

ALABAMA

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

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**EMERGING
THREATS 05**

**MEET YOUR
2023 ALVMA
PRESIDENT 06**

**SOUTHEASTERN
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Jeni L. Knizley DVM 251.605.4287
jknizley@DVMconsultants.com

Ray Baas Jr., VP 504.782.2203
rbj@DVMconsultants.com

Ray C. Baas, Principal 504.957.5506
rbaas@DVMconsultants.com

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PO Box 803
Fayetteville, TN 37334
Email: staci@alvma.com

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responsibility for material contained in articles
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MEET THE STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Heather Vaughn
Heather@alvma.com

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Staci Corder
Staci@alvma.com

DIRECTOR OF MEETINGS & EVENTS

Adele Reed
Adele@alvma.com

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

Darlene Clendenon
Darlene@alvma.com

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DEAR ALVMA MEMBERS,



I hope this letter finds you well. I write to you today, to share some remarkable developments within our association.

First and foremost, I am happy that the rollout of our newest member benefit, the new Health Insurance Program, has been a success! This initiative has been in the works for quite some time, and I'm delighted that it will benefit so many of our members.

I am also pleased to announce the establishment of the Southeastern Food and Farm Veterinary Summit. This annual event will be a joint effort between the Alabama and Georgia Veterinary Medical Associations (VMAs). Collaborating with the Georgia VMA to hold the Summit can indeed bring several benefits, not only to our respective states but also to those across the southeast region. We anticipate that this CE event will contribute to the growth and prosperity of food and farm veterinary medicine. Also, if you are due to receive a titer test, we will be offering those again as part of the 2024 program. Please join us March 8-10, 2024, in Opelika, AL.

Lastly, as we enter our dues renewal season, I would like to encourage each member to consider supporting our profession through donations to the Political Action Committee (PAC). The PAC plays a crucial role in

advocating for policies and regulations that benefit our industry and protect our profession. By contributing to the PAC, you are actively participating in shaping the future. Your donations will enable us to represent our members effectively in discussions with legislators, regulatory bodies, and other stakeholders, ensuring that our collective voice is heard and our concerns are addressed. Together, we can make a significant impact on the decisions that affect our profession.

To donate to the PAC, you may contribute as you renew your dues, through the ALVMA website, or by contacting our association office for assistance. Every donation, no matter the size, is a step towards securing a prosperous future for all Alabama veterinarians.

If you have any questions or need more information about any of these member benefits, please do not hesitate to reach out to the ALVMA office at (334) 603-6227 or info@alvma.com.

Thank you for your commitment to our shared goals and aspirations. Together, we can achieve great things.

Warm regards,

Brad Harris, DVM
ALVMA President

EMERGING THREATS

BY Dr. Tony Frazier



The Asian Longhorned Tick (ALHT) was first confirmed in the United States in 2017 and has been identified in seventeen eastern states, including our neighbors Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The tick will spend part of its time on the host and part of its time in the environment. And it may feed on many different hosts including humans, domestic animals, and wildlife. The ALHT has been confirmed to be a vector for a pathogen of significant livestock concern, *Theileria orientalis* and other rickettsial diseases.

The ALHT is light brown in color and very small, often smaller than a sesame seed. They are difficult to detect due to their small size and quick movement. Females may only be the size of a pea when full of blood. Males are rare. The females can reproduce without a male. A

single female can produce 100-200 eggs at a time without mating. This can result in an animal being infested with hundreds or even thousands of ALHT's causing great stress and reduced growth and production. In fact, the ticks can attack in such large numbers that they can drain the host's blood so quickly that the animal dies from exsanguination.

The dog flea and tick products Bravecto and Nexgard both have FDA approval to be labelled effective against the Asian Longhorned tick. It is certainly worth consideration when clients are travelling with their dogs to states to the north and east of Alabama, especially if camping or spending time outdoors.

While being infested with large numbers of the ticks can cause considerable problems for their hosts, it only takes a few of these ticks to transmit disease. As noted earlier, *Theileria orientalis*, genotype, Ikeda, is transmitted by the ALHT. *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda causes bovine anemia and has signs similar to anaplasmosis. *Theileria orientalis* has been present in other parts of the world, including parts of Asia and Australia. However, since 2017, when the ALHT was confirmed to be in the United States, there have been rare cases where animals were positive for

While being infested with large numbers of the ticks can cause considerable problems for their hosts, it only takes a few of these ticks to transmit disease.

Theileria orientalis genotype, Ikeda.

Native genotypes of *Theileria orientalis* are generally nonpathogenic. However, the genotype Ikeda is a virulent strain that is novel to US cattle. *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda have been reported to cause mortality of up to 5 percent of infected cattle. Pregnant heifers and calves are most susceptible to the infection. Clinical signs include weakness, reluctance to walk, and abortion. Physical exam findings include pale mucous membranes, high fever, elevated heart, and respiration rates. For cattle there is no treatment and animals that recover often become carriers.

Please keep the Asian Longhorned tick and *Theileria* on your radar. If you or your clients have questions concerning confirming the identification of ticks or testing for *Theileria*, do not hesitate to call my office at 334-240-7253.

DR. BRAD HARRIS

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN VETERINARY MEDICINE?

No one thing inspired me to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. Like so many veterinarians I know, I just knew from a young age that I wanted to be a veterinarian. The encouragement and support of my family started me on that journey.

WHERE DID YOU STUDY?

I did my undergraduate studies at the University of Kentucky and received my doctorate of veterinary medicine from Auburn University in 1990.

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

I am currently practicing small animal medicine at Dothan Animal Hospital in Dothan Alabama. I was originally in mixed animal practice in Greensboro Alabama.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB? WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

What I enjoy most about my job is the relationships with clients and working within that relationship to help clients successfully help their pets. The hardest part of my job is the opposite, when the staff, the client and myself give 100% and we don't get the outcome we were seeking.

WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER SOMEONE COMING INTO THIS PROFESSION?

The best advice for new graduates is two-fold. Practically speaking, work hard to develop strong communication skills. It is a soft skill that will serve you well as you interact with staff and clients. Technically speaking, stay abreast of new technologies available. While you may not have them on hand, they may offer diagnostic opportunities should you refer a patient.



WHAT IS THE MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE OF YOUR CAREER?

The most memorable experiences of my career did not involve a patient. Those experiences involved Dr. Jimmy Payne and Dr. Ben Garrett. Each of these men served to grow me as a veterinarian. Dr. Payne was an excellent teacher and far too patient with this new graduate. Dr. Garrett, with whom I practiced for 25 years, was an example of commitment and thoroughness that challenged me professionally. They say you spend more time with your business partner than you do with your spouse in an average week. That statement is probably true to some degree and in that time strong friendships develop. Even though I don't see them on a regular basis any more my relationships with these two men are still active. I was blessed to have experienced these past 33 years of my professional life with these two men.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS?

In five years, I fully anticipate that I will still be practicing veterinary medicine. I don't know that I'm prepared to commit beyond that time! We'll have to see what develops for our family.

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

The professional accomplishment I am most proud of, together with Dr. Garrett, is having set goals for the growth of Dothan Animal Hospital and then achieving those goals. We experienced good times and bad times, but we believed in practicing quality medicine with a commitment to client/patient service. And we were rewarded for our perseverance.

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS BEEN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE/ADVANCEMENT IN VETERINARY MEDICINE?

It's hard to say what is the one most significant change in veterinary medicine. In general, looking back since my graduation, the technological advances in the field are what impresses me the most. From sophisticated in-house diagnostic tools to surgical devices to practice management software things have definitely come a long way.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK HARD?

My motivation to work hard originates with my parents, my father especially. My father worked long hours and made a lot of personal sacrifices to provide for his family. Together with my mother he instilled in me (and my brother and sister) a strong work ethic, a commitment to accomplish the task, and the desire to finish well.



WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL/MENTOR?

My role models are my father, Dr. Jimmy Payne, and Dr. Ben Garrett.

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

When I'm not working, I like to stay busy in many ways. I enjoy golfing, fishing, playing piano, reading, and officiating high school football.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE ALVMA?

I initially got involved with the ALVMA as the Executive Board representative for the Greater Dothan VMA.

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT SOMEONE JOIN ALVMA? HOW HAS BEING A MEMBER OF ALVMA HELPED YOU PROFESSIONALLY?

I encourage all Alabama veterinarians to visit the ALVMA website. It has had a refreshing make over that includes the benefits of being an ALVMA member. Those benefits are too numerous to list here. By being an ALVMA member and serving within ALVMA leadership I have been given me the opportunity to serve in return to the profession that has served me so well. What I have learned in my ALVMA membership and service is that there are ways that this professional association serves all veterinarians in Alabama. ALVMA's service to Alabama veterinarians does not always make front page news, but it is present, it is heard, and it seeks what best benefits our profession in the state. Supporting those efforts through ALVMA membership benefits all Alabama veterinarians.



DR. SHELBY AGNEW

MADISON, AL

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN VETERINARY MEDICINE?

I can't remember a time I didn't want to be a veterinarian, but I can remember reading James Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small* and cementing the idea. I love the collection of stories that comes with being a veterinarian- there's always something- or someone- interesting!

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

I have been a small animal relief veterinarian for the past four years. I initially started while between jobs, but I loved the idea of working for other veterinarians while they went on vacation or took time for themselves and their families.

WHERE DID YOU STUDY?

I went to Auburn University for both my undergraduate and veterinary degrees.

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

Although I don't use these skills much currently, I really believe that I didn't learn enough about dentistry in school, compared to the amount of dentistry done in small animal general practice. I was lucky enough to attend multiple wet lab continuing education programs at UGA early in my career to make up for it, but I was honestly startled by the amount of time I spent examining and extracting teeth for how little we spent doing so in school.

WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL/MENTOR?

Dr. Eileen Jenkins was a resident when I was in veterinary school and she continues to be a role model (and I'm lucky enough to say she is a mentor too!) to this day.



Even when practicing at a specialty teaching hospital, she made sure that we as students were understanding and compassionate towards clients that were unable to pursue the ivory tower level of care we were attempting to provide, and that is something that I hope I will carry forward in my career for the rest of my life.

WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

As a relief vet, I always try my darndest to provide continuity of care for all.

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

It's advice that I'm still working on taking myself, but it's to not take client decisions about their pets' care personally. Most people want the best for their pets, but they also have so many other draws on their time and finances. Your job is to do your best with your exam and history, provide the best education you can, and then work with the client to make a decision regarding their pet that works for their family.

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

Probably the time I took a snake home that had been returned to the pet store that our veterinary clinic worked with after not eating for months. It took a few weeks but (with good husbandry!) I successfully rehabilitated it and wanted to keep it. Unfortunately the guy I was dating at the time wasn't a fan, so I told him that if I was going to make a decision about a pet based on him, it better be a long term thing. We got married later that year (and the snake went home with my boss!).

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

I think learning what my limits are has been very important. I realized pretty early on that being a veterinarian can be draining physically, mentally, and emotionally. For me, finding the balance where I know I can give my best self when I am at work and having the time off to recover has been very important, because I know I can keep going, enjoy my career, and provide the best service possible.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS

Honestly, I am so happy with my current career and family life, so I hope more of the same!

I STILL WANT TO LEARN HOW TO...

Be better at all things emergency. I was so intimidated in school by emergency medicine and I really tried to avoid



it. Unfortunately, it finds you, and the better and more confident you are with even the basics, the less scary the whole situation is.

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

Running on the trails of Monte Sano, climbing at the local climbing gym, or snuggling with my beagle on the couch

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE ALVMA?

When I worked as an associate, my boss made ALVMA membership a paid-for benefit of the position. I became more involved when I learned about the Power of Ten program, which he generously gave me time off to pursue and to lead the following year.

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT SOMEONE JOIN ALVMA?

So often, the ALVMA is working behind the scenes to advocate for veterinarians in Alabama. Sometimes it is obvious, like when we were given priority to become vaccinated for COVID in 2021. Sometimes, it's only things that DON'T happen, like bills that will make being a vet more difficult.

HOW HAS BEING A MEMBER OF ALVMA HELPED YOU PROFESSIONALLY?

This one is super easy- the ALVMA has a relief veterinarian list on their website, and being listed there has helped me connect with veterinarians across the state to provide relief work for them.



ARMY SERVICE AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF DR. CHARLES HENDRIX'S ACADEMIC TRAINING

BY Sam Hendrix



This series profiles members of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association who have served our country—or are serving our country—through the Armed Forces.

Many readers of this magazine know Dr. Charles Hendrix, the beloved retired parasitologist from Auburn University and a regular at Alabama Veterinary Medical Association gatherings over many years. His students have enjoyed learning from this enthusiastic professor who “embodies the Auburn Spirit better than anyone,” according

to one, and who “was the embodiment of kindness and caring,” in the view of another. “A bright light to our profession,” added a third.

They know his friendly smile, his optimistic attitude, and his off-beat demeanor, as well as remember his unkempt Greene Hall office—“I know exactly where everything is,” he would say to anyone who gave the place a second look.

What they may not have known is the supplement to his veterinary and professional education Dr. Hendrix received while serving in the US Army Veterinary Corps during the second half of the 1970s.

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Hendrix saw first-hand the art, practice, and professionalism of veterinary medicine when he would visit the Cleveland Park Animal Hospital and Stables, where either of two Auburn graduates—Dr. Herbert Riddle '43 or Dr. Ernest Stewart '51—would provide care for Hendrix family pets. He later worked for these men during

veterinary school and found in them the role models that would propel him to a career in veterinary education.

“Dr. Riddle practiced large animal ambulatory veterinary medicine out of an Oldsmobile Delta 88,” he remembered. “When you went out on a call with him, you’d bounce in that vehicle across the rolling pastures. When my Daddy died in 1989, Dr. Riddle drove that Delta 88 to the street in front of our house, parked it, and told me how sorry he was for my loss.” He also visited the family when Dr. Hendrix’s mother passed in 2008.

Hendrix attended Clemson as a pre-vet student, taking the two years of ROTC required of all male students at the time.

Hendrix attended Clemson as a pre-vet student, taking the two years of ROTC required of all male students at the time. After three years at Clemson, he was admitted to the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia—via an SREB contract situation mirroring how Kentucky residents attend Auburn or Tuskegee. He was graduated with UGA's Class of 1974 and, a few weeks later because of a quirk in the process, received his BS from Clemson. During his preceptorship in vet school, he returned to work with Riddle and Stewart.

He remembered his time at UGA as demanding.

“The faculty members were tough on us,” he said. “They wanted us to learn how to be professional and survive. I learned that if a professor yells at you, don't worry about it. It's when they stop yelling that you should worry.”

He told of a time-honored teaching exercise at Georgia. The day before a physical exam had been scheduled in the bovine rotation, Hendrix said, someone would sew a button into the underside of a cow's tongue.

“Was this cruel?” Hendrix asked rhetorically five decades later. “No. They wanted to make sure when you examined the animal you used your hands and checked under the tongue, because that's the first place foot-and-mouth disease would show up.” The next day, he assured, the button would be removed.



During his college years, the US was heavily involved in Vietnam, and Hendrix realized the likelihood of his being drafted. In 1970, while at Clemson, he chose to enlist in the Army, figuring his time in college would offer some level of deferment as well as reduce the time he'd be obligated to serve. His plan worked. He trained that summer at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and began veterinary school that fall. While in vet school, his military clock was running. After graduation, he owed two years of service, which he fulfilled through the Army Veterinary Corps.

With DVM in hand, off he went to Fort Sheridan in Highland Park, fifteen miles north of downtown Chicago along Lake Michigan. There, he and a few dozen other

new veterinarians completed the Army's ten-week food inspection school.

Hendrix's next assignment was to Fort Gordon, near Augusta, where he spent most of his remaining two years' obligation—from 1974 into 1976—based at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center, inspecting food and taking care of the small number of service dogs—all German shepherds—assigned to the fort as well as pets belonging to service members housed there.

It was in this setting that Hendrix gained some of the memorable experiences he would later use in the classroom to demonstrate lessons with students.

“I learned about the importance of being thorough from my secretary,



Mrs. Edna P. Hammack,” he said. “She was the wife of a colonel, and she had this big, blonde hairdo like Marge Simpson” he remembered. “When she typed on her IBM Selectric, it sounded like machine guns going off. She baked cookies for the enlisted men, whom she called ‘the boys.’

“Mrs. Hammack did all the work related to dog bites. Every morning, one of the veterinary technicians would stop by the outpatient clinic and pick up the dog bite reports, and Mrs. Hammack filled out all the required forms and then had me sign them,” he said. “That was all I had to do. She saw each dog bite episode through to the end, until each case was closed. I never had to do anything except sign the final paper.

“We were talking about that one day, and she told me something I’ve not forgotten,” Hendrix said. “She said, ‘The one time I don’t see a case through to the end will be the time the dog is rabid.’”

Food inspection during his two years at Fort Gordon had its

moments for Hendrix. He was responsible for inspecting any and all places from which the Army purchased food for soldiers, including the Murray Biscuit Company in Augusta.

“I went there one day to inspect the plant where they made cookies,” Hendrix said. “I walked along the production line and picked up a flour storage bin, one of many, opened it up, and found a man’s hat inside. I looked at the hat-owning employee, who was standing there with me, and just said, ‘Mmmmm!’ This was a clean plant, and that was a one-in-a-million event where this man had put his hat. They ultimately passed their inspection.”

Not so fortunate was a poultry farm, where Hendrix found dead chickens left to rot after getting stuck in fencing, unsanitary facilities, and a generally contaminated environment.

At Fort Gordon, Wednesdays were reserved for an all-day shot clinic, Hendrix recalled. That was the day all the service members and their families could make appointments for rabies shots between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and bring their dogs in for physicals and for required vaccinations.

“We had a constant turnover of the fort’s military population so there were always plenty of new service members and their families coming in,” he said. “On those days we would fill up our appointment book with dogs and cats scheduled every five minutes.”

Sometimes, routine gave way to the unforgettable. There was that

day the officer’s wife brought in the family’s male dog with a disease Hendrix not often seen today: TVT, Transmissible Venereal Tumor.

“This is an infectious sarcoma, obviously visible on the surface of the penis,” Hendrix explained. “It’s an alarming lesion to see. That lady had brought brought her dog by herself, but when she learned the diagnosis, she excused herself, drove home, and then returned to the clinic with her three sons—boys about ages fifteen, ten and seven. She told them, ‘Boys, this is what will happen to you if you fool around!’ I promise, you can’t make this stuff up!”

That incident reminded Hendrix of another great lesson he learned from his Army days: “Always get yourself a good first sergeant, get a good secretary, and always be nice to the nurses,” he said. “They can get things done when no one else can.”

He recalled visiting the outpatient clinic one December day at Fort



Gordon and noticing that the nurses had decorated the clinic's Christmas tree with ornaments made from items used in their work. In the spirit of the holiday, Hendrix told the head nurse that theirs was the most beautiful Christmas tree he'd ever seen and that he especially liked the silver Christmas angel with which they had topped the tree.

"We made her out of a vagina speculum," the nurse told him.

He admitted his two years at Fort Gordon sometimes resembled an episode of the old M.A.S.H. television series, with oddball situations and memorable characters.

"But nobody was goofing off," he said. "People had fun, but we got our work done. And done professionally."

Hendrix claimed that his chief contribution as a member of the United States Army came during the nation's 1976 Bicentennial celebration, when citizens across the country outfitted wagons and rode their horses to Washington, DC, to mark the occasion.

"You could not bring your horse onto post at Fort Gordon without having a negative Coggins test," Hendrix said, adding that in the evenings the travelers would circle the wagons.

"I made plans to meet wagons with horses as they came through Fort Gordon's gates and came on post," he said. "But I got an assignment at the wrong time and ended up doing something else at the key moment. I missed them at the gate,

but I caught up with them later that day and asked the wagon operators if they'd had Coggins tests done on their horses. Someone was supposed to have checked for health certificates from all horses every time they crossed a state border. They had not on this occasion, so I drew blood. I found two positive tests in the mules of a blacksmith. So that was my contribution. I kept those dangerous mules from crossing the state line into South Carolina."

Hendrix admitted his years in the Army did not exactly mold him into a soldier in the traditional sense.

"If we were storming the beaches at Normandy," he told the Auburn Veterinarian magazine in 2016, "Eisenhower and Patton would be leading the troops, and I would be serving donuts and coffee."

He did, however, admit Army service was helpful in other meaningful ways, one being financially.

"The Army helped to give me my post-DVM training," he said. "After I completed my time at Fort Gordon, I had the GI Bill to help with expenses as I enrolled at the University of Minnesota for both a master's and a PhD in veterinary parasitology, which I completed in 1981."

Ready to begin his academic career in earnest after his PhD, Hendrix received an offer from Auburn to constitute half of a team teaching parasitology to veterinary students. But as they say, the best-laid plans . . .



"I was at the Coke machine at the veterinary school at Minnesota when someone came up to me and said they'd heard the individual with whom I was to team-teach at Auburn had suddenly taken another job," Hendrix said. "I was two days away from defending my thesis, and I telephoned Dr. [Aaron] Groth to ask if this was true, and he just said, 'Yes. You'll be in charge of 120 students by yourself.'"

"So I came to Auburn and taught two quarters of parasitology to the Class of '84, and I ended up being an honorary member of their class," he said. "They even printed up a version of their composite and had me photo-shopped in,"

Hendrix taught at Auburn from 1981 until his retirement in 2016, making his mark in a number of ways. He received the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award twice, in 1984 and 1988, and the AU Student Government Association's Teacher of the Year award twice. The first of those came in 1987 and represented his work at

the CVM. The second came in 1997 and recognized his work in the AU Graduate School. He authored two textbooks on parasitology and co-authored twenty-one articles which appeared in reference journals, but he was even better known for advising a number of students who won or placed high in national writing competitions. Those students won more than \$50,000 between them in prize money for the projects on which Hendrix advised them.

He received the 1996 MSD AgVet Award for Creativity from the Merck Corporation. He was recognized for his work in creating and hosting a two-day national meeting in 1995 for veterinary students regarding substance abuse within the veterinary profession. Representatives of thirty of the then-thirty-one North American veterinary colleges came to Auburn for this conference.

In 2000, Hendrix received a certificate of merit from the US Department of Health and Human Services for his work involving veterinary students, advising them in their work in a health promotion and disease prevention writing competition. Three of Dr. Hendrix's students captured national awards in the competition. The following year, he received a DHHS Certificate of Merit, which was presented by DHHS Secretary Donna Shalala.

"At the award ceremony that day, I was sitting in the audience when Dr. Shalala was ready to present me the award, and she looked at me and said, 'Dr. Hendrix, get up here!'"

He was named one of three Congressional Science Fellows and spent the 2002-03 academic year working with the US Congress, which put him on the streets of our nation's capital during October 2002, when over three weeks a sniper killed ten people in the Greater Washington area. In 2006, Hendrix was unanimously elected vice president of the AVMA and served that term during 2007-2008. He had previously chaired the AVMA's committee on wellness.

In 2013, Hendrix was recognized by the Alabama VMA at its annual conference with a Special Award for exceptional and outstanding service and his "commitment to organized veterinary medicine and his passion for teaching veterinary students." The Alabama VMA recognized him again at its summer 2022 convention, noting Dr. Hendrix's efforts to bring awareness of the history of the veterinary college at Auburn University.

When he retired in 2016, Dr. Hendrix had taught for thirty-four years at Auburn, with more than 4,000 veterinary students having come through his classes.

Ever an enthusiast for both veterinary history and military history, Hendrix serves on the Board of Auburn Heritage Association and has, in recent years, spearheaded efforts to bring historic markers to town and campus, recognizing College of Veterinary Medicine founder Dr. Charles Allen Cary at Cary Hall at AU; Auburn military personnel who served in World War I, World War II, Korea, and in Vietnam;



and the former site on campus of the 1940s-era USDA Large Animal Disease Laboratory. Auburn Heritage even erected a marker for the Sani-Freeze and Mrs. Luckie Meagher's kindergarten, two famous Auburn spots.

He refers to himself as a Vietnam-Era veteran because he never served in Vietnam, but who maintains a strong desire to see his military colleagues of that conflict receive their due recognition.

"Our society has recognized veterans of every conflict except Vietnam," he said. "We are just two years away from the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, and I hope to see a parade that welcomes these veterans home, even half a century after the fact," he said.

ALVMF UPDATES

BY Dr. Bradley Fields

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation welcomed new board members appointed by the Alabama VMA, Drs. Tom Dawkins, Francis Kendrick, and Babette Dixon. The following officers were elected: Dr. Susan Parsons - President, Dr. Tom Dawkins - Vice President, Linda Keller - Secretary, and Dr. T.C. Branch - Treasurer.

The companion animal mobile equipment trailers (CAMET) trailers are being transferred back to the ALVMA as part of a restructuring and revitalization effort for emergency preparedness efforts for Alabama. A collaboration with Auburn University is being finalized

to support veterinary medical emergency response.

REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM INCREASED.

Reimbursement rates for feline and canine sterilization procedures has increased for facilities participating in the ALVMF spay/neuter program! This will help maintain and recruit new clinics and facilities into the program, increasing the ability of the Foundation to make an impact on pet overpopulation in Alabama. If your clinic isn't participating and would like to, visit alvmf.org or email alvmf@tigeroakllc.com for additional information.

Previous & new rates:

(Medicaid Client Copay \$10 Cat, \$20 Dog)

1. Feline Spay 50 increased to 80 (Total compensation 90.00 to DVM)
2. Feline Neuter 30 increased to 35 (Total compensation 45.00 to DVM)
3. Canine Spay 60 increased to 100 (Total compensation 120.00 to DVM)
4. Canine Neuter 35 increased to 50 (Total compensation 70.00 to DVM)

Coming Soon!

The ALVMA will be offering scholarships to ALVMA recent graduate members to participate.



MentorVet

Founded in 2021 by Dr. Addie Reinhard and grown in collaboration with veterinary professionals, researchers, and mental health professionals, the MentorVet LEAP program offers mentorship and professional development for early-career veterinarians.

Stay Tuned! More Info to Come!

2023 EMERALD COAST VETERINARY CONFERENCE

There were 781 in attendance for the 2023 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference. This was the second highest in ECVC history missing the top attendance by only one!

Wednesday night kicked off the conference with the opening of the Exhibit Hall. Attendees and their families were able to enjoy food and activities while visiting with company representatives.

On Thursday morning, Dr. Andre Shih opened with a Keynote address: *Life in the Emergency Line - How to Set Up ER in Private Practice*. The conference program continued through Sunday. All

sessions were held in the morning hours leaving afternoons free to enjoy beautiful Miramar Beach.

This year we also held a special program for students of Auburn, Georgia, and Tuskegee Colleges of Veterinary Medicine. Students were able to apply for scholarships to participate in the program. During the week, the students participated in special sessions and wet labs geared toward them. The students also had opportunities to gather with leaders of both the Alabama and Georgia VMAs as well as the AVMA to learn a bit more about organized veterinary medicine. Participants



Dr. Brad Harris's Golf Tournament Team

not only gained valuable knowledge while attending the ECVC but also lent a helping hand to the ECVC staff when needed and moderated some of the sessions. The student program was sponsored by Banfield, VCA, Southern Veterinary Partners as well as the Alabama and Georgia VMAs.

Each year the ECVC provides 20 hours of quality CE, opportunities to network with colleagues and former classmates as well as connect with industry professionals all while leaving time for rest and relaxation. Other popular special events offered each year are Beer by the Pool, Alumni Receptions, and an 18-hole golf tournament. Please make plans to join us for the 2024 Emerald



Students with leaders of both the Alabama and Georgia VMAs as well as the AVMA.



Exhibit Hall



Exhibit Hall Grand Opening



association for advancement of the profession.

Dr. Stevan H. Parsons graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1982. He and his wife, Jennifer, moved home to Sylvan Springs, AL and he began working as a veterinarian at Hueytown Veterinary Clinic with Dr. David Hayes and Dr. Jerry Champion. Ironically, prior to going to college, he worked at Hueytown Veterinary Clinic as a kennel assistant from 1971-1975. In 1986, Dr. Parsons along with Dr. Hayes and Dr. Champion, purchased Pleasant Grove Veterinary Clinic in Pleasant Grove, AL. He began working at Pleasant Grove Veterinary Clinic full time and established long lasting relationships and friendships with the people of Pleasant Grove and their pets. In 1996, Dr. Parsons, Hayes, Champion and Dr. Kent Armstrong built the McAdory Veterinary Clinic in McCalla, AL. Dr. Parsons retired earlier this year from daily work in veterinary medicine but does occasional relief work.

Dr. Parsons has served as the

Coast Veterinary Conference, May 29 - June 2, at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort!

And as always, we would like to extend a HUGE thank you to all our sponsors and exhibitors for their support in making the 2023 ECVC successful!

ALVMA AWARDS LUNCHEON

ALVMA held the 2023 Awards Luncheon on June 1, 2023, in conjunction with the 2023 Emerald

Coast Veterinary Conference held in Miramar Beach, FL. Attendees gathered to honor their peers who excel in not only the practice of veterinary medicine but in service to their fellow veterinarians and communities.

VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Dr. Stevan Parsons, awarded to a member of the Alabama VMA who displays unselfish dedication to the



Dr. Susan Parsons and Dr. Steven Parsons

President of the Jefferson County Veterinary Medical Association, Council Member and Mayor of Sylvan Springs, President of the Jefferson County Farmers Federation, and currently serves as Deacon and Sunday School Teacher of Maytown Baptist Church.

Dr. Parsons and his wife, Jennifer, have been married 44 years. Their son, Taylor and his wife, Lindy, have 6 children. Their daughter, Stefanie and her husband, Anthony, have five children. The Parsons live on a cattle farm in Sylvan Springs and love spending time with the grandchildren.



Dr. Frances Kendrick, John T. Vaughan, Jr., and Mrs. Ethel Vaughan

SPECIAL AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT (POSTHUMOUSLY):

Dr. John T. Vaughan, awarded to individuals for exceptional and outstanding service to the veterinary medical profession. Dr. John T. Vaughan was posthumously honored with a prestigious Special Award for Lifetime Achievement for his exceptional and outstanding contributions to the field of veterinary medicine. Dr.

Vaughan's notable contributions and unwavering dedication have left an indelible mark, positively shaping the landscape of veterinary medicine.

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.

Dr. Vaughan was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, and served as President of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, as well as 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 and 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.

Service Awards: Dr. Heidi Hulon and Dr. Soren Rodning 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. Heidi Hulon and Dr. Steven Murphee

DR. HEIDI HULON, a native of Alabama, graduated from Auburn University with both her undergraduate degree and D.V.M. She has practiced in a variety of areas during her career, including small animal practice (associate and owner), Shelter Medicine, Department Chair for a Veterinary Technology Program, and as a Technical Veterinarian for Hill's Pet

Nutrition. When possible, she does relief work. Since 2011, Dr. Hulon has been a Regional Consulting Veterinarian for Elanco Animal Health. Her current role is the Wellbeing Consulting Veterinarian, delivering trainings focused on wellbeing to veterinary customers across the country. In addition, she teaches a Wellness elective to veterinary students at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Subjects in which Dr. Hulon has training are FRANK Communication Skills, in addition to Certifications in Insights Discovery, Compassion Fatigue, Positive Psychology, QPR Suicide Training, Fear Free, the Human Animal Bond and Mental Health First Aid.

Dr. Hulon is very involved in organized veterinary medicine and currently serves on the Alabama VMA Wellbeing, Membership, and Constitution/Bylaws committees. She is also a Past-President of the Kentucky VMA.

Dr. Hulon lives in Auburn, AL. When not working, she can be found on the tennis court or attending an Auburn event. War Eagle!

DR. SOREN RODNING completed his undergraduate studies at Auburn University and went on to receive his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Auburn CVM in 2002. He currently serves as Professor and Extension Specialist for Animal Sciences at Auburn University. In 2006, he also became the Chair of the ALVMA Food Animal Affairs Committee and



Dr. Soren Rodning and Dr. Tony Frazier

Program Chairman. Dr. Rodning has dedicated considerable effort over the years to enhancing ALVMA's Food Animal Conference.

Dr. Rodning also serves with the Alabama Army National Guard and lives in Auburn with his wife, Kim, and daughters, Ellie and Maren.

LAYPERSON OF THE YEAR:

Glen Sellers, warded to a non-veterinarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession and the Association.

Mr. Sellers was awarded the honor for his work in raising awareness of and promoting the need for food animal veterinarians in rural communities across the state of Alabama. Mr. Sellers has also worked tirelessly to obtain and allocate USDA grant monies to help place veterinary students and recent grads in internships and externships in these underserved areas of the state. It is hoped that students will then relocate to these communities after graduation filling the much-

needed void of veterinarians in these rural areas.

Mr. Sellers completed undergraduate studies in Animal Sciences at Auburn University in 1998. Between 1998 and 2006, he gained valuable experience in pharmacology and anesthesia as a technician in the J.T. Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital providing care for both equine and food animals.

While working as a technician, he earned his Master of Science degree from Auburn University in 2006. In 2007, he accepted a clinical lecturer position in Anesthesia in the Department of Clinical Sciences. In the spring of 2009, he also earned a Master of Business Administration from Auburn University. Between 2005 and 2016, he supervised staff in Anesthesia, sterile process, and surgery room operations of the Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital. In 2016, his clinical lecturer position expanded to include practice management.



Mr. Glen Sellers and Dean Calvin Johnson

He currently provides clinical service in anesthesia to the J.T. Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital and teaches the clinical practice management rotations and business courses at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

OFFICER INSTALLATION

The Officer Installation took place immediately following the

presentation of awards luncheon. Dr. José Arce, AVMA Immediate Past President, led the installation of new ALVMA officers.

The new officers were sworn in as follows: President Brad Harris, DVM of Dothan; President-Elect Babette D. Authement, DVM of Fairhope; Vice President Jim Lovell, DVM of Athens; Member-at-Large

Brett Brooks, DVM of Enterprise, Treasurer Susan Parsons, DVM of McCalla; and Frances Kendrick, DVM of Selma will serve as Immediate Past President.



Dr. José Arce leads the installation of the 2023-2024 ALVMA Executive Committee.

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/ 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 2024 AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Alabama VMA (ALVMA) conducts an awards program to honor individuals whose service has contributed significantly to the veterinary profession in Alabama. The 2024 Awards Program will be presented during the 2024 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, May 29 - June 2. Deadline for nominations is **January 15, 2024**.

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.

YOU MUST BE AN ALVMA MEMBER TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS.

TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS, SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE ONLINE NOMINATION FORM OR YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT STACI CORDER AT STACI@ALVMA.COM TO REQUEST A PRINTABLE NOMINATION FORM.



NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome those members who have joined the association since Spring 2023

NEW ACTIVE

Dr. Douglas McInnis
Klamath Falls, OR
Oregon State 1987

Dr. Warren Bennett, Sr.
Auburn, AL
University of Florida 2000

Dr. Amy McBride
Banfield Field Leadership
Ross 2012

Dr. Jessica Tully
Madison, AL
Auburn 2011

Dr. Michael Johns
Brownsboro, AL
Auburn 1998

Dr. Cathy Rice
Hoover, AL
Auburn 2001

Dr. Albert Roosevelt
Auburn, AL
Auburn 1996

Dr. Kimberly Ousley
Wetumpka, AL
Auburn 1999

Dr. James Ray
Cropwell, AL
University of Florida 1985

Dr. Andrew Nichols
Andalusia, AL
Ross 2015

Dr. Christopher Young
Auburn, AL
Auburn 1994

Dr. Phillip Callahan
Oakland, FL
Auburn 1957

Dr. Mary Thompson
Nancy, KY
Auburn 1995

Dr. Destinee Bearden
Moody, AL
Auburn 2008

Dr. Hillary Allgood
Prattville, AL
University of Florida 2019

Dr. Jessica Farris
Chicago, IL
University of
Missouri 2017

Dr. Stephen Krum
Madison, AL
Auburn 2006

Dr. Barbara Krum
Madison, AL
Auburn 2007

Haley Waites
Birmingham, AL
University College,
Dublin 2024

STUDENTS

William Tidwell
Jasper, AL
St. Georges 2028

Calen Eckl
Florence, AL
Louisiana State
University 2026

Gunner Edgell
Starkville, MS
Mississippi State 2024

Hannah Adams
Houston, TX
Tuskegee 2027

Alexis Adams-Lucas
Moreno Valley, CA
Tuskegee 2027

Brianna Anthony
Ellicott City, MD
Tuskegee 2027

Talani Baker
Auburn, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Jaden Battle
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Amber Brandt
Opelika, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Audrey Brown
Roanoke, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Amber Cooper
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Taylor Davis-Anderson
Eufaula, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Julianna Diaz-Navas
Old Bridge, NJ
Tuskegee 2027

Sydney Dicks
Ramer, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Nikole Dillard
Tuskegee Institute, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Danielle Dorsey
Waldorf, MD
Tuskegee 2027

Aaryn DuBose
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Lakiyah Durham
Auburn, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Terri Ferguson
Auburn, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Kasey Fountain
Auburn, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Alexis Gatewood
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Ryen Greer
Pearland, TX
Tuskegee 2027

Alexis Hall
Hampton, GA
Tuskegee 2027

Andrew Heatherton
Lithia Springs, GA
Tuskegee 2027

Zaria Henry
Lithonia, GA
Tuskegee 2027

Jenna Holley
Dothan, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Destinee Jackson
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Maya Jackson
Silver Spring, MD
Tuskegee 2027

Ahan Jain
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Haleigh Johnson
Garland, TX
Tuskegee 2027

Saniya Keeton
Harker Heights, TX
Tuskegee 2027

Shelby Lee
Auburn, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Jessica Lord
Auburn, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Cheyenne McKinney
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Tristan Merino
Opelika, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Chela Owens
Auburn, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Aria Rawlings
Tuskegee, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Maya Sullivan
Upper Marlboro, MD
Tuskegee 2027

Makayla Thurston
Islandton, SC
Tuskegee 2027

Kennedy Willis
Powder Springs, GA
Tuskegee 2027

Brianna Wooten
Midland, GA
Tuskegee 2027

Lea Young
Auburn, AL
Tuskegee 2027

Natalie Abernathy
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Talyn Alderman
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Chase Autry
East Dublin, GA
Auburn 2027

Isabella Blake
Prattville, AL
Auburn 2027

Hailee Bornmann
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Hannah Bucher
Shippensburg, AL
Auburn 2027

Natalie Ann Buonaiuto
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Julianna Bur
nham
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Colby Cheaney
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Deborah Clark
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Isabella Coppock
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Caroline Counce
Lawrenceburg, AL
Auburn 2027

Gabrielle Davis
Jacksonville, AL
Auburn 2027

Sydney De Lornezo
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Nicole Devlin
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Katherine Dickinson
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Hannah Eubanks
Fayetteville, GA
Auburn 2027

Stevie Fields
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Darby Fisher
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Abigail Gaston
Albertville, AL
Auburn 2027

Josie Grace-Mudd
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Zachary Harris
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Summer Hendricks
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Samantha Hendricks
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Katie Hensley
Paris, KY
Auburn 2027

Rachel Hughes
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Grace Hurley
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Morgan Jackson
Franklin, TN
Auburn 2027

Gillian Johnston
Sterrett, AL
Auburn 2027

Ashley Jones
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Janice Jones
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Ilya Kristensen
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Taylor Leauby
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Anna Martin
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Chloe Martine
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Reece Mayfield
Philpot, KY
Auburn 2027

Lauren McGrath
Mullica Hill, NJ
Auburn 2027

Emilee McQueen
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Margaret Metzger
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Kaitlyn Montgomery
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Elijah, Morrow
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Sophia Norman
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Zachary Oestmann
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Gabriel Pittman
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Christopher Reynolds
Marrietta, GA
Auburn 2027

Thea Richards
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Nate Robb
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Sophie Strong
Maylene, AL
Auburn 2027

Payton Tackett
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Lexi Taylor
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Emily Tolar
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Emma Topp
Turners Station, KY
Auburn 2027

Madison Whiddon
Tallahassee, FL
Auburn 2027

Jenna Wigger
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Logan Woodley
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

Natalie Young
Auburn, AL
Auburn 2027

NEW 3-4 YEAR GRAD
Dr. Shantavia Hayes
Auburn, AL
Tuskegee 2021

2024 SOUTHEASTERN FOOD AND

Veterinarians Connecting Animal Health and Agriculture!

WHEN:

March 8-10, 2024

WHERE:

Marriott Resort Auburn-Opelika
Grand National • Opelika, AL



SOUTHEASTERN FOOD & FARM VETERINARY SUMMIT

The first annual Southeastern Food and Farm Veterinary Summit will take place on March 8-10, 2024, at the Marriott Resort Auburn-Opelika, Opelika, AL.

SEVS was developed as a joint venture between the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association and the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association. Both associations have had successful

Food Animal conferences in their own states for many years but saw a greater need to serve the veterinarians of the Southeast. The newly developed Southeastern Food and Farm Veterinary Summit is a must-attend event for anyone involved in the veterinary or agriculture industries.

Whether you're a veterinarian, a technician, or a student, you'll find

valuable insights and connections at the Summit. Our expert speakers will cover a wide range of topics, from animal health and nutrition to environmental sustainability and food safety. You'll also have the opportunity to network with your peers and learn about the latest products and services from our sponsors.

FARM VETERINARY SUMMIT

The 2024 Southeastern Food and Farm Veterinary Summit will offer multiple CE Tracks with topics to include:

- Beef Quality Assurance
- Cattle Health and Nutrition
- Small Ruminant Ultrasound and Anesthesia
- Backyard Poultry
- Commercial Poultry
- Pet Pigs 101
- Honeybee Health
- AND MUCH MORE!



Dr. Jessica Rush

**Bovine Reproductive Ultrasound
Wet Lab** – Presented by Dr. Jessica Rush



Dr. Thomas Passler

Food Animal Barn Rounds –
Presented by Dr. Thomas Passler

DON'T UNCHECK THE BOX

BY Jeff Martin



This year marks my 20th advocating on behalf of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association. Over the course of the last two decades, every piece of legislation we have lobbied has become law. And more importantly our legislative team, often quietly, has defeated dozens of bills that could have been detrimental to the profession of veterinary medicine.

A major component in our lobbying playbook is contributing to the campaigns of those candidates who look after the interests of ALVMA. Each year when paying your ALVMA dues you are prompted to donate \$25 to the ALVMA PAC. I implore you not to uncheck the box. Too many of you are making the effort to not contribute. It is of vital importance that we support our legislative friends whose support is needed when veterinary and small business issues come before the state legislature. I ask again that you make this small contribution towards our effort to protect you and your practice.

I, along with your ALVMA staff, board and legislative committee work diligently to represent veterinary interests at the state governmental level. It takes a team effort to navigate through the legislative process. In politics it can often be as simple as who you know. If you have a VCPR or personal relationship with a legislator, please provide me or a member of the legislative committee with that information. Most legislators own a pet and knowing who their veterinarian is can be a huge asset when it comes to educating lawmakers about our issues.

A major component in our lobbying playbook is contributing to the campaigns of those candidates who look after the interests of ALVMA. Each year when paying your ALVMA dues you are prompted to donate \$25 to the ALVMA PAC. I implore you not to uncheck the box.

I remind you again how important it is that ALVMA supports those elected officials who support us. So, if you did uncheck the box last time you paid your dues and are feeling guilty about not supporting the ALVMA PAC, contributions can be made at <https://secure.alvma.com/events/pacdonations> or by mailing a check to: PO Box 803 Fayetteville, TN 37334.

The Alabama Legislature will convene for the 2024 Regular Session on Tuesday, February 6th at noon.

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
205-655-3991

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
256-757-5376

North AL VMA

Steve Murphree
256-734-2181

Don't Forget to take advantage of these ALVMA Benefits!



ALVMA HEALTH TRUST

Your benefit needs are unique to you and your family. ALVMA is pleased to offer year-round support with electing, understanding, and using your benefits.



Take advantage of the 15% ALVMA member discount and let HazComReady help you create and maintain vital documentation for your next state inspection or audit.



Post employment opportunities or a resume for FREE as long as you are posting within the state of Alabama! Post outside of the state at a discounted rate!



Alabama Veterinary Professionals Wellness Program

Anonymous help and support to all veterinary professionals: veterinarians, veterinary students, technicians, receptionists, kennel workers, and families of veterinary staff members.

Visit ALVMA.com for more information!

DR. CALVIN JOHNSON

AUBURN, AL

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN VETERINARY MEDICINE?

I have always been fascinated by the diseases of animals, particularly the similarities between diseases of different species. They are like a biological puzzle. When I was a vet student, I began to understand the scientific reasons for these similarities. I learned that the veterinary profession was in a unique place to improve animal health and contribute to the understanding of human disease. At that point, I was inspired to pursue specialty training in pathology. I also enjoy the service side of veterinary medicine and the chance to make a difference in people's lives. One of the best aspects of being a dean is visiting and learning from practicing veterinarians through associations like the ALVMA. They are a wealth of knowledge, experience, and insight.



WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE ACADEMIA AS A CAREER PATH?

My father was a professor of agronomy at Auburn University, so I grew up in an academic household. The extra time it took to earn a PhD and board certification seemed reasonable, and I enjoyed working in an academic community. The constant influx of youthful enthusiasm and the efflux of confident graduates is inspiring. Growing up in the tall shadow of Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, there was almost a reverence in the community toward the vet school. When I was growing up, over 12 states were sending students to Auburn for education and some of the best research in veterinary medicine was coming from our campus. From an early age, I wanted to be a part of the Auburn veterinary program. I didn't imagine that I would become dean.

WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL/MENTOR:

Dean Emeritus J.T. Vaughan was a fantastic mentor in all phases: curiosity, academic excellence, leadership, collegiality, camaraderie, and respect for history. It was a unique opportunity to admire Dr. Vaughan from



a distance and progressively become closer to him as my career at Auburn developed. I wouldn't trade my car rides to Rotary Club with Dr. Vaughan for anything.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I'll admit that I'm biased on this topic, but the Auburn Veterinary Family is unique and special. Former athletic director David Housel once noted about Auburn: "Once you have experienced it, you will never be the same. A part of you will forevermore be an Auburn man or an Auburn woman." The staff, students, faculty, alumni, and friends of Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine make the program great through their excellent work, goodwill, and support.

WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

It is a major challenge to generate the resources (financial, personnel, and facilities) to keep the College of Veterinary Medicine operating at a very high level. Those resources are relatively scarce, and it takes a focused effort to maintain the pathways to keep them flowing and to be a wise steward of their use. I am extremely fortunate that Auburn University views the College of Veterinary Medicine as one of its premier programs. Credit goes to Deans Vaughan and



Boosinger for putting us in that position over the last 50 years.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A NEW STUDENT ENTERING THE STUDY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE?

There has never been a better time to pursue a career in veterinary medicine than now. Make the most of the opportunity and stay true to your family, friends, and faith.

WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER TO A NEW GRADUATE ENTERING THIS PROFESSION?

Work hard, trust your training, remain confident, and stay close to your family and friends.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS?

Congratulating new veterinarians in the Class of 2028 as they cross the stage with their diplomas in hand.

WHAT IS THE MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE OF YOUR CAREER?

Participating in colt starting clinics at Woody Bartlett's ranch in Wyoming.





WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

I served as President of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) in 2019 and I continue to work closely with the 55 deans of accredited veterinary colleges around the world.

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

Mentor a pre-vet student and absorb their sense of awe... or go out of town and strike up a conversation with a stranger. When you tell them you're a veterinarian, their smile and curiosity will lift you up.

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS BEEN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE/ADVANCEMENT IN VETERINARY MEDICINE?

From a companion animal perspective, the development of highly effective flea, tick, and heartworm preventives was a major milestone (and Auburn played a major role in achieving it). That's when pets became family members, and it propelled our profession to a new level of service.

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

Preserve the economic and professional opportunities of private practice ownership.

IN MY SPARE TIME, YOU'LL FIND ME...

Roaming the mountains of Western North Carolina.

I STILL WOULD LIKE TO LEARN HOW TO...

Play the banjo.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE ALVMA?

When I learned that Auburn's first dean, Dr. Charles Cary, founded the ALVMA, I realized that it was important for me to get involved. The ALVMA is extremely important to the College of Veterinary Medicine, and I want us to be great partners in improving the profession.

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT SOMEONE JOIN ALVMA?

The camaraderie and fellowship of the ALVMA is something special. Once a person shows interest and enthusiasm for the ALVMA, new opportunities will emerge.

HOW HAS BEING A MEMBER OF ALVMA HELPED YOU PROFESSIONALLY?

I have been able to create stronger connections between ALVMA and the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine. That relationship provides valuable support and increases the relevance of our program to the people of Alabama and beyond.





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LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

APPLY TODAY!

AN INTERACTIVE PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF VETERINARIANS

It is no secret that new veterinary graduates find themselves struggling with many intangible responsibilities as they start out. Most would likely not realize that their veterinary passions also translate into veterinary leadership roles. The ALVMA recognizes the importance of early-career veterinarian development of its newest members. Becoming the best veterinary leader you can be is a lifelong journey, and it starts by joining the Power of 10 Leadership Academy.

The Power of Ten Leadership (POTL) Academy is an ALVMA sponsored program for 10 recent graduates to participate in 4 to 5 scheduled sessions over a one year period. During the sessions, the 10 participants are guided by some of the top veterinary influencers and subject matter experts. The candidates learn self-awareness and how to increase their emotional intelligence. They are introduced to business and financial advisors who specialize in the veterinary industry. The participants are also given strategies to share with their employers to help create a thriving workplace culture. Overall, these 10 early professionals are taught valuable soft skills necessary for career success.

POTL Academy is designed to cultivate leadership capacity in recent graduates and provide learning experiences that will enrich the individual and benefit the individual's practice, community, and profession.

COST

Participants will receive full tuition scholarships – PLUS complimentary registration to ALVMA's Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, where the Power of Ten class will be recognized.

THE PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS TO INCLUDE:

- Insights Discovery
- Mentorship
- Financial Planning
- Communication
- Networking
- Leadership
- Wellness Matters



TESTIMONIAL

The Power of 10 program was a great opportunity to network with fellow colleagues around the state while developing my own leadership skills. As a new graduate, it was helpful to start to identify my leadership strengths and weaknesses, while learning about different tools and strategies I could bring back to my veterinary team. I highly recommend this program to anyone who is interested in developing their leadership for personal growth or is interested in preparing for a leadership role on a veterinary team.

Dr. Laura M./ Decatur, AL

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

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

APPLY ONLINE AT www.alvma.com or contact Staci Corder at staci@alvma.com for more information.

SMALL, POWERFUL WAYS TO TAKE ACTION FOR BETTER EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Heidi Hulon, DVM, CCFP, MHFA, CPPP ALVMA Wellness Committee



Taking charge of your emotional and mental health doesn't have to mean drastic lifestyle changes. In fact, the smaller the shift, the more likely it is you'll do it. Big, lofty goals are often unrealistic and quickly fizzle out.

For example, you wouldn't start training for a marathon by running 26.2 miles every day; you would start by walking or jogging a mile or two at a time and build your way up as your legs got stronger and your endurance increased. You may be surprised at how the smallest of actions can cause a huge, positive reaction in your mind and body. Below are 20 simple things you can do for Emotional and Mental Health year-round. These actions and gestures will benefit your health and others, because doing good for others can do wonders for your own self.

1. Reach out to a neighbor you don't know. A friendly "Hello, I don't think we've met yet," can make their day — and yours!
2. Reconnect with a friend. Call, text or mail them a card.
3. Host a dinner for friends, peers and other people you admire.
4. Send a "thinking of you card" to someone in your life who needs a pick-me-up.
5. Start that book you've been wanting to read.
6. Listen to a podcast about mental health, leadership, or other self-help topics.
7. Watch a movie or documentary about mental health. Share the film with your friends and family to introduce them to mental health. "Silver Linings Playbook" and "What's Eating Gilbert Grape" are a couple blockbuster movies to consider, and "Out of the Dark," "Facing Suicide" and "Heal" are a few documentaries to add to your watch list.
8. Subscribe to daily affirmations. Try apps such as I Am, Shine and ThinkUp.



9. Define healthy boundaries for yourself.

10. Volunteer at a local organization.

11. Start a new hobby or pick one back up.

12. Offer to pet sit or babysit for a friend who needs a break.

13. Set up a meal train for a friend facing a challenging time.

14. Schedule a wellness check-up with your doctor.

15. Organize a "clean up the neighborhood" day.

16. Learn a new joke and try it on friends, peers and coworkers.

17. Take a nap. Sleep is critical to your mental health!

18. Start journaling.

19. Unfollow or hide social media accounts that aren't relevant to you or bring you down. Virtual housekeeping on your accounts can be refreshing and invigorating.

20. Earn your Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) certification.

Mark Your Calendars for these Future ECVC Dates!

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May 28 - June 1, 2025

May 27 - May 31, 2026



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AUBURN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

BY *Abbi Gardner*



2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & J. T. VAUGHAN EQUINE CONFERENCE

The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine welcomed attendees to campus October 5-7 for the 2023 Annual Conference and J.T. Vaughan Equine Conference. This year's gathering continued a tradition of 116 consecutive years of continuing education at the college. More than 500 attendees from across the U.S. attended the conferences, which provided opportunities for Auburn alumni, faculty, students and other veterinary professionals from across the nation to participate in cutting-edge continuing education sessions and professional networking opportunities. In addition to continuing education programming, the college's Centennial Club members gathered to celebrate 31 years of philanthropy and alumni support. In a little over three decades, more than 500 alumni

and friends have joined Centennial Club, resulting in an ongoing fund that has benefitted every area of the college.

The 2023 program offered more than 80 hours of professional sessions in various disciplines. Sessions were led by some of the nation's top veterinary professionals from the fields of veterinary education, research and business.

Another Annual Conference tradition was an awards ceremony honoring several distinguished veterinary alumni who have excelled in their profession and enhanced the college's reputation.

2023 award recipients include: Dr. David Pugh, El Toro Award for

Excellence in Food Animal Medicine; Dr. Edward Murray, Jr. '73, J.T. Vaughan Equine Achievement Award; and Dr. Casey Kight '13, Dr. Daniel Weldon '13 and Dr. Anna Reddish '13, Young Achiever Awards.

AUBURN RAPTOR CENTER PARTNERS WITH NFL'S PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

The Auburn University Raptor Center (AURC), a division of Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, is one of the few university-based raptor centers in the country. The center's mission is to "provide the highest quality medical care and rehabilitation for wild raptors, support raptor conservation efforts, expand the



public's knowledge about raptors, inspire their passion for raptor ecosystems and embolden the Auburn spirit." The AURC Education and Rehabilitation Center has grown steadily for five decades and achieves its mission through educational outreach, modern facilities and innovative program offerings, including more than 400 annual activities throughout the Southeast. Under the guidance of Wade Stevens, Director of the AURC, the center has recently embarked on a partnership with the National Football League's Philadelphia Eagles that has garnered national attention. "We know from our years of Auburn pre-game flights that these experiences do translate into action and increased support for our mission," Stevens said. "The opportunity to do this on a larger scale was an easy decision."

The AURC has been in the process of reviewing current outreach initiatives and considering alternative methods to extend its mission to a broader audience—and that is how the partnership with the Philadelphia team came about. The Eagles have been without a bald eagle to fly during the national anthem at home games since 2019. One of the center's resident bald eagles, Independence, (nicknamed Indy) was just the right bird for the job. Although Indy is not an official "War Eagle," being a bald eagle, she better fits the patriotic themes of a flight during the Star-Spangled Banner.

"The bald eagle is one of our country's greatest symbols of



freedom, strength and pride," said Brian Papson, Eagles' Vice President of Marketing. "While it represents so much and is viewed with profound reverence and admiration, the bald eagle also serves as the foundational element on which the identity of our franchise was built 90 years ago.

"The Auburn University Raptor Center is a nationally recognized, mission-driven institution committed to the conservation efforts of one of our planet's most breathtaking animals," Papson added. "Watching Indy descend upon Lincoln Financial Field in ceremonial fashion during the national anthem is an exciting moment for our fans to take in and adds another important layer to our gameday experience."

The Center sees Indy's first flight with the Philadelphia Eagles as just the beginning of an exciting era of delivering the center's mission of raptor rehabilitation, education and conservation to a brand-new audience.

AUBURN DVM STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN VETERINARY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Veterinary Scholars Program

(VSP) was established to promote intensive involvement of veterinary students interested in laboratory research with AUCVM faculty. The VSP is supported through a partnership between Boehringer Ingelheim (BI), college leadership and CVM faculty investigators. Ten AUCVM Veterinary Summer Scholars and their faculty mentors conducted impactful research over this past summer. Their work was presented both internally and internationally. Eight of the students presented their work at the AAVMC/BI Veterinary Scholars Symposium (VSS) in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The VSS highlights the essential role of scientific research in veterinary medicine and provides veterinary medical students who have conducted original research through the VSP with an opportunity to formally present their research in a professional environment. Dr. Nancy Merner, chair of the Veterinary Scholars Committee, along with the Office of Research & Graduate Studies, AU faculty mentors and graduate students were instrumental in providing these invaluable introductions to research.

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

BY Anissa L. Riley

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) researcher Dr. Deepa Bedi was issued a United States Patent for the methods and compositions for the identification of epithelial to mesenchymal breast cancer.

“We are proud of the innovative work our researchers here in the College of Veterinary Medicine are engaged in as they continuously demonstrate that Tuskegee University has a record of accomplishments that make an impact on the world,” said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The scientific focus of Dr. Bedi’s laboratory is to identify mechanisms and develop targeted therapies that enable tumors to induce intrinsic immune response and modulate immune microenvironment. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among U.S. women. About 30% of all newly diagnosed cancers in women each year are breast cancer.

“In my lab, we have developed novel peptides that can specifically recognize breast cancer cells that are highly aggressive and

metastatic,” Dr. Bedi said. “These peptides can recognize the cancer cells at a stage termed ‘Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition (EMT),’ when a cancer cell is leaving its primary site of location and is ready to invade distant organs.”

“If it is diagnosed and detected at an early stage, it can be treated with prolonged progression free survival,” she said. “However, detection can be missed at an early stage and the disease becomes metastatic and overall survival decreases. Therefore, we aim to increase the detection sensitivity of the metastatic cells by using these EMT-specific peptides as detection agents for highly metastatic disease.”

Dr. Bedi has an extensive history of mentoring and collaborations with fellow researchers at Tuskegee University, along with her steadfast commitment to guiding and nurturing minority trainees.

TUCVM CLINICIANS AND STUDENTS TREAT HORSES FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM THE ATLANTA BUFFALO SOLDIERS

TUCVM performed the



In the photo from left to right: Principal investigator Dr. Deepa Bedi collaborates with her lab assistant Dr. Alhegne Yirsaw in the college’s Nanotechnology and Biomarker Discovery laboratory.

examinations for the first time on some horses of the Greater Atlanta Area Chapter, 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association Buffalo Soldiers. “We were happy to treat the horses of the 10th Cavalry Troop A (Buffalo Soldiers of Atlanta) on Saturday September 23, 2023,” said Dr. David McKenzie, Associate Dean for Clinical Programs/Department Head, Large Animal Clinical Sciences. This visit was planned and facilitated by TUCVM’s Dr. Steven Walker, Assistant Professor of Small Animal Community Practice. Dr. Walker was assisted



by Dr. McKenzie, Dr. Courtney Allred (Clinical Instructor, Large Animal Medicine & Surgery), Dr. Quintin Gray (Assistant Professor, Large Animal Medicine & Surgery), and Dr. Luis McKie (Intern, Large Animal Medicine & Surgery), along with TUCVM's in-house and ambulatory students.

TUCVM IS SUSTAINING IT'S LEGACY THROUGH 5 MILLION IN INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

TUCVM is fortunate to engage in many industry partnerships under the leadership of Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the college. Dean Perry has advocated for student support in the form of scholarships and external learning experiences. The intentional and impactful partnerships have been instrumental in positioning the TUCVM to provide meaningful support to veterinary students and sustain the legacy of training and educating underrepresented minorities as veterinarians for the veterinary profession.

“Since August 2020, financial

support such as grants and scholarships received from industry partnerships have resulted in over \$5 million for TUCVM students and academic programs. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the many industry partnerships we have formed to financially assist our students and further veterinary medical education here at Tuskegee. I as well as the Tuskegee veterinary family extend appreciation to our valued stakeholders for helping to Sustain Our Legacy,” Dean Perry said.

In just a three-year time span, TUCVM has established

relationships with two dozen Industry Partners and more in the future pipeline. The current industry partnerships include the following:

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA), American Humane, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF), Banfield Pet Hospital, Boehringer Ingelheim, Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity (CARE), EveryCat Health Foundation, Hill's Pet Nutrition, IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Merck, Nestle Purina PetCare, NVA Compassion-First, PetDesk, Royal Canin U.S.A., Synchrony Foundation, Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Veterinary Practice Partners (VPP), and Zoetis.

Many of the industry partners have a long-time commitment to supporting veterinary medical students and university diversity initiatives throughout the United States.



AUBURN SAVMA

By Zach Wreidt



Prior to the beginning of the fall semester, some members of Auburn University's SAVMA Executive team had the opportunity to travel to Denver, Colorado for the AVMA Convention. While at AVMA Convention, our President and President-elect had the chance to meet with other Presidents from SAVMA chapters across the nation. Meetings were held to brainstorm ideas on how to make our chapters the best they can be. Additionally, our delegates had the opportunity to vote on bills and amendments that impact veterinary students all across the country as well.

Orientation for the Class of 2027 began at the end of July. Katie Davis, our President-elect, had the opportunity to speak to students about the importance of joining SAVMA and benefits that came with membership. Later in August, we hosted Ethan Dawe who spoke about how to make financially

wise decisions during vet school and post-graduation as members go out to practice.

In September, we had multiple meetings for our members. Dr. Stinson and Mandy Walker came to

talk about the benefits of AVMA and PLIT. This is a meeting we have every year to emphasize the importance of SAVMA membership to our first years. Next, Dr. Boggier came to speak to our members about how to





navigate post-graduate mentorship. She discussed the importance of finding the right mentor for yourself. Next, Dr. Randle came to speak to students about the myths about Banfield. Dr. Randle shed some light on how Banfield actually operated, encouraging students to consider an internship through their practices.

Next, Katie Davis, our President-elect, planned a SAVMA tailgate that was hosted at Kiesel Park. This was an opportunity for all of the classes to come hang out outside of the classroom and have fun. There was barbecue, cornhole, and even Aubie made an appearance! Keeping with the theme of wellness, Allison Dees, our Wellness Chair, kicked off our wellness series for



SAVMA hosted our “Scrub Social” at Resting Pulse! SAVMA members were encouraged to wear their scrubs and come out and enjoy food with friends. This was yet another great way to interact with the classes outside of the vet school.



the semester with a meeting with our college’s counselors. They spoke about effective study skills that help with avoiding burnout throughout school, an important skill that everyone requires to get through the rigorous curriculum.

Finally, SAVMA hosted our “Scrub Social” at Resting Pulse! SAVMA members were encouraged to wear their scrubs and come out and enjoy food with friends. This was yet another great way to interact with the classes outside of the vet school.

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

TUSKEGEE SAVMA

BY Taylor Smith

This semester, SAVMA at TU hit the ground with a running start. During the second week of school, we held our annual SAVMA Week which is our way of introducing the new class of students to SAVMA and reminding the student body of the benefits of being a paid SAVMA member. This week-long event was jam packed with incredible speakers, an engaging career fair and a much-needed end of week back to school party, giving our students opportunities to not only make new connections and focus on wellbeing, but also win prizes! Monday, we held a lunch and learn where we introduced our e-board and discussed all things SAVMA, from member benefits and group-pay to future events and opportunities and the week-long raffle. Later that evening, we held a SAVMA/Tuskegee History trivia night in collaboration with Royal Canin. Tuesday, we hosted a lunch and learn with Purina, where students were able to meet their Purina reps, talk nutrition, and get free treats for their fur-babies, or course! In the morning on Wednesday, we provided breakfast sponsored by Innovetive, and for lunch, we had the honor of hosting the TUCVM dean, Dr. Ruby Perry. She gave the Dean's Address, along with her team of administrators, where they spoke to us about the state of the school. That evening we held the SAVMA Career Fair and hosted 26 different companies and small practices, allowing them to showcase their companies' opportunities. Students left with job offers, externships, and bags full of goodies. It's safe to say, the Career Fair was the star of the show. Thursday, we had lunch with Dr. Lauren Rowe, with the AVMA who came to discuss SAVMA on a larger scale, informing students of their opportunities to attend the SAVMA Symposium and the AVMA Convention, as well as discussing travel grants and scholarship opportunities. Finally, on Friday, we held our first annual Beach Ball which was a way to show students that SAVMA knows how to have fun too! We wanted to show the students that although school is of the utmost importance, it is also important to



Third year students, Brianna Brown and Elise Johnson, posing for a picture at the “Beach Ball” back to school party.

fellowship and have a good time, and that we did. We hosted a back-to-school welcome party, with music, food, and games and announced the winners of our raffle. We ended the week with a “Safe Space Saturday” where we invited students to a coffee shop and allowed them to speak up about anything, giving them a voice in a safe space surrounded by peers. SAVMA Week was a blast!

The following week, we held the club fair, where students were introduced to all the clubs on campus, allowing them the opportunities to join organizations that interest them. There are over 20 different clubs and student-led organizations, so we are hopeful that everyone found a space to call their own. Our next event in September was an IVSA lunch and learn, where students were introduced to the International Veterinary Students' Association which is an organization whose mission statement is "...to promote the international application of veterinary skills, education, and knowledge." It is our goal to both promote and increase diversity across campus and we hope to select a new IVSA e-board so that the organization remains active and relevant on our campus. Our IVSA representative, Derrel Wilright, was awarded the opportunity to visit Copenhagen, Denmark for the 72nd IVSA Global Congress Event this past summer and plans to bring a special event he attended, the Cultural Night Potluck, back for our students to enjoy.

Next week, we will be joined by the AVMA Trust and PLIT and students will learn about Professional Liability and Personal Protection. Some other events we plan to host this Semester include a Halloween Spirit Week where we will have a "Trunk or Treat" for a local elementary school; an "Anything but a Backpack" event on campus, where students can bring their belongings to school in anything but a backpack; and a "Don't be Afraid of the NAVLE" event where we will combat fears of the "big test". We plan to host a "Dog Jog", where we collaborate with a local animal shelter and bring adoptable pets to be showcased and hopefully help to raise adoption numbers. We will end the semester with a talent show and Christmas Sing-o-Grams. As always, SAVMA at TU strives to provide a safe space for students to gain fellowship and opportunities, while also focusing on professional development, community outreach, mental, and physical well-being. Stay tuned to find out what more SAVMA has in store!

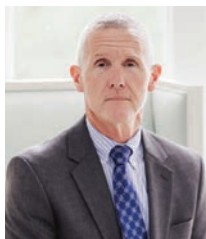


Tuskegee University's International Veterinary Students' Association Representative, Derrel Wilright (pictured far right), and members of IVSA Italy meeting after arrival to Copenhagen, Denmark for the IVSA Global 72nd Congress Event.

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