“Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence.... Sustaining Our Legacy & Advancing Veterinary Medicine for Future Generations”
Greetings and welcome to this issue of the Veterinary Medical Perspective magazine. I hope that you enjoy reading and reflecting with this issue of the Perspective.

With this unprecedented time and in the midst of global fear and anxiety from the coronavirus disease COVID-19 pandemic, we have been impacted by the widespread of civil unrest from the unjustified murder of unarmed black men and women over the past months. The anger that developed from many of us including our students added to the anxiety and tension of having to teach and learn in an already compromised delivery of our educational programs in a pandemic environment.

To support each other as a College family, we utilized a zoom platform to hold a three-part series with our TUCVM Family of faculty, staff, students and alumni on the topic: “Society, Injustice, Racism, and Health” as we navigate through this current state of a pandemic which has compromised all of us and with the additional impact from societal ills of injustice, racism and the impact on the health of people in particular African Americans, and also other people of color.

I express my sincere gratitude to the TUCVM family for their support while I served as Acting President of the University during the spring semester of 2020 while President McNair was on medical leave. This was another honor to serve my alma mater and thankful to Dr. Casimir and Dr. Reddy for co-leading the College in my absence. Faculty, staff, students and alumni were very supportive, and the College was able to succeed and end with a successful CVM Graduation on May 2, 2020.

Class of 2020, you have made us so very proud! Although the COVID-19 pandemic required you to complete your journey differently than the previous classes, your class is commended for the adjustment and finishing STRONG! This issue of the Perspective also covers the virtual graduation for the Class of 2020 and will forever be known as #Classof2020STRONG!

Because of the pandemic, our 55th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium was cancelled in March and will be held as a virtual 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration on October 10, 2020. This will allow us the opportunity to still honor the reunion classes for the years 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970 (50th year - golden class), 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 (25th year - silver class), 2000, 2005, 2010, & 2015 and honor our historic veterinary school for 75 years of existence (1945-2020).

During these difficult times, please be mindful of self-care, and remain safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing you virtually on October 10!

Sincerely,

Ruby L. Perry, DVM, Ph.D., DACVR
Dean & Professor of Veterinary Radiology
The Tuskegee University Community Engagement Subgroup of the Campus Health Planning Task Force is giving a helping hand during the COVID-19 pandemic. They have responded to a request from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) to help in producing Viral Transport Media (VTM) for increased COVID testing. On July 15 and 16, several labs answered the call to provide support to the ADPH and some PIs who made media met in the Microbiology Core Lab at Williams-Bowie Hall and were present to take the photo. A special thank you to Dr. Deloris Alexander, Dr. Temesgen Samuel, Dr. Deepa Bedi, Dr. Olga Bolden-Tiller, Dr. Marcia Martinez, Dr. Marceline Egnin and Dr. Deannah Maxwell. You are making a DIFFERENCE!

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ON THE COVER:
Celebrating 75 Years of an Everlasting Legacy (1945-2020)
Our Diamond Anniversary

Thomas Martin - CVM PHOTOGRAPHER
Some photographs courtesy of other contributors

Tuskegee University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (sacsococ.org) to award baccalaureate, master's, doctoral and professional degrees.
www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed
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 Requirement.

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine is pleased to announce the first recipient of the scholarship established in memory of one of our esteemed alumni, Dr. Lizel Salmon (Class of 1992).

It was announced in December 2019, that the TUCVM Scholarship Committee selected Ms. Sabrie Moze as the first recipient for The Dr. Lizel Salmon Endowment Scholarship. The TUCVM Scholarship Committee worked diligently to select a candidate that closely mirrors the caliber of student envisioned when the scholarship criterion was developed.

THANK YOU TUCVM alumni & friends for your continued support of your Alma Mater & Mother Tuskegee! We are moving closer to reaching our $500K goal. As of June, we have raised $496,191.81!!! Please continue to support the “Sustaining Our Legacy $500K Veterinary Alumni Renovation Fund.” Again, thanks to ALL of YOU! #TUCVM is Moving Forward! TUCVM Appreciates Your Support!
Sabrie Moze, as of the Fall 2020 Semester, is a third-year student of Haitian descent, has a 4.0 GPA, and received her B. S. in Animal Science from the University of Maryland, College Park. She has also worked in the Washington, D. C., Virginia, and Maryland areas with various Humane Shelters, assisted investigators in animal cruelty cases, and has an ultimate goal of becoming a small animal surgeon. Ms. Moze interests include Surgery, Shelter medicine and Emergency medicine. Ideally, she would like to pursue high volume spay & neuter/TNR programs in shelter medicine or go for a Surgical residency.

“I love shelter medicine due to the fact that we as DVMs will have the opportunity to innovate and find solutions to give our patients a second chance at life. Also, I love surgery because of my passion for anatomy,” Moze said. Moze served as an anatomy tutor for TUCVM first year students during her second year and also in this year. She knows that working in emergency medicine is going to give her a wide range of experiences. “It will keep me on my toes as I like the fast paced vet life; anything too mundane won’t keep my interest,” Moze concluded.

FUTURE GOAL:
“Eventually I want to establish a mentorship program for first generation students of color who want to pursue veterinary medicine. I see it as a way to pay forward the support I’ve received that helped me develop my own confidence in this field. This summer was the first time I met a Haitian DVM and got to work alongside her. I feel that it is necessary for people of color to be visible in order to create a truly diverse environment in the field of veterinary medicine. We have to be able to see ourselves to conceive that our dreams can be a reality.” –Sabrie Moze ⭐

The late 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 the 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. Her desire to make a positive impact on her community propelled her to establish The Animal Protection League, Inc. (TAPL) a non-profit organization with the goal of achieving no-kill shelters in region. For a short time TAPL, under Dr. Salmon’s leadership, operated the shelter for Prince George’s County, MD. Dr. Salmon decided to broaden her talents beyond veterinary medicine. She believed in using her full potential 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.” She mentored many individuals professionally and personally. She will be forever remembered as a devoted daughter, loving wife, dedicated mother to two daughters, caring person and an outstanding small animal veterinarian. The memory of her love, dedication to animals, courage, strength, wisdom and joie de vivre continues to inspire her many friends, relatives and professional colleagues. ⭐

Sabrie Moze

WHO WAS DR. SALMON?...
A COMPASSIONATE VETERINARIAN.
“Mother Tuskegee” and the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine’s (TUCVM) outstanding record of producing legacies are putting the spotlight on the Ortiz Family (Husband – Dr. Bernardino Ortiz-Santiago, Wife – Dr. Vera Ann Burrell de Ortiz and Daughter – Dr. Ana Doris Ortiz Burrell) in this issue of the Veterinary Medical Perspective.

Dr. Bernardino Ortiz-Santiago was born in a township belonging to the town of Juncos, Puerto Rico from a very humble family. Dr. Ortiz attended the University of Puerto Rico under a scholarship. He was admitted to Tuskegee Institute in the undergraduate program and the School of Veterinary Medicine earned his degree in 1964. He married his classmate Vera A. Burrell and they made Puerto Rico their home. In Puerto Rico, he joined the Department of Agriculture as a regulatory veterinarian. During his tenure in public service, Dr. Ortiz obtained several dreams. One of the most remarkable for him was a very creative role, both professionally and of leadership in eradicating five diseases of public health importance in Puerto Rico (Bovine Brucellosis, Bovine Tuberculosis, Hog Cholera, Screw Worms and the African Bont Tick). This endeavor helped him develop concern for what is known today as ONE HEALTH INITIATIVE. After 14 years, Dr. Ortiz decided to change to private practice to fully devote his time to Bovine Medicine.

Dr. Vera Ann Burrell de Ortiz is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. She grew up in an agricultural environment on her grandfather’s farm in Lewes, Delaware. It was her grandfather who influenced her to love farm animals and her mother taught her to have compassion for pets. In 1958, Tuskegee Institute’s School of Veterinary Medicine was recruiting minority students. The University of Maryland gave Dr. Burrell a scholarship to attend Tuskegee. To her surprise, she didn’t know that very few women were studying to be veterinarians in the United States. Dr. Burrell received her DVM degree in 1964. Later, she married her classmate, Dr. Ortiz-Santiago.

Especially noteworthy, Dr. Burrell became the first woman veterinarian to be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Puerto Rico for 15 years. She served as the first woman president in 1986 of the Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association; and served on the Tuskegee University Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) Executive Board in 1983 and in 1988-89.

Drs. Ortiz and Burrell have three children - Manuel, José and Ana Doris, and seven grandchildren. One of their greatest joys was watching their daughter, Ana Doris Ortiz Burrell, graduate from their alma mater, and obtain her DVM from Tuskegee University in May 1995.

Dr. Ana Doris Ortiz Burrell is a prominent veterinarian in Apopka, Florida, where she has established herself as a small animal veterinarian. Although married and her husband’s last name is Berrios; she as a second-generation veterinarian, is known to most as Dr. O. She developed a passion for the care and welfare of all animals at an early age, as both of her parents are licensed veterinarians in Puerto Rico. After obtaining her DVM from Tuskegee University in 1995, Dr. O finished an internship in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at the University of Tennessee in 1996 then started practicing veterinary medicine the same year.

In 2001, Dr. O opened the Pet Paradise Animal Hospital to provide veterinary and boarding services in Central Florida. Then in 2019, she purchased a second practice, River Oaks Animal Hospital in Longwood, Florida.

Dr. Bernardino Ortiz and Dr. Vera A. Burrell de Ortiz are with other members of the COLEGIO DE MEDICOS VETERINARIOS OF Puerto Rico, Vet Techs and others assisting earthquake refugees’ pets in tent city with vaccinations, deworming, treatments for ticks and fleas in Guanica, and Yauco. Puerto Rico had some of the hardest hit cities of the earthquakes that took place last year.
Three-part series of discussions on the topic: "Society, Injustice, Racism and Health". Part 1 was held on June 16, Part 2 was held on June 25 and Part 3 was held on July 2, 2020, all three from 7:00-8:30 p.m. CST. A distinguished group of panelists were asked by Dean Perry to lead discussions as we navigated through this current state of a pandemic which has compromised all of us and with the additional impact from societal ills of injustice, racism and the impact on the health of people, in particular African Americans. Dean Perry and Dr. Melvena Wilson served as the engagement’s co-moderators with the assistance of the college’s Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC). Dr. Wilson is an assistant professor in the college’s Department of Graduate Public Health and co-chair for the PHAC. Also, Atty Crystal James shared the questions in the chat to the panelist. Atty. James is department head and director of the college’s Graduate Public Health program and serves as one of the co-chairs in the university’s Community Health Task Force.

In PART ONE: The panelists of discussion leaders included: Dr. Rueben Warren (DDS, MPH, Director of the National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University) along with our alumni, Dr. Tiffini Brabham (DVM Toxicologist and current president of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association - TVMAA); Dr. Harold Davis (DVM Pathologist and past president TVMAA); Dr. Ted Cohn (DVM Practitioner and Past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association - AVMA) and Dr. Irving McConnell (DVM Entrepreneur and past member of the Tuskegee University Board of Trustees).

In PART-TWO: The panelists of discussion leaders for Part-Two included: alum Dr. Harold Davis (DVM Pathologist and past president TVMAA); alum Dr. Linda Jacobson (DVM Practitioner and Past President of TVMAA); alum Dr. Victor Lopez (DVM Practitioner – Class of 2020); Ms. Ayanna Davis (DVM Student and President Class of 2022); Mr. Dequarius King (3rd year IDPB PhD student); and Ms. Raven McClellan (2nd year MPH student).

In PART-THREE: Dean Ruby Perry invited the TUCVM Family to participate in the third and final discussion and focus on the following: Where do we go from here? How do we stay connected as a family community in the midst of chaos? How has Tuskegee prepared us to stay connected as a strong and compassionate family? Lastly, how do we give inspiration and hope which is what we need in these challenging times. Dr. Tiffini Brabham, President of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) and Dean Perry served as co-moderators with the assistance of the college’s Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC).

For Part-Three, the panelists of discussion leaders included the following alumni: Dr. Diarra Blue (DVM Practitioner and Entrepreneur); Dr. Patricia Lowrie (AAC&U Distinguished Fellow and Advocate for Diversity, Equity and Student Success); Dr. David Brooks (DVM Practitioner & Member of the TVMAA Executive Board); and Dr. Adam McKee (Retired US Airforce Vet Corps & Naval Medical Research Center, and established the TVMAA).

**TUCVM’s Graduate Public Health Program Awarded First National Science Foundation Research (NSF) Grant for COVID-19 Rapid Response Initiative**

The Department of Graduate Public Health has received its first National Science Foundation Research (NSF) grant to assist in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant is for one year with a budget of $199,479. Atty. Crystal James, department head for the DGPH, is serving as PI and Dr. Melvena Wilson is serving as Program Director for this initiative. Atty. James also serves as one of the co-chairs in the Community Health Task Force which was started by Dr. Perry while she served as acting president for the university during Dr. McNair’s sick leave. Dr. Kimberly Scott, Vice President for Student Affairs, also serves as the co-chair for the Community Health Task Force. Dr. Wilson is an assistant professor in the college’s DGPH and co-chair for the college’s newly formed Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) also initiated by Dean Perry.

“This is the first major grant provided to the Department of Graduate Public Health since its establishment in May of 2017,” noted James. “This pilot study will provide much needed resources to assist in the development of students as well as provide preliminary data for additional funding.” Dean Perry added, “This project will ultimately provide evidence-base recommendations to federal, state, and local public health agencies for a different approach to help with decreasing health disparities in African American communities.”
Dr. Marc Hulin ('94) was elected as VP-Elect for the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS). He graduated from the Tuskegee CVM in 1994 and received both his B.S. degree in animal and poultry science in 1979 and his DVM degree in 1981. Afterwards, Dr. Branch worked as an associate veterinarian with Red Mountain Animal Clinic for five years. He then founded Oporto Animal Clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, where he has been in private practice since 1986. In addition to his private practice, Branch is also a partner with The Emergency and Specialty Animal Medical Center (formerly known as the Emergency Animal Clinic) located in Birmingham. Dr. Branch served as president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) in 2015 and president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation in 2017. He is the first African-American to serve as president of the ALVMA. He was selected as the 2018 chairperson of the American Association of State Boards Conference Committee.

Dr. Azalia Boyd ('08) was featured in an article from the Atlanta PET LIFE EXPERTS Veterinary Profile because Animal Affinity Doctoring comes naturally to her. After earning her degree, Dr. Boyd completed an emergency, surgery and internal medicine internship at Friendship Hospital for Animals in Washington, D.C. before moving back to Atlanta so her son could be closer to his grandparents. One of her focuses is on the animal human bond. More at: vcahospitals.com/briarcliff-atlanta.

Dr. Will Draper and Dr. Françoise Tyler (both ’91) business is growing...again! Their practice, The Village Vets, has added more clinics in In Virginia-Highland, Upper Westside, Avondale Estates. All three new practices are slated for mid-to late Summer 2020 openings. The expansion of their practice was featured at https://whatnowatlanta.com/the-village-vets-adding-clinics-in-virginia-highland-upper-westside-avondale-estates/. They were also featured for giving great perspectives regarding racism by the AVMA in JAVMA news June 2020.

Dr. Arvid Edward ('98) was featured online in Atlanta Pet Life due to his television profile. Dr. Arvid Edward isn’t just a metro Atlanta veterinarian, he also stars in “The Doctors” and “Pet Doctors of Atlanta.” Dr. Edward’s most widely seen role is as the resident vet on the nationally syndicated TV program, “The Doctors.” More can be viewed at: https://atlantapetlife.com/lights-camera-action-heal/.

Dr. Thomas C. "T. C." Branch ('81) is recognized with the Veterinarian of the Year 2020 award by the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association. He is a two-time graduate of Tuskegee University, receiving both his B.S. degree in animal and poultry science in 1979 and his DVM degree in 1981. Afterwards, Dr. Branch worked as an associate veterinarian with Red Mountain Animal Clinic for five years. He then founded Oporto Animal Clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, where he has been in private practice since 1986. In addition to his private practice, Branch is also a partner with The Emergency and Specialty Animal Medical Center (formerly known as the Emergency Animal Clinic) located in Birmingham. Dr. Branch served as president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) in 2015 and president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation in 2017. He is the first African-American to serve as president of the ALVMA. He was selected as the 2018 chairperson of the American Association of State Boards Conference Committee.

Dr. Vernard Hodges ('97) and Dr. Terrence Ferguson ('98) have now been given a second season with their TV show, “Critter Fixers: Country Vets”, on the National Geographic Wild Network. Season two is slated to come out in the spring of 2021. Their season two is highlighted in an article at http://www.13wmaz.com/mobile/article/news/local/critterfixers-hodges-ferguson-tv-nationalgeographic/93-ddc2bbb0-a6ec-490b-addd-fc22df4ee9dd.

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Dr. Russell L. Johnson, Jr. (’19) and current IBS PhD. student was selected as a recipient of the Western Veterinary Conference (WVC) 2020’s Dr. W. Bruce Wren Food Animal Incentive Award. The Award is Designed to promote WVC’s goal of educating new graduates to maintain their interest in food animal clinical practice or other related careers, such as food animal clinical skills instruction or applied clinical research. It also showcases the educational enrichment opportunities offered by WVC. Dr. Johnson was also featured last year in The Birmingham Times in a special cover story.

Dr. Stevie Jones Jr (’09) joined A.P.A.W. Veterinary Hospital. He was featured as one of the newest veterinarians at A.P.A.W. Veterinary Hospital and Wellness Center. He is a native of Danville, Virginia. After graduating cum laude with a B.S. degree in agriculture, pre-veterinary medicine concentration in 2005, Dr. Jones completed his DVM from Tuskegee University in 2009. Prior to joining the A.P.A.W. team, Dr. Jones practiced medicine in the Virginia Beach area for 10 years. His interests include surgery, internal medicine, pediatrics, and preventive care medicine.

Dr. Renita W. Marshall (’03) is a professor of animal science and chair of the department of agriculture sciences at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She was added a new assignment as vice-chancellor for academic and student services at the university’s Ag Center and associate dean of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. She was featured in the Nov. 22 issue of The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education’s “A Quartet of Black Scholars Who Are Undertaking New Assignments in Higher Education.” @JBHEdotcom

Dr. Irving W. McConnell (’74), Founder and Chief Executive Officer, The McConnell Group, was selected to be highlighted. In honor of Black History Month, BioSpace chose to highlight 10 African American leaders in the life sciences, individuals who have prominent roles in the life sciences and biopharmaceutical industry. Dr. McConnell founded The McConnell Group in 1996 as a health sciences company. McConnell served in the U.S. Army where he served in the Veterinary Corps and the U.S. Army Special Operations Command for over 27 years. He also was awarded the Bronze Star and the Order of Military Medical Merit. Dr. McConnell also participated in the Tuskegee Area Chamber Zoom Session on April 27, 2020.

Dr. Stephanie Miles-Richardson (’92) was featured in a segment called, CBS46: MSM Expert Talks COVID 19 Prevention, on March 12, 2020. Dr. Miles-Richardson is the Associate Dean, Graduate Education in Public Health at Morehouse School of Medicine. She spoke with CBS46’s Karyn Greer during a special report segment on Coronavirus in Georgia, following the confirmation of Georgia’s first COVID-19 death. As a public health professional with a veterinary medical background, Dr. Miles-Richardson has expertise in zoonotic and cross-species transmission of emerging infectious diseases.

Dr. Ian Moore (’06) and Dr. Anthony Cook (’98) work was published that showed the work they are doing with the COVID19 pandemic. Their work has been shared in an article in The New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Moore’s Lab at NIH in collaboration with the NIH’s Vaccine Research Center (VRC) published this article (in which he is a co-author along with Dr. Cook who works for Bioqual Research.) His lab performed the pathology analysis for this group that is related to the development of a coronavirus vaccine for the current pandemic. This vaccine is now moving to Phase 3 clinical trials. Read more: https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2024671

Dr. Moore is married to Dr. Rashida Moore (also a 2006 alumn). They were both also featured in the article entitled, BLACKS, CHANGE AGENTS, Change Agents: Ian and Rashida Moore. Story can be read at https://www.edi.nih.gov/blog/communities/change-agents/i-an-and-rashida-moore. Ian N. Moore, D.V.M., PhD, is a section chief and Rashida M. Moore, D.V.M., is a deputy animal program director, laboratory animal veterinarian where they both work at The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Dr. Joe J. Owens, III (’12) was featured in the online publication REPRESENT 365 at: https://www.represent365.com/dr-joe-j-owens-iii/. Dr. Joe J. Owens, III is a veterinarian, inventor, and entrepreneur. He is also the founder and CEO of Enjoy-a-Bowl, a special two-part bowl that allows pet owners to place human foods their dogs and cats cannot eat in a protected and ventilated bowl under a second bowl containing pet-specific food. This allows the smells of human food to be associated with pet-specific food, encouraging pets to eat the food that is healthy for them. Dr. Owens is also the co-owner and operator of three veterinary hospitals across Las Vegas.

Dr. Jacquelyn Tubbs (’06) has joined the Division of Compliance Oversight as a Veterinary Medical Officer. She was the first person to complete a post-doctoral fellowship in laboratory animal medicine in the National Toxicology Program (NTP) of the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), NIH. Prior to joining OLAW, she established and served as Technical Director of the Duke Gnotobiotic Core at Duke University. She is also a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine

75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration …

“Sustaining Our Legacy & Advancing Veterinary Medicine for Future Generations”
On March 11, 2020, out of concern for the safety and well-being of all participants at the annual veterinary symposium, Dean Perry sent formal notification to alumni, faculty, staff and students to postpone the symposium this year and move it to next year in March of 2021. Dean Perry’s announcement included the following statement, “We are facing uncertainty with the growing concern about the spread of COVID-19, commonly referred to as the coronavirus. Although it was our desire for the alumni, students, staff and supporters to participate in the 55th annual veterinary symposium this year, we must make responsible decisions relative to the health/well-being and the safety of our constituents,” said Dean Perry.

Much appreciation to the Tuskegee veterinary medical community and our symposium sponsors, exhibitors, vendors, and volunteers who have dedicated so much time and work into preparing for the symposium. We are excited that we are still going to celebrate our 75th Diamond Anniversary… just in a different way, now virtually. The 75th Diamond Anniversary Virtual Celebration on October 10, 2020, will allow us the opportunity to still honor the reunion classes for this year of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970 (50th year - golden class), 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 (25th year - silver class), 2000, 2005, 2010, & 2015 and honor our historic veterinary program’s 75 years of existence!
Class of 2020

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine

Virtual Graduation Oath and Awards Ceremony

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine
Friday, May 1, 2020 | 1:00 PM CST
The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine celebrated and recognized its Class of 2020 graduates during a virtual graduation, oath and awards ceremony on Friday, May 1 at 1 p.m. The ceremony recognized the college’s 56 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree candidates with the administration of the Veterinarian’s Oath followed by their Awards Ceremony.

Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the veterinary medicine college, presided over the program. Dr. Roslyn Casimir, associate dean for academic and student affairs, and Dr. Gopal Reddy, associate dean for research and advanced studies, assisted during the virtual ceremony.

The ceremony was broadcasted live on YouTube at www.youtube.com/tuskegeeuniversity.

“One of the greatest honors I have as dean of the college is to preside over our graduation ceremony,” Perry said. “I’m sure that as family, friends, alumni, the university community and other supporters looked on from their personal destinations via the university’s YouTube link, we all celebrated the major accomplishments of the Class of 2020 as they realized their career goal of becoming a veterinarian, and not let the coronavirus crisis keep us from celebrating their big day.”

The virtual ceremony had many of the elements of a traditional graduation and featured presentations of the class challenge and class reflections/vision for the future, as well as the administration of the Veterinarian’s Oath. At the end of the graduation, a special veterinary awards ceremony was presented to the Class of 2020, over which Dr. Casimir presided.

Perry’s closing message to the Class of 2020 graduates in her letter stated, “The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) family, now the home of your alma mater, salutes you on your successful journey through the professional program to achieve the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree, which is the culmination of your achievement. Although the COVID-19 pandemic required your class to complete your journey here differently than previous classes, the Class of 2020 – you are commended for the resilience and finishing STRONG!”

The college’s Class of 2020 represents its 71st class to receive DVM degrees from Tuskegee University. With this graduation, the College of Veterinary Medicine has awarded 2,850 veterinary medicine degrees.

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, accredited by the American Veterinary Medicine Association Council on Education, has educated more than 70 percent of the nation’s African-American veterinarians. It has also been recognized as the most diverse of all 32 schools/colleges of veterinary medicine in the U.S. For more information about the college, visit www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed.

The College of Veterinary Medicine graduates who received the Master of Science degrees in Public Health and Veterinary Science and the Ph.D. degree in Integrative Biosciences were recognized in the University’s virtual graduation observance on May 9, 2020.

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2020 Graduates include the following:

Maria Estefania Colon, then a fourth year TUCVM veterinary student, wrote a blog in the spring to share during the difficult times with the COVID-19 pandemic. Her blog focused on her journey at Tuskegee to hopefully inspire others. She appreciates what “Mother Tuskegee” has done for her. The blog post, “Open Letter to my Vet School,” can be seen at https://www.vpnextrgen.com/an-open-letter-to-my-vet-school/. Now a DVM and as a member of the Class of 2020, Dr. Maria Estefania Colon once again gave accolades to her Alma Mater, “Mother Tuskegee” and the TUCVM, which is known for its role in expanding diversity in the veterinary profession. Blog can be read at https://www.vpnextrgen.com/three-things-diversity-in-vet-med-has-taught-me/

Now a member also of the #Classof2020strong, Dr. Victor Lopez was featured in an amazing story in June entitled, “In Times of Chaos, the American Dream Prevails.” His story can be read at: https://innovetivepetcare.com/news/dr-victor-lopez/

Aaliyah Johnson (c/o 2023) was a participant last summer in the World Vets, an international veterinary aid organization based in Gig Harbor, Washington. Pre-COVID-19, Ms. Johnson’s group traveled to Otavalo, Ecuador, where they performed free spays and neuters (and a few emergency surgeries) on local residents’ pets as well as other rescue animals. With programs in over 45 countries on six continents, World Vets works to bring veterinary services to underserved areas of the world by providing direct veterinary care to animals, disaster response services for major international disasters, veterinary training and education programs and long-term capacity building that improves the lives of animals, people and the communities in which they live. Their programs benefit a wide variety of animals on a global scale, including companion animals, working horses, livestock, wildlife and street dogs. In the Pacific Northwest, World Vets work focuses on improving the health and welfare of marine wildlife by responding to injured or stranded marine mammals, and working to advance scientific knowledge and understanding to help protect and conserve the regions critical marine ecosystems.

Randolph Green, a native of Kingstree, South Carolina, who completed his DVM degree in May 2020 was selected as Tuskegee University Scholar this year. Each year, one student in each of Tuskegee’s colleges and schools is designated as a University Scholar. To qualify as a University Scholar, a student must be eligible for the Annual Honor Roll, be the top-ranking student who has completed at least 90 hours but no more than 110 hours in his or her respective college or school, and show exemplary personal qualities as attested by the dean of his or her major area. Due to the current pandemic, the University published its annual list of Honor Roll students, Eminent Scholars, University Scholars and honor society inductees for the 2018-19 academic year in June in the university’s annual Scholarship Convocation program book.

2020 Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship Recipients for Tuskegee University

The following five students were awarded the 2020 Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholars Award. Due to cancellation of the 2020 SAVMA Symposium, where Zoetis would have displayed the names of the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship recipients, the recipients were instead notified of the scholarship via email in the spring semester. This year over 1,200 applications from second- and third-year students were received from colleges of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and Caribbean. From those applications, 315 recipients were selected for this award and cumulatively received $630,000 in scholarships.

TUCVM’S ZOETIS VETERINARY STUDENT SCHOLARS:

Natassjia Ragbeer, William Galbreth, Marlee Rodgers
Haley Beamon, Maggie Beard

TUCVM thanked the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) for the veterinary students Lunch & Learn held in the fall semester pre COVID-19. The guest speakers included: Dr. Dan Kuykendall, chair of the ALVMA Student Relations Committee, Dr. Misty Edmondson, Alabama Associate State Veterinarian, and Dr. Tony Frazier, Alabama State Veterinarian. TUCVM also thanked Mrs. Mandy Walker who is the AVMA LIFE Representative. The speakers shared with the TUCVM students “Hot Topics in Veterinary Medicine.”

TUCVM thanked alumni, Dr. Jonathan Snead (c/o 2010) and Dr. Joe Owens (c/o 2012), for hosting a Lunch and Learn on Dec. 5 for the veterinary students in the Class of 2020. They discussed opportunities for preceptorships and employment in their practice. Drs. Snead and Owens are the Owners and Veterinary Medical Directors at the Las Vegas Animal Emergency Hospital and Critical Care.

L to R: Shantavia Hayes, SAVMA
TUCVM held a commissioning ceremony pre COVID-19 honoring two veterinary medicine students, Alexandria Bufford (class of 2020) and Chelsea L. McDonald (class of 2021). Amongst family members, friends, veterinary college administration and members of the United States Army, Bufford and McDonald were sworn in as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. In addition to receiving their officer commissioning, Bufford and McDonald were also the recipients of the Army Veterinary Corps Health Professions Scholarship. The U.S. Army offers one of the most generous and comprehensive scholarships in the health care field, the F. Edward Hebert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP). Recipients are eligible to earn a three-year full-tuition scholarship, plus a monthly allowance to cover books and supplies through the HPSP.

About the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps

One of the six corps of medical specialists that make up the U.S. Army Medical Department, the Army Veterinary Corps is composed of professionals with military, public health and specialty skill sets rarely found in the private sector. These highly trained specialists have a unique role in U.S. defense strategy. U.S. Army veterinarians ensure the strength of the veterinary public health capabilities through veterinary medical and surgical care, food safety and defense, and biomedical research and development.

TUCVM’s Summer 2020 enrichment program turns virtual to continue strengthening students for the veterinary curriculum

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, many spring and summer plans for the university had to be revamped including the TUCVM’s Summer Enrichment and Reinforcement Program (SERP). Under the leadership of Dean Perry, students still had the opportunity to strengthen their skillset through virtual sessions for the veterinary curriculum and their future career ambition. This year’s participating summer class included thirty-five students; seven first year students representing the incoming Class of 2024, eight previously enrolled veterinary students, 16 pre-veterinary students interested in applying for admittance into the veterinary program, and four teacher assistants/peer tutors. Students participated in a four-week program that provided an introduction to the highly anticipated veterinary medical curriculum along with some health and wellness activities that included mindfulness meditation and stress management.

“To add to the virtual experience for our participants, we were excited to have our professional veterinary alumni, the Atlanta Zoo and Birmingham Zoo partner in this innovative endeavor this summer,” said Kheri Flowers, assistant director for student success/counselor and SERP’s co-director.

The virtual program included guest veterinary alumni: Animal Planet’s The Vet Life stars – Drs. Michael Lavigne, Aubrey Ross, and Diarra Blue; Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association President Dr. Tiffini Brabham; and the TVMAA Liaisons to the College, Dr. William T. Watson and Dr. Adam McKee. In addition, Dr. Patricia White, veterinary dermatologist at the Atlanta Veterinary Skin & Allergy Clinic; also joined the panel of experts. White is a transitions life coach and participated in the health and wellness portion of the summer virtual program. Dr. White taught students how to incorporate mindfulness meditation in their daily lives.

“For over 30 years, SERP has proven to be a very useful program to help motivate students that may need that extra edge succeed in making it through the demanding veterinary curriculum as well as prepare undergraduate students planning to enter the veterinary profession,” said Dr. Roslyn Casimir, associate dean for academic affairs and an assistant professor in the Department of Pathobiology.

TUCVM was appreciative to all alumni that agreed to work with the virtual program. For the health and wellness portion, well-known author Kathleen Straker, author of Study Without Stress Mastering Medical Sciences, facilitated the skill building sessions on time management, test taking strategies, and note taking skills.

Although the curriculum was shortened for this summer, the objectives of SERP were still met which are to improve skills in critical thinking, processing of scientific concepts, and academic survival skills including effective communication, note-taking, time management, and test-taking. SERP’s goals were achieved for the summer through the following three-phase structured program:

- **Phase I – Week 1: Introduction to learn about career choices in the veterinary profession.**
- **Phase II – Week 2-3: The didactic aspect of the program allows participants to receive a view of the veterinary curriculum. Participants are assessed with pre and post examinations to determine their level of knowledge and proficiency.**
- **Phase III – Week 4: Participants engaged in the analysis and application of a condensed clinical experience.**

SERP’s summer faculty also focused on the requirements for applying to a DVM program and conducted mock interviews for participants interested in a veterinary program.

TUCVM’s Hosts Virtual New Student Orientation for the Class of 2024

Dean Perry welcomed the Class of 2024, 71 future veterinarians, to the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine Family over a two-day period in a virtual format for August 3 and 4. Mr. James Perry, director for the Office of Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment, oversaw the program which included various presentations in four sessions to the incoming Class of 2024. The TUCVM Offices of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Student Success and Retention, Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment, Library Services, and Web Resources made virtual presentations as well. From the university side, presentations from the Offices of IT, Health Insurance, Title IX, Counseling Center, and Public Safety/Parking Decals were also made. Alumnus Dr. Harold Davis ’76 gave a presentation on The History of the College also. “We are excited to welcome you here as we celebrate our Diamond Anniversary this year marking 75 years (1945-2020) of existence and to embrace our sustaining Legacy,” said Dean Perry.
Mr. Monday Offem (fondly known as Mr. Monday) retired on August 31, 2020, after giving 31 years of faithful service to the College of Veterinary Medicine. His journey at Tuskegee University began in 1987. Mr. Monday came to Tuskegee to fulfill his dream back when he was in high school in Africa. His dream was realized when he graduated with the B.S. and M.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Tuskegee University. Mr. Monday was employed in the School of Veterinary Medicine (name at that time) in 1989 and has been a faithful employee since then. He retired while in the role as the IT Group Leader. He is married to Mrs. Elizabeth Offem, who works in the dean’s office. Mr. Monday is looking forward to enjoying his hobby of playing tennis and spending time with his beautiful grandbaby girl, named “Brave.” The TUCVM family congratulates Mr. Monday on his retirement!

Ms. Margaret K. Alexander, T. S. Williams Veterinary Medical Librarian, was featured as the Member Spotlight for the Southern Chapter Medical Library Association. She’s featured in the Southern Expressions Spring Edition, Vol. 36, Issue 2.

Faculty in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences

Dr. Dibaba, Associate Professor in the Department of Pathobiology, had a textbook published entitled, Tuberculosis in Animals: An African Perspective © Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2019. ISBN 978-3-030-18689-3. This book recounts the biology of Mycobacterium (M.) bovis, followed by the status of bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) in Africa, primarily based on zoonotic and epidemiologic field reports. Dr. Dibaba has authored or co-authored over 130 publications on mycobacteria and mycobacterial diseases, as well as other textbooks.

The article published in the Acta Scientific Veterinary Sciences Journal looks at a case seen in 2018.

Dr. Dr. Athema L Etzioni was featured in Mentoring Matters, a publication of The L Alliance which is the women’s group for the Wells International Foundation. They believe that mentoring is one of the premier ways successful women can give back to the world and it features stories about women and mentoring. Dr. Etzioni was featured as a board certified veterinary clinical pathologist who has worked in research, academia, government, corporate, and private practice sectors of veterinary medicine. Dr. Etzioni is a relief small animal veterinarian and Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology. She was also featured as a member of the Editorial Board for the Veterinary Clinical Pathology Journal: An International Journal of Laboratory Medicine, Volume 48, Number 4, December 2019.

New TUCVM Employees, Position Changes

Dean Ruby L. Perry welcomed some new faculty and staff members as well as made several new appointments within the College for the second semester of the 2019-2020 academic year and over the summer to include the following:

Fredrick E. Tippett, DVM, PhD, Dip. ACVP, has been appointed by Dean Perry as the new Associate Dean for Student Affairs, effective July 1. Dr. Tippett is a 1979 alumnus. He moved to East Lansing, Michigan where he obtained the Ph.D. degree in Pathology from Michigan State University. After completing the PhD degree, he returned to Tuskegee University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and Parasitology.

Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, DVM, PhD, DACVP was appointed by Dean Perry as the new Department Head for the Department of Pathobiology, effective July 1. Dr. Gilbreath has been a board-certified veterinary anatomic pathologist who has served on the faculty at Tuskegee University since 2011. She has been awarded multiple grants, published numerous manuscripts and has advised PhD, Master’s and undergraduate students. Additionally, she has been the faculty advisor for several student groups, serves on numerous committees and notably chaired the 1st Phi Zeta Research Day in 2012. Currently, she is also the Diversity and Inclusion Representative for the College as well as the Necropsy Section Chief. Dr. Gilbreath has continually sought to foster her leadership skills and has earned an Executive Certification in Leadership and Management, a Certification for Diversity and Inclusion in Veterinary Medicine and completed the AAVMC Leadership Academy as well as the Veterinary Leadership Experience. Dr. Gilbreath earned her B.S. degree in Animal and Poultry Science in 2000 followed by her DVM degree in 2004. She completed an internship in Anatomic Pathology, also at Tuskegee, and then went on to Michigan State University where she completed a residency in Anatomic Pathology and a Ph.D. in Pathology, before returning to her alma mater in 2011. Dr. Gilbreath is married to Mr. Anthony McCloud and they have 3 children.

Mrs. Tabitha Nelms Reese, a native of Auburn, is now the Business Office Manager for the TUCVM Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, previously held by Mr. Daryl Brownlee, who is now the Director of Veterinary Operations. Previously she served as the administrative assistant for the Dept. of Biomedical Sciences in the college. Mrs. Reese has an educational foundation and a passion for financial management. Prior to working for Tuskegee University, she served nine years as a financial service representative and in office administration. Mrs. Reese received her B.S. in Business Administration and Finance from Auburn University at Montgomery in 2013. Additionally, she will receive her Master of Science degree in Management and Leadership from Western Governors University in the spring of 2021. During her free time, Mrs. Reese enjoys spending time with her husband and two boys.

Mr. Damien Sears is the IT Liaison for the College of Veterinary Medicine through the Tuskegee University Office of Information Technology. He is a full-time employee in the College and is leading the informational and instructional services for faculty, staff and students.

Mr. Sears came to us with an extended history of work in higher education on digital platforms. He began his career with Ellucian maintaining and offering support for the College of Veterinary Medicine through the Tuskegee University Office of Information Technology. He is a full-time employee in the College and is leading the informational and instructional services for faculty, staff and students.
Michelle Wilson is an Assistant Professor in the TUCVM Graduate Public Health Department and she joined the program on Jan. 6. Previously she served as Assistant Professor and Chair of the School of Public Health at Dillard University. Prior to that, she served as Director of the Media Center for the Tuskegee University School (now College) of Veterinary Medicine after more than 40 years of dedicated service to Tuskegee University. Ms. Wilson has over 15 years of executive and operational level experience in higher education and nonprofits in the United States and abroad. She has demonstrated a adept ability as an effective communicator, results-oriented project and program manager, and a successful liaison in the development of relationships with clients, vendors, media, external stakeholders and colleagues throughout all levels of the organization. Her background consists of a diverse educational experience that includes a B.S. in Psychology as well as M.S./ABD in School Psychology and Counseling. She is a Certified International Protocol Manager with the Protocol School of Washington and holds additional board and operational certificates. Ms. Wilson’s extensive experience and global orientation enables her to successfully advance the CVI resource development and external relations objectives while contributing to the overarching mission of Tuskegee University. Also, this summer on July 30, Ms. Allen was elected as the newest member on the Association of Veterinary Advancement Professionals (AVAP) Board of Directors. She now holds the position of Member at Large for AVAP.

Ms. L. Kay Allen is the Interim Executive Director for Resource Development & External Relations. She is leading the Team for strategic fundraising efforts and administration of the Centers of Excellence (COE) Grant. She is fondly known as the Executive Assistant to the Dean. Ms. L. Kay Allen transitioned into this leadership role with over 15 years of board, executive and operational level experience in higher education and nonprofits in the United States and abroad. She has demonstrated an adept ability as an effective communicator, results-oriented project and program manager, and a successful liaison in the development of relationships with clients, vendors, media, external stakeholders and colleagues throughout all levels of the organization. Her background consists of a diverse educational experience that includes a B.S. in Psychology as well as M.S./ABD in School Psychology and Counseling. She is a Certified International Protocol Manager with the Protocol School of Washington and holds additional board and operational certificates. Ms. Allen’s extensive experience and global orientation enables her to successfully advance the CVM resource development and external relations objectives while contributing to the overarching mission of Tuskegee University. Also, this summer on July 30, Ms. Allen was elected as the newest member on the Association of Veterinary Advancement Professionals (AVAP) Board of Directors. She now holds the position of Member at Large for AVAP.

Mr. Karl Hayden is a Histotechnician in the Department of Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine. He joined the TUCVM family on Jan. 15. Hayden is originally from Chicago, but has since made Alabama his home. He works with faculty processing tissue samples to facilitate the completion of diagnostic cases with the College. He has a Master’s degree in Parasitology from Auburn University and had worked in the pathology laboratory in the Department of Fisheries at Auburn University for over ten years. When Mr. Hayden is not working, you will find him hunting down vintage vinyl records or experimenting in the kitchen.

Dr. Melvena Wilson is an Assistant Professor in the TUCVM Graduate Public Health Department and she joined the program on Jan. 6. Previously she served as Assistant Professor and Chair of the School of Public Health at Dillard University. Prior to that, she served as Coordinator of Health Education and Outreach with FAMU Student Health Services, where she coordinated the Health Promotion and Outreach arm of the clinic. Dr. Wilson has served as an adjunct professor at Florida A&M University and Texas Southern University- MHA programs. She created the Center for Advocacy and Research on Health Equity, Inc.

Dr. Wilson is a Certified Health Education Specialist. She received her BS in Health Science Education and Master of Public Health from the University of Florida in 2002 and completed her doctorate in Public Health degree at Florida A&M University in 2009. She is also certified by the Florida Department of Health and Louisiana Department of Health to administer HIV counseling and testing plus is a certified Red Cross CPR trainer and American Safety and Health Institute Instructor. In addition to serving as the former Assistant Director for the Florida Department of Health - Office of Minority Health, Dr. Wilson is active in providing health education and outreach throughout the community. Dr. Wilson is a proud Life Member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Antonio Miles joined the T.S. Williams Veterinary Medical Library as a Library Assistant in January. He is a native of Tuskegee and a 2015 graduate of Tuskegee University. He received his degree in Hospitality Management. Mr. Miles is a proud third generation Tuskegee University alumnus. In his spare time, he enjoys various sports and reading.

Mr. John Henry Phillips was a long-time Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine supporter. Mr. Phillips spent his life on Sunday, July 19. His celebration of life and homegoing service was held on July 23 in Shorter, Alabama. He was a proud graduate and valedictorian of Morgan County Training School. Mr. Phillips earned a bachelor's degree in Biology from Tuskegee. He later became a Microbiology Laboratory Instructor and rounded out his 37-year career at the School of Veterinary Medicine by serving as the Director of the Media Center. Mr. Phillips also served as the official videographer of graduations as well as Mighty Golden Tiger Football and Basketball games. After retirement, he served as a consultant for the School of Agriculture. He leaves to cherish his memory, the love of his life - his wife, children, five grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Dr. Cornelius Withers is from Tuskegee and is a 2017 TUCVM alumnus. He completed a Clinical Pathology Internship at TUCVM in 2018 and a Small Animal Rotating Internship in 2019 at Wilson Animal Clinic in Romeo, Michigan. Currently, Dr. Withers is a Clinical Instructor of Clinical Pathology here in the Department of Pathobiology and will be starting a Residency in Clinical Pathology at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine later this year. He says it is a pleasure to be back home and support the TUCVM Family.

The TUCVM Family mourns the passing of faculty & staff during this heavy season...please continue to keep their families in your thoughts and prayers

In Loving Memory...

Veronica L. Simmons (1974-2020)

Ms. Veronica L. Simmons was an Animal Caretaker in the Department of Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Ms. Simmons passed away on August 23, 2020 at East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika, AL. She was a native of Tuskegee and had a love for God, family and friends. She leaves to cherish her memory five children, one grandson, four brothers, five sisters, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Darlene L. Adams (1949-2020)

Ms. Darlene L. Adams was a long-time Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine supporter. Class of 1978 alumna, faithful past annual veterinary medical symposium co-chair and retired AV/AT Lab Coordinator for the Tuskegee University School (now College) of Veterinary Medicine after more than 40 of dedicated service to Tuskegee University. Ms. Adams departed this life on Thursday, August 6. Her celebration of life and homegoing service was held on August 15 in Tuskegee. Darlene, as she was fondly called by her TUCVM family, was the daughter of the late Dr. Raymond Adams, Jr. (aka Railroad), who was a veterinary alumna, Class of 1956. Her beautiful life will be forever cherished in the lives of her two daughters, Espiritus “Sandy” Chambers and Alexis Adams; three grandchildren, six siblings; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Kenneth M. Newkirk, DVM (1955-2020)

Dr. Kenneth Newkirk (1987 veterinary alumnus) was an Assistant Professor of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery in the Department of Clinical Sciences. He departed this life on July 3, 2020. The TUCVM Family held a Memorial of Reflections/Celebration of Life Service in his loving memory on August 3. Dr. Newkirk was a native of Teaneck, New Jersey.
The Tuskegee Veterinary Medicine Family
mourns the passing of several alumni... please continue to keep their families in your thoughts and prayers

Dr. Roscoe (Scoddie) Byrd ('64) passed away on May 31, 2020. He was a Professor Emeritus at Virginia State University where he led the Animal Sciences Department from 1985-2002. Prior to joining the faculty at Virginia State University, Dr. Byrd had a career in Public Health with the United States Army. He entered the Army Veterinary Corps in 1964 and retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1985. His career included food inspection and directing a rabies laboratory. In 1973, Dr. Byrd received a Master of Science in infectious disease from Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Tuskegee Institute in 1964. Tuskegee is also his hometown. He completed The Tuskegee Institute High School in 1956. Dr. Byrd’s parents were also Tuskegee alumni. He is survived by his children and his grandchildren.

Dr. Barbara Diffay ('89) passed away on June 30, 2020 in California. Dr. Diffay retired from the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health (now known as College of Veterinary Medicine) as Associate Dean for Administration on January 18, 2008. She gave 18 years of loyal and dedicated service to Tuskegee University. Dr. Diffay worked as a volunteer under the “Obama for America” Presidential Campaign. Dr. Diffay hosted various voter registration drives even at the veterinary school to encourage people to get registered for the 2008 presidential election.

Dr. Jem HANG Lee ('69) passed away on January 30, 2020 surrounded by loving family and friends, with “Willow Weep for Me” (his favorite song) playing. He had gotten to celebrate a wonderful New Year's Day with family and friends. His memorial services were held on February 08 in Berkeley, CA. His wife, Frankie, is also a graduate of Tuskegee University in the School of Nursing.

Dr. Lorraine S. Parris ('57) was born on July 26, 1932 in Washington, DC to William and Eurydice Smith and passed away unexpectedly at her residence at The Granville Assisted Living Center in Lakewood, Colorado on January 13, 2020 at the age of 87. Among her various accomplishments, Lorraine graduated Summa Cum Laude from Dunbar Preparatory High School. She did her undergraduate work at Michigan State University for her pre-veterinarian studies. She then went on to graduate from Tuskegee Institute now Tuskegee University in 1957 earning a degree in Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and where she met the love of her life, Reginald G. Parris, DVM. They married on September 9, 1958 and had two children Herbert G. Parris, MD and Pamela P. Ingram. Lorraine was active in her church both in Wilmington, Delaware where she lived for 35 years as well as Lakewood, Colorado where she relocated in 1997. She also served on the Board of Directors at Sanford Preparatory School in Hockessin, Delaware. Dr. Parris lived and practiced veterinary medicine in Wilmington (Belvedere), Delaware. She and her late husband owned and operated the Belvedere Animal clinic for 35 years.

Dr. Al Carey, '58 passed away May 13, 2020

Dr. Sidney Evans Hines, '76 passed away Jan. 31, 2020

Dr. Arach Joe Wilson ('79), of Ames Iowa, passed away on Aug 27, 2019. Following graduation from Tuskegee, he served as a veterinary service officer in the Army. Dr. Wilson subsequently worked in Massachusetts until 1982. Then he moved to California to begin his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. During his tenure with the USDA, Dr. Wilson earned his master’s in veterinary pathology from Iowa State University and served in support of Operations Desert Shield and Operations Desert Storm. Dr. Wilson retired the rank of Major with the Army Reserve. He was a member of the American Legion. His wife, Jodie; two daughters and a son; three grandchildren; and a sister survive him.

Dr. Kenneth Newkirk ('87), served as an Assistant Professor of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery in the Department of Clinical Sciences at Tuskegee University up until his death. Dr. Newkirk passed away on July 3, 2020. He received his bachelor's degree in biology from Talladega College in 1977, his master's degree in biology from Samford University in 1981 and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Tuskegee University in 1987. After obtaining his DVM, Dr. Newkirk worked as an associate veterinarian with the Bristow Veterinary Hospital in Oklahoma for a year before completing a large animal internship at the University of Tennessee in 1989. He then joined the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine faculty in 1989. His professional career and length of time as a faculty member at Tuskegee University covered three decades. Dr. Newkirk will be remembered for his dedication to the veterinary medical students and the rural large animal clients he served. He was a key figure in the Large Animal Ambulatory Unit that operated in several Black Belt counties of West Alabama making regular trips to provide veterinary care to his large animal patients. The TUCVM family is thankful for the mark Dr. Newkirk made in building the large animal practice for the college.

Dr. Walton Waller Jr., ('91) was born in Fort Bragg, NC on November 29, 1961. He passed away in November 2019. Dr. Waller received his B.S. degree from Morehouse College and his D.V.M. degree from Tuskegee University in 1991. Dr. Waller was a beloved veterinarian for over 20 years in the Canton, GA area.

Dr. Walton Waller

In Loving Memory...

OTHER TUCVM DECEASED ALUMNI FOR 2020

Dr. Dr. Lorraine Parris, ('57)

Dr. Walton Waller, ('91)

Dr. Barbara Diffay ('89)

Dr. A. Joe Wilson

Dr. Jem HANG Lee ('69)

Dr. Roscoe (Scoddie) Byrd ('64)

Dr. Lorraine S. Parris ('57)

Dr. Robert Waller Jr., ('91)

Dr. Al Carey, '58

Dr. Arach Joe Wilson ('79)

Dr. Kenneth Newkirk ('87)
TUCVM NEW INCOMING CLASS OF 2024

Class of 2024 Students Profile:

Class of 2024 by Gender
Female 91%  Male 9%

Average Age 23
Youngest Age 20
Oldest Age 28

77% DIVERSITY

54 of the 70 students in the Class of 2024 are from underrepresented groups.

Class of 2024 Academic Profile

Average Cumulative GPA 3.35
Average Science GPA 3.22
Average GRE 286

Class of 2024 by States

Total Students for the Class of 2024: 70

CONTACT TUCVM OFFICE OF VETERINARY ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITMENT

Patterson Hall • Room A106 • 1200 West Montgomery Rd. • Tuskegee, AL 36088
Phone: (334) 727-8460 • Email: vetadmissions@tuskegee.edu • Webpage: www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed
TUCVM will be hosting a virtual 5k to commemorate our 75th anniversary celebration.

We are asking faculty, staff, students & alumni to participate in our inaugural virtual 5k.

You are asked to complete 3.1 miles (5k) on October 10, 2020. Be sure to capture your 5K moments by taking photos as you complete your run, jog or walk in the location of your choice.

Once you have completed your 5k, post your photos on the TUCVM Facebook Twitter or Instagram page using the official hashtag #5KTUCVM75.

All photos posted to our social media pages by 12:00pm CST on October 10, 2020 using our official hashtag, will be entered into a raffle.

The raffle winners will be posted to our social media pages the day of the celebration.

October 10, 2020

Registration Online
www.tuskegee.edu/CVM2020Virtual5K
Finish Line Open: 8am - 12 pm CST
Race Location: Anywhere or Anyway

Website: www.tuskegee.edu/programs-courses/colleges-schools/cvm/cvm-75th-virtual-diamond-celebration