

# Alabama Veterinarian

A Biannual Publication for ALVMA Members, Veterinary Students and Friends of the ALVMA  
Fall 2019 | Volume 30 | Number 2



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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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**Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort**

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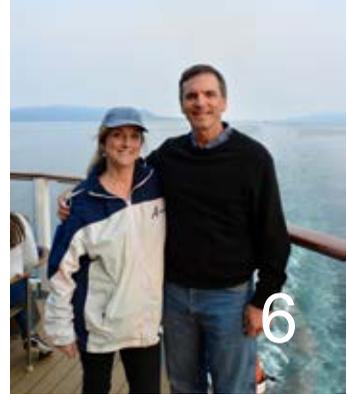
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2019 – 2020

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association President

Dr. C. Alan Jones

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## A letter from the president

Dear ALVMA Members,

As I write this, in late July, Auburn is undefeated and optimism abounds. I hope, by the time this is published, things haven't changed.

My high school football coach, eons ago, gave me a little paperback book by Robert Ruark titled "The Old Man and the Boy". One of the chapters was titled "Dogs and Old Men Thrive on Monotony". None of us "blue hairs" would disagree, and most of us would be pretty happy if our profession didn't change a whole lot from how it's been during our careers. But as technology has accelerated into an "exponential" phase, veterinarians face daily pressures to change to the newest-latest-greatest-fastest, or some brand new technology in the veterinary field.

In one of Malcolm Gladwell's books "Outliers", he describes a theory called the "ten thousand hour rule". He says it takes performing the same task for ten thousand hours before you are proficient at it. Simply, that's 20 hours a week for ten years! While new technologies are wonderful, we've all experienced the frustration of not having the time to set aside to master the new technology, as the learning curve can sometimes be steep.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is poised to help with that. Wouldn't it be nice to place an ultrasound probe on a patient and the machine interprets it for you? Dr Randy Davis and I sat in on a lecture at the AVMA Leadership Conference in January titled "Shift Happens". One of the presenters, Dr Robert Trimble, founder of a startup in California called Fuzzy Pet Health, said that AI will equal the computational capacity of the human brain in less than 5 years, and in less than thirty years, it will exceed the computational capacity of all of the human brains on earth, combined! WHAT! Of course so many questions come to mind as these kind of sweeping technological advances quickly approach. If I have a little box on my desk that's smarter than all of humanity, how much schooling do I really need? Who can access it? How do we charge for it?

Trying to predict what veterinary medicine will look like in ten to twenty years as technology races forward at such speed would seem to me to argue that the need for collective effort is ever greater, and the question "can we?" may more frequently be followed by "yes, but should we?".

In the mean time, we have our hands full with issues like student debt, wellness, practice profitability, insurance, telemedicine, newly emerging infectious diseases, and so many others. The ALVMA is here to serve you, it's members, and we'd encourage your participation in your local groups as a way to stay involved in the decisions on important questions that our great profession faces today and in the future. Don't hesitate to contact us. War Eagle!

Sincerely,

C. Alan Jones, DVM  
ALVMA President



## TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR 2020 POWER OF 10 CLASS NOW! REGISTRATION DEADLINE DECEMBER 27TH!

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. Brett Brooks is the Program Chair for the 2020 Power of 10 Leadership program. Dr. Brooks graduated from Auburn in 2009 and was a Power of 10 participant in 2019. She has also been selected to attend the



*Dr. Brett Brooks, 2020 ALVMA Power of 10 Program Chair*

AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago in 2020. Dr. Brooks currently works at West Gate Veterinary Hospital in Enterprise, AL as an associate veterinarian.

Kickoff for the 2020 Power of 10 program will start in 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 2009 and 2019 with a DVM and register no later than December 27th. Visit [alvma.com](http://alvma.com) for more information.



## What is the ALVMA PAC?

It is the Political Action Committee for the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association; a nonpartisan voluntary committee of Alabama veterinarians who contribute funds to aid in the election of candidates for state office. Through the PAC, financial support is provided to those candidates who best represent the needs and concepts of the veterinary profession.

The Alabama Legislature is made up of 105 Representatives and 35 Senators. These 140 elected legislators make key decisions that affect your patients and your practice. It is through ALVMA PAC that the views and interests of veterinary medicine are represented regarding such decisions.

The ALVMA PAC is nonpartisan and does not support candidates based solely on his or her party affiliation. Support of a viable candidate is based on several factors including his/her past voting record, recommendation from an ALVMA member, and the willingness to listen to the view of veterinary medicine.

Using the above criteria helps determine which candidates will receive the support of the ALVMA PAC. Your suggestions are absolutely essential to our success. Without such input, it would be impossible to know each candidate.

It is important that ALVMA supports those elected officials who support us and to do so we need your help. A contribution of any amount will help fund the campaigns of our legislative allies and endorsed candidates as we approach the 2020 legislative session.

**Donations are accepted at [www.alvma.com/donations](http://www.alvma.com/donations) or by mailing a check to:**

**PO Box 803  
Fayetteville, TN 37334**

*Disclaimer: ALVMA PAC is the state political action committee of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association. Contributions to ALVMA PAC are not tax-deductible for income tax purposes. The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association will not favor or disadvantage anyone based on the amount or failure to contribute.*

# MEET YOUR President

## Dr. C. Alan Jones

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

A poor southern timber market, to be totally honest, because I'd always pictured myself a forester, but I'd always loved critters of all kinds. As a kid, on the wall of my bedroom was a picture of a chimp with a stethoscope around his neck, with the caption that said, "I used to couldn't even spell VETERINARIAN, but now I ARE one." Looking back now, I guess my fate had been sealed.

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

I'm strictly a dog and cat man now. I'd never dreamed of doing anything but large animal practice starting out, but after twenty years of mixed practice, I developed a pretty severe skin allergy to horses, and decided it was time to let the youngsters take over in 2007. I'd somehow managed to avoid getting my brains kicked out, but didn't want to press my luck, even though it was a small target.



### Where did you study?

I did my undergraduate study at Auburn, starting in the South's only Forest Engineering program, and went to Vet school at Kansas State University.

### Who is your role model/mentor?

My first real mentor was Dr. John Hart in Conway, Arkansas, my mother's home town. He grew up busting mustangs shipped east to Independence, Kansas, and was good with a rope, taught me how to throw a stove pipe loop, required almost no sleep, and tolerated my company.

### 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?

Gosh if I had to pick one thing, I guess it would be puppy kisses. No brainer, I know.

### How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

I'd started trying to be a little more regular at our local meetings; next thing you know, here I am.

### What is the hardest part of your job?

Not working for free.

### Why would you recommend that someone join the ALVMA?

Besides me, you'll get to rub shoulders with a lot of smart people who love our profession and volunteer to try to steer it into the future on the best possible course.

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

To Heaven to see my mom, and a few old dogs. You know why.

### What is the last movie you watched?

Does Ozark, Netflix series count?

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

My wife Ellen would chuckle about this one. I consider myself a professional loafer. She thinks I never sit down. I love to be outside paddling over moving, cold, clear



water- no motors or other modern noise. Walking miles behind a willing dog across northern prairies in clear, fall air I tolerate well,too.

**What five adjectives best describe you?**

I will leave that one for you.

**What is your simplest pleasure?**

Paddling a pirogue as silently as possible toward a duck hole through flooded timber by moonlight.

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

It's been an encouragement to see so many super people giving their time for the benefit of our profession.

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

One of those coolers on a TV ad that has dudes continuously putting cold beer in it from the bottom, a rope hammock, and Pandora.

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

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven." ~Matthew 6

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

Remembering early in my career, my three little girls, sitting on bar stools, legs swinging, eating skittles, chattering away after school, as they watched me in



surgery.

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

Seeing my 5 kids walk across the stage to receive college degrees, (without debt) 4 from Auburn WDE!

**What is your favorite quote?**

"Even a fool can be thought wise when he keeps his mouth shut". ~Proverbs 17:28

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

Working for free

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

Remove corporate influence

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

Women



**What makes you laugh out loud?**

Almost any kid, old person, or dog

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

*Son's Gonna Rise* by Citizen Cope

**What book are you reading?**

*The River Why* by David James Duncan

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

Leap tall buildings in a single bound

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

Methuselah. How did it feel to be that old?

■

# TORNADOES, THUNDERSTORMS AND HURRICANES...OH MY!

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

Natural disasters from weather related events are a way of life in Alabama. On almost any day of the year your home or practice can be impacted; however, mitigation and preparation for such events can be very difficult. Psychologically it is more comforting to assume that disasters happen to someone else.

Disaster is a relative term and impacts can be small or large, but all are important on a personal and family level. The Alabama Department of Public Health outlines personal disaster planning with their "Get 10" program. Ten essential items for an emergency kit include: water, food, a can opener, medications, first aid items, a flashlight, a radio, clothes, personal care items and important documents. Additional items for companion animals are: collar, id tag and leash; crate or pet carrier; immunization records; familiar items (toys, balls) and bags for sanitation.

Another consideration for disaster preparedness is Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. This training is predicated on community members doing the most good for the most people following a disastrous event since professional first responders often are overwhelmed. The concept of CERT initially was implemented by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985. Training was made available nationally by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 1993. The 20-hour course is conducted through local emergency management agencies and involves light search and rescue, emergency medical operations and triage, fire safety, and disaster psychology. Veterinarians have a unique skill set and they can be invaluable members of CERT teams both for training and response at the community level.

The AVMA is an excellent resource for disaster preparedness information for your practice. Emphasis is placed on practices having written disaster plans that include: emergency relocation of animals; back up for medical records; an approach for the continuity of operations; security needs; fire prevention; and insurance and legal issues that may occur. Partnering with a practice outside of your area is an important consideration for disaster mitigation.

Veterinarians interested in providing assistance

aspx). Additional resources for disaster training are available at the National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC) training site <http://naherc.cfsph.iastate.edu/login/index.php>.

Additionally, State Animal Response Teams (SART) may be deployed at the state and local level. Local emergency management agencies are required to include animals in their response plans through the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (PETS Act). The PETS Act amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to require state and local plans to include needs of individuals with household pets and service animals. Responsibilities for pets were added to the Emergency Support Function (ESF) system under the National Response Framework in 2008. Private practice veterinarians can be a valuable resource to local EMA's as they develop and implement disaster plans involving animals.



regionally or nationally following a disaster can become members of a Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) or a National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT). The VMAT program was created following Hurricane Andrew in 1992 with a goal of providing veterinary emergency preparedness and response following a disaster. VMAT is separate from the NVRT program in the Department of Health and Human Services. The VMAT program is supported by the AVMA Foundation and provides assistance to current state programs when needed. Veterinarians can become involved in the NVRT program by joining the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ndms/ndms-teams/Pages/default>

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Brochure on preparedness for veterinary clinics: [https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/productdownloads/vet\\_practices\\_brochure.pdf](https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/productdownloads/vet_practices_brochure.pdf)

Additional resources from the AVMA: <https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/disaster/Pages/default.aspx>

FEMA training site (two certifications for training on animals in disasters are available on line):

<https://training.fema.gov/>

USDA site on animal care in disasters:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/emergencyresponse/SA\\_Animal\\_Welfare](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/emergencyresponse/SA_Animal_Welfare) ■

# Relief Veterinarians

**Dr. Shelby Agnew, AUB '13**

103 Canoebrook Ln  
Huntsville, AL 35806  
Phone: 256.361.9871  
Email: southpawveterinary@gmail.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Madison, Limestone, and Morgan Counties, will consider travel

**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. Philip Baxter, AUB '78**

108 Country Church Road  
Rainbow City, AL 35906-6104  
Phone: 256.490.1728  
Email: pwbaxter@bellsouth.net  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Birmingham, Huntsville and surrounding - Others considered

**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. Ben Cashion**

20452 Hwy 79  
Mentone, AL 35984  
Phone: 205.269.4981  
Email: bscashion@yahoo.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: Mixed  
Region of Relief: Northeast AL

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

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

**Dr. 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. Joe Fuller**

1653 Mayfair Court  
Auburn, AL 36860  
Phone: 321.544.2507  
Email: jfau67@gmail.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL, FL  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: 50 miles from surrounding Auburn

**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. Lauren Grider, AUB'08**

Huntsville, AL 35801  
Phone: 256.384.6911  
Email: laurengrider@dvm.com  
States(s) where licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: Small Animal Exclusive  
Region of Relief: AL-ER shift work (Day Only) and select weekends available

**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  
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State(s) where Licensed: AL, FL & GA  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Alabama, Georgia, Florida

**Dr. Stephanie Kitchens, AUB '99**

6912 Heathermore Loop  
Montgomery, AL 36117

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State(s) where licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Montgomery, AL and surrounding areas

**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: SA  
Region of Relief: State of Alabama - prefer within 100 miles of Montgomery

**Dr. Megan Simpson, AUB '11**

4530 Blairmont Drive SE  
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Email: Simpsme@auburn.edu  
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Kind of Practice: SA, General practice and surgery  
Region of Relief: Huntsville, Madison County

**Dr. James Thorsen, AUB '87**

PO Box 216  
Fortson, GA 31808  
Phone: 706.587.9842  
Email: jrthorsendvm@aol.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL, GA  
Kind of Practice: Small Animal  
Region of Relief: Any 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

**Dr. James Warren TUSK '95**

825 Murphrees Valley Road  
Springville, AL 35146  
Phone: 205.999.0358  
Email: dogdoc1960@gmail.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: Small Animal  
Region of Relief: Baldwin County

# AVMA Board of Director's Update

Written by: Jan K. Strother, DVM  
AVMA BOD, District 3  
2019 Third Quarter

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Director District III, AVMA Board Directors 2017-2019. This an exciting time for the ALVMA , AVMA and our veterinary profession during this of tremendous growth and opportunity period. I am confident that our veterinary profession's future is bright and our best days are still ahead.

I want extend my best wishes to our incoming AVMA Director District III, Dr. Mary Ergen. I know that ALVMA and AVMA will build on our successes under her leadership.

Sincerely,  
Jan K. Strother, D.V.M

## Antimicrobial Resistance

At the request of Food and Drug Administration officials, the AVMA sent a representative as part of the U.S. delegation to a December meeting of the Ad hoc Codex Alimentarius Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance.

- Convened jointly by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the task force is working to revise the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance and to develop guidance for integrated monitoring and surveillance of foodborne antimicrobial-resistant bacteria.

The AVMA is a member of the CDC's Antimicrobial Resistance Challenge, which aims to accelerate the worldwide battle against antimicrobial resistance.

- In committing to the CDC challenge, we've promised to:
  - Continue collaborating with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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.
  - Engage with key international stakeholders to support antimicrobial stewardship.

The antimicrobial resources on our website ([avma.org/antimicrobials](http://avma.org/antimicrobials)) have been refreshed and reorganized to make them easier to use.

## AVMA Axon: Next-Generation Digital Education Updated

Launched in March, AVMA Axon ([avma.org/axon](http://avma.org/axon)) provides you high-quality CE you rely on from the AVMA, accessible 24/7 in a convenient and practical online platform.

Axon features topics such as financial health, leadership and career development, wellbeing, diversity and inclusion, and policy and practice.

It also includes the new My Veterinary Life podcast series. These vignettes feature stories about veterinary professionals' journeys, explaining how they got to where they are today and what drives their passion for veterinary medicine.

AVMA Axon is host to a new Workplace Wellbeing Certificate Program, recently unveiled by the AVMA, that connects all members of the veterinary team with critical resources for group and individual problem solving centered around creating a culture of wellbeing.

- The series of five modules is taught by top subject matter experts and leaders in the veterinary industry. Participants may earn up to 4 AVMA CE hours through learning modules, quizzes, and interactions.

## AVMA Continues Down the Path to Sponsor an Association Health Plan Updated

The AVMA is back on track to once again sponsor an association health plan (AHP).

The AVMA's efforts to sponsor an AHP were delayed by a D.C. District Court ruling, where the judge ordered the U.S. Department of Labor to revisit some aspects of its new rule allowing small businesses to band together for the purpose of sponsoring health care plans.

The specific plans we are finalizing have been designed with the veterinary profession in mind, such as including benefits for rabies vaccination and titers. Because of the national reach of the carrier, we will ultimately be able to cover the majority of states, and we will work where possible to change the views of states not in favor of AHPs.

In addition to health care insurance, associated additional offerings made available will include:

- Discounted Payroll Services and Administrative Support
- HR Consulting Services
- Open Enrollment Guide Creation
- Wellness Resources
- Employee Educational Resources

The AVMA is the only professional association of which we are aware that is working to establish a national plan.

We are very pleased to be poised to once again sponsor the best AHP and pricing possible as a valuable AVMA member service.

Any important updates about association health plans will continue to be sent to AVMA members through standard communications channels. AVMA LIFE will also have a dedicated booth at the 2019 AVMA Convention to provide more information.

## AVMA Membership Update: Dues Increase; Auto Monthly Renewal

With the cost of doing business continuing to rise, the AVMA House of Delegates at its January meeting approved a recommendation by the AVMA Board of Directors for a modest and responsible member dues increase that will take effect in 2020.

- It is a three-year plan, with a dues increase of \$30 in 2020, and then—if needed to cover operational expenses—up to \$10 in 2021 and up to \$10 in 2022.
- This dues increase is necessary to preserve the value of today's and tomorrow's programs and to ensure the AVMA's ability to continue providing members with what they want and expect from

their national association.

The AVMA's official membership is at 95,000 strong.

- Three out of every four veterinarians are AVMA members, which makes our voice stronger and is particularly important in our advocacy efforts.

To date, nearly 1,500 members have taken advantage of the new monthly payment plan option for membership renewals.

## AVMF Restructuring

To reinforce the critical role of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF), the AVMA and AVMF are pleased about a new formation of the AVMF Board of Directors that brings even greater alignment with the AVMA's strategic future.

As the new AVMF Board of Directors focuses on setting the strategy to maximize the Foundation's contribution to the profession, the AVMF Board of Advisors will provide them with thoughtful and actionable input, advice and guidance.

## Humane Endings Updated

AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals

- The AVMA released April 2 its first-ever policy on the Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals.
- Funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, these guidelines support advanced planning by facilities to use the best possible technique when depopulation is required—during emergency situations only and when options are often highly constrained.

It is our volunteers' compassion for animals, as well as the people who care for them, that compelled the AVMA to take on the arduous task of compiling this guidance.

- The guidelines help veterinarians support animal welfare in situations where the difficult decision to depopulate has been made, and they are an important tool to help veterinarians make humane decisions in the most dire situations.
- A related webinar which covers how the document was created, definitions, and categories of depopulation methods/techniques is available through AVMA Axon. It's titled, "When Emergency Situations Call for Difficult Decisions: AVMA's Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals."

## Marijuana/Cannabis: Updated

Two AVMA webinars on cannabis, hosted and available on AVMA Axon:

- "Cannabis in Veterinary Practice: A Clinical and Legal Update," held on April 20, built on information provided last August and focused on additional information learned about the science behind the potential use of cannabis as a therapeutic agent and the legalities around that use in veterinary clinical practice.
- "Cannabis in the Clinic: Laws, Risks and Realities for Employers" took place on June 17. It addressed issues associated with the human use of cannabis by clinic employees.

The AVMA has created a new resource, "Frequently Asked Questions About the Regulatory Status of Cannabis, Cannabis-Derived, and Cannabis-Related Products," which is available for download by members at [avma.org/cannabis](http://avma.org/cannabis).

Under federal law, cannabis and its products have historically been regulated under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA).

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill) removed 'hemp,' defined as *Cannabis sativa* L and derivatives with THC concentrations less than 0.3% dry weight, from the list of substances scheduled under the CSA. The regulation of cannabis products (including hemp), whether as drug or animal feed, under the FDCA, however, was not changed.

Currently, there are no cannabis-derived drugs or feedstuffs containing cannabis that have been approved in the United States for use in animals.

The FDA has, however, approved one cannabis-derived and three cannabis-related human drug products.

- Epidiolex contains a purified form of CBD.
- Marinol and Syndros include the active ingredient dronabinol (a synthetic THC).
- Cesamet contains the active ingredient nabilone (a chemical similar to THC and is also synthetically derived).
- We are aware of no restrictions that would prevent them from being used in an extralabel fashion for animals.

The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act does not apply to veterinary medicine, so there is technically no such thing as a "veterinary supplement." Veterinary medical products are currently considered either "food" or "drug" under the FDCA.

Current laws in some states that permit medical and/or recreational use for people do not apply to animals.

Under current federal and state law, veterinarians who administer, dispense, prescribe, or recommend products (including cannabis-derived products) that are not approved for use in animals, or that are not approved for use in animals or people in accord with FDA extra label drug use regulations, face increased potential legal risk.

- The FDA issued warning letters to manufacturers of unapproved cannabis-derived products in 2015-2019.

Legislation addressing marijuana/cannabis pertinent to veterinary medicine is being proposed in a number of states.

The AVMA is advocating for more research on cannabis and an efficient regulatory framework to support the development of FDA-approved drugs

Visit: [avma.org/cannabis](http://avma.org/cannabis)

## Prescription Mandate Legislation Updated

For several consecutive congressional sessions, the AVMA has led the charge to defeat burdensome legislation that would require veterinarians to provide many unnecessary written prescriptions for companion animals—even if not requested or wanted by the client.

This legislation, the misleadingly named "The Fairness to Pet Owners Act" (H.R. 1607), was introduced in the 116th Congress by Representatives Matt Cartwright (D-PA-8) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12) and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

- It would put an undue regulatory and administrative burden on veterinary practices, interfere with the veterinarian-client-patient relationship, and create inconvenience for clients.

A Senate version (S. 1290) was also introduced by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Mike Lee (R-Utah). This legislation had several co-sponsors added since the last Congress and has had more added this Congress, gaining momentum it did not previously have.

The legislation is simply unnecessary.

- Prescription writing is effectively governed by laws and regulations

**Continued on page 30**

# New Graduate Member Profile

**Dr. Lynlee Nichols**  
**Auburn, Alabama**

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

I am one of the lucky few who always knew that I was going to be a veterinarian. I got my first stethoscope at 9 years old and began collecting veterinary books soon after.

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

I practice exclusively small animal medicine. I really enjoy fostering the human-animal bond and having the longevity of seeing my patients from pediatric to geriatric stages of life.

## Where did you study?

Auburn University College of Veterinary



Medicine Class of 2018

## Who is your role model/mentor?

Who is your role model/mentor?  
My grandmother, Lynda Robinson aka Big Mama, is my role model. She has always found a way to handle every situation with dignity and grace. She taught me to be comfortable in every social situation and it has really helped me to navigate difficult situations with clients.

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love getting on the floor in the exam room and having the pet roll all over me while I do my physical exam. The connection I make with the pets during that time is amazing and I get my cuddles in for the day.

## How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

When I started my preceptorship in Montgomery, one of the senior veterinarians invited me to join him for a meeting. I have been attending since.

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

Have tough skin when you need it but do not be afraid to let yourself get attached to a patient. The risk is worth the reward.

## Where do you see yourself in five years?

On a private island being served fresh smoothies while my family swims in our massive infinity pool.... But in reality, I see myself as a practicing partner in a family owned small animal practice.

## Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

There are so many issues facing veterinarians today, with more to come. It is so important for all veterinarians to become involved and make a united stand to protect our profession. Joining the ALVMA is a great step to that goal.

## How has being involved with the ALVMA helped you professionally?

Being a new graduate, it is difficult to know how to network with people and to get involved with your profession. The ALVMA has facilitated meetings in which I could meet with other members of our profession and seek guidance on how to become more involved in the veterinary profession outside of medical practice.



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

My first unexpected loss of a patient. That patient was already in severe distress upon presentation, but I still took the loss very personally. It really taught me how to deal with unexpected complications and feelings of guilt associated with not being "good enough" to save everything.

## What is the hardest part of your job?

Not taking on feelings of guilt or inadequacy when owners are not able/willing to do things on my treatment plan or when the plan does not have the intended outcome.

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

Socializing with family and friends and driving my husband crazy with "honey do lists."

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

I would not choose one particular location, I would take an entire year to travel to the continents of Australia, Africa and Asia. I feel that it is very important to experience different cultures in your lifetime to make



you truly aware of who you are as a person. It is difficult to understand practices/cultures outside of your own until you have experienced them firsthand.

## What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Making it through my numerous college years without becoming addicted to coffee.

I am not sure why I set that as a goal for myself, but I am proud that I accomplished it. It's the small things in life.

## What has been your most unusual client/case you have had to date?

I had a client who told us he was going to commit suicide in the parking lot if his cat didn't survive a Lilly toxicity. Luckily, the cat survived, but he brought it in 2 months later severely emaciated and requested euthanasia. No suicide threat that time.

## What is your favorite quote?

C'est la vie - that's life

## What is your simplest pleasure?

Reading a book in a hot bath

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

Betty White- what is your secret to living life to the fullest?

## What book are you reading?

*Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett

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

Immune modulating drugs for atopy

## What five adjectives best describe you?

Loyal, objective, southern, clumsy, driven

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

Inflation of costs associated with veterinary medicine. I understand that it is necessary, but if I could, I would change the profession to where student loan debt, professional costs and consumer costs would all be affordable while still providing veterinarians and our associated staff with appropriate pay and providing consumers with gold standard care. Unrealistic, I know, but it didn't say it had to be a realistic change!

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

A few months ago, I sat with a family for 8 hours, until around midnight, while they waited on family members to arrive for the euthanasia of their family dog, before helping the pet pass over the rainbow bridge.

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

Professionally, to be confident in my decisions and increase my surgical skills. Personally, I want to continue to learn sign language. ■





# Welcome New ALVMA Members

Please welcome those members A&M who have joined the Association since June 2019

## New

Dr. Amanda Oden	Birmingham, AL	Tufts 1989
Dr. Josep Atwell	Fort Walton Beach, FL	Auburn 2008
Dr. Jennifer Wilder	Mobile, AL	Auburn 2006
Dr. Yvette Pedroza	Mobile, AL	Ross-West Indies 2011
Dr. Carey Laster	Auburn, AL	Auburn 1992
Dr. Hanna Lamb	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2014
Dr. Brian Watkins	Wetumpka, AL	Auburn 2012
Dr. Christopher Dietrich	South Region TX	Texas A&M 2004
Dr. Elizabeth Hindman	Montgomery, AL	Auburn 2012

## New 3-4 Year Grad

Dr. Whitney C. Terrell	Florence, AL	University College-Dublin, Ireland 2016
Dr. Christine Garrett	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2017
Dr. Melissa Lehman	Hoover, AL	North Carolina State 2017

## New Graduates

Dr. Lisa Tenny	Elkmont, AL	Kansas State 2019
Dr. Sheila Phom	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Kathrine Prior	Richmond, KY	Auburn 2019
Dr. Laura Sims	Owensboro, KY	Auburn 2019
Dr. Jamie Todd	Gilbert, AZ	Auburn 2019
Dr. Sheila LaRussa	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Randi Lyn Todd	Ochlocknee, GA	Auburn 2019
Dr. Mary Madsen	Tallahassee, FL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Kelly Whippo	Bessemer, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. David Mason Brendle	Salisbury, SC	Auburn 2019
Dr. Kathryn Turgeon	Decatur, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Caleb J. Thomas	Birmingham, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Katie Lea Hawkins	Cullman, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Andrew Davis	Thompsons Station, TN	Auburn 2019
Dr. Lynae Ellen Davis	Thompsons Station, TN	Auburn 2019
Dr. Sara Berge	Louisville, KY	Auburn 2019
Dr. Chelsea Bodin	Hendersonville, NC	Auburn 2019
Dr. Evan Charles Becker	Frederick, MD	Auburn 2019
Dr. Joy Dillon	Richardson, TX	Auburn 2019
Dr. Julia Remaks	LaOrange, KY	Auburn 2019
Dr. Ryan Green	Granville, OH	Auburn 2019
Dr. Samantha Eder	Harvest, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Alessandra Taylor Seo	Lewisburg, TN	Auburn 2019
Dr. Blake Schoenbachler	Louisville, KY	Auburn 2019
Dr. Sarah Hood	Cecil, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Robert D. Hawkins III	Troy, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Jessica Ball	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Zachery Hassler	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Kaitlyn Bello	Flowery Branch, GA	Auburn 2019
Dr. Meagan L. B. Jones	Huntsville, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Kimberly Smart	Somerset, KY	Auburn 2019
Dr. Mike Breuning	Lambertville, NJ	Auburn 2019
Dr. Melissa Pauline Crepps	Elsmere, KY	Auburn 2019
Dr. Briana Patten	Autauga, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Mitchell Allen Belve	Madison, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Erika Gibson	Spring, TX	Auburn 2019
Dr. Noelle A. Cannady	Salisbury, NC	Auburn 2019
Dr. Meghan Elizabeth Helnor	Union, KY	Auburn 2019
Dr. Katie Loughman	East Longmeadow, MA	Auburn 2019
Dr. Ryan Reames	Beattyville, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Theresa J. Langlois	Hoover, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Jaclyn Lile	Stuart, FL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Brooke Barber	Arroyo Grande, CA	Auburn 2019
Dr. Rebekah Brinks	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Jordan Shim	Orlando, FL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Tracy McConnaughey	Colorado Springs, CO	Auburn 2019
Dr. Rhiannon Hedges	New Orleans, LA	Auburn 2019
Dr. Nichole Whitfill	Harned, KY	Auburn 2019
Dr. Anthony Davis	Williamsburg, KY	Auburn 2019
Dr. Sonja Cox	Huntsville, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Emma Crowley	San Antonio, TX	Auburn 2019
Dr. Hannah Joyner	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2019
Dr. Virginia Stilwell	Manassas, VA	Auburn 2019

## Students

Adeel Ali	Pakistan	University of Ag. Pakistan 2019
Katherine Aceto	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Adam Allen	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Ehren Anderson	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Caroline Atkus	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Alexis Bates	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Alyssa Baumler	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Amanda Bentley	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Jessie Bentley	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Danielle Berlin	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Rachel Bixler	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Kenneth Boucher	Mobile, AL	Auburn 2023
Gentry Brown	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Emily Burns	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Cody Bryan	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Thomas Bunch	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Alexandra Byers	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Sydney Byrd	Birmingham, AL	Auburn 2023
James Caglianone	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Helen Candea	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Sarah Castleman	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Victoria Cerar	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Chloe' Childress	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Shannon Clancey	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Jasmine Coleman	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Eric Collins	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Benjamin Cornett	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
David Crabtree	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Emily Crews	Florence, AL	Auburn 2023
Brianna Crowe	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Irene Darby	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Brittany Dawes	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Kylie Davis	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Elizabeth Day	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Kendra Delaney	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Jenna Dorman	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Kelsey Faulkner	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Layton Federer	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Joseph Ferguson	Enterprise, AL	Auburn 2023
Allyson Floyd	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Melody Gayheart	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Kayla Gibson	Tallahassee, AL	Auburn 2023
Cheyenne Gilliam	Opelika, AL	Auburn 2023
Amanda Goslee	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Elena Greene	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Meera Gullapalli	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Taylor Gwynn	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Kristen Hall	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Heather Hamilton	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Trevor Hammons	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Hannah Harris	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Margaret Heath	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Kaylin Henry	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Erik Henze	Birmingham, AL	Auburn 2023
Grace Higgs	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Maggie Hines	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Tiffany Howard	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Jacy Isaacs	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Caitlyn James	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Ashlyn Johns	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Madison Johnson	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Zachary Jolly	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Brooke Jones	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Rachael Jones	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Mercedes Jordan	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Margaret Kane	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Madelyn Kelty	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023
Emily Kennedy	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023

Jennifer Knight	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Jessica Camarillo	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Katrina Kosatka	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Savannah Christian	Montgomery, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Kierra Kuhlman	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Nakia Coit	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Jamie Libow	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Cydney Crook	Montgomery, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Emily Lipinski	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Sydney Dockery	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Olivia Lockyear	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Allison Efinger	Opelika, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Adriana Lopez-Diaz	Opelika, AL	Auburn 2023	Aaliyah Finley	Tuskegee, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Kendra Lynch	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Jasmine Gardner	Tuskegee, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Benjamin Maddox	Fishersville, KY	Auburn 2023	Liza Godfrey	Tuskegee, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Miranda Mader	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Shane Halbleib	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Amanda Mainwaring	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Sabrina Holguin	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Alison Mariano	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Re'Jae Holland	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Macie Marrmiller	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Colby Horne	Midland City, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Kevin Mason	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Jane Hostomsky	Tuskegee, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Jessica Meers	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Portia Hunt	Montgomery, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Jonathan Melson	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Bethany Hurley	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Cassandra Miller	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Atalani Jackson	Tuskegee, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Kaitlyn Morris	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	April Johnson	Tuskegee, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Jacey Morrow	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Jade Johnson	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Linda Myers	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Kierra Johnson	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Jessica Nance	Greenup, KY	Auburn 2023	Sierra Johnson	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Colton Oakes	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Stevi Kincade	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Amanda Palazzo	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Deniqua Lee	Tuskegee, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Giovanna Panepinto	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Elsie Madison	Starkville, MS	Tuskegee 2023
Marie Paquette	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Maria Maldonado	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Taylor Parsons	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Jocelyn McGill	Ladson, SC	Tuskegee 2023
Casey Phillips	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Cami McJett	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Madison Pegouske	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Jan Medina	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
John Pinard, IV	Tuskegee, AL	Auburn 2023	Warren Miles	Glassboro, NJ	Tuskegee 2023
Lindsay Powers	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Jamial Miller	San Diego, CA	Tuskegee 2023
Cecilia Roberts	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Kennedy Miller	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Rachel Sagan	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Hannah Monroe	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Caitlyn Scagliarini	Opelika, AL	Auburn 2023	Courtney Moore	Warsaw, NC	Tuskegee 2023
Jonathan Schiavone	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Breyanna Morning	Tuskegee, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Madeline Schneider	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Oliver Moussignac	Montgomery, GA	Tuskegee 2023
Madison Sharp	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Jade Nelson	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Reagan Short	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Ashlei Parker	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Emily Starck	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Bryce Peterson	Nota Sulga, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Kaitlyn Staszewski	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Erin Pettibon	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Paul Stevens	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Asia Phillips	Tuskegee Institute, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Emily Stinnett	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Alexander Pierce	Opelika, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Katheryn Tabares	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Erika Pilar	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Cassidy Taylor	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Scarlett Robinson	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Victoria Taylor	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Maya Rollerson	DeSoto, TX	Tuskegee 2023
Samantha Thomas	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Christin Rouse	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Zachary Toves	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Salvador Sanchez	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Luke Trapp	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Ja Reika Smith	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Jordan Turner	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Jordan Smith	Geneva, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Taylor Tusso	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Bryanna Snipes	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Miranda Vega	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Serena Stoddard	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Deniece Wade	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Danny Tapia	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Brianna Wason	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Carley Tramble	Birmingham, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Courtney Weaver	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Crystal Ware	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Jessica Weeder	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Trijon White	Tuskegee, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Emily Welch	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Haley Yeepun	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023
Haley White	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Caroline Ford	Knoxville, TN	Tennessee 2021
Jordan Whitfield	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023			
Morgan Willis	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023			
Jan Woodall	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	<b>Re-Instatements</b>		
Andee Youngblood	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2023	Dr. William R. Brawner III	Auburn, AL	Auburn 2001
Natalie Adams	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023	Dr. Nicholas Baldwin	Roanoke, AL	Auburn 2016
Amanda Aguiar	Pembroke Pines, FL	Tuskegee 2023	Dr. Mary Krothapalli	Madison, AL	Auburn 2010
Ansleigh Banks	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023			
Patricia Bradley	Tuskegee, AL	Tuskegee 2023	<b>Life Membership</b>		
Brianna Brooks	Auburn, AL	Tuskegee 2023	Dr. John Bagwell	Brewton, AL	Auburn 1972
Tyana Brown	Tuskegee, AL	Tuskegee 2023			





# State Veterinarian Update

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

## When Is a Maggot Not Just A Maggot?

Fly strike, or myiasis, is a term used to describe the infestation of maggots in animals. Fly larvae or maggots generally feed on necrotic or dying tissues, usually in open wounds of animals. Also, there are occasions when hair becomes matted on dogs, especially, and flies can lay eggs in that environment, causing a maggot infestation. I believe that cleaning up and treating people's pets for myiasis was maybe the most disgusting things I did when I was in practice. If it wasn't the most disgusting it was at least in the top three. And as I tried to recall some of those cases, I wondered if, when I was seeing animals with maggot infestation, was I thinking of the possibility of it being screw worm. To be honest, the best answer I could come up with was, maybe. After all, we live in Alabama. We have a more than adequate supply of blow flies. And in our hot, humid summer environment, I just expected to see a certain number of fly strike cases.

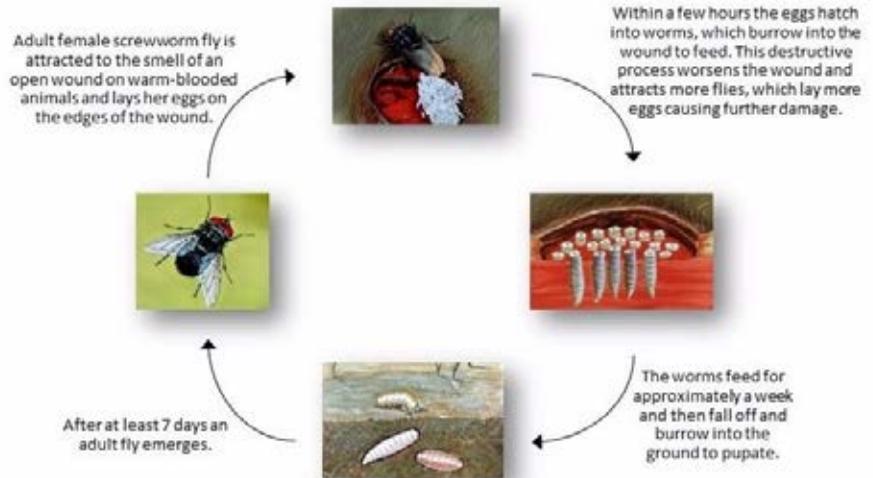
If you recall, from parasitology class, whenever that



Adult screwworm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax* (Coquerel). Note the dark stripes across the backline (thorax) of the fly behind the head. Photograph by Judy Gallagher.

may have been, New World Screwworm (NWS), *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, was quite a formidable foe, especially to livestock producers in the United States. NWS are certainly not like their dead-tissue-eating cousins. The NWS consume live tissue. Screw worm infestation was common in the Southern United States until an aggressive eradication program was finally responsible for the last case in the United States in August of 1982. Navel infestations in newborn calves and foals, infestations after castrations and dehornings or any other open wound was not uncommon. If untreated, the NWS infestation could cause death in its host within about ten days. The in the late 1950's after an aggressive campaign of treating every case of strike that could be found, it was evident that the war could not be won that way because of wildlife and unattended domestic animals functioning as reservoirs. This would be a good spot to maybe insert a detailed history by Dr. Tom Vaughn of the Screwworm eradication program. So, Dr. Vaughn, if you are reading this sharpen your pencil! To very briefly summarize what happened next, irradiated, sterile NWS adult flies were released, and screw worms were eradicated in the United States by 1982. And we all lived happily ever after.....almost.

### Life Cycle of New World Screwworm<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Photo source: USDA APHIS. STOP Screwworms: Selections from the Screwworm Eradication Collection, Special Collections, National Agricultural Library <http://specialcollections.nal.usda.gov/screwworm/index>

Since 1982, there were two isolated cases in individual dogs in 2007 and 2010. Both dogs were traveling through Florida and no subsequent cases were found. Also, there are a handful of cases of NWS infesting humans. One was a woman from England who had traveled to Peru and found a maggot in her ear after her return to England. Another case was a man from Alabama who had visited South America and after returning developed a lesion on his neck. He went to an urgent care facility and was prescribed antibiotics and told to take ibuprofen for the pain he was experiencing. A few days later, he awoke to find maggots on his pillow. After confirming NWS, the man's neighborhood and his home were aggressively treated with pesticide. There were no subsequent cases associated with his infestation.

Then in October of 2016, in the Florida Keys, maggots found on Key deer were identified as *Cochliomyia hominivorax*. Other deer were found to be infested with the NWS maggots. The epidemiological investigation



Larval primary screwworm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax* (Coquerel). Photograph by Heather Stockdale Walden, University of Florida.

revealed that it was likely that for the previous two months. Dogs and the Key deer had shown signs of screw worm infection but were likely missed. The USDA Veterinary Services, Wildlife Services and Florida agriculture and wildlife personnel began an aggressive response to the outbreak. The response included release of sterile flies. In January of 2018, the last known case was reported in the outbreak.

Just recently the Alabama Department of Agriculture partnered with USDA, Veterinary Service and other governmental agencies to stage an exercise to sharpen and fine tune the response here in Alabama should a case of NWS be identified. We also sent out communication to accredited veterinarians to invite private practitioners to participate. The exercise helped us identify areas that we need to improve our plan for recognition and response. This article is part of our attempt to improve awareness, communication and surveillance of New World Screwworm.

It is important that when you see a case of Fly strike in your practice, that NWS always be on your differential diagnosis. If you even remotely suspect that you are seeing a case of myiasis that could be screw worm, please do not hesitate to contact your section VMO or my office. Quick recognition and response could prevent an outbreak and the huge economic price tag that accompanies eradicating an established outbreak.

Photo Credit: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/maps/animal-health/screwworm-mapping>

[http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/livestock/primary\\_screwworm.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/livestock/primary_screwworm.htm) ■



# Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation Directors 2019-2020

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Visit [www.alvmf.org](http://www.alvmf.org) to discover the many different programs we have established to help veterinarians and animals in Alabama. With your support, we can do more!

**Get your spay/  
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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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# “What’s in Your Wallet?” Or rather... “What’s in Your Clients’ Wallet?”

Wilson McManus II, DVM CVPM & Kris Smith CVPM



Many of today’s veterinary hospitals can receive up to 80% of their payments for services and products electronically by credit card, debit card or App based payments. This percentage could be even higher in the coming years as fewer clients carry cash or elect to pay by check. Banks issuing these cards have made them very attractive in an effort to capture more of the credit

card business with travel, cash, and merchandise rewards. You name it, and the credit companies will offer it to get our clients signed up for their cards. The cards are convenient, and they feel they get “something for nothing”. The big problem is, just who is paying for all of those rewards? The unfortunate answer is, WE are, the merchants. We pay for them each month through our merchant services fees that are deducted from our bank account. High merchant service fees associated with rewards-based cards, really cost us the merchants, in two ways: initially through a decrease in our profit margin and subsequently through a decrease in our practice value when it’s time to sell.

This simple practice management example compares two practices, both processing \$1.0 Million of their revenues annually through credit card charges. In Practice A, merchant service fees total 3.0% of the total billed through merchant services, so essentially, they are paying \$30,000 annually in merchant fees. Practice B negotiated a lower rate on its merchant service fees of 2% of the total billed through their merchant services, it pays \$20,000 annually in fees, which essentially adds \$10,000 annually to the profit of the practice if all other expenses remained the same. From a practice valuation standpoint, the \$10,000 saved by Practice B could equate into \$40,000-80,000 of added value to the practice’s value. Obviously, if your credit card billing is greater than \$1.0 Million annually, the savings through a

lower rate will lead to even more profit and subsequently a significant increase in your practice’s value.

When most veterinary practice owners, accountants and bookkeepers look at a monthly merchant service bill, it is very confusing, and often difficult to determine the true effective monthly rate that the practice is being charged. The majority of the confusion comes from the different charges equated to the different levels of rewards that clients’ cards provide. Though you think you are receiving a base rate of 2.0% on your monthly credit card business, the reality is that depending upon the mix of different types of cards being used in that particular month, the fees you pay can often be significantly higher. We recommend to all of our management and appraisal clients that they calculate the total amount of fees charged on their monthly merchant service fee statement and divide by the total dollar amount of transactions processed by their merchant services company. This percentage gives them the most accurate assessment of the true total cost of accepting the various levels of cards. As you would expect, the higher the rewards, the more the fees are hitting your bottom line.

Often these higher processing fees can also be due to the use of “integrated” processing, where the practice management software and the credit card processor are tied together. While the integrated card processing tends to be both more accurate and less labor intensive, the convenience and labor cost savings can be translated into higher processing fees. The software vendors offering this type of service, often does not allow for the use of an integrated third-party processor. They essentially force practices into accepting only their processor(s), eliminating the ability to shop the merchant service for better rates. Practices can use a third party, but they aren’t allowed the benefit of integrating with the software.

We also recommend evaluating the cost of accepting higher cost cards and payment methods such as American Express, Care Credit, and Snap Pay in your hospital. It is important

to set strict guidelines in your practice for situations that warrant the acceptance or denial of these types of payment.

Personally, we all know it's hard to pass up using a reward card when we are at the checkout. But as a merchant, it is best to direct your clients to other methods of payment if possible, to help reduce the hidden cost of accepting these cards. Prepare a script for your receptionist to the effect "would you like to pay by cash, check or debit card today?" Something as simple as this can often decrease your monthly expenses. It is also in your best interest to regularly shop the various merchant service providers to insure you are receiving the lowest rate possible. Also avoid long-term and automatic renewal contracts, as they can contain hidden fee escalators that are hard to identify in the contract. We find that utilizing a merchant services company that has negotiated preferential pricing through a professional cooperative or buying group will have already negotiated the lowest rates for the group.

Though the savings to many may seem small, when applied to larger and larger volumes of business and credit card processing, the cost to practices' profit and future value can be significant.

For more information regarding Practice Management, Practice Valuations or Sales, please contact Wilson or Kris at [midsouth@simmonsmidsouth.com](mailto:midsouth@simmonsmidsouth.com). ■



## ALVMA Working for You...

### Practice Membership Savings

ALVMA has developed a Practice Membership dues category that will allow you to save up to 20% on annual dues. An annual dues statement was mailed to members on December 1, 2019 and includes information detailing this category. If you have more than two veterinarians working in your office, you will be able to take advantage of this 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 or email [darleneclen@gmail.com](mailto:darleneclen@gmail.com).

### Members Only FaceBook Group

Join the ALVMA members only FaceBook group. By creating this group, we are able to share update to date information regarding regulations, pharmacy and advocacy issues. The ALVMA General facebook page continues to share information for the general public regarding pet health issues and treatments. The members only group focuses 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. Each request to join is approved by the administrator who ensures that ALVMA membership is current.

[facebook.com/groups/alvmamemberonly](https://facebook.com/groups/alvmamemberonly)

Visit the ALVMA website for more information:

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

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# ALVMA's 29th Annual Conference Food Animal Veterinarians

## March 13-15, 2020

### What is New for 2020?

The ALVMA is joining forces with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences to bring you the 29th Annual Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians and the 2020 Bob Carson Beef Cattle Symposium. With this change, we will be able to provide an more engaging CE experience.

#### **New Location**

We will be moving to a new venue in 2020 as part of an effort to provide even higher quality continuing education. We will be meeting on March 13-15, 2020 at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine (AUCVM) Vet Education Center. This is a big change, as we have met at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana, AL for the past 28 years. While we all have very fond memories of this venue, due to it's increasing popularity it has become more difficult to schedule activities there. We are also very limited with the quantity and type of wet-labs we can offer at the 4-H Center. Despite moving to a new venue, we still plan to host a steak dinner followed by the always popular Downie Awards and Practice Tips on Saturday evening.

#### **Friday Only - Joint Conference with Veterinarians and Beef Cattle Producers**

Another exciting change is that the inaugural Bob Carson Beef Cattle Symposium will be part of the conference on Friday afternoon, March 13 (only). The Bob Carson Beef Cattle Symposium is a way to pay tribute to a man that meant so much to so many. The symposium will be held jointly with the Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences Beef Cattle Conference and the ALVMA 29th Annual Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians. This will be a great opportunity to mingle with not just your veterinary colleagues but also, your producer clients.

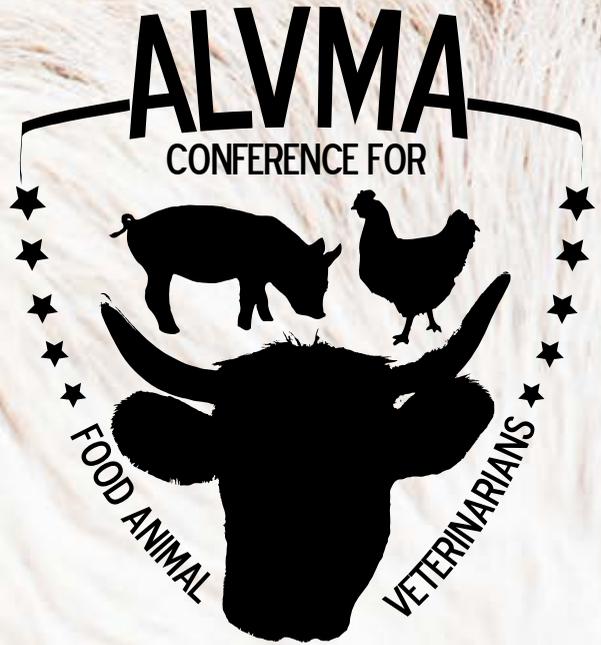
#### **Saturday - Veterinarians Only**

On Saturday, the veterinarians will remain on campus to attend quality CE sessions and visit with exhibitors. Since some traditions should remain the same, Saturday evening will allow attendees to enjoy the annual Steak Dinner while mingling with friends, colleagues and exhibitors. Attendees are encouraged to stay and take part in the ever-popular Downie Awards where everyone shares their favorite stories and the crowd determines who the new Downie is awarded to.

#### **Sunday - Round Robin Wet-Labs**

On Sunday, after a small devotional, attendees will meet at the J.T. Vaughan Equine Teaching Hospital for the inaugural Dwight Wolfe Wet Lab Symposium. This will consist of three rotating rounds of wet-labs including Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluations and Current Trich Testing, Bovine Reproductive Ultrasound and Large Animal Ultrasound.

# Conference for Veterinarians



**New Location!**  
**Auburn University College  
of Veterinary Medicine**



# ALVMA's 29th Annual Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians

## REGISTRATION FORM

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:

Your conference registration fee includes 20.0 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 includes a name badge that allows access to all lectures, exhibit hall, daily refreshment breaks, meet and greet on Friday evening, continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, lunch and steak dinner on Saturday. Additional meal vouchers are available for purchase below.

	Pre-Registration	Late/On-Site (After Feb. 21)	
<b>Full Registration</b>			
Veterinary Member of the _____ VMA (Must be a member of one of the 50 state VMA's for member discount)	\$300.00	\$375.00	\$ _____
Veterinary Non-Member	\$400.00	\$475.00	\$ _____
Veterinary Technician	\$250.00	\$325.00	\$ _____
Veterinary Students	\$ 50.00	\$75.00	\$ _____
<b>One Day Registration (Saturday Only)</b>			
Veterinary Member of the _____ VMA (Must be a member of one of the 50 state VMA's for member discount)	\$175.00	\$250.00	\$ _____
Veterinary Non-Member	\$275.00	\$350.00	\$ _____
Veterinary Technician	\$150.00	\$225.00	\$ _____
Veterinary Students	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00	\$ _____
Guest/Spouse Meal Ticket (Meals/Breaks) Qty _____x	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$ _____
Additional Steak Dinner Ticket Only Qty _____x	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ _____

### MEALS

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

- Friday, March 13  Meet and Greet  
 Saturday, March 14  Cont. Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner  
 Sunday, March 15  Cont. Breakfast

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### GRAND TOTAL

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### HOTEL INFORMATION

ALVMA has contracted a special rate with the Courtyard by Marriott in Auburn for the dates of our conference. The hotel is located approximately 3.6 miles from the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. The group rate will be \$95.00 for single or double occupancy (plus tax). To ensure the group rate and space availability, make your reservation no later than February 20, 2020. The room block will close once the block has been met or has reached the deadline, whichever occurs first.

Courtyard by Marriott Auburn  
 2420 West Place Boulevard • Auburn, AL  
 Phone: 334.502.0111  
**Group Rate: \$95.00**  
**Group Code: FAC**

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

Make all checks or money orders payable to: ALABAMA VMA

MAIL TO: Alabama VMA, PO Box 803, Fayetteville, TN 37334 or Fax (931) 433-6289

For further information contact Staci Corder by calling (334) 603-6227 or via e-mail at [corderstacil@gmail.com](mailto:corderstacil@gmail.com)

# ALVMA's 29th Annual Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians



## AGENDA

March 13-15, 2020

### Friday, March 13, 2020

- 1:00 PM Welcome, Introductions and Orientation  
Dr. Soren Rodning
- 1:30 PM Topic TBD  
Dr. Frank Mitloehner
- 2:30 PM Topic TBD  
Dr. Dan Scruggs
- 3:30 PM Animal Disease Traceability  
Drs. Tony Frazier and Misty Edmondson
- 4:00 PM Research and Extension Updates
- 5:00 PM Meet and Greet with Exhibitors  
Research & Extension Poster Session

### Saturday, March 14, 2020

- 7:30 AM Continental Breakfast  
Visit with Exhibitors
- 8:00 AM Update from the US Dept. of Agriculture, including a discussion on African Swine Fever  
Dr. Mel Stephens
- 9:00 AM Update from the AL Dept of Agriculture & Industries, including discussions about new rules related to trichomoniasis, electronic CVIs, and Equine Event Passports  
Drs. Tony Frazier and Misty Edmondson
- 9:45 AM Southeastern State Veterinarian Panel  
Moderated by Dr. Tony Frazier
- 10:30 AM Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 11:00 AM Topic TBD  
Dr. Frank Mitloehner
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00 PM Perilla Mint Toxicosis  
Dr. David Bryant

### 1:30 to 4:00 PM Clinical Skills Forum

- 1:30 PM Deep Digital Sepsis Treatments  
Dr. Manuel Chamorro
- 2:00 PM Field Anesthesia  
Dr. Thomas Passler
- 2:30 PM Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 3:00 PM Bull BSE Tips and Techniques  
Dr. Richard Hopper
- 3:30 PM Bull and Cow Reproductive Ultrasound  
Dr. Julie Gard Schnuelle

4:00 PM Updates from the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Alabama Cattlemen's Association, Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences and the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine.

6:30 PM Dinner – steak with all the fixins!

7:30 PM Practice Tips and Downie Awards

### Sunday, March 15, 2020

7:00 AM Devotional and Continental Breakfast

7:45 AM Orientation to Wet Labs

**8:00 AM - Noon Dwight Wolfe Wet Lab Symposium**  
Round Robin Wet Labs  
3 Different Web Labs - 1hr 20 mins each  
All attendees will participate in each wet lab

Rotation A - Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluations and Current Trich Testing Recommendations  
Facilitators - Drs. Richard Hopper and Chance Armstrong

Rotation B - Bovine Reproductive Ultrasound  
Facilitators - Drs. Julie Guard Schnuelle and Jessica Rush

Rotation C - Large Animal Ultrasound  
Facilitator - Dr. Bob Cole

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 14th at 3:00 pm. The meeting will take place in Classroom 246 which is located in the AUCVM Vet Education Center, upstairs. The conference and business meetings will be held at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, Vet Education Center. The address is 1150 Wire Road, Auburn, AL. All ALVMA members are invited to attend.

**\*Program and titles are subject to change. Visit [www.alvma.com](http://www.alvma.com) for the most up to date information.**

# 'Awards and Officers' 2019 ECVC Wrap Up



The 2019 ECVC held at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort hosted 726 attendees, representing 33 states as well as a couple of attendees coming all the way from South Korea! This year's conference held the second highest attendance for the conference span. The four-day event was packed with over 20 hours of CE in the mornings with many opportunities to reunite with other members of our association, to rest and relax with family and friends, or to reconnect with friends from other state VMAs.

On Wednesday, June 26, the ALVMA held its general business meeting at 4:00pm in the



Baytown Wharf Conference Center, followed by the exhibit hall opening reception on Wednesday evening. The exhibit hall was packed with over 80 exhibits all providing family friendly activities for our attendees and

their families that evening.

Thursday began our first day of CE with topics on Infectious Disease, Neurology, Gastroenterology, Soft Tissue Surgery, Cardiology, USDA Accreditation. A separate Poultry Program was offered for industry veterinarians on Thursday as well as Friday.

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 afternoon yoga classes or a Painted Pet Party.

Friday morning kicked off with the Spouses' Meet and Greet Breakfast which led into sessions on Feline Medicine, Nutrition, Rehabilitation/Pain Management, Oncology, Poultry, and Pharmacy/LEAP CE. Seasoned association leaders met with our Power of Ten Leadership Academy on Friday afternoon to offer a round-table discussion about their journey into leadership. Attendees then finished out the day with more rest and relaxation or from choosing from a selection of activities which included a round of golf, yoga, or another Painted Pet Party.

Saturday morning began early with a great day of CE program including Hematology/Hemostasis, Anesthesiology, Internal

Medicine, Practice Management, Professional Development/Leadership, and Pharmacy/Leap CE. Saturday also included specialty tracks for Backyard Poultry and Veterinary Technicians. Various alumni receptions were held throughout the city to finish out the evening.



Sunday drew the conference to a close with a Fellowship Breakfast and another great day of CE programs on Dermatology, Respiratory/Pulmonology, Parasitology, Wound Management, Pharmacy/Leap CE as well as sessions for Veterinary Technicians.

Thank you to all our sponsors and exhibitors for your support in making ECVC successful! Please make plans to join us for the 2020 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, June 3-7, at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort!

## Business Meeting and Officer Installment

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) held its annual general business meeting Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in conjunction with the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference held June 26-June 30. During the ALVMA Annual Awards Luncheon on June 27, award recipients were honored and Dr. John de Jong, AVMA president, installed new ALVMA officers.

New officers were sworn in on Thursday, June 27, 2019 as follows: President Alan Jones, DVM of Hazel Green; President Elect Randy Davis, DVM of Tuscumbia; Treasurer Susan Parsons, DVM of McCalla; Vice President Steven T. Murphree, DVM of Cullman and Board Member at Large Frances Phillips Kendrick, DVM of Selma. Hank Lee, DVM of Atmore will serve as Immediate Past President.



ALVMA Officers from left to right: Dr. Frances Phillips Kendrick, as Board Member at Large Dr. Susan Parsons, as Treasurer; Dr. Steven T. Murphree, as Vice President; Dr. Randy Davis, as President Elect; Dr. Alan Jones, as President; Dr. Hank Lee, as Immediate Past President

# 2019 Awards Luncheon

On Thursday, June 27, the ALVMA held their Annual Awards Luncheon to honor and present awards to the 2019 recipients. 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 yet again this year.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD:

Dr. George L. Wood, Jr., 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. Hank Lee (2018-19 President of ALVMA), Dr. George Wood, Jr. and Dr. Francis Kendrick (ALVMA Board Member, West Alabama VMA)

Dr. George L. Wood, Jr. was born and raised in Selma, AL. He graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1976. Dr. Wood has 40 plus years' experience in the field of veterinary medicine. Dr. Wood worked in a mixed practice in Jefferson City from 1977-1981. In 1981 he moved to Athens, AL as a mixed animal practice/owner and then changed over to small animal exclusively in 1987.

Dr. Wood has been a long-time active member of the AVMA, ALVMA, and West Alabama VMA, holding offices in all three associations. His facility became an AAHA accredited hospital in 2014. Dr. Wood was recognized as the 2017 ALVMA Service Award recipient and currently serves on the ALVMA Nominating Committee and Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

He is also very involved in local civic, mission and community organizations. He has been married to his wife, Louise, for 43 years. They have two daughters and five grandchildren.

## VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD:

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

Dr. William Sternberg was born and raised in Montgomery, AL. Bill attended Auburn University and married his wife, DeeDee, soon afterwards. After graduating from Auburn in 1968, he then served in Vietnam from 1969-1970 where he earned the Army Commendation Medal.

Dr. Sternberg began Sternberg Animal Hospital in 1970, before partnering with Dr. Harry Brown to open Brown-Sternberg Animal Hospital in 1983. Upon closure of Brown-Sternberg Animal Hospital in 2002, Bill joined the staff at Goodwin Animal Hospital and remains there presently.

Bill has been an active member of the veterinary community where he served as President of the CAVMA and currently serves as Board Member of the Alabama VMA and has been a member of both organizations for 50 years. In addition, he was the recipient of the ALVMA Service Award in 1992. He is also a member of the AAHA and a lifetime member of the American VMA. He has been Chairman and Treasurer of the ALVMA PAC Committee, served on the Grievance Committee of the ALVMA and served on the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners for 9 years of which he served as President for one year.

Dr. Sternberg raised Brangus cattle for many years and served as President of the Alabama Brangus Breeders Association as well as Board Member of the American Brangus Breeders Association. He's a member of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association and served as President of the Lowndes County Cattlemen's Association.

Bill and DeeDee have two children, Randy and Margaret, and five grandchildren. In addition to spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren, and many close friends, Dr. Sternberg enjoys hunting and fishing and



From left to right, Dr. Hank Lee (2018-19 ALVMA President), Dr. Bill Sternberg, and Dr. Hale Pate

visiting his beach home in Grayton Beach, FL.

## LAYPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Linda Keller, LVT, awarded to a non-veterinarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession and the Association.

Ms. Linda Keller has 42 years' experience in the veterinary profession. Ms. Keller started her career as the receptionist at Nall Animal Hospital working up to veterinary assistant. She and a colleague were both licensed through the Veterinary Technician program when the program was newly implemented. Ms. Keller then worked at Alford Avenue Veterinary Hospital until 2017 and currently works in communications at Veterinary Specialists of Birmingham.

Ms. Keller has been involved in work at the downtown Emergency Animal Clinic serving as their secretary for a nine-year span. She has also worked with K-9 obedience and agility throughout the years.

Ms. Keller grew up hearing about WWII from her dad and loves all things patriotic so much that she sits on the Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo and has served on their board for 6 years.

She has worked with the Southern Veterinary Conference in Birmingham, AL with Dr. Allen



From left to right, Dr. Hank Lee (2018-19 President of ALVMA), Linda Keller, LVT, and Dr. T.C. Branch (2018-19 President of ALVMF)

Riley for over 20 years for the annual CE for veterinarians, technicians, and office managers.

## SPECIAL AWARDS:

Dr. John Hammons, awarded to individuals for exceptional and outstanding service to the veterinary medical profession.

Dr. Hammons received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1977. His first four years of practice (1977-1981) were

Continued on page 26



From left to right, Dr. Hank Lee (2018-19 President of ALVMA), Dr. John Hammons, and Dr. Steven Murphree (2018-19 ALVMA Board Member at Large).

spent working with a mixed practice, lots of dairy farms, in Jefferson City, Tennessee. In 1981 he purchased an existing practice back in his hometown of Athens and opened Town and Country Animal Hospital.

Dr. Hammons is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, an Associate Member of AAHA, and of the Alabama VMA. Since 1982 he has served numerous times in different capacities as an officer of the North Alabama Veterinary Medical Association as well as the ALVMA where he was awarded the 2017 Service Award.

Dr. Hammons has been a Rotarian since 1986. He has served as an officer for seven years in the Rebel States Archaeological Society which involves him in his personal hobby of amateur archaeology and collecting Native American artifacts. He sometimes enjoys gardening and sometimes it is just another job.

He and Peggy (AU '76, HEQ) were married in 1973 and survived vet school together. Peggy became a part of the practice in 1981, starting with anything from assisting with large animal practice up to now with a more management position. They do not have children, but over the years have had a variety of four legged and feathered children and none more loved than their current rescued mixed breed named Howard.

### SERVICE AWARDS:

Five 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 2019 Awards Luncheon.

**Shelby Agnew, DVM of Huntsville, AL;** Dr. Agnew was presented the Service Award because of her unwavering dedication spent on the ALVMA's Power of Ten program in 2018. Dr. Agnew graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2013 and became a member of the ALVMA in 2016. At that time, she was a participant in

ALVMA's Power of Ten program. In 2017, she was asked to lead the Power of Ten program for the 2018 year. She also attended AVMA's VLC as ALVMA's Emerging Leader in January of 2018. During her leadership, Dr. Agnew breathed new life into the program, helping to pave the way for future program chairs. She currently works in North Alabama as a relief veterinarian and is a member of the Madison County VMA. Most recently, she accepted the position of Constituent Representative of the Madison County VMA for the ALVMA Board and she is also member of the ALVMA



Dr. Belinda Eckhoff, accepting the 2019 ALVMA Service Award.

Legislative Committee.

**Belinda Eckhoff, DVM of Birmingham, AL;** Dr. Eckhoff was presented the Service Award because of her willingness to faithfully take on one of the more thankless tasks of a veterinary association. She has been treasurer of the Jefferson County VMA for some years. In that time she has greatly modernized the system for payments and receipts. As a member of the Jefferson County VMA, she provides a calm, well reasoned voice for all actions of the association. Dr. Eckhoff graduated from Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2008 and has been a dedicated member of both the Jefferson County VMA and the ALVMA for many years. She currently works at the Red Mountain Animal Clinic in Birmingham, AL.

**Pamela Guy, DVM of Auburn, AL;** Dr. Guy received the Service Award for her service and dedication to the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Association and her local veterinary community. Dr. Guy has worked at Tuskegee College of Veterinary Medicine as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences for over 30 years. She has dedicated her time and commitment to the clients and veterinary students at TUCVM. She serves as a Community Practice clinician and she also serves as the chair person for the TUCVM Small Animal Health Fair each year. She has served as a mentor for Pre-Vet and Vet students over the years. Dr. Guy has also served as a constituent member for the Tuskegee VMA for years and is an active member of the ALVMA, serving as the Chairperson for the Small Animal Committee for many years.



Dr. Pamela Guy accepting the 2019 ALVMA Service Award

**H. Winston Pirtle, Sr., DVM of Montgomery, AL;** Dr. Winston Pirtle was presented the Service Award for his long-standing dedication to the association and for his years of service as the AVMA Alternate Delegate. Dr. Pirtle has spent his lifetime in service to the ALVMA, holding most, if not all, positions of the association at some point during his career. His most recent contribution has been as the AVMA Alternate Delegate where he has served for almost 8 years. Dr. Pirtle graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1967 and has been a member of ALVMA for more than 40 years. Dr. Pirtle currently works as a Relief Veterinarian in and around the Montgomery area and most recently has been appointed as the Co-Chair of the Alabama Veterinary Wellness Program.



Dr. Ralph Womer, accepting the 2019 ALVMA Service Award.

**Ralph Womer, DVM of Auburn, AL;** Dr. Womer was presented the Service Award for his dedication to ALVMA and for unselfishly giving of his time during his term as ALVMA Treasurer. Dr. Womer choose to put his retirement on hold in order to step into the role of Treasurer when the association needed him most. Dr. Womer helped to establish new policies and by-law changes that helped to clarify responsibilities of the Treasurer and Executive Director. Dr. Womer received his DVM from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1969 and has served professionally as the president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association as well as vice-president, president elect and president of his local veterinary association. He also served as Treasurer on many other civic organizations throughout his career. ■

# ALVMA 2020 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 2020 Awards Program will be presented during the 2020 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, June 3 - June 7. Deadline for nominations is **January 15, 2020**.

**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 [corder.stacil@gmail.com](mailto:corder.stacil@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.

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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. Tom Dawkins**  
**Birmingham, Alabama**

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

Dr. J.D. Nall and a sick dog named Queenie

**Where did you study?**

Auburn University

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

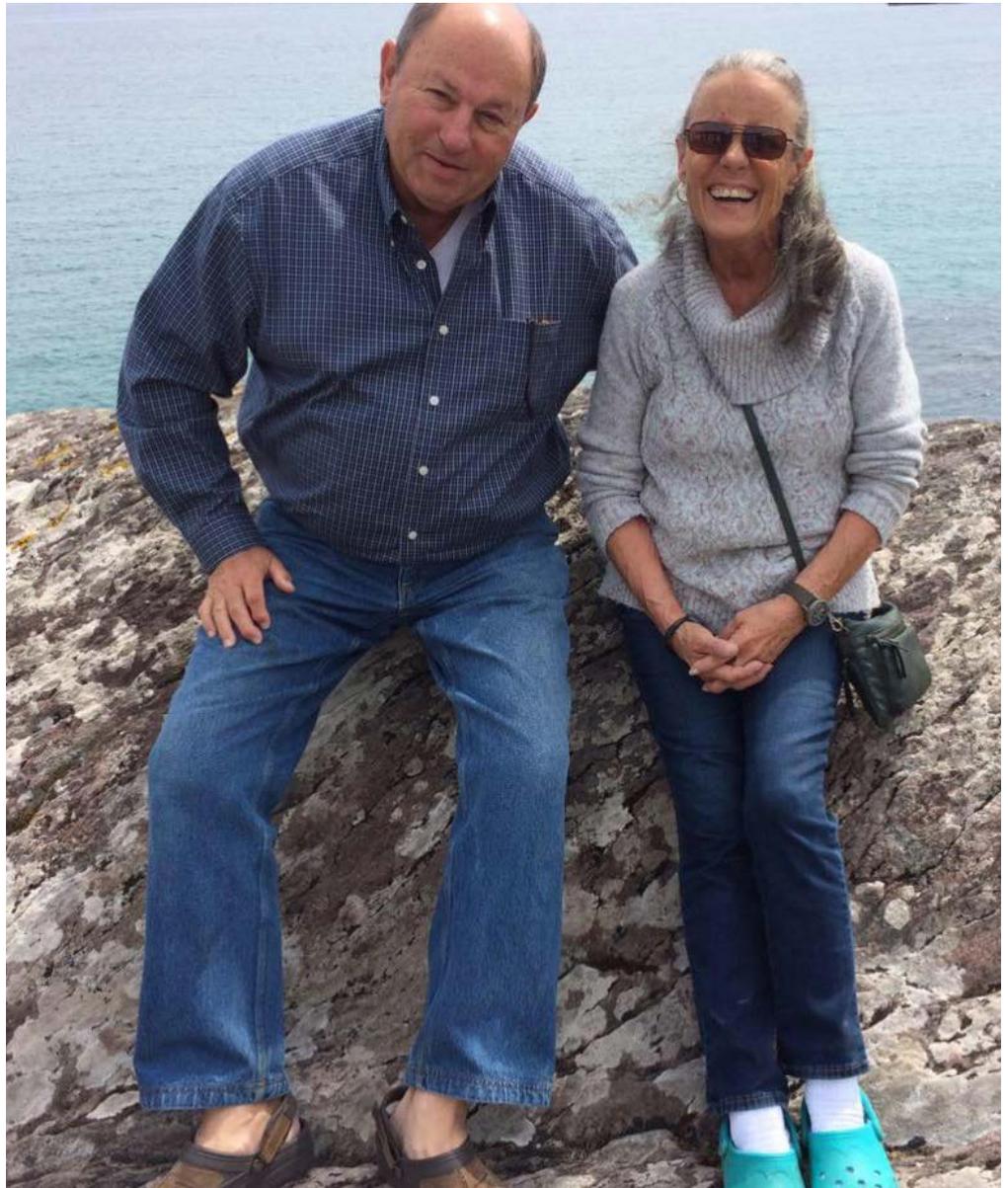
Small Animal – I did it all when I was younger but a shoulder injury changed my practice to small animal

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

I have been in Selma, AL since 1978.

**Who was/is your role model/mentor?**

My Father, Dr. J.O. Christian, Dr. Marcus Martin and Dr. David Kuykendall



**What do you enjoy most about your job?**

Everyday challenges and smiles from clients

**What is the hardest part of your job?**

Dealing with the loss of a beloved pet

**How did you get involved with the ALVMA?**

I joined in Vet School and attended C.E. for many years. I was voted by my association, JCVMA, to serve on the state executive board for several terms.

**Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?**

To support your colleagues who are doing the right things for you because you don't have the time. The ALVMA is doing its best to work for your profession and fights for us in each legislative session in Montgomery.

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

Meeting veterinarians from around the state who are selfless with ideas for now and the future as well as the quality Continuing Education offered

**What advice can you offer someone entering veterinary school?**

This is a profession of trust, always do the right thing for your patient

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

Enjoying life with my Wife

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

Saving a pair of snow leopard cubs from malnutrition and parasitism



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

Fishing or Hunting

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

New Zealand - Sheer beauty and I have been everywhere else I wanted to go

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

Marrying my wife Jo Anne

**What is your favorite quote?**

1. Will Rodgers "The smartest doctors are

Veterinarians. They are the only ones who can look a jackass in the face & tell where he hurts."

2. Dr. Marcus F. Martin "Hell Dawkins, anyone can treat an animal. The hard part is making a diagnosis"

3. Dr. David Kuykendall "If they're bitin, why hurry" or "If they ain't bitin why hurry"

**What is your simplest pleasure?**

An evening with friends - grilling & telling tales

**What has been your most unusual client/case you have had in your career?**

Snow Leopard Cubs

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

The Lost Dutchman, "Where is your mine located?"

**What book are you reading?**

"The Last Heroes" By W.E.B. Griffin

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

Vaccines and Heartworm Preventatives

**What five adjectives best describe you?**

Straight Forward, Honest, Generous, Analytical, Persistent

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

Central hospitals owned by members with outpatient clinics similar to our human counterparts

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

Took a high school girl fishing

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

Keep my mouth shut ■



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 requires veterinarians to write a prescription in lieu of dispensing a medication when requested by the client.

The AVMA will continue aggressively opposing efforts to pass this bill.

## 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 licensing requirements. Together, these groups are working to protect and improve licensure requirements for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Licensing of veterinarians and veterinary technicians is vital to protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of the public and animal patients.

## Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program Updated

The AVMA continues to advocate to protect and enhance the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which has been under scrutiny due to the incredibly low acceptance rate to date and concerns about overall costs.

On March 8, the AVMA led 127 animal health organizations in sending a letter to Congress underscoring the program's importance to the industry and asking lawmakers to protect Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

If you were denied forgiveness through PSLF or have experienced issues with the program, please share your story using the AVMA's online advocacy tools.

## Service and Emotional Support Animals

A Working Group overseen by the AVMA Steering Committee on Human-Animal Interactions is focused on coordination of care between veterinarians and mental health care providers, and education regarding the types, appropriate use, and access to public spaces accorded to these animals.

The AVMA continues to provide input to the U.S. Department of Transportation, which is working on regulations pertaining to air transport of assistance animals.

Visit: [avma.org/assistanceanimals](http://avma.org/assistanceanimals)

## Student Debt Updated

Student debt is a higher education issue and a far-reaching problem affecting not just the veterinary profession, but many other professions as well.

At the AVMA, we are working to address the debt issue and improve the overall economic picture for the profession, particularly for veterinary students and young veterinarians.

The AVMA's MyVeterinaryLife.com website helps guide veterinary students and early career veterinarians through the transition from school to a professional career.

- It contains resources and tools to help maintain wellbeing, manage personal and professional finances, and navigate the diverse career opportunities in veterinary medicine.
- It also hosts an all-new series of online modules from a student loan debt-management expert that provide advice such as how to effectively use loan calculators and other helpful tips.

The AVMA, along with the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and the Veterinary Medical Association Executives, is co-leading the Veterinary Debt Initiative.

- The goal of this initiative is to help veterinarians thrive in financially sustainable and rewarding careers.
  - Support for online student loan modules on MyVeterinaryLife.com
  - Online modules on personal finance and student loan repayment on the new AVMA Axon platform.
  - Student debt session at the 2019 Veterinary Wellbeing Summit
  - Developing a financial section as part of the AVMA's new resource for graduating senior veterinarians

The AVMA continues to focus on federal policies, advocating to help ease student loan debt and repayment burdens

## Telehealth Updated

AVMA, AAHA Veterinary Medicine Telehealth Booklet

- The AVMA and American Animal Hospital Association have teamed up to develop a booklet to help veterinarians navigate the issue of telehealth in veterinary medicine.
- "The Real-Life Rewards of Virtual Care: How to Turn Your Hospital into a Digitally Connected Practice with Telehealth" was designed to serve as a primer to help veterinarians get started on the path to becoming fully equipped, digitally connected, telehealth-ready veterinary practices.
  - Much of the content is drawn from the AVMA's Telehealth Resource Center, ([avma.org/telehealth](http://avma.org/telehealth)), which contains more in-depth information for those looking to learn more about the topic.

We continue to enhance our Telehealth Resource Center, including new case studies that demonstrate how veterinarians are using modern technology to improve patient care and meet business challenges every day.

We'll update you as new tools become available. In the meantime, we encourage you to share your own telehealth stories with us by emailing us at [telehealth@avma.org](mailto:telehealth@avma.org).

## Tracking and Monitoring (State Advocacy) Updated

Our Division of State Advocacy collaborates with the AVMA State Advocacy Committee and constituent organizations in tracking issues of importance to the veterinary profession in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, and assessing needs regarding state legislative and regulatory affairs.

We routinely send out alerts to state and allied veterinary medical associations on proposed state legislation or regulations and help VMAs address issues that are important to them.

## Enhancing the Utilization of Veterinary Technicians Updated

- Veterinary technicians are critically important members of the veterinary health care team. Their skills and expertise help both the patient and the practice, and improving veterinary technician utilization would only enhance that level of service and boost job satisfaction.
- That's why the AVMA Board of Directors approved the formation and composition of the AVMA Task Force on Veterinary Technician Utilization, whose members were recently selected.

- The task force is charged with developing a plan to improve veterinary technician utilization while recognizing the profession's challenges of financial and career sustainability, effective task delegation, and the wellbeing of both the veterinary technician and the practice.
- The task force is striving to provide a report to the Board of Directors to be shared with the House of Delegates by December 31, 2019.

NAVTA Selects AVMA as Association Management Provider

- The AVMA continues to provide association management and other support services for the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA).
- This partnership will help enhance and support the entire veterinary health care team.

The AVMA has been providing association management services for NAVTA since July 2017.

### Wellbeing Updated

The AVMA, with support from our insurance trusts, AVMA LIFE and AVMA PLIT, continues to offer QPR ("Question, Persuade, Refer") gatekeeper suicide-prevention training at no cost to AVMA and SAVMA members. To register, please visit [avma.org/qpr](http://avma.org/qpr).

The AVMA, AAVMC, and Zoetis teamed up to bring you the 2019 Veterinary Wellbeing Summit, "Putting the WE in Wellbeing," which took place November 17-19 in Rosemont, Ill., just outside Chicago.

- This summit brought together veterinary practitioners and team members, students, educators, and mental health professionals to explore what we as individuals, organizations, and practices can do to improve wellbeing in our workplaces and personal lives.
- Attendees were empowered with tools, resources, and practical ideas to take meaningful action steps in their profession and your life.
- Additional support for the summit came from Hill's Pet Nutrition and Banfield Pet Hospital.
- The summit focused on key wellbeing topics such as:
  - Assessing wellbeing across lifestyles and demographics
  - How a One Health perspective can reduce veterinary burnout and the risk for suicide
  - Understanding how generational differences can impact the team
  - Learning how to identify and refer at-risk colleagues
  - The intersection of financial health and overall wellbeing
  - Organizational and strategic plans for promoting wellbeing
  - Vulnerability and letting go of perfectionism
  - The importance of diversity and inclusion in creating a work environment that values all members of the team

AVMA wellbeing resources are available on our website at [avma.org/wellbeing](http://avma.org/wellbeing). ■

For more information on any of the topics listed in the above article, visit [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org).

**Mark Your Calendars for these future ECVC dates!**

- June 3-7, 2020
- June 2-6, 2021
- June 1-5, 2022
- May 31-June 4, 2023
- May 29-June 2, 2024
- May 28-June 1, 2025

**ALVMA**  
CONFERENCE FOR  
FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

**March 13-15, 2020**

**Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine**

## Classified Ads

**Marshall County, Alabama - Predominantly Small Animal Practice for Sale.**

Well-equipped, up-to-date 5,450sf facility with real estate. Staffed by a professional team. Steadily growing with a Gross Income of +\$888K and an estimated After-Debt-Income of +\$166K. Code: AL3.

PS Broker; 800.636.4740; [info@psbroker.com](mailto:info@psbroker.com); <http://psbroker.com>.

# 2019 Power of 10 Leadership Class Graduates!



The 2019 Power of 10 Leadership class has had an exciting year of learning and collaborating and hopefully making lasting friendships that will last a lifetime.

## Power of 10 Attends ECVC!

The 2019 Power of Ten class attended the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference in Sandestin, FL and was very involved throughout the conference. Our participants attended various hours of CE and filled an important role as moderators for the tracks throughout the conference.

On Wednesday, June 27, Dr. Laura Macedonia recognized this year's class during the annual Awards Luncheon.



Power of 10 Chair, Dr. Laura Macedonia, at the 2019 Awards Luncheon

On Thursday, the Power of Ten participants participated in a round table discussion with industry leaders speaking about their leadership journey, barriers to involvement, and different ways to stay involved in organized veterinary medicine. Panelists included Dr. T.C. Branch, Dr. Randy Davis, Dr. Alan Jones, Dr. Hank Lee, and Dr. Libby Todd. During the session, the panelists and participants also discussed legislative issues, leadership, and current topics including student debt and wellness.

ALVMA is proud to continue the Power of Ten program. If you are interested in becoming a



Power of 10 with Roundtable Participants from ALVMA.

part of the leadership class for 2020, please contact Staci Corder via email [corder.stacil@gmail.com](mailto:corder.stacil@gmail.com) or via phone 334.603.6227.

## Power of 10 "Climbs Mt. Debt" for Financial Wellbeing

On August 29, 2019, the ALVMA Power of Ten leadership class gathered around their computers for their final official meeting of the year. Dr. Tony Bartels from the VIN Foundation hosted the webinar entitled "Climbing Mt. Debt: Integrating Student Loan Repayment Into a Personal Financial Wellness Plan." Dr. Bartels instructed the class on how to navigate and objectively assess the rapidly evolving student loan repayment options. Acknowledging that this process can be a challenge and a significant source of stress for the busy veterinary practitioner. This session described how you can use your debt-to-income ratio, your average monthly student loan interestaccrual, your income and family

size information, and your short- and long-term career and family plans to cater an income-driven repayment option that allows you to integrate student loan repayment into a strong financial wellness plan. For more information regarding financial wellbeing, contact the Veterinary Information Network, 777 W. Covell Blvd., Davis, CA 95616; e-mail: [tonyb@vin.com](mailto:tonyb@vin.com).

## Meet the 2019 Power of Ten Graduates



### Brett Brooks, DVM

**School and Graduation Year:** Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine 2009

**Company Name:** West Gate Veterinary Hospital



**Location:** Enterprise, AL

**Type of Work:** Associate Veterinarian, companion animal

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

"I am grateful for the POT program because of how much I truly learned about myself and for the professional guidance on how to foster more positive interactions with those who see and experience things differently."



**Megan Goldman, DVM**

**School and Graduation Year:** Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine 2018

**Company:** Saraland Veterinary Clinic

**Location:** Saraland, AL

**Type of Work:** Mixed Animal

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

"This program has become a valuable asset in my daily management of leadership roles as well as effective interactions with both my staff and clients."



**Lynlee Nichols, DVM**

**School and Graduation Year:** Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine 2018

**Company Name:** East Montgomery Animal Hospital and Carmichael Road Animal Clinic

**Location:** Montgomery, AL

**Type of Work:** Small Animal

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

"The POT program really increased my confidence in my leadership abilities and taught me how to handle personalities that are different from my own and to better understand their work process."



**Destinee Bearden Patterson, DVM**

**School and Graduation Year:** Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine 2008

**Company Name:** Pell City Animal Hospital

**Location:** Cropwell, AL

**Type of Work:** Mixed Animal

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

"The Power of 10 program is great for those veterinarians who want to have additional exposure and training with different leadership methods. I highly recommend it!"



**Nathan Putman, DVM**

**School and Graduation Year:** University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine 2012

**Company Name:** Countryside Veterinary Hospital

**Location:** Toney, AL

**Type of Work:** Small Animal

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

"Through the POT program I was able to grow

valuable leadership and interpersonal skills that will allow me to be more successful both professionally and personally."



**Amy Sanders, DVM**

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

**Company Name:** Countryside Veterinary Hospital

**Location:** Toney, AL

**Type of Work:** Small Animal General Practice

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

"I learned more about myself as a leader in the community and how I can better my practice both with stronger clientele interactions and team building among the staff."



**Laura Macedonia, DVM**

**2019 Power of 10 Program Chair**

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

**Company Name:** Banfield Pet Hospital

**Location:** Decatur, AL

**Type of Work:** Small Animal

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

"I've had a great experience leading this group of fantastic young professionals! I can't wait to see how they lead our state and profession!" ■

# Auburn University

College of Veterinary Medicine  
www.vetmed.auburn.edu

Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine continues to make a difference for people and animals throughout the region and beyond. The latest news from the College includes examples of its reach.

## Auburn CVM Plays Pivotal Role in Human Clinical Trial

For more than four decades, researchers at the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine's Scott-Ritchey Research Center have sought a cure for GM1 gangliosidosis, a rare, neurodegenerative disease found in animals and humans. Today, Dr. Doug Martin, professor in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, and a team of his fellow Scott-Ritchey Research Center scientists believe they have found an effective treatment for the disease. His research, an extension of work begun in the 1970s by mentors and fellow Auburn alumni Dr. Henry Baker and the late Dr. Nancy Cox, is a gene therapy to produce enzymes found missing in GM1 and Tay-Sachs-related cases.

Building on the original research, Dr. Martin and his team—which includes University of Massachusetts Medical School researchers Dr. Miguel Sena-Esteves and Dr. Heather Gray-Edwards, DVM, previously a post-doctoral student and faculty member at Auburn—have

successfully extended the life expectancy of cats by more than five times compared to non-treated GM1 cats with the use of gene therapy, a non-harmful viral vector to produce enzymes missing in GM1 and Tay-Sachs-related diseases. In December 2018, the gene therapy product was licensed to Axovant Gene Therapies Ltd. (Nasdaq: AXGT), a clinical-stage company developing innovative gene therapies.

Less than a year later, the first human clinical trial is currently underway. This gene therapy is the first treatment developed at and licensed by Auburn University to go to human clinical trials, and Dr. Martin was at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., in May to watch the first child in the clinical trial receive the treatment. "This treatment is extremely promising because it has worked well in GM1 mice and cats, and it is delivered by a single IV injection that takes less than an hour. We're hopeful that the treatment makes a real difference for patients and their families. As the trial progresses and more patients are treated, we'll have a good idea of whether the gene therapy helps children as much as it has helped the animals. That is certainly what we're hoping for."

## Auburn CVM Student Awarded Fulbright Scholarship

Auburn University doctoral student Katie Izenour, who is pursuing a doctorate in the College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Pathobiology, has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship. She will spend a year in Egypt conducting research on human and animal interaction from the public health perspective.

"I believe the Middle East is particularly underrepresented in



Fullbright Scholarship Winner, Katie Izenour

international conversations about public health preparedness and response," Izenour says. "I hope my research on zoonotic infectious diseases will fill valuable knowledge gaps and provided a platform for other organizations to collaborate with Egyptian researchers."

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to build lasting connections between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential.

## Annual Conference, Vaughan Equine Conference



Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine held its 112th Annual Conference, in conjunction with the 14th annual John Thomas Vaughan Equine Conference, Oct. 17-20 at The Hotel at Auburn University. More than 600 attendees attended this year's conference. The program offered professional continuing education in various disciplines of small animal, farm animal, and equine veterinary education, and specifically designed CE courses for veterinary technicians. Attendees had the opportunity to earn up to 20 hours of continuing education credit. Florida Pharmacy CE was also offered. Ten class reunions were held for the members of the classes from 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014. ■



Dr. Henry Baker, standing, director emeritus of the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine's Scott-Ritchey Research Center who was instrumental in the early research into GM1 gangliosidosis, with Dr. Doug Martin and Porter Heatherly, an Auburn infant who died of the disease in November 2016, but who continues to be an inspiration for the Auburn researchers involved in the clinical trial.

## Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine Awards 49 DVM Degrees and Honors Four Distinguished Alumni

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine celebrated the accomplishments of 49 graduates during its third annual spring commencement on May 4 in the Tuskegee University Chapel. Seventeen of the 49 graduates were conferred their degree with honors.

During the ceremony, four alumni were also honored and presented the Distinguished Veterinary Alumni Awards on behalf of the college by Tuskegee University President Lily D. McNair and Dean Ruby Perry.



Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Class of 2019 Graduates

Harold Davis, DVM, Ph.D., an experienced veterinary pathologist, leader in the veterinary medicine industry and 1976 veterinary medicine alumnus, challenged the graduates in his keynote address as this year's commencement speaker. In addition to Dr. Davis' inspiring message to the graduates, Dean Perry, honored him and four other alumni with the Distinguished Alumni Award. The recipients included: Dr. Theodore "Ted" Cohn '75, has devoted more than forty years of service to the veterinary medical profession and has served as a past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association; Dr. Phillip D. Nelson '80 currently serves as dean and professor of immunology at the Western University of Health Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine and past recipient of the 2016 Senator John Melcher, DVM Leadership in Public Policy Award from the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges; and Dr. Nathaniel Powell, Jr. '80 currently serves as chief of Comparative Medicine and attending veterinarian at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Tuskegee Veterinary Alumni Association Visit Newly Established Center of Excellence for Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Security

Excited to show the newly established Center of Excellence for Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Security (COE-FAFSFS) in

# Tuskegee University

College of Veterinary Medicine  
www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed

the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM), Dean Perry took members of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association on a tour of the center. The Center was conceived and initiated by Dean Ruby Perry on March 23, 2019, with a goal of playing a vital role in Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Security in the State. Alabama's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture including food animals (poultry and beef) and aquaculture. The Center is targeted to play a significant role in supporting Alabama's Agriculture and has a potential to take a leading role in keeping the State's food supply safe, by using the college's patents for array of food pathogen detection prior to food distribution.



Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association Members pose with faculty and staff of the new Center

Dr. Woubit S Abdela, who serves as the center's director notes that the center has been established in keeping with Tuskegee University's mission to serve the global society as well as the regional and campus community and beyond through the development of outreach programs that are compatible with the University's educational mission, that improve understanding of community problems, and that help develop relevant alternative solutions."

"The primary mission of the Center is to provide outstanding training to our professional DVM students and the graduate students both in the College of Veterinary Medicine and in the College of Agriculture, Environmental and Nutritional Sciences. Importantly, the center will strive to educate livestock farmers we serve in the broad areas of better herd health

management practices not only control & prevent animal diseases including zoonotic diseases," Abdela said.



ALVMA Leaders with TUCVM Class of 2023 during their Leadership Day.

## ALVMA Participates in TUCVM's 2019 Freshmen Leadership Day

TUCVM's Class of 2023 was appreciative to the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) for participating in the 2019 TUCVM Freshmen Leadership Day on August 20 for VMED 800-01, "Introduction to the Veterinary Profession, Veterinary Law & Ethics, and Financial Literacy;" Dean Ruby L. Perry, instructor/host. Representatives from the ALVMA included:

- Dr. Tony Frazier, Alabama State Veterinarian
- Dr. T. C. Branch, President of Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation (ALVMF)/ Alabama Veterinary Medical Examiners State Board member
- Dr. Alan Jones, President, ALVMA
- Dr. Jan Strother, AVMF Board of Directors
- Dr. Libby Todd, Alabama Delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- Dr. Hank Lee, Immediate Past President-ALVMA
- Dr. Jerome Williams, Director of the Alabama Veterinary Professional Wellness Program (AVPWP)
- Dr. Laura Macedonia, ALVMA Power of Ten Committee ■

**SAVMA Sponsored Student Club Fair**

Fall 2019 has kicked off for the Auburn SAVMA Chapter. The Class of 2023 was welcomed with open arms at the AUCVM Club fair. Over 30 groups gathered to demonstrate the many opportunities available to students. SAVMA orchestrates this event every year and was able to speak directly to the incoming class about the importance of organized veterinary medicine. The presentation was given by four officers who represented the Auburn student body at AVMA Convention in Washington DC. They relayed their experiences and passion for involvement within SAVMA.



SAVMA officers get ready to welcome the class of 2023 at the AUCVM Club Fair.

**SAVMA Guest Speakers**

The chapter will keep this passion alive with a stimulating seminar schedule. Dr. Amelia White will speak on how to handle angry clients.



Auburn SAVMA leadership and Tuskegee SAVMA leadership represent the state of AL with pride at a social event at AVMA Convention in DC.



SAVMA leadership pose with the check for the national All For Students program. This program provides funding to each SAVMA chapter to put on seminars and events related to leadership, professional development, wellness, and community outreach.

Dr. Anna Reddish, national SAVMA adviser, will provide national updates about SAVMA and AVMA. Dr. Dawn Boothe will lecture on the Opioid Epidemic, the effects on veterinary medicine, and alternative pain options. VIN will be sponsoring a webinar showcasing their tools for students. Joan Prittie of Project Safe will address the intersection of animal abuse and domestic violence, and to finish the series, Dr. Jay Crisman will present a seminar titled “The Resilient Veterinary Professional.”

**Professional Development**

Auburn SAVMA will also host a variety of events outside of the lecture hall, including a brand new event called the Scrub Pub Social. This event will take place at Red Clay Brewery and will focus on good food, good drinks, and a great AUCVM community. The chapter will also bring awareness to World Animal Day on Oct. 4th by celebrating animal welfare and the different movements around the world. The annual SAVMA 5K will take place in November this year and will be benefitting Shelby SafePet. This organization helps foster pets whose owners are escaping domestic violence. In addition, Auburn SAVMA hopes to further its relationship with Tuskegee SAVMA by gathering student leaders for a day at the AU Challenge Course.

With the goals of SAVMA centered on student wellbeing, professional development, leadership, and community outreach, the Auburn chapter hopes its current schedule and plans will not only meet these goals but surpass them. It intends to do so by sponsoring other AUCVM groups and continuing the Auburn SAVMA Travel Grant program.

However, none of this would be possible without the support of the following groups: AUCVM, TUCVM SAVMA, the AVMA, and of course ALVMA. WAR EAGLE! ■

# SAVMA Tuskegee

submitted by Marlee Rodgers

Upon arrival back at school in January our entire board hit the ground running with holding elections and transitioning into our new board! With our new board members, we are striving to bring more events to our students and provide co-events with Auburn.



2019 SAVMA Executive Board

## SAVMA - AVMA Life

During February, we held a joint SAVMA-AVMA LIFE event where we had Dr. Geitner and Mrs. Mandy Walker come to speak about the benefits of AVMA LIFE to our students. During the month we also partnered with Hill's Pet Nutrition at Tuskegee for an event called Macon It Happen with Hill's, and SAVMA, to allow 12 students the opportunity to help Macon County Animal Shelter complete heartworm tests, vaccinations, and more. The event was the first of a series of 3, and we hope that it will continue as an annual endeavor. Finally, we had our annual NAVLE Trivia Night, which allowed our third- and fourth-year students to participate in a fun, relaxing, trivia to help them practice for their NAVLE while also having the chance to win prizes.

## SAVMA Symposium

This past March, the SAVMA Symposium was held in Athens, Georgia. We had about 15 students attend the event, where they were able to

be engaged in wet labs, lectures, and amazing exhibitors. Tuskegee also held its annual TUCVM Alumni Symposium, where SAVMA hosted a Silent Auction. We were blessed to have an outpouring of support which allowed us to have the largest Silent Auction to date! Finally, we had a joint social event with Auburn, where our students painted and interacted



(left to right) John Delgado (TUCVM SAVMA President-Elect), Allie Ingram (AU SAVMA President), Marlee Rodgers (TUCVM SAVMA President), Amanda (AU SAVMA President-Elect)

with students across the two schools. Allie and I were thrilled to bring the two schools together with roughly 80 participants.

## SAVMA Guest Speakers

April began with having Dr. Kim Pope from 1LifeConnected come and speak about wellness within the veterinary profession and we ended the semester with our wellness events before finals, with coffee, breakfast and fun games to help students alleviate stress.

## World Travel

During the course of the Summer, our students became world travelers, with multiple groups going to Ecuador with World Vets, a research group to Egypt, and many externships that were amazing opportunities. A few members of our board, including myself, John Delgado (President-Elect) and Katie Kreider (Junior Delegate), traveled to Washington D.C. for the annual AVMA Convention, where we participated in president and delegate meeting to help to improve our local chapters while also working towards important issues within the veterinary field.

## SAVMA Week

Starting the semester off with a bang is exactly what we did at TUCVM! We hosted our annual SAVMA Week during the 2nd week of school, where we had The State of the College Address by Dean



TUCVM-Auburn Joint Paint Party

Perry, our first annual Fabulous and Fashionable Fashion Show, VIN Lunch and Learn, and a SAVMA Lunch and Learn with Dr. Anna Reddish. With our biggest attendance to date, we rounded out the week with our Back to School Bash Friday afternoon, where we provided dinner for our students, celebrated the Class of 2023, and raffled off hundreds of dollars in prizes, including 2 Partial NAVLE Reimbursements!

## Future Events

In the future months we are looking forward to hosting Fear Free for an educational lunch for our students and have members of the Alabama Board and Alabama Power of 10 to inspire our students. We are also doing a joint team building with Auburn's SAVMA E-board to promote communication and partnership between our two boards. Finally, we plan to round out our semester with wellness events before finals and partnering with Hill's Pet Nutrition to provide our students with Santa Paws, where students and pets can take pictures with Santa, to raise money for the Macon County Humane Society.

We appreciate all of the support from the Alabama Board and we hope that you will follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see what the next generation of veterinarians are doing. ■

# In memoriam

**Dr. Robert Neil Cole**, of Madison, Alabama. Robert Neil Cole, 87, a lifetime member of ALVMA and a local veterinarian for over 40 years passed away May 23, 2019.

He was loved and cherished by many people including : his wife Joyce; his children, Mike Cole (Helen), Neila Jager (David), John Cole (Connie) and Melissa Knox (Tim). He was also cherished by ten grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Madison Small Pups Rescue & Adoption, 8000 Madison Blvd., Suite D 102 #141, Madison, AL 35758, or <http://www.madisonsmallpups.org>.

## **Dr. Benjamin Franklin Hurst**

of Alexander City, Alabama. Dr. Benjamin Franklin Hurst, 81, passed away on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at his residence. He was born on March 12, 1938 in Moulton, Alabama. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Alexander City and served as a Deacon for 50 years. He graduated from Auburn University as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and practiced for over 55 years. He was also a Life member of ALVMA. He thoroughly loved his four legged and two legged clients. Dr. Hurst also served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged as a Captain. He enjoyed the outdoors, Auburn Athletics, the Atlanta Braves and traveling to all 50 states and almost all Canadian Provinces with his beloved wife. He married the love of his life 57 years ago and she still made him smile when she walked into a room. He dearly loved his children and grandchildren and was so proud of them all.



He is survived by his wife, Hilda B. Hurst of Alexander City; daughters, Robin Hurst Wells (Michael) of Sevierville, TN and Margaret Knox (Alan) of Youngsville, NC; son, Benjamin Franklin Hurst, Jr. (Beth Ann) of Panama City, FL; grandchildren, Jeremy Knox (Natalie), Miranda Nemitz (Owen), and Luke Hurst; sisters, Dorothy Lee Hurst Sneed, Betty Frances Hurst Roberson, and Mary Elizabeth Hurst Hardyman; and brother, William Lawrence Hurst.

## **Dr. James "Jim" F. Jordan, Sr.**

age 90 of Montgomery, Alabama passed away on Thursday, May 16, 2019. He was born in Marianna, Florida on April 10, 1929 and graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1957. He was married for 49 years to Betty Sanders Jordan of Clopton, Alabama. Jim started his practice in Headland, Alabama where he treated large and small animals for 16 years. He then moved to Montgomery, Alabama where he was a co-partner with Glenn Sanders at Dixie Run Animal Clinic until he retired. Dr. Jordan was a Life member of ALVMA and a veteran of the United States Army. He was a member of Frazer United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. His passions were his family, fishing, deer hunting, his garden, and Auburn Football.



He is survived by one son, Dr. Jimmy Jordan (Beth) and their three daughters, Elizabeth Jordan, Susan Maxey (Nick), and Catherine Godwin (Harrison); one daughter; Judy Jordan Crews (Greg) and their two sons, Greg Crews, Jr. (Haley) and Chad Crews (Kathryn); and two great grandchildren Madelyn and Trey Crews.

**Dr. George Fletcher Seier**, of Prattville, Alabama - Dr. George Fletcher Seier, Jr., 71, much-adored husband, father, healer, and friend, died Saturday, August 17, 2019, while vacationing at Lake Michigan with his beloved wife, Mary Susan. He was a brilliant veterinarian and veterinary surgeon, who practiced in Prattville for more than fifty years.



George graduated from the Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1972 and later established Cobbs Ford Pet Health Center, a state-of-the-art clinic. George always remained dedicated to studying and mastering new techniques, and he was the first private clinic in Alabama to offer laser surgery for animals. He was an active member of the ALVMA. He was dedicated to his work and was every animal's friend. He was a skilled horseman and loved the thrill of the foxhunt. Above all, George was devoted to his family. Steadfast, smart, and calm, he was the person everyone counted on, and he never let us down.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Mary Susan Garrett Seier; a daughter, Laura Susan Hooper Thornton and her husband, Joe; a sister, Louise Seier Poundstone and her husband, Mike; and his grandchildren, Joseph Seier Thornton, Mary George Thornton, and Dalton Cross Hooper. He was preceded in death by two sons, Dallas James Hooper and David Garrett Hooper, and by his parents, George Fletcher Seier and Page Haralson Seier.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the Prattville/Autauga County Humane Society, 1009 Rueben Road, Prattville, AL, 36067 or to Service Dogs of Alabama, 8365 Mobile Hwy. Hope Hull, AL 36043.

To contribute to the Dr. George F. Seier '72 Memorial Scholarship Fund at the AU College of Veterinary Medicine, checks should be made to the AUF and denote the scholarship in the memo line. You may also call (334) 844.1254 with additional questions.

**Dr. Glenn Fowler Sexton**, of Guntersville, Alabama, age 78 passed away on May 22, 2019 at 8:00 am. He was born on July 28, 1941 in Irvine Kentucky.

Dr. Sexton received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1970. He practiced veterinary medicine in Greenville and Cleveland, Mississippi, then later was the Program Coordinator and Professor for the Veterinary Technology Program at Snead Community College. He also worked with Jefferson State as an Independent Consultant for Veterinary Technology Program. Dr. Sexton presided over healthcare for detection dog program at Auburn and his favorite phrase was Waaaaaarrrrr Eagle!! Or "What time does the basketball game start". Dr. Sexton was a retired member of the ALVMA.

He is survived by his wife Charlene Jordan Sexton, his brother, Dr. William "Bill" Sexton (Christine), daughter, Kimberly Sexton Cooper (Chris) from: Jonesboro, Arkansas, son, Stephen Glenn Sexton (Kelly) from: Jonesboro, Arkansas, grandchildren: Brodey Stephen Sexton, Lindsey Sexton Robertson, great grandchildren: Raeleigh Anne Robertson, Stepson, John Timmons Jordan, III (Jennifer) from: Owens Cross Roads, grandchildren: John Timmons Jordan IV, Julia Catherine Jordan, stepdaughter, Marianne Jordan Wilson (John) from Birmingham, AL, grandchildren: John McLeod Wilson, Jr., Samuel Timmons Wilson. ■

# ALVMA Executive Board 2019-20

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