

Florida

# Veterinarian

ADVANCING

ANIMAL, HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

FALL 2012



**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA

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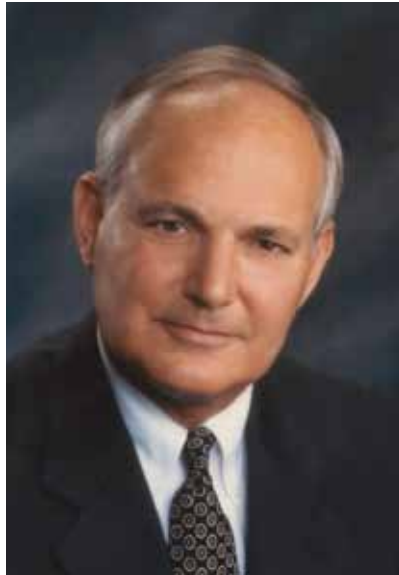
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## Message from the Dean



Dean Glen Hoffsis

### LAUNCHING OUR CURRICULUM REVIEW

The UF College of Veterinary Medicine's D.V.M. program curriculum has not had an extensive review for about 15 years. The existing curriculum has served the college and our graduates well in this period, as evidenced by consistently above average scores on the NAVLE and high praise from our graduates and their employers. One innovation that was instituted at the last revision was the early clinical experience followed by elective didactic courses. This provides students with an early introduction to clinical concepts and experiences, reinforcing the didactic coursework and making it more meaningful. The college's curriculum also provides lots of clinical and surgical experience through the

shelter program, making UF graduates more practice ready than graduates of some other veterinary colleges.

We want to preserve these positive characteristics, but our curriculum also has some undesirable and probably unintended disadvantages. Delivering the basic science content in two years to accommodate the early clinical experience causes the first two years to be jam packed with content, which in turn leads to undue stress and probably impairs learning. We need to examine these two years carefully to see how we can overcome these disadvantages. At the same time, we need to evaluate the last two years of the curriculum to determine if parts of this clinical experience might be better utilized.

The world and the profession of veterinary medicine have changed considerably in the past 15 years. We should consider these changes in light of the curriculum content we are delivering. We tend to teach what has been taught traditionally in a veterinary curriculum, in disciplines that reach back to the early 1900s. Some of the old disciplines are rarely questioned. In light of the explosion of other new knowledge, it's now time to evaluate and question everything.

Technology has also advanced. We now have the capability to video conference with high quality visual and audio in every classroom. This allows a technological capacity we need to utilize more fully. We are no longer confined to our own faculty and the sharing of expertise among institutions is now possible on a scale like never before. We can also video record our lectures and easily provide them to our — and perhaps even to other — students, which could ultimately enhance learning and accommodate diverse student schedules and study habits.



We must also examine ways to become more efficient in how we deliver quality education while cutting costs. As the state of Florida has reduced funding, the college has looked to other avenues to maintain the quality education we are known for. As tuition has escalated, so has student debt and this cycle is not sustainable. We will have to carefully evaluate cost benefit with this in mind. One idea we are considering is to adjust the pre-veterinary curriculum so that students could meet all of the requirements in two years. This could be followed by a gradual shift to students being admitted earlier, thereby cutting down on total debt and increasing the number of earning years.

The North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium (NAVMEC) report was issued last year and this study had wide input from the profession and the colleges. We should take it seriously and evaluate all of the recommendations as we evaluate our own curriculum.

Curriculum reviews are always laborious and usually contentious. Our faculty has ample academic freedom in devising and delivering courses. They are passionate about their teaching, and change is almost always difficult. But the need for review is compelling, and that's why we are initiating the review. Hopefully we will be able make improvements and innovations. If any of you have suggested changes, please send them.

As always, thanks for your support. Go Gators!



Glen Hoffsis

## About the Cover



Photo courtesy of Tiegländ, Franklin and Brokken, DVMs

Dr. Stacey West ('12), Dr. Luis Castro ('86) and acclaimed horse trainer, Michael Matz, who trained Barbaro and the horse pictured, Union Rags — winner of the 2012 Belmont Stakes. A new program provides UF veterinary students with a unique learning opportunity in a real world equine environment. See story, p.4.

## Seen our new website yet?

CHECK IT OUT!

The college moved to a new look in December with the launching of our new site at:

[www.vetmed.ufl.edu](http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu)

Bookmark it now!

## Florida Veterinarian

Florida Veterinarian is published by the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine for alumni and friends. Suggestions and comments are welcome and should be emailed to:

Sarah Carey, Florida Veterinarian editor, at: [careysk@ufl.edu](mailto:careysk@ufl.edu).

Dean  
Glen F. Hoffsis, D.V.M., M.S.

Executive Associate Dean  
John Harvey, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Students and Instruction  
Pamela Ginn, D.V.M.

Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies  
Ammon Peck, Ph.D.

Senior Director of Development and Alumni Affairs  
Karen Legato

Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Affairs  
Patricia Wlasuk

Director of Public Relations  
Sarah K. Carey, M.A., A.P.R.

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Jo Ann Winn

# UF veterinary students gain valuable experience in equine practice through new program

Many hands may make light work, but in barns and stalls of equine veterinary practices throughout the state, active learning takes a new twist and could be life-changing, say students and veterinarians who are participating in the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine's practice-based equine clerkship.

In its first calendar year, from January 2010 to January 2011, 79 UF veterinary students had rotated through the clerkship, seeing an average of 56 cases during the two-week rotation.

The total number of cases seen in that period was 4,424, said Amanda House, DVM., clinical assistant professor and director of the practice-based equine clerkship program. Thirty-nine students completed the clerkship this past spring, and some 70 are enrolled in it through this summer and the upcoming fall term.

"With university caseloads on a decrease throughout the country, I believe a hands-on void is being helped by exposure to private practice," said Liz Yelvington Steele, DVM., (UF CVM '06) president of Three Oaks

Equine Reproductive Facility near Wauchula. "One of the most common comments I hear from the students is that they are so thankful for the opportunity to put their hands on many horses in a short period of time. I feel honored to be a part of helping them gain confidence in this area."

Steele is one of 47 equine practitioners who are participating in the program. She said her small herd of recipient mares – horses that

receive embryos transferred from the uterus of donor mares – offered a great learning opportunity for students.

"I usually ask each student at the beginning of the rotation what procedure intimidates them the most. Their answers range from simple passing of the naso-gastric tube all the way to intra-articular injections," Steele said. "They are then provided an opportunity to practice that procedure on my recipient mares. They love it."

Other examples of procedures students have requested to perform include trans-tracheal washes, guiding a horse down during induction of field anesthesia and pre-purchase examinations, Steele said.

House spearheaded the program and created the framework for the practice-based equine clerkship after the college administration and faculty approved the endeavor in 2009. The program is modeled after the practice-based ambulatory program in place at Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

"It's enormously gratifying to hear the feedback I get about the clerkship from students and veterinarians throughout the state," House said. "Like any program, there are always aspects that need to be monitored and managed, but it has been inspiring to hear all of the enthusiasm from students, who are enrolling in increasing numbers, and from practitioners, many of whom tell me they can't wait for the next round of students. We are so grateful for such a wonderful group of veterinarians

who are willing to provide student instruction, and are continuing to enroll additional practices."

Luis Castro, DVM. (UF CVM '88), a veterinarian with Tieglund, Franklin and Brokken in Wellington, jumped at the idea when House approached him, telling her he thought it would be positive for all involved.

"I thought it would provide a way to expose the veterinary students to 'real-life medicine' as well as allow a glimpse into

the business of veterinary medicine," Castro said.

Like Steele, he saw the program as a way to offset the college's academic concerns relating to the reduced equine caseload, which threatened to keep students from obtaining the clinical skill set they are expected to have when they graduate.

As a UF veterinary college alumnus, he also relished the opportunity to give back to his alma mater.

*"Like any program, there are always aspects that need to be monitored and managed, but it has been inspiring to hear all of the enthusiasm from students, who are enrolling in increasing numbers, and from practitioners, many of whom tell me they can't wait for the next round of students."*

—Amanda House, DVM.

"I thought the greatest impact would be with us, the practitioners," Castro said. "Personally, teaching is something I've always enjoyed. To be able to combine that with exposing students to a profession and an industry that I still love and find incredibly exciting...well, that was an irresistible combination."

Stacey West, D.V.M., a 2012 graduate of the UF veterinary college, worked closely with Castro during her equine clerkship rotation in the last semester of her senior year.

Although West doesn't plan a career in equine medicine, she was thrilled at the opportunity the clerkship provided her to become more comfortable working with horses -- and at having had the chance to work with this year's Kentucky Derby runner-up and Belmont Stakes winner, Union Rags and to have met world-renowned trainer, Michael Matz.

"I absolutely loved the clerkship," West said. "I'm not an equine-oriented student, but it was such an unbelievable experience to see what goes on in the racetrack industry. Dr. Castro knew I didn't plan to pursue equine veterinary medicine, but he embraced that and made my time at his practice extremely enjoyable."

West added, "Everyone wanted to teach me, because they knew I knew nothing about the racetrack world." She was able to review radiographs with Castro and to meet Union Rags, a colt that ran and finished seventh in the Kentucky Derby in May this year, but went on to win the Belmont Stakes in June.

West's classmate, Alisa Corser, D.V.M., spent two weeks working alongside Jordan Lewis, D.V.M., (UF CVM '04), an associate at Palm Beach Equine Clinic in Wellington.

"Dr. Lewis included me in every aspect of each case, from the initial physical exam to advanced diagnostics and treatment," Corser said. "The clinic serves as both a primary and secondary care facility and offers both ambulatory and in-hospital care. I visited during the height of the Winter Equestrian Festival and had the privilege of working with and around Olympic caliber



The race track at Palm Meadows Training Center near Boynton Beach, Fla.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Stacey West

equine athletes, including a previous Kentucky Derby winner and a current member of the Canadian Olympic team, as well as beloved family pets."

With Palm Beach Equine Clinic serving as the primary on-site veterinarians for the festival, Corser was able to watch various equestrian events, including the 2012 USEF show-jumping Olympic trials.

"The days were long, but the knowledge and experience I gained during that time was invaluable," Corser said. "Dr. Lewis was an excellent mentor; she welcomed academic discussion and offered real-life insight on nearly every case we saw. I was treated as a colleague, and my thoughts and opinions were frequently sought."

Corser added that Lewis also provided counsel on many aspects of equine practice management, "an incredibly important subject in which I had little experience and minimal knowledge."

"I would encourage every student, regardless of small or large animal interest, to take advantage of the opportunity the practice-based equine clerkship offers," Corser said. "Not only does it provide exposure to equine and large animal care, it allows the students to become a member of a veterinary team and a local community for two weeks."

*By Sarah Carey*



# Scholarship created following Schaer's retirement

Photo by Sarah Carey



Dr. Rowan Milner, left, and Dr. David Freeman, right, visit with Dr. Michael Schaer during Schaer's retirement reception on April 24.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Dr. Tiffany Blocker-Eich ('96) and Dr. Chris Eich ('92) are shown with Dr. Schaer during a recent trip back to the college.

Photo by Rachel DiSesa



Dean Glen Hoffsis, right, presents Dr. Michael Schaer with a gift during Schaer's retirement reception on April 24.



Photo by Sarah Carey

Dr. Deanna DuVuyst, ('11) reconnected with Schaer, right, when she came to UF to check on a cat. It turns out DuVuyst had been the initial veterinarian to treat this dog, Cali, for a snakebite prior to Dr. Schaer becoming involved in Cali's treatment at UF.

After 34 years of mentoring veterinary students, internal medicine residents and faculty, weathering many periods of environmental and administrative changes, taking countless calls from alumni and other referring veterinarians to help them with their animal patients, Dr. Michael Schaer, a professor of internal medicine at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, has officially retired.

As testimony to his commitment to all of those things, Schaer was back on the job the next day, volunteering his time for the UF Small Animal Hospital's Emergency and Critical Care Service, which he plans to do for the next year. And as a tribute to the college's appreciation for Schaer's numerous contributions, a scholarship has been established in his name.

"For a limited time, Dr. Larry Dee has graciously offered to match contributions to the scholarship up to \$5,000. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to establish an endowed scholarship," said

the college's dean, Dr. Glen Hoffsis. Dee is the owner of Hollywood Animal Hospital, Hollywood, Fla., and a longtime supporter of the college.

The dean said he hoped college alumni would take this opportunity to send a contribution in Schaer's honor.

"It's a great way to honor one of our legendary faculty members with a gift that will support the education of our students," Hoffsis said.

An email with information about the Michael Schaer scholarship was sent to all UF CVM alumni, but anyone seeking additional information or having questions may contact Karen Legato, senior director of development and alumni affairs, at 352-294-4256 or email her at legatok@ufl.edu.



Dr. Michael Schaer

# Grevior Shelter Medicine Suite dedicated



Photo by Sarah Carey



Photo by Sarah Carey



Photo by Sarah Carey

Dr. Natalie Isaza, center, the Merial Clinical Associate Professor of Shelter Medicine and chief of the shelter medicine service, stands inside the new shelter medicine suite with Barbara Grevior, second from left, Arnold Grevior, right, and several of their friends who also came for the occasion.

The University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine is now the only veterinary college with a shelter medicine practice integrated within the institution, thanks to the newly dedicated Grevior Shelter Medicine Suite. The space was dedicated Feb. 10 with a ribbon-cutting held to honor Barbara and Arnold Grevior, whose support was instrumental in creating it.

Faculty and students associated with the college's Shelter Animal Medicine Clerkship, an elective clinical rotation for junior and senior veterinary students at the college, are currently using the new suite.

The clerkship's goal is to assist veterinary students in developing their basic surgical skills through hands-on learning and community outreach. Among other objectives, the course emphasizes the importance of disease control in shelter situations, reviews vaccination strategies for shelters as well as preventive medicine programs.

Through the HAARTS (Helping Alachua's Animals Requiring Treatment and Surgery) program, funds are provided to ensure that animals that need medical and surgical treatment beyond routine spay and neuter procedures — animals that would otherwise be euthanized — receive the care they need at UF.



Photo by Sarah Carey

Melissa Glikes, who works with the shelter medicine clerkship program, and her mother, Betty Shinn.



Photo by Sarah Carey

Dr. Pam Ginn, associate dean for students and instruction; Dr. Colin Burrows, former chairman of the department of small animal clinical sciences, and Dean Glen Hoffsis.



# Lauren Rockey

## Graduate focused early on career in shelter medicine

Photo courtesy of Dr. Lauren Rockey



Dr. Lauren Rockey on her wedding day with her dog, Gulliver.

When new UF College of Veterinary Medicine graduate Lauren Rockey, ('11) D.V.M., turned 18 – the age she had to be to volunteer at her local county animal shelter – she visited the shelter to begin the paperwork. In the coming year, she fostered neonatal kittens and cats with upper respiratory infections, exercised and performed basic obedience lessons with dogs, and visited the local farmer's market every weekend with dogs and cats for adoptions.

That year was when she decided she wanted to become a veterinarian- but only if she could focus on shelter medicine in her career.

"I absolutely became addicted to being at the shelter and wanted to do what I could to decrease the excessive number

of euthanasias our shelter was required to do," Rockey said. "We had no staff veterinarian, and I thought: 'wouldn't that save lives, having a vet here to manage disease outbreaks and do life-saving surgeries?' Immediately I knew I wanted to be a veterinarian, but only if I could become a shelter veterinarian."

At the time, there wasn't really a field for training shelter-oriented veterinarians, but that changed when UF became, as Rockey puts it, "a powerhouse for shelter medicine."

Over the past five years, thanks to funding from Maddie's Fund, UF's Shelter Medicine program has grown significantly, supplementing the shelter medicine clerkship program with additional community and statewide outreach opportunities that benefit students and professionals already working in the field.

Rockey came to UF for undergraduate school in 2004. She soon began volunteering with Operation Catnip and in Dr. Julie Levy's research lab, where she worked on projects involving shelters, disease prevention and population management.

"I can't believe how amazingly it worked out," Rockey said. "I wanted to be this 'thing' called a shelter vet, and here was the strongest shelter medicine program in the U.S. at UF. Dr. Levy became my mentor and has fostered my career path from day one."

Rockey's efforts resulted in her receiving the Grevior Shelter Medicine Award and the Maddie's Award for Excellence in Shelter Medicine, both of which were given at the senior banquet the evening before commencement. Now that she has finally finished veterinary school, Rockey is headed to the Oregon Humane Society in Portland, Ore., where she plans to perform an internship in shelter medicine.

"I am so excited for this opportunity, as this is a gold-standard shelter with a 98 percent live release rate and an annual animal intake of more than 12,000," Rockey said, adding that she will be working with four other veterinarians who are "progressive" in the field.

"I know I will learn so much," she said. "After that, I'm not sure what happens, but my dream would be to be a medical director at a shelter in Colorado. But who knows."

Rockey said she would be forever grateful to the "amazing



# Service dogs get free dental screenings

For the first time ever, the UF Small Animal Hospital was able to offer free dental screening examinations to service dogs this year, thanks to Amy Stone ('99), D.V.M., Sharon Hoffman, D.V.M., and the American Veterinary Dental College.

Thirteen dogs received the exams at UF on Aug. 23. Hoffman, a board-certified veterinary dentist from Jacksonville, is mentoring Stone in the certification process. The AVDC is the board certifying group, and covers the cost of the examinations.

"The exams included getting a history of what the dogs eats and chews, what service or therapy the dog provides and any previous oral health issues," Hoffman said.

The oral exams looked at things such as facial symmetry, occlusion, whether the animal had fractured, discolored or worn teeth, and whether there was any evidence of periodontal disease or any tumors.

Then the veterinarians reviewed the findings with the dogs' owners and made recommendations for further diagnostics and treatment. They also provided the owners with a handout that contained a list of healthy chew items and those which could prove damaging to dogs' teeth.

Hoffman said the dogs seen during the oral health exams provided a variety of services, ranging from visiting hospital patients or people in assisted living facilities to search and rescue, mobility and hearing assistance.

"Some dogs were still in training and others have served for more than 10 years," Hoffman said, adding that the owners of the animals seen at UF were very appreciative that the exams had been made available to them.

"The attendance was very good for the first year, and we identified dogs with oral pain in need of care," she said. "I would call that a success."

Bob and Lee Saputo of Ocala are shown with five of their Shetland sheepdogs, all of which work as pet therapy dogs in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. The dogs came to the UF Small Animal Hospital on Aug. 23 for free oral health screenings made available to qualified service dogs.

Photo by Sarah Carey



doctors and mentors" she had worked with at UF, including Levy, Dr. Natalie Isaza and others.

"Dr. Levy has mentored me since undergraduate school, Dr. Isaza ('94) taught me surgical skills I will use for the rest of my life," Rockey said. "Drs. Brian DiGangi ('06), Cate McManus, Cynda Crawford ('89) and Katherine Polak have all taught lectures, hosted web labs, supervised students at Operation Catnip and worked with me at three separate cat hoarding busts around Florida."

She said she knows she has a team of professionals she can contact if she ever needs help down the road in her career.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Lauren Rockey



Dr. Lauren Rockey with her dog, Gulliver, at the beach.

In addition, Rockey praised the shelter medicine certificate program, saying it had provided resources she needed to become successful in the field. The Maddie's Certificate in Shelter Medicine program now has 45 students enrolled – the largest number of any certificate program at the college. Rockey is one of five students who received their certificate this year and one of seven total who have received it.

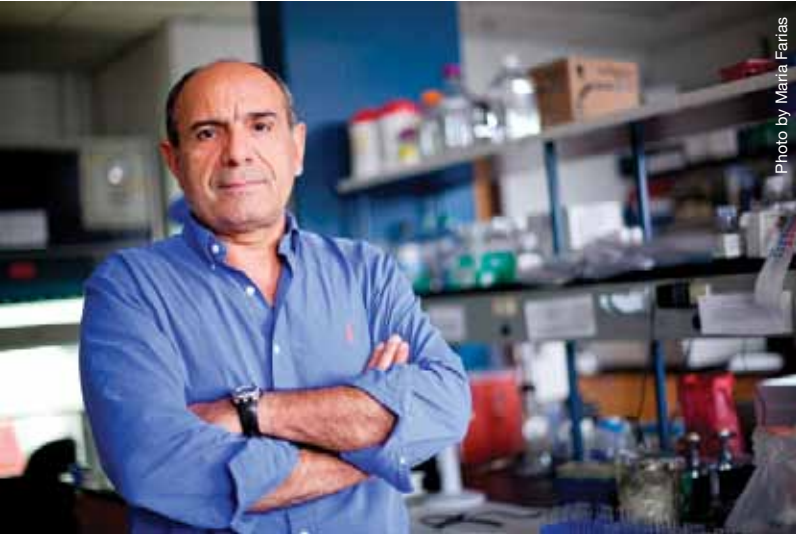
"I'm used to seeing puzzled expressions when I mention what I want to do after veterinary school," Rockey said. "Some people say I will grow out of it, get tired of it or get bored. I think this just means they have never spent an entire day in a shelter."

Shelter medicine is such a diverse field that there's no limit to what you can do, she added.

"Animal behavior, surgeries, disease prevention, public health, population management, animal forensics, animal abuse and neglect prosecution, disaster relief...the list goes on and on," Rockey said.

By Sarah Carey

# Mutant Gut Bacteria Can Reverse Colon Cancer, UF Researchers Find



Dr. Mansour Mohamadzadeh in his laboratory at UF.

**A mutant form of a meek microbe deals a gutsy blow to colon cancer, University of Florida scientists have discovered.** The bacteria halted abnormal inflammation, reduced precancerous growths and reversed progression of severe cancerous lesions in the large intestines of mice. The findings appear June 11 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“We have demonstrated that our bacterial treatment can take on established colon cancer,” said principal investigator Mansour Mohamadzadeh, Ph.D., a professor in the UF College of Veterinary Medicine department of infectious diseases and pathology and a faculty member in the UF College of Medicine division of gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition in the department of medicine. “This is huge, because people don’t come to you 10 years before they have colon cancer saying, ‘I may get colon cancer, can you treat me?’ They come to you and say, ‘I have colon cancer.’”

For years researchers have understood that uncontrolled inflammation in the large intestine can result in various diseases, including colon cancer and inflammatory bowel diseases such as ulcerative colitis. The new study focused on understanding how to curb immune system processes in the gut that lead to harmful inflammation. Resulting treatments could work not just for diseases of the digestive tract, but also for other conditions such as diabetes and Sjögrens syndrome in which inflammation plays a major role.

Some inflammation in the gut is a good thing, as it serves to

keep the body’s immune system in tip-top, disease-fighting shape. But under stress, the immune system overreacts with a cascade of inflammation-causing reactions. That can lead to afflictions in which the immune system attacks instead of protects the body. It can even cause colon cancer, which kills more than 50,000 Americans every year and is one of the nation’s leading causes of cancer deaths, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Mohamadzadeh, a member of the UF Shands Cancer Center and the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute, and colleagues previously demonstrated that a genetically modified form of the beneficial bacterium *Lactobacillus acidophilus* can bring overactive immune responses back to normal. They have now found that proteins on the surface of the bacteria can act on the immune system to either cause inflammation in the gut or tune it down.

To accomplish this, the researchers modified naturally occurring bacteria, removing genes that promote inflammation. The result was a form of the bacteria that was even better at controlling disease-causing inflammation. Moreover, mice with severe cases of polyps and cancerous intestinal lesions that were treated with the mutant bacteria had significantly reduced numbers of colon polyps compared with untreated mice, and showed no signs of active colon cancer or disease-causing inflammation.

“This a major discovery that defines how ‘healthy’ microbes function in the gut,” said Eugene B. Chang, M.D., the Martin Boyer professor of medicine at the University of Chicago Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery. “This has far-reaching implications for the development of therapies derived from microbes that can treat many types of complex immune and digestive disorders.”

The mutant bacteria are easy and cost-effective to produce. Mohamadzadeh anticipates that a treatment for humans could be a pill that can be taken by mouth. Patients could receive the beneficial bacterial treatment in combination with surgery or other therapies.

“The next stage of the research will involve clinical trials,” Mohamadzadeh said.

Anyone wishing to support the advancement of Mohamadzadeh’s bacterial treatment for colon cancer may do so by making a contribution to his research. For more information, contact Karen Legato at 352-294-4256.

By Lindy Brounley

# UF Veterinary College names 2012 Distinguished Award Winners

A military veterinarian pursuing specialty surgical studies, a practicing small animal surgeon, a retired administrator who helped open the new University of Florida Small Animal Hospital and a beloved teacher whose contributions continue to move many even after his death were recently honored as UF College of Veterinary Medicine's 2012 Distinguished Award winners.

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.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Two of the college's Distinguished Award winners, Dr. Jay Coisman, who received the Alumni Achievement Award, and Dr. Kevin Drygas, who received the Young Alumni Award.

**Jay Coisman, D.V.M.**, received the college's Alumni Achievement Award. A 2004 graduate of the UF veterinary college, Coisman is a Captain in the U.S. Army. He performed a postgraduate clinical internship at the Department of Defense's Military Working Dog Veterinary Services at

Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and subsequently became Officer in Charge at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta from 2005-2007, providing clinical services to military working dogs as well as food safety and public health support.

From 2007-2010, Coisman served as chief of the Fort Shafter Branch Veterinary Services, providing clinical, food safety and public health support to Fort Shafter, Kaneohe Marine Corps Base and the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii. He currently is a small animal surgery resident-in-training at the UF veterinary college and his professional interests include surgery, sports medicine and neurology.

**Kevin Drygas, D.V.M.**, received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. A 2006 graduate of the UF veterinary college, Drygas subsequently performed an internship at Alameda East Veterinary Hospital in Denver. During the year he spent there, he was featured regularly on Animal Planet's long-standing "Emergency Vets" program.

He subsequently completed a residency at Affiliated Veterinary Specialists in Orange Park, Fla., during which he continued his involvement with UF by teaching veterinary students in their junior and senior surgical laboratories. Drygas has published his research in national journals in the areas of canine stifle surgery, rehabilitation and pain management and prosthetic limb replacement and has presented his findings at nationally recognized surgical conferences. Board-certified in veterinary surgery, Drygas is now practicing with Capital Veterinary Specialists in Tallahassee.

**Colin Burrows, B.Vet. Med., Ph.D.**, received the Distinguished Service Award. Burrows served the college for more than 30 years as a clinician, researcher, educator and administrator. He retired in 2011 after 15 years as chairman of the college's department of small animal clinical sciences, soon after the opening of UF's new Small Animal Hospital. In a letter nominating Burrows for the award, the college's dean, Glen Hoffsis, noted Burrows' international reputation for leadership in the profession, both through his role at the college and as a founder of the prestigious North American Veterinary Conference, one of the largest veterinary conferences in the world.

The opening of the new UF Small Animal Hospital, which Burrows advocated for and oversaw, was his "crowning achievement," Hoffsis said, adding that other accomplishments included the creation of many hospital and departmental programs and services. Among the programs Burrows developed are the referral liaison program, shelter medicine, an annual referring veterinarian appreciation day event. He also expanded clinical services, including cardiology, oncology and surgery.

The late **Kevin Anderson, Ph.D.**, received the Special Service Award. Anderson died in June 2010 after a long battle with brain cancer. He taught gross anatomy to 22 classes of UF veterinary students and received many teaching and research awards at UF, including the C.E. Cornelius Young Investigator Award for his research on brain receptors. He was named the college's Teacher of the Year twice, the Basic Sciences Teacher of the Year three times and was named Teacher of the Year six times by different classes of freshman students.

In separate nomination letters, former and present UF veterinary students called Anderson an important role model and mentor who provided guidance and support for them in many ways, including the the Meriel-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium as well as through his love of bike riding and leadership of the TeamVetMed cycling group.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Shown on May 26, following the college's commencement ceremony, are family members of the late Dr. Kevin Anderson, recipient of the college's 2012 Special Service Award. Pictured are Dr. Anderson's parents; his sons, Jonathan and Brett; and his widow, Dr. Michelle LeBlanc. Dr. Anderson's father, far right, holds the Gentle Doctor statuette.

By Sarah Carey

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## Dog survives venomous snakebite, becomes social media celebrity

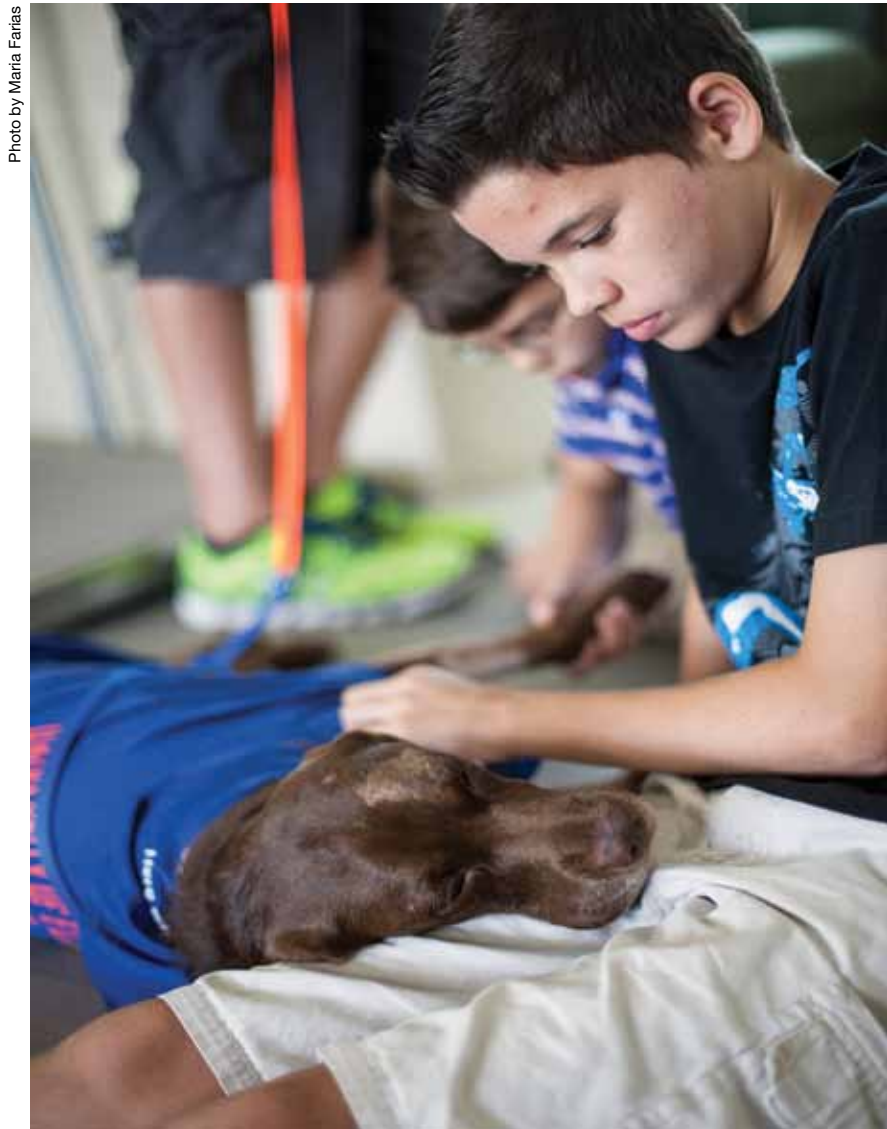


Photo by Maria Farias

Jacob Schmitt pets Cali during the day of her discharge from UF's Small Animal Hospital.

Twenty-four vials of antivenin, 14 days in the UF Small Animal Hospital's intensive care unit, countless hugs, kisses and Facebook shares later, Cali, a 3-year-old chocolate Labrador retriever-Shar Pei mix, is home with her family in Tavares, living the life of Riley.

A YouTube video and Facebook page the family created to solicit donations to help pay Cali's medical bills went viral, resulting in more than \$19,000 being raised – more than enough to cover her care – and in the process, turned Cali into a celebrity among dog lovers from as far away as China and the United Kingdom.

"I expect you guys to treat her like Queen Elizabeth," Michael Schaer, D.V.M., an emergency and critical care specialist, told Connie Schmitt's sons Michael, 15; twins Daniel and Jacob, 13; and Zach, 8, when they came with their mother to visit Cali on July 17, her last week in the hospital. It was one of several visits the family made to see Cali during her recovery from a bite likely inflicted by an Eastern diamondback rattlesnake.

Schaer explained to the Schmitts that once Cali left the hospital, it would take her awhile to regain her strength and to return to life as a normal dog. However, the Schmitts will tell you the gentle brown dog they rescued two years ago has never been a normal dog at all.

Cali entered the Schmitts' lives when she showed up in their yard, looking sad and lethargic. A family friend and neighbor, a veterinarian, came over and treated Cali minimally, then subsequently at her clinic for infections in both eyes and ears, as well as for fleas and worms. The family posted a notice on Petfinder to see if anyone would claim Cali, who was thought to be about 1 year old. No one did.

"Her condition clearly indicated that she had been neglected for awhile, but she was housebroken and very obedient," Schmitt said. "It took her about a month to heal to the point where she would even run with the boys outside."

Two years passed, and Cali's life evolved to one of chasing lizards, geckos and squirrels on the family's one-acre lot. She had an unusually

gentle personality, her family said, given the neglect she had experienced in her first year of life.

"We weren't pet people, and although the kids had wanted a dog for a long time, Mike and I didn't," Schmitt said. "We used the fact that Mike is allergic to say no. But Cali changed all that. We fell in love with her, and even Mike was not reacting to her like he had to other dogs. She seemed so appreciative to us for taking her in and nursing her back to health and immediately took to us as we did to her."



Members of the Schmitt family with their dog, Cali, after Cali's discharge from the UF Small Animal Hospital on July 20, 2012. Cali suffered from massive envenomation from an Eastern diamondback rattlesnake and spent two weeks in our ICU receiving emergency care to save her life. From left to right are Schmitt sons Daniel, Jacob, Michael and (petting Cali) Zach; Dr. Gareth Buckley, Dr. Alessio Vignani, Dr. Michael Schaer and two UF veterinary students, Allison Vansickle and Alison Sass.

Schmitt's son, Michael, once saw Cali tear off part of a dog treat and give it to another dog.

"One time I saw her take a biscuit over to a little baby in a stroller and drop it at her feet," he said.

But on July 5 around 6 p.m., family members found Cali collapsed in their yard, foaming at the mouth and not moving. They then saw blood on Cali's neck and immediately suspected snake bite. The Schmitts immediately took Cali to their local emergency veterinary clinic in Leesburg. Despite two vials of antivenin, however, Cali did not improve, so the next morning the family brought Cali to UF for continued treatment.

Cali subsequently experienced a series of medical crises that included three episodes of re-envenomation; heart arrhythmias; an allergic reaction to the antivenin; and serum sickness, not to mention infection with high levels of E-coli bacteria. She also had three surgical procedures to remove dead tissue around her bite wound.

In the first five days, whenever another two-vial treatment of antivenin was needed, the family would hope it was the last one. But then Cali would regress again.

"At that point, the stress of the surmounting bill was overwhelming, but we kept thinking that we had gone so far and we couldn't let her die now," Schmitt said. "So, with blind faith, we continued to agree to whatever she needed, knowing that we just couldn't give up on her and that we would find a way to come up with the money to pay for her care."

The family got busy thinking of ways to contribute to Cali's bill. The family's sons decided to donate everything they made in their summer jobs of mowing lawns and weeding to Cali's care, and Schmitt picked up extra shifts at Disney World, where she works as a seasonal cast member.

"By Monday (July 9), Dr. Schaer spoke to us and said Cali's bill was quickly approaching \$7,000 and that she continued to need antivenin," Schmitt said. "He wanted to prepare us for the fact that at the end of the day, we might not have a live dog. We asked him if there would be a point where he would know that more antivenin was pointless, and it would be best to put her down. He said he wanted to try two more vials, and that we might have to

have that conversation later that afternoon."

At that point, the family was desperate and their YouTube video was born.

"The boys all got together and started pulling all the pictures they've taken of Cali since we got her," Schmitt said. "We know that times are tough, and we thought that by asking people for \$1 donations and asking for them to share our post, if we could spread the word far enough, we could raise enough funds to help offset the balance that we owed. We were nowhere near prepared for what happened as a result of the video."

As the video and word of Cali's plight spread, the family navigated through Cali's medical rollercoaster with the support of what soon became hundreds of virtual friends and fans, some known to the family and many more, complete strangers. Their Chip-in online account for donations kept growing and growing, as more became aware of Cali's situation and contributed to help her.

"I've seen a lot of snake bite victims, and some pretty bad cases, but this was the worst because of all the unexpected complications that were the result of the amount of venom Cali received and her reaction to it," Schaer said. "Usually it takes a couple of vials of antivenin and a couple of days to turn an animal around, but in Cali's case it was 24 vials of antivenin and two full weeks of constant care. That's unheard of."

On July 20 her family came to Gainesville to take their beloved Cali home. They wound up making a few unexpected visits back to the hospital the next week to visit Schaer when Cali started showing more signs of serum sickness, but thanks to his advice and some short-term medication, the problems were soon resolved. Her family has continued to post updates about her progress on the Facebook page they set up for Cali, [www.facebook.com/pleasehelpcali](http://www.facebook.com/pleasehelpcali).

*continued on page 21*

# The chief: Equine veterinarian Dana Zimmel is leading the way at the UF Veterinary Hospitals

Photo by Maria Farias



Dr. Dana Zimmel stands on the second floor balcony of the UF Small Animal Hospital.

**“Where’s Dana?” her mom would constantly ask.**

As a young girl, Dana Zimmel, D.V.M. ('95), could usually be found in one place: feeding grass to the horses over the fence.

Her love for animals turned into a profession that revolves around them. Today, Zimmel is a leading equine veterinarian and chief of staff of the UF Veterinary Hospitals.

Growing up in Cincinnati, Zimmel was surrounded by animals and had a house full of hamsters, guinea pigs, dogs and canaries. And when she was 7, she got the first of five horses she has had during her lifetime.

“(Veterinary school) was a natural path,” Zimmel said. “I always loved animals.”

She received her undergraduate degree at UF in 1990 and transitioned into the College of Veterinary Medicine, from which she received her D.V.M. degree in 1995.

UF appealed to her because she wanted to be in a state with a strong horse population. It was also one of few universities with a veterinary school.

As a veterinarian, Zimmel has dealt with everything from infectious diseases to hurricanes, including assisting with pet rescue during Hurricane Katrina.

She took on her latest challenge in 2010, when she became the chief of staff of UF Veterinary Hospitals after 10 years on the college’s faculty, first as an equine extension veterinarian and

subsequently as a clinical assistant professor of large animal internal medicine. She now oversees about 75 veterinarians and the entire hospital staff, including the diagnostic lab and pharmacy, residents and students. Her job is to know everything that happens in the hospital, and she deals with any clinical problems.

“I’ve always had a very strong interest in business,” Zimmel said.

Her biggest concern: the hospital’s ability to become financially independent, which is a challenge because state support is shrinking, she said.

Some people are reluctant to bring their pets to UF’s veterinary hospitals because they think students are treating their pets without supervision. However, this is a misconception because UF veterinarians provide care to patients and oversee everything students do, she said.

“We don’t let them do it alone,” Zimmel said. “I value the opportunity to teach students in the clinic.”

This is where her job comes in. Zimmel needs to run a good business model and put communication first.

As chief of staff, Zimmel doesn’t work with animals anymore, but she is constantly communicating with people. In a 10-hour workday, she spends about eight-and-a-half hours talking to people.

“The hardest part (of my job) is not working with animals,” Zimmel said. “It’s easy to be a clinician and leave at the end of the day and feel good.”

Chris Sanchez, D.V.M., Ph.D, one of Zimmel’s classmates in veterinary school and an associate professor in the college, said Zimmel stands out as an administrator because of her empathy for veterinarians, drive and organization.

“She has a true understanding of the process of veterinary care,” Sanchez said. “This is not necessarily typical of all administrators.”

For now, Zimmel’s goal is to continue to improve the hospital. In the future, she sees a larger radiation oncology program and the development of new techniques.

“I just want to steer us in the right direction and make sure I’m spending my time on the things that matter,” she said.

By Allyson Fox



# New pet emergency clinic now open in Ocala

Photo by Sarah Carey



Pictured are the UF veterinarians and staff that will be working at the new UF/Pet Emergency Treatment Services after-hours emergency clinic. Standing at left: Anthony Durham and Ryan Coy. Seated, from left to right: Dr. Dana Zimmel, Sheri Holloway, Allyson Cleveland, Patricia Hrovat, Ellen Palmisano, Emily Hillaker and Dr. Luiz Bolfer. Standing at right: Kelly Hale, Dr. Gareth Buckley and Dr. Carsten Bandt.

**A new after-hours University of Florida pet emergency clinic in Ocala is officially open for business, giving pet owners access to urgent care during time periods when veterinarians' offices are typically closed.**

The UF College of Veterinary Medicine teamed with a group of Ocala veterinarians to establish UF Pet Emergency Treatment Services, a 5,000-square-foot clinic located near the Paddock Mall at 3200 SW 27th Ave.

The clinic provides basic to advanced emergency care between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. during the week and is open around the clock on weekends and holidays. UF small animal emergency and critical care clinicians staff the clinic, with the help of additional support personnel. The staff will rotate shifts in Ocala while continuing to provide services at the UF Small Animal Hospital in Gainesville.

"We're all proud of this new relationship, which represents a meaningful collaboration among Ocala-area veterinarians as well as with the University of Florida," said Dr. Dion Osborne ('98), an Ocala veterinarian and graduate of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. "This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to provide even better service to our clients."

Osborne and other veterinarians in Ocala formed the Pet Emergency Treatment Service corporation earlier this year with the goal of creating a new emergency clinic in Marion County. Soon after, the group began working with UF leaders to find a way to better serve pet owners in the Marion County region.

An official ribbon-cutting and open house was held June 30, giving the hundreds of people who attended a chance to glimpse the new clinic. During the event, Ocala Mayor Kent Guinn said he was extremely pleased to have the new "state of the art" clinic in his community.

"The location is so convenient. From town, you just turn on 31st Street to 27th Avenue and you're there," he said. "People will be able to easily get there from just about anywhere. And from an economic development standpoint, it's important to have 20 new employees in the area."

When the doors opened at noon for the public event, people poured into the doorways, touring the new facility, visiting with the UF and Marion County-area veterinarians who greeted them and enjoying refreshments on the sunny and hot last day of June.

"All of us were so grateful for the warm welcome we received from Ocala and for the huge turnout we received at this event," said Dr. Glen Hoffsis, dean of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. "We are looking forward to serving Ocala and Marion County by providing the very best emergency care possible to the pets in this community and by strengthening our relationships with Ocala practitioners, who have entrusted us to help them meet this need."



Photo by Sarah Carey

Dr. Luiz Bolfer with the ultrasound machine in the new pet emergency clinic.

By Sarah Carey

# UF veterinary researchers discover new virus linked to death of Australian snakes

A University of Florida researcher and colleagues in Australia and Germany have discovered what might be a deadly new snake virus.

Dubbed the “Sunshine virus,” the organism causes nervous system and respiratory disease and is the first of its kind to be identified. Although it is in the same overall family as other viruses that affect snakes and lizards, Sunshine virus doesn’t fit into any existing subgroups of viruses.

The discovery, described online and in the October 2012 print edition of the journal *Infection, Genetics and Evolution*, may help scientists better understand the biology and origin of an important group of disease-causing organisms and inform efforts to prevent future outbreaks.

“Understanding the ecology and diversity of infectious diseases of wildlife is critical,” said co-author James Wellehan, D.V.M., Ph.D., an assistant professor of zoological medicine at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. “While medicine has traditionally waited for big outbreaks to cause large numbers of deaths and then dealt with new diseases reactively, an understanding of what viruses are out there and how they can be expected to behave allows us to be proactive, being aware of and monitoring agents of potential concern.”

The emergence in recent years of deadly new viruses that attack humans has raised concerns regarding transmission between wildlife, livestock and humans. For example, the Hendra and Nipah viruses caused high rates of death in Australia and Indonesia in the 1990s, not just among horses and pigs but also among humans.

The quest to identify the new virus started as an investigation of the cause of a 2008 disease outbreak in a privately-owned Australian collection of 70 pythons. As more and more animals became sick, showing signs of pneumonia, abnormal behaviour such as “star gazing” – staring up at things – and acting depressed and lethargic, the decision was eventually made to euthanize the entire collection.

The researchers had great difficulty detecting the elusive virus and struggled to identify the category in which it belonged.

“We screened more than 450 samples including swabs, tissues and blood for snake viruses,” said lead author Timothy Hyndman, D.V.M., a lecturer and graduate student at Murdoch University in Australia. “It was very frustrating. After two and a half years, we finally isolated something. A year later, we figured out what it was.”



Photo by Maria Farias

Dr. Jim Wellehan holds a carpet python, one of the species of snakes affected by a deadly virus outbreak in 2008.

The researchers infected snake heart cells with virus collected from tissues of the affected snakes and found that it caused the cells to become abnormally large and have more than one nucleus, the cell’s DNA center.

Using sophisticated techniques for analyzing large numbers of genetic sequences at the same time, the researchers identified several sequences that had limited similarity to known viruses in large genetic databases and used this to put together the genetic blueprint of the Sunshine virus. Statistical analyses that allow construction of a “family tree” showed that the Sunshine virus belonged to the paramyxovirus family. That family contains some of the most significant disease-causing agents in animals and humans, according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information. Measles, mumps and canine distemper are all in the family.

But unlike all known snake and lizard viruses in that family, the new virus did not fit into a subgroup called Ferlavirus. The new virus is only distantly related to those viruses.

“This is the first non-ferlavirus paramyxovirus to be discovered from a reptile,” Hyndman said. “In the previous 40 years, reptilian paramyxoviruses were all very similar until this one was discovered.”

Previously known members of the virus family have grouped into two subfamilies. The Sunshine virus fell outside both of those known groups. Inclusion of Sunshine virus in the family tree analysis suggests that viruses thought to be in the same

subfamilies might not actually share recent ancestors, the researchers said.

“The two subfamilies may need to be split up into distinct families,” Wellehan said.

Although it is likely that the virus was responsible for the outbreak of disease in the collection of pythons, this has not been proven irrefutably.

The study shows off how sophisticated gene sequencing technology can be used to characterize mysterious new viruses and possibly speed up public health responses to outbreaks in humans, animals and plants, the researchers said.

By Sarah Carey

## Dean Hoffsis announces plans for departure

Glen F. Hoffsis, D.V.M., has announced plans to step down as dean of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

Hoffsis, who was hired in August 2006 after a national search, told college faculty and staff this week that he plans to remain on board as dean for another year, and will leave UF on July 1, 2013.

He came to UF after a successful career as dean at The Ohio State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, a position he held for 11 years. He later served for two years as the associate director of veterinary services for Iams, a Procter & Gamble company.

“In the year ahead, I will remain fully engaged and continue to move our programs forward, while working toward an orderly transition to new leadership,” Hoffsis said.

Under Hoffsis’ leadership, the college funded and constructed a new \$58 million, 100,000-square-foot small animal hospital in 2010, as well as other facilities, including a new state-of-the-art auditorium and educational center.

“In the hospitals, we instituted new operating systems and philosophies,” Hoffsis said. “We created the chief of staff position and a new leadership structure. We instituted many new clinical services and enhanced existing ones in an effort to better serve the animal owners, veterinary students and referring veterinarians.”

Hoffsis also noted the college’s recent opening of an after-hours veterinary emergency in Ocala in collaboration with a group of Marion County-area veterinarians.

“We instituted a new plan to jumpstart our basic research enterprise and made several new strategic hires, which already are bringing new funding and programs to the college,” Hoffsis said.

Fundraising for the college has also benefited during Hoffsis’ tenure.

“We have raised more than \$50 million in the current UF development campaign and are one of an elite group of units to exceed our goals,” he said. “These funds are essential to us as state resources continue to decline.

“With these accomplishments and so much more left to do, it

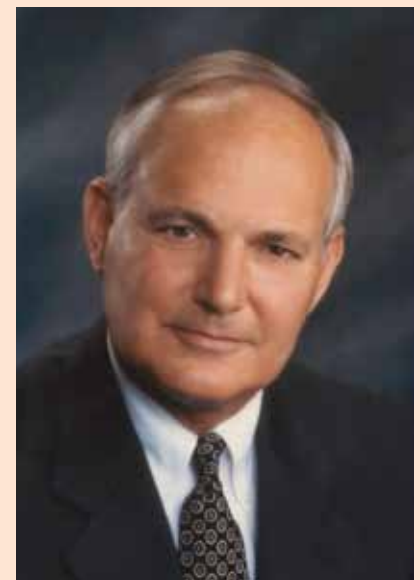
is difficult for me to leave,” Hoffsis said. “However, this is also a good time for a new leader to benefit from the momentum we have established and to engage in new challenges.”

He added that it has been “an honor and a privilege” to have served the UF veterinary college as dean.

“I have enjoyed tremendous support from many leaders of the college, the university, the Florida Veterinary Medical Association and our various stakeholders,” Hoffsis said. “For that, I am most grateful.”

Hoffsis will engage in veterinary consulting and will continue to serve on the board of directors of the Citizens Bank of Ashville, Ohio; the Live Oak Bank of Wilmington, N.C.; and Banfield Pet Hospitals of Portland, Ore.

Meanwhile a search committee has been formed to recruit a new dean for the college. For more information, visit [www.deansearch.vetmed.ufl.edu](http://www.deansearch.vetmed.ufl.edu).



Dean Glen Hoffsis



# Peck appointed as associate dean for research

Ammon B. Peck, Ph.D., an immunology researcher and professor at the University of Florida, has been named associate dean of research and graduate studies at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, effective Sept. 1.

Peck currently is a professor in the College of Medicine's department of pathology, immunology and laboratory medicine, with a joint appointment in the College of Dentistry's department of oral biology. He helped build the graduate student program in immunology and molecular pathology within the College of Medicine during the 1980s and early 1990s.

Since then, Peck has continued to be engaged in classroom lectures, seminars and journal clubs in addition to directing independent research projects and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students as well as postdoctoral fellows and residents pursuing research careers.

He will succeed Charles Courtney, D.V.M., Ph.D., following Courtney's retirement from the position after 30 years of service on the college faculty.

Peck has been involved in many aspects of service while at UF, including serving as president of the College of Medicine faculty and as a member and vice-chairman of the Academic Health Center's Institutional Review Board. He also co-established and co-directed the Type II Center for Research on Women's Health, an intercollegiate center encompassing all six AHC colleges.

An active entrepreneur and consultant, Peck co-founded Ixion Biotechnology, Inc., to commercialize research discoveries in diabetes and hyperoxaluria. The company received the Tibbetts Award from the Small Business Association in Washington, D.C. in 2000.

Photo by Jesse Jones



Dr. Ammon Peck

Peck's recent research has focused on three main areas: molecular mechanisms underlying autoimmune diseases; pathogenesis of human and animal diseases involving hyperoxaluria; and stem cell biology. His laboratory's research on hyperoxaluria and stem cells has received wide-spread national and international press coverage.

Among the many honors Peck has received in his academic career are the 2012 International Association of Dental Research's Distinguished Scientist Award for Salivary Research; the College of Medicine's Exemplary Teacher's Award in 2008; the Council of Biotechnology Award from Tsurumi University, Yokohama Japan in 2002; UF's Step Professorship in 2001; and the UF Research Foundation's Distinguished Professor designation in 1999.

Peck received his Ph.D. degree in medical microbiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1972. From 1974 to 1982 he worked at Uppsala University and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, overlapping his appointment at UF in 1979.

# Professor named large animal clinical sciences department chairman

Carlos Risco, D.V.M. ('80), a professor and food animal medicine and reproduction specialist at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has been appointed as chairman of the college's department of large animal clinical sciences, effective Sept. 1.

Risco, a board-certified theriogenologist whose primary interest is dairy medicine, will succeed David Freeman, M.V.B., Ph.D., in the position. A professor of large animal surgery who has served as interim department chairman since 2009, Freeman will return to his position on the college faculty.

As chairman, Risco will be responsible for faculty recruitment, mentoring and promotion, as well as budget management and instructional activities. He will also provide leadership in the areas of research, veterinary and graduate student education, clinical resident and intern training, and outreach. Risco will work closely with the chief of staff of the UF Veterinary Hospitals to ensure high quality clinical service, and will liaise with the scientific communities of both the UF Academic Health Center and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

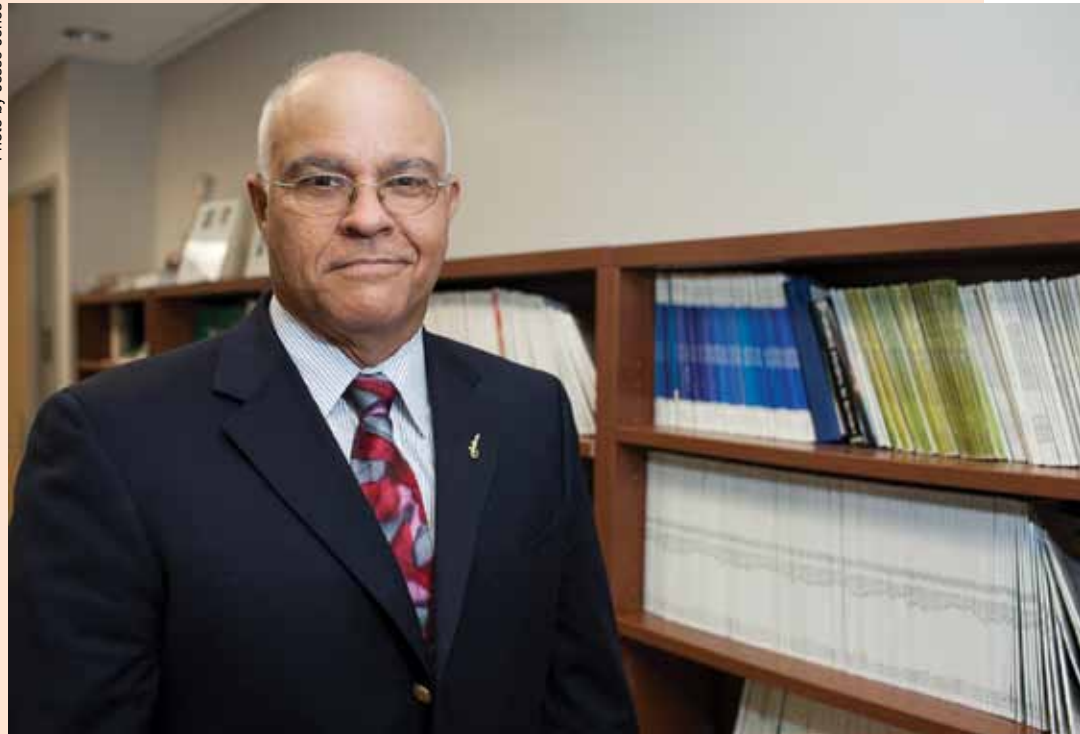
A member of the veterinary college's first graduating class of 1980, Risco performed an internship at Chino Valley Veterinary

Associates, a large dairy practice in Ontario, Calif., immediately following his graduation. He became a partner in that practice after completing his internship in 1981. Risco joined the UF veterinary faculty in 1990 as an assistant professor and was promoted to full professor in 2002.

During his tenure at UF, Risco has received many awards and honors for his teaching and research. In addition to several awards given by UF veterinary students, Risco also received the UF Blue Key Distinguished Faculty Award for teaching research and the Carl Norden-Pfizer Distinguished Teaching Award from the college. He was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar in Argentina in 2004 and was honored by the college's Alumni Council with its annual Alumni Achievement Award in 2005.

He is an internationally recognized lecturer on dairy production medicine.

Photo by Jesse Jones



Dr. Carlos Risco

## Honors, Awards, Appointments & Announcements

### Wamsley wins national teaching award



Dr. Heather Wamsley

Heather Wamsley, D.V.M., Ph.D., an assistant professor of clinical pathology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received the Student Chapter of the American

Veterinary Medical Association's National Teaching Excellence Award.

The college's sophomore veterinary class nominated Wamsley, a board-certified clinical pathologist, for the award. She was selected from many other faculty nominees submitted by veterinary colleges all over the country.

Wamsley has received numerous Teacher of the Year awards from various classes of veterinary students, and last year was named Teacher of the Year and Pfizer Distinguished Teacher of the Year for the entire college.

She was selected by the students as Support Services Resident of the Year in 2003 and 2004. As a new faculty member in 2010, she received the prestigious C.E. Cornelius Young Investigator Award in recognition of her research contributions.

Her present research interests are in situ diagnostics and rickettsial disease.

### Researcher named Distinguished Professor

Paul Davenport, Ph.D., a professor in the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine's department of physiological sciences, has been promoted to the rank of Distinguished Professor, one of the highest academic designations offered by UF.

Davenport's research focuses on the control of breathing, including basic brain

### Dr. Courtney retires



Photo by Sarah Carey

Dr. Charlie Courtney, right, with his wife, Debby, during a reception held in Dr. Courtney's honor on the eve of his retirement from UF. Dr. Courtney served for 16 years as the college's associate dean for research and graduate studies and for a total of 30 years on the UF faculty. The Courtneys are shown with a print presented by Dean Glen Hoffsis on behalf of the college, in recognition of Dr. Courtney's love of fishing.



Dr. Paul Davenport

mechanisms, reflex-to-cognitive respiratory neurophysiology, pulmonary function assessments and rehabilitation of respiratory muscles.

"Dr. Davenport has been extremely successful

in research, and has made significant contributions in our understanding of the neural control of breathing, and more recently, swallowing and cough," said Davenport's department chairman, Paul Cooke, Ph.D.

Widely published in many professional journals, Davenport speaks frequently at national and international meetings and was the 2011 president of the International Society for the Advancement of Respiratory Psychophysiology. He also serves as editor-in-chief of the journal *Frontiers in Respiratory Physiology*.

Davenport's research has been supported predominantly by the National Institutes of Health, but he has also been successful in obtaining funding from other national agencies, including the USDA and the Veterans Administration, private companies and corporations and advocacy groups. He has also been supported through internal grants at UF and has trained, or is currently training, fifteen doctoral students. He has mentored 14 post-doctoral and clinical resident fellows.

A member of the veterinary college faculty since 1981, Davenport has received many campus and national teaching awards during his tenure at UF, including the National Merck Sharp and Dohme AGVET Award for Creativity in Teaching.

The title of Distinguished Professor acknowledges an exceptional record of achievement in the areas of teaching, research and publication, and professional and public service that is recognized both nationally and internationally, according to UF's Office of the Provost.



## Honors, Awards, Appointments & Announcements

### Administrator named to group's Hall of Fame



Dr. John Harvey

John W. Harvey, D.V.M., Ph.D., executive associate dean and a professor of hematology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named to the European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology's Hall of Fame.

The award was established last year and was presented at the society's 14th annual conference, held in Slovenia July 3-7. Harvey gave four talks, including an invited plenary lecture titled "Erythrocyte Enzyme Deficiencies in Domestic Animals."

Criteria for the award include having practiced clinical pathology for 25 years or more and having made substantial contributions to the profession.

A board-certified veterinary clinical pathologist, Harvey is a recognized expert in comparative hematology, having published more than 160 journal articles and book chapters. He is the author of "Veterinary Hematology: A Diagnostic Guide and Color Atlas" and is coeditor of "Clinical Biochemistry of Domestic Animals." He is an accomplished lecturer both nationally and internationally, having given more than 260 talks throughout the world.

Harvey is a past president and treasurer of the International Society for Animal Clinical Pathology, which awarded him the Heiner Sommer Prize in 2010 for his lifetime contributions to the field. He also has held numerous leadership roles in other organizations, including the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology, of which he is a past president and board member. He served on the examination committee of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and has been a member of

several other national and state veterinary associations.

Other notable awards Harvey has received include the Mark L. Morris Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award, the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award, the American Association of Feline Practitioners Research Award, the Alumni Recognition Award from Kansas State University, and the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Harvey has been a member of the UF veterinary college faculty since 1974.

### Brown named chair of international organization

Daniel Brown, Ph.D., a scientist at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, recently became chairman of the International Organization for Mycoplasma, a nonprofit scientific group dedicated to the study of a type of bacteria that infect a wide variety of animals. His



Dr. Daniel Brown

term will be from 2012 to 2014.

An associate professor in the college's department of infectious diseases and pathology, Brown served for the past two years as chairman-elect and has been actively involved

in the IOM for many years. His installation as IOM chairman took place in July at the IOM's annual meeting in France. Brown's work focuses on genetic and taxonomic analyses of pathogenic mycoplasmas and the diseases they may cause in animals and humans.

His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Morris Animal Foundation, the UF University Scholars Program and the Merck-Merial Veterinary Scholars Program.



## Pet Memorial Program

A gift in memory of your client's or friend's pet will say you care in a way that benefits all animals by supporting one of several programs at the college. When a client's or a friend's pet dies, simply send your donation with the owner's name and address and the name of the pet to the college. We mail a personalized sympathy card to let them know you have remembered their pet with a contribution. Requests and cards are mailed on a weekly basis.

Requests can be mailed to:

Pet Memorial Program  
UF College of Veterinary Medicine  
P.O. Box 100125  
Gainesville, FL 32610-0125

For more information, visit our website, [www.vetmed.ufl.edu](http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu), Pet Memorial Program, email [petmemorial@vetmed.ufl.edu](mailto:petmemorial@vetmed.ufl.edu) or call us at 352-294-4256.

## Pathologist, founding college faculty member dies

Friends and former colleagues mourned the May 2 passing of Carroll Woodard, D.V.M., Ph.D., who specialized in bone pathology and was one of the founding members of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

“Dr. Woodard was a great, inspiring leader and a mentor,” said Claus Buergelt, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor emeritus of pathology at the college. Woodard hired Buergelt in 1978 as an assistant professor of veterinary pathology, bringing him and his wife, Nancy, to Gainesville.

“I am grateful to Carroll for promoting my academic career here at UF and for the friendship he so generously offered to us,” Buergelt said. “We will miss him.”

Buergelt said Woodard had created the college’s pathology program from scratch, with energy and vision.

“He had high ethics and standards and expected veterinary students, graduate students and faculty to live up to the same,” Buergelt said. “But he was also easy going and enjoyed a good laugh.”

Woodard was able to attract well trained and skilled faculty to the college, Buergelt said, adding that Woodard’s teaching and research programs received quick visibility and recognition at veterinary colleges nationwide.



Dr. Carroll Woodard

Prior to the opening of the UF veterinary college, Woodard chaired the Division of Comparative Pathology within the UF College of Medicine’s department of pathology and also had worked as a researcher for that college.

Working with the late Wayne Riser, D.V.M., professor emeritus from the University of Pennsylvania’s veterinary school, Woodard later helped to establish the UF CVM’s center of excellence in bone pathology, which gained national and international acclaim.

He also cofounded the Southeastern Pathology Conference meetings in Tifton, Ga., 40 years ago. The 41st annual meeting of that group took place May 19-20 and was dedicated to Woodard, Buergelt said.

Pam Ginn, D.V.M. an anatomical pathologist who worked with Woodard and is now the college’s associate dean for students and instruction, said her former colleague made a real difference in the specialty training of many veterinarians during his years at UF.

“As one of 40-50 anatomic pathology residents trained in part by Dr. Woodard, I feel I can speak for the group in recognizing Carroll as one of 3 premier bone pathologists in our field in our time,” Ginn said. “Carroll’s respect for fellow human beings and love of bone pathology are two things I will remember most about him.”

Photo by Maria Farias



### Cali

*continued from page 13*

Cali has continued to recuperate well, has received many visitors and is being pampered at home every day. In late August, her family reported that she is close to being back to her old self.

The Schmitt family returned a \$3,000 overage from the Chip-in account to UF to help other animals. They also established a new Facebook page, “Help for Cali’s Pals”, on which they post the stories of other animals that they hear about that are in need of assistance.

Schmitt said she and her family were “humbled and honored” to have been able to witness “the great things that happen at the UF Small Animal Hospital.”

“From the girls at the front desk to the technicians, the doctors and even the administrative staff, each and every person we have had contact with has been amazing, Schmitt said. “The love, caring and compassion in every person there is evident in the way they treat their patients and their families.”



*Congratulations to our new graduates, the members of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's Class of 2012!*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT | Dr. Megan Brown and Dr. Jessica Scott. | Dr. Rowan Milner is shown with new graduates Dr. Kelly Harrison, Dr. Eryn Roberts and Dr. Teresa Rodina. | Dr. Stephen Spook and Dr. Jared Jaffey. | Dr. Stephanie Kane Suiter, Dr. Kiri de la Cerda and Dr. Jessie Burgess.



# 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  
P.O. Box 100125  
(352) 294-4256  
legatok@ufl.edu

Or visit our website at:

[www.vetmed.ufl.edu](http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu)



# 2012-13 Calendar

Photo courtesy of The Martha Stewart Show



Recent UF College of Veterinary Medicine graduate Nicki Puza, D.V.M. ('12), appeared on The Martha Stewart Show in April to showcase how to make her specialty cupcakes. Her invitation to appear on the show was a complete surprise, made possible through a friend whose uncle works on the show. Puza started baking her unique cupcakes, which resemble everything from rubber ducks to blood cells, to cheer up busy classmates studying for exams. Puza and Stewart are shown here with cupcakes baked on the show in the shape of cheeseburgers.

**Oct. 11-14**

The Florida Association of Equine Practitioners holds its annual conference and UF CVM alumni gathering at the Waldorf Astoria Naples. For more information, visit [www.faep.net](http://www.faep.net).

**Oct. 28**

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. 9-10**

UF and the college celebrate Homecoming Weekend. There will be a pre-game alumni celebration planned. For more information, contact Micheline Sullivan at 352-294-4239.

**Jan. 19-23**

The North American Veterinary Conference and CVM alumni gathering will be held in Orlando. For more information, contact Jo Ann Winn at 352-294-4240.

**Feb. 17**

Team Vet Med Running will participate in the annual Five Points of Life race weekend. For more information, contact Rachel DiSesa at 352-294-4214.

**April 13**

The college's traditional Open House will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Watch our website, [www.vetmed.ufl.edu](http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu) for more information.

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