

# Auburn Veterinarian

AUBURN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY





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ON THE COVER: Theriogenology resident Ghislaine Dujovne, D.V.M., at the James W. Goodwin and Joy Goodwin Adams Equine Reproduction Center.



# From the Dean

Graduation marks the beginning of an incredible journey for the 97 members of the Class of 2009. The opening and closing remarks given by Margaret Ferrell and Allison Snow were the highlights of the evening, except of course for the applause and cheers for the graduates as they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. The messages of Drs. Ferrell and Snow were ones of optimism for the future, a realistic appreciation of the challenges they will face and an abiding love for their classmates.

We were honored to have James Cook, D.V.M., president of the AVMA, give the commencement address. Like the students, he is excited about the future of veterinary medicine and the many contributions that veterinarians continue to make to the advancement of animal and human health. The current outbreak of the H1N1 flu virus in people, and recently reported in Canadian pigs, serves as an example of the importance of the "One Health" initiative led by the American Veterinary Medical Association and numerous other associations, including the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. Dr. Cook, among others, is a strong advocate for the "One Health" initiative, a campaign designed to facilitate collaboration and cooperation among health science professionals to assess the critical global health and environmental challenges of today. We thank him for the leadership he has provided during his year as president.

As I prepared for spring commencement, I received e-mail updates on the H1N1 (swine flu) virus. Understandably there is wide spread concern that this strain of influenza virus could result in a serious pandemic. In response to these concerns the university considered delaying graduation and/or suspending the traditional handshake when the diploma is given to the graduate. Fortunately common sense prevailed. With bottles of hand sanitizer present, commencement proceeded, including the handshaking. It was rewarding to observe the self-confidence of the graduates knowing their self-confidence comes from experience, understanding and an excitement about the future. Auburn's graduates can take great pride in knowing they are well prepared to do the work they enjoy while serving the best interests of society. I am confident they will have very rewarding careers.

The following pages of *Auburn Veterinarian* profile the successes and accomplishments of our faculty. The future of the college depends on their talents and their commitment to the advancement of our missions in teaching, research and outreach. We are very fortunate to have over 100 dedicated and devoted faculty.

Sincerely,

Dean Timothy Boosinger

# Auburn Veterinarian

AUBURN VETERINARIAN (USPS 014-919) is published four times annually by the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine for the graduates, friends, faculty, staff, and students of the college. Periodicals postage paid at Auburn, AL, with additional mailing offices in Mobile, AL. Printing by Interstate Printing, Mobile, AL.

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## CALENDAR

### 2009

#### JUNE 25-28

Alabama VMA Convention  
Sandestin, Florida

#### JULY 11-14

AVMA Convention  
Seattle, Washington

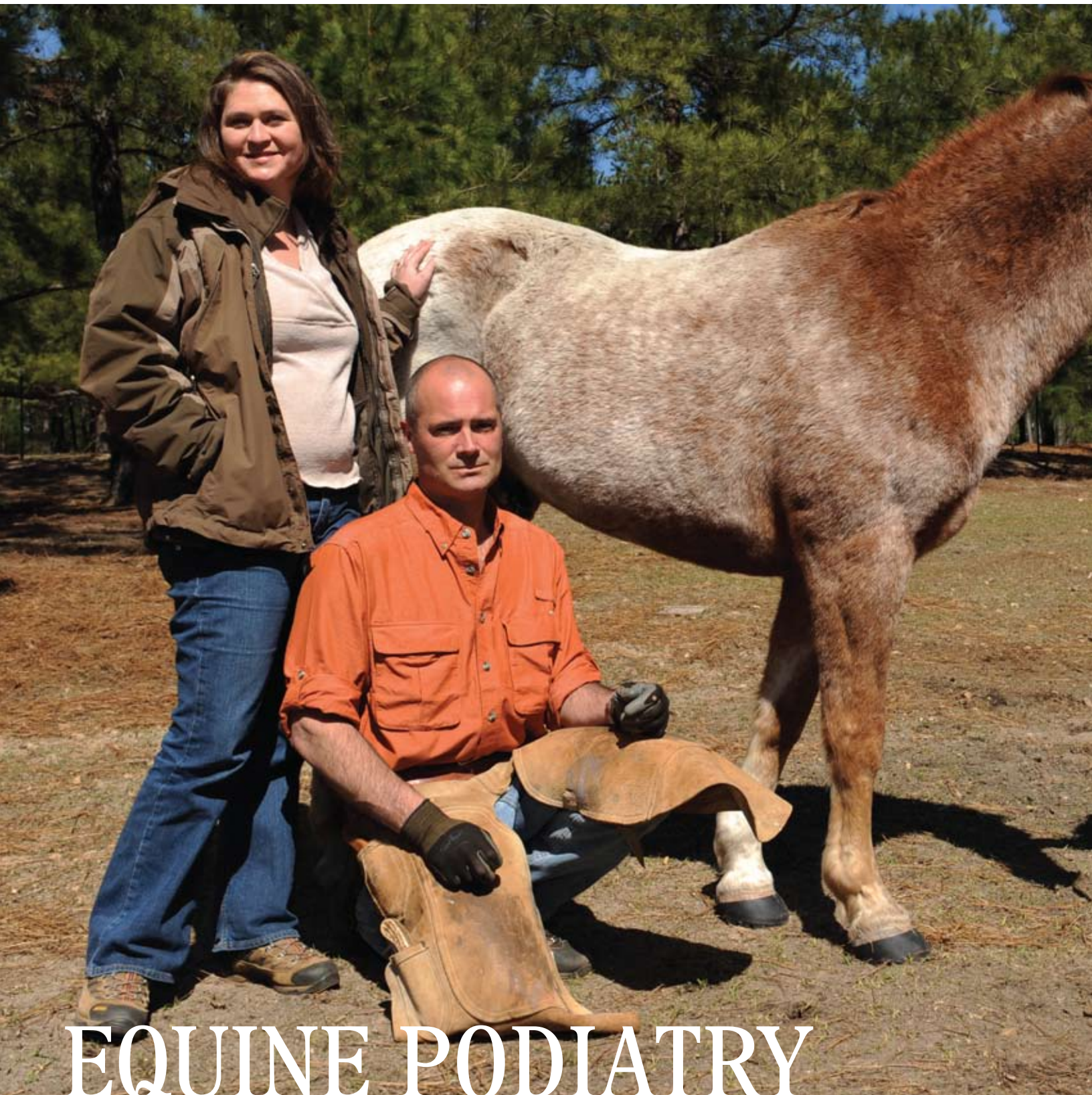
#### AUGUST 17

Fall Semester Begins

#### NOVEMBER 13-14

J.T. Vaughan Equine Conference  
for the Practitioner





# EQUINE PODIATRY

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**TWO-WEEK ROTATION INVOLVES STUDENTS,  
VETERINARIANS, FARRIERS, TRIMMERS, AND OWNERS**



IVY RAMEY, PETE RAMEY, AND DEBRA TAYLOR, D.V.M., TREAT A LAMINITIS CASE NEAR AUBURN.

Eleven to fourteen Auburn veterinary students a year are taking a two-week rotation that concentrates on the health of the equine foot. Spearheaded by Debra Taylor, D.V.M., the elective focuses on improving the students' knowledge and understanding of various shoeing and trimming techniques.

The program takes advantage of the expertise of other College of Veterinary Medicine faculty. Invited speakers and field trips offer students different perspectives on horse husbandry and hoof care.

A continuing education symposium for veterinarians, trimmers, and farriers is frequently hosted by the Department of Clinical Sciences during the elective. "The first year we went to Dr. Ed Murray's Coosa Valley Equine Center and conducted a continuing education clinic for vets and farriers with Dr. Jody Wagner," said Dr. Taylor. The clinic featured American Farrier's Association Certified Farrier Bernard Pelletier.

Last year's continuing education symposium on November 1 focused on medical and nutritional management of the obese horse. Kathryn Watts (safergrass.org), who has studied the carbohydrate content of forage, spoke on how to prevent equine obesity. Pete Ramey, a hoof rehabilitation specialist, led a lab showing participants how to use the Equicast system for protection, sole development, and proper mechanical loading of weak or laminitic hooves.

Experts are invited to Auburn to speak to students during the rotation. "We expose students to different ideas and to different shoeing concepts from around the country," said Dr. Taylor.

Patrick Reilly, chief of farrier services at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, is one expert who visited recently. The center's farrier service is one of the oldest and most well respected programs in the country. Reilly also directs the Applied Polymer Research Laboratory which continues to explore new materials and techniques for hoof care.

Bryan Fraley, D.V.M., a veterinary podiatrist in private practice in Kentucky, helped teach a four-day, hands-on, short course attended by veterinarians, farriers, and veterinary students.

Mandy Hagan, D.V.M., a 2005 graduate of Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine commented on the course:

*I took the course as a veterinarian. The course was very beneficial. Its best aspect was the practicality – you could use the material in every day practice – even in rural practice. I got a good idea of how to look at radiographs and to determine how that horse needed to be trimmed and fitted (boot, shoe, etc.) and I learned different approaches if the first one did not work. I would definitely recommend the course to others interested in learning more about equine podiatry. I also would like to take the course again, due to the fact there was so much information to absorb in four days.*



**ABOVE:** PETE RAMEY DOUBLE LOADS THE FRONT RIGHT FOOT AS THE GLUE SETS, WHILE IVY RAMEY SMOOTHS OUT THE IMPRESSION MATERIAL TO KEEP DEBRIS OUT OF THE BOOT.

“We take students on field trips to see methods of horse husbandry that are claimed to promote hoof health such as a ‘pasture paradise’,” Dr. Taylor said. Danny Thornburg, a practitioner and field instructor for the American Association of Hoof Care Practitioners, lives in Shelby, Ala. Students travelled to Thornburg’s facility to learn more about natural hoof care and housing for horses.



**ABOVE:** HOOF REHAB SPECIALIST PETE RAMEY TRIMS TO RELIEVE SHEER STRESS ON THE LAMINAE AND THEN APPLIES IMPRESSION MATERIAL TO SUPPORT P3 AND CUSHION THE SOLE. RAMEY APPLIES EASYCARE GLUE-ON BOOTS TO MAXIMIZE PROTECTION AND TO PROVIDE AXIAL LOADING SO A WELL CONNECTED WALL CAN BE GROWN.

Students also accompany Dr. Taylor and hoof rehab specialist Pete Ramey to work on laminitis cases in the Auburn area. In February, Taylor, Ramey, Ramey’s wife Ivy, and several veterinary students were in Beauregard to reevaluate a horse for a routine three-week re-check.

“The owner had been having some trouble with the previous padding system,” said Dr. Taylor. When the team had finished their work, the horse walked more comfortably. “The owner has been pleased with the progress and minimal work required on his part during pasture turn out,” said Dr. Taylor.

“Pete wants to document our success and progress through radiographs and lameness exams. He then wants to do the same for heel pain and heel rehab,” said Dr. Taylor. Unfortunately Auburn doesn’t have MRI capabilities for horses at this time, although there is an effort by the faculty and administration to secure an MRI for equines.

Ramey comes to Auburn every three weeks to assist with cases. His brother-in-law, Alex Sperandeo, a trimmer certified by the American Hoof Association, has assisted in teaching the podiatry elective. Sperandeo has helped Dr. Taylor rehabilitate eight laminitis horses and all eight have returned to soundness. Documentation of two of the horses is contained on Ramey's Web site at [www.hoofrehab.com](http://www.hoofrehab.com).

Dr. Taylor continues to invite farriers and trimmers to lend support. Among those who have helped are: Spencer Roy, Al Beechy, Scooter Moore, Phillip Box, and Philding Handley.

College of Veterinary medicine faculty who have assisted during the rotation include: Dr. Steven Kincaid (histology), Dr. Ray Wilhite (gross dissections of the foot), Dr. John Schumacher (analgesia of the foot), Drs. Fred Caldwell, Wayne Waguespack, and Reid Hanson (diagnosis and treatment of navicular syndrome), and Drs. Nelson Pinto and Rebecca Funk (equine metabolic syndrome).

"We want to be recognized as an Auburn podiatry program," Dr. Taylor said. When asked about future plans for hoof rehab, she cites continuing to document the rehabilitation of laminitic horses and to seek funding for a clinical trial to document the rehab of navicular horses.

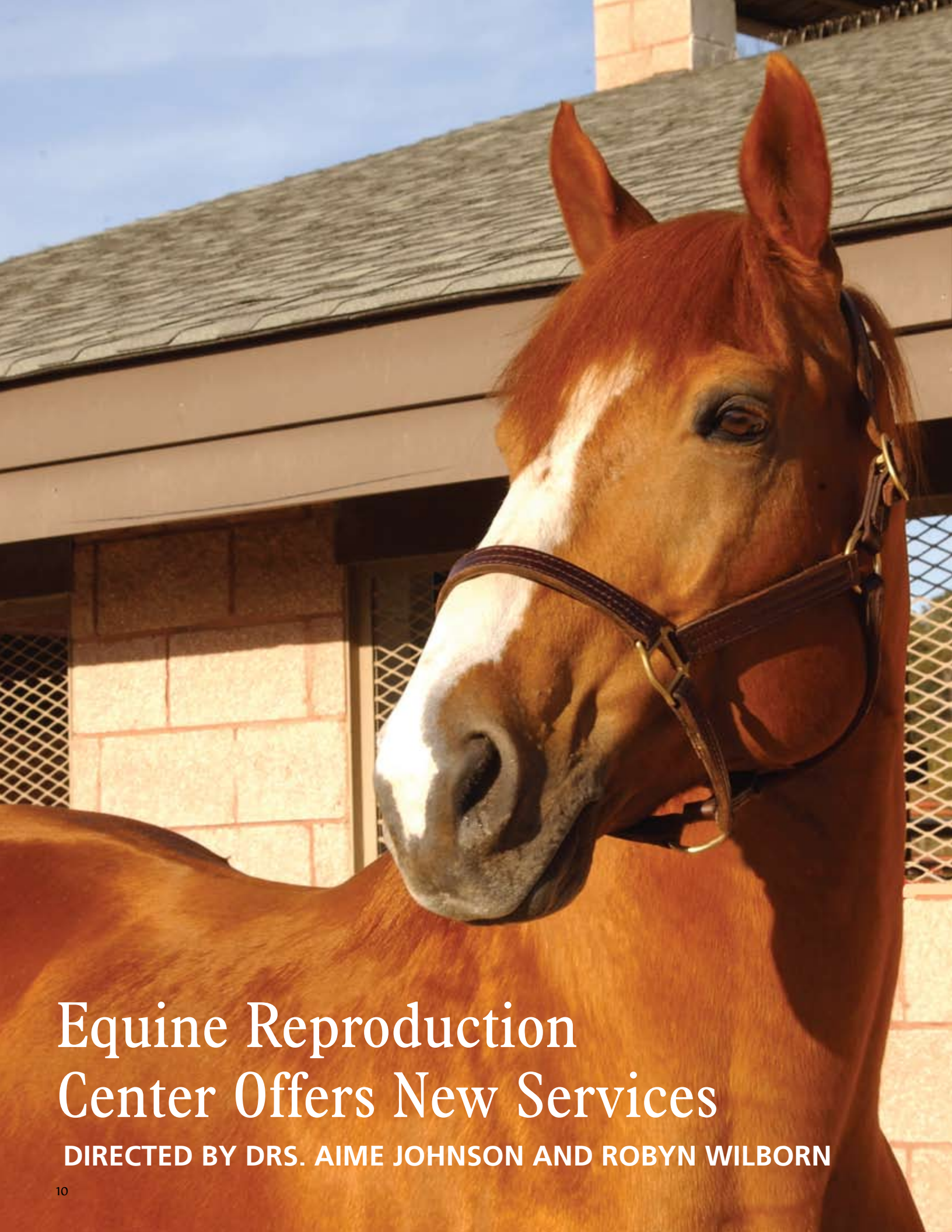
"I feel like we are having awesome success with many of our laminitic cases," said Dr. Taylor. "Most people would just throw up their hands. Our success is repeatable. It gives you control, it gives you hope."



**ABOVE:** DURING A SITE VISIT FOR AN ACUTE LAMINITIS CASE, DEBRA TAYLOR, D.V.M., STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HORSE'S DIET AND BODY SCORE WITH THE HORSE OWNER.

## Do You Have A Podiatry Case For Review?

Pete and Ivy Ramey come to Auburn's John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital and to the surrounding community to work with Dr. Debra Taylor on a regular basis. At Auburn podiatry cases are evaluated by veterinary faculty, farriers, or hoof rehab specialists. Persons interested in bringing a laminitis or navicular case in for evaluation and possible rehabilitation should contact Dr. Taylor at (334) 844-4490.



# Equine Reproduction Center Offers New Services

**DIRECTED BY DRS. AIME JOHNSON AND ROBYN WILBORN**

Located behind Hoerlein Hall Small Animal Teaching Hospital is the James W. Goodwin and Joy Goodwin Adams Equine Reproduction Center. Directed by Dr. Aime Johnson and Dr. Robyn Wilborn, the center focuses on serving clients through both routine breeding work as well as reproductive referral cases.

“In addition to the routine work, we are able to offer facilities and equipment that most people don’t have in practice or at their farms,” said Dr. Johnson. The center serves as a referral for veterinarians managing more difficult reproductive cases including problem mares, subfertile stallions, and high-risk pregnancies.

General and advanced rotations for veterinary students are also offered through the Equine Reproduction Center. “Dr. Johnson and I feel this is their best chance to learn how to palpate mares,” said Dr. Wilborn. “A lot of these students go back to practice in Kentucky. This rotation allows them the opportunity to learn palpation skills and stallion management skills.”

Work is steady at the center during the March to August breeding season. Horses may stay at the center for just a few days or sometimes for a month or more, depending upon the type of reproductive case and the desired outcome.

In addition to a new breeding phantom, the center also offers FoAlert® – a birth monitoring system for mares. A transmitter sutured outside the vulva activates a receiver through a silent radio signal when the mare begins to foal. The receiver then activates an autodialer and an alarm.

“The receiver calls the student resident who is always here and also alerts the doctor on call,” said Dr. Wilborn. “If the mare does have trouble foaling, we are then able to reach her in time to provide medical intervention.”

Also new is an endometrial biopsy service for referring veterinarians. After a slide is examined for scar tissue or inflammation, theriogenologists can offer feedback to the referring veterinarian regarding treatment and case management for that particular mare.

The Equine Reproduction Center also offers surrogate mares, or embryo transfer recipient mares. The center maintains a herd of mares that are part of the reproduction and teaching herd. “Traditionally we shipped the embryos to recipient herds maintained at other locations. With the addition of these recipient mares, we can now offer that service onsite,” Dr. Wilborn said.

Clients, who are typically from the Southeast region, are benefitting from the updated and improved equipment which includes the new breeding phantom, a new computer-assisted sperm motility analyzer (CASA) system, and two ultrasound machines.

### **Aime K. Johnson, D.V.M., D.A.C.T. Assistant Professor and Director of the Equine Reproduction Center**



Dr. Johnson joined Auburn’s faculty in August 2007. After graduating from North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2000, she entered private practice in north central Texas. There she spent a majority of her time working with western and

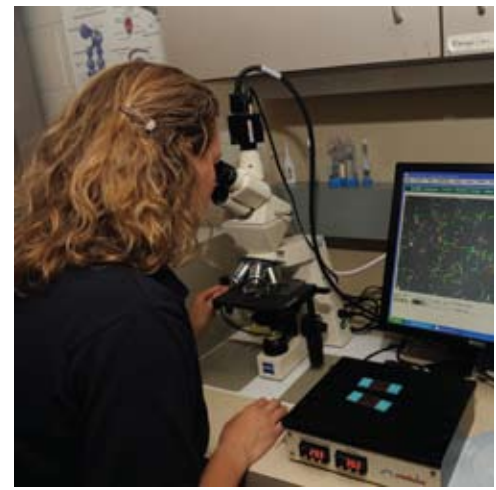
English performance horses, with a special interest in reproduction. She left private practice in 2005 to complete a six-month neonatal internship at Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia. She then traveled to Texas A&M where she completed her residency in equine theriogenology. In August 2007 she became board-certified in the American College of Theriogenologists.

### **Robyn R. Wilborn, D.V.M., D.A.C.T. Assistant Professor and Director of the Equine Reproduction Center**



Originally from Elba, Ala., Dr. Wilborn received her D.V.M. degree from Auburn University’s College of Veterinary Medicine in 2002. She spent three years working in mixed animal practice in Wichita, Kansas, before returning to Auburn in 2005 to pursue a theriogenology residency. In 2007, she was awarded diplomate status in the American College of Theriogenologists and she joined the college’s faculty as an assistant professor in 2008. Dr. Wilborn’s clinical interests involve theriogenology of all species, with a particular interest in equine and canine theriogenology. Dr. Wilborn’s current research involves the investigation of a novel peptide, kisspeptin, to control the reproductive cycle of the mare.

Theriogenology resident Ghislaine Dujovne, D.V.M., assists at the reproduction center. From Santiago, Chile, Dr. Dujovne served as a resident veterinarian on thoroughbred breeding farms in Chile prior to her theriogenology training at Auburn.



In addition to the services mentioned above, the center also stands several stallions which are available for breeding to client mares. In addition to providing equine theriogenology services, Drs. Johnson, Wilborn, and Dujovne also accept cases in canine and feline reproduction.

In addition to speaking at the College of Veterinary Medicine's annual conferences, Drs. Johnson and Wilborn conduct continuing education courses. At the J.T. Vaughan Equine Conference for the Practitioner, November 13-14, both are to lecture and offer a reproduction wet lab that demonstrates the new equipment housed at the Equine Reproduction Center.



## J.T. Vaughan Equine Conference for the Practitioner

Cardiorespiratory Disorders in Horses - November 13-14, 2009

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Steeve Giguere

# Son of Legendary Racehorse

## STANDS STUD AT AUBURN

Auburn University's James W. Goodwin and Joy Goodwin Adams Equine Reproduction Center has one of the last living sons of legendary racehorse Beduino standing stud. Biduino, the 1990 gray stallion by Beduino (TB) and out of Barbara Bid, by Double Bid, is one of only a few non-university owned stallions to stand at the Equine Reproduction Center at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

David Clyde of Oneonta, Ala., is Biduino's owner. The horse, whose foals have combined earnings of over \$135,000, was originally sent to Auburn to collect semen for frozen storage. Since that time Clyde has graciously allowed Biduino to stand at Auburn with half of all stud fees collected to be donated to the Equine Reproduction Center. Special discounts are available for Auburn alumni and faculty who wish to take advantage of the horse's unique standing.

"Biduino's foals have great temperament and are good for all types of riding," said Mr. Clyde. For more information, contact Dr. Robyn Wilborn or Dr. Aime Johnson at the Equine Reproduction Center at (334) 844-4490. All shipping arrangements are to be handled by the center.



RIGHT: BIDUINO AND DR. AIME JOHNSON

# FACULTY AWARDS 2009

THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE HONORS FIVE FACULTY MEMBERS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING TEACHING ABILITY AND RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS.

## **ELAINE S. COLEMAN, D.V.M., PH.D.**

Department of Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology  
Norden Distinguished Teaching Award



An associate professor of veterinary anatomy and neuroscience, Dr. Coleman joined the College of Veterinary Medicine's faculty in 2001. After receiving her D.V.M. degree from Ohio State University in 1984, she completed an internship in small animal surgery and medicine, and a residency in small animal neurology/neurosurgery both at Auburn. Dr. Coleman received her Ph.D. from Auburn University in 1992 and she was a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Marie Wooten's laboratory at Auburn from 1993-1994.

Dr. Coleman is the course coordinator for the first semester small animal gross anatomy course. Dr. Coleman's research includes the study of astrocytes which are classically considered as nonexcitable, support cells in the central nervous system. Recent studies demonstrate that astrocytes play an important role in normal neuronal homeostasis and function, and are instrumental in the pathophysiology of certain neurotoxicities. Dr. Coleman's laboratory is studying the effects of selected metabolic and toxic disorders on astrocyte function. Techniques utilized in the lab include protein extraction, western blotting, immunohistochemistry, RNA extraction, and PCR.

## **M. DANIEL GIVENS, D.V.M., PH.D.**

Department of Pathobiology  
Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching



Dr. Givens received his D.V.M. degree from Auburn University in 1994. Following graduation, he gained clinical experience as a practitioner providing care for both food and companion animals in a rural practice in central Kentucky. After two years of applying formal knowledge to actual case presentation, Dr. Givens returned to Auburn to complete a theriogenology clinical residency that culminated in board certification in 1998. He earned a Ph.D. in biomedical science in June 2000 and became board certified in the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (virology subspecialty) in November 2001 while performing NIH-funded post-doctoral research. Dr. Givens assists with advanced reproductive techniques in the John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital and performs research and didactic teaching in the Department of Pathobiology.

As a clinical scientist with board certifications in theriogenology and microbiology, Dr. Givens has a focused interest in diagnosis, control, and treatment of reproductive pathogens of cattle.

### **STEVEN A. KINCAID, D.V.M., PH.D.**

Department of Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology  
SGA Outstanding Teacher



A professor of veterinary histology, Dr. Kincaid joined the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1989. He received a D.V.M. degree from Purdue University in 1969 and a Ph.D. from Purdue in veterinary anatomy in 1977. In 2008 he received Auburn's top honor for outstanding teaching – the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Dr. Kincaid's research specialty is in the field of pathobiology of bone and cartilage. His research projects focus on the healing of articular cartilage of synovial joints of mammals and the pathogenesis of tibial dyschondroplasia of broiler chickens. The skeletal research program uses multiple types of analytical technologies: 1) histology, 2) biochemistry, 3) biomechanics, 4) MRI, 5) bone densitometry, and 6) ultrastructural procedures.

### **EDWARD E. MORRISON, PH.D.**

Department of Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology  
Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence



A professor of veterinary histology and neuroscience, Dr. Morrison joined Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1990 and became head of the Department of Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology in 2002. Along with his teaching, Dr. Morrison is extensively involved in research dealing with neuroscience and biosensory systems. Dr. Morrison received his B.S. degree from Massachusetts and his M.S. and

Ph.D. degrees from Kansas State University in 1980. He was a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Pasquale Graziadei at Florida State University.

In the mammalian central nervous system neuron replacement is not possible except, in the olfactory system. Dr. Morrison's research is concerned with studying the ability of olfactory neuroblasts to produce new neurons. His laboratory also studies the human olfactory system, specifically morphology, distribution, and changes that occur with aging and disease. Other areas of ongoing study are to determine the effect of pathogens on the olfactory system, and the structure and function of the olfactory system in canine detectors.

### **STUART B. PRICE, PH.D.**

Department of Pathobiology  
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award



Dr. Price is an associate professor in the Department of Pathobiology. Before arriving at Auburn in 1990, he earned his B.S. degree in microbiology in 1980 from Oklahoma State University. That same year he was awarded a Colin Munro MacLeod Pre-doctoral Fellowship at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, where in 1984 he received his Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology. He received postdoctoral training in microbial pathogenesis

at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center.

Dr. Price served for nine years as a graduate program officer. He directs a graduate microbiology course that trains graduate students from across campus and participates in team teaching in both the college's graduate and professional curriculum. The research program he directs focuses on the food-borne pathogen Salmonella. His laboratory is attempting to reduce or remove Salmonella from cattle and chickens before it can infect humans via contaminated food. His research is funded by grants from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station.

Recipients are selected based on student nominations.

# HONORS NIGHT



Thanks to generous donors and sponsors the College of Veterinary Medicine presented \$325,000 in awards and scholarships on Honors Night, February 12, 2009.



DONNA ANGARANO, D.V.M.  
ASSOCIATE DEAN

Approximately 125 veterinary students were recognized as the recipients of awards and scholarships in February at the College of Veterinary Medicine's annual Honors Night. Thanks to the generous support of donors and sponsors, over \$325,000 was awarded.

Leadership, service, academic, and clinical proficiency awards were presented, as well as a variety of

scholarships. According to donors' wishes, some scholarships are based on academic performance and others on financial need. There are also scholarships that support students from specific geographic locations or those with plans to enter specific career paths within the profession.

While any financial support is greatly appreciated, the vast majority of scholarships cover less than a third of the annual tuition cost. For 2008-2009, in-state tuition was \$12,550 and non-resident tuition, \$36,890. Tuition costs for 2009-2010 have yet to be announced, but are expected to increase.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### ALABAMA ACADEMY OF VETERINARY PRACTICE SCHOLARSHIP

Erica Daniels

### ALABAMA THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Sara Choquette

### AVESS-PURINA PARTNERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Maria Ciaravella, Rachel Cohn

### BERNER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Brett Harris, David Upchurch, Lauren Cochran,  
Emily Byers, Lindsey Day

### CENTRAL ALABAMA VMA SCHOLARSHIP

Kelli McNamara

### DECATUR KENNEL CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Elisabeth Petermann

### GREATER LOUISVILLE VMA ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Emily Cottam

### HUNTSVILLE KENNEL CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Tessa Horslev

### HUNTSVILLE OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Elizabeth DeHaye

### JEFFERSON COUNTY VMA SCHOLARSHIP

Kelly Foster, Anna Moore

### KENTUCKY VMA SCHOLARSHIP

Erin Donovan

### NESTLE PURINA SCHOLARSHIP

Angela Bockelman

### NORTH ALABAMA VMA SCHOLARSHIP

Landon Grantland

### NORTHERN KENTUCKY VMA SCHOLARSHIP

Andrea Bays

### OMEGA TAU SIGMA SCHOLARSHIP

Jessica Herman, Rachel Takalo

### SALSBURY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Elizabeth Lantz, Jodi Nichols, Andi Williams,  
Audrey Zajac

### SCAVMA SCHOLARSHIP

Jennifer Rupinski, Jennifer Way

- WEST CENTRAL KENTUCKY VMA SCHOLARSHIP**  
Nikki Boehman, Ellen Brown, Nathan Kunze, Laura Lyons, Joanna Tabor, Emily Hayden, Laura Neely, Laura Ken Stewart, Jonetta Tabor
- WESTERN VETERINARY CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP**  
Jessica Herman
- WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF VETERINARY STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIP**  
Jessica Brinkman
- FUTURE COLLEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP**  
Andrew Milenkovitch
- DR. STEPHEN ALLGOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Rory Applegate
- LEWIS & DONNA ANGARANO SCHOLARSHIP**  
Anna Harp
- DR. TOM B. HOWLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Anna Harp
- "BUDDY" APPLEBY SCHOLARSHIP**  
Lauren Orr
- CAPTAIN GEORGE MOBLEY MEMORIAL AWARD**  
Lauren Orr
- DR. WILFORD S. BAILEY SCHOLARSHIP**  
Jane Ashley Stuckey, Melissa Upchurch, Jill Westerholm
- JAMES O. BANKS SCHOLARSHIP**  
Brittney Bell
- RED BANKS SCHOLARSHIP**  
Kristen Havens
- KEVIN BELL & SHELBY SCHOLARSHIP**  
Jonetta Tabor
- B & B ARK SCHOLARSHIP**  
Christina Boekhout
- JOSEPH BRADLEY MEMORIAL LEARNING PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP**  
Jessica Brinkman, Kortney Bryan, Melissa Tollett
- DR. TED BULLARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Nikki Elstner
- OLAF RANDALL BURELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Ashley Homm
- DR. WALTER H. BURGESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Jerrod Johnson
- WILLIE MAE PEARSON BUTLER SCHOLARSHIP**  
Terrance Hunter
- BETHEA MCCALL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Terrance Hunter
- SYDNEY S. AND DOROTHY WEEKS CAPTAIN SCHOLARSHIP**  
Luke Griffith, Veronica Higgs, Andrew LaVasser, John Moser, Lew Springer, Audra Stallings
- WILLIAM E. & BERTHA CARROLL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Scarlett Black, Ellen Brown, Andrea Lear, Caroline Rehm, Emilee Zimmer
- HENRY CAUDLE SCHOLARSHIP**  
Lauren Wall
- DR. JOHN A. COBB SCHOLARSHIP**  
Meghan Hayden
- GENE AND JEANETTE CONWAY SCHOLARSHIP**  
Brandon Grimshawe
- LEAHMAN AND KATHEY DAVIDSON SCHOLARSHIP**  
Laura Lyons
- ASTRA AND PONCET DAVIS - FRED KELLEY SCHOLARSHIP**  
Nicolette Peer
- DR. GEORGE EASON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Matthew Wall
- CHARLES & ELOISE JOHNSTON SCHOLARSHIP**  
Matthew Wall
- "ITTY WITTY" EDEN SCHOLARSHIP**  
Nikki Boehman
- JUDY FEE AND LANCE BELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Mark Finke
- IVAN C. FREDERICKSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Molly Isaacson, Robby Wrighten
- DR. GREG GREEN ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Nick Patterson
- DR. AND MRS. AARON GROTH, JR. SCHOLARSHIP**  
Rebecca George
- DAVID BOND HAGGARD AND ANN HAGGARD SCHOLARSHIP**  
Adam Breitenreicher
- DR. M.K. HEATH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Jessica Sherrill
- WILLIAM W. BISHOP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Jessica Sherrill
- DR. KARIM HUNEIDI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Brent Dennis

*Two Thousand and Nine*



**DR. HILMER JONES ENDOWMENT  
FOR EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP**

Chris Carmichael, Melissa Carson,  
Brooke Davis, Kevin Fritz,  
Emily Hughes

**KEN KELLY ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Audra Stallings

**DR. CHARLES KING SCHOLARSHIP**

Rachel Moe

**TOM AND MARY ANNA MADDOX  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Veronica Higgs

**LELA MANOR SCHOLARSHIP**

Kim Hindman

**ROBERT AND ALICE MENZIES  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Karyn Ware

**H.C. MORGAN MEMORIAL, ALPHA  
PSI, THETA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP**

Kevin Fritz

**JAMES L. AND NELLE PAYNE  
MOYE SCHOLARSHIP**

Lauren Harris

**DR. G.J. PHELPS MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Lindsey Williams

**DR. GEORGE M. JOHNSON  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Lindsey Williams

**JOSEPH PITTS MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Eric Mueller

**DR. & MRS. WILLIAM PUTNEY  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Jessie Young

**LEON K. ROBINSON ANNUAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Sara Senicz

**B.T. SIMMS SCHOLARSHIP**

Courtney Renfrow

**LAUREN TONINI MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Rachel Cohn

**DR. GEORGE L.H. WEAVER  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Chance Armstrong, Amanda  
Cavanagh, Luther Parker

**MATT & JO ANN WIGGINS  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Marianne Bailey

**J. WARREN WILLIAMS MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Jake Hendrix

**DR. EVERETT S. WINTERS MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Lauren Connors

**DR. TYLER AND FRAN YOUNG  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Adam Breitenreicher, Lauren Clark,  
Adam Cooner, Jessica Durrett,  
Heather Edwards, Jessica Graham,  
Laura Hessey, Drew Humphries,  
Jacqueline Nobles, Kim Reid, Lauren  
Robinson, Allison Snow, Rachel  
Takalo, Whitney Young

**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Elizabeth DeHaye

**AABP – AMSTUTZ  
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Chance Armstrong, Nick Patterson

**CLINICAL  
PROFICIENCY  
AWARDS**

**ALAN HART CLINICAL  
PATHOLOGY AWARD**

To a student who excels in diagnostic  
clinical pathology.

Caroline Rehm

**ACVR RADIOLOGY  
PERFORMANCE AWARD**

To a student who is outstanding in  
veterinary radiology.

Kevin Fritz

**DR. J. E. BARTELS  
RADIOLOGY AWARD**

To a student who is outstanding in  
veterinary radiology.

Rachel Moe

**ZU-PREEM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN EXOTIC ANIMAL CARE**

To a student who is most proficient  
with exotic animals.

Elizabeth DeHaye

**FOOD ANIMAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**

To a senior who demonstrates  
competence and dedication in the  
treatment and care of food animal  
patients.

Christine Simmer

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF EQUINE  
PRACTITIONERS**

To a senior who demonstrates  
competence and dedication in the  
treatment and care of equine patients.

Jenny Springfield

**AVARY EQUINE AWARD**

To a senior who demonstrates  
competence and dedication in the  
treatment and care of equine patients.

Jackson Walker

**EQUINE MEDICINE AWARD**

To a senior who excels in equine  
medicine.

Lois Yu

**EXCELLENCE IN EQUINE  
THERIOGENOLOGY**

To a senior who demonstrates  
outstanding ability in equine  
theriogenology.

Jessica Thornton

**LLOYD'S OF LONDON EQUINE  
AWARD**

To a senior demonstrating outstanding  
ability in equine medicine and surgery.

Sara Choquette

**DR. G. J. COTTIER SCHOLARSHIP**

To an outstanding student with an  
interest in large animal practice.

Matthew Marcum

**DR. ALLEN M. HEATH AWARD**

To a senior who demonstrates  
outstanding clinical proficiency in food

animal medicine and herd health.  
Jonathan Mays

**SOCIETY FOR THERIOGENOLOGY  
AWARD**

To the senior who is most proficient in  
theriogenology.  
Luther Parker

**WALTER J. GIBBONS  
MEMORIAL AWARD**

To a senior demonstrating academic  
achievement in large animal courses  
and outstanding leadership qualities in  
all aspects of student life.  
Laura Lyons

**AMERICAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION SENIOR STUDENT  
AWARD**

To a senior demonstrating clinical  
proficiency in small animal medicine  
and surgery.  
Allison Snow

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF FELINE  
PRACTITIONERS AWARD**

To a senior who demonstrates special  
interest and accomplishments in feline  
medicine and surgery.  
Nikki Boehman

**HILL'S "BUDDY" AWARD**

To the senior who has demonstrated  
the most skill in the application of  
clinical nutrition in small animal  
medicine and surgery.  
Jacqueline Nobles

**ACVS SURGICAL PROFICIENCY  
AWARDS**

To the seniors who are most proficient  
in veterinary surgery.  
Kevin Fritz (small animal),  
Michael Betz (large animal)

**NOVARTIS ETHICON AWARD**

To a senior for proficiency in small  
animal surgery.  
Jacqueline Nobles

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY  
ANESTHESIOLOGISTS AWARD**

To a senior exemplifying clinical  
proficiency in anesthesiology.  
Jacqueline Nobles

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY  
OPHTHALMOLOGY AWARD**

To a senior who is proficient in  
veterinary ophthalmology.  
Steven Sirmon

**DRS. DAVID AND ELIZABETH  
WHITLEY OPTHALMOLOGY AWARD**

To a senior who is proficient in  
veterinary ophthalmology.  
Kevin Fritz

**VECCS AWARD**

To the senior who is most proficient in  
emergency medicine and critical care.  
Siggi Farris

**SCHERING-PLOUGH DERMATOLOGY  
AWARD**

To the student who is most proficient  
in veterinary dermatology.  
Larry Garcia

**DR. CHARLES KNECHT NEUROLOGY  
AWARD**

To the senior who best  
demonstrates neurological  
understanding and patient care.  
Rachel Moe

**SMALL ANIMAL MEDICAL  
PROFICIENCY AWARD**

To the senior who is most proficient in  
small animal medicine.  
Shae Hicks

**SMALL ANIMAL ONCOLOGY AWARD**

To the senior who is most proficient in  
veterinary oncology.  
Kevin Fritz

**SHELTER MEDICINE AWARD**

To a senior who has demonstrated a  
sustained interest in advancing shelter  
medicine.  
Margaret Ferrell

**DEBORAH HARRINGTON  
MEMORIAL AWARD**

To a senior who demonstrates  
outstanding compassion and patient  
care.  
Rachel Moe

**PORTER WHITE MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**

To a senior who demonstrates  
outstanding patient

care and dedication.  
Lisa Keenan

**GENTLE DOCTOR AWARD**

To a senior who demonstrates  
outstanding patient  
care and dedication.  
Brooke Davis

**LEADERSHIP,  
RESEARCH,  
SCHOLASTIC AND  
SERVICE AWARDS**

**SCAVMA OUTSTANDING  
SENIOR AWARD**

To an outstanding senior, who has  
contributed greatly to the Auburn  
University Student Chapter of the  
AVMA.  
Allison Snow

**EAST ALABAMA VMA  
LEADERSHIP AWARD**

To the junior from Alabama who shows  
the most involvement in organized  
veterinary medicine.  
Chance Armstrong

**DR. H. THOMAS BYRON, JR.  
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD**

To a student who has been active in  
the community.  
Rebecca George

**JOHN HAROLD HARMON ANNUAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**

To a student who has demonstrated  
involvement in community activities.  
Anna Harp

**DR. PAT TEER AWARD**

To an underclassman who has  
demonstrated a positive, significant  
interest and participation in the training  
and/or use of animals in the promotion  
of the human - animal bond.  
Angela Bockelman

**STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD**

To a student demonstrating  
outstanding research ability.  
Camille Effler



**EDWIN R. GOODE, JR.  
MEMORIAL AWARD**

To a student who has made a contribution to research on large animals.

Jacqueline Nobles, Jenny Springfield

**SCOTT-RITCHEY RESEARCH AWARD**

To a student in recognition of research accomplishments during the summer research fellowship.

Miranda Andress

**DR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON  
MEMORIAL AWARD**

To an outstanding student with an interest in public health.

Nick DePompa

**DR. JAMES E. GREENE  
MEMORIAL AWARD**

To a student based on unselfish, altruistic service to the college, faculty, and fellow students.

Andrew LaVasser

**FRANCESCA B. GAITHER  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

To freshmen, based on accomplishments prior to admission to veterinary school.

Rachel Chapman, David Priest,  
Kim Reid

**DR. T. C. FITZGERALD  
MEMORIAL AWARD**

To a sophomore who demonstrated outstanding ability in anatomy and

histology as a freshman.  
Amanda Cavanagh

**DR. LAVERNE KRISTA  
HISTOLOGY AWARD**

To a sophomore who demonstrated outstanding ability in histology as a freshman.

Emilee Zimmer

**SCHERING-PLOUGH SURGICAL  
PROFICIENCY AWARD**

To the junior who is most proficient in veterinary surgery.

David Upchurch

**SIMMONS BUSINESS  
APTITUDE AWARD**

To a junior for excellence in the business aspect of companion animal veterinary medicine.

Lisa Jividen-Cottrell

**MERCK VETERINARY  
MANUAL AWARD**

To seniors based on academic achievement.

Chris Carmichael, Sara Choquette,  
Brooke Davis, Brent Dennis, Kevin  
Fritz, Kimberly Hindman, Tessa  
Horslev, Caroline Rehm, Lauren  
Wall, Karyn Ware

**DR. I. S. MCADORY  
MEMORIAL AWARD**

To the sophomore who was the outstanding freshman.

Luke Griffith, Alex Hagan

**DR. R. S. SUGG MEMORIAL AWARD**  
To the junior who was the outstanding sophomore.

Melissa Tollett

**AUXILIARY TO THE AVMA AWARD**

To a senior who has advanced the standing of the veterinary college on campus.

Joanna Tabor

**SGA OUTSTANDING  
STUDENT AWARD**

To a senior who is outstanding in scholastic abilities, school activities and extracurricular activities.

Kim Hindman

**DEAN'S AWARD**

To the senior with the highest scholastic rank.

Kevin Fritz

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

To a senior in recognition of outstanding scholarship, leadership, citizenship, and character.

Kevin Fritz

## Nominations for **Alumni Advisory Council** Sought

The College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Advisory Council plays an integral role in guiding the college and raising private support for various activities. The council consists of 12 members and three officers. Members are elected for four years on a staggered-term basis, with one-fourth of the terms expiring each year.

The council also contains non-voting honorary and ex-officio members. Honorary members may serve at the discretion of the dean of the college. Members are selected from Alabama, Kentucky, and other states with active alumni.

Dean Timothy Boosinger meets with the council during the fall and spring and receives insight for college programs, planning, and development.

Alumni are invited to nominate Auburn graduates for four-year terms to the Alumni Advisory Council giving careful consideration to the individuals nominated.

Prospective members must provide a current curriculum vitae which includes evidence of support for Auburn University and the College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition, letters of support written by at least two Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine alumni must be received.

**All material should be sent to: Dr. David McClary, 104 Greene Hall, Auburn, AL 36849-5517.**

# FDA Continues to Receive Complaints About Chicken Jerky Products

More than a year after warning consumers about a possible link between certain chicken jerky products imported from China and illness in dogs, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continues to receive complaints from pet owners and veterinarians claiming these products are making dogs sick.

In addition, the University of Sydney is currently investigating an association between illness in dogs and the consumption of chicken jerky after recent complaints in Australia, and one Australian firm has recalled their chicken jerky product, which the company says was manufactured in China. To date, no definitive cause has been determined for the reported illnesses.

The FDA and several veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the United States continue to perform extensive chemical and microbial testing but have yet to identify a contaminant in the products. The FDA is advising consumers who choose to feed their dogs chicken jerky products to watch their dogs closely for any or all of the following signs which may occur within hours to days of feeding the product: decreased appetite, although some may continue to consume the treats to the exclusion of other foods; decreased activity; vomiting; diarrhea, sometimes with blood; and increased water consumption and/or increased urination.

If the dog shows any of these signs, owners should stop feeding the chicken jerky product. Owners should consult their veterinarian if signs are severe or persist for more than 24 hours. Urine and blood tests may be consistent with Fanconi syndrome. Although most dogs appear to recover, some reports to the FDA have involved dogs that have died.

Suspected cases should be reported to the FDA. To find the number for the FDA district office consumer complaint coordinator in your region, visit [www.fda.gov/opacom/backgrounders/complain.html](http://www.fda.gov/opacom/backgrounders/complain.html).



## Current Members:

Dr. Samuel Cartner, Birmingham, Alabama  
Dr. Dale Eckert, Versailles, Kentucky  
Dr. Lynn Hagood, Tallahassee, Florida  
Dr. Heidi Hulon, Buckner, Kentucky  
Dr. Carr Hyatt, Kingsport, Tennessee  
Dr. Darlia King-Morris (past chair), Kansas City, Missouri  
Dr. Robert Lofton (vice chair), Lake Charles, Louisiana  
Dr. David McClary (chair), Auburn, Alabama  
Dr. Jimmy Milton, Birmingham, Alabama  
Dr. Barbara Monaghan, Birmingham, Alabama  
Dr. Wade Northington, Hopkinsville, Kentucky  
Dr. Ron Prestage, Camden, South Carolina  
Dr. Leland Simmons, Orlando, Florida  
Dr. Tom Williamson, Cullman, Alabama

## Ex-officio Members:

Dr. Michael Newman, President  
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association

Dr. Steven Wills, President  
Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association

## Honorary Member:

Dr. J. Lee Alley, Montgomery, Alabama



# VETERINARY MEDICINE STUDENTS GAIN EXPERIENCE GLOBALLY

## DR. JASON JOHNSON AND JILL WESTERHOLM '10 VISIT KENYA

Elevating academics is a priority in Auburn University's strategic plan with teaching and learning at the heart of the Auburn experience. Strengthening students' international skills is an initiative of the strategic plan. Approximately five percent of Auburn students currently engage in study abroad. The new goal is that 25 percent of students receive such experience.

At the College of Veterinary Medicine, students have opportunities to travel abroad through externships and missionary trips with a focus on veterinary work. This summer veterinary

medicine students are travelling to Kenya, India, Japan, Honduras, Bolivia, and Chile.

Many Auburn veterinary medicine faculty go on these trips and mentor students, such as Jason Johnson, D.V.M., D.A.C.T., who recently completed his residency in food animal theriogenology. In December 2008, Johnson and veterinary student Jill Westerholm, a member of the class of 2010, travelled to Kenya to assist with herd-animal health. This was not Johnson's first outreach trip – he had travelled to Honduras and Venezuela taking students each time.

“They get to witness these diseases in a real-life setting, something that most students only come across in lectures or textbooks in their academic careers,” said Dr. Johnson.

“One of the most common threads that unites the poor in developing countries is their utter dependence on livestock,” said Dr. Johnson. “All the students come back changed and with a global perspective.”



In Kenya, Johnson partnered with indigenous veterinarians to help make protein sources healthier by providing vaccinations and dewormings, and providing education in the areas of herd health and animal husbandry.

The Maasai in Kenya are semi-nomadic people and are strongly patriarchal in nature. Their lifestyle centers around the cattle, sheep, and goats which constitute their primary source of food and wealth. Many Maasai believe “all cows are gifts from God and all cows are theirs,” said Dr. Johnson.

Villages are enclosed in a circular fence made of thorned shrubs and trees. At night cows, goats, and other livestock are kept safe in an enclosure in the center.

Because of Johnson’s credentials as a veterinarian, he helped gain access to the Maasai for the physicians who were with him. The Maasai deliberately stated, you medical doctors can’t look at our wives, our people, unless you address the needs of our livestock. “It’s their identity – the most important thing in their culture,” said Dr. Johnson.

While there, Johnson hired five Kenyan veterinarians to help his team for a week. Funding and supplies for mission trips

come from gifts made by churches, family members, friends, team members, and veterinary drug companies. Veterinarians and veterinary students incur their own expenses and a trip such as the one to Africa can cost approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Johnson sees the benefit in international outreach and it is the long-term goal of expanding such outreach that drives him. His work helps to increase the survivability of protein sources globally, empower indigenous peoples with knowledge, and attempt to reduce the spread of animal diseases.

On such trips, veterinary students have the opportunity to see foreign animal diseases firsthand. “They get to witness these diseases in a real-life setting, something that most students only come across in lectures or textbooks in their academic careers,” said Dr. Johnson.

With public awareness of foreign animal and zoonotic diseases increasing and the ever-looming danger of bioterrorism, food-animal veterinarians carry even more responsibility to be the first responders for potential recognition of disease. A veterinarian with this real-world type of practical exposure will have more experience in identifying a foreign animal disease to halt the spread of the disease in our food system.



TOP LEFT: JILL WESTERHOLM PROVIDES VACCINATIONS TO LIVESTOCK. ABOVE: DR. JASON JOHNSON WITH MEMBERS OF THE MASSAI AND WITH KENYAN VETERINARIANS WHO HELPED HIS TEAM FOR A WEEK.

# Wilford S. Bailey

## Distinguished Alumni 2009

The College of Veterinary Medicine named three of its graduates as 2009 Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumni in honor of their contributions to animal welfare, the profession, and their communities. The recipients were honored May 5 during the college's commencement ceremony.



### **DR. JENKS S. BRITT**

Dr. Jenks Britt of Bowling Green, Kentucky, is distinguished in the areas of private veterinary practice and academia. A 1970 graduate of Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, he is a 1966 graduate of Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture and biology. In 1998 Dr. Britt returned to Western Kentucky University as an associate professor and head of the department of agriculture. He continues as an associate professor in agriculture today.

Prior to 1993, he was in private practice in Kentucky specializing in animal health management, reproductive, and embryo transfer services. From 1993 to 1998, he served as a clinical assistant professor in the food animal production medicine section at the University of Wisconsin, College of Veterinary Medicine. Throughout his career, Dr. Britt has received numer-

ous awards including Auburn's El Toro Award for Excellence in Food Animal Medicine (2005), Veterinarian of the Year from the Kentucky Medical Association (1993), Practitioner of the Year from the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (1992), and Western Kentucky University Alumni of the Year (1992).

A diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Dr. Britt is a past president of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. He has served on the board of directors for the National Mastitis Council, the International Embryo Transfer Society, the American Embryo Transfer Association, and the Kentucky Holstein Cattle Club. He has authored or co-authored over 200 publications and presented over 200 invited lectures in the U.S. and internationally. A consultant in the areas of dairy nutrition, reproduction, and quality milk

production, Dr. Britt continues his consultant work for large herds in the United States and Mexico.

## DR. DAVID MCCLARY

A 1974 graduate of Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. David McClary returned to Auburn and completed a residency in theriogenology, receiving a Master of Science in large animal surgery and medicine in 1982. Board certified by the American College of Theriogenology, he served as assistant professor in the dairy section in the department of large animal surgery and medicine before accepting the position of research veterinarian with Elanco Animal Health in 1987.

Since that time, Dr. McClary has had a stellar career in pharmaceutical technical services. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Mastitis Council, the Society for Theriogenology, the American College of Theriogenologists, the American Dairy Science Association, and the Academy of Veterinary Consultants. A past president of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), he also served as director of District III. At the 2008 AABP Convention, Dr. McClary, a cattle technical consultant for the Midwest district for Elanco Animal Health, received a distinguished service award. He helped create the AABP student membership program and organize other student recruitment activities.

Dr. McClary, who chairs the 2008-2009 Alumni Advisory Council for the College of Veterinary Medicine, is an active supporter of the college and Auburn University. He served as college chair for the "It Begins at Auburn" fundraising campaign that created over \$33.5 million in funds for the College of Veterinary Medicine. He is a recent inductee of the 1856 Society that acknowledges donors. In recognition of his many contributions to Auburn University and his generous support

of the college, a veterinary teaching barn is named in Dr. McClary's honor.

## DR. R. MICHAEL THOMAS

Throughout his career, Dr. R. Michael Thomas has been active within the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) in a variety of capacities, including president in 2001-2002. He has contributed to the AAHA's mission of excellence in veterinary medicine by serving on numerous task forces, committees, and project teams. Dr. Thomas' involvement includes the executive, budget, and personnel committees; the strategic study project team; and as a board liaison for the limited services task force, and management and insurance committees.

For his commitment to the profession, the community, and his clients in small animal medicine and surgery, the AAHA named Dr. Thomas Practitioner of the Year for 2008-2009.

Dr. Thomas, who lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, earned his D.V.M. with honors from Auburn University in 1968. His professional memberships include the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Central Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics, the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, and the American Heartworm Society.

He is also actively involved in the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners serving on their board since 2001 and as chair from 2005 to 2007. He is immediate past president of the Companion Animal Parasite Council and he serves on the board of directors for Veterinary Information Network, and Veterinary Study Groups.



DR. JENKS S. BRITT



DR. DAVID MCCLARY



DR. R. MICHAEL THOMAS

## ALLEN NAMED DIRECTOR OF VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL

**DOUGLAS ALLEN**, D.V.M., is named the new director of the veterinary teaching hospital.

Allen, who began April 1, manages the clinical and administrative functions of the hospital in the Department of Clinical Sciences.

Clinical Science Department Head Jamie Bellah applauded the appointment citing Allen's impressive credentials. "Dr. Allen is an internationally known academician recognized for his expertise in equine surgery and for his contributions and leadership as director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at the University of Georgia. He previously served as president of the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians which is a national organization that supports the management and instructional goals of veterinary colleges," said Dr. Bellah.

Allen has received awards from veterinary students for his clinical teaching. "We are very fortunate to have someone with Dr. Allen's leadership experience serving as our hospital director," said Dean Timothy R. Boosinger.

A graduate of Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, Allen is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. He succeeds Dr. John Saidla who became director of Auburn's Veterinary Teaching Hospital in 2000.

## PINKERT NAMED NEW ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT



**CARL A. PINKERT**, recently the associate dean for research and graduate studies at the College of Veterinary Medicine, is named the new associate vice president for research at Auburn University.

Pinkert will promote and develop multidisciplinary research initiatives across the university, coordinate activities among the associate deans for research, and work on projects to improve proposal development and submission. He will also represent the Office of the Vice President for Research in certain external roles across the state and in the national arena.

He has served on numerous federal research panels including chair of the Comparative Medicine Review Committee at the

National Institutes of Health, as an ad hoc specialist for the Association for the Advancement and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care and on various Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges committees.

Before joining the Auburn faculty in 2006, Pinkert was a professor in the Center for Aging and Development Biology and director of the transgenics program at the University of Rochester. Previously, he spent nine years on the faculty of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Pinkert holds a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania before embarking on his professional career. His awards include the Doerenkamp-Zbinben Foundation Research Prize which is awarded for biomedical research that significantly impacts the welfare and well being of research animals. (Heather Finch, *Auburn Report*)

## NEW DIRECTOR, NEW DEPARTMENT



**WILLIAM (BILL) GRUSZKA** began in March as director of the College of Veterinary Medicine's Information and Instructional Technology (IIT) department. IIT is the new name for the combined departments of biomedical communications and the computer group.

Gruszka had served as chief information officer at Southern Polytechnic State University in Georgia since 2001. His professional affiliations include executive committee member and past chair of the University System of Georgia Administrative Committee on Information Technology, EDUCAUSE member, past member of the executive committee and chair of the State University of New York Telecommunications Officer's Association, and member of the Atlanta Telecom Professionals. He is also a registered professional engineer. Gruszka has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels in areas including engineering technology, business, computer science, and statistics.

## TAO'S RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN TOP MEDICAL JOURNAL



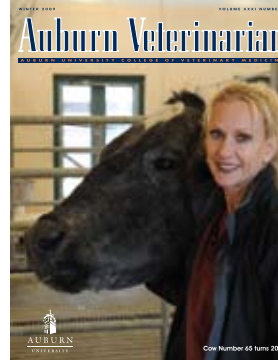
**YA-XIONG TAO**, assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, recently published his research in the *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine*, which is ranked among the top three percent of journals tracked by Science Citation Index. Tao studies obesity caused by genetic mutations in a molecule expressed in the brain called melanocortin-4 receptor. Tao shows that a small molecule antagonist of the receptor could correct the defect in the mutated protein and restore function. The results of this study have the potential of providing personalized medicine for patients with mutations in the melanocortin-4 receptor gene.

## TAMBRALLO NAMED UNIVERSITY VETERINARIAN

Auburn University's Office of the Vice President for Research named Laura Tambrallo as the university veterinarian after a national search. Tambrallo provides institutional-level guidance and oversight which is consistent with federal, state and local laws and regulations related to university veterinary care, animal facilities and animal welfare for Auburn University's Animal Care and Use Program. She comes to Auburn from the Medical College of Georgia where she was director of the Division of Laboratory

Animal Services and associate professor in the department of graduate studies. Tambrallo has a bachelor's degree in animal science and a doctor of veterinary medicine degree, both from Louisiana State University, and a master's degree in laboratory animal medicine from the University of Missouri.

## RETRACTION



In the article "Cow Number 65 Turns 20" (*Auburn Veterinarian*, Winter 2009), it states Auburn, "besides the University of Wisconsin, is the only veterinary school with a dairy on site." We are incorrect as pointed out by David Bristol, D.V.M., senior associate dean and director of academic affairs at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He writes, "Our college was built on the old North Carolina State College dairy farm and has had an operating dairy from the start, as part of our teaching animal unit. A lot of students have worked in the milking parlor as part of their training over the years. Looking out the library windows at the grazing cattle when studying for exams is a great 'de-stressor' for our students. 'Sweet Pea,' born in 1980, was one of our original dairy cattle and was also used to teach our first class anatomy palpations in 1982. She continued in a dual role for many years."

# Veterinarian Shortage Puts Nation at Risk, Report Says

From The Chronicle of Higher Education

Washington - American veterinary colleges are not producing enough new veterinarians to protect the nation's food supply and prevent the spread of animal-borne diseases, according to a report released in February by the Government Accountability Office (<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09178.pdf>).

The country's 28 veterinary colleges combine to graduate 2,500 new professionals each year, the report says, but that limited corps of veterinarians is failing to meet the nationwide demand for animal-health specialists, especially those who "care for animals raised for food, serve in rural communities, and have training in public health." The shortage is expected to worsen in coming years as the need for trained veterinarians continues to grow.

"Veterinarians play a vital role in the defense against animal diseases - whether naturally or intentionally introduced," the report says, "and these diseases can cause serious harm to human health and the economy."



## GREEN NAMED DEAN AT TEXAS A&M

Dr. Eleanor M. Green began serving as dean of the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences on March 1. Green is the first woman to serve as dean of the college.

She served as professor and chair of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida–Gainesville. She also served as chief of staff for the Large Animal Hospital at the University of Florida Veterinary Medical Center.

Green earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida–Gainesville and a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Auburn University. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, certified in equine practice.

**DR. WILLIAM GREEN** of Dubach, La., has been elected president of the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine. The board consists of five veterinarians chosen by the governor with the responsibility of managing the practice of veterinary medicine in Louisiana. Green oversees cases involving licensing issues, unscrupulous practice issues, substance abuse and diversion and emergency preparedness. He is a professor of animal science at Louisiana Tech University and a practicing veterinarian.

**DR. CALVIN WHITE '77** was recently installed as president-elect of the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association during ceremonies at the annual convention in Oklahoma City. A mixed animal practitioner in Ada, Okla., since 1981, he is co-owner of the Ada Veterinary Clinic.

**LILLY KONG '86**, D.V.M., who received a M.S. in veterinary microbiology from Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, was recently appointed as the new chief scientific officer for PrimeraDx, Inc., a molecular diagnostics company.

**DR. JULI GOLDSTEIN '03** of Vero Beach, Fla., has been selected as Ms. Florida 2009 and is to compete in the



Ms. United States pageant in July. Goldstein serves as staff veterinarian and medical manager for Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University where she has been an active member of the institute's Marine Mammal Research and Conservation Program since 2003. She provides specialized veterinary care to sick and injured marine mammals, conducts a NOAA-funded project to investigate heart disease in whales, and helps lead live dolphin health and risk assessments conducted at Indian River Lagoon. Her research data are published in several peer-reviewed journals.

## IN MEMORIAM

**'43 Dr. Clinton Newman Kaminis**, 91, Tarpon Springs, Fla., died Dec. 5, 2008. Prior to retirement, he headed Warner Lambert Pharmaceutical Company in Mexico for 30 years. During World War II, Dr. Kaminis served as a veterinary liaison officer with the Chinese Army in Burma, with the rank of captain.

**'44 Dr. Thompson P. Hoffmeyer**, 85, Florence, S.C., died Nov. 4, 2008. Prior to retirement in 1991, he

owned Hoffmeyer Animal Hospital in Florence. Dr. Hoffmeyer was a member of the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians.

**'45 Dr. James R. Grumbine**, 86, Unionville, Md., died Nov. 1, 2008. Dr. Grumbine practiced large animal veterinary medicine in Frederick and Carroll counties, Maryland. His interment took place in Covington County, Ala.

**Dr. James H. Sikes Jr.**, 84, Statesboro, Ga., died Dec. 15, 2008. Dr. Sikes was a native of Manassas, Ga., and grew up on the family farm in Bellville, Ga. He worked with the United States Department of Agriculture for 33 years and the Georgia Department of Agriculture for 17 years before retiring in 1992.

**'46 Dr. William Lamar "Bill" Stabler**, 84, Houston, Miss., died Dec. 4, 2008. Dr. Stabler began

his practice in Greensboro, Ala., and spent a year in Mexico with the hoof and mouth disease program before moving to Houston in 1950. During his professional career, he contributed numerous professional articles to veterinary publications, and in 1997 was named Mississippi Veterinarian of the Year. He continued his veterinary practice until his death.

**'47 Dr. Joseph T. Phifer**, 83, Tuscaloosa, Ala., died March 20, 2009. During 1947-1948, he practiced in Memphis before returning to Tuscaloosa to work as an inspector for the Tuscaloosa County Health Department. In 1949-1950 he served in the U.S. Army in Chicago as a First Lieutenant in the Veterinary Corps. He returned to Tuscaloosa in 1950 to establish his private veterinary practice. He worked as a veterinarian until 1965 when he sold his practice to devote time to the Tuscaloosa Vending Company, which he had founded in 1951.

**'49 Dr. Howard Vincent Smythe**, 88, Lake Charles, La., died Dec. 25, 2008. Dr. Smythe entered Auburn's veterinary school in 1945, and played on Auburn's football team. He was on the Dean's List with a 3.89 GPA for all four years of veterinary school. After graduation in 1949, he joined Quilty Animal Clinic. Known to many as Doc or Doctor Red, Dr. Smythe was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, and served as president of the Southwest Veterinary Medical Association. From 1951 to 1971, he was a visiting professor at McNeese State University, where he taught courses in veterinary science. Dr. Smythe practiced veterinary medicine until 1971, and from 1971 through 1988, he served as veterinarian supervisor

with the Department of Agriculture. He was the track veterinarian at Delta Downs Racetrack from 1972 through 1995 before retiring in 1996.

**'50 Dr. Dewey "Skeeter" C. Moore**, 83, Selma, Ala., died January 6, 2009.

**Dr. William E. Plummer Sr.**, 84, Goldsboro, N.C., died March 28, 2009. After graduating from Auburn, Dr. Plummer returned to Goldsboro where he practiced veterinary medicine for 59 years. He was a member and past president of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Association of Swine Practitioners. The North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association named him Distinguished Veterinarian of the Year in 1974 and in 1999.

**'51 Dr. John R. Gates**, 90, Calera, Ala., died Jan. 14, 2009. Dr. Gates was a veterinarian with Gates Animal Clinic for over 40 years.

**'52 Dr. Charles S. Thorpe**, 85, New Baden, Ill., died Jan. 21, 2009. Prior to retirement in 2008, he owned a practice in New Baden. Dr. Thorpe was a member of the Illinois State VMA.

**'63 Dr. D. John Williams III**, 81, Watkinsonville, Ga., died Dec. 14, 2008. Dr. Williams attended Wheaton College in Illinois and Georgia Southwestern College before transferring to the University of Georgia where he received Bachelor of Science and doctor of veterinary medicine degrees. Following graduation, he opened a private veterinary practice in Cordele. Retiring from practice, he earned a Master of Science degree from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine and a FRVC de-

gree in Stockholm, Sweden. He then returned to the University of Georgia where he taught in the Department of Large Animal Medicine until his retirement in 1989 as professor emeritus. Dr. Williams was a charter diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists and the first president of the Georgia Quarter Horse Association.

**'64 Dr. Edwin D. "Doc" Malone**, 69, Silverhill, Ala., died March 21, 2009. Retired from the United States Dept. of Agriculture after nearly 30 years, Dr. Malone worked especially the lower half of Alabama in livestock auctions and with other animal disease control programs. He also spent four years in Miami, Fla., with the U.S.D.A. in the import/export station.

**'65 Dr. Clarence Edward "Ed" Scott**, 69, Knoxville, Tenn., died March 22, 2009.

**'66 Dr. Robert Douglas Ramsey Jr.**, 68, Germantown, Tenn., died March 28, 2009. Dr. Ramsey continued to practice veterinary medicine until the time of his death after a long illness.

**'73 Dr. George Alston Millis**, 60, Pike Road, Ala., died Dec. 30, 2008. He was the founder of Vaughn Road Veterinary Clinic in Pike Road, practicing there for 20 years. During his career, Dr. Millis also served as a public health officer with the Army National Guard. He was a member of the Alabama and Central Alabama Veterinary Medical Associations.

**'73 Dr. Edward D. Sellers**, 60, Mobile, Ala., died Jan. 8, 2009. A native of Tuscaloosa, Dr. Sellers was an established veterinarian in Tillman's Corner near Mobile since 1974.

# Survival of the Fittest or Devolution of the Species?

“Devolution: 2.a. The descent or passage through a series (as of stages of development), b. retrograde evolution or degeneration.” – Webster

It came to me, I think this past Christmas, when I was traversing town repeatedly, seemingly without direction, in search of various ingredients for holiday meals as well as gifts, that I had regressed to little more than a hunter-gatherer. Fruits, nuts, game, whatever crossed my meandering path, went into the day's bag. I wasn't feeding any cows, checking winter pasture, gathering eggs, hoeing greens, or doing anything that could be even remotely linked to production or agriculture. I figure, at the present rate, I was approaching man's earliest state. Sad to say, I didn't even have a dog to help me.

I guess I've always been a bit of an embarrassment to our

Small Animal Clinic, owing to how we had raised our dogs. But, in mild defense, we Vaughans have always had dogs, lots of dogs, just of the hunting and guard dog types. I confess to a little dismay when I see how transmogrified and anthropomorphized some of the smaller breeds have become, especially the ones they carry around in purses and perch on bosoms, sleep in the beds with them, and

otherwise treat them like surrogate children. I reckon they couldn't survive in the out of doors.

Nor do I single out man and the smaller animals in this descent of the species. To be perfectly balanced in my observations, I have genuine concern over what's happening to the horse. Equus has been downgraded from an agricultural animal, livestock you understand, to the status of a companion animal for goodness sake! Old fashioned animal husbandry for horses has taken on absurd proportions.

In a recent brochure, an old-line feed company, that our family-run farmers' exchange (now in its third generation) used to be the sole local distributor for, announced seven new horse feeds, specially compounded for every age and class of horse. Another big name company circulates an impressive, slick, full-color catalogue that describes over forty different feed supplements for everything under the sun. I would have to go back to school just to learn how to feed a horse.

I know that prescription diets for dogs and cats have been around for ages, at least since post-World War II, but now it looks like we're going to have to add to the curriculum, maybe in graduate school, advanced instruction in feeds and feeding.

APOCRYPHA



BY DR. TOM VAUGHAN '55  
DEAN EMERITUS



I tease my old colleague Gary Beard, canine dentist, par excellence, with the question, from whence derives the old expression, “clean as a hound’s tooth”? Everyone knows it’s verboten to feed dogs bones (other than maybe a knuckle), but in days of yore, that’s the way real dogs kept their teeth clean. And, like manner, when they ate the whole carcass inside and out, they were more likely to get a balanced diet.

Nowadays, even horses have to see their dentist twice a year because they don’t have to grind their feed. Did anyone ever wonder how horses thrived on the wild grains that covered the steppes (vast grasslands) of central Asia, populated all of the continents of the western hemisphere before the Ice Age, and again after the Spanish conquest of the Americas? And how did they account for the mobility that pulled the wheels of warfare and commerce that swept across Asia, into Africa and western Europe, and toppled the Roman Empire? And how did draft horses cultivate the boundless stretches of open prairie and transport the pioneers who opened up the West? How did herds of mules pulling slip scrapes build all the levees of the Mississippi River long before bulldozers were invented? How was all of this possible on nothing but natural grass, hay, and grain without prescription diets, processed feeds, electrolytes in their drinking water, performance-enhancing drugs, painkillers, and even “purple-pills” for stomach ulcers (ascribed in some cases to the painkillers and performance-enhancing drugs)?

Well, for one thing, they knew how to feed livestock, and horses were worked regularly, not spasmodically. They

also let the horses grow up before they put them to work, and only the best stock were used for breeding, vis a vis the lax attitude that says in effect, “If they can’t race or show, at least they can breed.” In addition, there have been notorious examples of name stallions used for bloodstock with well-known deformities such as monorchidism. Horses today may be selected for breeding on the basis of their papers (or the size of the investment in them) versus their strength of conformation, temperament, and performance. All of which undergirds the old concept of natural selection for survival of the fittest to perpetuate desirable characteristics of the species. And begs the question, have we, in this advanced age, presided over the devolution of weaker species that require as much processed feed and remedial measures as do their masters, whose principal problem today is not starvation, but obesity? Who foul their nests with pollution of the environment, and attempt to maintain fitness in “pay for play” gymnasiums vs. the work place?

Involving no controversy between science and religion, these are cultural shifts played out over generations, and only time will tell the outcome.

Respectfully,  
Your humbl and obdt svt,

J.T. Vaughan



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