

# ALABAMA

V E T E R I N A R I A N

SPRING 2023

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REPORTABLE  
DISEASES 5

2023 EMERALD  
COAST VETERINARY  
CONFERENCE 18

IN MEMORIAM—  
DR. JOHN THOMAS  
VAUGHAN 22

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# A VETERINARIAN, HER “FAMILY,” AND HER SHEPHERD



We truly belong to the greatest profession! People watch television shows featuring veterinarians. Folks like reading books about vets. Hallmark makes Rom Coms featuring vets! When people bring their pets to the vet, they get to share their concerns and their joys. People relate to us and they admire us and they appreciate what we do.

I think what I like most about practice is that I have a big extended family. I get to be a part of the lives of the critters and their people. I have enjoyed watching my client's kids grow up and start their own families and I get to continue to care for their pets. For me the practice of veterinary medicine is not just a profession it is a calling. I am proud to be a veterinarian.

To make life complete, I have my extended ALVMA family. I have worked with some of the most AWESOME people throughout our state. The leaders in our association are intelligent, hardworking, and diligent and most of all they look after us and our profession. They are the “shepherds over the sheep fold”. What an honor it has been for me to serve with them and for you!

I just finished a study of Psalm 23. You may know the psalm by heart and know that it refers to a shepherd. It starts out like this “The LORD is My Shepherd.” Don't miss out on those important five words that start the psalm. “The Lord” refers to Jehovah, The Creator God, and the Triune God (that is

Father, Son and Holy Spirit). He is the One who made it all. He is real and He desires for you to love Him and see Him for who He is, as your Lord. The LORD “is” in present tense, right now, desiring for you to call him LORD and your great benefit is that He will be “your Shepherd”. The maker of Heaven and Earth wants for you to acknowledge Him as your Lord and He will look after you. He will keep you and He will protect you. My greatest desire is for you to know Him and His Son Jesus, the Great Shepherd, and submit your life to Him.

I am unapologetic for using my platform to be a witness for Christ. I desire for you to know Christ and to be sure in your faith. Trusting and believing that Jesus is God's Son and that He has given His life so that you may have forgiveness of your sins through your faith in Him is called “The Good News”. I think it's is the best news. Reach out to me if you have questions or if you desire to know Jesus Christ better. I am not afraid of sharing my faith. I have a Shepherd watching over me. He wants to be yours too.

Thank you for trusting me with your association. Please come to the beach and hang out with your ALVMA family at the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference this year. I look forward to seeing you there.

Fondly,

**Frances P. Kendrick, D.V.M.**  
**ALVMA President**

# REPORTABLE DISEASES

BY Dr. Tony Frazier

As an accredited veterinarian *you must immediately report* to the Area Veterinarian in Charge and the State Animal Health Official all diagnosed or suspected cases of a communicable animal disease for which APHIS has a control or eradication program in 9 CFR chapter I, and all diagnosed or suspected cases of any animal disease not known to exist in the United States. The 24-hour number reporting to AVICs is 866-536-7593, and the site to find your State Animal Health Officials is: State Animal Health Officials.

If you go to the USDA Website for accredited veterinarians, the above paragraph is the first thing you will see. Many of the diseases on the reportable disease list are foreign animal diseases; however, there are a few that are not such as Strangles in equine. If you go to our state website at: [agi.alabama.gov/animalindustries/](http://agi.alabama.gov/animalindustries/) you will find the link for accredited veterinarians. If you follow that link, it will take you to the list of the state reportable diseases.

If you look at the list, you will find that most of the diseases will require laboratory confirmation to attain a definitive diagnosis. If the lab is part of the National Animal

Health Laboratory Network, those diseases that are reportable will be reported to us. If you have questions about whether a disease should be reported to us, it is best to go ahead and call us.

It is worth mentioning that there is a difference between regulatory diseases and reportable diseases. All regulated diseases are reportable but not all reportable diseases are regulated. There are certain diseases that we need to know that are out in the countryside such as blue tongue, mycoplasma, and infectious laryngotracheitis because of the large poultry and cattle populations that we have here in Alabama. There are other diseases that have regulations concerning how to deal with and dispose of animals that are diagnosed with and exposed to certain diseases.

While most of us would not be able to diagnose diseases in the field like highly pathogenic avian influenza, malignant catarrhal fever, or hemorrhagic fever, there are certain disease syndromes that should be reported. We always ask that you report syndromes such as abortion storms, neurological syndromes, hemorrhagic diseases, vesicular lesions, high morbidity/mortality,

*We always ask that you report syndromes such as abortion storms, neurological syndromes, hemorrhagic diseases, vesicular lesions, high morbidity/mortality, and unusual maggots to us.*

and unusual maggots to us. That allows us to have a foreign animal disease diagnostician involved.

Accredited veterinarians are tasked with being the first responders or boots on the ground when it comes to reportable diseases. If you ever have questions concerning reportable diseases, please do not hesitate to contact us. We had rather investigate a potential case of mouth lesions a dozen times and it be something else than to shrug off mouth lesions and it turn out to be Foot and Mouth Disease. My number at the office is 334-240-7253.

# DR. CAITLIN BUTLER

ARITON, AL

## **WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN VETERINARY MEDICINE?**

I was one of those veterinarians that ALWAYS knew I was meant to be a veterinarian. The only way I would go to sleep as a toddler is if my grandparents would take me to see the cows napping. It was truly never a question. What made me passionate about veterinary medicine was my own animals. The human animal bond is such a special thing. I showed cattle growing up and seeing not only the beef industry, but the veterinary involvement intrigued me. My heart dog Squirt also gave me my “why” when becoming a veterinarian.

## **WHAT TYPE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE DO YOU PRACTICE AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?**

I am a mixed animal veterinarian in rural Southeast Alabama. I chose mixed animal medicine because of the variety of cases I can see in a day. I chose to practice in rural Alabama because I saw the true need for both small animal and large animal veterinarians in these communities first hand.

## **WHERE DID YOU STUDY?**

Auburn CVM - c/o 2022

## **WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WISH YOU HAD KNOWN/LEARNED/OR BEEN TOLD COMING OUT OF SCHOOL THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE JOB SETTING?**

It is okay if you are wrong the first time, this is a time to learn from “mistakes” and “failures”. You’re differential list is not all encompassing and sometimes you have to add to it as you go. You cannot know everything you need to know coming out of school. This is a career of constant evolution and lifelong learning.



## **WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL/MENTOR?**

Courtney Sherman, DVM. She was such a great mentor during my preceptor and during my first year of practice. She has answered every question, and has even face-timed me to guide me through procedures.

## **WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?**

The hardest part of my job is not being able to provide the best care available because of client financial restrictions. It was tough going from the ivory tower of medicine to real life in a rural community where the gold standard of care is not only not attainable but sometimes no level of care can be afforded.

## **WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER SOMEONE JUST COMING OUT OF SCHOOL AND ENTERING THIS PROFESSION?**

Give yourself grace. You are smarter than you feel. We all feel inadequate coming out of school, and the learning curve is steep. If you need a moment because you are overwhelmed, take it. It will help you be a better doctor.

**WHAT IS THE MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE OF YOUR WORK/COLLEGE CAREER THUS FAR?**

My first goat c-section on a pregnancy toxemia ewe during my preceptorship was a great memory! It was a successful surgery and both the ewe and two lambs survived!

Another great one was also during my preceptorship where I had my first solo calf pull. I was doing barn checks and heard a calf bawling. There were no calves in the barn at that time. When I went to check the heifer on calving watch and she had the calf half way out but couldn't push anymore. The calf was already flailing while trying to come out. I applied the OB chains and successfully delivered the calf and was so proud that I was able to do that on my own.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU HAVE LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF SO FAR?**

I am capable of doing far more than I think and feel I am. Confidence is something that is built and I feel myself learning and growing every day.

**WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS?**

Professionally, I see myself owning my own mixed animal practice. Personally, I see myself growing my cattle operation and growing my family.

**I STILL WANT TO LEARN HOW TO...**

Flush bovine embryo's and perform embryo transfer. I love theriogenology!



**WHEN I'M NOT WORKING, YOU'LL FIND ME...**

Probably eating, I am a big foodie. If I'm not eating I am probably walking (wrangling) my dogs, or traveling with my best friend or my husband.

**HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE ALVMA?**

I joined right after graduation.

**WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT SOMEONE JOIN ALVMA?**

This is a close nit association where the members really make an effort to remember your name. This is so special to feel seen and listened to even as a new graduate.

**HOW HAS BEING A MEMBER OF ALVMA HELPED YOU PROFESSIONALLY?**

It has helped me to network with new and former colleagues and mentors. The recent food animal conference was great for learning new anesthesia skills, learning about current disease problems, and refreshing my memory of different treatment protocols during barn rounds.



# DR. BILL STERNENBERG CREDITS VIETNAM STINT FOR BUILDING CONFIDENCE, “CAN-DO” ATTITUDE

BY Sam Hendrix

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Four years of veterinary school, with externship, is designed to prepare the graduate for most every normal animal health situation.

Normal was not in the cards that spring day in 1969 when Dr. William Sternenberg and an assistant were treating a South Vietnamese farmer’s cow for a gunshot wound in a remote pasture.

“All of a sudden, we were being shelled,” he remembered, fifty-three years later. “I could run a lot faster than than I can now. We ran outta there as fast as we could.”

That incident had a happy ending—though, perhaps not for the cow. But it was simply one of many adventures Dr. Sternenberg had in his two years of US Army service—including ten months in Vietnam—following his Auburn graduation.

He had not intended on going to Vietnam. He hadn’t planned on joining the Army, and for a long time he hadn’t decided on a career in veterinary medicine. Sternenberg grew up in Montgomery and spent plenty of time working on his grandfather’s farm in Fort Deposit and being around the various animals there as well as his own pets. It was during his senior year at Sydney Lanier High School that Sternenberg decided to enroll at Auburn that fall in the pre-vet curriculum.

After navigating the pre-vet world and after completing his first year in the College of Veterinary Medicine, he and Deedee married in summer 1965. They lived in AU’s married student apartments,

and with Deedee needing their car to get to her job across town at a finance company, Sternenberg either walked to class and labs at the old Vet Hill on main campus, or caught a ride to the large animal facility out Wire Road at the College’s current location.

“I was in my second year of veterinary school at Auburn when I received a draft notice,” he said. That was 1966. As if clinical pathology, bacteriology, and virology weren’t enough to worry about, now he had to figure out a different short-term career path.

*“All of a sudden, we were being shelled,” he remembered, fifty-three years later. “I could run a lot faster than than I can now. We ran outta there as fast as we could.”*



“I didn’t want to get drafted, so I decided I needed to join up,” Sternenberg said. “A buddy and I drove over to Fort Benning one day to do that.”

The friend went to the end of long line of future Air Force enlistees. Sternenberg took a more direct route.

“The Army line was shorter, so that’s the line I got in,” he said. “Enlisting enabled me to finish vet school before my service began.”

He was hooded for his DVM on Monday, June 3, 1968. That Friday, he reported for duty in Chicago, at a veterinary school on the city’s south side, where he would receive some of his initial army training.

The Sternenbergs sought lodging at two places—one of which promised lovely views of Lake Michigan, only to offer a window that overlooked nearby rooftops; another a below-ground apartment a stone’s throw from a runway at O’Hare International—before they settled on an Embassy Hotel for their twelve weeks in the Windy City.

“For five days each week, our bunch learned Army stuff,” he said. “We learned how to march and all about food inspection.”

During that assignment, Sternenberg was sent to Fort Leonard Wood in the middle of Missouri for a few weeks of more traditional military training,



including how to handle a rifle and a bayonet.

“We were veterinarians, but the Army wanted us to have at least some familiarity with combat training,” he said. “But we were not prepared to be combat troops.”

He and the other veterinary graduates in this predicament held the rank of captain. The man in charge was a sergeant. That portion of training was made challenging for the recent veterinary graduates because, not only were they not soldiers at heart, but summers in Missouri are as hot as Alabama’s, and those who had most recently been spending their time studying were not in optimum physical condition.

But they survived it and then returned to the veterinary setting in Chicago to conclude work there.

Leaving Chicago in August 1968 a few days before the city hosted the Democratic National Convention, with its now-famous riots and chaos, Sternenberg reported to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

This assignment was scheduled through the following June. Sternenberg spent his time in San Antonio operating an Army small animal clinic and inspecting food production facilities with which the Army did business. He traveled regularly, as some facilities on his beat were located in Houston, Bryan, and Brenham, the headquarters of Blue Bell Ice Cream. He also became a father during this time, as he and Deedee welcomed a son.



Perhaps thinking he'd spend the remaining ten months of his Army commitment in San Antonio—which the Sternbergs loved—he was puzzled that day when the colonel summoned him to his office.

“I had no idea what he wanted,” Sterneberg said. “It did not occur to me he would tell me I now had orders to report in thirty days to Vietnam.”

Deedee and their young son moved back to Montgomery and in with her parents. Sternenberg joined 249 other soldiers for an excursion that began in San Francisco and had stops in Hawaii and Guam before landing in Saigon, almost a full day after they had departed. After one day in Saigon, Sternenberg flew to Da Nang for a week at a large base, and then relocated to his primary assignment at the US Marine Corps' seaside Chu Lai Air Base, fifty miles south of Da Nang. He was part of the 175th Veterinary Detachment for the next ten months.

He and another veterinarian—Dr. Bob Cannon, a Kansas State

graduate—had responsibility for food inspection (primarily Dr. Cannon), and (Sternenberg's primary duties) overseeing three scout dog units, which had about ninety German shepherds between them. He later had oversight of a mine dog unit. Both men also tended to what Sternenberg called “civic actions,” where they would be escorted by an Army or Marine lieutenant into a nearby village to care for a civilian family's pets or farm animals.

“They had cows, pigs, and a lot of dogs,” he said. “We were in a rice-raising area, a farm area, with mountains not far off. When I would go to one of the local villages, I honestly never knew whether those I was dealing with were on our side or against us. I did not know a way of distinguishing between the North Vietnamese and the South Vietnamese. I never got shot at, and I never learned any of the Vietnamese language. But you could tell a lot of times the people were not happy. When I was in Vietnam, I saw more rabies cases than I ever would anywhere else. And distemper was common among dogs there, too. The MPs would typically shoot the rabid dogs, and those with distemper we almost always euthanized.”

On one occasion, Sternenberg was summoned to a small village where a group of nuns lived self-sufficient lives serving their parishioners. Some of their hogs were obviously ailing. That day, the nuns' prayers for healthy hogs were not answered as they had wished.

“They had contracted hog cholera, and I had to destroy the lot of them,” Sternenberg said.

Despite the danger of the surrounding war, Sternenberg found those varied civic actions “gratifying. We tried to help the citizens, and they appreciated what we were doing for them,” he said.

Scout dogs under his care were Army-bred for going on patrol with handlers, and Sternenberg remembered that these dogs were effective at their roles.

“Scout dogs and their handlers would even go into tunnels to pursue the enemy,” he said. “They did a good job in alerting our soldiers to danger. Most of the scout dogs that we lost were shot, killed in action by the enemy.”

*Some of Sternenberg's time in Vietnam was spent tending to local animals that had been acquired by US soldiers. The soldiers sometimes had dogs, but on occasion somebody would have as a pet a local mammal that Sternenberg had never seen.*

The mine dogs arrived later in Sternenberg's tenure in Vietnam and were, in his recollection, "stressed from the travel they had endured to get there. These dogs—also German shepherds—found bombs and booby traps. They didn't go into tunnels. They weren't in as good of shape as the scout dogs, probably due to their level of stress, and they weren't as well trained." That level of lessened capability cost the American cause dearly.

"A lot of our Army handlers got wounded or killed because their [mine] dog would step on a mine or trip a wire," he said. "And I think we lost most of those dogs. None of them came back after the war. It was against Army regulation to bring them back."

Overseeing these working dogs in a place so far from home, and operating with far fewer resources than he might have had in a State-side veterinary hospital, gave Sternenberg an opportunity to be creative in solving one major problem. "Unbelievably high temperatures," as he described the climate on occasion, heated asphalt roads to unbearable levels, which burned the dogs' paws. The enterprising veterinarian used materials he could find to invent a small boot which helped the dogs to overcome that obstacle.

Some of Sternenberg's time in Vietnam was spent tending to local animals that had been acquired by US soldiers. The soldiers sometimes had dogs, but on occasion somebody would

have as a pet a local mammal that Sternenberg had never seen.

"I'm still not sure what this critter is," he said. "It was the size of a beaver, had color like a possum, and a sharp nose like a raccoon's. I never found a reference for it, but when one of the men would bring this animal in, I'd give it a shot of penicillin. That was about all we could do for it."

Another pet that gained infamy during Dr. Sternenberg's time at Chu Lai was an unregenerate monkey which one soldier after another had tried to domesticate.

"Somebody named him Pierre, and he belonged at various times to several soldiers," Sternenberg said. "Pierre was not meant to be a pet. He'd bite the stew out of you. When



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Pierre eventually died, we weren't really sad to see him gone."

Worse than any encounter with the doomed Pierre was that day in the pasture with the wounded cow.

"A Marine lieutenant took me to a location where some other Marines were camped, and the farmer's cow was about 300 yards out from them, in a pasture," he said. "My assistant and I were working on him, then all hell broke loose. We started having mortar shells fall not far away, and you could hear the machine gun fire. I had a .45, and the other guy had an M-16, but we knew those would not do us any good. We got out of there as quickly as we could."

There were, of course, other dangerous and annoying aspects to working in this particular war zone: mosquitoes were "horrible," he said, and there were nights when he slept while wearing a gas mask.

"Our guys would sometimes spread tear gas in the nearby jungles to chase out the North Vietcong, and the wind would blow some of it back into our compound," Sternenberg remembered. "There were nights

when the only way I could sleep was to put on a mask."

And there were rocket attacks.

"The last month I was there, we endured a rocket attack every Monday at the same time," he said. "Most of those rockets would go over the base and into the South China Sea, but sometimes they'd hit something. You'd jump under the bed when you'd hear the explosion. Thankfully, they never hit us.

"One of those rockets landed in the base and stuck in the ground. It didn't explode," he said. "That thing was taller than my house, at least 25 feet long."

His stint in Vietnam offered a couple of much-needed breaks. He had a week's vacation to fly to Hawaii to spend with Deedee, and on another week, he and his roommate—a Navy chaplain from Pittsburgh who in civilian life served as an Episcopal priest and who conducted the weekly church services for Sternenberg and other military personnel in their compound—flew to Hong Kong for sightseeing.

The duo—who became good friends—had actually planned to go to Australia, but when they arrived at the airfield for their flight, they were told they hadn't had the requisite shots to visit that part of the world.

"We asked the authorities where we could go, and they pointed to an airplane and said, 'You can get on that plane and go to Hong Kong.' So that's what we did.

"We saw the sights and also did some shopping," Sternenberg remembered. "My grandmother had sent me a list of items to buy for her: jewelry, tablecloths, pearls. You could get some good deals there at that time. Our hotel room was only \$5 a night. I bought a hunting rifle and shipped it back to my home in the States."

Sternenberg realized, throughout his ten months in Vietnam, that he could have been captured at most any time, particularly while making farm calls to remote villages.

"I worried about that to a degree, and about stepping on a mine," he said. "But I never really knew if I was scared or not. To be honest, the main thing on my mind the entire time was getting back home to Deedee and our son."

That return mission he completed in summer 1969, and afterwards went to work. He remains at work four days a week at Goodwin Animal Hospital, where he has served since 2000. Asked about any benefits he may have gained from

*Sternenberg realized, throughout his ten months in Vietnam, that he could have been captured at most any time, particularly while making farm calls to remote villages.*



his time in Vietnam, Sternenberg noted that the experience gave him confidence and a sense of being able to meet challenges.

“I took over a practice in Montgomery where the veterinarian

had retired a couple of years earlier,” he said. “I worked by myself for a few years before adding a partner. My time in Vietnam gave me increased self-confidence. I worked with the resources I had and did my best. When I got back

and began practicing by myself, I had confidence I could take on and do anything I needed to do, whatever the challenge. The discipline of working in a military environment was valuable in that it gave me direction and a sense of duty. Plus, I made a lot of really good friends among the people in our unit.

“I also appreciated my family even more. Thinking back on that time in Vietnam, I think that experience did me a lot of good.”

A past president of the Alabama Board of Veterinary Examiners, Sternenberg was named the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association’s “Veterinarian of the Year” in Alabama in 2019.

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# 2023 ALVMA FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARY CONFERENCE

The 2023 ALVMA Food Animal Veterinary Conference was held February 24-26 at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort and Spa in Opelika, AL. The three-day conference provided 20 hours of continuing education. This year's conference also included several exciting new events.

The conference opened on Friday afternoon with Food Animal lectures and Industry Updates. On Friday night, forty students from Auburn's College of Veterinary

Medicine joined veterinarians and exhibitors for a Meet and Greet. Students whose interests lie in Food Animal or Mixed Animal practice were able to talk with seasoned veterinarians and industry partners about their career paths.

On Saturday, attendees gathered in the amphitheater for more Food Animal lectures and Industry Updates. Also, on Saturday, with the help of Dr. Tony Frazier, Alabama State Veterinarian, and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and

Industries we were able to offer the first ever Commercial Poultry Track. The Poultry Track provided eight hours of continuing education. Attendees were able to participate in a one-day poultry-only program or they could choose to attend the poultry sessions as part of their Food Animal Conference registration.

Also, on Saturday, a Rabies Titer Test Clinic was held where 35 veterinary professionals were able to receive blood draws.



2023 Food Animal Conference Exhibitors and Attendees



Dr. Rüdiger Hauck presenting for the Poultry Track



(Top Left) Dr. Manuel F. Chamorro presenting Farm Animal Barn Rounds. (Top Right) Dr. Frances Kendrick and Auburn CVM students attending the Friday Night Meet and Greet. (Bottom Left) Dr. Robert Gukich and Mrs. Doris Gukich (2023 Downie Award Winner) pictured with Dr. Dan Tracy, Society of Theriogenology President, and Dr. Soren Rodning, Food Animal Conference Program Chair. (Bottom Right) FAC Steak Dinner

The tests were processed by Atlanta Health Associates and results were returned within three weeks.

Saturday evening held the most popular event, the Steak Dinner and Downie Awards. We were blessed with beautiful weather and were able to gather for dinner under the outdoor pavilion. After dinner, everyone settled in for tons of laughs as veterinarians lined up to share their practice tips and tell of their comical food animal veterinary experiences in hopes to win the coveted Downie Award that is hand crafted each year

by Dr. Arvle Marshall. The winner of the 2023 Downie Award was Mrs. Doris Gukich, wife of Food Animal Conference speaker, Dr. Robert Gukich.

Early Sunday morning attendees moved to Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine's campus and joined together as Dr. Tony Frazier led a short devotional just prior to the wet labs. Everyone then moved to the J.T. Vaughan and Carson Barns for a Bovine Field Anesthesia wet lab and Food Animal Barn Rounds.

The conference wrapped up shortly after noon.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge those who helped us in presenting the Food Animal Conference. We would like to thank all of the exhibitors and sponsors who participated this year: Boehringer Ingelheim, Cambridge Technologies, Multimin, Newport Labs, ReproScan, Society for Theriogenology, and Zoetis. And lastly, we would like to offer a huge Thank You to our Food Animal Conference Program Chair, Dr. Soren Rodning.

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

*The Nominating Committee of the Alabama VMA has announced its recommendations for candidates for the 2023-2024 Executive Board. Ballots for the 2023-2024 ALVMA Officer Election were mailed to the membership in April. Completed ballots must be received in the ALVMA office with a postmark on or before **May 17, 2023**. Dr. Bradley Harris automatically advances to President, the recommendations include:*



**PRESIDENT-ELECT – DR. BABETTE D. AUTHEMENT – FAIRHOPE, AL**

Dr. Authement is a small animal practitioner in Baldwin County, AL where she has practiced since graduation from Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine in 1991. Dr. Authement has participated in organized veterinary medicine since 1994 as the Gulf Coast Veterinary Medical Association representative to the state board and has served as the President of the Gulf Coast Veterinary Medical Association as well. Dr. Authement believes that the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association has helped make

significant strides in our profession within our state and on the national level. We have been through a lot in the last 10-15 years as a profession and as an organization and Dr. Authement would like the opportunity to continue positive leadership into the next decade.



**VICE PRESIDENT – DR. JIM LOVELL – ATHENS, AL**

Dr. Jim Lovell grew up in North Alabama and graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005. After two years working in a mixed animal clinic after graduation,

he went strictly to small animal medicine in which field he still practices today. He opened Eastside Animal Hospital twelve years ago in Athens, AL where he continues to practice. He and his wife, Erica, live in Ardmore, AL on a hobby farm with their two daughters Ava and Aubrey. They are all Disney fanatics and when there is free time, he also enjoys playing the piano and painting.



**TREASURER – DR. SUSAN PARSONS – MCCALLA, AL**

Dr. Parsons fulfilled her childhood dream of becoming a veterinarian by



graduating from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2007. As a veterinarian, she works hard to provide compassionate care to all her patients and to develop lasting relationships with their owners. Dr. Parsons takes this role very seriously and strives to improve the field of veterinary medicine for those who will follow her path. Dr. Parsons graduated from Kingwood Christian School in 1999. In 2003, she graduated from Samford University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. Dr. Parsons was accepted into AUCVM for the fall class of 2003. After graduation, Dr. Parsons worked for a few months at a small animal clinic in Trussville, AL. In 2008, she quickly found her way to her current employment at McAdory Veterinary Clinic. Currently, Dr. Parsons has the pleasure of serving as a Board Member on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation. Over the last four years of serving, Dr. Parsons has had the opportunity to learn so much about the many aspects of veterinary medicine and considers this a wonderful experience. Dr. Parsons currently resides in McCalla with her husband of thirteen years and their two sons, ages 10 & 6. They also have two dogs and two cats that frequently take over their home. On

a personal note, she teaches the first-grade class each Sunday at her church. Although Dr. Parsons and her husband are busy raising their family, she counts it a blessing to be a veterinarian and enjoys her daily work with pets and their owners. Dr. Parsons understands that she has a responsibility to serve her colleagues and to help meet the challenges that may lie ahead in the veterinary profession. Dr. Parsons is always willing to serve in any capacity that furthers the profession of veterinary medicine.



**MEMBER-AT-LARGE –  
DR. BRETT BROOKS –  
ENTERPRISE, AL**

Dr. Brett Brooks is a 2009 graduate of Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. After

graduation, she joined a mixed animal clinic in rural Georgia under her mentor for two years. She then moved to Alabama for a short period working as a small animal and emergency relief veterinarian. Here she found the value of membership in organized veterinary medicine by joining the Alabama and local chapter VMAs. She moved to Tennessee from 2013-2016 but made sure to rejoin the ALVMA in 2016 after moving back to the state. Upon her return to Alabama, she has actively served as the President of her local chapter, the Southeast Alabama Veterinary Medical Association. Brett currently practices again as a small animal relief veterinarian and professional services consultant.

Dr. Brooks is proud to have volunteered as a participant and then Chair for the ALVMA's recent graduate development program, called the Power of 10 Leadership Academy, from 2019-2022. Because Dr. Brooks is passionate about her profession, you can find her engaged in several committees and task forces, meet and greets with veterinary students, recruiting early career colleagues, and networking with industry support personnel. She plans to continue bringing this energy through further dedicated service to the veterinary profession.



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Nora Matthews, DVM, DACVAA  
Texas A&M, College Station, TX

### ANTI-VENOM

Michael Schaer, DVM, ACVIN,  
ACVECC, University of Florida,  
Gainesville, FL & Gena Broussard,  
DVM, MT Venom LLC,  
Woodland, CA

### BEHAVIOR

E. Kathryn Meyer, VMD, Veterinary  
Behavior Clinic, Chevy Chase, MD

### DENTISTRY

Kristin Scott, DVM, DAVDC,  
CROWN Veterinary Dental  
Specialists of Charlotte,  
Charlotte, NC & Gary S. Goldstein,  
DVM, FAVD, DAVDC, Lakefield  
Veterinary Group, Plymouth, MN

### DERMATOLOGY

Robert O. Schick, DVM, DACVDFur  
Kids Allergy & Dermatology,  
Pensacola, FL

### EMERGENCY/CRITICAL CARE

Kendon Kuo, DVM, MS, DACVECC,  
Auburn University, Auburn, AL

### EQUINE MEDICINE - EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE AND EQUINE MEDICINE -WOUND CARE (Different days)

Reid Hanson, DVM, DACVS,  
DACVECC, Auburn University,  
Auburn, AL

### EQUINE MEDICINE - SURGERY

Lindsey Boone, DVM, PhD,  
DACVS-LA, Auburn University,  
Auburn, AL

### EQUINE MEDICINE - THERIOGENOLOGY

Candace C. Lyman, DVM, DACT,  
Auburn University, Auburn, AL

### FELINE MEDICINE

M. Leanne Lilly, DVM, DACVB,  
Ohio State University,  
Columbus, OH

### GASTROENTEROLOGY

Jonathan Lidbury, BVMS, MRCVS,  
PhD, DACVIM, DECVIM-CA,  
Texas A&M, College Station, TX

### GERONTOLOGY

Michael Schaer, DVM, DACVIM,  
DACVECC, University of Florida,  
Gainesville, FL

### HEMATOLOGY & SEROLOGY

Alex M. Lynch, BVSc (Hons),  
DACVECC, MRCVS, North Carolina  
State University, Raleigh, NC

### INTERNAL MEDICINE

Andrew McGraw, DVM, MS, DACVIM,  
Auburn Veterinary Specialists,  
Gulf Shores, AL

### KEYNOTE

Andre Shih, DVM, DACVAA,  
DACVECC, Dogwood Veterinary  
Specialty, Maretta, GA

### LEAP CE: DEI

Laura Pletz, DVM, WVLDI,  
Wildwood, MO

### LEAP CE: WELLNESS

Heidi Hulon, DVM, Elanco Animal  
Health, Auburn, AL

### MUSCULOSKELETAL

Andrew Niehaus, DVM, MS, DACVS,  
Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

### ONCOLOGY

Stephanie E.S. Lindley, DVM,  
CVA, DACVIM, Auburn University,  
Auburn, AL

### PARASITOLOGY

Lindsay A. Starkey, DVM, PhD,  
DACVM, Auburn University,  
Auburn, AL

### PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Schwanda Flowers, First Financial  
Bank, Little Rock, AR

### SMALL RUMINANTS

Patricia Brunton Scharko, DVM,  
MPH, DACVPM, Clemson University,  
Columbia, SC

### SOFT TISSUE SURGERY

Kevin Benjamino, DVM, DAVCS-SA,  
MedVet Medical and Cancer Center  
for Pets, Columbus, OH

### USDA ACCREDITATION

Mel Stephens, DVM  
USDA APHIS VS, Deatsville, AL

### VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

Barbara L. Schick, LVT, RVT, CVT,  
Fur Kids Allergy & Dermatology,  
Pensacola, FL

# 2023 Special Events

Wednesday, May 31 • 5pm  
Baytowne Conference Center  
Exhibit Hall Welcome Reception and Family Fun Night



This is a great opportunity to bring the family to the Exhibit Hall and have some fun while you get your first look at our Exhibit Hall and all the wonderful vendors we have for 2023. Family friendly games, photo booth and balloon art are just some of the fun things we will have in store.

Friday, June 2 • 1:30 pm  
Baytowne Golf Course



Join your colleagues and save on greens fees on Friday afternoon while you play 18 holes on Baytowne Golf Course, one of the Southeast's finest. Match play begins at 1:30 pm. Be sure to thank the sponsors at each hole. Thanks to the generosity of our exhibitors golfers will save more than \$100 off of previous year's price. Cost: \$60.



# CE

Continuing education sessions will be held in the Baytowne Conference Center adjacent the Grand Sandestin Hotel and at the Hotel Effie.

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- Anti-Venom
- Behavior
- Dentistry  
(Friday and Sunday)
- Dermatology
- Emergency/Critical Care
- Equine Medicine Track  
(Emergency/Critical Care, Surgery, Theriogenology and Wound Care)
- Gastroenterology
- Gerontology
- Hematology & Serology
- Internal Medicine
- LEAP CE (Sat. & Sun.)
- Musculoskeletal
- Oncology
- Parasitology
- Poultry
- Practice Management
- Small Ruminants
- Soft Tissue Surgery
- USDA Accreditation
- Veterinary Technician



## Location

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 (850) 267-8000

All education sessions will be held in the Baytowne Conference Center adjacent the Grand Sandestin Hotel or at Hotel Effie.

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A printable registration form is available at [www.emeraldcoastvc.com](http://www.emeraldcoastvc.com).

Early-Bird registration rates available through Friday, May 5.  
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2 Day Registration

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**2 Day DVM  
 REGISTRATION**

VMA Member: \$425  
 Non-Member: \$525

# DR. JOHN THOMAS VAUGHAN

FEBRUARY 6, 1932 • JANUARY 13, 2023



John Thomas Vaughan, Dean Emeritus of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University departed this life early in the morning of January 13th, 2023. He died unexpectedly in his sleep. It was a fortunate coincidence that several children and grandchildren were visiting. He was 90 years old.

He was born February 6th, 1932 to Mary Howard and Henry Asa Vaughan, Sr. in Tuskegee, Alabama. He came from agricultural roots. He said, "My father and my oldest brother said they thought I should be a veterinarian, and that suited me to a T."

After earning his Veterinary degree from Auburn in 1955, Dr. Vaughan practiced briefly in Tuskegee. When he brought a cow to Auburn for surgery, the dean recruited him back as an instructor in the large animal

clinic. The next dean sent him to the University of Pennsylvania to study equine surgery, then assigned him to teach large animal surgery at Auburn. Cornell University recruited Dr. Vaughan to be a professor of surgery and director of the large animal hospital in 1970. He returned to Auburn in 1974, accepting an offer to be department head in large animal medicine. He served as Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine from 1977 to 1995.

Professional memberships include the American Veterinary Medical Association, Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, President of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and President of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

There are far too many honors and awards to mention but naming the John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital for him was at the top of the list.

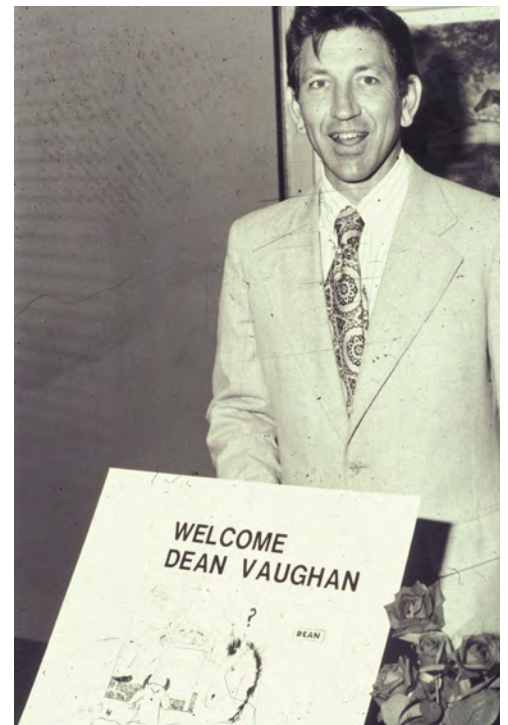
After retirement, he served as Chair of the Professional Liability Insurance Trust that provides insurance for veterinarians.

He was working on a history of veterinary medicine at Auburn. He was a regular contributor of articles for the Auburn Veterinarian.

He was a member of the Auburn United Methodist Church, serving in numerous capacities. He was a

member of the Auburn Rotary Club.

Dr. Vaughan was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Howard Vaughan and Henry Asa Vaughan, Sr., three brothers, Henry Asa Vaughan, Jr. (Jean), Robert Howard Vaughan (Mary), and Roland Crawford Vaughan. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ethel Sell Vaughan, three children, John Thomas Vaughan, Jr. (Renata), Faythe Vaughan, and Michael Sell Vaughan, seven grandchildren, John Thomas Vaughan (Laura), Dylan Vaughan, Charlie Vaughan, F. Vaughan Immerwahr, Evelyn Vaughan, Isabella Vaughan, and Tallulah Vaughan, and one great-grandchild, Audrey Vaughan.





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*When I was a veterinary student, Dr. Tom Vaughan was my dean. He immediately impressed me with three things which he further enforced as I got to know him in the following years. He had the mental fortitude and vocabulary to make Webster envious, he had the physical presence and handshake to make Hercules jealous, and he had the heart for his patients, his profession and his students to inspire a generation of veterinarians capable of changing the world. He was truly an inspiration for the ages and impacted for the better many lives including mine.*

**—Dr. Steven Murphree,  
AU CVM c/o 1983**

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*Dr. Vaughan was the embodiment of the old saying, “A gentleman, a scholar, and a man from the old school.”*

**—Dr. Brad Harris, AU CVM c/o 1990**



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*Dean Vaughan was an honest man and he was the manifestation of integrity. He said what he meant and often in words you needed to look up in the dictionary to understand. He did not need to take an oath because he abided in truth. He was a stellar example of professionalism.*

**—Dr. Frances Kendrick, AU CVM c/o 1992**



# TOMMY JOE LITTLE, DVM

DECEMBER 31, 1941 – APRIL 5, 2023



Dr. Little, or “Doc,” or “Little Doc,” as he was affectionately known by his friends, and “Papa Doc” as he was known by his grandchildren, was born on December 31, 1941. Prior to

graduating high school, Doc led the Winston County High School Yellow Jackets as Captain to a state championship in 1960, earning All-State honors. He later attended Auburn University and graduated in 1968 from the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. Doc moved to Cullman in 1968 and practiced veterinary medicine for 48 years before retiring in 2016.

Over the years Doc treated many pets and travelled all over Cullman County at all times of the day and night treating large animals. During his years practicing, he made many friends and earned a reputation as one of the best veterinarians in Alabama. He was

a perfectionist when it came to his work and that perfectionism often angered the many young men and women that worked for Doc over the years, but all grew to appreciate Doc’s mentoring and loved him.

During the years that he practiced and after his retirement, Doc pursued his passion for raising cattle. He was always working, trying to make things better for those he loved. He sold his last herd of cows six months before he passed away.

Doc loved animals, especially his beloved dogs. He had many over the years including Jessie, Cassie, Bonnie, and Clyde. His most recent companion was Teddy, who passed away on the same day as Doc.

Doc was preceded in death by his parents, Zeb Little and Ruby Little Graben.

Papa Doc is survived by his children, Zeb Little (Kelley) and Lona Heatherly; Sue Little; four grandchildren, Peyton Little, Emily Little, Kate Davis Heatherly, and Tyler Heatherly; brother Johnny Little, and sisters Dorris Ann Blanton (Greg) and Linda Sparks (Dean); along with many nieces, nephews, colleagues, and friends.

## 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.

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.

**Donations are accepted at [www.alvma.com/advocacy/](http://www.alvma.com/advocacy/) 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.*



## Committee Chairs 2023-2024

COMMITTEE	CHAIRMAN	TELEPHONE
Awards	Frances Kendrick	334/872-7577
Constitution/By Laws/Practice Act	John Hammons	256/232-0698
Convention/Program	Babette D. Authement	251/928-5630
Finance	Babette D. Authement	251/928-5630
Large Animal Affairs	Soren Rodning	334/844-7502
Legislative	Hank Lee	251/368-8668
CVM Liaison	Bradley Harris	334/844-7502
Membership/Member Services	Tom Fell	251/401-6907
Nominating	Hal Pate	334/548-2031
P.A.C.	Bill Sternenberg	334/279-9686
Power of 10	Whitney Terrell	256/757-5376
Public Health/Rabies	John Kelliher	334-514-9495
Small Animal Affairs	Babette D. Authement	251/928-5630
Veterinary Emergency Management	Bradley Harris and Exec Com.	334/844-7502
Veterinary Student Relations	Lynlee Nichols	334/277-1101
Vet Tech Advisory	Cathleen Forester	251/580-2273
Veterinary Wellness	Tomeshia Hubbard	205/945-2024

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# GREETINGS FROM MONTGOMERY,

BY Jeff Martin



The legislature has completed two-thirds of what has been a relatively calm and productive legislative session that has included the quick passage of a package of Economic Incentive bills to continue luring businesses to Alabama.

Immediately at the start of this first session of the quadrennium, Gov. Kay Ivey called the legislature into a two-week special session to distribute more than a billion dollars from the American Rescue

Plan Act (ARPA). The legislature allocated \$400 million to water and sewer projects, up to \$260 million for broadband expansion, \$100 million for nursing and another \$100 million for hospitals. A Senate amendment directed \$200 million to stormwater projects and another \$100 to local government projects that can post a 35% match.

As for issues that pertain to veterinary medicine, your legislative committee and ALVMA Executive Board continue to monitor matters that affect the veterinary profession. Currently we are advocating for Senate Bill 162 sponsored by Sen. Tom Butler (R-Madison) that would increase the daily stipend for members of the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. Their current stipend of \$200 has not had an increase in almost twenty years. The bill has been approved by a legislative committee and currently awaits a vote before the full Senate. We are also monitoring and amending several pieces of legislation to ensure no new laws will negatively impact the practice of veterinary medicine in Alabama.

*Currently we are advocating for Senate Bill 162 sponsored by Sen. Tom Butler (R-Madison) that would increase the daily stipend for members of the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. Their current stipend of \$200 has not had an increase in almost twenty years.*

This legislative session brings with it 35 new members. If you have a personal or professional relationship with your legislator, please make me or our legislative chair, Dr. Hank Lee, aware. As always you can reach me at voter98@aol.com or 334-221-5882.

Jeff

# 2023 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

## South Central VMA

Hank Lee  
251-368-8338

## Governmental Affairs Director

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

## Gulf Coast VMA

Babette Dixon Authement  
251- 928-7728

## Mobile VMA

Stephen Schneider  
251-802-4144

## East AL VMA

Buddy Bruce  
334-745-0060

## Jefferson Co VMA

Tom Dawkins  
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## Central AL VMA, Chair

Ronnie Welch  
334-567-4353

## Madison Co VMA

Lauren VanKeuren  
256-348-9549

## Tuskegee VMA

Tomeshia Hubbard  
205-222-7349

## West AL VMA

Hal Pate  
334-548-2031

## Southeast AL VMA

Brett Brooks  
706-566-2738

## Colbert-Lauderdale VMA

Matt Connolly  
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## North AL VMA

Steve Murphree  
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# DR. LYNN HALL

ANDULUSIA, AL

**WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN VETERINARY MEDICINE?**

My love for animals and science

**WHAT TYPE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE DO YOU PRACTICE AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?**

Mixed practice, I love the variety.

**WHERE DID YOU STUDY?**

Auburn CVM – Class of 1980

**WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL/MENTOR?**

On the veterinary side, it would be Dr. Winkler (Dairy Professor) and for life in general, it would be my mother, Juanita W. Hall.

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

Everything, learning from each individual case.



**WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?**

Comforting owners after euthanasia, it's almost impossible in some cases.

**WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER SOMEONE COMING INTO THIS PROFESSION?**

Work hard while at work then leave work at work.

**WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS?**

Working part-time, playing with grandkids part-time.

**WHAT IS THE MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE OF YOUR CAREER?**

Selling one practice and starting a new one.

**WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?**

My children - Will Reed L.V.T./ Kim Reed RN

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST UNUSUAL CLIENT/ CASE YOU HAVE HAD IN YOUR CAREER?**

Camel for X-Ray and an Albino porcupine with an upper respiratory infection.



**WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHERS ON BALANCING WORK/LIFE?**

Take time off, leave work at work, refer cases, and dismiss bad clients.

**WHAT WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT WOULD YOU OFFER SOMEONE STRUGGLING WITH COMPASSION FATIGUE OR BURNOUT?**

Evaluate what you enjoy and head in that direction.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS BEEN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE/ADVANCEMENT IN PHARMACY?**

For small animal Proheart/ Equine medicine  
Dormosedan

**PROFESSIONALLY, IF YOU COULD CHANGE SOMETHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

I would specialize in Equine Internal Medicine.

**WHEN I'M NOT WORKING, YOU'LL FIND ME...**

Playing with my horses or watching my grandkids play sports



**I STILL WANT TO LEARN HOW TO...**

Debark my Jack Russell

**HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE ALVMA?**

I got involved just after graduation. It was a natural thing.

**HOW HAS BEING A MEMBER OF ALVMA HELPED YOU PROFESSIONALLY?**

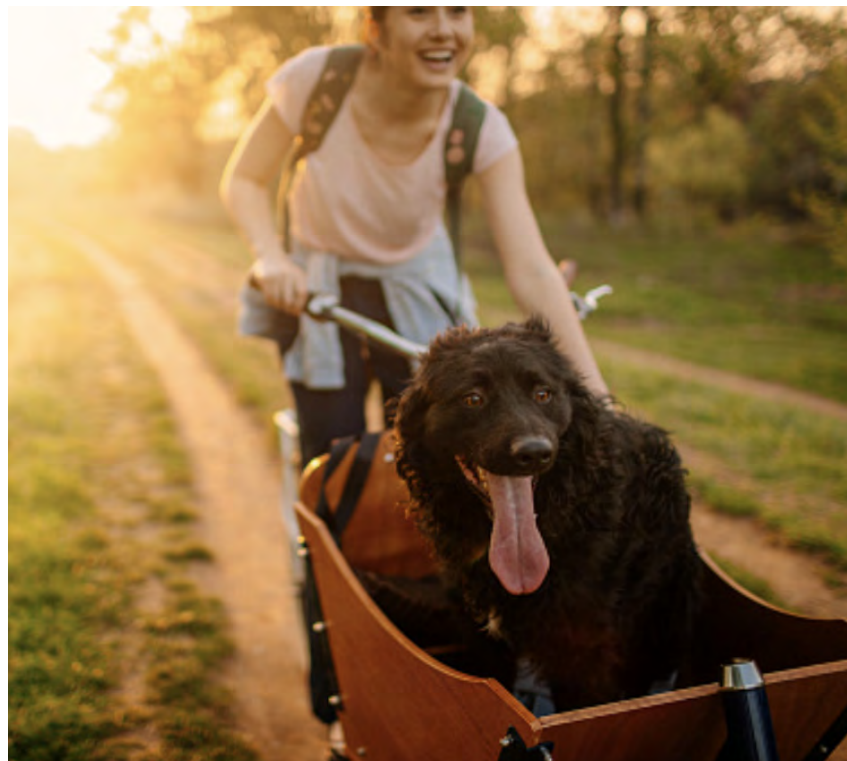
I love the C.E. especially the Food Animal Meetings.

**WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT SOMEONE JOIN ALVMA?**

To acquire new information from others, and attending the CE meetings



# WORK-LIFE BALANCE IS A MOVING TARGET



Is a work-life balance achievable – and can it be maintained? Does a balance between life and work domains truly exist at all, or is “work-life balance” a myth or moving target with a definition that changes for each individual?

If you’re struggling to find equilibrium between work and life, you may find yourself asking yourself (or even asking your

colleagues) these questions. Thankfully, thousands of veterinarians from around the country have contributed their wisdom surrounding the importance, intricacy, and achievability of a satisfying work-life balance in the *AVMA Trust 2022 Trend Report: U.S. Veterinarians’ Work-Life Experience*<sup>1</sup>.

The idea of work-life balance is more of an intangible and misunderstood concept than it appears. One veterinarian respondent suggests that a

“**work-life balance is a moving target,**” meaning the scale may tip in favor of one aspect of life at certain times in your career. Another survey respondent aptly summarizes the complicated concept saying, “**Work-life balance is a myth. There is never a balance. One will, at any given time, be dominant over the other. The hope is that, over the long run, life will approach the median.**” Yet another respondent questioned the validity of “work-life balance” altogether, pointing out, “**Work is a part of life, so the concept of work-life balance is a little artificial.**”

Whether you see work-life balance as a moving target, myth, or artificial construct, finding ways to cope with the way your work and life are intertwined may serve as the key to finding satisfaction on both fronts. A fundamental part to finding happiness in both home and work lives, however, is the support that a veterinarian receives from their employer and colleagues as well as from family and friends.

*The key to achieving a balance that works also depends on individual needs. If you're a person who finds joy in going into work each day, then dedicating a healthy amount of time and energy to your career may be satisfying.*

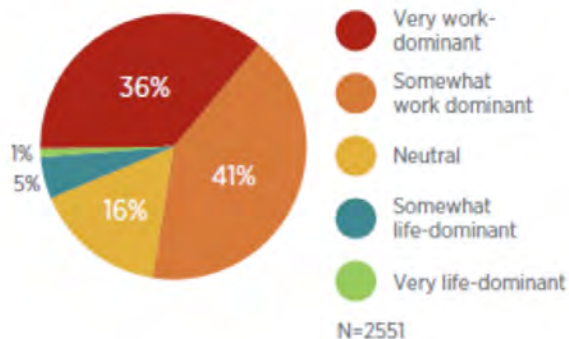
Another responding veterinarian from the AVMA Trust 2022 *Trend Report* explained it this way: **“You need to come to terms with what you feel is an achievable balance and work towards that, knowing it’s a fluid goal.”** A healthy relationship with a work-life balance means recognizing when the imbalance is having a negative effect on your work and taking the steps needed to bring your life closer to your desired balance.

The key to achieving a balance that works also depends on individual needs. If you're a person who finds joy in going into work each day, then dedicating a healthy amount of time and energy to your career may be satisfying. On the other hand,

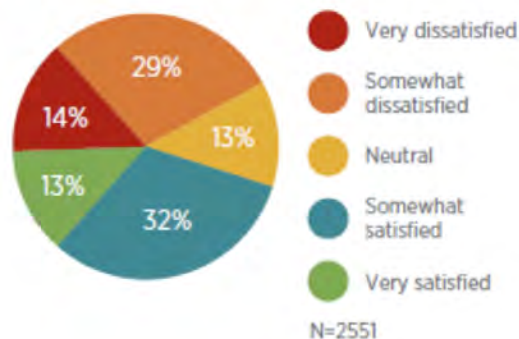
if you are more invigorated by spending time with family and friends or doing enjoyable hobbies, you may need to prioritize those activities to balance out the demands of your job.

Researchers acknowledge that satisfaction with one's work-life balance is individual and must be viewed through the lens of what is most important to a person at that point in time. Aside from personal preferences, the concept of a work-life balance should be viewed as a goal to be achieved over a period of time instead of on a day-to-day basis in order to maximize satisfaction with the balance you find.

Overall, how would you describe your work-life balance?



Overall, how satisfied are you with your work-life balance?



<sup>1</sup>The AVMA Trust 2022 Trend Report: U.S. Veterinarians' Work-Life Experience is based on a national survey conducted in fall 2021. N=2,553 Practicing Physicians. N=327 Retired Veterinarians. 95% confidence, ± 3% margin of error.

# 2023 AVMA VETERINARY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



In January of 2023, I was honored to be selected by the ALVMA to attend the Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago. I completed the Alabama Power of 10 program in 2022 and was excited to further my leadership skills and meet other veterinarians at this prestigious event. I was paired with fellow ALVMA board member and AVMA representative Dr. Libby Todd as a mentor throughout the conference where she provided insight, guidance, and good laughs. The conference started off with a powerful keynote lecture by a handful of speakers detailing the hardships each have encountered in their veterinary journey and the perseverance it took to get to where they are today. This was one of my favorite talks as, just like in the real world, each of us has our own

unique origin story, but they all led us to and through the vast world of veterinary medicine.

I attended many wonderful CE sessions, but one of my favorite lectures was “Bridging Generational Gaps”. This was a hilarious, and at times, awkward discussion of the stereotypes each generation has been branded. We discussed how these stereotypes can be hurtful, but if used correctly, can be a great tool in selecting new mentors and employees.

While attending the conference, I had the opportunity to sit in on the AVMA committee/reference meetings where topics such as the veterinary “mid-level practitioner”,

the dog bite prevention initiative, and mental health were all discussed. I also got to experience my first House of Delegates meeting in which the majority of resolutions previously debated were passed. Numerous networking events were held throughout the conference. I was able to make connections and converse with veterinarians, licensed veterinary technicians, and veterinary students from all over the world. In a profession where suicide and depression rate run so high, it is comforting to know that we can all come together to share our experiences, cases, and be a beacon of hope to the future generations of veterinarians to come.



Drs. Whitney Terrell and Libby Todd



# NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome those members who have joined the association since Fall 2022

## 3-4 YEAR GRADUATES

Dr. Jessica Ward Bay  
Minette, AL  
Ross University 2020

Dr. Nolan Kilough  
Opelika, AL  
Auburn 2021

## NEW GRADUATE

Dr. Sarah Cover  
Northport, AL  
Royal Veterinary  
College 2022

Dr. Sarah Birdsong  
Cantonment, FL  
University of  
Minnesota 2022

## NEW ACTIVE

Dr. Courtney Allred  
Phenix City, AL  
Tuskegee 2018

Dr. Jonathan Sims  
Montevallo, AL  
University of Georgia 2019

Dr. Sonia Kuhn Asif  
Vestavia, AL  
Ohio State 2010

Dr. Lindsay Floyd  
Hoover, AL  
Auburn 2007

Dr. Christi Johnson  
Columbiana, AL  
Auburn 1997

Dr. Cecelia Johnston  
Summerdale, AL  
Auburn 2019

Dr. Lauren Leger  
Summerdale, AL  
Auburn 2016

Dr. Matthew Sullivan  
Auburn, AL  
University of  
Georgia 2014

Dr. Jeffrey Haney  
Auburn, AL  
Auburn 2017

Dr. Michelle Shelton  
Scottsboro, AL  
St. George's  
University 2015

Dr. James Moore IV  
Opelika, AL  
Auburn 2004

Dr. Hillary Adkison  
Auburn, AL  
Auburn 2018

Dr. Lucy Roberts  
Tuscaloosa, AL  
University of  
California Davis 2001

Dr. Katherine Dunn  
Spanish Fort, AL  
Auburn 1995

Dr. Paul Walz  
Auburn, AL  
Michigan State 1992

Dr. Bryan Mann  
Owens Cross Roads, AL  
Auburn 2009

## RE-INSTATES

Dr. William Stanley  
Huntsville, AL  
Auburn 1994

Dr. Lauren Ellenburg  
Arab, AL  
Auburn 2016

Dr. Karen Kendrick  
Wetumpka, AL  
Tuskegee 2002

Dr. Susan Hall  
Theodore, AL  
Auburn 1997

Dr. Natalie Kane  
Birmingham, AL  
LSU 2006

Dr. Jill Narak  
Montgomery, AL  
Iowa State 2005

Dr. Thomas Giambrone  
Bessemer, AL  
Auburn 2015

Dr. Katherine Schmidt  
Tuscaloosa, AL  
Ohio State 2013

## VETERINARY STUDENTS

Danielle Ury  
Auburn, AL  
Auburn 2024

## NEW LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Philip W. Baxter  
Rainbow City, AL  
Auburn 1978

## NEW RETIRED

Dr. Kecia Howell  
Auburn, AL  
Auburn 1984

## Alabama Veterinary Professionals Wellness Program

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# TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

BY Anissa L. Riley

**TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY AND  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
COLLEGES OF VETERINARY  
MEDICINE INTRODUCE  
PARTNERSHIP FOR ROTATING  
SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE AND  
SURGERY INTERNSHIP**

TUCVM's Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA) presented a Lunch and Learn for TUCVM students in the fall semester at TUCVM's Patterson Hall Auditorium to share information on the partnership between the University of Georgia (UGA) and Tuskegee University on their Rotating Small Animal Medicine and Surgery Internship. The lunch time event was sponsored by UGA.

Dr. Roslyn Casimir, former Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and Mr. Anthony McCloud, TUCVM's Director of Student Affairs, joined members from UGA's team during the lunchtime presentation. UGA's team in attendance included: Dr. Spencer

Johnston, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery (SAMS) Department Head; Dr. Bianca Lourenço, Assistant Professor in Internal Medicine, SAMS Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Chair; Dr. Samantha Dacanay, current UGA Small Animal Rotating Intern; and TUCVM alum (Class of 1994) Dr. Susan Williams, Interim Assistant Dean for DEI.

A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by both Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of TUCVM, and Dr. Lisa Nolan, dean of UGA, to implement the Rotating Small Animal Medicine and Surgery Internship beginning in the summer of 2023.

During the lunch time session, information was shared on the partnership between UGA and Tuskegee University in which the UGA will invite one outstanding



Tuskegee veterinary student to participate in a rotating small animal medicine and surgery internship at UGA from June 16, 2023 - June 23, 2024. Applications from fourth-year veterinary students or TUCVM graduates will be considered.

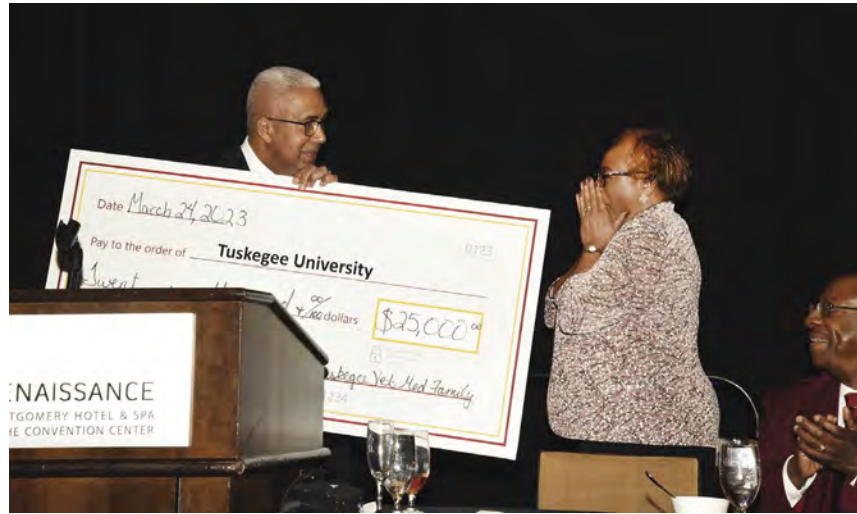
**TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY  
MEDICINE HOLDS 2023 WHITE  
COAT CEREMONY FOR SIXTY-  
THREE STUDENTS**

TUCVM was excited to welcome students from the Class of 2024 to the next phase of their veterinary medical curriculum at an in person White Coat Ceremony on February 25 at the Tuskegee University

Chapel. Pride, excitement, and gratitude marked the transition of this year's veterinary medicine students to the clinical phase of the curriculum.

Mr. Anthony McCloud, director of Student Affairs, and the White Coat Ceremony Planning Committee organized this year's event under the direction of Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the college. Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, interim associate dean of Academic Affairs, presided over the ceremony. Greetings were given by Dean Perry; Dr. Calvin M. Johnson, dean of Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. Steven T. Murphree, past president of Alabama Veterinary Medical Association; Dr. Jason Rodgers, past president of Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association; Dr. Wendi Lilly-Bare, past president of South Carolina Association of Veterinarians; and congratulatory greetings were read by Dr. Gilbreath on behalf of faithful sponsor Dr. Harvey Crumm, senior manager at Zoetis Animal Health, who was unable to be in attendance.

For anyone who missed the ceremony, it can be viewed by entering TUCVM 2023 White Coat Ceremony in the search section



at <https://www.youtube.com/user/tuskegeeuniversity>.

**TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY  
MEDICINE HOST IN-PERSON  
57TH VETERINARY SYMPOSIUM**

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) welcomed alumni, students, faculty, staff, pre-veterinary students, friends and supporters to its 57th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium on March 22-25, 2023 which was held in historic downtown Montgomery, Alabama and on the campus in Tuskegee at the veterinary complex. This year's symposium marked the first in-person symposium after three years of pivoting from a traditional symposium to a virtual

platform because of the coronavirus pandemic.

This year's symposium theme, "Cultivating a Sustainable Future for the Veterinary Profession," underscored the list of dynamic

speakers and several continuing education sessions presented during the symposium, which was RACE® approved. Participants had the opportunity to fully engage in various sessions and earn up to 20 continuing education units of credit.

The Alumni Banquet, which is one of the most highly anticipated features of the Symposium, was held on Friday night March 24 and honored the alumni reunion classes of 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973 (50th year - golden class), 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998 (25th year - silver class), 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018. Not only did the reunion classes continue the momentum of giving back monetarily to "Mother Tuskegee" but a surprised scholarship endowment was announced in honor of Dean Perry by the newly elected Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association President, Dr. Irving McConnell. Dean Perry cried tears of joy as she was surprisingly presented with a giant \$25K check announcing the establishment of the Dr. Ruby Perry Endowed Scholarship for Tuskegee University veterinary students.



# TUSKEGEE SAVMA

BY Taylor T. Smith

At the start of the semester, it was a bit chilly outside, so SAVMA at TU decided to bring the heat! Our first event to kick-off Spring 2023 and welcome the students back to school was, “S’mores with SAVMA”! We bought a fire pit (with a deep pit and a cage, of course, because ya know, safety first) and we provided everything you need to make the sweet treat. With skewers and marshmallows in hand, we all stood around the fire and spoke about the semester ahead, and our students learned about what SAVMA has in store. It was a great way to warm us up, and get us fired up for the start of the new term.

We began the month of February with our first wellness event, coordinated by our wellness committee, which is actually a series of events that are held the first Saturday of every month that we call “Safe Space Saturdays”! This particular Saturday we met up at Chewacla State Park and took a short hike with our puppies leading the pack. We made it to the waterfall and had a “Safe Circle Chat” where we open the floor for anyone to speak about whatever they choose in a

safe space. We all work so hard in school so SAVMA aims to provide places outside of the classroom where students can decompress from the stressors of the week, be heard and be seen, and ultimately take care of our bodies and minds.

For Valentine’s Day, we held a weeklong event to celebrate and bring some spirit and cheer to campus. We did “SAVMA Sing-a-grams” where our students, were able to choose a song to be performed to their friends or partners during the week of Valentine’s. Members of our eboard, found each chosen person during our breaks from classes or during lunch and we sang them a sweet melody. Our favorite performance was of Chris Stapleton’s “Tennessee Whiskey” purchased by the lovely Dean Perry, for the members of her team in the dean’s office. We were told this was as enjoyable an experience for those who received them as it was for us to give them out. (Check out some of our performances at TuskegeeSAVMA on IG).

For our next event, we shared our screens with Chief Veterinary Officer of the American Kennel Club, Dr. Jerry Klein where we learned all about the structure and goals of the AKC, breed identification, and canine registries. We also received breed identification guides that truly excited us (because ya know, who doesn’t love freebies, and useful freebies at that).

The next week, we welcomed Dr. Mandala Hunter-Ishikawa and Professor Peter Devia, a dynamic duo based out of Colombia who have combined language learning techniques and animal case-based content and vocabulary to teach Spanish to veterinary students and professionals. The students enjoyed the webinar so much, we are hoping to provide a mini-webinar series over the summer or next semester which will allow our students the opportunity to enhance their professional development simply by learning to communicate in another language.



SAVMA E-Board preparing for “S’mores with SAVMA”. (Students pictured: Morgan Mitchell, Jamie Smith, Nia Salandy, Sanavvah Simon, Taylor Smith, Jordy Oriental, Alston Jenkins, and Kyle Frett)



We were privileged to host Dr. Shannon Boveland, DVM, M.S., DACVO for our “What’s your Specialty” event, where Tuskegee alumni were able to share about their journey from TU to their specialty. (Pictured: Alston Jenkins, Kyle fret, Jordy Oriental, Taylor Smith, and Dr. Shannon Boveland)

The last two months of the semester, we held several exciting and engaging events. The first week of March, we held our “What’s your Specialty” event in which we invited a few Tuskegee alumni to come back and speak to us about their journey from TU to their specialty. We think its important to engage with professionals who were once sitting in our exact seats so that we can be exposed to examples of who we dream to be. We were privileged to host Board Certified Ophthalmologist, Dr. Shannon Boveland, and ER Surgeon Dr. Christopher Leroy. The insight and knowledge gained from their presentations is immeasurable. We held our annual Week of Wellness (WOW) after the Easter Break. This week was filled with daily events centered around mental health awareness, managing stress in healthy ways, and physical fitness to help us get our bodies and our minds prepared for exams. The first event of the week was “Morning Motivation”. We held a small breakfast for students and gave them the opportunity to write affirmations and motivational notes on a huge poster which was hung for all to see. We held a “Burn the Bad” event where students were able to write down any negative thoughts and release them into a fire pit. Students were also able to take a break from studying and make DIY skin care products, overnight oats and take a Zumba class. To close the week out, we held a

Lunch and Learn teaching students how to manage their energy. We successfully accomplished our goal of providing opportunities for students to relax, engage with community, and unwind before finals. We are also planning to host more community service events this semester, so we’ll be ending the month of April by volunteering at Harlem comes to Cotton Farms. This is a family farm owned by Dr. Darren Spencer who is also a TU alum. His farm is located just a few miles from campus and gives our students the opportunity to get some hands-on experience in animal handling and husbandry.

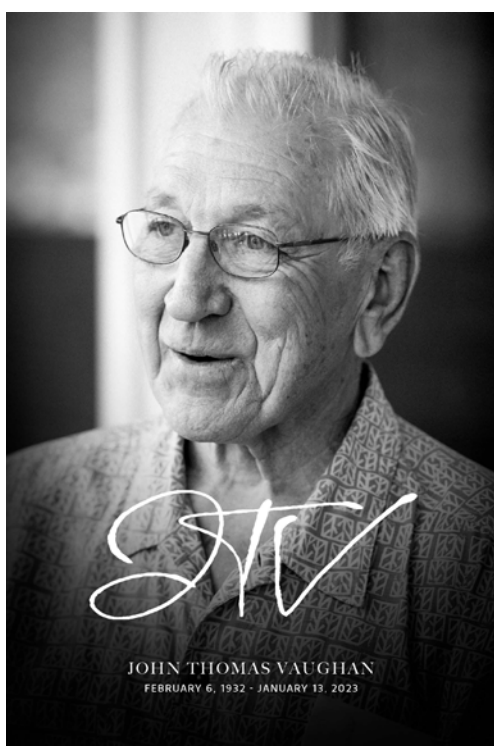
SAVMA’s mission is to support, empower, and inspire all veterinary students in improving their lives, education, and career. We strive to provide the most, engaging, informative, and relaxing events to give students healthy outlets to release stress outside of school. We had a jam-packed Spring semester and plan to go even bigger next semester. Be on the lookout for the Fall Report from SAVMA at Tuskegee University.



Figure 3: Students making their own Overnight Oats at one of our DIY Wellness Events. (Students pictured: Charles Walker, Elise Johnson, and Mychaela Smith)

# AUBURN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

BY Jayne Hart



## **DR. J. T. VAUGHAN: A LIFE WELL LIVED**

Over the course of my service as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, I have had the privilege of knowing and working with many truly exceptional people. At the top is my colleague, friend and mentor, John Thomas Vaughan, DVM, MS, Diplomate, American

College of Veterinary Surgeons, our college's 5th dean. We continue to celebrate his life, his spirit of camaraderie and his unparalleled career as a veterinarian, equine surgeon, department head, dean and academic leader at Auburn University.

My admiration for Dr. Vaughan grew as I came to know him in the three distinct roles of mentor, colleague and friend. Being born in 1932, he experienced the impacts of the Great Depression as a child, experiencing scarcity and the requirements for frugality, improvisation and a spirit of mutual support that crossed family boundaries. He also lived through the sacrifices and uncertainties of World War II when Tom saw two of his older brothers called to military service to liberate Europe. In Tom, we saw the importance of family, community and country. On the heels of growth and prosperity after the war, Tom entered college classrooms in which he was often much younger than the average student. For many of us, people from Dr. Vaughan's period raised us, educated us, mentored us and cleared paths for professional

and personal growth. Knowing the powerful connections that Tom created between friends and colleagues, I'm confident that his best distinctive characteristics will continue to emerge as our lives perpetuate his tremendous influence.

When I began as a veterinary student at Auburn in 1982, Dean Vaughan was in his 27th year as a veterinarian and 5th year as dean, but I had known him through his reputation for my whole life. As I honed my career interests in veterinary medicine, I quickly recognized that Dean Vaughan was nationally and internationally renowned. As a pre-vet student at Auburn, I saw Dr. Vaughan serve first as president of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and the next year as president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. It is rare for an individual to garner such diverse peer recognition and respect from both practitioners and academic scholars. While I was training in veterinary clinics at Auburn, Dr. Vaughan earned the Alabama VMA's Veterinarian of the Year Award

and later its Distinguished Service Award. As a student, I vividly remember the immense pride I felt in knowing that my dean was so highly respected in veterinary practice and academia.

As a tribute to his legacy, the **Dr. John Thomas Vaughan Endowed Chair in Equine Surgery and Medicine** has been established in the Auburn Large Animal Teaching Hospital. Our ambitious goal is to raise \$1 million in gifts and commitments during 2023. Once established, we will use the Vaughan Endowed Chair to recruit and retain an exceptional faculty member who perpetuates the qualities of Dr. Vaughan: a dedication to Auburn's mission in veterinary education, a commitment to practicing the highest standards of care and a focus on engaging clients with care and compassion. Because we are establishing an endowment whose earnings will support this chair, it will be awarded in perpetuity. Thus, the Vaughan Endowed Chair will inspire thousands of future students, colleagues and clients.

Our success will require our best collective effort. We hope that you will take this opportunity to honor the legacy of Dean J.T. Vaughan with a gift to the Auburn University Foundation either online at [aub.ie/vaughanmem](http://aub.ie/vaughanmem) or by calling (334) 844-1446.

Calvin Johnson, Dean

*Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine*



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**AUBURN CVM TO OFFER UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN PUBLIC AND ONE HEALTH**

The College of Veterinary Medicine is one step closer to offering a new curriculum after the Auburn University Board of Trustees approved a proposal to establish the college's first undergraduate degree program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Public and One Health (PAOH). Pending review and endorsement by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the B.S. program will be offered beginning Fall Semester 2024 and will require 120 credit hours delivered by at least eight colleges on the Auburn campus.

**AUBURN CVM & ELANCO ANIMAL HEALTH ESTABLISH BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES FELLOWSHIPS**

The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, in partnership with Elanco Animal Health, has established the Elanco Animal Health Annual Fellowships in the Biomedical Sciences.

Supporting the college's strategic plan and funded by a gift from

Elanco — a global leader in animal health — the new program will support two Elanco Fellows annually beginning later this year. Fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis to individuals pursuing a PhD in biomedical sciences or to those who have recently earned a PhD in relevant biomedical science disciplines.



**2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED OCTOBER 5-7**

Registration will open in May for the 2023 Annual Conference, scheduled for October 5-7. This year's conference will be held at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center in the heart of the Auburn University campus. Watch for continued updates on the college's website as details are finalized.

# AUBURN SAVMA

Zach Wriedt



<< SAVMA members enjoy a free barre class during wellness week

This spring semester was eventful for SAVMA at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. We had numerous meetings with guest speakers, including past alumni, and organizations. Also, our wellness chairs, Allison Dees and Sarah Mason, put on a fantastic wellness week that exemplified the importance of wellness in our profession.

Our first meeting this semester was in collaboration with VBMA. Dr. Jessi Farris, former VBMA national president, came to speak to both SAVMA and VBMA members about how to work through financial statements for your practice. She gave important advice on how to navigate through the accounting aspect of running a privately owned hospital, and how its importance affected not only you as an owner but also your entire staff.

Next, in the second week of February we had our annual wellness week. Allison Dees, our wellness chair, and Sarah Mason, our wellness chair-elect, worked very hard to make sure that the week was great for all of the college's students. The theme this year was "being your best self" and to facilitate this theme there were lunch meetings every day that week as well as a couple evening meetings with speakers who explained the importance of our wellness while in veterinary school but also as we venture out into our professional careers. Additionally, there was a self defense class, put on by AUCVM's very own Dr. Hoffmeister and Dr. Elrod. Finally, free zumba and barre classes were offered to students. By actively participating in wellness week, students were put in for raffles to receive some great prizes.

Next, we had three meetings to finish off February. The first was with AMVA PIIT over the importance of liability, disability, and health insurance. Sarah Hankins of Shelby Safe Pet then came to speak with students about the connection with animal abuse and domestic violence. She explained to students what role Shelby Safe Pet is playing in providing for victims of domestic violence and their pets. Additionally, she explained how we as future veterinarians can help as well. Finally, we had a meeting sponsored by Mission Veterinary Partners (MVP) about how to survive your first year in practice. Dr. West Hamryka spoke to students about different aspects of practicing as a veterinarian and how to navigate this as a recent graduate.

In early March, our President, Zach Wriedt, President-elect, Katie Davis, Senior Delegate, Alia Johnson, and Junior Delegate, Dani Roney, traveled to Champaign, Illinois for SAVMA Symposium. This is an exciting opportunity to meet with other student leaders and bounce off ideas on how to improve our chapters. Additionally, the presidents received guidance on how to run the chapter while delegates voted on important bills and amendments that affect all veterinary students.





The 2023 SAVMA Executive Team

Later in March SAVMA hosted two meetings. The first was with Dr. Jennifer Thompson about knocking out your student debt. Dr. Thompson provided a unique perspective into paying off debt because she decided to pay her student loans outright without a payment plan. This was something a lot of students had not heard about so it was interesting to hear about her experiences with this. Our next meeting was with Dr. Carr Kelsey who spoke to us about seven qualities to look for in your first practice you work at. With many years of experience, his advice was valuable.

Finally, to wrap up this semester in April we had two more meetings. The first was a zoom meeting with Dr. Brake from the CDC. Dr. Brake is a laboratory animal medicine resident and spoke to students about the CDC's specific residency program but also about the laboratory animal medicine residency as a whole for those who were interested. Finally, we had a meeting with former ALVMA President, Dr. Randy Davis, who spoke to us about the importance of organized veterinary medicine. This was a great way to finish off this semester to reinforce why SAVMA, ALVMA, and AVMA are important for every veterinarian.

We thank the ALVMA for the constant support and all they do for the AUCVM SAVMA and the entire AUCVM community.



McKinley Archibald and Allison Dees (our Wellness Chair) enjoy the therapy dogs during wellness week.

# ALVMA EXECUTIVE BOARD

2022-2023

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(334) 872-7577



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