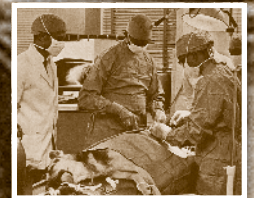
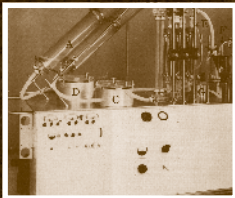
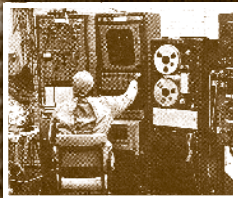


TUSKEGEE VETERINARY MEDICAL PERSPECTIVE

2024-2025

VOL. 47



TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Office of the Dean



Greetings alumni, friends, and supporters of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) and welcome to this 80th Anniversary issue of the 2024-2025 *Veterinary Medical Perspective* magazine. As we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of our esteemed veterinary medical program (1945-2025), alongside our 59th Symposium, we reflect on an incredible journey of growth, achievement, and progress. The theme, "*Our 80th Legacy Anniversary: Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Embracing the Future*," beautifully encapsulates this celebration. It not only honors the rich history and legacy foundation laid by those who came before us but also recognizes the current contributions shaping our field and envisions a bright future full of continued success and innovation. This milestone is a testament to the enduring impact and legacy of our profession. How exciting it is to be part of such a remarkable moment in veterinary history!

The year 2024-25 has been an extremely busy year for the college as will be evident in this issue of the *Veterinary Medical Perspective* magazine. I hope you will not only enjoy reading about the various articles on the entire TUCVM family of alumni, faculty, staff, and especially our students, but also take a moment to reflect on the amazing journey of our veterinary college. It's truly remarkable to look back at the history of Tuskegee University, to see those early photos, and to appreciate the determination and vision of those pioneers and trailblazers who set the foundation before us so that we can achieve our veterinary dreams and careers. Their commitment to sustaining and growing the legacy of TUCVM is something we should all take immense pride in. As we honor their efforts, we must also recognize our role in ensuring that "Mother Tuskegee" and TUCVM continue to thrive, nurturing future generations of veterinarians for years to come. This is a legacy that we all share and must actively protect and build upon.

This issue highlights a combination of events and accomplishments to include several scholarships from our dedicated industry partners to our students and the outstanding contributions and achievements from our faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Remember to mark your calendars and make plans to return next year to our 60th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium on **March 18-21, 2026**. We will then be honoring the reunion classes of 1951, 1956, 1961 1966, 1971, 1976 (50th year - golden class), 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 (25th year - silver class), 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021.

As always, please be mindful to self-care and remain safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Ruby L. Perry, DVM, Ph.D., DACVR
Dean and Professor of Veterinary Radiology

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TUCVM held its SAVMA sponsored student career fair during the fall semester from 4 pm to 6 pm in the Patterson Hall atrium in which several of our alumni also came out to support our students. TUCVM thanks the following 18 companies that participated: VCA Hospitals, Banfield Pet Hospitals, Guardian Veterinary Specialists, Alliance Animal Health, AmeriVet, Innovative Pet Care, Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG), Heartland Veterinary Partners, Thrive Pet Healthcare, Western Veterinary Partners, Southern Veterinary Partners, Heart & Paw, Rarebreed Veterinary Partners, Blue Pearl Veterinary Specialists, PetVet 365, MedVet, CityVet, and Veterinary Practice Partners.

TUSKEGEE VETERINARY MEDICAL PERSPECTIVE

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Tuskegee University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (sacscoc.org) to award baccalaureate, master's, doctoral and professional degrees.

www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed

A Snapshot of the Tuskegee University

College of Veterinary Medicine

- Rich history and legacy that need to be preserved yet we must prepare for the changing landscape of the veterinary profession.
- Founded in 1945 as the School of Veterinary Medicine by Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson, the 3rd President of Tuskegee University who is a graduate of Iowa State University and achieved much in his lifetime at Tuskegee Institute (now University): founder of the School of Engineering, Tuskegee Airmen Program, Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing, The School of Veterinary Medicine, United Negro College Fund, and first Faculty member to be awarded the Ph.D.
- The first veterinary medical professional program located on the campus of a historically black college or university (HBCU) in the United States.
- Proud of our legacy and leadership in the veterinary profession by data: There are approximately 120,000 veterinarians in the U.S. and 2% are African Americans, and of that 2%, 70% graduated from Tuskegee University.
- All 7 African American deans in the AAVMC (past & present) graduated from TUCVM (Blackwell, Ferguson, Atkinson, Reed, Nelson, Perry, Gartrell).
- Recognized as the most diverse of all schools/colleges of veterinary medicine in the U.S.
- Primary mission is to provide an environment that fosters a spirit of active, independent and self-directed learning, intellectual curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, ethics, and leadership; and promotes teaching, research and service in veterinary medicine and related disciplines.
- Offers the professional degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Interdisciplinary

THEN



Pathobiology (IDPB) and Integrative Biosciences (IBS). The Ph.D. in IBS is also a shared degree program among the TUCVM; the College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences; and the College of Arts and Sciences.

- Offers the master's degree in veterinary science and the Master of Public Health (MPH). The Graduate Public Health program was accredited with the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 2022.



- Research program is about \$6.1M in areas of breast cancer, colon cancer, immunology, renal disease, and food safety education and training for international fellows. The college holds 3 U.S. patents on the detection of mu Multiple Salmonella serovars in meat products through the research efforts in the Center of Food Animal Health, Food Safety, and Food Defense. The College has completed a licensing agreement with a Food Supply company to commercialize GenoPATHX Salmonella detection technology for meat products.
- The veterinary complex consists of 9 buildings (Patterson Hall (Administrative building), Willams-Bowie Hall (Research building), Rosenwald, Clinical Anatomy building, Small Animal Hospital, Large Animal Hospital, H-building/Simulation Laboratory, Jr Surgery building, and a hay barn.
- The college has developed a strong industry partnership initiative to increase student scholarships with 16 industry partners and growing, that have generated over \$5M in student scholarships and support for student academic programs.
- The College has an Endowment with the HHS/NIH/NCRR-Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, and National Center for Research Resources. 🐾

- Five (5) departments (Biomedical Sciences, Graduate Public Health, Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Pathobiology, Small Animal Clinical Sciences..

**BUT MORE TO COME
STAY TUNED...A NEW VETERINARY
TEACHING HOSPITAL IS THE GOAL
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
#TUCVM IS MOVING FORWARD!!!**

New Dermatology Suite Established in Honor of Tuskegee Alum



Dr. Louis Gotthelf

The Steve Melman Foundation has designated grant funds of \$50,000 to the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) to honor **Dr. Louis Gotthelf** by establishing a Dermatology Suite in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH). The grant installment cycle began in December 2023 and will end in December 2027. The Steve Melman Foundation will not only enhance the teaching environment and clinical services provided but also promote training experiences for veterinary students. TUCVM is appreciative of the spirit of philanthropy from the grant through the Steve Melman Foundation. TUCVM also thanks Dr. Gotthelf for his contributions not only to the VTH but his role in making the Dermatology Suite a reality by sharing his vision with the Foundation.

Plans are in the works for the new dermatology suite to be located next to the dog ward in the space where the old medical records are stored once relocated. Construction is expected to begin in the next few months. The goal is for the Dermatology Suite to be used by clinicians and students in the Dermatology rotation as well as clinicians treating skin and ear cases that come through the Community Practice rotation.

"It is our hope that this unique area will be a self-contained dermatology examination and treatment room that will have a wet prep table and adequate examination lighting. The space will contain areas for video otoscopy, laser surgery, biopsies, slide staining, a microscope station with video display, as well as the capability to do intradermal allergy testing. It will also have refrigeration and cabinetry to store drugs and shampoos used in the treatment of skin and ear diseases," said Dr. Gotthelf.

Dr. Gotthelf is a 1978 Tuskegee veterinary graduate and currently a small animal community practice clinician/adjunct assistant professor at TUCVM.

MERCK Scholarship Recipients 2024-2025



Alexis Arthur



Sydney Bassett-Dicks



Amanda Gordon



Ryen Greer



Andrew Heatherton



Zaria Henry



Ahan Jain



Jacob Scruggs

Eight Veterinary Students Selected as Merck Scholarship Recipients

Merck Animal Health continued its intentional and long-standing commitment to the veterinary profession and promoting veterinary medical education at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine through its scholarship program. It awarded scholarships to the following eight students during the 2024-2025 academic year: **Jacob Scruggs - 3rd Year, Ahan Jain - 2nd year, Andrew Heatherton - 2nd year, Zaria Henry - 2nd year, Alexis Arthur - 3rd year, Amanda Gordon - 3rd year, Ryen Greer - 2nd year, and Sydney Bassett Dicks - 2nd year.** Each student received a \$10,000 scholarship to further their education as they pursue careers in either companion or large animal veterinary care.

Boehringer Ingelheim Scholarship Recipient Selected for 2024-25



Kailey Light

Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) continued its commitment to helping advance diversity in the veterinary field by alleviating financial barriers for students through continuing providing a selected student \$25,000 per year as the student continues pursuing their veterinary medicine studies. Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation, Inc., (BI CARES) established the scholarship, The Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Veterinary Medicine Scholarship to further the instructional and career objectives of the competitively selected students at TUCVM. TUCVM's student selected as the

2024-25 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Veterinary Medicine Scholarship recipient is **Kailey Light**, a first-year student in the Class of 2028. TUCVM remains grateful for Boehringer Ingelheim's commitment to supporting TUCVM students and partnering to promote diversity in the veterinary profession.

15 Veterinary Students Selected as Dr. Jodie G. Blackwell Scholarship Recipients

Dr. Jodie G. Blackwell 2024 (C.A.R.E.) Scholarship Recipients



Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity (CARE) established the Dr. Jodie G. Blackwell (CARE) Scholarship in which \$70,000 in scholarships was given to the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine for Fall 2024. The following 15 students were selected as the recipients of the scholarship: Representing the Class of 2028 - **Zahra McIntosh, Jacob Grant, Jennifer LeGrand, Joquarius Dancy, and Tiara Jones**; Representing the Class of 2027 - **Alexis Adams Lucas, Briana Anthony, Brooke Keys, Ryan Huckaby, and Chelsea Lee**; and Representing the Class of 2026 - **Trenni Jefferson, Jordy Oriental, Nia Reeves, Jada Owens, and Gamaya McEachern**. TUCVM appreciates the continued partnership with Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity (CARE) to sustain the legacy of training and educating underrepresented minorities as veterinarians in the veterinary profession.

Dr. Jodie G. Blackwell, the scholarship's namesake, graduated in the 2nd class of the School (now College) of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University in 1950. To learn more, visit: <https://careawo.org/tuskegee/>.

Six Veterinary Students Named 2024-25 Synchrony Scholarship Recipients

The Synchrony Scholarship Fund Recipients 2024-2025



Ayanna Brown
Class of 2026



Paris Moore
Class of 2027



Kierney Burks
Class of 2026



Chela Owens
Class of 2027



De'Rahyelle Jones
Class of 2027



Janeece Richardson
Class of 2026

The Synchrony Foundation Grant provided scholarships to TUCVM students in good academic and disciplinary standing, with demonstrated financial need and leadership involvement. Preference was also given to students from historically underrepresented populations in higher education and veterinary medicine. The 2024-2025 Synchrony Foundation Grant Scholars for Tuskegee include the following: Second-year students (Class of 2027) - **Paris Moore, De'Rahyelle Jones, and Chela Owens**; and third-year students (Class of 2026) - **Janeece Richardson, Kierney Burks, and Ayanna Brown**. Each student received a \$20,000 scholarship.

"Sustaining Our Legacy" Through Partnerships...

TUCVM has continued gaining more collaboration with industry partners to support veterinary medical education here at TUCVM in the form of scholarships, grants, sponsorships, gifts, and services. We extend appreciation to our industry partners as they join our valued alumni, stakeholders and TUCVM family in sustaining and advancing TUCVM's legacy.

TUCVM appreciates your support!

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE

NOTE: Under Gift Designation, please specify College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) to ensure your donation is designated correctly. You may also choose to leave an additional comment if preferred. Thank you! Click this link: <https://www.tuskegee.edu/support-tu/give>.

THANK YOU, DONORS....YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR STUDENTS' LIVES!!!

FY 2024-25 TUCVM Industry Partners Scholarships:

- Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) Care Animal Health Veterinary Medicine Scholarship
- Every Cat Heath Foundation Scholarship
- Pet-Dest Scholarship Fund
- Pet Desk Pre Veterinary Scholarship Fund
- Royal Canin
- Synchrony
- IDEXX
- Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity (CARE) Veterinary Scholarship
- Zoetis Pre Veterinary Medicine Scholars Fund

FY 2024-25 TUCVM General Scholarships:

- Dr. Edward Willis
- Michelle Davison
- Hudson Kinslow/Dr. Issac Croup
- Golden Tiger Spartan
- Caroline Schaffer Memorial Award
- Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) Dr. H. Winston Pirtle Sr. Memorial
- Veterinary Neurology
- James Mack Streeter
- Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation (ALVMF) Dr. and Mrs. Aaron Groth

FY 2024-25 TUCVM Endowed Scholarships:

- The Benjamin F & Ernestin Bruton Endowed Scholarship
- The Paul McKenzie Memorial Scholarship
- The Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Adair Endowed Scholarship
- The Braye Family Endowment Fund
- The Salisbury Scholarship Fund
- The Evangeline Mastriani Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Eugene Adams Endowed Scholarship

- The Alfreda Webb Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Goldsboro-Lindsay Endowment Fund
- The Judith Byrd Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Leonard and Harriet Billups Endowment Fund
- The Harold and Garinell Davis Endowment Scholarship
- The Ellis Hall Endowed Scholarship for Native Americans
- The William O Jones Endowed Scholarship
- The Mrs. & Dr. Rube Harrington Jr Endowed Scholarship
- The Veterinary Spouses Legacy Endowment Scholarship
- The Anne and Harrison Blair Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Westminster Kennel Club Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Jefferson County Veterinary Medical Association
- Dr. Lizel Salmon Endowed Scholarship
- John and Audrey Settle Endowed Scholarship
- The McConnell Family Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Roger D. Estep Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Charlott Dortch Spires Scholarship Fund
- Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Dr. William Watson Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Issac and Carmencita Hayward Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Glenn Cherry Endowed Scholarship
- Mrs. Dorothy Gibson Endowed Scholarship
- Mrs. Ayesha Begum Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Ruby Perry Endowed Scholarship
- D. Kenneth Newkirk Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Willie Reed and Dr. Dorothy Reed Endowed Scholarship



Dr. Michael Bailey

Dr. Michael Bailey '82 has been credited with work for his second patent. Dr. Bailey is also the AVMA President-Elect for 2024-2025. Again, congratulations to Dr. Bailey and the team of inventors for their patent. Patent number: 11918401: "Methods and systems for x-ray imaging and labeling." The positional presentation and anatomy relationships are arranged using AI, allowing them to be displayed in a preferred and consistent presentation arrangement. This application benefits general radiology, Dental, and Cross-sectional images, as well as other medical and not medical imaging sets.

Filed: January 5, 2021

Date of Patent: March 5, 2024

Assignee: IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.

Inventors: Michael Q. Bailey, Sr., Scott Bender, Patrick Raymond Doyle, Pavan Durgempudi, Benjamin Litchfield, David Steines

See more: <https://patents.justia.com/patent/11918401>



Dr. Kemba Clapp

Dr. Kemba Clapp '07 was elected to the position of ACVR President-Elect. Dr. Clapp began serving in this role on December 1, 2024, after serving on the Executive Council for the past three years. Dr. Clapp is now the second African American and Tuskegee graduate to serve in the ACVR presidency (the first was Dr. Ellis Hall '56 alum). The American College of Veterinary Radiology (ACVR) is a member-driven, not-for-profit organization consisting of over 800 accredited veterinary radiologists and radiation oncologists. The ACVR is one of 22 veterinary specialties recognized by the American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS) of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).



Dr. Treyton Diggs

Dr. Treyton Diggs '07 was honored as VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR by the Westminster Kennel Club. This was another first for TUCVM as Dr. Diggs is now the first

African American and Louisianan to be honored with this award! The Westminster Kennel Club selected Dr. Treyton Diggs of Boutte, Louisiana as its recipient for the 2024 Veterinarian of the Year Award. In 2013, Dr. Diggs founded Allstar Animal Clinic, which specializes in soft tissue and orthopedic surgery and canine reproduction. He received training from board certified specialists in Small Animal Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Emergency and Critical Care, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Surgery, Dentistry, and Radiology.



Dr. Kis Robertson Hale

Dr. Kis Robertson Hale '03 was promoted to Assistant Surgeon General RADM, O-8 Grade. Selection to the rank of Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps is an honor that comes with great responsibility. She serves in the role of Super Office Director, Office of Laboratory Operations and Applied Science, Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Roberson Hale was named acting assistant administrator for the Office of Public Health Science (OPHS) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in December 2024. In this role, she was charged with leading OPHS to provide expertise in scientific analysis, including oversight of FSIS laboratories and testing of regulatory samples, risk assessment and outbreak investigation and response. Previously, Dr. Roberson Hale served as deputy assistant administrator for OPHS and chief public health veterinarian.



Dr. Pamelar Hale

Dr. Pamelar Hale '86 was featured on CanvasRebel as one of its story highlights. CanvasRebel is built on recommendations from the community with the focus of uncovering hidden gems. Read more at: <https://canvasrebel.com/meet-pamelar-hale/>. She is the co-founder of VetLeader Coaching. A cohort based; transformational coaching program geared toward veterinary leaders. Dr. Hale works with certified coaches in this program and brings tangible business acumen. "We help our leaders learn their style of leadership and how to apply their talents to lead a team!"



Dr. Raphael Malbrue (c)

Dr. Raphael Malbrue '14 was featured in August 6, 2024, issue of the UVA School of Medicine, Medicine in Motion News. Dr. Malbrue is the Attending Veterinarian and Director of the Center for Comparative Medicine at University of Virginia (UVA) and is a Lab Animal boarded veterinarian. Read more at: <https://news.med.virginia.edu/featured/meet-raphael-malbrue-dvm-attending-veterinarian-and-director-of-the-center-for-comparative-medicine-at-uva/>.



Dr. Irving McConnell

Dr. Irving McConnell '80 was recognized during Tuskegee University Centennial Homecoming Convocation for his continuous support of the College and the University. Dr. McConnell, CEO of The McConnell Group and Anona Development, was acknowledged as one of the recipients of the 2024 Alumni Merit Award.



Dr. Roscoe Moore, Jr.

Dr. Roscoe Moore, Jr. '69 was featured as a Rising Star in an article with the media platform, SDVoyager. On the site, you can find it in the Inspiring Stories series at the top of the homepage. See more at: <https://sdvoyager.com/interview/rising-stars-meet-dr-roscoe-moore-jr-of-rockville-md>. Dr. Moore is known for his career as an officer within the Commissioned

Corps of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and Assistant United States Surgeon General (Rear Admiral, USPHS) within the Immediate Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).



Dr. Terry Morris

Dr. Terry Morris '88 received The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Henry Bergh Award. She along with Veteran Heaven Davis, Demonstration Assistant, and Services Dogs Stella and Willie (Brown), both rescue dogs from a Shelter also visited TUCVM as part of a two-part lecture series. Dr. Morris is the founder and executive director of

Vets to Vets United, the 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization in Durham, NC, which focuses on rescuing dogs and serving veterans with veterinarian services provided by partner veterinarians. "Improving and saving lives, one veteran and one dog at a time." To learn more, visit <https://www.vetstovetsunited.org>.

Tributes to Two 50 Years of Service Tuskegee Pioneering Veterinary Alumni Drs. McNamee & Morse



Dr. McNamee with Dean Perry at 2024 Veterinary Symposium.



Dr. George McNamee

Dr. George McNamee '74 is recognized as a Pioneering Veterinary Medicine Researcher, having done over 50 years of research. He wears many hats as the Deputy Director of the Surgical Simulation Center at Walter Reed National Military Center and Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Norman M. Rich Department of

Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS). He mentors medical and nursing students, residents, and faculty in the proper techniques of surgery and research, leading to improvements in patient care and safety. Dr. McNamee has also been reappointed as a faculty member in the F. Edward Herbert School of Medicine as a Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, effective October 2024 to September 2027. Dr. McNamee's journey to becoming a prominent veterinary researcher was shaped by his early experiences and a deep-rooted passion for animals. His journey led him to Tuskegee and after graduating, he embarked on a remarkable career that encompassed myriad facets of veterinary medicine. McNamee's research encompassed a diverse array of topics, ranging from orthopedics to ophthalmology.





Veterinary Student Brooklyn Macklin with Dr. Morse.



Dr. Evan Morse

Dr. Evan Morse '68 is also considered a Pioneer in Veterinary Medicine having celebrated his 50 Year Anniversary as owner of Warrensville Animal Hospital in 2022 with a special celebration. He has also been recognized by the city of Cleveland, OH, with a proclamation and golden clock acknowledging his "50 Years in the Friendly City" as denoted in the photo above. Dr. Morse has mentored numerous students over his 50 years in practice, including most recently, Brooklyn Macklin, who is now a member of TUCVM's first-year class of 2028. Ms. Macklin worked at Dr. Morse's veterinary hospital for many years and considers him to be her veterinary mentor and to have been a major inspiration for her pursuing this dream of attending Tuskegee to become a veterinarian. Now an octogenarian, Dr. Morse was honored with a social media viral video toast from acclaimed actor and comedian Kym Whitley on August 19, 2024, for his 80th Birthday. Dr. Morse founded the Warrensville Animal Center in 1972 and was one of the first African American veterinarians in the state of Ohio and the first one in the city of Cleveland, Ohio. He is also co-founder of the Free Animal Clinic Team (FACT).



Dr. Wanda Wilson-Egbe

Dr. Wanda Wilson-Egbe '90 was acknowledged during the 2024 AVMA Conference as one of six new Honorary Diplomates in the American Veterinary One Health Society. CDR Wilson-Egbe currently serves as the Chief Veterinary Officer and the Director of the National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT) within the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, National Disaster Medical System. The mission of the American Veterinary One Health Society (AVOHS) is to promote and advance the health of animals, people, plants, and the environment using a One Health approach. To learn more about AVOHS, visit: <https://avohsociety.org/>.



Dr. Cornelius J. Withers

Dr. Cornelius Jermaine Withers '17 became a Diplomate in Clinical Pathology Certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in October 2024. After receiving his DVM at TUCVM in 2017, he did a Clinical Pathology Internship in 2018, worked as a Clinical Pathology Clinical Instructor at TUCVM from 2020-2021, then did a Clinical Pathology Residency and received his MS degree at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Withers completed his Clinical Pathology Internship and Clinical Instructorship under Dr. Athema Etzioni in the Department of Pathobiology at TUCVM.

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
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 334-724-4509 / 727-8177 (FAX)
 E-mail address: ariley@tuskegee.edu

Tuskegee Veterinary Medicine Student Makes History as New SAVMA President Elect



Kyle Frett



The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) is now noted for another first. Third-year veterinary student **Kyle J. Frett**

(Class of 2026) was selected as the first Tuskegee student and first Black male student to hold the post for the National Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) President – Elect. As National SAVMA President - Elect, he has representation on the AVMF Board and participates as an invited guest at AVMA Board meetings. Frett was nominated and elected by his peers within the Student American Veterinary Medical Association House of Delegates as the National SAVMA President - Elect on March 16, 2024, at the 2024 SAVMA Symposium, hosted by the SAVMA Chapters at Lincoln-Memorial CVM and University of Tennessee CVM in Knoxville, Tennessee. Frett will be installed as the National SAVMA President at the 2025 SAVMA Symposium hosted by University of California - Davis SVM.

Dean Perry formally congratulated Frett and made an announcement of his elected position during her recent spring 2025 lunch time State-of-the-College address presentation to students.

TUCVM Student Gives Back to High School Alma Mater to Encourage Students



Aaryn DuBose with St. Benedict's students after his presentation.

TUCVM second year student **Aaryn L. DuBose** (Class of 2027) participated in a lunch

and learn career session at his alma mater, St. Benedict's Prep High School, located in Newark, New Jersey, on February 13, 2025. It was sponsored by The Department of College Placement and Career Development for students to connect with and learn from professionals in various industries that students have indicated in-

terest in learning more from and about. St. Benedict's staff member Susanne Mueller invited DuBose to the Lunch & Learn session to share more on his veterinary studies journey and discuss animal sciences in general with the students at St. Benedict's Prep. DuBose shared with students the persistence and determination it has taken as he pursues his career goal.

The Alumni Engagement Office at St. Benedict's reached out after the event to thank DuBose and emphasize how much the students enjoyed his presentation and were very engaged and eager to learn more. She also spoke on DuBose's testimony during his presentation saying that it is a testament to his character and was very inspirational to students as they now too start considering their future career paths.

TUCVM Student Featured in Alliance Animal Health Spotlight



TUCVM second-year student **Constance Bennett**, Class of 2027, was recently highlighted by the Alliance Animal Health as their spotlight DVM

Student Extern. Bennett enjoyed her externship at Wentzville Veterinary Clinic this past summer, gaining hands-on experience in general practice, food animal, and exotic medicine. She credits her summer experience with learning valuable management practices and gaining experience in exotic medicine and surgical techniques. See link below to learn more:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DDKux0rMRUW/?igsh=bWx0eDgxcMv3dnVk>

TUCVM Student Gets Diversify Coalition Educational Grant Award

TUCVM first-year student, **Tiara Jones** (Class of 2028), was selected as the recipient of the 2025 Diversify Veterinary Medicine Coalition (DVMC) Educational Grant. This prestigious award recognizes



outstanding students committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the field of veterinary medicine. As part of this honor, Jones was invited to attend two significant events in which all expenses were paid. She attended the following two events:

- 1.) The DVMC Grant Reception on January 27, 2025, where the grant was formally awarded to Jones, and she also got the opportunity to network with leaders and peers in veterinary medicine; and
- 2.) The VMX Conference

from January 24-29, 2025, in Orlando, Florida, which was an invaluable professional development opportunity. VMX (Veterinary Meeting & Expo) is the world's largest veterinary conference.

TUCVM Students Get Travel Abroad Opportunity in Kenya



Four first-year veterinary students had the incredible opportunity to travel abroad to Kenya for 10 days through an experiential learning opportunity funded by a USDA grant to strengthen the global competence of veterinary students. The program was presented through TUCVM faculty Dr. Temesgen Samuel. The four students included **Mary-Margaret Ollivierre, Aniyah Ragland, Kamiya Cargle, and Kristian "Alexis" Hunt**, all members of the Class of 2028. During their visit, the students studied the impacts of animal welfare and engaged with local farmers to understand their animal safety protocols and the products they provide to their clients. Additionally, we visited homes to assist in collecting sick animals and transporting them to the clinic for treatment. This hands-on experience allowed the students to witness firsthand the challenges faced by rural communities in accessing veterinary care and reinforced the importance of animal health in sustaining livelihoods.

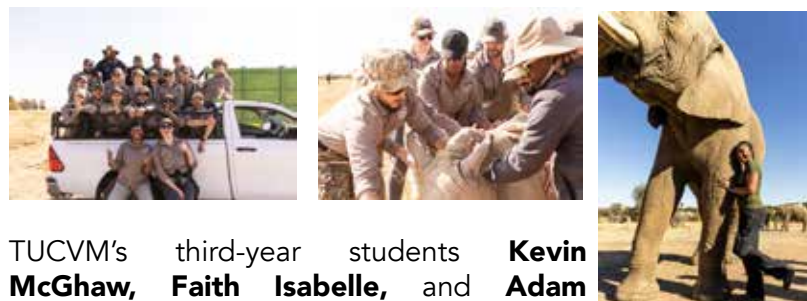
TUCVM Students visit Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia



Three second-year TUCVM students had the opportunity to visit the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM), Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia from December 17, 2024, to January 6, 2025, for an international experiential learning program on farm animal veterinary medicine. The students that participated in this three-week program included **Jennifer Maharath, Whitney Shivers, and Aliyah Thompson** (all members of the Class of 2027). The program was funded by a USDA capacity building grant on strengthening global competence of Tuskegee veterinary students with a focus on emerging zoonoses and food animal medicine.

The students participated in several learning activities such as clinical activities at the FVM veterinary teaching clinic, including assisting clinicians, administering medications, placing IVF catheter to patients, and scanning sheep for pregnancy. They also visited the Livestock Development Institute where the focus was artificial insemination (AI) and semen production and an experiential activity which included evaluation of sperm motility under a phase-contrast microscope after semen collection. The students also visited Holleta livestock research station and the Animal Biotechnology Research Program Laboratory which also included various experiential activities.

TUCVM Students Embark on a Life-Changing Externship in South Africa



TUCVM's third-year students **Kevin McGhaw, Faith Isabelle, and Adam Varella** (all members of the Class of 2026) had the experience of a lifetime through an externship opportunity sponsored with IDEXX funds. This adventure was part of the 2024 International Symposium on Wildlife Utilization, a prestigious event hosted by the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort in South Africa. Throughout the students'

time in South Africa, McGhaw, Isabelle, and Varella gain direct experience with some of Africa's most majestic creatures. From rhino notching and DNA collection to darting workshops and animal tracking techniques, these students honed their skills in wildlife care and conservation. The symposium also featured a series of engaging lectures and demonstrations, covering critical topics like vaccine administration, game capture, disease control, and animal relocation.

TUCVM Students Attend 2024 International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA) Congress



Students from TUCVM's Chapter of the International Veterinary Student's Association (IVSA) attended the 73rd IVSA Congress in Lima, Peru, on August 4-15, 2024. This congress gathers veterinary students from around the world to discuss pressing issues in veterinary medicine, exchange knowledge, and promote international collaboration. The event featured workshops, lectures, and cultural exchanges, providing a



platform for students to enhance their professional skills and broaden their global perspectives. **Ahan Jain (AJ)** is TUCVM's IVSA Chapter President/Exchange Officer. To learn more about the IVSA Congress, visit: <https://ivsa.glueup.com/event/73rd-ivsa-congress-in-peru-101150/home.html>.

Veterinary Student Jalissa Young Inspires 4th Graders



TUCVM's first-year student **Jalissa Young** (Class of 2028) decided to give back to the community and inspire the young minds of 4th graders at Pleasant Grove Elementary School in the Jefferson County Schools District during fall semester. After connecting with their teacher and her master's program former classmate, Ms.

Jesslin Williams, their conversation sparked the wonderful idea of having Young come and teach her 4th grade students about veterinary medicine. During her visit,



Young explained to them how veterinarians take care of sick animals and help keep them healthy, the different tools and equipment that veterinarians use, and the importance of animal care. She also used what they had learned as a class to solve a few cases as "mock veterinarians" at the end!

TUCVM Students Participate in Feline Spay & Neuter Days



In photo: TUCVM Students and faculty from left to right: **Rachel Elder, Jamia Mason, Nakai Griffin, Dr. Athema Etzioni** and **Jaelyn Reeves**.



In photo: TUCVM students (back) left to right are **Charles Walker, Lowry Poletti, Amol Morrow** and **Mark Harden**. In the front (right to left) are **Dr. Athema Etzioni, Dr. Babette Dixon Authement** (ALVMA President) and her staff.

Three times a year, Dr. Athema Etzioni (Associate Professor/Section Chief of Clinical Pathology) takes a group of four TUCVM students to gain experience through performing spays and neuters at the Spay/Neuter Day events. The first event was during the summer on July 27, the second during the fall semester on October 26 and a third one is being planned during spring semester 2025. It is a great experience for the students as most of them get to perform three to four feline spays and feline neuters. This year was especially special as they had the privilege to participate in a feline spay and neuter day event on Oct. 26 with ALVMA President Dr. Babette Dixon Authement and her staff, in Robertsedale, Alabama. At Dr. Dixon's clinic, the students got to perform spays, neuters, ear tipping and vaccination administration.

TUCVM Students Participate in Animal Welfare Assessment Contest



TUCVM students participated in the Fall 2024 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Animal Welfare Assessment Contest held at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. TUCVM students included **Ahan Jain (AJ), Aaryn DuBose, Jamie Smith, Daniel (Joe) Cook, Aniyah Ragland, Brandi Billingsley**, and **Zoe Allen**. The Tuskegee Team's coach, Dr. Bobwealth Omontese,



TUCVM Professor of Theriogenology (LA), helped with preparing the students. This annual event allows participants to evaluate animal welfare scenarios in various contexts. "The contest provided an invaluable platform for critical thinking, teamwork, and professional development, while allowing us to engage with peers and industry leaders who share a passion for animal welfare. Our team's performance reflected Tuskegee's commitment to excellence in veterinary education and advocacy for animal well-being," said Ahan Jain, TUCVM Class of 2027 Vice President.

TUCVM Student Gets Equine Medical Institute Scholarship



Congratulations to TUCVM's third-year student **Brittney Carney** for receiving the Hagyard Equine Medical Institute Scholarship during the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) 70th Annual

Convention in Orlando, Florida, on December 8, 2024. Carney earned this prestigious award for her academic excellence, leadership abilities, and commitment to pursuing a career in equine practice. The scholarship is named in honor of Dr. Ed Hagyard, the first graduate veterinarian to establish a practice in Kentucky. Leading up to their sesquicentennial, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, a leader in equine veterinary care for nearly 150 years, created this perpetual scholarship to support third-year veterinary students dedicated to careers in equine medicine.

TUCVM Students Participate in Marine Mammal Elective at Gulf World in Orlando

TUCVM got the opportunity to participate during fall semester 2024 in the Marine Mammal Elective held at Gulf World Marine Park in Panama City Beach, Florida. This is an elective jointly held with Auburn University CVM



students. The TUCVM student participants included the following: **Starla Clifton, Class of 2026, Amol Morrow, Class of 2025, and Evan "Sunny" Griggs, Class of 2025.**

TUCVM Students were honored during Fall Semester Annual Scholarship Convocation



2024 Eminent Scholars.
2024 University Scholars.

Tuskegee University held its Annual Scholarship Convocation at the Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Arena on October 18, 2024, where approximately 900 students were honored for the 2023-24 academic year. During the convocation, the deans of each college and school announced their University Scholars. The University Scholar representing TUCVM was fourth year student **Shalinda Queen McMahon**, (Class of 2025). To qualify for university scholar status, students must be eligible for the annual Honor Roll, rank among the top students who have completed between 90 and 110 credit hours, and demonstrate exemplary personal qualities as attested by their dean.

The convocation also honored 63 students who qualified as Eminent Scholars during the 2023-24 academic year. For this honor, students must maintain a 4.0 Cumulative GPA and meet the Honor Roll criteria to receive this recognition. Three TUCVM students received the 2023-24 Eminent Scholars honor, and they were: **Kai-ley Light (Class of 2028), Brooklyn Macklin (Class of 2028), and Shalinda McMahon (Class of 2025).**

Additionally, 820 students were also named to the university's annual Honor Roll for the 2023-24 academic year.



Class of 2028 with Dean Dr. Ruby Perry and Associate Dean Dr. Ebony Gilbreath

TUCVM Welcomes Class of 2028 at New Student Orientation

TUCVM held a two-day New Student Orientation 2024 for the incoming Class of 2028 on August 2 and August 5 under the coordination by the Office of Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment with the support of Student Affairs. Students attended presentations in Patterson Hall on various topics to include overviews of academic programs and veterinary honor code, pre-clinical and clinical programs, introductions of first year faculty and support personnel, history of the college, TUCVM Web Resources, as well as other important resources and procedures required by the university for all students.

TUCVM thanked all our presenters and sponsors for their support given to help make this event a success for our future veterinarians as they learned about their introductions to the veterinary college and university. Our sponsors included: Veterinary Information Network (VIN), Banfield, and the U.S. Army.

New students also attended an Academic Success Strategies Workshop on August 6-9, Welcome to the Profession in conjunction with Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine on August 8, and the Veterinary Leadership Experience prior to the first day of classes which started on August 12. 🐾

Dean Perry Gets AVMA Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. Ruby L. Perry was named the second recipient of the 2024 AVMA Frederick Douglass Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award for her distinguished leadership in advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) throughout the veterinary profession. The award was presented to Dean Perry on Friday, June 21.

Dr. Athema Etzioni Gets ASVCP Educator Award and is 1st Black Woman Boarded Veterinary Clinical Pathologist



Dr. Athema Etzioni

Dr. Athema Etzioni received the American Society Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ASVCP) Educator Award. The ASVCP Education Committee celebrated Dr. Etzioni at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington. She was recognized in the ASVCP September 2024 News Blast. The ASVCP Educator Award celebrates the achievements of veterinary clinical pathologists who have made outstanding contributions in veterinary clinical pathology education for veterinary students, graduate students, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, laboratory technologists, interns, and/or residents.

It is also historic to note that Dr. Etzioni is the third black person, but first black woman boarded in veterinary clinical pathology (DACVP 2014) by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. The first African American boarded veterinary clinical pathologist was also Tuskegee made, the late Dr. William O. Jones, DACVP 1972. Dr. Etzioni gives credit to Dr. Jones, who she refers to as her mentor and inspiration, in encouraging her to choose to pursue this career path. Dr. Etzioni is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathobiology and wears many hats, serving as the Section Chief of Clinical Pathology, as Internship Coordinator and Intern Supervisor, and is the IDEXX Faculty Liaison.

Dr. Tomeshia Hubbard appointed to Alabama Board by Governor Ivey



Dr. Tomeshia Hubbard

Dr. Tomeshia Hubbard was appointed to the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (ASBVME) by Governor Kay Ivey effective March 15, 2024, to March 14, 2028. In this role she will be a part of making important decisions that directly affect the veterinarians and citizens of the state of Alabama. Dr. Hubbard is TUCVM's Section Chief for Community Practice and Shelter Medicine and an Assistant Professor of Veterinary Dermatology.

Chankia Berry Gets 2025 "Social Worker of the Year" Award



Chankia Berry

TUCVM Social Worker **Ms. Chankia Berry** was nominated and selected for the 2025 "Social Worker of the Year" Award by the Coalition of Black Excellence Social Workers. (CBSW). The "CBSW Social Worker of the Year Award" is awarded annually to a professional social worker (5+ years in the field) who is a member of the CBSW and demonstrates the values of the CBSW: Black Excellence, Mentoring, Training, Networking & Service. The selected nominee has gone above and beyond their call of duty and exemplifies the best of what it means to be a black social worker. Ms. Berry was officially recognized at the CBSW Awards Banquet on March 6, along with the other professional winners and scholarship recipients.



Debra Mitchell

Congratulations to **Mrs. Debra Mitchell** who received her A.A.S in Business Management & Entrepreneurship degree from Southern Union College on May 9, 2024. Mrs. Mitchell is the Assistant to Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Ebony Gilbreath.



Tamara C. Cottrell

Ms. Tamara C. Cottrell joined the TUCVM family in 2007. She is a Library Assistant in the T. S. Williams Veterinary Medical Library and now also serves in her new role as Coordinator of Health and Wellness, effective August 12, 2024. She earned her B.S. degree in Elementary and Special Education in 1981, and the Master of Education in Counseling and Student Development in 1986, both from Tuskegee University.



Ayonna Jones

Mrs. Ayonna Jones joined the TUCVM family as the Executive Director of Veterinary Operations, effective July 22, 2024. Ms. Jones has over six years of experience in higher education and has a strong background in specialized fields. She holds a bachelor's degree from Troy University, where she majored in Special Education with a minor in Social Science and Physical Education.

TUCVM Interns for 2024-25



Dr. Marcela Apuy Martinez joined the TUCVM family as a Clinical Pathology Intern in the Department of Pathobiology for the 2024-24 academic year. Dr. Apuy Martinez graduated summa cum laude receiving her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica in 2021.

Dr. Hao-Yu Shih joined the TUCVM family as a small animal rotating intern in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences for the 2024-25 academic year. He earned his veterinary degree from National Taiwan University in Taiwan, then pursued a Ph.D. in veterinary behavior and welfare at the University of Queensland in Australia.

Dr. Abdulhakeem Binhabali joined the TUCVM family as a small animal rotating intern in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences for the 2024-25 academic year. He earned his DVM degree from Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria in 2019. With a long-term goal of becoming a clinician-scientist, Dr. Binhabali aspires to pursue a Ph.D. in Neuroscience after his Residency (in either Pathology or Radiology) where he will specialize in the neuropathology of degenerative diseases.

Dr. Sydni Hampton joined the TUCVM family as a large animal intern in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences for the 2024-25 academic year. Dr. Hampton received her bachelor's degree in animal science from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. She received her DVM from TUCVM, Class of 2024, where she discovered her love for equine medicine. Dr. Hampton's professional interests include equine lameness, reproduction, and general wellness.

Dr. Khim Ale, joined the TUCVM family as a large animal intern in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences for the 2024-25 academic year. He received his Bachelor of Veterinary Science, and Animal Husbandry (B.V.Sc. and A.H.) from Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal in 2019. In July 2023, he received his M.S. in Animal and Poultry Sciences with a major in Animal Nutrition in July 2023.

Dr. Chanique Blair joined the TUCVM family as a large animal intern in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences for the 2024-25 academic year. Dr. Blair is a 2021 graduate of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. Passionate about animal health and welfare, she is committed to expanding her expertise and making a meaningful impact in the field of veterinary medicine through hands-on clinical practice, research, and continuous learning.

Dr. Asmaa Al-Mokaddem joined the TUCVM family in the Department of Pathobiology as an anatomic pathology intern, effective January 15, 2025. Dr. Al-Mokaddem graduated from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt in 2009, receiving her DVM degree. She then worked as a demonstrator of veterinary anatomic pathology until 2010. Dr. Al-Mokaddem received her master's degree in anatomic pathology in 2013 and a Ph.D. degree in 2017. 🐾



Dr. Toufic Nashar

Dr. Toufic Nashar has been moved from interim to permanent Head of the Department of Pathobiology. He joined the TUCVM family in 2011 as an Assistant Professor in Virology and Immunology. He earned a bachelor's degree in veterinary medicine from Baghdad University, Iraq, and a Ph.D. in Immunology from Bristol University, UK.



Dr. Pawan Puri

Dr. Pawan Puri has now been named TUCVM's Coordinator of Histology Core and recently secured a \$99,650 grant from NIGMS to enhance the microscopy core at TUCVM. Dr. Puri is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. He earned his B.S. degree in veterinary medicine from Punjab

Agricultural University in Ludhiana, India, and a Ph.D. in reproductive physiology and endocrinology from Kent State University in Ohio.



Dr. Sherein Salem

Dr. Sherein Salem joined the TUCVM family on July 24, 2024, as an Associate Professor of Anatomic Pathology in the Department of Pathobiology. Dr. Salem is a distinguished professor of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology in Cairo University, Egypt, with 30 years of academic experience. She graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Cairo University in Egypt in 1994.



Anthony McCloud

Effective July 1, 2024, **Mr. Anthony McCloud** is now the Executive Director of Veterinary Administration. Mr. McCloud joined the TUCVM family in August 2019 and was previously the Director of Student Affairs. He 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.



Dr. Madryn Odom

Effective July 1, 2024, **Dr. Madryn Odom** is now the Executive Director of Veterinary Compliance. Dr. Odom joined the TUCVM family in March 2022 and was previously the Director of Academic Support Programs, Student Success, and Retention. She received a Doctor of Education (EdD) in Educational Leadership

from Northcentral University, a certification as a Special Education teacher from the University of Georgia, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in finance from the University of Wisconsin, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA), specializing in accounting, from Washington University.



Deetra Benn

Effective July 1, 2024, **Ms. Deetra Benn** is now the Director of Student Affairs. Ms. Benn joined the TUCVM family in February 2022 and was previously the Coordinator for Veterinary Recruitment. Ms. Benn is a two-time graduate of Troy University, having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science, and Master of Science in Counseling and Psychology. Although she had plans to attend law school, her love for education led her into a career with the collegiate system.



Jessica Stoneback

Effective July 1, 2024, **Ms. Jessica Stoneback** was named Interim Director of Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment and is now Director of Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment. Ms. Stoneback joined the TUCVM family in September 2020 and was previously the Administrative Assistant and Customer Relations Manager for Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment. Ms. Stoneback has several degrees to include an associates degree (Radiology) from Southern Union State Community College, bachelor's degree with double major in human resources and management from Auburn University of Montgomery, a master's in business management from Saint Leo University, a secondary teacher's certificate from Athens State University. and will now graduate on May 7th with her Doctor of Business Administration from Saint Leo University.



Dr. Nelson Diaz

Dr. Nelson Diaz joined the TUCVM family in the fall semester 2024 as the Hospital Director/Administrator, Small Animal Teaching Hospital. He is also an Associate Professor of Small Animal Community Practice. Dr. Diaz is a seasoned veterinarian with over 35 years of experience. He received his MS in Physiology/Pharmacology from the University of Arkansas in 1985, followed by his DVM from Tuskegee University in 1990. Following several years in small animal practice and teaching at San Juan Bautista School of Medicine, he obtained his MBA in Marketing from Turabo University in Puerto Rico.



Dr. Rick Tubbs

Dr. Rick Tubbs joined the TUCVM family in the fall semester 2024 as the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) Large Animal Hospital Administrator. He is a seasoned veterinarian with over four decades of experience. Dr. Tubbs brings expertise in several areas of the profession including expertise in Swine Medicine. Dr. Tubbs graduated from Auburn University in 1983 with his DVM and has board certifications from the American College of Theriogenologists and the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Swine Health Management Specialty.



Dionne Thomas

Ms. Dionne Thomas joined the TUCVM family during the fall 2024 semester as the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) Business and Accounting Manager. She has over 25 years of experience in corporate business administration and accounting. After graduating from George Washington Carver High School, Ms. Thomas then went on to receive her B.S. degree in Business Administration from Athens State University and her MS in Leadership and Management from Amridge University.



Gusetta Rose Sams

Ms. Gusetta Rose Sams joined the TUCVM family in the fall semester 2024 as the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) Central Supply Supervisor. She has experience in sterile processing and was a sterile processing professional in the military and with several companies. Ms. Sams is a graduate of Tuskegee Institute where she earned a B. S. degree in nursing in 1978. Afterwards, she served three years in the United States Army and six years in the Alabama National Guard. She later retired after 10 years and started traveling assignments until her recent return to Tuskegee.



Joysheanna James

Ms. Joysheanna James joined the TUCVM family in the fall semester 2024 as the new Medical Records Supervisor. Ms. James is a graduate of Valley High School and Ultimate Medical Academy. She received her associate degree in medical billing and has worked in the healthcare field for five years.



Bernadette McIntosh

Mrs. Bernadette McIntosh joined the TUCVM family in the fall semester 2024 as the new Medical Receptionist for small and large animal areas. She is a proud graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, Class of 2000. In her spare time, Mrs. McIntosh enjoys reading, singing, traveling, and spending time with family.



Tamesha Williams

Ms. Tamesha Williams joined the TUCVM family in the fall semester 2024 as the new Customer Relations Manager in the Office Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Troy University and is set to complete a Master of Education (M.Ed.) concentrating in Student Affairs in March 2025. Ms. Williams wrote her first children's book, published in 2022, combining her love for storytelling with a commitment to education.



Jerome Jones

Mr. Jerome Jones joined the TUCVM family in the fall semester, at the beginning of January 2025 as the new Coordinator of Recruitment and Outreach Programs in the Office Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment. Prior to moving to his new position, Mr. Jones worked in the Department of Graduate Public Health for two years as the administrative assistant for the department head. He is an Army Veteran with over 20 years of experience. Mr. Jones graduated from the University of Arizona Global Campus (UAGC) in June 2020 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and most recently graduated from UAGC in November 2024 with a master's degree in psychology.



Samina Akhter

Mrs. Samina Akhter has been appointed by Dean Perry during the fall semester 2024 to a dual position in the DVM and MPH programs as the Director of Assessment and Analytics for the College of Veterinary Medicine and Public Health Career Placement Specialist in the Department of Public Health. Previously, Mrs. Akhter served as assistant director, Analytics and Career Placement for the Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH) and as system analyst and database manager working with the CVM's website. Mrs. Akhter will continue to assist in the college's website content management and webmaster duties as needed.

63 Doctors Of Veterinary Medicine Recognized During Tuskegee University 2024 Spring Commencement, Oath and Hooding Ceremony

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) welcomed 63 new doctors of veterinary medicine into the profession on May 4 during the Graduate and Professional Schools formal ceremony in the Chappie James Arena. However, it was the Veterinary Medicine Oath and Hooding Ceremony which followed the commencement that held the most excitement for the graduates as they formally took their oath as now official veterinarians in front of family and friends.



The veterinary medicine class of 2024 represents the 75th graduation class of veterinarians from Tuskegee University. Since 1949, Tuskegee has now awarded over 3,000 veterinary medicine degrees from the only veterinary medical professional program on the campus of a Historically Black College or University.

"The College of Veterinary Medicine family is extremely proud of each graduate, and we look forward to hearing about the accomplishments they will make as veterinary professionals, as leaders, as educators, and as researchers," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine during the oath and hooding ceremony. "They are well-equipped to make significant contributions and play vital roles in protecting and enhancing human and animal welfare as they embark on their various career paths on a journey of lifelong learning beyond the DVM degree. Congratulations Class of 2024!"

Each year a veterinary professional delivers the challenge address to the veterinary graduates. This year the Veterinary Medicine Oath

keynote speaker was Tuskegee Veterinary alumna Carla Gartrell, DVM, JD, DACVIM. Dr. Gartrell, an '88 graduate, gave an uplifting Veterinary Medicine Oath Charge to the newly named doctors of veterinary medicine. She is the seventh veterinary alum from Tuskegee University to be appointed as dean in the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC).

Dr. Gartrell was appointed as the dean at Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine located in Glendale, Arizona, in 2022. She received both her B.S. and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degrees from Tuskegee University in 1988. Prior to becoming dean at Midwestern, she previously held the faculty and administration positions of Associate Professor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and then promoted to Professor and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. She is Board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Bar Association, and the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association.

During Dr. Gartrell's presentation to the new graduates, she spoke on three stories that made a profound difference in her journey as

a veterinarian. She summarized the following six core principles that all begin with the letter "C" for the graduates to embrace in her challenge to them: "1. Compassion – be compassionate and care deeply, 2. Curiosity – stay curious and committed to life-long learning, 3. Courage – be bold because you grow through what you go through, 4. Community – you are a vital part of a larger community so be involved in it, 5. Champion – be a champion for yourself, your patient and others, and lastly, 6. Celebrate – you have earned this moment so embrace your journey to get here and look forward to your futures," Dr. Gartrell said.

Dean Perry also recognized five TUCVM Distinguished Alumni Awards recipients during the veterinary medicine oath ceremony program. This year's honorees included:

Dr. Carla Gartrell '88, Veterinary Medicine Oath Speaker and 2nd Tuskegee veterinary medicine alumna appointed dean of U.S. veterinary school; Dr. James "Jim" Heintz, Sr. '73 (posthumously), former TUCVM faculty member who served in private practice for 32 years before transitioning to academia as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Heintz dedication to his alma mater remained steadfast throughout his career serving as President of the Tuskegee (then School) of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association, serving on the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) Executive Council, and being recognized for his enduring support of Tuskegee as a prestigious Presidential Associate Award recipient;

Dr. Charles Lowrie '72, a dedicated veterinarian with over 26 years of service as a general practitioner with a referral focus in neurology and neurosurgery, then serving in academia as the Clinical Neurologist and Neurosurgeon at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University until retiring in 2002 as a professor emeritus. Also a previous president of the TVMAA, Dr. Lowrie is most notably recognized for his work in co-facilitating clinical experiences for aspiring veterinary students in the Vetward Bound program and providing counsel and support for Tuskegee graduates completing their Post-DVM training at MSU;

Dr. David Negola '72, a seasoned veterinarian with over 50 years of experience, created and owned

several private practices as well as mentored and/or employed multiple talented individuals who he recommended to Tuskegee for veterinary school. Through his mentorship, these individuals have prospered and gone on to own practices themselves all over the country. Dr. Negola's commitment to Tuskegee has also led to his service on the Dean's Advisory Board and receiving the Presidential Associate Award for financial support to the school/college since graduation; and

Dr. Richard Savino '72, a dedicated small animal companion veterinarian who retired in 2020 after giving 48 years of service to the profession and his alma mater. He was previously honored with the Presidential Associate Award for his dedication to his beloved alma mater and he treasures the profound impact Tuskegee has had on his life. Dr. Savino has served on the Dean's Advisory Board, the Alumni Executive Board, co-chaired the Minority Recruitment Committee striving to promote diversity and inclusion, and contributed to the development of the alumni association's (TVMAA) website, ensuring that the bonds endure beyond graduation. 🐾

Distinguished veterinary alumni award recipients with Dean Perry and former Tuskegee University President Dr. Charlotte P. Morris



Dr. Carla Gartrell



Family of Dr. James Heintz



Dr. Charles Lowrie



Dr. Daniel Negola



Dr. Richard Savino

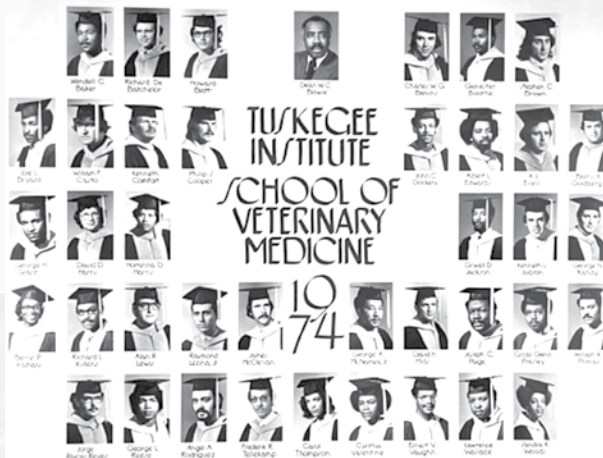


The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine Host 58th Veterinary Symposium

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) welcomed alumni, students, faculty, staff, pre-veterinary students, friends and supporters to its 58th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium on March 13-16, 2024, held again in historic downtown Montgomery, Alabama and on the campus in historic Tuskegee, Alabama at the veterinary complex for the Pre-Vet session and the final day of symposium activities. Also, alumni were given the opportunity to tour the campus and the renovations in the CVM complex.

The symposium theme, "Providing a Spectrum of Care and Exploring Innovations to Enhance Veterinary Medical Healthcare," focused on the wide range of care options that veterinarians can provide and shared information on inclusive and collaborative approaches for Spectrum of Care in veterinary medical education. It underscored a list of dynamic speakers and several continuing education sessions covering an array of topics during the symposium, which was RACE® approved. Participants had the opportunity to fully engage in various sessions and earn up to 20 continuing education units of credit.

The Pre-vet sessions included a full day of presentations for pre-veterinary students in which students from pipeline schools across the United States participated. Veterinary students had featured sessions on student clinical skills labs for third- and fourth-year veterinary students only. Networking opportu-



nities and chances to interact with symposium sponsors and exhibitors were also provided.

The keynote speakers for T. S. Williams Lecture and General Session were: T.S. Williams Speaker - alum Dr. K. Paige Carmichael ('87) and General Session Speaker - alum Dr. Azalia Boyd ('08). Dr. Carmichael is the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Boyd is the Chief Veterinary Medical Officer, for CARE's (Companion and Animals for Reform and Equity) Urban Community Animal CARE program. This is a community solution-based leadership role in the veterinary field on a national

level.

Dr. Carmichael's presentation was: "Navigating the Rapidly Changing Field of Veterinary Medical Education." Her objective was to address the evolving landscape of veterinary education and the challenges and opportunities it presents.

Dr. Boyd's passion lays in the foundation of helping pets and the people who love them. The title of her presentation was: "Challenging the One Health Approach in Veterinary Medicine: How Community Leaders, Community Participatory Research, and Vet REDI Certification Improves Access to CARE."

The annual Alumni Banquet, one of the most highly anticipated features of the Symposium, was held on

MARCH 13-16, 2024

Friday night, March 15th and honored the alumni reunion classes of 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974 (50th year - golden class), 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999 (25th year - silver class), 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019.

"I extend my sincere appreciation to the Symposium Committee for a well-planned, educational, and successful Symposium and our amazing alumni and the reunion classes for giving back to help sustain the legacy of the college. I am also appreciative to our industry partners, faithful sponsors, community supporters and friends of our college and university that contributed to us having another well-planned and exceptional 2024 Veterinary Medical Symposium," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the college.

TUCVM is celebrating its 59th Annual Veterinary Symposium, March 19-22, 2025, and this momentous occasion focuses on TUCVM's 80th Anniversary (celebrating 80 years of existence, 1945-2025)! The reunion classes honored during the 59th Symposium include 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975 (50th year - golden class), 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 (25th year - silver class), 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020.

TUCVM Host 25th Annual One Health Symposium and 12th Annual Phi Zeta Research Day



In photo are Tuskegee University President Dr. Mark Brown (center) with Dean Perry and One Health Symposium and Phi Zeta Research Dy co-chairs.

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) held its 2024 One Health Symposium & Phi Zeta Research Day on September 16 and 17. This year was a major milestone as

the college celebrated the 25th Annual One Health Symposium and 12th Phi Zeta Research Day with the theme "Celebrating Tuskegee's Research Legacy: Advancing Knowledge and Global Impact."

Participants included the keynote and general speakers, presenters, facilitators, moderators, community panelists, graduate and veterinary student oral and poster contest presenters, attendees, vendors and sponsors.



Symposium research posters



Poster and Oral Presentation Winners

The first day of the symposium included special greetings from the new President and CEO of Tuskegee University, Dr. Mark A. Brown, who is now the university's 10th President. It was also an honor to receive greetings from two mayors, Mayor Lawrence F. "Tony" Haygood, Jr., Mayor City of Tuskegee, and Mayor Roderrick Clark, Mayor of Union Springs.

The One Health Symposium and Phi Zeta Research Day's prominent invited keynote speakers and general speakers included the following: Three Keynote Speakers - Dr. Stephanie Miles-Richardson, Ms. Roslyn Holliday Moore, and Dr. Ian N. Moore. Opening Session Keynote Speaker Dr. Miles-Richardson is a Tuskegee veterinary alumna and wears several hats at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, to include: Professor, Director- Novartis Beacon of Hope Center of Excellence on Climate and Environmental Health, Founding Chair, Department of Public Health Education, Associate Dean, Graduate Education in Public Health, and Director, Master of Public Health Program. Her presentation was titled, *"Environment, Health and Justice: The Power of Community and Inter-disciplinary Science."*

Virtual Keynote Speaker Ms. Roslyn Holliday Moore is the Deputy Director for Programs for the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She gave a presentation titled, *"Health Equity 2.0: Advancing Evidence, Addressing Disparities, Improving Outcomes."*

The Phi Zeta Research Day Keynote Speaker Dr. Ian N. Moore is also a Tuskegee veterinary alumnus and he is the Chief for the Division of Pathology at the Emory National Primate Research Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He gave the presentation titled, *"Following A Broken Compass: Advantages, Challenges and Benefits of Pursuing a Career in Research Following A Broken Compass: Advantages, Challenges and Benefits of Pursuing a Career in Research."*

The annual research symposium underscores TUCVM's commitment to the overall strategy of providing a forum for advancing biomedical research and heightening awareness of global health disparities. It also provides a forum for research collaboration and also allows participants to learn about exciting new interventions in public health and biomedical research.

The One-Health Symposium Co-chairs included TUCVM's faculty, Dr. Ehsan Abdalla, Assistant Professor/Director of Analytics Department of Graduate Public Health, and Dr. Athema Etzioni, Professor Associate Professor & Section Chief of Clinical Pathology. The Phi Zeta Research Day Co-chairs included TUCVM's faculty: Dr. Benjamin Adu-Addai, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Dilip Gunturu, Assistant Professor, both in the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

"Together as a community of researchers, educators, and supporters, we can make a difference by promoting best practices with interdisciplinary approaches of innovations and research that enhance healthcare access and delivery for a healthier nation. This annual event serves as another forum to promote and foster this mission," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, Dean of the college.

During Day 2 of the 2024 One Health Symposium and Phi Zeta Research Day some wonderful keynote speakers and alumni presentations were highlighted as well. Special acknowledgement was also given to the oral and poster presentation winners to include the following:

(Oral Presentation) DVM Student Awards: Laila Barnes – 1st Place; Jean Linn – 2nd Place, & Jennifer Maharath – 3rd Place

(Poster Presentation) DVM Student Awards: Loren Brown – 1st Place, Brooke Keys – 2nd Place, & Savannah McCrobie – 3rd Place

Graduate Students (MS) (Poster Presentation) Graduate Students Awards: Emmanuel Kuufire – 1st Place, Quintera Gorden – 2nd Place, Darian Davis – 3rd Place, & Courtney Dunning (Auburn University) – 3rd Place

Graduate Students (Ph.D.) (Oral Presentation) Graduate Students Awards: Jatna Rivas Zarete – 1st Place & Kingsley Bentum – 2nd Place

Dean Perry and the Symposium/Phi Zeta Research Day Co-Chairs were appreciative to all participants of the 2024 One Health Symposium and Phi Zeta Research Day, and extended a special thank-you to the sponsors and vendors.

SPONSORS: Zoetis, Elanco, U.S. Dept. of Education, Merck Animal Health, Purina, & Boehringer Ingelheim

VENDORS:

- Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Cancer Prevention and Control Division, Immunization Division Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program,
- Butler Chapel AME Zion Church
- Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) All of Us Research Program
- Five Horizons Health Services
- Healthy Food Resources
- Ladies Let's Live Longer, Hygiene Choices
- Macon M.E.A.N.S. For Cancer Support Group
- Selma Air, Medical Clinic
- The O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama, Birmingham (UAB)
- The South Central Alabama Development Commission (SCADC), The Area Agency on Aging (AAA)
- Tuskegee University Department of Social Work, College of Arts and Sciences

TUCVM holds 2025 White Coat Ceremony for 51 students



Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2026 White Coat Ceremony Participants with Dean Perry and Associate Dean Ebony Gilbreath.

Pride and excitement marked the transition of 51 veterinary medicine students to the clinical phase of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) curriculum on February 22, 2025. Among faculty, staff, family members, friends, and special guests, TUCVM's Class of 2026 received their "white coats" during the annual ceremony held at the new location of the Jay and Susie Gouge Performing Arts Center in Auburn, Alabama. Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the TUCVM, during her greetings thanked all the special guests that gave greetings as well which included: Alabama Veterinary Medical Association President Dr. Babette Authement, Auburn University Veterinary College Dean Dr. Calvin M. Johnson, South Carolina Association of Veterinarians Vice President Dr. Stacy Logsdon, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association President Elect Dr. James Beckman, Banfield Pet Hospital Representative/TUCVM alum Dr. Consuela Byrd, and congratulatory greetings were read by Associate Dean Dr. Ebony Gilbreath on behalf of faithful sponsor Dr. Harvey Crumm, Zoetis Veterinary Academic Liaison, who was unable to be in attendance.

TUCVM is grateful for the sponsorship and support of Zoetis Animal Health, Banfield Pet Hospital, and participation from the associations representing Alabama, Kentucky, and South Carolina Veterinary Medical Associations. The Annual White Coat Ceremony is a symbolic event for students transitioning their education from classroom study to the clinical phase of their veterinary education. The white lab coat is a symbol of medical professionalism and marks a turning point in the education of the 51 members of the Class of 2026.

For anyone who missed the ceremony, it can be viewed at the university's YouTube Channel at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ka9u9PI7Lik or by entering TUCVM 2025 White Coat Ceremony in the search section at www.youtube.com/user/tuskegeeuiversity.

The 51 members of the Class of 2026 who received white coats include:

7 Alabama Students:

Tatianna Jackson, Kevin McGhaw Jr., Catherine McKenzie, Whitney Moore, Aulisea Thomas, Courtnie Trapp, and Eli Yance

1 Kentucky Student:

Starla Clifton

4 South Carolina Students:

Brittney Carney, Hanna Gilsdorf, Angela Plemmons, and Jacob Scruggs

39 Non-Resident Students:

Kaela Adams, Chloe Adams-White, Briana Arceneaux, Alexis Arthur, Paola Aviles Villafane, Morgan Banks, Ayanna Brown, Kierney Burks, Ariana Cook, Kaylie Cutter-Jimenez, Kennedy Dames, Alexis Edward, Kyle Frett, Kateland Gelin, Austin Goodwin, Amanda Gordon, Stephanie Hall, Eden Harris, Faith Isabelle, Trenni Jefferson, Mallika Kumar, Jean Linn, Jennifer Maharath, Kennedy Mathews, Savannah McCrobie, Gamaya McEachern, Jordy Oriental, Jada Owens, Lauren Petry, Kaci Polk, Alexis Rawlings, Nia Reeves, Janeece Richardson, Jessica Robinson, Whitney Shivers, Jamie Smith, Aliyah Thompson, Adam Varella, and Sabria Wooten.

Photo Highlights...

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association President Dr. Babette Authement with students representing the State of Alabama.



Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association President Elect Dr. James Beckman with student representing the State of Kentucky.





South Carolina Association of Veterinarians Vice President Dr. Stacy Logsdon with students representing the State of South Carolina.



Class of 2026 holding gift bags presented at White Coat Ceremony from Tuskegee CVM alum/Banfield representative Dr. Consuela Byrd (center standing with students).

TUCVM's Department of Graduate Public Health Holds 2025 Annual Pinning Ceremony



Graduate Public Health Program Student honorees and faculty.

Students in the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) Department of Graduate Public Health were challenged to expand their thinking to embrace innovation with a focus on collaboration and partnership during their Annual Pinning Ceremony held on February 24, 2025.

Crystal James, JD, MPH, Vice-President of Governmental Affairs and General Counsel for Tuskegee University, said the world of public health is changing quickly and that it is essential to embrace new technologies, analytics and community engagement strategies.

"Seek new ways to deliver positive health messages," she said. "Public health is not static; it requires constant evolution. Adapting existing practices to meet emerging needs and improve efficiency is critical."

James served as the previous and first department head of the Graduate Public Health Program. She was instrumental in leading the department with Dean Ruby L. Perry to acquire accreditation as the second accredited public health program in the State of Alabama. The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is the first accredited public health program in the State.

"It is fitting to conclude this chapter of my career at Tuskegee University by challenging the students in the Graduate Public Health program, which my mentor, Dr. William "Bill" Jenkins, enlisted me to help establish and obtain accreditation," she said. "I regret that he did not live long enough to share that moment with the team."

Six students were honored during this year's ceremony and presented with the official pin and blazer. They include **Jeremy Burgess, Hilani Cantone, Twanda Collins, Lindsay Corbin, Kennede Perry, and Savannah C. Williams.**

"You are entering a world where higher education faces mounting adversity, therefore I present to you a series of challenges that demand your attention, dedication and innovative spirit," James said.

"We were honored to have Atty. James address our students and to give them the charge," said Dr. Torhonda Lee, Head of the Graduate Public Health Department. "She and Dean Perry had the vision to guide the program to where it is today. Our students are standing on Attorney James' shoulders and so many others who paved the way for the success of this program. This is a proud moment."

The Master of Public Health (MPH) Pinning Ceremony is held annually and marks a milestone of achievement for students matriculating in the Master of Public Health Program. Students with 30 credit hours and the recommendation of their academic advisor receive the Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH) pin. This pin signifies their readiness to complete the final stages of their professional training with the competencies and skills necessary for the public health workforce. The annual ceremony also marks the beginning of students' community engagement by receiving the official crimson blazer that is to be worn when presenting in professional and community settings.

"I am so appreciative of the leadership of Dean Perry and the hard work of our team in the Department of Graduate Public Health," said Dr. Lee. "It's their dedication and support for these students that made this moment possible. It is truly rewarding to see our MPH students meet this important milestone, and to see so many parents and friends come to support them." 🌸



**Keynote Speaker
Atty. Crystal James**



**New Pinning
presentation**

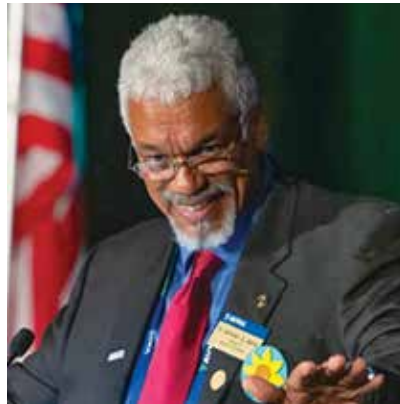


**New Official Blazer
presentation**

Tuskegee Veterinary Alumni Honored during 2024 AVMA Convention



Dr. Ruby Perry



Dr. Michael Bailey

**Photos Courtesy of AVMA

On Historic honors for Tuskegee veterinary alumni are nothing new and this was once again noted during the 2024 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Convention held in Austin, Texas, June 21-25. Dr. Ruby L. Perry, '77 veterinary alumna and dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, was honored with the AVMA's Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Michael Q. Bailey, '82 veterinary alumnus, was elected the first Black president-elect for the AVMA. Both Dr. Perry and Dr. Bailey are board-certified veterinary radiologists in the American College of Veterinary Radiology. Dr. Perry is also noted as the first African American female board-certified veterinary radiologist.

Dr. Perry was named the second recipient of the 2024 AVMA Frederick Douglass Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award for her distinguished leadership in advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) throughout the veterinary profession. The award was presented to Dean Perry on Friday, June 21. The AVMA's first recipient last year was also a Tuskegee veterinary alumnus, Dr. Willie Reed.

Dr. Janet Donlin, the AVMA's Executive Vice President and CEO, gave accolades for the selection of Dean Perry for this award. "Over the years, you (Dr. Perry) have set a benchmark for excellence. Much like Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson, Dr. Perry has been a beacon of hope and guidance through her mentorship of underrepresented groups and has also exemplified unparalleled leadership across various veterinary committees and organizations. Steadfast commitment has allowed her to bring about meaningful change in the veterinary profession," Dr. Donlin said.

"Upon learning of my selection as the 2024 recipient of the AVMA Frederick Douglass Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award, I was humbled and extremely honored to be the second recipient of this award following my colleague and fellow Tuskegee veterinary alum, Dr. Willie Reed. Dr. Patterson was a profound man in the history of Tuskegee University and specifically in the establishment of the veterinary medical program as well as a visionary leader," Dr. Perry said.

Also on June 21, Dr. Bailey was named the AVMA's first Black president-elect for 2024-25 by the AVMA House of Delegates (HOD). He will begin serving his term as the Association's president when current president Dr. Sandra Faeh's term expires in July during the AVMA Convention 2025 in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Bailey currently works for IDEXX Laboratories as a veterinary radiologist and medical director. He pioneered Ohio's inaugural private practice advanced veterinary CT imaging services and launched referral and emergency imaging facilities in Pittsburgh. Dr. Bailey also currently serves as the director of medical innovations in telemedicine for a global telemedicine consultant business, where he brings his extensive telemedicine expertise to the forefront. Previously he served on the veterinary faculties of Michigan State University, The Ohio State University, and Tuskegee University.

In speaking to the HOD on June 21, Dr. Bailey pledged to offer "robust, effective, and diverse leadership that inspires innovation."

Dr. Bailey emphasized the importance of AVMA members. He said, "You are not just part of the AVMA. We, the members, are the vital symbionts a diverse and dedicated community that sustains and grows our AVMA."

Also worth noting, with the election of Dr. Bailey as the AVMA president-elect, Tuskegee University will have two veterinary alumni to have served as president of the AVMA. Dr. Theodore (Ted) Cohn, '75 veterinary alumnus, served as AVMA president from 2014-15.

TUCVM Performs Examinations and Treats Atlanta Buffalo Soldiers' Horses



TUCVM students pose with some members of the Atlanta Buffalo Soldiers.



TUCVM clinicians performed the examinations on some of the horses of the Greater Atlanta Area Chapter, 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association Buffalo Soldiers. The Buffalo Soldiers of Atlanta group had expressed last year their desire to make this an annual event and to bring even more of their members and horses for the next visit to TUCVM.

TUCVM's large animal clinicians were happy to treat the horses of the 10th Cavalry Troop A (Buffalo Soldiers of Atlanta) on Saturday October 26, 2024. This visit was planned and facilitated by TUCVM's Dr. Steven Walker, Assistant Professor of Small Animal Community Practice.

Dr. Walker was assisted by: Dr. David McKenzie (Professor/Associate Dean for Clinical Programs and Large Animal Clinical Sciences Department Head), Dr. Courtney Allred (Clinical Instructor, Large Animal Medicine and Surgery), and two large animal interns along with TUCVM's in-house and ambulatory students.

Six members of the Buffalo Soldiers of Atlanta brought eight of their horses for full examinations including physical examinations, fecal exams and deworming, vaccinations, and Coggins testing. However, three of the horses were recently exposed to leaked gas from the plant incident in Georgia so baseline bloodwork was also done on these horses to check for any toxicity. Fortunately, all three horses were cleared.

The group also posed for pictures in their period cavalry uniform or official t-shirts with TUCVM's faculty and students. The group also gave the faculty t-shirts and information about the organization and expressed great pleasure with their second visit to TUCVM and the

hospitality they received as well as the treatment they received for their horses.

"The Greater Atlanta 9th & 10th Buffalo Soldiers Chapter is making bigger plans for the future in hoping to organize a trail ride with TUCVM included. This will involve training on horses like a mini horse health fair. This will also be a great teaching time for our students and help increase accessions through the treatment of many more Buffalo Soldiers' horses," Dr. Walker said.

TUCVM Faculty Instrumental in University Receiving Breast Cancer Research Support



Dr. Deepa Bedi

TUCVM's **Dr. Deepa Bedi** is once again using her platform as a scientist to support ongoing breast cancer research at Tuskegee University. Dr. Bedi is Tuskegee's principal

investigator and an Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences at the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. Tuskegee University will share \$1.1 million from the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama to support ongoing breast cancer research. In partnership with Auburn University, Tuskegee is one of 22 research projects at seven institutions across the state that will share the funding.

"Tuskegee University is partnering with Auburn University on the research to leverage each institution's strengths," Dr. Bedi said. She is collaborating with Auburn University's Dr. Maninder Sandey.

"We are deeply committed to making a meaningful impact on breast cancer research, with a particular focus on addressing health disparities in underserved communities," said Dr. Bedi, who holds a patent for her breast cancer research. "My passion lies in empowering our students to engage in transformative science that not only advances knowledge but also directly improves lives. By involving students in initiatives like this one, we aim to inspire the next generation of researchers, ensuring they understand the significance of their contributions to addressing a disease that affects millions. My hope is that through their involvement, students will carry forward the values of innovation, community service, and scientific excellence to create a legacy in the fight against breast cancer."

TUCVM Host Rabies Vaccination Clinic for Community



TUCVM held a successful community outreach event on February 15, 2025, with its Rabies Clinic at Carmack Supermarket for the Notasulga

community. The event was held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon where participants were able to receive \$12 rabies vaccinations for their fur babies! Dr. Steven A. Walker, Assistant Professor in TUCVM's Small Animal Community Practice, oversaw the clinic. TUCVM small animal and community practice clinicians and staff, small animal interns and students participated to help make this community outreach a success. Future rabies vaccination clinics are also being scheduled for other adjacent communities.

TUCVM Host Annual Pre-Vet Med Scholars Orientation Dinner & Reception



The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) along with the Tuskegee University College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences (CAENS) jointly held the Annual Pre-Vet Med Scholars Orientation Dinner and

Reception on September 12, 2024, and February 5, 2025, both in TUCVM's Patterson Hall Atrium. The Pre-Vet Med Scholars program is one of the signature pipeline initiatives with the TUCVM and CAENS for recruiting students into the College of Veterinary Medicine's DVM Program. Dean Perry and Dr. Olga Bolden-Tiller, Dean of the CAENS, organized the dinner/reception. Ms. Deetra Benn, Director of Student Affairs, also assisted as the Pre-Vet Club's Co-advisor. Over 40 scholars participated in the orientation dinner and over 60 participated in the reception.

Dean Perry, Dean Bolden-Tiller, Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, several members of Dean Perry's leadership team, and veterinary students Raven Griffin and Parrish Priester, were all in attendance and shared words of wisdom and encouragement, gave background information on their own journeys while getting the chance to meet the next generation of potential future veterinarians. The scholars also had the opportunity to introduce themselves.

"You are stellar students! From this seed program, you are setting yourselves up to be able to go to any veterinary school/college in North America. So, continue to work hard and always ask for help because we are here to help you stay on track... we are here for you," Dean Perry emphasized.

TUCVM's Veterinary Students Provide Help for Victims of Hurricane Helene



Pictured in the photo with some of the contributed items for the hurricane help donation effort are (left to right): Amol Morrow, Tessa Burgess, Sunny Griggs, and Elise Johnson.

TUCVM's Class of 2025 wanted to help the people and animals suffering as a result of Hurricane Helene so they quickly mobilized to make a difference.

On September 28, some of the students began sharing some social media posts from South Carolina veterinarians about their efforts to collect donations and transport them and provide veterinary services in North Carolina due to the devastation from Hurricane Helene.

TUCVM students collected items for animals to include dog and cat food (dry and canned), treats, bowls, toys, canned food lids, collars, leashes, cat litter, and beta-dine. They also collected some human necessity items such as feminine products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, canned food, dish soap, and trash bags.

With the assistance of TUCVM's faculty, Dr. Michele Tucker and Dr. Tomeshia Hubbard, they helped pass on the details for the arrangements coordinated by the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) to get supplies to North Carolina. Drs. Tucker and Hubbard worked with TUCVM veterinary student Tessa Burgess who served as the coordinator for the Class of 2025 hurricane donations activity.

In less than a week, the TUCVM students had collected the items to help both the animals and humans in North Carolina. The collected supplies were transported to the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine first and then from there sent to North Carolina to help those in need.

TUCVM Makes the Holidays Merrier with Annual Toy Drive



TUCVM continued the tradition by sponsoring the 10th Annual Toy Drive for Tots held on December 10th. TUCVM students, faculty and staff shared the true spirit of giving this holiday. They helped make the season a little merrier for the children in grades pre-kindergarten to first grade at George Washington Carver (GWC) Elementary School located in Tuskegee.

"As a vision kicked off originally by veterinary students several years ago and continuously supported by



our dean, Dr. Ruby L. Perry, the 'Toy Drive for Tots' is now seen as an on-going tradition in our college and anticipated by the college's faculty, staff and students," said Chankia Berry, TUCVM's Veterinary Social Worker and Toy Drive Coordinator. "This inspired vision by the Class of 2019 is now an annual celebration led by the succeeding first-year class. The first-year class also each year takes the responsibility of the holiday decorations in our college that encourages this festive time for all."

To ensure all 229 boys and girls in all three classes at GWC consisting of pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade received a gift; TUCVM divided its efforts for the toy drive collection into three sections. TUCVM's first year class (Class of 2028) took the lead with organizing the toy drive with the other veterinary students. They were also responsible for providing Santa and Santa's elves and worked with other students from the Classes of 2025, 2026, and 2027 to help make the drive a success. Several veterinary faculty and staff members also assisted as Santa's helpers to distribute the toys to the very excited students.

Principal Norman Williams, Jr., Asst. Principal Vishaka Uluwita-Brown and Counselor Taneshia Bryant helped with the toy drive organization at the school's end. The teachers and administration at George Washington Carver Elementary School are appreciative that TUCVM continues this tradition in selecting their students to participate in the "Toy Drive for Tots" program. 🎅



In loving Memory...

The Tuskegee Veterinary Medicine Family mourns the passing of the following members of our TUCVM Family...please continue to keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.



Dr. Carolyn G. Self ('71)

Dr. Carolyn G. Self passed away on July 8, 2024. She left behind a legacy remembered by family and friends. Dr. Self's spirit has been kept alive in the hearts and actions of family and friends alike for the kindness she was known for showing to others. Her funeral was held on July 19, 2024, at the Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Haddon Heights, NJ



Dr. William Swoope, Sr. ('65)

Dr. William Swoope, Sr. passed away peacefully at his home on August 5, 2024. He was a beloved figure in the community with 50 years in practice serving as a mentor to countless students and professionals. His journey to becoming the first African American Veterinarian in Kansas City was marked by resilience, dedication and a profound commitment to both animals and the community he served. He also served honorably in the United States Army (as a Captain). In 1968, Dr. Swoope opened his first practice in Kansas City. His clientele referred to him as "Doc". Dr. Swoope's funeral was held on August 23rd.



Dr. Jerry A. Clinkscales, II ('60)

Dr. Jerry A. Clinkscales, II passed on August 27, 2024. He celebrated his 90th Birthday on September 23, 2023. Dr. Clinkscales gave 38 years of dedicated service to Tuskegee University as an Instructor of Small Animal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Director of Veterinary Admissions. He often gave words of encouragement to



echo the importance of a college degree to students and is credited for training hundreds of graduates as leaders in the veterinary profession. His funeral services were held on September 7, 2024, in Tuskegee.



Dr. David Schaffer ('71)

Dr. David Schaffer transitioned the week of August 4, 2024. He was married to the late Dr. Caroline Schaffer, former faculty in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, who preceded him in death and passed December 7, 2023. Dr. David Schaffer earned a Ph.D. in Pharmacology after graduating from TUSVM (now TUCVM). He continued his studies and earned a Doctor of Osteopathy degree and went on to practice Psychiatry in Montgomery, Alabama. He was known as a Tri-Doc. He along with his wife resided in Tuskegee for many years.

Other TUCVM Deceased Alumni

Dr. Vernon James ('70)
passed on May 28, 2024.

Dr. Johnny Henderson ('71)
passed on September 30, 2024.

Dr. Alfred Earl Russell ('59)
passed on September 17, 2024.

Dr. Charles Flennoy '62
passed away May 20, 2021 (omitted last year).

Dr. Lewis Burgman '66
passed July 16, 2023 (omitted last year).





Dr. Leanda Livesey transitioned on January 17, 2025, surrounded by her family. She fought an intense illness and will be dearly missed. Dr. Livesey was a faculty member of equine internal medicine in the TUCVM Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. She completed her large animal internal medicine residency and Master of Science programs at Auburn University and was a Diplomate of the ACVIM.



Mr. Darjerna (DJ) Johnson, a technician in Central Supply in the TUCVM Veterinary Teaching Hospital, transitioned on January 18, 2025, at East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika, AL. His funeral services were held on January 27 at McKenzie's Funeral Home Chapel, Tuskegee, AL. He also fought an intense illness and will be dearly missed.



Mr. Monday Offem, passed on December 21, 2024, at his home. His funeral service was held on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at Washington Chapel A.M.E. Church, in Tuskegee, AL. Mr. Monday joined TUCVM in 1989 and retired in 2020 after serving in the role as the IT Group Leader. He was employed at Tuskegee University for 34 years. Mr. Monday was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Offem (retired TUCVM staff member in the Office of the Dean).



Dr. Caroline Schaffer, former Assistant Professor of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery and Director, Human-Animal Interdependent Relationships, transitioned on December 7, 2023, in Montgomery, Alabama. She earned her B.S. degree in Animal Science in 1967 and DVM degree in 1971, both from The Ohio State University. Dr. Schaffer had a deep love for Tuskegee and passion for the human-animal bond. She was married to alum Dr. David Schaffer

who is now also deceased. Dr. Schaffer's memorial service was held on December 15th at the Tuskegee University Chapel.



Dr. César Fermin, former Tuskegee University Provost and TUCVM Associate Dean, passed away in his home country, the Dominican Republic, on Monday, January 22, 2024. He previously served as the Associate Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and Provost. Dr. Fermin was a revered figure in academia, known for his extensive contributions to the fields of cell biology and biotechnology.

Our TUCVM Family is a circle of love, not broken by a loss, but made stronger by the precious memories that will be with us always!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

A Look Back at the History of TUCVM

Our Beginning to a Great Legacy: Tuskegee Institute School of Veterinary Medicine in 1957



Administration... A view of the administration and clinical building in the top of the school building of the new Tuskegee post in the large post office with study in the first floor and in the second floor rooms for student quarters and food storage space. The material store for administration building made the location of the animal housing plant for the school and due to large autopsy room with several adjoining service rooms.



In 1950, the administration building of Veterinary Medicine was completed.

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY School of Veterinary Medicine



Original School of Veterinary Medicine
Tuskegee Institute 1945

Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine In the late 1950s



ANIMAL
AMBULATORY SERVICES

Tuskegee Institute School of Veterinary Medicine, 1950's



Construction site of clinical anatomy building by faculty and students using Tuskegee Concrete



Foreword of rights, news and computer research Dr. Walter C. Brown (L) and Edward W. Hartshorn, co-directors of a new approach in cardiac research, Tuskegee Institute. Left: view of the heart in the chest, physical contact on heart performance. Reaction of heart in background can be instantly observed on monitoring screen (L).

GIANT-SIZED APPROACH TO HEART RESEARCH

Horses, other large animals contribute to exciting new look at a mysterious organ

STUDYING the heart of a live dog one day, physiologist Edward W. Hartshorn noted what was then an unexplained phenomenon: as a vascular would contract, its wall seemed to thicken in direct proportion. The process, called the systole, left the emptied chamber about a solid half of muscle.

It was not very earth-shattering, as medical discoveries go, but the fact that so elementary a detail had for centuries gone undetected brought home the amazing dearth of knowledge about the heart as an overall functioning machine (cardiac research, even today, tends to focus on specific heart rate, blood flow, pressure, etc.). As Dr. Hartshorn put it, "The literature is lacking in information which would permit a specific description of cardiac performance in relation to its functional architecture."

Dr. Hartshorn, head of physiology at Howard University, wanted to help supply this lacking, but investigations had until then been confined to small animals, precluding the use of sophisticated instruments needed for a comprehensive look at the heart. Then through a story in *Science* (Jan. 1961) he learned of a series of large-animal experiments being conducted at Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute. He contacted the director, Dr. Walter C. Brown, a leading authority in mammalian physiology, and made his pitch. The plan they decided on was unique in medical research, to gain an overall picture of the mammalian heart in structure and performance, measuring simultaneously such parameters as aortic pressure, intracardiac pressure, ventricular circumference and wall thickness, electrocardiogram, heart sound and others. They immediately set about securing finances for their dream project.

Today the plan is a reality. Last year, the scientists landed a \$400,000, seven-year grant from the National Institute of Health for extended experimentation with horses and other large domestic animals. Using transducers, telemeters and other advanced gear, investigators can plot on monitoring screens how the heart reacts to drugs, to eating, walking, resting and other activities. Experiments are mostly at Tuskegee, where a \$100,000 laboratory has been installed, but results can be monitored at Howard, 700 miles away, through a special communication system. At Emory University in Atlanta, Dr. Richard A. Bowser acts as research associate.

The overall effort carries enormous implications for human heart research. Tuskegee's program, with its wider scope, could provide a new theory on atherosclerosis, thereby eliminating what is still a rather mysterious organ.

From their work with large mammals, members of the Tuskegee team may come up with findings which will save hundreds of human lives.

DR. THEODORE SHIELDS WILLIAMS

Dean 1947-1972



View of veterinary school complex 1950 - Post-mortem, Clinical-Anatomy, Administrative and Horse Barn building





A large bull is operated on in clinical grounds between two on foot left foot. Operation was performed by advanced students under supervision of Dr. Kenneth O. Cook (1) and Dr. George W. Cooper, head of the large animal clinic. The restraining band across the body of both the animal and veterinarian.



In 1958, Dr. Cooper, professor of veterinary medicine, examines a small animal. The animal is being held by a student. The animal is being examined in a clinical setting.



Receptionist Cora Lynn Smith, Mrs. Amanda Phillips (1) is making notes of small animal clinic. Mrs. Phillips brought dog for treatment. Cats are treated in school clinic.



A pre-venter, brought to clinic by Cora Lynn Smith and one, is examined by senior George W. Smith (1) and Dr. J. A. Chikadee and Dr. George T. Blackledge (1), chief director. Clinic has more 20 small animals. Many white cat facilities. Some 500 of subsidiary animal patients being to school in the area.



Treating dog for shock induced in automobile accident, student Howard H. Parker Jr., administration director, which is also used to treat stock in human beings.



Striker which enables dog to walk with aid of wheels and motor is kept in school. Dog is being treated in a clinical setting.



Small animal examination is provided by senior and Dr. Chikadee, the plan to enter veterinary research.



Studying behavior of dog in physiology laboratory, students Carol V. Bing (1) and Ernest Gaskin (2nd yr.) are electrocardiograph. Observing the reaction are instructors, Dr. Leland Coffey (2nd yr.) and Dr. Walter C. Rouse (1st yr.).



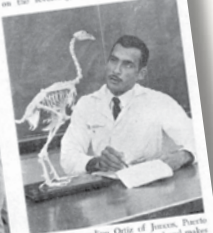
Effectiveness of drug on nervous and respiratory system of dog is measured by students. They are using a paper kymograph recorder where needle electrically records the effectiveness of drug on the breathing, specially-prepared paper.



In food processing laboratory, Dr. Alfred W. Duke, pathologist (1), shows two veterinary students how to inspect a slaughtered hog.



In gross anatomy class, Dr. Robert L. Jackson, assistant professor of anatomy and histology, discusses nervous system of the cow and points out important anatomical parts. Interested students are looking.



Freshman Rosalind Orris of Jackson, Florida, studies the dissection of a cow and makes notes, diagrams for classroom presentation.



Avianry instructor James Stuchlind (right), Donald B. K. Scott of Johns and Vera B. Russell in identifying fowls. Less than 200 of the 25,000 U. S. veterinarians are Negroes. Hall of Negro veterinarians practicing today are Tuskegee graduates.



Directing dogs in gross anatomy class, students work in "Carnes" on pigs. Dogs have been euthanized and skulls have been injected into water (blue) and arteries (red). Graduate of school receive D.V.M. (doctor of veterinary medicine) degree.



Handling emergency with epidural, students help doctor in vain, attempt to save unborn piglet of sow suffering from a jammed birth canal.



Leaving cow in the field, Dr. Charles L. Dotts, director of the school's ambulatory service, demonstrates extra-curricular skill. Learning is not required training, but Dr. Dotts says it has its uses.



Covered cow subjects to examination by advanced students, Dr. Dotts and Dr. Becker T. Odell, supervisor the field examination.

SCHOOL EMPHASIZES PRACTICAL WORK

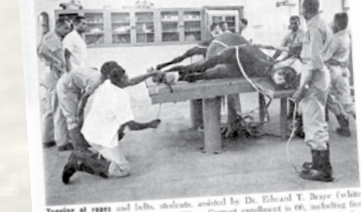
MOST graduates of the Tuskegee School of Veterinary Medicine specialize in small animal and large animal medicine, but many play highly-important roles in the fields of disease prevention, meat inspection, disease control and research.

The Tuskegee curriculum is structured around a hard-core of basic material which provides a base for specialization in many areas. "We provide," Dean Williams says, "each veterinary student with the best possible foundation in the basic fundamentals. Such a foundation, if adequately structured and executed by dedicated and imaginative instructors, provides the basis for a career in any phase of the broad field of veterinary medicine."

Tuskegee veterinary students learn by doing. "We let our students actually do as much as it is feasible," says Dean Williams.



In large animal clinic, advanced students, including one female, prepare belly horse for birth extraction. Senior student Doty Mitchell (top) injects horse with tranquillizer. The horse is then pushed to the tilted operating table by students and held in a vertical position. Hydraulic power then turns table to a horizontal position (see below).



Tugging at ropes and belts, students, assisted by Dr. Edward T. Dotts (white jacket) secure horse in correct position. Current enrollment is 66, including five female. Students come from 27 states and six foreign countries and territories.



Students, assisted by instructor, move into the horse's mouth for extraction. Veterinary school consists of six buildings (administration, instruction wing, two large animal hospital wards, a large small animal clinic and a post-mortem building).



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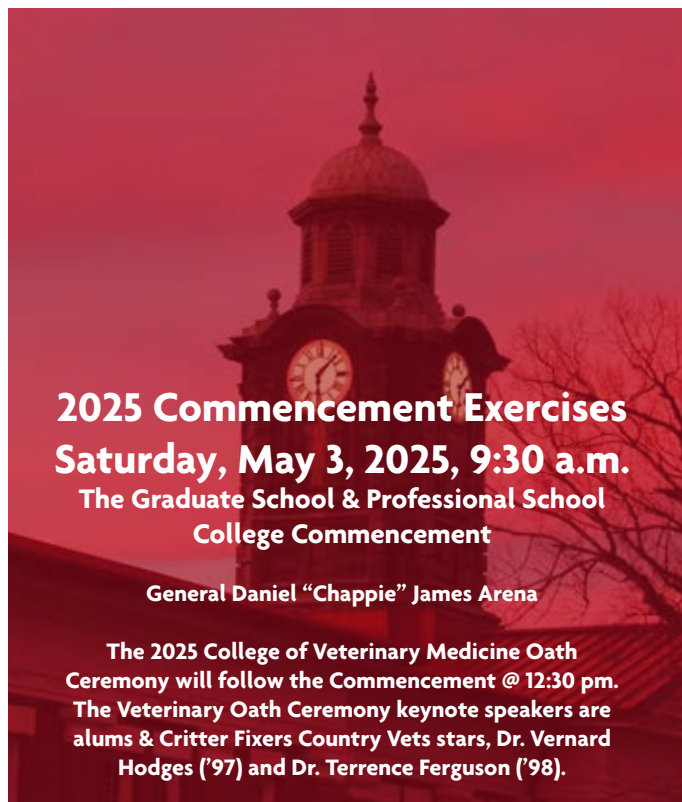


60TH ANNUAL VETERINARY MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**Save the
Date:
March
18-21,
2026**



2025 Commencement Exercises
Saturday, May 3, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
The Graduate School & Professional School
College Commencement

General Daniel "Chappie" James Arena

The 2025 College of Veterinary Medicine Oath Ceremony will follow the Commencement @ 12:30 pm. The Veterinary Oath Ceremony keynote speakers are alums & Critter Fixers Country Vets stars, Dr. Vernard Hodges ('97) and Dr. Terrence Ferguson ('98).

Congrats Class of 2025!

TUCVM Senior Banquet and Awards Ceremony Celebrating the Class of 2025

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) is proud to announce the TUCVM Senior Banquet and Awards Ceremony honoring the Class of 2025 on Saturday, April 26, 2025, 6:00 p.m. in Logan Hall on Morteza Sprague Street (campus of Tuskegee University).