Welfare Committee. This will involve AVMA members as well as people from many stakeholder groups. Resolution #5 regarding minimizing inherited disorders in dogs and cats was referred to the Animal Welfare Committee. The Animal Welfare Committee, as part of its routine review of policies every 5 years, will be reviewing the AVMA policy on Declawing in Cats. This may be pertinent to communities that are considering limitations or bans on feline declaws.

AVMA Model Veterinary Practice Act

The most important thing for state VMAs to consider now is the AVMA Model Veterinary Practice Act. The BOD will send this to the HOD for consideration at their January 2019 meeting with a recommendation to approve. The draft version and a summary of significant changes will be available for review, and AVMA Delegates will want your feedback. You may remember at the MVPA was open for comment from the public and members. Thank you to all of you who took the time to consider the changes and provide feedback. The MVPA was refined and tweaked based on your thoughtful consideration.

The AAVSB (American Association of Veterinary State Boards) has revised their Practice Act Model and the definition of VCPR, as well as the use of telemedicine. The AAVSB definition is broader than the AVMA definition, so it behooves all of us to pay close attention to what is allowed and not allowed within a VCPR and how that is defined.

AVMA and AAHA joined forces to prepare a joint publication about virtual care (telemedicine) and everything you need to know right now. That publication was mailed with your October 15 JAVMA and the AAHA's October edition of Trends magazine. The digital version will be available in

October as well as AVMA's Telehealth Resource Center.

Economic Summit

The AVMA Economic Summit takes place on October 22-23 2018, where our new Director of Economics, Matt Salois, will host several forward thought leaders and experts in the areas of compensation, supply and demand in the veterinary profession, price and income elasticities, practice management, student debt, and what the future of the profession may hold.

AVMA Public Policy Symposium

Also, don't forget about the next AVMA Public Policy Symposium to be held January 10 2019, just before the Veterinary Leadership Conference, in Chicago. This is a great place to learn how to enhance and improve interactions with elected officials and regulatory agencies, as well as gain an understanding as to how other states are handling similar legislative issues. Registration is open now for this Symposium and VLC.

Hurricanes: Florence and Michael

Finally, our thoughts go to our friends and colleagues who have been so impacted in this 2018 season of hurricanes: NC and SC who've been dealing with the effects of Hurricane Florence and now many our colleagues in Florida, Georgia, NC and SC have been affected by Hurricane Michael.

AVMA/AVMF has reached out to the leadership in District III and IV in FVMA, ALVMA, GVMA, NCVMA, and SCAV. Our Foundation has supported with grants for our State VMA's, our CVM's, and veterinarians who have been affected with hurricanes, fires, flooding, blizzards and other disasters.

Many thanks to Dr. Warren Hess and Dr. Gail Golab, who leads the AVMA/AVMF team in disaster communications, recommendations, and collaborations with associated disaster organizations.

The AVMA Board of Director's will meet on November 8-10, 2018, and I will give updates as needed.

Timely Topics

Federal Tax Bill and Veterinary Medicine

- Under proposed regulations released by the Treasury Department and IRS, veterinary small business owners will be able to take advantage of the new "pass-through" income tax deduction.
- The full pass-through deduction will be available to owners of all small businesses, including veterinary practices, as long as their taxable income does not exceed \$315,000 if filing jointly or \$157,500 if filing individually.
- A limited deduction would apply to veterinary business owners with taxable income between \$315,000-\$415,000 if filing jointly or \$157,500-\$207,500 if filing individually.
- On October 1, the AVMA filed comments with the IRS on their proposed rules arguing that upper income level caps should not apply to veterinary practices.

Helping Members Navigate the Opioid Shortage

- Opioid shortages are anticipated to last into 2019.
- Shortages are primarily due to upgrades being made at a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant.
- The AVMA is working with federal agencies, drug manufacturers and drug distributors on behalf of veterinarians until the shortage is resolved.
- The AVMA is also educating veterinarians on ways to rely less on opioids for anesthesia and analgesia.
- The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has proposed to decrease manufacturing and distribution quotas for opioids for 2019, and the

AVMA has filed comments to ensure the needs of veterinary patients are considered.

- Visit: avma.org/opioids

Marijuana/Cannabis

- Under federal law, cannabis products that fall within the definition of “marihuana” contained within the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), other than Epidiolex, continue to be considered schedule I controlled substances.
- The definition of “marihuana” included in the CSA does not include certain parts of the plant and products derived from those parts of the plant (except extracted resin from those parts, which is included). However, it can be very difficult to determine from which part of the plant a product is derived, and sometimes products are derived from multiple parts of the plant.
- Separate from scheduling under the CSA is the importance of ensuring the efficacy and safety of cannabis-derived products used to treat animals. Under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA), products to be used as animal drugs must go through the FDA’s drug approval process. Currently there are no cannabis-derived drugs that have been approved in the United States for use in animals.
- Products derived from cannabis that are intended for animals and include therapeutic claims that have not been evaluated and approved by the FDA are unapproved animal drugs. Unapproved drugs may create legal risk for veterinarians who administer, prescribe, dispense or recommend them.
- There is one FDA-approved human drug, Epidiolex, that is derived from the cannabis plant. It is listed in Schedule V and we are aware of no restrictions that would prevent it from being used in an extralabel fashion for animals.
- Current laws in some states that permit medical and/or recreational use for people do not apply to animals.
- Governor Brown recently signed AB2515 in California.
 - This new law allows veterinarians to discuss the use of cannabis with their clients in the state of California. Guidelines for discussion must be developed by the Veterinary Medical Board on or before January 1, 2020.
 - It also prohibits the Veterinary Medical Board from disciplining, or denying, revoking or suspending the license of, a licensed veterinarian solely for discussing the use of cannabis on an animal for medicinal purposes, absent negligence or incompetence.
 - The bill prohibits a veterinarian from dispensing or administering cannabis or cannabis products to an animal patient.
- The AVMA is advocating for increased access to cannabis for veterinary researchers to support the development of FDA-approved drugs.
- The AVMA’s recent webinar on cannabis offered insight on the potential benefits, risks and legal regulations surrounding cannabis-derived products.
 - The webinar is now available on demand at avma.org/ce.
- “Industrial hemp” is cannabis that has a tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of <0.3%.
- Visit: avma.org/cannabis

VCPR and Extra-Label Drug Use Related to Telemedicine

- Important to have an established Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship in place when practicing veterinary medicine in-person or via telemedicine.
- Federal law requires a VCPR for Extra-Label Drug Use, issuing Veterinary Feed Directives and, in certain circumstances, when veterinarians create biologics. These federal laws and regulations are superior to state law and must be followed irrespective of states’ VCPR requirements.
- Federal requirements to establish a VCPR include a recent in-person

examination or medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animals are kept.

2018 Farm Bill

- In June, the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate passed their respective versions of the Farm Bill.
- The AVMA has been working closely with Congress on these bills, both of which include many of AVMA’s animal health priorities.
- The House and Senate are working to reconcile differences in the bills before a final version can be sent to the president’s desk for signature.
 - Lawmakers missed an important deadline for finalizing the Farm Bill on September 30, and House and Senate negotiators now hope to come to an agreement before the 115th Congress ends.
- The 2018 Farm Bill offers an important chance to authorize new, complementary programs to improve our national disease detection and response capabilities.
- The AVMA is asking Congress to take a three-pronged approach to animal health by:
 - Establishing and funding an Animal Pest, Disease and Disaster Prevention and Response Program
 - Providing full funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network
 - Creating and funding a National Livestock Vaccine Bank with immediate priority to foot-and-mouth disease
- The House and Senate bills differ in their authorizations and funding for all three of our key animal health priorities, in addition to other animal health and research provisions.
- As the Senate and House negotiate the final version of the Farm Bill, we’re working closely with lawmakers to champion these programs and ask for the necessary funding for their success.

AVMA and NAVTA Partnership

- The AVMA continues to provide association management services to the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America during its transition from its previous executive director.
 - The AVMA is providing NAVTA with administrative services as well as an interim executive director, who is assisting the organization in developing a long-range management plan.

CDC Antimicrobial Resistance Challenge

- The AVMA has proudly joined the U.S. Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) year-long Antimicrobial Resistance Challenge, which aims to accelerate the worldwide battle against antimicrobial resistance.
- In committing to the CDC challenge, we’ve made five promises:
 - Continue collaborating with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on veterinary oversight of antimicrobials;
 - Educate veterinarians and veterinary clients about antimicrobial stewardship, and provide guidance for implementing stewardship plans;
 - Assist with enhanced surveillance of antibiotic use in animals;
 - Promote research on infection control, responsible use of antimicrobials, and development of alternatives; and
 - Engage with key international stakeholders to support antimicrobial stewardship.
- These efforts already are underway. The FDA’s recently released five-year plan to promote antimicrobial stewardship in veterinary settings builds on the AVMA’s Antimicrobial Stewardship Definition and Core Principles, and we look forward to working with the FDA as it continues talking with stakeholders.
- The AVMA has a wide range of policies to guide veterinarians and veterinary team members on the responsible use of antimicrobials, plus tools to simplify the writing of Veterinary Feed Directives and posters to educate companion-animal clients. Other initiatives will follow over the course of the coming months.

Continued on page 26

New Graduate Member Profile

Dr. Thomas Poole

Auburn, Alabama

What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

I decided to pursue a career in veterinary medicine later in life. I had originally studied Finance at Auburn and was working in Atlanta, GA when my wife and I decided to move back to Auburn so I could pursue Veterinary Medicine as a career. Our decision to move back was based on Faith, Family, Friends, and our own dog Maverick.

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

I am currently practicing as an Associate Veterinarian at a primary small animal/companion animal practice in Auburn, AL. I really enjoy working in the small animal space of veterinary medicine! We also love living in Auburn!

Where did you study?

I studied at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine from September of 2012 to May of 2016.

Who is your role model/mentor?

I've had the good fortune of working with and learning from many great Veterinarians throughout my brief time in Veterinary Medicine. The individual I have spent the most time learning from and working with is Dr. Glen Puckett.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love that every day is different and that I am on my feet going all day long. I also love that no matter how easy or hard the day may be, I am home with my family every night.

How did you get involved with the ALVMA?



I initially joined the ALVMA when I graduated from Veterinary School. Since then I have participated in the ALVMA's Power of 10 program and also become the president of our local association (the East Alabama Veterinary Medical Association).

What is the hardest part of your job?

The hardest part of being a Veterinarian is maintaining a healthy work/life balance. This is especially true when you are first starting your career. However, making it a priority as a new graduate can help to reduce the risk of burnout.

What advice can you offer someone coming into this profession?

I would encourage someone coming into this profession to gain as much experience and exposure to the different areas of Veterinary Medicine as they possibly can (and, of course, make good grades!).

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years I hope to still be practicing small animal medicine. I also hope to be a partner/owner in a small animal private practice.

Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

I would encourage anyone interested in joining the ALVMA to do it! We have a great association made up of a lot of caring, hardworking individuals. I have enjoyed getting to know these folks over the past few years.



How has being involved with the ALVMA helped you professionally?

Being a member of the ALVMA has helped me by allowing me to network with individuals I would otherwise not meet or know.

What is the most memorable experience of your career?

This is a tough question. There have been many memorable experiences so far and I am just starting out! Some of the best experiences have been the relationships I have been able to build with other veterinary professionals as well as our clients and their pets.

What is the last movie you watched?

Finding Nemo. Our son loves fish and sharks!

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

At home with my family or on the golf course.

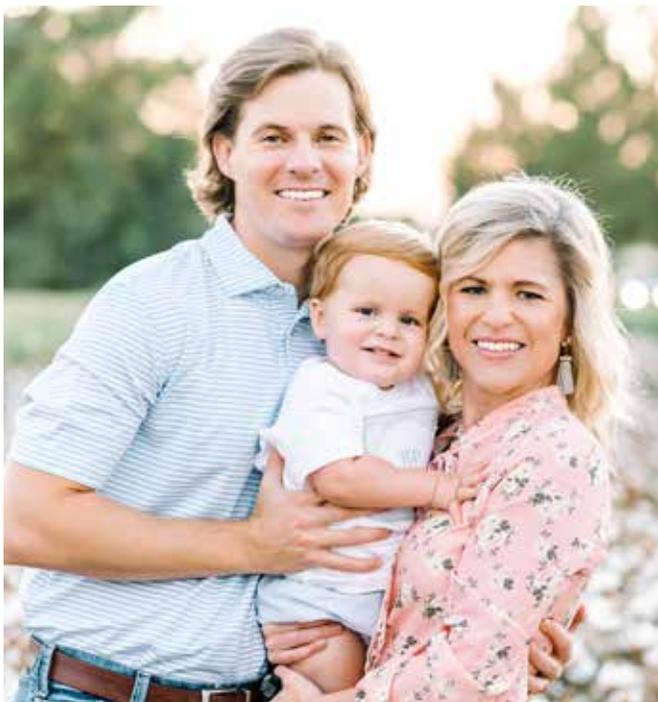
What was the last song you sang?

Baby Shark (Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo). Our son loves this song!

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

Banff, Canada. I had the good fortune to go there in 2009. It is one of the most beautiful places on this planet and it's not too far away from home!

If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want



to have?

A scalpel blade, suture, and a hemostat.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Personally, my wife and son. Professionally, I am most proud of the friendships I have been fortunate enough to build with other veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other professionals in our field.

What is your favorite quote?

My favorite quote is from our parasitology professor while at Auburn, Dr. Charlie Hendrix. It is a modified quote from the film "A League of their own". It goes "Veterinary Medicine is hard. It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard everyone would do it. The hard...is what makes it great."

What is your simplest pleasure?

Black Coffee.

What makes you laugh out loud?

Fun with co-workers, friends and family. I don't think one day goes by that I don't laugh out loud at something.

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

This is always an interesting question. I would want to meet Jesus Christ. As far as what questions I would ask, I will just say a lot!

What book are you reading?

I'm not currently reading anything outside of work. Any suggestions?

What do you think has been the most significant change/



advancement in veterinary medicine?

I believe our ability to provide advanced diagnostic testing to our clients in a private practice setting has been a very significant change in veterinary medicine. Based on conversations with seasoned general practitioners, it has not always been that way.

What five adjectives best describe you?

Nerdy, Light-hearted, Hard-working, Respectful, Jovial

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

If there was one thing I could change in our profession it would be the burnout and depression that plagues Veterinary Medicine as a whole.

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

Literally the last thing I did for someone else was change my sons diaper for him since he has no idea how to do that. Does that count?

I still want to learn how to...

Fly. My dad was a pilot and I have always been fascinated by aviation. ■

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. Nikki N. Brown, UGA '07

P.O. Box 2994
Phenix City, AL 36868
Phone: 706.577.4365

Email: drnikkibrown@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. 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: Small Animal

Region of Relief: Lee County, willing to
travel extended distance

**Dr. Devin Doherty, St. George's - West
Indies '11**

1800 Century Lane
Opelika, AL 36801
Phone: 908-884-9440

Email: devin.dd@gmail.com

State(s) where Licensed: AL, GA

Kind of Practice: SA and exotic

Region of Relief: Alabama and Georgia

Dr. Richard Green, AUB '68

233 David Drive
Montgomery, AL 36105
Phone: 334-312-5863

Email: oliviagomez927@gmail.com

State(s) where licensed: AL

Kind of Practice: Small Animal

Region of Relief: Anywhere in AL

Dr. Tom Harbin, AUB '79

3847 Hayneville Ridge Road
Mathews, AL 36052

Phone: 931-212-6633

Email: tharbin52@gmail.com

State(s) where licensed: AL

Kind of Practice: Small Animal

Region of Relief: Montgomery area

Additional Information: Will travel up to one
hour

Dr. Emily Hertlein, AUB '09

150 Hertlein Drive

Newton, AL 36352

Phone: 334.791.1405

Email: erhvet@yahoo.com

State(s) where Licensed: AL, FL & GA

Kind of Practice: Small Animal

Region of Relief: Alabama, Georgia,
Florida

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

8237 U.S. Hwy 331

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. Megan Simpson, AUB '11

4530 Blairmont Drive SE

Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763

Phone: 205.532.3500

Email: Simpsme@auburn.edu

State(s) where Licensed: AL

Kind of Practice: Small Animal, General

Practice and Surgery

Region of Relief: Huntsville, Madison
County

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



Interested in
becoming a relief
veterinarian?

Visit
www.alvma.com
and sign up today!





Welcome New ALVMA Members

Please welcome those members who have joined the Association since June 2018

New

William J. Christenberry	Birmingham, AL	Auburn 1986
Ashley Jane Ward	Wetumpka, AL	Auburn 2010
Heather Walz	Auburn, AL	Kansas State 2000
Robert Douglas Hawkins, Jr.	Troy, AL	Auburn 1990
Roger Story	Opp, AL	Auburn 2000
Ralph A. Henderson, Jr.	Auburn, AL	Missouri 1972
Vaughn Traywick	Birmingham, AL	
Mary Griffin	Birmingham, AL	
Heather Weaver	Mobile, AL	Mississippi State 2008
Kayla Benson	Clanton, AL	Auburn 2013

New 3-4 Year Grad

William K. Marecle	Red Bay, AL	Mississippi State 2014
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New Graduates

George Ethan Kilcrease	Evergreen, AL	Auburn 2017
Caroline Brown	Enterprise, AL	Tuskegee 2017
Elizabeth Gammon	Spanish Fort, AL	Auburn 2017
Jessica Schuster	Dothan, AL	Ohio State 2017
Justin Taylor Johnson	Hopkinsville, KY	Auburn 2018
Ashley Suzanne Harrison	Clanton, AL	Auburn 2018
Rachel Burt	Columbiana, AL	Auburn 2018
Jennifer Ringenberg	Panama City, FL	Auburn 2018
Mikaela Thomason	Foster, KY	Auburn 2018
Shaina Z. Craige	Eight Mile, AL	Auburn 2018
Regan Hertelendy	Elizabethtown, KY	Auburn 2018
Caroline Hohlman	Garden City, NY	Auburn 2018
Alexandria Brennan	Carmel, IN	Auburn 2018
Jaclyn Farris Brogli	Winchester, KY	Auburn 2018
Kylie Roberts	Louisville, KY	Auburn 2018
Kayla Christine Blake	Mobile, AL	Auburn 2018
Jaida Reeves	Foley, AL	Auburn 2018
Casey Randle	Lincoln, AL	Auburn 2018
Charles Robert Rehm	Mobile, AL	Auburn 2018
Emily Estes	Winchester, KY	Auburn 2018
Keshley Allen	Piedmont, AL	Auburn 2018
Margaret O'Shelley Proter	Valley Grande, AL	Auburn 2018
Andrea Hoover	Leoma, TN	Auburn 2018
Brittany Poitevint Capps	Blakely, GA	Auburn 2018
Carly Marie St. James	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2018
Elizabeth Beatrice Rossi	Vestavia, AL	Auburn 2018
Tyler Cameron Horton	Mt. Sterling, KY	Auburn 2018
William Murray	Vestavia Hills, AL	Auburn 2018
Camille Ogletree	Roopville, GA	Auburn 2018
Ashley Howard	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2018
Brittany Sennett	Columbus, GA	Auburn 2018
Christa Ray	Columbiana, AL	Auburn 2018
Carter Jakob Mobley	Georgetown, KY	Auburn 2018
Aaron Carter Duggin	Smiths Grove, KY	Auburn 2018
Kaitlyn McCombs	Bessemer, AL	Auburn 2018
Katherine Franklin	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2018
Amanda Marie Rehm	Mobile, AL	Auburn 2018
Travis Koopmans	Ft. Thomas, KY	Auburn 2018
Nicholas Baumgarter	Savannah, GA	Auburn 2018
John Alston Whiten	Helena, AL	Auburn 2018
Lindsey E. Norberg	Ithaca, NY	Auburn 2018
Lauren Norberg	Ithaca, NY	Auburn 2018
Carmelo Foti	Orlando, FL	Auburn 2018
Shelby Holzknecert	Atlanta, GA	Auburn 2018
Megan Hataway	Chancellor, AL	Auburn 2018
Breah Davidson	Athens, AL	Auburn 2018
Megan Goldman	St. Stephens, AL	Auburn 2018
Heather Darnall	Brandenburg, KY	Auburn 2018
Hillary Elizabeth Mott	Gilbertsville, KY	Auburn 2018
Megan Schmelle	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2018
Emma Jones	Flemingsburg, KY	Auburn 2018
Tracy Miller	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2018
Ashley Janelle DeAtley	Irvine, CA	Auburn 2018
Mary Suzanne Jehlink	Mt. Sterling, KY	Auburn 2018
Lauren Kluemper	Eugene, OR	Auburn 2018

Del Anderson	Sarasota, FL	Auburn 2018
Jacqueline Kailer	Gulf Breeze, FL	Auburn 2018
Bryan T. Murdock	Aliquippa, PA	Auburn 2018
Justin Mekell Gibson	Garland, TX	Auburn 2018
Emily Lauren Hipp	Madison, AL	Auburn 2018
Claire Crocker	Franklin, KY	Auburn 2018
Alan Bocage	Medford, NJ	Auburn 2018
Sara Vigue	Merritt Island, FL	Auburn 2018
Katelyn Waters	Gadsden, AL	Auburn 2018
Elodie Ver Hulst	Hilton, NY	Auburn 2018
Alaina E. Stumpf	Alpharetta, GA	Auburn 2018
Kaleigh Myers Bush	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2018
Katherine Kehrf		Auburn 2018
Patricia B. Prevatt	Port Charlotte, FL	Auburn 2018
Thomas Jacob Stickler	Louisville, KY	Auburn 2018
Kristi Moss	Huntsville, AL	Auburn 2018
Stacey Woods	Kingsport, TN	Auburn 2018
Emily Belmont	Newport, PA	Auburn 2018
Rayna Gordon	Terre Haute, IN	Auburn 2018
Elizabeth Blackey	Louisville, KY	Auburn 2018

Students

Shakim Holmes		Tuskegee 2018
Joi Davis		Tuskegee 2018
Zena K. Wilson		Tuskegee 2018
Antoinette R. Harris		Tuskegee 2018
Annique Sonje Boyle		Tuskegee 2018
Allison Claire Vail	St. Georges - West Indies	2018
Allison Louise Ingram		Auburn 2021

Life Membership

Dr. James Milton	Birmingham, AL	Auburn 1967
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State Veterinarian Update

A news article from your State Veterinarian, Dr. Tony Frazier

Requirements for Interstate Movement, Etc.

If you write many Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, you need to pay attention to this. There is a new website that is hosted by United States Animal Health Association and the National Institute for Animal Agriculture that can provide all the interstate travel requirements for cattle, horses, swine, sheep, and goats.

Back in the old days, we tried to send out a paper that included the requirements for shipping cattle and horses to every state. Over the past few years, requirements began to change frequently from state to state as brucellosis and tuberculosis status changed. Additionally, the equine requirements often changed for certain counties or areas of states if cases of vesicular stomatitis were diagnosed. So, there were times when our printed material that we mailed out to accredited veterinarians was incorrect by the time the veterinarian opened the envelope with the information.

We haven't sent those out for a while and it has always been the responsibility of the veterinarian writing the health paper to assure that the requirements of the state of destination were met. Now, by going to interstatelivestock.com, a veterinarian can obtain quick, accurate access to state import requirements for livestock. There are dropdowns that ask for the state of origin, the state of destination and the species. That leads to other

questions to pinpoint the specific requirements for shows, rodeos, breeding, etc. And you can access it after hours, weekends and holidays.

Submitting Autolytic Carcasses to the Lab

Let me begin by saying that we appreciate all of you who support our diagnostic laboratories and recommend that your clients take carcasses there.

I occasionally watch CSI or NCIS. It is not uncommon for them to find a deceased person that is almost completely decomposed and they are able to determine details like what that person had for lunch the day before he or she died or their political party affiliation. I do not doubt that, but there are times when a carcass is of no diagnostic value for all practical purposes.

We see this occasionally during the hot weather of summer and less frequently in the colder months. That is submissions to the laboratories that are, well....rotted, decomposed, sometimes to the point that the viscera being almost undistinguishable. I have no doubt that the owner of these animal generally wish to know why they died. But there are times when these carcasses do not need to make the trip to the lab.

Where we need your help is to assist your client in determining whether a carcass may be beyond providing diagnostic value. If there are multiple deaths of animal that are found, contact my

office and we will dispatch one of our field veterinarians to determine if samples for toxicology or PCR samples can be taken to the lab.

New Associate State Veterinarian

I am excited to announce that our new Associate State Veterinarian over animal health is Dr. Misty Edmondson. She comes to us after serving on the faculty at the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine for the past twelve years. She is boarded in theriogenology and serves as chair of the beef cattle continuing education for the North American Veterinary Conference and the American Veterinary Medical Association.



Dr. Edmondson will be working closely with me on disease surveillance, animal disease traceability, laboratory issues and interacting with our stakeholders. Along with her experience at the veterinary teaching hospital, she brings her perspective from private practice and as a beef producer. If you know Dr. Edmondson, you know how fortunate we are to have her on our team. We wish her a long and rewarding career with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. ■



TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR 2019 POWER OF TEN CLASS NOW!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE DECEMBER 28TH!

The Power of 10 Leadership Program provides 10 recent graduates with four leadership development sessions over a twelve-month period. ALVMA provides topic experts about leadership, personal development, communication, and well-being. Over the course of the year, the participants gain a new network of colleagues and friends that all share a common goal. Participation in the program is free and the CE is provided at no additional charge. Participants are responsible for most of their travel expenses.

Dr. Laura Macedonia is the Program Chair for the 2019 Power of 10 Leadership program. Dr. Macedonia graduated from Auburn in 2015 and was a Power of 10 participant in 2018. She has also been



Dr. Laura Macedonia, 2019 ALVMA Power of 10 Program Chair

selected to attend the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago in 2019. Dr. Macedonia currently works at Banfield Pet Hospital in Decatur, AL as an associate veterinarian.

Kickoff for the 2019 Power of 10 program will start in February or March with the Insights Personality Assessment, conducted by Dr. Heidi Hulon and sponsored by Elanco. The Insights program will help each participant discover important personality traits and how to develop interpersonal skills.

In order to participate in the Power of Ten program, you must be a member of Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, have graduated between 2008 and 2018 with a DVM and register no later than December 28th. Visit alvma.com for more information. ■

Prescription Mandates: Bad for Veterinarians and Their Patients

This article is the property of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).
For more information, visit www.avma.org.

For years now, some members of Congress have pushed for a new federal regulation implementing prescription mandates. This legislation would force veterinarians to provide written prescriptions for companion animals, even if the client does not want one or if the medication is only available through a veterinarian.

This year, Congress has once again introduced prescription mandate legislation, misleadingly called the "Fairness to Pet Owners Act" (H.R. 5472/S. 2651). The AVMA opposes this legislation because it would require veterinarians to waste time on red tape instead of what's most important: caring for patients. This legislation would burden veterinarians with unnecessary paperwork, which will ultimately result in slower care, reduced availability and potentially even higher costs for veterinary clients. It would also impose an inconvenience on clients who wish to quickly fill their prescriptions at their veterinarian's office, by forcing them to wait for a written script.

Additionally, prescription mandates are unnecessary because in most cases, clients are able to receive written prescriptions by simply asking. The AVMA's Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics state

veterinarians shall provide written prescriptions when asked, and a majority of states have similar laws or policies. There's no need for sweeping federal regulation on this issue.

The AVMA supports client access to prescription options – but prescription mandates aren't the way to achieve that access. Visit our Congressional Advocacy Network (<http://avmacan.avma.org/avma/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=472414>) to stand up to this unnecessary and burdensome legislation.

More information:

- Issue brief on the Fairness to Pet Owners Act - (https://www.avma.org/Advocacy/National/Congress/Documents/FTPOA_IB.pdf)
- Chart on how state laws handle clients' requests for prescriptions - (<https://www.avma.org/Advocacy/StateAndLocal/Pages/veterinary-prescription-orders.aspx>)
- Fairness to Pet Owners Act Coalition Statement - (https://www.avma.org/Advocacy/National/Congress/Documents/HR_623_FTPOA_coalition_statement.pdf)

Get your spay/
neuter license
tag today!



Support the efforts of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation. Funding for this program comes from license plate sales. If you or your staff don't have a tag, please consider purchasing one when you renew. Encouraging your clients to purchase also provides support and visibility for the Foundation.

After state fees, 85% of your tag fee provides funding for surgeries to aid Medicaid recipients with the cost of spay/neuter surgeries provided by ALVMA veterinarians participating in the program. You may also check off the box on your income tax return and support this program.

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REGISTRATION

28th ANNUAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE FOR FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

March 15-17, 2019

Name _____

Nickname (Please print name, as it should appear on nametag) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

(If your spouse/guest would like to have a nametag printed, please print his/her name below)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Main conference registration fee includes 22.5* hours of quality 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 fixins), Sunday breakfast and lunch, and all breaks during the conference. Additional meal vouchers are available for purchase below.

	Pre-Registration	Late/On-Site (After Feb. 15)	
Member of the _____ Veterinary Medical Association <small>(Must be a member of one of the 50 state VMA's for member discount)</small>	\$275.00	\$350.00	\$ _____
Non-Member	\$375.00	\$450.00	\$ _____
Veterinary Technician	\$225.00	\$300.00	\$ _____
Veterinary Students <small>(Student responsible for payment of meals and hotel room)</small>	\$ N/C	\$90.00	\$ _____
Meals and Breaks <small>(for Veterinary Student, Spouse or Guest – includes Saturday Steak Dinner)</small>	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$ _____

MEALS

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Friday, March 15 | <input type="radio"/> Breakfast | <input type="radio"/> Lunch | <input type="radio"/> Dinner |
| Saturday, March 16 | <input type="radio"/> Breakfast | <input type="radio"/> Lunch | <input type="radio"/> Dinner |
| Sunday, March 17 | <input type="radio"/> Breakfast | <input type="radio"/> Lunch | |

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Enclosed is a check payable to the ALABAMA VMA
 MasterCard Discover
 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 when possible. Due to the limited number of rooms, we encourage roommates. If you have a roommate preference, please indicate that person below. If a preference is **NOT** listed, rooms will be assigned at the Single rate (on a first come, first serve basis).

Roommate preference (if any) _____
(All rooms are non-smoking)

**You may request a room to yourself, but please note that you will be charged \$110.00.

_____ Roommate 4-H Center Friday		
Double occupancy (registrant)	\$55.00	\$ _____
Registrant & Spouse Occupancy	\$110.00	\$ _____
Single occupancy (registrant)	\$110.00	\$ _____

_____ Roommate 4-H Center Saturday		
Double occupancy (registrant)	\$55.00	\$ _____
Registrant & Spouse Occupancy	\$110.00	\$ _____
Single occupancy (registrant)	\$110.00	\$ _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

You may also register online at www.alvma.com

Make all checks or money orders payable to: ALABAMA VMA
 MAIL TO: Alabama VMA, PO Box 803, Fayetteville, TN 37334 or Fax (931) 433-6289
 For further information contact Heather Vaughn by calling (334) 603-6227 or via e-mail at vaughnheatherb@gmail.com



AGENDA

28th ANNUAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE FOR FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

March 15-17, 2019

Friday, March 15, 2019

- Noon** Lunch
- 1:00 PM** Practice Management and Evaluation
Glenn Sellers, MBA
- 2:45 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 3:00 PM** Equine Ophthalmology
Speaker TBA
- 4:00 PM** Ectoparasite Control in Cattle and Horses
Dr. Kelly Palmer
- 4:45 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 5:00 PM** TBD
- 6:00 PM** Dinner
- 7:00 PM** Campfire Gathering

Saturday, March 16, 2019

- 7:00 AM** Breakfast
- 8:00 AM** Update from the AL Dept of Agriculture & Industries
Dr. Tony Frazier
- 9:00 AM** In-Clinic Diagnostics
Dr. Jason Shumaker, Newport Labs
- 10:00 AM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 10:15 AM** Diagnostic Investigation of Abortion in Cattle Herds
Dr. Jessie Rush
- 11:15 AM** Pinkeye in Cattle
Dr. Jessie Rush
- Noon** Lunch
- 1:00 PM** Anaplasmosis and Veterinary Feed Directives
Dr. Dan Scruggs
- 2:30 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 2:45 PM** Collection and Submission of Diagnostic Samples for
Common Diseases in Livestock
Dr. Heather Walz
- 3:45 PM** Interpretation of Diagnostic Test Results
Dr. Heather Walz
- 4:45 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)

- 5:00 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 Auburn University College of
Veterinary Medicine.
- 6:30 PM** Dinner – steak with all the fixins!
- 7:30 PM** Happy Hour, Practice Tips and Downie Awards

Sunday, March 17, 2019

- 6:45 AM** Devotional
- 7:00 AM** Breakfast
- 8:00 AM** Update from the United States Department of
Agriculture and presentation of two APHIS approved
supplemental training (AAST) modules in partial
fulfillment of USDA accreditation
Dr. Mel Stephens
- 9:30 AM** Break (visit with exhibitors and check out of rooms)
- 10:00 AM** Past, Current and Future Projects in Animal Health
Research at Sugg Laboratory
Dr. Paul Walz
- 11:00 AM** TBD
- 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, March 16th at 3:00 pm. 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.

*Program and titles are subject to change. Visit www.alvma.com for the most up to date information.

'Awards and Officers' 2018 ECVC Wrap Up



The 2018 ECVC recorded 663 participants were in attendance, representing over 33 states! The four-day event offered over 20 hours of CE in the mornings, and endless opportunities for relaxation and fun on Florida's Gulf Coast. Loaded with informational sessions and fun activities, this was an opportunity to learn, relax, network, and put your toes in the sand.

On Wednesday, June 13, the ALVMA held its general business meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Baytowne Wharf Conference Center, followed by the exhibit hall opening reception on Wednesday evening. The exhibit hall was

Thursday began with keynote speaker Dr. Gail Golab speaking on "The Latest on Telemedicine," followed by sessions on Rehabilitation/Pain Management, Dermatology, Wellness, Heartworm University and a special Orthopedic Dry Lab (Radius and Ulna Fractures).

Immediately following the morning CE sessions, ALVMA members were recognized for their achievements and new officers were installed at the ALVMA Awards Luncheon. Attendees also had the opportunity to attend special yoga classes and/or the ever popular Painted Pet Party on Thursday afternoon.

Conference guests made new friends at the Spouses' Meet and Greet on Friday morning while attendees caught up on the latest information on Rehabilitation/Pain Management, Nutrition, Wellness, Dentistry, USDA Accreditation and Orthopedics Dry Lab (Communitied Tibia Fractures). A separate Poultry Program was offered for industry veterinarians on Thursday and Friday. Golfers enjoyed a round on the greens at the Baytowne Golf Course on Friday afternoon. Attendees also had a choice of attending Yoga or the Painted Pet Party.

Saturday offered another full morning of terrific CE courses in Oncology, Neurology, Holistic Pet Care, Dentistry, Orthopedic Dry Lab.

Small Ruminants and a track for Veterinary Technicians, sponsored by IDEXX, was also held. Alumni receptions were held at various locations Saturday evening by Auburn, Florida, Georgia and Tuskegee colleges of veterinary medicine.



Sunday, the final day of the conference, kicked off with a Fellowship Breakfast followed by another great day of CE programs on Clinical Pathology, Neurology, Dentistry, Financial Management, LEAP and Veterinary Technician programs.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and exhibitors for your support in making ECVC successful! Make plans to join us for the 2019 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, June 26 - 30, at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort! ■



packed with exhibitors offering new information on the latest veterinary products and services. Attendees and their families enjoyed light refreshments and games for the kids provided by the vendors.

Business Meeting and Officer Installment

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) held its annual general business meeting Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in conjunction with the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference held June 13 - June 17. During the ALVMA Annual Awards Luncheon on June 14, award recipients were honored and Dr. Michael Topper, AVMA president, installed new ALVMA officers.

New officers were sworn in on Thursday, June 14, 2018 as follows: President Hank Lee, DVM of Atmore; President Elect Alan Jones, DVM of Hazel Green; Treasurer Mark Russell, DVM of Huntsville; Vice President Randy Davis, DVM of Tusculmbia and Board Member at Large Steven T. Murphree, DVM of Cullman. Charles Ashwander, DVM of Decatur will serve as Immediate Past President. ■



ALVMA officers from left to right: Drs. Mark Russell, as Treasurer; Randy Davis, as Vice President; Hank Lee, as President; Charles Ashwander, as Immediate Past President; Steven Murphree, as Board Member at Large; Alan Jones, as President Elect.

2018 Awards Luncheon

On Thursday, June 14, the ALVMA held their Annual Awards Luncheon to honor and present awards to the 2018 recipients. This year the Awards Committee honored the recipients with not only a plaque but also with a personalized video. The videos were pre-recorded showing the snippets from colleagues, friends and members all giving warm wishes and compliments to the recipients. These videos were received with much enthusiasm and helped to enrich the Awards ceremony.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD:

Dr. James Milton, 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.



From left to right, Dr. Hale Pate (2017-18 Immediate Past President of ALVMA), Dr. James Milton, and Dr. Charles Ashwander (2017-18 President of ALVMA)

Dr. Jimmy Milton earned his DVM from Auburn in 1967. After a brief period in private practice, he accepted an instructorship in Anatomy and later transferred to Small Animal Surgery. He completed his master's degree under the mentorship of Dr. Bobby Horne and became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

During his tenure at Auburn, he taught and trained over 2400 students, interns and residents. He specialized and conducted research in small animal orthopedics, published many articles and book chapters, and was an invited speaker at numerous regional and national continuing education programs. He was a research consultant and honorary member of the Hughston Sports Medicine Foundation and Orthopedic Society. Along with many student volunteers, Dr. Milton developed the Southeastern Raptor Center.

He retired as Professor Emeritus from Auburn in 1994 and established Veterinary Surgery of Birmingham.

Dr. Milton's honors and awards include the Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumnus Award, Alabama VMA Veterinarian of the Year Award, Alabama VMA Service Award, Alabama Wildlife Federation President's Award, the W. Kelly Mosley Environmental Award, Alabama Academy of Veterinary Practice Annual Award, and the Society for Experimental Stress Analysis R. E. Peterson Award. He has two sons, seven grandchildren and with his wife, Dr. Renee Chambers, lives in Birmingham.

VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Dr. Barbara Benhart, awarded to a member of the Alabama VMA who displays unselfish dedication to the association for advancement of the profession.

Barbara Benhart, DVM practices ambulatory equine medicine in the Central Alabama area. She graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1969 as the only female in her class. Since then, she has been a member of the Jefferson County Veterinary Medical Association and has served as its secretary for over 40 years. She is also a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association.

She was responsible for the Equine Continuing Education at the Southern Veterinary Conference. She was a member of the AVMA Task Force which developed Step 3 for the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates. She also served as President of the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.



From left to right, Dr. Hale Pate (2017-18 Immediate Past President of ALVMA), Dr. Barbara Benhart, and Dr. Charles Ashwander (2017-18 President of ALVMA)

Dr. Benhart has been married to her husband, Skip, for 38 years. She has a son Rusty, and two lovely daughters, Janie and Jennifer, who were both raised in her practice riding along on vet calls. Her passion for serving animals was hereditary as one daughter became an equine veterinarian practicing in Virginia and the other is an avid rider.

Dr. Benhart enjoys gardening, cooking and horseback riding. She is the proud servant of five dogs, a cat, four horses, and two ducks who love to play catch with the corn tossed to them. She misses her 14-year-old goldfish that did tricks and 11-year-old talking blue jay, Captain, whose favorite phrases were "Skip!" and "Stop it Janie!"

LAYPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Allison Black Cornelius, awarded to a non-veterinarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession and the Association.

Allison Black Cornelius is the Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Birmingham Humane Society. Under her leadership and with the help of more than 75 staff and thousands of volunteers, the organization has grown exponentially.



From left to right, Dr. Hale Pate (2017-18 Immediate Past President of ALVMA), Ms. Allison Black Cornelius, and Dr. Charles Ashwander (2017-18 President of ALVMA)

In just five years GBHS has increased the number of animals it serves from 7,500 to 23,000 annually, doubled adoptions, quadrupled out-of-state transports, started a satellite teaching externship for Auburn University's vet school, and added animal control contracts for Jefferson County and 19 cities. Recently, Ms. Cornelius negotiated the largest land gift ever given by the county and city to a charity and plans are underway to build a new 27-acre animal park and care center.

Continued on page 22

Awards, Continued from page 21...

Allison is also well known as the founder of Blackfish Strategies, formerly Blackboard. The firm is nationally recognized for consulting to nonprofit organizations, executive coaching, and executive education.

She has been recognized as being among the most experienced nonprofit governance consultants and leaders in the United States. She assisted with the writing, organization and passage of Megan's Law in thirty-six states (including the original legislation in New Jersey), Alabama's Constitutional Amendment for Victim's Rights, and the legislation that created the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs. She designed the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives for 26 United States Governors and helped organize Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs in three states.

She and her husband Jeff have five grown children and four rescue dogs.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Two Special Awards were given at the 2018 Awards Luncheon. From time to time, these awards may be given to individuals for exceptional and outstanding service to the veterinary medical profession either to a veterinarian or a layperson.



From left to right, Dr. Hale Pate (2017-18 Immediate Past President of ALVMA), Mr. Wayne Brantley, and Dr. Charles Ashwander (2017-18 President of ALVMA)

Wayne Brantley, Zoo Keeper at the Montgomery Zoo, was awarded a Special Award. Mr. Brantley enjoys educating young people at the Montgomery Zoo, giving selflessly of his time and energy to make learning about new animals and their characteristics fun and entertaining. He has spent many years at the Zoo caring for animals and proactively teaching visitors of the Zoo about the animals he cares for.

Kaye Knight, founder of Sky Hill Animal Society in Selma, AL was also awarded a Special Award.



From left to right, Dr. Hale Pate (2017-18 Immediate Past President of ALVMA), Mr. Ramsey Knight (husband of the late Kaye Knight, accepting on her behalf), and Dr. Charles Ashwander (2017-18 President of ALVMA)

Mrs. Knight, who passed away in April 2018, dedicated her life to caring for unwanted and neglected animals. Prior to her passing, she donated a large portion of her land and property to aid in the development of Sky Hill Animal Society.

With her love of animals, Knight spent countless hours working toward helping the homeless animals of the city. She worked with the Selma Animal Shelter and was the president of the Humane Society of Central Alabama, which is now known as Sky Hill Animal Society.

Knight grew up in an animal loving family. Her grandfather was a veterinarian for the Army, the railroad and even the circus, and her mother, Dorothy (Dot) Wilkinson was instrumental in starting the local shelter.

Knight had a love of animals early on, and that love only grew. Knight later met Lynn Sanders, who specialized in training dogs, and eventually trained hers as well. The two became friends, and ran the Humane Society together.

Knight and Sanders spent many days traveling and learning the best ways to run the program, and talked about starting their own sanctuary at Knight's childhood home, Sky Hill Farm.

Knight donated her home to the cause, and she was able to see her dream come true before her death.

Kay Knight's husband, Ramsey, accepted the award on her behalf at the awards ceremony.

SERVICE AWARDS:

Seven Service Awards were presented at this year's Awards Luncheon. Service Awards are presented to ALVMA members who have contributed generously of their time and energies to the Association for the advancement of the profession. The following Service Awards were presented during the 2018 Awards Luncheon.

Dr. Arthur Serwitz of Birmingham; Dr. Serwitz was presented the Service Award because of his consistent dedication to many organized veterinary communities. He has been an active member of our national AVMA since graduating veterinary school, a member of our Alabama VMA since moving to Alabama, and an active member of our local Jefferson County VMA since moving to Birmingham in 1977. He is a past president of the Jefferson County VMA, as well as an active board member of the association helping with its finance committee. Arthur loves meeting and mentoring the younger generations of new graduating veterinarians. He has been a long-term member of Veterinary Management Group 4 (part of the larger Veterinary Study Groups), which has kept Dr. Serwitz collaborating and sharing with 20 other like minded veterinarians to inspire, support, and encourage it's members to navigate the ever changing challenges of veterinary medicine in our present times.



From left to right, Dr. Hale Pate (2017-18 Immediate Past President of ALVMA), Dr. Brad Fields, and Dr. Charles Ashwander (2017-18 President of ALVMA)

Dr. Brad Fields of Pike Road was awarded a Service Award for leading the transition to a new executive director and guiding our association through some difficult times. He served the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association while acting as Interim Executive Director. He is currently the Executive Director of Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation and continues to serve the ALVMA as the Veterinary Emergency Management Chair.

The ALVMA Contract Task Force - The following members of the Contract Task Force received Service Awards for giving of their personal time and effort to ensure that the contract with the new executive director was effectively sound for both parties. The members of the task force included: Dr. Lewis Benefield of Montgomery; Dr. Thomas Fell of Mobile; Dr. Hank Lee of Atmore; Dr. Steven Murphree of Cullman; and Dr. Frances Kendrick of Selma. ■

ALVMA 2019 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 2019 Awards Program will be presented during the 2019 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, June 26 - June 30. Deadline for nominations is **January 15, 2019**.

SERVICE AWARD: To be awarded to members in good standing, 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 in good standing distinguished by unselfish dedication to the Association for the advancement of the profession. Candidates shall be nominated by an ALVMA member in good standing 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 in good standing, 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 an ALVMA member in good standing, 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 vaughnheatherb@gmail.com, mail this form to ALVMA, PO Box 803, Fayetteville, TN 37334, or fax to 931.433.6289. 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 _____

Veteran Member Profile

Dr. George Wood, Jr. Selma, Alabama

Dr. Wood was born and raised in Selma, AL. He graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1976. He has practiced veterinary medicine in Selma for 40 years and has been married to his wife, Louise, for 43 years. They have two daughters and five grandchildren. Dr. Wood has been a long-time active member of the AVMA, ALVMA, and West Alabama VMA, holding offices in all three associations. He is also very involved in local civic, mission and community organizations.

What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

I grew up on a farm and raised show cattle. But I never considered a career as a veterinarian until pre-college counseling at Auburn before my freshman year. It was the last year the Veterinary School was on main campus. I was walking back to the dorm and went past the old clinic. I looked up and could see they were doing surgery on the second floor. I stopped, leaned against a tree, and watched for probably 30 minutes. The idea popped into my head, "You know, I think I would like to do that for a living!" I went to our local veterinarian and asked to hang out. The rest is history and my destiny.

Where did you study?

Auburn in under-graduate and Veterinary School

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

Currently all small animal. I made the decision years ago that while my partners did mixed practice, my mix would be dogs AND cats. Small animal practice is more rewarding to me in that while the economics of the value of the animal is still there, there



is greater worth than what an animal can bring on the open market.

Where is your current practice and how long have you been there?

I have been in Selma, AL since 1978.

How many years have you been practicing veterinary medicine?

I graduated in 1976 and practiced 2 years in Northport and Tuscaloosa, AL for 2 years before moving to Selma. I have currently been in practice for 42 years.

Who was/is your role model/mentor?

My role model and mentor was an old country veterinarian, Vernon Wells. He imparted many witty and whimsical philosophies over my years and visits with him. Another mentor was Dr. Aaron Groth, who showed me how to be a leader using nudges rather than a whip.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I do not like to lose. Therefore the greatest thrill to me is discovering and eliminating those agents of pain and death.

What is the hardest part of your job?

Whereas I enjoy the management aspect of practice, I struggle with understanding my employees at times. Things change. Understanding that my values are not my employees is difficult at times. This is not to say they are wrong; just different!

How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

I was taken under the wing of Dr. Wiley Hales, a veterinarian in Tuscaloosa, who was intimately involved in the ALVMA and served as its president and later as treasurer for many years. At that time the state conventions were moved around the state. Each association was involved in sponsoring the event on certain years. While in Tuscaloosa, our association had that responsibility and I was tapped by Dr. Hales to assist him.

Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

If for no other reason, to have relationships with other veterinarians who have similar issues and concerns. While we may not agree on how to handle those issues, we are able to have discussions. I also see this as a place to serve others by making our profession better. It is not just about what I can receive, but what I am able to give.

How has being a member of ALVMA helped you professionally?

It has given me a better perspective of differences within our profession as to needs and concerns. It has opened the door to serve not only my community, but my profession here in this state. It has also challenged me to do a better job through the many continuing education programs as well as the after-hours discussion around the adult libations.

What advice can you offer someone entering veterinary school?

Live a balanced life. Money and things are not everything. Things can be evil taskmasters that leave you wanting for more. Make sure you carve out time for relationships.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I will be taking the next step in about a year. I am considering leaving practice and working with Christian Veterinary Missions at a foreign veterinary school. I am currently looking at 2 schools in Ghana.

What is the most memorable experience of your career to date?

I think my year as president of this association (1990-1991) was the most memorable. There were good times and there were bad. But we persevered and made it through.

What is the last movie you watched?

Probably a kid's movie with my grandkids. As for something I wanted to see, I think it was "I Can Only Imagine."

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

Working at the church. I am also an ordained minister and serve as pastor for a small rural Presbyterian church as well as discipleship pastor with my home church.

What was the last song you sang?

I currently play guitar on the worship team in our church, so I sing and play parts of many songs. Last one practiced this Tuesday was "Redeemed" by Big Daddy Weave.

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

Right now it would be to Accra, Ghana to do an exploratory visit with the veterinary school.

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

My wife because I would need someone to tell me what to do. A boat so I could travel. Fishing equipment.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Most days I'm just proud to get out of bed! As to far reaching accomplishments, probably counseling with couples in trouble and seeing them come out the other side

What is your favorite quote?

There is a quote on the doors of our church that says, "We Are Better Together!" I believe that the union of the parts is so much more than what each of us collectively can accomplish on our own.



What is your simplest pleasure?

Sitting outside drinking a cup of coffee watching the sun rise!

What makes you laugh out loud?

I love the Christian comedian Tim Hawkins. I also enjoy a Christian comedian named Michael Jr.

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

I think it would be Jesus and would ask why so many people have to struggle with pain and suffering.

What book are you reading?

I am currently re-reading a book entitled "The Purpose Driven Church" a precursor to "The Purpose Driven Life." I will begin reading a book entitled "Not a Fan" this week.

What do you think has been the most significant change/ advancement in veterinary medicine over the course of your career?

Opportunities for women and minorities in our profession have increased significantly. I am also amazed with the technologies available to us in the form of telemedicine, referrals to specialty clinics, and ultrasound/digital radiology.

What five adjectives best describe you?

I asked my wife then after hearing her answer told her the south end of a north bound mule was not what you were

looking for. She settled on Persistent, Stable, Faithful, Funny, and Creative. Then she added Loving, Flexible, and Analytical. 8 adjectives and not 5. She did attend the U of Alabama and always did poorly in math.

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

I think it would be in the area of competition. I believe good healthy competition is healthy, but the idea that someone has to lose in order for me to win is disturbing to me. Running down someone else's treatment without consideration for where the disease was at the time of presentation causes all to lose.

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

I do not consider helping another out as something to be applauded, but something to be expected. I firmly believe that we are blessed so that we might bless another. My wife and I are raising 3 of our 5 grandchildren and look at it as a blessing as so many grandparents never see their grandchildren. I gave a hug to a lady today who had a mother-in-law die last week. I gave my sympathy to a friend who had their life-long friend die last week. Again not to gain, but because I could see the hurt in their eyes. Not to be praised for it, but because I truly hurt for them.

I still want to learn how to...

Play the piano ■

Database of Animal Health Studies

- The AVMA Animal Health Studies Database is a registry of veterinary prospective clinical studies.
- The database has more than 380 studies listed; there is at least one study listing in every U.S. state. More than 55,300 searches of the database have been performed to date.
- The database has studies listed in 17 different primary fields of veterinary medicine (from agricultural animals to soft tissue surgery) recruiting patients for enrollment
- More than 30 experts in various disciplines of veterinary medicine donate their time and efforts to curate study listings within their respective specialties.
- We have created a Listserv for users with studies listed in the database. A Listserv provides a forum for discussion of issues and best practices related to the conduct of veterinary clinical studies, as well as to identify potential collaborations.
- The AVMA is providing this resource in an effort to help accelerate the accumulation of evidence to guide improvements in animal health care and the practice of veterinary medicine. The database can be accessed at www.avma.org/findvetstudies.

NAVTA Veterinary Nurse Initiative

- The AVMA supports the overall goals of a recent initiative undertaken by NAVTA:
 - Establishing a standard credential and title for veterinary technicians;
 - Identifying standard requirements for veterinary technicians;
 - Standardizing the scope of practice for veterinary technicians; and
 - Uniting the veterinary profession to increase its quality and value to patients and the community.
- The AVMA did not take a position on the use of the title “veterinary nurse,” which is also part of the initiative.
 - Bills proposing such a name change were introduced this year in Ohio and Tennessee.
 - It’s expected that supporters will reintroduce the bill in Ohio next year, as the legislative schedule did not allow full consideration in 2018. The Ohio VMA supports the legislation.
 - The Tennessee VMA has not taken a position on the bill introduced in that state, and the nurses lobby was strongly opposed.
- The initiative is designed to address inconsistent application requirements, oversight and regulation.
 - The current state of veterinary technician credentialing is a patchwork of requirements, regulations and titles. Like NAVTA, the AVMA strongly supports credentialing in all states.
 - States may certify, register or license veterinary technicians, or they may not recognize veterinary technicians at all.
 - Not all credentialing organizations are regulatory bodies.
- Of those states that do regulate veterinary technicians, most require successful completion of the Veterinary Technician National Exam; however, several states allow alternative credentialing. States may also require a jurisprudence examination; others do not.

Protecting/Strengthening Licensure Requirements

- The AVMA, American Association of Veterinary State Boards, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America have released a joint statement of support for licensure requirements. Together, these groups are working to protect and improve licensure requirements for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.
- Licensure of veterinarians and veterinary technicians is vital to protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of the public and animal

patients.

- As part of the profession’s collective efforts to improve licensure, the AAVSB is studying ways to promote uniformity and standardization in licensure – including the development of the Veterinary Application for Uniform Licensure Transfer (VAULT) program, which provides a centralized process for veterinary regulatory boards to obtain a verified record of a veterinarian’s or veterinary technician’s credentials.
- NAVTA is collaborating with state veterinary technician associations to standardize veterinary technician credentials to support mobility and license portability.
- Together, these efforts will help protect the public from individuals who may fail to follow veterinary regulations or ethics in a way that endangers public health or animal patients.

Prescription Mandate Legislation

- For several consecutive congressional sessions, the AVMA has led the charge to defeat legislation that would require veterinarians to provide written copies of all prescriptions for companion animals—even if not requested or wanted by the client.
- This legislation has had several sponsors over the years and has been introduced once again in both the House and Senate.
- Despite some language changes, the effect would be the same as in years past: this bill would implement burdensome and unnecessary regulations on veterinarians, and create unnecessary inconvenience and complication for clients.
- The House version of the bill—H.R. 5472, introduced by Representatives Chris Collins (D-N.Y.) and Matt Cartwright (R-Pa.)—would direct the Federal Trade Commission to create regulations requiring veterinarians to provide prescriptions without a client requesting one, even when the client wants to obtain the prescribed medication from the veterinarian. Details of the regulations would be left to the FTC, leaving room for more onerous requirements.
- The companion bill in the Senate—S. 2651, sponsored by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Mike Lee (R-Utah)—is somewhat different, retaining the same language used in previous years.
- In either form, the legislation is simply unnecessary.
 - Prescription writing is effectively governed by laws and regulations at the state level, and the AVMA’s Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics require veterinarians to provide prescriptions upon a client’s request.
 - The AVMA policy on Client Requests for Prescriptions also urges veterinarians to write a prescription in lieu of dispensing a medication when requested by the client.
 - Further, the FTC has found that these products are widely available to consumers in retail outlets, both brick-and-mortar and online.
- Prescription writing mandates are an overreach of federal government that interferes with the practice of veterinary medicine. Many veterinary clients already request to have their prescriptions filled elsewhere, and can do so.
 - Veterinarians should be able to focus on patients and clients—not arbitrary red tape.
 - Prescription writing regulations would interfere with providing optimal patient care, cause undue administrative burdens on small business veterinary practices, and potentially raise costs for veterinary care.
- Because of these concerns, AVMA will continue aggressively opposing this bill. ■

For more information on
any of the topics listed in the above article, visit
www.avma.org.

New 'My Veterinary Life' Website Provides Resources for Veterinary Students, Early Professionals

Written by: Michael San Filippo, AVMA

As part of its ongoing commitment to veterinarians at all stages of their careers, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has launched a new website to help guide veterinary students and early career veterinarians with the transition from veterinary school to their professional careers.

MyVeterinaryLife.com (<http://myveterinarylife.com>) was developed to gather, organize and share information and resources addressing the specific needs of students and early career veterinarians. Visitors to **MyVeterinaryLife.com** will find resources and tools to help develop their careers, maintain their wellbeing and manage the financial stresses of personal and professional life.

"Speaking from personal experience, those first few years after graduating are full of exciting opportunities. They may also come with challenges that can feel overwhelming at times," said Dr. Kevin Dajka, chief products and services officer at the AVMA. "We've focused our efforts to highlight those opportunities and help manage challenges our up and coming veterinarians may face. With **MyVeterinaryLife.com**, new professionals now have a centralized resource to help navigate and succeed during that period of their lives."

MyVeterinaryLife.com organizes information into three career stages: "Current Student," "New Veterinarian" and "Rising Professional." Visitors can select the stage that applies to them, and then access relevant resources in three categories: "Your Career," "Your Financial Health" and "Your Wellbeing."

Veterinary students, for example, can locate externships through AVMA's Student Externship Locator or learn more about the internship experience. Early career veterinarians will have access to resources such as a salary estimator, webinars on client communication and self-care tips to sustain a fulfilling career.

In addition to previously developed resources, **MyVeterinaryLife.com** hosts an all-new series of online modules from student loan debt management expert Paul Garrard. These seven modules will provide an introduction to federal loan repayment options, the most effective way to use loan calculators and much more.

For more information, contact Michael San Filippo, AVMA senior media relations specialist, at 847-285-6687 (office), 847-732-6194 (cell) or msanfilippo@avma.org. ■



ALVMA Working for You...

Practice Membership Savings

ALVMA has developed a new Practice Membership dues category that will allow you to save up to 20% on annual dues. An annual dues reminder was emailed to members on November 1, 2018 and includes information detailing this new category. If you have more than two veterinarians working in your office, you will be able to take advantage of this new benefit.

1st and 2nd Veterinarians	Full Price
3rd and 4th Veterinarians	10% Discount
5th and more Veterinarians	20% Discount

Payments for all veterinarians in a practice must be made in one payment via check or credit card. Practice Membership is not currently available via the ALVMA website. For more information, call Darlene Clendenon at (334) 603-6227.

Members Only FaceBook Group

Join the new ALVMA members only FaceBook group. By creating this group, we will be able to share more information via facebook that would normally only be able to be shared via emails. The ALVMA facebook page will continue to share information for the general public regarding pet health issues and treatments. The members only group will focus more on continuing education opportunities, legislative issues, dues information, etc. You can share ideas and comments on this group and feel confident that your audience is a member of ALVMA. You can join this members only group by going to the web address below.

facebook.com/groups/alvmamemberonly

Visit the ALVMA website for more information:

www.alvma.com

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2018 Power of 10 Leadership Class Graduates!

The 2018 Power of 10 Leadership class has had an exciting year of learning and collaborating and hopefully making lasting friendships that will last a lifetime.

Zoetis Sponsors Mindfulness CE for Power of Ten

The Power of 10 team gathered in Huntsville, AL for their last two meetings of the year. On Saturday, September 8, the team gathered at the Stone Event Center for a full day of Mindfulness training featuring Dr. Laura Smallwood from Georgia. On Sunday, September 9, they visited Hightower Financial for a half day of Financial Wellbeing CE. Clint Coggin, the Huntsville Area Representative for Zoetis, and Scott Stanbery, Senior Area Business Manager for Zoetis, not only sponsored the event on Saturday but joined the ALVMA Power of Ten leadership team for a full day of Mindfulness CE. Overall the two days of training were a great success and a perfect way to end this year's leadership training.



Power of 10 poses with Dr. Laura Smallwood and Zoetis Representatives.

Power of Ten Speaks to SAVMA Students at Auburn and Tuskegee

Members of the 2018 Power of 10 Leadership team visited the SAVMA students at Auburn and Tuskegee to talk to them about wellness issues in the veterinary community as it pertains to students and young veterinarians. Dr. Laura Macedonia (Decatur, AL) and Dr. Thomas Poole (Auburn, AL) visited the SAVMA students at Auburn on September 6. Dr. Christina Wolfe (Mobile, AL), Dr. Sarah Prather (Saraland, AL), Dr. Jordan Abram (McHenry, IL) and Dr. Angel Laws-Barnes (Prattville, AL) visited the Tuskegee SAVMA students on September 11. At each venue, the teams discussed typical pressures from a student and young veterinarian's perspective. They each gave a small presentation explaining how each member dealt with those pressures and the tools they used to help them establish a well-balanced life as a veterinarian. Each group fielded questions from the students at the end of the sessions.

Meet the 2018 Power of Ten Graduates



Jordan Abram, DVM

School and Graduation Year: Tuskegee College of Veterinary Medicine 2016

Location: Chicago, IL

Type of Work: Small Animal

In one sentence describe what you gained from the POT program:

"I have gained a better understanding of myself and how to use my current skills to become a better leader."



Grace Brannon, DVM

School and Graduation Year: Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine 2013

Location: Birmingham, AL

Company: Relief/Contract work in AL, FL, MI, TX, and IL

Type of Work: Small Animal

In one sentence describe what you gained from the POT program:

"I think that one of the biggest things I gained from the POT program, besides the awareness that the ALVMA desires to cultivate leadership capacity in recent graduates, is that being a "successful"

veterinarian isn't just about veterinary knowledge, but actually many other factors like communication skills, managing conflict, self care, etc. "



Angel Laws-Barnes, DVM

School and Graduation Year: Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine Graduating Class of 2015

Location: Prattville, AL

Company Name: Carriage Hills Animal Hospital

Type of Work: Small Animal

In one sentence describe what you gained from the POT program:

"The Power of Ten program has been so enriching! The content highlighted was both relevant and imperative to my success. As a recent graduate, I have gained professional and personal skills that will aid in my ability to be my greatest good. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a participant! "



Laura Macedonia, DVM

School and Graduation Year: Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine 2015

Location: Decatur, AL

Company Name: Banfield Pet Hospital

Type of Work: Small Animal

In one sentence describe what you gained from the POT program:

"I learned more about my leadership style and tools I can take back and incorporate into my clinic!"



Tommy Poole, DVM

School and Graduation Year: Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine 2016

Location: Auburn, AL

Company Name: Moores Mill Animal Hospital

Type of Work: Small Animal

In one sentence describe what you gained from the POT program:

"The Power of Ten program allowed me to network with individuals that I would not have met otherwise."



Ashley S. Pott, DVM

School and Graduation Year: Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine 2016

Location: Huntsville, AL

Company Name: Whitesburg Animal Hospital

Type of Work: Small Animal

In one sentence describe what you gained from the POT program:

"Through the Power of Ten I gained the knowledge and confidence to engage in the broader veterinary community; thinking

beyond my personal goals more towards how I can impact and improve the future of veterinary medicine."



Sarah Lin Prather, DVM

School and Graduation Year: Mississippi State College of Veterinary Medicine, Class of 2014

Location: Spanish Fort, AL

Company Name: Relief Veterinarian

Type of Work: Small Animal

In one sentence describe what you gained from the POT program:

"The Power of 10 program gave me wonderful new friends as well as tools and self-knowledge that will better prepare me to "lean in" as a future leader in our profession."



Christina S. Wolfe, DVM

School and Graduation Year: St. George's University, Class of 2012

Location: Mobile, AL

Company Name: Small Animal Clinic

Type of Work: Small Animal

In one sentence describe what you gained from the POT program:

"The Power of Ten program has allowed me to reach beyond my daily life to learn how to best invest in myself, my family, my career, and my future."



Alice Xenachis, DVM, CVA

School and Graduation Year: Western (California), Class of 2012

Location: Biloxi, MS

Type of Work: Small Animal Emergency, Surgery, TCVM, Acupuncture

In one sentence describe what you gained from the POT program:

"The POT helped open my eyes to issues that many associate veterinarians overlook including quality of life, work balance, finances and gave me tools to allow me to improve these aspects of my life."



Shelby Agnew, DVM

2018 Power of 10 Program Chair

School and Graduation Year: Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine 2013

Location: Birmingham, AL

Company Name: Greater Birmingham Humane Society

Type of Work: Small Animal

In one sentence describe what you gained from the POT program:

"Being the Power of Ten program chair this year has been a wonderful experience. As a graduate of the program myself, I enjoyed being able to work with the ALVMA to bring leadership and soft skills training to my fellow veterinarians. The members of our Power of Ten team this year were exemplary-passionate, enthusiastic young leaders that make me excited to be in this profession." ■

Auburn University

College of Veterinary Medicine
www.vetmed.auburn.edu

Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine 111th Commencement

Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine awarded 120 professional DVM degrees during the college's 111th commencement on Tuesday, May 8. The ceremony took place in Auburn Arena.

In addition, 14 Masters of Science in Biomedical Science (thesis and non-thesis) will be conferred and eight candidates will be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Science.

The 120-member DVM class includes 42 students from Alabama and 39 students from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The remaining 39 at-large students hail from 15 states: Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Ten members have chosen to follow in the professional footsteps of their parents, and will be recognized during the hooding ceremony.

With this graduation, the College of Veterinary Medicine will have awarded 6,896 degrees.

The 2018 commencement address was given by Auburn University President Steven Leath, who became the university's 19th president on June 19, 2017.

Dr. Charles Ashwander, president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, administered the Veterinarian's Oath, and the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association president, Dr. Doug Peterson, was also in attendance.

126th Academic Year

The College of Veterinary Medicine started its 126th year of veterinary medicine education in August, welcoming the Class of 2022. The 123-member class hail from across the U.S.—44 students from Alabama, 38 from Kentucky, and 41 at-large students.

U.S. Attorney General Visited to Examine Public Safety Threats Initiatives

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions visited the College of Veterinary Medicine in September to examine the college's Canine Performance Sciences program, internationally known as the preeminent

provider of canine detection technology. The group also toured the Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital's Theriogenology Service.

"It's classic of Auburn's practical contribution to making this a better world," Sessions said after examining the canine program. "We need to protect this country from terrorist attacks. How do you do it? One of the best systems whatsoever is these fabulous dogs. They're training them. They're raising them. They're breeding them. They are the best dogs in the world."

The Auburn-led program is widely recognized by government and industry and supports a national initiative to advance canine sensor capabilities for the interdiction of chemical, biological and explosive threats to public safety and national security. Auburn is using its wealth of research talent and capability across campus to provide a blueprint to breed and train the best detector dogs in the world. One example of a recent university-wide collaboration is the use of MRI scanning to non-invasively study dogs' brain activity to possibly pinpoint—prior to expensive training—whether dogs can become top detectors.

"We're pleased to show the Attorney General how Auburn is leading the way on key initiatives that protect the public," President Steven Leath said. "Teaming with government leaders, we are advancing research toward life-saving solutions that include a focus on the national opioid epidemic and making our public spaces safer with the world's most advanced canine mobile detection system."

The attorney general also met with Harrison School of Pharmacy officials to learn Auburn's approach to effective opioid response and treatment.



Auburn Vet Med, UAB, Others Partner on Joint NIH Study of Glioma Brain Cancer

People and animals suffering from the deadliest form of brain cancer are undergoing similar treatment in an NIH-funded clinical trial through the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine and two other Southeastern veterinary programs.

Veterinarians and human medical doctors are collaborating on an NIH-funded clinical trial in which the same immunotherapy is being used to treat



Dr. Renee Chambers

people and dogs with glioma, the most aggressive form of brain cancer. Dogs and humans develop malignant brain tumors at about the same rate and with similar biology.

Renee Chambers, who holds a DVM from Auburn and MD from UAB, received NIH funding for a multi-institutional consortium to evaluate immunotherapy for glioma tumors, the same type of brain cancer as suffered by the late Sen. John McCain.

CANINE (CANine ImmunoNEurotherapeutics) is a multi-center study to investigate immunotherapy for dogs with malignant brain tumors. Collaborators from around the country, including regional veterinarians at Auburn, Mississippi State and Georgia, are treating canine gliomas as part of this study. Treatment is entirely paid for by the study and includes surgery to remove all or most of the tumor, followed by treatment with a cancer-killing virus and checkpoint inhibitor in some cases, as well as all post-operative imaging, hospitalization, and all scheduled postoperative visits.

Auburn faculty Amanda Taylor and Amy Yanke, DVMs, veterinarians who specialize in brain surgery, and Jey Koehler, DVM, a veterinary pathologist, are investigators in the clinical trial. ■



Tuskegee, Auburn Veterinary Programs
Collaborate to Further Student Leadership

Realizing that student leadership is also an integral part of student success and an invaluable resource to the veterinary programs at both Tuskegee University and Auburn University, Dean Ruby Perry of Tuskegee University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Dean Calvin Johnson of Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine decided to once again join forces on another collaborative effort that benefits both veterinary programs. Dean Perry and Dean Johnson decided to organize a Student Leadership Initiative in order to support and promote student leaders.

The vision of Dean Johnson and Dean Perry involves meeting with student leaders within both of the veterinary medical programs to discuss their perspectives on topics that impact them as veterinary students; challenges facing the veterinary profession and how they can be engaged in helping to solve issues.

To kick off the initiative and at the invitation of Dean Perry, student leaders from both veterinary programs enjoyed an informal dinner on Sept. 30, 2018 in Montgomery, Alabama, along with both Dean Perry and Dean Johnson. This relaxed setting provided a great opportunity for the student leaders from Tuskegee and Auburn veterinary programs to converse and get acquainted. Participants were all class presidents and Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) presidents. While getting acquainted, the student leaders also discussed common challenges as leaders and made plans for future problem-solving engagements to be held at both colleges.

Dean Perry and Dean Johnson both enjoyed a wonderful time with the students and both look forward to future engagements in this very significant initiative with the colleges' student leaders.

Student leaders representing Tuskegee University



Tuskegee and Auburn University student leaders representing both colleges of veterinary medicine along with the college deans enjoyed an informal dinner at Pies & Pints restaurant in Montgomery, Alabama.

College of Veterinary Medicine in attendance included: Aaron Judson, SAVMA Chapter President Representative (Class of 2019); Marlee Rodgers, SAVMA Chapter President-elect (Class of 2021); Mattie Wilkinson, Class of 2019 Co-president; William Galbreth Class of 2021 President; Bryttani

Davis, Class of 2019 Co-president; Christina Kaye Class of 2020 Co-president; and Sheridan Dillon-Robinson Class of 2020 Co-president. Two other student leaders not in attendance includes: Kimberly Melara, SAVMA Chapter President & President of the Student Leadership Council (Class of 2020); and Kristopher Vine, Class of 2022 President.

Student leaders representing Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in attendance included: Rachael Lander, Student Council President/Class of 2020 Vice President; Jonathan Tubbs, SAVMA Chapter President (Class of 2020); Allie Ingram, SAVMA Chapter President-elect (Class of 2021); Julia Remaks, Class of 2019 President; Brandon Weyhing, Class of 2020 President; and Austin Horstman, Class of 2021 President.

Tuskegee University and Auburn University
Collaborate to Further Veterinary Medicine
Training and Increase Diversity

Increasing diversity in the veterinary profession is one of the major priorities of the American Veterinary Medical Association, and one of the driving forces behind another historic initiative in veterinary medicine between Tuskegee and Auburn universities.

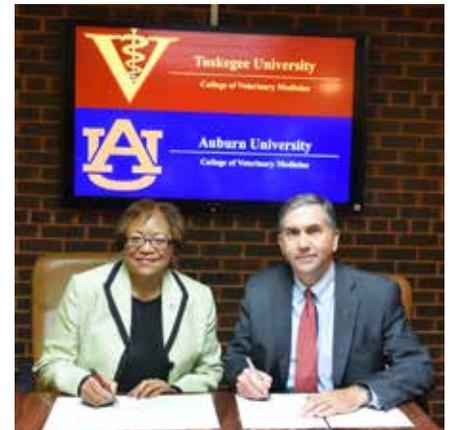
The longstanding relationship between both veterinary colleges has resulted in the development of an initiative to increase under-represented board-certified specialists and diversity in the veterinary profession. Tuskegee will fund a Tuskegee veterinary medical graduate to train as a resident in a clinical area of need at Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, and return to Tuskegee as a board-certified specialist and a faculty member.

The agreement was signed June 27 at Tuskegee University by Dr. Ruby L. Perry, Tuskegee veterinary dean, and Dr. Calvin M. Johnson, Auburn veterinary dean. The initiative is beneficial to both veterinary colleges by strengthening their diversity programs and a model for other collaborative efforts.

"Although veterinary medicine is still one of the

Tuskegee University

College of Veterinary Medicine
www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed



TUCVM Dean Ruby Perry and AUCVM Dean Calvin Johnson sign historic MOU at Tuskegee University on June 27.

most ethnically, racially and culturally homogenous professions in the country, this initiative is another way to make a difference and help achieve the goal of addressing diversity and emphasize that diversity matters in the veterinary profession. The signing of the MOU [memorandum of understanding] between the two colleges underscores how we can combine efforts and resources for a common good by responding to the call to improve diversity in the veterinary profession," Dean Perry said.

"Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine enjoys a strong collaborative relationship with the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine in many areas, including joint engagement in student activities, sharing of faculty expertise, and collegial interactions between our teaching hospitals. By signing this MOU, Dean Perry and I have extended that collaboration to the training of an outstanding Tuskegee veterinarian as a resident in radiology at Auburn's Veterinary Teaching Hospital under the direction of Dr. John Hathcock," Dean Johnson said.

The AVMA Council on Education, the accrediting body for the veterinary profession, has emphasized that every veterinary college/school demonstrate efforts to increase diversity and inclusion in the profession and has also integrated it into the accreditation standards. This action validates the importance of ensuring that changes continue to address the increasingly diverse veterinary workforce, which currently does not reflect the population of this diverse nation. ■

SAVMA Sponsored Student Club Fair

Auburn SAVMA kicked off the new school year by welcoming the Class of 2022 at its orientation on August 7th-10th. The students were able to see all that Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine has to offer at the SAVMA sponsored student club fair. The college boasts 20 clubs and organizations, many of which were able to gather and recruit new students at the club fair.



Officers Meggan Gray and Haley McNulty explain the benefits of SAVMA membership to first year students.

SAVMA Guest Speakers

SAVMA kept the ball rolling with a welcome back event with Alpha Psi and VBMA and an IVSA informational meeting. We also received AVMA updates from regional SAVMA advisor Dr. Anna Reddish and the current AVMA Vice President, Dr. Grace Bransford. In September, we welcomed the ALVMA Power of 10 group. These young professionals gave students a look into their next chapter as well as provided some advice on wellness and stress management. SAVMA also supported the local VBMA chapter with its annual dog wash fundraiser as well as provided dinner for clinical students looking at internship matching and a hog roast tailgate for the Auburn vs. Arkansas game. At the end of the month, we welcomed ALVMA back again, this time with a veterinary careers panel. Students were able to ask questions about the day-to-day professional lives of practice owners, board certified specialists, a retired veterinary corps officer, and the current ALVMA president, Dr. Hank Lee.



Auburn SAVMA officers pose with regional SAVMA adviser Dr. Anna Reddish and current AVMA Vice President, Dr. Grace Bransford during their visit to Auburn.



Drs. Laura Macedonia and Tommy Poole from ALVMA's Power of Ten, posing with SAVMA Student Leaders after presentation.

Professional Development

The rest of the semester is also full of professional development and wellness events. October will include an informational meeting by Dr. Linda Ellis from AVMA PLIT as well as our first annual Rabies Run on October 13th. We are encouraging runners and their pets to come dressed in their Halloween costumes and are donating all proceeds to Lee County Humane Society for rabies vaccines and to Pet Peace of Mind Charity. This charity provides pet care for terminally ill hospice patients. October will round out with our annual Swag Sale fundraiser and promotion of SAVMA Symposium taking place in Athens, GA in March 2019. To finish off the semester, we will welcome Dean Calvin Johnson to present on the AAVMC and will be welcoming our new elect positions as our current officers transition to clinics in the upcoming year.

In addition to our own events, the executive board decided to finance five additional club meetings through our Club Sponsorship Program. We are happy to have meetings from the Student Chapter of the American Association of Feline Practitioners (Feline Club), Integrative Medicine Club, Students for One Health, Progressive Paws Wellness Club, and Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (SVECCS). The topics will include safe handling of fractious felines, introduction to veterinary cannabinoids, antimicrobial resistance, well-being and self-care, and toxicology case discussions.

We are also committed to the professional development of each student and provide biannual scholarships to students seeking educational experiences outside of the classroom. The spring scholarships were awarded to Allison Siu for her research at the Alaska SeaLife Center and Katie Reeder for her mixed animal practice preceptorship in rural Kentucky. The fall scholarship application will open in October.

We are excited for the program we have developed this semester and the opportunities it will bring to our members. However, none of this would be possible without the continued support from our Auburn community, the ALVMA, and the AVMA. We thank them for making the Auburn SAVMA program and the Auburn student experience what it is today. WAR EAGLE! ■

SAVMA *Tuskegee*

submitted by Kimberly Snook

SAVMA Week

Our year at TUCVM began with SAVMA Week. This week introduces new students to SAVMA and its benefits, as well as, promotes the family bond TUCVM has maintained over the years. We facilitated the annual State of the College Address led by the Dean, Dr. Ruby Perry. This address was directed at introducing the faculty and staff to the student body, addressing the current state of the college and future its future plans. Dr. Anna Reddish, AVMA Assistant Director for Student Initiatives, presented information on SAVMA, Governmental Relations, and Wellness topics. We also hosted Dr. Grace Bransford from the AVMA to tour the college and address the students with Dr. Reddish. The week included activities and prizes for participants.



NAVLE Trivia Night

This October SAVMA will host its 2nd annual NAVLE Trivia night, an event that we hope will provide a low stress method of studying for fourth year students preparing to take their NAVLE. Dinner for all attending students and prizes for the top 3 groups will be provided.

Wellness Weeks

In our efforts to continue promoting wellness at TUCVM SAVMA will host its Wellness Weeks in late November/early December to provide students with stress reducing activities prior final exams. Tentative events include a morning fruit and yogurt bar, short games during lunch in the common areas of the college, Pet Pictures with Santa, and mini NAVLE Trivia events during our lunch hours.

Spay/Neuter Clinic

Tuskegee SAVMA is planning to hold the 4th annual Spay/Neuter Clinic in the 2019 spring semester. This event provides an opportunity for TUCVM students to serve the community of Macon County by providing free spays and neuters. In addition, TUCVM students gain further experience in surgical techniques, and client communication. We aim to partner with HSVMA again to provide funding for this endeavor.

54th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium and SAVMA Silent Auction

The 54th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium hosted by the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine will be held in the Spring in Montgomery, AL where SAVMA will hold its annual Silent Auction. The proceeds from the auction will assist SAVMA in our continued efforts to provide innovative learning experiences for our student body. ■



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