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Florida VETERINARIAN

ADVANCING ANIMAL, HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

UF | College of Veterinary Medicine

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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Florida
VETERINARIAN

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Message from the Dean

We welcome new students and fall term

Despite the lingering hot temperatures, fall is in the air and a new academic (and football) year is already upon us. This summer we were honored to host a very successful Merial student research symposium. Approximately 350 students from all the veterinary colleges met at Disney. This was the largest such meeting to date and it brought national recognition to the UF CVM.

In late August, our incoming class of 100 impressive freshman veterinary students began their educational journey. It commenced with one week of orientation and leadership training and classes are now well underway. The college has experienced many changes this past year, and I wanted to take this opportunity to bring you up to date.

First, we are now approaching our one year anniversary of the grand opening of our new Small Animal Hospital. Once we got beyond the many dedication events and associated activities, we shifted focus to ensure that the quality of services offered in the new hospital would match the quality of the facility itself.

Truly one of the finest in the nation, the new hospital excels in everything from patient-care capabilities to enhancement of teaching through the building's carefully thought out design. The hospital facilities and services offer clients an exceptional experience as well as expert patient care. We are very pleased that recently, the hospital has netted some key awards that acknowledge its design, esthetics, and efficiency, and we have a story about those in this issue.

Dr. Dana Zimmel continues in her role as chief of staff of the UF Veterinary Hospitals and is providing wonderful leadership. She has developed a strategic plan centered on excellent patient care, an exceptional client experience, and excellent service to referring veterinarians. At this juncture, hospital case load, revenues, and quality measures are all trending positively.

This past summer, Dr. Rowan Milner was named chairman of the department of small animal clinical sciences. A respected veterinary oncologist, Dr. Milner fills the position vacated by Dr. Colin Burrows, who recently retired after 30 years of service to the college. Included in this issue is a story about Dr. Burrows' retirement, with a few photos from an event held in his honor in conjunction with our annual Referring Veterinarian Appreciation Day. We will always be indebted to Dr. Burrows for his tireless commitment to college and hospital programs, and for all he did to pave the way for the new Small Animal Hospital.

On Aug. 19, we held a grand opening dedication for a new auditorium, which is located adjacent to our Veterinary Academic Building. The 160-seat auditorium offers unique and state of the art design and technology that will enhance teaching and learning, whether through didactic lectures or distance education. These high-tech capabilities will benefit faculty, students and outside veterinarians in delivering the college mission for well into the future.

We continue to recruit and employ faculty in all of our departments and will provide updated information in future issues. We are fortunate to be able to do this given the cuts we endured a few years ago. We hope to strengthen teaching, research and clinical programs in order to help our students, and to better serve the people of Florida and the nation.

As always we thank you for your support and interest in all of our endeavors. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you'd like to discuss our programs and how we can better serve you.

Best wishes and Go Gators,

Glen Hoffsis
Dean

Hospital nets key awards

Less than a year after opening in November 2011, the college's new UF Small Animal Hospital has amassed a series of awards for its unique environmental, technical and aesthetic features.

The $58 million, 104,000-square-foot hospital received a "gold" ranking under the internationally recognized green building certification system known as LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council in 2000, LEED provides building owners and operators with a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions. LEED promotes sustainable building and development practices through a rating system that recognizes projects that implement strategies for better environmental and health performance.

Water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources and indoor environmental quality are among the areas recognized through LEED. There are four possible rankings: certified, silver, gold and platinum. With its gold ranking, the UF Small Animal Hospital became one of the first veterinary hospitals in the country of its size to reach this standard.

In April, the City of Gainesville recognized the hospital with its Outstanding Institutional Award as part of its annual beautification awards program.

In June, the college received a "New Learning Space" award for the hospital from AMX, a technology company and hospital vendor, as part of the group's new Innovation Awards program.

Given for the most innovative new learning space implementations in higher education, the award consists of a prize of $50,000 in technology and equipment. The college was one of three winning institutions selected from more than 500 nominations around the globe. Entries were reviewed by a judging panel consisting of audiovisual experts and media, along with a group of higher education technology leaders.

The hospital's opening enhanced existing services provided to pet owners throughout Florida and the Southeast. The building features three stories of state-of-the-art clinical and teaching space as well as faculty offices and a 140-seat conference room.

Photo by Russ Bryant

A long view of the north-facing side of the new UF Small Animal Hospital.

Photo by Russ Bryant

The new hospital features a separate entrance for primary care and emergency patients.

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Dr. Colin Burrows retires after 30 years of service

Dr. Rowan Milner, chairman of the department of small animal clinical sciences; Dr. Dana Zimmel, chief of staff of the UF Veterinary Hospitals; Dr. Colin Burrows, former chair of the department of small animal clinical sciences; and Dean Glen Hoffsis pose for a photo during Burrows' retirement reception June 25.

About the cover:

UF veterinarians save dog with acute ivermectin toxicity, page 4.

UF veterinarians save dog that ingested horse medicine

A dog that barely survived after treatment at the University of Florida Small Animal Hospital for acute ivermectin toxicity prompted UF veterinarians to warn pet owners to take stock of all their pets' medications, particularly how and when they are administered, especially around other animals in the household.

"Many people already know to be aware of medications in their homes, and to be careful how those drugs are stored so that pets and children can't get access to them," said Carsten Bandt, D.V.M., an assistant professor of emergency medicine and critical care and chief of the hospital's emergency service. "However, people may not think about environments other than houses, such as barns or farms, where different types of animals frequently mingle and medications may be given outside."

Sandra Johnson, who has a farm in Archer, gave her four horses their deworming medication on May 17 but didn't see her 2.5-year-old Australian shepherd, Charly, creep through the barn. When she did see him a few minutes later, Charly's head was down, and soon after, he was crawling. Johnson knew immediately that her dog's situation was an emergency, but didn't realize what had happened until a veterinarian asked if Charly had consumed ivermectin.

Photo by Sarah Carey

With Charly on the day of his discharge from UF are Alana Cannup and Cindy Allen, both junior veterinary students, Dr. Julia Coutin and Charly's owner, Sandy Johnson.

It turned out the medication she had given her horses, unlike the type she usually purchased, had been flavored, and Charly had eaten what one of the horses spit out. Flavoring in medications may make dosing easier, but it also makes lost doses more enticing to animals not suited for the treatment.

"It's when you deviate from your routine that things start to fall apart," Johnson said. "If something smells good, a dog is going to eat it."

Ivermectin is routinely used to prevent heartworm and to treat ear mites in many pets. The drug is also used as a general dewormer in horses.

"In most cases and in most breeds of pets, side effects are not a concern with conventional doses," Bandt said. "However, in Charly's case, not only did he consume an extremely powerful dose, since the medication he ate was intended for a horse, but on top of that, Australian Shepherds have a genetic sensitivity to ivermectin that allows the drug to enter the central nervous system."

Acute ivermectin toxicity paralyzed Charly, who was first treated with lipid infusion and had to be placed on a ventilator to help him breathe. On May 26, UF veterinarians disconnected the ventilator and Charly went home with his owner on June 1.

He returned to UF because of a small skin infection, but continues to do well, veterinarians said.

"His infection was a side effect of laying down for such a long time, but otherwise he is doing great," Bandt said. "He is running around at home, playing with his litter mate and trying to chase the horses."

By Sarah Carey

Photo by Sarah Carey

Sandra Johnson visits with her dog, Charly, in the intensive care unit at UF's Small Animal Hospital in late May.

Pets benefit from new treatment options for urinary obstructions

Through a variety of techniques and intersecting disciplines, University of Florida veterinarians are expanding their treatment capabilities for animals that suffer from a variety of urinary obstructions ranging from cancer to kidney stones.

Photo courtesy of Steve Roberts

Steve Roberts is shown with his dog, Tucker.

UF veterinarians have been treating cancer of the urethra in dogs for several years now through a combination of high-dose targeted radiation and chemotherapy. Last year, however, veterinary oncologists began to devise treatments for cancers in the bladder neck, an area of thick muscle where the bladder joins the urethra.

"Most veterinarians aren't aware that we can treat tumors in the bladder neck by surgically removing the area containing the cancer and then moving the ureters into a healthy part of the bladder," said Nick Bacon, Vet.M.B., a clinical assistant professor of surgical oncology at the UF Small Animal Hospital.

"Frequently, veterinarians will tell their clients that with cancer of the bladder neck that there is nothing that can be done, so we feel it's important to get the word out that at UF we have the ability to help them."

An early case UF veterinarians performed the procedure in was a mixed-breed dog named Tucker, owned by Stephen Roberts of Orlando. Tucker initially was diagnosed by his veterinarian as having a tumor in the bladder neck. Through subsequent contact between Tucker's veterinarian and UF veterinary specialists, Tucker came to UF for the surgical procedure, which was followed by chemotherapy treatments.

"He was doing well, until around six months after surgery we began to see small tumor growth inside the bladder," Bacon said, adding that by one year after surgery, the growth had begun to block the ureters and then the kidneys, causing Tucker's kidneys to fail. "With the new situation, I could not move those ureters, as the whole bladder was now lined with cancer," Bacon said.

At that point, the UF oncology group looked to their colleagues in radiology and internal medicine for help. With radiologist David Reese, D.V.M., providing real-time imaging, UF's Kirsten Cooke, D.V.M., and Alex Gallagher, D.V.M., both clinical assistant professors of small animal medicine, were able to successfully insert thin, flexible tubes, known as stents, within each ureter running from each kidney to the bladder. The procedure has eliminated the obstruction from Tucker's kidneys.

Tucker's procedure is just one example of how the hospital's new Image-Guided Interventional Service is helping patients.

"The service includes specialists from medicine, oncology, surgery, cardiology and radiology," Gallagher said. "Tucker's ureteral stenting is just one example of the procedures in which our specialists can collaborate with the result of positive outcomes of our patients in a minimally-invasive way."

Although UF veterinarians have been placing stents in different parts of the body to address a variety of conditions, predominantly cardiovascular, Tucker's procedure was the first time stents had been placed between the kidney and the bladder.

"The important thing is that more urinary tract obstructions are now potentially treatable," Bacon said. "The majority of dogs with urinary cancer die from urinary obstruction and we can now treat them, or at least get better at treating them."

He added that UF's overall capability to provide radiation therapy, surgical expertise to remove cancers once thought inoperable and the capability of placing stents to open up previously blocked areas of the body all represent services not available to pet owners anywhere else in the state of Florida.

Roberts, Tucker's owner, said he had been impressed by UF's team approach to treating his dog.

"I'm ecstatic about the way things are working out," Roberts said. "I honestly never expected Tucker to last a year. Right now he's 9.5 years old, and the more time we can get with him, the better."

When Tucker last visited the UF veterinary college for a check-up in June, veterinarians found that his kidney values had returned to normal.

"Tucker still has cancer, but he is doing great and is now one year out from when his owner was told initially that nothing could be done," Bacon said.

By Sarah Carey

Cat shot with arrow survives, gets new home

Yes, Virginia: There really is a cat with nine lives, and he owes all of them to a concerned citizen, veterinarians from Ocala and the University of Florida, a generous benefactor — and a whole lot of luck.

After an arrow penetrated the chest of a stray cat in Marion County in mid-March, a concerned citizen from Dunnellon contacted Sheltering Hands, a local cat rescue group, for help. The citizen and her neighbors knew the cat to be friendly with children, not feral, but did not know who owned him.

"Law enforcement authorities and Marion County Animal Services had been contacted early on, but were unable to trap the cat because the width of the arrow would not allow him to enter a standard trap," said Kathleen Fleck, D.V.M., a veterinarian who works part time with Brick City Cat Hospital in Ocala and volunteers with Sheltering Hands. "By this time, he was too scared to come to anyone willingly. He wandered the neighborhood this way for nearly a week."

The Dunnellon newspaper even ran a small article about his predicament, and at that point, the concerned citizen contacted Sheltering Hands.

"One of our dedicated volunteers obtained access to a very large dog trap and spent two days coaxing him into it," Fleck said. "When he arrived at Brick City Cat Hospital, he was quite septic and it was determined that without immediate surgery to remove the arrow from his chest, he would surely die."

Fleck said a benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, stepped forward to assist with the cost of transporting the cat — now known as "Arrow" — to the UF Small Animal Hospital. The trip proved to be quite dramatic.

"He tried twice to go into respiratory arrest and had to be on oxygen support in the back seat of my truck with my technician doing the bagging (to supply oxygen) during the entire 45-minute trip," Fleck recalled.

Arrow arrived at UF the morning of March 12 in critical condition, requiring ventilation with oxygen through an endotracheal tube.

"Fluid and air were drained off his chest, and he then received fluids and medications to stabilize his blood pressure," said Jordan Nickell, D.V.M., then an intern with the UF Small Animal Hospital's emergency service.

A CT scan revealed that the arrow had passed right through his chest between his heart and diaphragm, fortunately missing the cat's major blood vessels and many other vital structures, UF veterinarians said.

Stanley Kim, B.V.Sc.,an assistant professor of small animal surgery, and Laura Cuddy, D.V.M., a surgery resident, operated to remove the arrow and treat the severe infection in the cat's chest. Parts of Arrow's lung lobes were removed because of damage from the injury, and the cat remained hospitalized under Cuddy's care for another week while infected fluid was drained from his chest and he received antibiotics and pain medications.

Arrow's condition improved and he was discharged from UF on March 18 to a volunteer, who transported him back to Fleck.

Four months later, Fleck said Arrow is now in his permanent home and that Jill Kirk, a sophomore UF veterinary student, had adopted the cat, along with another cat who was with him in foster care. Arrow has been renamed "Robin" (Hood) and his fellow adoptee has been renamed "Maid Marian," Fleck said.

"Robin is such a sweet, funny cat," said Kirk, his new owner. "He's still very young, and very playful. He also loves to cuddle, and I'll often wake up with his back curled up against my side."

Kirk said Robin doesn't like sudden movements or loud noises, but is adapting remarkably well.

"He always makes me laugh," she said. "After losing my beloved 16-year-old cat to cancer in May, I feel so lucky to have this wonderful pair of cats in my life."

By Sarah Carey

UF veterinary student Jill Kirk is shown with the cat she has renamed Robin, and his companion, named Marian.

Photo courtesy of Jill Kirk

First laser lithotripsy performed at UF

In May, a 9-year-old Chihuahua named Sammy became the first patient at the UF Small Animal Hospital to receive a procedure known as laser lithotripsy to remove a stone lodged in his urethra. Three months later, Sammy, who has experienced chronic problems with bladder blockages from a young age, is still stone-free.

Sammy's owner came to UF in November 2010 for help with Sammy's recurrent urinary tract infections and bladder stones. Traditional surgery was performed to remove the bladder stones, but a single stone remain lodged in the urethra. While surgery could be performed on the urethra, due to the possible complications, the owners elected to wait for a new therapy.

Sammy returned to UF in May 2011 to have laser lithotripsy. Laser lithotripsy is a non-invasive procedure commonly used to remove stones from the urinary tract. Frequently used in human medicine, the procedure involves a laser fiber being passed through a cystoscope to locate the stones, which are then blasted apart through a burst of laser energy. The stone fragments can then be removed or left to pass through the urinary system on their own.

"Everything went perfectly," said Sammy's owner, Gail Siler."We wouldn't ask for anything better. We were very pleased."

Traditionally, stones in the bladder or urethra were removed with surgery, said Alex Gallagher, D.V.M., who performed Sammy's procedure. "In some cases this involved making an incision into the urethra. Possible complications have included scarring or leakage of the bladder or urethra.

"Laser lithotripsy allows us to remove stones from the urinary tract without making any incisions. In most cases, this is an outpatient procedure," he added.

Gallagher and other UF veterinary faculty members have received training in the procedure and are making use of a new piece of equipment, the Holmium YAG laser unit, which was installed soon after the opening of the hospital last fall.

"Not all patients are candidates for this procedure," Gallagher said. "Female dogs with a small stone burden in the bladder or urethra are typically good candidates. Urethral stones in male dogs can also typically be treated with laser lithotripsy as well."

He added that currently, UF is not using laser lithotripsy to remove bladder stones from male dogs except in specific cases where other treatment options cannot be done."

"Dr. Gallagher has recommended that Sammy come in every two months for a check-up to make sure there were no more stones and to keep him under control as much as I can," said Sammy's owner, Gail Siler. "Sammy has had his problems, but he has always been a joy to me. I'd do anything I had to, to make him well."

By Sarah Carey

Photo by Sarah Carey

Dr. Alex Gallagher prepares to examine Sammy Siler during a recent recheck in UF's Small Animal Hospital.

E-mail address updates needed

In order to meet the University of Florida's Green Initiatives, more of the college print publications will become electronic publications or Web-based publications. Communications via e-mail are becoming increasingly important, as well as being the 'green' thing to do. Be sure your e-mail address is up-to-date so you aren't left out. Information we need from alumni includes name, class year, and e-mail address. All others, we need name and e-mail address and some reference to your affiliation to the college, i.e. you are a donor, a friend, a client, etc.

You can confirm your e-mail address by sending a note to cvmalumniaffairs@vetmed.ufl.edu or faxing this info to 352-392-8351.

CVM research may spur development of vaccine against cattle disease

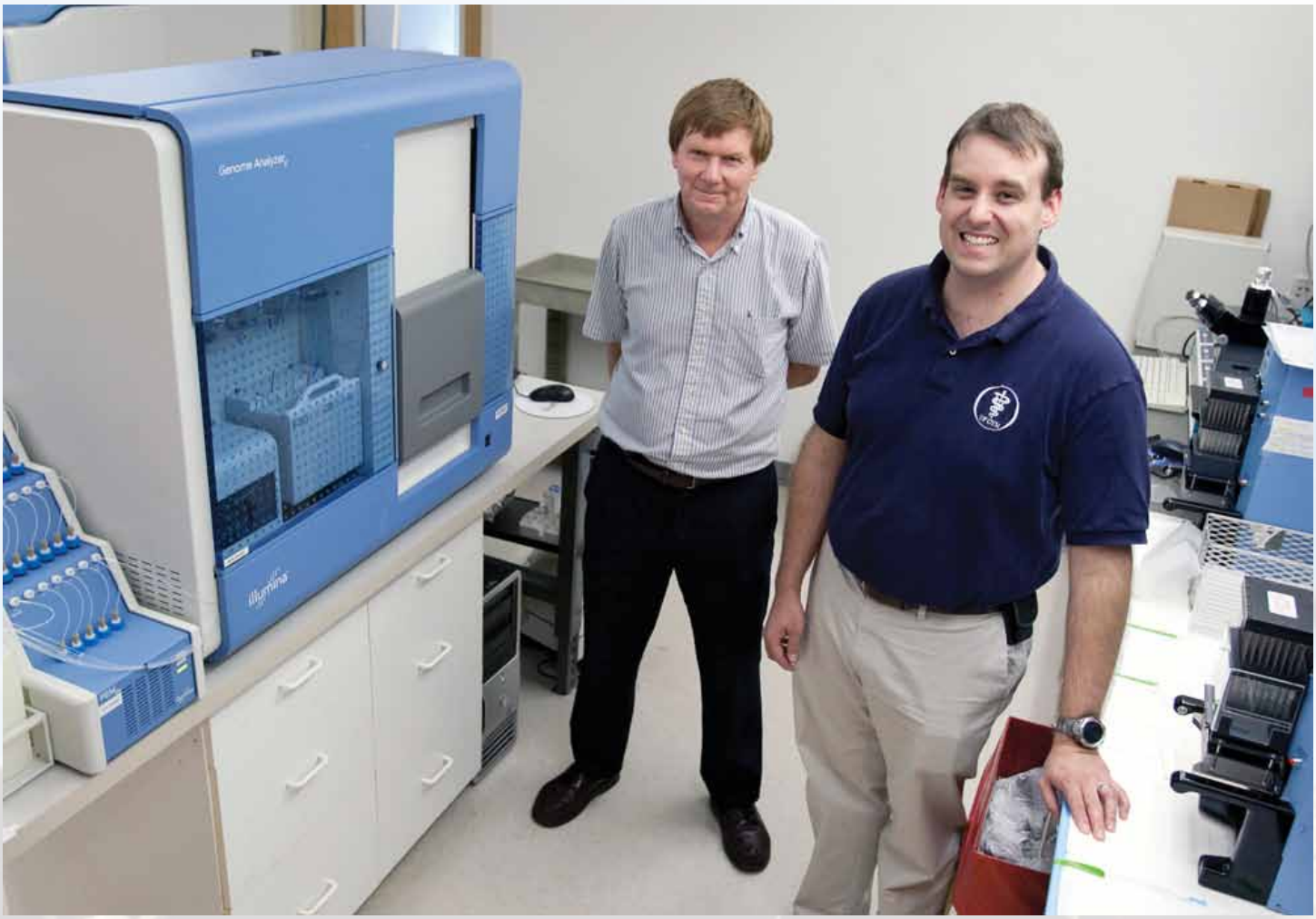


Photo by Maria Farias

Dr. Anthony Barbet, left, and Dr. Michael Dark, right, are shown inside UF's Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research, where molecular testing of proteins common to strains of Anaplasma marginale took place.

Researchers at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine say proteins common to multiple strains of Anaplasma marginale, a tick-borne pathogen that costs the U.S. cattle industry millions of dollars annually and is even more devastating in developing countries, could hold the key to developing an effective vaccine against the disease.

> "The biology of Anaplasma marginale is more difficult to protect against, because the organism has evolved in order to infect cattle for life."
>
> *— Michael J. Dark, D.V.M., Ph.D.*

In the July issue of Vaccine, UF veterinary scientists report genome sequencing of multiple strains of the bacteria from across North America to identify common antigens — substances that cause the body to generate antibodies — that could be candidates for vaccine development.

Anaplasma bacteria infect red blood cells and are estimated to cost the cattle industry $300 million a year, according to industry estimates. Sick animals may develop a fever, have difficulty breathing and may be anemic. Thirty percent of the animals that contract bovine anaplasmosis die.

"At the DNA level, we examined genes to determine how similar they are among various strains of the disease," said Michael J. Dark, D.V.M., Ph.D., an assistant professor in the college's department of infectious diseases and pathology. "If they show similarity, they are probably better vaccine candidates, because they would presumably offer cross-protection against multiple strains."

Although many attempts have been made since the early 1900s to develop a vaccine against Anaplasma marginale, none have provided complete protection against infection with different strains of the bacteria, Dark said. Some previous studies have focused on two particular proteins, MSP2 and MSP3, which are known to protect against certain strains, but which have not yielded universal protection.

The research team, including scientist Basima Al-Khedery, Ph.D., and Anthony F. Barbet, Ph.D., a professor of molecular biology, used a technique known as pyrosequencing to compare multiple strains of Anaplasma marginale and determine which proteins showed fewer DNA changes from strain to strain.

"No vaccine has proven 100 percent effective against all strains, which is necessary for an effective vaccine," Dark said. "Ideally, the perfect vaccine would also have other characteristics, such as not needing to be refrigerated; otherwise in places like Africa, you'd never be able to use it. You'd also want a vaccine to be effective quickly and long-lasting, hopefully for the life of the animal, or at least so that it wouldn't need booster shots every year."

But the disease has proven elusive to protect against, for several reasons.

"We already have vaccines for diseases that are relatively easy to produce vaccines for, such as smallpox in people," Dark said. "The biology of Anaplasma marginale is more difficult to protect against, because the organism has evolved in order to infect cattle for life. Because of its ability to adapt and evade the immune system, this disease has made our lives that much more difficult in terms of trying to find a vaccine that is effective."

Jim Handley, executive vice president of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, said he was excited about the "cutting edge" research being conducted at UF.

"As with many cattle diseases, Anaplasma continues to offer economic challenges to producers," Handley said. "Any advancement toward the development of a vaccine against Anaplasma offers huge potential for commercial application."

Researchers say more is understood about the way in which Anaplasma affects the immune system than is known about many human diseases and even many other tick-borne diseases that effect livestock and other animals.

"Yet, despite that knowledge, we still can't create a vaccine that protects against every strain," Dark said.

He added that molecular analysis has given researchers useful tools for examining differences between individual organisms, such as information that could be gleaned to yield important epidemiologic information, or determine disease origin.

"We are starting to get into more of the details as to what makes up the organism, but what is the difference between Anaplasma marginale in Florida and in Puerto Rico, and how can we use genetic information to determine where a disease comes from?" Dark said.

"Does every strain from Florida have certain characteristics? Might something work against a disease found in that state but not elsewhere? We have a lot of questions open up when we can look at all these organisms quickly and fairly cheaply at the genetic level, and we can also get more information than we ever have before."

By Sarah Carey

Monthly treatments at equine hospital keep tiny horse on its feet

Big things really do come in small packages, if you ask Debbie DeHowitt, whose horse-loving heart belongs to the "mini-minis."

DeHowitt's 4-year-old mini-miniature horse, Buttercup, has been a client of the UF Large Animal Hospital from an early age, when it became clear that she needed special care for hoof problems.

"When she was 6 or 7 months old, I became aware that she was starting to walk on the outside of her front hooves," DeHowitt said. Her veterinarian had a farrier — someone whose job is to make horseshoes and fix their hooves — create extensions to widen Buttercup's hooves to fix the problem.

At first, the extensions seemed to work, but eventually Buttercup's condition worsened. DeHowitt made a five-hour trip to UF from her home in Hollywood, Fla., to explore possibilities for further treatment. Surgery was ruled out so Buttercup began what would become a part of her health maintenance routine – visiting UF's farrier, Jody Schaible, every month for the next three years for corrective hoof care.

"Jody has been great to us," DeHowitt said. "Over the years, he has had to switch from pre-made shoes to different materials to extend her hooves and keep her comfortable. Without Jody, I know that Buttercup would not be turning 4 later this month."

Schaible said working on Buttercup had been a challenge from the start.

"I have to take into consideration that her feet are extremely small. If you held a quarter on the bottom of her foot, the quarter would cover 95 percent of her foot, so nailing shoes is out of the question."

Buttercup needs special glue-on shoes that only attach to the outside of her foot to provide support to her leg, Schaible said.

"The other problem is that she cannot stand on one leg to glue on the shoes, so we are forced to sedate her and lay her on her side, then work on one foot, flip her over and repeat the process again on the other foot," he said. "It's a labor of love and Buttercup has become a very important part of the UF family."

Buttercup belongs to a category of miniature horses known as dwarfs, whose tiny size creates known health concerns, including crippling leg deformities. DeHowitt had initially purchased Buttercup's mother, Annabel, from a breeder who wasn't happy with the animal due to her propensity for birthing mini-miniature horses, also known as dwarfs.

"Within a few weeks, I also bought her dwarf son, because he was being picked on by all the other animals on the farm once his mother was not there to protect him," DeHowitt said. Soon, Annabel began gaining weight, and DeHowitt learned her new horse was again pregnant.

Photo by Maria Farias

Buttercup is so small she fits inside of her owner's truck.

Buttercup was born prematurely and weighed only 20 pounds.

"She couldn't figure out how to nurse and had to be force fed for the first 24 hours," DeHowitt said. "But as the days progressed, it quickly became apparent that Buttercup was a fighter. She was so tiny, but she had such spirit and thought she was just as big as everyone else."

DeHowitt said she knew nothing about dwarf miniature horses before living with Buttercup, but now appreciates why the health issues faced by these horses can be so challenging.

"There is a real need for a dwarf rescue group because of the costs that are involved with having them," DeHowitt said. "My dream is to one day start a rescue group specifically for dwarfs."

By Sarah Carey

Photo by Maria Farias

Jody Schaible, the farrier at UF's Large Animal Hospital, talks to Debbie DeHowitt, Buttercup's owner, in the hospital on May 17.

New iron scuplture dedicated in professor's memory

To members of the Class of 2011, the late Kevin Anderson, Ph.D., their freshman anatomy professor, will always remain a moving force in their lives as a symbol of compassion and mentorship; as a role model for a healthy lifestyle and as a key facilitator into the world of veterinary medicine.

To honor Anderson, the class sponsored a memorial sculpture competition, which was open to all current students and alumni of the UF College of Fine Arts' School of Art and Art History. The result was "Cycle," a large-scale, iron sculpture created by Leslie Tharp, a 2008 UF graduate. The new artwork was unveiled and dedicated May 26 in the courtyard outside of the new UF Small Animal Hospital.

> "We also hope passersby will see the bicyclist and remember a wonderful man who left an impact on all the students who learned under him. Thank you, Dr. Anderson, for all you've done for your students. "
>
> *— Tricia Fiebrandt*

The 10-foot-high sculpture spirals upwards and is a compilation of moving animals – a crawling turtle, a walking iguana, a jumping cat, a running dog, a hopping rabbit, a flying owl and a soaring parakeet — and a bicyclist cycling just below the dog.

The image of the cyclist and the dog are on the same side of the sculpture and can be seen in relationship to each other from every angle the sculpture is viewed. The dog represents a Jack Russell terrier resembling Anderson's dog, Chico.

"We hope that people passing by will see two things when they look at the sculpture," said Tricia Fiebrandt, who was class treasurer and served along with Shannon Roff on the committee of students who coordinated the competition.

"They will note the varied species traveling within the spiral and remember what a wonderful profession we are a part of. Even on our hardest, most exhausting days, it will help us remember it is all worth it because we are working for the health and happiness of these animals."

Photo by Sarah Carey

The 10-foot-high sculpture commissioned by the Class of 2011 as a memorial to the late Dr. Kevin Anderson spirals upwards and is a compilation of moving animals, with a bicyclist circling below.

Fiebrandt added, "We also hope passersby will see the bicyclist and remember a wonderful man who left an impact on all the students who learned under him. Thank you, Dr. Anderson, for all you've done for your students. Thank you to the college for helping us with our education and training, and thank you, Leslie, for your beautiful creation and all your hard work."

Tharp said she aimed to represent Anderson's love of bicycle riding, as well as the beauty and strength of the human body and a variety of animals in their different stages of movement. She also captured the memory of Dr. Anderson surrounded by his dog, Chico, and many other species he dedicated his life to helping.

"The sculpture will be large enough to interact with the space of the viewer and may be entered by the viewer," Tharp said. "The center of the sculpture creates a space 7 feet in diameter for viewers to stand. Surrounded by lines of movement and outlines of different species in motion, the viewer will be more connected and engaged to the sculpture than possible from afar."

By Sarah Carey

College unveils new high-tech auditorium

Clad in navy blue scrubs and surgical masks, the team swarmed around the small brown dog, swabbing the pup's belly and prepping it for the day's procedure. A camera in the University of Florida Small Animal Hospital operating room captured the activity.

A few buildings away, a crowd gathered in the College of Veterinary Medicine's new auditorium watched the scene unfold live in high-definition on a white-screen wall as wide as the lecture hall itself. The ability to videoconference in high-definition with operating rooms and lecture halls at UF and around the world is one of the key features of the new space, which College of Veterinary Medicine leaders officially unveiled Friday Aug. 18.

Photo by Maria Farias

Dean Glen Hoffsis addresses a group gathered for the dedication of the new college auditorium. A live stream from one of the Small Animal Hospital's operating rooms is projected on the large screen, demonstrating some of the facility's high-tech audiovisual capabilities.

"We can take advantage of this technology to enhance our teaching," said Dr. Glen Hoffsis, the college's dean, as he demonstrated the room's capabilities. "This can be a teaching tool for the whole class instead of just who is in operating room."

The new auditorium, located behind the Veterinary Academic Building, seats 160 and has everything needed to not only connect to a wider audience but also do so in the most technologically advanced way possible. The hall is equipped with three high-definition cameras, high-definition projectors, a sound system with flat panels embedded in the ceiling to capture not only what the lecturer says but also what students say and an expanse of white-screen wall large enough for three projections to appear at once. In addition, four large flat-screen monitors were placed toward the back of the room for folks sitting in the last rows.

Lecturers can use a desktop computer or laptop to present their material and a document camera is in place in case they want to project a specimen. A tarantula helped demonstrate this capability to the crowd, crawling across a staff member's hand as every fuzzy leg was projected in high-def glory on the vast white screen.

As the only veterinary school in Florida, class sizes will likely continue to expand in coming years and lectures remain the most efficient way to educate these students, an important fact in today's economic climate, Hoffsis said. Currently, there are about 100 students in each class, and second-year students spend the bulk of their time in lecture halls.

"We are going to be educating a lot more veterinarians and we are going to need more facilities. So our idea was let's build this for the future," Hoffsis said. "It was my wish that we would have lots of technology in here. That we would have a showcase for the whole campus and the technology would last long into the future."

Aside from incorporating new technology, Hoffsis and other leaders also wanted the room to be comfortable for students. The lighting in the room is optimized for note-taking, wireless connections and outlets are available for laptops and the chairs were selected by this year's sophomore class.

In addition to the new Small Animal Hospital and auditorium, the college is also poised to begin construction of a new education center, remodeling its reading room into a place where students can meet and use the same technology found in the auditorium in small groups.

"I hope with the facilities we have here that we truly can be leaders in veterinary education," said Dr. Paul Gibbs, associate dean for students and instruction at the college. "I think this is going to be an enormously welcome auditorium for the sophomores."

A member of the second-year class, which will spend much of its class time in the auditorium, agreed, saying: "We are excited to use this new technology and see where it comes into our learning. We are excited this is going to be our new home for the next year."

By April Frawley-Birdwell

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Cardiologists on the move to keep pets healthy

Photos courtesy of Dr. Herb Maisenbacher

Dr. Herb Maisenbacher, center, with UF veterinary students Nicki Puza and Chad Bearden during a recent visit to a local practice.

Dr. Herb Maisenbacher shows the students a print out of a cardiology test on a patient.

Have ECG machine and cardiology-equipped ultrasound. Will travel.

In an effort to make specialty services more easily available to area veterinarians, cardiologists from the University of Florida Small Animal Hospital began hitting the road last year, packing up stethoscopes and other equipment to offer both mobile consultation and diagnostics to private practitioners in the area.

Initially, the group traveled monthly to the Villages retirement community, then quickly expanded to Ocala. Now the specialists serve practices in Gainesville as well.

"The idea was conceived as a way to partner with veterinarians in North Central Florida in order to allow them to offer new services to their clients while at the same time increasing our service's caseload," said Dr. Herb Maisenbacher, the UF veterinary cardiologist who heads the mobile service.

"In speaking with referring veterinarians, we found that many clients were willing to provide specialty care for their pets, but unwilling to travel long distances to unfamiliar places to receive it."

Maisenbacher said the mobile service is a "win-win-win" for owners, referring veterinarians, and UF veterinary students who are on their cardiology clinical rotations.

"I like to take students with me to show them how cardiology works in the real world," Maisenbacher said.

He added that the owners of pets needing the specialized cardiology care benefit from the convenience of being able to receive the service in the veterinary clinic they are most comfortable in, and referring veterinarians are able to offer specialty services within their own clinic.

Veterinarians who wish to receive the service simply place a phone call and submit a request form through the UF Small Animal Hospital's referral coordinators, so that on each mobile cardiology consultation day, the UF group has a list of the clinics and patients that need to be seen, along with a brief medical history. Initial radiographs, bloodwork and any other diagnostics needed for each animal patient can be completed in the local veterinarian's clinic prior to the specialist's visit and reviewed during the consultation in order that all aspects of previous findings can be incorporated into the specialist's diagnostics and recommendations.

Dr. Frances Ramirez, owner of Country Oaks Veterinary Clinic in Ocala, is one of the practices UF's team regularly visits.

"UF's mobile cardiology service helps us provide higher quality diagnostics performed by a board certified cardiologist. Our clients save a one hour drive and get the best care in a familiar environment," Ramirez said. "It also gives clients another level of care for their pets."

She added, "I enjoy watching the echocardiograms being performed in my patients because I learn something new every time."

For more information about the mobile cardiology service at the UF Small Animal Hospital, call (352) 392-2235.

By Sarah Carey

Program cultivates students' interest in science

Thirteen sophomore veterinary students who participated in the Merial Summer Research Scholarship program spent a full day at the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute July 21, learning more about scientists' work in the areas of obesity-related diabetes and its complications and coming home with food for thought about how veterinary medicine can contribute to human as well as animal health. Another group of students visited the Whitney Marine Laboratory earlier in the summer.

Dr. Linda Hayward, an associate professor of physiological sciences, coordinates the program, which supports student research projects through funding from Merial, faculty matching grants and the college's Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Also attending the trip were Dr. Maureen Long, an associate professor in the department of infectious diseases and pathology, and Dr. Charles Courtney, associate dean for research and graduate studies.

"Visiting the Sanford-Burnham Institute was a new opportunity for the summer program," Hayward said. "The Burnham Institute opened in 2009 and is a medical research facility that is highly focused on translational research associated with metabolic disorders and cardiovascular disease."

She pointed out that two of the primary investigators, Dr. Phillip A. Wood and Dr. Devanjan Sikder, are D.V.M./Ph.D. researchers.

Photo by Sarah Carey

Samantha Schlemmer, Mark Belyeu and Kelly Evans take a lunch break during their trip to the Sandford-Burnham Medical Research Institute as part of the Merial Summer Research Program.

Photo by Sarah Carey

Dr. Charles Courtney, associate dean for research and graduate studies, and Dr. Linda Hayward, associate professor of physiological sciences, accompanied the students on their trip. Not shown is Dr. Maureen Long, professor of infectious diseases, who also attended.

"Thus, touring a state-of-the-art facility and hearing about the research and career paths of these veterinarians provided the students with insight for pursuing a successful career in research," Hayward said.

"I was very inspired by the whole experience, especially by Dr. Greg Roth, who spoke to us at lunch," said student Kirsten Burg. "I have always felt that I want to have a career in veterinary medicine that helps to further our knowledge and understanding of medicine and health in both humans and animal arenas. I thought Dr. Roth gave some really practical and helpful advice."

CVM students gather for this group shot after a tour of the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute.

Burg said Roth made the path he has traveled seem "much more attainable than I had really ever thought" and added that since returning from the trip, she has already begun looking into opportunities within the college that would help her to become the clinician/scientist/researcher she would like to be.

Roth, who was one of five speakers the students listened to, offered some general advice to students. He suggested that they find a mentor, or two; that they ask for opportunities rather than waiting to be asked; that they not become emotionally attached to a problem or a project; that they keep an even demeanor and a high energy level; that they not just hang out with other veterinarians at the lunch table. He also suggested students pay attention to the "soft side" of peoples' personalities, beat their egos into sub mission, stay current, as jobs and companies are not secure, and that they be prepared for change.

He also listed several attributes that contribute to a "successful researcher phenotype" –being a team player; having warm interpersonal skills; maintaining a focused but relaxed attitude; maintaining well-developed peer relationships and strong external networks.

"All of those skills require continual development and practice throughout your career," Roth said.

Gina Zambrano, another student, said the highlight of the day at Sanford-Burnham was the tour the group received at mid-day.

"The facility is state-of-the-art, and the robotic pipetting device was amazing to see," Zambrano said. "It was the first time I had seen a research facility outside of a university setting, so it definitely broadened my knowledge of potential career opportunities in research. The talks were also very interesting and everyone who worked there was very welcoming."

Jason Pearsall said the trip gave him a greater appreciation of the role that animals and veterinarians play in human medicine and public health.

"I had always had a strong interest in human health, and my experience at Burnham will cause me to give more consideration to going into research as a career path," he said. "I think the trip reinforced just how important such research is in society."

He added that the most interesting part of the trip for him was seeing what the institute is doing with robotics.

"I have always been strongly interested in engineering, and these robots provided a nice coherence of engineering and biomedical science," he said.

By Sarah Carey

Photo by Sarah Carey

A group of CVM veterinary students from the Class of 14 are shown inside the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute during a visit there on July 21.

UF hosts Merial-NIH research program symposium in Orlando

Against the exotic backdrop of the Disney Yacht and Beach Club Resort in Orlando, the University of Florida hosted the 11th annual Merial-NIH Veterinary Scholars Summer Research Program and Symposium Aug. 4-7, drawing 337 students from all over the U.S., as well as Canada, France and the Netherlands.

Merial began offering the program in 1998, in collaboration with veterinary colleges in the U.S. and the National Institutes of Health, as a means of enhancing training for veterinary students interested in biomedical research. Students apply for a summer research stipend and undertake a hypothesis-driven research project mentored by a university faculty member.

At the symposium – the culmination of the summer program — all participating students present posters demonstrating the outcomes of their research projects.

The responsibility for organizing and hosting the symposium falls to a different college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. each year. This year, UF partnered with Disney's Animal Programs to offer the event at the resort.

This year's symposium theme was "Conservation Medicine and Human Health" and included two keynote addresses. Dr. Lyle Moldawer from the UF College of Medicine, spoke about harnessing the power of the genome to better understand the immunological response to injury, and Dr. Peter Anderson from the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Biosciences talked about biomedicine from the sea.

A diverse group of UF faculty members served as guest speakers during the event. Topics included gene therapy, stem cell therapy, marine animal conservation and the impact of environmental toxins.

Photo by Carolyn Whitford

UF student Krista DeRespino, right, with her poster. At center is Dr. Bob Bonde, center, who is speaking with Dr. Ted Mashima of AAVMC.

Dr. Scott Terrell, director of Disney's Department of Animal Health, addressed the group and provided an introduction to a behind-the-scenes tour of Disney's Animal Kingdom.

"The most popular breakout session, which was standing room only, was a talk given by Dr. Craig Pelton of the UF Aquatic Animal Health program," said Dr. Charles Courtney, the UF veterinary college's associate dean for research and graduate studies. Pelton spoke on the rescue and rehabilitation of oiled sea turtles following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

College names 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award winners

A longtime former University of Florida administrator, two young veterinarians with promising careers in private practice and avian health studies, a small animal hospital owner who trains service dogs and a key leader in organized veterinary medicine were honored as 2011 Distinguished Award winners by the UF College of Veterinary Medicine.

Sponsored by the college's alumni council, the program offers recognition to deserving alumni, faculty and others who have contributed meaningfully to UF and/or to the veterinary profession.

James P. Thompson, D.V.M., Ph.D., received the college's Alumni Achievement Award. Thompson graduated from the UF veterinary college in 1981 and later also received his Ph.D. at UF, followed by completion of a small animal medicine residency. Board-certified in small animal internal medicine, oncology and immunology, Thompson was a member of the college's faculty for several years before becoming an administrator. He served for 10 years as the college's associate dean for academic affairs, becoming interim dean of the college in 2006. He then became executive associate dean and held that position until leaving UF in 2008 to become dean of the University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dana K. Juillerat, D.V.M., and Samantha Gibbs, D.V.M., Ph.D., received Outstanding Young Alumni awards this year.

Juillerat graduated from the UF veterinary college in 2003. He is the owner of Tri-County Animal Hospital and Pet Health Care Center in Fort Pierce. He received the Florida Veterinary Medical Association's Gold Star Award in 2008 and has been honored within his community for his volunteer efforts. He has been active in the St. Lucie County Humane Society and helped to unify preventive medicine programs for K-9 working dogs from various law enforcement agencies in his region. He has chaired the Westwood High School Veterinary Assisting Academy since 2003.

Gibbs is a 2001 graduate of the college. She received her Ph.D. in virology in 2005 from the University of Georgia. Gibbs worked extensively in Indonesia from 2006-2008 as a veterinary epidemiologist, research scientist and duty veterinarian employed by the Australian Animal Health Laboratory. Since 2008, she has worked as an avian disease coordinator and wildlife biologist for the Division of Migratory Bird Management with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, coordinating avian influenza surveillance programs and other avian health efforts.

Moody McCall, D.V.M., owner of San Pablo Animal Hospital in Jacksonville, received the Distinguished Service Award. A past president of the Jacksonville Veterinary Medical Association, McCall is active in the college's alumni council as well as its admissions committee. He has coordinated class reunions for the Class of '86 for 25 years, serves on the board of directors for Canine Companions for Independence and has been a "puppy raiser" for three successfully placed service dogs. He volunteers for Beaches Baptist Hospital's pet therapy program and coordinates Jacksonville-area puppy raisers for the canine companions program. McCall also provides free veterinary services for more than 15 dogs in the program and teaches weekly obedience classes for service dogs in training.

Ernest Godfrey, D.V.M., received the Special Service Award. Godfrey is a 1968 graduate of Auburn University's veterinary college and serves as co-director of the St. Petersburg Animal Emergency Clinic. He is the owner of both the Pinellas Animal Hospital and Seminole Boulevard Animal Hospital. Godfrey has been active in organized veterinary medicine at both state and national levels, and has been a tireless supporter of the UF veterinary college for many years. He has received key awards from many groups, including the FVMA, which honored him with its Distinguished Service Award, in 2001. He also was the FVMA's Veterinarian of the Year in 1990, its Champion of Veterinary Medicine in 2008 and received the group's President's Award in 2010. He has been a leader within FVMA and the American Veterinary Medical Association and has volunteered his time with such groups as Pinellas Animal Partners, the Central Florida Academy of Veterinary Medicine and the Pinellas Animal Foundation.

The awards were presented May 28 at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts during college commencement exercises.

By Sarah Carey

Photo by Sarah Carey

From left to right, this year's winners included Dr. Jim Thompson, Dr. Samantha Gibbs, Dr. Moody McCall, Dr. Ernest Godfrey and Dr. Dana Juillerat. In front is McCall's service-dog-in-training, Bonsai.

CVM graduate helps pets, community through oxygen mask project

When a fire station opened up next to her veterinary practice in Pasco County, Jo Ann Daniels, D.V.M.' 03, presented her new neighbors with an unconventional housewarming present: a set of three pet oxygen masks. Soon after, Daniels was called to her first house fire by a sheriff's deputy. After arriving at the scene, she found fire rescue workers attempting to resuscitate a dog using one of masks she had given them.

Although unfortunately the dog was unable to be saved, Daniels comforted the family. She then spoke to the scene commander about the masks and the training required to use them effectively.

Soon after that event, Daniels was called to another house fire. Working with her technician, Jessica Day, Daniels responded to the first pet they saw, a dog named Magic, by administering oxygen through the mask. Magic was transported to an overnight facility for chest x-rays, a nasal canula for oxygen and additional supportive care while firefighters continued to look for the family's three other pets. Unfortunately, those animals did not survive.

"The family was so grateful that Magic survived, yet so devastated at the loss of their other pets," Daniels said.

She learned that not all fire trucks in the county were equipped with the masks. Meanwhile, Magic's owners kept in touch with Daniels and helped solicit donations to fund more sets of masks for the county fire rescue groups.

"We set up a piggy bank on our front counter at the practice with a picture of the masks, and changed our lobby message board to share information with clients," Daniels said. Later in the year, at a Pasco Hernando Veterinary Association meeting and also at Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Daniels announced the goal of obtaining a set of masks for every fire rescue truck in the county

Several individual and corporate donations were received, each of which was acknowledged with a personal letter from Daniels and a certificate. These efforts led to additional donations.

"We are now funded for the entire county," said Daniels on Aug. 2. "Every rescue truck will have a set of masks by the end of this month."

In the meantime, Daniels has now taught six classes to fire rescue groups. She created a lesson plan to teach first responders how to use the pet oxygen masks, conduct basic life support on scene to stabilize patients on their way to a veterinarian, and how to interact safely with animals. Feedback from the first responders has been positive, Daniels said.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Jo Ann Daniels

Dr. Jo Ann Daniels has played a key role in awareness of the life-saving cabilities of pet oxygen masks, particularly in situations involving fires.

"They ask questions that are scenario based and share stories of house fires and motor vehicle accidents where they have helped pets," Daniels said.

Long involved in disaster response in Florida, Daniels participated in a disaster training response exercise offered by the Pasco Hernando VMA in July. She taught medical doctors, nurses, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, EMT/paramedics and response coordinators how to start CPR on a feline or canine patient on its way to a veterinarian.

"People were genuinely interested in how this training could be used as part of a disaster response, but also had concerns with emergencies that might affect their own personal pets," Daniels said.

The training exercise provided a forum for communication among the different groups and reinforced the relationship developed with participants' family veterinarians, or encouraged them to start a relationship with a family veterinarian, she added

In addition to receiving coverage through various media outlets, Daniels' community service efforts drew the attention of the Florida Veterinary Medical Association, which presented her with one of its prestigious Gold Star awards in April.

By Sarah Carey

Emeritus faculty member's gift supports food animal programs

Support from Paul Nicoletti, D.V.M. is the gift that keeps on giving to food animal production programs at the college.

Deriso Hall, named in honor of the late Bob F. and Evelyn B. Deriso, and dedicated in August 2005, houses the college's production medicine faculty. In honor of support Nicoletti had given them personally and other contributions he had made to the control of brucellosis, a disease that was a major threat to livestock in their day, the Derisos had bequeathed $1.2 million to the college, an amount subsequently matched by the Florida Legislature to construct the building.

On June 13, Nicoletti presented Dean Glen Hoffsis with a personal check for $25,000 to support programs associated with production medicine and the Food Animal Medicine and Reproduction Service (FARMS.) In recognition of his gift, the Deriso Hall conference room will be named in honor of Nicoletti.

Photo by Sarah Carey

Dean Glen Hoffsis and Dr. Paul Nicoletti hold a check outside the Veterinary Academic Building. The check was for Nicoletti's personal contribution to Deriso Hall, the building he was instrumental in funding through a relationship he had with the late Bob F. and Evelyn B. Deriso.

Around the College

Photo by Allen Cheuvreunt

This photo appeared in the most recent Gainesville Regional Utilities annual report. GRU natural gas is used in the new UF Small Animal Hospital to fire all of the boilers that produce steam for sterilizing surgical tools in the autoclaves.

Photo by Sarah Carey

Photo by Sarah Carey

Above: These nine students are are shown just prior to commencement exercises for the Class of 2011 on May 28 at the UF Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Shown with Dr. Mary Peoples-Sheps, second from right, from the College of Public Health and Health Professions, the students are the first from UF to receive both D.V.M. and M.P.H. degrees simultaneously.

Left: Dr. Jim Wellehan holds a swallow-tailed kite in the zoological medicine ward of the UF Small Animal Hospital recently. The kite was recovering from a gunshot wound.

Veterinary oncologist named department chair


Dr. Rowan Milner

Rowan Milner, B.V.Sc., M.Med.Vet., the Hill's Associate Professor of Oncology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named the new chairman of the college's department of small animal clinical sciences following a national search.

Milner, who also serves as chief of the oncology service for the UF Veterinary Hospitals, succeeds Colin Burrows, B.Vet.Med., Ph.D., in the position following Burrows' recent retirement after 30 years of service. Milner's appointment was effective as of July 1.

"As chair, Dr. Milner will assume overall responsibilities for faculty recruitment, mentoring and promotion," said Glen Hoffsis, D.V.M., the college's dean.

"He will also be responsible for budget management, leadership in research and veterinary and graduate student education."

Milner will work closely with the hospital's chief of staff to continue provide high quality clinical service to the nearly 20,000 small animal patients that are treated annually at UF.

"Dr. Milner also will work closely with the scientific community of the Health Science Center, practicing veterinarians from Florida and other constituents of the college and our hospital," Hoffsis said.

Dually board-certified in veterinary internal medicine and veterinary oncology, Milner received his early academic training from the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

His research interests include osteosarcoma, melanoma vaccine, stereotactic radiosurgery, targeted radiotherapy and tumor suppressor genes.

He joined UF's faculty in 2001 and has twice received Clinician of the Year awards from UF veterinary students since that time. In recognition of his development of a promising new melanoma vaccine and for other research, Milner was named Clinical Researcher of the Year by the Florida Kennel Club in 2007. In 2011, he won the Pfizer Award for Veterinary Research Excellence and in 2009 he received a faculty enhancement opportunity award from the Office of the Provost at UF.

Professor honored by alma mater


Dr. Michael Schaer

Michael Schaer, D.V.M., a professor of small animal medicine and special assistant to the dean, has received the Dr. Erwin Small Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and its alumni association.

The award acknowledges distinguished Illinois graduates who have excelled in their respective fields and who have made significant contributions to the profession and/or college. The award was created to honor the late Dr. Erwin Small, a professor emeritus and former associate dean of alumni and public affairs at the college.

Schaer, who received his D.V.M. degree from the U of I in 1970, is board certified in both internal medicine and emergency medicine and critical care. He joined UF's veterinary faculty in 1978 and has held many administrative positions, including continuously as associate chief of staff for the UF Small Animal Hospital from 1987 to 2009. He also led the small animal medicine service as chief for many years.

Although still active as a practicing clinician, Schaer now serves as special assistant to the dean, helping to advise veterinary students and working with the college's development office. His has written three textbooks: Clinical Medicine of the Dog and Cat (first and second editions), and also Clinical Signs in Small Animal Medicine.


Photo courtesy of Dr. David Freeman

Dr. Geraldo Alves, left, an equine surgeon on the faculty at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, presented Dr. David Freeman, right, with his award plaque.

Equine surgeon honored by peers

David Freeman, M.V.B., Ph.D., professor and interim chairman of the college's department of large animal clinical sciences, was honored recently by the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the development of equine surgery worldwide.

Freeman received the award April 16 in Brazil during a professional meeting during which he also spoke about and provided demonstrations of some procedures used in colic surgery.

The award was presented by the faculty of the university's gastroenterology research group.

Among the many accolades Freeman has received in his career is being asked by the British Equine Veterinary Association to present the Sir Frederick Hobday Memorial Lecture in 2004. His topic was "Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Colic."

He also was named Teacher of the Year in 2007 by the college's Class of 2010.

Freeman's research interests include the pathophysiology and treatment of diseases that cause colic in horses, with special emphasis on ischemic diseases of the small and large intestines.

Dr. Colin Burrows retires after 30 years of service

After more than 30 years at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, where he migrated from clinics to administration, expanded and fine tuned clinical services and relationships with practitioners and industry representatives alike, Colin Burrows, B.Vet. Med., Ph.D., has finally bid the college farewell.

His retirement from the chairmanship of the college's department of small animal clinical sciences was effective July 1, exactly eight months after the official grand opening of the new Small Animal Hospital he helped to develop and oversee.

"Right up until the very end, Colin was working and making sure things were getting done that needed to get done," said the college's dean, Glen Hoffsis, during a reception held June 25 in Burrows' honor in conjunction with the traditional reception held after the college's annual Referring Veterinarian Appreciation Day. "A lot of people would have coasted, but not him."

Photos by Sarah Carey

Dr. Colin Burrows, second from right, and members of his family are shown with a photo of the new Small Animal Hospital which was presented to Burrows as a retirement gift. At far right is Burrows' wife, Joyce; second from left is son Alex Burrows and at far left is daughter-in-law Elaiza Burrows.

Burrows family, including his son, Alex, daughter in law Elaiza, and wife, Joyce, were present at the party, along with many friends and colleagues from all over the state and beyond.

"This is 'Mr. Veterinary Medicine'," said Dr. Doug Mader, a renowned zoological medicine specialist and immediate past president of the North American Veterinary Conference. "All over the world, people know him."

Burrows has been invited to speak in more than 50 countries and said he had learned a lot from his many friends in veterinary medicine around the globe. He has won numerous awards as well from key professional groups and has been specifically recognized by his peers for his contributions to international veterinary medicine.

Although Burrows intends to remain very active on the veterinary scene, both through his continuing and longtime role as executive director of the NAVC and in his new appointment as vice president of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, he leaves the college with mixed emotions.

"I'm lucky I'm not going into a vacuum, as I have the NAVC and the WSAVA to keep me busy," he said. "I've always said, you don't retire 'from,' you retire 'to.' But it's a strange feeling."

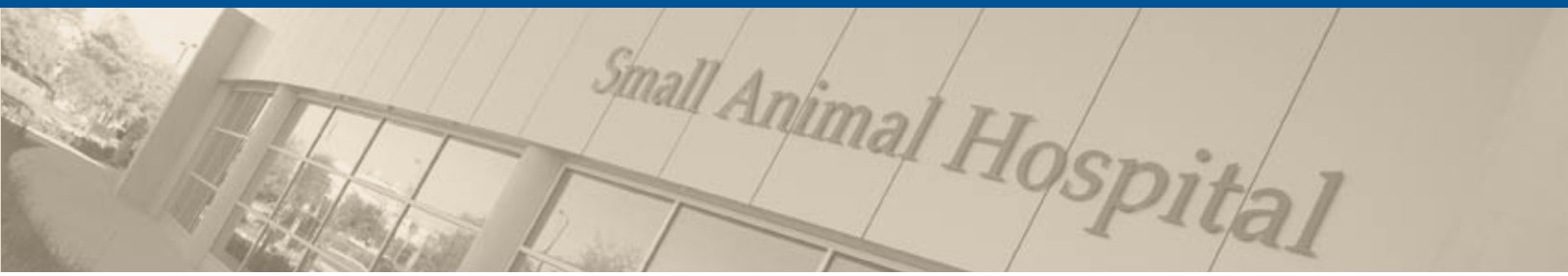
A graduate of the Royal Veterinary College at the University of London, Burrows received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and as a clinician specialized in canine and feline gastrointestinal, hepatic and pancreatic disease. Although he left clinic duty behind for the most part when he began his position as department chair at UF in 1996, Burrows always stayed abreast of the latest information in his field, sharing articles of interest he would find in professional journals with faculty colleagues.

But when he arrived at UF in 1980, he never thought he'd stay as long as he did.

"Back then they called UF 'Penn South and Davis East' because almost half of the original clinical faculty had been recruited from Penn and Davis," Burrows recalled, adding that at the time, UF was a new school, finding its way.

He looked forward to coming to UF to work with his old pal and mentor from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Al Merritt, an equine gastroenterologist now retired from UF's faculty, and his friend Richard Halliwell, who was then department chairman. Years later, in 1996, Burrows accepted that position, following the death of Dr. Mark Bloomberg. As chairman, Burrows oversaw both department and small animal hospital operations, since up until last year, the chairman's duties also included serving as chief of staff of the small animal hospital.

Burrows' contributions to college life are too many to list, but include creating and strengthening the Visiting Practitioner Program, through which veterinary practitioners spend time at the college learning more about areas of interest to them; the referral liaison positions, which strengthen communication and relationships with the referral community; the client advocate program, through which community volunteers provide assistance to hospital clients; the Referring Veterinarian Appreciation Day; and the shelter medicine program, which provides a key link to the local animal shelter and provides students with valuable clinical experience performing spay and neuter surgeries in the Merial clerkship. That program has now expanded to perform statewide outreach



Clockwise from Top Left: Melissa Headrick, referral liaison; Dr. Colin Burrows; Lynn Varner, referral liaison; and Dr. Gary Ellison, professor of small animal surgery. Susan Smith from the Florida Association of Kennel Clubs, left, and Karen Legato, right, senior director of development and alumni affairs for the college, with Dr. Colin Burrows. Dr. Cherry Douglas, '97, and her former classmate, Dr. Joell Sheahan, '97. Dr. Amara Estrada, associate professor of small animal cardiology; Dr. Colin Burrows; Dr. Gail Kunkle, professor emeritus of small animal dermatology; and Dr. Cheryl Chrisman, professor emeritus of small animal neurology.

and with inroads into forensic medicine with support from Maddie's Fund.

Many international students, residents and practitioners were also given opportunities to learn and contribute to life at UF, thanks to Burrows' support and wide network of connections.

Burrows said he was proud of the clinical services developed under his aegis in cardiology, oncology, emergency medicine and critical care, and of the acupuncture and rehabilitation service. All of these programs continue to grow, many due to support from donors and friends who have strengthened their bonds with the college through Burrows' involvement. Burrows' industry contacts also included representatives of the Florida Association of Kennel Clubs, a group which has provided scholarship support to the college. During the reception, Hoffsis announced that a student scholarship has been created in Burrows' honor with almost $80,000 donated thus far.

But despite the fancy new building and the excitement it engendered, in the end Burrows said that's not what, for him, it's all about.

"It's not bricks and mortar that makes a great place," he said. "It's the people who work there."

Editor's note: To make a contribution to the Colin F. Burrows student scholarship, contact Karen Legato , senior director of development and alumni affairs, at (352) 294-4256 or email her at legatok@ufl.edu.

Dog's handler gives $5K in honor of K-9

When his beloved K-9, Sophie, lost her life last November, Troy Fergueson, the dog's longtime owner and handler, vowed to keep her memory alive by doing whatever he could to help other dogs afflicted with cancer. To that end, Fergueson has donated $5,000 to help create the K-9 Sophie Memorial Fund at UF's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Photo by Sarah Carey

Veterinary oncology technician Amy Beaver, oncologist Nick Bacon, Troy Fergueson and oncologist Kelvin Kow are shown with a commemorative check for $5,000 presented by Fergueson to UF on June 23.

The funds were left over from donations raised by members of the K-9 Forensics Recovery Team to help Sophie obtain needed medical treatment at the UF Small Animal Hospital during her illness. The non-profit group, in which Fergueson and Sophie were founding members, worked on many high-profile search and rescue cases throughout the state for several years but was closed after participating dogs grew older and their health declined.

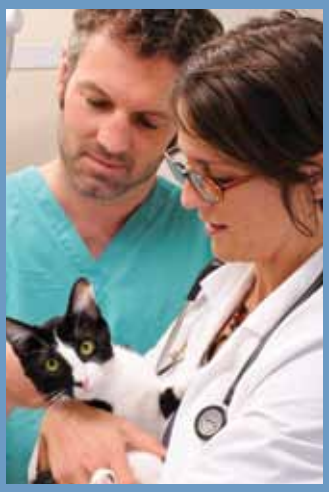
"We want the money to help others fight this dreaded disease," Fergueson said. "We were so thrilled that Sophie's case has helped blaze new trails and established medical case precedence in the advancement of treating and perhaps beating some forms of canine cancer."

He added, "UF extended K-9 Sophie's life for almost two years."

"We had cancer on the ropes, but it was the onset of renal failure that claimed her life," Fergueson said. "I would like to replenish and build the K-9 Sophie Memorial Fund in the future, so this $5,000 is a starting point I would like to see grow."

Fergueson said that when he was presented with his options after Sophie's initial diagnosis, he "stepped out on faith and placed the surgery on a credit card with no money to cover the bills."

"I never could have managed such a costly procedure were it not for the generosity of our community members," Fergueson said. "We raised more than $30,000 over the course of a few months, covering all of Sophie's expenses and follow-up treatments, including chemotherapy."



YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE UF COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

How to Make a Gift:

If you are interested in more information about endowment funds, estate gifts or other methods of giving, please contact:

Karen Legato
Senior Director of Development and Alumni Affairs
UF College of Veterinary Medicine
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legatok@ufl.edu

Or visit our website at: **www.vetmed.ufl.edu**

Looking Back

File Photo

This photo, taken in 1979 shortly after the original UF Small Animal Hospital opened its doors, shows the first two groups of residents-in-training. In front, with snake, is Dr. Elliott Jacobson, then an assistant professor, now a full professor of small animal clinical sciences/zoological medicine service. Left to right in front row are Dr. Becky Kirby, Dr. Bonnie Raphael, Dr. Tracy French and Dr. Larry Peters. In center row are Dr. Bill Rodke, Dr. Diane Bevier, Dr. Kathy Barrie, Dr. Dave Whitley and Dr. Rob MacKay, now a professor of large animal clinical sciences/large animal medicine service. In back row are Dr. Don Waldron, Dr. Tom Schubert, now a professor in the department of small animal clinical sciences/neurology service, Dr. Carl Henderson, Dr. Bill Iverson and Dr. John Bird.

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Calendar 2011/12

Sept. 29–Oct. 2 The Florida Association of Equine Practitioners holds its annual conference and UF CVM alumni gathering at Amelia Island Plantation. For more information, visit www.faep.net

Oct. 22 The 11th annual Practice Management & Communication Conference will be held at the UF Small Animal Hospital. For registration information, contact Kerstin Erickson at 352-294-0843. For general information, visit http://conferences.dce.ufl.edu/vrtd/

Oct. 23 Team Vet Med will participate in the annual Horse Farm 100 bike ride. For more information, contact Jo Ann Winn at 352-294-4240.

Nov. 4-5 UF and the college celebrate Homecoming Weekend. There will be a pre-game alumni celebration planned. The college's classes of 1981 and 2001 will hold reunions. Contact Jo Ann Winn for more information at 352-294-4240.

Nov. 18-22 The annual American Association of Equine Practitioners annual conference and UF CVM alumni gathering will be held in San Antonio, TX. For more information, contact Jo Ann Winn at 352-294-4240.

Jan. 14-18 The North American Veterinary Conference and CVM alumni gathering will be held in Orlando. Contact Jo Ann Winn at 352-294-4240.

Photo by Maria Farias

Alana Canupp (right), a UF veterinary student, cuddles with a cat as she shows him to wife and husband, Kristen Laufer and Justin Laufer during the Florida Feline 550 event on Aug. 28. The event was an local adoptathon to find homes for cats that were rescued from a tragic hoarding situation in Gainesville. UF veterinary college staff and students played a key role in the rescue efforts.

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