

Florida VETERINARIAN

ADVANCING ANIMAL, HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

UF | College of Veterinary Medicine

UF veterinarians play key role in turtle rescue

By Sarah Carey

“ We were able to get large numbers of turtles back into the wild in an appropriate manner. This was an unprecedented situation. We had twice as many strandings as we deal with in a given year, and over a period of 10 days.

— Dr. Brian Stacy

An initial influx of about 25 green sea turtles turned into more than 80 who received care and support from UF veterinarians in mid-January following record cold temperatures throughout the state. The unprecedented cold snap, during which below-freezing temperatures persisted for several days, posed a severe health threat to thousands of the green turtles, already an endangered species.

Some 5,000 “cold-stunned” sea turtles were collected from the sea at various locations and transported to rescue facilities throughout the state over a 10-day period. About 20 percent of those turtles died. The remainder have been released back into the wild or are being cared for by various rehabilitation facilities.

“Initially, we didn’t have a clear idea how large it was going to get,” said Brian Stacy, Ph.D.,



Photo by Sarah Kiewel

Dr. Brian Stacy checks the identification number of one of the green sea turtles that came to UF after being rescued from the Indian River Lagoon area.

a clinical assistant professor in UF’s Aquatic Animal Health program and a contract veterinarian with the National Marine Fisheries Service. “The role we played was to house as many fibropapilloma turtles as we could so that other rehab centers that don’t keep those kinds of turtles would not have to deal with the biosecurity that the condition requires.”

Fibropapillomatosis is associated with a virus and manifests as wart-like growths on the turtles’ bodies. For health reasons, veterinary professionals like to keep these turtles separate from turtles without the condition. Fibropapillomatosis is 40-60 percent prevalent in one of the primary areas affected by the cold and is most worrisome when tumors are large and numerous or when the growths appear in or

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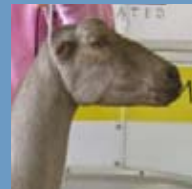
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Message from the Dean

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:

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Check out the college web site at: www.vetmed.ufl.edu

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Dean Glen Hoffsis

College plans strategically for growth, change

Our College of Veterinary Medicine is on the move! All of us are struggling to keep our businesses, organizations and personal lives maintained during this most persistent recession. At the college, we have hopefully weathered the worst of budget reductions and are looking ahead to avenues for progress. At times like this we must resist the temptation of pessimism and be prepared to take prudent risks as we explore new ventures, programs and services that can provide the pathway for growth. The college is in the process of developing a new strategic plan which will chart the course for the next few years. I would like to explore a few of our ideas with you.

The new small animal hospital is now within striking distance of becoming reality. The structure is now complete and the interior finishes are being completed and equipment will then be installed. The building is

on track to be completed on time and on budget and will open for business in early October 2010. Please watch for more information about the numerous events we are planning around the opening. The structure will be the signature for the veterinary campus and will serve generations of students, residents, clients, and referring veterinarians. Most important is the nature of the work that will take place in the new hospital, as well as the other veterinary buildings. The new UF Vice President for Health Affairs, Dr. David Guzick, has concluded that all the Health Science Center colleges should aspire to hold as their centerpiece value patient care and the community. In our case, we will also add the client and the referring veterinarian. We think this concept will serve us well as we begin a new day of quality service and care as we occupy the new hospital.

We will institute a veterinary student enrollment management strategy that promises to meet the needs of students and the state of Florida, as well as the financial needs of the college. We intend to make small incremental increases in our enrollment over the next several years to achieve these goals.

We are reaching out to the various communities and constituencies of Florida in a significant manner. The FARMS group has instituted a certificate program for students who have an interest in pursuing food supply veterinary medicine. This builds on our program designed to create a pathway for four such students to gain admission to the college each year. Now we are working with the state veterinarian and food animal constituents around the state to identify geographic areas of need which would qualify graduates to receive federal funds for debt forgiveness if they practice in those areas. We have strong Extension programs in dairy, beef, equine, poultry, and aquatics. Recently we were involved in rescuing numerous sea turtles suffering from cold stress during the recent cold wave that swept Florida. Our shelter medicine group was also instrumental in rescue efforts at a cat sanctuary in south Florida that fell on hard times. We offer continuing education to veterinarians and animal owners and provide assistance for a variety of emergencies around the state.

These are exciting times and I invite you to observe our progress. As always, thanks for your generous support and Go Gators!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glen Hoffsis
Dean

Longtime manatee biologist receives doctoral degree in December

By Sarah Carey

It may have taken federal research biologist Bob Bonde six years to finish his Ph.D., but as he puts it, he's never let his schooling interfere with his education.

"Much of the information utilized for my dissertation dates back to when I started working on manatees more than 30 years ago," said Bonde, who successfully defended his dissertation, which focused on population genetics of the manatee, in November at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. He received his degree December 18 during UF's graduate program commencement exercises.

Bonde has spent his entire professional career working with both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey, where he was assigned to work on population research for the manatee.

"I have always had an interest in genetics and understand the value as it relates to conservation of this endangered species," Bonde said. "My interests are broad, but my doctoral program focused only on the manatee genetics issues. I was able to juggle the other responsibilities of my job and still get the genetics program underway."

To date, the manatee genetics samples Bonde has amassed over the last 20 years have provided three other Ph.D. projects, one in the Department of Fisheries in 2000, one in the College of Medicine in 2007 and one in the College of Veterinary Medicine in 2008.

Currently Bonde's name is associated with some 65 scientific publications. In 2006, he co-authored a book, *The Florida Manatee: Biology and Conservation*, with Dr. Roger Reep, a professor of neuroscience in the CVM's department of physiological sciences. Bonde and Reep have a professional relationship going back more than 20 years.

"Perhaps more than any other single individual, Bob Bonde represents the face of the manatee community in Florida," Reep said. "Whether organizing medical assessments of wild manatees, being interviewed for television documentaries or doing his own trailblazing research on manatee genetics, Bob is thoughtful, kind and encouraging to young investigators."

Reep added that Bonde's genuine love of manatees and his dedication to promoting healthy interactions between humans and manatees are accompanied by an unwavering positive attitude that is "sweetly contagious."



Photo courtesy of Bob Bonde

Bob Bonde, right, and his wife, Cathy Beck, left, are shown in Belize with a healthy wild female manatee that had been captured for a health assessment and was subsequently released.

In turn, Bonde called Reep an enthusiastic scientist and said he had been fortunate to be able to work with Reep on the manatee book.

"It was a culmination of a lot of experience and information on the manatee," he said, adding that book profits are donated to a fund to reward and acknowledge students in the CVM graduate program.

The future should offer an opportunity to make further use of the material collected more recently, Bonde said.

"I suspect not much will change at my end," he said. "I love my job and the agency I work for and embrace being part of the planning for the future. In that future,

I hope that genetics will shed some light on the issues and provide us with better opportunities for the next generation of scientists."

He added that he very much wanted to remain a part of that process and to continue his affiliation with the CVM.

"I have never worked with a more pleasant person," Reep said. "It has been a revelation to watch Bob organize the manatee health assessment captures. He takes a group of 30 chilly people that have never worked together before, speaks gently to them about what to expect, leads by example and good humor," Reep said. "Amazingly, these events go off with no complaints I have ever heard."

Bonde's wife, Cathy Beck, has worked side by side with her husband for 32 years on the manatee project for USGS. Beck, a wildlife biologist, manages the Manatee Individual Photo Identification System, a computerized archive of sighting and life history data on individual manatees from throughout the southeastern United States.

"We are a team, and continue to work hand in hand on many issues," Bonde said. "That will not change, as our passions are much the same. Recently we have spent more time together working on international sirenian projects in Belize and Australia."

Dr. Ruth Francis-Floyd, who directs UF's Aquatic Animal Health program, said that having Bonde in the aquatic animal health graduate program has been "a total privilege."

"His participation gave our fledgling program instant credibility," she said. "He has led by example and we are so proud to have his good name associated with the University of Florida." 🌿

New study will examine use of gene modified stem cells to aid Dobermans with heart condition

By Sarah Carey



Dr. Amara Estrada

an assistant professor and chief of the UF Veterinary Medical Center's cardiology service.

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America has provided \$72,000 for Estrada's team to study up to 15 dogs with early stage dilated cardiomyopathy, known as DCM. A common disease of the heart muscle, DCM affects both dogs and people. Although people may benefit from aggressive therapy, such as heart transplants or ventricular-assist devices, medical therapy is the only current treatment option for dogs afflicted with the disease.

At best, however, such treatment only prolongs the inevitable.

"When a person gets this disease and their heart fails, they typically go on a list to receive a transplant," Estrada said. "But when our patients get it, they are done."

Procedures such as open heart surgery or ventricular assist devices would be cost-prohibitive for most animal owners, Estrada said.

"If this technique works, it would provide an affordable treatment option and one which never existed before," she said. "People wouldn't have to watch their dogs suffer."

Dobermans are afflicted with DCM more frequently than any other dog breed, and experience extremely high mortality rates. Most Dobermans with this condition die within six months.

"Other breeds of dogs with this condition do not have as rapid a course, but do eventually succumb due to refractory heart failure," Estrada said.

Judith Brown from the Doberman Pinscher Club said she heard Estrada's name mentioned by another researcher with an interest in DCM. Brown contacted Estrada right away.

"This disease is an enormous problem in our breed," she said. "We are all losing dogs because of it. We have been looking for some time for a viable study to donate funds, and which we could really believe in," Brown said. "I feel like if you are going to donate to anything, you might as well make a difference."

Brown said she had spoken to a lot of investigators, but was immediately impressed with Estrada.

"Our dogs are dropping dead in front of our faces," Brown said. "Dr. Estrada had the empathy and understanding of what we're dealing with. A lot of people don't seem to get it, but she did."

Preliminary data from Estrada's study will be used to apply for larger scale clinical trials for Dobermans with DCM, and also for possible exploration as a translational model for additional studies of the

Expanding earlier research, University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine cardiologists have begun a pilot study using adult stem cells to repair heart function in Doberman pinschers with a common heart condition.

Researchers hope to build on their results to further explore the technique in other breeds of dogs.

"Our goal would be to try to regenerate and bring new muscle cells into the heart," said Amara Estrada, D.V.M., an



Shown is Spirit Witt, a healthy Doberman Pinscher who visits the UF cardiology service every year for health screenings.

disease in people, Estrada said. Over the past one and a half years, Estrada and her colleagues at the Powell Gene Therapy Center at UF have removed stem cells from rats and mice, modified them, and returned them to the animals to repair damaged heart tissue.

"The major advantage of this cell type is their ability to avoid the immune system, therefore allowing them to engraft in the heart and survive without rejection," Estrada said.

Transplantation of these stem cells has emerged as a safe and effective means to repair left ventricular pump function in experimental animal and human patients with chronically infarcted or ischemic hearts, researchers said.

The cells are cultured and maintained in the laboratories of Barry Byrne, M.D., Ph.D. and Thomas Conlon, Ph.D., at the Powell Gene Therapy Center.

"This technique follows the latest trend in gene therapy with combination of stem cells as a platform for expressing therapeutic proteins," Conlon said. "We are really encouraged by the previous studies and excited to be a part of Dr. Estrada's research as not only a potential treatment in canines, but it could be potentially therapeutic in people too."

Dogs participating in the study will be anesthetized and cells will be injected via catheter into the coronary sinus — essentially a channel through which blood flows into the heart. Follow-up examinations will take place at one month, six months, 12 months and 18 months.

To identify registered Dobermans appropriate for the study, Estrada will be arranging several screening clinics at dog shows and other venues during the next few months. To meet the criteria, dogs must be asymptomatic but will show evidence of cardiac dysfunction as the result of various screening tests.

For more information about the study, contact Estrada via email at estradaa@vetmed.ufl.edu or through UF's small animal hospital at (352) 392-2235. 🐾

UF veterinary cardiologist named one of country's best vets

By Sarah Carey

Amara Estrada, D.V.M., an assistant professor of cardiology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, is the Southeast Regional winner of the nationwide "Thank Your Vet for a Healthy Pet" contest.

Sponsored by Morris Animal Foundation, Hills Pet Nutrition, Inc., and BowTie, Inc., the essay-based contest allows clients to honor outstanding veterinarians for their dedication to helping animals and strengthening the human-animal bond.

Nominating Estrada for the award was Gary Anthon of South Jordan, Utah. Anthon and his family members wrote about how their dog, Scooby, came to be a participant in Estrada's pacemaker study. The Anthon's learned in early 2007 that Scooby, a black Lab, had a heart condition known as third-degree heart block. The family was told Scooby needed a pacemaker and that without one, he would die within weeks.

"We were devastated," Anthon said. "We didn't even think they put pacemakers in dogs."

The Anthon's came across Estrada's name and contacted her immediately after learning about her Morris Animal Foundation-sponsored study.

"She wrote back immediately, but there was an obvious problem. She was in Florida and we were 2000 miles away," Anthon said. "All the other dogs in the study were local, but she was willing to try."

Despite many challenges, Scooby was enrolled in the program. Estrada, along with volunteers at UF, even provided housing for Scooby for three months so the Anthon's would not have to travel as much with Scooby back and forth from Utah.

When he returned home for good in June of 2007, Anthon said Scooby was full of health and energy and acting like his normal self. Thanks to Estrada, a devastating experience turned into a great experience, he said.

"Dr. Estrada saved our dog's life," Anthon said. "We now consider Amara our friend and we could never repay her for what she has done for us. We know she is deserving of this award, not just for what she did for Scooby, but for what she does every day. She is our hero."

Sadly, Scooby passed away due to unrelated causes in September 2009. Still, the Anthon's said they would always be grateful to Estrada for prolonging the time they had left with their beloved dog.



Photo by Sarah Carey

Dr. Amara Estrada, right, with Gary Anthon and his dog, Scooby, in 2007 during one of Scooby's first visits to UF.

"It's a great honor to be recognized with this award, and it makes me realize that my passion for veterinary medicine, in particular veterinary cardiology, is recognized and appreciated by my clients," said Estrada, who also serves as chief of the UF Veterinary Medical Center's cardiology service.

Hundreds of pet owners throughout the country submitted nominations, and stories about the award winners already have appeared in Dog Fancy, Cat Fancy and Veterinary Practice news, all of which are owned by one of the contest sponsors, Bowtie, Inc.

A complete list of nominees and the winners' profiles are posted at www.thankyourvet.org. 🐾

■ 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.

Harvey receives prestigious Morris Award



Photo by Tom Gregory

Dr. John Harvey, right, is shown with Dr. Daniel Aja, director of professional affairs, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc., and Paul Raybould, executive vice president, Morris Animal Foundation, during the award presentation held Jan. 16 at NAVC.

John W. Harvey, D.V.M., Ph.D., executive associate dean at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received the 2010 Mark L. Morris, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifetime contributions to the field of comparative hematology.

The award is given annually by Hills Pet Food, Inc. to a veterinarian who has made significant contributions to the welfare of companion animals through a lifetime of professional work. Harvey received the award Jan. 16 during the opening ceremony of the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando.

In recognition of Harvey's lifetime of service, Hill's will donate \$20,000 to Morris Animal Foundation in his name.

"This year we had many outstanding nominees for this prestigious award," said Daniel Aja, D.V.M., director of professional affairs at Hill's. "Dr. Harvey is a highly dedicated and world renowned educator, and his accomplishments make him very deserving of this Lifetime Achievement Award."

A board-certified veterinary clinical pathologist, Harvey has been a member of UF's veterinary college faculty since 1974. His scholastic accomplishments include the publication of 113 refereed papers – many describing syndromes not previously recognized -- in both veterinary and human medicine; three books; 46 book chapters; 56 proceedings papers; 65 abstracts and 31 research grants. He is an accomplished lecturer both nationally and internationally, having participated in more than 250 major seminar engagements throughout the world.

Harvey has held numerous leadership roles, serving as president and board member of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology and as president and treasurer of the International Society for Animal Clinical Pathology. He has 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.

Among Harvey's previous awards are the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award, the American Association of Feline Practitioners Research Award and the Alumni Recognition Award from Kansas State University. In 2007, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

Veterinary graduate receives UF Distinguished Alumnus Award



Dr. Dale Kaplan-Stein is shown with her horse, Sage.

Dale Kaplan-Stein, D.V.M., a 1981 graduate of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received a UF Distinguished Alumnus Award, becoming the first veterinary college graduate to be so honored by her alma mater.

Kaplan-Stein, who also received her undergraduate degree in animal sciences from UF in 1976, owns Oaks Veterinary Hospital and Northwood Oaks Veterinary Hospital, both located in Gainesville. She also helped establish Affiliated Pet Emergency Services in Gainesville in 1988. For more than 20 years, Kaplan-Stein worked tirelessly as a volunteer

for Gainesville Pet Rescue, Alachua County Animal Services and No More Homeless Pets, among other groups. In 2007, she founded the St. Francis House Pet Care Clinic, through which she has helped provide veterinary care to more than 600 dogs and cats belonging to homeless and disadvantaged people from the Alachua County area.

UF veterinary students have also benefited from the St. Francis House clinic, as students on their shelter medicine rotation visit the clinic weekly to participate as part of their training. The experience provides an opportunity for community outreach as well as additional clinical training.

Kaplan-Stein's commitment to UF veterinary college life and programs through service and generous philanthropic gifts resulted in her receiving the college's 2009 Alumni Achievement Award. The college subsequently nominated her for the universitywide award.

UF President Bernie Machen said the award was being given in recognition of the honor and prestige Kaplan-Stein had brought her alma mater through her accomplishments and service. He called her "an excellent example of what our students should strive to become as they step off campus and into the world as graduates."

She received her award Dec. 18 during UF commencement ceremonies.

Emeritus professor honored by pathology group

Claus Buergelt, D.M.V., Ph.D., an emeritus professor of pathology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received the C.L. Davis Foundation's Olafson Medal for his contributions to veterinary pathology.



Dr. Claus Buergelt

Buergelt joined UF's faculty in 1978. His primary research focus while in academia was bovine paratuberculosis, resulting in 33 publications on the topic and two patent applications.

"My career highlight was the training of 55 residents in anatomic pathology, with the vast majority going on to become board certified," Buergelt said.

The foundation, which supports the advancement of veterinary and comparative pathology, awards the medal each year to an esteemed member of the profession who embodies the ideals of the late Cornell pathologist Peter J. Olafson – specifically excellence in service, teaching and research.

Buergelt received the award in December during the foundation's annual meeting in Monterey, Calif.

In addition to the Olafson medal, Buergelt was honored in August by the International Association for Paratuberculosis, which presented him with its Outstanding Service award.

Milner named associate SAH chief of staff

Rowan J. Milner, B.V.Sc., an associate professor of oncology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, recently was appointed associate chief of staff of UF's small animal hospital.



Rowan Milner

Milner, who is dually board certified in small animal internal medicine and in oncology, will be in charge of the hospital's day to day operations. He replaced Michael Schaer, D.V.M., in the position when Schaer became special assistant to the dean.

A 1980 graduate of the University of Pretoria's veterinary college, Milner spent two years as a military veterinarian and practiced general medicine for 10 years. He returned to the University of Pretoria in South Africa in 1993, where he became a tenured associate professor specializing in small animal medicine. He then studied the application of radionuclides for the treatment of bone cancer and received his master's degree in medicine from the University of Pretoria in 1997.

Milner joined UF's veterinary faculty in 2001 to develop the oncology program and helped create a separate oncology service in 2005. A medical/radiation oncologist and a surgical oncologist soon joined the group, which remains one of the hospital's busiest services.

He was associate chairman of the department of small animal clinical sciences in 2008 and was oncology service chief until assuming his new position in July.

Milner's research interest is in the field of melanoma vaccines and target radiotherapy of sarcomas. He developed a vaccine for canine melanoma which is currently undergoing clinical trials.

Translational research grant awarded to UF veterinarian

Ramiro Isaza, D.V.M., an associate professor of small animal clinical sciences at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has been selected as one of six UF faculty members to receive KL2 Scholarships through UF's Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Isaza, who currently is chief of the zoological medicine service, is the only veterinarian in UF's first group of KL2 designees. The KL2 program provides training and professional development as well as salary, research and tuition support for a minimum of two years to faculty members who are pursuing a graduate-level degree in a multidisciplinary area of clinical research.

Scholars receive an appreciation of diverse clinical research disciplines, an understanding of methodological and analytic concepts necessary to design rigorous clinical research and an opportunity to apply their knowledge through a mentored research experience that leads to future grant proposals.

The program is part of the much broader CTSI, which was established at UF in 2008 as the university developed its programs before receiving a highly competitive and very prestigious Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Institutes of Health in July 2009.

"Translational medicine as we think of it within the veterinary field is primarily basic research and how we can apply it to animals," said Isaza. "But this program seeks ways of applying our veterinary knowledge to human health. So I've chosen to pursue a master's degree in public health and focus my training

Photo by Sarah Kiewel



Dr. Ramiro Isaza is shown preparing to perform a routine physical examination on a female Asian elephant. Elephants are one of many species seen by UF's zoological medicine service and an example of potential subjects for Isaza's future studies in public health.

and interest on how non-domestic species can cause disease in people."

Isaza said he also will focus on the occupational risks faced by people such as zookeepers, wildlife professionals and even pet owners who work with non-domestic species.

"I'm pretty well versed in the diseases these animals have, but I want to communicate effectively with the human health professionals about how these animal diseases can impact human health," he said, adding that he felt honored to receive the grant because it afforded him a unique opportunity to cross-train his veterinary students.

"The concept of one health, one medicine is only as good as how well faculty are able to teach the students," he said. "Ultimately I want to teach the students the importance of an MPH degree and how to communicate with human health professionals as well as with clients. This scholarship gives me the opportunity to bridge that gap."

Marian Limacher, M.D., heads up the CTSI's training and professional development program, which includes the KL2 scholarships.

"We're excited about that quality and potential of our first KL2 awardees," Limacher said. "These young professionals have the opportunity to forge new collaborations and develop new insights into research that will improve the health of the population."

Denslow receives UF research professorship

Nancy Denslow, Ph.D., a professor of toxicology at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine, has received a UF Research Foundation professorship.

Sponsored by the university's Division of Sponsored Research, the professorships are awarded to tenured faculty campuswide for distinguished research and scholarship. The honor includes a \$5,000 salary increase each year for three years and a one-time \$3,000 award for research support.



Dr. Nancy Denslow

Denslow's research interests include the identification of molecular biomarkers for evaluating adverse effects in fish exposed to environmental contaminants. Denslow has been a pioneer in developing and applying these techniques to the area of environmental toxicology.

Specifically, she is interested in defining the molecular mechanisms of endocrine-disrupting compounds that adversely affect reproduction. Her research covers species that include largemouth bass, fathead minnow, sheepshead minnow, zebrafish and marine organisms such as queen conch and coral. From field studies conducted in central Florida lakes, Denslow and her team developed a largemouth bass model to chart normal reproductive parameters for both males and females and to identify how organochlorine pesticides and other endocrine-disrupting compounds alter reproduction. Using next-generation sequencing technologies, she has obtained more than 16,000 gene sequences for these species that were used to create microarrays and a database for proteomics experiments. The microarrays have been useful to find molecular pathways of toxicity for contaminant exposure. Using zebrafish microarray analysis as a tool, she has also worked to better understand the effect of nanomaterials on fish health, specifically the molecular level changes that occur upon exposure.

Denslow's work has been supported by major extramural grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Science Foundation. In addition, she contributed to the creation of two UF spin-off companies, EcoArray and Banyan Biomarkers Inc. She has developed commercial products including several monoclonal antibodies that are specific to the presence of egg yolk protein in the blood of fish after exposure to estrogen or estrogen-like products. These antibodies were licensed and are now commercial products.

In 2007, Denslow received the veterinary college's Pfizer Award for Research Excellence for her discoveries.

A member of UF's veterinary college faculty since 2004, Denslow previously served for 15 years as director of UF's Protein Chemistry and Molecular Biomarkers Core Facility in ICBR. She is currently an associate editor for Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety. She serves as a junior councilor in the Molecular Biology Specialty Section for the Society of Toxicology and previously served on the executive board of the Association for Biomolecular Research Facilities. She is also a member of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

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around the eyes, threatening the animals' vision and their ability to find food.

Stacy, a board-certified anatomical pathologist, received his Ph.D. from the UF College of Veterinary Medicine in 2008. During the sea turtle stranding event, he was instrumental in working with state and federal wildlife agencies to coordinate rescue efforts all over Florida. He was involved in initial health assessments, triage, treatment and release efforts, helping to determine which turtles needed further care at rehabilitation facilities.

"Some of the turtles were actually responsive between 12-24 hours and could be released," Stacy said. "We were identifying those with buoyancy issues, severe tumors, turtles with eye problems or that showed other types of trauma. We were also concerned about turtles that were very thin, since those would need to be kept for longer."

Other members of the Aquatic Animal Health team assisted in various ways. Drs. Mike Walsh and Jim Wellehan managed the clinical treatment of turtles coming into UF, with help from zoo medicine resident Dr. Natalie Hall, aquatic animal health resident Dr. Jenny Meegan, aquatic animal health instructor Dr. Nicole Stacy, veterinary technician Jennifer Muller, biological scientists Linda Archer and Heather Daniel and many other veterinary student and staff volunteers. Biological scientist Mike Sapper, who works in the anatomy laboratory, helped set up tubs and pools in advance of the turtles'

arrival. Aquatic Animal Health Program Director Ruth Francis-Floyd helped with water quality management and other logistical aspects that were coordinated and put into place within a day, and with very little notice.

"Most of the turtles we got, we were able to save, but some we lost," Stacy said. "Most were subsequently released and two were held back for removal of fibropapillomas. One of those turtles has been discharged to a rehabilitation facility and another is still being held for possible surgery."

Stacy said the weeklong rescue effort was challenging for many who volunteered to help out, but that overall he felt the response was "incredibly positive."

"We were able to get large numbers of turtles back into the wild in an appropriate manner," he said. "This was an unprecedented situation. We had twice as many strandings as we deal with in a given year, and over a period of 10 days."

It is unclear what the extent of the overall effect of the recent freezes on sea turtle populations will be, Stacy said.

"Green sea turtle nesting has risen in recent years, but this event was a concern especially because it involved so many larger turtles. It takes an animal an estimated 20-30 years or longer to become sexually mature, so when that demographic is affected, it's a concern," he said. 🐢

Personal experience leads native Floridian to support UF's small animal rehabilitation efforts

By Sarah Carey



Photo by Sarah Carey

Victoria Ford and her prize-winning poodle, Tasse, are shown outside UF's small animal hospital in November. Tasse had just completed a session in the Rehabilitation and Fitness Center's underwater treadmill.

As a longtime owner of competitive agility dogs, native Floridian Victoria Ford saw first-hand how frequently sports injuries can affect animal athletes.

"After competing in agility for 12 years, I observed all the injured dogs going to South Carolina for treatment and wondered why the UF veterinary school was not their choice," Ford said. "I learned that UF had no such facility, and that agility dogs needed special treatment."

A past treasurer of the Pals & Paws agility group in Jacksonville, Ford began talking with Dr. Janine Tash, owner of Aalatah Veterinary Hospital in Gainesville and a UF CVM alumna from the class of 1983. Tash and Ford, both agility dog aficionados, expanded their discussions to involve UF administrators.

"I learned that not only did agility dogs have rehabilitation needs, so did other canine athletes as well as surgical and neurological patients," Ford said.

Soon after, Ford made a \$60,000 gift to help purchase an underwater treadmill for the college's new Small Animal Rehabilitation and Fitness Center. During the new Small Animal Hospital's fund raising campaign, she made a significant donation toward construction of the Rehabilitation and Fitness Center. Subsequently, she decided to increase her level of support through the establishment of the James Edmundson Ingraham Endowed Fund in Veterinary Medicine. This additional gift was made in memory of her great-grandfather, a businessman, entrepreneur, railroad executive and mayor of St. Augustine, whom Ford describes as a "moving force in the development of the state of Florida from the 1880s through the early 1900s."

Just one year after a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to mark the treadmill's installation, Ford is excited to see the new rehabilitation center gaining in caseload and in capability.

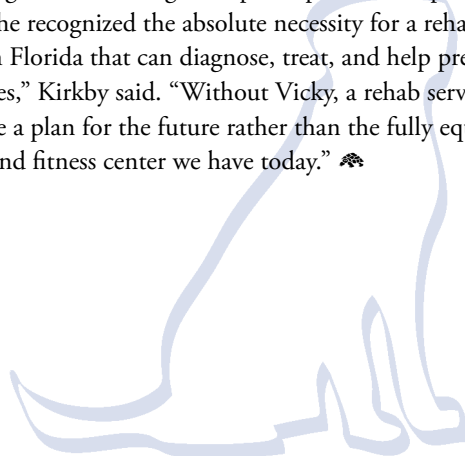
"It was most heartwarming to be in the Small Animal Hospital waiting room with my miniature poodle, and overhear a patient talking about her dog's surgery and recovery," Ford said. "The owner was telling someone how wonderful the underwater treadmill and rehabilitation area had been for her dog's recuperation after surgery. She felt her dog had recuperated more quickly with the assistance of the rehabilitation center."

Ford added that a Jacksonville agility friend's dog had been paralyzed and now is doing very well, thanks to treatment through the UF rehabilitation and fitness center.

"I believe when you are blessed, you should use that blessing wisely and not selfishly," Ford said. "I try to live knowing that I will be accountable to my maker on judgment day for my actions and non-actions. By seeing the need and stepping up to the plate, I feel I am not only helping the animals but also the expansion of medical knowledge, specifically the blending of standard medical treatments with alternative treatments."

Dr. Kristin Kirkby, a board-certified veterinary surgeon who directs the small animal rehabilitation program, said Ford had a passion for agility as well as a commitment to the health and fitness of her dogs and other dogs that participate in the sport.

"She recognized the absolute necessity for a rehabilitation center in North Florida that can diagnose, treat, and help prevent agility-related injuries," Kirkby said. "Without Vicky, a rehab service at UF would still be a plan for the future rather than the fully equipped rehabilitation and fitness center we have today." 🐾



Dairy goat back to show form after successful surgery at UF

Dairy goats have been a hobby for University of Florida chemist and program assistant Kelley Hines since she was 15 years old and began raising them for a 4-H club project.

“What started as a club project has now turned into a full-time show and hobby herd,” she said.

Since 2000, she has been breeding purebred Lamancha dairy goats under the “Here Be Goats” herd name. All of her goats are registered with the American Dairy Goat Association, and her small herd has participated in two national shows as well as being shown throughout Florida and Georgia.

But Martini, a 2005 Christmas-baby goat, was never just one of the crowd. She had been born as the result of an artificial insemination breeding that made use of rare, proven semen, along with her triplet sister and brother.

“From the minute she was born, I knew she was special,” Hines said. “Her mother was my winningest champion doe, so to have an AI kid out of her like Martini was more than we could have ever hoped for.”

Her beloved goat was also a show-stopper from an early age, earning her first championship at the age of three months. Hines said.

Last June however, Martini developed a hernia due to complications from a pelvic fracture and abdominal wall injury that occurred in a fight with another doe. A hernia occurs when the body wall musculature under the skin tears or doesn’t heal together properly following injury or surgery, allowing organs to drop through the hole, forming a pocket.

By August, Martini’s condition had worsened and Hines’s veterinarian, Dr. Mara Ricci of New Tampa Animal Hospital, referred her to UF’s Veterinary Medical Center.

“In Martini’s case, her rumen was pushing through the hole in her body wall,” Hines said. “There were now only two options, to euthanize her or to proceed with surgery.”

In goats, hernia surgery is risky due to the size and weight of the rumen.

“In order to successfully repair a hernia the size of Martini’s, you can’t just stitch up the opening,” Hines said. “A polypropylene mesh that is used in humans has to be involved, and the price of the mesh alone is \$500.”



Kelley Hines and her prize-winning goat, Martini.

Photo courtesy of Warren Nielson

But Hines’s love and respect for Martini was such that there was only one option for her, and that was to proceed with the surgery.

“She had an abscess on the ventral abdomen that was drained successfully at the VMC and again at home later,” said Orlaith Cleary, D.V.M., a clinical instructor in large animal surgery at UF who participated in Martini’s hernia repair, along with Ali Morton, D.V.M., assistant professor of large animal surgery, and Jeremiah Easley, D.V.M., a large animal surgery resident.

“Once the abscess healed, she started to develop a body wall hernia that was quite large. We successfully repaired the hernia with polypropylene mesh and now she has her girlish figure back.”

In addition, Martini is completely back in show form and in the early stages of pregnancy. In October, Hines took her to the St. Johns Fair Open Dairy Goat Show, where she was named champion over 15 other Lamancha does.

“She then exceeded our hopes by also winning Best of Breed over three additional animals that were already permanent champions,” Hines said. “This was the third and final win Martini needed to make her a permanent champion and she is also our first homebred champion Lamancha. She is a true inspiration for me and for everyone around her.”

UF’s Morton said the surgery could not have been successful without the commitment to care that Hines provided throughout Martini’s convalescence.

“Hernia repairs can often have complications, so proper preoperative preparation and diligent postoperative care are essential,” Morton said. “There was no question that Kelley would follow every recommendation to the ‘t.’ She was an ideal client – friendly, inquisitive and committed to caring for Martini.”

Since Martini’s surgery was successful, Hines hope to continue to breed her while continuing to use her as a regular show and milking doe.

“While I do raise these animals for show and milk, they are also very much a part of my family and I love them each as individuals,” Hines said. “Martini is one of those once-in-a-lifetime goats and I cherish every day I get to spend with her.”

Added Morton, “We are thrilled at the outcome of the surgery and Martini’s subsequent successes, and can’t wait to see her kids!” 🐐

CVM Homecoming, 2009



Photo by Sarah Carey

Omi Risco, Dr. Carlos Risco, '80, Dr. Claudia Valderrama, '95 and Dr. Chris Sanchez, '95, were among the guests at Florida Gym Nov. 7 for the CVM's homecoming event.

The college celebrated 2009 Homecoming activities Nov. 7 at Florida Gym. The new venue drew alumni, faculty, staff and friends together for an evening of barbecue and fun before the Florida Gators trounced the Vanderbilt Commodores, 27-3.



Photo by Sarah Carey

Dr. Ken Braun, professor emeritus of food animal medicine and former chairman of the department of large animal clinical sciences, and his wife, Liz, were on hand to visit with old friends.



Photo by Sarah Carey

Members of the class of 2010 were on hand to sell their wares. From left to right are Marcy Sumling, Nicole Patterson and Charli Jane Walrond.



Photo by Sarah Carey

Dr. Julie Runnfeltdt, '93, Dr. Raquel McGraw Fox, '93, and Dr. Joel Mitchell Navratik, '93, enjoyed catching up before heading to the game.



Photo by Sarah Carey

Dr. Paul Nicoletti, professor emeritus of infectious diseases, and Dr. Sue Anderson, '83, had a good opportunity to visit during the pre-game meal.

Calendar ■

2010

April 10

The Class of 1985 holds its 25th Anniversary Celebration during UF's Silver Society Weekend. Contact Jo Ann Winn at winnj@vetmed.ufl.edu for details.

May 6

The professional coating ceremony for the Class of 2010 will be held at UF's Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. For more information, contact Jo Ann Winn at winnj@vetmed.ufl.edu.

May 29

Commencement exercises for the Class of 2010 will be held at 2 p.m. at UF's Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

June 26

The college will hold its annual Referring Veterinarian Appreciation Day at the UF Hilton. For more information, go to: <http://conferences.dce.ufl.edu/rdvm/>

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Photo by Sarah Klewe!

Dr. Copper Aitken-Palmer, a second-year zoological medicine resident at the University of Florida's Veterinary Medical Center, holds an 8-month-old giraffe named Geoffrey on Nov. 5 while veterinary technician Sarah Purcell, right, feeds him a bottle. Geoffrey, owned by the Barton G. Company of Miami, has recuperated successfully from arthroscopic surgery performed on his right front fetlock.