Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine
Spring Commencement 2019
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Graduating Class of 2019
Greetings and welcome to the latest issue of the Veterinary Medical Perspective magazine. Continuing the momentum from a productive Spring and Summer, we began our 2019/20 academic year excited and inspired to make changes that positively impact our students, faculty, staff, and our alumni.

As dean, in all that we endeavor and achieve as a College, the overall personal and professional wellbeing and health of the students, faculty, and staff are at the forefront. I am pleased to report that we launched the fall semester with safety and mindfulness training while also supporting leadership and professional development.

As you browse the many news articles and accomplishments of various individuals covered in this issue, I am proud to continue the legacy page where we highlight our legacy alumni. “Our Legacy Alumni in Focus” section in this issue spotlights Drs. Darrell and Stephen Roney, which emphasizes the generational effect the legacy of Tuskegee has on families. There is a 33-year difference in these two veterinarians’ graduating class years! Please enjoy reading their family story.

As we embark on this academic year, we are planning with great anticipation for the 75th Diamond Anniversary (1945-2020) of the veterinary school, which we will celebrate during the 55th Annual Veterinary Medicine Symposium, March 18-21, 2020 at the Embassy Suites hotel in the historic downtown area of Montgomery, Alabama. The symposium theme is “Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence….Sustaining Our Legacy & Advancing Veterinary Medicine for Future Generations”. Mark your calendars! I look forward to seeing you in 2020.

The strong legacy we possess since we began in 1945 is one of the keys to our longstanding success. As this issue will arrive to many of you nearing the Thanksgiving season, I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU! I am appreciative of all that you do to “Sustain the Legacy” of The Tuskegee Veterinary Medicine program and Mother Tuskegee.

The symposium website has informative details for registration and hotel accommodations at www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed and click on the 55th Veterinary Medicine Symposium link for all the details. Remember, the College is committed to communicating with you on a regular basis, so continue sending your news and comments to us. Also, connect with us on social media. Join us on our Facebook and Twitter links at https://www.facebook.com/TuskegeeUniversityCollegeofVeterinaryMedicine/ and https://twitter.com/cvmtu. As always, thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

R. L. Perry, DVM, MS, Ph.D., DACVR
Dean & Professor of Veterinary Radiology
Fourth-year veterinary student Russell Johnson received a special cover story from The Birmingham Times that was featured in the March 21-27, 2019 issue. Johnson, at 40, finally on path to have his wish come true of becoming a veterinarian. “I’m a young black man with two kids. We all have a history...Every day of life hasn’t been pretty, and a lot of us that come from where I come from don’t get a chance. I was given a chance,” Johnson said. He found comfort at Tuskegee “from the support staff to the dean.”

Thank you alumni… for your $436,799 donations raised as of October 2019 towards the “Sustaining our Legacy $500K Veterinary Alumni Renovation Fund”….almost to our goal so PLEASE keep giving!

Sustaining our Legacy $500K Veterinary Alumni Renovation Fund

Fundraising Project Partnership between the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) and the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) to Support the Renovations of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) to Fulfill Accreditation Requirements and Preparation for the next AVMA Council on Education Site Visit in 2020

TUCVM appreciates your continued support. For donation questions, please contact JaNeen Roberts, Alumni Donor Relations Manager 334-727-8121, jroberts1@tuskegee.edu.

The Department of Pathobiology in the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine expresses deep gratitude to the Class of 1998 for their generous donation of $20,000 to purchase a state-of-the-art, multi-headed microscope. This microscope is now housed in the Necropsy Building classroom where it replaces an older, less efficient model. This updated microscope has provided for enhanced teaching effectiveness during student rounds, intern tutorials, and overall diagnostic capabilities.

www.tuskegee.edu/programs-courses/colleges-schools/cvm/cvm-500k-sustaining-our-legacy-fund
Dr. Lizel Salmon was born in Guyana, South America. At the age of eight, she moved to St. Maarten with her mom where she developed a great love of the ocean, beach and the outdoors. She spent two very memorable years there before migrating to the U.S.A. Even though she left Guyana at a young age, Dr. Salmon continued to strongly identify with her Guyanese heritage and Guyanese principles throughout her life.

From the early age of ten, Dr. Salmon decided she wanted to be a veterinarian and never wavered in pursuit of this goal. She was admitted to Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine (TUSVM) after three years at the University of Maryland, College Park before completing her undergraduate degree. After graduating cum laude from TUSVM, she completed an internship at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine and practiced at two veterinary hospitals in Virginia and Maryland. She and her close friend and colleague, Dr. Patricia Peynado-Boyce, opened, operated, and co-owned A.P.A.W. Veterinary Hospital. Together, they developed this practice into their unique brand of veterinary excellence.

Dr. Salmon’s goal was to deliver exceptional veterinary medical care to small animals and their owners in the Greater Washington D.C. metro area. She created a relief fund “Abandoned Animal Relief Fund”, (AARF) which provided care for many less fortunate animals, and established The Animal Protection League, Inc. (TAPL) that is a non-profit organization with the goal of achieving no-kill shelters in the region.

After her initial diagnosis with breast cancer, Dr. Salmon decided to broaden her talents beyond veterinary medicine and studied to become a professional life coach. Her goal was to coach medical professionals to live fulfilling lives with greater balance and integrity. Her motto was “Live your truth.” Dr. Salmon lost her battle with cancer on Jan 9, 2016. She mentored many individuals professionally and personally and will be remembered forever as an outstanding small animal veterinarian. The first award recipient selection is expected during the fall 2019 Semester. This scholarship has an award amount of $1,500-$2,000 and is available for Second-Year, Third-Year, and Fourth-Year Veterinary Students.

For more information, visit: https://www.tuskegee.edu/programs-courses/colleges-schools/cvm/tucvm-scholarships

Contact: Dr. D. Quinn-Gorham (TUCVM Scholarship Committee Chair), dquinngorham@tuskegee.edu or (334) 724-4678. 📩
“Mother Tuskegee” and the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine’s (TUCVM) outstanding record of producing legacies are putting the spotlight on the Hall Family (Father - Dr. Darrell Roney and son – Dr. Stephen Roney) in the Spring/Summer issue of the Veterinary Medical Perspective.

The Roney Family

Dr. Darrell Roney was the tenth of 11 children born to his parents in Suffolk, Virginia. In 1945, he was drafted into the U.S. Army. Returning from service in Japan, he entered Hampton Institute and received a B.S. degree. He continued his education at Tuskegee University graduating in 1956 from the School of Veterinary Medicine with his DVM degree. Dr. Roney began his career as a veterinary livestock inspector with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Twin Falls, Idaho. After a year, he returned to Tuskegee where he served on the faculty as a clinician in the small animal clinic.

In 1958, Dr. Roney opened South Walnut Animal Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Bloomington, Indiana. While living in Indiana, he was involved in his church and the community serving as a member of the Bloomington Board of Health, as a deacon at the First Baptist Church and as a member of the Bloomington Interrelations Group. In 1965, Dr. Roney accepted the position of assistant professor of animal science and husbandry at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dr. Roney moved his family to East Providence, Rhode Island in 1970 and took another position with the USDA as a veterinary medical officer for the State of Rhode Island, Southeast Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Martha Vineyard, Nantucket and Block Island. He was responsible for the prevention and management of infectious disease outbreaks. Dr. Roney inspected farms to ensure sanitary feeding conditions for swine and other livestock. He also inspected university and hospital animal research facilities and did import and export inspections of animals entering and leaving the United States to ensure that infectious diseases did not enter the U.S.

Dr. Roney received advanced training in epidemiology at the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. He worked the containment of outbreaks of infectious diseases in the United States, including Equine Encephalitis in Maine, Brucellosis in Texas, Asiatic Newcastle Disease in Pennsylvania, and African Swine Fever in Haiti. Dr. Roney spent the last two years of his career in Puerto Rico where he reorganized and computerized the Swine Health Protection Program for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Dr. Darrell Roney and his wife of 63 years, Virginia, have four children—Patrice, Phillip, Andrea and Stephen, and seven grandchildren. Their youngest son, Stephen, graduated from Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1989.

Dr. Stephen Roney, the youngest son, decided to follow his dad’s example and pursue veterinary medicine. He graduated from Hampton University in 1985, and received his DVM from Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1989.

In 1991, Dr. Roney moved to Lexington, Mississippi, where he met his wife of now 25 years, Caroline. In Lexington, Dr. Roney was a mixed animal practitioner where he operated and co-managed The Holmes County Animal Medical Center with Dr. Walter Roberts. In 1995, he relocated his family to Atlanta, Georgia, where he worked as a staff veterinarian for PetSmart Veterinary Services. In 1999, Dr. Roney took a position as medical director and lead veterinarian at Morrow Animal Hospital in Morrow, Georgia, a position that he still holds today. Morrow Animal Hospital is the oldest established business in that area and recently celebrated 55 years of continuous veterinary service.
Two Tuskegee Veterinary Graduates co-star in New National Geographic TV Series: Critter Fixers

The Tuskegee University veterinary medicine family is proud of the accomplishments of alumni Dr. Terrence Ferguson ’98 and Dr. Vernard Hodges ’97, the owners of Critter Fixer Veterinary Hospital. Later this year, the two veterinary medicine alumni will be featured on a new National Geographic Wild television show called “The Critter Fixers”. The show will feature the veterinary medicine stars and capture the day-to-day operations at their two middle-Georgia veterinary practices located in Bonaire and Byron.

The two friends-turned-business-partners first learned of the opportunity in March 2018. The international cable television network contacted Dr. Hodges and expressed its interest in developing a show that highlighted their practice and care of animals. On the show, viewers can expect to see the doctors in their natural environment caring for their Critter Fixer patients, which include dogs, cats, farm animals, and even exotic animals such as camels and kangaroos.

Drs. Ferguson and Hodges’ story began nearly 30 years ago when they met as undergrads at Fort Valley State University. Ferguson graduated with a degree in veterinary science and Hodges earned a degree in fisheries biology. They then continued their HBCU experience after being accepted into the professional veterinary medicine program at Tuskegee University. Hodges finished in 1997 and Ferguson graduated the following year in 1998, both earning their doctor of veterinary medicine degree.

Both are thankful their HBCU degrees. They credit their HBCU experiences as having been instrumental to their success. Hodges gained some notoriety last year as author of a popular self-help book entitled “Bet on Yourself.” The book shared his rise from growing up poor in Fort Valley and failing the ninth grade, to becoming a successful veterinarian and real estate investor.

The two hope they can encourage young African American men and women to pursue veterinary medicine if this is their dream because it is something they can accomplish too. The upcoming show will take on the task of increasing diversity in the veterinary industry.

Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (Atlanta) Host Tuskegee University President McNair

As part of the College of Veterinary Medicine’s outreach efforts, on behalf of Dean Perry, a couple of events were hosted by a small group of veterinary alumni who are in leadership roles in various aspects of the veterinary profession and are also continuous supporters of the University and the College. A brunch was held at the home of veterinary alumnus Dr. Harold Davis ’76 and his wife, Mrs. Garinell Davis, who is also a ’75 Tuskegee nursing alumna. The evening festivities were held at the home of veterinary alumnna Dr. Bonnie Barclay ‘84 and Dr. Guy Williams. Invited guests with Dr. McNair included her husband Dr. George W. Roberts, Chief of Staff Dr. Shirley Friar and Executive Assistant Mrs. Chandra Byrd Chambliss. The veterinary alumni were appreciative of Dr. McNair and guests for taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend the meet and greet. Dean Perry and Dr. Tiffini Brabham, TVMAA President, thanked the TVMAA-Atlanta Cluster for hosting Dr. McNair for an insightful visit that was enjoyable to all in attendance.

Dr. Bonnie Barclay (’84), a senior professional services veterinarian at Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc., was featured in recognition of Black History Month, in Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health online news in an article entitled: “Why mentors matter – especially for black veterinarians: One doctor’s story.” Dr. Barclay gave an interview about minorities in the veterinary field and the role mentors play in encouraging black veterinarians to pursue their passion. Barclay helps train sales reps and veterinary customers as a senior professional services veterinarian. To encourage more African-Americans to explore veterinary careers, she speaks with students at historically black universities. Barclay also has hired and mentored minority interns and staffers in a career that spans more than 30 years.

Members of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) – Atlanta Cluster invited Dr. Lily D. McNair, President of Tuskegee University, to its meet and greet on August 24.

TVMAA Atlanta with President McNair

Dr. Bonnie Barclay

Dr. Bonnie Barclay

Dr. Bonnie Barclay
Dr. Allen Cannedy ('94), a practice owner and chief diversity officer at North Carolina State University, was featured in the June 15, 2019 issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA) in the article, “Safety first: Too often, personal safety is only an afterthought for veterinarians” for his experience as a veterinarian who works outside the confines of a clinic and deals with clients on their farms. His advice for security on the road can be viewed at: www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/190615a.aspx.

Dr. K. Paige Carmichael ('87) was awarded the 2019 Lothar Tresp Outstanding Honors Professor Award during the spring semester at the University of Georgia. The Lothar Tresp Outstanding Honors Professor Award was originally named the Outstanding Honors Professor Award, which was dedicated to Lothar Tresp, a former honors program director at the university in the mid-1990s. It recognizes superior teaching and dedication to honors students by senior faculty members. Dr. Carmichael is the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Professor and a professor of veterinary pathology in the Department of Pathology at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Dondrae Coble ('05) is now the director and attending veterinarian at the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital Animal Resources Core in Columbus, Ohio. As the director and attending veterinarian, Dr. Coble serves as a key leader within the Research Institute and the Animal Resources Core, providing strategic veterinary oversight and support of their highly successful biomedical research program. Coble is a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

Dr. Sheila Grimes ('82) was in a spotlight feature video for Southern Research, which can be seen at: https://vimeo.com/208666955?mc_cid=f036416811&mc_eid=401e056870. Dr. Grimes also has a Ph.D. and is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologist (DACVP). She is a veterinary pathologist with over 30 years of experience encompassing academia, veterinary diagnostics, and toxicologic pathology. Grimes works at Southern Research, where she serves as an anatomic pathologist and oversees a team of pathology, histology, necropsy, and clinical pathology personnel.

Dr. Myrtle Davis ('88) was elected as vice-president elect to the Society of Toxicology (SOT). Dr. Davis is an executive director at Bristol-Myers Squibb, where she leads discovery toxicology in pharmaceutical candidate optimization to provide target and molecular hazard identification and risk assessments for issues identified in discovery research. She also currently serves on the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Board of Scientific Counselors and is a reviewer for the Assay Development and Screening Technologies Laboratory of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences.

CAPT Kis Robertson Hale ('03) was honored by the U.S. Public Health Service. Capt. Robertson Hale, deputy assistant administrator and chief public health veterinarian for the Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service, was honored with the James H. Steele One Health Outstanding PHS Veterinary Career Award. The award is named in honor of Dr. James Steele, who was the first chief of the CDC Veterinary Public Health Division. The USPHS honored Dr. Robertson Hale for her versatility, rapid professional growth, and an impressive performance record since starting her career in public health service in 2003 at the FSIS. Hale joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Epidemic Intelligence Service in 2008, developed expertise on rabies, and transferred in 2010 to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene where, as a CDC fellow in preventive medicine, she led an educational campaign to improve clinicians’ adherence to protocols on rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. Hale now is the agency’s lead resource on animal health issues. In August, she was a featured speaker at the 2019 AVMA Convention in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Krystal White ('13) was featured on WTVM in Columbus, Georgia, during June as being the new veterinarian at the newly reopened wellness clinic at Paws Humane Society in Columbus. To kick off the reopening event, free pet exams were offered for the

Attn: ALUMNI... Received an award? Have a new position/title? Elected to a new office? Have a new mailing address? Became a mom or dad? Newly married? Etc... Please send us your news... photo, too, if you have one available.

Name: ____________________________________________
Graduation Year:_________ Phone: ____________________
Address:_______________________________________
Please type or print clearly...
News: ___________________________________________

Send your news to:

ATTN: Anissa L. Riley
Veterinary Medical Perspective
Tuskegee University
College of Veterinary Medicine
Patterson Hall
Tuskegee, AL 36088
334-724-4509 / 727-8177 (FAX)
Email: ariley@tuskegee.edu
first 40 clients. The Wellness Clinic is a part of Paws’ low cost veterinary services program. Dr. White is a native of Columbus who got her start in veterinary medicine at Emergency Medicine and General Practice Clinic before coming to Paws Humane Society.

Dr. Antonio D. Jackson ('18), only six months after graduation, was offered a Veterinary Medical Director position at Horizon Veterinary Clinic, which is owned by Tuskegee veterinary graduates. He is now on tract to open his own veterinary hospital within 12 to 18 months. Dr. Jackson thanks his professors for investing in his education to make sure he was prepared to practice veterinary medicine. Jackson was born and raised in Mansfield, Louisiana. He often returns home to offer veterinary services to the community. Recently, Jackson held his Second Annual Low-Cost Veterinary Clinic on July 20 and quickly realized that heartworm disease, in addition to other illnesses, were major problems in the pet community. Dr. Jackson says that he will try to perform an event every three or four months in order to get a handle of the parasite infestation in the cat and dog community.

Dr. Stephanie Miles-Richardson ('92) is making history in that she was elected president of The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), an independent agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit schools of public health and public health programs outside schools of public health. Dr. Miles-Richardson is the first African-American president of the CEPH and the first to be from an HBCU institution. She currently serves as associate dean of Graduate Education in Public Health, director of the Master of Public Health program at Morehouse School of Medicine and is a professor in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine.

CAPT Brianna Skinner ('96) was honored by the U.S. Public Health Service for her work in emergencies and health campaigns along with 18 other veterinarians. Dr. Skinner was one of the recipients of the 2018 Commissioned Corps Veterinary Responder of the Year Awardees. The service veterinary officers worked in the response and recovery to the 2017 hurricanes that hit Texas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Skinner is a captain in the U.S. Public Health Service Corps, and serves as a senior clinical veterinarian within the Comparative Medicine Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She is diplomat in the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. Her professional career began with the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps where she served both nationally and internationally. She later performed an interservice transfer with the United Stated Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. As a Commissioned Corps Officer, she has served on both humanitarian and disaster response missions nationally and internationally. Skinner served also as the 2017 veterinary symposium’s T.S. Williams Lecture speaker.

Dr. Susan Williams ('94) was featured in the The Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars 30th anniversary article. The article featured Dr. Williams as one of five veterinarians who participated in the Veterinary Scholars Program through the years and focused on how it shaped their careers. The program has supported veterinary students for the last 30 years, granting stipends that provide insight into biomedical research. Recipients learn about research techniques, ethics and career opportunities. They also get mentors. Most importantly, they get to formulate a hypothesis and do hands-on research to test it. Today, Williams is a professor with an emphasis on veterinary pathology. She works at the Poultry Diagnostic Research Center in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia. Williams provides pathology services - the examination of animal tissue to determine the cause and effects of diseases.
Tuskegee University 54th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium Highlights ...
54th Veterinary Medical Symposium Focuses on Mutual Benefits of Veterinary and Human Health Professionals as Partners

Excitement was in the air for the 54th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium held March 20-23, 2019 at the new host location site for the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National. Veterinary professionals (both alumni and friends), scientists, students and other health-related professionals came in great support of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine’s largest annual continuing educational event that brings together veterinarians and alumni from across the country to discuss important issues related to animal health and veterinary medicine. The symposium kicked off its scientific sessions with a variety of topics focused on the theme of “Veterinary and Human Health Professionals: mutual Benefits as Synergistic Partners” with unique topics in veterinary medicine track included in this year’s presentations of speakers designed to benefit participants both professionally and personally.

As a special treat, this year’s symposium also featured an evening with the artist, Dr. Ronald McDowell, who is a world-famous artist known for his life-like sculptors and vivid paintings. Participants were treated to a brief artist training session then an opportunity for him to do self-portrait prints of individuals or small groups as well as view many of his personal works on display for purchase if desired. Dr. McDowell is a longtime resident of Tuskegee and currently a faculty member at Tuskegee University.

The symposium kicked off on Wednesday, March 20 with an alumni/student reception sponsored by the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA), which served as a platform for students to network and identify mentors with alumni and speakers in various disciplines. The opening session on Thursday, March 21 began with the T.S. Williams Lecturer, Dr. Fermin V.G. Stewart, a 1985 alumnus who is also a medical doctor with intimate understanding of both medical and veterinary training programs and the attitudes and aptitudes needed by graduates. Dr. Stewart taught medicine at Emory University and the Emory University Clinic from 1996-2001. He then opened his own successful private specialty medical practice as an otolaryngologist in which he operates to the present.

The general session speaker for March 22, Dr. Horace E. Walcott, a 1984 alumnus, gave an enlightening presentation which touched on his vast knowledge as chemistry teacher, Weston research mentor at Brooklyn Tech and visiting scientist at the Dynamical Systems Laboratory, Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at New York University Tandon School of Engineering. Specialty areas of veterinary business, veterinary medical leadership, veterinary pathology, and promoting health and wellness and health literacy.

A combination of a professional conference and alumni reunion, the symposium featured a number of large and small animal research presentations; as well as topics on uniform service and public health, lab animal medicine and pathology plus presentations from the perspectives of interns and residents and an international session. Participants also attended the legal/law and pharmacology review that met various state board continuing education requirements for licensing as well as the many other various fellowship and networking sessions and activities that were planned for all including pre-veterinary students.

The Annual Alumni Banquet, which is one of the most highly anticipated features of the symposium, held on Friday night, March 22, honored the alumni reunion classes of 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969 (50th year - golden class), 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994 (25th year - silver class), 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014. Also during the banquet, the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) presented the following awards to recipients: Mrs. Carrie King (Honorary TVMAA Membership award), Dr. Tiffini Brabham, ’93 alumni (Distinguished Service award) and Dr. Tomeshia Hubbard, ’02 alumni (Distinguished Alumnus award). The Symposium continued on Saturday, March 23 back on campus at the Veterinary Complex and was brought to a successful conclusion on Saturday afternoon with the alumni barbeque and annual basketball game featuring the TUCVM alumni vs. the TUCVM students. Everyone enjoyed a great time and plans are underway for the 55th Annual Veterinary Symposium scheduled for March 18-21, 2020, in which we will celebrate the 75th Legacy Anniversary on the founding of the veterinary college at Tuskegee University.

FACULTY PERFORMANCE AWARD RECIPIENTS:

TEACHING
Dr. Lorraine Linn (assoc. professor - Clinical Sciences)

RESEARCH
Dr. Woubit Abdela, DACVIM (assoc. professor - Pathobiology)

SERVICE
Dr. Roslyn Casimir (associate dean – Academic and Student Affairs)

Retirement – Freddie Boston (VMTH Pharmacy),
Dr. Sammy Gorham (Pathobiology),
Dr. Tsegaye Habtemariam (Pathobiology/former Dean) and Elaine Lett (Office of the Dean)
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine
Spring Commencement - May 4, 2019
The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine celebrated the accomplishments of 49 graduates during its third annual spring commencement on May 4 in the Tuskegee University Chapel. Seventeen of the 49 graduates were conferred their degree with honors.

During the ceremony, four alumni were also honored and presented the Distinguished Veterinary Alumni Awards on behalf of the college by Tuskegee University President Lily D. McNair and Dean Ruby Perry.

Harold Davis, DVM, Ph.D., an experienced veterinary pathologist, leader in the veterinary medicine industry and 1976 veterinary medicine alumnus, challenged the graduates in his keynote address as this year’s commencement speaker.

“At Tuskegee, I became a man. Here I was told I could be somebody. So, Class of 2019, go be somebody because Tuskegee has equipped you as it had me and I was well-prepared,” Dr. Davis said. “Understand you are now a part of the ‘Tuskegee Legacy’ and the legacy must continue.”

Along with receiving their DVM degrees, graduates were hooded and accepted the Veterinarian’s Oath.

“We were honored to have President McNair support this year’s veterinary medicine commencement as her first commencement activity as the eighth president of Tuskegee University. We were also honored to have Dr. Davis as our commencement speaker this year,” said Dean Perry. “His inspiring message to the graduates of following their own yellow brick road to success and continuing the ‘Tuskegee Legacy’ was on point and a testament to the continual support he gives to his alma mater and Mother Tuskegee in which we are appreciative.”

In addition to Dr. Davis’ inspiring message to the graduates, Dean Perry, honored four of the college’s alumni with the Distinguished Alumni Award. The recipients included:

- Dr. Theodore “Ted” Cohn ’75 has devoted more than forty years of service to the veterinary medical profession. Since graduating from Tuskegee University, Dr. Cohn has distinguished himself as a veterinarian in Colorado and a leader, both locally and nationally. He served as a past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). While serving as president, Dr. Cohn presented the Diversity Award in 2013 to his alma mater, Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. Prior to his election to the AVMA Executive Board, Dr. Cohn served on and chaired several AVMA task forces, committees, and subcommittees, and he spent seven years in the AVMA House of Delegates, representing Colorado veterinarians.

- Dr. Phillip D. Nelson ’80 currently serves as dean and professor of immunology at the Western University of Health Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine and past recipient of the 2016 Senator John Melcher, DVM Leadership in Public Policy Award from the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. Dr. Nelson has had an active career in teaching, research and academic veterinary medicine. His research has focused on feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus infections in cats as biological models for human HIV, and the development immunity in the dog and cat.

- Dr. Nathaniel Powell, Jr. ’80 currently serves as chief of Comparative Medicine and attending veterinarian at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Much of his career has been focused on leadership, animal welfare, management of infectious diseases containment suites, and training the next generation of laboratory animal veterinarians. Shortly after graduating from Tuskegee University, Dr. Powell entered the U.S. Army and served in the Veterinary Corps for 23 years before retiring at the rank of Colonel. Dr. Powell has worked in the Federal government for 37 years.

- Dr. Harold Davis ’76, this year’s commencement speaker.

The 49-member class of 2019 included students from Alabama as well as 15 other states and Puerto Rico. The 2019 graduates are now among the 2,794 Tuskegee veterinary alumni and represent the 70th class to receive the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Tuskegee University.

A reception followed the commencement exercises for the graduates, family and friends at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.

In addition, the College of Veterinary Medicine’s masters and doctoral programs awarded nine graduates their degrees at Tuskegee University’s 134th Spring Commencement Exercises on May 11 at the university’s Gen. Daniel “Chappie” James Arena. These graduates included: Interdisciplinary Pathobiology Ph.D. recipient Dr. Rawah A. Faraj; Integrative Biosciences Ph.D. recipients Dr. Amged I. Dafalla, Dr. Brandon R. Gines and Dr. Henry J. Henderson, III; Master of Public Health recipients Samina Akhter and Mylo R. Howard; and Master of Veterinary Science recipients Dr. Hamid Mahama, Dr. Deidre Quinn-Gorham, and Adam W. Varella.
TUCVM 2019 Junior-Senior Awards Banquet
SIMPLY P.R.I.S.T.I.N.E | A Black Tie Affair April 27, 2019 | Tuskegee Municipal Complex

Academic Achievement Awards
Morgan E. Early
Ravin L. Sanders
Kevin L. Cosentino
Elizabeth Griffin
Luis A. Torres
Carlos A. Lloveras-Fuentes

American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology (AAVD)
Greys Hannah Kelly

Excellence in Pathology
Aaron Judson

O. P. Verma Endocrinology Award
Morgan Early

Nestle-Purina Award for Excellence in Veterinary Diagnostic Parasitology
Nasya Ali
Carlos Lloveras-Fuentes
Jasmine McCoy
Mattie Wilkinson

Sword of the Spirit Ministries Student Award
Khali Jones

Award for Proficiency in Emergency & Critical Care sponsored by the Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Society (VECCS)
Brittney Massenburg

Shelter Medicine Award
Christin Stobaugh

Senior Surgery Elective
Clarrissa Porter

AAHA Award of Proficiency in Primary Care
Carlos Lloveras-Fuentes

Dental Elective
Courtney Yates
Sahilis Delgado-Amador

DIVA Award
Donor: Dr. Mimi Johnson
Amber Hines

Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Association
Bryttani Davis

Outstanding Student Award
Aaron Judson

Dr. C. T. Raby Award for Excellence in Clinical Parasitology
Russell Johnson

The American College of Veterinary Surgery Student Surgical Proficiency in Small Animal
Gizelle Peynado

American Association of Feline Practitioners
Dr. Lorrie Linn Student Surgical Award
Charles Robinson
Bianca Reyes

Dr. Terrence Ferguson Award for Excellence in Small Animal Parasitology
Clarrissa Porter

Veterinary Spouses’ Legacy Scholarship
Russell Johnson

American Association of Feline Practitioners
Jennifer Weick

Small Animal Care Award
Clarrissa Porter

Christian Veterinary Leadership Award
Khali Jones

Large Animal Care Award
Luis Torres

Dr. H. L. Mitchell Award for Excellence in Large Animal Parasitology
Jetaime Miller

National Phi Zeta Awards
Nasya Ali, Kevin Cosentino
Morgan Early, James Nolan Eason
Elizabeth Griffin, Rae Harris
Jetaime Miller, Gizelle Peynado
Ravin Sanders, Esther Schow
Sharonika Spann, Luis Torres
Brandi Tucker, Jennifer Weick
Mattie Wilkinson, Jasmine Nolan

Dr. Edward Mitchell Award for Excellence in Veterinary Clinical Parasitology
Charles Robinson

Dr. Hannah Guishard Award for Excellence in Veterinary Clinical Parasitology
Kayla Brown
Bryttani Davis
Gizelle Peynado

The Bayer Award for Excellence in Small Animal Diagnostic Parasitology
Jasmine Nolan
Courtney Yates

American College of Veterinary Radiology (ACVR) Student Award
Christin Stobaugh

Student Leadership Awards (SAVMA & Class Presidents)
Mattie Wilkinson
Elizabeth Griffin
Bryttani Davis
Aaron Judson

Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Perspective
Five honor students in the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) were the recipients of the scholarship from Merck Animal Health in which each student received a $5,000 scholarship to further their education as they pursue careers in either companion or large animal care. The students were recognized at the Tuskegee University Annual President’s Essay Contest and Awards Ceremony in the spring.

“Veterinary expertise – both for companion and large animals – is imperative in today’s times,” said Scott Bormann, Senior Vice President of North America, Merck Animal Health. “With pet ownership on the rise and a population that is booming, veterinarians are essential to the care of our companions and to helping maintain a protein supply to support our growing world, respectively. At Merck Animal Health, we are eager to support these talented student recipients who will help to ensure the science of healthier animals.”

“I commend Merck Animal Health for their ongoing support of our veterinary college and students. We at Tuskegee focus on our students being career-ready veterinarians when they complete the curriculum and encourage their pursuits of the vast areas of career choices in the veterinary profession including companion and large animal medicine as Merck Animal Health’s scholarship promotes,” said Dr. Deidre Quinn-Gorham, coordinator of educational programs and instructional technology/scholarship committee chair, along with Dr. Roslyn Casimir, associate dean for academic and student affairs.

“Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) was honored to receive the Merck Animal Health Scholarship, which will enable our students to further their education and pursue careers in veterinary medicine,” said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean. “We are honored to continue to partner with Merck Animal Health to support the future of veterinary medicine.”

“The Merck Animal Health scholarship continues to not only be an asset to our scholarship program, but also gives students an incentive to maintain high standards for academics and to become actively involved in service to the veterinary college and their communities,” said Dr. Deidre Quinn-Gorham, coordinator of educational programs and instructional technology/scholarship committee chair, along with Dr. Roslyn Casimir, associate dean for academic and student affairs.

The five TUCVM recipients are:

• Maria Colon of Arcedibo, Puerto Rico, is a member of the Class of 2020. Maria participated in the University of California-Davis Pre-Veterinary Summer Enrichment Program, volunteered at the Pasadena Humane Society and completed an American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Veterinary Forensics externship. Upon graduation, she plans to complete an ASPCA surgical externship and a shelter medicine internship.

• Khadijah Martin of Bronx, N.Y., is a member of the Class of 2021. Khadijah gained experience working at Banfield Pet Hospital and plans to work as a mixed animal veterinarian and create her own line of pet food after she graduates.

• Lorena Sandoval of Los Angeles, Calif., is a member of the Class of 2020. She gained experience serving as a teaching assistant at the Center for Engaged Learning Abroad in Belize in 2018 and currently works as a peer tutor for gross anatomy for the TUCVM. Upon graduation, Lorena plans to practice mixed animal veterinary medicine while working and teaching in third world countries.

• Kimberly Melara Snook of Houston, Texas, is a member of the Class of 2020. She has experience working as a kennel technician at Longenaugh Veterinary Hospital and as a veterinary technician at Banfield Pet Hospital of Willowbrook and Copperfield. Kimberly is a histology tutor at the TUCVM. She plans to work as a small animal veterinarian and become a board certified veterinary neurologist after graduating.

• Jamie Wall of Indianapolis, Ind., is a member of the Class of 2020. She has experience working as a veterinary assistant in general practice. Upon graduation, Jamie plans to work in small animal general practice and specialize in internal medicine.


TUCVM’s SAVMA Host Wellness Lunch and Learn with Alum Dr. Jerome Williams

The program was funded by TUCVM’s SAVMA chapter, which provided lunch to 130 students in attendance.

Laurie Mangeli, a member of the TUCVM class of 2020, received the Western Veterinary Conference (WVC) 2019 Jack Walther Leadership Award. She along with 36 other students were honored during the 91st WVC Annual Conference in Las Vegas. Commencing in 2002, the leadership awards were developed by the WVC to foster leaders at the start of their professions.

Mangeli’s has served in multiple leadership roles at TUCVM to include:

- AVMA-Trust Student Representative - current
- Idexx Student Representative - current
- Small animal internal medicine peer tutor - current
- Micro-anatomy peer tutor - 2017 - 2019
- VBMA chapter president - 2017 – 2018
- Holistic Club Treasurer - 2017-2018
- AHVMA chapter delegate - 2018 - 2019

The WVC annual award is bestowed upon 37 veterinary students and two veterinary technician students, in the U.S. and Canada, who are actively involved and show leadership potential. The award was named after Dr. Jack Walther in 2013 to honor his dedication to the veterinary profession.
Dean Perry welcomed Dr. Dana Willis Henderson, Ms. Michelshia Mack, Ms. Tabitha Piner, Dr. Rawah Faraj, and Mr. Anthony McCloud to the TUCVM family. Dr. Henderson joined the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, Department of Clinical Sciences as the new hospital administrator, effective May 2019. Ms. Mack joined the Comparative Medicine Resource Center, Department of Pathobiology as a laboratory animal technician, effective May 2019. Ms. Tabitha Piner joined the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, Department of Clinical Sciences as the veterinary client care coordinator, effective May 2019. Dr. Faraj joined the Department of Biomedical Sciences as a research specialist, effective June 2019. Lastly, Mr. McCloud joined the TUCVM family as the new director of Student Affairs, effective August 2019.

Dr. Dana Willis Henderson is a 2002 graduate of TUCVM. She has diverse experience in multi-unit corporate private practice Dr. Willis Henderson has enjoyed a progressive fast-paced career within the corporate industry and enjoys utilizing her expertise in training and development, organizational transformation and hospital performance turnarounds. Previously, she led a regional team of eight medical directors that encompassed 145 hospitals with a revenue budget of $200 million. Dr. Willis Henderson is also a devoted wife and mother of two daughters and has two four-legged family members.

Ms. Tabitha Piner is a native of Tuskegee and previously employed with Tuskegee University for 10 years in the Housing Department. Her position prior to joining the College of Veterinary Medicine family was office manager/data analyst in the Office of Housing and Residence Life for Tuskegee University. Ms. Piner has two adult children and two grandchildren.

Dr. Rawah Faraj is a research specialist in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. She is a recent TUCVM graduate receiving her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Pathobiology (IDPB) in May. Dr. Faraj’s research areas of interest include zoonotic diseases, infectious diseases, molecular biology, microbiology and immunology, genetic engineering and vaccine production, signaling pathways regulating kidney development, renal dysplasia and cystic kidney disease.

Mr. Anthony McCloud holds a bachelor’s degree from Spring Arbor University in Management and Organizational Development and a master’s degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University. He brings extensive experience in organizational development, management, leadership, and mentoring of various age groups. McCloud retired from the Michigan Department of Corrections with 34 years of dedicated service. Especially noteworthy was McCloud receiving the Director’s Award for Professional Excellence for his management of the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative. Additionally, McCloud also served eight years as a Commissioner for the Lansing Board of Water and Light. He is also the devoted husband to Dr. Ebony Gilbreath.

Ms. Michelshia Mack is a recent hire of the Comparative Medicine Resource Center, Department of Pathobiology as a laboratory animal technician. Ms. Mack is a May 2016 graduate of Tuskegee University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. Recently, Ms. Mack took the assistant laboratory animal technician certification (ALAT) exam with the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. She had a job requirement to pass certification for ALAT within one year on the job and succeeded within two months!

Three TUCVM Faculty Recognized at 2019 Junior-Senior Awards Banquet

SIMPLY P.R.I.S.T.I.N.E
A Black Tie Affair on April 27, 2019 at the Tuskegee Municipal Complex

Dr. Pawan Puri is an assistant professor of physiology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. He received the Zoetics Award for Veterinary Research Excellence.

Dr. Lorraine Linn is an associate professor of small animal surgery in the Department of Clinical Sciences. Dr. Linn is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. She received the Excellence in Teaching Award as nominated by the TUCVM second-year veterinary students.

Dr. Lauren Rowe is a 2011 Tuskegee veterinary medicine graduate. Dr. Rowe received the Excellence in Teaching Award as nominated by the TUCVM fourth-year veterinary students.

Atty. Crystal James, associate professor and head of the TUCVM Department of Graduate Public Health, was named a member of the Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security Board of Directors. Atty. James has over 20 years of public health experience and extensive background in program planning and evaluation. She received a Master of Public Health from Rollin’s School of Public Health at Emory University, and a Juris Doctorate from University of Houston.

Dr. Teshome Yehualashed, Dr. Temesgen Samuel, and Dr. Woubit S. Abdela (all Pathobiology Dept. faculty members) were honored with placement on the Tuskegee University Wall of Inventors. The University’s Office of Research and Sponsored Programs held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the “Wall of Inventors” on April 4 at the Kellogg Conference Center. Tuskegee University President Dr. Lily McNair approved and Tuskegee University Provost Dr. Roberta Troy endorsed establishment of a “Wall of Inventors” at a prominent place on the campus to display the patents that have been approved by the U.S. Patent Office. TUCVM researchers Drs. Yehualashed, Dr. Samuel, and Dr. Abdela received patents for the rapid and more reliable detection of viable foodborne, bioterror pathogens and other infectious microbes using modified Polymerase Chain Reaction sample preparation and for the most time-saving method of determining food threat agents and foodborne pathogens in such items as meat, milk, and vegetables.

Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, was elected to serve as board secretary of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC). Dean Perry was elected during the organization’s annual meeting, held in March in Washington, D.C. She is also a veterinary educator and radiologist for more than 30 years and is a Diplomate of the American College for Veterinary Radiology. She is a veterinary educator and radiologist with more than 30 years of experience. Perry was appointed the college’s dean in 2015.
Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Perspective

OUTREACH

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine Host Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Course

TUCVM students and faculty participated in the Second Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) Course in the spring semester. The TLAER course was hosted by the Tuskegee CVM Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and Dr. Elizabeth H. Yorke, associate professor of Large Animal Surgery and section chief, Large Animal Hospital. The course was taught by Dr. Rebecca Husted. Also in attendance were Auburn CVM’s AAEP students, Notasulga and Auburn Fire Departments, Lee County Animal Control officers, as well as several police officers also participated in the course.

TLAER is an awareness course on the practical considerations, behavioral understanding, specialty equipment, techniques, methodologies and tactics behind the safe extrication of a live large animal from entrapments (trailer wrecks, ditches, mud, and barn fires) in local emergencies and disaster areas.

TUCVM Host Second Diversity and Inclusion/Cultural Awareness Program

TUCVM held its second diversity and inclusion activity during the spring semester entitled, “Veterinary Medicine Around the World.” On April 17, veterinary medicine faculty, staff and students attended the lunchtime presentations in the Patterson Hall Auditorium where veterinarians within the college shared their experiences comparing and contrasting the practice of veterinary medicine within and outside of the United States.

Afterswards, Dr. Reddy, who serves as interim associate dean for research and advanced studies, gave another presentation on opportunities available to students and graduate veterinarians to engage in veterinary medicine internationally. Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, as chairperson of the TUCVM Diversity and Inclusion Program Committee, oversaw the planning and organizing of this activity, which is under a mandate by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) to all veterinary schools/colleges. Dr. Gilbreath is also an associate professor in the Department of Pathobiology.
Dr. John Edwin Settle, Jr. (‘65), 79, passed away May 15, 2019 in the comfort of his home in Virginia Beach, Virginia with his wife Audrey at his side. Settle is survived by his wife of 21 years, Audrey Settle; and his children, grandchildren, sister and brother-in-laws. He received a degree in Animal Husbandry from Penn State University and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Tuskegee University. A memorial service was held on May 23 at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Dr. Jamal Toler (‘98) entered eternal rest on July 3, 2019. Jamal Ohene Toler was born March 16, 1972 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the youngest of four sons born to Richard Toler, Sr. and Ruth C. Jones Toler. Raised in Cincinnati, Jamal graduated from Walnut Hills High School in 1990. At Tuskegee University, Jamal earned the B.S. in Animal, Poultry and Veterinary Sciences and then in 1998, he graduated from Tuskegee University with his Doctor in Veterinary Medicine degree (Cum Laude). While attending Tuskegee University, Jamal Toler met the love of his life. He united in holy matrimony with Dr. Whitney Rose Toler on September 14, 2002. In 2003, the Tolers became the owners of the widely known Deshon Animal Hospital. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. A proud and active alumnus, Dr. Toler financially supported his Alma Mater and regularly attended the annual veterinarian symposium. A Celebration of Life service was held on July 13 at the Ousley United Methodist Church in Lithonia, Georgia.

Dr. Roland Haynes Powell, Sr. (‘65), 87, passed peacefully in his sleep in the early morning of April 1, 2019 at home with his family. He attended Tougaloo College where he graduated in 1954 with a B.S. degree in Biology. Dr. Powell became interested in veterinary medicine after meeting Dr. Tom Gipson, his mentor and a Tuskegee veterinary graduate, which led to his graduating from the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1965. Roland and Sonda married on December 23, 1955, while he was serving in the U.S. Army. In 1965, Dr. Powell was one of seven veterinarians in Jackson, Miss. and the first black veterinarian when he returned home after graduation. Upon returning, he and his wife operated the Valley Street Animal Clinic, their first veterinary clinic for 29 years. Dr. Powell retired in 1997, turning the reins over to his son, but came out of retirement to open the Monroe Street Animal Clinic with his son, Dr. David Powell, in 2010. His funeral service was held on April 6 at Holy Ghost Catholic Church, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Dr. Margo Steele Holland (‘85), 59, passed away August 18, 2019 after valiantly battling cancer. She was born on September 30, 1959 in Chicago, Illinois to the union of John T. and Gwenndolyn Gordon Steele. A product of the Chicago Public School system, Margo followed her big brother’s example, graduating from Lindblom Technical High School, and matriculating at Tuskegee University. She earned a B.S. degree in Biology from Tuskegee University in 1981, her Doctor in Veterinary Medicine degree from Tuskegee in 1985, and furthered her studies, earning a Ph.D. in Veterinary Pathology from Michigan State University in 1994. As a student in Tuskegee University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, she met another veterinary student, and in 1984, she married her soulmate and best friend, Dr. Robert Holland. Her funeral was held on Aug. 23, in Alexandria, Virginia.

Dr. Matthew Jenkins (‘57) passed away September 14, 2019 at the age of 85, just 12 days short of his 86th birthday. Dr. Jenkins wore many hats over his lifetime to include veterinarian, military veteran, leader, entrepreneur, real estate mogul, mentor, author, father, husband and philanthropist. He was a faithful veterinary alumnus and supporter of Tuskegee University. Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Jenkins have been very supportive of Tuskegee University over many years to include coming back to serve as Acting President and First Lady when the University required a leader from 2013-2014. He has served as a member on the Tuskegee University Board of Trustees and president of the Tuskegee University Foundation.

Dr. Edward Mitchell (‘55) passed away September 16, 2019. Dr. Mitchell, a California native, was also a faithful alumnus and supporter of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. He served on the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) Executive Board as vice president for 2017-2018 and president for 2018-2019. Dr. Mitchell previously practiced as a veterinary surgeon in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. He performed orthopedic and soft tissue surgeries for multiple privately owned clinics in the Atlanta Metro area, including orthopedic and soft tissue procedures for Banfield Pet Hospitals in North and South Georgia and orthopedics for the Atlanta Humane Society. His other interests included studying metaphysics, holistic medicine, herbal medicine, and other forms of healing modalities. He was a two-time graduate of Tuskegee University. Although gone too soon, Dr. Mitchell will be remembered by his classmates and fellow colleagues as a person who lived a wonderful, full life. He leaves to cherish his memory, his devoted wife, children, parents, other relatives, friends and colleagues. A Celebration of His Life Service was held on Oct. 4 in Oakland, California.

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Tuskegee Veterinary Alumni Association Visits Newly Established Center of Excellence for Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Defense

Excited to show the newly established Center of Excellence for Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Defense in the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dean Perry took members of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association on a tour of the center. The Center was conceived and initiated by Dean Ruby Perry on March 23, 2019, with a goal of playing a vital role in Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Security in the State. Alabama’s economy is heavily dependent on agriculture including food animals (poultry and beef) and aquaculture. The Center is targeted to play a significant role in supporting Alabama’s Agriculture and has a potential to take a leading role in keeping the State’s food supply safe, by using the college’s patents for array of food pathogen detection prior to food distribution.

Dr. Woubit S. Abdela, who serves as the center’s director, notes that the establishment of the center is in keeping with Tuskegee University’s mission to serve the global society as well as the regional and campus community and beyond through the development of outreach programs that are compatible with the University’s educational mission, that improve understanding of community problems, and that help develop relevant alternative solutions.

“The mission of the Center has a three-part focus: 1. To facilitate intensive engagement of interested veterinary students in diverse aspects of food animal practice; 2. To attract international scholars to the Center to participate in collaborative research in the areas of food animal health and food safety; and 3. To facilitate outreach activities for the benefit of regional small-holder farmers in modern herd health management practices,” Abdela said.

About The Center of Excellence for Food Animal Health, Food Safety & Food Defense

HISTORY
The Center of Excellence for Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Defense in the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine was conceived and initiated by Dean Ruby Perry in March 2019, with a goal of improving Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Security in the State of Alabama. The Center would play a significant role in supporting Alabama’s Agriculture.

VISION
1. To create a center with state-of-the-art-equipment and resources to facilitate teaching, research and service for the benefit of students, researchers, and local communities
2. Given the shortage of food animal veterinarians, new strategies are needed to encourage DVM students to consider careers related to food animal practice.

COLLABORATIONS
TU Faculty in the Department of Pathobiology, Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Biomedical Sciences as well as faculty of Animal Sciences in the CAENS will play a major role in all activities of the Center. The Center scientists will collaborate with experts at other institutions including:
1. USDA ARS Laboratories in Athens, GA and Auburn, AL
2. Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology (KRIBB), Seoul, Korea
3. Nano-Biosensor laboratory at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
4. Research Institute for Biotechnology and Environment, University and Nong Lam, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

RESEARCH, TEACHING & TRAINING
1. Teach and conduct cutting edge research in food animal diseases, trans boundary and zoonotic animal diseases, and pre-harvest and post-harvest food safety
2. Train International fellows in different food safety and food animal disease diagnostics
3. Provide summer training opportunities for DVM students with interest in food animal health and food safety
4. Cooperate with the state offices to develop opportunities for advancement of agricultural food safety in Alabama
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Join Us in Celebrating Our Diamond Anniversary (1945-2020)- 75 Years

55th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium
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Theme:
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Contact: vetsymposium@tuskegee.edu

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