

Florida Veterinarian

ADVANCING ANIMAL, HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

FALL 2013



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

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Message from the Dean



Dean James W. Lloyd

Greetings from Gainesville!

I'm honored to have been appointed as the new dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine here at the University of Florida, where I've joined a world-class institution with outstanding faculty, staff, students and alumni. UF CVM has both strong traditions and outstanding reputations in service, teaching, and research, and I look forward to serving in my new leadership role.

As I embark on my tenure as dean, UF President Bernie Machen, the governor, and the Florida Legislature have provided the initial context for our collective journey: Together they envision UF as a top 10 public research university nationally, and the pre-eminent institution in the state of Florida.

What can we do here at the college to help UF achieve this pre-eminence vision? The answer is pretty straightforward: We need to be the best at what we do best.

- **Service:** Outstanding clinical programs exist at UF CVM, stemming from a teaching hospital that is literally second to none in the world, and a clinical faculty and staff of the same caliber. For UF to achieve top 10 status, we need to recognize and maintain these strengths and build our future on that solid foundation.
- **Teaching:** Although we consistently graduate top quality veterinarians, curricular review is needed to maintain and enhance that quality. The review process also will provide a key piece of preparation for our upcoming accreditation site visit, which will take place late in 2015. Using both the National Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (NAVMEC) report and our own assessment of the changing landscape in the veterinary medical profession as our context, we'll seek to build our top 10 reputation as an educational institution on the quality of our graduates.
- **Research:** To truly be pre-eminent, UF CVM will need to boast a strong blend of basic (biomedical sciences) and translational (applied/clinical) research to complement its strong teaching and clinical service programs. The core of this program exists in the college, but we'll be working to strengthen our externally funded research through new and innovative collaborations with the UF Health Science Center and the UF Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS).

So, we have lots to do. To get started, I look forward to working together with faculty, staff, students, alumni and other stakeholders this fall to identify our strategic priorities and to develop initial action plans around the top issues.

Pre-eminence won't be achieved or sustained in isolation. As a leading institution, we will need to be actively engaged with our stakeholders to communicate even better what we do here at the college and to develop a clear understanding of our stakeholders' needs.

We hold a deep and long-term commitment to improving animal, human and environmental health, and all of you have a stake in our future in some way. As we move forward together, I welcome the opportunity to work with you toward achieving our shared vision of unquestionable preeminence.



Dean James W. Lloyd

About the Cover



Photo by Maria Farias

The college's sixth dean, Dr. James W. Lloyd, is shown at UF's Beef Teaching Unit on July 18. To read the original story about Dean Lloyd's appointment, which appeared the June 2013 issue of The POST, see story page 4.

UF CVM faculty, staff and students joined administrators from all over campus to officially welcome Dean James W. Lloyd to the college and his new job at a reception held Aug. 22 at the UF Small Animal Hospital. Dr. David Guzik, senior vice president for health affairs and president, UF Health, greeted everyone and introduced Dean Lloyd, who shared how glad he is to be here.



Dr. Carlos Romero, a research professor in the department of infectious diseases and pathology, with Dean James W. Lloyd and veterinary student Michele Janicki. Janicki was Lloyd's student during his tenure at Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, which is where he worked prior to coming to UF.



A gathering of old friends: Retired UF CVM professors Dr. Elliott Jacobson, Dr. Gail Kunkle and Dr. Michael Schaer catch up on old times. All three former faculty members previously were members of the department of small animal clinical sciences.



Dr. Jack Payne, senior vice president of agricultural affairs/ Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, and Dr. John Harvey, the college's executive associate dean, visit during the event.

Photos by Sarah Carey

Florida Veterinarian

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Dr. James W. Lloyd is college's new dean

GROWING UP IN NORTHERN LOWER MICHIGAN, JAMES LLOYD, D.V.M., PH.D., WAS PART OF A COMMUNITY THAT DEPENDED ON LIVESTOCK TO MAKE A LIVING. Friends, family and neighbors ran small farms, and although his own family didn't raise farm animals as a primary source of income, they owned horses and cattle in addition to pets of various shapes and sizes. So when it was time for college, he says it made perfect sense to combine a fondness for those animals with a strong interest in science and medicine.

Lloyd earned his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Michigan State University in 1981 and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from MSU in 1989 — a “highly unusual” combined degree born from the realization that veterinary medicine is almost always practiced in a business environment.

“Veterinary practices are often small, family-run businesses very similar to the farms that also house our livestock,” Lloyd said. “There's a nice complement there. Studying agribusiness management helped me understand the small business environment where our veterinarians live and practice.”

In July, Lloyd began his role as dean of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, replacing Glen Hoffsis, D.V.M.

Lloyd most recently served as the associate dean for budget, planning and institutional research at MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine.



“The UF College of Veterinary Medicine has a very strong reputation across veterinary medicine. I'm really looking forward to working with its outstanding faculty, staff and students and building on the college's core strengths in teaching, research and service.”

— Dr. James W. Lloyd

Lloyd says he's looking forward to collaborating with the Health Science Center and UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, engaging with practitioners in the Florida Veterinary Medical Association and working closely with Florida's diverse animal-owning public — including pet owners, horse owners and the livestock industries.

“The UF College of Veterinary Medicine has a very strong reputation across veterinary medicine,” Lloyd said.

“I'm really looking forward to working with its outstanding faculty,

staff and students and building on the college's core strengths in teaching, research and service.”

By Marilee Griffin

Kemba Marshall: UF veterinary alum oversees pet quality, education at PetSmart

A BIT OF HER UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA VETERINARY EDUCATION MAKES ITS WAY INTO KEMBA MARSHALL, D.V.M.'S LIFE EVERY DAY WHEN SHE MAKES DECISIONS RELATING TO THE QUALITY OF PETS SOLD AT PETSMART, ONE OF THE LARGEST SPECIALTY PET RETAILERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

"My education at the UF CVM was key, because not only do we have a really strong exotic animal medicine program, which led me to become an ABVP board-certified avian specialist, but I also tracked mixed practice in vet school," said Marshall, '99, PetSmart's director of merchandising pet quality and education.

"The foundation I received from amazing professors like Dr. Avery Bennett (formerly on the faculty in zoological medicine) and Dr. (Louis) Archbald (retired from food animal medicine) is in place daily, because I use a flock or herd health approach to managing the pet care in our stores," Marshall added.

Marshall is responsible for the quality of the pets sold at PetSmart, which include specialty pets such as fish, reptiles, pocket pets and birds. Those are the only types of pets sold at PetSmart, although through its PetSmart Charities work, dog and cat rescue groups are allowed to run adoptions through the stores.

Monitoring quality encompasses what is asked of vendors before pets get to the store and then what is done in-store in terms of food, bedding and enrichment for the animals, Marshall said. She also works closely with the store's marketing division to develop the in-store signage and care guides provided with the purchase of each live pet.

"These items ensure that the purchase is complete as it relates to care items, such as cricket dust, cuttlebones, reptile heating or lighting elements and appropriately sized habitats," she said.

She also works to increase interest in the hobby of owning specialty pets, through programs such as Pets in the Classroom, (www.petsmart.com/teachers) in partnership with the Pet Care Trust. Through this program, teachers can apply for a grant and once approved, get reimbursed for pet care items when that pet is going into a classroom. To date, PetSmart has awarded more than 6,500 grants, giving more than 3,000 children experiences with pets in the classroom.

"We have initial grants to reimburse for habitats, cages, food and water bowls, etc., and also sustaining grants for annual food, supplement and enrichment purchases," Marshall said.

Marshall's responsibility includes more than 1,240 stores. Because of that, it's impossible to design specific pet care programs for each store, she said. Instead, she focuses on facility and care practices that are implemented storewide in the United States, including Puerto Rico and Hawaii, as well as in Canada.



Dr. Kemba Marshall, '99, with her dog, Stone. Marshall is the director of merchandising pet quality and education at PetSmart.

"Our live animal suppliers are audited on an annual basis, so even though I don't see patients and clients in a typical veterinary clinic setting, I get great satisfaction from advancing the profession on a very wide platform," Marshall said. "As one of the leading specialty pet retailers, improvements we make in pet care are often put in place by our vendors and other pet stores as industry norms."

She finds her work rewarding because each time her organization implements deworming programs, fecal exams, nutritional and habitat recommendations, she has affected each pet sold through the store.

"By writing care guides, I hope my impact is that pet owners understand the joys and responsibilities of owning specialty pets and that they, too, require routine veterinary visits," Marshall said.

In addition to leading the merchandising pet quality and education team at PetSmart, she tries to maintain a presence in the veterinary community by editing or authoring papers.

"I hope to continue to advance the way we care for pets and the information that we give to pet owners," Marshall said. "I hope that enrichment and foraging become household terms applied to all pet species."

By Sarah Carey

UF: Monitoring manatee hearts

LEISURELY SWIMS IN WARM, TROPICAL WATERS FUELED BY THE GAZE OF ADMIRING FANS AND A HEALTHY VEGETARIAN DIET.

The life of a manatee hardly seems likely to prompt concerns about heart disease. But researchers at the University of Florida say the lumbering, loveable sea cow's ticker deserves a closer look because of the animal's endangered status.

That's why they've developed a technique to test for cardiac problems in endangered manatees, both in the wild and in captivity. The new technique will enhance knowledge of how the manatee heart functions.

The UF researchers are using the technique to gather data they hope to share with wildlife and zoo veterinarians to ultimately save more manatee lives. Collaborating with scientists from Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's marine mammal pathology laboratory in St. Petersburg, they are using echocardiography on the large creatures, making use of a specially designed table built to hold animals weighing up to 2,000 pounds.

"There are a lot of gaps in our knowledge base on basic anatomy and physiology of manatees due to the obvious limitations of working with a 1,000- to 1,500-pound animal that spends its entire life in the water," said Trevor Gerlach D.V.M., an intern in UF's aquatic animal health program and lead author on a paper that documents the first phase of the researchers' study in the June issue of the *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine*. "Due to their current endangered status, it is important that we understand the animal in its entirety so that we can better tailor conservation efforts for the species."

The researchers' long-term goal is to provide practitioners at rehabilitation facilities and those working in the field with data from clinically healthy animals. Such animals could be compared to animals of concern to determine if cardiac disease is present.

To allow for effective testing, the researchers first developed a table built to hold the weight of 2,000-pound animals that were part of a large-scale manatee health assessment conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey in Crystal River. Fourteen healthy, wild and captive Florida manatees underwent echocardiography, administered using the table technique, between fall 2011 and winter 2012. The group included eight females and six males of various ages.

"We were able to clearly visualize all valves and chambers," Gerlach said, adding that other key indicators of heart function

also were successfully obtained. Some abnormalities in the study animals also were documented.

"Our results indicate that echocardiography in the Florida manatee is possible, which has both clinical and research implications in larger epidemiologic studies evaluating diseases of the cardiopulmonary and cardiovascular systems," Gerlach said.

Although extensive research has been conducted on comparative anatomy, physiology and ecology of sea cows, very few studies have evaluated the manatee heart. Basic cardiac morphology and a test called an electrocardiogram have been examined, but the diagnostic value is limited to electrical imbalances in the heart, the researchers said.

"Echocardiography is the gold standard for diagnosing valve diseases and structural abnormalities, and provides other information as well," Gerlach said.

Researchers are finishing up the second phase of the study, which entails collecting more data from echocardiographs to establish normal testing parameters for manatees of various ages.

"Once we establish the parameters, we can begin larger epidemiological studies on the prevalence of heart disease in the wild population, which is one of our long-term goals," Gerlach said.

Bob Bonde, Ph.D., a manatee researcher with the USGS, praised the new technique.

"Out-of-water, real-time assessment of these large aquatic mammals will benefit our evaluation of manatee health-related indices in the wild population," "Knowledge of manatee reproductive fitness and nutritional condition is paramount to our fully understanding their recovery."

By Sarah Carey

Photo courtesy of Lowry Park Zoo





Financial guru Suze Orman, left, is shown with her niece, Katelyn Stender, and Dean Hoffsis on May 26 during commencement exercises for the Class of 2013.

Orman to graduates: Save now and focus on needs over wants

MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE'S CLASS OF 2013 GRADUATED IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT, with media present and hundreds tuning in via live stream video to hear celebrity financial adviser Suze Orman present the college's commencement address at the UF Phillips Center for the Performing Arts on May 25.

Orman's niece, Katie Stender, was one of the new graduates, and it was not Orman's first time in the Phillips Center. Two years ago, she sat quietly in the audience and beamed proudly with other family members when Stender received her white coat along with other classmates, symbolizing their upcoming transition into clinical rotations in the sophomore professional coating ceremony.

This year Orman captivated a sold-out audience from the podium, reminding the graduates that "anything is possible" in their future. She recounted the "roller coaster" Stender had put her on, starting with Stender's initial desire to get into veterinary school against impossible odds; then getting into veterinary school; then being overwhelmed by the workload and the fear of failure; then getting past those hurdles only to face additional ones.

"Now you're happy again, but in a few short days, I can promise you, you are going to get depressed again because you are going to start paying back your loans," Orman said. "But you did things that no matter how much they pay me, I would never do. So why do you think you can't pay back your student loans? If you keep thinking you can't, I'm here to tell you that you never will. Your words have the power to create or to destroy. That choice, doctors, is up to you. You can and will do anything you want to, and all you have to do is take it one day at a time."

She added, "I talk about money more than anyone in the world, and I have learned that the worst enemy is fear. If you are afraid of your loans, you will fail at them. Don't say, 'I hate my loans and I will never pay them back.' Say instead, 'I love the fact that I will one day repay my student loans.'"

Orman told the students to focus on doing three things – living below their means, buying only things that they need, not things they want; and saving money rather than spending, starting now.

"And keep good company," Orman said, urging the students to spend time with people who want them "to have more, not spend it on all these things that have no meaning."

New species of parasite discovered as disease agent in domestic cats

Photo by Maria Farias



Dr. Owen Rae and Dr. Heather Walden with cows from a UF herd on July 9. Walden has identified a new species of parasite in domestic cats. Another species previously thought to be the same affects cattle, and Walden's research has looked closely at the parasite's manifestation in both species.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA RESEARCHERS HAVE IDENTIFIED A NEW SPECIES OF TRITRICHOMONAS IN DOMESTIC CATS, distinguishing the parasite that causes the disease in felines from the agent long thought to affect both cats and cattle.

Although the disease is just beginning to be understood and tested for in cats, it costs cattle producers millions of dollars each year in lost revenue, researchers say.

"Up to now, there has only been one species, *Tritrichomonas foetus*, described in the reproductive tract of cattle and the intestine of cats," said Heather Walden, Ph.D., a research assistant professor in the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, a part of UF Health. "We conducted experimental studies putting the feline isolate in cows and the bovine isolate in cats, and saw differences in the disease-causing capacity in each of these animal hosts."

These studies, combined with molecular analysis of a small group of genes with similar sequencing patterns in cats and

in cattle, noted key differences between the species. The study and findings appeared online in a recent issue of *Parasitology Research*. Walden named the newly discovered species *Tritrichomonas blagburni* in honor of Byron Blagburn, Ph.D., the Auburn University professor who was her mentor and led her doctoral studies there. "Although we were not the first to note that there were differences genetically between the pathogens that cause trichomoniasis in both cats and cows, in previous studies, many people focused on the genetics of the organism in order to determine species," Walden said. "Our thought was, you have to look further at hosts and disease states in addition to some of the genetics."

Feline trichomoniasis is an intestinal disease that results in chronic diarrhea, flatulence and fecal incontinence. Bovine trichomoniasis is a sexually transmitted disease of cattle that infects the reproductive tract of cows, causing uterine infections and possible mid- to late-term abortions.

"In cats, people are becoming more aware of the disease and testing for it more frequently now," Walden said. "Treatment of cats with this disease is problematic — it sometimes works and sometimes doesn't."

In cattle, however, there is no treatment that prevents infection and the disease is very difficult to test for, particularly in big herds, Walden said.

"It's one of those things where often the cattle owner will just cull the bulls or the cows that show symptoms of the disease," she said. "Some cattle owners may try to control the disease through the use of artificial insemination, but that's expensive and most owners won't take that approach."

Raoul Boughton, Ph.D., heads the Disease Ecology Program at the Archbold Biological Station in Venus, Fla. He said *Tritrichomonas foetus* of cattle was a disease of "high economic concern" that can lead to the loss of 20 to 40 percent of calves from an infected herd.

He called Walden's work on understanding the genetic relationship and ecology of infection of the *Tritrichomonas* species "an important step if we are to further our understanding and develop a solution to controlling this

parasite that costs the cattle industry hundreds of millions of dollars a year in lost revenue." Walden's research group is now analyzing additional genes from a conserved genetic area obtained from parasites found in domestic cats and parasites obtained from cattle in order to characterize more genetic differences and help solidify the previous findings.

"The research by Dr. Walden and the description of *Tritrichomonas blagburni* and its association with different pathogenicities in the cat and cattle performs the great service of distinguishing these very similar agents, their hosts, and the diseases they cause in their respective hosts," said Dwight Bowman, Ph.D., a professor of parasitology at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

"This is good for cats because it removes them as the reservoir source for infections of cattle on farms," he added.

Other investigators involved in the study include a team of scientists from Auburn University and Virginia Tech. Walden completed her doctoral program at Auburn in 2008, focusing her dissertation on protozoan parasites, specifically *Tritrichomonas foetus*.

By Sarah Carey



We want to hear from you!

The UF College of Veterinary Medicine wants your feedback relating to the Florida Veterinarian magazine.

Our objective is to determine which college news and information you want to receive, how you want to receive it, and at what frequency.

Please take a few minutes to complete this online survey.

To access the survey, go to:

vetmed.ufl.edu/FVSurvey

Thank you in advance
for your feedback!



Club, community help service dog get cancer treatment

ZOE TOZZO KNOWS AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE, ENGLISH AND SPANISH. SHE'S PARTICIPATED IN MANY COMMUNITY EVENTS, INCLUDING PARADES AND COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS, HAS DONE READING PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS, EVEN THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS. But this outstanding citizen is not human; she is a dually certified service and therapy dog and a beloved companion to her owner, Jennifer Tozzo, of Hawthorne.

Just three months ago, Tozzo, who has a hearing disability and relies on Zoe for assistance, found a lump, soon diagnosed as cancerous, in her dog's mouth. She feared she might lose her best friend. But thanks to a little-known program at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, financial support from the Hawthorne Lions Club and a vaccine developed by a UF veterinary oncologist, Zoe received the treatment she needed and is on the road to recovery.

For several years, Zoe has received veterinary services through a student club known as Pets are Wonderful Support, or PAWS, which provides basic veterinary services to the pets of people with disabilities or terminal illnesses at no charge.

"We biopsied the mass and discovered it was a melanoma," said Sharon Villabona, a senior veterinary student and co-vice president of PAWS. "She was devastated and wanted to do everything she could for Zoe."

The club offered to pay for Zoe's basic blood work and X-rays to make sure the tumor hadn't spread to her chest. In addition,

PAWS offered to pay for half of Zoe's melanoma vaccine treatment if Tozzo could pay for surgery to remove the mass and the remaining half of the vaccine.

"Ms. Tozzo and Zoe do a lot of volunteer work in the Hawthorne community and Zoe had met a lot of people whose lives

she had touched over the years," Villabona said. "When Ms. Tozzo told us she would begin fundraising to pay for all Zoe's expenses, we had no idea her community would contribute so much to Zoe's cause."

Ultimately, enough money was raised to pay for the melanoma vaccine entirely — and Tozzo even made a donation to PAWS with leftover funds, said Villabona, who along with fellow club member, senior veterinary student Claire Vaiden, has worked closely with Tozzo and Zoe over the years.

Amy Stone, D.V.M., the club's adviser and chief of the UF Small Animal Hospital's primary care and dentistry service, performed the surgery and successfully removed the mass on Zoe's lip. The next step was entering Zoe into the melanoma vaccine clinical trial, which is run by Rowan Milner, B.V.Sc., the UF veterinary oncologist who developed the vaccine.

"She's getting the cancer vaccine now and seems to be doing really well with it," Tozzo said.

Jay Garlitz, D.D.S., secretary-treasurer of the Hawthorne Lions Club, called Tozzo and Zoe "very active community members."

"Zoe was very important to Jen as a service dog, a hearing dog and a visitor at our club meetings," Garlitz said. "Our Lions Club already had Jen as a cherished member at the time Zoe was diagnosed with melanoma. We did not have to think twice about helping a Lion in need, and neither did other Lions clubs in our district."

Many donations were made by the Hawthorne club and other district Lion members "to make sure there were enough funds to assist Tozzo now, and to have a reserve for future needs. Of course, without the generosity of the UF veterinary school, none of this would have been possible," Garlitz said.

By Sarah Carey



Veterinary students Clair Vaibon and Sharon Villabona have worked closely with Zoe Tozzo and her owner through PAWS.

Photo courtesy of Sharon Villabona

Photo by Sarah Carey



Jennifer Tozzo, left, with Dr. Jay Garlitz, in Lion's Club suit, and UF veterinary student Kryssa Johnson outside the UF Small Animal Hospital during a PAWS clinic on May 29.

The College of Veterinary Medicine

Honor Roll of Donors for 2012-2013

The 2012-2013 University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine Honor Roll of Donors is a way of recognizing generous gifts to the college. The students, faculty and staff are most appreciative of this support. This year's honor roll includes names of all cash and gift in kind donors of \$1 or more between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. Your name should appear in alphabetical order among donors who made gifts of similar amounts. Many alumni choose to make gifts to the college in the name of their veterinary practice and the practice name is listed. In addition, we have included cumulative lists of our Dean's Circle of Excellence & Bequest Society members. The Dean's Circle of Excellence is a premier society that supports unparalleled educational and institutional excellence at the college. Members of our Bequest Society have included the college in their estate planning at a value of \$10,000 or more. In spite of our efforts, omissions and errors sometimes occur and we want to know to know about them. If you have questions or corrections concerning your listing, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, College of Veterinary Medicine, PO Box 100125, Gainesville, FL 32610-0125, (352) 294-4256.

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For canine crusader, knee surgery makes a world of difference

FOR ERIK BENDL, KNOWN AS “WORLD GUY” FOR HIS COUNTRYWIDE TREKS PUSHING A CANVAS GLOBE TO PROMOTE DIABETES AWARENESS, the world’s weight got a little lighter after his dog, Nice, underwent knee surgery at the University of Florida Small Animal Hospital on March 19.

“We think there’s a good chance Nice will make a full recovery over the next few months and be off to his long walks again,” said Caleb Hudson, D.V.M., a veterinary surgeon at UF who performed Nice’s 2 1/2-hour operation, at the time.

By late June, Bendl and Nice, a 6-year-old blackmouth cur mix, were back in their home state of Kentucky, walking the local neighborhoods together. Radiographs taken during follow up visits to UF during Nice’s recuperation from surgery revealed that the dog’s legs were healing well.

“We want to nest here for a while, build strength and gather energy,” Bendl wrote on his blog, at worldguy.org, shortly after arriving back in Louisville.

Bendl began walking with a mission — to promote diabetes awareness — after his mother, a former Kentucky alderman and state representative, died at 54 of complications from the disease. He has walked more than 6,000 miles in 41 states, in all kinds of weather, sharing his story and his motivational message — that diabetes doesn’t have to be a death sentence. In many cases, it can be prevented through weight loss and exercise and that people should “love themselves and take a walk.” For the past six years, Nice has walked with him, a part of his life and his mission.

Nice began limping in Florida during Bendl’s latest journey, which began in Pensacola and was to end in Tampa. After getting caught in a storm, he hunkered down in Spring Hill, where a local business owner offered shelter. Nice’s limping became worse. He saw a veterinarian in the area, who suspected a problem involving either Nice’s hip or knee joints. Bendl sought a second opinion from veterinary specialists at the University of Florida.

Soon after Bendl arrived at UF on March 4, Nice was diagnosed with torn cranial cruciate ligaments in both knees, requiring surgery to correct the problems. Two tibial plateau leveling osteotomy surgeries performed simultaneously are more economical than operating on one leg at a time, surgeons said, but the cost still was estimated at approximately \$5,000. UF was able to subsidize part of the cost through its Pet Samaritan Fund, but Bendl still had to come up with around \$3,400 to cover the

procedures and postoperative X-rays. The doctor recommended that the UF surgery team operate as soon as possible to have the best chance of a good outcome.

For a man with no credit and no regular income — Bendl supports himself and Nice through the support of friends, family members and strangers — the figure and the time frame were daunting.

Bendl said he’s better at telling stories and encouraging people to stay healthy than he is at asking for help. But Nice’s story, as they say, had legs. Thanks to media stories, his blog posts at www.worldguy.org and social media, within 10 days enough funds had been collected to cover Nice’s surgery and most of his postoperative tests. Bendl said he was humbled and grateful for every donation, no matter how small, but two couples in particular stood out in their generosity.

An elderly Spring Hill couple had been in the process of closing four booths they operated at the local flea market. Instead of storing their inventory, they decided to

donate it all to Bendl after reading about Nice in the local paper. Another couple, owners of a tattoo store in Arkansas, had met Erik and Nice on the road and read about their plight on Bendl’s World Guy blog. Those contributions generated the amount Bendl needed to schedule the surgery.

But more than that, Bendl said, they told him that his encouragement to “get healthy” had prompted both of them to take better care of themselves.

To him, that meant the most.

Photo by Maria Farias



Erik Bendl is shown on March 22 with his dog, Nice, shortly after Nice’s discharge from UF’s Small Animal Hospital following knee surgery earlier that week.

By Sarah Carey

Bringing home the Bacon – Alumnus and porcine pal go viral

Dr. Len Lucero and Chris P. Bacon are media sensations

WHEN A POT-BELLIED PIG WITH A CONGENITAL HANDICAP THAT KEPT IT FROM BEING ABLE TO WALK WAS SURRENDERED TO DR. LEN LUCERO, '12, FOR EUTHANASIA IN EARLY JANUARY, LUCERO KNEW IMMEDIATELY THAT THE PIG'S FUSED TARSUS JOINT WAS NOT SURGICALLY CORRECTABLE.

"He has no extension of his hind legs, and nobody was going to be able to make him a joint," said Lucero, who practices in Sumterville, Fla., near Orlando. "But I also knew that no matter what, I could care for him. I'm a vet, so I can bring him to work with me all the time; I have the luxury of doing that."

A day or so later, Lucero, who named the pig Chris P. Bacon, got to thinking he could help Chris "get mobile" with wheels. Lucero figured he'd try to build the pig a wheelchair – a challenge with an animal that at the time of surrender,

weighed around 1 pound. He had a concept in his head involving children's toys, and made a video to show family and friends his cute new piggy scooting about in Lucero's jury-rigged invention.

Around this time, Lucero attended the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando and saw that a group called Handicappedpets.com had a booth in the exhibit hall. He visited the booth, told the group's representative what he needed, and showed them the video. The rep gave him a small display model that worked perfectly.

The rest is history. Chris P. Bacon not only got mobile; he also went viral. An Internet sensation, the precious porcine has more than 71,000 Facebook fans, more than 4,400 Twitter followers and upward of 2 million people have viewed Lucero's Youtube video.

"I thought my 15 minutes of fame were up months ago, but it seems like a giant roller coaster and it just keeps going," Lucero said.

Chris not only has a customized wheelchair, a stroller and countless fans; he even has a book deal. He's been on CNN with Anderson Cooper, has appeared with Lucero on NBC's Today Show and has been covered by numerous print and broadcast outlets. Media from Australia to Europe to South America have covered Chris and Lucero's story, as well as outlets in their own backyard.

The PR machine was in full force when Lucero brought Chris to UF for inguinal hernia surgery on June 10. Performed by UF large animal surgery professor Murray Brown, the surgery went well and Chris added to his legion of Gator fans with coverage by the Gainesville Sun and GTN News.

Most important to Lucero, however, is the fact that Chris P. Bacon is making a difference in the lives of handicapped kids.

An inspirational children's book is in production by Hayhouse Publishing of New York, and Chris has made an appearance

Photo by Maria Farias



Junior UF veterinary students Jennifer Reda and Brian Fryberg watch Chris P. Bacon walk in his cart inside UF's Large Animal Hospital while Dr. Len Lucero, '12, captures a photo.



Dr. Murray Brown, left, a professor of large animal surgery at UF, examines Chris P. Bacon while Dr. Len Lucero, '12, helps hold the pig soon after its arrival at UF on June 10.

at the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Tampa as well as at several schools near Orlando.

"If you go somewhere and the kids are shouting out his name, it's like a drug, you can't help but feel so good," Lucero said.

Lucero said his ultimate goal is to educate pet owners that they can work with handicapped animals and that it is possible to have them as pets. He also wants to continue to leverage Chris' feel-good story to help needy and handicapped children. He hopes to donate proceeds from the upcoming book and other activities toward this end.

"When I first saw Chris, a lot of thoughts went through my head," Lucero said, adding that Chris was a healthy animal, and he just did not want to put him down.

"If there was an option to keep him alive, I was going to take it," he said. "By the end of the day I took him home, I knew I was going to keep him. We just clicked."

By Sarah Carey



Chris P. Bacon's customized wheelchair allows him to go most anywhere he wants.

Photo by Jesse Jones



UF veterinary students Meredith Montgomery and Erin Dickerson are shown with zoological medical technician Pia Oresjo and veterinary anesthesia resident Dr. Bonnie Gatson while transporting the panther from radiology to surgery.

Florida panther recuperating after leg surgery at UF

A YOUNG FLORIDA PANTHER CONTINUES TO RECUPERATE AFTER SUCCESSFUL SURGERY ON JUNE 7 AT UF'S SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL TO REPAIR A FRACTURED RIGHT FEMUR. The panther's injury was likely caused by having been hit by a car in Collier County in May. It had received surgery previously and was recuperating at White Oak Conservation Center in Yulee, Fla., when it reinjured itself.

Daniel Lewis, D.V.M., a professor of small animal surgery at UF, performed the procedure, which lasted almost three hours.

The animal, thought to be approximately 9 months old, was brought to UF's Zoological Medicine Service the morning of June 7. Following completion of the surgical procedure, the female panther

was then transported by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission veterinarians back to White Oak, where her rehabilitation continues.

Photo by Jesse Jones



Photo by Jesse Jones



Left: The young Florida panther is shown in the anesthesia preparation area inside UF's Small Animal Hospital June 7, prior to receiving leg surgery. Above: UF veterinary anesthesiologists stabilize the panther in preparation for surgery.

UF veterinarians successfully remove rock from cat's windpipe in rare procedure

IF CATS REALLY HAVE NINE LIVES, CORA – WHO HAS THUS FAR SURVIVED AN OSPREY'S TALONS AFTER BEING TAKEN FROM HER MOTHER AT 3 WEEKS OF AGE AND A ROCK FRAGMENT LODGED IN HER WINDPIPE – HAS SEVEN MORE REMAINING. Thankfully, at three years of age, she's got plenty of time to live them out.

Jacksonville resident Barbara McMasters, Cora's owner, said she will be forever indebted to her veterinarian, Moody McCall, D.V.M., at San Pablo Animal Hospital, and specialists at the University of Florida Small Animal Hospital, for giving her cat its most recent reprieve.

McCall referred McMasters to UF after she came to his clinic with her cat. Cora showed signs of difficulty breathing and was behaving "as if she was having an asthma attack and was in serious respiratory distress," McMasters said. In addition, Cora was throwing herself on the ground and collapsing.

"I couldn't bear to watch her suffer," McMasters said. "I was so afraid I was going to have to put her down, and I was truly desperate."

Radiographs revealed a foreign body in the trachea -- a medical problem McCall knew he couldn't solve. Only a trained veterinarian with access to a flexible endoscope could attempt treatment, and he knew UF had the tools and the expertise to help Cora.

"This is the first time I've seen a foreign body in the windpipe in 27 years of practice," McCall said.

McCall contacted UF, and McMasters and her daughter Brittany, drove the cat to Gainesville. Working under the supervision of Andrew Specht, D.V.M., an assistant professor of small animal medicine, Autumn Harris, D.V.M., a small animal medicine resident, removed a life-threatening rock fragment wedged in Cora's trachea.

Specht said the initial radiographs taken by McCall "made it clear what the problem was, and what we needed to do about it."

"We still couldn't say exactly what the foreign

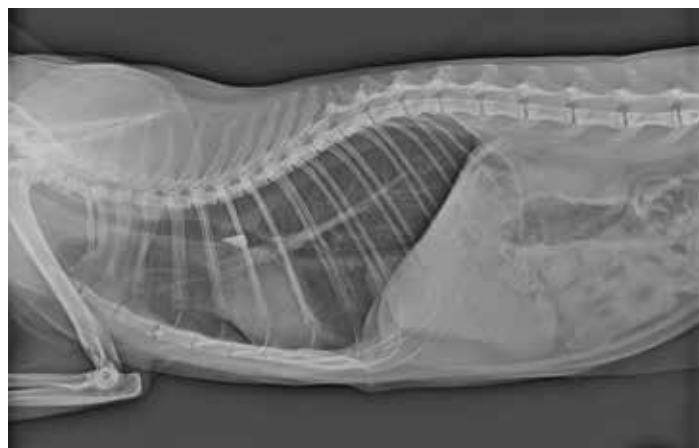


Image courtesy of Dr. Moody McCall

The white object that resembles a shark tooth in this radiograph is the rock fragment UF veterinarians successfully removed from a cat's windpipe in July.

material was, but we knew it was a foreign object," he said. "It turned out to be a fragment of rock. The endoscope was used so that we didn't have to perform surgery." The endoscope is flexible and can be inserted alongside a small catheter that is providing oxygen, he said.

"It has an interior channel through which a small grasping forceps was inserted and used to grab the stone and pull it out," Specht said. "This is a fairly well established use of the scope equipment, although respiratory foreign bodies are relatively uncommon."

The procedure took about 30 minutes, Specht said. Although it was successful, the cat remained in the hospital's intensive care unit overnight to ensure a complete recovery.

Cora, meanwhile, is doing "fantastic," said McMasters, who rescued Cora when she was a baby after she was dropped by a low-flying osprey.

The cat is back to her normal routines, which include playing with her best friend, the family's springer spaniel, Daisy.

"I can't say enough about Dr. McCall and UF, specifically Dr. Specht, Dr. Harris, Ashley Corlew and all those who were involved in Cora's recovery while she was in the ICU," McMasters said. "They were the only ones who could help me. Words cannot ever begin to express my deepest and most heartfelt appreciation for what you do, but also for the genuine care and compassion shown to Cora and my family before, during and after the surgery, and even after we returned to Jacksonville."



Photo courtesy of Barbara McMasters

Cora, a cat owned by Barbara McMasters of Jacksonville, received a successful procedure at UF to remove a rock fragment lodged in her windpipe.

By Sarah Carey

Honors, Awards, Appointments & Announcements

Faculty member honored for dairy cow research

Klibis Galvao, D.V.M., Ph.D., an assistant professor of large animal clinical sciences at the University of Florida College of Veterinary



Dr. Klibis Galvao

Medicine, has been honored by UF for his research in the area of dairy cow reproduction.

Galvao is one of 10 UF faculty members to receive a 2013 Excellence Award for Assistant Professors. The

awards are given by the Office of the Provost to recognize junior faculty members for excellence in research. A campuswide committee made up of distinguished professors and eminent scholars select the recipients of the award.

Each award consists of a one-time allocation of \$5,000 in support of the recipient's research.

Galvao works in the food animal reproduction and medicine service and is the college's dairy extension veterinarian. His research, teaching and extension focus is dairy cow reproduction.

Galvao's research involves both basic and applied methods to better understand the reproductive physiology and immunology of dairy cows. He also works on the development of computer models to estimate the profitability of dairy farms.

Cough researcher receives UFRF Professorship

Donald Bolser, Ph.D., a physiologist at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received a UF Research Foundation Professorship.

Sponsored by the university's Office of Research, the professorships are awarded to tenured faculty members campus-wide



Dr. Donald Bolser

for distinguished research and scholarship. The honor includes a three-year salary increase of \$5,000 and a one-time \$3,000 grant for research support.

Bolser, a professor in the college's

department of physiological sciences, analyzes cough and other airway protective behaviors and their role in health and disease. These airway-protective behaviors have a critical role in preventing respiratory infections, such as pneumonia. Patients with neurological diseases, such as stroke, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis suffer from impaired airway protection, leading to pneumonias.

"Dr. Bolser is a pioneer in this area and has achieved international recognition for his research in all facets of cough," said Paul S. Cooke, Ph.D., a professor and chair of the department of physiological sciences.

Anatomy instructor named Teacher of the Year

Thomas Wronski, Ph.D., a professor in the department of physiological sciences, has been named the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine's 2013 College Council Teacher of the Year. He's a lecturer



Dr. Thomas Wronski

and lab instructor in both large and small animal anatomy, and a lecturer in musculoskeletal physiology.

The council annually selects an outstanding teacher to receive the designation, based

on criteria including knowledge of subject matter, clarity of presentation, concern for students' mastery of subject, fairness,

enthusiasm for teaching and overall interest in student welfare. The winner receives \$2,000 and a plaque.

Wronski is an international authority in the area of postmenopausal osteoporosis, a disease that affects millions of elderly women. He developed the use of laboratory rats as animal models for the study of osteoporosis and has studied the phenomenon of space travel-related bone loss in astronauts. Wronski's current research involves preclinical testing of new drugs and hormones for the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis.

Wronski said part of his teaching philosophy involves trying to avoid things his instructors did that were annoying when he was a student "many years ago."

"For example, breaks between lectures are precious to students, so my lectures are strictly timed so that I don't exceed the 50 minute limit," Wronski said. "I also try to learn the names of the students as quickly as possible. It's especially important for the freshmen veterinary students to feel welcome and know that they're more than just a number."

Surgery resident wins association award

Laura Cuddy, M.V.B., who just completed a small animal surgery residency at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, was recently honored by a national professional association for her achievements in the clinical, educational and scholarly arenas.

In April, the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians, an organization of veterinary clinicians engaged in teaching and research at the professional, graduate or postgraduate level, presented Cuddy with its Resident Award, which is given annually to two residents selected from a field of all veterinary residents in North America.

Cuddy completed her veterinary degree from University College Dublin in 2008. She then completed a rotating internship in small



Dr. Laura Cuddy

animal medicine and surgery at UF in 2009. She received a Master of Science degree at UF in 2011, and is completing a concurrent residency in small animal surgery.

Her thesis research investigated the biomechanics of the canine elbow joint and the effects of ulnar osteotomy. Her research has produced two first-author publications in the journal *Veterinary Surgery*.

Staff member honored by FVMA

Rachel DiSesa, a former administrative assistant to the dean at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, was recently named Citizen of the Year by a professional veterinarian association in Florida.

The Florida Veterinary Medical Association presented DiSesa with the award in April during its annual meeting in Orlando. The



Rachel DiSesa

award is given to a non-veterinarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the association and to the veterinary profession.

Awards are approved by a committee following a nomination process for members of the Florida Veterinary Medical Association.

DiSesa joined the staff at the UF veterinary college in 2007 from Jacksonville, where she worked as an executive assistant to the president of Sauer, Inc.

In August, DiSesa began a new job at the college, working for the UF Veterinary Hospitals as coordinator of clinical services.

Emeritus professor named to Florida Ag Hall of Fame

Paul Nicoletti, D.V.M., a professor emeritus of infectious diseases at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named to the 2013 Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame.



Dr. Paul Nicoletti

Nicoletti and three others selected as inductees were honored during a banquet held in Tampa on Feb. 12, 2013.

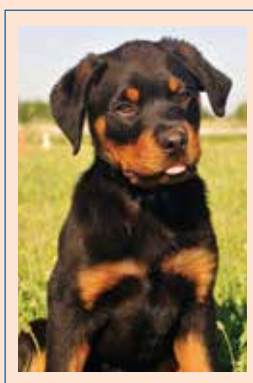
A 1956 graduate of the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine, Nicoletti began his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Missouri, with later duties in Wisconsin, New York, Mississippi and Florida. Most of his career was spent with the USDA and later, the UF veterinary college, where he taught infectious diseases, epidemiology, public health and food safety for 25 years and influenced many veterinary students to consider careers in agriculture and public health.

Nicoletti also served as an epizootiologist in Tehran, Iran, from 1968-1972 with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

While with the USDA, Nicoletti made a lasting contribution to Florida agriculture by improving the procedures used to control brucellosis, an important disease that affects both livestock and humans. An internationally renowned authority on this disease, Nicoletti's efforts led to the eventual eradication of the disease in Florida.

He retired from the UF veterinary college in 2003, after having amassed several important honors and awards for his achievement.

The Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame honors men and women for their lasting contributions to Florida agriculture and for mentoring youth. Previous inductees have come from all walks of life including agricultural teachers, researchers, farmers, ranchers and government. Their lives and achievements are commemorated in a display on permanent exhibit in the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame Foundation building at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. A total of 136 people have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.



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, Pet Memorial Program, email petmemorial@vetmed.ufl.edu or call us at 352-294-4256.

Professor emeritus gives \$1 million to UF's Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars program

A RETIRED UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA PROFESSOR HAS DONATED \$1 MILLION TO SUPPORT UF'S MACHEN FLORIDA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM so students from low-income backgrounds can follow his path to higher education.

Dr. Paul Nicoletti's gift will create graduate-level scholarships in UF's College of Veterinary Medicine. He made the gift this winter during a four-month fundraising drive that collected \$15 million for the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars program. Donors rallied to support the program after an anonymous donor gave \$10 million in October to rename it in honor of Bernie and Chris Machen, UF's president and first lady.

Nicoletti's own life experience inspired his gift. A \$150 Sears Roebuck scholarship took him from his family farm in Missouri and helped pay his way through the University of Missouri. He later obtained a master's degree in epidemiology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"I have a very special place in my concerns for scholarships and for the support that scholarships give, financially and psychologically, to students by giving them the opportunity to go to college," Nicoletti said.

A professor emeritus of infectious diseases at UF's College of Veterinary Medicine, he spent 28 years at UF as a faculty member and adviser to many students. While there, he

endowed a scholarship for students with financial need who are interested in public health. After retiring in 2003, he endowed another need-based scholarship for students interested in careers in food animal medicine.

Machen praised Nicoletti's commitment to students.

"Dr. Nicoletti is a wonderful role model for aspiring veterinary medicine students, and with this gift he's really raised the bar," Machen said. "The next generation of veterinarians will include his great legacy."

Throughout his career, Nicoletti received recognition nationally and internationally for his work on public health, including in 2010 the prestigious Meyer-Steele Gold Head Cane Award, the highest honor from the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society. It is given to scientists who have made significant contributions to improve human health through their work in veterinary epidemiology and public health. In February, Nicoletti was inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars are Florida high school graduates from families earning less than \$40,000 a year and neither parent holds a college degree. The average annual household income for families of Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars is \$18,759. Machen's goal when he established the

program was to open UF's doors to all qualified Florida high school seniors regardless of their families' incomes. Scholarship recipients are among the state's brightest and most talented high school graduates, and all are accepted to UF on their academic merits. Only after acceptance to UF are they considered for the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars program. Since its inception in 2006, the program has supported more than 2,600 students.

From left to right are Dr. Jorge Alvarez, Dr. Paul Nicoletti, Dr. Diana Drohan and Dr. Heather Welsh. Alvarez, Drohan and Welsh were all senior UF veterinary students when this photo was taken on May 2.



Photo by Ray Carson

Goodbye and thank you, Dean Hoffsis

UF President Bernie Machen, center, presents former UF College of Veterinary Medicine dean Glen Hoffsis with his official portrait during a reception held June 1 in honor of Hoffsis' retirement. Hoffsis served as the college's fifth dean, from 2006-2013 and left his post officially on July 1.

Photo by Diana Andersen-Davis



Yes! I want to support the UF College of Veterinary Medicine

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Karen Legato
Senior Director of Development and Alumni Affairs
UF College of Veterinary Medicine
P.O. Box 100125 • Gainesville, FL 32610-0125
(352) 294-4256
legatok@ufl.edu

Or visit our Website at:

www.givingandalumni.vetmed.ufl.edu



2013-14 Calendar

Photo by Sarah Carey



Author, financial advisor, motivational speaker and television host Suze Orman is shown in her regalia at the college's commencement ceremony, held May 26 at the UF Phillips Center. Orman's niece, Katelyn Stender, was a member of the Class of 2013 and Orman presented the keynote address. See story, p. 7.

Nov. 9

The annual CVM Homecoming celebration and fall Alumni Council meeting will be held at the college. Contact Micheline Sullivan at m.sullivan@ufl.edu for more details as they become available.

Jan. 19

The college's traditional UF alumni reception will be held at 6 p.m. in the Crystal Ballroom of the Marriott World Center Hotel during the North American Veterinary Conference. Contact Micheline Sullivan at m.sullivan@ufl.edu for more information.

April 12

The college's annual Open House, co-sponsored by the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association, will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The spring Alumni Council meeting will be held just prior to the event. Check our website, www.vetmed.ufl.edu for more information closer to the time.

May 9

The Sophomore Professional Coating Ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. at the UF Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Contact Jo Ann Winn at winnj@ufl.edu for more information.

May 24

Commencement exercises for the Class of 2014 will be held at 2 p.m. at the UF Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and will include the annual Distinguished Award Presentation.

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