

Alabama Veterinarian



A Biannual Publication for ALVMA Members, Veterinary Students and Friends of the ALVMA
Fall 2020 | Volume 31 | Number 2



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SAVE THE DATE!

2021 ECVC CONFERENCE

June 2-6

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ALVMA and the Alabama Veterinarian assume no responsibility for material contained in articles and advertisements published.

ON THE COVER: Dr. Davis, and his wife Cathy Davis, DVM with their children and dog; son Will Davis and wife Ashley, son Chris Davis and wife Savannah, daughter Katie Davis and their dog, Chesapeake Retriever, Maggie.



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2020–2021

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association President
Dr. Randy Davis



A LETTER FROM the PRESIDENT

Dear ALVMA Members,

It has not been long since my last writing to you in our News-bites and 2020 continues to seemingly devolve. Our latest challenge to Alabama was Hurricane Sally which struck the Gulf coast, specifically, Gulf Shores and South Alabama. Fortunately, loss of life was minimal, but the financial and emotional impact will be felt for years to come. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with all those affected by the storm.

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation had a CAMET (Companion Animal Medical Equipment Trailer) pre-deployed for Sally and it was ready for use as determined by the assessment of the Alabama Department of Agriculture. Currently, the ALVMF is working with the Birmingham Animal Shelter to deploy assets to the area as needed.

Disaster preparedness is something we all take seriously. I think it is important for you, our members, to know what resources are available for both those who want to help and to those who are directly impacted by the disaster. The ALVMA and the ALVMF work in conjunction with each other and communication is key. The ALVMF has CAMET trailers and teams available for immediate assistance during a disaster as coordinated with the Department of Agriculture. There are available financial resources for veterinarians treating pets directly impacted by disasters and to veterinarians whose practices are directly affected by a disaster. All of this information is given in detail on the ALVMF website, ALVMF.org. For future disasters we would like to update our rosters of Disaster Animal Care Providers and house our CAMET trailers in more strategic locations. This will allow for a faster response and to quickly disseminate information before, during, and after a disaster.

Thank you to Dr. Brad Fields for his work with the ALVMF and their coordination with the Department of Agriculture. His background in Emergency Management is an invaluable asset to us. As we move forward, we realize there will always be another need. Look for more information on how we may better manage those needs and how you may be able to help.

Take Care,

Randy Davis
ALVMA President

Q&A Meet Your President

Dr. Randy Davis • Tuscumbia, AL



Q. What is the hardest part of your job?

Business management.

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

Keep an open mind. Don't pigeon hole yourself into one type of practice. I started as small animal only then worked 5 years in a mixed animal practice with a lot of stockyard work to now predominantly small animal. Be prepared to take on new challenges.

Q. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Doing what I am doing now in practice, but, maybe better and more efficiently. And traveling a little more.

Q. What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Being able to say my wife and I have raised 3 beautiful children and they have grown up to be wonderful adults.

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

Everything related to diagnostic and communication technology.

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

My first visit to a veterinarian as a child. The doctor expressed our dachshund's anal sacs and they sprayed the wall. It was great.

Q. Where did you study?

Undergraduate at the Auburn University School of Agriculture and then the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine.

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

Currently practice small animal medicine and surgery along with some exotics, pocket pets, and still a few horses. My practice chose me.

Q. What do you enjoy most about your job?

Helping clients through difficult situations and discussions.

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

There are many, especially from the large animal work I did. I have been blessed to be able to serve as a veterinarian in other countries. All of those experiences are memorable because of the satisfaction in helping others. But, the last trip of treating farm animals in remote villages in the Himalayas of Nepal was a highlight.

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

For me personally, it would be to stop stressing over mistakes and things I can't control and remember the successes which are always more numerous.





Q. What motivates you to work hard?

Fortunately, my parents instilled a good work ethic in me. Also, a little debt is a good motivator.

Q. Who is your role model/mentor?

I don't think there is a single one. It is a long list of veterinarians and people that have molded me and inspired me. A few would be the first doctor I worked for in high school Dr. Harry Brown in Montgomery. The first veterinarian I worked for out of vet school Dr. McKee in Orange Park FL, and Dr. Lynn Hagood a former partner and an inspiration.

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

Hopefully, getting a work out in at my Crossfit box or throwing bumpers to one of our Chesapeakees.

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

My Family

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

Some place in nature where it is cool, quiet, and free of people. Why, should be self explanatory.

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

Flint and steel fire starter, Sawyer water filter, and a Machete

Q. What is the last movie you watched?

I have a hard time watching a movie in its entirety, but, Guardians of the Galaxy was fun.

Q. What is your favorite quote?

C.S. Lewis "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching."

Q. What is your simplest pleasure?

Coffee in the morning

Q. What makes you laugh out loud?

Groot in Guardians of the Galaxy. There is one scene where his facial expressions and actions just kill me.

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

I know this should be some deep philosophical answer, but I would really like to ask Flip Pallot to take me Fly fishing for trout out west and saltwater flats fishing. Thus, I would be asking him how he fishes.

Q. What is the last book you read?

The Feather Thief by Kirk Wallace Johnson

Q. What five adjectives best describe you?

Quiet, reserved, loyal, and determined. My neighbor says I am an introvert. He's an extrovert, so I let him think that.

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

Fix things. I would love to be more mechanically inclined.

Q. How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

I would not be where I am now if Dr. John Hammons had not called me. I had been involved in our local association as a member and officer for years. John called to encourage me to become more involved at the State level, after a few calls I gave in, not really thinking this is what I would ultimately be doing.

Q. Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

Because the ALVMA needs more voices. Besides the tangible benefits of membership like CE etc. The ALVMA provides members a voice and our association needs all of the diverse voices of our state veterinarians for strength and relevance.

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

It has given me a greater appreciation of what goes on behind the scenes of organized medicine and how important the voices I spoke of before are; especially in promoting and protecting our profession at the State House in Montgomery. 🐾



AVMA Board of Director's Update

Submitted by Dr. Mary Ergen
AVMA BOD, District 3 • October 2020



Virtual HOD

The House of Delegates met virtually in July. During this meeting two Resolutions were passed, and officer elections were held. The newly elected officers are as follows...

President –

Dr. Doug Kratt

Past- President –

Dr. John Howe

President Elect –

Dr. Jose Arce

Vice President (2 yr term) –

Dr. Sandra Faeh-Butler

New Board members –

Dr. Seyedmehdi Mobini
District 4, Dr. Sandy Willis
District 11

HAC Chair –

Dr. Jon Pennell

HAC Vice-Chair –

Dr. Rex Anderson

New HAC members –

JP Americo, Bill Grant,
Lindsey O'Neal

Both Resolutions that were discussed were due to the 5-year review of all resolutions

Resolution 5 was concerned with transportation of research animals and the new language tightens up the language that veterinarians need to be in charge of the humane transport of all research animals.

Resolution 6 had new language to emphasize that veterinarians need to be in control of antiparasitics to decrease resistance

During the Veterinary Information Forum several concerns were voiced. Topics included
1. Covid-19 and its effect on the Quality of education for students, concerning decreased funding,

clinical studies and externships

2. Mental health challenges, parenting responsibilities and personal safety

3. Financial viability, telemedicine, loss of federal support

4. Practice preparedness, staff retention, drug shortages and cash flow

No actionable items have resulted yet from these topics

The HOD has asked the Board to focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Board will retain outside expertise and collaborate with affinity groups, academia and industry partners to take action on these issues.

Virtual Annual Convention

The annual convention was held virtually in August and had over 4000 attendees. Attendees still have until December to view the CE content that was presented. The virtual platform worked well on short notice and plans for 2021 may include some virtual components, as well as in person content.

VLC

The Veterinary Leadership Conference normally held in Chicago in January is now scheduled to be virtual. Dates are January 7-9, 2021. Registration is now open.

2020 Virtual Economic Summit

The 8th Economic Summit was held Oct. 26-28. Emphasis will be on the effects of Covid-19, telemedicine, curbside service, and other necessary innovations. This is the only event that focuses solely on the economic challenges and opportunities of veterinary medicine.

AVMF

The AVMF has been very busy monitoring not only the impact of Covid-19 but also hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and fires. AVMF partnered with VCA, Zoetis and Hills to provide grants to AVMA members as well as veterinary technicians, veterinary nurses, and other staff to help with financial difficulties experienced to individuals affected by these disasters.

Also, AVMF has partnered with Hill's to offer a new scholarship program for students at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Ongoing Issues

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Veterinary Technician Utilization
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Animal Welfare
- Disaster Preparedness
- Food Security
- Telemedicine
- Cannabis
- Covid-19
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease in the Southwest US.

New Programs Available for Members

My Veterinary Life Podcasts- weekly podcast of inspiring stories from colleagues on Axon AVMA Axon – CE, Podcasts, live webinars, Workplace Wellbeing Certificate Program, Updated Euthanasia Guidelines, Convention CE courses and new Brave Space Certificate Program Direct Connect powered by

CONTINUED on page 8



AVMA Board of Director's Update

CONTINUED from page 7

Vetcove for independent practices to compare inventory pricing at one site.

AVMA Telecast just launched September 24 in partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim which will allow AVMA members to access educational and informational videos on their mobile devices, tablets and laptops. Available free through the App store and Google Play at PetPro Tele+.

AVMA Retirement Plan launched October 1 through Transamerica available only to AVMA members.

Legislative

AVMA GRD is monitoring issues in Washington such as a stimulus package due to Covid-19 which is currently on hold due to recess of House and Senate hearing on Supreme Court Justice and may not happen until after the election.

AVMA wants a seat at the table concerning legislative topics such as: small businesses, student debt, public health, animal health, One Health, including antimicrobial resistance, stewardship and compounding. 🐾

For more info visit avma.org



ALVMF Report

Written by Dr. Brad Fields



It has been a busy time for the Foundation this summer because of the active Hurricane season! As many of you are aware, the Foundation plays an important role in disaster preparedness and response efforts within the State of Alabama. We have an even more important role this year because of the passing of a dear friend and colleague, Mr. Ben Mullins, who was the Emergency Operations Director for the Alabama Department of Agriculture a few weeks ago. In an attempt to keep continuity of operations and provide real-world support, the Foundation ramped up communication efforts with the Department of Agriculture, including State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier's office and the Emergency Operations staff support to get situational awareness and needs assessments from those impacted by Hurricane Sally.

The Foundation pushed a CAMET sheltering trailer to the panhandle as a pre-event stage so we could get into position for support if needed. We received a request for support from the City of Gulf Shores to support pet sheltering at one of their evacuation facilities almost immediately after the storm made landfall and the full impact was realized. We were communicating with the State Emergency Operations Center through the Dept of Agriculture to get exact needs and timeframe for support. Unfortunately, power outages and significant flooding were hampering our ability to respond, and as we finally got clearance to enter the area, the facility was closed and all evacuees were moved to another location, which removed the request for support.

What does this mean for the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation and our Association? We

have to step up and fill the void left by Ben and support the State of Alabama and Department of Agriculture in the Veterinary Medical Response and Recovery efforts even more. Since Hurricane Sally, both CAMET (companion animal mobile equipment trailers) have been migrated to a safe location in the panhandle and have undergone extensive upgrades and repairs to make sure they are 100% able and available to support where needed. Tires have been replaced on both units, and the roof has been resealed and upgraded to support higher winds and rainfall. Rotating and Restocking of supplies on board is an annual effort by the Foundation, but we were able to pull everything out of the trailers and get a good inventory and assure things are in working order for the future.

We appreciate the continued support of Alabama Veterinarians and the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association! We have received a \$5,000.00 donation from MWI Animal Health/AmerisourceBergen Foundation to support preparedness efforts and have a commitment from Tractor Supply Company of \$5,000.00 to help restock and enhance the CAMET trailers as well.

We are working with the Association and Dept of Agriculture to best determine how to collaborate and combine efforts. We are working on a platform that will allow individuals to register, provide their updated contact information and credentials, and upload training documents to help us maintain a Veterinary Medical Response team that can mobilize based on the needs of a disaster. This will require some training programs for the Association and non-members,



We received a request for support from the City of Gulf Shores to support pet sheltering at one of their evacuation facilities almost immediately after the storm made landfall and the full impact was realized.



delivered either through online existing courses from FEMA, virtual training events such as regional meetings, and virtual or in-person training in conjunction with other conferences. Bottom line: plenty of work ahead for all of us, but we have a great footing in place already, and the experience to pull it off.

Thanks again to our recent corporate donors, and especially to the ALVMA for the continued support.

Spay Neuter Program Update:

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation continues to support Alabama Citizens and Veterinarians through our Spay-Neuter License Plate Program. Since inception, Alabamians have purchased **41,677** specialty license plates that directly support this program! We have supported **26,758** sterilization procedures and have paid an astounding **\$1,528,705.00** directly to Alabama Veterinarians! Yep, you read correctly, over **1.5 MILLION DOLLARS!**

As of September 29, 2020, 2798 tags have been purchased, 2008 surgeries have been performed, and \$110,300.00 paid to Alabama Veterinarians. We have room to grow and support additional hospitals who want to come on board, simply call our office or email us and we can get you setup quickly. Encourage your friends and family to support the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation by selecting a Spay/Neuter license plate or boating tag the next time they renew their vehicle or boat registration! You can also donate directly to this program by doing an income tax checkoff the next time you file your Alabama State Income Taxes! 🐾

Q&A Early Career Member Profile

Dr. Caroline Barnes • Enterprise, AL



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

I honestly do not remember having that “aha moment” where I made the decision to pursue this career. Like most children, I was an animal fanatic very early on. My parents have always claimed that I started saying that I wanted to be a veterinarian around the age of 4 or 5 so I do not remember a time when I did not want to be a veterinarian. It is literally the only career I have ever envisioned for myself and I was blessed enough to have it come to fruition.

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

Predominantly small animal (dogs & cats) general practice. I do see some wildlife for a local wildlife rehabilitation center when needed, as well as the occasional pocket pet, small ruminant, or pot bellied

pig. I treat a horse every once in a while, but mainly just preventative medicine on my own horses.

Q. Where did you study?

I received an Associate's Degree in Animal & Dairy Science at Enterprise State Community College before transferring to Auburn University, where I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science. I then attended Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, where I graduated with my DVM in 2017.

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?

We are trained and educated on how to treat our patients, but I didn't really take into consideration how often we are actually “treating” the owners as well. Managing their concerns/fears, educating them, reassuring them, guiding them, etc. It adds another level of complexity to our profession that can be exhausting but also extremely rewarding and unique to the field of veterinary medicine.

Q. Who is your role model/mentor?

Dr. Kelsie Jennings. I just admire him so much. Not only is he an excellent veterinarian but he is also a devoted family man and very involved in multiple organizations in our community. He was our family veterinarian when I was growing up and from a young age coming into his clinic with my parents, I always told Dr. Jennings I wanted to be a vet. He remembered that. When I was a senior in high school, I asked him for a job and he hired me on the spot. I worked for him for two years and learned so much. I was so hungry for veterinary medicine and could not get

enough of it. I remember seeing an advertisement for NAVC (now VMX) arrive in the mail at the clinic. The idea of a huge conference dedicated entirely to veterinary medicine sounded like the most amazing event I could have ever imagined so I mentioned to Dr. Jennings how much I would love to go to something like that. Well he actually paid my registration for the conference and allowed me the time off to go with one of our licensed technicians. That meant the world to me and I soaked up every bit of knowledge I could at that conference (even though it was way over my head at the time). I absolutely loved it and it definitely encouraged me to continue working toward my goal of becoming a veterinarian.

Q. What do you enjoy most about your job?

Those gratifying, easy fixes that immediately provide relief to the patient and make your whole day.





Q. What is the hardest part of your job?

Trying to explain to owners that we have exhausted all of our options, that the pet's quality of life is poor, and that the most compassionate decision for that animal is to give him/her a peaceful goodbye. Owners don't want to feel like they are giving up on their beloved companion and I think some owners feel like euthanasia is just that.

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

Be confident enough to say yes, but do not be afraid to say no! It applies well for a lot of situations in our field.

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

The summer between my 2nd and 3rd years of vet school, I spent a week in Granada, Nicaragua, participating in a World Vets spay and neuter program. It was an incredible experience and I learned surgical techniques that I still use on a regular basis. The program was very rewarding because it has made such a huge impact on Granada and the surrounding areas by providing these spay and neuter surgeries and helping to reduce animal overpopulation. I also loved experiencing their local culture, delicious cuisine, and beautiful outdoors.

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

The most unusual/interesting patient I have ever had was a capuchin monkey. It was just a general wellness check up but it was definitely a unique experience.

Q. What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Becoming a mom! My husband and I just welcomed our first child, Weston, into the world this past February.

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

I am tougher than I thought.

Q. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Still treating dogs and cats primarily but maybe seeing a few more horses in my spare time.

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

I would love to become certified in acupuncture and/or chiropractic therapy.

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

Spending time with my family and furkids at home or at the beach.

Q. How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

I remember ALVMA representatives being present and participating in my white coat ceremony and my graduation ceremony. Surprisingly, there were only a few Alabama residents in my TUCVM class (3 or 4 out of ~75 students). That meant a lot to me that even though there were only a few "in-state"/Alabama resident students, the ALVMA still made it a priority to be involved and present for those events. I decided then that this organization was something I wanted to be a part of.

Q. Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

Veterinary medicine is constantly changing. Rules and regulations are constantly changing. ALVMA is there to serve as our advocate but they need our support and involvement.

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

It has provided me with networking and continuing education opportunities. I attended the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference in 2018 and had a great experience! Lots of excellent speakers...plus the beach! 🐾



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 McDonsals Dr.
Opelika, AL 36801
Phone: 225-938-7962
Email: partnersreliefvet@gmail.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL, GA
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Lee County, willing to travel extended distance

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

1800 Century Lane
Opelika, AL 36801
Phone: 908-884-9440
Email: devin.dd@gmail.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL, GA
Kind of Practice: SA and exotic
Region of Relief: Alabama and Georgia

Dr. Joe Fuller, AUB '67

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

Dr. Richard Green, AUB '68

233 David Drive
Montgomery, AL 36105
Phone: 334-312-5863
Email: oliviagomez927@gmail.com
State(s) where licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: Small Animal
Region of Relief: anywhere in AL

Dr. Lauren Grider, AUB '08

Huntsville, AL 35801
Phone: 256-384-6911
Email: laurengrider@dvm.com
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
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State(s) where Licensed: AL, FL & GA
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Alabama, Georgia, Florida

Dr. Mike Kern, KSU '85

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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

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

Dr. Megan Simpson AUB '11

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Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763
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Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Huntsville, AL

Dr. James Thorsen, AUB '87

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Fortson, GA 31808
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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

Veterinarians Stand Tall During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Written by

Drs. Jim Wright and John Kelliher

Most states recognized veterinary practices as essential operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Private veterinary practitioners adapted during the pandemic and continued to provide a service to their clients. Biosecurity measures including social distancing and wearing of masks were instituted and clients remained in their cars while their pets were seen. This did not occur without risk and veterinarians and their staff were occasionally infected with the virus and some died.

The FDA suspended enforcement of portions of the federal veterinarian-client-patient relationship requirements to allow veterinarians to better utilize telemedicine to address animal health needs during the pandemic. Both the AVMA and the Alabama VMA were resources for procedures to minimize transmission of SARS CoV-2 virus. Further resources were available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

The present pandemic is plagued with misinformation and mixed messages. Preventive approaches such as wearing of masks and social distancing have become politicized and advice of public health officials has been ignored. The internet has contributed by magnifying pseudoscience and conspiracy theories surrounding the epidemic.

Veterinary medicine is among the most respected professions and private practitioners develop close bonds with their clients as they care for their animals. Prac-



Biosecurity measures including social distancing and wearing of masks were instituted and clients remained in their cars while their pets were seen.

titioners can provide a valuable service during this pandemic by educating their clients concerning best approaches for prevention of transmission. Veterinarians should keep themselves informed in order to provide their clients with the best science-based information on the pandemic. A common question veterinarians may receive relates to SARS CoV-2 infection in family pets and the associated risk to the family. While infection has been documented in both dogs and cats, pets presently are believed to pose no risk to their owners; however, veterinarians need to keep themselves informed of new information that may become available. Some additional questions veterinarians might anticipate are on the reliability of

screening tests, the need to get a flu shot, the value of masks and how trustworthy is the data and recommendations from the ADPH, CDC and the FDA. Private practitioners continue to play a vital public health role during this pandemic by caring for their patients and being a reliable source of information for their clients. 🐾

RESOURCES FOR VETERINARIANS ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

<https://www.alvma.com/page/covid-19>

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.ht>



2020 ALVMA POWER OF TEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



2020 Power of Ten Program Chair **Brett Brooks, DVM**

School and Graduation Year:

Auburn University CVM, 2009

Company Name:

West Gate Veterinary Hospital

Location: Enterprise, AL

Type of Work: Small Animal

Dr. Brooks was born and raised in Blakely, Georgia where her calling to become a veterinarian was solidified as a teenager working as an assistant for a wonderful mentor. Dr. Brooks obtained her BS in Biology from Columbus State University and then attended Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, graduating in 2009. Dr. Brooks currently practices companion animal medicine in Enterprise, Alabama with an interest in geriatric medicine and soft tissue surgery. She serves as the current president and ALVMA delegate for the Southeast Alabama Veterinary Medical Association. In her spare time, she enjoys upcycling wood projects, traveling, and staying active with her always faithful and best friend, Dixie.

2020 ALVMA Power of Ten Leadership Graduates

Christine Koloup, DVM

School and Graduation Year:

University of Tennessee CVM, 2018

Company Name:

Banfield Pet Hospital

Location: Dothan, AL

Type of Work: Small Animal

Dr. Christina Koloup is from Northern Virginia and appreciated growing up outside of D.C. She attended the University of Tennessee Knoxville, where she earned a degree in Animal Science. She completed her veterinary schooling at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine and is a huge Vols fan! She is a proud Army wife and has had the opportunity to practice both in Kansas and now Alabama. She enjoys being a general practitioner and caring for pets through multiple stages of life. Her two fur-babies are a Golden Retriever mix named Indy and an Australian Shepherd named Ripken. She recently found a passion for crochet and enjoys making gifts for friends. She also likes to spend time with family and friends, as well as take her dogs on walks.

Katie Krothapalli, DVM

School and Graduation Year:

Auburn University CVM, 2010

Company Name: Madison

Veterinary Consulting, LLC

Location: Madison, AL

Type of Work: Consulting and Poultry

Dr. Katie Krothapalli is originally from Montgomery, Alabama. After graduating from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2010, she

worked as an associate veterinarian for a small animal general practice in Columbus, GA. Following that experience, she relocated to Madison, AL and worked for 7 years as a civilian Veterinary Medical Officer for the Army at Redstone Arsenal. She currently owns and operates Madison Veterinary Consulting, LLC and works as a contract veterinarian for a poultry company. She also works with DVM Consultants, LLC as the Business Development Manager for North Alabama. In her free time, she enjoys outdoor activities like hiking and kayaking and spending time with her three dogs and three cats.

Brandon Pate, DVM

School and Graduation Year:

Mississippi State CVM, 2019

Company Name: Emerald Coast Animal Hospital

Location: Mary Esther, FL

Type of Work: Small Animal

Dr. Brandon Pate is originally from Lowndesboro, Alabama. He grew up on a farm raising Charolais cattle with his dad, who is also a veterinarian, & his older brother. Dr. Pate went to Auburn University for his undergrad & graduated from Mississippi State Veterinary School. When he is not caring for animals, he enjoys golfing, playing beach volleyball, watching Auburn sports, hunting & being at the beach.

Roy Smith, DVM

School and Graduation Year:

The University of Glasgow, 2020

Company Name: Dekalb Animal Hospital

Location: Ft. Payne, AL

Type of Work: Small Animal

Dr. Roy C. Smith III was born in Birmingham and split his youth between Alabaster and Valley



Christine Koloup, DVM



Katie Krothapalli, DVM



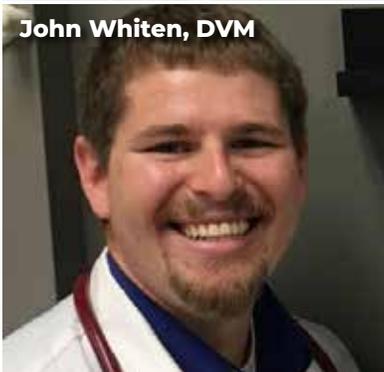
Brandon Pate, DVM



Roy Smith, DVM



Lisa Tenny, DVM



John Whiten, DVM

Head Alabama. After completing degrees from both The University of Alabama (Biology) and Auburn University (Animal Sciences & Business), Roy attended The University of Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine.

He still lives and works on the family farm in Valley Head and enjoys working with his cows. He has interest in large animal medicine, especially bovine medicine which he really enjoys on his family farm.

Lisa Tenny, DVM

School and Graduation Year:

Kansas State, 2019

Company Name: Aviagen

Location: Elkmont, AL

Type of Work: Poultry

Dr. Lisa Tenny is a 2019 graduate of Kansas State University living in Madison, Alabama. She currently works as a poultry production veterinarian for Aviagen. Dr. Tenny is an active member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP) as their Wellness Coordinator. On the weekends, she enjoys rock climbing, hiking, and watching Netflix with her two cats Taurine and Arginine.

John Whiten, DVM

School and Graduation Year:

Auburn University CVM, 2018

Company Name: 280 Animal Medical Center

Location: Westover, AL

Type of Work: Small Animal

Dr. Alston Whiten graduated from the University of Montevallo with a bachelor's degree in Biology, then earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2018. He started working at 280 Animal Medical Center after graduation. He has a special interest in ophthalmology and enjoys challenging cases. Dr. Whiten is an active member of First Baptist Pelham, where he enjoys volunteering with the student ministry.

He enjoys spending his free time wakeboarding, riding dirt bikes, snowboarding, swimming, playing and watching baseball, traveling with his wife, Meredith and playing with their son, Aiden. 🐾

2020 Power of Ten Leadership Academy

This year's POT Leadership Academy had to deal with COVID challenges just as everyone else, however; the participants were able to take part in a few great learning opportunities. In March, the group attended an Insights Discovery workshop held by Heidi Hulon with Elanco. The Insight Discovery workshop was held in conjunction with the 29th Annual Conference for Food Animal Veterinarian held in Auburn, AL. The workshop included personality assessments to help attendees learn more about their personality traits and how they will benefit them in not only working with others, but leading others as well. Later in the Summer, the group gathered via Zoom with the Tennessee Power of Ten to take part in a webinar, Climbing Mt. Debt., hosted by Tony Bartels of Veterinary Information Network (VIN). The session discussed student debt and repayment plans available, including the knowledge, resources, and tools to choose a repayment plan and formulate a strategy that works best for various circumstances. The POT members also participated as moderators during the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference that took place in August.



Welcome New ALVMA Members

Please welcome those members who have joined the Association since August 2020

NEW ACTIVE

Dr. Tracy B. Whitaker
Anniston, AL
Tuskegee 1990

Dr. John Strickland
Birmingham, AL
Auburn 1973

Dr. Traci Williams
Pelham, AL
Auburn 2007

Dr. Kathryn Stieh
Agoura Hills, CA
Auburn 1997

Dr. Raymond Paul Waldrop, Jr.
Phenix City, AL
Auburn 1992

Dr. Heidi Hulon
Auburn, AL
Auburn 1993

Dr. Tiffany Ward
Huntsville, AL (Banfield)
Auburn 2009

Dr. Meghan Harrison
Homewood, AL
Auburn 2011

Dr. Pamela Martin
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2001

NEW GRADUATES

Dr. Maj Morgan
Florence, AL
Mississippi State 2020

Dr. Krista Allison
Maylene, AL
Auburn 2020

Dr. Courtney Ransom
Russellville, TN
Mississippi State 2020

Dr. Hayley Fanning
Bessemer, AL
Auburn 2020

Dr. Sara Canada
West Lafayette, IN
Purdue 2020

Dr. Amber Chavez
Milwaukee, WI
Mississippi State 2019

NEW 3-4 YEAR GRAD

Dr. Katie Simon
Town Creek, AL
Mississippi State 2018

NEW STUDENTS

Kendall Gunderson
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2024

Leanna Hendrix
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2024

Ashton Pearson
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2024

Jake Keel
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2024

Dylan Wilson
Notasulga, AL
Auburn 2024

Tyson Wilder
Auburn, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Norma Gamez
Auburn, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Lasha Hicks
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Alexus Brianna Meadows
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Dominique Lyles
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Jazmyn Ford
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Andrey Lee Bryson
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Erica Bell
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Janelle Benton
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Paul Birmingham
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Carrie Bradford
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Savanna Bruce
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Kathryn Daniel
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Maria-Denna Darby
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Johnathan Floyd
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Lauryn Gant
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Erin Gary
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Laurielle Gibson
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Olivia Gipson
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Caylen Goldsberry
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Sydni Hampton
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

DeeJanee Harris
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Charisma Heath
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Katherine Hill
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Pauline Hunter
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Adriana Jimison
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Cierra Kenerly
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Randall King
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Callie Kuykendall
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Kayla Landers
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Jamial Miller
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Latisha Mills
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Esontay Mitchell
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Terrance Mitchell
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Monica Moore
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Kianna Muse
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Sydney Parr
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Ashley Passantino
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Deandrea Peterson
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Haylie Prottzman
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Chloe Rogers
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Morgan Roney
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Lauren Shipman
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Jessica Smith
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Sydney Turner
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Logan Walton
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Abigail Webster
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Matoaka Wilson
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2024

Sloan Blaylock
Mobile, AL
University of Glasgow
2022

Erin Harris
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2024

Sheree Deadrick
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2021

RE-INSTATEMENTS

Dr. Rachel Burt
Brierfield, AL
Auburn 2018

Dr. Chris Rehm, Sr.
Mobile, AL
Auburn 1982

Dr. Jodi Turner Bloch
Birmingham, AL
Auburn 2002



Special Announcements



Earlier this summer, ALVMA's Executive Director, Deloris Green Gaines, retired. Heather Vaughn, who was previously the ALVMA's Assistant Executive Director, stepped in the Executive Director

role. The change was made official July 1, 2020.

Since 2017, Heather has shadowed Deloris to fully prepare for the executive director role. For those who have not yet met Heather, she has been an integral part of implementing time-saving procedures at ALVMA's board meetings, helped to revive the Power of Ten program (along with the Program Chair), assisted the Awards committee in developing the new Award videos, helped the Food Animal Conference successfully move to their new location in 2020, and more recently, assisted the Georgia VMA host a successful ECVC, both in-person and virtually. Heather has a B.S. in Mass Communications from Middle Tennessee State University and

has over 15 years' experience in meeting and conference planning. Heather is excited to step into this new position and ready to meet any new challenges that may arise.

When Heather is not working, she loves spending time with her husband, Mike, and 8-year-old daughter, Natalie, on their 63-acre farm. Last year she became the leader of her daughter's Girl Scout troop, so many weekends are spent planning Girl Scout activities.

In addition to a new Executive Director, the ALVMA management office was also re-located. The phone number and mailing address remain the same, however, the physical address has changed to 1820 Huntsville Hwy, Suite C. Fayetteville, TN 37334 🐾

Emerald Coast
Veterinary Conference

2020 Virtual

Available Online Septmeber 7th - December 31st, 2020

<https://emeraldcoastvc.com/virtual-sessions/>



Cat Submitted to Auburn Diagnostic Lab

Written by
Dr. Tony Frazier

Tests Positive for SARS-CoV-2 Virus

find it difficult to imagine that the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, has not affected the life of almost every single person in the United States.

And while it is not the focal point of most of our lives, it isn't something out on the edge of the radar screen that we only think about once in a while. I am sure many of you have possibly been exposed to the virus or even tested positive. No matter what your level of involvement with the pandemic, as medical professionals, it is important for us to remain up to date on the virus, especially when questions about pets are raised.

Recently a cat was submitted to the Thompson Bishop Sparks Diagnostic Lab that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The owner of the cat had tested positive for the virus. The cat was exhibiting both neurological and respiratory signs. The cat initially tested positive on PCR for the SARS-CoV-2 virus at our lab at Auburn and was confirmed at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. The pathologists working the case at Auburn determined that the coronavirus was not the cause of death. Bacterial meningitis was diagnosed as the cause of death.

This case was a good example of using the One Health approach that is becoming widely accepted among both animal and human medical professionals. We collaborated with Dr. Dee Jones, the State Public Health Veterinarian at the Alabama Department of Public Health, along with officials at CDC and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory, an asset of the USDA. This information allows

the human side of medicine such as the CDC to be able to obtain valuable information about how the virus interacts with animals, especially household pets. Dr. Jones has been a great source of information and certainly supports a one health approach to issues like this. We are fortunate to have this relationship.

No doubt, the information on animals that become infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus is somewhat sketchy because we just don't have a significant volume of cases. However, there are a couple of important observations that we can make at this point that seem to be reliable. First, animals can get the virus but usually have underlining health issues. There have only been a small number confirmed worldwide and most of those animals have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus. Second, it appears unlikely that animals that test positive with the SARS-CoV-2 virus can infect humans.

You may have clients who have contracted COVID-19 and seek advise from you about how to interact with their pets. We suggest you pass on these guidelines that we got from Dr. Jones at Public Health.

- Avoid contact with pets and other animals, as you would around other

people.

- Arrange for another household member to care for your pets while under isolation.
- Avoid contact, such as petting, holding, snuggling and facial contact.
- Wear a mask and wash your hands before feeding or tending to your pet if you are unable to find alternate care for your pets.

Here are a few links that will provide additional information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/covid-19-pets-prevention.pdf>

If you have questions about testing for SARS-CoV-2 in animals, please contact Dr. Tony Frazier at 334-240-7253. 🐾



Photo by Mariana JM; Unsplash



2020 ECVC Live Conference

The 2020 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference was unlike any of the conferences that have preceded it. With COVID-19 still on the forefront of everyone's minds, the 2020 conference introduced many changes. ECVC held its first ever hybrid conference. Part of the conference was held in person and recorded for future use, while other sessions were prerecorded and were only available on the virtual platform. This allowed for plenty of room to social distance at the in person event. Greetings from former classmates or colleagues were not of normal hugs and handshakes but of waves and smiles from at least 6 feet apart. The conference was stripped down to sessions and exhibit hall only. There were no activities, awards banquets and alumni reunions were held virtually. All extracurricular activities were cancelled out of an abundance of caution. Even with all of the changes, the Conference held at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort still managed to host over 280 attendees for the conference span. 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, August 19th, 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. The exhibit hall hosted vendors from 37 companies.

Thursday morning opened with the Keynote Presentation, "The Veterinarian's Guide to Happiness", by Dr. Laura Smallwood. Attendees were then able to sit in on sessions covering Endocrinology, Behavior, Emergency Medicine/Critical Care, USDA Modules.

Friday morning kicked off with the Spouses' Meet and Greet Breakfast which led into sessions on Dentistry, Pulmonology, Urology, and Practice Management.

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 Immunology, Orthopedics, Leap CE, and the specialty Veterinary Technician Track.

Sunday drew the conference to a close with CE programs on Soft Tissue Surgery, Infectious Disease, Laser Therapy, Acupuncture, LEAP CE as well as sessions for Veterinary Technicians.

Thank you to all our sponsors and exhibitors for your support in making ECVC successful! Please make plans to join us for the 2021 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, June 2-6, at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort!

Business Meetings & Officer Installments

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) held its annual general business meeting Wednesday, August 19, 2019 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in conjunction with the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference held August 19-August 23. Dr. Douglas Kratt, AVMA president, joined the meeting virtually to install new ALVMA officers.

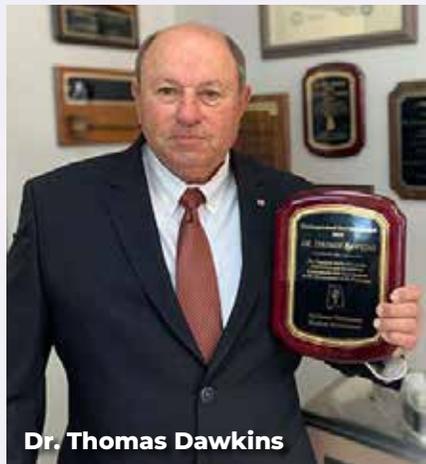
New officers were sworn in as follows: President Randy Davis, DVM of Tuscumbia; President Elect Steven T. Murphree, DVM of Cullman; Treasurer Susan Parsons, DVM of McCalla; Vice President Frances P. Kendrick, DVM of Selma and Board Member at Large Bradley Harris, DVM of Dothan. Alan Jones, DVM of Kelso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



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

Awards

ALVMA decided to waive the in-person Awards Luncheon and present winners virtually. Video presentations were made of the award winners and posted onto the ALVMA website. To view these award videos, please visit ALVMA.com.



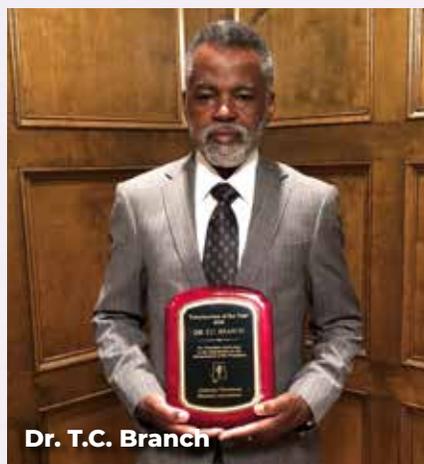
Dr. Thomas Dawkins

Distinguished Service Award:

Dr. Thomas Dawkins, the highest award given by the Association; is presented only to ALVMA members that have given of their time and energies beyond all reasonable expectations and have made exceptional achievements and contributions to the advancement of the profession.

Dr. Dawkins was born in Birmingham and graduated from Shades Valley High School. After graduation from high school, Dr. Dawkins served three years in the United States Marine Corps. Once his military service was completed, Dr. Dawkins continued his education at Auburn University receiving a degree as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1978. Dr. Dawkins opened a rural practice in Randolph County where he was the Rabies Control Officer in 1979, but then returned to Birmingham in 1980. Dr. Dawkins is a life member of the Auburn Alumni Association, a Centennial Club member, an alumnus of Omega Tau Sigma fraternity, and has served ten years on the Birmingham Racing Com-

mission. Dr. Dawkins is a thirty-nine-year member of the Jefferson County Veterinary Medical Association where he has served three terms as President and currently serves on the Executive Board. Dr. Dawkins is also a forty-two-year member of both the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA). Dr. Dawkins is also ALVMA's 2012 Service Award recipient and is serving his sixth year on the ALVMA Executive Board. Dr. Dawkins is the Jefferson County Rabies Officer, a position he has held for the last 8 years. Dr. Dawkins owns two veterinary hospitals in Birmingham and is married to his darling wife, JoAnne, of fifty-two years. They have one daughter, Mary Anne and two grandchildren. Dr. Dawkins attends Holy Infant Church in Trussville, AL.



Dr. T.C. Branch

Veterinarian of the Year Award:

Dr. T.C. Branch, awarded to a member of the Alabama VMA who displays unselfish dedication to the association for advancement of the profession.

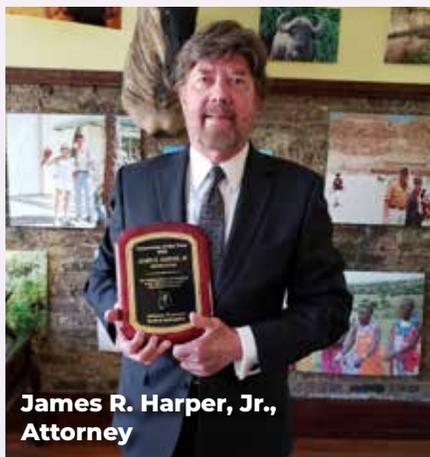
Dr. T.C. Branch is a two-time

graduate of Tuskegee University, receiving both his Bachelor of Science degree in animal and poultry science in 1979 and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree in 1981. Afterwards, Dr. Branch worked as an associate veterinarian with Red Mountain Animal Clinic for five years. He then founded Oporto Animal Clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, where he has been in private practice since 1986. In addition to his private practice, Branch is also a partner with The Emergency and Specialty Animal Medical Center (formerly known as the Emergency Animal Clinic) located in Birmingham.

Dr. Branch has been actively engaged in leadership roles within the veterinary medical profession, most notably within Alabama serving as president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) in 2015 and president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation since 2017. He was selected as the 2018 chairperson of the American Association of State Boards Conference Committee. Dr. Branch was appointed as a member of the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medicine where he continues to serve. Dr. Branch is an Accredited Hospital Member of AAHA and a member of the Jefferson County Veterinary Medical Association where he has served as the corresponding secretary.

Dr. Branch also received a special award from the ALVMA in 2009 for his efforts in promoting the "spay neuter tag" and received a service award in 2010. He has also received the outstanding alumni award from the Tuskegee College of Veterinary Medicine. He is a

member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity “the Bolule”, is on the board of Hand In Paw; an animal assisted therapy organization located in Birmingham, a board member of the Greater Birmingham Humane Society, a member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, and is involved in mentoring programs in the Jefferson County and Birmingham City school systems, and a host of volunteer organizations.



**James R. Harper, Jr.,
Attorney**

**Layperson
of the Year Award:**

James R. Harper, Jr., Attorney, awarded to a non-veterinarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession and the Association.

This year the Layman of the Year Award was awarded to James R. Harper, Jr., Attorney. Mr. Harper graduated from Monroe County Highschool. After graduation from high school, Mr. Harper attended Birmingham Southern College and went on to complete his law degree at the Thomas Goode Law School in Montgomery, AL. Mr. Harper works as a Criminal Defense Attorney in Mobile, AL. He is married to his wife, Baylissa Bridges Harper and they have four daughters, one son-in-law, and 4 grandchildren.

Special Award:

Drs. Robert Gaddis and Harold “Hal” Pate, awarded to individuals

for exceptional and outstanding service to the veterinary medical profession.



Dr. Robert “Bert” Gaddis

Dr. Robert (Bert) Gaddis received his undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Dairy Science in 1981, and his doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University in 1983. Dr. Gaddis joined the staff at Roswell Animal Hospital in 1983 and then moved over to Indian Springs Animal Hospital, purchasing the full-service clinic in 1984.

After attending dental courses sponsored by the American Animal Hospital Association in the late 1980s, Dr. Gaddis discovered that he had a special interest in that area of veterinary medicine. Over the next 10 years, Dr. Gaddis began to focus on veterinary dentistry and pursued an alternate pathway residency through the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC). In 2009, Dr. Gaddis completed the rigorous standards and criteria for certification set forth by the AVDC and became board certified and earned the title of Diplomate of the American Veterinary Dental College. Dr. Gaddis has gone on to serve on the board of the AVDC and chaired several committees throughout the years as well as lecturing on veterinary dentistry at

the local, state, and national levels. Dr. Gaddis is now one of about 200 board-certified animal dentists in the United States, and he is currently the only board-certified animal dentist practicing in the state of Alabama.

In June of 2020, Dr. Gaddis recreated Indian Springs Animal Clinic, renaming it Animal Dental Specialists and changed the focus of the clinic to animal dental services exclusively.

Dr. Gaddis lives in Homewood with his wife Susan and their two sons; Robert and James. They share their home with a lab named Lulu and a rescue named Gracie.



Dr. Harold “Hal” Pate

Special Award:

Dr. Harold “Hal” Pate - Dr. Pate received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University in 1979. After graduation, he practiced two years in Birmingham and two years in Pell City before returning home to Lowndes County. In 1988, he opened Pate Animal Clinic in Hayneville where he began his solo practice. In addition to his practice, Dr. Pate served 23 years as a Public Health Officer with the Alabama Air National Guard and retired as a Lt. Colonel. For the past 30 years, Dr. Pate has been staff veterinarian for the Montgomery Zoo. He also finds time to raise registered Charolais cattle. He has two sons: Trent and Brandon. Brandon

graduated from Mississippi State Veterinary School May 2019. In his spare time, Dr. Pate enjoys golf and attending Auburn football and basketball games. Dr. Pate serves on the Board of the Lowndes County Cattlemen's Association and the Board of Lowndes County Farmer's Federation. He is a deacon in the Lowdesboro Baptist Church. Dr. Pate is past president of the ALVMA 2016-2017. Dr. Pate has served as member of the ALVMA Foundation Board, the ALVMA PAC Committee, the ALVMA Legislative Committee, the ALVMA Awards Committee, and the ALVMA Nominating Committee. He currently serves as the ALVMA Nominating Committee chair and the Alternate Delegate to AVMA.

Service Award:

Service Awards are presented to ALVMA members who have contributed generously of their time and energies to the Association for the advancement of the profession. The following Service Awards were presented during the ALVMA General Membership Meeting.



Dr. Randy Davis, DVM

Randy Davis, DVM of Tuscumbia, AL. was awarded the Service Award for carrying out his vision and organizing the first ever state VMA Veterinary Economic Forum in the fall of 2019.

Dr. Davis has had a lifelong in-

terest and love of animals. He started his path to veterinary medicine working for a local veterinarian in Montgomery, Alabama at the age of 15. He worked his way through high school until he enrolled in the College of Agriculture at Auburn University. He was accepted into veterinary school at Auburn in 1985 and graduated from the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1989. Before arriving in Tuscumbia in 1995 he previously worked in practices in Jacksonville, Florida and Decatur, Alabama.

Dr. Davis partnered with Dr. Lynn Hagood to build the current Tennessee Valley Animal Clinic facility in 1995 which has grown into a multi-doctor primary small animal practice of which he and his wife are owners. Dr. Davis enjoys the variety that is inherent in veterinary medicine. Dr. Davis met his wife Dr. Cathy Davis in veterinary school, and they have 3 grown children. To add to his responsibilities Dr. Davis was elected District 1 Councilman for the City of Tuscumbia in the summer of 2008 and served 2 terms. He is currently Chair of the Tuscumbia Planning Commission. He has led many Mission trips to Central America and is currently serving with an INGO in far western Nepal doing animal health clinics and training support. Dr. Davis is also active with the Auburn CVM serving on an Alumni Advisory Committee.

He has served as a constituent VMA representative on the ALVMA Board of Directors and has been active in multiple committees and projects for the ALVMA prior to be elected as President of the ALVMA in 2020.



Dr. Dan Kuykendall, DVM

Service Award:

Dan Kuykendall, DVM of Auburn, AL. was awarded the Service Award for his years of work encouraging multiple classes of future veterinarians as the Student Relations Committee Chair for both Auburn and Tuskegee Colleges of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Dan Kuykendall graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in June 1996. Upon graduation he first practiced with Dr. Grady Lanier in Ocala, FL. In 1997, he moved to Birmingham to work with Hoke Animal Clinic and Green Springs Animal Clinic. He was raised in Opelika and returned to the area in 1999 after purchasing Village Veterinary Clinic from its founder. He and his wife, Meredith, have two daughters, Emory and Elizabeth. His four-legged companion is Coach, their Labrador. 🐾



ALVMA 2021 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 2021 Awards Program will be presented during the 2021 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, June 2- June 6. Deadline for nominations is **January 15, 2021**.

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 _____

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



February 12-14, 2021

What is New for 2021?

New Location

We will be moving to a new venue in 2021 as part of an effort to provide even higher quality continuing education. We will be meeting on February 12-14, 2021 at the Dixon Conference Center, Auburn, AL. At this time, all Food Animal Conference activities will be held at the Dixon Conference Center as we will be able to provide a quality program while continuing to adhere to the ever-changing COVID regulations.

Full Lecture Series

2020 introduced the addition of wet labs to the program. The wet labs were a huge success and we hoped to continue them every year; however, with COVID restraints we will not be offering wetlabs. The 2021 program will consist of all lecture sessions. It is our hope that we may resume offering wet labs in 2022.

Celebrating 30 Years!

Join us as we take a look back over the last 30 years of the Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians. We will be taking a walk down memory lane with photos, mementos, and slides from the past 30 years!



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



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 dinner on Saturday. Additional meal vouchers are available for purchase below.

	Pre-Registration	Late/On-Site (After Feb 1)	
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	\$ _____

MEALS	GRAND TOTAL
I will attend the following meal functions, PLEASE ONLY CHECK THE MEALS THAT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING:	\$ _____

- Friday, February 12 Meet and Greet
- Saturday, February 13 Cont. Breakfast Lunch Dinner
- Sunday, February 14 Cont. Breakfast

METHOD OF PAYMENT

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

Card # _____

Expires ____/____ CVV Code _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

HOTEL INFORMATION

ALVMA has contracted a special rate with the The Hotel at Auburn University for the dates of our conference. The hotel is located connected to the Dixon Conference Center. The group rate will be \$129.00 for single or double occupancy (plus tax). To ensure the group rate and space availability, make your reservation no later than January 20, 2021. The room block will close once the block has been met or has reached the deadline, whichever occurs first.

The Hotel at Auburn University
241 South College Street • Auburn, AL
Phone: 334.821.8200
Group Rate: \$129.00

You may also register online at www.alvma.com

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

Tentative agenda for the 30th Annual ALVMA Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians



AGENDA

The Hotel at Auburn University & Dixon Conference Center
February 12-14, 2021

Friday, February 12, 2021

Bob Carson Beef Cattle Symposium

- 1:00 PM Welcome, introductions, and orientation
- 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
Russell Carrell
- 3:00 PM Break – Visit with Exhibitors
- 3:30 PM Disruption to the Meat Production Supply Chain: Impact of a Global Pandemic
Dr. Jason Sawyer
- 4:30 PM What Veterinarians Need to Know about the Secure Beef Supply Plan
Dr. Christine Navarre
- 5:00 PM Meet and Greet
- 7:30 PM Meeting adjourned for the day

Saturday, February 13, 2021

- 8:00 AM Update from the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
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 the United States Department of Agriculture
Dr. Mel Stephens
- 11:00 AM The Evolution and Science of Electroejaculation
Mr. Bob Green - Lane Manufacturing, Inc.
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00 PM Management of Trichomoniasis in Beef Herds
Dr. Robert Gukich
- 2:00 PM Cotton Byproducts and Nutritional Impacts on Cattle Production
Dr. Kim Mullenix
- 2:30 PM Breaking Bad with Baleage
Dr. Kim Mullenix
- 3:00 PM Break – Visit with Exhibitors/ALVMA General Business Meeting

- 3:30 PM The Future of Diagnostics
Dr. Dan Scruggs
- 4:30 PM Updates from the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Alabama Cattlemen's Association, Alabama Farmers Federation, and the Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences.
- 6:00 PM Dinner – The Hotel at Auburn University & Dixon Conference Center
- 7:30 PM Practice Tips and Downie Awards – The Hotel at Auburn University & Dixon Conference Center
- 9:30 PM Meeting adjourned for the day

Sunday, February 14, 2021

- 7:00 AM Devotional – The Hotel at Auburn University & Dixon Conference Center
- 8:00 AM Seminar Title TBD
Dr. Jody Wade - Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health
- 9:00 AM Follicular Dysplasia in Beef Cattle
Dr. Robert Gukich
- 10:00 AM Break – Visit with Exhibitors
- 10:30 AM Seminar Title TBD
Dr. Jason Shumaker - Newport Labs
- 11:00 AM Seminar Title TBD
Dr. Dan Tracy - Multimin USA
- Noon Meeting adjourned

ALVMA General Membership Meeting

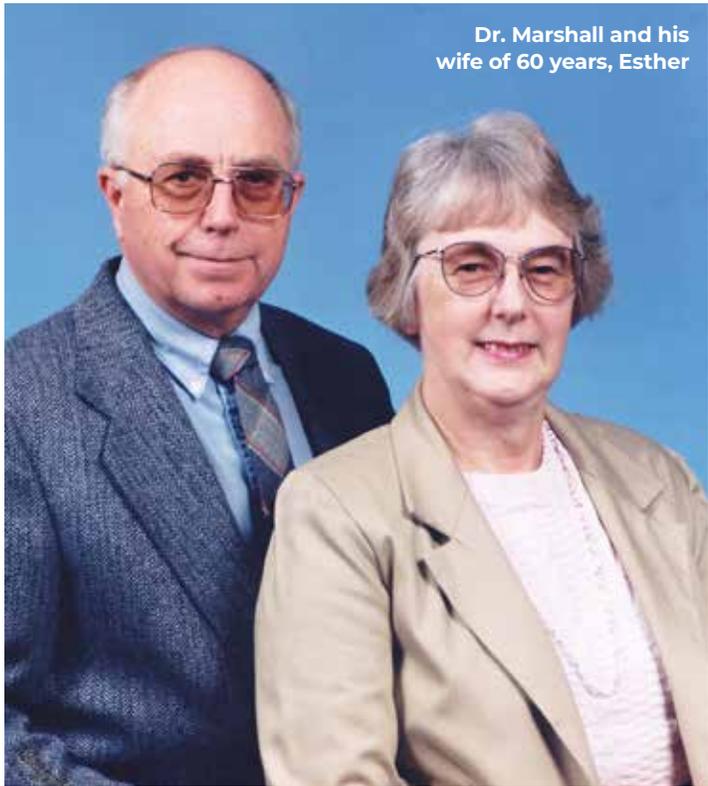
The next general business meeting of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association will be held during the Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians on Saturday, February 13th at 3:00 pm. The meeting will take place in the Change Oak Room to Auditorium of the Dixon Conference Center. The conference will be held in the Auditorium of the Dixon Conference Center. The address is 241 South College Street, Auburn, AL. All ALVMA members are invited to attend.

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

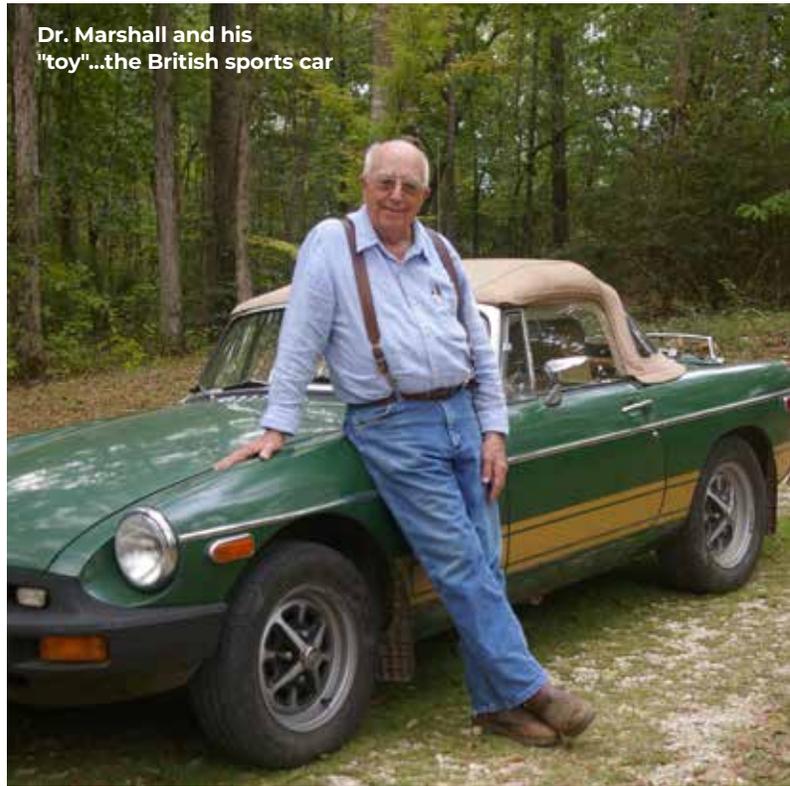


Veteran Member Profile

Dr. Arvle Marshall • Opelika, AL



Dr. Marshall and his wife of 60 years, Esther



Dr. Marshall and his "toy"...the British sports car

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

I grew up on a cattle ranch in the Texas Panhandle. When a student studying animal husbandry at Texas Tech I came to know the Veterinarian at the college, and liked what he did, especially the science involved.

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

My career was in the academic area of teaching and research. My fascination with the biological sciences, particularly how biological things were made and how they worked were of primary interest.

Q. Where did you study?

Texas Tech (BS Animal Husbandry), Texas A & M (DVM) and University of Missouri (PhD- Neurology/Anatomy)

Q. Who is your role model/mentor?

My major professor @ Missouri: Jim Breazile, DVM, PhD

Q. What did you enjoy most about your job?

The interaction with my students.

Q. What was the hardest part of your job?

Preparation of the horses & cattle for anatomy labs, and preparation of classroom materials for the students.

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

Be open to the many and varied opportunities to serve in ways that best fit the talents you were given.

Q. What advice can you offer someone contemplating retirement?

Plan to stay active with this profession, and especially in your community in other ways.

Q. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Continuing to staying active with my family, community, and just enjoying life.

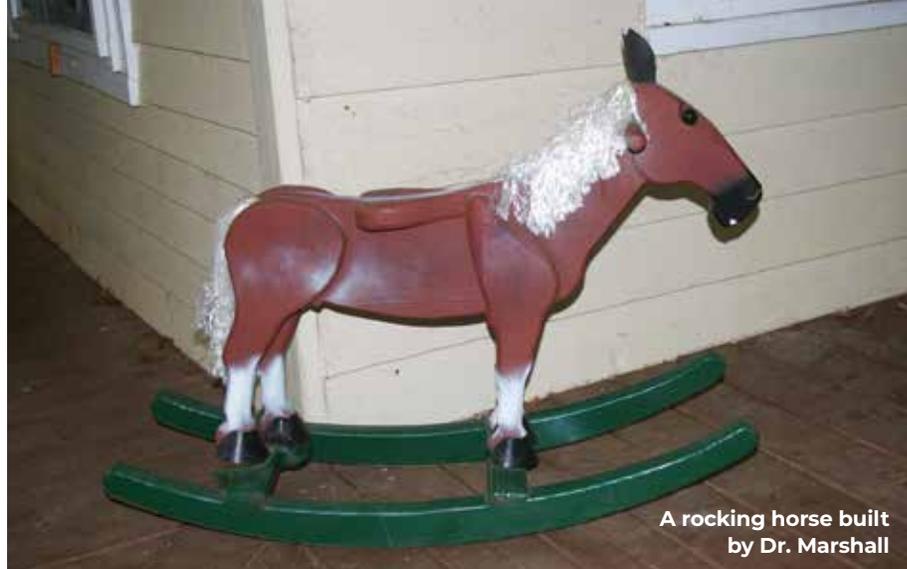
Q. What is the most memorable experience of your career?

Building a "dinosaur"- actually, an Ostrich skeleton for a colleague's wife who taught in elementary school.

And, building a Giraffe skeleton, which his now on display at the Auburn's Large Animal Clinic.



Dr. Marshall doing the BAER testing on a Dalmation pup



A rocking horse built by Dr. Marshall



Metal animals built by Dr. Marshall. The Downie Award, presented at the Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians, is built by Dr. Marshall each year.

Q. What accomplishment are you most proud of?

A happy 60-year marriage to my best friend and wife Esther.

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

(See response to question # 10)

Q. What advice do you have for others on balancing work/life?

We all have more than one talent... use as many of them as you can. [See next question...]

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

Become active in something other than veterinary medicine...learn to play a dulcimer, help build a Habitat House, help with the organization that uses horses with disabled

children, do historical reenactment, be active in your Church, go fishing, etc...

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

The expansion of knowledge related to the science of medicine and the increase of resources now available to the practicing veterinarian.

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

Somehow make the professional education less expensive, while assuring that the fundamentals are taught which will give the graduate the basis for rational decisions and for growth in this profession.

Q. Now that I am retired, you'll find me...

Doing what I did not have time to do when employed.

Q. How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

By personal choice...I've always believed a veterinarian should be active in their local, state and national VMA

Q. Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

It provides a means for interaction with colleagues from around the State, an important way to stay informed.

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

It helped me stay focused on designing my teaching and research to be relevant to the needs of our profession. 🐾



2020-2021 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

Ken McMillian
205-884-4104

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

Shelby Agnew
256-361-9871

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



ALVMA Legislative Committee Report

Written by

Jeff Martin, Governmental Affairs Director



It continues to be quiet in Montgomery with no indication the Governor will call the legislature into a special session prior to the regular 2021 session that will convene February 2nd. Plans continue to be discussed about what to do if the coronavirus prevents the legislature from meeting, as it is about impossible to

socially distance at the Alabama State House. There is concern, as almost three dozen legislators are over the age of 70 and that doesn't take into account staff and the general public. One possibility being discussed is to meet at another location other than the State House. House members are being issued electronic tablets in case voting from a remote location becomes necessary.

Some have suggested that the legislature should immediately adjourn the regular session with an agreement that the Governor call them back before the end of the fiscal year in hopes by then the pandemic will have subsided. This scenario would almost certainly include a special session at the beginning of the year to pass several pieces of time-sensitive legislation involving economic development and immunity to businesses for coronavirus-related lawsuits.

A third possibility is to divide the session up into several topic specific special sessions throughout the year. Truth be told, I don't think anyone can predict what the next legislative session might bring.

Meanwhile, your ALVMA legislative committee continues to prepare for when, where, and how the legislature next meets. As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns you can reach me at voter98@aol.com. 🐾

Be safe.

Jeff

What Coverage is Your Practice Missing?

BUSINESS OWNER'S POLICY



This coverage helps replace or repair your building, equipment, furniture, computers and more. PLIT's policies are unique in that they protect you against one of the most common causes of damage at veterinary practices—your patients.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION



Your employees are the strength of your practice. This coverage protects your workers financially if they're injured on the job.

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY



Even the most disciplined practices can face allegations of harassment, discrimination, and wrongful employment operations. This provides coverage for legal defense fees and indemnity (compensation) for wrongful employment practices claims.

DATA BREACH



The average data breach costs \$214 per record! Data breach coverage responds to the loss, theft, accidental release, or accidental publication of sensitive records.

Let's talk about how we can manage risk at your practice.

800-228-7548, option 4
avmaplit.com

AVMA LIFE[®]
Veterinarian Inspired Coverage

AVMA PLIT[®]
Protecting you through it all

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 2021 legislative session.

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

PO Box 803
Fayetteville, TN 37334

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



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, 2020 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.

LIKE US/FOLLOW US:



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

Save the Date!



February 12-14, 2021
The Hotel at Auburn University
and Dixon Conference Center

Auburn University

College of Veterinary Medicine vetmed.auburn.edu

Throughout its 126-year history, the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine has prepared more than 7,000 veterinarians, specialists, biomedical scientists and researchers for careers promoting the health and welfare of citizens worldwide. As the seventh oldest college of veterinary medicine in North America and the oldest in the southeastern U.S., the college remains committed to advancing the health of animals, humans and the environment.



Dr. Melinda S. Camus

Camus Named Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Dr. Melinda S. Camus, a member of the faculty at the University of Georgia for the past decade, has been named the next Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Camus, an associate professor in the UGA veterinary program's Department of Pathology and director of its Clinical Pathology Laboratory, earned her DVM from Louisiana

State University in 2001 and achieved Diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 2010. She has held a number of roles at UGA in veterinary student, resident and graduate student education. Camus will officially take up her new role at Auburn in December.



Dr. Andrew McGraw

McGraw Named Director, Internist of Gulf Shores Clinic

As the newly hired medical director and internist of the Auburn Veterinary Specialists-Gulf Shores, Dr. Andrew McGraw brings more than 18 years of experience in the veterinary profession to the Gulf Shores area. McGraw received his DVM from Louisiana State University in 2002. After working with his father in private small animal practice, he entered the US Army as a Veterinary Corps Officer. He completed an internal medicine residency with Auburn in 2009, and became board certified in Small Animal

Internal Medicine through the ACVIM in 2010. His military service included serving as clinical instructor for newly commissioned Army veterinarians and as both director and attending veterinarian for the Department of Defense Military Working Dog Veterinary Service, primarily responsible for internal medicine and outpatient services for a resident population of over 900 dogs.



Dr. Ruby Perry

Tuskegee's Perry named Champion of Diversity

Dean Calvin Johnson was honored to recognize Dr. Ruby Perry, dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, as the Zoetis Champion of Diversity during the Southeastern Diversity Matters Symposium on August 29. As the first female dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dean Perry's outstanding contributions to the veterinary

Stephanie J. Pitzer, and her team of 20 nurses provided the highest standards of individualized care to over 1,500 small animals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even during the height of the pandemic.

profession and veterinary education align with Zoetis' commitment to advance diversity and inclusion within the profession. The award recognizes outstanding efforts by faculty leaders and members who champion diverse and inclusive cultures within veterinary colleges to attract and nurture future veterinary leaders. Hosted by the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, the 2020 symposium was sponsored by Zoetis, Inc., and Banfield Pet Hospital, and focused on designing and maintaining wellness programs that incorporate key concepts of diversity, inclusion and equity.

2020 Virtual Annual Conference & J. T. Vaughan Equine Conference

While the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine's 2020 Annual Conference and J. T. Vaughan Equine Conference continued the 113-year tradition of continuing education, this year's three-day program—held October 22-24—marked the first time the concurrent events were held virtually. The conference provided opportunities for veterinarians, veterinary students, veterinary technicians and other veterinary professionals from across the nation and around the world to participate in live RACE-approved continuing education sessions and

opportunities for on-demand CE credit offered after the conclusion of the live conference. As always, the three-day program offered presentations in various disciplines of small animal, farm animal, technician and equine veterinary education, as well as numerous animal health and wellness courses. Continuing another Annual Conference tradition, Thursday's sessions culminated in a virtual awards ceremony honoring a group of distinguished veterinary professionals who have practiced their profession with great skill, knowledge, energy, compassion and professionalism, recognizing those who have excelled in their profession and have enhanced the college's reputation.

The newly established Dean's Distinguished Service Award was presented to Stephanie J. Pitzer, certified veterinary technician and veterinary technician specialist in Emergency and Critical Care, and her entire 20-member nursing staff. The team provided exemplary service during COVID-19-related alternate operations as members of the Small Animal Teaching Hospital's Emergency and Critical Care Service. These nurses provided the highest standards of individualized care to over 1,500 small animals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even during the height of the pandemic. 🐾



Recipients of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine 2020 awards are as follows:

El Toro Award for Excellence in Food Animal Medicine:
Dr. Dwight Wolfe '77

John Thomas Vaughan Equine Achievement Award:
Dr. Mark Cheney '69

Young Achiever Awards:
Dr. Chance Armstrong '10, Dr. Jessica Rush '10 and Dr. Ashley Jane Watkins Ward

Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumnus in Academia:
Dr. Brian Gilger '92

Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumnus in Private Practice:
Dr. Michael Newman '80

Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumnus in Research and Public Practice:
Dr. Thomas Turner '72

TUCVM was appreciative to all alumni that agreed to work with the virtual program. For the health and wellness portion, well-known author Kathleen Straker, author of *Study Without Stress Mastering Medical Sciences*, facilitated the skill building sessions on time management, test taking strategies, and note taking skills.

Although the curriculum was shortened for the summer, the objectives of SERP were still met which are to improve skills in critical thinking, processing of scientific concepts, and academic survival skills including effective communication, note-taking, time management, and test-taking. SERP's goals were achieved for the summer through a three-phase structured program.

SERP's summer faculty also focused on the requirements for applying to a DVM program and conducted mock interviews for participants interested in a veterinary program.

TUCVM Holds Three-Part Family Zoom Meeting Discussions on "Society, Injustice, Racism and Health"

In June, TUCVM held a three-part series of discussions on the topic: **"Society, Injustice, Racism and Health"**. A distinguished group of panelist were asked by Dean Perry to lead discussions as we navigated through this current state of a pandemic which has compromised all of us and with the additional impact from societal ills of injustice, racism and the impact on the health of people, in particular African Americans.

Dean Perry and Dr. Melvena Wilson served as the engagement's co-moderators with the assistance of the college's Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC). Dr. Wilson is an assistant professor in the college's Department of Graduate Public Health and co-chair for the



PHAC. Also, Atty. Crystal James shared the questions in the chat to the panelist. Atty. James is department head and director of the college's Graduate Public Health program and serves as one of the co-chairs in the university's Community Health Task Force.

In Part One: The panelist of discussion leaders included: Dr. Rueben Warren (DDS, MPH, Director of the National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University); Dr. Tiffini Brabham (DVM Toxicologist and current president of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association - TVMAA); Dr. Harold Davis (DVM Pathologist and past president TVMAA); Dr. Ted Cohn (DVM Practitioner and Past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association - AVMA) and Dr. Irving McConnell (DVM Entrepreneur and past member of the Tuskegee University Board of Trustees).

In Part-Two: The panelist of discussion leaders for Part-Two included: Dr. Harold Davis (DVM Pathologist and past president TVMAA); Dr. Linda Jacobson (DVM Practitioner and Past President of TVMAA); Dr. Victor Lopez (DVM Practitioner – Class of 2020); Ms. Ayanna Davis (DVM Student and President Class of 2022); Mr. Dequarius King (3rd year IDPB PhD student); and Ms. Raven McClellan (2nd year MPH student).

In Part-Three: Dean Ruby Perry invited the TUCVM Family

to participate in the third and final discussion. A distinguished group of panelist were asked by Dean Perry to lead discussions as we navigate through this current state of a pandemic which has compromised all of us and with the additional impact from societal ills of injustice, racism and the impact on the health of people, in particular African Americans. This was our last session on where do we go from here? How do we stay connected as a family community in the midst of chaos? How has Tuskegee prepared us to stay connected as a strong and compassionate family? Inspiration and hope are what we need in these challenging times. Dr. Tiffini Brabham, President of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) and Dean Perry served as co-moderators with the assistance of the college's Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC).

For Part-Three, the panelist of discussion leaders included: Dr. Diarra Blue (DVM Practitioner and Entrepreneur); Dr. Patricia Lowrie (AAC&U Distinguished Fellow and Advocate for Diversity, Equity and Student Success); Dr. David Brooks (DVM Practitioner & Member of the TVMAA Executive Board); and Dr. Adam McKee (Retired US Airforce Vet Corps & Naval Medical Research Center, and established the TVMAA). 🐾

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. This has been the theme of the Fall semester for the AUCVM students and staff. COVID-19 has tried to break our spirits, but we refuse to be defeated by this pandemic. Nearly a month into our Fall semester, we have experienced the difficulties of receiving an education during a pandemic, but as a CVM we are facing these challenges head on. SAVMA has tried to ease the burden of the COVID lifestyle by coordinating virtual social events and meetings with incredibly motivating individuals. Our CVM community has also been hard at work trying to keep spirits up while we quarantine and social distance.

erinary medicine while motivating them to keep an open mind during these uncertain times.



We then had an incredibly important meeting to inform students about domestic violence and how animals are often involved. As a club, we raise funds and support the Shelby Safe Pets organization who offer temporary shelter for survivors of domestic abuse and pay for healthcare and housing of their animals. Statistics show that animals are often victims of domestic violence due

to their connection to the human victim. It has also been shown that many victims do not leave their situation because threats are often made to their animals and not to mention the support they get from their pets. Shelby Safe Pets helps to ensure the safety of the victims and their animals while a stable situation is found by the human victims.

Next, we were fortunate enough to arrange an event with the keynote speaker being Dr. Blue from the An-

imal Planet series, 'The Vet Life'. He discussed the importance of diversity and inclusion in veterinary medicine. Statistically, white women make up the majority of veterinary professionals. Dr. Blue discussed that this is not necessarily a problem because diversity extends beyond race, but we need to be open to welcoming individuals from all walks of life

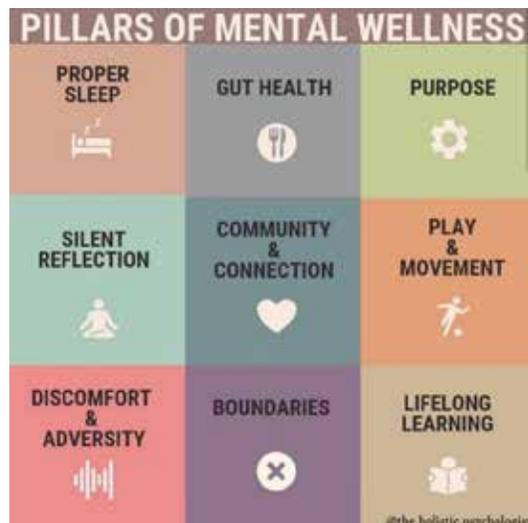
into the field since their talents and skills can benefit veterinary medicine. He encouraged us to get out of our comfort zones and to befriend people from different professions so we can gain a new perspective. Diversity extends beyond race and gender, it is an amalgamation of life experiences that have developed us into individuals. Every person has something different to bring to the table and we need to keep an open mind so we can see the value in this.



Dr. Blue from Animal Planet

While the uncertainty of COVID continues to loom over us, the community at AUCVM continues to keep an optimistic attitude and prove to be some of the most resilient individuals at Auburn University. SAVMA will continue to express the importance of diversity and belonging by encouraging others to break past their boundaries safely.

All we do would not be possible without the ALVMA and we are incredibly grateful for an opportunity to share what we have done with the support of this incredible organization. 🐾



To kick off the semester, we had Dr. Tiffany Altman speak to the AUCVM students about diversity, professionalism, as well as her path to becoming a veterinarian. She is an experienced Technical Solutions Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the pharmaceutical industry and small animal practice. Her presentation offered students a new perspective to vet-

SAVMA Tuskegee

Submitted by
Hayley Yeepun
and John Delgado



Janice Trotter during her externship with Huston Humane Society

This academic year began as many others before it, with the excitement of continuing our veterinary journey while reuniting with friends and participating in the community cultivated by organizations like SAVMA and others like it. However, with current state of the COVID pandemic, we began to wonder if SAVMA would be able to continue to create that sense of unity and maintain involvement in our students' lives. Now, a few months into the semester we are very pleased to say that we have overcome many obstacles and have managed to host a variety of interactive events for our student body. In the face of limited resources and increased regulations, we have been able to engage our students through activities ranging from social events to informative webinars.

We closed last semester by awarding Travel Grants to some of our students to give them the opportunity to enhance their veterinary education. Throughout the summer, we shared travel grant recipients' experiences on our social media pages with our alumni and veterinary community. Third year

veterinary student, Janice Trotter, participated in an externship at Houston Humane Society with Tuskegee alum Dr. Tony Malone. Here she performed spay and neuter surgeries while gaining an invaluable understanding of and appreciation towards shelter medicine. Other experiences included work in the field of public health, an internship with USDA-FSIS, and another working in a mobile veterinary clinic in Jamaica with V2 Volunteers.

The academic year began with welcoming our incoming first years into the TU Family. SAVMA co-hosted a Big/Little Reveal in which the Class of 2024 were paired with members from the Class of 2023. We greatly believe in the positive benefits of a strong mentorship network so it was really important to us to be able to support and encourage these relationships. This event was hosted entirely online to adhere to social distancing guidelines, but we were still able to make the event interactive with a virtual jeopardy game in which students were able to win prizes donated by SAVMA as well as other clubs at the university. We were also able to introduce SAVMA at this event and make the students more familiar with who we are as an organization. Overall, this was a perfect light hearted event to start off the semester on the right foot!

Traditionally, SAVMA hosts an annual SAVMA Week, an event that is meant to feel like a 'pepp rally' to start off the year.

SAVMA Week motivates and encourages students to connect with classmates and take advantage of all the wonderful organizations that TUCVM offer. This year, we adapted to the current situation and hosted the event online. We put together a whole week of events including: a SAVMA informational session, virtual club fair, social media takeover and prize giveaway. The event ran smoothly, and students were appreciative we were able to uphold this tradition and bring about a sense of normalcy.

One of the highlights of the semester thus far has been being able to host a couple of home-grown superstars, Dr. Vernard L. Hodges and Dr. Terrence Ferguson from the popular television show on Nat Geo Wild, Critter Fixers. Needless to say, we were enthralled to be able to organize a live Q&A webinar with these Tuskegee University graduates. This



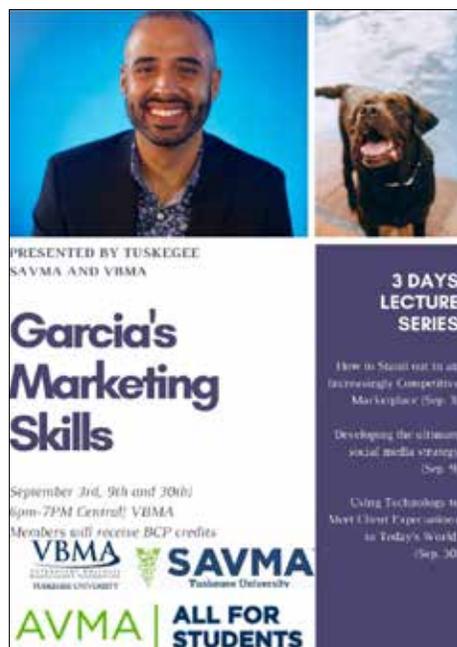
allowed our students to inquire about life after veterinary school from highly successful professionals in the field as well as hear some funny stories about what life was like as a veterinary student at Tuskegee in the 1990's. We received advice on how to survive veterinary school as well as how to navigate the world after school, tips on how to manage the work/life balance and information about internship opportunities at Critter Fixer Veterinary Hospital! This was an engaging, enriching and exciting webinar that we know all our students enjoyed.

We also had the opportunity to virtually host IT expert and digital marketer Mr. Eric Garcia, who was voted VMX 2020 Speaker of the year by conference attendees. The event was co-hosted with the Veterinary Business Management Association to help those students working towards their Business Certificate offered by the

club. Mr. Garcia volunteered his time, in 3-day lecture series, to talk with us about a wide range of current topics regarding the veterinary field and marketing. He presented on "How to stand out in an increasingly competitive marketplace", "Developing the ultimate social media strategy" and "Using technology to meet client expectations in today's world". The series allowed the students to gain some knowledge and skills within the veterinary marketing and technology world.

Even though we are going through a global pandemic, being able to adapt to difficult situations is a skill that every veterinarian should have. We are proud of all we have done to overcome adversity in continuing to host events to enhance the education of the student body at TUCVM and reinforce that sense of community, even if our interactions are conducted through a

virtual environment. As the academic year continues, we look forward to hosting more events for the benefit of the students and the future of veterinary medicine. 🐾



Mr. Garcia's Marketing Skills event flyer



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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.



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Kentucky • Very profitable 2 DVM Practice with substantial growth located in western Kentucky. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to retire their student-debt. 2019 Gross Revenues \$990K+ Practice and Real Estate for Sale (KY807)

Louisiana • Sold! Busy 3 DVM Emergency Center is a great investment and a wonderful opportunity for a new owner. 2019 Gross~\$1.3M. Practice and Real Estate Available (LA805)

Louisiana • Jump start your career in this well respected solo DVM Small Animal Practice. Wonderful college town community! This practice has Excellent Cash Flow and is located in a free-standing facility surrounded by new development. Practice Hours are very favorable for a well-balanced lifestyle in this thriving community. Practice and Real Estate for Sale - 2019 Gross Revenues \$760K+ (LA806)

Louisiana • New Listing! Prosperous 1 DVM Practice located in a charming community. The practice is conducive to a rewarding career and a comfortable lifestyle with Monday – Friday office hours. Practice has Excellent Cash Flow. 2019 Gross Revenues \$718K+ Practice and Real Estate Available (LA C12)

Mississippi • Price Reduced! 2020 Gross Revenues up 11%. Become the hometown vet in this charming community in central Mississippi. Outdoor activities abound. This single DVM small animal practice has excellent after-debt income, while working Monday-Friday. Practice and Real Estate for Sale. 2019 Gross \$768K (MS804)

Mississippi • Sold! Corporate Acquisition - 3 DVM Practice - 2019 Revenues \$1.8K (MS911)

Tennessee • Pending! Thriving Small Animal Hospital just southeast of Nashville. This growing veterinary practice is currently a 1.25 FTE/DVM practice. Located in the Nashville market, this practice is perfect for a new owner. Practice and Real Estate Available. 2019 Gross Revenues \$966K+ (TN910)



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