

14th Annual Phi Zeta Research Day

Theme: Advancing One Health Through Technology

Tuskegee University, College of Veterinary Medicine

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

TIME	SPEAKERS
9:00 am – 9:05 am	Opening Remarks Co-Chairs: Gemechu Wirtu , DVM, PhD, Head Department of Biomedical Sciences, Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University and Sherein Salem , BVSc, MVSc, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University
9:05 am – 9:10 am	Welcome: Ebony Gilbreath , DVM, Ph.D., Diplomate-ACVP, Dean, Tuskegee University, College of Veterinary Medicine
9:10 am – 9:40 am	Asim Ali , Executive Director, Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, Auburn University <i>Preparing the Next Generation for An Ai-Enabled One Health Future</i>
9:45 am – 10:15 am	Ryan Gibson , DVM, M.Ed, DACVIM, Veterinary Educator & Neurologist, Auburn University <i>Responsible Use and Critical Evaluation of Emerging Technology in Veterinary Medicine and Research</i>
10:20 am – 10:35 am	Alexis Smith , BS, MPH, Interdisciplinary Pathobiology PhD Graduate Student, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University <i>Assessing Tick-Borne Rickettsia Risk in Alabama: Implications for One Health</i>
10:35 am – 10:50 am	Fentahun Abate , DVM, MSc, Interdisciplinary Pathobiology PhD Graduate Student, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University <i>Characterization of the Origin and Alteration in Six2 Progenitor Derived Gastric Mesenchymal Cells in a PKA Driven Gastric Preneoplasia Model</i>
10:50 am – 11:00 am	BREAK
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Keynote Speaker: Michael Q. Bailey DVM, DACVR, AAAS/AVMA Fellow, Immediate - Past President American Veterinary Medical Association <i>One Health in Action: The Essential Role of Veterinarians and Veterinary Teams as One Health Caregivers</i>
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	LUNCH BREAK AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS
1:35 pm – 1:55 pm	Kailee Pierce , 3 rd Year Veterinary Student, University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Small Animal and Surgery, Athens, GA <i>3D Virtual and Printed Models in Veterinary Education: Improving Echocardiographic Interpretation of the Feline Heart</i>
1:55 pm - 2:35 pm	Hibret Addisu , DVM, MSc, PhD, DVSc, ACVP, Director of Pathology, Clinical Pharmacology and Safety Sciences, AstraZeneca <i>Within and Beyond the Scope: The Pathologist in the Pharmaceutical Industry</i>

2:35 pm - 2:50 pm	BREAK
	Tuskegee Veterinary Scholars Program (TVSP) Summer Research Student Speakers
2:50 pm – 3:10 pm	Khori Smith , 2 nd Year DVM Student, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University <i>The Pathophysiological Significance of Erythrocyte Deviations in Veterinary Peripheral Blood Assessments</i>
3:10 pm – 3:30 pm	Jenima Fertil , 2 nd Year DVM Student, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University <i>Gremlin1 Overexpression in Six2⁺ Nephron Progenitors Causes Premature Exhaustion of the Nephrogenic Zone</i>
3:30 pm – 3:50 pm	Dheaven Angeletti , 2 nd Year DVM Student, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University <i>Evaluating the Mammary Gland and the Impact of Staphylococcus Aureus Mastitis</i>
3:50 pm – 4:10 pm	Dorian McFarley , 2 nd Year DVM Student, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University <i>Surveillance of Norovirus in Vegetables, Stagnant Water, and Sewer in Selected Counties in Alabama</i>
4:10 pm – 4:30 pm	Gerard J. Jefferson , 2 nd Year DVM Student, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University <i>Metagenomic Characterization of Antibiotic Resistance Genes in Lake Tuskegee</i>
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Awards and Closing: Co-Chairs: Gemechu Wirtu , DVM, PhD and Sherein Salem , BVSc, MVSc, PhD

