

Florida Veterinarian

ADVANCING ANIMAL, HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

SPRING 2014



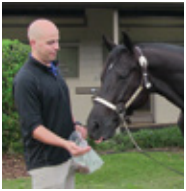
UF | UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

Inside



6

Dairy veterinarian
has appetite for
helping others



10

Rare surgery,
rehab save horse



12

Dogs sought for
orthopedic studies



16

New program helps
students, practitioners

Message from the Dean



Dean James W. Lloyd

Greetings,

It's hard to believe that March marks eight months since I arrived in Gainesville as dean. In that time, I have attended my first UF-CVM Alumni Council meeting and homecoming barbeque, and have hosted my first alumni reception and Dean's Circle events at the North American Veterinary Conference. I've learned my way around campus (more or less) and have spent lots of time traveling the state to visit local veterinary medical associations, individual alums and friends of the College, and other external stakeholder groups.

Closer to home, I have really enjoyed getting to know members of the UF CVM family on campus and becoming familiar with their roles, responsibilities, and the special areas of teaching, clinical service, and research interest that exist here. I continue to be impressed by the caliber of our people and programs; we have an incredible foundation on which to build our future.

A key focus in my first six months was amassing data for our new college strategic plan, an important step in identifying our priorities and developing action plans around top issues. Starting in October, we reached out for input from many internal and external stakeholder groups, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, organized veterinary medical associations and others who have a strong interest in the success of the college. We sought measurable data from these groups through a series of survey questions, the results of which were then collated (with assistance from a consultant) and are now posted on our website.

In addition, we conducted numerous forums, meetings, small group gatherings, and interviews to validate, complement, and complete the survey results. Subsequently, our executive leadership team held a retreat to sort through the data and pinpoint areas where we as a college can have the greatest impact as we move forward together. The strong consensus that emerged from all of these activities was that our vision for the UFCVM is to become a truly preeminent College of Veterinary Medicine in each of our core missions of teaching, research and clinical service.

How will we do this? Well, we are now in the next phase of the planning process, and are actively identifying, fine-tuning and focusing our priorities. These priorities will clearly become investments of time, resources, energy, and passion as we work toward our vision of preeminence in teaching, research, and clinical service. As we progress, we will strive to keep you both engaged and informed.

As I've said before, I deeply appreciate all of your support and enthusiasm in this initiative. Because of the broad-based nature of the process, we all have a critical stake in the outcomes. Your participation and feedback continues to be vital for our success.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions along the way. Stay tuned for additional updates in future issues; we will have much more to share with you in the near future. In the meantime, I look forward to working with all of you as we move toward implementation of our plans.



Dean James W. Lloyd

About the Cover

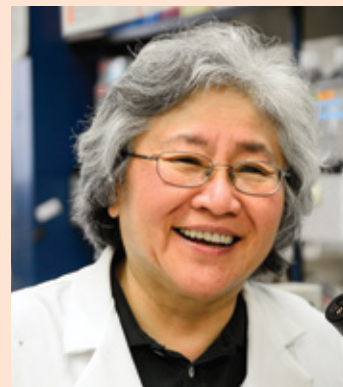


Photo by Ryan Jones

Dr. Janet Yamamoto, a professor of retroviral immunology at the college, is shown in her laboratory at the University of Florida. She reports that cats may be the key to a human HIV vaccine. See story, p. 5.

This year's North American Veterinary Conference drew a record crowd, with an estimated 400 alumni, students, faculty and friends in attendance. Dean Lloyd welcomed the group, in person and via a video presentation, and provided updates on college activities in his first months as dean.



Dean James W. Lloyd visits with Dr. Tim Bowser, '80, of Soldotna, Alaska just prior to the North American Veterinary Conference reception. Bowser was not only a member of the college's Charter Class, he also was the very first UF veterinary college graduate, as he was first in line to receive his diploma.



Dean James W. Lloyd visits with Congressman Ted Yoho, a member of the college's Class of '83, during UF's traditional alumni reception at the North American Veterinary Conference.

Photo by Sarah Carey

Florida Veterinarian

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UF researchers: Change in vaccination protocol for cats could save lives

AN ALTERNATIVE TO A WIDELY ACCEPTED VACCINATION PROTOCOL IN CATS COULD LITERALLY MOVE THE NEEDLE FOR FELINE CANCER TREATMENT, ACCORDING TO UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA RESEARCHERS.

"One to 10 cats out of every 10,000 vaccinated against infectious diseases develop cancer at the vaccine injection site," said Julie Levy, D.V.M., Ph.D., the Maddie's Professor of Shelter Medicine at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. "It's still important to vaccinate because death from these infections is much more common than the cancer, but unfortunately this complication is one that does affect thousands of cats each year."

Photo by Sarah Carey



Junior UF veterinary student Cleon Hendricks and Dr. Julie Levy are shown in the surgery area of the Veterinary Academic Building on Sept. 25. Hendricks collaborated in the tail vaccination study through the Merial Veterinary Scholars program.

When administering vaccinations, veterinarians typically follow the current recommendations of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, giving the injections below the elbow or the knee joint in the leg. That protocol is based on the understanding that the most effective treatment for cancer that occurs near vaccine injection sites is radical surgery amputation of a limb.

"Many cat owners elect not to pursue the most effective treatment—radical surgery of the tumor—because excision of tumors in the limbs and torso is often disfiguring, painful and expensive," Levy said.

But in a report published in October by the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery, Levy and a national team of experts in infectious disease and vaccinology report that administering

vaccinations in the tip of the cat's tail appears to be as effective as vaccines at traditional sites. The researchers say tail vaccination would make surgical treatment of any cancer occurring near the site much easier, less invasive and less disfiguring for the animal, which could encourage more owners to treat the disease in their pet when it occurs.

As a first step in amassing information for the study, the researchers developed a questionnaire that was sent to veterinary oncologists practicing around the world. Oncologists were asked to rank 11 potential vaccination sites, and to note their top three preferred sites, considering only surgical treatment of sarcomas that might develop at those sites.

When the tail emerged as a favored site, the team performed a trial to see if cats would even allow it to be done to them.

Sixty cats that had come for spay or neuter services through the Operation Catnip trap-neuter-return program at UF were enrolled in the study, which ultimately showed that cats tolerate tail vaccination at least as well as the currently recommended injection site in the hind leg.

"Dr. Levy's study is very important for a number of reasons," said Julius Liptak, B.V.Sc., a surgery specialist and a founding fellow in surgical oncology with the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

"Firstly, it is important that vaccinations in the tail are effective in providing the necessary immunity against infectious and communicable diseases," he said. "Secondly, vaccinations in the tail are easy to perform and well tolerated by cats, which will hopefully mean that general practitioners will be willing to change their vaccination protocols and try this new location."

Liptak added, "If vaccinations on the end of the tail become a widely adopted practice, then amputating the tail is a much easier and less traumatic procedure, which will hopefully result in a much greater potential to cure this disease."

UF veterinary student Cleon Hendricks, '15, a Merial Scholar, also served on the research team.

By Sarah Carey

Research shows cats may be key to human HIV vaccine

BLOOD FROM HIV-INFECTED HUMAN SUBJECTS SHOWS AN IMMUNE RESPONSE AGAINST A CAT AIDS VIRUS PROTEIN, A SURPRISE FINDING THAT COULD HELP SCIENTISTS FIND A WAY TO DEVELOP A HUMAN AIDS VACCINE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA AND UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO RESEARCHERS RECENTLY REPORTED.

Their findings appeared in the October issue of the *Journal of Virology*. This discovery supports further exploration of a human AIDS vaccine derived from regions of the feline AIDS virus.

“One major reason why there has been no successful HIV vaccine to date is that we do not know which parts of HIV to combine to produce the most effective vaccine,” said Janet Yamamoto, Ph.D., a professor of retroviral immunology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine and corresponding author on the study.

The researchers are currently working on a T-cell based vaccine against HIV that activates a cellular immune response against the cat AIDS virus by the T cells from HIV-positive individuals. T-cell peptides are small pieces of protein that can prompt T-cells in the body to recognize the viral peptides on infected cells and direct their antiviral activity against these cells. However, not all peptides on the HIV proteins can work as vaccine components, Yamamoto said.

“In humans, some peptides stimulate immune responses, which either enhance HIV infection or have no effect at all, while others may have anti-HIV activities that are lost when the virus changes or mutates to avoid such immunity,” she said. “So, we are looking for those viral peptides in the cat AIDS virus that can induce anti-HIV T-cell activities and do not mutate.”

In previous studies, scientists have combined various whole HIV proteins as vaccine components, but none so far have worked well enough to be used as a commercial vaccine, Yamamoto said.

“Surprisingly, we have found that certain peptides of the feline AIDS virus can work exceptionally well at producing human T-cells that fight against HIV,” she said.

The researchers isolated T-cells from HIV-positive individuals and incubated these cells with different peptides that are critical for survival of both human and feline AIDS viruses. They then compared the reactions they got with FIV peptides

Photo by Ryan Jones



Dr. Janet Yamamoto in her laboratory at the University of Florida.

to what they found using HIV-1 peptides.

“We found that one particular peptide region on FIV activated the patients’ T-cells to kill the HIV,” Yamamoto said. This feline viral region identified by human cells appears to be evolutionarily conserved – it is present in multiple AIDS-like viruses across

animal species, she added. “That means it must be a region so essential that it cannot mutate for the survival of the virus.”

Thus, Yamamoto and her team believe that the feline AIDS virus can be used to identify regions of the human AIDS virus that might be more effectively used in a vaccine-development strategy for HIV.

“We want to stress that our findings do not mean that the feline AIDS virus infects humans, but rather that the cat virus resembles the human virus sufficiently so that this cross-reaction can be observed,” said Jay A. Levy, M.D., a professor of medicine at UC San Francisco and a collaborator in the study.

To date, a T-cell based vaccine has not been used to prevent any viral diseases, Yamamoto said.

“So we are now employing an immune system approach that has not been typically utilized to make a vaccine,” she said. “The possible use of the cat virus for this vaccine is unique.”

“Dr. Yamamoto has identified the immunological Achilles’ heel of HIV,” said Michael Murphey-Corb, Ph.D., a professor in the department of microbiology and molecular genetics at the University of Pittsburgh. “Using a roadmap she designed to incorporate her discovery into a vaccine, I have no doubt she will develop a vaccine that I believe should be effective against most, if not all, HIV isolates.”

By Sarah Carey

Dairy veterinarian has appetite for helping others

MEET CHARLIE CHASE, D.V.M.: WORLD TRAVELER, TALLAHASSEE
NATIVE AND PRESENT-DAY NEW ZEALANDER, BARBECUE
ENTREPRENEUR AND CORPORATE DAIRY VETERINARIAN.

Those who remember Chase from his days as a student at the UF veterinary college — he graduated in 1999 — might conjure an image of him in a cowboy hat and boots, serving up seafood, chicken and ribs and pulled pork with Hills BBQ and Catering, whose owner he'd become good friends with.

"It never hurts to have free food as a college student," said Chase, who is now based in Methven, New Zealand as a

"Once I left school, I just couldn't give up doing it and ended up starting a small version of the business in California," Chase said. "I would do a couple of events a month for veterinary clients and others that I met out there. I ended up doing several dinners during meetings that were sponsored by various companies I've been with since then. I loved seeing how happy you could make people by bringing them such good food and adding a unique flair to their event."

In his job with Elanco, Chase travels frequently to countries in the Pacific Rim, with New Zealand, Australia and South Africa being his most frequent destinations. He soon plans to be working in India, South Korea and China as their dairies expand.

"I primarily help with product understanding and support through presentations at industry events, training seminars within the company and for our distributors — as well as farm visits to learn from customer experiences while using our products," he said. "My top priority is making sure the local teams have complete understanding of the science behind how the products work and know how to utilize them in the most effective manner possible."

Chase also prepares sales teams for the introduction of new products to the market.

Having double majored in animal science and dairy science as an undergraduate and completing his master's degree in dairy nutrition in 1999, the same year he graduated from veterinary school, Chase was well positioned to pursue food animal medicine as a career. After graduation, Chase took a job with a private 11-veterinarian practice in California's San Joaquin Valley. The all-dairy practice afforded Chase an excellent opportunity to gain practical knowledge about dairy medicine and dairy management, he said.

He soon built a two-man practice with a friend in Bakersfield, Calif., where the dairy business was rapidly expanding. There Chase worked with large, progressive dairies with herds averaging 3,500 cows. That work in turn led to another job managing a 5,500-cow dairy nearby. Subsequently, he worked for ABS Global and Cargill Animal Nutrition in the Pacific Northwest — experiences that prepared him well for his present job.



Shown in holding pens waiting to be milked are New Zealand dairy cows that Dr. Charlie Chase has worked with. The farm where they are located has about 1,600 milking cows and is in the South Island.

technical consultant for Elanco, a global animal health company. "I never got rich doing it, but it did help make life a little more comfortable."

These days, Chase may wear a Gator baseball cap more often than his cowboy hat, but he hasn't lost his affinity for down-home Southern food, or his business savvy. After leaving Gainesville, he helped expand the Hill's business, building up his own group of customers even as he built his life as a dairy veterinarian, working in different states and countries.



Dr. Charlie Chase, '99, is pictured in South Africa near Cape Town during a visit to dairy farms in the area. To his left is the Atlantic Ocean and to his right is the Indian Ocean, with Robbin Island in the background.

"A friend of mine in California had spent several years in New Zealand, and the experiences he would share stimulated me to consider an offer to practice in South Island," Chase said. "It seemed like an excellent way to continue to expand my knowledge and experiences and also to make an impact and provide something positive back to improve dairying in another part of the world."

So in 2008, Chase took the plunge and moved to New Zealand with his wife, Dina, a fellow Tallahassee native with whom he had reconnected in Idaho, 20 years after their graduation. After three years in private practice at Riverside Veterinary Services, he took the job with Elanco.

"I saw this as an even greater opportunity to provide a positive influence to the industry and obviously expand myself in the

process," Chase said. "One beauty about a veterinary degree is the seemingly limitless possibilities you can pursue. My education has provided the good fortune to have visited and consulted on dairies in many countries throughout the world — New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Malaysia, Scotland, England, Italy, the Czech Republic and Iran, with still more countries I plan to visit in the near future."

And while New Zealand may be more than 8,000 miles from Gainesville, Fla., Chase remembers his alma mater everywhere he goes.

"It is amazing how far away from Gainesville you can get a 'Go Gators' while walking through an airport," Chase said. "The Gator Nation is truly worldwide."

By Sarah Carey

Spring 2014 | 7

Graduate finds rewards in assisting underserved with veterinary needs

TIFFANY TUPLER, D.V.M. '12, HAS ALWAYS WELCOMED A CHALLENGE. SHE TAKES PRIDE IN MARCHING TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER, LIKES VARIETY IN HER ROUTINE AND ENJOYS NOT GOING TO THE SAME PLACE FOR WORK EVERY DAY. MOST OF ALL, SHE FEELS A CALLING TO HELP PEOPLE IN DESPERATE CIRCUMSTANCES WHO ARE IN NEED OF VETERINARY CARE BUT LACK THE MEANS TO PAY FOR IT.

Over the past year, Tupler feels she has discovered her niche. She has been working on contract for various organizations that allow her to serve needy communities. Her suitcase is never fully unpacked, she says.



Dr. Tiffany Tupler comforts a nervous dog prior to surgery at the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

"I basically can pick up and go wherever I feel I can fill a need when I get the opportunity," Tupler said.

In October, Tupler served as lead surgeon and medical director at a high-volume spay/neuter clinic in at Rosebud Sioux Native American reservation in South Dakota. She established the protocols for surgery, anesthesia and staff training.

The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association covered the Rosebud clinic, which is supported by the AVMA Foundation, as its lead news story in December. The organization Spay First has been holding these neuter clinics on the reservation up to three times a year since 2003, according to JAVMA editor Susan Kahler.

In December, Tupler visited the Dominican Republic, where she worked at a temporary spay/neuter clinic in an area where veterinary services are extremely limited and pet overpopulation is abundant.

"I've never wanted to be in private practice," Tupler said. "I spent three months as a relief vet, and even though I understand the purpose, it is not for me. I want to make a difference in the lives of not only the animals, but the owners as well. I consider myself a health service veterinarian."

The groups that Tupler has assisted on a short-term contract basis have primarily been grassroots organizations without a full-time veterinarian that are in need of assistance such as spay/neuter surgery, amputations and wound repair.

Many are located outside of the United States.

"There is a whole population of animals and people who need veterinarians, but either due to location or extreme poverty, they are unable to obtain these services," She said.

Tupler feels compelled to help these groups with the skills she developed while in veterinary school at UF.

"This is what I want to do with my degree and my career," she added. "I want to help people who love their animals, but may not have the resources or the means to do so. Most veterinarians in the community couldn't imagine what goes on Rosebud, South Dakota."

She said she was amazed and humbled by the amount of care some of the people she works with provide to their animals.

"There are people who do not have heated water or air conditioning, yet will give what they have for their animals," Tupler said. "I wish more people, including veterinarians, could see this and would realize that these people aren't working the system. These people do not have the means to come to a full-service veterinary hospital. I know in their hearts they would if they could, but they can't."

Additionally, Tupler consults for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals field investigations unit. She helps establish and run temporary sheltering for animals involved in man-made or natural disasters.

"It's my way of using my talents to help animals," she said.

Tupler's talent goes beyond her clinical skills. A gifted singer,



In this shot, Dr. Tiffany Tupler performs surgery on a pet at the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Her “surgery room” was an auto machine warehouse.

at one time she was well on her way to a career in music...until a college professor at the University of Miami told her she couldn't allow her friends to listen in on a recital. (She opened the door and let them anyway.)

Then again she was also told by certain teachers that she didn't have what it took to get into veterinary school. So she started a pre-veterinary club, hit the books even harder and got in.

Although she continued to sing – her classmates and others in the audience will likely remember Tupler's powerful rendition of the national anthem during her class's commencement exercises in 2012 and at her sophomore professional coating ceremony in 2009 – Tupler does so now only as an act of love for friends on occasion, and always on her own terms.

Much as she lives her life.

“I never believe in choosing one thing and settling. I like change and I like doing different things,” she said. “That is the fun of my job choices. I can do things that enrich human and animal lives. I love what I do and working in shelter medicine and cruelty investigations is something that I've always wanted to be a part of.”

By Sarah Carey

“America's Favorite Veterinarian”



CARLOS CAMPOS, D.V.M. '02, WAS RECENTLY NAMED “AMERICA'S FAVORITE VETERINARIAN” BY THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL FOUNDATION, WHICH CONDUCTED A NATIONAL CONTEST AND ANNOUNCED THE WINNER IN JULY AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. He was chosen for the top award from twelve finalists who had earlier been narrowed down by a panel of experts.

Campos, who owns San Francis Veterinary Hospital in Spring Hill, Fla., said his selection was “a great honor” and “a humbling experience.”

“Knowing that many of our clients think so highly of me and my colleagues reminds me that I attended veterinary school to pursue my dream,” he said. “I hope that being recognized for living the dream I had since I was a small child growing up in Guatemala encourages others to pursue their dreams. The American dream is alive and well. I hope that my children see my hard work and dedication as a way to achieve it.”

Horse beats odds to survive, recuperates after surgery at UF

A YEAR AFTER UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA VETERINARIANS REMOVED A PIECE OF BONE FROM HER BADLY FRACTURED SHOULDER IN A PROCEDURE BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND, GRACEFUL LEAGUER, A 9-YEAR-OLD QUARTER HORSE, IS FINALLY HOME WITH HER OWNER AFTER BUILDING BACK HER STRENGTH THROUGH A COMBINATION OF PLAY AND REHABILITATIVE EXERCISE.

That the horse, known as Gracie, is even alive is something of a miracle, given the medical challenges of her condition, said Sarah Graham, D.V.M., a clinical assistant professor in the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's department of large animal clinical sciences and lead surgeon on the case. But the willingness of a local rehabilitation center to provide the horse with regular physical therapy to aid in her healing adds a special, well, saving grace to her story.

bone scan revealed a rare fracture in an area of the humerus known as the lesser tubercle.

"There is no report in the literature of this type of fracture being fixed," Graham said. "The fracture itself is very rare, but no one has ever tried to repair it or do anything with it."

The prospect of surgery was daunting, in part because veterinarians knew the fracture's location was deep and on the inside of the shoulder. Surgical access to that area is very difficult, Graham said. Routine fracture repair involves the use of bone screws and plates and would have been ideal, but that was not possible in Gracie's case due to the location of the fracture, she said.

"The piece of bone that was fractured is an insertion point for a number of muscles that stabilize the shoulder," Graham said, adding that muscles would pull constantly on the bone, therefore making healing of the fracture on its own impossible.

But the UF surgeons had noticed Gracie's calm temperament and her willingness to let them help her. They also felt she had a good instinct for taking care of herself. Those characteristics, plus her owner's attachment to her, were encouraging, Graham said.

"Her owner obviously loved her and was willing to give surgery a try, even though we weren't able to tell her if it was going to be successful or not," Graham said.

So rather than repair the fracture, the UF veterinarians took a different approach. They removed the piece of bone entirely.

Graham and Smith performed the procedure, which took several hours. Overall, things went smoothly, as did the horse's first weeks of aftercare.

Gracie returned home to Jacksonville with her owner and began the long process of recuperation, which included months of stall rest and limited exercise. But when Gracie returned to UF several months later for reexamination, her care team noted that she was showing signs of severe lameness.

The UF veterinarians felt that Gracie had developed a lot of scarring and restricted motion around the shoulder joint. Gracie needed more physical therapy to maximize her recovery but her owner was unable to provide the kind of extensive care they felt was needed.

Photo courtesy of The Sanctuary Equine Sports Therapy and Rehabilitation Center



Gracie, a horse that received a rare surgical procedure at UF to treat a broken shoulder, is shown Nov. 21 at the Sanctuary Equine Sports Therapy and Rehabilitation Center in Ocala, Fla., with Erin Shaffer, a therapy technician with the Sanctuary; Dr. Andrew Smith from UF; Gracie's owner, Carol Norton; Dr. Sarah Graham from UF, and Brenda McDuffey, general manager at the Sanctuary.

The horse came to UF as an emergency patient in November 2012. Andrew Smith, D.V.M., a large animal surgery resident, was on duty that night.

"Grace was unable to bear weight on her right front leg. She was in a lot of pain and distress," Smith said.

Radiographs of the shoulder all were normal, but a subsequent



Dr. Andrew Smith offers a treat to Gracie while the horse's owner, Carol Norton, looks on.

"We really felt that this case was unique and needed to be written up for a scientific publication," Graham said. "But more importantly, we wanted to give Gracie the best possible outcome."

So Graham contacted Peter Kazakevicius, D.V.M., head veterinarian at the Sanctuary Equine Sports Therapy and Rehabilitation Center in Ocala, Fla. He and Brenda McDuffee, the center's general manager, were excited to get involved in the case and to contribute their expertise in rehabilitation.

"I understood that this was an unusual and rather extreme surgery," McDuffee said. "It's not something that happens often, and the prognosis has never been good."

She said she was pleased to be a part of Gracie's recovery and hoped to show that proper rehabilitation could make a huge difference in the horse's overall health.

"We started in July, with therapy in a water treadmill to make her more buoyant and offset some of her weight," McDuffee said. In addition to hydrotherapy, Gracie received laser, vibration and magnetic pulse therapies to loosen up her muscles and offset body soreness.

Gracie was discharged from the Sanctuary on Nov. 24 to return home with her owner, to Jacksonville.

Graham said she believed the rehabilitation Gracie received allowed the horse to regain her strength, and that while she may never go back to being a full-time riding horse, she should be healthy enough to live comfortably in a pasture.

"Now she has increased range of motion, increased weight bearing and her whole body condition has vastly improved," Graham said. "She looks healthier and happier. It's definitely thanks to a team effort."

By Sarah Carey

Dogs sought for studies to treat chronic orthopedic disease

A MAJOR GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE WILL SUPPORT TWO GROUNDBREAKING STUDIES FOCUSING ON THE USE OF STEM CELLS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SURGERY TO TREAT A CHRONIC DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE IN DOGS.

"Stem cells collected from healthy donor dogs may offer a nonsurgical option for dogs with pain and stiffness from osteoarthritis of the knee and elbow," said Antonio Pozzi, D.V.M., an associate professor of small animal surgery at UF.

Made possible through a \$330,000 gift from Robert and Janet Sabes and the Sabes Foundation, the studies will track the effectiveness of stem cells injected into the knee joints of dogs with osteoarthritis due to a ruptured cranial cruciate ligament — known in humans as the anterior cruciate ligament, or ACL. Another study will focus on the treatment of elbow osteoarthritis secondary to elbow dysplasia, a common disease in large breed dogs.

chronic cranial cruciate ligament rupture and osteoarthritis without surgery," Pozzi said. "The other key goal is to improve quality of life for the dog, decrease pain and improve limb function and mobility."

Pozzi said most dogs that have shown signs of lameness for less than six months would probably benefit most from surgery, whereas older dogs, or dogs with ongoing osteoarthritis, may be better candidates for this stem cell treatment.

These specific studies have never previously been performed in dogs and could yield valuable data about how effective this treatment can be, Pozzi said.

"We are going to be approaching this in the most scientific way we can to really test the validity and effectiveness of stem cell treatment in dogs," Pozzi said.

UF veterinarians will assess orthopedic function, as well as activity and quality of life of the dogs to see if their conditions improve. After initial treatment, the dogs will be evaluated after one, three and six months to determine levels of inflammation.

Pozzi said it is common for dogs with cruciate ligament injury in one leg to soon see the same problem in the opposite leg. In the future, UF veterinarians also hope to explore whether stem cell injections in the opposite leg might be able to delay or prevent cruciate ligament injury.

"Stem cell research is the future for the advancement of longevity in both humans and animals, as well as the future of disease prevention and cure," said Robert Sabes. "The Sabes Foundation has donated to many medical research programs in the hope of further advancement of stem cell technology."

He added that he and his wife, Janet, as board trustees of the foundation, feel that there is no more important area worthy of support in today's world.

"This area of research is something that affects us all, as well as our closest friends and companions — our dogs," he said.

Anyone seeking more information about the UF stem cell studies in dogs should contact Mary Bohannon at mebohan@ufl.edu or 352-294-4639.



Dr. Antonio Pozzi performs an orthopedic examination on a dog at the UF Small Animal Hospital.

UF veterinarians are currently seeking up to 60 dogs to participate in the study. Eligible dogs should be showing signs of lameness or limping for at least six months but are still weight-bearing, Pozzi said. Eligible dogs are also on anti-inflammatory medication and are 2 to 10 years old.

The treatment is free for study participants, but the dog's owner must cover the cost of the initial evaluation.

"The long-term goal is to try to effectively treat dogs with

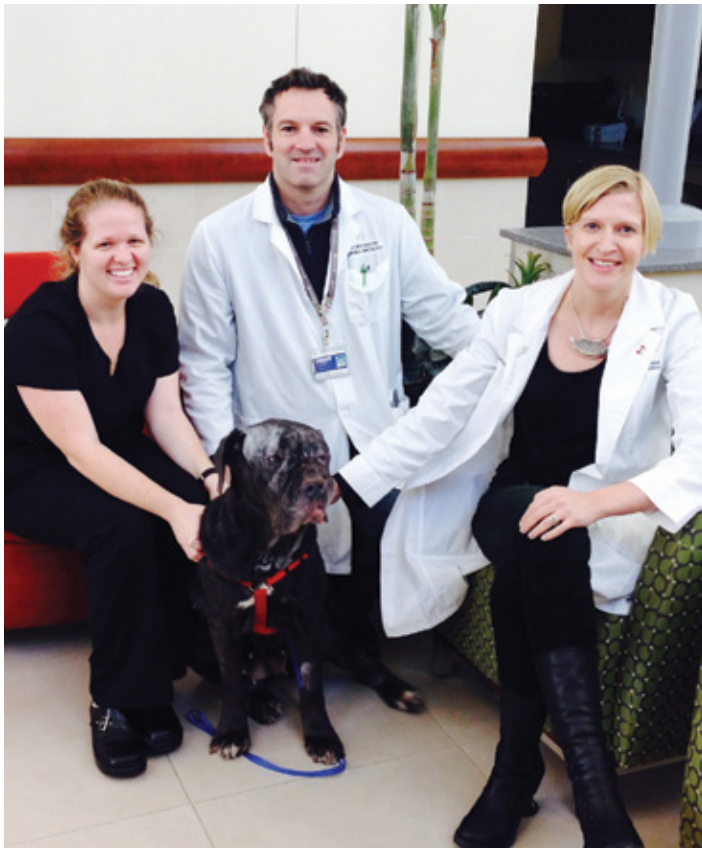
By Sarah Carey

UF veterinarians successfully remove massive tumor from dog's face

A LOVABLE 5-YEAR-OLD NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF MIX'S HEALTH BURDEN IS LIGHTER AND HER FUTURE BRIGHTER THANKS TO UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA VETERINARIANS WHO REMOVED A LIFE-THREATENING, 9-POUND TUMOR FROM THE DOG'S SKULL NOV. 25.

"She needed a chance, and we were able to give her one with help from the UF veterinary oncology team," said Jennifer Smith, director of Noah's Arks Rescue, which is based in Okatie, S.C. The group had taken in the dog, named Bubbles, earlier that month after she was found as a stray in Baltimore, and remained dedicated to caring for her and getting her the medical help she needed.

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Smith, Noah's Ark Rescue



University of Florida veterinary student Kim Herron, Dr. Nick Bacon and Dr. Sarah Boston are shown at UF's Small Animal Hospital with Bubbles on Nov. 29, the day before her discharge.

Smith personally drove Bubbles 10 hours to Gainesville, Fla., for the surgical procedure, which was led by Nick Bacon, Vet.M.B., the Imparato Endowed Associate Professor in Surgical Oncology and chief of the oncology service at the

UF Veterinary Hospitals, a part of UF Health. Assisting in the procedure was Sarah Boston, D.V.M., D.V.Sc., an associate professor of surgical oncology at UF. The surgical team noted that although there were additional issues to consider due to the size of Bubbles' tumor, they've performed similar complex operations many times before.

"This was a complicated surgery, but I was confident the procedure would go as planned, based on the physical examination and CT scan Bubbles received when she got here," Bacon said. "Although massive, there were a few key features of her tumor that made me optimistic. She's a very lucky girl in that respect. She's also lucky to have met Jennifer Smith."

Smith said she had explored every option for the treatment of Bubbles' condition, consulting with veterinary specialists all over the country before deciding to bring her to UF for care.

"Bubbles' story is really one of hope and survival," Smith said. "I know there's still a lot ahead for her, but she'll have a great home now. The worst is over for this dog. Whatever life she has left will be a good life, because of all the people who understood that Bubbles is a fabulous dog who deserved her chance."

The type of cancer Bubbles had is known as multilobular osteochondrosarcoma, a locally aggressive tumor that tends to grow in the flat bones of the skull. Although Bubbles' tumor was unusually large, the typical treatment for such a growth involves surgically removing the part of the skull where the cancer originates, regardless of size, said Bacon, an American College of Veterinary Surgeons founding fellow in surgical oncology who has a reputation for tackling difficult cases such as this one.

Although Bubbles still must undergo additional future treatment, including chemotherapy and possibly radiation therapy, Bacon said he was "very encouraged" by how well the surgery went.

"We are all amazed at the progress Bubbles has made to this point," he added. "We are aiming to save at least some of the vision in her left eye that had been compressed by the tumor for so long, and also keep infection at bay while Bubbles continues to recuperate."

By Sarah Carey

Honors, Awards, Appointments & Announcements

Boston honored by surgical oncology group



Sarah Boston, D.V.M., D.V.Sc., an associate professor of surgical oncology at the college, has been honored by the Veterinary Society of Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Sarah Boston

Boston, who also serves as the group's president, received the Stephen J. Withrow Award during the society's annual meeting, held Oct. 23-26 in San Antonio, Texas as part of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons' annual conference. The award is given for advancing the art and science of surgical oncology, said Julius M. Liptak, B.V.Sc., a society founding fellow and former Withrow Award Winner.

More than 100 society members voted on the winner from a pool of 11 nominees, Liptak said.

A native of Calgary, Canada, Boston joined UF's veterinary medical faculty in 2012. She received her D.V.M. degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1996, and a D.V.Sc. degree from the University of Guelph in 2003, with a concurrent residency in small animal surgery.

Subsequently, Boston performed a fellowship in surgical oncology at Colorado State University. Board-certified in small animal veterinary surgery, Boston is also a founding fellow of surgical oncology in the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Her research interests include osteosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, soft tissue sarcoma and cancer staging.

Professor emeritus honored by virology group



Dr. Paul Gibbs

Paul Gibbs, B.V.Sc., Ph.D., a professor emeritus at the college and former associate dean for students and instruction, has been honored by a national veterinary diagnostics association for his professional achievements in the area of virology.

The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians named Gibbs with its 2013 Pioneers in Virology Award during the group's annual meeting, held Oct. 17-23 in San Diego. Gibbs will present his lecture next year on the topic of "One World: One Health."

Gibbs graduated as a veterinarian from the University of Bristol in England in 1967 and subsequently focused his career on the epidemiology, control and prevention of emerging viral diseases. For nearly 10 years he worked at the Institute of Animal Health in England on diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, bluetongue, sheep pox, and rinderpest. In 1979, he joined the newly established College of Veterinary Medicine at UF.

In Florida, apart from teaching, he has worked on several emerging problems and foreign animal diseases that threaten the U.S., most recently West Nile virus encephalitis in horses, canine influenza, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy. He established UF's International Center and was Director from 1994 to 1999. Among other responsibilities, he worked on the peace process in the Middle East.

He is an advisor to several universities in Europe, government/international agencies, and pharmaceutical companies. In September 2005, he was awarded

the Wooldridge Medal by the British Veterinary Association and, in May 2012, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Florida Veterinary Medical Association for his work on Emerging Diseases.

Gibbs retired as associate dean for students and instruction in 2012.

Resident receives research grant

Amy Weeden, D.V.M., the second year clinical pathology resident at the college, has received the 2013 Share the Future research grant from the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology to support her research involving *Bartonella*



Dr. Amy Weeden

species, bacteria that typically cause chronic infection with many known and proposed disease manifestations.

Weeden's research proposal focused on the prevalence of *Bartonella* spp.

infection in canine body cavity effusions. Bartonellosis is an emerging, vector-borne bacterial disease, which affects multiple species, including both wild and domestic animals and humans. Clinical presentation is highly variable, and much is still unknown about bartonellosis.

These grants are funded through ASVCP members and corporate sponsors and are intended to help support research by clinical pathology residents and graduate students. In general, proposals are focused on an aspect of clinical pathology, must be clearly articulated, and must show potential for contributing to the knowledge base in veterinary clinical pathology, according to the organization.

Grant selection criteria included scoring of significance, quality of writing,

Honors, Awards, Appointments & Announcements

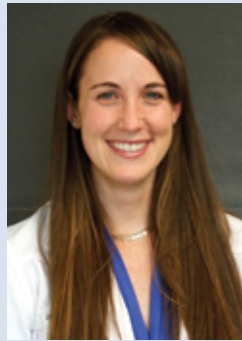
investigators, approach, and environment.

Weeden's adviser is Heather Wamsley, D.V.M., Ph.D., an assistant professor of veterinary clinical pathology at UF.

Surgery resident honored by national group

Valery Scharf, D.V.M., a small animal surgery resident at the college, has been honored by a national professional association for her research presentation relating to bone cancer in dogs.

Scharf, who also is a master's degree candidate at the college, received first place in the research category of the residents' competition at the annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, held Oct. 24-26 in San Antonio, Texas. Scharf's



Dr. Valerie Scharf

presentation focused on her graduate project, which investigates the effects of a drug known as aurothiomalate, also known as gold salts, on osteosarcoma, a common bone cancer in dogs.

"We were able to show that the drug

inhibits cancer cell colony formation in vitro, or in the lab, in both a human and canine bone cancer cell line," Scharf said. "We were then able to show that the drug slows tumor growth and decreases metastasis when canine bone tumors were created in a mouse model."

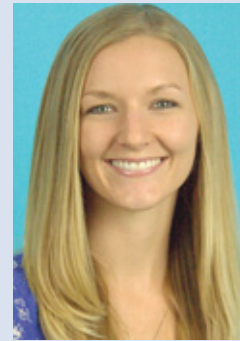
The study shows that there is promise for the role of gold-based drugs as part of bone cancer treatment in dogs, and potentially in people, although more research is needed before applying the research clinically, Scharf added.

Scharf's faculty members have included Jim Farese, D.V.M., a former UF faculty member, and Rowan Milner, B.V.Sc., Ph.D.

"I was interested in this research because bone cancer is a devastating disease of both people and dogs, and we still lack an effective means of treating metastasis from these tumors," she said. "Because this type of cancer has a lot of similarities between humans and dogs, developing new therapies for dogs may also lead to new therapies for people afflicted with cancer."

Also participating in the recent ACVS meeting was Stephen Jones, D.V.M., a second-year small animal surgery resident at UF. Jones received honorable mention in the research division for his paper on in vivo femoral kinematics in dogs. His faculty advisor is Stanley Kim, B.V.Sc.

Resident honored by foundation



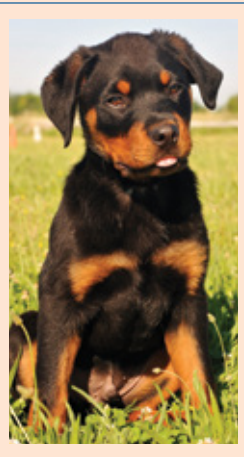
Dr. Sarah Beatty

Sarah Beatty, D.V.M., a third-year clinical pathology resident at the college, was honored with a C.L. Davis Student Scholarship Award for her scholastic achievement.

The award was presented during the annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathology, held Nov. 16-20 in Montreal. Representing the UF veterinary medical faculty in the presentation were Rick Alleman, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor of clinical pathology, and John Harvey, D.V.M., Ph.D., executive associate dean.

The C.L. Davis Foundation has presented the award since 1976 to postgraduate students or residents-in-training in veterinary pathology to recognize scholarship.

Beatty's resident research project, "The Prevalence of Ehrlichia chaffeensis, Ehrlichia ewingii and Rickettsia species in Amblyomma americanum Host Seeking Ticks in North Central Florida" won first-place honors in the resident category at this year's annual Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day.



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.

New program connects UF veterinary students with practitioners to enhance business skills

FOURTEEN UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA VETERINARY STUDENTS SPENT PART OF LAST SUMMER ANALYZING FINANCIAL REPORTS, OBSERVING STAFF-CLIENT INTERACTIONS IN PRIVATE VETERINARY HOSPITALS AND LEARNING ABOUT PRACTICE MANAGEMENT AS PART OF A NEW EXTERNSHIP AIMED AT SHARPENING STUDENTS' BUSINESS SKILLS.

The externship, which unfolded in separate two-week rotations, is the capstone of a new business certificate program now being offered at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. To receive the certificate, students must demonstrate an overall awareness and knowledge of practice management.

The certificate program and externship were created by Dana Zimmer, DVM., chief of staff of the UF Veterinary Hospitals and advisor to the Veterinary Business Management Association student club. Zimmer said she believed it would be a useful tool, not only for educating students, but also for building relationships with practitioners.

"This training will give students an advantage when searching for their first position, because they have an understanding of the challenges that practice owners face when operating a hospital," Zimmer said. "Students will graduate with confidence and knowledge that within a few years they can be successful practice owners."

Students are paired with area practitioners in a "real-world" experience that allows them to enhance their business skills and overall practice savvy as they prepare to enter the workplace. They concentrate on one practice each week, and begin by meeting with the practice owner to discuss key areas the owners have expressed interest in receiving feedback on – areas such as financial/revenue analysis, fee review, or observations of staff/ client interaction. The students then observe the practice for two days, return to the classroom to process what they've seen, and prepare an evaluation to present to the practitioner on the final day.

Veterinary student Amanda Ditson said she had not had many classes up until now that had really explored business.

"This rotation allowed me to learn better with a hands-on experience," Ditson said. "I loved that we were able to go into real practices and evaluate them. It's easier to understand numbers and statistics when you have an applicable situation."

Student Sandy Scarpinato signed up for this externship

Photo by Sarah Carey



Jeff Sanford and UF veterinary student Jonathan Williams discuss a practitioner's financial report back in the classroom after an initial meeting.

because she felt it would give her a glimpse of what practice ownership is like.

"This rotation should be considered essential to anyone planning on owning a veterinary clinic," she said.

Jeff Sanford, M.B.A., director of entrepreneurship studies at the UGA Small Business Development Center and founder of the original program at UGA, which UF's program is modeled after, visited UF for two weeks in June to teach the first externship enrollees and to train Dr. Martha Mallicote, who coordinates the externship course and has a degree in economics, and John Haven, college director and a certified public accountant, so they can continue to teach the course in the future.

UF and UGA are the only veterinary colleges in the country offer such a cohesive, comprehensive business externship to students, Sanford said.

"Despite the fact that most veterinarians also become small business owners at some point in their career, we as



Pictured outside of Brick City Cat Hospital in Ocala are Mark Belyeu, Jenessa Graham, Matt Lastinger, Cassie Fleming, Toffy Blaber, Dani Marks, Deborah Eib and Allison Vansickle. All but Lastinger are students from the University of Florida. Lastinger is from the University of Georgia and served as an assistant course instructor.

a profession are doing very little to train students for that responsibility,” Mallicote said. “The certificate program and business courses that have been added to the UF curriculum over the last few years go far towards correcting that deficiency.”

Doug Lammers, D.V.M., owner of Companion Animal Clinic of Ocala, worked with the first group of student externs from June 24-28.

“Sometimes as a practitioner, you tend to get exam room tunnel vision,” Lammers said. “Things seem to be going along well, growth is good and staff and clients are happy. What the students did was give us a set of unbiased eyes, under the tutelage of someone who had done a number of evaluations, and they pointed out a number of areas where our flow was less than optimal.”

Lammers’ clinic already has made some procedural changes. He also is taking a hard look at going paperless, changing his fee structure, capturing fees for services not being charged for presently and adding a phone tree to answer calls that can’t be answered within three rings.

The second practitioner involved in the first summer externship, Frances Ramirez, D.V.M., ’01, owns Country Oaks Veterinary Clinic in Ocala.

“It was very nice to have someone else look at your practice and offer positive feedback,” Ramirez said. “They followed the pets and helped us notice what their clients notice with their pets. They provided a very comprehensive and written evaluation of what they observed, calculated and researched.”

By Sarah Carey

Sophomore veterinary student celebrates U.S. citizenship

THE JOY IN GIULIANA MIRANDA'S FACE IS OBVIOUS AS SHE PROUDLY HOLDS HER NEW CERTIFICATE OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND BEAMS FOR A FRIEND'S CAMERA IN THE MIDDLE OF A BRIGHT AND BUSY FEDERAL COURTROOM DEC. 19 IN DOWNTOWN GAINESVILLE.

"I believe becoming a citizen opens more opportunities for me in order to achieve my goals and dreams, and in return, give back to others," said Miranda, a sophomore University of Florida veterinary student and a native of Peru.

Miranda had resided in Connecticut, where she moved to be with her father in 2008, for several years and attended undergraduate school at the University of Connecticut prior to applying and being accepted to veterinary school at UF.

"I fell in love with UF, first by how welcomed I felt during the interview, then by the diversity of the school and the different career options presented to me," Miranda said.

Although Miranda's family was unable to be with her at the citizenship ceremony, two classmates, Erica Moore and Diana Alvarez, accompanied their friend to provide support, along with college admissions coordinator Lynnette Chaparro.

Following the ceremony, which featured the Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus singing two songs and a speech from a UF College of Medicine professor of urology who became a U.S. citizen three months ago, Miranda flew to Connecticut to spend Christmas with her parents and sisters. Her mother, who still lives in Peru, flew in as well for the family holiday celebration.

In Peru, veterinary school is a five-year-plus program, and students who pass an admissions test enter directly out of high school. Miranda completed two years and one semester of classes at the Cayetano Heredia Peruvian University College of Veterinary Medicine, through which she had the opportunity to visit local communities as part of labs required through her classes.

She saw firsthand the importance of animals as a source of food, clothing and daily income.

"I was able to witness the impact of food animals in communities with low resources," Miranda said. "Additionally, I participated in several research projects with the department of animal science and pathobiology at UConn."

Photo courtesy of Giuliana Miranda



Sophomore UF veterinary student Giuliana Miranda, a native of Peru, is shown at the federal courthouse on Dec. 19 after a ceremony in which she officially became a U.S. citizen. She holds her certificate of citizenship in this photo captured by one of her classmates.

That experience afforded Miranda a greater appreciation of the important collaborations between veterinarians and researchers.

"I worked at large and well-equipped labs under the supervision of excellent scientists at UConn," Miranda said. "It was enlightening to me because I realized the importance of

the role veterinarians play in research as well as the significant contribution veterinarians make to science.”

While at UConn, she met a professor from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst who founded a non-profit organization that regularly visits the district of Nunoa, known for its alpacas, in Peru. Human doctors also visit the district, Miranda said.

“I admire all the work and effort put into this project, and it has inspired me to do something similar in other communities, both in Latin America and in the U.S.,” she said.

As far as her future career, however, Miranda says she is open to several possibilities. She’s interested in shelter medicine, food animal medicine and epidemiology, and says her goal is to educate people in underserved areas such as farming and local communities.

“I’m learning more each day in order to make the best career selection,” said Miranda, who presently belongs to the shelter, business and surgery-oriented student clubs at UF. She also serves as treasurer of the Food Animal Club.

“I like to be involved with diverse experiences offered outside

of the classroom and believe they are great opportunities for hands-on learning,” she said.

So for Miranda, Dec. 19 will not be remembered as the day after the last UF CVM sophomore class final examination, but as the day she officially became a citizen of the United States.

“The most important thing I will always remember is that I was one of 37 people becoming citizens from 30 different countries,” Miranda said. “What a great way to show how this country welcomes diversity, and I was so happy to be a part of it.”

By Sarah Carey

“I fell in love with UF, first by how welcomed I felt during the interview, then by the diversity of the school and the different career options presented to me.”

— Giuliana Miranda



New fellowship fills key gap in veterinary sciences

Photo by Sarah Carey



Dr. Nanny Wenzlow holds bones from a dog submitted for forensic analysis at the University of Florida's C.E. Pound Human Identification Laboratory on Dec. 6.

WHEN MOST PEOPLE WERE PICKING OUT THANKSGIVING TURKEYS TO SERVE AT FAMILY GATHERINGS, NANNY WENZLOW, D.V.M., WAS JUST LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD CARCASSES.

The University of Florida's first-ever veterinary forensic pathology fellow bought and unwrapped three frozen turkeys, carried them into the woods near the UF College of Veterinary Medicine and left them for several days. During that time, she and a forensic entomologist regularly returned to the site to collect adult flies, eggs and maggots.

"We worked to identify which species would come and deposit eggs on a carcass, and to double-check the time of colonization using the oldest maggots on the carcass that we could collect over time," Wenzlow said.

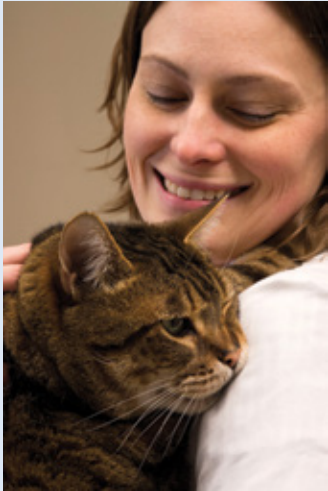
In the world of veterinary forensic pathology, no clue is too small. The field is a niche of veterinary medicine that combines the disciplines of pathology, osteology, toxicology

and entomology with clinical knowledge. Yet while the field has become a significant legal asset in cases involving allegations of animal neglect or criminal behavior, veterinary medical education lacks the formal training physicians can receive when specializing in human forensic pathology, said Lisa Farina, D.V.M., a clinical assistant professor of pathology at the UF veterinary college.

"As veterinary pathologists, we're trained in distinguishing death from natural disease, trauma and intoxication or other causes," she said. "But we can't necessarily tell which wound was first, or which angle injuries came from, or which weapon was used."

Farina applied for a grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which approved approximately \$40,000 for a fellowship in 2013.

Wenzlow's interest in forensic veterinary pathology isn't new.



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She worked as a clinical instructor of anatomic pathology at UF prior to beginning her Ph.D. with a focus on determining post-mortem interval using genomics. Her graduate program supervisor is Dr. Maureen Long, a professor of infectious diseases at the UF veterinary college. Long gave Wenzlow, who also is a UF Alumni Graduate Fellow, permission to take a year off of her degree program to pursue the veterinary forensic pathology fellowship.

In addition to her work in the field, the majority of Wenzlow's time is spent at the local Medical Examiner's Office where she has been assisting and shadowing Martha Burt, M.D., director of UF's autopsy services and the associate medical examiner for Florida's District 8.

"My day starts in the medical examiner's office," Wenzlow said. From there, I'll usually move over to anthropology in the Pound Lab."

Wenzlow is referring to the internationally known C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory, which performs analyses of skeletal remains for many of the state's 24 medical examiner districts.

"In cases where only skeletonized remains are found, medical examiners submit these to anthropologists, who can help determine ancestry, sex, stature, age at death and how long a body might have been buried or exposed – what's referred to as the post-mortem interval," Wenzlow said.

"In veterinary medicine, we're not so advanced in determining these criteria, but we need to be able to look at bones and determine a pathology diagnosis on them," she said. "First, what are we dealing with? Then, what happened? What can we tell from the bones? It's this 'what happened and when' aspect I'm interested in when it comes to animal remains."

Michael Warren, Ph.D., the William H. Garmany Term Professor of Human Rights and Social Justice in the anthropology department of UF's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is director of the Pound Laboratory and an assistant director of the Maples Center. He called her fellowship a step in bridging a significant gap in knowledge and research related to the investigation of animal cruelty cases.

"Nanny's talent and interests are a launching point for an entirely new field of inquiry – non-human osteology and forensic analysis of the skeletal remains of animals who have been victims of criminal abuse and torture," he said.

"She is taking on the role filled by forensic anthropologists in human cases. We understand the relationship between animal cruelty and its eventual path towards human cruelty and criminal behavior. The Pound Lab is proud to contribute to this new field and play some small role in the education of these very special practitioners."

By Sarah Carey

Shelter clerkship has new name better reflecting mission

THE NAME OF THE GAME IS CHANGE, SO IN THAT VEIN THE MERIAL SHELTER ANIMAL MEDICINE CLERKSHIP NOW HAS A NEW MONIKER: THE VETERINARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM.

"This is an exciting milestone for our program, which celebrated its 10-year anniversary in August," said Natalie Isaza, D.V.M., '94, a clinical associate professor and founder/director of the program. "Our original and successful approach to developing the clinical skills of veterinary students through service learning and community outreach has since been replicated at many other colleges of veterinary medicine across the country."

Isaza said the name change better reflects the program's role today in the college and the animal welfare community, and helps distinguish it from other community programs.

"Although we have a new name, the breadth and quality of our services will remain the same," she said.

Isaza and Brian DiGangi, D.V.M., '06, have been the faculty members associated with the program for several years, but now their team is three strong with the addition of Kelly Harrison, D.V.M., '12, to the faculty.

"Dr. Harrison has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team," Isaza said.

The program is supported with funds from PetSmart Charities, Merial and PetCo Foundation.

"Their generous grants enabled our students to perform 1658 pediatric and 93 adult bully sterilization surgeries at no cost to our rescue group partners in the 2012-2013 year," she said. "Our busy service is also the largest provider of shelter dog heartworm treatments in the community, with a total of 92 treatments performed in 2013. With the addition of 50 treatments and procedures performed in 2013, the HAARTS program has saved more than 1,000 lives since its inception in 2009.

"Given that our program relies solely on private donations to achieve its goals, this is quite a milestone," Isaza said. She added that students in the program have logged more than 300 hours of service-learning through the group's work with local sheltering agencies and the St. Francis Pet Care Clinic over the past year.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Dr. Natalie Isaza, '94, left, with a shelter dog that came to UF for testing after sustaining a brutal beating in a Gainesville apartment parking lot. Isaza heads the Community Outreach Program, formerly known as the Shelter Animal Medicine Clerkship. At right is Jessica Lauginiger, an investigator with Alachua County Animal Services. The dog is doing well and has since been adopted.

*The Veterinary Community Outreach Program
is supported with funds from PetSmart
Charities, Merial and PetCo Foundation.*

Heard Endoscopy Suite Dedicated

A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY WAS HELD OCT. 10 IN THE UF LARGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL TO DEDICATE THE HEARD EQUINE ENDOSCOPY SUITE.

College alumna Karen Heard, D.V.M. '81, and her sister, Vaughan, were on hand for the dedication, which was made in honor of their father, Tom Heard, a horse trainer, and his wife, their mother, Chickie Heard. A plaque on the doorway of the suite reads, "The Heard Equine Endoscopy Suite, Donated by the Colt Foundation in honor of Tommy and Chickie Heard."

The family's gift supports neonatal endoscopy equipment, which is used for patient care and research.

The suite includes improved image quality and digital video capture capability and a wall-mounted additional screen to improve viewing opportunities for owners and students.

Endoscopy is used in horses and other large animals of all ages, with the procedure most commonly performed in the

Photo by Sarah Carey



With a cut of the ribbon, the Heard Equine Endoscopy Suite was dedicated in honor of Tom and Chickie Heard. From left to right are Dr. Dana Zimmer, Dr. Sarah Reuss, Vaughan Heard, Dr. Karen Heard (UF CVM '81), Dr. Chris Sanchez and Dean James W. Lloyd.

upper airway and stomach, followed by the urinary tract and the esophagus.

Faculty members honored at ceremony

Two University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine faculty members who occupy new or recently-filled endowed professorships were honored Oct. 10 at the second annual Celebrating Distinction ceremony, held at the McKnight Brain Institute on the UF Health campus.

Appointment to a professorship or chair is one of the highest honors a college can bestow on a faculty member and is reserved for scholars of national and international acclaim.

Sponsored by the UF Foundation and UF Health, the event provides an opportunity to recognize both the faculty member and the donor that created the endowed professorship. Twenty-five faculty members from most of the Health Science Center colleges were honored during the ceremony, which lasted about an hour and a half and was followed by a reception.

Honored from the UF veterinary medical college were Nick Bacon, Vet.M.B., the Jean Imparato Clinical Associate Professor of Surgical Oncology, and Maureen Long, D.V.M., Ph.D., the Fern Audette Professor of Equine Studies.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Dr. Nick Bacon and Dr. Maureen Long are shown in their new commemorative chairs following the Celebrating Distinction ceremony on Oct. 10.

Bacon is a clinical associate professor of oncology in the department of small animal clinical sciences. Long is an associate professor of infectious diseases in the department of infectious diseases and pathology.

2014 Calendar

Photo by Sarah Carey



Dr. Clinton Greene, '92, and Dr. Frank Mills, '90, visit during the UF CVM alumni reception, held Jan. 19 at the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando. Approximately 400 people—a record number—were on hand for the annual gathering.

April 12

The college's traditional 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. Watch our website, www.vetmed.ufl.edu for more information.

April 12

The college's Alumni Council will meet prior to Open House. For more information, contact Jo Ann Winn at winnj@ufl.edu.

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.

June 21

Referring Veterinarian Appreciation Day will be held at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. For more information, contact Rachel DiSesa at disesa@ufl.edu.



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