

Message From The Dean



Dean James W. Lloyd

As we enter the fall season, we are proud to welcome the 113 new D.V.M. students who make up the Class of 2018, as well as several new faculty and staff to the CVM Gator family.

The past year has been a whirlwind, as we've actively engaged in strategic planning, with an emphasis on identifying initiatives that will propel our college to preeminent status across all areas of its mission teaching, research and clinical services.

Already, we have made great strides, and I would like to take this opportunity to update everyone on our progress to date and provide a glimpse of our direction for the near future.

Although we view our plan as live and evolving, our timeline for reaching significant, measureable progress is 24 months from when we began our initial planning in the fall of 2013. During the last half of 2013, we hired new faculty in the areas of dermatology, clinical pathology, cardiology, integrative medicine, zoo medicine and toxicology. Since that time, positions have been filled in neurology, anatomy, neurophysiology, ophthalmology, and radiology, and searches are currently underway in equine surgery, dairy health, pathology, radiation oncology, small animal medicine and dermatology.

During 2013, we invested in facilities, including a new education center and computer laboratory, diagnostic laboratories and a new equine sports performance complex. Another wave of investments started in early 2014, including an advanced clinical techniques laboratory, simulation equipment and models, new research laboratory space, renovation of existing research laboratories and research equipment upgrades.

Major factors influencing our planning and our timeframe are an upcoming accreditation site visit by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education in the fall of 2015; an ever-changing market for veterinarians and veterinary medical services; and a challenging, but increasingly important, research environment. On the UF campus, this research environment is characterized most currently by the University's national preeminence initiative. One such initiative, in One Health, is being coordinated by our college.

One Health is the concept that animal, human and environmental health are all related. Many of our alumni are already doing important work in this area. We bring you just two of their stories in this issue.

As part of our strategic planning process, we have reaffirmed our core values, which impact every decision we make. Those values include:

- Excellence
- Trust
- Accountability
- Innovation

- Teamwork
- Integrity
- Diversity

Based on wide-reaching stakeholder input, the college has identified a number of strategic priorities that cut across the three dimensions of our mission. These include:

- Core culture -building collegiality
- Promotion and tenure guidelines
- Leadership development
- International programs
- Enhancing diversity and inclusion

- Faculty development
- Administrative structure
- Preeminent faculty hires
- External engagement
- Communication

Within the key mission areas of research, clinical services and education, the college has defined additional specific elements of strategic priority. To learn more about these areas, I invite you to visit our website at vetmed.ufl.edu.

The atmosphere around the college is one of optimism and empowerment as we continue to strive for preeminence across all of our programs, with the full support of UF Health, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), and main campus administration.

Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss any aspect of our planning or our overall goals. I welcome your engagement and my door is always open.

Best regards, and "Go Gators!"

Dean James W. Lloyd



WE'RE LISTENING!

We would like to thank all of you who responded to our Florida Magazine readability survey this past year. Thanks to your feedback, we have a better feel for what you enjoy most about the magazine.

In this issue, we embark on a new design, which we hope will help us deliver the content you want in a more updated format.

If you have additional thoughts on our new look, please feel free to email the magazine's editor, Sarah Carey, at careysk@ufl.edu.

In addition, we would like to thank all of our donors and friends for their many contributions to the college. We acknowledge support from the past year in our annual donor honor roll on pp. 23-27.





The University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine is supported through funding from UF Health and the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.



Dr. Alison Morton, an associate professor of large animal surgery and chief of the equine lameness and imaging service, is shown with a horse inside the college's new equine sports complex, which opened in the spring. See story, p. 15.

Florida **Veterinarian**

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

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By Sarah Carey

Cassidy Rist, D.V.M., M.P.H., is a 2005 graduate of the UF veterinary college who just completed her Master of Public Health degree at Emory University and is winding up a twoyear fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At the CDC, she works in the One Health Office of the organization's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases' Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology. She shared with Florida Veterinarian how she developed her professional interests and focus and insights she has gained along the way.

Were you always interested zoonotic and emerging diseases and in public health?

I wasn't really aware of the opportunities for veterinarians outside of private practice before I started at UF. I had always had an interest in travel, and fortunately, many of the international travel opportunities I participated in with UF introduced me to the role of veterinarians as epidemiologists, researchers and policymakers.

I took advantage of as many travel opportunities as possible: With UF's SIVO (Students for International Veterinary Opportunity), I travelled to Ecuador to participate in their foot and mouth disease vaccination program, and then again to

Ecuador with Project Heal as the only veterinary student on a multidisciplinary student team.

I went to Yucatan, Mexico twice with Dr. (Jorge) Hernandez to participate in the national rabies vaccination campaign, as part of a spring break course, and I also went to Cuba with Dr. Hernandez twice — once to develop a two-week trip for vet students, and then as part of that two-week trip (although I actually stayed for six weeks to work with the head of their veterinary surgery department).

Have you stayed in touch with your former professors and/or others at the **UFCVM?**

I have kept in touch with Dr. Hernandez throughout the years since I graduated. He was instrumental to my interest in veterinary public health and my understanding of the role of veterinarians in global health work. He was one of the people I asked to write a letter of recommendation for me when I decided to pursue my M.P.H. at Emory. The office I have worked in at the CDC, the One Health Office, assists with Veterinary Student Day at the CDC every year. (Turn page)

(From p. 5)

This year, I helped coordinate the programming for the veterinary faculty who accompany the students. I saw that Drs. Hernandez and (Pam) Ginn were on the list to bring students from UF and made sure to reach out to them when they arrived. During their visit to CDC, Dr. Hernandez asked if I would give a talk to the third-year students as part of the veterinary epidemiology course. I discussed my M.P.H. thesis work in Madagascar, my role as a CDC fellow, and the opportunities at CDC for vet students.

I also worked with Dr. Natalie Isaza and the St. Francis Pet Care Clinic when I worked as an emergency vet in Gainesville, and traveled to Roatan, Honduras with Dr. Amy Stone twice to assist with the community animal health project there. This kept me linked to UF.

How did you happen to enter Emory's M.P.H. program and what was it like working in the CDC's One Health Office?

I was actually accepted to both Emory and Tulane for their M.P.H. programs, but I chose Emory because I had been offered the fellowship with the One Health Office. It really was perfect timing and ended up being a great opportunity to experience public health practice from inside one of the greatest public health institutions in the world.



These piglets belonged to one of the households Dr. Cassidy Rist visited in a village near Ranomafana National Park in Madagascar in July 2013.

"I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT ADVANCING ANIMAL HEALTH THROUGH THE PROVISION OF VETERINARY SERVICES HAS THE POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE RURAL POOR" -DR. CASSIDY RIST

The experience was very complementary to my M.P.H. training. Emory's Global Epidemiology Program has given me excellent skills in data analysis, survey design and implementation, GIS and spatial analysis, as well as public health program development, monitoring and evaluation. So really, my course work gave me a solid foundation in the skills I need as an epidemiologist. My work in the One Health Office gave me the opportunity to see how government functions to protect public health both nationally and internationally.

What are some of the more memorable international projects you've been involved in over the years?

I can give you two examples. One is my work as a board member for the International Spay/Neuter Network. The group organizes and holds three to four weeklong spay/ neuter clinics throughout the island of Jamaica each year. We worked closely with the Jamaican Veterinary Medical Association to help train veterinarians in rapid spay/neuter techniques. Over the past four years, we have developed an excellent group of core vet and vet tech volunteers from the U.S. and Canada. We have also gotten several

of the larger all-inclusive hotel chains to start "Cat Café" programs, where they allow us to spay/neuter the feral cats on their properties instead of just trapping and euthanizing.

The other example would be my M.P.H. thesis work in Madagascar. It's a long story, but essentially it involves investigating the ecology of infectious diseases in communities surrounding the Ranomafana National Park. I worked as part of an interdisciplinary team, funded by Emory's Global Health Institute, to describe the human-livestock interface in these communities and how this interface relates to the potential for zoonotic disease transmission. I was pleased and proud that this project was featured in Emory Magazine's spring 2014 issue.

What are your goals for the future?

Generally, my interests lie in the area of global health and the role of livestock in subsistence agricultural communities. I strongly believe that advancing animal health through the provision of veterinary services and implementation of better husbandry practices has the potential to improve the lives of the rural poor by decreasing zoonotic disease transmission and improving economic and food security.

My ideal job would be to work on improving veterinary care in rural areas in conjunction with other projects that address issues of water and sanitation as well as health care quality and access. By designing and evaluating projects that take a "One Health" approach, we can provide quantitative evidence to governments, NGOs, and others interested in public health that vibrant and economically secure communities depend on addressing the health of humans, animals and the environment as a whole.

What should the public, veterinarians and future veterinarians know about the role of the veterinarian in public health and why One Health is so important?

It is my hope that more universities will incorporate interdisciplinary professional training into their curriculum as a way to produce veterinarians, physicians, nurses and other health professionals who are competent in the concepts of One Health. This is essential, as there is a push for national and international health institutions to develop integrated approaches to disease surveillance, control and response that will require members of the different health sectors to collaborate, trust each other and respect each other's expertise, particularly in relationship to zoonotic and emerging infectious diseases, including antibiotic-resistant organisms.

Biosecurity and emergency preparedness are other areas that impact public health and require veterinary knowledge. Many of the diseases listed as potential agents of bioterrorism are

zoonotic. Veterinarians contribute to research on these diseases and help us understand possible implications for livestock and wildlife if an agent were intentionally introduced into the human population. Veterinarians are involved in preparedness planning for bioterrorism events, as well in planning for the management of emergencies due to extreme weather events.

Climate change, although not traditionally a component of public health, will certainly affect the health of human and animal populations through changes in vector range and disease patterns, livestock productivity, and crop production. Veterinarians are needed to research the effects of climate change on animal health, develop mitigation strategies and help inform policy on livestock management practices that can reduce greenhouse gases.

I think the major takeaway point for the public is that veterinarians have an important and essential role in improving and protecting public health, especially as the world we live in becomes increasingly connected. For veterinary students, I would like to emphasize that the education they receive prepares them for careers in diverse areas. If they find that clinical practice isn't their interest, they have many other opportunities to use their education to benefit society and find personal fulfillment in their work.



Dr. Cassidy Rist is shown while working in a village near Ranomafana National Park in Madagascar in July 2013. She was in the area performing household surveys and collecting livestock fecal samples as part of her graduate research at Emory University.



By Sarah Carey

For University of Florida veterinary medical graduate Van Brass, D.V.M., M.P.H. ('11) public service and One Health are a way of life."

These days, as a member of the International Biological Threat Reduction team at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M., Brass is working in a role that affords him the ability to train and travel all over the world. It also combines his interest in helping people with limited resources in marginalized environments with a longstanding desire to impact public policy on a broader scale.

The team Brass belongs to is owned, operated and managed by the Lockheed Martin corporation and works primarily with the U.S. State and Defense departments to reduce the chances of a terrorist biological attack. At the same time, Brass works closely with global organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). He even helped edit a chapter in an OIE training manual on biosafety and security in veterinary facilities.

"We try to keep the bad guys away from bad pathogens that could cause a lot of damage here but are commonly found in other countries," Brass said.

To that end, Brass regularly visits diagnostic laboratories in countries around the world, working with their personnel to help strengthen safety and security measures. The goal is to help these laboratories protect the pathogens in their possession from theft and also to protect staff from

becoming infected and accidentally releasing those pathogens into the environment.

He could be in Afghanistan one day, showing veterinarians there how to properly palpate a cow, and back in the United States the next day training laboratory workers in disease-control best practices. Recently, he has traveled to Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Kenya and Egypt. He also visited Malaysia in May to assist with that country's public health and disease control programs.

"I also train other veterinarians who aren't as well equipped as we are in the states to be able to better recognize disease clinically," Brass said. "One fear is that something in nature could be acquired or used as a weapon."

Brass' team includes experts in many scientific disciplines, including virology, bacteriology, biology and biosafety.

"It's a diverse group of people who have trained all over the world," he said. "I never imagined I would find this job, but who would know this kind of job even existed? I knew I wanted to work in public health internationally but not how I'd accomplish that."

While a veterinary student, Brass, a Monroe, Louisiana, native founded UF's first student chapter of a group known as VOICE Veterinarians as One in Culture and Ethnicity. The group focused on direct community outreach by providing field trips and hands-on presentations about animal health to Alachua County elementary students and high-risk youth.



Dr. Van Brass, in blue gloves, demonstrates passing a stomach tube and testing rumen fluid acidity with a group of Afghan veterinarians from Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in June 2014.

Brass led food and clothing drives for low-income residents through VOICE, all the while fulfilling the requirements of the D.V.M./M.P.H. combined degree program in 2010, the first year it was offered. Always keen on understanding more about government, public policy and legislative processes, Brass was one of three UF veterinary students who participated in the AVMA-sponsored Student Veterinary Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.

Brass said he had always been taught to serve. At the time of his graduation from veterinary school, he said he truly felt he embodied the concept of a child being raised by a village. He also felt public health was his true calling.

"From the veterinary standpoint, when we think about the breadth of public health, we are very concerned about zoonotic diseases," Brass said. "The pathogens we encounter can be zoonotic. My job is to help characterize the risk of those threats and minimize them, whether to animals or humans."



This small vial contains one of several mycoplasma samples that are part of a collection of the bacteria now housed at UF and available to researchers studying various strains.

WORLD'S LARGEST COLLECTION OF MYCOPLASMA NOW RESIDES AT UF

By Sarah Carey

Locked away within the University of Florida's Veterinary Medical Complex in a space comprising approximately 40 cubic feet, are 12,000 freeze-dried specimens of mycoplasma, bacteria that cause diseases and disorders in plants, animals and humans.

It represents the world's largest and most comprehensive assortment of the smallest living cells yet discovered, and it is priceless scientifically, said Daniel R. Brown, Ph.D., an associate professor of infectious diseases at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine and chairman of the board of the International Organization for Mycoplasmology.

Brown offered UF as a home when a new curator was needed for the collection, which is still officially controlled by the international group and was part of two separate collections at the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I wanted some of the specimens from the collection but didn't have access to them," Brown said. "Other people

were asking for samples as well. Part of the function of the collection is that these samples be provided to people seeking them. That's why we have so many."

Officially known as the Mollicutes Collection of Cultures and Antisera, the specimens represent somewhere between 1,500 and 2,000 strains of mycoplasma, ranging from the scientifically famous to the relatively unknown. They arrived last fall and were meticulously documented by Dina Michaels, a biological scientist who works in Brown's laboratory.

"The collection represents a living encyclopedia, as the many isolates archived within the collection provide a historical narrative dating back to the genesis of mycoplasmology," said Nigel Harrison, Ph.D., an associate professor of plant pathology with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, based in Fort Lauderdale. "As such, the collection is an irreplaceable resource of reference strains for use by scientists dedicated to the study of these unique cell wallless bacteria."

> Although some of the better-known strains are represented in other collections, only UF has strains of almost every species, Brown said.

"For example, we have all of the veterinary pathogens, but not all of the other collections would have those," he said.

Most of the bacteria are host-specific primary pathogens, best known for causing respiratory, urogenital or reproductive diseases in humans and livestock, poultry, companion animals or wildlife, Brown said. Other bacteria in the collection can cause severe growth disorders in invertebrate animals or plants.

All specimens came from individual animals, humans, plants and insects. The vial labeled Mycoplasma felis, for example, came from the mouth of a cat named Ben in Colorado.





This small vial contains one of several mycoplasma samples that are part of a collection of the bacteria now housed at UF and available to researchers studying various strains.

In addition to their global significance as disease agents, mycoplasmas are important model systems for membrane biology, structural genomics and evolutionary bioinformatics as well as for defining the minimal requirements of a living cell, Brown said.

Although it is difficult to find documentation of economic impact, one recent report put the impact of mycoplasmas on poultry in California alone at \$7 million to \$10 million annually, Brown said.

"In Africa, \$50 million to \$100 million has been lost in cattle production due to certain species of mycoplasmas that we have eradicated in the U.S," he said, adding that other strains cause economically significant losses in milk production.

Some mycoplasma species cause respiratory disease in pigs, causing significant losses in pork production, and a very important pathogen causes "atypical pneumonia" in humans known to account for up to 20 percent of all cases of human pneumonia in the U.S. and Western Europe.

Samples are relatively cheap — a mere \$50 buys a tiny glass vial with a pink- or gold-colored, dust-like specimen inside of it that could make or break a scientific study.

Vials are sold on a nonprofit basis, with recipients covering the cost of shipping and ultimately of replenishing the sample when it starts to run out.

Requests for specimens mostly come from other scientists and also from pharmaceutical industry representatives, Brown said.

"THE COLLECTION REPRESENTS A LIVING ENCYCLOPEDIA, **AS THE MANY ISOLATES ARCHIVED WITHIN THE COLLECTION PROVIDE A** HISTORICAL NARRATIVE DATING BACK TO THE GENESIS OF MYCOPLASMOLOGY."

-Nigel Harrison, Ph.D



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.

UF RESEARCHERS: NEW TEST MAY HELP IDENTIFY HUMAN STRAINS OF TICK-BORNE DISEASE

By Sarah Carey

University of Florida veterinary researchers say a simple DNAbased test could help identify strains of a debilitating tickborne disease that infects an increasing number of people.

The research marks the first time scientists have demonstrated the ability to distinguish human from animal strains in ticks carrying the organism that causes anaplasmosis, the researchers said. This information could help them pinpoint areas where ticks that carry these strains are present in large numbers.

"With that knowledge, physicians could potentially enhance screening for the disease agent and begin earlier treatment of patients suspected of being infected," said Anthony Barbet, Ph.D., a professor of infectious diseases at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine and a co-author of the study. "In addition, blood supplies used for transfusions could be better protected."

The findings, by Barbet and Basima Al-Khedery, Ph.D., a scientist with the UF veterinary college, in collaboration with researchers in Minnesota and Norway, appear in two papers published recently in the journal Pathogens.

Anaplasmosis is widespread globally and is caused by the bacterium Anaplasma phagocytophilum. The disease is transmitted to humans by tick bites, primarily from the



blacklegged tick and the Western blacklegged tick, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These same ticks also transmit Lyme disease and a parasitic disease called babesiosis, both of which have been reported in humans.

The number of anaplasmosis cases reported to the CDC has increased steadily since the disease became reportable, climbing from 348 cases in 2000 to 1,761 cases in 2010, though the mortality rate has remained low, at less than 1 percent.

> In humans, the disease can be difficult to diagnose, as its symptoms are similar to those associated with other conditions, such as influenza and Lyme disease. These can range from mild to severe and include rashes, fever and chills, as well as aches and pains.

"The organism causing the disease is present in many domestic animals, wildlife, rodents and ticks worldwide, but not all strains infect humans," Barbet said. "We have been analyzing the organism's genome structure to try to work out ways to differentiate the strains that are causing human disease from other strains infecting ruminants, horses and other animals."

The researchers found that strains that infect humans in the United States were very similar to one another and to the strains infecting U.S. dogs, but differed from strains infecting ruminants and horses. They discovered that these strains could be differentiated by a simple test that checks for a gene deleted in the human strains.

"So far, only a small number of strains have been analyzed, mostly from the U.S., and the test now has to be applied to many more samples and animals globally," Barbet said.

Barbet and his colleagues have studied anaplasma for years, first focusing on the strain that affects cattle, known as Anaplasma marginale.

"We just really want to understand more about the organisms that cause these diseases," Barbet said. "Lots of what we worked out with the cattle strain is relevant to these new strains that are now infecting humans. We're using the same methods to access the genetics of these organisms."

STUDY: GOLD BASED DRUG SHOWS PROMISE FOR FIGHTING BONE **CANCER IN PEOPLE AND DOGS**

By Sarah Carey

A gold-based drug currently used in human and veterinary medicine to manage certain immune diseases may prove useful in combating osteosarcoma, a devastating bone cancer that affects both dogs and people, according to University of Florida veterinary researchers.

By examining an aggressive bone cell line in both species, the researchers found that the drug, aurothiomalate, commonly known as gold salts, kept cancer cells from forming in the laboratory.

"We also were able to demonstrate that the drug slows tumor growth and decreases metastasis when canine bone tumors were created in a mouse model," said Valery Scharf, D.V.M., the study's lead author and a former small animal surgery resident at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. "This study shows that there is potential promise for the role of gold drugs as a part of bone cancer treatment in dogs and potentially in people, although more studies are needed before we can use them in a clinical setting."



Dr. Valerie Scharf prepares to examine a dog in surgery treatment room of the UF Small Animal Hospital earlier this year.

Osteosarcoma is the most common primary bone tumor found in dogs and accounts for the vast majority of cancerous tumors — around 80 percent — in canines. Osteosarcoma is rare in people and affects the long bones of the body.

"Osteosarcoma is a frustrating disease, as you can treat the local tumor, but the metastasis is something there is no effective means of preventing," Scharf says.





After studying unusual skin lesions seen in two orphaned sea otter pups, University of Florida scientists and their collaborators have identified a previously unknown pox virus in the infected animals.

"To our knowledge, this is the first report of a poxvirus in a mustelid, the group of mammals including otters, mink, badgers, and related species," said James Wellehan, D.V.M., Ph.D., an assistant professor at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine who specializes in virology and zoological medicine. "This virus appears to be distinct to a degree that it likely represents a novel genus."

DNA testing revealed that viral gene sequences from both animals were identical, and that it represents a virus that had never been identified, according to findings that now appear online in the Journal of Wildlife Diseases.

Members of the poxvirus family have been found to cause significant disease affecting both animal and human populations, and the emergence of smallpox in humans was a global pandemic.

The scientists say the potential for transmission of this particular pox virus to humans is unclear. Although no pox infections have been reported in humans exposed to sea otters, the scientists advise wearing protective clothes and gloves when handling these animals either in the wild or in rehabilitation settings.

The otter pups came from two geographically and genetically distinct populations -- one in Alaska and one in California - so the researchers say the virus must be geographically widespread. Both otters were undergoing rehabilitation at the time the skin lesions were noted and subsequently tested.

UF researchers found the virus poses a threat because the lesions it causes interfere with the animals' hair coat, impeding their natural ability to survive in water.

"When you look at a Steller's sea cow, which is now extinct, a whale, or a seal, they all have significant blubber layers," Wellehan said. "But what keeps sea otters alive in the cold water is their hair coat. Anything affecting their hair coat, with its incredible density of fur, is a huge problem for them."

Additional studies are needed to determine the source of the virus, how it was transmitted to the otters, its potential for transmission to humans and its biological significance.

"Understanding the diversity, ecology, and evolution of medically important groups of viruses is crucial to prediction and monitoring," Wellehan said.

Other collaborators on the research team included Thomas B. Waltzek, D.V.M., Ph.D., an assistant professor of infectious diseases and co-director of UF's Aquatic Animal Health program, Alaska SeaLife Center, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Northwest ZooPath, and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

NEW EQUINE SPORTS PERFORMANCE COMPLEX DEDICATED



From left to right are Dr. Jack Payne, Dr. Suzan Oakley, Dean Jim Lloyd (cutting the ribbon), K.T. Steward and Dr. David Guzick.

With a cut of a ribbon on the afternoon of a hot summer day, the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine celebrated the official opening of a new equine sports performance complex during a grand opening ceremony at 4:30 p.m. June 6.

The \$600,000 venue, funded through a combination of state and private dollars, will aid UF veterinarians in diagnosing problems that are often difficult to pinpoint in performance horses without direct observation of the horses under saddle.

The college's dean, James W. Lloyd, D.V.M., Ph.D., greeted attendees, saying one of the key reasons for his interest in becoming dean was the college's renowned equine programs. Raised around horses, Lloyd grew up riding trails and competing in the 4-H show ring. When he worked in private veterinary medical practice, horses were a large part of his job.

"So I'm thrilled to be able to lead a college of veterinary medicine that is right next to one of the true epicenters of the North American horse industry – Ocala," he said.

Lloyd added that the day's timing, which immediately preceded the Belmont Stakes race in the Triple Crown, was impeccable also because the ceremony signaled the college's commitment to helping the Florida horse industry consistently achieve exactly that level of preeminence, whether it involves race horses, hunterjumpers, show horses or other instances of the horse as an athlete.

"This equine sports performance complex will help us bring the latest in cutting-edge biomedical and clinical services to the Florida equine industry and the Florida veterinary medical profession," Lloyd said.

"We will build on a solid foundation of translational, or clinical, research, in partnership with the rich core of researchers on the UF campus, whether that involves the UF Health Sciences Center, IFAS, the College of Engineering or some other innovative scientists on campus."

He added that UF will share its experience and expertise in research with world-class equine athletes as a model (Turn page)

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for considering similar conditions of importance to thehuman athlete.

In addition, the new complex will provide a rich educational experience for the next generation of equine practitioners and biomedical/clinical scientists, and will enhance clinical services.

"Our unique portfolio of strengths in surgery, medicine, imaging and other diagnostics will be developed specifically to complement and augment those services available in the private sector," Lloyd said. "Working hand-in-hand with the Florida veterinary medical community, we want to be a readily accessible resource of faculty expertise."

Other speakers at the event included Jack Payne, Ph.D., senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources at UF, David Guzick, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs and president of UF Health, Suzan Oakley, D.V.M. ('91), president of the Florida Association of Equine Practitioners, and third-year veterinary student K.T. Steward, president of the student chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

Payne noted that for the 440,000 Floridians involved in the equine industry, "horses are their co-workers."

"This facility says we care about our co-workers," Payne said. "It also reminds us that in Florida, horse health means economic health. We have half a million horses in the state; that's more than Kentucky has. They help us produce \$2 billion in goods and services annually."

That IFAS and UF Health both have a hand in the College of Veterinary Medicine is no accident, Payne said.

"It reflects our awareness that medicine, on the way to saving millions of lives, has overlooked one of its own maladies - the tendency to divide itself by the species of patient," he said. "Here is one place we integrate what we learn about medicine, whether it comes out of veterinary or human health."

Veterinary student Steward offered remarks on behalf of the student body.

"Thank you to the donors for believing in us, to the college for molding us, and to the future clients for entrusting us with the care of your equine athletes," Steward said. "With the introduction of this facility, we, the students, will be shaped into the top doctors, and dare I even say specialists, of the future of equine performance medicine."

Located behind the main Large Animal Hospital building, adjacent to existing barns, the new complex is large enough for most performance disciplines, such as show jumping, dressage, Western sports and driving.





2014 DISTINGUISHED AWARD WINNERS NAMED

The college's 2014 Distinguished Award winners included Dr. Elliott Jacobson, Dr. Adam Birkenheuer, Dr. Chris Sanchez, Dr. Andy Roark and Congressman Ted Yoho.

By Sarah Carey

A University of Florida equine medicine speci alist, a leader in small animal infectious diseases, an internationally known reptile expert and a U.S. congressman have received the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's 2014 Distinguished Awards.

The program was established in 2000 to recognize outstanding alumni, faculty and friends of the college in the categories of Alumni Achievement, Distinguished Service, Special Service and Outstanding Young Alumni.

Adam Birkenheuer, D.V.M., Ph.D., and Chris Sanchez, D.V.M., Ph.D., both 1995 graduates of the UF veterinary college, were joint winners of the Alumni Achievement Award.

Birkenheuer, an associate professor of small animal internal medicine at N.C. State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, is an internationally renowned expert on infectious diseases, specifically vector-borne infections of dogs and cats. A board-certified internist, Birkenheuer has published his research prolifically in highly respected peer-reviewed journals and has held numerous leadership roles

in educating veterinary students and house officers at N.C. State as well as at the national level.

His research discoveries during the past decade include the identification of a previously unrecognized canine infectious disease, known as babesiosis, in dogs in the United States. As a result of his work, veterinarians throughout the world are now able to more accurately diagnose and treat this lifethreatening illness.

Sanchez is an associate professor of large animal medicine at the college and a board-certified specialist in large animal internal medicine with specific interests in gastrointestinal diseases and neonatology. She heads the UF Hofmann Equine Neonatology Intensive Care Unit and her research in the area of gastric ulcerations in foals has changed the therapeutic approach in clinical care.

A frequent speaker at national and international meetings, Sanchez also presents her work regularly to horse owners and veterinary technicians. She has been recognized four times for excellence in teaching by UF veterinary students, who also selected her four times as Large Animal Clinician of

the Year, and received the Florida Veterinary Medical Association's Clinical Investigator Award in 2007 in honor of her scholarly achievements.

U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho, D.V.M., a 1983 graduate of the college, received the Distinguished Service Award. Following graduation from veterinary school, Yoho practiced large and small animal medicine for several years in north central Florida. In 2012, he was elected for national office, becoming one of only two veterinarians now serving in Congress.

Yoho co-chairs the House Veterinary Medicine Caucus, a forum that helps provide members with information about the opportunities and challenges facing veterinary medicine and about the importance of the profession to public health, animal health and welfare, food safety and the economy. He also serves as a member of the House committees on Agriculture and Foreign Affairs and has co-sponsored numerous pieces of legislation of benefit to the veterinary profession.

Elliott Jacobson, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor emeritus of zoological (*Turn page*)

(From p. 17) medicine who served on the UF faculty for 33 years before his retirement in 2012, received the Special Service Award. Widely respected worldwide in his field, Jacobson was in the college's first class of residents-in-training in the former Laboratory Animal and Wildlife Medicine Service, and progressed through the academic ranks to full professor. He served as the zoological medicine service chief, and also as associate chairman of research and graduate studies for the department of small animal clinical sciences.

Jacobson has been honored numerous times by leading professional associations for his dedication to the protection and preservation of zoo and free-ranging wildlife. In 1989, he began research to understand health/disease problems in desert tortoises in the Mojave Desert of the southwest United States and has continued with this work following his retirement.

This year's Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient is Andy Roark, D.V.M., a 2008 graduate of the UF veterinary college. Roark was included in the "25 Veterinarians to Watch in 2013" list published by Veterinary Practice News and is a popular speaker, a national awardwinning columnist and an active contributor to veterinary publications and websites.

An associate veterinarian at Cleveland Park Animal Hospital in Greenville, S.C., Roark is known within the profession for his communications and leadership skills, business entrepreneurship and consulting expertise. He helped establish UF's Veterinary Business Management Association chapter while a student at the college and now serves on VBMA's national advisory board.

The awards were presented May 24 at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts during college commencement exercises.



Dr. Thomas W. Vickrov

Teacher of the Year in 2003-04 and Class of 1996 Teacher of the Year.

Also active in research, Vickroy's achievements in veterinary pharmacology have included leadership roles such as regional director of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank and regional animal drug coordinator for the Minor Use Animal Drug program, both funded by the USDA.

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Although his career at UF has been spent primarily as a faculty member, he has also served in the college's administration as interim associate dean for students and instruction from 2007 to 2010.

Vickroy's primary responsibilities in his new role will include implementation of strategic initiatives, human resource management, leadership development, facilities and space, and institutional evaluation and reporting. He will often work in collaboration with the associate dean for students and instruction and the associate dean for research and graduate studies on these and other projects. All three associate deans will report directly to the dean.

The national search and Vickroy's hire were precipitated by the impending retirement of John Harvey, D.V.M., Ph.D., who will be leaving UF in September after 40 years of service on the UF veterinary medical faculty, six as executive associate dean.

Thomas W. Vickroy, Ph.D., a pharmacologist and longtime University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine faculty member, has been named executive associate dean of the college.

Dean James W. Lloyd, D.V.M., Ph.D., made the announcement following a comprehensive national search. The appointment is effective Aug. 1.

"Dr. Vickroy has a long, respected history with this college and great institutional knowledge," said Lloyd. "He will be an excellent addition to our leadership team and I am delighted that he has agreed to accept the job."

A professor in the college's department of physiological sciences, Vickroy teaches veterinary pharmacology and previously has taught both small and large animal clinical pharmacology to professional (D.V.M.) students. He also teaches graduate students several subjects, including cellular neurophysiology, molecular and cellular neurobiology, mammalian pharmacology and advanced toxicology, both in the UF College of Veterinary Medicine and in the UF College of Medicine.

Vickroy has won numerous awards for teaching excellence since he joined the faculty in 1988, including recognition of his contributions in the forensic science program, the College of Veterinary Medicine Clinical Sciences

Honors & Awards

AAVC Resident's Award



D.V.M., who completed his large animal surgery residency and is a Ph.D. candidate at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, was honored by a national professional

Andrew Smith,

Dr. Andrew Smith

association for his 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 Smith with its Resident Award, which is given annually to two residents selected from all the veterinary residents in North America.

His research interests include equine diagnostic imaging, orthopedic surgery, upper airway surgery, lameness and podiatry.

Animal Airwaves radio program wins national award



Animal Airwayes UF team members Melanie Ross, Nancy Hamilton, April Frawley, Dr. Dana Zimmel, Sarah Carey and Garrett Hall

The UF College of Veterinary Medicine and the UF Health Communications office have received the highest honor in the Association of American Medical College's 2014 Group on Institutional Advancement awards competition - the Awards for Excellence.

UF's award recognized the Animal Airwaves radio program, which features one-minute

segments relating to animal health, and an hour-long live Saturday call-in show. It was presented on March 27 during the association's annual conference in Salt Lake City.

The Group on Institutional Advancement awards recognize the most creative and effective approaches used to promote academic medicine in the United States through alumni, development, public relations, marketing and communications.

Judges of the competition called the program "a creative approach to problem-solving, with good documentation" and "delightful to listen to, professionally produced, with just the right, light touch, music and animal sounds."

One judge commented that pets are "all around us, but so rarely on the radio" and that it was "very nice to hear creative solutions to improving outreach to pet owners and local veterinarians." Another was impressed with "how much useful information was packed into very short segments."

Animal Airwaves launched in 2011. The program airs on Gainesville's public radio affiliate, WUFT-FM, and focuses on animal health and behavior as well as patient care and research breakthroughs, pet owner tips and trends within the veterinary profession

Currently, the modules air internationally on the American Forces Network, which reaches military bases worldwide; nationally on WPSU at State College, Pa., statewide on WGCU in the Fort Myers as well as in the North Central Florida primary coverage area.

ACVIM Resident Research Award



Dr. Amy Stieler

Amy Stieler, D.V.M., ('11) a third-year resident in large animal internal medicine at UF, received a Resident Research Award at the **American** College of Veterinary Internal Medicine's annual forum.

The award was presented during the ACVIM's annual forum, held June 4-7 in Nashville.

Given in the large animal internal medicine category, the award for Stieler's presentation on the role of impaired sweat responses in macrolide induced hyperthermia in foals.

UF veterinary professor honored for contributions in surgical oncology



Dr. Sarah Boston

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

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.

UF Online Excellence Award

A graduate online course offered by the Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program has been selected to receive an OnlineEducation Excellence award from the University of Florida's "UF Online" program.

The award was given in the graduate courses category. The course, titled Integrating Veterinary Medicine with (Turn page) (From p. 20)

Shelter Systems" was created and is taught by Terry Spencer, D.V.M., a clinical assistant professor and director of distance learning for the Maddie's program, with assistance from Michael Crandall, a media and instructional designer also with the Maddie's Program.

National Institute of Health Fellowship



Dr. Yaima Lightfoot

Yaima Lightfoot, Ph.D., a postdoctoral associate in the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's department of infectious diseases and pathology, has received a three-year fellowship from the National Institutes of Health to support her research.

The Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellowship, in the amount of \$159,328, provides up to three years of support for promising postdoctoral researchers who have the potential to become productive, independent investigators within the broad scope of biomedical, behavioral or clinical research

Lightfoot's research project will center on rebalancing intestinal pathogenic inflammation in intestinal disorders, including colon cancer using novel cellular and molecular approaches. She works in the laboratory of Dr. Mansour Mohamadzadeh.

Bayer Excellence in Communication Award

Andrew Torchia, a third-year UF veterinary student, has received the 2014 Bayer Excellence in Communication Award.

Created and funded by Bayer HealthCare LLC's Animal Health Division, the purpose of the award is to identify and reward



Dr. Elizabeth Bailey of Bayer Health Care with Andrew Torchia.

veterinary students across the nation who are mastering effective communication skills. These skills are considered critical for helping to establish strong client relationships, which in turn lead to better compliance with medications and treatment plans for their animals.

Students competing for the award, which includes a \$2,500 scholarship, submit recorded interviews of themselves in a clinical setting with a client. The submissions are then judged by a panel of faculty judges at each institution, who selected their school's winner.

Director of Veterinary Medical Admissions named



Dr. Julia A. Conway

(Golden) Conway, D.V.M., ('06) has been named Veterinary Medical Admissions Director at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine.

Julia A.

In her new role, Conway will provide key assistance to the college's associate dean for students and instruction, Dr. Pam Ginn, by offering additional support to accommodate the demands of an increased class size, an upcoming curriculum review process and an upcoming American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation process, said the college's dean, Dr. James W. Lloyd.

"Dr. Conway's primary focus will be the oversight of admissions and recruitment," Lloyd said. "Additionally, she will oversee the Office for Students and Instruction when the associate dean needs to be away."

Following her graduation from the UF veterinary college in 2006, Conway completed her residency in anatomic pathology at the college and became board-certified in 2010. She subsequently joined the college faculty as a clinical assistant professor in the department of infectious diseases and pathology, where her focus is dermatopathology.

UFRF Professorship



Dr. Rosanna Marsella

Rosanna Marsella, D.V.M., Ph.D., a veterinary dermatologist 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 faculty members campuswide who have a distinguished current record of research and a strong research agenda that is likely to lead to continuing distinction in their fields. The honor includes a three-year salary increase of \$5,000 and a onetime \$3,000 grant for research support. The professorships are funded from the university's share of royalty and licensing income on UF-generated products.

Marsella, a professor in the college's department of small animal clinical sciences, studies the immunology of allergic skin diseases and has a special interest in the causes of and treatments for atopic dermatitis, which affects both dogs and children.

ONCOLOGIST CAPTURES REAL-LIFE JOURNEY IN NEW BOOK

By Sarah Carey

Sarah Boston, D.V.M., D.V.Sc., waited four weeks for pathology test results to confirm that she had thyroid cancer. As a veterinary surgical oncologist at the University of Florida, her animal patients typically have these results in four days.

Her insights and frustrations as a cancer patient and survivor led the Calgary, Canada native to chronicle her personal observations in writing, which in turn has led to yet another role — that of published author.

Boston's book, titled "Lucky Dog: How Being a Veterinarian Saved my Life" was released by Canadian publishing company House of Anansi Press in June 2014.

"It's basically about being a patient but also being a doctor, a veterinary doctor," said Boston, an associate professor of surgical oncology in the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's department of small animal clinical sciences. "It's about that whole experience, but also about taking care of animal patients with cancer."

Boston's odyssey began in 2011 when she was still a faculty surgical oncologist at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph. She discovered a lump in her neck and went to her primary care doctor, who told her it was "probably fine." At a gut level, Boston knew otherwise, based on the way the growth pushed against her neck and grew in a matter of days.

When she learned it would take two weeks even to be seen for an ultrasound, Boston had her husband, a fellow veterinarian, bring home a portable ultrasound machine so she could scan and view the growth herself. Even without biopsy test results in hand, Boston believed it was likely a carcinoma and she pushed to have it surgically removed.

DR. SARAH BOSTON How Being a /eterinarian Saved My Life Photo by Krystle Radlinksi, Verve Photography

The Lucky Dog cover design is by House of Anansi Press.

"I knew this was going to be a thyroid carcinoma." Boston said. "When I went to see my endocrinologist to go over these results, he just kept saying he was shocked."

Between appointments with her endocrinologist, primary care doctor and head and neck surgeon, the

process of getting to her first surgery took 21/2 months.

"I remember at the time I was going through this, I had a patient whose owner was very upset that she had to wait a whole day to get a CT scan on her dog," Boston said. "I remember

just thinking: 'You have no idea.'"

In addition to juxtaposing her experiences with human and veterinary medicine, a central theme in Boston's book is the importance of taking personal responsibility for one's own health.

"Our owners are advocates for their pets," Boston said. "If you're ill, either you have to be your own advocate or have someone advocate for you."

Soon after her surgery and subsequent treatment, Boston spoke at a fundraising gala to benefit cancer research at her college. She decided to read excerpts about her experience to explain the connections between human and animal cancers.

After the reading, she went back to her table, where she happened to be seated next to Canadian author and journalist Noah Richler,

who put her in touch with his wife, who happens to be president and publisher of House of Anansi Press. Boston eventually met MacLachlan in Toronto, and the book evolved soon after. "I know how lucky I am," Boston said. Boston's book is available at Amazon.com.■



Dean Jim Lloyd with Dr. Monisha Seth, D Anthony Douglas, Dr. Amara Estrada and Dr. Ashley Jones.

FRANKLIN CARDIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP CREATED IN HONOR OF DOG. RESIDENT

The owners of a dog treated at the University of Florida Small Animal Hospital have made a gift to honor their beloved dog, Franklin, and the cardiology resident who assisted in his treatment.

The Franklin Cardiology Fellowship was created in memory of Franklin Seth-Douglas, a rescued English foxhound who suffered from heart failure due to a defective mitral valve. UF veterinary cardiologists, including Ashley Jones, D.V.M., a third year cardiology resident, helped extend Franklin's life and ensure his excellent quality of life, according to Franklin's owners, Monisha Seth, M.D., and Anthony Douglas, M.D.

The fellowship will extend the cardiology residency program at the UF Small Animal Hospital to include an extra year of fellowship research.

"Franklin was our sweet boy and we created the fellowship in his honor," Seth said. "Our hope is that his legacy will inspire future research and education in veterinary cardiology."

Gifts to the Franklin Cardiology Fellowship will enrich the cardiology residency program and will make possible new advances in the diagnosis and treatment of veterinary cardiac disease.

There are currently now over 30 university and private practice residency programs in existence, said

"OUR HOPE IS THAT HIS LEGACY WILL INSPIRE **FUTURE RESEARCH** AND EDUCATION IN VETERINARY CARDIOLOGY." - DR. MONISHA SETH

Amara Estrada, D.V.M., chief of the hospital's cardiology service.

"All are excellent in their clinical training programs, but virtually all trainees finishing these programs enter into private practice instead of academia," Estrada said. "This has created a great void and need for academic veterinary cardiologists that is not likely to change unless the training programs adapt and shift their training focus in response."

However, this is a difficult task when most of the funding for these programs is generated by clinical income, she added.

"This is why Anthony and Monisha's special gift and creation of the Franklin cardiology fellowship is so valuable," Estrada said.■

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THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Honor Roll of Donors for 2013-2014

The 2013-2014 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 & gift in kind donors of \$1 or more between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. 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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\$250 To \$499

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Anonymous (3) **Affiliated Veterinary** Specialists, P.A. All Creature Animal Clinic **Animal Medical Center** Apalachee River Animal Hospital Argay Cat Clinic/Hospital for Cats AVS of Jacksonville Ashley M. Baker '10 Dena D. Baker '00 Susan J. & Gunther W. Balz Mackenzie R. Beckman Sherri S. Beckman Benson Veterinary Services, Inc. Bevis Veterinary Hospital Maggie A. Bielecky Sandra L. Black '91 Sabina Blanco-Squires '08 Braden River Animal Hospital Scott Brady Mary R. Bressman '00 Eric J. Bucki '05 Calene F. & Hilary J. Candela Carol L. Cirigliano Clear Lake Animal Hospital Randi P. Cohen '02 Jill M. Cooke Heather J. Courtney Jackie Creager Marie Crofoot Laurie K. Daigle Katherine D. Davies Nancy P. & Daniel Davis

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2014 Calendar



Melba, a goat owned by Elisa Anderson, is shown after surgery at the UF Large Animal Hospital in June. She is recuperating well from her procedure, which resulted from a bout with mastitis. Shown are third-year veterinary student Jordi Behrens, Dr. Anastacia Munro, a visiting human anesthesiologist from UF Health Shands Hospital and Dr. Sharon Tenenbaum, a UF CVM anesthesia resident.

Oct. 9-12

The Florida Association of Equine Practitioners will hold its 10th annual Promoting Excellence Symposium at Hilton Head Island, S.C. The college will have an exhibit booth and will host an alumni gathering during the event. For more information, visit http://givingandalumni.vetmed.ufl.edu/.

Oct. 17-18

UF and the college celebrate alumni Homecoming weekend. The Class of 1984 will have a 30-year reunion, and the Class of 2004 is returning for a 10-year reunion. A pre-game alumni celebration will take place UFCVM. For information, visit http://givingandalumni.vetmed.ufl.edu/.

Oct. 26

Team Vet Med will once again ride the Horse Farm Hundred and will raise money for D.V.M. scholarships. All riders are welcome to participate.

Jan. 17-21

The North American Veterinary Conference and CVM alumni gathering will be held in Orlando. The college's gathering will be held Jan.18 at the Marriott Orlando World Center. For more information, visit http://givingandalumni.vetmed.ufl.edu/.





