

Florida VETERINARIAN

ADVANCING ANIMAL, HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

UF | College of Veterinary Medicine

New CVM graduate takes care of business

By Sarah Carey

“It was the only job I could imagine wanting to get up in the morning for.”
— Dani McVety

New veterinary graduate Dani McVety, '09, no stranger to the spotlight, drew national attention this year when she spoke at the North American Veterinary Conference's "Elephant in the Room" student debt symposium in January and later appeared on the cover of DVM Magazine in that role.

For her senior research project, McVety, a former professional dancer and an entrepreneur from an early age, had conducted a survey testing the knowledge of business concepts among veterinary students nationwide. The results drew the attention of Dr. Jim Wilson, a nationally prominent veterinarian, attorney and author who teaches veterinary law, ethics, business management and career development at most of the nation's veterinary schools. Wilson then asked McVety to speak at NAVC.

"I only spoke for about six minutes, but it was exhilarating," McVety said. "The room was packed with students and industry

Dr. Dani McVety holds a dog named Hoover while performing clinical rotations in UF's Small Animal Hospital this past year.



Photo by Mark Hoffenberg

leaders. I sat next to the CEO of the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues and many other role models I've always wanted to meet."

After her presentation, the editor-in-chief of DVM Magazine approached McVety and asked to do a story relating her work to an editorial series focused on the current state of the economy and how new veterinarians are being impacted.

That led to another article in a student-oriented publication, *Your DVM Career*.

For her research paper, McVety sent a survey of 10 simple questions to as many veterinary schools in the U.S. as she could. She received data from 26 veterinary schools and more than 900 respondents.

"I had wanted to do something different, something that people actually wanted to read

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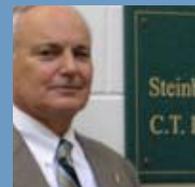
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Message from the Dean

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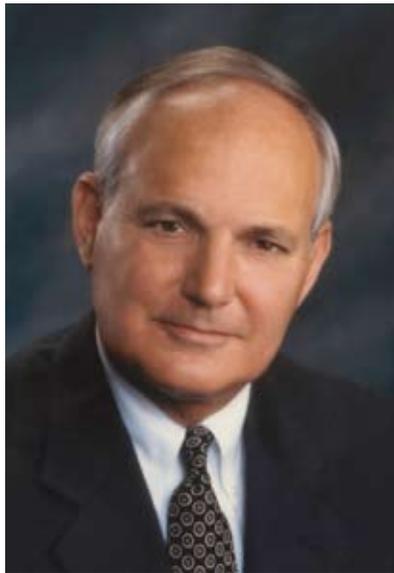
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Dean Glen Hoffsis

CVM at Your Service

A couple of months ago, the UF College of Veterinary Medicine was at the center of national news when 21 polo ponies died suddenly in Wellington, Fla. Fifteen of these horses were brought to UF for necropsy and testing. Our team of board certified pathologists, the only ones in the state of Florida, performed necropsies and obtained samples for additional testing on all of the horses.

The analytical capabilities of our faculty and their various laboratories were engaged in solving the puzzle of what could have caused this catastrophe. The Racing Lab, Clinical Pathology Lab, and Toxicology Lab ultimately diagnosed the case, determining that the deaths were caused by an overdose of selenium. The case was complex, and had major ramifications on several levels. The information determined at the CVM was critical for the State Veterinarian and other regulatory agencies in managing the situation.

I was very proud of our many faculty members who contributed their expertise in this case even though the extra effort, much of it after hours and through a weekend, is beyond their primary roles. Interestingly, such events happen on an almost weekly basis and our CVM faculty always respond in similar fashion to solve problems for the benefit of the state and its citizens.

Most people think the CVM is here only to teach veterinary students, but in fact the college has multiple missions including the generation of new knowledge, providing diagnostic services, providing advanced clinical services for animal patients, and educating veterinarians and animal owners across Florida and beyond.

As the state's only veterinary college, we have extensive responsibilities and we take them seriously. Florida is well served by its investment and I hope we continue with our mutual support.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glen".

Glen Hoffsis

Dean

New vaccine should aid in prevention of canine flu

By Sarah Carey



File photo

Dr. Cynda Crawford and her colleagues concluded in 2004 that the equine influenza virus had jumped the species barrier from horses into dogs. The virus subsequently became known as canine influenza virus.

The UF discovery that equine influenza virus had jumped species into racing greyhounds, causing several dogs to die at the track in 2004, was a major scientific finding worthy of international news. Within a year, however, the new pathogen -- now known as canine influenza virus -- exploded into the pet dog population, causing mass hysteria at kennels and shelters across the country, and among veterinarians who had no idea how to protect pets against the deadly respiratory illness.

Five years later, veterinarians and the pet owning public now have an important tool for fighting canine flu in the form of a vaccine approved conditionally in June by the USDA and being marketed by Intervet/Schering Plough Animal Health Corporation. During the conditional license period, Intervet/Schering Plough will continue to submit data in support of the product's performance while governmental regulators decide whether to issue a regular license.

"The vaccine has actually been sent by Intervet/Schering Plough to its distributors,

"This vaccine represents the culmination of six years of investigations led by UF ..."

— Dr. Cynda Crawford

so it is now available for vets to order for their clients," said Dr. Cynda Crawford, the Maddie's Fund clinical assistant professor of shelter medicine at UF and a co-discoverer of the canine influenza virus. "The vaccine is intended as an aid in the control of disease associated with CIV infection."

Crawford served as a consultant in the vaccine's development, along with Dr. Ed Dubovi, a professor of virology at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

"Although the vaccine may not prevent infection, efficacy trials have shown that

vaccination significantly reduces the severity of damage to the lungs," Crawford said. "In addition, the vaccine reduces the amount of virus shed and shortens the shedding interval. This means that vaccinated dogs that become infected have less illness and are not as contagious to other dogs."

Since canine influenza was first identified, the virus has continued to spread and has now been detected in dogs in 30 states and in the District of Columbia, Crawford said. Most dogs have no immunity to the virus, which is highly contagious and can quickly spread through communal groups of animals, such as shelters, adoption groups, pet stores, boarding and training facilities and veterinary clinics.

"This vaccine represents the culmination of six years of investigations led by UF which underpinned the development of a vaccine to better protect the health and welfare of dogs, particularly those housed in groups," Crawford said.

Commitment to beliefs defines alumna's professional and personal choices

By Sarah Carey

Gwendy Reyes-Illg, '08, has never taken the easy road in her efforts to make a difference in the veterinary profession.

"When I was applying to veterinary schools, everyone told me to play down my beliefs because no one wanted to admit a radical into vet school," said Reyes-Illg, who now works at a 10-doctor small animal hospital in Pittsburgh. "But in the end, I think it was my passion for advancing the moral status of animals in a practical way that allowed me to give something back to the UF CVM."

Reyes-Illg began reading books about animal ethics at age 12. She became a vegan the same year. In college, she took a course on animal welfare through UF's philosophy department.

"Ethics and philosophy tend to become very complicated very quickly, especially in the details," she said. "Certainly there are differences between humans and other animals, and between individual animals. But so much of the time, animals are harmed or killed just because it is convenient or expedient and no one questions what is going on."

An interest in animal ethics is what motivated Reyes-Illg to become involved with primates. She became attracted to the idea of returning captured chimpanzees to the wild to live freely and independently.

"In pursuit of that dream, I began volunteering with apes almost nine years ago and keeping tabs on the chimpanzee rehabilitation and release projects underway in Africa," she said.

The practice where Reyes-Illg now works allows her two months of unpaid leave per year to volunteer work Africa.

"Once I have my loans paid off and have saved some money, I hope to have enough primate experience that I can spend most of the year in Africa being a sanctuary veterinarian doing rehabilitation/release work," she said.

The day after graduating from the UFCVM, Reyes-Illg headed to Cameroon in Western Africa, to the Limbe Wildlife Centre, a conservation organization and primate sanctuary. During her stay, an infant chimpanzee, a baby mona monkey and a putty-nosed guenon, all confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade, joined hundreds of other rescued apes and monkeys at the wildlife center.

"As you can imagine, it was never quiet," she wrote, adding that many of the center's staff members asked her for help in finding the resources to pursue their educations.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Gwendy Reyes-Illg

Dr. Gwendy Reyes-Illg '08, wants to be clear that the monkey shown with her in the above photo was a patient, not a pet. This baby monkey, named Takwah, was a patient at the Limbe Wildlife Center and had been turned over to the sanctuary for care after being orphaned. The animal received temporary foster care while undergoing a quarantine period, during which she was tested for tuberculosis and other diseases. After receiving a clean bill of health, Takwah was housed with two other monkeys of the same species.

"At first, I didn't understand why this was so difficult," she said. "But soon I understood the obstacles: Most staffers were starting with only a minimal level of formal education. Night school begins at 4 p.m. when shifts don't end until 6 p.m. Wages are too low to permit part-time work and student loans don't exist here."

Back in the U.S., Reyes-Illg is spearheading an effort to help bring classes and teachers to the LWC during after-work hours, thereby allowing staff members to further their education. Last month, the LWC Staff Education Program raised enough money to fund classes for the first six months.

“Access to education will not only help LWC improve its own conservation programs and animal care quality, it will also build the capacity of the Cameroonian environmental movement,” Reyes-Illg said.

In preparation for her trip back to Limbe Wildlife Centre in October, Reyes-Illg is seeking donations of medications and veterinary supplies, or funds to purchase them. (Anyone who would like to help may contact her at GwendyDVM@gmail.com.)

When she was a freshman in veterinary school at UF, Reyes-Illg approached college administration about obtaining the cadaver of a horse euthanized for medical reasons to avoid dissecting a cadaver from a healthy animal purchased and euthanized for teaching equine anatomy, currently the standard procedure used at veterinary schools worldwide.

“I had to promise to withdraw from vet school for a year if I was unable to find a cadaver in time,” Reyes-Illg said. “When I found two suitable cadavers in one month, I decided this could easily be the way cadavers are obtained for anatomy class.”

For the next three years, with funding through the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation’s Frontiers for Veterinary Medicine Fellowship, Reyes-Illg worked closely with Dr. Rick Johnson, professor of anatomy, and his technician, Mike Sapper, to develop the Willd Body Program for large animals as part of her senior research project.

The idea behind the program is that it provides a means for people who own a terminally ill small horse, pony, or cow to donate the animal, after its death, to the CVM teaching program. This creates a learning alternative for veterinary students who are ethically opposed to performing dissections on cadavers of animals that have been euthanized expressly for the purpose of teaching anatomy.

“Gwendy did an outstanding job in the development and promotion of the Willd Body Program,” Johnson said. “Her passion, creativity and willingness to reach consensus on this project has resulted in our having the first willd body program for large animals and generated a good deal of interest among other veterinary schools.”

Another initiative Reyes-Illg spearheaded while a UF veterinary student was a program known as HAARTS — Helping Alachua’s Animals Requiring Treatment and Surgery. Through this program, a large number of animals from shelters or rescue organizations have been able to receive life-saving medical care. The HAARTS program has been funded by the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association and Dr. Paula Kislak, a UF veterinary college alumna.

“Prior to starting veterinary school, I worked as a veterinary technician and had been very upset whenever we euthanized an animal with a treatable surgical condition simply because the client couldn’t afford the necessary surgery,” Reyes-Illg said. “So the idea came to



Dr. Gwendy Reyes-Illg, '08, front left, performs surgery on a patient at the Limbe Wildlife Center.

me, what if students, under the careful instruction of residents and experienced surgeons, provided necessary surgeries to those animals.”

Reyes-Illg began talking to UF faculty members, including Dr. Gary Ellison and Dr. Natalie Isaza, about how such a program might work, and made the procurement of outside funding a priority due to budget constraints.

“I did a lot of listening and tried to balance everyone’s concerns,” Reyes-Illg said. “Just as everything came together, it was time for me to graduate and I was extremely lucky to find other students to turn the idea of HAARTS into a reality.”

Dr. Tom Vickroy, interim associate dean for students and instruction, said that in his interactions with Reyes-Illg, she always proved to be a positive person who appreciated and accepted that others might not share her opinions or positions.

“She has always shown a willingness to work within a system to change or develop alternatives to practices with which she disagrees,” he said.

Reyes-Illg said her veterinary training at UF helped ground her professionally.

“Having vague, lofty ideas about saving animals is quite different from knowing what to do when you’re faced with an animal in need,” she said. Where to find critical information, how to put the pieces of a medical case together, how to best communicate and negotiate with people involved in a situation — all of those questions are among those Reyes-Illg said she wouldn’t know how to answer without the knowledge and experience she gained in veterinary school and is building in veterinary practice.

“I met so many brilliant people at the UFCVM and was inspired by the achievements and excellence of those teaching and training there,” she said.

New graduates join ranks of alumni performing military service

By Sarah Carey

While many recent graduates of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine are progressing in their military careers, a new crop of alumni with military ties are planning their futures. For some, the military will remain an active focus; for others, new degrees in veterinary medicine will provide the tools for exploring other options.

In his remarks to the graduating seniors during commencement exercises May 23, Dr. Tom Vickroy, associate dean for students and instruction, noted that several members of the class of 2009 had a history of working with the military. Specifically, Vickroy commented about these individuals:

Dr. Gregory Long, '09, served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps, including service in Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003. He currently is in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and has taken a job as an associate at Newberry Animal Hospital.

Dr. Nichole Luring, '09, served in the U.S. Navy for nine years, including seven months in Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002. Loring is a 1999 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. She left the Navy in 2004 to attend the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. Now she plans to move to Pensacola to take a position as an emergency associate veterinarian.

Dr. Jill Gregorieff, '09, served in the U.S. Navy for 11 years and was a helicopter pilot. A 1991 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with a degree in aerospace engineering, she now plans to become an officer on active duty in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.

Other members of the class of '09 who are embarking upon active military service in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps are Drs. Jessica Buchta, Veronica Gomez, Romina Hennig and Regino Rodriguez. Meanwhile, here are just a



Dr. Jay Coisman will soon return to UF to perform a surgery residency.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Jay Coisman

a Major in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.

Reppas is currently training for deployment to Iraq this fall, where he plans to perform care on military working dogs, provide public health and food inspection services, as well as limited civilian affairs missions to promote national agricultural development.

Four 2007 CVM graduates were commissioned as Captains in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, including Drs. Erin Brown, Anthony May, Jean Rubanick and Elizabeth Williams.

Dr. Christian Hofer, '05, and Dr. Angela Kuntz, '05, both are Captains in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. Prior to veterinary school, Hofer served for more than 11 years in the U.S. Navy, where he worked as a nuclear propulsion plant machinist mate and as an engineering laboratory technician. He participated in tours supporting Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf. After graduating from veterinary school, he entered the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps and was deployed twice to Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom. He also worked with Special Forces

“A” teams in remote areas of the country supporting civil affairs missions by providing veterinary care to local livestock owners and by working with local veterinarians to improve the health of livestock in Afghanistan. He later transferred to the Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center in Fort Bragg, N.C., where he currently teaches Special Forces Medical Sergeants the basics of livestock and horse care, WMD emergency procedures and various public health topics.

Hofer plans to return to school in 2011 to complete a laboratory animal medicine residency and a Ph.D. in epidemiology.

few CVM graduates who are or have recently been actively involved in the military.

Dr. Greg Reppas, '08, is a 1993 graduate of UF's NAVY ROTC program. Reppas, who received his undergraduate degree in engineering, spent 10 years in the Navy as a cryptological officer working with classified communications intelligence.

He was in charge of more than 150 people and several airborne missions but no animals. After doing some volunteer veterinary work, Reppas decided to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. He attended the UF CVM on an Army scholarship and is now

Hofer is attached with the Special Forces, and initially served tours in Afghanistan. His current job involves training Special Forces Medics how to do their job.

Dr. Jay Coisman, '04, is an Army Captain. Coisman initially performed a military working dog internship at the Dog Center in San Antonio and later performed tours in Valdosta, Ga., and in Hawaii. He currently is on the USNS Byrd performing a joint military, NGO and partner nation humanitarian mission in Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Marshall Islands.

Coisman was recently selected to perform a surgery residency at UF. He begins some studies online this fall and will be in Gainesville in the fall of 2010.

While he was a UF veterinary student, Coisman was actively involved in TeamVetMed. He plans to begin his residency studies later this summer.

Dr. Jon Willey, '04, came through UFCVM on an Army scholarship, and served four years on active duty in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. In addition to spending two years as the Vet for the Marine Corps base at Twentynine Palms, Calif., he was the veterinarian for the 3rd Special Forces Group, where he made a dozen airborne jumps (non-combat) and was twice deployed to Afghanistan. He is now a civilian in small animal practice in Oviedo, Fla.

Dr. Dana McDaniel, '96, is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army who spent 11 years on active duty and has served in the Army Reserves for the past two years. She most recently served in Afghanistan serving in Operation Enduring Freedom as a public health veterinarian in the Cooperative Medical Assistance Team, which consists of Army and Navy medical and veterinary personnel that provide training to Afghan medical and veterinary providers.

McDaniel began her military career in 1987 in the U.S. Air Force Reserves as a medical evacuation service specialist. She spent nine years in the reserves and was deployed in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After her graduation from veterinary school, she entered the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps and in subsequent years was deployed in

Egypt as the Officer-in-Charge of Veterinary Services in Egypt and Israel, and as Brigade Veterinarian for the 30th Medical Brigade, Heidelberg, Germany. In that capacity she served on transition teams to Bosnia and Kosovo to evaluate Reserve Component units as they took on missions there.

McDaniel also received her master's degree in public health from John's Hopkins University in May 2003. She plans to temporarily move back to Gainesville in August to study for her American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine board examinations and to command a Reserve unit between deployments.

Dr. Noreen A. Murphy, '94, is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army. She left Fort Sam Houston in Texas, where she was the assistant to the chief of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, in 2007 to move to Italy, where she commanded the Southern Europe District Veterinary Command.

This summer she is newly stationed in Norfolk, Va., where she is the commander of Mid Atlantic District Veterinary Command. Murphy holds a master's degree in public health from the University of South Florida and is board-certified in veterinary preventive medicine. She also is a foreign animal disease diagnostician.

Dr. Terry B. (Bushe) Besch, '88, is a Colonel in the Army who is currently assigned as the director for research support at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. She oversees and coordinates several activities for USAMRIID, including the Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Pathology divisions, Biostatistics, and Regulated Studies. USAMRIID is the military's premiere biodefense laboratory whose mission is to conduct basic and applied research on biological threats resulting in medical solutions to protect the war fighter.

Besch also holds



Dr. Greg Reppas, '08, is shown during a training event in North Carolina.

board certifications in both laboratory animal medicine and veterinary preventive medicine. After graduating from veterinary school, she served as a veterinary preventive medicine officer at Fort Knox, Ky. and in the Philippines before completing a residency in laboratory animal medicine at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in 1996. She then served as director of veterinary medicine and Secretary to the General Staff at the Army's Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine from 1996-1999.

Besch returned to USAMRIID in 1999 as deputy director of the Veterinary Medicine Division. In 2002, she was assigned as deputy

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Dr. Terry (Busche) Besch, '88 is shown near a chopper in Iraq in 2004.

director of the Animal Care and Use Review Office, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, concurrently serving as the veterinary consultant to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and chair of the Armed Services Biomedical Research Committee's Joint Technical Working Group on Use of Animals in the Department of Defense.

As a Lieutenant Colonel, Besch commanded the 248th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from January 2004 to January 2005. Her unit provided veterinary public health and food inspection services as well as military working dog care for the entire Iraqi area of operations.

After returning from Iraq, Besch was promoted to full Colonel and served as director of grants management for the Army's Congressionally-Directed Medical Research Program, where she had technical and administrative oversight of more than 4,100 medical research grants and contracts, totaling more than \$2.2 billion. She next served as director of research plans and programs for USAMRMC, where she supervised programming, planning, and budgeting of more than \$1 billion in core and congressional research programs to optimize Army medical research for soldiers.

Dr. Scott Cornwell, '82, was the UF CVM's first-ever recipient of its Alumni Achievement Award in 2001, which he received in part for his humanitarian work in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a member of the U.S. Army Reserves, Cornwell worked



Dr. Walt Burghardt, '80.

Cornwell later re-entered active duty in the Army on Sept. 11, 2001 and promoted to the rank of Colonel soon afterward. During the next three years, he worked on the staff at the U.S. Central Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, where he was responsible for providing guidance and establishing health protection policy for Central Command's area of responsibility, which includes the Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia and the Horn of Africa.

Cornwell is also board-certified in veterinary preventive medicine. Following his retirement, he averages two months a year working in the University of Sarajevo veterinary faculty. When in the U.S., he performs relief work to help support his work overseas. Last fall, he worked as a consultant to the Centers for Disease Control and co-wrote an after-action report on the Salmonella SaintPaul outbreak that had occurred the previous summer.

He is scheduled to re-enter the Army in August through a retiree recall program to perform a six-month deployment to Kosovo.

to enhance the region's veterinary infrastructure in order to improve animal health, public health and food safety as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves.

Currently, Cornwell is working with Dr. Colin Burrows and Dr. Gary Ellison of the UF VMC on an outreach program sponsored by the North American Veterinary Conference and which will take place in Sarajevo in October.

Dr. Walt Burghardt, '80, a member of the college's first graduating class, is a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He also holds a Ph.D. in Biopsychology from the University of Maryland, College Park. A board-certified veterinary behaviorist, Burghardt has more than ten years experience in basic behavioral research and more than 25 years experience in both private veterinary practice and in referral veterinary behavioral practice.

Since 1995, he has served as chief of Behavioral Medicine and Military Working Dog Studies for the Department of Defense's Military Working Dog Veterinary Services at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Burghardt is responsible for the behavioral care of more than 2,000 military working dogs around the world, and for the implementation of a program of applied research and development regarding military working dogs.

Burghardt is also the Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Medical Director, Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon. He advises the Air Staff on issues regarding medical care for Reservists as well as issues related to zoonoses, epidemiology, preventive and occupational medicine, and other aspects of public health, and maintains a liaison between the Air Force Medical Service, Security Forces, and the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps on issues related to military working dogs.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Dana McDaniel

Dr. Dana McDaniel, '96, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army, has served in the Reserves for the past two years and recently completed a tour in Afghanistan. She will be moving Gainesville this summer and plans to ride her Harley Davidson, nicknamed "Gatorbike," as shown with her dogs as passengers in the sidecar.

UF veterinary college names 2009 Distinguished Award winners

By Sarah Carey

Two small animal veterinary practice owners from Gainesville and Miami, the chief veterinarian at the Georgia Aquarium and two University of Florida professors emeritus have been honored for their career accomplishments by the UF College of Veterinary Medicine.

Four awards were given through the 2009 Distinguished Award program, which is sponsored by the college's alumni council and offers recognition to deserving alumni, faculty and others who have contributed meaningfully to UF and/or to the veterinary profession.

Dale Kaplan-Stein, D.V.M., and **Julio Ibanez, D.V.M.,** were named as recipients of the college's Alumni Achievement Award.

Kaplan-Stein, a member of the college's class of 1981, owns Oaks Veterinary Hospital and Northwood Oaks Veterinary Hospital, both in Gainesville. She also helped establish Affiliated Pet Emergency Services in Gainesville in 1988. For more than 20 years, Kaplan-Stein has been a tireless volunteer for Gainesville Pet Rescue, Alachua County Animal Services and No More Homeless Pets, among other groups. In 2007, she founded the St. Francis House Pet Care Clinic, through which she has helped provide care to nearly 500 pets of homeless and disadvantaged people living in the Alachua County area.

Ibanez, a member of the college's charter class of 1980, is the owner of Quail Roost Animal Hospital in Miami. He is a former president of the college's alumni council and has been actively involved in the Florida Veterinary Medical Association. He also has served on the executive boards of the South Florida Veterinary Medical Association and the South Florida Veterinary Foundation. He received the FVMA's Gold Star Award in 2003 for outstanding contributions to veterinary medicine.

The Outstanding Young Alumnus Award was given to **Tonya Clauss, D.V.M.,** a 2003 graduate of the UF veterinary college. She now is chief veterinarian at the Georgia Aquarium, where she works with one of the world's largest collections of aquatic animals. Frequently featured in the national news whenever the Aquarium treats high-profile cases, Clauss is an active spokeswoman for the importance of aquatic animal health. In addition to her veterinary degree, she holds two bachelor's degrees, as well as a master's degree in environmental engineering and wetlands ecology from UF.

Louis Archbald, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor emeritus of animal reproduction, has received the Distinguished Service Award. Archbald joined UF's faculty as a professor and assistant dean for clinical services/chief of staff of UF's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital in



Distinguished Award winners for 2009: In front, Dr. Dale Kaplan-Stein, Alumni Achievement; in rear, left to right, Dr. Jerome Modell, Special Service; Dr. Julio Ibanez, Alumni Achievement; and Dr. Louis Archbald, Distinguished Service. Not pictured is Dr. Tonya Clauss, who received the Young Alumni Award.

1984. Until he retired in 2008, Archbald directed minority-oriented initiatives, later known as multicultural and special programs, at the college. He received the 2001 Iverson Bell Award from the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges for his outstanding contributions in promoting opportunities for minority students in veterinary medical education. Even after retirement, Archbald has continued to advise and mentor minority students in the D.V.M. and graduate programs.

The college's Special Service Award went to **Jerome Modell, M.D.,** a professor emeritus of anesthesiology at UF's College of Medicine who also holds a courtesy appointment in the College of Veterinary Medicine. For more than 20 years, Modell, always eager to draw parallels between animal and human patients, routinely invited UF veterinary faculty to lecture in his classes. In the 1980s, he helped create a human patient simulator to teach medical students. This tool was soon adapted to teach anesthesia to UF veterinary students.

The awards were presented May 23 at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts during college commencement exercises.

about and which would apply to veterinary students all over the country,” she said. “Sometimes I feel incredibly uneducated in very simple business/accounting things and I knew my classmates were probably the same way. I honestly didn’t know it would be as bad as it turned out to be, though.”

For example, most students did not know what an IRA stands for (Independent Retirement Account.)

“We should be held to a higher standard and should be aware of these basic concepts that we will undoubtedly be faced with sooner rather than later,” McVety said.

McVety said her interest in business concepts was at least in part inherited from her parents, who moved to Florida from Kansas City to start an electric manufacturing representative company that later grew to be one of the largest in the Southeast.

“They’re true entrepreneurs and passed that drive onto my brother and I,” McVety said. “When I was 14, I started a little company with my miniature horses. It’s how I paid for my horse shows and even my first car, a 1996 F-250.”

McVety added that her horse business provided good experience in marketing, customer service and branding, among other things.

“By the time I was 16, I had almost every weekend booked up,” she said. “It was incredible.”

On top of her miniature horse business, McVety juggled demands associated with another hobby: dancing. McVety began dancing at the age of 10 and by age 16 had cultivated that interest to a level that found her competing semi professionally in line dancing, country-western, and eventually swing and ballroom competition.

“I began dancing with my brother, then when he wanted to quit I partnered up with a competitor from Florida,” McVety said. “I missed around 20 days of school my junior and senior years from competitions; I did the miniature horse parties in the off-season and weekends when we didn’t compete.”

The pace of the professional dance life was exhausting, however, and McVety always knew she didn’t want to compete forever.

“It’s a hard life, with lots of traveling and the atmosphere is very tense,” she said. “My competitors, and they’re all still great friends of mine, have gone on to be in movies and on TV shows. I think it’s awesome and still

miss it at times, but I’m happy with my decision.”

Her life unfolded to include an undergraduate degree in microbiology and cell science from UF and ultimately, veterinary school, which offered a career that intrigued McVety more than any of her childhood endeavors.

“It was the only job I could imagine wanting to get up in the morning for,” she said. “Sometimes I imagined going into the business world or even to law school, but I always went back to veterinary medicine.”

Dr. Andy Roark, who graduated from the UF CVM in 2008, knew McVety through their mutual involvement in the Florida chapter of the Veterinary Business Management Association. Both Roark and McVety were active in VBMA and each at one time served as president of the group.

“While she was a veterinary student, Dani arranged for nationally known business speakers, such as Marion Brem, author of ‘Women Make the Best Salesmen,’ to visit the CVM and to spend time with students,” Roark said. “She also became a mother, operated rental properties with her husband near campus and owned, with her husband, a string of ATM machines throughout Gainesville and the surrounding area.”

McVety met her husband, Chris, a recent law school graduate, in 2003. The two shared a fascination with business and got to know a couple that owned ATMs.

“We loved the idea. Minimal time was required and you make money when you’re sleeping,” McVety said, adding that their first account was Sachel’s Pizza more than five years ago. “They trusted Chris and put up with us while we learned the ropes. From there it snowballed; we now have more than 20 ATM machines in the Gainesville area that we service in one form or another by filling, fixing or processing. It has been a fantastic learning experience for us.”



Photo courtesy of Dr. Dani McVety

Dr. Dani McVety was hooded by her husband, at right, Chris McVety during UF CVM commencement exercises, held May 23.

She said being business partners with her husband, whom she married in 2004, has helped both of them identify their strengths and weaknesses, an aspect that is key to the success of any business.

“As any successful scientist or business executive will tell you, there’s no substitute for going out and getting the experience on your own,” McVety said. “Personally, I think our undergraduate curriculum needs to be more reworked than our vet school curriculum. We should have the option of choosing accounting classes instead of liberal arts classes, in my opinion.”

McVety and her family — including 1-year-old son, Baron — have now relocated to Tampa, where she plans to perform emergency work. McVety’s goal is to amass even more training while she spends time with her family and considers the best way to build or purchase a clinic of her own within the next five years.

“It’s going to be exciting either way,” McVety said. “I want a clinic that’s completely focused around customer service. If someone stops me one day and says, ‘I had the most wonderful experience at your clinic, they were so good to me and my pet,’ I will know I have succeeded.”

Veterinary professor wins university-level award

By Laura Mize

Two years ago, Matthew Winter, D.V.M., joined the College of Veterinary Medicine's department of small animal clinical sciences as an assistant professor. A short time later he was met with an unexpected challenge: the resignation of the only other radiology faculty member in the department.

"As I arrived, the rest of the radiologists had left," Winter said. "So I came here with very little in the way of radiology faculty and did a lot to try to maintain the teaching mission of our service, as well as the clinically oriented mission of our service."

Winter was faced with the enormous task of providing the necessary radiology courses for the college's students and working as service chief of radiology.

In May, Winter received the university's Superior Accomplishment Award for academic personnel in recognition of his success over the past two years.

Colin Burrows, B.Vet.Med., Ph.D., a professor and chair of the department of small animal clinical sciences, nominated him for the award.

In his nomination letter, Burrows wrote that Winter also helped draw another radiologist to the faculty, developed a business plan to increase the number of patients using UF's veterinary radiology service and received the college's Teacher of the Year award for his work in a typically unpopular course.

"Radiology now has four faculty members, an emerging residency program and is now one of the strengths of the hospital and college," Burrows wrote. "I give much of the credit for this to Dr. Winter."



Dr. Matt Winter, assistant professor of radiology at UF's CVM, is shown with a canine client in the Steinbrenner Family C.T. Imaging Suite.

But Winter emphasized there are many others at the college who deserve some credit for his success.

"Without the support of a great team of technologists and technicians that I have in my radiology service — all of whom are tremendously hard working — without the support, as I said, of the administration and without the understanding of the clinicians with whom I work, it would never have happened," Winter said. "So it wasn't just about me."

He personally thanked Burrows and John Haven, director of the Veterinary Medical Center, and said the experience has helped him learn more about teamwork than he otherwise would have had in his first two years as a professor at UF.

Winter, who attended veterinary school at Cornell University, said a mentor there influenced him to specialize in veterinary radiology.

Despite his busy schedule, Winter still finds time to conduct research. In one of his current projects, Winter is trying to develop ways to learn more about liver tumors in dogs — whether the tumors are malignant or benign, for example — through CT and MRI scans.

"Right now that's something that's kind of difficult to do (non-invasively) and there have been some breakthroughs in the area of ultrasound contrast agents (dyes or other materials used to show contrast in an ultrasound and highlight problems), but there may be other methods," Winter said.

Winter said the college is making progress in its efforts to rebuild the radiology program.

"Part of what we've been working toward is making the University of Florida, specifically the College of Veterinary Medicine and, more specifically the radiology service, a place where people want to come to build their careers," Winter said. "And I think we've made a lot of steps in that direction."



Steinbrenner family CT unit dedicated at UF vet center

By Sarah Carey



Photo by Sarah Carey

“Advanced imaging allows for more accurate diagnosis and better therapeutic management. The Steinbrenner’s generous gift allows us to image rapidly and accurately, and all of our patients benefit from this technology.”

— Matthew Winter, D.V.M.,
Assistant Professor of Radiology
Veterinary Medical Center

Pictured from left to right in the newly dedicated Steinbrenner Family CT Imaging Suite June 26 are Dr. Matt Winter, Dean Glen Hoffsis, Art Gaines, UF President Bernie Machen, Chris Machen, Jessica Steinbrenner, Felix Lopez, Kevin Adler and Jim Scott.

Horsewoman Jessica Steinbrenner, general manager of Kinsman Farm in Ocala and daughter of New York Yankees’ owner George Steinbrenner, visited Gainesville June 26 to celebrate the dedication of a new CT imaging suite at the University of Florida Veterinary Medical Center.

The Steinbrenner Family CT Imaging Suite was named in honor of the Steinbrenners in appreciation for a \$400,000 gift — subsequently matched through state funds for a total of \$800,000 — that made construction of the suite possible, providing UF with one of the most powerful tools available for veterinary diagnostics in the Southeastern United States.

“The Steinbrenner family feels that the University’s veterinary faculty and program are forward thinking and have the ability to help large animals on a grand scale, all while

educating students in this field,” Jessica Steinbrenner said.

Housed in the college’s large animal hospital, the suite contains an 8-slice, multidetector row Toshiba Aquilion CT unit that allows for rapid imaging with exceptional contrast and spatial resolution.

The UF VMC also has a 1.5 Tesla Toshiba Titan MR unit, which allows veterinarians to obtain highly detailed images in multiple planes of bone and soft tissue in all species. Foot, fetlock, suspensory ligaments, carpus, hock and heads are regions capable of being examined through MR in the horse. Multidetector row CT is often used for rapid evaluation of the skull and distal extremities. It is especially helpful in characterizing complex fractures using multiplanar reformatting techniques and 3-dimensional reconstructions. In small animals, both

imaging tools are routinely applied to neurologic and orthopedic cases at the VMC, with additional studies performed for radiation planning and metastasis evaluations.

“Diagnostic imaging is an extremely important part of patient care,” said Matthew Winter, D.V.M., assistant professor of radiology at UF’s VMC. “Advanced imaging allows for more accurate diagnosis and better therapeutic management. The Steinbrenner’s generous gift allows us to image rapidly and accurately, and all of our patients benefit from this technology.”



Dr. Colin Burrows, chairman of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's department of small animal clinical sciences, is shown with Jill Nute, then-president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, in July during the RCVS's annual meeting in London.

Burrows receives honorary fellowship

Colin Burrows, B.Vet.Med., Ph.D., chairman of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine's department of small animal clinical sciences, has been named an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Burrows, who also serves as chief of staff of UF's small animal hospital, is a board-certified veterinary internist, specializing in the study of canine and feline gastrointestinal, hepatic and pancreatic disease. His research focuses on canine gastrointestinal motility in health and disease, and on the relationship between diet and gastrointestinal disease.

He has delivered continuing education presentations in more than 50 countries and is an honorary member of both the Austrian and Russian Small Animal Veterinary Associations. Burrows also serves as executive director of the North American Veterinary Conference, one of the world's largest veterinary conferences.

In addition to his work with NAVC, Burrows has helped develop programs for other world-class continuing education programs, including the World Small Animal Veterinary Association. He has helped to encourage such programs in Eastern Europe and in economically challenged countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Peru.

Among his many awards are the WSAVA's Award for Service to the Profession in 2006 and the AVMA's 2008 International Veterinary Congress Prize for his contributions to international veterinary medicine.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is the regulatory body for veterinary surgeons in the United Kingdom and ensures that standards within the veterinary profession are maintained, safeguarding the health and welfare of animals and the interests of the public.

Schaer named to new administrative post



Dr. Michael Schaer

Michael Schaer, D.V.M., a professor of small animal medicine at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, will soon assume a new administrative role as special assistant to the dean.

Schaer has been a member of UF's veterinary college faculty since 1979. He served as associate chief of staff of UF's Small Animal Hospital from 1996 to 2009 and as chief of the small animal

medicine service from 1979 to the present.

In his new post, Schaer, a board-certified specialist in both internal medicine and veterinary emergency and critical care, will work closely with the college's Office for Students and Instruction by helping to advise and orient veterinary students. He will also work with the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs and will remain involved in programs for interns and residents.

"Dr. Schaer has a distinguished record as a faculty member and clinician," said the college's dean, Glen Hoffsis, D.V.M. "He will bring his extensive experience and knowledge to the administration, which will yield great benefits, but at the same time he will be able to continue the important teaching and clinical roles that have always been his passion."

Schaer's new role will become effective later this summer.

Sept. 26 Receptionist Training Day and Technician Training Day will be held at the Paramount Plaza in Gainesville. For more information, contact Cathy Gentilman at (352) 392-1701, ext. 234.

Oct. 1-3 Florida Association of Equine Practitioners will hold its annual meeting in Marco Island. For more information, go to www.faep.net.

16-17 The University of Florida holds its traditional Homecoming weekend.

25 Horse Farm 100 and Team VetMed bicycle ride will depart at 8:30 a.m. from Lofton High School at 3000 E. University Ave. For more information, contact Jo Ann Winn at (352) 392-2213, ext. 5013 or e-mail winnj@vetmed.ufl.edu

Nov. 7 UF CVM Homecoming Celebration begins four hours before game kick-off (UF vs. Vanderbilt). The CVM Alumni Council's fall meeting will also be held. Times for both events are TBA. For more information, contact Jo Ann Winn at (352) 392-2213, ext. 5013 or e-mail winnj@vetmed.ufl.edu

www.vetmed.ufl.edu

Photo by Sarah Carey



All in the Family

Maggie Machen, '09, is shown with her father, UF President Bernie Machen and family friend Dr. Dale Kaplan-Stein, on May 23 just prior to the college's commencement ceremony. Kaplan-Stein also received the college's 2009 Alumni Achievement award.

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