

Alabama Veterinarian



A Biannual Publication for ALVMA Members, Veterinary Students and Friends of the ALVMA
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**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

**2022
ECVC
June 1-5**

**Emerald Coast
Veterinary Conference**

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2021–2022

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association President

Steven T. Murphree D.V.M.



A LETTER FROM the PRESIDENT

Dear ALVMA Members,

As you read this, the ALVMA will either be completing or will just have completed our strategic planning session. As I write this, I have just spent the last three days with our colleagues, at times reminiscing our careers and life's' journey to this point and at times trying to decide where we are going. Hopefully, this reflection and exchange of personal goals will help me offer some constructive insight to the discussion at the strategic plan.

I have always felt that veterinarians are some of the greatest innovators in the world. We are the MacGyvers of the professional medical world. For those of you who do not know, Angus MacGyver was a fictional character in an 80's television program who had a superior grasp of how things worked and an uncanny ability to adapt common, readily available objects to solve sometimes complex seemingly impossible problems. Think converting the wrapper from your chewing gum into a fully functional solar panel. We, as veterinarians, are often tasked with situations where we are called upon to find a solution when no ready-made answer is available. I have seen veterinarians convert a four wheeled iron monster from Detroit into both a horse and a tree to subdue an otherwise uncooperative patient. I have seen a glitter infused superball (adequately sterilized) become an intrascleral prosthesis for a show bound filly, after injury induced phthisis bulbi threatened to end her career. After her surgery, she circled the arena with a little extra sparkle in her eye. I have seen hypodermic needles of appropriate size become intramedullary pins for pocket pets with broken limbs. Most recently, we as individuals and as a profession, have found ways to navigate the challenges of the pandemic. We have not all approached the solutions the same way and in fact sometimes, we have found multiple answers to the same questions. As an industry, we have not just survived up to this point, we have thrived. The pandemic is not over and even when and if it ever is, it will have forever changed our world and our industry. Changes and challenges are happening faster than ever and we must continue to find solutions at an accelerated pace. We must deliver what our clients and our teams expect and what our patients need in order to continue to thrive.

As we prepared for the ALVMA strategic plan, I asked everyone who had an idea to let your representative know. The plan incorporates the collective ideas of everyone in our profession who wished to participate and as a profession I am sure we will have some "MacGyver" like answers. Now comes the hard work. Now we must work together to see the plan through. As we prepare for the future, please join me and the ALVMA, as we implement the vision and goals set forth in our plan. We can do so much more together than we can do alone.

Your Colleague,

Steven T. Murphree D.V.M.
ALVMA President

Q&A Meet Your President

Dr. Steven T. Murphree • Cullman, AL



Q. What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

I grew up one generation off the farm, but I was able to participate when the local veterinarian was called to tend to the livestock for my grandparents and extended family. I loved being outdoors and working with animals so veterinary medicine seemed to be the perfect fit.

Q. Where did you study?

Cullman High School, Southern Benedictine College, Auburn University and Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine

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

I started my career with Dr. Johnny McGee at Shoal Creek Animal Hospital in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. We did primary care veterinary medicine for anything that had breath. We were a large and small animal practice with lots of beef and dairy cattle, draft and racking horses, sheep, goats, dogs, cats and exotics. I moved back to my home town, Cullman, Alabama, in 1985 and purchased

a mixed animal practice. In 1990, my associate, Dr. Terry Slaten, wanted to purchase the large animal part of the practice and I kept the small animal/exotic practice.

Q. What do you enjoy most about your job?

Seeing a patient get well and knowing I made the difference in that patient's life.

Q. What is the hardest part of your job?

Having to say good-bye to a patient I have taken care of all their life.

Q. What advice can you offer someone coming into this profession?

Keep your focus on the patients and the finances will take care of themselves. No one I know joined the profession to get rich. If you did, that was your first mistake, but by caring for the patients, you will have many colleagues and friends and you will not starve to death.

Q. What is the most memorable experience of your career?

Just two years out of Auburn and as a new practice owner in my home town, I attended a regional veterinary medical association meeting. As the new kid on the block, many of the established practitioners were trying to figure out who I was. I introduced myself, advised them of my location and said I would be competing with Big Doc Williamson, a well-known practitioner, from across town. He heard the conversation, walked over to our group, put his arm across my shoulders and advised everyone there that we were

colleagues, not competitors. I learned a lot that day about the profession, organized veterinary medicine and what it means to be a colleague.

Q. Where do you see yourself in five years?

If my health holds out and I don't become senile, I hope to still be seeing my patients and impacting people's lives for the better.

Q. What accomplishment are you most proud of?

My family. My high school sweetheart and I have been married for over forty years. We have three wonderful children who all are independent and successful in their own lives.





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

The biggest change in small animal medicine has been the way people see their pets. More and more people see themselves as pet parents, as opposed to owners. This means the new technologies and economics associated with a higher level of care are not only accepted, but expected.

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

I understand that part of the mindset that drives many of us to be veterinarians has to do with independence, therefore, in most communities, there are numerous small practices with many duplications of facilities. I wish we could work more together and pool our resources, making all of us more efficient.

Q. What motivates you to work hard?

My patients, their pet parents and my staff.

Q. Who is your role model/mentor?

My father. He instilled in me a willingness to work hard and a desire to treat other people the way I wanted to be treated. These characteristics have been evident in the way he has lived his life. At 91 years old, he is still my hero.

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

Somewhere outside. I love to travel, especially to national parks. I enjoy

photography of animals and landscapes. So, anything I can do involving the outdoors and nature is where you will find me.

Q. Aside from necessities, what is the one thing you can't live without?

My family. This seems to be a familiar theme to veterinarians.

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

My next trip was planned, pre-Covid, to the Svalbard Islands. I have an exchange student brother from Hamaroy, Norway, and we still have a plan to go visit the Svalbard Islands together when travel restrictions are lifted.

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

My Bible, a fire starter and a survival hatchet.

Q. What is the last movie you watched?

"The Lord of the Rings" trilogies. I binged watched them all before our trip to New Zealand a few years ago.

Q. What is your favorite quote?

I am not sure it is my favorite, but a quote I use a lot at work is: "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and expecting a different outcome"

Q. What is your simplest pleasure?

A 15-minute nap every day after lunch.



Q. What makes you laugh out loud?

Someone who thinks they know everything.

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

Jesus Christ. I would ask him "Why do you care about me?"

Q. What is the last book you read?

The Bible. I haven't read it cover to cover like a book, but I try to read some part of it each day.

Q. What five adjectives best describe you?

Honest, Loyal, Dedicated, Realistic Optimist, Perfectionist

Q. I still want to learn how to...

Fly an airplane. I am pretty sure the ground school classes I took as an undergraduate helped me get into veterinary school. Dr. Ted Reynolds, one of my interviewers, was a retired military pilot and we talked about airplanes for most of

the interview, and fortunately, I got in. Ground school was a good investment even though I never got around to getting my pilots license.

Q. How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

My colleague, Dr. Tom "Big Doc" Williamson, has been very involved with the ALVMA and he encouraged me to become involved with organized veterinary medicine. You can't tell Big Doc "No".

Q. Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

Once you get involved, you will see everything the ALVMA does related to advocacy and networking. There are so many people doing things behind the scenes that impact the lives and professional careers of veterinarians throughout the state. We have to realize that not all those voices are from veterinarians and not all of the voices are positive for our profession. We need our veterinarian's voices to be heard and collectively, we will have a stronger, more inclusive stance



and will be in a position to guide our profession's future.

Q. How has being a member of ALVMA helped you professionally?

I have a much better understanding of the entire profession, not just my little part. I have had the opportunity to meet and get to know many of the people working within our profession. This helps to see the many sides of the issues and helps us to form a consensus related to where we are and where we need to be. 🐾

SAVE THE DATE

June 1 - June 5, 2022
Miramar Beach, FL

Emerald Coast
Veterinary Conference

ECVC is presented by the Alabama and Georgia Veterinary Medical Associations

Public Health Interventions and Personal Freedom

Written by
Drs. Jim Wright
and John Kelliher

As the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic continues, more than 12,000 Alabamians have died of the disease. Hospital ICU's are more than 100% occupied and more than 85% of current ICU patients are unvaccinated. Patients critically ill from other conditions are being turned away from hospitals because there is no space or enough personnel to provide for their care. Circulation of the Delta Variant has played a role in prolonging this pandemic even though it appears to have similar virulence to the original SARS-CoV-2 and the present vaccines provide protection from severe disease.

Public health measures that involve prevention of disease transmission in populations often are controversial when they restrict individual freedoms. Interestingly, there was considerable resistance to mask ordinances during the influenza pandemic of 1918. Many viewed the requirement for masks as an affront to personal liberty and people were more opposed to this than to other interventions such as the closing of businesses and banning public gatherings. Public health authorities viewed the use of masks as a civic duty, but this did not dampen the push back in many cities when ordinances were proposed. Mask ordinances were particularly contentious with many citizens declaring that they would not be muzzled by being forced to wear a

mask. Compliance with ordinances was often low even in the face of increasing numbers of cases. Authorities in some cities punished people who did not comply with fines and even short jail terms, but this only further raised the ire of the public. Adherence was low even when mask ordinances were successfully passed.

Given this history, the divide on preventive measures like masks in the current pandemic is not surprising. Unlike 1918, vaccines for SARS-CoV-2 have been developed rapidly because of advances in molecular biology. There also is clear evidence that the use of masks along with social distancing are effective strategies for reducing transmission of the virus. However, the proliferation of false information by social media has added fuel

to the flames of discontent. A large segment of the population refuses to wear masks, practice social distancing and get vaccinated to prevent COVID-19.

The present emphasis on the right to choose masking and vaccination ignores the responsibility aspect of "rights". As veterinarians we understand that herd health is a result of a balanced program of immunizations and biosecurity. Since veterinarians are uniquely trusted by the public as caring health professionals we can present factual medical information to dispel some of the misinformation swirling around on social media. Veterinarians can provide a service to their clients during the pandemic by sharing with them evidence based information on public health measures that are being taken. 🐾



Photo by Atoms on Unsplash

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2020. Rapid Expert Consultation on the Effectiveness of Fabric Masks for the COVID-19 Pandemic (April 8, 2020) Accessed at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK556964/>

Gee J et al. 2021. First month of COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring – United States, December 14, 2020 – January 13, 2021. Accessed at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8344985/>

Navarro JA. 2020. Mask resistance during a pandemic isn't new – in 1918 many Americans were 'slackers'. Accessed at: <https://theconversation.com/mask-resistance-during-a-pandemic-isnt-new-in-1918-many-americans-were-slackers-141687>

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Dr. Jerome B. Williams, Director



**"LIVE IN PEACE -
NOT IN PIECES"**



Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Vaccine Approved

Written by Dr. Tony Frazier

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease serotype 2 (RHDV2) was detected in the United States in February 2020. This was the third time the disease, still classified as a foreign animal disease, has been detected since 2018. In February 2020, a domestic rabbit in New York City tested positive, followed by a rabbit testing positive in New Mexico in March. Since then multiple cases have been reported in mostly wild rabbits, but a few domestic cases have been reported. Domestic cases have recently been confirmed in California, Colorado, Florida and Georgia. The domestic cases occurred in early September 2021.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease is a viral hepatitis that does not affect humans or other species but, does have an affinity for both wild and domestic rabbits.

The cases fatality rate from RHDV2 can be 70-100 percent. Often the first sign of the disease is finding a dead rabbit. Rabbits exhibiting signs may have a fever, be reluctant to eat, show respiratory or neurological signs. The virus is spread by direct contact or contact with blood or secretions.

Until recently, the only vaccine available was manufactured in Europe. USDA would only approve the shipment of that vaccine to states where RHDV2 had been confirmed. Now there is vaccine manufactured by Medgene Labs here in the United States that has been granted conditional approval that can be granted by the State Veterinarian in states, regardless of their disease status. So far as we know, the vaccine is considered safe.

I suppose the effectiveness will prove out over the next few weeks and months.

Because I have had a lot of inquiries and questions from private practitioners here in Alabama about the availability of a vaccine, I wanted to get this information out. I have approved the vaccine for distribution to and use only by licensed veterinarians in Alabama. I am not sure if it will be distributed directly or through a distributor. If you need further information from the Medgene Labs, the contact person is Ashley Peterson. Her email address is ashley@medgenelabs.com. The company Website is: www.medgenelabs.com. And as always, if you have questions, do not hesitate to call my office: 334-240-7253. 🐾

USDA Regional Laboratory for Animal Research Marker Dedication

A historical marker dedication ceremony for the USDA Regional Laboratory for Animal Disease Research was held on Friday, October 22, 2021. ALVMA was happy to be one of the sponsors of the new marker dedicated for the Laboratory and in honor of its former Director, B.T. Simms, DVM. The research laboratory closed at this site in 1971 when a modern USDA facility was opened next to the current location of the College of Veterinary Medicine, one mile west on Wire Road. The older facility continued to be used for biological research until the entire complex was razed in 2007, making way for the Auburn University School of Kinesiology Building.

Among those in attendance were Dr. Steven Murphree, ALVMA President; Dr. Frances Kendrick, ALVMA President Elect; Dr. Randy Davis, ALVMA Immediate Past President; and Dr. Babette Dixon Authement, ALVMA Member at Large.





Welcome New ALVMA Members

Please welcome those members who have joined the Association since Spring 2021.

NEW ACTIVE

Dr. Robert Baker
Fort Payne, AL
Auburn 1983

Dr. James Bryan
Decatur, AL
Auburn 1986

Dr. Desiree Lynn Davis
Alexander City, AL
Auburn 2007

Dr. Alexander Dear
Spanish Fort, AL
Auburn 2015

Dr. Kathryn Drain
Tuscaloosa, AL
Auburn 2001

Dr. Mary W. Edmonds
Mobile, AL
Auburn 2010

Dr. Julie B. Grimes
Birmingham, AL
Auburn 1982

Dr. Richard McRae Hopper, Sr.
Auburn, AL
Auburn 1978

Dr. Bryan Arthur Murphy
Phenix City, AL
Auburn 1988

Dr. Jill Narak
Montgomery, AL
Iowa State 2005

Dr. John Rouleau
Enterprise, AL
University College, Dublin,
Ireland 2007

Dr. Kenneth Sharp
Upatoi, GA
Ross West Indies 2016

Dr. Jeff Strickland
Dothan, AL
Auburn 1992

Dr. Lee Gilbert-Trott
Rainsville, AL
Mississippi State 1996

NEW GRADUATES

Dr. Nicole Layne Close
Alabaster, AL
Auburn 2021

Dr. William Bryan Dean
Athens, AL
Auburn 2021

Dr. Ian Johnson
Odenville, AL
Auburn 2021

Dr. Mary Tress Johnson
Odenville, AL
Auburn 2021

Dr. Ellen Rawls
Huntsville, AL
Auburn 2020

Dr. Alexandria Sheppard
Hoover, AL
St. George's -
West Indies 2021

Dr. Bailey M. Wineski
Ocean Springs, MS
Florida 2021

RE-INSTATEMENTS

Dr. Jeannine Bellamy
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 1987

Dr. Mary Krothapalli
Madison, AL
Auburn 2010

Dr. Lauren C. Rowe
Montgomery, AL
Tuskegee 2011

Dr. Mark Russell
Huntsville, AL
Auburn 1982

Dr. James GW Wenzel
Auburn, AL
Auburn 1982

STUDENTS

Shelby Ackermann
Auburn 2025

Amber Acurmam
Auburn 2025

Linda Alvarenga
Auburn 2025

Deanna Nicole Arnold
Auburn 2025

Claude Campbell Ashley
Auburn 2025

Mary Hannah Barnes
Auburn 2025

Ellianna Blair
Auburn 2025

Rachel Blasko
Auburn 2025

Elijah Blevins
Auburn 2025

Jonathan Bode
Auburn 2025

Dawna Boudot
Auburn 2025

A. Kara Bowling
Auburn 2025

Brooke Boyd
Auburn 2025

Thomas Burke
Auburn 2025

Grace Butler
Auburn 2025

Marissa Casamento
Auburn 2025

Rebecca Clark
Auburn 2025

Jessie Collins
Auburn 2025

Calley Connelly
Auburn 2025

Cody Benton Davis
Auburn 2025

Allison Dees
Auburn 2025

Alena DeNardo
Auburn 2025

Ashley Dieguez
Auburn 2025

Caroline Downes
Auburn 2025

Alexandra Durham
Auburn 2025

Stephanie Eastep
Auburn 2025

Mikayla Ernest
Auburn 2025

Brianna Evans
Auburn 2025

Anna Freeman
Auburn 2025

John Houston Fuller
Auburn 2025

Courtney Garner
Auburn 2025

Caleb Garrett
Auburn 2025

Colby Gay
Auburn 2025

Julia May Galasso
Auburn 2025

Heather Brooke Griffin
Auburn 2025

Dalton Hunter Hall
Auburn 2025

Abigail Lynn Hamilton
Auburn 2025

Shalyn Hamilton
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Chelsea Hatcher
Auburn 2025

Mackensie Victoria Hicks
Auburn 2025

Shelby Horton
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Thaddeus Edward Hunter
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Startus Hutcherson II
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Jason Huber
Auburn 2025

Dominique L. Iachini
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Megan Jaros
Auburn 2025

Sarah Riley Jicka
Auburn 2025

Zoe Johns-Boehme
Auburn 2025

Abbey Johnson
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Alia Mari Jane Johnson
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Kaley Johnson
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Makensie Jones
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Lindy Knuckles
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Emily Kural
Auburn 2025

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Locke
Auburn 2025

Jared Lowe
Auburn 2025

Continued on page 12



Welcome New ALVMA Members

Sarah Lutz
Auburn 2025

Lori Lyons
Auburn 2025

Caitlin Matthews
Auburn 2025

Kimberly May
Auburn 2025

Myles McAtee
Auburn 2025

Erin Elizabeth McKenna
Auburn 2025

Alexandra B. Meier
Auburn 2025

Jessica Blakely Meier
Auburn 2025

Savanah Melch
Auburn 2025

Michelle Paulin Meza
Auburn 2025

Dallas Mitchell
Auburn 2025

Alexandra Mora
Auburn 2025

Fiona Murphy
Auburn 2025

Colton Paulson
Auburn 2025

Bailynn Peeler
Auburn 2025

Jessica Lane Perley
Auburn 2025

Danielle Powers
Auburn 2025

Dusty Lashea Pursley
Auburn 2025

Alex Ramirez
Auburn 2025

Morgan Reid
Auburn 2025

Katherine Richey
Auburn 2025

Tanya Robinson
Auburn 2025

Calista Marie Rogers
Auburn 2025

Sara Rushing
Auburn 2025

Brittany Rust
Auburn 2025

Allison Sabourin
Auburn 2025

Alexis Schumann
Auburn 2025

Samuel Seahorn
Auburn 2025

Caroline Selesky
Auburn 2025

Skyler Sensel
Auburn 2025

Kara Shacklett
Auburn 2025

Nihal Shah
Auburn 2025

Gabriel Sharp
Auburn 2025

Alesia Shepherd
Auburn 2025

Gracie Sims
Auburn 2025

Sydney Singletary
Auburn 2025

Zoe Soler
Auburn 2025

Brianna Spark
Auburn 2025

April Sparks
Auburn 2025

Kaitlyn Speights
Auburn 2025

Austin Spradlin
Auburn 2025

Madison H. Stahle
Auburn 2025

Amanda Rose Staviski
Auburn 2025

Bailey Renee Stevens
Auburn 2025

Mary Kathrine Sullins
Auburn 2025

Jillian Brooke Sympson
Auburn 2025

Kaitlin Talley
Georgia 2023

Kaylyn Telfair
Auburn 2025

Joshua Luke Thomas
Auburn 2025

Tessa Thompson
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Auburn 2025

Samantha Vaphiades
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Connor Velasco
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Zoe Vicich
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Laura Caroline Walker
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Auburn 2025

Von White
Auburn 2025

Savannah Whitecollar
Auburn 2025

Calee Wilson
Auburn 2025

Kathryn Wolfe
Auburn 2025

Zachary Wriedt
Auburn 2025

Hannah Ackerman
Tuskegee 2025

Brandynn Alston
Tuskegee 2025

Kaitlyn Boddie
Tuskegee 2025

Christina V. Bradshaw
Tuskegee 2025

Brajae Brazil
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Brianna Brown
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Tessa Noelle Burgess
Tuskegee 2025

Sheniqua Bynum
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Nadja Chavers
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Rachel Elder
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Hana Louisa Fantin
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Raven Nakai Griffin
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Mark Harden
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Winter Hardman
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Tuskegee 2025

Shelby Walton
Tuskegee 2025

Tyreena Webb
Tuskegee 2025

McCoy Williams
Tuskegee 2025



ALVMA

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association

ALVMA'S NEWEST MEMBER BENEFITS!



The ALVMA has formed a partnership with drip.vet to deliver their Live and Anytime continuing education courses to all of our members at a discounted price. Drip.vet provides many hours of both medical and non-medical CE that will be very beneficial to our members. We're happy to have them as a part of the ALVMA team and thrilled to be able to provide their courses to members at a significant discount.

Visit ALVMA.com to view all of the available courses and be sure to enter the discount code ALVMA30 to get your 30% discount. We hope you're as thrilled as we are to be able to offer all of these great CE offerings to our members!

The ALVMA has formed a partnership with HazComReady to provide a 15% discount (regularly \$600/year) on their workplace safety and compliance management platform. With the current industry staffing constraints, it is increasingly difficult to find time to manage compliance documentation needed for State Inspections and OSHA audits. HazComReady helps you save time, maintain compliance, and show you are focused on providing a safe work environment for your employees. We're happy to have them as a part of the ALVMA team and thrilled to be able to provide their platform to members at a significant discount.

Use code ALVMA when registering or call 256-410-3422 if you have any questions!



The ALVMA has provided FREE access to the Merck Manual. The Merck Manual is to be used for educational and referential purposes ONLY.

Visit ALVMA.com to access the Merck Manual.



For Educational and Referential Purposes
Only. Access FREE to all ALVMA Members.
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You will need your member login information to access.



Early Career Member Profile

Whitney Terrell, DVM • Florence, AL



Q. What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

I believe deep down I have always known I wanted to be a veterinarian since I was little. My past pets that I likely inadvertently traumatized as my pretend patients would vouch for that! As I got older and my love for science grew, I knew that being a veterinarian was who I was meant to be.

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

I practice small animal medicine with the occasional large animal from time to time. Although I love large animal medicine, being primarily small animal gives me the best work/life balance and allows me to be at home with my two little girls as they grow up.

Q. Where did you study?

University College Dublin (UCD) in Dublin, Ireland.

Q. What is something you wish you had known/learned/or been told coming out of school that you have learned in the job setting?

Veterinary school gives you the tools you need but being out in practice is where you will truly learn. You will be yelled at, be someone's crying shoulder, be shamed on social media, make a new friend, get bitten/scratched, take home a stray, lose sleep over a case, save a life... and so much more. There's no shame in asking for help, and with a good support system, you can achieve whatever you set your mind to.

Q. Who is your role model/mentor?

This is a challenging question as I have had numerous influential teachers, coaches, and friends that inspire me even to this day to be the best person I can be. However, my parents have definitely made the largest impact on my life. My mom's compassion for others and animals have made a huge imprint on me and help me to reach out and connect with my patients and clients. My dad instilled in me the importance of working hard and perseverance. It is with their guidance that I have become the woman I am today.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love creating a relationship not only with the pets I see, but also their owners. There are so many times I could be having a bad day, but a certain pet comes in, runs to me, and it makes everything better. Or a particular owner who tells me his/her latest adventure and I'm on the edge of my seat wanting to hear all the details. Getting to

watch their pets grow and play a small role in both the pet and the owner's lives is truly an honor.

Q. What is the hardest part of your job?

Wow, this actually was the most difficult to answer. Unfortunately, especially after 2020, there are so many different things that could be said - from having to battle incorrect "Dr. Google" recommendations constantly, being harassed on social media, or simply losing a patient that you gave all you had to save. To be honest, the hardest part of the job depends on the day.

Q. What advice can you offer someone just coming out of school and entering this profession?

There is nothing more valuable than finding a practice and a mentor that can assist in shaping you to be the kind of veterinarian you want to be. Find the right fit for you and that is where you will truly excel.





Q. What is the most memorable experience of your work/college career thus far?

One of my most exciting (and nerdy) experiences was being able to assist in caring for the dog that played Grey Wind, a direwolf puppy in season 1 of Game of Thrones, while at UCD.

Q. What has been the most unusual client/patient to date?

While in veterinary school, I had an alpaca patient dubbed “Rob” that had been attacked by dogs. He was so funny and we all really enjoyed taking care of him.

Q. What accomplishment are you most proud of?

My biggest accomplishments are my two girls, Rylie and Raelynn. They bring me so much joy and I love getting to watch their personalities bloom.

Q. What do you think has been the most important thing you have learned about yourself so far?

I have learned that I can do whatever I work hard and set my mind to doing, whether it be in the veterinary world or outside of it. It may not be easy, but nothing worth having or doing ever is.

Q. Where do you see yourself in five years?

I strive to be either a partner or practice owner in the coming years.

Q. I still want to learn how to...

There are still several surgeries and diagnostics that I hope to become proficient at. Ultrasonography, extracapsular CCL repair, and perineal urethrostomies are at the top of the list.

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

Doing CrossFit, camping, “buggy riding”, hanging with family and friends, and exploring new places.

Q. How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

I started as an alternate for our local VMA and took on the lead role after the previous doctor resigned.

Q. Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

The ALVMA offers numerous resources to assist veterinarians of the state and does so at a more personal level. Continuing education, wellness programs, keeping up to date with the latest legislation affecting veterinarians in the state, and more are all accessible with a membership.

Q. How has being a member of ALVMA helped you professionally?

Being an ALVMA member has allowed me to network and make connections with other veterinarians around the state, learn about veterinary-related queries that arise in our legislature, and has given me a voice to better serve the veterinary community. 🐾



Relief Veterinarians

Dr. Shelby Agnew, AUB '13

103 Canoebrook Lane
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, AUB '81

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 McDonals 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. 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
State(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
Phone: 334.791.1405
Email: erhvet@yahoo.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL, FL & GA
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Alabama, Georgia, Florida

Dr. Mike Kern, KSU '85

12415B Dauhin Island Pkwy
Codon, AL 36523
Phone: 727.514.1178
Email: mkern369@gmail.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL, FL
Kind of Practice: SA and Exotic (Medicine and Surgery)
Region of Relief: Greater Mobile Area

Dr. Stephanie Kitchens, AUB '99

6912 Heathermore Loop
Montgomery, AL 36117
Phone: 256.429.8006
Email: svhelms@hotmail.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Montgomery, AL and surroundings areas

Dr. Megan Simpson AUB '11

4530 Blairmont Drive SE
Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763
Phone: 205.532.3500
Email: Simpsme@auburn.edu
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Huntsville, AL

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 county
Additional Information: Will consider travel up to 1 hour 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

In Memoriam



Dr. Haywood "Woody" Bellingrath Bartlett died Sunday, June 13 in Montgomery, AL after a life well-lived. Born June 6, 1937, he was 84. Woody's father expected

him to follow in his footsteps and become a doctor, but Woody had his own plans and set out on a path to become a veterinarian.

He loved the cowboy life and enjoyed sharing that life with others. Upon earning his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama he spent a short time in the U.S. Army before his acceptance into Auburn University's School of Veterinary Medicine. He gained a sense of appreciation for pedigrees and breeding from Mr. Pete Reynolds, who bred American Quarter Horses for more than 70 years. His first mare was a three-in-one package purchased for \$500. And from that mare he built a legacy breeding program that won him the 2016 Zoetis AQHA Best Remuda Award for producing outstanding quarter horse bloodlines since 1958.

Early in his career he owned his own mobile veterinary practice but as his horse and cattle operation grew, he focused that practice on his own animals and started a local hardware and feed and seed store, The Feed Lot in Pike Road, AL. He held a Biannual sale which became known as a place to purchase quality home-raised weanling and yearling fillies and two-year old, started geldings as well as aged, experienced ranch horses. Woody looked forward every year to the colt-starting clinic held around his birthday and loved entertaining the many cowboys who came to assist along with potential buyers, friends and local ranchers.

With fresh cattle from his Alabama ranch at the ready, he launched into breeding and buying cutting horses, with many of his early broodmare acquisitions purchased from the King Ranch and other Texas-based breeding facilities. He later expanded his ranching operations into a 10-mile by 40-mile range in Chugwater, Wyoming, where he began infusing his long-standing ranch horse herd with cutting horse blood. Woody was intent on breeding versatile quarter horses with good bone and good minds and he was fascinated with every colt crop. The cutters that did not make his show horse program in Texas began to be sent to the ranch as broodmares, as did some of the stallions. The list of famous cutting horses in his ranch horse herd is vast, with the likes of Playgun, Dual Rey, Metallic Cat, Peptboonsmal and Handle Bar Doc blood flowing through their veins. Quick Henry, an AAA-AQHA Champion and money earner on the track, in halter and in reining was the base of his broodmare band on the ranch. He sired 54 AQHA performers from halter to racing. Quick Henry lived to a ripe old age of 36 and is buried on the ranch in Pike Road.

It was the spring each year when the colts hit the ground that excited Woody the most, and you could usually find him riding around the ranch perusing and cataloguing all the new foals. He also loved to show the Auburn University veterinarians what could be done outside a sterile clinical environment, inviting Auburn teachers and students to help with the colts every year. He was especially interested in the large animal veterinary programs at Colorado State University as well as both Auburn University and Texas A&M.

Woody also was a pilot, and late

into his life he still flew a Stearman, a Piper Cub, a Cessna as well as a Navy T-6 Texan World War II Aircraft.

He is survived by two sons, Haywood "Woody" Bellingrath Bartlett, Jr. of Fort Collins, CO and Warren Bartlett of LaGrange, WY, two grandchildren, Caroline Starr Bartlett of Michigan and Haywood "Hayes" Bellingrath Bartlett III of LaGrange, WY. He is also survived by his sister, Elmore Bartlett Inscoe of Montgomery, AL. Also survived by his former wife Ruth Barksdale Mason. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elmore Bellingrath Bartlett and Dr. Haywood Somerville Bartlett, and his second wife Kelly Bartlett.

Additional survivors include his border collie and constant companion, "Bob" B. Bartlett, and his beloved gelding, Cats a Cowboy "Little Cat."



Michael Jay Kern, age 61, passed away in Coden, AL on August 6, 2021. He was born to Joe and Vanita Kern on

October 1, 1959 in Belleville, IL. Mr. Kern was a practicing veterinarian for the last 34 years. He moved from Florida to Alabama to retire but his love of animals still kept him practicing at 3 Florida clinics. He was a loving husband, brother, and friend who will be so deeply missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Kern is preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his loving wife of 14 years, Anita Kern; siblings, Dan Kern and Kelly Kern; other relatives and many friends.

Continued on page 18

In Memoriam



Dr. Eric Russell Lewis, a beloved Montgomery veterinarian, dedicated Rotarian, husband, brother, son, uncle, pet dad and friend to so many, passed away on Oct. 4, 2021, weeks after his 56th birthday. A Celebration of Life service was held Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021, at 2 p.m. at the Shakespeare Garden at Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Eric leaves behind his wife of 29 years, Wendi Lohr Lewis. The pair met on a Halloween hayride in 1984. Back at school on Monday, Wendi asked his sister Andrea, who was a grade behind her, if Eric was seeing anyone, to which Andrea replied, "Ewww, no." After convincing Andrea to invite him to a church activity, Wendi watched him dial home and memorized his phone number so she could call to ask him out.

He also leaves behind his parents, William J. Lewis and Linda Burrell Lewis; sisters Andrea Shepherd and Meg Lewis; mother-in-law Dorothy Lohr; father-in-law Terrence L. Lohr (Julie); sister-in-law Trisha Tomlin (Scott); his nieces and nephew

Amber Shepherd Chanell (Emory), Lyle Shepherd (Kayla) and Abbie Shepherd Bush (Daniel); nephews Zachary Tomlin, Benjamin Tomlin and Joel Tomlin; great-nephew Jaxon Chanell; his Aunt Lucy Greene; and cousins Beth Greene Doss, Wesley Greene, Craig Greene (Tara), Nathaniel Greene (Sarah), Russell Burrell (Ellen), Scott Burrell (Sandy) and Chris Burrell.

Eric knew his future would involve working with animals in some way, growing up in the country helping his father in his farrier work, training horses and caring for goats and cows. He graduated from Hooper Academy in 1983 and enrolled at Auburn University Montgomery before transferring to Auburn University main campus in 1985, pursuing an Animal & Dairy Science degree on the path to becoming a veterinarian. He and his childhood friend Tom Cauthen roomed together with another Hooper alum and friend, Mitch Henry, and he and longtime friend Jim Williams attended vet school together. Those years were filled with studies and shenanigans including an epic Prank War and a bull named Maelstrom.

After earning his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, Eric began his practice at Bell Road Animal Medical Center in 1990, where he would build his career caring for pets and the people who love them. His sister, Andrea, joined the practice a short time later as office manager, and through the years he also worked with his sister Meg and nieces and nephew. Eric took his discipline seriously, eventually owning the veterinary practice and always pursuing new learning and training opportunities to improve care for his patients and their families. He was an active member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and helped establish the Alabama Practice Owners Association. 🐾

AVMA Delegate's Report

Written by Dr. Libby Todd

I am honored to serve as your AVMA Delegate and I'm glad to have the opportunity to share some updates with you. This is an exciting time for both the ALVMA and the AVMA as our organizations focus on the future and create programs that support our colleagues. Please take time to visit the AVMA website at avma.org and educate yourself about the wealth of information available to you as a member veterinarian. I look forward to continuing to serve you as your representative!

During the business meeting, nine different resolutions were dis-

AVMA Updates:

The AVMA Convention, held July 29-August 1, was virtual again this year, but the House of Delegates met in person Chicago July 29-30. A virtual option was available for members unable to attend in person. New officers were elected and the new officers for 2021-2022 are:

President:

Dr. José Arce

President-Elect:

Dr. Lori Teller

Vice President (two-year term):

Dr. Sandra Faeh

Treasurer:

Dr. Arnold Goldman

Immediate Past President:

Dr. Doug Kratt

Board of Directors Chair:

Dr. Karen Bradley

Board of Directors Vice Chair:

Dr. Ronald Gill

cussed and the topics ranged from rules for officer election campaigns to a policy on the use of prescription drugs in veterinary medicine. Detailed information about the resolutions can be found on the AVMA website. Two different topics were discussed as a part of the Veterinary Information Forum. The topics included ways to best communicate member value to our constituents and economic dynamics in the U.S. veterinary workforce.

The 2021 Economic State of the Profession Report was presented to the HOD and can be found in the AVMA online store. The AVMA Veterinary Business and Economic Forum, which took place virtually October 14-16, was an incredible success, attracting 383 live attendees. The forum began several years ago as the AVMA Economic Summit and evolved this year to reflect its comprehensive and practical focus on business issues that matter to everyday veterinary practices. The Veterinary Business and Economic Forum is the premier meeting and CE event for veterinary business owners and managers, economists, and industry leaders. It brings together veterinarians and veterinary leaders from across the profession and showcases leading-edge insight on business trends and consumer behavior, interactive dialog among attendees and presenters, and the latest data and research on issues impacting veterinary financial health.

This year's forum focused on a theme of cultivating the future by reimagining and re-envisioning veterinary practice and the veterinary profession. If you missed a session, they are all available on demand in the forum's virtual platform until December 31.

AVMA continues to offer excellent CE opportunities including on-demand courses available through AVMA Axon. The platform provides veterinarians and veterinary professionals free and reduced-price access to live and on-demand webinars, Best of AVMA Convention and Events CE courses, four certificate

programs (the Workplace Wellbeing Certificate Program, the Brave Space Certificate Program, the new Preventive Healthcare Certificate Program, and the new Disaster Business Continuity Certificate Program), and the My Veterinary Life podcast.

The AVMA Board continues to explore the critical issues surrounding DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion.) The DEI Commission is working to establish actionable goals that promote these issues throughout the veterinary community. The Board is considering several items to include in the overall AVMA strategic plan and budget for 2022. Some of the continued or new activities considered include creating opportunities for more diverse members to participate in AVMA volunteer leadership. This includes examining methods for removing perceived obstacles to participation in the AVMA at the leadership level, as well as more focused education on how to volunteer with the AVMA and other veterinary associations.

The AVMA GRD is continuing to monitor legislative issues across the country. The new AVMA Ambassador program was created to connect veterinarians directly with members of Congress so they can discuss issues that are important to the profession.

The AVMA very recently launched a newly designed website for its educational journals, adding features that make the site more practical, easier to access, and simpler to use. The newly designed AVMA journals website can be found by visiting <https://avmajournals.avma.org/>.

The 2022 Veterinary Leadership Conference is planned for January 6-9, 2022, in Chicago. It will mainly be an in-person event, but there will be some education offered virtually. The AVMA Board of Directors meeting and House of Delegates Winter Session will be in-person and will take place throughout the VLC.

The AVMA, in collaboration with

many other veterinary associations and groups, remains committed to offering members access to a wide range of resources that support healthy living and self-care. The AVMA continues to partner with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), other suicide prevention experts, and the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) to develop resources specifically for the veterinary community. In partnership with the AFSP and the AAVMC, the AVMA hosted a Suicide Prevention Roundtable on September 14 that was attended by a wide range of veterinary organizations from across the globe. The most important takeaways are that suicide is complex and multifactorial, occupation is not associated as a causal factor, and every single person in the profession can play a role in following evidence-based reporting guidelines to maximize safety and reduce risk for harm (see <https://reportingonsuicide.org/>).

The AVMF is funding disaster relief and reimbursement grants for AVMA members who are impacted or provide emergency veterinary care to animals as the result of natural disasters such as hurricanes, flooding, and wildfires. You can help those impacted by natural disasters by donating to the AVMF (avmf.org) and applying your contribution to disaster relief. The AVMF's Disaster Relief Grant program provides \$2,000 to AVMA members and students for personal emergency relief. Our Disaster Reimbursement Grant program provides \$5,000 to AVMA members for reimbursement for veterinary medical care provided following a disaster. Our COVID-19 Relief Grant program provides \$500 to AVMA members financially impacted by the pandemic. Grant support is provided to organizations, veterinary colleges, and state VMAs providing onsite emergency disaster relief.

Please feel free to contact me at lcoleman3@aol.com or (205) 790-1271 if I can answer any questions! 🐾

ALVMA 2022 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 2022 Awards Program will be presented during the 2022 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, June 1 - June 5. Deadline for nominations is **January 15, 2022**.

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, mail this form to ALVMA, PO Box 803, Fayetteville, TN 37334, or fax to 931.433.6289. Please remember to include supporting documents.

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

Date _____ Nominated by _____

From the _____ VMA, a Constituent Association

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Service Award Nominee _____

Veterinarian of the Year Nominee _____

Layman of the Year Nominee _____

Special Award Nominee _____

Distinguished Service Award Nominee _____

The Alabama Veterinary Technician Association (AVTA)

Written by Hayley Pritchard, LVT, Vice President, Alabama Veterinary Technician Association

Our Mission:

The mission of the Alabama Veterinary Technician Association is to represent and promote the veterinary technology profession within the State of Alabama. AVTA provides direction, continuing education, and support for its members and works with allied professional organizations to ensure the competent care and humane treatment of animals, as well as to ensure public welfare.

Our Commitment:

The AVTA is committed to the career growth and advancement of veterinary technicians and veterinary support staff within the State of Alabama. Whether you are a veterinary technician student, a new graduate, a veterinary assistant, a receptionist, an office manager or an experienced veterinary technician, AVTA is here for you!

AVTA Membership:

The Alabama Veterinary Technician Association welcomes and encourages new membership. We are committed to helping our members become leaders in our field by hosting continuing education programs for fellow technicians and support staff, pet emergency responder training, veterinary technology student instruction, aspects of animal shelter personnel training, community service, and more. Our members sit on the board of the ASVBME and act as liaisons to the ALVMA to ensure that our voice is being heard.

*We accept new membership applications and renewals at any time during the year, but all memberships and privileges expire December 31st of each calendar year.

Membership is available for credentialed veterinary technicians (\$25 annually), veterinarians and industry professionals (\$20 annually), and is free for students with proof of current enrollment in an accredited veterinary program (college of veterinary medicine, veterinary technology/nursing program).

AVTA is active on social media

(Facebook and Instagram) and several AVTA board members and members are connected on LinkedIn.



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alvettech/>.



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/alvettech/>



Website: <http://www.alvettech.org/>





Veteran Member Profile

Dr. Tom Williamson • Cullman, AL



Q. What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

Since I was crazy about animals from an early age, my parents steered me toward a career in veterinary medicine thinking it would be a perfect fit. I have been forever grateful.

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

I moved straight from the preceptorship at East Point Veterinary Hospital in Cullman, AL to being an associate there. The clinic was 70% ambulatory and haul-in and 30% small animal.

Q. Where did you study?

I received my B.S. from Mississippi State then completed by DVM from Auburn University CVM.

Q. Who is your role model/mentor?

Dr. Bob Hudson was a beloved large animal professor and mentor.

Q. What do/did you enjoy most about your job?

I mostly enjoy the animals, the people, the relationships. I count myself lucky to share in the care of animals of the children and grandchildren of many of my first clients.

Q. What is/was the hardest part of your job?

Not being able to help make everything well.

Q. What was your most unusual client/case you have had in your career?

I had a long-time client who was unusual because he professed

himself a self-taught animal expert. Developing plans of care with him was challenging, but his devotion to his animals was constant and real and made the effort worthwhile. He taught me patience and helped prepare me for today's era of clients with internet information.

Q. What advice would you give a new student entering the study of veterinary medicine?

Enjoy the process. Know that you may feel exhilarated one day and overwhelmed the next. That is normal because there is so much to learn. Soak in all you can and ask for help if you need it.

Q. What advice can you offer a new graduate entering this profession?

Be prepared to learn something

new every day. Treat others as you want to be treated. Get involved in your community.

Q. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Maybe a step slower, but still enjoying each day to the fullest.

Q. What is the most memorable experience of your career?

The experience of helping deliver new life – calf, puppy, kitten, piglet, foal – always memorable and always miraculous.

Q. What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Sharing a happy marriage with my best friend, Judy, and helping raise two wonderful children.

Q. What words of encouragement would you offer someone struggling with compassion fatigue or burnout?

You can be helped to cope with negative feelings. Resources are available. Rely on trusted friends, seek mental health counseling, schedule time for recreation and relaxation. Actively seek out help. Be kind to yourself.

Q. What do you think has been the most significant change/ advancement in pharmacy?

Advancements in pharmacologics for anesthesia, analgesia, and flea control.

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

I would like to see all veterinarians view one another as colleagues and never as competitors. Be available to give support and share expertise.

Q. In my spare time, you'll find me...

Phone visiting, reading, helping with cooking, following sports.

Q. I still would like to learn how to...

... improve my cooking skills.

Q. How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

Dr. Tommy Little, AU '68, invited me to join the North Alabama Constituent Association and encouraged my participation. Involvement at the state level grew from that early connection.

Q. Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

The ALVMA is focused upon the advancement of our profession and our participation is vital to the fulfillment of its mission. Membership dividends in ALVMA include keeping us abreast of legislative concerns that affect our profession, providing continuing education opportunities, and fostering contacts and cooperation with our fellow veterinarians.

Q. How has being a member of ALVMA helped you professionally?

Active participation on committees



and serving through the officer ranks helped hone the leadership skills needed for heading up a team and expanded my colleague contacts. Those contacts always spurred me to reach higher and try even harder. 🐾



ALVMF Report

Happy Holidays from the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation!

There are many reasons for all of us to be thankful this time of year, and that is especially true of your Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation! Alabama was blessed to have avoided significant natural disaster impacts for yet another year, but our resolve to maintain preparedness continues. Our CAMET trailers have been refurbished from normal wear and tear and we have initiated an on-line registry for volunteers to enter their contact info as we stand up an Alabama Veterinary Medical Emergency Response Team with the state of Alabama. Please take a moment of your time to go to our website and register at www.alvmf.org. We have also received a generous \$5,000 donation to support this effort from our neighbors at the Florida Veterinary Medical Association.



We are all so blessed to have continued success in our statewide spay and neuter license plate program, which has a new design that will be available in early 2022. Mailers and updated information along with solicitation for your hospital to participate in this landmark foundation program will be coming in the next few weeks. Our total license plate tags sales as of October 30th, 2021 is 46,458, which equates to 28,644 sterilization surgeries performed by Alabama Veterinarians, for a total reimbursement into your hospitals of \$1,628,105.00.

We are putting the final behind the scenes touches on a Urgent Care fund program and hope to have it rolled out by the spring so that ALVMA members who participate in our low-cost spay neuter program can request funding to support Urgent Care needs of their most needy clients. We encourage each of you to utilize this program, and most importantly, participate by offering your clients on Medicaid the option to utilize the spay/neuter program through our office.

We continue to support Outreach efforts and education through multiple scholarship opportunities for the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Alabama Veterinary Technician Association through the Aaron growth scholarship program and a veterinary technician scholarship program. The COVID pandemic has had an impact on all of us, and our ability to outreach, attend events, and engage with our stakeholders has not been immune to this impact. I am grateful for Linda Cargile who keeps the day-to-day operations of our foundation running smooth and keeps me and



Our total license plate tags sales as of October 30th, 2021 is 46,458, which equates to 28,644 sterilization surgeries performed by Alabama Veterinarians, for a total reimbursement into your hospitals of \$1,628,105.00.

the board of directors on track. Her continued support of our foundation, especially while I was deployed to the Middle East for the majority of 2021, is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of our board of directors in my office, we thank the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association for the continued support of our programs. We know that there are many competing interests for limited funding, and your support allows for our ancillary programs to grow and develop, enhancing support to Alabama Veterinarians and Alabama pets.

May the Holiday season be met with good health, happiness, and a fruitful new year! 🐾

Dr. Brad Fields
*Executive Director
Alabama Veterinary
Medical Foundation*

The POWER OF 10 CLASS OF 2022 Leadership Academy

COVID-19 FORCED THE POWER OF TEN PROGRAM TO BE SUSPENDED IN 2021, BUT WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL BE BACK IN FULL FORCE FOR 2022! THIS IS A GREAT PROGRAM THAT WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO BE A PART OF!

THE CONCEPT

The Power of 10 Leadership (POTL) Program is designed to cultivate leadership capacity in recent graduates and provide learning experiences that will enrich the individual and benefit the individual's practice, community, and profession.

HOW IT WORKS

The Power of 10 Leadership Program will provide ten recent graduates (graduated from a college of veterinary medicine with a DVM degree in the years 2011-2021) with four leadership development sessions over a twelve-month period. ALVMA will provide topic experts and meeting expenses at no charge for participants to attend sessions that not only convey the key learning points about leadership, but also deepen the understanding of class members on a number of related topics. Sessions will include four face-to-face sessions at fun and interesting places throughout Alabama! There may also be some additional webinar and teleconference topics that will be incorporated to enrich the experience.

We anticipate that the Power of Ten class will also create a sense of community and participants will likely build lasting bonds with other members of the leadership academy class.

KEY BENEFITS

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

- Personality assessments – understanding yourself and others to develop effective strategies to deal with different or difficult people/ colleagues.
- Self Knowledge
- Self Management
- Interpersonal effectiveness
- Communication Skills
- Managing Conflict
- Building Trust
- Financial Matters
- Professional Issues
- Wellness Matters



TO APPLY

The 2022 Power of Ten Leadership Academy is now open!!! Visit <https://www.alvma.com/page/Powerof10App> to apply today!

TESTIMONIALS

Programs like the Power of Ten were also very important in helping me grow as an individual but also being able to take those skills back to the hospital where I work and implement what I learned. ~ Dr. Nathan Putman

I recently participated in the Power of 10 Leadership Seminar offered by the ALVMA and Elanco Animal Health. Through this program, I learned more about myself and my practice style that I can utilize in the clinic setting ~ Dr. Brett Brooks

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

The Power of Ten program is intended for veterinarians who graduated within the last 10 years; other candidates may be considered based on their level of interest. Enrollment in the program is limited to 10 TVMA members per year. Members that meet this criteria will be selected on a first come, first serve basis.

CONTACT

Staci Corder at corder.stacil@gmail.com or 334-603-6227

ALVMA Legislative Committee Report

Written by

Jeff Martin, Governmental Affairs Director



The legislature gaveled into special session Monday afternoon, the last week of September, and shortly after lunch that Friday had passed and sent to Governor Kay Ivey, four of the five pieces of legislation in her Prison Infrastructure package of bills. No other legislation was considered during the 5-day session.

The package included two bills that dealt with sentencing reform and the other three addressed the \$1.3 billion price tag to build two new 4,000-bed men's prisons and a smaller female prison at a later date.

Republican lawmakers would not allow the passage of one of the two reform bills that would have allowed less than 700 nonviolent inmates sentenced under the habitual offender law to get a review of their sentencing by the parole board.

They did pass HB2 that allows for the release of certain inmates nearing the end of their sentence to mandatory supervision and would require electronic monitoring for specified periods of time. Also passing was HB4 that allows the state to borrow up to \$785 million in bonds to build two new prisons in Escambia and Elmore counties and renovate others.

Two appropriation bills, one that allows for the use of \$400 million of the state's American Rescue Plan Act money to help build those new prisons and \$135 million for prison maintenance and the purchase of a private prison facility in Perry County, also passed.

The use of COVID-19 relief funds to build prisons did not go without opposition and most House Democrats voted against the proposal.

Three new legislators were sworn into office when the legislature convened Monday. Sen. April Weaver (R-Brierfield), Rep. Kenneth Paschal (R-Pelham) and Rep. Kenyatte Hassell (D-Montgomery) were welcomed by their peers.

Two House seats remain vacant. House District 63 that includes Tuscaloosa, Northport and greater Tuscaloosa County, was previously held by Bill Poole, who was appointed State Finance Director in August. The special primary election is October 19 and the special general election will be held February 1, 2022. House District 76 became vacant after the death of Rep. Thad McClammy. The Montgomery County District will hold the special primary election November 16 and the special general election will be March 1, 2022.

The Governor is expected to call the legislature back for another special session between now and Thanksgiving for the purpose of re-districting. The first legislative day of the 2022 Regular Session will be Tuesday, January 11th.

It is election season and our legislative allies need our help. It is important that ALVMA supports those elected officials who support us. In order for us to contribute we need you to contribute to the ALVMA PAC. Donations are accepted at www.alvma.com/donations or by mailing a check to: PO Box 803 Fayetteville, TN 37334. 🐾

Best,
Jeff



2021-2022 Legislative Committee

South Central, Chair

Hank Lee
251-368-8338

Governmental Affairs Director

Jeff Martin
Voter98@aol.com
334-221-5882

Gulf Coast VMA

Babette Dixon Authement
251-928-7728

Mobile

Stephen Schneider
251-802-4144

East AL

Buddy Bruce
334-745-0060

Jefferson

Tom Dawkins
205-655-3991

Central

Ronnie Welch
334-567-4353

Madison

Lauren Van Keuren
256-348-9549

Tuskegee

Tomeshia Hubbard
205-222-7349

West

Hal Pate
334-548-2031

Southeast

Brett Brooks
706-566-2738

Colbert-Lauderdale

Matt Connolly
256-757-5376

North Alabama

Steve Murphree
256-734-2181

2021 ECVC Live Conference

The 2021 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference was not completely back to pre-Covid standards, but it was much improved from the previous year. The conference consisted of all live sessions, no virtual sessions. Attendance numbers doubled from those of 2020 reaching over 500. The exhibit hall housed 67 different companies ready to showcase the latest in veterinary supplies, pharmaceuticals, and equipment. In addition to the sessions and exhibit hall, special events were sprinkled back in the agenda. The four-day event was packed with over 20 hours of CE. All sessions were held in the morning hours leaving afternoons free to enjoy beautiful Miramar Beach.

Wednesday, July 7th, the ALVMA held its general business meeting and officer induction at 4:00pm in the Baytown Wharf Conference Center. Following the General business meeting, attendees gathered for the exhibit hall opening reception that evening.

Thursday morning opened with the Keynote Presentation, "The

Jedi Mind Trick", by Dr. Andy Roark. Attendees were then able to sit in on sessions covering Pathology, Ophthalmology, Parasitology, Gastroenterology, Feline Medicine, and USDA Modules.

Friday morning session topics included Geriatrics, Dermatology, Practice Management, Cardiology, Exotics, and Musculoskeletal. On Friday afternoon, some attendees gathered to attend an 18-hole golf match on the Baytowne Golf Course.

Saturday morning began early with a Fellowship Breakfast and Devotional sponsored by Christian Veterinary Missions that kicked off a great day of CE program to include Anesthesiology, Pharmacology, Toxicology, Infectious Diseases, Emergency Medicine/Critical Care, Wellness, and Veterinary Technician Track.

Sunday drew the conference to a close with CE programs on Nutrition, Wound Management, Compassion Fatigue, Soft Tissue Surgery, Mindfulness as well as sessions for Veterinary Technicians.

Thank you to all our sponsors

and exhibitors for your support in making the ECVC successful! Please make plans to join us for the 2022 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, June 1-5, 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, July 7, 2021, at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in conjunction with the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference held July 7 – July 11. Dr. Douglas Kratt, AVMA president, installed the new officers.

New officers were sworn in as follows: President Steven Murphree, DVM of Cullman; President Elect Frances P. Kendrick, DVM of Selma; Treasurer Susan Parsons, DVM of McCalla; Vice President Bradley Harris, DVM of Dothan and Board Member at Large Babette D. Authement, DVM of Fairhope. Randy Davis, DVM of Tuscumbia will serve as Immediate Past President. 🐾



ALVMA Officers from left to right: President Steven T. Murphree, DVM of Cullman; President Elect Frances P. Kendrick, DVM of Selma; Treasurer Susan Parsons, DVM of McCalla; Board Member at Large Babette D. Authement, DVM of Fairhope; Vice President Bradley Harris, DVM of Dothan; and Randall B. Davis, DVM of Tuscumbia Immediate Past President.



2021 Regional Meetings & Strategic Plan Update

Fall 2021 Regional CE Dinner Meetings ALVMA Well-Being Tour

This Fall the ALVMA, along with our generous sponsors at Elanco Animal Health, held various Wellness Regional CE Dinner Meetings around the state of Alabama. Dr. Heidi Hulon with Elanco Animal Health presented from a series she developed called “The Betterinar Series”. The goal of the Dinner Meetings was to promote the health and well-being of the veterinary profession while

discussing how to combat empathy exhaustion and fatigue while improving self-care. Attendees were able to earn 2 hours of CE credit for attending the presentations. Locations selected for this year’s Regional CE Dinner Meetings were Auburn, Cullman, Foley, and Montgomery. If you were unable to attend meetings in these locations, there will be a rescheduled meeting in Birmingham on Thursday, January 27, 2022. We hope to see you there!

2021 ALVMA Strategic Plan Weekend

The ALVMA Board and Staff met in Birmingham October 22nd and 23rd for a special Strategic Planning Session. The strategic planning sessions were led by facilitator Bob Harris, CAE. The strategic planning group identified specific objectives that they felt should be focused on over the next three to five years. The objectives included but are not limited to advocacy, membership, education, public and professional health, and governance. The group also changed the association’s mission statement to simplify what we do as an association. It is now much simpler and easier to remember. The ALVMA will be rolling this new mission statement out to the membership with our new marketing material and website. The board will meet again to fine tune these new goals and approve the strategic plan. As we finalize the plan, more details will emerge, and you will likely be asked to help. To form a plan is great, but to implement a plan is awesome. We will need everyone to help as we try to move our profession forward.

A special thank you to all those who volunteer in serving to protect and prosper the profession of veterinary medicine in the great state of Alabama!

The objectives "included but are not limited to advocacy, membership, education, public and professional health, and governance.





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 will be mailed to members on December 1, 2022 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.

Visit the ALVMA website for more information: www.alvma.com

LIKE US/FOLLOW US:





ALVMA'S *30th* ANNUAL CONFERENCE *for* FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

February 11-13, 2022

What is New for 2022?

New Location

We will be moving to a new venue in 2022 as part of an effort to provide even higher quality continuing education. In 2020, our inaugural year in Auburn, the entirety of the Food Animal Conference was held at Auburn University's CVM. This was a big change, as we had met at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana, AL for the past 28 years. While we all have very fond memories of the 4-H Center, due to its increasing popularity, it had become more difficult to schedule activities there. We were also very limited with the quantity and type of wet-labs we can offer at the 4-H Center. In 2022, instead of holding the entire conference at the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine, we will be holding the lecture sessions at the The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center, and the Sunday Wet Labs will be held at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. 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. Hopefully, our new venue will attract many new participants that you can network with as well as develop long lasting friendships.

Celebrating 30 Years!

This year will be the 30th Annual Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians! We will be taking a walk down memory lane,



New Location!
**The Hotel at Auburn
University and Dixon
Conference Center**

ALVMA's 30th Annual Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians



AGENDA

February 11-13, 2022

Friday, February 11, 2022

- 1:00 PM Welcome, Introductions and Orientation
Dr. Soren Rodning
- 1:10 PM Internal Parasite Control in Beef Cattle: Let's Get Practical
Dr. Christine Navarre
- 2:00 PM Pain Management in Cattle: What's the Evidence
Dr. Christine Navarre
- 2:30 PM Effects of Castration Pain Management on Calf Growth and Performance
Dr. Russell Carrell
- 3:00 PM Break
- 3:30 PM Disruptions to the Meat Production Supply Chain
Dr. Jason Sawyer
- 4:30 PM What Veterinarians Need to Know About the Secure Beef Supply Plan
Dr. Christine Navarre
- 5:00 PM Research & Extension Poster Session
Meet and Greet with Exhibitors

Saturday, February 12, 2022

- 7:30 AM Continental Breakfast
Visit with Exhibitors
- 8:00 AM Update from the US Dept. of Agriculture and Industries including a discussion on African Swine Fever
Drs. Tony Frazier and Misty Edmondson
- 8:45 AM Southeastern State Veterinarian Panel
Moderated by Dr. Tony Frazier
- 9:30 AM Break - Visit with Exhibitors
- 10:00 AM Update from USDA APHIS
Dr. Scott Squires
- 11:00 AM The Evolution and Science of Electroejaculations
Mr. Bob Green
- Noon Lunch - Visit with Exhibitors
- 1:00 PM Trace Minerals and Vitamins Diagnostics in Cattle
Speaker TBD
- 2:00 PM Title TBD
Drs. Jason Schumaker, Jody Wade, and Clay Reynolds
- 3:00 PM Break - Visit with Exhibitors
- 3:30 PM Cotton Byproducts and Nutritional Impacts on Cattle Production
Dr. Kim Mullenix
- 4:30 PM Updates from the ALVMA, Auburn CVM, Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Assn., AL Cattlemen's Association,

Alabama Farmers Federation, and the Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences

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

7:30 PM Practice Tips and Downie Awards

Sunday, February 13, 2022

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 - Attendees will participate in two wet labs of their choosing

8:00 - 10:00 AM Rotation 1

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Rotation 2

Bovine Liver Biopsies - Carson Barn
Facilitators - TBD

Sponsored by:



Bovine Field Necropsy - Thompson-Bishop-Sparks Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
Facilitators - Drs. Clay Reynolds, Jason Schumaker, Jody Wade, Heather Walz and Mr. Glenn Parks

Sponsored by:



Food Animal Barn Rounds - Wolfe Barn
Facilitator - Dr. Thomas Passler

ALVMA General Membership Meeting

Saturday, February 12, 2022

3:00pm ~ Auditorium

The Hotel at Auburn & Dixon Conference Center

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



ALVMA's 30th 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 Jan. 21)	
Full Registration			
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	\$ _____
One Day Registration (Saturday Only)			
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	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$ _____
Additional Steak Dinner Ticket Only Qty _____ x	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00	\$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

MEALS

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

- Friday, February 11 Meet and Greet
- Saturday, February 12 Cont. Breakfast Lunch Dinner
- Sunday, February 13 Cont. Breakfast

Labs

- I will attend the following labs. Please choose two.
- Bovine Liver Biopsies
 - Bovine Liver Necropsy
 - Food Animal Barn Rounds
- Once a lab has reached its max registration, it will then be closed.

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center
 241 South College Street • Auburn, AL
 Phone: 334.821.8200
Group Rate: \$129.00 *
 * Make sure to mention the ALVMA Food Animal for discount rate.

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 _____

HOW TO REGISTER

You may register online at www.alvma.com or mail to Alabama VMA, PO Box 803, Fayetteville, TN 37334 or Fax to (931) 433-6289.
 Make all checks or money orders payable to: ALABAMA VMA
 For further information contact Staci Corder by calling (334) 603-6227 or via e-mail at corder.stacil@gmail.com

Auburn University

College of Veterinary Medicine vetmed.auburn.edu

Information Submitted by
Jayne Hart
Director of Communications
and Marketing

Animal Health and Agro-/Bio-Defense Program

Auburn Vet Med is home to the new Animal Health and Agro-/Bio-Defense (AHAD) program. The program will complement and extend the impact of ongoing work in this domain as a new element in the national network of U.S. government agencies and land-grant universities focusing primarily on diseases affecting economically important domestic animals that pose a threat to public health or impact national security and economic stability locally, nationally and globally. Made possible through a collaborative Non-Assistance Cooperative Agreement, the overarching program is a five-year partnership with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS). Initial funding to Auburn is \$647,529, with planned funding of over \$2.5 million in the next five years.

NIH G-RISE Program

Auburn University has been awarded a prestigious \$1.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to broaden participation in the sciences for traditionally underrepresented students and diversify the pool of scientists earning doctoral degrees in the biomedical sciences. The five-year training award — a Graduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement, or G-RISE, grant — is administered by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, a component of the NIH, and began with the selection of four scholars for the fall 2021 semester. The G-RISE program is designed to

develop a diverse pool of scientists earning a doctorate who have the skills to successfully transition into careers in the biomedical research workforce. Programmatic activities are focused on annually recruiting, admitting and supporting highly qualified doctoral students from underrepresented groups through multiple mechanisms, with common threads of inclusive excellence and mentoring initiatives.

Three Vet Techs Receive Awards at AVTA Conference

Three Auburn Vet Med veterinary technicians were recognized at the 2021 AVTA Annual Conference on Oct. 23, 2021. Danielle Glarrow was named LVT of the Year. She is an Auburn Vet Med Small Animal Neurology Service technician and serves as secretary of the 2022-2023 AVTA executive board. Kellye Berkley was named the AVTA Outstanding Member of the Year sponsored by Banfield Pet Hospital. The award is presented to an AVTA member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and drive to further his or her veterinary career. Berkley plans to use the award to pursue a Compassion Fatigue Specialist certification. Maggie Raz, Small Animal Internal Medicine Service technician, was awarded an AVTA Veterinary Technology Distance Education scholarship. Currently a licensed veterinary technician with an associate's degree, she has returned to school to pursue a bachelor's degree in Veterinary Technology to support her future career goals of becoming an educator.



Dr. Robert Judd



Dr. Anne Wooldridge

Judd, Wooldridge Named Department Heads

Dr. Robert Judd has been named head of the Auburn Vet Med Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology. Judd has served on the faculty for the past 23 years and is professor and Boshell Chair in Diabetes and

Metabolic Diseases Research, with a joint appointment in the College of Human Sciences' Department of Nutrition. As holder of the Boshell Chair since 2001, his research has focused on the role of various hormonal regulators in the development and progression of obesity and type-2 diabetes. Dr. Anne Wooldridge has been named head of the Department of Clinical Sciences. Wooldridge has served on the Auburn Vet Med faculty for the past 14 years, during which she has served as professor and associate department head for research and graduate studies. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, her research addresses equine vascular and metabolic disease, with special interests in laminitis and advancement of regenerative therapies in horses.

2021 Annual Conference & J. T. Vaughan Equine Conference

In a change from the previous year's virtual conferences, the Auburn Vet Med welcomed attendees to campus Sept. 16-18 for the 2021 Annual Conference and J.T. Vaughan Equine Conference. This year's gathering continued a tradition of 114 consecutive years of continuing education provided by the Southeast's oldest veterinary program. More than 460 attendees from across the U.S. attended the conferences, which provided opportunities for Auburn alumni, faculty, students, veterinary technicians and other veterinary professionals from across the nation to participate in cutting-edge continuing education sessions and professional networking opportunities.

The 2021 program offered more than 85 hours of professional sessions in various disciplines, including courses designed specifically for veterinary technicians. Sessions were led by some of the nation's top veterinary professionals from



the fields of veterinary education, research and business. This year's keynote speaker was Greg Williams, head coach of the Auburn Equestrian Team, who has led the team to six National Collegiate Equestrian Association overall national championships and four Southeastern Conference titles in his 26-year career at Auburn.

Continuing another Annual Conference tradition, Thursday's sessions culminated in an awards ceremony honoring a group of distinguished veterinary professionals who have practiced with great skill, knowledge, energy, compassion and professionalism, recognizing those who have excelled in their profession and have enhanced the college's reputation.

2021 award recipients are: Dr. E. Muncey Pryor II '78, El Toro Award for Excellence in Food Animal Medicine; Dr. Timothy P. Stewart '79, John Thomas Vaughan Equine Achievement Award; Dr. Rory Applegate '11 and Dr. Denty Vaughn '11, Young Achiever Awards; Dr. Douglas Martin '99, Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumnus in

Academia; Dr. Mark Cheney '69, Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumnus in Private Practice; and Dr. David L. Suarez '88, Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumnus in Research and Public Practice.

In addition, more than 500 alumni from the classes of 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016, as well as the classes of 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015—who were unable to celebrate in person last year due to the pandemic—were in attendance for the 2021 class reunion celebration. Following the conclusion of conference, more than 45 employers and 150 students participated in a special Career Connect event to interact one-on-one, establish professional relationships and discuss potential job opportunities.

The 2022 Annual Conference is planned for October 20-23, 2022.

Read current Auburn Vet Med news and happenings in the latest edition of the Auburn Veterinarian magazine online at mag.auburnvetmed.com. 🐾

Tuskegee University

College of Veterinary Medicine tuskegee.edu/vetmed.com

Information Submitted by
Anissa L. Riley
Director
Office of External Affairs



USDA FAS headquarters

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Awards \$400,000 to Tuskegee University for Africa Veterinary Faculty Exchange Program

In September, it was announced that The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) received an award of \$400,000 to help improve veterinary education and research

across Africa through the Faculty Exchange Program, administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

Under this program, Tuskegee University will host ten visiting veterinary educators from different countries in Africa for a semester.

An appropriate TUCVM faculty member will mentor each visiting faculty member. Following the return of visitors to their home countries in Africa, each TUCVM mentor will make a follow up visit to the mentees home institution to observe the impact of training received by the mentee.

"TUCVM is a first-time program participant, reflecting USDA's commitment to expand the reach of its

programs and also promote equity and inclusion. USDA's international exchange programs allow us to partner with some of the United States' leading academic institutions to help developing countries strengthen their agricultural sectors," said FAS Administrator, Daniel Whitley.

FAS Administrator Whitley also noted that Tuskegee exemplifies these efforts being the first of HBCU to receive funding through the Veterinary Faculty Exchange Program and the hope is that this will inspire other HBCUs and minority-serving institutions to learn about and apply for these programs. More information about the program is available at: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/faculty-exchange-program>.



ALVMA Representatives are pictured with Dean Perry for Freshmen Leadership Day 2021. (L to R): Dr. Steven Murphree, President ALVMA, Dr. Libby Todd, AVMA Delegate, Dr. Ruby Perry, Dean TUCVM, Ms. Heather Vaughn, ALVMA Executive Director, Ms. Staci Corder, ALVMA Assistant Executive Director, and Dr. Randy Davis, Immediate Past-President, ALVMA *Some members of the ALVMA panel are not in photo. Not pictured, Dr. Tony Frazier, Alabama State Veterinarian and Tuskegee '69 alumnus Dr. Jerome Williams, representing the Alabama Veterinary Wellness program

Alabama VMA Supports Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine's Freshmen Leadership Day 2021

TUCVM thanks the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) representatives for participating in the 2021 TUCVM Freshmen Leadership Day on August 17 and visiting TUCVM's first year students (Class of 2025) in VMED 800-01, "Introduction to the Veterinary Profession, Veterinary Law & Ethics, and Financial Literacy."

TUCVM Holds 2021 Summer Programs VIRTUAL VET-STEP I AND II

The Veterinary Science Training, Education, and Preparation Institutes (VET STEP I and II)

was held virtually.

Mr. James Perry, director for the Office of Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment, oversaw the program and the following individuals served as the Program Coordinator and Camp Counselors: the VET STEP Program Coordinator was Ms. Akia Allen and the Camp Counselors included Janelle Benton (Class of 2024), Cierra Kenerly (Class of 2024), Jessica Smith (Class of 2024) and Derrel Benjamin Wilright (Class of 2025).

Besides attending various virtual lectures, students also worked on a group research project in which they were given the skills of creating PowerPoint presentations. VET-STEP has a proven track record of introducing minority high school students to the exciting careers in veterinary medicine.



VET STEP I student performs sheep brain and heart dissection at home as part of the virtual program for the summer.

VIRTUAL SERP 2021

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine's Summer Enrichment and Reinforcement Program (SERP) was held virtually for the summer of 2021, and had an impressive 48 participants consisting of 30 pre-veterinary students and 18 students in the TUCVM first-year class (Class of 2025). Also, the following four students from the second-year class (Class of 2024) worked as teacher assistants during the 2021 SERP program: Alexis Meadows, Cydney Crook, Johnathan Floyd, and Latoya Bryant. The program is under the Office of Academic Affairs where Dr. Roslyn Casimir is the associate dean.

The 2021 Virtual SERP Program was held June 1-July 2 with the closing ceremony on July 2 at 10 a.m. (CST). As a special addition, the following fourth-year students were selected to serve on a vet student life panel to lead a discussion and share their perspective of the "Vet Student Life" on July 1: John Delgado, Amarpreet Ladhari, Kaitlynn Pfeiffer, Natassjia Ragbeer, Sage Shaddox, Tysheona Cook, Janice Trotter, and Telea Wade-Lahart.

During the five-week program, students participated in various sessions and activities that introduced the highly anticipated veterinary medical curriculum along with some health and wellness activities featured sessions taught by Catrina Hoffman, FCS County Extension Agent for Macon and

Montgomery counties in Alabama. TUCVM also had the following alumni who participated in the program this summer making virtual presentations: Dr. Tiffini Brabham '93, Dr. William Draper '91, Dr. Francoise Tyler Draper '91, and Dr. William, T. Watson '65. Participants also had virtual tours to the Atlanta Zoo and Birmingham Zoo.



SERP 2021 participants enjoyed a virtual tour to the Birmingham Zoo.

TUCVM'S TVSP 2021

TUCVM held their 10-week Veterinary Research Scholars Program this summer. TVSP is a structured Summer Research Program to first, second and possibly third year veterinary students. The program introduces the students to high quality biomedical and clinical research to help them explore research as a possible career opportunity for them following their graduation from the veterinary program, or for them to remain engaged in research in their chosen career tracks. Annually, the TVSP program recruits 10-15 veterinary students in to spend their summer in TUCVM research labs.

Clinical faculty also enroll veterinary students in clinical medical research in their interest areas. Every year, one first or second year TVSP scholar also works with a mentor in the USDA National Poultry Research Laboratory, Athens, GA. As part of the educational activities organized during the summer TVSP, students visit veterinarian researchers at the CDC or other major institutions to learn about how graduates of a veterinary program can run and support biomedical research.

In June, TVSP students visited the Institute for Marine Mammal

Studies (IMMS) in Gulfport, MS. TUCVM alumna Dr. Debra Moore '87, an IMMS veterinarian, facilitated the visit. During the visit, students experienced how dolphins, sea lions, sea turtles, and a host of other aquatic species are examined and rehabilitated.

TVSP educational activities include sessions on career choices, CVs and resumes, scientific communication, poster preparation, grant writing, and presentations by external and internal speakers on scientific, clinical, or career topics.

In addition to on-campus TVSP, one to two students participate in summer research experience outside campus, mainly either in Georgia or Louisiana. Besides the summer focused TVSP research opportunities, USDA NIFA Capacity Building Grants also offer opportunities to interested DVM students to participate in research during both the academic year and summer.

TVSP is directed by the Office of Research and Advanced Studies with Dr. Temesgen Samuel and Ms. Tammie Hughley, who serves as the Office's manager/coordinator. Dr. Teshome Yehualaeshet, associate professor in the Department of Pathobiology, coordinates the BI-VSP. 🐾



TVSP students pose with alum Dr. Debra Moore '87 during summer trip to the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) in Gulfport, MS.

SAVMA Auburn

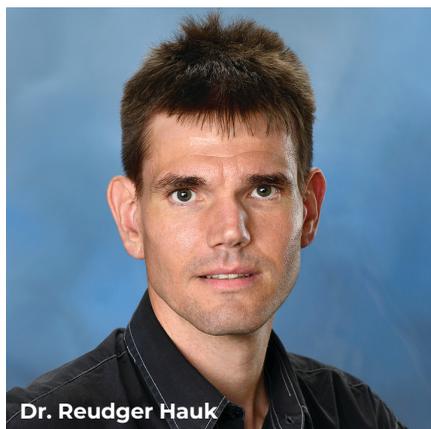
Information Submitted by
Jasmine Coleman

This fall, Auburn SAVMA has had an incredible semester filled with in-person meetings, volunteer opportunities, and continued wellness initiative activities. Organizers worked hard to increase student participation and interest in SAVMA, the AVMA, and the ALVMA. Our meetings started with an introduction to SAVMA as well as veterinary policy and legislation. We then had informative meetings about poultry diseases and zoonotic medicine, as well as a guide for students through the path to specializing. SAVMA members also had various social events and volunteer efforts in which to participate.



Dr. Anna Reddish

Our first meeting featured Dr. Anna Reddish from the AVMA who spoke about SAVMA as well as policy based veterinary work. This meeting increased student interest in SAVMA, the AVMA, and gave them a better understanding of state veterinary medical associations. In our next meeting, Dr. Reudger Hauk spoke about diseases prevalent in the poultry industry. Following Dr. Hauk, Dr. Kanyon McLean from the Montgomery Zoo gave an amazing talk about life as a



Dr. Reudger Hauk



Dr. Kanyon McLean

zoo vet and her path to where she is today. This meeting ended in the development of an internship program with Dr. McLean. Several students reached out in hopes of learning from her. We then had Dr. Robert Fingland from the Ohio State University CVM talk about the veterinary internship and residency program from students interested in specializing so they could learn more about the “Match.”

Along with these meetings, SAVMA held two fundraisers and a cooking event. The fundraisers were restaurant based where

students got to go to popular local restaurants and spend time with their friends while fundraising for SAVMA. “Cooking with a Professor” was an event where SAVMA sponsored ingredients for students to prepare a professor’s favorite meal while the professor cooked along with them. This was incredibly popular, and we plan to hold this event again! For Halloween, SAVMA held a Movie Night where students viewed a movie while enjoying goodie bags prepared by SAVMA.

SAVMA also organized two volunteer opportunities for students that allows students to give back to the community. The first was a donation drive for Shelby Safe Pets, an organization that helps domestic abuse survivors and their pets. Over two hundred items were collected to help the pets in their care while the brave domestic abuse survivors find a safer environment for themselves and their pets. Students then got to volunteer at Storybook Farms which is a local equine therapy facility where disabled youths and those from underserved communities get to find joy through equine activities.

I would like to also mention that at the end of this year, I will be transitioning out of my position and a new president will be taking over in the Spring. As always, we thank the ALVMA for their constant support and encouragement. Have a wonderful fall and WAR EAGLE. 🐾

SAVMA Tuskegee

Written by
Hayley Yeepun



This academic year at Tuskegee University began more hopeful as we moved into a hybrid learning environment. Now experts at navigating COVID, SAVMA made big plans for fall semester 2021. We had the pleasure of welcoming Class of 2025 by contributing to funding Tuskegee Orientation Leadership Experience (TOLE) and introducing them to Tuskegee's SAVMA Chapter. This event, however, was just a prelude of what was to come from SAVMA. The following are some highlights of the enriching, incredibly fun and educational events we've had thus far.

The beginning of events starting up again at Tuskegee is marked by SAVMA's annual SAVMA Week. SAVMA week is an event meant to welcome students and faculty back from a well-earned summer break. On Monday SAVMA partnered with VBMA in welcoming Ms. Mandy Walker and Dr. Linda Ellis from

AVMA Trust on a virtual platform where they discussed "Protecting You and Your Future Career/ Professional Liability and Personal Protection". On Tuesday SAVMA hosted Dr. Lauren Rowe and Dr. Annie Chavent from the AVMA on Zoom to discuss SAVMA as an organization and the benefits of membership. On Wednesday we held a virtual lunch and learn for Dean Ruby Perry's Address and Announcements from the Office of Student Affairs. On Thursday SAVMA held its annual career fair where all the diverse clubs and organizations at Tuskegee were able to share opportunities and their mission to students. Later that day we had the pleasure of speaking with Mr. Walter Brown, registered veterinary technologist, veterinary technologist specialist in Emergency and Critical Care, social media public figure, influencer, comedian and founder of SKINNI GO LIVE LLC. On the last day of SAVMA Week,

we pulled winners for our SAVMA Week Raffle and celebrated with catered ice cream from local business, Marble Slab Creamery. This week was such a wonderful way to begin the semester and many students, as well as myself, left the week in good spirits ready to succeed in the coming semester.

Early September, we were able to host Dr. Dane Whitaker, the president of PrideVMC, which is a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion affinity organization within veterinary medicine. During the virtual presentation, Dr. Whitaker told us his personal story of a transgender veterinarian to provide context for understanding the importance of personal pronouns. Later in the presentation, students were engaged in a mini pronouns workshop where we learned about personal pronoun use and awareness, as well as learned how to show up as an ally in different mis-gendering scenarios. This presentation was as impactful as it was necessary



Continued on page 40



as we are all trying to cultivate an environment of inclusiveness in veterinary medicine

To start off the month of October, we held a Zoom meeting with Dr. Ashley Gray and Dr. Monica Tarantino, two veterinarians with a strong passion for helping new graduates succeed in their transition into the real world. Dr. Gray and Dr. Tarantino used this passion to write “The New Vet Jumpstart Guide” as well as form Vets on the Rise, an organization meant to deliver books, programs and resources to help new vets thrive in veterinary medicine. In this presentation, students caught a glimpse into all the handy tips and tricks of the trade that we would get in their book. After this presentation, students felt a sense of comfort and a little less terrified of life after vet school.

Our next speaker was Dr. Lisa Greenhill, Senior Director for Institutional Research and Diversity at the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC). Dr. Greenhill also manages the DVM DiVersity Matters initiative, which promotes increased representation of underrepresented

persons in academic veterinary medicine. In her presentation to Tuskegee University, Dr. Greenhill discussed why diversity is important in veterinary medicine and how diversity and the ability to engage with different cultures allows us to be better veterinarians.

For future fall semester events, we plan to host Dr. Lynlee Nichols, Student Liaison for the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association. Our plan is to have her present on separation anxiety in dogs, which is a very prevalent topic as of recent due to the COVID pandemic and the recent increase in pet owners returning to in person work. Lastly, we plan to host Dr. Justine Lee, a board-certified specialist in both emergency critical care and toxicology and CEO and Founder of VETgirl, a subscription-based podcast and

webinar service offering RACE-approved, online veterinary continuing education. She plans on presenting a talk called “C = DVM and then what?” Additionally, travel grant applications will be going out soon offering students the opportunity to apply for funding towards their extracurricular activities this winter break that involve travel. We also continue to support our clubs by providing funding for events and donating SAVMA store items to raffles and giveaways that clubs may hold for engagement. As Tuskegee’s students and faculty start to gear up for finals season, SAVMA continues to work hard to provide a break from the rigors of veterinary school by offering career advancing, personal development, and stress relieving activities and presentations. 🐾



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 2022 legislative session.

Donations are accepted at www.alvma.com/donations or by mailing a check to:

PO Box 803
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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.

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