Greetings alumni, friends, and supporters of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM)! Happy New Year! I wish all of you the very best in 2017.

This issue of the Veterinary Medical Perspective highlights the many accomplishments of the research group in the College. Dr. Ayman Sayegh serves as our Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies (RAS).

One of our recent accomplishments in research is featured in this issue and focuses on another U.S. Patent. Congratulations to the researchers credited with attaining another U.S. Patent: Dr. Teshome Yehualaeshet (PI) and Co-PI’s Dr. Temesgen Samuel, Dr. Woubit S. Abdela, and Dr. Tsegaye Habtemariam, all faculty members in the Department of Pathobiology. As you browse the Perspective, take time to note the continuation of the Legacy Tribute page which in this issue, we salute Dr. Edward Willis and his daughter, Dr. Dana Willis Henderson. Instead of “like father like son”, it is “like father like daughter” in this issue.

The College achieved a major milestone since the last issue with full accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE). This achievement would not have been possible without the team effort, hard work, dedication, commitment, faith and endurance of our faculty, staff and especially our students. Congratulations to us!! A continued team effort will be necessary as we move forward expanding our vision and building on our enduring legacy. In addition to our accreditation, the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) Team achieved another honor, accreditation from the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The VMTH has been an accredited member of the association since 1992.

I also truly thank YOU, our dedicated alumni and supporters of the College. Your generous financial support and the many acts of kindness given to “Mother Tuskegee” during 2016 are appreciated. As we presented last year, we have again included our year-end donor list in this issue of the Perspective. If you made a donation and not listed, it is an oversight and please contact us so that you can be acknowledged.

Also, please continue to support the joint effort between the College and the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) “Sustaining Our Legacy $250K Veterinary Alumni Fund.” These funds will be used to support the renovations and the purchase of equipment for the VMTH. The fundraising campaign is highlighted at our website at http://www.onemedicine.tuskegee.edu/Sustaining_Legacy.htm and will conclude during the 52nd Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium, March 22-25, 2017.

I look forward to seeing you at 52nd Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium where we will be paying tribute to the men and women in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. The Symposium theme is Uniformed Veterinary Medicine: Observing 100 Years of Service of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. Please visit our website to get information on registration. We will be honoring the reunion classes of 1952, ’57, ’62, ’67, ’72, ’77, ’82, ’87, ’92, ’97, 2002, 2007, and 2012.

We are committed to staying in touch with you, so please continue to send your news and comments. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Ruby L. Perry, DVM, MS, DACVR
Dean and Professor of Veterinary Radiology
TUSKEGEE VETERINARY MEDICAL PERSPECTIVE
FALL/WINTER 2016-2017 VOL. 41 NO. 1

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Friends of TUCVM Make High End Ultrasound Machine Possible: Thanks to the Tuskegee Alumni Housing Foundation, Inc.

The faculty, staff and students at the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM), extend a heartfelt appreciation to President Clarence Johnson and the board members of the Tuskegee Alumni Housing Foundation, Inc. (TUAHF) for choosing to make a significant difference in the radiology learning experience for our students. The TUAHF made a donation of $160,000 toward the purchase of a high end ultrasound machine for the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) here at Tuskegee University,” said Dean Ruby Perry. The ultrasound machine, an Aplio500 Platinum Ultrasound Imaging System, was purchased through Universal Imaging Company.

Ultrasonography is a popular imaging modality in human and veterinary medicine to enhance diagnosis of many diseases and conditions in healthcare. “Our faculty and students are delighted to have additional equipment that promotes educational and research advancements in the College and meet one of our AVMA Council on Education (AVMA-COE) standards on teaching and student learning,” Perry said.

Dean Perry also emphasizes that the purpose of the high-end ultrasound system is to provide improved imaging diagnostic services for the VMTH’s cases for clients, enhance teaching and learning of the students and interns, and has the potential use in research opportunities as well.

TUCVM is very appreciative of the support from the Tuskegee Alumni Housing Foundation for its generosity and commitment to sustaining the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine’s legacy.

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Sustaining our Legacy
$250K Veterinary Alumni Renovation Fund

Fundraising Project Partnership between the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) and the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) to Support the Renovations of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) to Fulfill Accreditation Requirements

ATTN. Alumni, Thank you so very much to those of you who have already made your donation. However, for those who have not or would like to give a little more…please do so. There is still time to support the $250K Veterinary Alumni Renovation Fund. As of January, we have raised $141,181.70. The campaign will culminate during the upcoming 52nd Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium (March 22-25, 2017). For more information on the $250K Fund, please visit: http://www.onemedicine.tuskegee.edu/Sustaining_Legacy.htm. TUCVM appreciates your continued support.
SPOTLIGHT on the Willis Family…
“A Legacy Continued…”

“Mother Tuskegee” and the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine’s (TUCVM) outstanding track record of producing legacies is putting the spotlight on the Willis Family (Father - Dr. Edward Willis and daughter – Dr. Dana Willis Henderson) in this Fall/Winter issue of the Veterinary Medical Perspective.

Dr. Edward Donald Willis grew up in rural Selma, Ala., where animals, both farm animals and pets, played an integral role in family life. He enrolled at Tuskegee Institute (University) obtaining both an undergraduate degree in Biology in 1961 and the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 1966. He has been in private practice for 42 years but also served for two years on active duty and 25 years of reserve duty as a military veterinarian, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He was, in addition, briefly employed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Willis met his wife of 50 years at Tuskegee Institute and they are the proud parents of three children, all Tuskegee University graduates. Their daughter, Dana, is a 2002 graduate of the veterinary medical program at Tuskegee. She is presently the medical director of Randall Road Animal Hospital of Crystal Lake in South Elgin, Illinois. Although all three children worked in his practice in their early years, Dana was the only one who “caught the bug” and now carries on his legacy. Dr. Willis is presently anticipating retirement, giving himself a chance to do what he wants when he wants------even doing nothing at all if so desired! After 42 years, all will agree Dr. Willis most certainly deserves this right.

She led a regional team of eight medical directors that encompassed 145 hospitals with a revenue budget of $200 million. Her responsibilities included ensuring high quality veterinary care, client experience through doctor recruiting, development of medical directors, in addition to developing and implementing strategies to improve and manage hospital performance.

In addition, she has been recognized with the ability to navigate through complex challenges, build collaborative relationships and deliver consistent results. Dr. Willis Henderson is licensed in both the states of Alabama and Illinois where she serves as medical director of Randall Road Animal Hospital of Crystal Lake.

Dr. Willis Henderson is also a devoted wife and mother of two daughters, Chandler and Darian.

Dr. Dana Willis Henderson is a 2002 graduate of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Program. She is a second generation veterinarian with diverse experience in multi-unit corporate private practice that includes the West, Midwest and South regions. Dr. Willis Henderson has enjoyed a progressive fast paced career within the corporate industry and enjoys utilizing her expertise in training and development, organizational transformation and hospital performance turnarounds.
Distinguished Alumnus
Dr. Matthew Jenkins Presents First
Edition of His New Autobiography:
POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES:
My Game Plan for Success

A press release by Urban Classic Books (publisher) announced the presentation of Dr. Matthew Jenkins first edition autobiography which is a new book in which he shares his life secrets. Jenkins will present the first edition of his autobiography to Tuskegee University during the 52nd Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium on March 22-25, 2017 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.

Dr. Jenkins, a nationally-renowned businessman and philanthropist, is most certainly a man with a variety of interests, with the exception of retirement. He has been a farmer, researcher, Air Force captain, veterinarian, financier, real estate mogul, and university interim president. Jenkins adds the title of author to a lengthy list of accomplishments with the recent release of his autobiography POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES: MY GAME PLAN FOR SUCCESS, which may be purchased online through Amazon.com (284 pp., Urban Classic Books, $24.99).

A native of Alabama, Jenkins is a graduate of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (’57), a past member of the university’s Board of Trustees, in addition to serving as Tuskegee’s Interim President in 2013. He dedicated three years to writing his autobiography which provides engaging insight into the life experiences that both humbled and encouraged him on the road to his many accomplishments.

Without a trace of bitterness or regret, Jenkins recounts in his book how he lost his father at the age of two and was one of 10 children growing up on the family farm where they grew white and sweet potatoes, corn and soybeans, and raised cattle and hogs. Guided by their mother, Amelia, she imparted in all the Jenkins children the gospel of hard work, the importance of education and giving back to others.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Jenkins (also a Tuskegee graduate) have been very supportive of their alma mater. This past summer, they were also recognized by Claremont Graduate University’s Magazine, The Flame, for 30 years of philanthropy.

TVMAA Host 38th Annual
Fall Scientific Conference

The Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) held its 38th Annual Fall Scientific Conference on Nov. 10-16 in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. The annual conference since 1978 continues to focus on reviewing up-to-date trends in the veterinary medical profession, reviewing cutting-edge relevant scientific research and to offer members the opportunity to document continued education.

This year was no exception with alums engaged in diverse sessions under the leadership of Dr. Linda Bostick (’85) as the conference convener and Dr. Chuck Lowrie (’72) as the moderator. Sessions included the following: Dr. Keith Wiggins (’95) - “Understanding Generational Diversity from Telegrams to Twitter in Your Workplace;” Dr. Johnny Braddy (’76), currently one of highest ranking officers in the Public Health Service Corps, - “Public Health Challenges and the Impact of Veterinary Medicine;” Dr. Edward Mitchell (’95), TVMAA’s vice president, - "One Medicine Approach to Biohacking Your Body for Optimum Health;” Dr. Chandra Williams (’94) - “Sanitation and Safety in the Veterinary Environment;” Dr. Jacquelyn Tubbs (2006) – “Maintaining a Germ Free Facility;” Dr. Irving McConnell (’80) – “Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance;” Leah McConnell – “Engaging Alumni Using Social Media;” and Dr. Bonnie Barclay (’84) – “Fear Free Practice and Low Stress Handling;”
A special presentation was made by Dr. William T. Watson (’65), TVMAA member and Tuskegee National Alumni Association NE Regional Director on “Giving Back to Sustain the Legacy.” Dean Ruby Perry (’77) followed his presentation with a fundraising effort that led to accumulating additional funds for the “Sustaining Our Legacy $250K Veterinary Alumni Renovation Fund.”

Dr. Kyla Beguesse (2011) passed the American College of Veterinary Pathology (ACVP) examination and is now a board certified Anatomic Pathologist. She is currently in her second year Fellowship Program in Wisconsin. Beguesse completed her Anatomic Pathology Residency training in Pennsylvania but also served as a former Anatomic Pathology Intern in the Department of Pathobiology at Tuskegee CVM.

Dr. Gloria Dorsey, (’93) is the Vice President of Community Education and Advocacy at the Atlanta Humane Society (AHS). Dr. Dorsey has been on the staff as a veterinarian for AHS since 1996. She hosted an event for the AHS in the fall that was geared towards adults as an education opportunity for the entire metropolitan Atlanta community called “Living in Harmony with Coyotes.” The purpose of the seminar was to help residents learn techniques to un-invite coyotes in their communities without harming them and without having family pets become casualties to the coyote’s basic need to survive.


Dr. Moore performs regular physical exams on the captive dolphins at the IMMS. She says that having access to the animals in captivity provides a great resource for better understanding the life and health of dolphins.

Colonel Clifford Johnson (’69) was recognized at the Uniformed Veterinary Medicine Association Veterinary Corps 100 Birthday banquet celebration on June 2 for serving as Veterinary Corps Chief from 1991-94. Several activities in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Veterinary Corps was held June 1-3 in San Antonio, Texas. The culminating event was the unveiling of a sculpture honoring the Veterinary Corps at the Army Medical Department Museum at Fort Sam Houston.

Dr. William Watson (’65) is also the only Veterinary Corps Officer in the Army Museum at Ft. Sam.

Dr. Irving McConnell (’80), CEO of the McConnell Group, won his bid to be a member of the Tuskegee University Board of Trustees (BOT) during the August election. Dr. McConnell credits his success greatly to the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical family. He says, “To serve Tuskegee University as the Alumni Trustee is an honor and I am appreciative of the support.” McConnell was confirmed by the BOT in October and will serve a three-year term of office.

Dr. Jessica Dewar (2014) made a presentation during the 41st National Capital Area Branch (NCAB) for the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science Seminar this year. She is currently the FDA’s first clinical laboratory animal medical postdoctoral fellow at the White Oak campus in Silver Springs, Md. with the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

Dr. William Singleton (’91) also made a presentation during the 41st National Capital Area Branch (NCAB) for the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science Seminar this year. He is board certified in Laboratory Animal Medicine and is the Co-Founder and President of Animal Care Training Services (ACTS). ACTS was started in 2007 and was created to be an educational resource committed to improving operational efficiencies through technical training and staff development.

Attention 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.

Send your news to:
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riley@mytu.tuskegee.edu
The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE) at its fall meeting granted the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) full accreditation. The Council took this action during its Sept. 25-27, 2016 meeting. A formal statement has been placed on the AVMA’s website at https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Accreditation/Colleges/Documents/2016-September-Accreditation-Actions.pdf.

The AVMA COE is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) as the accrediting agency for colleges and schools of veterinary medicine in the United States. Accreditation is in keeping with the regulations of the USDE.

"The removal of probation status to achieve Accreditation through the AVMA represents a cumulative effort between administrators, faculty, staff and students. We are grateful for the leadership of Dean Ruby Perry in guiding this effort. We are also grateful for the AVMA in affirming Tuskegee’s storied tradition but now also what promises to be its equally storied trajectory," said Dr. Brian Johnson, president of Tuskegee University.

"I am proud of our faculty, staff, and especially our students. The attainment of full accreditation status for the College of Veterinary Medicine would not have been possible without their dedication and commitment. This has truly been a team effort from within our college to our administration within the University and our dedicated friends and alumni as well,” said Dr. Ruby Perry, dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.

After the initial site visit, the AVMA-COE placed the Tuskegee University veterinary medicine program on probationary status and scheduled the next focused site visit for Jan. 2016. Under the leadership of Dean Perry, the college took immediate steps to develop a plan to address the reported deficiencies and to help move the veterinary program toward full accreditation. The Tuskegee University Veterinary Medical Program has a fresh outlook on the future after removing all deficiencies.

TUCVM is the most racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse school of veterinary medicine in North America and the only veterinary medical school at a Historically Black educational institution. It is alma mater to more than 72% of all African American veterinarians and approximately 60% of African Americans currently pursuing a veterinary medical education are enrolled at Tuskegee.

VMTH Receives AAHA Accredited Notice
The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) gave notice to TUCVM that its Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) was reaccredited with them on Nov. 8, 2016. TUCVM’s VMTH has been an accredited practice member of the association since 1992. AAHA is a professional association of veterinary hospitals founded in 1933 and the only organization that provides accreditation for the veterinary practices throughout the U.S. and Canada.
TUCVM Host Second Annual Toy Drive for Tots at George Washington Carver Elementary School

As the 2016 fall semester came to a close, TUCVM wanted to share in the true spirit of this time of year which was to be thankful and giving. TUCVM showed the spirit of giving through hosting the Second Annual “Toy Drive for Tots” on Dec. 13 at the George Washington Carver (GWC) Elementary School located in Tuskegee.

“The 2016 ‘Toy Drive for Tots’ was a continuation of the inspired vision between the veterinary students and the TUCVM administration that was initiated last year by the Class of 2019. It was so successful and appreciated by the GWC faculty, administration and of course precious children that it was then decided that the TUCVM will keep the toy drive as an annual event,” said Dr. Ruby Perry, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

GWC Elementary School had a total of 259 boys and girls in all three classes consisting of pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade. TUCVM had the goal of providing each child in these classes with one gift. To accomplish this, the school was divided into three sections: TUCVM’s senior class (fourth year students) and Office of the Dean – gifts for the Pre-k children; TUCVM second and third year students – gifts for the kindergarten children; and TUCVM first year students and the faculty and staff – gifts for the first grade children.

Since the first year class (Class of 2020) was responsible for the holiday decorations in the veterinary college, they also took the lead with organizing the toy drive with the other veterinary students, and were also responsible for providing Santa and Santa’s elves. However, the Class of 2020 assisted them in making this year’s Toy Drive another successful activity of sharing. The TUCVM faculty and staff assisted as Santa’s helpers to distribute the toys to the students.

The teachers and administration at George Washington Carver Elementary School and the Macon County School Board were again very appreciative that the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine had continued the tradition from last year in selecting their students to participate in the “Toy Drive for Tots” program.

“Our TUCVM family is truly special and came together to make this year’s toy drive another success. Not only did the children enjoy the event but the veterinary college participants did as well. It truly is a great feeling to give and the delight in the children was special to all of us,” said Dr. Roslyn Casimir, associate dean for academic and student affairs in the TUCVM.
UCVM researchers have a major accomplishment to be proud of with the issuing of the United States Patent no. 9434976 for the rapid and more reliable detection of viable foodborne, biothreat pathogens and other infectious microbes using modified Polymerase Chain Reaction sample preparation. The researchers credited with this time-saving invention are Dr. Teshome Yehualaeshet, Dr. Temesgen Samuel, Dr. Woubit S. Abdela, and Dr. Tsegaye Habtemariam, all four faculty members in the CVM’s Department of Pathobiology.

It was just two years earlier that three of these researchers were credited with the issuing of a U.S. patent that allowed for the most time-saving method of determining food threat agents and foodborne pathogens in such items as meat, milk, and vegetables.

“As with our previous patent, we are again advancing research in microbiology detection. This time what is so unique about the discovery is not only do we save time but we also improve the accuracy of a technique by enabling the detection of viable or living organisms,” said Dr. Teshome Yehualaeshet, principal investigator for this research project funded by the National Center for Food Protection and Defense (NCFPD) currently renamed as Food Protection and Defense Institute (FPDI). Drs. Samuel, Abdela, and Habtemariam served as the co-investigators.

FPDI is one of the Homeland Security Centers of Excellence located at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities which supports a multidisciplinary, action-oriented research consortium to safeguard the food system comprehensively from farm to table. Tuskegee University is one of the minority institutes generously funded from the FPDI.

Dr. Francis (Frank) F. Busta, founding director and currently director emeritus for the FPDI, congratulates the research success and the novelty of the invention. Dr. Busta has supported the research at the Tuskegee University CVM and has been instrumental from the inception to the approval process of the patent.

Differentiation of viable and dead cells is an important challenge in microbial diagnostics. The two commonly used techniques for detecting viable microorganisms are culture and nucleic acid-based techniques. The traditional culture-based test is time-consuming. As well, some organisms are not easily culturable or may not even grow on a culture. Therefore, the molecular technique is rapid and it detects the presence of unique DNA sequence in the sample with a potential to identify more microbes.

The commonly used molecular technique to detect microorganism is Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). “The main drawback of PCR is that it detects the DNA both from dead and viable organisms,” Yehualaeshet said. However, the Tuskegee University CVM researchers’ patent enables detecting only the viable organisms which saves time and increases accuracy.

“During the sample preparation for PCR, we used a safe compound which will be ideal as a routine detection protocol for the presence of viable organisms. This invention will be mainly beneficial, but not limited, to the food industry to monitor biological decontamination, disinfection or the sanitation process.”

“Drs. Yehualaeshet, Abdela, Samuel and Habtemariam are to be commended for their scientific contributions to advance innovations in research that have led to this outstanding discovery. Once again, our researchers are continuously demonstrating that Tuskegee University has a record of accomplishments that make an impact on the world,” said Dr. Ruby Perry, dean of the Tuskegee University CVM.
PHI ZETA RESEARCH DAY AWARDS

Oral Presentation

1st place: Brandi Roseman (TUCVM 3rd year)
“Parkinson Disease Modeling in Parkin-Deficient Mice”

2nd place: Lantana Grub (TU undergrad, Pre-Vet)
“Effect of Pentoxifylline on the Motility of Canine Cauda and Corpus Epididymal Spermatozoa”

3rd place: Melissa Lopez (TUCVM 3rd year)
“Characterization of vascular remodeling in the canine brain following Traumatic Brain Injury”

Poster Presentation

1st place: Rawaf Faraj (TU Ph.D. Student)
“Novel Approach for Production of Recombinant E. coli Enterotoxin B and LipL21 from Leptospira for Development of a Vaccine against Leptospirosis”

2nd place: Robert Emeh (Alabama State Univ.)
“Novel Antimicrobial Peptide Mitigates Inflammation in Human Lung Cells Infected with Pseudomonas aeruginosa”

3rd place: India Howard (TUCVM 2nd year)
“Comparison of TransCinnamaldehyde and Curcuma Longa Application to Inhibit the Growth Salmonella Typhimurium Serotypes and its Antibiotics Resistance Profile”
One Health Initiatives: Current and Future Perspectives” was the theme for the 17th Annual Biomedical Research Symposium and Fifth Annual Phi Zeta Research Day held Sept. 15-16 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center and College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at Tuskegee University. It was co-chaired by Dr. Cheryl G. Davis (Graduate Public Health Studies program faculty member) and Dr. Teshome Yehualaeshet (Department of Pathobiology faculty member). Biomedical research is particularly important to create awareness of the issues that are most clearly linked to health disparities.

The annual symposium is organized by the Office of Research and Advanced Studies and the Biomedical Research Symposium Organizing Committee under the directorship of Dr. Ruby Perry, dean of the CVM, and Dr. Ayman Sayegh, associate dean for Research and Advanced Studies.

“The Symposium’s theme, ‘One Health Initiatives: Current and Future Perspectives,’ indicates the significance of inclusive collaborations and partnerships among scientists, health-care professionals and environmentally-related disciplines convening to share expertise on eliminating diseases and health conditions that affect human, animal and environmental health care,” said Dean Ruby Perry (CVM).

The Biomedical Research Symposium is an event that underscores the university’s commitment to and the importance of disciplines grounded in the biomedical sciences to come together to share views about the elimination of diseases and health issues that affect all populations but often disproportionately affect humans in the black belt counties of Alabama and the surrounding areas.

It is structured to engage students, community members, and research colleagues from Tuskegee University and neighboring universities as well as world renowned speakers, scientists, and educators together in a conversation on identified problems and ways to bring forth solutions and implement strategies to reduce health disparities.

Thursday and Friday sessions highlighted presentations from the views of scientists, health professionals, and public health activists to promote opportunities for changing the direction of health disparities.


Many other invited speakers participated as well from across campus in the College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences and other scientists, both domestic and international, and students in the veterinary college, Ph.D. and masters’ programs at Tuskegee University.

On Friday afternoon, the Fifth Annual Phi Zeta Research Day, closed out the symposium with students sharing research and translating research data with the scientific community as well as a diverse audience. The Phi Zeta Research Day recognizes and promotes scholarship and research in matters pertaining to the welfare and diseases of animals.

Due to the generous sponsorship from Zoetis, Purina, Bayer and Royal Canin, several students received awards as oral and poster presentation winners.
TU Veterinary Medical Program Welcomed First Year Veterinary Students: The Class of 2020

TU Veterinary Medical Program Welcomed First Year Veterinary Students (Class of 2020) with an orientation program on Aug. 16-17 at the college's Patterson Hall auditorium and atrium. The first day of class was Aug. 18 for all students at Tuskegee University.

Highlights of the various sessions to help orientate the new class of future veterinarians included: The Office of Veterinary Admissions; Office of Academic and Student Affairs; Office of Student Success; Office of Research and Advanced Studies; Departments of Biomedical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, and Pathobiology; T.S. Williams Veterinary Medical Library; Educational Programs and Instructional Technology; and Campus Public Safety. Students also enjoyed a presentation on the history of the college as well as a TUCVM Clubs and Organization Fair.

The 57 member TUCVM Class of 2020 consists of 43 females and 14 males from the states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North and South Carolina, Florida, Ohio, Delaware, Connecticut, Tennessee, Maryland, Nevada, New York, Colorado, Texas, California, Illinois, Indiana, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The Class of 2020 also showcases the diversity of the veterinary school with the following ethnicities represented: Asian/Pacific Islander, African American, Caucasian, and Puerto Rican.

Also, four students from the Class of 2020 are already Tuskegee University alumni and graduated from TU as undergraduates in 2016. They are: Aijah Bradford, Alexandria Bufford, Desiray Garcia, and Crystal Serrano.

The Class of 2020 also has six students who received early admittance into the veterinary medical program by majoring in animal poultry veterinary sciences as undergraduates along with meeting several strict criteria to be eligible for early assurance of admission (EAA) prior to the application deadline of the current year. These students are: Alirene Carver, Elizabeth Graham, Channing Hatchett, Kenneth Hiscocks, Imani Smith, and Ariel Truitt.

“We were truly pleased with the selection of students for our first year class of veterinary medical students. The Class of 2020 showcases the continued tradition of the veterinary program here at Tuskegee which is to show true diversity,” said Dean Ruby Perry.

The Class of 2020 was selected into the TUCVM program using the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) which is managed by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. To learn more about admittance into the veterinary program at Tuskegee, visit: http://www.onemedicine.tuskegee.edu/CVM_TU/admissions.htm.

TUCVM Participates in AAVMC VETMED Virtual College Fair

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) presented an online Vet Med Fair, sponsored by Liaison International on Thurs., July 14, in which TUCVM participated. Liaison International is the Boston based company that works with the AAVMC in operating the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS).

This interactive, virtual event was designed to showcase veterinary medical schools and provide a rare opportunity for high school students and other prospective students to interact with schools directly, according to Tony Wynne, the AAVMC’s director of admissions and recruitment affairs.

TUCVM was one of 11 veterinary medical schools that participated in the fair. The fair featured branded information such as videos and web information, as well as interactive online chats with representatives.

Details, such as exact times and the fair’s web addresses, were publicized through the AAVMC website, direct email marketing and through the VetSchool Student Engagement System’s (VSES) Pathways Newsletter.
Choosing the right college is one of the most important decisions students will make and a career in veterinary medicine requires thoughtful consideration and planning because students are required to move beyond the undergraduate degree. This was one of the messages the TUCVM Office of Veterinary Admissions, Recruitment and Retention wanted to be sure to get across to all the participants.

It is imperative to help even high school students navigate their course of study even when they begin their undergraduate studies.

The TUCM Open House provided high school students and their parents an opportunity to attain valuable information on pre-veterinary requirements and ways to enhance their academic path for a career in becoming a veterinarian.

A one-day schedule of events allowed the students and their parents to get an overview of veterinary medicine, hear presentations from veterinary faculty and students and a pre-veterinary presentation, plus go on a guided tour of the veterinary medical facilities.

TUCVM Provides CPR Training to Canine Rescue Unit

TUCVM’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VMTH) values its clients and patients and looks for ways to reach out to the community when possible. So, when Faye Ingram, one of the VMTH’s faithful clients, shared the scare she had with one of her rescue dogs while out on a call and realized the importance of CPR training, the VMTH Business Manager Daryll Brownlee shared the idea with the faculty. Small Animal Intern Dr. Jordan Abram jumped on the opportunity to turn this into an initiative to help the community and facilitated a “Doggie CPR Training” class on Nov. 14 for the Tallaco K9 Rescue Unit which is a 100% volunteer search and rescue team and also a member of the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads. Faye Ingram is the founder of the organization and has been using the TUCVM teaching hospital services for her pets and rescue dog team since 2006.

Dr. Abram provided the requested “Doggie CPR Training,” and provided some additional information related to other first aid concerns the rescue teams might encounter as well during their calls such as procedures for heat related issues. The participants were very appreciative of the course and the community service attitude of the VMTH. The Tallaco K9 Unit sent a special “Thank You” note to the VMTH for taking the time to teach CPR to the K9 Unit in Nov.

TUCVM Faculty Assists International Veterinary Student Association with Outreach Efforts in Nicaragua

Not only do the TUCVM faculty members in the VMTH help out in the local community, but some also seek out opportunities to help abroad. This was the case with Dr. Elizabeth Yorke, section chief and associate professor of Large Animal Surgery. Dr. Yorke selected to spend two weeks towards the end of August and early September with the International Veterinary Student Association providing veterinary care to working horses on the island of Ometepe, Nicaragua. Ometepe is an island in Lake Nicaragua that is made up of two volcanoes (one of them active). The place they served was a rural community that relies heavily on their animals for food, transport and work.

“There is a large amount of poverty and minimal veterinary care is available. Many of the animals are in poor body condition so our assistance was truly needed and appreciated. We treated 767 total animals in seven clinic days, including performing 92 surgeries,” Yorke said.

Some of the procedures performed on the horses were physical exams, castrations, dentistry, deworming, tumor removal, wound care, and anything else that was needed. Cats and dogs were spayed and neutered, dewormed, and received flea and tick preventative care.

Dr. Yorke shared some of her experiences on the trip including slides with faculty, staff and students during a lunch time presentation in October. She hopes to travel to Ometepe once a year to provide care to the animals.

TUCVM VET-STEP Program Gives Hands-On Experience

The TUCVM helped several rising 11th and 12th grade students get first-hand knowledge as to what it takes to become a veterinarian during its 2016 summer veterinary medicine program.

The Veterinary Science Training, Education, and Preparation Institutes (VET-STEP II) introduced the veterinary profession to rising 11th and 12th graders during the week of June 12-18. Rising 9th and 10th graders also got the opportunity to be exposed to the veterinary profession in VET-STEP I during the week of July 17-23.

Besides attending lectures on clinical veterinary medical concerns as well as environmental and public health issues, the students also took field trips to get an inside look at career options for veterinarians. Activities included classroom instruction, guest lectures, demonstrations, emergency case studies and numerous hands-on activities to familiarize minority youth with career options and career opportunities in the veterinary medical profession.

Students also participated in a veterinary profession field trip to the Montgomery Zoo to learn about exotic animals. Participants also visited two historical sites while in Montgomery, the Rosa Parks Museum and Civil Rights Memorial Museum.

VET-STEP is funded through the Division of Public Health and Interdisciplinary Education, Bureau of Health Professions and Health Resources and Services Administration in the Department of Health and Human Services.

The VET-STEP Program and Tuskegee University continues to help mold students for careers in veterinary medicine. VET-STEP has a proven track record of introducing minority high school students to the exciting careers in veterinary medicine.

The 2017 VET-STEP application process is now underway. More information is available at http://www.onemedicine.tuskegee.edu/VET_STEP.htm.
Dean Ruby Perry selected to have the early part of August be a time to help faculty and staff in the college refocus for the new academic year. Faculty and Staff Development Workshops were held on Aug. 2, 5 and 11.

August 2nd Faculty Development Leadership Workshop: On Aug. 2, Leadership Workshop presenter Mr. Carl Sharperson shared some helpful information with TUCVM’s faculty to encourage them to be even better leaders. Sharperson’s presentation was entitled, “The Elements of Building a Successful Team as a Leader.” He is a Leadership Innovation Strategist and takes leaders from being mediocre, to maximizing their confidence.

August 5th Faculty Development Workshop: The August 5th Faculty Development Workshop was mandatory due to the nature of the material covered. The morning session focused on the federal laws pertaining to Title IX and ADA accommodations. Attorney Kasey Robinson, who serves as the university’s Title IX Coordinator, and Ardelia Lunn, who serves as the university’s counselor coordinator for the Counseling Center, both made presentations. The afternoon session focused on informational technology in the classroom covering Blackboard training and general technology assistance.

August 11th Staff Development Workshop: The CVM’s administrative staff participated in Session One of a Professional Development Workshop which focused on Effective Communication. The topics covered included: Writing Effective and Appropriate Email memorandums; Effective Telephone Techniques: Greeting and Phone Etiquette; and Assertive Skills for the Administrative Assistant. Catina Woods, executive assistant to the dean, served as the workshop’s presenter. More workshops are being planned for the future.

CVM Faculty Publications


CVM Pathobiology colleagues -- Dr. Roslyn Casimir-Whittington (Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs/Associate Professor), Dr. Sammy Gorham (Associate Professor), and Dr. Deloris Alexander (Integrative Biosciences Ph.D. Program Director/Associate Professor; R. Casimir-Whittington, S. Gorham, D. Alexander, C. Lane, L. Moore-Lewis, J. Sumbry, R. Whittington, and A. Adams (2016): Serological and haematological values in geriatric Broad Breasted White Turkeys, British Poultry Science, DOI: 10.1080/00071668.2016.1250248.

Dr. Deepa Bedi (Assistant Professor of Physiology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences) received a research award of $147,000 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the period 2016-2019. Her project is entitled, “Phage Display to Identify epithelial to Mesenchymal Transitioned (EMT) Breast Cancer Cells.” Dr. Ebony Gilbreath (Associate Professor – Pathobiology Dept.) and Dr. Deloris Alexander (Associate Professor/Director, IBS Ph.D. Program) obtained a multi-institutional NIH R25 grant award for the project titled “Toxicology Mentoring and Skills Development Training Program." Dr. Gilbreath and Dr. Alexander are serving as Co-PI’s for a two year period from July 2016 - July 2018. The award summary amount for two years is $697,791.00.

Dr. Alexander was also invited back to attend the Reunion Event for the "Champions of Change" on Dec. 5, 2016. She was one of those recognized by the White House as a “Champions of Change” honoree last year. President Obama cited these individuals as people doing extraordinary things to make a difference in their community.

Tabitha Nelms (Administrative Assistant, Department of Biomedical Sciences) joined the TUCVM family during the fall 2016 semester. Ms. Nelms is a native of Auburn, AL. In 2013, she graduated from Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) with a B.S. in Business Administration majoring in Finance. Nelms brings to Tuskegee University skills gained through her education and nine years of professional experience in a variety of fields including finance and office administration. Previously, she has worked as an Administrative Assistant with Alabama Mentor and in banking as a Financial Service Representative.

CVM Say Farewell to Dedicated Faculty at Luncheons

Dr. Cheryl G. Davis was wished the very best as she has embarked on her new journey as Executive Director for Gift of Life Foundation. Effective Oct. 31, Dr. Davis, former Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives and External Relations, resigned from this position but has remained in the College as a part-time faculty member in the Graduate Public Health Program. Dr. Davis was instrumental in her role to strengthen alumni support and resource development for the College. A luncheon was held in her honor on Oct. 19 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.

The TUCVM Office of Admissions and Recruitment also hosted a farewell recognition luncheon for Dr. Shannon Boveland on Dec. 14. Dr. Boveland, former Director of Admissions, Recruitment and Retention and Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences, was honored by fellow colleagues at a luncheon at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. She will be missed but will still serve as an adjunct professor. Her specialty is veterinary ophthalmology.

Thank YOU...TUCVM Faculty, Staff and Students: Thank you for making our “Give Me 5” Challenge a success! The focus was on numbers. Even though we did not reach our goal of 100%, it was a great day filled with music, goodies and fellowship.

Faculty: 44/50 (88%) Staff: 44/56 (78%) Total Amount: $1,235.00

Congratulations to the winners of the drawing!!!

Dr. Sammy Gorham - Tracker Bracelet
Dr. Shannon Boveland - Wireless Speaker

Eugene Johnson - Wireless Speaker
Beverly Marable - I-Phone Case

The “Give Me 5” ended Oct. 21, 2016.
TUCVM Students Get Equine Palpation Simulator Experience

Fourth-year veterinary students are getting palpation simulator experience to enhance student engagement and learning under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Yorke, Section Chief for the TUCVM Large Animal Hospital. Veterinary students on the large animal medicine and surgery rotation practice their transrectal palpation skills on the Equine Colic Palpation Simulator, a life-size model with movable abdominal organs designed to simulate different types of colic. Veterinary Simulator Industries Ltd. creates animal simulators that allow veterinary students to become proficient in their diagnostic skills without the need to endanger or cause unnecessary discomfort to live animals.

“The Equine Colic Palpation Simulator allows us to teach veterinary students the fundamentals of diagnostic skills before progressing to live horses. This helps the students to become comfortable with the procedure and is also a helpful study tool prior to exams because students are able to practice as much as they would like without causing discomfort to an animal,” York said.

TUCVM Holds Annual White Coat Ceremony

TUCVM held its Annual White Coat Ceremony at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Tuskegee University on Nov. 7 for the Class of 2018. Members of the Class of 2018 (junior class) were given “white coats” to welcome them to the clinic portion of the veterinary medical curriculum. Each student had an embroidered white coat displaying their name and state emblem, along with their school’s name. A total of 67 Tuskegee veterinary medical third-year students were recognized and presented white coats while guests witnessed the ceremony and enjoyed an evening of fellowship.

TUCVM Students Inducted in the National Society of Leadership and Success

TUCVM students Tiffany Jackman and Shune Kimura (both members of the Class of 2017) also attended the AAEP conference with Dr. Elizabeth Yorke, associate professor and section chief, TUCVM Large Animal Hospital, who also advised Mr. Gruber with the preparation of his poster. “It was great to have several Tuskegee students involved at the equine conference on the national level. I also commend Mr. Gruber for his outstanding work on his poster presentation,” Yorke said.

Khali Jones AAHABV Scholarship Recipient

TUCVM student Khali Jones (Class of 2019) is the recipient of the 2016 American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians (AAHABV) Student Scholarship. Jones is the current secretary for the TUCVM Human Animal Bond/Animal Behavior (HABAB) Club.

Brandi Roseman Gets Anne Blair Harrison Endowed Scholarship

TUCVM student Brandi Roseman (Class of 2018) is the recipient of the Anne Blair Harrison Endowed Scholarship. The Anne Blair Harrison Endowed Scholarship was established by the Anne Blair Harrison estate to support veterinary medical education in Alabama. The recipient must be a female resident of Alabama, have and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA, demonstrate a financial need and exhibit determination and aptitude to complete the veterinary medical curriculum.

TUCVM Students Participate in AAEP Conference

TUCVM student Neil Gruber (Class of 2017) was selected as a poster presenter at the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) on Dec. 3-7 in Orlando, Fla. Mr. Gruber entered the national contest through the AAEP for veterinary students and was selected as one of the top three posters in the country to be presented during the conference. Gruber’s poster focused on a case he worked on with Dr. Jack Easley (TUCVM alum) in Kentucky. It was displayed on the wall in the Large Animal Hospital for faculty and students to view.

TUCVM Eminent and University Scholars

During the 2016 Fall Honors Convocation, TUCVM students Miguel Nieves-Maldonado (Class of 2017) was honored as a University Scholar and Morgan Early (Class of 2019) as an Eminent Scholar. Eminent Scholars have to maintain a GPA of 4.0 and qualify for the annual Honor Roll. Each year, one student is designated as a University Scholar in each college. To qualify, a student must be eligible for annual Honor Roll, be the top ranking student who has completed at least 90 hours but no more than 110 hours in the college and show exemplary personal qualities as attested by the college’s Dean.

TUCVM Students Inducted in the National Honor Society

TUCVM students Demitrius Washington (Class of 2018), Morgan Early (c/o 2019), Frederianna McElvene (c/o 2018), Janna Hunt (c/o 2018), Travis Miller (c/o 2018), and Christopher Parmar (c/o 2018) have been inducted into the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success. The Society is the nation’s largest leadership honor society. Students are selected by their college for membership based on either academic standing or leadership potential. Candidacy is a nationally recognized achievement of honorable distinction. With 522 chapters, the Society currently has 655,151 members nationwide.
Carl Mervil Cousins was born October 13, 1932, in Victoria, Virginia. He was the youngest of four sons born to the late Lucious J. and Annie Dowdy Cousins. His brothers Alphus B., Marquis L. and Rhoeus L. Cousins preceded him in death. His parents instilled in their family the values of honesty, reliability, loyalty, respect and hard work. Dr. Cousins was taught to treat women like he treated his mother and to love God with all of his heart.

He was educated in the Victoria Public School System. In 1948, Cousins graduated class valedictorian of Lunenburg High School. He received his Bachelor’s of Science degree from Virginia State College. At the age of nineteen, he was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the United States Army in 1952. Cousins served two years of active duty and was a veteran of the Korean War. His studies were continued in 1955 by entering Tuskegee University, where he received his Doctorate Degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1959. After graduation, “Doc” was recruited by the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine as an instructor of Small Animal Medicine & Surgery and a Rotational Residency Program.

Cousins was an African-American pioneer in Veterinary Medicine. When he entered the field, there were no African-American students, faculty, or African-American veterinarians in private practice in the state of Pennsylvania. In 1960 Cousins passed the Pennsylvania State Veterinarian Medical and Surgical Examination and received his license to practice Veterinary Medicine and Surgery in Pennsylvania. Dr. Cousins established his own highly respected small animal practice, Haverford Animal Hospital, in Haverford, Pa. in 1961. Haverford Animal Hospital served as a resource for students interested in careers in Laboratory Animal Medicine or Veterinary Medicine.

Governor Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania appointed Dr. Cousins to the Pennsylvania Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Examiners. He served 12 years on the state board, two of those years as the chairman of the board. Cousins was the first African-American to serve on a Veterinarian State Board of Examiners in the USA and the National State Board of Examiners. He also enjoyed a rich and rewarding career as a guest lecturer and a member of various committees at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. His passion for education kept him involved in medicine for most of his life. He was a career mentor for young students at Cornell University, Penn State University (Delaware Campus), Cheyney University and the Philadelphia and Suburban School Systems. Cousins also worked with his friend Dr. Leonard Johnson at the Bright Hope Baptist Church Academy.

At the urging of the neighborhood, Dr. Cousins opened his second successful animal hospital on Fairmount Avenue, Philadelphia, PA in 1976. This practice was also a training facility for new veterinarians. Cousins worked diligently in the field of veterinary medicine, before and after retirement.

On April 14, 1962, Carl married the love of his life, Althea L. Edmiston. They enjoyed 54 years of marriage. Left to cherish his memory, along with his wife, are two daughters and four grandchildren. Dr. Cousins passed on Dec. 4 and his funeral was held on December 17, 2016 in Wynnewood, Pa.

Mr. Mark Stinson

Our beloved staff member and friend in the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM), Mr. Mark Stinson, passed on November 10, 2016. His funeral service was held at the Tuskegee University Chapel on Nov. 17.

Mr. Stinson, lovingly called “Mark” by the TUCVM, was born to the late Doris Wooldridge McDaniel on July 24, 1954 in Roba, Ala. He was a member of Antioch Baptist Church in Union Springs, Ala. Mark graduated from South Macon High School on 1974. He was employed with West Point Pepperell Mill in 1978 and later gained employment with Tuskegee University in 1982.

During his time at Tuskegee University, Mark served the TUCVM for a dedicated 34 years as a freight carrier until his untimely passing.

He leaves to cherish his memory two sons, two daughters, two sisters, three brothers, nine grandchildren, 14 nieces and nephews, and many more family and friends as well as his TUCVM family.
IN THE SPOTLIGHT...
Distance Learning Education at TUCVM

Mediasite Technology is Making a Difference!

The Mediasite webcast technology has proven to be a powerful distance education teaching tool for the College of Veterinary Medicine. Mediasite, by Sonic Foundry, Inc., is allowing the college to record and deliver online learning, interactive lectures and multimedia presentations automatically via the most reliable and most complete webcasting and knowledge management platform. Mediasite Team Members Samina Akhter, systems analyst/college webmaster, and Monday Offem, image database manager/systems analyst/team leader - CVM IT Group, have overseen the Mediasite system and shared some impressive results with faculty members and administration based on the Fall Semester 2016. Akhter prepared a Mediasite Analytic Report that detailed the progress of the students’ academic success rates and outcomes. The information shared with professors included:

1. Student Evaluations and Statistics
2. Success rate of Mediasite Technology
3. Individual Course Statistics taught for the Fall Semester and
4. Individual Instructors Statistics taught for the Fall Semester

“I am excited to share the results of the Mediasite Technology for the fall semester. Mediasite helped improve our veterinary students’ success rates,” said Akhter, college webmaster/Mediasite team member. I distributed evaluation forms to the first year students and out of the students who participated, we got some exciting news. The evaluation statistics shows that 95% of the students agreed that the Mediasite technology helped them to improve their class grades. Also, according to the classroom instructors, the students have not only improved in their grades but also in learning capacity,” Akhter said.

“Hopefully, Mediasite statistics can be helpful in future reports deemed appropriate for the college usage as well.”

The Mediasite webcast technology is another innovative step in moving the CVM’s curriculums forward. It is currently being used to record lectures in courses such as gross anatomy, physiology, microanatomy, and molecular biology. Mediasite webcasting technology is also helpful to professors for clinical surgery information to be reinforced for students as well.

This innovative technology is also designed to help students prepare for studying for their licensing board examinations and help students in the Graduate Public Health Program take advantage of the courses on the site as well. For more information on distance learning education at the TUCVM, visit http://www.onemedicine.de.tuskegee.edu/.
SYMPOSIUM
2017 VETERINARY SYMPOSIUM

Uniformed Veterinary Medicine:
Observing 100 Years of Service of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps

Honoring the Reunion Classes of:

52nd Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium
MARCH 22-25, 2017
Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center at Tuskegee University

College of Veterinary Medicine
Tuskegee, AL