

TUSKEGEE VETERINARY MEDICAL
PERSPECTIVE

2023

VOL. 46

Care.
Commitment.
Compassion.

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). I wish you all Happy Holidays and best wishes for a safe, healthy, prosperous, and Happy New Year!

2023 has been an extremely busy year for the college as will be evident in this issue of the *Veterinary Medical Perspective* magazine. Also, in this issue, we are giving special emphasis on the many research accomplishments by several of our TUCVM researchers. Please enjoy reading about the research advances that are highlighted under the Research News section. Dr. Temesgen Samuel serves as our Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies (RAS) and all research activities for the college are monitored by the RAS office.

With this being said, one of our recent accomplishments in research is featured in this issue and focuses on another U.S. Patent. Congratulations to Dr. Deepa Bedi, faculty member in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, on receiving a patent for her innovative breast cancer research. Also, through her work as Principal Investigator (PI) and contact, Dr. Bedi was instrumental in the Tuskegee University Research Centers in Minority Institutions Center for Biomedical Research (TU RCMI CBR) recently receiving an over \$20 million grant award for a five-year period from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). Also, you will read about the accomplishments of several other phenomenal researchers such as Dr. Pawan Puri, Dr. Benjamin Adu-Addai, Dr. Woubit Abebe, Dr. Ehsan Abdalla, and Dr. Samuel.

As you browse the *Perspective*, take time to note the continuation of the Legacy Tribute page which in this issue, we salute mother and daughter alums Dr. Melba Smith Morrow and Dr. Morganne Morrow. I love that we have legacies featured in each issue as it shows the continuous strength of our college to be determined to sustain for future generations.

This issue highlights a combination of events and accomplishments to include several developments from our dedicated industry partners, and the outstanding contributions and achievements from our faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Also a special welcome to our new veterinary alumni...the recent graduates of the Class of 2023!

I look forward to seeing you at the 58th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium in which we will be back in historic Downtown Montgomery, Alabama, at the **Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center on March 13-16, 2024**. So mark your calendars and plan to attend! Our Symposium theme is *"Providing a Spectrum of Care and Exploring Innovations to Enhance Veterinary Medical Healthcare."* Communications are forthcoming on registration, hotel accommodation and more. We will be honoring the 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**. As always, please be mindful to self-care and remain safe and healthy. Once again, I wish all of you the very best in 2024 and look forward to seeing you at the Annual Veterinary Symposium!

Sincerely,

Ruby L. Perry, DVM, Ph.D., DACVR

Dean and Professor of Veterinary Radiology

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TUCVM had 23 excellent, intelligent, hard-working, dedicated black male students in our program for the 2022-23 academic year. Our photo includes 14 of these men with Dean Ruby L. Perry and listed are the following: Robert McGowan III (Los, Angeles, CA), Desmond McLeod (Detroit, MI), Kyle Frett (British VI/Warner Robins, GA), Adam Varella (Silver Spring, MD), Derrel B. Wilright (St. Rose, LA), Justin Hodrick (Houston, TX), Tyson Wilder (Atlanta, GA), Mark Harden (Southfield, MI), Jordy Oriental (Queens, NY), Ryan Huckaby (Fort Worth, TX), McCoy Williams (Virginia Beach, VA), Bryce Peterson (Taylor, TX), Charles Walker (Chicago, IL) and Johnathan Floyd (Easley, SC). Not included in the photo are: CLASS OF 2023: Warren Miles, Olivier Moussignac, and Kristopher Vine, CLASS OF 2024: Terrance Mitchell, CLASS OF 2025: Evan Griggs, Parrish Priestler, and Lowry Poletti, CLASS OF 2026: Austin Goodwin and Kevin McGhaw.

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Some photographs courtesy of other contributors

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

Tuskegee's Veterinary Medicine College is Sustaining It's Legacy through \$5 Million in Industry Partnerships

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) is fortunate to engage in many industry partnerships under the leadership of Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the college. Dean Perry has advocated for student support in the form of scholarships and external learning experiences. The intentional and impactful partnerships have been instrumental in positioning the TUCVM to provide meaningful support to veterinary students and sustain the legacy of training and educating underrepresented minorities as veterinarians for the veterinary profession.

"Since August 2020, financial support such as grants and scholarships received from industry partnerships have resulted in over \$5 million for TUCVM students and academic programs. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the many industry partnerships we have formed to financially assist our students and further veterinary medical

education here at Tuskegee. I as well as the Tuskegee veterinary family extend appreciation to our valued stakeholders for helping to Sustain Our Legacy," Dean Perry said.

Of the thousands of veterinarians in the United States, only 2% are African Americans and of this number, 70% are graduates of TUCVM. "We are proud to have claim to this statistic and the recognition of being the most diverse college of veterinary medicine in the nation. Compared to many other institutions, Tuskegee is small but impactful," concluded Dean Perry.



"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 the TUCVM's legacy.

TUCVM appreciates your continued support.

For donation questions, please contact L. Kay Allen, Executive Director of Resource Development and External Relations, 334-724-4178; lkallen@tuskegee.edu

In just a three-year time span, TUCVM has established relationships with two dozen Industry Partners and more in the future pipeline. The current industry partnerships include the following: **Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA), American Humane, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF), Banfield Pet Hospital, Boehringer Ingelheim, Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity (CARE), EveryCat Health Foundation, Hill's Pet Nutrition, IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Merck, Nestle Purina PetCare, NVA Compassion-First, PetDesk, Royal Canin U.S.A., Synchrony Foundation, Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Veterinary Practice Partners (VPP), and Zoetis.**

Many of the industry partners have a long-time commitment to supporting veterinary medical students and university diversity initiatives throughout the United States. These partners are also providing scholarships to promote diversity in the field of veterinary medicine as well as impact student debt load and provide resources to increase financial literacy across veterinary students. In addition, some industry partners are also strong supporters of mental health awareness programs as part of efforts to support the veterinary industry and students in completing their veterinary medical degree and be leaders in the veterinary profession.

About the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) established in 1945, is the only veterinary medical professional program located on the campus of a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in the United States. The College continues to advance its mission of educating underrepresented groups needed to address the growing domestic and global veterinary and public health needs in a diverse society. Today, with over 3,000 graduates, the TUCVM has educated more than 70 percent of the nation's African American veterinarians and is recognized as the most diverse of all accredited schools/colleges of veterinary medicine in the U.S. Thus, its sustainability remains at the forefront to continue providing a quality education to veterinary medical graduates to meet societal needs and position the College as a leader in the veterinary profession.

Industry Partner Synchrony Foundation Team visits TUCVM three times and Engages with Administration, Scholarship Recipients and Students



Synchrony Team with TUCVM scholarship recipients during Fall 2022 visit.



Synchrony Team with Dean Perry and scholarship recipients during Spring 2023 visit.



Ron Broader's Family Members (three Tuskegee alumni/one current student) visit together on August 30, 2023.



Synchrony makes \$400,000 big check presentation to TUCVM with Dean Perry and team and scholarship recipients during Fall 2023 visit.



Industry partner Synchrony Foundation continued showing its support of veterinary medical education here at Tuskegee University by making three trips to our campus during 2022 and 2023. Their first trip was

early in the fall semester on September 14, 2022, in which the Synchrony Team came to learn more about our historic campus, meet with the TUCVM leadership, the scholarship committee, the 2020-21 scholarship recipients (**Alexandria Brown** and **Brandynn Alston**) as well as meet with the university's development director. During this visit, TUCVM was excited to host members from the Synchrony Foundation to include Denise Yap (Synchrony Foundation President), Jonathan Wainberg (Vice President & General Manager – Pet Synchrony Health & Wellness), Marcus Proctor (Senior Vice President, Client Initiatives – Lifestyle), and Boo Larsen (Vice President & General Manager, Veterinary Profession CareCredit, a Synchrony Solution).

During their fall 2022 visit, one highlight of Synchrony's visit to TUCVM was the opportunity for TUCVM's two Synchrony Scholarship student recipients to both meet with the Synchrony team and share their appreciation for the scholarships they received and their plans as future veterinarians. The Synchrony team also had the special opportunity to observe both the first year and second year veterinary students in the classroom in their real-time learning environments and have some candid conversations afterwards.

During their spring visit on April 11, 2023, Synchrony team members Danielle Niccoli (Vice President, Strategic Partners & Associations) and Marcus Proctor (SVP, Client Initiatives Leader) attended the CareCredit lunch and learn student presentation entitled "Veterinarians' Commitment to Providing A Lifetime of Care for Pets" and then visited and took a photo with TUCVM scholarship recipients 2022-23 **Austin Goodwin, Janelle Benton, Aulisea Thomas, Latoya Bryant, Shalinda McMahon** and **Taylor Smith** (scholarship recipients not in the photo were **Alexandria Brown** and **Brandynn Alston**).

Several members of Synchrony's Leadership Team came to TUCVM on August 30, 2023, to include the following: Len Ricks (Assistant Vice President - Network Expansion), Nikki Johnson (Vice President - Marketing), Marcus Proctor (Senior Vice President – Client Initiatives), and Jonathan Wainberg (Senior Vice President/General Manager – SynchronyPet). This visit included a full day of several activities that began with a special roundtable discussion led by Ron Broader (Synchrony's Assistant Vice President/Credit Sales Manager) to discuss the Broader family members' alumni impact as Tuskegee University graduates representing three generations of Tuskegee graduates. Broader family members included in the roundtable were Shirley Turpin '76 alum, Bessie Turpin Beachem '78 alum, Valencia Turpin 2005 alum,

and also joining the group was a current student Danae Johnson (a sociology major in the Class of 2025). Afterwards two interviews with Dean Perry were held discussing Synchrony's Health & Wellness partnerships opportunities and Dean Perry's pioneering efforts/vision. A major highlight for the visit was the vignette of Synchrony Scholarship Awardees from 2022-23 and 2022-24 (selected so far) to have the opportunity to speak with Synchrony's leadership team and share their stories and messages/impact statements as to how they are benefitting from Synchrony's financial support towards their veterinary medical education journeys. The scholarship recipients in the interview sessions included: **Brandynn Alston, Janelle Benton, Alexandria Brown, Latoya Bryant, Austin Goodwin, Shalinda McMahon, Taylor Smith, Aulisea Thomas, Lakiyah Durham,** and **Lindsay Corbin**. After a luncheon with student recipients, Synchrony made a big check presentation in the amount of \$400,000 to Dean Perry to show their commitment to provide this additional future financial support to TUCVM that will also include more scholarships for veterinary students. Synchrony's Team closed out their visit at TUCVM with a meeting with Dean Perry to discuss other focus areas/potential opportunities and the 2023/24 Strategic Vision. "The support of Synchrony for our students and the presentation of an additional \$400,000 more in commitment to our college is again evidence of this partnership to grow educational and training opportunities for Tuskegee veterinary students and support the goal of attaining greater diversity in the veterinary industry," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of TUCVM.

"I am appreciative to the Synchrony team for taking time from their busy schedules over several visits to come to Tuskegee and meet with the college's leadership, scholarship committee, the university's development director and engage with our students. I have sincere gratitude to Synchrony as well as to our other industry partners for being intentional about supporting the college's educational programs and our veterinary students by providing scholarships to assist them in their veterinary educational journeys," Dean Perry concluded.

Before leaving Tuskegee, the Synchrony team during their first and third visits toured both the veterinary college and the university campus to learn more about the rich history here at Tuskegee University. In addition, the team added visiting the Tuskegee Airmen Museum also before leaving Tuskegee on August 30 and shared that they looked forward to continuing their partnership with Tuskegee and returning for future visits.

Industry Partner IDEXX CEO and Other Team Members Visit TUCVM, Meet with Scholarship Recipients and Tour University Campus



TUCVM Team with IDEXX Team



IDEXX CEO with Dean Perry and Scholarship Recipients

TUCVM is very appreciative to our industry partner IDEXX for taking time to come make a two-day visit to the college showing its continued support of veterinary medical education here at Tuskegee University. Six members of the IDEXX Team to include CEO Jay Mazelsky, Chief of Staff Galina Hanson, Chief Human Resources Officer Michael Johnson, Director for Global Corporate Responsibility Caroline Rossignol, Senior Director for Talent Acquisition David Bell, Vice President for Global Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jason Johnson plus Veterinary Social Worker Consultant Dr. Pamela Linden all visited TUCVM on October 4-5, 2022.

Along with meeting the future veterinarians/IDEXX Scholarship student recipients for 2021-22 and 2022-23, the IDEXX team met with other Tuskegee University administration members to include the various Deans and/or their representatives for the College of Agriculture, Environment & Nutrition Sciences, the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Business & Information Science, the College of Engineering, and the Director of Tuskegee University's Career Education/

Leadership Development Center, to discuss career opportunities with IDEXX. In addition, the entire veterinary student body had the opportunity to attend a Lunch and Learn dialogue to learn as well about career opportunities with IDEXX.

IDEXX Scholarship recipients included the following: **Brittany Howard, Justin Hodrick and Sydney Johnson** for 2021-22 and **Chloe Adams-White, Kyle Frett and Stephanie Hall** for 2022-23.

"We are especially thankful to the entire IDEXX team for taking time out of their busy schedules to visit us here at Tuskegee University for two days to not only learn more about us up close and personal but also to engage with our students and share career opportunities for veterinary students as well as for undergraduate students," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of TUCVM.

The IDEXX team got to also learn more about the rich history here at Tuskegee University by participating in a campus tour during their visit. "I was deeply moved and inspired by my visit to TUCVM to see first-hand the impact of our collaboration. Thank you to Dean Perry and the greater TUCVM community for providing the opportunity to learn more about the impressive work happening at TUCVM to foster greater diversity within the veterinary industry and support our future veterinary leaders," shared Jay Mazelsky, IDEXX President and Chief Executive Officer.

Tuskegee's Veterinary Medical Alumni Association has established two monumental efforts to assist the College of Veterinary Medicine



The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine is grateful for the establishment of two distinct programs in the college supported by the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA): The TVMAA Endowed Scholarship program and The TVMAA Endowed Chair.



The TVMAA Endowed Scholarship was established with a \$45,000 gift from the veterinary medical alumni association. Tuskegee's veterinary scholarship committee identifies the awardees

annually, based upon criteria developed by the college. This scholarship is established to provide financial assistance for TUCVM students with demonstrated financial need. It is intended to supplement other financial resources available to the recipients to allow them to continue their veterinary medical education at the TUCVM. Upon graduation, recipients are encouraged to join the TVMAA and support the objectives of the organization and continue giving back to help sustain the legacy of the college.

The TVMAA Endowed Professorship (Chair) was established with two TVMAA fund raising campaigns utilizing veterinary alumni giving. The amount raised during these campaigns totaled \$2.5 million. The purpose of this endowed chair is to provide significant financial support for an outstanding faculty member who will enhance and advance clinical sciences. The Chair will enable the college to hire and retain talented and committed faculty who will strengthen academics, clinical practice and research programs, as well as inspire students to be future leaders in the veterinary medical profession.

"We are grateful to the TVMAA for their continued support of the college. The decision of the Executive Board at its annual meeting to establish a TVMAA Endowed Scholarship and Endowed Chair is a monumental decision that will positively affect the lives of our students and our educational programs," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.

"The spirit of this scholarship and endowed chair both align with the mission and vision of our college to sustain the legacy of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, not just for our students now but for the generations to come. The TVMAA's commitment to 'Mother Tuskegee' and its alma mater will not only support students in the professional DVM program on track to becoming career-ready veterinarians, but also clinical and research faculty to teach and train our next generation of future veterinarians," Dean Perry said.

The TVMAA encourages its members to give back to the TUCVM and partners with the college in fundraising activities, in particular those activities that directly benefit the academic and student programs. In addition, the association provides financial support to assist veterinary student organizations.

About the TVMAA

The Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Association, Inc (TVMAA), is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization

composed of graduates and friends of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. The objective of the TVMAA is to support the advancement of veterinary medicine at the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM), its ideals and programs. The TVMAA works toward mobilizing alumni and friends' support for the TUCVM. The Association takes special pride in also maintaining liaison and working relationships with the organizational structure at all levels, with the faculty, staff, students, veterinary alumni, administration, trustees, and other such groups with the goal to foster the program of the TUCVM. To learn more, visit www.tvmaa.org.

TUCVM is Thankful for Alum's Donation of an Intercom System for Postmortem Building



In fall 2022 semester, thanks to the generous donation of alum Dr. Georgette Hill McCray, Class of 1992, to the Department of Pathobiology in honor and memory of a long-time, former employee in the Department of the Pathobiology - Mr. Claude Moss, an intercom system was purchased and installed in the newly renovated postmortem building. The intercom system is placed between two observation windows that are within the necropsy classroom and overlook the necropsy laboratory, enabling communication and engagement with students and other learners outside of the laboratory.



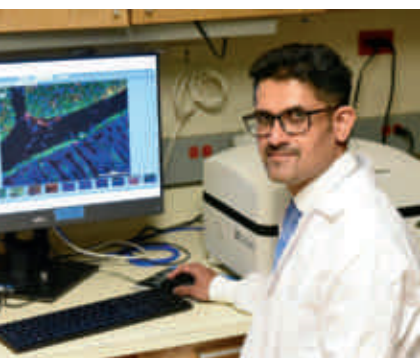
Mr. Claude Moss was the necropsy technician within the Department of Pathobiology from May of 1975 to June of 2012. In his 37 years of service, he was

always kind, dependable and hardworking and was an invaluable asset to the department. Mr. Moss made a positive impact on everyone he encountered and was a valued member of the Tuskegee family. He departed this life on December 30, 2020. 🌹

Dr. Pawan Puri Receives Over \$580K NIH Grant for Stomach Cancer Research



(In Photo L to R) Dr. Puri's lab members: Gabriella Turnipseed (MS Veterinary Science Student/DVM 1st yr. student), Esraa Alnahrawy (IDPB PhD student), Dr. Pawan Puri (PI), Fentahun Abate (IDPB PhD student), and Dr. Athema Etzioni (TUCVM Associate Professor/IDPB PhD student).



Dr. Pawan Puri, associate professor in TUCVM's Department of Biomedical Sciences, has been awarded a four-year \$580,950 SuRE (R16) grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to define the role of PKA signaling in stomach in-

flammation, preneoplastic lesions and *Helicobacter pylori* infection. "With the help of this grant award, my hope is that we will have a better understanding of the misregulated PKA signaling as a possible contributor to stomach inflammation and pre-cancerous lesions; and that knowledge can help develop future preventative and rational treatment strategies for gastric cancer," said Dr. Puri. The grant period is July 17, 2023 - April 30, 2027. Dr. Puri gives a special thank you acknowledgement to the following individuals for the support they have given through support letters for this grant award: Dr. Temesgen Samuel (TUCVM-Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies), Dr. Ebony Gilbreath (TUCVM-Associate Dean for Academic Affairs), Dr. Channapatna Prakash (Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, TU), Dr. Bradley Yoder (UAB, Professor/Chairperson Cell, Development and Integrative Biology), and Dr. Juanita L. Merchant (Regents Professor & Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, University of Arizona Cancer Center, Tucson).

Prior to this recent grant award, Dr. Puri also had another SCORE (SC2) grant completed titled "Protein Kinase A (PKA) Signaling in the Cystogenesis and

Dedifferentiation of Proximal Tubules." In Dr. Puri's lab, his research has been focused on how cells communicate with one another to perform various functions. He is interested in understanding how cellular and molecular crosstalks execute organ development and how the reactivation of the similar pathways accomplish repair and how their mis-regulation causes disease.

"Specifically, my lab has focused on the role of a signaling enzyme Protein Kinase A (PKA) in the kidney and stomach development and how the disruption of PKA signaling contributes to cystic kidney disease and stomach cancer. We utilize various transgenic/knockout mouse models, embryonic explants and cell culture models to mimic human diseases and pin down the underlying pathology," Dr. Puri continued.

For the first time in Dr. Puri's lab, the role of mesenchymal PKA signaling in maintaining gastric homeostasis was elucidated and his studies defined the downstream molecular mechanisms by which the disruption of PKA signaling leads to gastric preneoplasia. Also, these research findings were published in the *Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CMGH)*, which is one of the prestigious journals of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), and this article was selected for an editorial commentary as well based on his lab's published findings.

U.S. Patent Issued to TUCVM Researcher for Breast Cancer Research



(Left to Right): Principal investigator Dr. Deepa Bedi collaborates with her lab assistant Dr. Alhegne Yirsaw in the college's Nanotechnology and Biomarker Discovery laboratory.

TUCVM researcher Dr. Deepa Bedi has a major accomplishment to be proud of with the issuing of the United States Patent no. 11624748B2 for the methods and



compositions for the identification of epithelial to mesenchymal breast cancer. The patent can be viewed at <https://patents.google.com/patent/US11624748B2/en>. Deepa Bedi,

MD, Ph.D., holds the position of Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. Her research focuses mainly on breast cancer, particularly triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), one of the highly aggressive subtypes with no targeted therapy. The scientific focus of her laboratory is to identify mechanisms and develop targeted therapies that enable tumors to induce intrinsic immune response and modulate immune microenvironment.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among U.S. women. About 30% of all newly diagnosed cancers in women each year are breast cancer. According to Breastcancer.org, about 13% (about 1 in 8) of U.S. women are going to develop invasive breast cancer in the course of their life. The increasing frequency of breast cancer is widely recognized. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recognizes Breast cancer as a modern epidemic with it affecting one in eight American women.

These startling statistics involving breast cancer having epidemic status is one of the reasons why Dr. Bedi's lab focuses diligently on research in this area which has now led to a US patent. "In my lab, we have developed novel peptides that can specifically recognize breast cancer cells that are highly aggressive and metastatic. These peptides can recognize the cancer cells at a stage termed 'Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition (EMT)', where a cancer cell is leaving its primary site of location and is ready to invade distant organs," Dr. Bedi said.

"If it is diagnosed and detected at an early stage, it can be treated with prolonged progression free survival. However, detection can be missed at an early stage and the disease becomes metastatic and overall survival decreases. Therefore, we aim to increase the detection sensitivity of the metastatic cells by using these EMT-specific peptides as detection agents for highly metastatic disease," continued Dr. Bedi.

"We are proud of the innovative work our researchers here in the College of Veterinary Medicine are engaged in as they continuously demonstrate that Tuskegee University has a record of accomplishments that make an impact on the world. Dr. Bedi and her team are to be commended for the scientific contributions to advance innovations in breast cancer research that have led to this outstanding discovery and US patent," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the college.

Renowned for her expertise and dedication, Dr. Bedi stands as a well-funded researcher specializing in health disparity research. She has emerged as a national leader in the field of cancer health disparities, boasting an extensive history of mentoring and collaborations with fellow researchers at Tuskegee University, along with her steadfast commitment to guiding and nurturing minority trainees. With an unwavering passion, Dr. Bedi has been at the forefront of breast cancer disparity research at Tuskegee University for over nine years. Her pioneering work has garnered substantial funding from a diverse array of organizations including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama (BCRFA).

"Dr Bedi and her team are conducting cutting-edge research into how to detect and treat types of cancer very difficult to treat. The current patent on unique molecular tools and technology to detect metastasis-prone breast cancer cells is an example of products of high-quality creative research done by faculty in the college. TUCVM faculty-led research in the past 10 years has led to seven Tuskegee University patents, which we are proud to claim," said Dr. Temesgen Samuel, Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies at TUCVM.

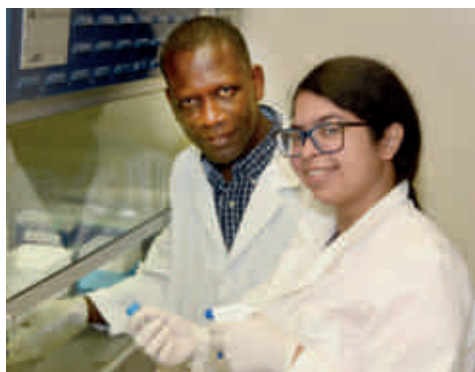
TUCVM's Dr. Adu-Addai has been awarded a USDA Capacity Building Grant



The United States Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA) has awarded \$299,869 for three years to the Tuskegee University College

of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) to research a novel non-antibiotic treatment for mastitis. Dr. Benjamin

Adu-Addai, the principal investigator for the grant is in the TUCVM's Department of Biomedical Sciences. Other researchers involved in this project are Dr. Jesse Jaynes (CO-PI)



In photo: Dr. Benjamin Adu-Addai and Dr. Jatna Rivas

– from Tuskegee University's College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences, and Dr. Jatna Rivas – IBS Ph.D. student in Dr. Adu-Addai's lab. In addition, Dr. Toufic Nashar and Dr. Teshome Yehualaeshet, both from TUCVM's Department of Pathobiology, will serve as collaborators. The title of the grant is the "Impact of a combination of polyclonal chicken anti-SpA immunoglobulin Y (IgY), cholecalciferol, and peptide RP on *Staphylococcus aureus* mastitis using a mouse model."

The proposed research is aimed at developing a treatment to succeed where antibiotics and natural immune responses have failed by addressing the evasion mechanisms of *S. aureus* through immunomodulation and pathogen inhibition without the use of antibiotics. This treatment will also offer some other advantages over antibiotic use in terms of biodegradability, increased safety for the consumer, and versatility of the overall approach.

This experiment will allow the evaluation of the effect of the IgY, cholecalciferol and RP on *S. aureus* mastitis in a mouse model. It will also lead to a better understanding of the effect and efficacy of the combined treatment of *S. aureus* mammary gland infections, aimed at curing the disease in dairy animals. It is anticipated that the successful outcome of this study will be a useful information/treatment regime in the dairy industry. This study is novel and expected to produce a desired outcome.

Research Project Partnership between MSU and TUCVM's Center for Food Animal Health and Food Safety and Food Defense Lab

The \$769K grant awarded to Michigan State University (MSU) from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to develop a rapid biosensor test for foodborne pathogens has developed a partnership with the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine



In Photo from Left to right are CFAFSD Lab members that are serving as part of the TUCVM research team for this grant: Yilka Woube (IDBP-PhD Candidate), Tyric James (Master of Veterinary Science), Savannah Simon (DVM summer research scholar), Woubit Abebe (Director, Center for Food Animal Health and Food Safety), Rawah Faraj (Assistant Professor) and McCoy Williams (DVM summer research scholar). Not pictured are Kingsley Bentum, Rejoice Nyarku (IDBP-Ph.D. candidates), and Llyra Means (Master of Veterinary Science).

(TUCVM) Center for Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Defense (CFAFSD). Out of this grant award, the TUCVM's CFAFSD has received a sub-award grant amount of \$172,000. "This is part of the bigger effort by the Center to bolster Alabama's food safety and trade activities in general, and the safety of poultry products in particular," said Dr. Woubit Abebe, professor and director of TUCVM's Center for Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Defense.

This project is a partnership between MSU and Tuskegee University. Tuskegee's contributions are being led by Dr. Woubit Abebe, a collaborator on previous projects with Dr. Evangelyn Alocilja, a world-renowned scientist studying infectious disease detection and diagnosis at MSU. Dr. Alocilja has said her engineering expertise and Dr. Abebe's background in veterinary medicine make for a unique partnership for human health, animal health, and food safety.

"TUCVM's Center will be identifying target-specific probes for major poultry pathogens, including Salmonella and Campylobacter. Part of the specificity of the biosensor will also be tested in our lab before final field deployment. In addition this project supports the research endeavors of our Master of Science in Veterinary Science graduate program and summer DVM students





MSU's Dr. Evangelyn Alocilja visited the research team members at the TUCVM's Center for Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Defense.

and is part of the Center's activity in food animal health and food safety," Dr. Abebe concluded.

The TUCVM research team assisting Dr. Abebe as the Center's director has various research roles to include the following: Yilkal Woube (IDBP-PhD candidate) working on STEC *E. coli* from Cow-calf farming system in the State of Alabama; Rejoice Nyarku (IDBP-PhD candidate) working on Dynamics of *Salmonella* serovars from farm to fork; Kingsley Bentum (IDBP-Ph.D. candidate) working on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* from cow-calf farming system of Alabama; Tyric James and Llyra Means (both M.S. in Veterinary Science) working on testing antimicrobial activity of biodegradable packaging materials; Savannah Simon and Kierney Burks (both DVM summer research scholars) working on quantitative analysis of multiple *Salmonella* serovars from current foodborne outbreaks; Rawah Faraj (Assistant Professor) with Sabria Wooten (DVM summer research scholar) working on the prevalence and molecular characterization of *Listeria monocytogenes*; McCoy Williams (DVM summer research scholar) working on validation of biosensor for specific *Listeria monocytogenes* detection; and lastly, Ahmed Ghazy (Egyptian army scholar) has worked on biosensor application for specific detection of priority four pathogens from cattle fecal sample.

Tuskegee veterinary medicine professor appointed to medical advisory council and awarded \$100K grant for Breast Cancer Research

Dr. Deepa Bedi was appointed in early May 2023 as one of four new members to the Medical Advisory Council of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama (BCRFA). Dr. Bedi is an associate professor in the Department Biomedical Sciences at the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM). Her research focus area is triple-negative breast cancer

(TNBC). She will now represent the university on the council as Tuskegee University's Dr. Clayton Yates has now rotated off of the BCRFA Advisory Council.

In addition, Dr. Bedi was previously awarded a grant from the BCRFA for a \$100,000 competitive grant (\$50,000/year for two years) for her project: **Cancer genomic study to characterize genetic and epigenetic diversity of immune landscape in triple negative breast cancer in women of African ethnicity**. "I am honored to have been selected to represent the university and serve on this influential medical advisory council with the support of Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the college. I am also excited about receiving funds from the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama and the further advancements expected in my research project which is aimed at studying oncogenic pathways in triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) using sequencing and multimodal high-end imaging approaches on tumor tissues from breast cancer patients," Dr. Bedi said.



Dr. Deepa Bedi in lab with students.

This award is part of the BCRFA's total investment of \$1,275,000 in Alabama-based breast cancer research that was announced in December 2022. Grants fund 24 research projects at seven institutions across the state and Dr. Bedi's research was one of the 24 projects recognized. She was included in a previous celebration luncheon sponsored by the BCRFA in Birmingham, Alabama. TUCVM joins BCRFA in the excitement over the new breast cancer research Dr. Bedi is doing and looks forward to the advances in her research to be updated to the foundation.

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama's (BCRFA) Medical Advisory Council is a group of volunteer scientists that assist in raising awareness for the organization's mission, especially within the

breast cancer research community, ensuring the most-promising research initiatives from across Alabama are submitted for consideration to the BCRFA upon its annual request for proposals. All experts in their field; members assist with a scientific review of the proposals received, guaranteeing that the resources invested by the BCRFA are advancing innovative, dynamic ideas.



Photo courtesy of the BCRFA

To learn more about the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama and the funded research projects, visit www.bcrfa.org.

Detecting Foodborne Pathogens in Dairy: Strengthening Research Partnerships and Capacity in Senegal

****Author: Olivia Hall, freelance writer with the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Safety (FSIL). Read full story at: <https://agrilinks.org/post/detecting-foodborne-pathogens-dairy-strengthening-research-partnerships-and-capacity-senegal>**

The rapid growth of Senegal's dairy sector has outpaced the implementation of food safety practices and policies to reduce the risk of foodborne disease from the consumption of raw and fermented milk. Recent outreach by a project funded by the FSIL has equipped partners at the Food Technology Institute (ITA) and the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research (ISRA) with knowledge and tools to detect and identify foodborne pathogens in the domestic milk supply.

"To date, Senegal's milk production and processing industries have not yet been thoroughly studied beyond

Scientists from Senegal's Institut de Technologie Alimentaire at a recent training on food safety and dairy led by TUCVM's Dr. Woubit Abebe.



a literature review and a handful of student theses," said Dr. Woubit Abebe, professor and director of the Center for Food Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Defense in the Department of Pathobiology at Tuskegee University and co-principal investigator (PI) of the FSIL dairy safety project. "Our partners in Senegal will be identifying the issues and pathogens relevant to the sector that deserve a closer look."

The goal of the four-year project, led by project PI Manpreet Singh, department head and professor of Food Science and Technology at the University of Georgia, is to build food safety capacity in Senegal's dairy sector, reduce foodborne disease and improve market access. At the heart of the project's current work is a survey of small, traditional dairy producers that will offer insights into microbial safety, socioeconomics and gender roles in Senegal's dairy sector. It includes responses from 158 producers from three regions responsible for 38% of the country's milk supply.

"I think this project will provide a breakthrough in understanding the major pathogens associated with milk quality and safety in Senegal," Dr. Abebe said.

Dr. Abebe visited project partners at ISRA and ITA in the spring to prepare the researchers to conduct testing on milk samples from the producers who participated in the survey. The team worked through detailed protocols outlining the method that will be used for microbial quality assessment — from sample size determination and sample collection to genetic analysis of pathogenic bacteria.

Tuskegee University Researchers Receive Over \$20 Million, Five Year Grant for Bridging the Health Disparity Gap through Genomics and Social Determinants of Health

The Tuskegee University Research Centers in Minority Institutions Center for Biomedical Research (TU RCMI CBR) has received over \$20 Million grant award for a five-year period from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). This award is led by Principal Investigator (PI) and contact Dr. Deepa Bedi, Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM), and Dr. Timothy Turner, Associate Vice President for Health-Related Research.

Dr. Clayton Yates, the previous PI of the university's RCMI grant and now the John R. Lewis Endowed Professor at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, built an exceptional



TUCVM's Dean Perry is standing with TUCVM's researchers Drs. Temesgen Samuel, Deepa Bedi, and Ehsan Abdalla, all contributors to the new/largest NIMHD grant.

legacy at Tuskegee University (TU) by elevating its national research recognition. This legacy will be carried forward by the two succeeding Multiple-PIs, Drs. Bedi and Turner.

This NIMHD funding is the largest research grant ever awarded to Tuskegee University, which will partner with local and national health organizations to distribute research results directly to community members. The funding will be used to enhance TU's research capacity to conduct cutting-edge biomedical, population, and clinical/health services research, specifically focusing on delivering genomic testing and genotyping services to diverse and underserved populations. Research funded by the NIMHD will help researchers in the CBR develop data-driven solutions tailored to the needs of minority populations.

"Our ultimate goal is to effectively address and narrow the health disparity gap, especially in the context of evolving healthcare dynamics. This endeavor represents a significant step forward in meeting a critical need that most institutions find challenging to fulfill. The novel approach of integrating genomics-based research with the social determinants of health (SDOH), sets us apart, as we can seamlessly integrate basic science into translational and clinical health research" said Dr. Bedi.

"Through this grant, we are changing the face of health disparity research not only at TU, but globally," said Dr. Turner.

The TU RCMI CBR research team, led by Drs. Bedi, Balu Karanam, and Ehsan Abdalla will focus on diseases that plague minority communities. Their research will explore and highlight the role of obesity in the context of SDOH. This is crucial, especially when considering its potential influence on the aggressiveness of breast cancer in African American (AA) women. By delving deeper into this clinical health research, Dr. Bedi aims to unravel the intricate mechanisms through which obesity might function as a causative agent.

A second project lead by Dr. Karanam, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology, will focus on developing a novel therapeutic that specifically targets AA women with Quadruple Negative Breast Cancer. The last project, led by Dr. Abdalla, Assistant Professor in TUCVM's Department of Public Health, will focus on closing the health disparity gap in cervical cancer. Together, these research projects will provide invaluable insights that potentially lead to more effective prevention strategies and tailored treatments for AA women.

To ensure the research findings are disseminated to the community, the RCMI Community Engagement Core, led by Dr. Vivian Carter, Associate Professor and Chair of Psychology, along with Dr. Abdalla, will continue to build and expand its long-term partnerships with community-based organizations. These local and national organizations, such as the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation, the Alabama Wellness Coalition, the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Macon County School System, and the Macon County Healthcare Authority, are programmatically equipped to address health and socio-economic disparities among disadvantaged populations.

Lastly, this award will support innovative ideas from junior faculty that will develop their careers in health disparities research. Dr. Temesgen Samuel, Associate Dean of Research and Advanced Studies at TUCVM and Leader of the Investigator Development Core, will provide pilot research funding and career development support to Tuskegee junior-level faculty. The Research Infrastructure Core, led by Dr. Jason White, will provide state-of-the-art equipment and technology, and the Bioethics Core, led by Dr. Stephen Sodeke, will provide exceptional bioethics education, training, guidance, and consultation throughout every facet of the TU RCMI CBR.

All TU faculty will have access to and support from the three infrastructure focused cores. It is noteworthy to mention that three of the researchers contributing to this new over \$20 million NIMHD grant award represent the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine under the leadership and support of TUCVM's Dean Ruby Perry. 🐾

Critter Fixers Television Filming Held at TUCVM on November 8



TUCVM was excited to host the last shoot of the season on November 8th for National Geographic/Disney's + television show, **Critter Fixers: Country Vets**. This show stars two Tuskegee University veterinary alumni, **Dr. Vernard Hodges '97** and **Dr. Terrence Ferguson '98**, who are the owners of the veterinary practice, Critter Fixer Hospital, located in Bonaire/Warner Robins, Georgia. The show's overall story line focuses on the adventures of Drs. Hodges and Ferguson who have an over three decades friendship as owners of the veterinary practice. These veterinarians have a camaraderie that is evident in every episode of their show. The actual date for the television showing of the Tuskegee University visit has not been specified at this time.

The Tuskegee filming was confined to the veterinary teaching hospital with various b-roll filming done across the campus to showcase beautiful, historic Tuskegee University. The current TUCVM faculty, staff, and students featured for the Critter Fixers filming included Associate Professor Dr. Steven Walker, Clinical Instructor Dr. Melisa Thompson, Veterinary Technician Darci Palmer, students Derrel Wilright, Elsie Madison, Alexis Hall, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Ebony Gilbreath.

During the filming, Drs. Ferguson and Hodges also got the opportunity to gather with some of the Tuskegee veterinary students they have hosted previously for internships/externships at their practice and these students included the following: Kyle J. Frett (Class of 2026), Janeece Richardson (Class of 2026), Charisma Heath (Class of 2024), Aklimiyya Rushing (Class of 2024), Logan Walton (Class of 2024), Arianna Holmes (Class of 2025) and Terri "Nicole" Ferguson (Class of 2027), who is the daughter of Dr. Ferguson and currently a first year Tuskegee veterinary student who decided to follow in her dad's footsteps making her a legacy.

At the end of the days filming, Dr. Ferguson and Dr. Hodges, gave some moving tributes to their alma mater thanking "Mother Tuskegee" and the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine for helping them be career-ready and able to handle a multitude of medical problems that they see in their practice and show others who look like them that they too can be veterinarians. Representation matters and they show how they want to instill, inspire and engage the next generation.

"It is a phenomenal feeling to be a veterinarian educated at Tuskegee University, the only veterinary program located on the campus of a HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities). This was one of the best decisions I ever made and I am eternally grateful for the education I received here," said Dr. Hodges. "Tuskegee gave me a chance as a marginal student to show what I could do. To me Tuskegee is a family and it embodies education, leadership and love."

"I have immense pride as a Tuskegee veterinary alumnus and wanted to have this opportunity to share this message on national television from the place that helped me be where I am today," said Dr. Ferguson. "We are now in the position for others to look to us for guidance and we want to pour what we can into them. You run towards things you love and I will always support Tuskegee because I love my alma mater. This is one of the reasons I sent my daughter here as well." Both Drs. Ferguson and Hodges acknowledge that without Tuskegee there would be no Critter Fixers so giving back is now a passion for them.

"I was supportive and excited when Drs. Ferguson and Hodges reached out to me with their desire to showcase their alma mater and show gratitude for the education they received here. Many of our graduates have made some remarkable strides in history and this successful national television show, **"Critter Fixers: Country Vets,"** is one more example of such an accomplishment," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.

"We are truly very proud of Drs. Ferguson and Hodges and the message that this television show passes on to others seeking a similar career path in veterinary medicine that they too can be successful and make a difference doing what they love which is to help animals and people."

To learn more about their practice, Critter Fixer Veterinary Hospital, visit: <https://critterfixerveterinary-hospital.com/>.

Four TUCVM Alumni Honored at AVMA 2023 Convention



Dr. Phillip Nelson '79

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) named Dr. Phillip Nelson, professor of immunology and former dean at Western University College of Veterinary Medicine, as the winner of the 2023 AVMA Meritorious Service Award, on July 15. Established

in 2001, the award recognizes a veterinarian who has brought honor and distinction to the veterinary profession through personal, professional or community service activities that are conducted outside the scope of organized veterinary medicine or research. The AVMA Board of Directors selects the recipient. Dr. Nelson retired as former dean at Western University College of Veterinary Medicine after serving over 15 years in this role.



Dr. Willie Reed '78

Dr. Willie Reed was named the inaugural recipient of the Frederick Douglass Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award. He accepted the award on July 14 during the AVMA House of Delegates regular annual session, held concurrently with AVMA Convention 2023 in Denver. The award

aims to recognize individuals who make significant contributions to the veterinary profession through innovative and transformative leadership in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). It was fitting that Dr. Reed was the inaugural recipient as he and Dr. Patterson share a notable connection. Dr. Patterson helped establish what is now known as Tuskegee University's College (School previously) of Veterinary Medicine, which opened in 1945, as the university's president at the time. Dr. Reed received his veterinary degree from Tuskegee University 33 years later and went on to become dean at Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine. He has promoted an inclusive culture and created opportunities for underrepresented individuals not only at the veterinary college at Purdue, but also in the profession as a whole.



Dr. Ruby Perry '77 and Dr. Christine Jenkins '84

Dr. Ruby L. Perry and Dr. Christine Jenkins were presented with special awards as two transformative leaders for their commitment to advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

(DEI) throughout the veterinary profession. They were recognized on July 14 during the President's Reception at the AVMA's annual Convention in Denver. Drs. Jenkins and Perry co-chaired the landmark Commission for a Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Veterinary Profession, formed by the AVMA and AAVMC in late 2020 to lay the groundwork for improving DEI throughout the veterinary profession. The 16-member commission worked throughout 2021 to develop a strategic plan. The Commission's work also led to the development of the the AVMA and Veterinary Medical Association Executives' profession-wide DEI initiative (Journey for Teams) launched in December 2022, and the hiring of the AVMA's first Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer in September of last year who is leading Journey for Teams.

Dr. Perry is dean and professor of radiology at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, is the

2023-24 president and board chair of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), making her the first African American female president of the AAVMC.

Dr. Jenkins retired July 31, 2023, as U.S. chief medical officer (CMO) and vice president, veterinary medical services and outcomes research, U.S. operations at Zoetis Inc. Through her leadership as CMO and Lead of Academic & Professional Affairs (APA), Dr. Jenkins played a significant role in advancing the industry partnership with Colleges and Schools of Veterinary Medicine, AVMA and AAVMC.



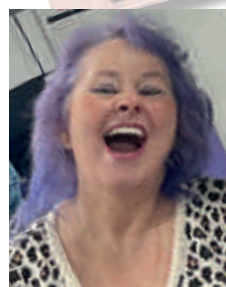
Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Jr. '72 was featured for Black History Month on the front page of the *Winston-Salem Newspaper* with an article titled: **For 40 years, Dr. Calvert Jeffers Jr. has cared for pets in Winston-Salem.**

The link for the article is: https://journalnow.com/news/local/for-40-years-dr-calvert-jeffers-jr-has-cared-for-pets-in-winston-salem/article_8b6c023a-6ca9-11eb-b031-df9527456b8e.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share.



Dr. Victoria Mary Hollifield

'88 celebrated her 30th year anniversary as owner of Best Friends' Veterinary Hospital in Gaithersburg, MD. She held an Open House Celebration last year where she hosted some TUCVM friends! To learn more about her clinic, visit <http://bestfriendsvethosp.com/>.



Dr. Victoria Mary Hollifield

"...I continue to be blessed with the love and support of my Tuskegee family. It was an extra special treat this year to have some Tuskegee grads wish us a happy 30th anniversary at our open house: Dr. Jim Casey '88, Dr. Julie Garnier '94 and Dr. Dan Negola '72. We continue to grow and enjoy ourselves while helping people and their pets," ~Dr. Hollifield

Dr. Carla Gartrell '88 was named the new Dean at Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine.



Dr. Carla Gartrell

Dr. Gartrell joined Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine in January of 2015. She received her bachelor's and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees from Tuskegee University in Alabama. She served an internship in small animal medicine at the University of Tennessee and an internal medicine residency at Michigan State University. In 2009, Dr. Gartrell received her Doctor of Law (J.D.) degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC, and was admitted to the North Carolina Bar Association in 2011. She accepted a position at Midwestern University after serving as Associate Director for Hill's Pet Nutrition. Prior to Hill's, she spent several years in a large-volume specialty hospital as the Chief-of-Medicine and practice owner. Dr. Gartrell is a specialist in small internal medicine, board certified by the American College of Veterinary Medicine, and a licensed attorney.



Dr. Donald L. Fuller

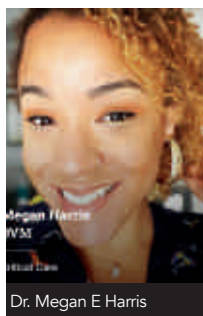
Dr. Donald L. Fuller '78 wrote a book based on his clinical research on zoonotic disease. The title of his book is: *Precursor to Cancer and other Body Maladies*. The book can be purchased at: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BTSNV1C5?ref=cm_sw_r_apin_dp_1WBF2NK2HAZKYCE3514&fbclid=IwAR2ZTY21HX1n20gtz15EZnG-kYytZ5rWRAnVG1W9DBM_yuyV1ej31moy2RqM.



Dr. Evan Morse '68

was inducted into the 2023 Class of Cleveland Jazz Legends at the JazzFest on June 22-23. He was honored for being an essential part of Cleveland's jazz history, establishing the Northeast Ohio Jazz Society and advocating for jazz in the community. Dr. Morse founded the Warrensville Animal Center in 1972 and was one of the first African

American veterinarians in the state of Ohio. He is also co-founder of the Free Animal Clinic Team (FACT), a consortium of veterinarians providing free animal care to needy pet owners throughout Greater Cleveland.



Dr. Megan E Harris '14 is now a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care (DACVECC). She recently passed her ACVECC exam. Dr. Harris is the first and only black female criticalist in the state of Texas.



Dr. Rhonda Pinckney '86 retired after giving 17 years of dedicated service. She was recognized for her and given the Outstanding Contribution Award to the SVM Pathobiology Department in the School of Veterinary Medicine St. George's University located in Grenada, West Indies.



Dr. K. Paige Carmichael '87 was honored with two awards from the University of Georgia (UGA) College of Veterinary Medicine during the spring 2023 semester. She is also an alumnus of UGA where

she received her PhD in 1994. The two awards include the following: UGA CVM Outstanding Alumnus Award and UGA Faculty Service. Dr. Carmichael is a Veterinary Pathologist and the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Pathology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at UGA. She is also a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (DipACVP).



Dr. William "Billy" Reid '87, is a lifelong Frederick County resident and Governor Thomas Johnson High School graduate. He was appointed to the Frederick Community College (FCC) Board of Trustees by Maryland Governor Wes Moore. Trustee Reid is appointed to serve through June 2028. Throughout his 30 years of public service and ongoing leadership roles with the NAACP, Progressive Maryland, and Frederick County Progressives, high-quality education with the overarching goals of increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in education has been a priority. Trustee Reid is an accomplished researcher, assistant professor, and student mentor with a career that has spanned over 30 years.

Dr. Patrick Barnes '12 was licensed to Christian Ministry on March 26, 2023 under the leadership of Pastor William Young, IV of Covenant UCC Baptist Church in Washington DC. He also had several culminating Divinity School Events on April 7, 12, and May 12-13.



Dr. Raphael Malbrue '14 is now the next Director, Center for Comparative Medicine and Attending Veterinarian at the University of Virginia. Read more at link: https://executivesearch.virginia.edu/raphael-malbrue?fbclid=IwAR0fgBf6tmA1R2a18h_14Dj59IRiM6O9JQJA-i0EPFFpNwR2ZbJxIkSouWA

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: _____

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News: _____

Send your news to:

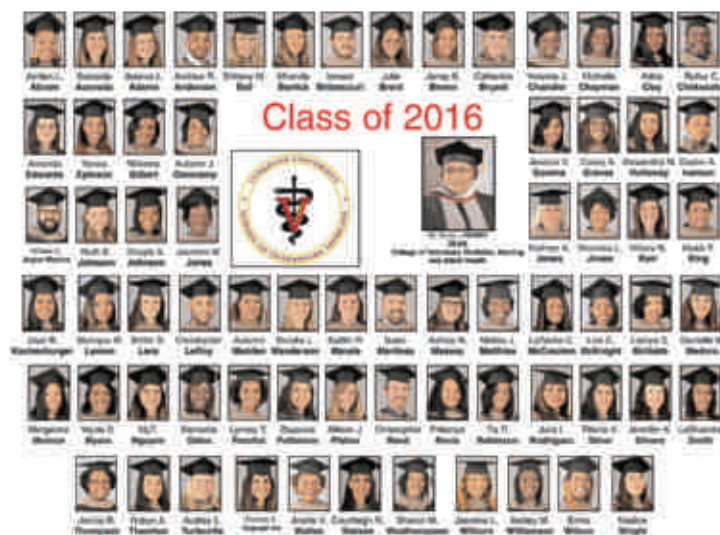
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SPOTLIGHT on the Morrow Family ... "A Legacy Continued..."

"Mother Tuskegee" and the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine's (TUCVM) outstanding record of producing legacies are putting the spotlight on the Morrow Family (Mother – Dr. Melba Smith Morrow and Daughter – Dr. Morganne Morrow) in this issue of the **Veterinary Medical Perspective**.



Mother-daughter duos in veterinary medicine are extra special, especially when they belong to the Tuskegee veterinary family.



Meet Dr. Melba Smith Morrow (Mother) – 1980 alum



Dr. Melba Smith Morrow

Dr. Melba Smith Morrow is a fourth generation Washingtonian, who came to Tuskegee in 1973 to pursue her childhood desire to become a veterinarian. She was encouraged to attend Tuskegee by members of her church family, who were also the nephews of Dr. Frederick Patterson. She was an Institute and Emi-

nent scholar in 1974 and still has the picture where she appears with classmate Gerald LaRose and then future faculty member Elizabeth Graham. Dr. Morrow received her Bachelor of Science degree in animal and poultry science and in 1980 received her degree in veterinary medicine both from Tuskegee University.

Following her graduation, Dr. Morrow was hired by the Food and Drug Administration and worked for 10 years in the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM). During her tenure at CVM, she was appointed to the Washington D.C. Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners where she served from 1988 to 1992. Dr. Morrow was also employed as a relief doctor at a small animal practice in D.C.

After the birth of her daughter, she moved to the Environmental Protection Agency where she held positions as a toxicologist, a senior scientist, and a special assistant to the Director of the Antimicrobials Division in the Office of Pesticide Programs. Dr. Morrow was selected to serve as an expert on international pesticide review panels convened by the World Health Organization in Cambridgeshire, England and Geneva, Switzerland. After a cumulative 35 years as a public servant, she retired. However, retirement only lasted one week. Dr. Morrow is currently working for the consulting firm, Toxcel, LLC, where she serves as the Director of Toxicology in their Life Sciences Division. Dr. Melba Smith Morrow is divorced and has a daughter and a son.

scholarship and returned to the Import Export Staff following graduation. Her position allowed her to travel and meet with delegations from Canada, Thailand, and Taiwan and to negotiate with other international trade partners.

Dr. Morrow left the USDA in 2020 after fulfilling her obligation to work for the agency and ventured into the small animal practice arena where she has worked full time and relief for several Tuskegee graduates. Stricken with wanderlust, Dr. Morganne Morrow has decided to experience veterinary life outside of the U.S. and has established opportunities to work in Ghana and in the Bahamas later this year.

Neat Fact:

Mother and daughter (Drs. Melba & Morganne Morrow) live within walking distance of each other and are co-owners of standard poodles named, Nahni and Lady. 🐾

Meet Dr. Morganne Morrow (Daughter) – 2016 alum

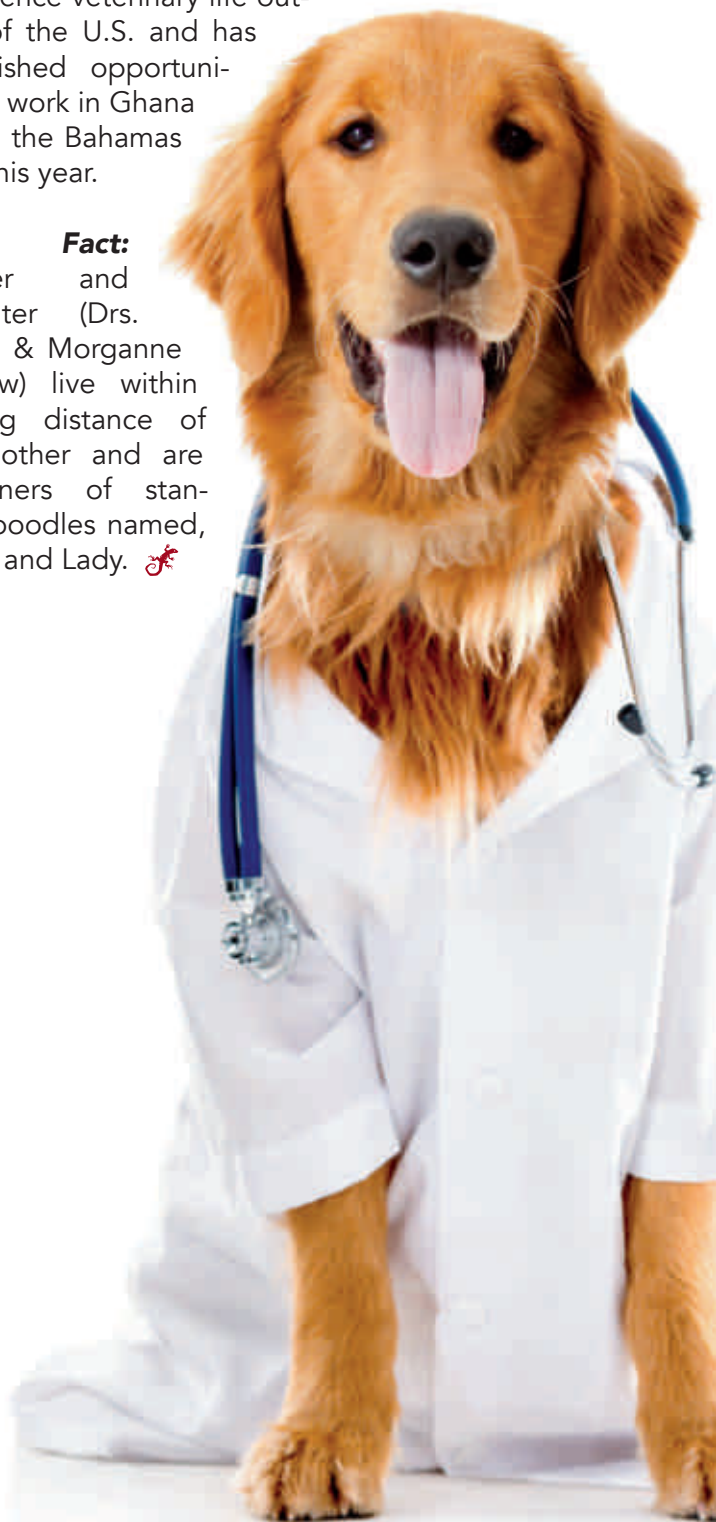


Dr. Morganne Morrow

Dr. Morganne Morrow is a magna cum laude graduate from North Carolina State University, receiving her degree in biology. She originally had no intentions of following the path her mother took but had a change of heart after working with Tuskegee veterinary alum Dr. Allen Cannedy '94 while in undergraduate school in Raleigh. Upon entering Tuskegee,

she felt the warmth and nurturing of having instructors who were classmates and colleagues of her mother and thrived in an environment where she felt elevated expectations.

During her summers while in veterinary school, Dr. Morrow worked with another Tuskegee veterinary alum Dr. Karen James Preston '80 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the Import Export staff. While in veterinary school, she was awarded the Saul T. Wilson



TUCVM Hosts SAVMA Week 2023

TUCVM's Student American Veterinary Medical Association (Tuskegee SAVMA Chapter) hosted its SAVMA 2023 WELCOME WEEK on Aug. 21-26 for all TUCVM students. SAVMA week is an annual event hosted to welcome both incoming and current students into the new academic year! This is a great opportunity to not only learn about SAVMA, but to also listen to some great speakers and win some amazing prizes! SAVMA Week 2023 agenda included the following:

- **Monday: We Are SAVMA Lunch & Learn**
- **Tuesday : Purina Lunch & Learn**
- **Wednesday: Breakfast w/ SAVMA (via INNOVETIVE) & Dean's Address, & Career Fair**
- **Thursday : AVMA Lunch & Learn**
- **Friday: Beach Ball**
- **Saturday: Safe Space Saturday**

TUCVM thanked all participants of SAVMA Week 2023 and a special thank you to all the vendors for helping to make the SAVMA Career Fair 2023 a success on August 23. Per Dean Perry's address to the college during SAVMA Week..., she said, "We are here to help our students be successful!"

Highlights below from SAVMA Career Fair



TUCVM Celebrates Pi Day 2023!



TUCVM's Class of 2026.... Celebrated National Pi Day on March 14, 2023 with a great PIE fundraiser for the Class of 2026! Janeece Richardson was the Coordinator for Class of 2026 Pi Day Event and said all had a great time...even got our very busy Dean Ruby Perry to take a break and join in the fun to support the



students and their fundraiser! What is Pi Day? It is when the constant pi (π) is celebrated by mathematicians around the world on National Pi Day which was also celebrated by TUCVM on March 14. #NationalPiDay

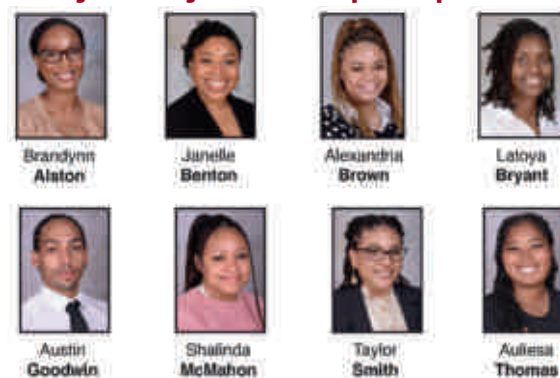


The IDEXX Scholarship Recipients



The IDEXX Scholarship provides full tuition scholarships and internship opportunities to African American students pursuing a DVM degree at TUCVM. The funds were awarded to three incoming first-year veterinary students for 2022 who demonstrated financial need and had strong academic standings. The three recipients selected were: **Chloe Adams-White, Stephanie Hall, and Kyle Frett.**

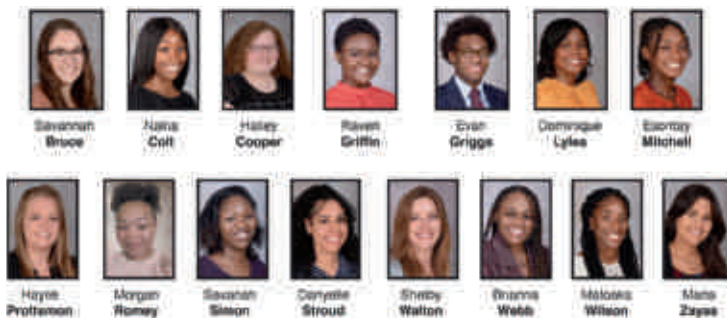
Synchrony Scholarship Recipients



The Synchrony Foundation continues to partner with TUCVM to grow educational and training opportunities for Tuskegee veterinary students and support the goal of attaining greater diversity in the veterinary industry. The recipients for the 2022-2023 Synchrony Scholarship included the following eight recipients: **Latoya Bryant-4th year (Class of 2024), Janenelle Benton**

-4th year (C/O 2024), **Taylor Smith**- 3rd Year (C/O 2025), **Shalinda McMahon**- 3rd Year (C/O 2025), **Austin Goodwin**- 2nd year (C/O 2026), **Auliesa Thomas** 2nd Year (C/O 2026), **Alexandria Brown**- 3rd year (C/O 2025), and **Brandynn Alston**- 3rd Year (C/O 2025). For more information on Synchrony, visit www.synchrony.com and Twitter: @Synchrony.

2023-24 Merck Animal Health Veterinary Student Scholarships for Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine



Merck Animal Health continued its commitment to helping veterinary medical students further their education as they pursue their future careers in veterinary medicine by providing 15 students at TUCVM scholarship money for the 2023-24 cycle. For more information on Merck Animal Health visit www.merck-animal-health.com or connect with them on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter at @MerckAH.



Alston Jenkins (Class of 2025) was featured in an article from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education entitled "Regional Contract Program helps aspiring veterinarian pursue her dream" as a Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Regional Contract Program participant. The SREB article can be viewed at: <https://www.che.sc.gov/news/2022-09/regional-contract-program-helps-aspiring-veterinarian-pursue-her-dream>.

Jenkins previously participated in the TUCVM Summer Enrichment and Reinforcement Program (SERP), a four-week program that is an introduction to the Tuskegee University veterinary curriculum. For nearly 40 years, the SREB's programs have helped students pursue out-of-state college degrees at in-state tuition rates in more than 1,900 undergraduate and graduate degree programs across five states.



Kingsley Bentum

Kingsley Bentum, was awarded a Graduate Student Fellowship by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Division. He is now the second student in the Interdisciplinary Pathobiology (IDPB), Ph.D. program to be recognized for participation in this fellowship program with the USDA FSIS. Bentum was awarded the one-year Graduate Student Food Safety Fellowship for the period October 2022 to September 2023.



Lasha Hicks

Lasha Hicks (Class of 2024) was named 2023 AAVMC's Merck Animal Health Diversity Leadership Scholarship recipient. She previously was selected for a full sponsorship from SAVMA to attend the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) 30th Veterinary Leadership Conference to represent Tuskegee University & further her professional leadership skills. Hicks has participated on many committees and held/hold two prestigious TUCVM leadership titles, SAVMA president 2022 and 2024 class president.



Yesutor Soku

Yesutor K. Soku, an Interdisciplinary Pathobiology (IDPB) Ph.D. graduate student, was awarded a Future Leaders Mentoring Fellowship (FLMF) by the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). The program objectives include the following: 1. provide fellows with resources to strengthen competencies for their scientific development and career planning, 2. develop future leaders within the field of microbial science, and 3. create a robust community for mentoring and networking. Soku receives year-round mentoring with experts in various microbiology careers and year-round skill-building training and techniques to increase his scientific and professional settings during the fellowship period. **Soku** was also the 1st place poster competition winner at the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) meeting held in Toronto from July 16-19, 2023.





* Photo courtesy of NC State CVM

Savannah S. Simon (Class of 2025) was featured in an article on NC State's CVM Immersive Oncology program for veterinary students as one of the first two participants in the program. Read more at: <https://news.cvm.ncsu.edu/immersive-oncology-nc-state-hopes-new-clinical-experience-broadens-understanding-horizons/>.



James (Class of 1998), Area Chief of Staff at Banfield, spoke with TUCVM students on how they can apply and lock in their summer jobs. TUCVM Banfield Student Ambassador **Kierney Burks** (Class

of 2026) is pictured in the photo with alums.

TUCVM LUNCH & LEARNS for TUCVM Students



SAVMA hosted a Lunch and Learn for TUCVM students with current SAVMA national advisor/TUCVM alum Dr. Lauren Rowe (C/O 2011) and her division director, Mr. Scott MacKenzie. Each year, the AVMA plans a school visit where our SAVMA chapter's national advisor comes to

campus to meet with the dean and key advisors, as well as give a school-wide presentation/SAVMA event. In photo with national SAVMA visitors are TUCVM students SAVMA 2022 President (now past president) **Lasha Hicks** and President-elect (now 2023 SAVMA President) **Taylor Smith**. The school-wide presentation was a lunch & learn where the students were able to get an exclusive sneak peek of the AVMA's newest certificate program: Brave Space. They discussed unconscious bias, diversity, inclusion, and the role that everyone can play in making Brave Spaces out of where we live, learn, and work.



TUCVM's 2008 alum Dr. Callie Harris, Veterinary Communications Manager/Professional Engagement Team at Nestlé Purina PetCare, hosted a Lunch and Learn during Spring 2023 semester for students. Purina Student Reps in photo with Dr. Harris: **Nia Salandy** (C/O 2025),

Sunny Griggs (C/O 2025), **Curtis Beringham** (C/O 2025), **Carley Tramble** (C/O 2023) and **April Johnson** (C/O 2023).

Banfield hosted a lunch and learn on Oct. 26 about the Summer Job Program for 1st and 2nd years DVM students. TUCVM alums Dr. Beverly Miller (C/O 2005), Director of Veterinary Quality at Banfield, and Dr. Christine

Veterinary Information Network (VIN) sponsored Lunch and Learn during spring 2023 semester in which a Tuskegee Virtual Tour of VIN was shared by VIN host, Dr. Ellen Behrend, a boarded endocrinologist. In photo with Dr. Behrend is VIN Champion/student rep **Olivia Gipson** (Class of 2024).



Veterinary Practice Partners (VPP) hosted a Lunch and Learn for TUCVM students and shared information on Externships and Summer Positions Available Nationwide during spring semester 2023. In photo are: TUCVM student **Brianna Brooks** (VPP



Student Ambassador), Ross Powell (VPP Talent Acquisition Specialist Campus Recruiter/Externship Coordinator), and Dr. Kara Rogers (veterinarian at Belton Animal Clinic and Exotic Care Center).



Dechra hosted a Lunch & Learn during the spring semester for TUCVM students with Dr. Tomeshia Hubbard as the speaker. She shared with the students her career path to becoming a specialist in veterinary

dermatology. Dechra's student ambassador **Briana Webb**, also a member of the TUCVM Class of 2025, is in photo with Dr. Hubbard.



Hill's Pet Nutrition visited TUCVM and hosted a Lunch and Learn on Oct. 19 and gave a presentation to students on Derm Complete

Puppy presented by Dr. Rebekah List, Professional Strategic Manager for Schools at Hill's Pet Nutrition. Dr. Jeb Cade (Hill's Academic Affairs Manager and new veterinarian assigned to TUCVM) also visited with Dr. List.

2023 TUCVM SAVMA E-Board



The new Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) 2023 Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) Executive Board Members are listed below. To learn more about TUCVM SAVMA, visit: <http://www.tuskegeesavma.org>.

Taylor Smith - President

Jordy Oriental - President elect

Alston "AJ" Jenkins - Vice President

Kyle Frett - Vice President elect and Senior Delegate

Morgan Mitchell - Events Coordinator

Nia Salandy - Historian

Savannah Simon - Secretary

Jamie Smith - Secretary elect and c/o
2026 SAVMA representative

Esontay Mitchell - c/o 2024 SAVMA representative

Nadja Chavers - c/o 2025 SAVMA representative

Jaya White - c/o 2027 SAVMA representative

Derrel Wilright - IVSA officer

Shelby Walton - Wellbeing Coordinator

Brianna Hayes - Fundraising Chair

Lauren Petry - Fundraising Chair elect

Celine Sylvester - Treasurer

Briana Arceneaux - Treasurer elect



TUCVM Student Desmond McLeod: South African Externship Experience

TUCVM's Desmond McLeod, now a third-year veterinary student (Class of 2025), had the opportunity to travel to South Africa for an externship to learn about wildlife management at the 2023 International Symposium on Wildlife Utilization presented by the University of Pretoria, Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort, Pretoria. The symposium was held June 30 to July 17, 2023.

At this symposium, Mr. McLeod learned about the conservation and importance of veterinary involvement by having didactic and practical experience dealing with the wonderful animals of Africa. During the symposium, he attended lectures, talks, and demonstrations at the University of Pretoria, research facilities, and a number of conservation sites while participating in hands-on activities (i.e., rhino notching, DNA collection, darting workshop, and animal tracking techniques) to gain knowledge on how veterinarians care for and handle issues pertaining to the various animals in Africa. Some of the topics that were covered included vaccine administrations, game capture, disease control, animal relocation, and different characteristics and behavior of the native animals. 🦋

The Bridge Club Held ICON Event Honoring Dean Perry



In early 2023, The Bridge Club gathered to honor and celebrate **Dr. Ruby L. Perry**, Dean of TUCVM. Dr. Perry was interviewed by her son, Benjamin Felton, in a heartfelt conversation of her journey through civil rights, her ability to ignite a passion for veterinary medicine and her thoughts on the future of animal health. Blue Buffalo and NAVC (North American Veterinary Community) as thanked by The Bridge Club for their assistance. The ICON Event can be viewed via YouTube (Audio Only) at <https://youtu.be/elDbVBKkm8w>.

CVM Leadership Appointments by Dean Perry



Dr. Ebony Gilbreath

Ebony Gilbreath, DVM, PhD, DACVP

Dr. Ebony Gilbreath is now the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. She was appointed as Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs during the beginning of the spring 2023 semester. Dr. Gilbreath is a board-certified veterinary anatomic pathologist who has served on the faculty at Tuskegee University since 2011. She previously served as the Assistant Dean for Pre-Clinical Programs, Department Head of Pathobiology for three years, and also served as Section Chief of Necropsy and as the Diversity and Inclusion Representative for the College.

Dr. Gilbreath has been awarded multiple grants, published numerous manuscripts and has advised PhD, Master's and undergraduate students. Additionally, she has been the faculty advisor for several student groups, serves on numerous committees and notably chaired the first Phi Zeta Research Day in 2012. Dr. Gilbreath has continually sought to foster her leadership skills and has earned an Executive Certification in Leadership and Management, a Certification for Diversity and Inclusion in Veterinary Medicine and completed the AAVMC

Leadership Academy as well as the Veterinary Leadership Experience.



Dr. Toufic Nashar

Toufic Nashar, Ph.D.

Dr. Toufic Nashar joined TUCVM in 2011 as an Assistant Professor in Virology and Immunology, in the Department of Pathobiology, and is currently an Associate Professor. Prior to joining the TUCVM, he earned his bachelor's degree in veterinary medicine at Baghdad University, Iraq, and PhD in Immunology at Bristol University, UK. Dr. Nashar has served in several capacities as Chair of Education Policies Committee, CVM, Chair of Ad Hoc Appeal Committee, CVM, and Chair of TU's University Academic Personnel Services, as well as a member of the TU special interview committees, and several graduate committees. He enjoys teaching and is an avid proponent of students' success. Dr. Nashar's research interests are in microbial bacterial pathogenesis and prevention of viral diseases. His research work has been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and is highly cited.



Dr. Torhonda C. Lee

Torhonda C. Lee, Ph.D., MCHES®

Dr. Torhonda C. Lee currently serves as the Head of the Department of Graduate Public Health at TUCVM. She earned a Ph.D. in Health Education and Health Promotion from the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa) and earned a B.A. in Psychology and M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling both from Auburn University. Dr. Lee is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES®) with nearly 20 years of experience in community health outreach. In the past, she served the Black Belt counties of Alabama as an Auburn Extension agent. She most recently served as a faculty member at Florida A&M University's Institute of Public Health. Dr. Lee has coordinated programs and conducted research to address disparities in infant mortality, diabetes, and prostate cancer in Alabama and in North Florida. Courses she

has taught include Health Inequities, Social Marketing, Program Planning and Evaluation, and Public Health Ethics and Social Justice.

Faculty Awards recognized during Senior Awards Ceremony



The 2023 "Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence" recipient was **Dr. Benjamin Adu-Addai** (faculty in the Department of Biomedical Sciences) and "Zoetis Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award" recipient was **Dr. Marc Alkhal** (faculty in the Department of Clinical Sciences - Diagnostic Imaging). Both were recognized during the Senior Banquet and Awards Ceremony on April 29, 2023.



Samina Akhter

Mrs. Samina Akhter, MPH, MSc, CCSP has earned her Certified Career Service Provider (CCSP) certification from the National Career Development Association (NCDA), USA. The requirement to receive her CCSP certification required 120+ hours of study/instruction with 56 reading/assignment hours. The credential is intended for providers offering career services in an array of roles and settings. Mrs. Akhter is Assistant Director for Analytics and Career Placement in the Department of Graduate Public Health and also assists with the maintenance of the college's website as webmaster.



Tammie B. Hughley

Ms. Tammie B. Hughley, Executive Assistant/Program Coordinator in the Office of Research and Advanced Studies has completed the American Grant Writers' Association (AGWA) 3-months course and is now a Grant Writer. This skill enables her to support college faculty to research funding opportunities, write proposals, and processing. Ms. Hughley was invited to attend the 2023 AGWA National Grant Conference in Atlanta, GA, on July 27-29, and she is a current member of the AGWA.

Since becoming a grant writer, she volunteers for a non-profit organization and wrote a successful proposal which was funded. Ms. Hughley says she likes grant writing because she likes making a difference. She is also an author who has written five books to date.



Dr. David McKenzie

Dr. David McKenzie, Associate Dean for Clinical Programs/Department Head, Large Animal Clinical Sciences, was selected for an appointment to the International External Advisory Council of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon, a public research university in the Mexican city of San Nicolas de los Garza. Dr. Gustavo Hernandez, Dean of the Universidad de Nuevo Leon (UANL), asked Dr. McKenzie to be on their International External Advisory Council. The UANL is seeking accreditation. Dr. McKenzie took a group of Tuskegee veterinary students to the UANL in 2009.



Dr. Roslyn Casimir

Dr. Roslyn Casimir, Anatomic Pathology Section Head in the Department of Pathobiology/Diagnostic Services, was appointed as one of 36 reviewers of Higher Education Research. As a reviewer, Dr. Casimir has the responsibilities to review manuscripts carefully and give suggestions without any bias, promote *Higher Education Research* in academic platforms like international conferences, and stimulate more scholars to publish quality original research manuscripts in the journal.



Briana Adams

Ms. Briana Adams joined the TUCVM family as the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) Business and Accounting Manager, effective October 23, 2023. She previously lived in Las Vegas, NV, and worked for the College of Southern Nevada as an Executive Assistant in the Department of Biology. She moved to Alabama in 2021 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business management from Strayer University in September 2022. Ms. Adams absolutely loves animals and is a mom to a two-year-old Yorkie Poo named Royal, a seven-month-old Pit Bull puppy named Dior, and a turtle named Apollo.



Cassandra Carlisle

Ms. Cassandra Carlisle originally joined the TUCVM family as a temp on August 10, but has since become the Administrative Assistant for The Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, effective November 13, 2023. Ms. Carlisle has been a widow for 11 years; however, she has four children, two grandchildren, one Godson and her sweet puppy, Khole. Ms. Carlisle was previously a licensed hairstylist and after rendering over 30 years of service in this profession, she retired. She has since then received her Associate of Science degree and her bachelor's degree in Global Human Resources Management in 2023.



Florian Dorleans

Mr. Florian Dorleans joined TUCVM as the Director of Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment, effective October 31, 2023. Mr. Dorleans was with Tuskegee University for a few years prior to assuming his new position. He served as a senior recruiter/counselor in undergraduate admissions for multiple years. Mr. Dorleans earned both a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Florida A&M University. He obtained an Associate of Arts degree focused in Business Management from Tallahassee Community College and is also a Certified Hospitality & Tourism Manager (CHTM) from Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Dorleans has many years of experience in the service industry and maintains a customer centric philosophy focused on the students.



TeQueada Huntley

Ms. TeQueada (TQ) Huntley joined TUCVM as the Executive Director of Veterinary Operations, effective October 30, 2023. Ms. Huntley is a Project Management Professional who maintains a flair for multitasking and fostering positive relationships. Her background in project management and new construction has refined her relationship management, budget management, and team building skills. Ms. Huntley started her career journey as a student at Miles College, where she graduated as valedictorian in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She continued her journey by earning her Master of Science in Project Management from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 2017 and has also attained her Project Management Professional Certification in 2023 from the Project Management Institute.



Dr. Stacy M. Lloyd

Dr. Stacy M. Lloyd joined the TUCVM family as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathobiology and the Center for Biomedical Research, effective October 9, 2023. Her primary research interest explores the intersectionality of aberrant wound healing and prostate cancer development to identify causative mechanisms of cancer inequities. Dr. Lloyd is also strongly committed to teaching and mentoring the next generation of scientists and healthcare professionals and has experience in teaching cancer biology, epidemiology, molecular epidemiology, and genetic epidemiology. She also has taught a course entitled, "Disparities in Health in American: Working Towards Social Justice," for over eight years. Dr. Lloyd received her B.S. in Biology from Prairie View A&M University, her MPH, and Ph.D. in Human Genetics from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.



Dr. Nelson Oranye

Nelson Oranye, Ph.D., PSC.PHDA, MPH, MBA, MSc joined the faculty in the Department of Graduate Public Health, effective September 2023. Dr. Oranye is an expert in population health and epidemiological research with over 20 years of research and teaching experience at universities in Nigeria, Malaysia, and Canada. He brings global experience in research and teaching, with strong leadership experience in professional and curriculum development. He has taught across disciplines, including social and rehabilitation sciences, nursing, medicine, and pharmacy. His research and teaching interests are in population health, social epidemiology, health inequity, workplace health and the application of modern psychometrics to outcome measurement.



Shakeya Tate

Mrs. Shakeya Tate joined as the administrative assistant for the Comparative Medicine Resource Center (CMRC) in the Department of Pathobiology, effective September 20, 2023. Mrs. Tate pursued her education with a Master's degree in Public Administration from South University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She is a former Tuskegee University employee that has worked in several departments on campus in the past. Currently, she serves on the Tuskegee University

Animal Care and Use Committee. Before returning to the Tuskegee University campus, she went on to further her career working as a Case Manager, Counselor and Therapist for children, adults, and young teens with the Department of Family and Children Services (Foster Care and Adoption Unit) and the Department of Youth Services (Juvenile Youth Facilities).



Dr. Yazeed Abdelmageed

Dr. Yazeed Abdelmageed joined TUCVM as the Director of Veterinary Diagnostic Services/Assistant Professor – Department of Pathobiology, effective June 1, 2023. Dr. Abdelmageed is a veterinary graduate with extensive laboratory management and research experience. He holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology from Alabama State University (ASU), where he conducted research in collaboration with Oak Ridge National Lab, a M.S. in Immunotoxicology from Tuskegee University and a DVM from the University of Khartoum. He also brings a passion for advancing veterinary diagnostics, a commitment to teaching excellence, and extensive research experience to help future TUCVM graduates. In his past work at ASU and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), he has amassed a wealth of diverse work experience, spanning research, teaching, mentoring graduate students, and leadership roles. Specifically, he has research expertise in microbiology, immunotoxicology, and muscle metabolism.



Jerome Jones

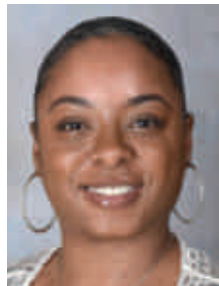
Mr. Jerome Jones joined TUCVM as the Administrative Assistant in the Department of Public Health, effective July 10, 2023. Mr. Jones was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from the University of Arizona Global Campus (UAGC) in June 2020 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He is currently enrolled and taking classes towards his master's degree in psychology at UAGC. Mr. Jones is the father of four children: two teenage boys, a daughter who is a neonatal nurse in Houston, Texas, and his eldest son who is waiting to start his master's program in occupational therapy. He and his wife (Evie) reside in Opelika, Alabama. Mr. Jones is an Army Veteran with over 20 years of experience in human resources for the US Army as a service member and a civilian worker.

Ms. Quanetta Stewart joined TUCVM as the Administrative Assistant in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, effective July 10, 2023. Ms. Stewart graduated as a Medical Assistant from Virginia



Quanetta Stewart

College in Montgomery, Alabama. She is currently enrolled at Faulker University to get her B.S in Health & Rehabilitation Psychology. Ms. Stewart is the proud mother of a precious five-year-old daughter who looks up to her as a role model and hero. She loves to spend bonding time with her daughter while braiding her hair, watching movies, and going on vacations.



Heidi W. Robinson

Ms. Heidi W. Robinson joined TUCVM as the Media Center Coordinator effective June 12, 2023. She is a resident of Tuskegee, Alabama. In 2011, Ms. Robinson received the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Art with a minor in Mass Communication from Xavier University of Louisiana located in New Orleans. Since graduating, Ms. Robinson has had the opportunity to work in the Art Department at Essence Music Festival in New Orleans, LA., as an Art Enrichment Instructor for the Los Angeles Unified School District, and as a painting advertisement drawing instructor at Michael's Art's and Craft's. In her spare time, Ms. Robinson enjoys painting, drawing, interior and set design, and graphic design.



Jennifer Pannell

Mrs. Jennifer Pannell is a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) with over 20 years of experience. She joined the TUCVM family as an Internal Medicine/Emergency Veterinary Technician effective June 12, 2023. Mrs. Pannell has over 10 years of experience working in an academic environment/teaching hospital. She is a graduate of Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology and is a resident of Tallassee, Alabama. Mrs. Pannell and her husband (Travis) have been married for 23 years and have two children, Ashtyn (age 18) and Tyler (age 9). She also has two dogs named Emma (German Shepherd) and Bodi (Australian Shepherd). Her dog, Emma, has made a difference in veterinary medicine by being a blood donor for two years.



Dr. Sheriff Yusuf Idris

Dr. Sheriff Yusuf Idris joined TUCVM as a Clinical Pathology Instructor in the Department of Pathobiology in fall 2022. He obtained his DVM and MSc from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria, Africa in 2011 and

2015, respectively. Dr. Idris is currently a Ph.D. scholar in the research area of toxicopathology in domestic animals and a member of Nigeria Veterinary Medical Association.



Degrade Bryant

Mr. Degrate Bryant joined TUCVM as the Freight Hauler in August 2022. He is a Tuskegee native and was born on the campus of Tuskegee University at what was then John Andrews Hospital (now John Kenney Hall). Mr. Bryant is the father of three sons ages 10, 15 and 18 – now a graduate of Booker T. Washington High school. When Mr. Bryant is not taking care of his sons, he enjoys hanging out with family and friends and watching the University of Alabama football team as a ROLL TIDE fan! He is also a Tuskegee Golden Tigers fan as well.



Loni Fleming

Mrs. Loni Fleming joined TUCVM as the Desktop Support Technician working with Mr. Damien Sears in IT support for the College of Veterinary Medicine in September 2022. She is a graduate of Troy University with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. Mrs. Fleming has 6+ years of experience in installing and updating system hardware for Windows and IOS operating systems, troubleshooting system errors, software installation and training, and a plethora of additional skills.



JaNia Smith

Ms. JaNia Smith joined the TUCVM family as the Veterinary Teaching Hospital's (VTH) Small Animal Receptionist in September 2022. Ms. Smith is a native of Tuskegee, Alabama. She received her bachelor's degree in Animal, Poultry, and Veterinary Sciences in 2021. Ms. Smith says she is a proud alumna! In her free time, she likes to draw and paint.

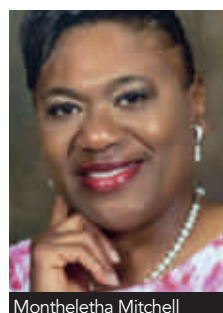


Latesha V. Howard

Ms. Latesha V. Howard joined TUCVM as the Administrative Assistant in the Office of Student Affairs, in July 2022. Ms. Howard was born on the first day of spring in Tuskegee, Alabama, on the historic grounds of Tuskegee University at what was formerly known as John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital. She has been employed at Tuskegee

University since July 2008. Previously, Ms. Howard worked at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center from 2008-2021 as the Front Desk Supervisor, Sales Coordinator, and Sales Manager. She also worked for one year as a Data Entry Clerk and Tour Coordinator in the university's Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management. In addition to working at Tuskegee University, Ms. Howard has served on the Tuskegee University Staff Senate as Secretary from 2019-2022. Currently, she is serving on the Tuskegee Judicial Board and also serving on the City Council in Union Springs, Alabama, for a five-year term. Ms. Howard also attended The Veterinary Leadership Experience (VLE) held in Idaho June 5-10, 2023, with TUCVM students (Taylor Smith class of 2025) and Janeece Richardson (class of 2026).

Retirement of Four TUCVM Faculty & Staff



Montheletha Mitchell

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine family gave farewell best wishes to four long time faculty and staff members for their retirement: **Dr. Gopal Reddy, Mr. Gene "Lightfoot" Cox, Dr. Benjamin Datiri and Ms. Montheletha Mitchell.** Dr. Gopal Reddy retired on September 1, 2022, as a Professor/Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies, after giving 32 years of dedicated service. Dr. Reddy also worked part time with the college until May 2023. Mr. Gene Cox (better known as Lightfoot by many) retired on May 1, 2023, as the Farm Manager for the TUCVM after giving 15 years of dedicated service. Dr. Benjamin Datiri, former Research Associate Professor and Assistant Director Animal Care, Department of Pathobiology – Comparative Medicine Resource Center, retired on June 30, 2023, after giving 33 years of dedicated service. Mrs. Montheletha Mitchell, Administrative Assistant for the Comparative Medicine Resource Center in the Department of Pathobiology, also retired on June 30, 2023, after giving 39 years of dedicated and committed service to TUCVM. 🐾



In Photo: Dean Ruby Perry with retirees Dr. Gopal Reddy, Dr. Benjamin Datiri, and Mr. Gene "Lightfoot" E. Cox.

58 Doctors of Veterinary Medicine recognized during Tuskegee University 2023 spring commencement, oath ceremony and distinguished alums honored

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) Class of 2023 welcomed 58 new doctors of veterinary medicine into the profession on May 6. Graduates were recognized during the Spring Commencement for Graduate and Professional Schools Ceremony followed by the college's Veterinary Medicine Oath and Hooding Ceremony at the General "Chappie" James Arena. Forty of the 58 students graduated with honors. Both ceremonies were live-streamed and are also available on the university's YouTube channel.

Also, during the university's graduate and professional schools commencement ceremony, five TUCVM graduates received the Master of Science in Veterinary Science degree, five graduates received the Master in Public Health (MPH) degree, one TUCVM graduate received the Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Pathobiology (IDPB) degree and one graduate received the Ph.D. in Integrative Biosciences (IBS) degree, which is jointly supported by three colleges -- TUCVM; the College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences; and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Immediately after the commencement, veterinary medicine graduates participated in the veterinary

oath and hooding ceremony where Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the veterinary medicine college, presided over the program. Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, associate dean for academic affairs; Dr. David McKenzie, associate dean for Clinical Programs; and Dr. Temesgen Samuel, associate dean for Research and Advanced Studies, provided assistance during the presentation and hooding of the graduates.



"I am honored to have served as the dean to this Class of 2023 and it is with gladness of heart that I look forward to engaging with my colleagues as they now join me in a most distinguished group of veterinary professionals and veterinary alumni," said Dean Perry. "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. 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 2023!"

Unique this year was that both the graduate and professional schools' commencement speaker

and the veterinary medicine oath keynote speaker are veterinarians and Tuskegee alumni. Jerome Williams, DVM, '68 and '69 alumnus, gave an uplifting Commencement Address and Allen Cannedy, DVM, '91 alumnus, gave the Veterinary Medicine Oath Charge to the newly named doctors of veterinary medicine.

Although speaking at separate times to the Class of 2023, both addressed the topic of facing and overcoming challenges.

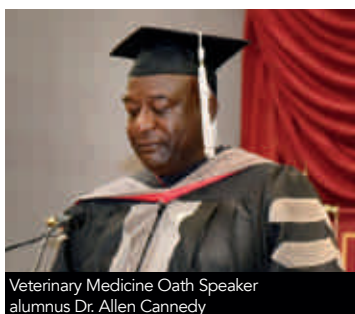
Messages to the Class of 2023

Dr. Williams is the immediate past President Pro Tempore (Chairman), of the Alabama A & M University Board of Trustees; President of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation, owner/founder of Red Mountain Animal Clinic in Homewood, Alabama, where he continues to practice today, and founder/Executive Director of the Red Mountain Wellness and Restoration Foundation. He said to the graduates "As you prepare to enter the workforce, you will have great accomplishments and successes and on the other side of it you will be faced with challenges and disappointments. However, when those challenges and disappointments come, it can become daunting but the good, the bad and the ugly are all essential parts of any successful career. Challenges can be opportunities for growth and learning, So be determined and committed to persevering through any hard moment because there is sunshine after weathering an unrelenting storm."

Dr. Cannedy retired from North Carolina State University-College of Veterinary Medicine (NCSU-CVM) in June 2022 but continues to serve as a consultant and advocate for underrepresented individuals interested in careers in the veterinary profession. He owns and operates his small ruminant and camelid mobile veterinary private practice that specializes in care for Llamas, Alpacas, Goats and Sheep. Prior to retiring, he served as NCSU-CVM's Director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs/Chief Diversity Officer. Dr. Cannedy shared his career journey and said to the graduates, "Your journey will have many opportunities and your options are only limited by your imagination. If you got interests in a particular area then pursue them and don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it!"



Commencement Speaker
alumnus Dr. Jerome Williams



Veterinary Medicine Oath Speaker
alumnus Dr. Allen Cannedy

TUCVM's Class of 2023 represents the college's 74th class to receive DVM degrees from Tuskegee University. The 58-member class of new DVMs represent Alabama as well as 18 other states to include: California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, and the territory of Puerto Rico. With this graduation, the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine has now awarded 3,021 veterinary medicine degrees.

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



Distinguished veterinary alumni award recipients

- Veterinary Oath Speaker Dr. Allen Cannedy;
- Commencement Speaker Dr. Jerome Williams;
- Dr. Leland M. McLaughlin, Jr., first African American intern at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine and first African American veterinarian to enter private practice in Charlotte, NC and served as the head associate veterinarian at Freedom Animal Hospital;
- Dr. Brianna Skinner, Commissioned Corps Officer in the United States Public Health Service, board certified in laboratory animal medicine, honorary diplomate with the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society, and a Senior Regulatory Veterinarian currently assigned to the Office of Counterterrorism and Emerging Threats at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; and
- Dr. SanYvette Williams-Foy, currently the president of the DELMARVA-DC TVMAA Chapter, has served as an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corp and trained to promote, protect and advance the health and safety of the public during emergency and disaster conditions while detailed to the EPA.

Congratulations Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2023



1. Aaliyah Finley
2. Aaliyah Johnson
3. Alexander Pierce
4. Allison Enfinger
5. Amanda Auigar
6. Ansleigh Banks
7. April Johnson
8. Ashlei Parker
9. Asia Phillips
10. Atalani Jackson
11. Bethany Hurley
12. Breyanna Morning-Bush
13. Brianna Brooks
14. Bryanna Snipes
15. Bryce Peterson

16. Carley Tramble
17. Christin Rouse
18. Colby Horne
19. Courtney Moore
20. Crystal Ware
21. Danielle Henry
22. Danny Tapia
23. Warren (Drew) Miles Jr.
24. Erika Del Pilar
25. Erin Pettibon
26. Hannah Monroe
27. Hayley Yeepun
28. Jade Nelson
29. Jan Ruiz
30. Ja' Reika Smith

31. Jane Hostomsky
32. Jessica Camarillo
33. Jocelyn McGill
34. Jordan Smith
35. Kara Lane
36. Kennedy Miller
37. Kiera Sweetenberg
38. Kierra Johnson
39. Kristopher Vine
40. Liza Godfrey
41. María del Mar López Maldonado
42. Maya Rollerson
43. Natalie Adams
44. Olivier Moussignac
45. Patricia Bradley

46. Portia Hunt
47. Robert McGowan
48. Sabrina Holguin
49. Savannah Mashburn
50. Scarlett Robinson
51. Shane Halbleib
52. Serena Stoddard
53. Sierra Johnson
54. Stevi Kincade
55. Sydney Dockery
56. Trijon White
57. Tyana Brown
58. Vivian Randolph

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine Host In-person 57th Veterinary Symposium



The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) welcomed alumni, students, faculty, staff, pre-veterinary students, friends and supporters to its 57th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium on March 22-25, 2023 which was held in historic downtown Montgomery, Alabama and on the campus in Tuskegee at the veterinary complex. This year's symposium marked the first in-person symposium after three years of pivoting from a traditional symposium to a virtual platform because of the coronavirus pandemic.

This year's symposium theme, "Cultivating a Sustainable Future for the Veterinary Profession," underscored the list of dynamic speakers and several continuing education sessions presented 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 professional conference and alumni reunion included a well-rounded variety of sessions to interest all participants. Featured speakers presented topics in large and small animal research, uniform services, public health, lab animal medicine, pathology, veterinary education, unique topics in veterinary medicine as well as presentations from the perspectives of interns. Presentation tracks were also included for international sessions and student sessions. This year's format included a full day of presentations for pre-veterinary students organized by the college's Office of Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment in which students from pipeline schools across the United States participated. Another featured session on student clinical skills labs was held for third and fourth year veterinary students only. Networking opportunities and chances to interact with symposium sponsors and exhibitors were also provided.



Four deans of veterinary colleges in U.S. universities all Tuskegee veterinary alumni gather at symposium. Pictured from (L to R) includes Purdue's Dean Willie Reed, Midwestern's Dean Carla Gartrell, Tuskegee's Dean Ruby Perry, and Western's Dean Phillip Nelson (now retired).



Dean Perry gets surprised with being presented with an Endowed Scholarship named in her honor.

The opening session on Thursday, March 23 began with the keynote speaker, T.S. Williams Lecturer Dr. Carla Gartrell, who is the Dean at Midwestern Veterinary College and also an '88 veterinary alumna of Tuskegee University. **Her presentation underscored the symposium theme plus exemplified** the legacy of Dr. T. S. Williams, Dean Emeritus of the College, who memory the lecture honors.

Then the Friday, March 24 keynote General Session speaker was Dr. Quincy Hawley, who is a small animal practice and relief veterinarian and also one of the co-creators of Get MotiVETed University - the world's first school of wellbeing specifically for veterinary professionals. His focus underscored the importance of wellness in the veterinary profession.

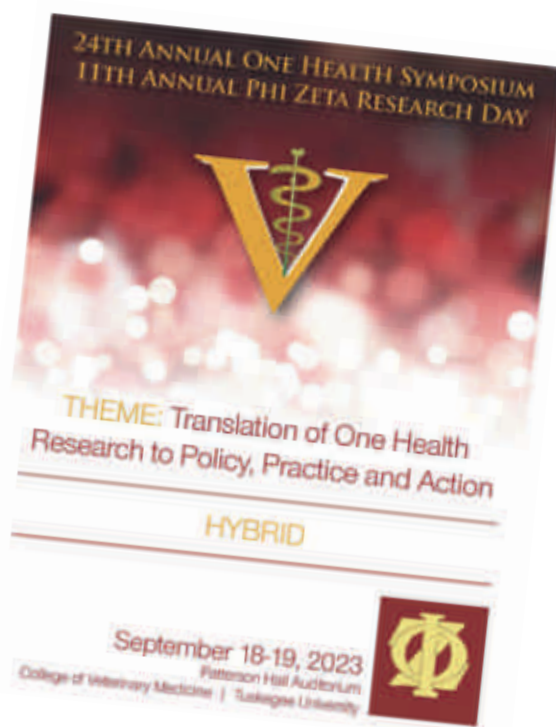
"I extend my sincere appreciation to the Symposium Committee for a well-planned, educational, and successful Symposium. After three years in a virtual setting, everyone was excited to be in person for the 57th Symposium. I am also appreciative to our industry partners, faithful sponsors, community supporters and friends of our college and university that contributed to us having another well-planned and exceptional 2023 Veterinary Medical Symposium with outstanding presentations," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the college.

The Alumni Banquet, which is one of the most highly anticipated features of the Symposium, was held on Friday night March 24 and honored the alumni reunion classes of 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973 (50th year - golden class), 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998 (25th year - silver class), 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018. Not only did the reunion classes continue the momentum of giving back monetarily to "Mother Tuskegee" but a surprised scholarship endowment was announced in honor of Dean Perry by the newly elected Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association President, Dr. Irving McConnell. Dean Perry cried tears of joy as she was surprisingly presented with a giant \$25K check announcing the establishment of the Dr. Ruby Perry Endowed Scholarship for Tuskegee University veterinary students.

"This endowment allows an opportunity for staff, faculty, alumni and friends to honor Dean Perry for the zeal she exudes in support of veterinary students. Her commitment to the college and her strong willpower to maintain "The Legacy" has never wavered and this scholarship symbolizes the admiration and appreciation

each donor has for Dean Perry's accomplishments and the contagious spirit with which her duties are fulfilled," Dr. McConnell said.

TUCVM is looking forward to holding the 58th Annual Veterinary Symposium in person again on March 20-24, 2024, where the next 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 will be honored. Of course, the college is challenging next year's 4's and 9's reunion classes to keep the momentum going to help sustain the legacy of TUCVM!



TUCVM Host 24th Annual One Health Symposium and 11th Annual Phi Zeta Research Day

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) 24th Annual One Health Symposium and 11th Annual Phi Zeta Research Day was held on September 18-19, 2023. TUCVM's 2023 One Health Symposium and Phi Zeta Research Day brought together dynamic speakers, engaged faculty, and motivated students to collaborate and bring the 2023 theme to life: **"Translation of One Health Research to Policy, Practice, and Action."** This year marked the 24th symposium and 11th Annual Research Day hosted by college in both an in-person and a virtual format as was done last year. It displayed and fostered engagement across colleges and disciplines to reduce health disparities. This symposium was not only a forum for research collaborations, but



Dean Perry with the 24th Annual One Health Symposium/11th Annual Phi Zeta Research Day Committee Members and Oral and Poster Presentations Winners



also allowed participants to learn about the exciting new interventions in biomedical research. Day two focused on the Phi Zeta Research Day sessions which highlighted student contributions in research as an opportunity for them to share their research experiences with oral and poster presentations.

The Phi Zeta Research Day Oral and Poster Presentation winners include the following: *DVM students Poster winners*: 1st Place - **Sydney Johnson**, 2nd Place - **Mark Harden**, 3rd Place - **Kierney Burks**; *DVM students Oral presentation winners*: 1st Place - **Sabria Wooten**, 2nd Place - **Jamia Mason**, 3rd Place - **Amol Morrow**; and new this year was the best poster presentation for *Graduate students* and the winner was **Jyoti Yadav**, third year Ph.D. Student at Auburn University.

Dean Ruby L. Perry noted that the theme of the symposium "Translation of One Health Research to Policy, Practice, and Action," acknowledged the continuous focus on the One Health Triad on healthy people, healthy environments, and healthy animals. It also aligned with the work of biomedical leaders in shaping future directions in advancing healthcare and biomedical research. She extended appreciation to the One-Health Symposium Co-chairs - 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, and to the Phi Zeta Research Day Co-chairs - Dr. Benjamin Adu-Addai, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Dilip Gunturu, Assistant Professor, both in the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

The symposium's prominent keynote and invited guest speakers included the following: Ms. Roslyn Holliday

Moore, Deputy Director for Programs for the Office of Minority Health (OMH) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Dr. Amber N. Clark-Brown, Medical Director Bureau of Health Provider Standards Bureau of Home and Community Services; Dr. Janeth Sanchez, Program Director for Health Equity Division of Medical and Scientific Research for the NIH All of Us Research Program; Dr. Sadeep Shrestha, Professor, Quetelet Endowed Professorship in Public Health, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health University of Alabama at Birmingham; Dr. Gary Pugh, Medical Officer, Alabama Department of Public (ADPH); Ms. Karen Henderson, RN, SeniorRX Coordinator, South Central Alabama Development Commission; and Ms. Lisa Jones, RN, Assistant District Clinic Director, East Central District (ADPH).

The symposium's community afternoon session began with a two panel discussion which fashioned conversations moderated by Dr. Torhonda Lee, Associate Professor/Head of the TUCVM's Department of Graduate Public Health, and Dr. Vivian Carter, Chair of TU's Department of Psychology and Sociology. The panelists and speakers addressed the following topics **"Building Organizational Capacity through Policy Change and Advocacy"** and **"Community-Level Strategies for Effective Advocacy and Policy Change."**

The One Health Symposium and Phi Zeta Research Day committee gave a special acknowledgement to the vendors, the Vendor Recruitment Committee from the Macon M.E.A.N.S For Cancer Support and Alabama Department of Public Health, City of Tuskegee, and other community partners who took part in the two-day event. 🐾

TUCVM 2023 57th Veterinary Medical Symposium HIGHLIGHTS



Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine holds 2023 White Coat Ceremony for sixty-three students



The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) was excited to welcome students from the Class of 2024 to the next phase of their veterinary medical curriculum at an in person White Coat Ceremony on February 25 at the Tuskegee University Chapel. Pride, excitement, and gratitude marked the transition of this year's veterinary medicine students to the clinical phase of the curriculum in which family and friends were invited to attend in person as well to witness this momentous event. However, for those unable to attend, the ceremony was live streamed on the university's YouTube channel.

TUCVM is grateful for the sponsorship and support of Zoetis Animal Health, the American Veterinary Medical History Society, Inc., Merck for the Merck Veterinary Manual given to each student, Banfield for the gift bag presented to each student by veterinary alumnae Dr. Christine James '98 and Dr. Consuela Byrd '08, 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 63 members of the Class of 2024.

Mr. Anthony McCloud, director of Student Affairs, and the White Coat Ceremony Planning Committee organized this year's event under the direction of Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the college. Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, associate dean of Academic Affairs, presided over the ceremony. Greetings were given by Dean Perry; Dr. Calvin M. Johnson, dean of Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. Steven T. Murphree, past president of Alabama Veterinary Medical Association; Dr. Jason Rodgers, past president of Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association; Dr. Wendi Lilly-Bare, past president of South Carolina Association of Veterinarians; and congratulatory greetings were read by Dr. Gilbreath on behalf of faithful sponsor Dr. Harvey Crumm, senior manager at Zoetis Animal Health, who was unable to be in attendance.

TUCVM Class of 2024 president Lasha A. Hicks-Bennett read each student's name and a little about their future veterinary career plans as each were presented their white coats. The white coats for the students from Alabama, Kentucky and South Carolina were purchased by the associations and presented to the students by the past presidents in attendance of the respective veterinary medical associations. Dean Perry presented the white coats to non-resident students.

"The annual white coat ceremony is a celebratory time in which our third year students make the major transition into the clinical phase which then moves them one step closer to becoming career-ready veterinarians upon graduating with their DVM degrees the following year. This momentous event would not be the success it is without the support of our sponsors, faculty, staff, students, and alumni," Dr. Gilbreath said.

For anyone who missed the ceremony, it can be viewed by entering TUCVM 2023 White Coat Ceremony in the search section at <https://www.youtube.com/user/tuskegeeuniversity>.

The 63 members of the Class of 2024 who received white coats are:

Alabama Students

Jane Ahn, Curtis Birmingham, Savanna A. Bruce, Kelly Campbell, Darby Blayde, Jazmyn A. Ford, Jasmine S. Gardner, Olivia Gipson, Katherine Hill, Adriana R. Jimison, DeNiqua M. Lee, Sydney P. Martin, Sydney T. Matthews, Terrance E. Mitchell, DeAndrea Peterson, Aklimiyya F. Rushing, Maddie Seay, and Kathryn A. Smith

Kentucky Students

Laurn O. Grant and Kailey A. Hildebrandt

South Carolina Students

Emily Baier, Hailey Cooper, Johnathan Floyd, Laurielle Gibson, DeJanee Harris, Alexis Meadows, and Abigail E. Webster

Non-Resident Students

Ginger C. Bailey, Erica C. Bell, Janelle Benton, Latoya Bryant, Andrey L. Bryson, Nakia Coit, Alyssa L. Crenshaw, Cydney D. Crook, Erin Gary, Caylen J. Goldsberry, Sydni Hampton, Charisma N. Heath, Lasha A. Hicks-Bennett, Jade I. Johnson, Cierra Kenerly, Kayla R. Landers, Dominique D. Lyles, Elsie S. Madison-Reed, Cami McJett, Lati-sha N. Mills, Esontay D. Mitchell, Monica P. Moore, Shyenne D. Moore, Kianna C. Muse, Ashley E. Passantino, Haylie S. Prottzman, Chloe C. Rogers, Salvador Romero Sanchez, Morgan N. Roney, Lauren N. Shipman, Jessica Smith, Danyelle M. Stroud, Logan Walton, Tyson B. Wilder, Matoaka L. Wilson, and María del Mar Zayas



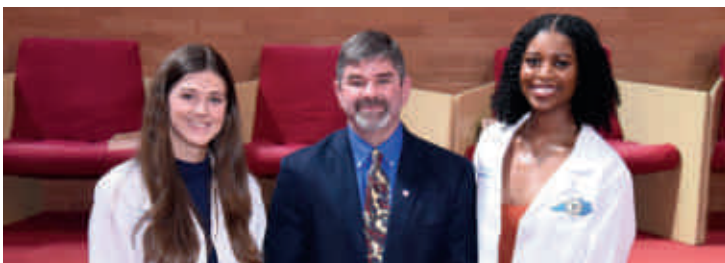
Dean Ruby Perry (center) with special guests: (L to R) Alabama Veterinary Medical Association Past President Dr. Steven T. Murphree, Auburn University Veterinary College Dean Dr. Calvin M. Johnson, South Carolina Association of Veterinarians Past President Dr. Wendi Lilly-Bare, and Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association Past President Dr. Jason Rodgers.



Alabama Veterinary Medical Association Past President Dr. Steven T. Murphree with students representing the State of Alabama.



South Carolina Association of Veterinarians Past President Dr. Wendi Lilly-Bear with students representing the State of South Carolina.



Left: Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association Past President Dr. Jason Rodgers with students representing the State of Kentucky.

Graduate Public Health Holds 2023 Annual Pinning Ceremony



The Tuskegee University, College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM's) Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH) held its 7th Annual Pinning Ceremony on November 1, 2023, in the Williams-Bowie Hall Conference Room with the option for connecting virtually if desired. Dr. Torhonda C. Lee, DGPH Department Head and Associate Professor, presided over the ceremony.

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 having successfully completed a minimum of 30 credit hours and upon the recommendation of their academic advisor receives the Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH) pin. This prestigious 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 blazer that is to be worn when presenting in professional and community settings. It also serves to acknowledge the completion of the basic





requirements for the master of Public Health degree and progress towards the final requirement of thesis/practicum for second-year students. The Blazer signifies that the students are prepared to engage in practical experience in the public health field and represent the DGPH's mission.

This year's speaker who gave "The Challenge" to the students was John Heath, Ph.D. (ret.) Associate Professor of Public Health (TUCVM) and Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychology. Dr. Heath came to Tuskegee University in September of 2005 and joined the faculty of the Department of Graduate Public Health in December of 2006. He witnessed the auspicious beginnings of the program and continues to shape its future in many ways. After his retirement as Associate Professor of Public Health in the Department of Graduate Public Health, he has continued to work on grants and projects, and to teach and guide graduate students on thesis or dissertation committees.

The MPH Students who received the DGPH Official Blazer were: Alexis Smith, Carolyn Track and Treasure Valle. The MPH students who were pinned included the following: Shelby Campbell (major professor - Dr. Torhonda Lee), Lauren Gibson (major professor - Dr. Lloyd Webb), Johnpaul

Kagulire (major professor - Dr. Asseged Dibaba), Shandrell Miller (major professor - Dr. Eshan Abdulla), and Sanchez Rolle (major professor - Dr. Webb).

Historical Overview – The MPH Pin and Blazer

The Dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Ruby L. Perry, and former Department Head, Attorney Crystal James designed the pin with a distinctive center stone in the official Tuskegee University color of crimson and emblazoned with the name of the University, and with the initials of the College and the Department.

The DGPH faculty uphold the tradition to recognize the efforts of MPH students to not only learn the core functions and essential services that are taught in public health programs and schools across this nation and abroad but also to acknowledge their commitment to the vision and mission of our program. This is the purpose of receiving the official blazer after they have completed at least one full-time semester, demonstrating their aptitude and dedication. Moreover, the students receive the official pin once they have completed requisite credit hours and demonstrated their ability and readiness to enter the community. 🌟

TUCVM Host 2023 Inaugural Homecoming Meet & Greet



On behalf of Dean Ruby L. Perry and the inaugural TUCVM Homecoming Meet and Greet Planning Committee, alumni, students, faculty, staff & friends of the college were all invited to join in on the fun and attend the **TUCVM Homecoming Meet and Greet on Friday, October 13, 2023, in the Patterson Hall Atrium and on the outside grounds of Patterson Hall Porch area from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 P.M.** We thank all alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the college who came out to support our inaugural TUCVM Homecoming event. We enjoyed seeing everyone who joined us in enjoying some great food, fun, & fellowship in celebrating the TU Homecoming Spirit and our theme **"TOGETHER: Anchored in Legacy, Tradition, and Pride!"**

TUCVM students also joined in on all the TU Homecoming Spirit with participating in the homecoming parade on Oct. 14 and promoting our Mobile Services Unit in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital! Thanks to the TUCVM students and Dr. Steven Walker for driving the van! All had lots of fun enjoying TU Homecoming 2023!

TUCVM's Health and Wellness Program



Ms. Deetra Benn and Ms. Chankia Berry work TUCVM's Wellness Exhibit Booth during Tuskegee University's Annual Mental Health Awareness Week 2023.

One of the goals for the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) is to address the health and wellness of our students that impact their academic success. The College recognizes there is a need for students to engage in healthy

lifestyle activities

for mental health and well-being.

These activities will increase awareness and benefit their daily life habits and behaviors. Students are introduced to various methods and alternatives that promote healthy lifestyles changes. All activities are sustainable and easy to follow.

The TUCVM Health and Wellness Program consists of activities which include awareness and lifestyle changes. Proposed activities/events include Health Fair, Lunch and Learns, Wellness Walks, Zumba, Workouts at the Fitness Room in Logan Hall, Tai Chi, Stepping for Health Challenge, Mindfulness Coloring, Mindfulness Meditation, A Taste of Wellness, Massage Therapy, Final Exam Snack Packs, and 5k walk/with pets.

TUCVM Health and Wellness Team also promoted participation in Tuskegee University's Annual Mental Health Awareness Week 2023. Tuskegee University's Annual Mental Health Awareness Week 2023 was held during the spring semester on February 20-22. TUCVM's Veterinary Social Worker

Chankia Berry served as a member of the University's Wellness Team and encouraged the TUCVM Family to attend the various activities and panel discussions. Ms. Berry also participated in the Mental Health Awareness Week by sponsoring a TUCVM Wellness Program display in Thompkins Hall on Monday and Tuesday.

Monday

11 a.m. Meet the TU Wellness Team

Self-care 1st - Exploring the 8 Elements of Wellness

[Mon Feb. 20, at 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (Students) | Mon

Feb. 20, at 5-7 p.m. (Faculty/Staff)]

This workshop creates an intimate space to see yourself inside of the 8 Elements of Wellness... Physical, Mental/Intellectual, Emotional, Environmental, Spiritual, Financial, Interests/Occupational & Social. We'll engage in exercises designed to have you reflect on your past & present wellness habits to ultimately create a future vision that aligns with the healthiest version of yourself.

5-6 p.m. Mental Health Resource Fair

6 p.m. Celebrity Mental Health Panel Discussion

Tuesday

11 a.m.-12 p.m. "Sleep MatterZzz"

(Virtual Awareness Session)

12 -1:30 p.m. Suicide Prevention Training (Virtual Awareness Session)

Mental Wellness has 3 Brains

[Tues Feb.21, at 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (Students) | Tues Feb. 21, at 5-7 p.m. (Faculty/Staff)]

Typically, when we reference mental health, we think of the mind. However, our mind is only one of our three brains. Yes, we have three brains... the mind, the heart and the gut. From which are you leading? How is it impacting your health? How about your relationships? Your results? Your finances? Your energy? Your family? This workshop creates an experiential opportunity to connect to your three brains, learn how balance them & access wellness success tools to apply to your everyday life.

5-6 p.m. Mental Health Resource Fair

6-7:30 p.m. Mental Health Workshop

Wednesday

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Field Day on the Yard & Petting Zoo

It's More than Workouts & Salads

[Wed Feb. 22, at 5-6:30 p.m. (Students) | Wed Feb 22,

at 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (Faculty/Staff)]

Some of the most forgotten Elements of Wellness, are connecting to your interests, hobbies and having fun in life. The importance of fitness & nutrition is well documented and marketed, but often, western culture doesn't applaud playtime. Join us in this interactive workshop where we'll explore the softer side of wellness

(rest, fun, play & woosah). I grant you permission to take a break & come play... it's a part of your productivity & success!

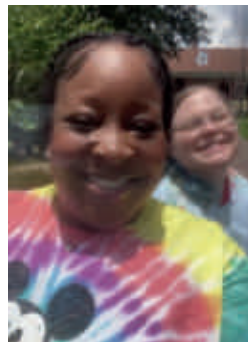
7 p.m. Movie

TUCVM Health and Wellness Calendars...



The VSW Office encouraged the TUCVM family to work together to improve our mental/ physical wellness and school/work life balance. Ms. Berry shared wellness calendars for the months of February and March. A 28-day calendar for February was designed to help jumpstart the well-being journey. All activities on the calendar were durable and easy to follow. Reminder...

Be Kind to Yourself and Each other!



Ms. Berry also promoted the "March" forward in unity calendar. The goal was to continue improving mental/ physical well-being and create a healthy work life balance. During Spring Break, she encouraged the CVM family, to be kind to their mind and rest. Ms. Berry also encouraged individuals to seek out meaningful activities and enjoy quality time with the ones they love. Continue to **be**

Kind to Yourself and One Another!

Promoting Workplace PRIDE...

During the month of June, TUCVM Wellness Program hosted its first Tie Dye T-Shirt Making Day. This event helped recognize the impact that all individuals have in the world regardless of race, gender, or sexuality. One of the goals in the TUCVM Wellness Program is to inspire individuals and teams to achieve more, communicate better, and build upon each other's strengths. Workplace pride is an essential factor in engagement.



TUCVM 2023 Homecoming HIGHLIGHTS



TUCVM Participates in "Breakthrough Birmingham"



TUCVM hosted students from the "Breakthrough Birmingham" High School Scholars program with their visit to the college on June 23, 2023. "Breakthrough Birmingham" is composed of High-Achieving High School Scholars.

Dean Perry approved the participation of the college with the TUCVM Office of Student Affairs serving as the host, under Director Mr. Anthony McCloud. The Office of Veterinary Recruitment and Admissions also served as a sponsor for this event.

The scholars enjoyed a full day at the college consisting of presentations to include the following: *Overview of the Veterinary Profession* (Dean Perry), *Veterinarians in Academia* (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Ebony Gilbreath), *Veterinarians in Clinical Medicine* (Associate Dean for Clinical Programs Dr. David McKenzie), *Veterinarians in Research* (Associate Dean Dr. Temesgen Samuel), with a Student Engagement Q&A session following the presentations. Afterwards, the students were divided up into two groups to participate in a tour of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) with Dr. Howard King, Coordinator of Clinical Facilities, (overseeing Group A) and Dr. McKenzie (overseeing Group B). To learn more about Breakthrough Birmingham, visit: <https://breakthroughbham.org/>.

About Breakthrough Birmingham

Breakthrough Birmingham strives to reverse educational inequity by providing free, year-round, high quality, multi-year programs for middle and high school students. As a proud member of the Birmingham community, they constantly strive for equity and seek to create opportunities for families. Breakthrough Birmingham supports students from middle school through high school with intentional academic acceleration, social emotional skill building, and meaningful mentorship. They have worked with over 500 scholars since starting in 2013.

"Toy Drive for Tots" made the holidays merrier for local elementary students

TUCVM's family of students, faculty, and staff under the leadership of Dean Ruby L. Perry, once again approached the holiday season with reminding all of the true spirit of being thankful and giving to help spread cheer and joy to others. Dr. Roslyn Casimir and Ms. Chankia Berry oversaw the college's efforts with the support of Dean Perry.



This spirit was promoted with the college's successful Eighth Annual TUCVM "Toy Drive for Tots" event. The TUCVM family collected over 230 gifts which allowed all 219 children enrolled in Pre-K to first grade at George Washington Carver (GWC) Elementary School in Tuskegee, Alabama, to receive a gift on December 13. The TUCVM "Santa" helpers enjoyed the in-person event of passing out the toys to the students in the gymnasium at GWC and allowing the students to interact with a visit from Santa Claus too.

The 'Toy Drive for Tots' is now an annual tradition in the college that was inspired by the TUCVM students (originally Class of 2017) and the TUCVM administration. The annual celebration is each year led by the succeeding first-year veterinary class.

GWC's Principal Norman Williams, Jr., teachers, and assistants were very appreciative that the college again selected their students as part of the season of Holiday Giving for 2022. TUCVM also thanks the GWC's administrators and teachers who also assisted and supported the Toy Drive. "We applaud the efforts of the TUCVM students, faculty and staff in demonstrating outstanding teamwork in making this eighth annual charity event possible and a huge success," said Veterinary Social Worker Chanika Berry. Over 230 gifts were collected for the total of 219 students enrolled in Pre-K - 1st grade at GWC Elementary School as well as extra gifts were given to stock classroom treasure boxes. This was another successful joint effort between the students and the CVM administration to support the local community. 🐾



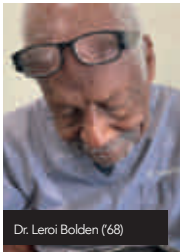
In Loving Memory...

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. Frederick Adams (72)

Dr. Frederick Kit Adams, Jr. passed away on August 6, 2022. Known to many as "Doc", he opened his own veterinary hospital in Washington, DC, where he held the practice for many years, and later opened an office in Silver Spring, Maryland. Always one for a new adventure, in his later years, Dr. Adams chose to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture which required him to move to different remote locations to serve as a public health veterinarian. His funeral is August 27 in Wilmington, Delaware.



Dr. Leroi Bolden (68)

Dr. Leroi Bolden passed away on October 18, 2023. He practiced at Surgery Center Silicon Valley in California. Dr. Bolden (also called Dr. "B") was a compassionate veterinarian that was loved by his clients. He often helped with animals brought in for care from One Planet Rescue. It was noted that he even used to help the homeless and took care of so many dogs belonging to low-income families.



Dr. Aaron Bivens (2011)

Dr. Aaron M. Bivens passed away on August 1, 2023. He was a respected and beloved veterinarian known for his exceptional care and compassion towards animals. Dr. Bivens was a prosperous small animal practitioner in Las Vegas. He was a highly esteemed veterinarian, admired for his dedication and passion for animal welfare. Dr. Bivens' dedication to ophthalmology, soft tissue surgery, and theriogenology showcased his commitment to continuous learning and providing the best care possible. His funeral service was held on August 12 in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Dr. Robert Goldsboro (51)

Dr. Robert Goldsboro passed away in early September 2022 and his funeral was held on September 24, 2022, in Bridgeton, New Jersey. Dr. Goldsboro had a remarkable career of 30 years of service. He retired from his position as the State of New Jersey's Coordinator of Veterinary Public Health. For 28 years of his professional career, Dr. Goldsboro was also active in the United States Air Force Reserves. He retired from the Reserves with the rank of Lt. Colonel. Dr. Goldsboro was a Golden Life member with

the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and for more than 60 years he was a member of the historic Alpha Masonic Lodge #116.



Dr. Allen F. Lee, Jr. (67)

Dr. Allen F. Lee, Jr. passed away on August 11, 2023, at the age of 80. His wife (Lula) preceded him in death, and she was also a Tuskegee University undergrad alum. Dr. Lee retired from Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Veterinary Medicine as the first black faculty member and was the only one for a while. He worked at LSU from 1983-2005. LSU has noted that he made major contributions to minority student recruitment and mentorship efforts, which

led to the retention and graduation of many stellar veterinarians who serve important roles in veterinary medicine today and into the future. Dr. Lee created a lasting impact as one of the earliest members of the

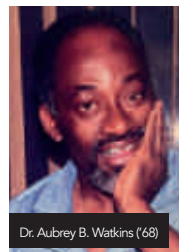
LSU Black Faculty & Staff Caucus (BFSC) and provided remarkable leadership in the areas of mentoring and scholarship. Together with the BFSC Founders, Dr. Lee helped established what is now known as the Annual Black Scholars Program at LSU. His funeral was held August 26, 2023, in Baton Rouge.



Dr. Alfred Montgomery (82)

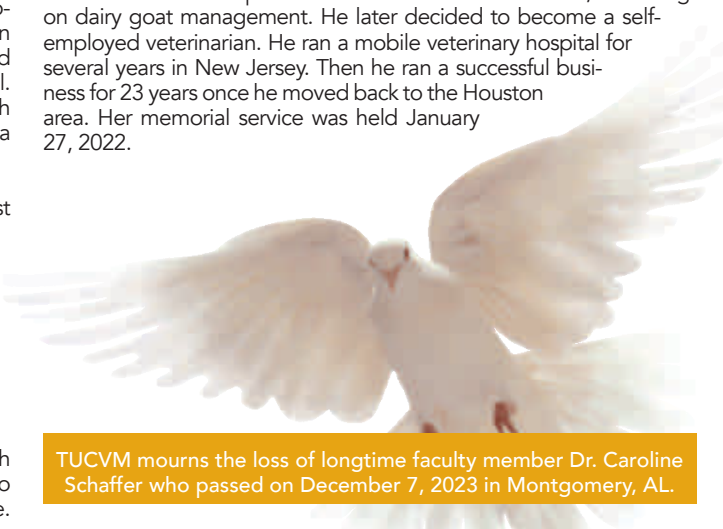
Dr. Alfred Montgomery passed away on February 22, 2023. He was a US Army Veterinary Corps Officer (Reserves) where he served in Operation Desert Storm and later served as Public Health Service Corps Officer. Dr. Montgomery retired from the FDA and worked in the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and was a valued member of Compliance. Dr. Montgomery worked in Emergency Response and was a member of the Post-Market Drug Team, and also a CVM expert on aquaculture and Bioterrorism issues. Prior to coming to the Division Compliance, Dr. Montgomery worked at USDA APHIS and in OS&C Director's Office. He also frequently volunteered his services as a veterinarian in D.C. and was always willing to lend a helping hand where he could. Dr. Montgomery was a man of honor who touched many people in the veterinary medicine community. He was a proud father and grandfather, and loved his hometown of Washington, D.C. and his Alma mater, Tuskegee University. His funeral was held on March 18, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

To honor Dr. Alfred Montgomery, a Scholarship has been created at Tuskegee University to support students at the College of Veterinary Medicine. To support, make checks payable to Tuskegee University for the Dr. Alfred Montgomery Endowed Scholarship Fund. To donate online, place name on account: Dr. Alfred Montgomery Endowed Scholarship Fund at link, <https://www.tuskegee.edu/support-tu/give>.



Dr. Aubrey B. Watkins (68)

Dr. Aubrey B. Watkins passed away on January 17, 2022. Dr. Watkins received invaluable experience as the State Veterinarian for the Republic of Guyana, South America, in its State and Zoological Department before returning to the States. Dr. Aubrey Watkins was the Director of the International Dairy Goat Research Center (IDGRC) at the College of Agriculture, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas. A special pursuit of Dr. Watkins and the IDGRC was developing a "dual-purpose" goat, one suitable for utilization in developing countries as an additional source of protein. Dr. Watkins actively served in many community and international committees and was an author of numerous publications and technical bulletins, centering on dairy goat management. He later decided to become a self-employed veterinarian. He ran a mobile veterinary hospital for several years in New Jersey. Then he ran a successful business for 23 years once he moved back to the Houston area. Her memorial service was held January 27, 2022.



TUCVM mourns the loss of longtime faculty member Dr. Caroline Schaffer who passed on December 7, 2023 in Montgomery, AL.

IN MEMORIAM



IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

TUCVM Veterinary Social Worker...Chankia Berry



Meet: Chankia Berry, MSW Veterinary Social Worker



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Chankia Sherell Berry joined the college as the Veterinary Medicine Social Worker, effective March 1, 2022. She is an alumna of Tuskegee University where she earned her bachelor's degree in Social Work. Ms. Berry also earned her master's degree in Social Work from Barry University in 2014. She has experience in working with diverse groups of all sizes to include working with populations in hospitals, nursing homes, mental health facilities, and the Department of Family and Children Services.

She promotes the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) Office of the Veterinary Social Worker as a **Safe Place for ALL!!!** Since her office opened, the college's Veterinary Social Worker (VSW) has been involved/interacted with **200 veterinary students** and faculty and staff members within TUCVM.

➤ **The goals of the Veterinary Social Worker (VSW) are to:**

- Engage TUCVM students in non-academic mental health and wellbeing services
- Foster a sustainable future veterinary workforce.
- Involve TUCVM faculty and staff in developing a culture of health and wellbeing. Deliver veterinary client engagement and support services.

➤ **Services implemented to TUCVM students include:**

- provided confidential supportive counseling by appointment and walk-in hours
- provided crisis counseling, conflict mediation, and incident debriefing
- facilitated referrals for clinical mental health services (assessment, diagnosis, treatment)

➤ **Services implemented to TUCVM faculty and staff in developing a culture of health and wellbeing include:**

- provided confidential supportive counseling and incident debriefing
- provided consultation on academic and non-academic student issues
- ongoing participation and engagement in TUCVM leadership groups
- development of lesson plans for 1st-4th year students

► **Services implemented to client engagement and support services include:**

- attend ambulatory calls within the community TUCVM students and faculty
- availability of resources related to pet loss, grief and bereavement, and euthanasia
- engagement of clients while waiting for patient treatment/care

VSW Levels of Practice within TUCVM

- **Micro** – Individual and group counseling to TUCVM students, staff, faculty, and clients
- **Mezzo** – TOLE (Tiger Leadership Experience), SERP (Summer Enrichment and Reinforcement Program), Junior Surgery, 4th year rotations, and TUCVM leadership committees
- **Macro** – VLE (Veterinary Leadership Experience) and Toy Drive for Tots with local school system



In May 2023, Ms. Berry served as a panelist guest for **Ezy Vet**. Each May, **Ezy Vet** dedicates the entire month to learning mindfulness, well-being, and self-care. Their goal is to bring veterinary communities together far and wide to share, learn and connect. Ms. Berry was a panelist for the discussion topic *Staff retention: The power of positive practice culture*. This presentation focused on the detailed staff shortage and how cultivating a positive work environment can help practices attract and retain talent in an ultra-competitive labor market.

Looking Ahead...Year 2 and on for the Office of the VSW

- Integrate Mental Health & Wellbeing into TUCVM Curriculum
- Instructional delivery by VSW in Fall 2023
- Streamline access to clinical care referrals for TUCVM students
- Conduct mental health and wellbeing needs assessment of TUCVM students
- Analyze and report service utilization data to drive TUCVM – VSW strategic plan
- Assess need for additional resources to meet TUCVM stakeholder needs





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Save the Date:

March 13-16, 2024

58th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium

March 13 - 16, 2024

We will be honoring the 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

We look forward to seeing you at our host location site once again of the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center in Montgomery, Alabama. So, mark your calendar and plan to attend!

More information coming soon!

www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed