

# TUSKEGEE VETERINARY MEDICAL PERSPECTIVE

2025-2026

VOL. 48



## TUCVM Groundbreaking Ceremony

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



TUSKEGEE  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
*Office of the Dean*



**G**reetings alumni, friends, and supporters of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) and welcome to the 2025-2026, Vol. 48 issue of the *Veterinary Medical Perspective* magazine. This issue includes my first message to you as dean of the College, in which I am excited and humbled to greet you. We are now celebrating the 81st year of our esteemed veterinary medical program (1945-2026), alongside our 60th Veterinary "Diamond" Symposium where this year's theme is "60 Years of Veterinary Medicine, Discovery, and Global Service - Honoring the Brilliance of Our Tradition, Inspiring the Promise of Our Future." Our Veterinary Medical Symposium is RACE-approved and is our largest continuing education event and alumni fundraiser. We value not only the educational aspects of this symposium, but also the chance to reconnect with alumni and colleagues, and to foster networking opportunities for our students and one another. This year we reflect on our historic veterinary college being in existence over eight decades! We celebrate our rich history, contributions to the veterinary profession, and the continual progress ongoing in our college as a result of the hard work, dedication, commitment and contributions of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, administration, donors, and other supporters. Some key achievements include onboarding of new faculty and staff, robust advertising of job opportunities within our College, enhanced marketing and expanded offerings of our services, renovations within our Large Animal Teaching Hospital and progress toward the upcoming new Small Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Preclinical Instruction Building. We look forward to future planning for the construction of a new Large Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital as well.

We truly do have much to be proud of at Tuskegee and will continue to summon the Tuskegee warrior spirit—striving for excellence in all we do, ensuring that our College of Veterinary Medicine continues to produce career-ready veterinarians and sustains the legacy of the first professional veterinary medical program at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). I want to acknowledge and express my gratitude for the exceptional support our college has received from our President and CEO, Dr. Mark A. Brown, Provost and Sr. Vice President Dr. Thierno Thiam, the Board of Trustees, and the university administration as a whole, who are investing resources, infrastructure and support needed for our college to excel and continue to attract top-notch educators, support staff and the future generations of veterinarians to be educated at Tuskegee.

The year 2025-26 has continued to be an extremely busy year for the college as will be evident in this issue of the *Veterinary Medical Perspective* magazine. I hope you enjoy reading the various articles that highlight our TUCVM family of alumni, faculty, staff, supporters, and especially our students. Our college is proud of our wonderful accomplishments. This issue highlights a combination of events and achievements to include several student scholarships and resource commitments from our dedicated supporters and industry partners, outstanding contributions and successes of our faculty, staff, students and alumni, and several outreach efforts that emphasize our commitment to our local and surrounding communities.

As you enjoy this edition of *Veterinary Medical Perspective*, please recognize the continuous role that we all have in ensuring that "Mother Tuskegee" and the TUCVM continue to thrive and produce future generations of veterinarians for years to come.

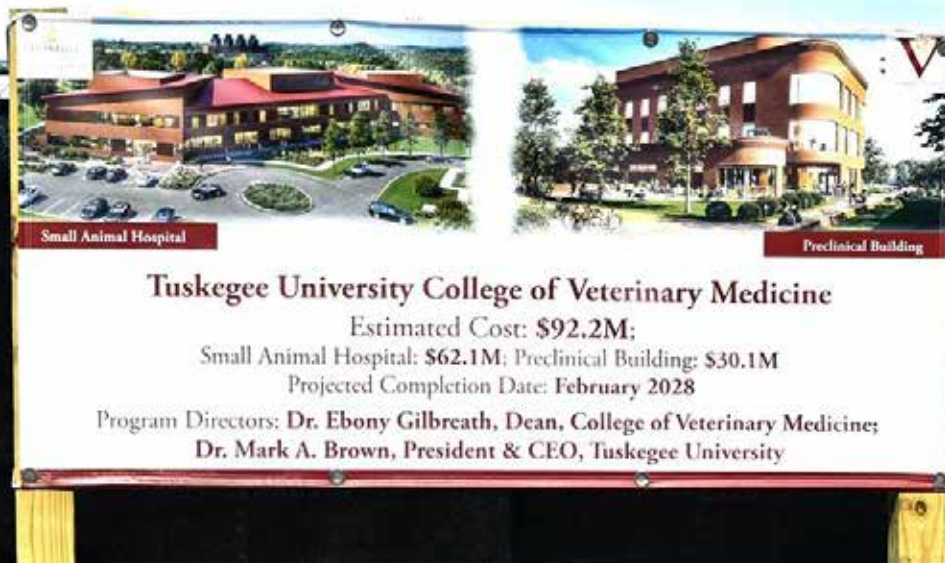
Remember to mark your calendars and make plans to return next year to our 61st Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium March 2027. We will then be honoring the reunion classes of 1952, 1957, 1962 1967, 1972, 1977 (50th year - golden class), 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002 (25th year - silver class), 2007, 2012, 2017, and 2022.

Best wishes to remain safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Ebony Gilbreath, DVM, PhD, DACVP

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BUILDING RENDERINGS & CONSTRUCTION BANNER for the anticipated new Small Animal Hospital & Preclinical Building...in process now on the grounds of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM)...an exciting time!

**TUSKEGEE VETERINARY MEDICAL**  
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Tuskegee University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees. Questions about the accreditation of Tuskegee University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).

[www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed](http://www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed)



**ON THE COVER:**

TUCVM's Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Small Animal Hospital & Preclinical Building was held on September 18, 2025. "On behalf of the College of Veterinary Medicine, I am delighted to welcome you all to this momentous occasion, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Small Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Preclinical Instruction Building. Today marks the beginning of an exciting journey as we take the first step toward propelling our veterinary college into the future..." ~opening remarks from Dr. Ebony Gilbreath as moderator for Groundbreaking Ceremony.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

## New Small Animal Hospital Groundbreaking Ceremony

### Tuskegee University Breaks Ground on \$18 Million Investment for a New Small Animal Teaching Hospital



The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) turned the soil on a new 57,000-square-foot small animal teaching hospital to continue the university's unmatched 80-year legacy as a leader in training veterinarians in the United States.

Founded in 1945, TUCVM has trained over 70 percent of African American veterinarians in the United States and currently boasts the most diverse student body among all U.S. colleges of veterinary medicine.

"And now we are investing in the next 80 years," said Dr. Mark A. Brown, president and CEO. "When there was no other vet school for students to come to, there was Tuskegee University. And 80 years from now, students will still be training to become doctors of veterinary medicine here at Tuskegee."

Dr. Brown also shared that the state-of-the-art facility will come to be without creating additional debt for the university. The university invested a major portion of a \$20 million gift from MacKenzie Scott in 2020, which allowed the university to use the interest from that investment for this project.

"This is an \$18 million investment and Tuskegee is doing this without debt," he said. "We are able to do this debt free because of wise decisions and good stewardship of our Board of Trustees, led by Chairwoman Norma Clayton, and institutional advancement leaders, always in service to Mother Tuskegee."

The new small animal hospital is being designed to be a cutting-edge teaching hospital and will greatly expand TUCVM's clinical capabilities. It will include space for advanced diagnostic and specialty care including modern imaging suites, surgery operating rooms, and intensive care units.

"The promise these new facilities represent for generations of veterinary professionals to come is only the beginning of this exciting journey," said Dr. Ebony Gilbreath '04, Interim Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "With this symbolic gesture today, we officially break ground with the first step in transforming this vision into a reality. Thank you to everyone who joined this momentous occasion to make this celebration possible."

The groundbreaking was Phase I of a project that includes the teaching hospital and a preclinical instruction building. The facility will also consolidate critical support services under one roof, increasing efficiency and faster turn-around times for students

and the small animals they treat. A modernized reception and waiting area will ease access for the surrounding Macon County community, which has for decades relied on Tuskegee for animal care that can be hard to find.

“Tuskegee’s veterinary program has always been a lifeline to our community,” said Dr. Dana Fuller ‘03, president of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association. “I am elated to see the school expand. “The alumni association is always looking for ways to be a bridge between the alumni, the students and the school, even by just being here today to celebrate this step forward.”

Kyle Jorel Frett will become “Dr. Frett” when TUCVM graduates its class in May 2026. The fourth-

year student remembers that “there was no question that Tuskegee was the right fit for me,” when asked about choosing to study at Tuskegee. His passion for equine surgery was first sparked following his undergraduate work at Fort Valley State University. “I knew I wanted to be a part of that legacy of world-class training and mentorship, and I knew I would only get it here.”

The construction project is being managed by Tuskegee’s Facilities department in partnership with Flad Architects and the Pylon Building Group.

“Every wall raised will be a living classroom,” said Reggie Torbor, president of Pylon Building Company, the contractor for the build. 🦄

\*NOTE: Sharing from Tuskegee University press release.

## Photo Highlights of Groundbreaking Ceremony....



QR Code for supporting Tuskegee University's Comprehensive Campaign which includes the new construction at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Tuskegee Alum Donates  
Ultrasound Machine to TUCVM**



In the photo are Dr. Marc Alkhal and Dr. Kiran Vasudeva instructing veterinary students on performing the ultrasound scan on model patient, "Teddy". The students in the photo are Sabria Wooten, Whitney Shivers, and Catherine McKenzie - all members of the class of 2026.

Dr. Ruth Gillis, a member of the Class of 1985, gave a generous donation of an ultrasound machine to the College. The donation included a GE LOGIQ e Vet NextGEN portable ultrasound machine, along with two veterinary transducers (8C and 12L). The GE LOGIQ e Vet

NextGEN system, is a well-regarded model widely used in both Small Animal and Large Animal practices, including ambulatory and field services. This generous contribution is making a meaningful difference in our Veterinary Teaching Hospital and greatly enhances the learning experience of our veterinary students, especially those on Radiology rotation.

Diagnostic Imaging Clinicians Dr. Marc Alkhal, Section Manager/Clinical Instructor, and Dr. Kiran Vasudeva, Radiology Professor, have acknowledged how impressive the image quality is with the new ultrasound equipment. The ability to obtain crisp, high-resolution images in a portable format is of tremendous value in clinical veterinary settings. This generous donation provides our students with hands-on experience using a high-quality, industry-standard ultrasound system. This exposure not only strengthens their clinical skills but also introduces them to an accessible and reliable equipment option they may consider as future practitioners.



Dr. Ruth Gillis

**About Ruth Gillis, DVM**

Dr. Ruth Gillis is the proud mother of two children and three grandchildren, all who reside in Maryland. She earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science degree both from Tuskegee University. In 1985, she began

practicing small animal medicine in upstate New York for 19 years. Dr. Gillis moved to Winston-Salem, N.C. in 2001 and purchased Forsyth Veterinary Hospital in 2005. She retired in January 2023 from full time practice and works part time at Shallowford Animal Hospital in Lewisville, NC.

**TUCVM Receives \$600K Shelter Medicine Grant**



Photo of Dr. Hubbard and Shelter Medicine Van



Dr. Hubbard & Dr. Johnson

Dr. Tomeshia Hubbard, Section Chief, Community Practice and Shelter Medicine/ Assistant Professor of Veterinary Dermatology, received a \$600K Shelter Medicine grant from an anonymous donor with a grant period ended February 2026. This grant has allowed the shelter medicine service to secure a shelter

medicine clinician and licensed veterinary technician as consultants, purchase a shelter medicine van, improve shelter medicine services to partner humane societies, improve providing house calls to the local communities, and improve caseload and education for TUCVM students by performing physical exams, immunizations, preventative care services and surgeries (spays and neuters).

The grant allows the donation of funds to support the Tuskegee Veterinary Symposium's Shelter Medicine Student Alumni Career luncheon in March 2026, provide support for future TUCVM Small Animal Health Fairs, support the shelter medicine service with the purchase of equipment, supplies, teaching supplements and continuing education.

In fact, this grant allowed for our TUCVM 2019 alum Dr. Russell Johnson, Jr., to make a Lunch and Learn Presentation during fall semester to TUCVM students on the topic: "Surgical Procedures and techniques used in Shelter Medicine." 🐾

## 2025-26 Merck Animal Health Veterinary Student Scholarships for Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine



Brianna  
Anthony



Joquarius  
Dancy



Sydney  
Fobbus



Asia  
Gilbert



Tahina  
Jean



Tiara  
Jones



Chelsea  
Lee



Zachery  
Reese

Merck Animal Health continued its intentional and long-standing commitment to the veterinary profession and promoting veterinary medical education at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine through its scholarship program. Its collaboration with TUCVM in 2017 began with awarding five recipients. Since then, the program has grown such that Merck Animal Health has increased its support to the current amount of \$80,000 (providing 8 scholarship slots at \$10,000 each).

This scholarship opportunity is available to all second- and third-year veterinary students who are enrolled in the veterinary medical program and are in good academic standing.

The recipients for the 2025-2026 academic year include the following: **Brianna Anthony - 3rd Year, Joquarius Dancy - 2nd year, Sydney Fobbus - 2nd year, Asia Gilbert - 2nd year, Tahina Jean - 3rd year, Tiara Jones - 2nd year, Chelsea Lee - 3rd year, and Zachery Reese - 3rd year.** Each student received a scholarship to further their education as they pursue careers in either companion or large animal veterinary care. Students receiving one of these scholarships are required to participate in the Annual Tuskegee University President's Essay Contest and Recognition Program where they receive their official recognition for their achievement as well as meet with a representative from Merck Animal Health. For more information on Merck Animal Health visit [www.merck-animal-health.com](http://www.merck-animal-health.com) or connect with them on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter at @MerckAH.



### TUCVM Zoetis Foundation/AAVMC Veterinary Student Scholarship Recipients



Brittney  
Carney  
Class of 2026



Eden  
Harris  
Class of 2026



Faith  
Isabelle  
Class of 2026



Sydney  
Dicks  
Class of 2027

The 2025 Zoetis Foundation and the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) Veterinary Student Scholarship offset educational expenses related to attaining a veterinary education.

Zoetis and its legacy companies awarded more than 4,400 scholarships totaling \$10.3 million through this program. The program focuses on addressing the issue of student debt, as well as the need to foster diversity in the profession - issues that greatly impact the future of the veterinary profession. Zoetis named the following recipients from TUCVM: **Class of 2026 - Eden Harris, Brittney Carney, and Faith Isabelle; Class of 2027 - Sydney Dicks.**



### TUCVM's Boehringer Ingelheim Student Scholarship Recipients



Taylor  
Godfrey  
Class of 2029  
2025-26  
Recipient



Kailey  
Light  
Class of 2028  
2024-26  
Recipient

TUCVM is appreciative of the partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim to support our students and veterinary medical education at Tuskegee. The continued grant agreement with Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation in the

providing each student with a \$25,000 scholarship as stated in agreement that per each academic year until graduation, given they continue to meet the eligibility criteria. For the 2025 2026 academic year **Kailey Light**, who was awarded the \$25,000 scholarship in her 1st year of DVM studies (2024-2025) continued to receive the \$25,000 scholarship for her 2nd year of DVM studies. The TUCVM Scholarship Committee reviewed scholarship applications and also awarded 2nd year DVM student, **Taylor Godfrey**, the \$25,000 BI Animal

establishment of The Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) Animal Health Veterinary Medicine Scholarship is assisting two TUCVM students for the 2025-26 academic year by



Health Veterinary Medicine Scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year.

TUCVM also congratulates the Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation as this year of 2026 marks their 25th

Anniversary! For 25 years, the Foundation has supported communities through partnership, compassion, and a shared commitment to improving human and animal health. Thank you, Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation! 🐾



**"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.**

## TU GIVES

Every gift matters. TU Gives is your opportunity to help solve the world's most complex problems—by investing in Tuskegee University's students, faculty, capital projects, and academic excellence. This annual campaign fuels scholarships, enhances campus life, and supports the bold vision of honoring our past and investing in our future—The Tuskegee Way. Your tax-deductible support guarantees the Tuskegee Experience for generations to come. We can't do it without you. Please give today.



**TUSKEGEE**  
UNIVERSITY

We extend appreciation to our industry partners, alumni, stakeholders and TUCVM family in sustaining and advancing TUCVM's legacy.



**TUCVM appreciates your support!**

TO CONTRIBUTE ONLINE GO TO:

<https://www.tuskegee.edu/academics/colleges-schools/cvm/Contribute-Online.html>  
OR <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/e/K2vt6g?vid=1o9hu8>

**Thank you!!!**



Dr. Michael Bailey

**Dr. Michael Q. Bailey '82** is now the president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)—marking a historic milestone as the first African American to lead the organization in its 162-year history. He became the new President of the AVMA on July 20, 2025. In a speech to the AVMA's House of Delegates, Dr. Bailey shared that his primary goals for his term as President included promoting the "indispensable" role of veterinarians worldwide and inspiring the next generation of veterinarians and leaders of the profession. His



Dr. Michael Q. Bailey '82 Makes History as First African American AVMA President

address was delivered a day before the start of the AVMA Convention 2025, which was held in conjunction with the 40th World Veterinary Association Congress. He said, "We need to raise awareness about the indispensable role we play, ensuring our contributions are recognized and appreciated within society. In the upcoming year, I am dedicated to amplifying our voice, boosting our visibility, and strengthening our influence."

A resident of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Dr. Bailey was born in Queens, New York, and raised in Hopewell, New Jersey, where he earned his undergraduate degree from Rutgers University's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. His educational journey continued as he obtained his DVM degree from the Tuskegee University School (now College) of Veterinary Medicine in 1982. Following this, he completed a comprehensive internship and radiology residency at Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. A board-certified veterinary radiologist, researcher, and innovator in telemedicine, Dr. Bailey has brought a bold and future-forward vision to the AVMA, and is offering "robust, effective, and diverse leadership that inspires innovation."

**Dr. Patrick C. Barnes '12** was licensed to Christian Ministry in 2023 and to preach the Gospel at the Covenant Baptist United Church in Washington D.C. Then in 2024, he earned a certificate in

Black catholic studies from Loyola Marymount. Combining Dr. Barnes's love for helping to heal people and animals, he then graduated and was ordained as an Animal Chaplain from the Compassion Consortium in 2025. Now, Dr. Barnes had his ordination service on February 8, 2026, at the Covenant Baptist United Church. Dr. Barnes fulfilled his childhood dream earning his DVM degree from Tuskegee University and passing his boards in 2012. However, while in school, Dr. Barnes remained active in campus ministry. However, as the draw to God became stronger, Dr. Barnes enrolled in Howard University School of Divinity and in 2023, earned a Master of Divinity. He is currently pursuing a Master's in Theology from Xavier of Louisiana.



Dr. Michael J. Blackwell

**Dr. Michael J. Blackwell '75** received the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Frederick Douglass Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award during the AVMA House of Delegates' (HOD) regular annual session meeting held during the AVMA Convention 2025 in Washington D.C. The award honors an AVMA member veterinarian who has made significant contributions to the veterinary profession through innovative and transformative leadership in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and who has demonstrated a commitment to advancing these values within the veterinary profession and has brought honor and distinction to the field through their exemplary efforts.

Dr. Blackwell serves as Director of the Program for Pet Health Equity at the University of Tennessee, where he leads national efforts to improve access to veterinary care, especially for families with limited means. A retired Assistant Surgeon General and Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), Dr. Blackwell served for 23 years in active duty, holding key national leadership roles.

**Dr. Michael Bailey & Dr. Michael Blackwell --  
Keynote Speakers  
TUCVM's 60th Diamond  
Veterinary Medical Symposium**



**Michael O. Bailey, DVM, DACVR**  
AVMA President 2025-2026

**Inaugural Frederick Douglass Patterson Opening Plenary Session Speaker**



Dr. Michael O. Bailey, born in Queens, New York, was raised in Hopewell, New Jersey, where he earned his undergraduate degree from Rutgers University's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences before obtaining his DVM in 1982 from the historic Tuskegee University in Alabama. Following this, he completed a comprehensive internship and radiology residency at Michigan State University.

As a board-certified radiologist, Dr. Bailey has contributed to a range of veterinary and human medical literature and, to this day, shares his expertise with audiences worldwide, allowing him to connect with and learn from thousands of colleagues across the globe. His body of work is a testament to his commitment to advancing knowledge in the medical field.

Dr. Bailey's academic and professional journey has included serving on the faculty at prestigious institutions such as Tuskegee and Michigan State University. He achieved tenure at The Ohio State University, reflecting his dedication to education and research.

Fortunate to have had the opportunity to partake in an AAAS/AVMA congressional fellowship, Dr. Bailey was a full-time scientific legislative adviser in a congressional office while learning how Capitol Hill works.

He also pioneered Ohio's inaugural private practice advanced veterinary CT imaging services and launched referral and emergency imaging facilities in Pittsburgh. As the lead radiologist for a nationwide veterinary practice with over 1,000 facilities, he was pivotal in nationwide distributed veterinary imaging services and telemedicine. Dr. Bailey currently serves as the director of medical innovations in telemedicine for a global telemedicine consulting business, where he brings his extensive telemedicine expertise to the forefront.

Thursday,  
March 19, 2026  
9:15AM

He has been very active in veterinary volunteer leadership at the state and national levels. His leadership journey includes serving on the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) board and as PVMA president. Dr. Bailey served a six-year term on the AVMA Board of Directors, representing District 2, which encompasses New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia.



**Michael J. Blackwell, DVM, MPH**

**Assistant Surgeon General and Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service (Ret.)  
2026 T.S. Williams Lecture Speaker**



Dr. Michael J. Blackwell serves as Director of the Program for Pet Health Equity at the University of Tennessee, where he leads national efforts to improve access to veterinary care—especially for families with limited means. His work is grounded in a vision of health equity that recognizes pets as essential members of the family. He received his DVM from Tuskegee University in 1975.

A retired Assistant Surgeon General and Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), Dr. Blackwell served for 23 years in active duty, holding key national leadership roles, including:  
- Chief of Staff, Office of the U.S. Surgeon General  
- Deputy Director, Center for Veterinary Medicine, U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
- Chief Veterinary Officer, U.S. Public Health Service

He also served as Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee, advancing One Health initiatives and interprofessional collaboration.

Dr. Blackwell has received numerous honors, including the USPHS Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal. He is the 2023 Avanzado Leadership Award recipient, the 2021 Senator John Melcher, DVM Leadership in Public Policy Award honoree, and the 2025 recipient of the American Veterinary Medical Association's Frederick D. Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award.

Thursday,  
March 19, 2026  
10:15AM



Dr. K. Paige Carmichael

**Dr. K. Paige Carmichael '87** was one of the Professors who earned the distinction of 2025 University Professor, a title bestowed on those who have made a significant impact on the University of Georgia (UGA) in addition to fulfilling their regular academic responsibilities. Dr. Carmichael is also the 2024–2025 Meigs Distinguished Professor in the Department of Pathology at UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Carmichael says, "I am, first and foremost, a teacher." For more than 20 years, Carmichael has served as the course coordinator for the core pathology class for second-year veterinary students at UGA. She most recently helped develop the

university's undergraduate certificate in One Health, an approach that explores interconnections between the health of people, animals and their shared environment.



**Dr. Will Draper '91** was featured on the "Live with Kelly & Mark's Raise The Woof Week" television show. He gave veterinarian advice on Do's and Don'ts for taking care of your dog's health! See more at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZPiIfrEOxo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZPiIfrEOxo).

Dr. Draper, DVM, better known as "Dr. Will," is a well-known small-animal practitioner in the Atlanta area. He grew up in Inglewood, CA, before enrolling at Tuskegee University in Alabama (fourth generation) for both undergraduate and veterinary studies. After receiving his veterinary medical degree in 1991, he started practicing in Atlanta and eventually started The Village Vets practices in 2000. Dr. Draper and his wife, **Dr. Francoise Tyler** (also '91 alum), have been featured on the Nat Geo WILD-produced television series, *Love & Vets*, now streaming on Disney+. He was also a featured veterinary commentator on Nat Geo WILD's *Animal ER Live*, as well as providing veterinary expertise on HLN, CNN, and numerous local Atlanta news outlets.



Dr. Donald Fuller

**Dr. Donald Fuller '78** has published the 2nd edition of his health improvement book: *Precursor To Cancer And Other Body Maladies*. This book is based on his clinical research on zoonotic disease. It can be purchased online at Amazon or at his office. He can be contacted at [CASWELLVETSV@EMBARQMAIL.COM](mailto:CASWELLVETSV@EMBARQMAIL.COM).

**Dr. Morgan Early '19** has joined CodaPet and is servicing Birmingham and the surrounding areas. She is a Certified Peaceful Euthanasia Veterinarian (CAETA's CPEV). CodaPet has launched compassionate in-home pet euthanasia services in



Birmingham, AL. CodaPet is a veterinarian-owned start-up that empowers a network of veterinarians who provide in-home euthanasia to ease the passing of pets at home, surrounded by loved ones. Learn more in CodaPet at [www.codapet.com](http://www.codapet.com).



**Dr. Pamelar (Pam) Hale '86** was a speaker at the Annual VMX (Veterinary Meeting & Expo) 2026

in Orlando, FL. She helped lead two powerful conversations shaping the future of veterinary medicine. From a thoughtful discussion on maintaining integrity and ethical decision-making in corporatized environments to a dynamic, audience-driven panel on the Veterinary Professional Associate role. Dr. Hale is a veterinarian with 30+ years of excellence in start-up operations, business development, contract negotiations, operations/practice administration, strategic planning, team building, and project management.



Dr. Ashley Hopkins



**Dr. Ashley Hopkins '14** is the Founder and CEO of Hopper Vets, a concierge veterinary relief-matchmaking network that is now expanding nationwide. Hopper Vets is redefining veterinary staffing by prioritizing veterinarian autonomy, career alignment, and community while helping hospitals improve retention and continuity of care. In addition to leading Hopper Vets' multi-state growth, Dr. Hopkins serves as The Career Coach Vet, guiding veterinarians toward sustainable, fulfilling careers. She was recently featured in the November/December 2025 issue of *My Vet Candy* magazine for her leadership, advocacy, and innovative work shaping the future of veterinary

medicine.



Dr. Angela McIntyre



**Dr. Angela McIntyre '97** recently published her new book (now officially released on Amazon), *The Instinct Impact: The Sacred Art of Leading from Within*. To learn more about

the book, visit [www.TheInstinctImpact.com](http://www.TheInstinctImpact.com). Dr. McIntyre acknowledges that this book is deeply personal and was written as an offering — for leaders, healers, professionals, and anyone seeking alignment, clarity, and purpose. She is a veterinarian, spiritual teacher, and founder of Protect Your Mind, LLC — a platform empowering individuals to reclaim mental clarity, awaken divine instincts, and lead with purpose. Dr. McIntyre has over two decades of service, she has mentored countless professionals, ethical leadership, and in legacy building.



Dr. Ian Moore

**Dr. Ian Moore '06** recently published a book that acknowledges his childhood experience and people that were instrumental in encouraging him on his way to becoming a veterinarian called, *Granny GJ and the*



*Basement of a Thousand Books*. The book can be purchased at Amazon. Dr. Moore is currently the Director for the Division of Pathology at the Emory National Primate Research Center where he leads a dynamic pathology research team focused on a variety of neurological, neurodegenerative, and infectious disease conditions. One of Dr. Moore's most notable research accomplishments was his role in directing and executing the pre-clinical safety and efficacy studies for the NIH/Moderna COVID-19 vaccine candidate (mRNA-1273) ahead of human clinical trials and FDA approval. Dr. Moore and his wife **Dr. Rashida Moore** (TUCVM C/o 2006) have two sons, Rian and Drew.

**Dr. Horace E. Walcott '84** was awarded in November 2025 the Master of Advanced Studies in Sleep Medicine, Circadian Rhythms, and Consciousness from the University of Bern, Switzerland. His thesis title was: Can micro PET/CT Methodologies be Applied to Molecular Sleep Studies in Small Non-Mammalian Animal Models? Iguana iguana and Danio rerio. Dr. Walcott is also in the dissertation phase of completing his Ph.D. in Applied Psychophysiology at Saybrook University, where he is investigating how flotation reduced environmental stimulation therapy (FL-REST) can decelerate the intrinsic epigenomic aging rate in human urban dwellers.





**Dr. William (Bill) Watson '65** was inducted into the Tuskegee University ROTC Hall of Fame during this past Homecoming activities, honoring his outstanding accomplishments and achievements in the U.S. Army. A proud Vietnam veteran, Dr. Watson has exemplified leadership, service, and dedication throughout his distinguished military career. This honor represents one of the highest military recognitions at Tuskegee University.



Dr. Wanda Wilson-Egbe

**CAPT Dr. Wanda Wilson-Egbe '90** was promoted to Captain (O-6) in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. Her dedicated service, leadership, and commitment to protecting public health and advancing One Health exemplify the best of Tuskegee-trained veterinary excellence. CAPT Wilson-Egbe's positions include: the Chief Veterinary Officer and the Director of the National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT) within the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, National Disaster Medical System.



Dr. Quentin Wilson

**Dr. Quentin Wilson '15** gave a virtual presentation to TUCVM students entitled, *"Information Forum: Department of Education & Impact on Financial Aid."* During the presentation on Zoom, he shared valuable information on policy changes at the Department of Education and opened this opportunity for students to engage in the discussion. This forum came about from Dr. Wilson's presentation during the 2025 annual veterinary medical symposium in which the information he shared then was noted as valuable to share also with the TUCVM students via a Zoom presentation. Dr. Wilson is board-certified in Laboratory Animal Medicine (DACLAM) and is the Animal Program Director & Attending Veterinarian at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Biomedical Research Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Wilson joined the NIH in 2017, first serving with the Office of Research Services, Division of Veterinary Resources in clinical and facility veterinary roles, prior to joining the National In-

stitute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in 2022. Dr. Wilson is responsible for helping to continue the strong AAALAC-accredited program that NIDA has developed, ensuring the health and well-being of research animals.



**Dr. Susan Williams '94** was the recipient of the 2025 Iverson Bell Award in which she was formally recognized during the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The Iverson Bell Award is presented in alternate years in memory and recognition of Dr. Iverson Bell's outstanding leadership and contributions in the promotion of diversity in veterinary medical education. Dr. Susan Williams was also elected as President-elect of the American Association of Avian Pathologist (AAAP). Dr. Williams is the Interim Assistant Dean for Inclusive Excellence at The University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine.

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Attn: ALUMNI... Received an award? Have a new position/title? Elected to a new office? Have a new mailing address? Became a mom or dad? Newly married? Etc... Please send us your news... photo, too, if you have one available.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please type or print clearly...

News: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your news to:**

ATTN: Anissa L. Riley  
 Veterinary Medical Perspective  
 TU College of Veterinary Medicine  
 Patterson Hall  
 Tuskegee, AL 36088  
 334-724-4509 / 727-8177 (FAX)  
 E-mail address: ariley@tuskegee.edu

## TUCVM Student Gets Internship Experience under Alums/The Vet Life Stars

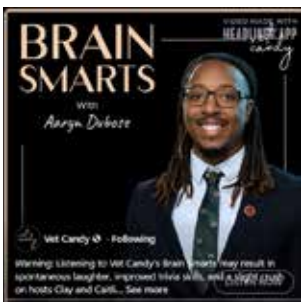


Second-year TUCVM student **Aaliyah Hill** (Class of 2028) completed a nine-week summer internship at Cy-Fair Animal Hospital in Houston, Texas, under the leadership of notable TUCVM alumni, *Dr. Aubrey Ross II, Dr. Michael Lavigne III, and Dr. Diarra Blue* (*The stars of The Vet Life*). Through this opportunity, she was able to work with a wide range of species including both companion and exotic animals and gain clinical and surgical hands-on experience while also enhancing both her client-communication and diagnostic skills. Ms. Hill's exposure included independently completing several feline and canine spays and neuters; serve as a surgical assistant and/or observe several other elective surgeries (ex. Splenectomy,



Enucleation, Femoral Head Osteotomy (FHO), Perineal Urethrostomy, and Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy (TPLO)). "My mentors were amazing and created both a comfortable and challenging environment where I was pushed beyond my limits. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to enhance my clinical and technical skills with their guidance and support," said Ms. Hill. She looks forward to completing several more internships under their guidance.

## TUCVM Student Featured on Vet Candy & Brain Smarts



TUCVM third year student **Aaryn L. DuBose** (Class of 2027) was featured on *Vet Candy's Brain Smarts* January 12 podcast. It was noted that Mr. DuBose is a beacon of inspiration and aspiration, whose journey through the corridors of veterinary medicine is not just about healing animals

but also about breaking barriers and lighting the way for others to follow. Mr. DuBose serves as the Class of 2027 president, the vice president-elect for SAVMA (Student American Veterinary Medical Association), and the vice president of the Veterinary Surgery Club.

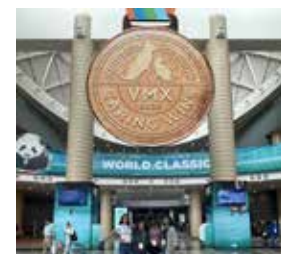
## TUCVM Student Featured in Alliance Animal Health Student Extern Spotlight



TUCVM third-year student **Constance Bennett**, Class of 2027, was highlighted by Wentzville Veterinary Clinic through the veterinary company Alliance Animal Health as their spotlight DVM Student Extern. Ms. Bennett's externship at Wentzville Veterinary Clinic, an Alliance Animal Hospital, (located in Wentzville, MO) was from December 15–26, 2025. Her focus during this externship was clinical operations, collaborative patient care, and mixed-practice diagnostics. She said that her externship at Wentzville Veterinary Clinic provided a robust foundation in collaborative, high-standard patient care, reinforcing her commitment to becoming a versatile mixed-animal practitioner. Ms. Bennett says she is an aspiring veterinarian dedicated to the "One Health" mission, strives to bridge the gap between high-level clinical care and global food security. See more at Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> post: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Wentzville-Veterinary-Clinic/100063555474435/>.

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## TUCVM's VBMA Members Attend National Meeting/Training



TUCVM students attended the Veterinary Business Management Association's (VBMA) National Meeting and Officer Training on Jan. 16-18, 2026, in Orlando, FL. This training and national meeting is held every year and attendance by all the officer teams is required by VBMA as a requirement to maintain good standing in the organization.

The TUCVM VBMA board members in attendance this year included: **Kristian Hunt**, President; **Kendall Walden**, Treasurer; **Tiara Jones**, Secretary; and **Tamia Bonner**, Marketing – all are members of the Class of 2028.



Haleigh Johnson

In addition, TUCVM student **Haleigh Johnson** (Class of 2027) was requested to attend the Regional Leader Training on Jan. 15-19, 2026. Ms. Johnson has the position of Great Plains Regional Leader. The Regional Leader position is part of the National VBMA team and is responsible for overseeing up to seven chapters nationwide. Regional Leaders support chapters and serve

as a primary point of contact for questions, concerns, and challenges.

### TUCVM Student Camiyah Knox Started: The Playmakers in Vet Medicine



First-year TUCVM student **Camiyah Knox** (Class of 2029) and graduate of the TU's College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences (CAENS), had a vision that has now turned into reality. Ms. Knox created an organization on August 3, 2023, called *The Playmakers in Vet Medicine*. The mission of this organization is to create a space to connect, collaborate, engage, and learn to bring together students and animal professionals to help them navigate their journey together. Ms. Knox saw a need to support aspiring veterinarians by providing opportunities that aren't always easy to access, along with a creative and meaningful approach to mentorship. "Veterinary medicine is not an easy field, and having someone to lean on for guidance and encouragement can make a real difference. It was important to create space for service, collaboration, and hands-on experience, especially since many clubs at the time lacked those elements. Seeing that gap motivated me to take initiative and build something that truly supports growth, connection, and preparation for the field," Ms. Know said.

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### TUCVM Student Sydney Dicks' Cattle Business Shines



TUCVM's third year student **Sydney Dicks** (Class of 2027) along with her husband are following their dream with running their business called *Diamond D Ranch*. Four months into her marriage she and her husband decided they felt like God was opening doors for them to take their cattle operation in a different direction. "Most cattle ranchers only see their cattle during one stage of life: either from birth to weaning, weaning to market weight, or merely the last few months of their lives. We wanted to do things differently, so we took our cow-calf operation (birth to weaning) and started turning it into a direct-to-consumer beef business. This means we keep a herd of mama cows on our ranch and raise the babies from birth to harvest weight all under our own supervision and care. We prioritize low stress handling which is better for the cows, the environment, and the consumer of that beef product,"

Dicks said. She emphasizes that their commitment to excellence doesn't stop there because they are implementing several things to constantly improve their care of their animals. To learn more, visit [diamond-d-ranch.net](http://diamond-d-ranch.net).

### TUCVM's Zoo, Exotic, and Wildlife (ZEW) Club 2025-26 Summary of Events



The TUCVM Zoo, Exotic, and Wildlife (ZEW) Club has much to be proud of as their accomplishments for the 2025-26 academic year under the leadership of two term president (2024-2026) **Ahan Jain** (known as AJ). Through their connections in the industry, the ZEW Club hosted lecture series featuring guest speakers who shared insight into various aspects of careers and clinical work in wildlife, exotic, and conservation medicine. The Club also organized hands-on learning experiences locally at The Shed Reptile Shop and the

Auburn University Raptor Center, allowing students to gain practical exposure to non-traditional species and husbandry techniques. Members also participated in unique training opportunities, including the Safe Capture Course at Montgomery Zoo, which strengthened their skills in wildlife handling and field safety. One of their major events organized by the ZEW Club was the Exotic Animal Expo. Veterinary students brought their own exotic animals and invited the pre-veterinary students to foster education, collaboration, and awareness of career pathways in wildlife and zoo medicine. Additionally, through fundraising and member support, the club made a \$250 donation to the Wildlife Conservation Society, supporting their efforts to protect endangered species and conserve critical habitats worldwide.

"Our work reflects our passion for educating the next generation of veterinarians and conservation leaders. We believe in protecting the environment so that animals and humans can continue to exist and thrive together. We are grateful to our speakers, faculty mentors, and members who helped make these events possible. Thank you for supporting the ZEW Club and our mission. We look forward to building on this momentum and hope the support of the ZEW Club continues," AJ said. The new E-Board for the 2026-27 year was recently elected in February.

**ZEW Club E-Board 2025-26:**

- President - Ahan Jain (AJ)
- Vice-President - Alessandria Aikerson
- Fundraising Chair - Nikole Dillard
- Fundraising Chair - Alex Gatewood
- Zoo & Exotics Chair - Destinee Jackson
- Historian - Charity Newball
- Secretary - Zaria Henry

**NEW ZEW Club E-Board 2026-27 newly elected:**

- President** - Anton Nieves
- Vice-President** - Saisrinivas Ennam
- Zoo Chair** - Tamauri Beasley-Foster
- Exotics Chair** - Zaria Ricard
- Fundraising Chair** - Nikole S Dillard
- Historian** - Grace Ordaz

**Graduate Students/Faculty Present Research at Research Workers in Animal Diseases Conference**

A group of TUCVM graduate students and faculty attended and presented their research at the 2026 Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) on January 17–20, 2026 in Chicago, IL. The group included faculty researchers **Dr. Rawah Faraj, Dr. Kinglsey Bentum** (also former TUCVM graduate student



finished in Dec. 2025; now Molecular Microbiology PhD student), and students **Rejoice Nyarku, Laila Barnes, Faith Kadzviti, Dorcas Kodie, Viona Osei, Asmaa Elrefaey** and **Quintera Gordon**. The research themes represented by TUCVM researchers included Food Safety, as well as Tickborne Pathogens.

TUCVM student **Faith Wadzanai Kadzviti** had the opportunity to present a poster on her research titled "Genomic Characterization of Escherichia coli from Ruminants: An Examination of Diversity, Virulence, and Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns." Additionally, she had the privilege of moderating two oral sessions, one focused on highly pathogenic avian influenza and the other on vaccinology. Kadzviti considers it to have been a valuable opportunity to enhance facilitation skills through having led discussions at an international conference. "Overall, the experience was profoundly impactful, and I am grateful for the opportunity to attend, present my work, and learn from other researchers," Kadzviti said.

The CRWAD featured a diverse range of speakers from various fields of animal health and medicine. Industry representatives shared insights into the practical applications of research and the process of transforming research findings into marketable products, effectively bridging the gap between academia and industry. Participants gained important perspectives on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and the necessity of preparedness for potential human spillovers as the virus continues to evolve and expand its host range. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to network not only with fellow students but also with esteemed scientists and industry professionals.

**Graduate Students Receive Awards at the AGBT General Meeting**

Three TU/TUCVM graduate students were among the recipients of the 2026 Next Gen Leadership Awards for the Advances in Genome Biology and Technology (AGBT) General Meeting held in Orlando, FL, in February 2026. These



prestigious awards recognize outstanding early-career researchers and graduate students whose work and potential are driving innovation across genomics and related disciplines. Through the Next Gen Leadership Awards, recipients receive financial support to attend and present their research at the AGBT General Meeting, enabling meaningful scientific exchange, professional growth, and connections within the genomics community. See more at: <https://www.agbt.org/pressmention/agbt-announces-2026-next-gen-leadership-award-recipients-for-the-general-meeting/>.

**The 2026 award recipients from Tuskegee University:**

- **Dr. Kingsley E. Bentum**, graduate student at Tuskegee University (PhD Student - Molecular Microbiology)
  - Presentation: Adopting a metagenomic and quasimetagenomic approach to comparatively investigate the microbial diversity of bovine feces cultured for *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, and *Listeria spp.*
- **Asmaa Elrefaey**, graduate PhD Student in Integrative Biosciences PhD Program at Tuskegee University
  - Presentation: Comparative genomic and virulence profiling of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* using pangenome analysis tools
- **Faith Wadzanai Kadzviti**, graduate PhD student at Tuskegee University
  - Presentation: Genomic characterization of *Escherichia coli* from ruminants: an examination of diversity, virulence, and antimicrobial resistance patterns.

**Student Scholar Khadijah Muhammad was Selected for the ARS-BI Program**



Khadijah Muhammad

TUCVM first-year student **Khadijah Muhammad** (Class of 2029) was selected to participate in the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Boehringer-Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Program for the Summer of 2026. Muhammad has been matched with the following project and mentor: Project Title is "In silico reverse vaccinology identification of anti-tick targets in Texas Wildlife" and ARS Mentor is Perot Saelao (USDA-ARS). She was selected as a recipient based on education, previous experiences, and project interest. Muhammad has been awarded a stipend of \$9,000 and Tuskegee University will also receive additional funds to support the student's travel, registration, and presentation of an abstract at the Veterinary Scholars Symposium (VSS) to be held in Raleigh, NC, in the summer.

**Vet Candy Magazine Featured TUCVM Students**

TUCVM students **Aaryn DuBose** (Class of 2027) was featured on the cover of the May 2025 issue of *Vet Candy* and **Kyle Frett** (Class of 2026) as the new president of SAVMA was covered in a *Vet Candy* feature article on page 38 also in the May 2025 issue. DuBose was also highlighted within the magazine on several pages covering his leadership roles at TUCVM and his future focus in veterinary medicine.



**TUCVM Students Honored at 2025 Scholarship Convocation**

TUCVM congratulated all the honor students recognized at the Fall 2025 Annual Scholarship Convocation. A special recognition was given to University Scholar representing TUCVM **Janeece Richardson**, fourth year student (Class of 2026), and Eminent Scholars **Sydney Fobbus**, second year student (Class of 2028) and **Dr. Shalinda McMahan**, now a veterinary alum (Class of 2025). Tuskegee University celebrated the achievements of 1,136 students at the Scholarship Convocation on October 17. This event recognized academic excellence for the 2024-25 academic year. TUCVM is proud of all our 130 Honor Students who were also recognized at the scholarship convocation.



Janeece Richardson with Dean.



Sydney Fobbus with Dean.



## TUCVM Holds New Student Orientation for the Class of 2029



Excited to see the faces of #FUTUREVETERINARIANS... TUCVM welcomed the new incoming Class of 2029 with a two-day New Student Orientation hosted by the TUCVM Office of Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment. Students attended presentations in the Patterson Hall Auditorium on Aug. 4-5 on various topics

to include the following: Introduction of first year faculty and support personal; Overview of Academic Programs, Veterinary Honor Code, and Student Affairs; Overview of Preclinical and Clinical Programs; Veterinary Information Network (VIN); Optimizing Assessment Data and Web Resources; Introduction to T. S. Williams Veterinary Medical Library; Parking Decals; and Student and Campus Safety. Under the leadership of Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, the TUCVM faculty and staff emphasized the following to the new Class of 2029, "WE are here to help you be a success as you pursue your dreams of becoming veterinarians and helping to sustain the Legacy of the TUCVM and 'Mother Tuskegee'!" There were also various sponsors to support the 2025-26 academic year new student orientation and these included: VIN, PNC Bank, Banfield, U.S. Army, and AVMA Trust. TUCVM is appreciative to all our sponsors for their continuous support of our students and veterinary medical education at Tuskegee University.

### Meet TUCVM Class of 2029 (1<sup>st</sup> Year Class) E-Board

TUCVM's first-year class of 2029 elected its Executive Board Member (E-Board) during the fall semester. The first-year Class of 2029 E-Board Officers in photo are: **Charity Sanders**, Social Co-Chair; **Bryant Wiley**, Chaplain; **Samuel Martin**, Fundraising Co-Chair; **Taylor Godfrey**, Historian; **Kyle Ray-Canada**, Fundraising Co-Chair; **Kara Moncrief**, Social Co-Chair; **Yasmine Jordan**, Treasurer; **Alicia Armstead**, Parliamentarian;

**Makayla Barkley**, President; **DeShawn Hill**, Vice President; **Kyla Christopher**, SAVMA Representative; and **Abby Covington**, Secretary. Also, in the E-Board photo is included honorary class member - service dog, **Liberty**.



### 2025 One Health Symposium & Phi Zeta Research Day Student Winners

The TUCVM 26th Annual One Health Symposium and 13th Phi Zeta Research Day were held on September 15-16, 2025, at the Patterson Hall Auditorium. Several students were recognized



as the Oral and Poster Presentation winners. The Student winners include the following: **Poster Winners: 1st place - Andrew Heatherton and Qunitera Gordon; 2nd place - Glorianna Wright; 3rd place - Nautica Merrell, Zahra McIntosh; Graduate Student Award - Hilarie Uwamahero; Oral Winners: 1st place - Kendall Walden; 2nd place - Amiyah Raglan; 3rd place - Amber D. Cooper; Graduate Student Award - Esran Alnahrawy.** Also recognized were two student poster presenters that made presentations during the One Health Symposium: **Milahni Wilkerson** and **Shannon Willis**.



## Dr. Ebony Gilbreath Named New Dean of TUCVM



Dr. Ebony Gilbreath

**Dr. Ebony Gilbreath** was announced as the next Dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) per Dr. Mark A. Brown's '86, president and CEO, Tuskegee University, State of the University Address on Friday, October 31, 2025. The university's homecoming theme for this academic year was "Homecoming 101: The Renaissance." The State of the University's Address was one of the homecoming events for Oct. 26 through Nov. 2 in which Dr. Brown stated that "Dr. Gilbreath was selected after a worldwide search. He emphasized that Dr. Gilbreath brings distinguished leadership, academic excellence, and a commitment to advance veterinary education and research at Tuskegee University." Dr. Gilbreath previously was appointed as Interim Dean on June 3, 2025, after the retirement of Dr. Ruby Perry.

### About Ebony Gilbreath, DVM, PhD, DACVP

Previously Dr. Gilbreath was appointed as the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs for the college after serving 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 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. Prior to joining the faculty at Tuskegee, Dr. Gilbreath earned her B.S. degree in Animal and Poultry Science in 2000 followed by her DVM degree in 2004, both from Tuskegee University. She completed an internship in Anatomic Pathology, also at Tuskegee, and then went on to Michigan State University where she completed a residency in Anatomic Pathology and a Ph.D. in Pathology, before returning to her alma mater in 2011.

## CVM Leadership Appointment of Interim Associate Dean



Dr. Solomon Odemuyiwa

**Dr. Solomon Olawole Odemuyiwa** prefers to be called 'Dr. Wole' returned to TUCVM on June 2, 2025, to serve as Interim Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs along with his roles as Associate Dean for Pre-Clinical Curriculum/

Professor of Pathology. He previously worked at the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine in March 2012. While at Tuskegee the first time, Dr. Wole taught virology, immunology and clinical pathology and was the section chief of clinical pathology and molecular diagnostics until July 2016. Over the past nine years, Dr. Wole has led the Molecular Diagnostics service of the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Missouri-Columbia, a tier 1 member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

### About Solomon Olawole (Wole) Odemuyiwa, DVM, Ph.D., DVSc, DACVM

Dr. Wole was born and raised in Nigeria. After completing his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and MS (virology) degrees from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, he moved to Europe to conduct the research work for his Ph.D. in virology from the same university. In Germany, he spent two years at the Bernhard-Nocht Institute of Tropical Medicine, University of Hamburg on a German Academic Exchange Scholarship (DAAD). This was followed by a two-year stint as a doctoral scholar at the National Public Health Laboratory, Luxembourg. His Ph.D. work, combined with training in diagnostic virology, focused on the immunology and molecular epidemiology of HIV and hepatitis B virus. Dr. Wole was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Pulmonary Research Group, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, where he received further training in immunology and cell biology. His work in Edmonton was among the earliest to show how metabolism of dietary tryptophan could regulate the development of allergic asthma in people. Following postdoctoral training, Dr. Wole's commitment to vet-

erinary diagnostics led him to Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Canada, where he completed residency training in Clinical Pathology and a Doctor of Veterinary Science (DVSc) degree in Pathobiology. His DVSc research work characterized the immunophenotypes of macrophages found in the lungs of horses. It is now known that lung macrophages play a crucial role in the development, progression and exacerbations of asthma in horses. Following completion of residency training at Guelph, Dr. Wole worked briefly as Associate Professor in the Department of Companion Animal Clinical Studies, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

### Dr. Ehsan Abdalla's Receives Community Service Award



Dr. Ehsan Abdalla

**Dr. Ehsan Abdalla** received community service recognition for her many years of outstanding service and dedication to the Center for Biomedical Research in 2025. Dr. Abdalla is an Associate Professor of Public Health in the TUCVM Department of Graduate Public Health. She is also Principal Investigator for Cervical Cancer and HPV Research, for the Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI), Community Engagement Core Co-Lead for TU/RCMI. Dr. Abdalla has a broad background in epidemiology, risk analysis, Geographic Information Systems and statistics, and health disparities, coupled with a diverse medical background. Her research interests are in the areas of computational epidemiology in the study of human diseases, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, obesity, COVID-19, Influenza, and other zoonotic diseases. She has been a member of the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) since 2009.

### Dr. Deepa Bedi Honored As A Women Who Shapes the State



Dr. Deepa Bedi

**Dr. Deepa Bedi** was selected as an honoree for the 2026 This is Alabama's Women Who Shape the State recognition program. This fall, the This is Alabama organization conducted a statewide poll asking Alabamians to tell them about women who have made a difference in their lives. Over 300 nominations were made and of this number 25 outstanding women were selected for their commitment to strengthening their communities and creating last change across the state. Dr. Bedi was selected as one

of these 25 women to be honored. Dr. Bedi is Director of the Center for Biomedical Research and a professor in TUCVM's Department of Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Bedi's exceptional body of work spans two decades, including groundbreaking research in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer including a U.S. patent on technology that enables more accurate diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer. The invention provides peptide complexes that can be used to identify and isolate cancer-specific receptors as potential components for development of therapeutic antibodies, anticancer vaccines and diagnostics. Dr. Bedi was officially recognized at the This is Alabama 2026 Women Who Shape the State award luncheon, on March 5th at The Club in Birmingham, Alabama.

### Dr. Dilip Gunturu Gets AVMA VLC Educator Award



Dr. Dilip R. Gunturu

**Dr. Dilip R. Gunturu**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, was honored with the Veterinary Leadership Conference (VLC) Educator Award 2026 in his role as SAVMA Faculty Advisor for TUCVM. This award allowed him to participate in the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference which was held in Chicago from January 8–10, 2026. Dr. Gunturu was one of eight recipients of this award. The VLC is a premier leadership development event that brings together some of the brightest minds in veterinary medicine.

In addition, Dr. Gunturu along with **Dr. Toufic Nashar**, Pathobiology Department Head/Associate Professor, were awarded the AVMA Veterinary Educator Professional Grant in September. The title of their grant project was "Workshop – Active Learning with AI: Enhancing Veterinary Teaching through Interactive and Adaptive Strategies."

**Dr. Athema Etzioni**, Associate Professor in the Department of Pathobiology, traveled with some of her trainees that she has mentored while at TUCVM to the ACVP meeting. Dr. Etzioni is the third black person, but first black woman boarded in veterinary clinical pathology (DACVP 2014) by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Dr. Etzioni also serves as the Section Chief of Clinical Pathology, Internship Coordinator and Intern Supervisor, IDEXX Faculty Liaison, and advisor to Omega Tau Sigma Veterinary Fraternity.

She also recently gave a CE presentation to the DC Academy of Veterinary Medicine on March



5, 2026. The presentation was entitled, "Exotic Animal Cases: A Review," In addition, Dr. Etzioni gave a highly interactive webinar entitled, "A Practical Approach to Acid-Base Balance in Veterinary Practice" to the University of Peradeniya in November 2025.



Dr. Yesutor Soku

**Dr. Yesutor Soku's** latest research was published in Microbiology: "Phenotypic and genotypic characterization of antimicrobial resistance in Enterococcus spp. isolated from the skin microbiota of channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) in Southeastern United States." Dr. Soku is a Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant and Assistant Diagnostic Laboratory Technologist and Interdisciplinary Pathobiology (IDPB) Ph.D. graduate student. He has expert interest in Aquatic Animal Health.

### TUCVM INTERNS FOR 2025-26



**Dr. Shehla Bokhari** joined the TUCVM family as a Small Animal Intern, effective September 2025. Dr. Bokhari (also called Dr. Shehla) is originally from Pakistan. She graduated with a PhD (China) and PgC (Vet Ed, RVC, UK). Her latest accomplishment has been a PgC (Dentistry Diagnosis, Cornell). Dr. Shehla is currently pursuing her ECFVG (AVMA) certification. She has experience in small animal and equine (MSK) sonography, augmented through her novel projects (PRP, Duplex Doppler, ESWT). Dr. Shehla is a passionate pet lover and has interests also in hiking, arts and crafts (embroidery and macramé).

**Dr. Vidura Gajanayaka** joined the TUCVM family as a Clinical Pathology Intern, effective October 15, 2025. He earned his Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) degree from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. After graduation, he served as a clinician at the university's farm animal teaching hospital, where he gained valuable experience in large animal medicine and diagnostics. His professional interests include clinical pathology, teaching, and the application of diagnostic tools to support evidence-based veterinary medicine. He is particularly passionate about advancing his knowledge of clinical pathology in small ruminants and horses.

**Dr. Jaimee Galia** joined the TUCVM family as a Small Animal Rotating Intern, effective August 19, 2025. She is a veterinary graduate from Mumbai University in India. Before coming to Tuskegee, Dr. Galia had two years previous experience in clinical practice in India. The philosophy she practices is as follows. "I am passionate about healing animals, growing through hands-on experience, and building a meaningful career—one paw print at a time." Dr. Galia has special interest in Diagnostic Imaging. Her hobbies include cooking, painting, and trekking.

**Dr. Evan Griggs** joined the TUCVM faculty family as a Small Animal rotating intern effective fall semester 2025. He is from Bolivar, TN. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Science and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Coastal Carolina University in 2020 and is a recent graduate of TUCVM Class of 2025. With veterinary interests in aquatic, wildlife, zoo, and exotic medicine, Dr. Griggs is also taking part in a joint fellowship, the "Marine Mammal Commission: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion," with Mississippi State University. In the future, he plans to become board certified in Zoological Medicine with a focus on Aquatics.

**Dr. Sydni Hampton** joined the TUCVM faculty family as a Large Animal Intern during the spring semester of 2025 and is continuing in this role for the 2025-26 academic year. She is originally from Atlanta, Georgia, and received her bachelor's degree in animal science from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. Dr. Hampton is graduate of the TUCVM Class of 2024. She discovered her love for equine medicine while at Tuskegee. Her professional interests include equine lameness, reproduction, and general wellness. Her non-professional interests include hiking with her mini poodle - Bruno, reading, and painting.

**Dr. Victoria Hicks** joined the TUCVM faculty family as a Large Animal Medicine and Surgery Intern, effective July 1, 2025. Dr. Hicks, also called "Dr. Tori," is thrilled to be joining the team as a large animal veterinary intern. She completed her bachelor's degree in biomedical science and entomology at Texas A&M University and then her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University, Class of 2025. Dr. Tori's passion lies in providing compassionate, high-quality care to both large and small animals, with special interests in surgery, nutrition, and internal medicine. Outside of work, Dr. Tori loves spending time with her family, friends, and her fur babies.

**Dr. Harman Singh** joined the TUCVM family as a Small Animal Rotating Intern for the fall semester 2025. He is a licensed veterinarian with experience in both emergency and general practice. Dr. Singh graduated in 2020 in India and practiced in Canada before moving to the U.S. for advanced training. He has a special interest in veterinary

diagnostics imaging and surgery and plans to pursue a residency in this field.

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



Mrs. Lisa Burgering

**Mrs. Lisa Burgering** is a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) and returned back to TUCVM to work with the shelter medicine program as a veterinary technician, effective September 15, 2025. She previously worked at Tuskegee from 2019-2022. Burgering has worked in multiple different teaching roles over her career in veterinary medicine. Most recently, she was at Paws Humane Society in both the high-volume clinic as well as the shelter and has returned to Tuskegee to share the knowledge she gained. Burgering enjoys teaching as well as learning and expanding her knowledge. She has been married for five years, and she and her husband are the proud parents of their 2 ½ year old son.



Ms. Yousra Babiker

**Ms. Yousra Babiker** joined the TUCVM family as a Microbiology Medical Laboratory Technologist in the Pathobiology Lab on August 12, 2025. She earned her bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science from Shendi University, Sudan, in 2012. Following graduation, Ms. Babiker worked as a Medical Laboratory Scientist in Khartoum, Sudan, from 2013 to 2015. In 2018, she pursued a master's degree in molecular biology and biochemistry at Dalian Medical University in China. There she conducted research and completed her thesis in this field.



Dr. Robin Burke

**Dr. Robin Burke** joined the TUCVM family as the Director of the TUCVM Comparative Medicine Resource Center on June 16, 2025. Dr. Burke spent 22 years serving as an active-duty Army servicemember. She retired in 2025 at the rank of Colonel before accepting her position at TUCVM. Dr.



Dr. Nina Davis

**Dr. Nina Davis** rejoined the TUCVM family on December 1, 2025, as a Small Animal Intern. Dr. Davis is a recent graduate of TUCVM, earning her DVM degree as a member of the Class of 2025 this past May. She is glad to have now returned to her Alma Mater as an intern in the Department of Clinical Sciences.

Burke is board certified in the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (LAM) and the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. Her LAM residency training was performed at U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), where gained experience working in biocontainment (ABSL-3 and ABSL-4). Dr. Burke is married to her elementary school teacher husband, Bryan Shaw. They have one daughter, Katherine, who is a junior in the College of Engineering at Auburn University. Her hobbies mostly focus on travel and dog sports with her two dogs (especially flyball and nose work).



Mr. Antony Davis

**Mr. Antony Davis** joined the TUCVM family as a Central Supply Technician in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) on June 2, 2025. He is working with Ms. Gusetta Sams, Central Supply Supervisor. He assists in providing the sterility and availability of medical instruments and supplies. He graduated from Booker T. Washington (BTW) High School in Tuskegee, AL. Mr. Davis enjoys traveling and spending time with family.



Ms. Ariell Arindriena Foote

**Ms. Ariell Arindriena Foote** joined the TUCVM family as a Small Animal Caretaker & Necropsy Driver on August 12, 2025. Ms. Foote is a proud native of historic town of Tuskegee. She developed a deep sense of community, responsibility, and compassion from an early age. These values shaped her into a dedicated professional with expertise in safe animal handling, respectful transport, and adherence to biohazard protocols. Ms. Foote combines technical skills with empathy in every aspect of her work. She is known for strong communication skills, exceptional customer service, and meticulous organization. Ms. Foote holds a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license, further reflecting her commitment to care and safety.



Mr. Jamaal Guyden

**Mr. Jamaal Guyden** rejoined the TUCVM family on June 23, 2025, as a Veterinary Technician. Mr. Guyden is a 2012 Tuskegee University graduate with a bachelor's degree in animal science and minor in business. He has been a Veterinary Technician for 10 years and specializes in large animal veterinary Care.



Dr. Ricardo Irizarry

**Dr. Ricardo Irizarry** rejoined the TUCVM family on June 23, 2025, as an Associate Professor of Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care in the Department of Clinical Sciences. He previously worked at TUCVM from 2013 to 2021. Dr. Irizarry grew up in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and attended Cornell University for his undergraduate and veterinary graduate studies. He completed a small animal rotating internship, a surgical specialty internship, and an emergency and critical residency. He became board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (DACVECC) in 2010. His professional interests include practical clinical emergency teaching, ultrasound imaging, and performing soft tissue emergency surgeries. He has three daughters and a beautiful wife.



Mr. LeDarius Johnson

**Mr. LeDarius Johnson** joined the TUCVM family as a Medical Receptionist in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) on July 17, 2025. Originally from Auburn, Alabama, Mr. Johnson is a proud graduate of Auburn High School. Known for his strong work ethic and eagerness to learn, he approaches each day with a passion for growth and readiness to tackle challenging tasks. Mr. Johnson brings dedication, determination, and a student-first mindset to his role at Tuskegee University.



Dr. Abdulateef Ajadi

**Dr. Abdulateef Ajadi** joined the TUCVM family as a Clinical Laboratory Instructor of Clinical Pathology in the Department of Pathobiology on September 11, 2025. Dr. Ajadi is a DVM graduate of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria and is the immediate past Deputy Dean of the faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Ilorin. He was a lecturer in the Department of Veterinary Pathology where he has been conducting research and teaching students. Dr. Ajadi obtained a certificate in basic leadership training and is also a graduate member of Nigerian Institute of Management. He has won awards including TETFUND AST & D Award PhD programme at University of

Ilorin and German-West African Centre for Global Health and Pandemic Prevention (G-WAC), KNUST, Ghana. In his spare time, Dr. Ajadi enjoys playing video games, politicking, reading fiction and participating in community service.



Dr. Gbemisola Akingbade

**Dr. Gbemisola Akingbade** returned to the TUCVM family as the Assistant Professor of Anatomic Pathology in the Department of Pathobiology on December 1, 2025. Dr. Akingbade received her undergraduate degree in Biology from Georgia State University and her Master's degree in Animal and Poultry Science from Tuskegee University. She also received her DVM degree from TUCVM as a member of the Class of 2017. Dr. Akingbade returned to her Alma Mater in August 2018 as an Intern in Anatomic Pathology. She then remained at TUCVM for two more years as the Clinical Instructor in Anatomic Pathology from 2019-2021. Dr. Akingbade then completed a Residency in Anatomic Pathology at the University of Georgia, Athens in 2021 for and then worked as an Adjunct Professor in Anatomic Pathology for Pathology in 2025.



Dr. Esraa Alnahrawy

**Dr. Esraa Alnahrawy** joined the TUCVM family as a Research Specialist at the Department of Biomedical Sciences, on December 1, 2025, under the supervision of Dr. Pawan Puri. She has several degrees including Bachelors of veterinary sciences (BVSc), Masters of veterinary sciences (MVSc) and PhD. Dr. Alnahrawy is a licensed veterinarian in Egypt and obtained her license in 2016 after graduating from the University of Sadat City, Egypt. She then was employed as an assistant lecturer in the Department of Anatomy and Embryology at the same university and next completed her master's degree at the University of Sadat City in 2021, concentrating on establishing an anatomical and imaging reference for the pelvic cavity of the Egyptian Baladi goat.



Dr. Ferdinand Bizimana

**Dr. Ferdinand Bizimana** joined the TUCVM family as an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences on October 1, 2025. Dr. Bizimana came to Tuskegee University bringing more than 12 years of academic, clinical, and research experience in large animal health, reproduction, and production systems. He holds a DVM and MSc in Animal Production from the University of Rwanda and is completing a PhD in Animal Production and Veterinary Sciences. Before joining Tuskegee University, Dr. Bizimana served as a Lecturer of Animal Health at the Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture (RICA)

and previously as Assistant Lecturer in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Rwanda. His work has spanned veterinary surgery, theriogenology, ambulatory medicine, herd health management, and applied research addressing livestock reproduction, embryo transfer, artificial insemination, and zoonotic disease risks.



Dr. John Robert Kammermann

**Dr. John Robert Kammermann** joined the TUCVM family in August 2025 and is an Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Anatomy from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Campus (UNL) where he recently retired after 18 years of service. Dr. Kammermann received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1984 from Northern Illinois University, Dekalb IL. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served six years as a Hospital Corpsman (specialist in histotechnology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology). He was honorably discharged in 1990 and joined the Department of Anatomy at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine (AUCVM). He began his employment as a Laboratory Technologist, then completed a master's degree in veterinary anatomy in 1994 and a PhD in biomedical sciences in 2004. During his time at the AUCVM, he received training in gross anatomy. Dr. Kammermann is married to his wife Kristin of 27 years.



Mr. Lennon Bhagwandin

**Mr. Lennon Bhagwandin** (Mr. Lennon) joined the TUCVM effective May 5, 2025. He immediately began preparing for the Summer Enrichment and Reinforcement Program (SERP) 2025 as the new Director of Academic Support Programs and Student Success in the TUCVM Office of the Academic and Student Affairs. Mr. Lennon has over twenty years of experience in teaching and academic support including new student orientation, student retention programs, academic coaching initiatives, and faculty development workshops. He brings several years of regional and international professional experience having previously worked in Texas, New York, UK, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Maarten, Antigua and the Cayman Islands. Prior to his current position, Mr. Lennon was employed for several years with various Caribbean medical schools including AUA, Ross and AUC, as their Director of Academic Support.



TUCVM SAYS FARWELL TO SEVERAL RETIREES FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE  
Best wishes always to all retirees in your future endeavors and next life chapters!

**Retirement Celebration Luncheon for Dr. Ruby L. Perry**

TUCVM Faculty & Staff honored and celebrated **Dr. Ruby L. Perry's** 11 years of dedicated service as Dean to the Tuskegee University School/College of Veterinary Medicine on June 30, 2025, as she entered retirement. Dr. Perry had been devoted to her alma mater through the years and so this was now an opportunity to celebrate her with great food, fun, and fellowship...a TUCVM Good Time!!! \*\*A special presentation was done by famous

**ABOUT DR. RUBY L. PERRY**



**Ruby L. Perry, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVR**, served as the dean/professor of veterinary radiology at the Tuskegee University College (formerly School) of Veterinary Medicine from 2014-2025. However, Dr. Perry has given a total of 46 years to academia. She was originally at Tuskegee University from 1982-1988 (six years), then returned again in 2007 until 2025 (18 years). Dr. Perry also worked at Michigan State University (MSU) for 22 years (which equals 46 years total in academia)! During her 11 year tenure as dean, she served as a past-president of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), previously served a two-term secretary position on the AAVMC's Board of Directors, as a member of the AAVMC Minority Serving Institutions Working Group, and co-chair of the AVMA-AAVMC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission. Dr. Perry is a dual graduate of Tuskegee University where she received her B.S. degree in Animal and Poultry Science and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree ('77). She completed a small animal internship at Tuskegee University and a radiology residency at Michigan State University where she also received the M.S. degree in Microbiology. Dr. Perry decided to remain in academia and expanded her education with a Ph.D. degree in Educational Leadership. She wears the hat of several firsts to include the first alumna to be named both interim dean and dean of a U. S. veterinary school; the first African American female board-certified veterinary radiologist in the American College of Veterinary Radiology, the first veterinary alumna to serve as acting president for Tuskegee University during a former president's medical leave over a five-month period, and the first African American woman to hold the president's position at the AAVMC. Dr. Perry previously also served in several other positions at Tuskegee to include interim chief of staff, vice-provost of undergraduate education, associate dean for academic affairs, assistant veterinary radiology professor, and acting chair of the Department of Small Animal Medicine, Surgery and Radiology. Before returning to Tuskegee, Dr. Perry was on faculty at Michigan State University for 20 years, where she was section chief of veterinary radiology and earned tenure as an associate professor of veterinary radiology. She has served in a variety of leadership positions to include president of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association, program coordinator for the American College of Veterinary Radiology, and appointed by Gov. Kay Ivey to the Alabama Environmental Management Commission. Dr. Perry has also served on various professional committees and task groups, and advisory roles for many students and student organizations. She has been honored with several awards including the Zoetis Champion of Diversity Award, the 2021 Iverson Bell Award (AAVMC's Professional Excellence Award Honoree), the recipient of the Bridge Club ICON award, and the 2024 AVMA Frederick Douglass Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award. Throughout her career, Dr. Perry has been actively engaged in community service that increases awareness of the veterinary profession and advancing veterinary medical education. She is married to Dr. Winston A. Felton, also a '77 Tuskegee veterinary alum. They have three children, 10 grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

**THANK YOU For Your Service to TU, DR. PERRY!!!**



artist Dr. Ronald McDowell of the painting he did of Dr. Perry that is displayed in the Patterson Hall Atrium with the other paintings of previous deans of the School/College of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee.

### Retirement Celebration Luncheon for Mrs. Carrie King



Several faculty & staff from TUCVM gathered on June 17, 2025, in the Office of the Dean Conference Room to honor **Mrs. Carrie King**. She retired on June 30th after serving most recently as the Administrative Assistant for Development and External Relations for TUCVM. She

gave over 46 years of dedicated service to Tuskegee University. Mrs. King is a TUCVM treasure indeed!

### Retirement Celebration for Dr. Fredrick E. Tippet



The TUCVM Department of Pathobiology hosted a Retirement and Farewell Luncheon honoring **Dr. Fredrick E. Tippet** (Professor), **Dr. Sheriff Idris** (Clinical Instructor) and **Dr. Marcela Apuy Martinez** (Intern) on June

16, 2025. Several family members, classmates, former students and colleagues joined the celebration to honor Dr. Tippet for his dedicated and committed service of 41 years to Tuskegee University. Dr. Tippet is a member of the Class of 1979 and he retired on June 30th.

### Retirement Celebration for Dr. Hari Goyal

The TUCVM Department of Biomedical Sciences held a Retirement Luncheon for longtime faculty, **Dr. Hari Goyal** (former Professor of Biomedical Sciences) on February



13th, for colleagues to celebrate the amazing 47 years of service Dr. Goyal gave to Tuskegee. To give congratulatory remarks on behalf of the university, Dr. Thiemo Thiam, Provost and Senior

Vice President for Academic Affairs, accompanied Dean Dr. Ebony Gilbreath and spoke after Department Head Dr. Gemechu Wirtu and Dean Gilbreath. Dr. Goyal's wife was also in attendance.

### Retirement Celebration for Four Longtime Clinicians



Several TUCVM faculty and staff participated in a retirement luncheon on June 26th at the Large Animal Hospital Classroom for **Dr. Karen Copedge** (Large Animal Clinician), **Dr. Pamela Guy** (Small Animal Clinician), **Dr. Howard King** (Small Animal Clinician), and **Dr. Linda Montgomery** (Small Animal Clinician). These four individuals gave decades of dedicated service to Tuskegee University and will always be treasured.

### Other TUCVM Retirees Honored at TUCVM Holiday Luncheon



TUCVM held its Annual Holiday Celebration on December 16, 2025 with the theme: "Celebrating Our Diverse Cultures, Beliefs and Traditions that Enrich Our College of Veterinary Medicine." However, Dean Ebony Gilbreath spearheaded a new idea/tradition in the making of recognizing our retirees and honoring faculty & staff selected by dept./unit heads for their commitment to TUCVM and the appreciated work they do to help move the TUCVM forward.

So, in addition to the above mentioned retirees, the following individuals were also recognized for their years of service and commitment to Tuskegee University and presented with a certificate/token on behalf of the Dean. The other retirees acknowledged included: **Mr. Ernest Holland** (former VTH Pharmacist), **Ms. Susie Tatum** (former Administrative Assistant/Interim Preceptorship Coordinator - Pathobiology Department), and **Dr. Lloyd Webb** (former Professor of Public Health). **Dr. Hari Goyal** was also acknowledged here as well for retirement.

Faculty & Staff Members honored during the holiday celebration included: **Dr. Marc Alhhal** (Section Manager/Clinical Instructor - Diagnostic Imaging), **Mrs. Loni Fleming** (Desktop Support Technician), **Ms. Deetra Benn** (Director - Student Affairs), **Mr. Fred Johnson** (Maintenance Engineer/Facility Manager), **Mr. Thomas Martin** (TUCVM Photographer), **Dr. Rawah Faraj** (Assistant Professor of Immunology- Pathobiology), and **Dr. Deepa Bedi** (Associate Professor - Biomedical Sciences).

## TUCVM Researcher Dr. Abebe Heads Team for \$750,000 grant to advance food safety



Dr. Woubit Abebe



Dr. Temesgen Samuel



Dr. Nelson Oranye

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine faculty member and researcher **Dr. Woubit Abebe** and team have been awarded a three-year, \$750,000 competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA) to support an integrated research and education project focused on advancing food safety through genomics and machine learning. Dr. Abebe is a Professor of Pathobiology and Director of the Center for Food Animal Health, Food Safety, and Food Defense (CFAHFSD) in the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM). Her laboratory's research within the Center focuses on improving food animal health, food safety, and food defense in the State of Alabama, while also supporting the broader agricultural industry.

Dr. Abebe's highly collaborative project is titled "GenoPATHx and Machine Learning Tools to Map the Farm-to-Fork Dynamics of Salmonella Serovars: An Academia-Industry Collaborative Approach." The project aims to improve the detection and prediction of *Salmonella* contamination using in-house developed diagnostic technologies integrated with artificial intelligence tools.

The project will deploy **GenoPATHx**, a rapid molecular detection platform developed by Dr. Abebe's team, together with machine learning-based predictive tools to enable on-site detection and forecasting of key performance indicators associated with various *Salmonella* serovars in poultry processing plants. By integrating high-sensitivity detection with process-control monitoring, the system is designed to help poultry processors identify contamination risks earlier and improve food safety management across the production continuum.



"Our project aims to strengthen TUCVM's research capacity while developing innovative, rapid, and highly sensitive tools for detecting and characterizing *Salmonella* across the food production continuum," said Dr. Abebe.

Dr. Abebe serves as Project Director, with co-project directors from TUCVM including **Dr. Temesgen Samuel**, Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies and Professor in the Department of Pathobiology, and **Dr. Nelson Oranye**, Associate Professor in the Department of Graduate Public Health. Dr. Samuel's teaching and research interests include molecular biology, microbiology, diagnostic methods, disease mechanisms, and molecular pathogenesis. Dr. Oranye's research focuses on population health, social epidemiology, health inequities, and workplace health.

The project also includes collaborations with researchers from five additional universities and federal partners, including: *Dr. Renata Ivanek*, Cornell University; *Dr. Ilias Tagkopoulos*, University of California, Davis; *Dr. Evangelyn Alocilija*, Michigan State University; *Dr. Matthew Stasiewicz*, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; and *Dr. Stephen Brown*, USDA-NIFA/NSF AI Institute for Next Generation Food Systems, University of California, Davis.



Dr. Abebe at booth with the CEO of the company who licensed their detection platform at IPPE Expo.

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The team is also collaborating with **QuantPath**, a licensing and commercialization partner supporting the translation of the GenoPATHx technology into industry applications.

“The project integrates cutting-edge GenoPATHx diagnostic technology with machine learning and artificial intelligence approaches while providing advanced research training and experiential learning opportunities for graduate students,” said Dr. Samuel. “Collectively, these efforts are expected to strengthen institutional research capacity at TUCVM, enhance veterinary and graduate student training in advanced food safety research, and improve national competitiveness in securing future extramural funding.”

To learn more about the CFAFSD, visit <https://www.tuskegee.edu/academics/colleges-schools/cvm/Center-for-Food-Animal-Health-Food-Safety-Food-Defense-CFAFSD.html>.

### Dr. Abebe Attends 2026 International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE)

Dr. Woubit Abebe and some fellow researchers attended the 2026 International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) on January 27-29 at the Georgia World Congress Center. At IPPE 2026, the team engaged 20+ high-value stakeholders across tier-1 animal health companies, poultry integrators, global diagnostics firms, laboratories, and investors. Multiple discussions progressed beyond introductions into technical validation, pilot design, platform integration, and early commercial collaboration, indicating strong and accelerating market pull for GenoPATHx as a complementary, decision-enabling technology across vaccines, interventions, and diagnostics. “IPPE 2026 marked a transition from curiosity to

execution, with GenoPATHx now being actively evaluated as a core tool for vaccine validation, intervention efficacy measurement, and diagnostic platform integration,” said Dr. Abebe. Read more at: [https://ippe26.mapyourshow.com/8\\_0/exhibitor/exhibitor-details.cfm?exhid=7368](https://ippe26.mapyourshow.com/8_0/exhibitor/exhibitor-details.cfm?exhid=7368) and [www.quantipath.bio/](http://www.quantipath.bio/).

### About IPPE 2026:

The 2026 International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) has been a trade show with strong crowds, busy exhibitors and great energy evident throughout the expo floor. This year, IPPE had over 33,000 registered attendees, more than 663,000 square feet of exhibit space and 1,385-plus exhibitors. This year was noted as the largest trade show floor square footage in IPPE’s history.

### TUCVM Gets Grant Funding for Veterinary Scholars Program for Student Research



Dr. Gemechu Wirtu

As the program director, **Dr. Gemechu Wirtu**, Professor and Biomedical Sciences Department Head, received notification in January 2026 that The Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) Veterinary Scholars Program grant was awarded to TUCVM to support the summer research program administered by the TUCVM Office of Research and Advanced Studies. The grant amount in total is \$23,100 for the 2026 Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Program to support one veterinary student to participate in the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Boehringer-Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Program for the Summer of 2026. USDA is excited to help TUCVM students expand their research experiences and learn more about what ARS has to offer.

# TUCVM Alums & 'Critter Fixers' Stars Welcomed 65 new Tuskegee Veterinarians to the Profession



TUCVM 2025 Graduating Class



Distinguished veterinary alumni award recipients  
Drs. Terrence Ferguson and Vernard Hodges

Tuskegee Veterinary Medicine alumni Dr. Terrence Ferguson '98 and Dr. Vernard Hodges '97, the stars of the popular show "Critter Fixers: Country Vets," inspired the 76th graduating class with urgency and passion to serve their communities with the grounding they learned at Tuskegee.

"Remember always, you are enough, you have enough, you know enough, you belong in this profession, you are part of a great legacy, the world needs you and veterinary medicine needs your perspective because you are not just a doctor, but a Tuskegee made doctor of veterinary medicine," they said.

Tuskegee has now awarded over 3,100 veterinary medicine degrees as the first veterinary medical professional program on the campus of a Historically Black College or University.

Dr. Ferguson and Dr. Hodges gave an uplifting Veterinary Medicine Oath Charge to the newly named doctors of veterinary medicine. They also emphasized the magnitude of what their degree from Tuskegee means. "You are now stepping into your purpose," they told the graduates. "As Tuskegee gave us permission to dream bigger, it has now done the same for you. This degree is not just any degree, but it is a Tuskegee degree which really means something big!"

The TV personalities are also co-owners of Critter Fixer Veterinary Hospital in Georgia and in addition to their work as veterinarians and television stars, they give back to their community through their "Vet for a Day" initiative to attract middle and high school students to the profession. Dr. Ferguson is also one of the founders of the Peach County Youth Association, an organization that focuses on academics and athletics. Dr. Hodges also started the Dr. Vernard Hodges It Takes A Village Foundation, a nonprofit charity organization that teaches children business skills.

The Administration of the Veterinarian's Oath was presented by Dr. Barbara Authement, President of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA), followed by welcome to the profession and alumni association remarks by Dr. Dana Fuller, 2003 graduate and president of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA).

Five TUCVM Distinguished Alumni Awards recipients were recognized during the veterinary medicine oath ceremony program. The honorees included:

**Dr. Terrence Ferguson '98** and **Dr. Vernard Hodges '97**;

**Dr. Linda Jacobson '71**, former president of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni As-

sociation (TVMAA), the Veterinary Medical Association of New York City, the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, and the Board of Directors of the North American Veterinary Community;

**Dr. Bernardino Ortiz '64**, former president of the Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association; State Veterinary Board in Puerto Rico; and a contributor to the eradication of several diseases in cows in addition to diagnosing the first case of Equine leishmaniasis in Puerto Rico;

**Dr. Vera Ann Burrell '64**, the first woman licensed veterinarian in Puerto Rico, the first woman president of the Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association, the first president of the "Colegio de Médicos Veterinarios de Puerto Rico" and the developer of the third AAHA Hospital in Puerto Rico - Caguas Veterinary Hospital along with her husband, Dr. Bernardino Ortiz.

Dr. Mark A. Brown, President and CEO of Tuskegee University, made a surprise presentation to Dr. Ruby L. Perry for her 11 years of service as dean. She was presented with a limited edition print by Tuskegee alums. 🐾

**Congratulations  
TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
Class of 2025**

- Hannah Catherine Ackerman
- Brandynn Leigh Alston
- Kaitlyn Najee Boddie
- Carrie Louise Marie Bradford
- Christina Virginia Bradshaw
- Brajaé C. Brazil
- Brianna D. Brown
- Emily Rose Money
- Alexandria Noelle Brown
- Tessa Noelle Burgess
- Sheniqua Keyonia Bynum
- Nadja Chavers
- Kelsey Cyrus
- Alyssa Dalrymple
- Brittany Sha'maya Taylor Davis
- Nina Davis
- Lauryn M. Duhart
- Rachel R. Elder
- Hana Fantin
- Raven Nakai Griffin
- Evan Patrick Griggs
- Mark Harden
- Winter G. Hardman
- Brianna Hayes
- Ronald Hendrix
- Victoria Shyyan Hicks
- Justin Avery Hodrick
- Arianna E. Holmes
- Brittany T. Howard
- Alston Jenkins
- Sydney N. Johnson
- Elise Iman Johnson
- Mychaela L. Kelley
- Jose Gabriel Leon Figueroa
- Miguel Angel Leon Figueroa
- Madison Jordan Long
- Annie Marie Lopez
- Jamia E. Mason
- Shakara Keanna McGirt
- Desmond James McLeod
- Shalinda Q. McMahon
- Kendra Alexandria Mills
- Morgan Taylor Mitchell
- Amol Morrow
- Kamaria Ciara Palmer
- Patrick Anthony Pancoast
- Kyle Kirkland Parker
- Lowry Poletti
- Parrish L. Priestler
- Jaelyn M. Reeves
- Anna Katherine Rhodes
- Asia Janeece Rubin
- Nia Simone Salandy
- Savannah Seléna Simon
- Taylor T. Smith
- Gia Monique Stanley
- Celine Yvonne Sylvester
- Charles W. Walker
- Shelby Eliza Walton
- Haley Ann Wathen
- Briana Symone Webb
- Tyreena Webb-Smith
- McCoy Williams
- Derrel Benjamin Wilright
- Lisa Adria Wilson-Simpson



TVMAA Pres. Dr. Fuller and ALVMA Pres. Dr. Authement.



Dr. Linda Jacobson with Dr. Perry and President Brown.



Dr. Nelson Diaz receives awards for Drs. Bernardino Ortiz and Vera A. Burrell (not in attendance)



Dr. Perry's surprise gift in recognition of her 11 years of service as dean.

# TUCVM Alumni Donate Almost \$250,000 During 59th Veterinary Symposium, 80th Anniversary Alumni Gala



Keynote speaker and 20th Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams (center) engages with veterinary students and student leaders after his presentation.

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) welcomed alumni, students, faculty, staff, pre-veterinary students, friends and supporters to its 59th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium on March 19-22, 2025. This symposium also marked the 80th anniversary celebration of the veterinary medicine program at Tuskegee. TUCVM alumni are strong supporters of the college, which was evident once again with the reunion classes' financial contributions of \$247,720 made during the Alumni Gala on March 21. TUCVM is fortunate as the reunion classes at each symposium do a phenomenal job with giving back. Their active involvement is making a meaningful difference, for future generations of students pursuing a veterinary medical education from Tuskegee.

A highlight of the Alumni Gala was the guest appearances of Dr. Mark A. Brown, President and CEO of Tuskegee University, and First Lady Gwendolyn Brown. Dr. Brown gave greetings and assured

attendees of the university's support for the future goal of building a new Veterinary Teaching Hospital beginning with the Small Animal Hospital/Clinical Building in phase 1.

The symposium theme, "Our 80th Legacy Anniversary: Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present and Embracing the Future," underscored the dynamic speakers and several approved sessions for participants. The opening sessions featured two historic keynote speakers, T.S. Williams lecturer Dr. Michael Q. Bailey, '82 alum, and the first Black president-elect at the time (now president) for the American Veterinary Medical Association, and General Session speaker Dr. Jerome Adams, anesthesiologist and the 20th Surgeon General of the United States.

The veterinary medical symposium is the largest continuing education event sponsored by the college that annually brings together veterinarians and alumni from across the country to discuss important issues related to animal health and veterinary medicine. During the 80th Celebration Alumni Gala this year, the following Reunion Classes were honored: 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975 (50th year - golden class), 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 (25th year - silver class), 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020.

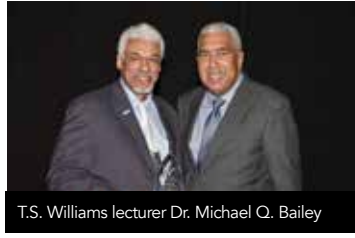
The 60th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium on March 18-21, 2026, is recognizing the Diamond Celebration of 60 years of continuing the largest continuing education event sponsored by the

College. Reunion Classes honorees include 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976 (50th year - golden class), 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 (25th year - silver class), 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021. 🦋

### Highlight photos from 59th Symposium



Dr. Jerome Adams



T.S. Williams lecturer Dr. Michael O. Bailey



DELMARVA TVMAA scholarship award



TVMAA Golf Event



BTW high school students in attendance at One Health Symposium.

“The theme, “One Health: Uniting Human, Animal, and Environmental Health for Sustainability,” reflects Tuskegee University’s enduring commitment to tackle real-world challenges and advance initiatives that foster healthy people, healthy animals, and a healthier world.”



A special invitation was extended to senior students with an interest in the One Health triad at Booker T. Washington High School in Tuskegee, Alabama, to attend the session on the Bioethics Honors Program. Twenty-one students from BTW attended with their school counselor and teacher.

This symposium was not only a forum for research collaborations but also allowed participants to learn about the exciting new interventions in biomedical research. Two students also presented posters during the One Health Symposium: Milahni Wilkerson and Shannon Willis. 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. Student winners were awarded monetary prizes along with their certificates of recognition.

The One Health Symposium and Phi Zeta Research Day committee gave a special acknowledgement to all the keynote speakers, presenters, vendors and sponsors for their support. Sponsors included: U.S. Department of Education, Boehringer Ingelheim, Elanco, Purina, and Zoetis. Vendors: Veterans Administration, Alabama Department of Public Health, South Central Alabama Development Commission, SpectraCare Health Systems, Inc., Macon Means, and Macon County Food Bank and Community Garden Project.

### TUCVM Host 2025 One Health Symposium, Phi Zeta Research Day to Celebrate Research, Researchers and Honors Students

Tuskegee University researchers and community partners’ research were highlighted and celebrated during the 26th Annual One Health Symposium and 13th Annual Phi Zeta Research Day. Undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, academicians, community leaders, public health practitioners and environmental health scientists gathered and presented research at the TUCVM’s Patterson Hall on Sept. 15-16.

Tuskegee University President and CEO, Dr. Mark Brown, and Provost and Senior Vice-President of Academic Affairs Dr. Thierno Thiam, gave the opening session greetings. Dr. Brown emphasized the importance of this platform for exchanging ideas, presenting groundbreaking research and fostering collaborations.

“The One Health Symposium celebrates the One Health Triad, which highlights the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health and the Phi Zeta Research Day features our students scholarly work through oral and poster presentations in which prizes are awarded,” said Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, dean of the college.

# Tuskegee University Veterinary Teaching Hospital Receives AAHA Accreditation



The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) is excited that its Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) has earned accreditation again from the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). This recognition places TUCVM's VTH among an elite group of approximately 15 percent of veterinary hospitals nationwide that have met the rigorous standards of excellence established by AAHA for quality care, patient safety, and hospital management.

"TUCVM's VTH is honored to be among the approximately 15 percent of veterinary hospitals nationwide that have earned accreditation from the AAHA, a distinction that reflects our unwavering commitment to the highest standards of veterinary excellence," said Dr. Nelson Diaz, Hospital Director at TUCVM and Associate Professor of Small Animal Community Practice. "With the steadfast support of our dean and the university's administration, the teaching hospital team remains dedicated to ensuring that our clients and patients receive the highest quality of care and service possible."

AAHA accreditation is recognized as the benchmark of veterinary excellence. To achieve this distinction, hospitals must undergo comprehensive evaluations on nearly 50 mandatory standards that

cover all aspects of veterinary practice—from patient care and pain management to staff training, medical record keeping, and facility safety. By earning this accreditation, TUCVM's VTH demonstrates its continued dedication not only to excellence in patient care but also to providing veterinary students with the highest quality clinical training environment.

"The TUCVM Veterinary Teaching Hospital's faculty, staff, interns, and students, under the leadership of VTH Director Dr. Nelson Diaz, are to be commended for putting forth the diligent effort to ensure that all necessary AAHA accreditation guidelines are followed and that the small animal teaching hospital is properly equipped and managed," said Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.

"We are committed to providing excellent care for our current and future clients as we prepare for the expansion of our veterinary teaching hospital," Gilbreath said.

To maintain accredited status, Tuskegee University's small animal hospital must continue to be evaluated regularly by the association's consultants. The AAHA accreditation of animal hospitals is voluntary; however, this accreditation is a strong indication that a veterinary practice delivers quality medicine which positively impacts its status among patients, clients, and the veterinary hospital team and raises the bar for the entire veterinary profession. To learn more about the AAHA accreditation process, visit <https://www.aaha.org/about-accreditation/>.

## TUCVM Now Has NEW VTH Website



TUCVM's Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) is excited to have now launched a brand new website (called a microsite) during the spring semester! A microsite is

a small, specialized, website designed to support a specific purpose. Existing independently or as a subdomain of a main corporate site, it offers a focused experience with unique branding and tailored content. The new VTH microsite allows the college to have a targeted focus on the teaching hospital reducing distractions and improving user/client experience when seeking information on the teaching hospital as well as any specific promotion of the teaching hospital. The TUCVM main website allows catering to a broad audience.



This new microsite highlights the wonderful work being done at the college's small and large animal areas and the exposure the veterinary students are

getting while navigating the intense curriculum for the veterinary program to become career-ready veterinarians! The new VTH website. It is fully published under the new VTH domain: <https://tuskegeevethospital.tuskegee.edu>. Developing the new VTH website was intense and a true labor of love that required the dedication and skills of TUCVM's website content manager, Samina Akhter, along with the technical support of the university's webmaster Cassandra Cooper.



Ms. Akhter's skill and commitment to this project allowed the following tasks to be completed that enhance the features of the new website:

- Creation and revision of content for the Small and Large Animal Teaching Hospital pages
- Integration of clinical services and referral information
- Set up of the online referral portal and submission process
- Review and organization of forms and supporting documents
- Publishing each page linked to the index page
- VTH index page linked with the CVM page
- Updated Graphic Designing
- Internal testing and final quality check before public launch



The new VTH microsite has incorporated keyword optimization based on AI recommendations and applied tags to support easier Google search visibility for each page

which will be a true bonus for the user. The microsite also includes a built-in search feature that lets users quickly find any page linked to the main website. Header graphics were designed in Adobe Photoshop to enhance the site's visual presentation.



The new VTH website can also be accessed as well from the main Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine's (TUCVM) website at [www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed](http://www.tuskegee.edu/vetmed) by clicking on the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (gold tab button) at the bottom of the page. It can also be accessed at the main Tuskegee University website at [www.tuskegee.edu](http://www.tuskegee.edu) by viewing under the Academics heading at top (Colleges and Schools) page and under Quick Links at the top of the main website page.

- Development of the updated website layout design and structure

# TUCVM Welcomed New Foal and Made Big News!



There was a lot of excitement around the birth of a new BABY at the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) with the birth of Coco Chanel on Feb. 1st. However, this baby is a foal and it was exciting because it was noted there has not been a foal born on campus in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in many years!

Baby Coco Chanel entered the world on February 1, 2026, with a full moon outside somewhere in the early morning hours at a birth weight of 73 lbs. The birth time was noted according to Dr. Courtney Allred who left campus after 11 p.m. and returned at 6 a.m. to find baby Coco Chanel. Dr. Allred, an Assistant Professor of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery at TUCVM, was the primary clinician monitoring this special birth to mother horse named Dolly.

"Although I was the primary clinician, everyone played a part in Dolly's and Coco Chanel's care. In total it was a team effort by our skilled large animal team, senior student Kaylie Cutter-Jimenez was also one of the lead people in monitoring mother and baby and she is currently on our large animal in-house rotation team as well," Dr. Allred said.

"We are incredibly proud of how the College of

Veterinary Medicine turned this into a story of joy and rebirth," said Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "Our team exposed our students to Dolly's treatment throughout her pregnancy and now the care for her baby foal. This is an extraordinary moment in our history and we are proud to be able to share this story."

## A little background on Dolly

The VTH has a history with caring for Dolly who is a part of the TUCVM family. Dolly came to the VTH by owner surrender around five years ago and TUCVM's Large Animal Farm/Barn Manager Mr. Melvin Freeman really liked her and decided to adopt her about a year and half ago. Dolly was bred here by Mr. Freeman, live cover with a stallion named Ralf. Dolly's pregnancy was confirmed last year and then the team involved in her care under Dr. Allred's monitoring did every other month ultrasonographic checks up until delivery. Delivery was noted to have been as perfect as it could have been under the VTH team, and Dolly is seen as an amazing mom!

## New Foal captured the attention of WSFA

TUCVM was featured on two live TV segments on February 25 from interviews with WSFA Channel 12 Television at 6 a.m. and 6:40 a.m. The interviews featured the story of the birth on



Baby Foal "Coco Chanel" to Mother "Dolly" and promoting our services at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The interviews were located at the TUCVM outside grounds of the large animal hospital where both Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, Dean of the College, and Mr. Melvin Freeman, TUCVM Farm/Barn Manager and Dolly's owner, were interviewed by WSFA news reporter Bethany Davis. The WSFA interviews at link: <https://www.wsfa.com/2026/02/25/tuskegee-university-college-veterinary-medicine-welcomes-new-foal/>.

# The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine holds 2026 White Coat Ceremony for 59 students



TUCVM class of 2027 with Dean Dr. Ebony Gilbreath (center) and Interim Associate Dean Dr. Wole (left end).

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) welcomed 59 students from the Class of 2027 to the next phase of their veterinary medical curriculum during its Annual White Coat Ceremony on February 28. Family and friends witnessed the ceremony with pride, excitement, and gratitude as the students transitioned to the clinical phase of the curriculum.

TUCVM is grateful for the sponsorship and support of Zoetis Animal Health, Banfield Pet Hospital, American Veterinary Medical History Society, Inc., Merck Animal Health, and participation from the associations representing Alabama, Kentucky and South Carolina Veterinary Medical Associations.

Tuskegee University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Thierno Thiam gave special greetings on behalf of Tuskegee University President and CEO Dr. Mark A. Brown, followed by greetings from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Dr. Calvin Johnson. Dr. Thiam gave an inspirational greeting and emphasized to the students that “a Tuskegee graduate exists to change the world and each student has that Tuskegee warrior spirit and the world is better because each of them are in it!” Dean Gilbreath then echoed Dr. Thiam’s sentiments.

TCVM Class of 2027 president Aaryn DuBose and vice president Ahan Jain assisted in the presentation of 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 president, president-elect, and past president in attendance of the respective veterinary medical associations to include Dr. Jim Lovell (Alabama VMA President), Dr. Lauren Mirus (Kentucky VMA President-Elect), and Dr. Rebecca Hughes (South Carolina VMA Current Past-President and TUCVM '85 Alumna). Dr. Solomon (Wole) Odemuyiwa, Interim Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, and Ms. Deetra Benn, Director of Student Affairs, presented the white coats to non-resident students.

“The annual white coat ceremony is a celebratory time which represents the transition of our third year students from the didactic preclinical phase of the veterinary curriculum into the clinical phase of their veterinary training,” said Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, Dean of the College.

“They will now move one step closer to becoming career-ready veterinarians and graduating with their DVM degrees next year, joining the proud ranks of veterinarians who have graduated from this historic institution. Thank you to our university administration, sponsors, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and of course, the family and friends who support these future veterinarians. This momentous occasion would not be the success it is without them,” Dr. Gilbreath said.

For anyone who missed the ceremony or want to view it again, the ceremony can be viewed at: <https://youtube.com/live/DSvG5I9F7X8>. Read official release at: <https://www.tuskegee.edu/news/2026/03/The-Tuskegee-University-College-of-Veterinary-Medicine-Celebrates-Students-Major-Step-Closer-to-Vet-Med-Degrees.html>.

**The 59 members of the Class of 2027 who received white coats are:**

- 5 ALABAMA STUDENTS: Yvonne Booker, Amber Brandt, Audrey Brown, Ayanna Gamble, and Jenna Holley
- 1 KENTUCKY STUDENT: Riann Youngblood
- 5 SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENTS: Loren Brown, Gabriel Carnagey, Meagan Danley, Jessica Lord, and Taylor Reynolds
- 48 NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS: Alexis Adams-Lucas, Hannah Adams, Alessandria Aikerson, Brianna Anthony, Talani Baker, Laila Barnes, Jaden Battle, Constance Bennett, Jasmine Campbell, Shyain Christopher, Amber D. Cooper, Taylor Davis-Anderson, Julianna Diaz-Navas, Sydney Dicks, Nikole S. Dillard, Danielle Dorsey, Aaryn DuBose, Lakiyah Durham, Destini Ferguson, Terri Ferguson, Kasey Fountain, Alexes Gatewood, Ryen Greer, Alexis Hall, Andrew Heatherton, Zaria Henry, Ryan Huckaby, Destinee Jackson, Chantae Jacobs, Ahan Jain, Tahina Jean, Haleigh Johnson, De'Rahyelle Jones, Saniya Keeton, Brooke Keys, Chelsea Lee, Shelby Lee, Tristan Merino, Paris Moore, Charity Newball-Prather, Chela Owens, Catelyn Phillips, Aria Rawlings, Gabriella Turnispeed, Diandre White, Jaya White, Simone Williams, and Brianna Wooten.

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Alabama students with Alabama VMA President.



S. Carolina students with S. Carolina VMA Current Past-President & TUCVM '85 Alumna.



Kentucky student with Dean Gilbreath.



Kentucky VMA President giving greetings during ceremony.



Provost Thiam giving greetings.



Auburn CVM Dean giving greetings.



Zoetis representative speaking during ceremony.



Family and friends in attendance at ceremony

**TUCVM Participates in AAVMC Leadership Academy and Advocacy Day in D.C.**



The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) was represented in the 2025 American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) Leadership Academy and Advocacy Day in Washington D.C on April 7-12. TUCVM’s faculty Dr. Dilip Reddy Gunturu and Dr. Yazeed Abdelmageed were a part of the Spring Cohort representing TUCVM at the AAVMC’s Leadership Academy. Dr. Gunturu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Dr. Abdelmageed is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathobiology/Director of Diagnostic Lab Services. Their group, including a team from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine (AUCVM), visited with Congressman Mr. Mike Rogers as a part of Advocacy Day on April 9<sup>th</sup>. All of them were representing the colleges from State of Alabama. They also met other members of congress and senators from Alabama.

**About AAVMC Leadership Academy:**  
AAVMC launched the Leadership Academy in 2012 to provide leadership development for emerging leaders in academia and to provide a forum for building lasting ties between faculty members at veterinary schools and departments around the world. While there are many types of leadership development training available, the AAVMC Leadership Academy is unique in that it is focused on helping develop tomorrow’s leaders of academic veterinary medicine. More at: <https://www.aavmc.org/programs/faculty-educators/leadership/leadership-academy/>.

**TUCVM DGPB Celebrates National Public Health Week 2025**

TUCVM’s Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPB), under the leadership Department Head/ MPH Program Director Dr. Torhonda Lee, recognized National Public Health Week 2025. During the first full week of April each year, the American Public Health Association (APHA) unites com-

munities nationwide to celebrate National Public Health Week, recognizing public health contributions and addressing key health issues. The DGPB supported Tuskegee University’s Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) in taking action to address cervical cancer through the launch of its “Wipe Out Cervical Cancer Campaign.” The campaign highlighted cervical cancer as a critical public health issue, especially in underserved communities across Alabama. The theme focused on “Self-Awareness, Self-Care, Relentless-Resilience.” Organized in concert with TU CBR/RCMI’s Cervical Cancer Campaign, was the Inaugural HPV Vaccination Walk. This event took place at Logan Hall on Tuskegee University’s campus. This initiative coincided with National Public Health Week 2025, which has deep historical roots in Tuskegee. In 1915, Booker T. Washington launched National Negro Health Week (NNHW) from the university, calling for improved health in Black communities as a foundation for broader social and economic progress.



**TUCVM DGPB Supports HPV Cancer Disparities Webinar Hosted by St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital**

DGPB’s faculty **Dr. Ehsan Abdalla**, an Associate Professor of Public Health/Director of Analytics, was also a presenter representing the DGPB at the HPV Cancer Disparities Webinar on October 16, 2025. This virtual seminar, entitled “Empowering and

Strengthening Community, Culture and Connection to Prevent HPV Cancers "Close-Knit, Far-Reaching: Harnessing the Strengths of Rural Communities to Prevent HPV Cancers Through HPV Vaccinations," was hosted by the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Dr. Abdalla's presentation was entitled "Evaluation of the Impact of Cervical Cancer and HPV Educational Awareness Program in Macon County, Alabama, from 2018 to 2023." Her areas of concentration include Epidemiology and Risk Analysis.

### TUCVM Host Community Outreach for Horse Owners with Equine Horse Fair



TUCVM hosted an Equine/Horse Health Fair for the **Entire Month of April 2025** to help get horses ready for the warm and humid summer months. For the entire month, all clients of horses were able to receive services at a discount. Special rates for treatments were given on EWT-WN, deworming, & Coggins; however, physical exams and fecal testing were

at no cost to the owner

if they got all vaccines and Coggins test and dentals were scheduled with Health Fair services with advanced notice and at full cost. Dr. Courtney Allred, Veterinary Teaching Hospital Large Animal Clinician, serves as the Equine Health Fair Coordinator. She has planned for this to be an annual event in which clients can get discounted services for one full month to encourage maintaining healthy horses before the summer months begin. For 2026, the Equine Fair is for the Month of March.



### TUCVM Held Summer Programs 2025 for #FUTURE VETERINARIANS



VET STEP students at Goat Farm.



Montgomery Zoo presentation to VS II students.



VET STEP participants with White Coats for ("Dogtor" of Veterinary Medicine) honor.

- **Vet Step I (Veterinary Science Training, Education, and Preparation Institute):**  
**June 9-13, 2025**
- **Vet Step II: June 23-27, 2025**
- **SERP (Summer Enrichment and Reinforcement Program):**  
**June 2-June 27, 2025**
- **TVSP (Tuskegee Veterinary Scholars Program):**  
**May 19-August 1, 2025**

### VET STEP I & II

TUCVM's VET STEP I (VS I) participants (students entering grades 9-10) and VET STEP II (VS II) participants (students entering grades 11-12) both had busy weeks for June 9-13 for VS I and June 23-27 for VS II. They both enjoyed a variety of learning activities to field day activities which included visiting the goat farm. VS I covered several areas to include: Conducting Research; Clinical and Conceptual Learning; Introduction to Public Health, Anatomy I, Laboratory Animal Medicine,

Veterinary Pathology, & Radiology; and Advanced Biology. TUCVM's VS II participants covered several areas as well to include: Anatomy II, Veterinary Emergency Medicine, Clinical Learning, Veterinary Pathology II, Equine Medicine, Animal Reproduction, Veterinary Public Health, Veterinary Parasitology, and Small and Large Animal Medicine. They closed out their nights with team building exercises and enjoyed a movie night on campus. 2025 VS I Closing Ceremony was held on June 13, and 2025 VS II Closing Ceremony was held on June 27 in which participants presented their research project topics and displayed what they learned over their perspective weeks.

Immediately following the presentations during the closing ceremony, the participants were pinned and received their white coats, as they were bestowed the honor of being named a DVM ("Dogtor" of Veterinary Medicine)...just a little fun to encourage them to keep on the path to be #futureveterinarians! **VET STEP 2026 dates are: Vet Step I - June 8-12, 2026 & Vet Step II - June 22-26, 2026.**

### SERP 2025



SERP 2025 students

The Summer Enrichment & Reinforcement Program (SERP) is designed to help students excel by providing first-hand insights into veterinary coursework, study strategies, and real-world applications, before starting veterinary school. SERP participants gain an in-depth understanding of what it takes to succeed in veterinary school and learn directly from veterinary medicine instructors. Participants learn to adapt learning styles to the teaching style of veterinary courses and to master metacognitive strategies to enhance academic success. SERP Students four-week program is designed to build a strong foundation for success in veterinary medicine and the students cover a variety of topics to include: Medical Terminology, Qualitative-Quantitative Calculations, Pharmacology, Anatomy of the Cell and Histology, Gross Anatomy, Veterinary Physiology, Reactions in Physiological Chemistry, Necropsy, Veterinary Microbiology, Reactions Pathology of the Cell, Veterinary Parasitology, Clinical Pathology, Anatomic Pathology, Presentation of Small and Large Animal Cases, Research & Veterinary Medicine, and Practical

metacognitive strategies, test-taking strategies, and note-taking skills.

The 2025 Summer Enrichment and Reinforcement Program (SERP) participants were also recognized with certificates for the completion of their four-week program during their closing ceremony which was also held on June 27. **2026 SERP is scheduled to run June 1-26.**



TVSP 2025 students & mentors; program administrators

### TVSP 2025

TUCVM's The Tuskegee Veterinary Scholars Program (TVSP) held its structured Summer Research Program for veterinary students from May 19-August 1, 2025. This program aimed to introduce students to high-quality biomedical research to help them explore it as a possible career opportunity for them following their graduation from the veterinary program. This program comprises three sub-programs each funded independently by The Human Health Services Centers of Excellence Grant (HHS-COE), The National Institutes of Health T35 Grant (NIH-T35), or The Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholar Program (BI-VSP).

As part of making this research experience a professionally enriching opportunity for all participants, TVSP 2025 participants attended a field trip to Emory Primate Center in Atlanta, GA, which was hosted by Tuskegee veterinary 2006 alum Dr. Ian Moore.

### Participants for TVSP 2025 included the following:

**Student Participants:** Amber Cooper, Quintera Gordon, Andrew Heatherston, Jennifer LeGrand, Zahra McIntosh, Nautica Merrell, Candace Moore, Aniyah Ragland, Juanita Smith, and Kendall Walden.

**Faculty mentors:** Noriko Aoi, Rawah Faraj, Teshome Yehualaeshet, Woubit Abebe, Athema Etzioni, Abdelrahman Mohamed, Gemechu Wirtu, Sherein Salem, Dilip Gunturu, and Pawan Puri.

**TVSP 2026 invites 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year veterinary students to apply. The program will include 12 weeks of laboratory and clinical research to introduce TUCVM veterinary students to research-oriented and related careers. The TVSP 2026 program begins: Monday, May 18, 2026.**



### **TUCVM Host Annual Pre-Vet Med Scholars Reception**

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) along with the Tuskegee University College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences (CAENS) jointly held the Annual Pre-Vet Med Scholars Reception on October 16, 2025, in TUCVM's Patterson Hall Atrium. The Pre-Vet Med Scholars program is one of the signature pipeline initiatives with the TUCVM and CAENS for recruiting students into the College of Veterinary Medicine's DVM Program. Dr. Gilbreath and Dr. Olga Bolden-Tiller, Dean of the CAENS, organized the dinner/reception. Ms. Deetra Benn, Director of Student Affairs, also assisted as the Pre-Vet Club's Co-advisor. Forty-one scholars participated in the reception.

Dean Gilbreath, Dean Bolden-Tiller, Dr. Wole, Interim Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, and several members of TUCVM's leadership team were all in attendance and shared words of wisdom and encouragement, gave background information on their own journeys. The scholars also had the opportunity to introduce themselves and interact.

### **TUCVM hosts 11th Annual Toy Drive at George Washington Carver School**

Now a tradition for over a decade, TUCVM sponsored the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual TUCVM Toy Drive on Dec. 4, 2025, for the children at George Washington Carver Elementary School in Tuskegee. TUCVM students, faculty and staff



helped make the season a little merrier for the 247 children in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade. "This inspired vision of the 'TUCVM Toy Drive' originally started by veterinary students several years ago and supported by the Office of the Dean and the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, is now seen as an on-going holiday tradition in our college and anticipated by the college's faculty, staff and students," said Chankia Berry, TUCVM's Veterinary Social Worker and Toy Drive Coordinator.

Teamwork by TUCVM students, faculty and staff made this year's annual toy drive event a huge



success. TUCVM's first year class (Class of 2029) took the lead with organizing the toy drive with the other veterinary students. They also assisted as gift wrappers, confirmed Santa and his elves and worked with other students from the Classes of 2026, 2027, and 2028 to help make the drive a success. Several veterinary faculty and staff members also assisted as Santa's helpers to distribute the toys to the excited students.

GWC administration helped with the toy drive organization at the school's end and expressed appreciation to TUCVM for continuing this tradition for their students.

"This was another successful joint effort between the students and the College of Veterinary Medicine administration to support the local community. Thanks to the leading Class of 2029 and the college's other students, faculty and staff for coming together again to make the toy drive a success. Our students who served as Santa and Santa's elves also enjoyed the event and seeing the children get so excited in anticipation of their wrapped gift. This event is truly special as well to all of us in the College of Veterinary Medicine," said Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, dean of the college.



# 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. Emmett J. Ashley '61

**Dr. Emmett James Ashley** passed away on March 23, 2025, at the age of 86. He was a 1961 graduate of the Tuskegee University School (now College) of Veterinary Medicine. His funeral services were held on March 29, 2025, in Jeffersonville, GA. Read more at: <https://www.paschal-memorial-fh.com/obituary/Emmett-Ashley#obituary>.



Dr. John H. Chappell, III '88

**Dr. John Henry Chappell, III** passed away at the age of 66 peacefully at home with his wife, Athena, by his side, on September 8, 2025. His funeral service was held September 13, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Greene Funeral Home in Rock Hill. Dr. Chappell graduated from Tuskegee University School (now College) of Veterinary Medicine in 1988. He was the owner and veterinarian of Chappell Animal Hospital, Rock Hill, SC, for 37 years. He was a member of the TVMAA, SC Association of Veterinarians, American Veterinarians Medical Association and American Association of Equine Practitioners. See his obituary at: <https://www.greenefuneralhome.net/obituary/john-henry-chappell-iii/>.



Dr. Wesley W. Fennell '72

**Dr. Wesley W. Fennell** passed away in March 2025, and was a resident of Asheboro, NC. Dr. Fennell touched many lives with his generosity and wisdom. He was known as a man of wisdom, strength, and unwavering pride. He lived authentically, embracing each moment with purpose. A proud 1972 alumnus of Tuskegee University's Veterinary School, he dedicated his career to service before pursuing his lifelong passion for photography. For him, photography was more than a hobby—it was a way to celebrate life's beauty and preserve its fleeting moments. His funeral services were held on March 27, 2025 at Old Storm Branch Baptist in South Carolina. Read more at: <https://www.glbrightharpmortuary.com/obituary/dr-wesley-fennell>.



Dr. Gordon Robotham '71

**Dr. Gordon "Rick" Richards Robotham, Jr.**, 82 of Beaufort, SC, passed away on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at his residence in Beaufort with his daughter and wife of 50 years by his side. He graduated from the Tuskegee University School (now College) of Veterinary Medicine in 1971. After graduating, he did an internship at the Animal Medical Center in New York City and then began his veterinary practice in 1973. Dr. Robotham held a special interest in reptiles and gave museum lectures on snakes and exotic animals. He enjoyed visits to the Pine Barrens recording a variety of frog sounds. See more at: <https://andersonfhsc.com/obituaries/gordon-robotham>.



Dr. Sheri Siegel '89

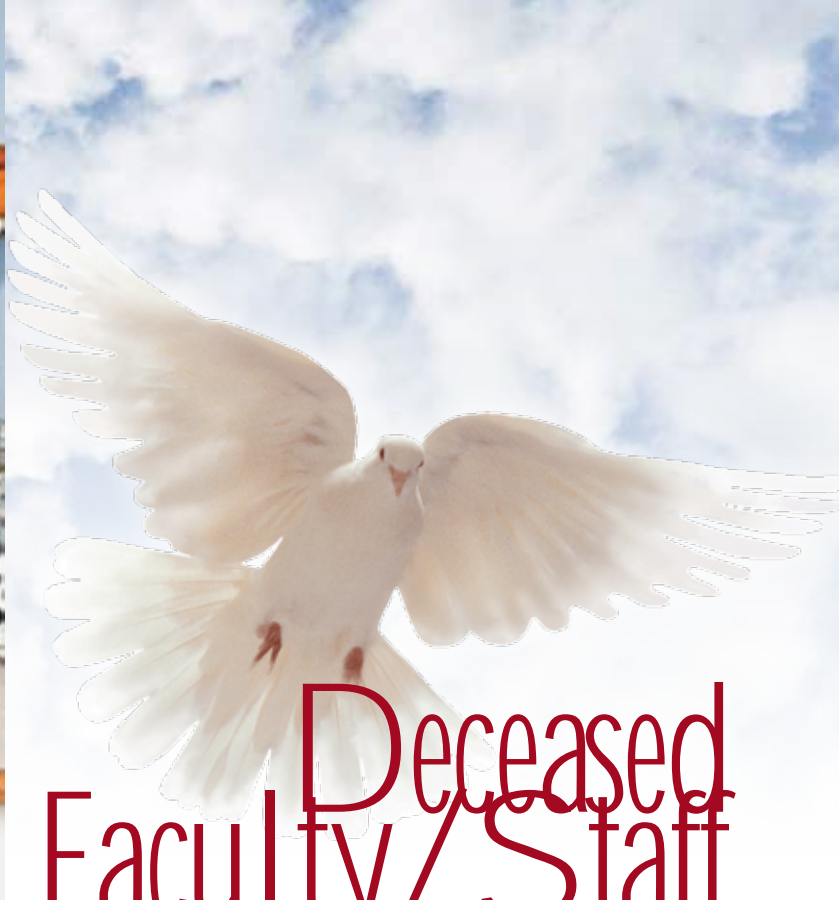
**Dr. Sheri Siegel**, beloved daughter, sister, aunt, cousin and friend to so many, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2025, at the age of 62. Sheri attended the University of Georgia for her undergraduate degree. After graduation, she began her pursuits in medicine, working for the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. Her professional career in Veterinary Medicine began at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University where she graduated first in her class in 1989. With her degree in hand, she received a prestigious veterinary internship in New York, then went to California and worked in a veterinary clinic. Sheri shifted her veterinary experience by directing her career to veterinary radiation oncology to treat animals with cancer.

**Dr. Danielle Spencer** passed away on August 11, 2025, at the age of 60 in a hospital in Richmond, VA, according to an entertainment post at link <https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/articles/danielle-spencer-death-child-actor-161538684.html>. She was a former child television star who was best known for her role as the bratty little sister Dee Thomas on the ABC sitcom "What's Happening," which ran from 1976 to 1979. She

Dr. Danielle Spencer '93



IN MEMORIAM



# Deceased Faculty/Staff

later reprised her role in the series' sequel, "What's Happening Now!!" TUCVM had the great opportunity to host Dr. Spencer for a visit to Tuskegee's campus on October 23-24, 2017, where she visited with students and campus leaders. She graduated from the Tuskegee University School (now College) of Veterinary Medicine in 1993.



Great memory photos of Dr. Danielle Spencer's Tuskegee University visit on Oct, 23-24, 2017, to the College of Veterinary Medicine and Kellogg Conference Center.



Ms. Shelia Diane Coffey

**Ms. Shelia Diane Coffey** was a longtime resident of Tuskegee, Alabama, and a 2015 retiree of Tuskegee University. She transitioned on February 3, 2026, in Tuskegee. For 23 years, Ms. Coffey worked at the university as an administrative assistant and secretary. Known by many as Ms. Diane or Diane, she weaved her talents, diligence, and grace through several key areas, including working with the veterinary medicine alumni database and maintain the filing system for years for the veterinary alumni.

She served with distinction in the Office of External Affairs at the College of Veterinary Medicine and as Secretary at the Center for Bioethics prior to joining the veterinary medicine family. Many remember Ms. Coffey for her skills, dedication, promptness, and love of animals.

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
FOR FUTURE TUCVM EVENTS!**

# **SMALL ANIMAL HEALTH FAIR**



The 2026 TUCVM Small Animal Health Fair

**Saturday, April 18th**

**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital  
(Small Animal).

Open to the Public to bring  
small animals & pocket pets.  
Offering discounted services  
and some freebies!



*All Gas,  
No Brakes*

**SENIOR NIGHT**

**CLASS OF 2026**



**CONGRATS TO THE "ALL GAS NO BRAKES" CLASS OF 2026**  
The TUCVM Class of 2026 will be honored at the Senior Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in Logan Hall located on Morteza Sprague Street on the campus of Tuskegee University.



College of Veterinary Medicine  
Patterson Hall  
1200 West Montgomery Road  
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088

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## 61ST ANNUAL VETERINARY MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MARCH 2027

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Save the  
Date:  
March  
17-20,  
2027

CONGRATS TO TUCVM'S CLASS OF  
2026! #FUTUREVETERINARIANS...  
GRADUATION IS COMING SOON!

## 2026 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Saturday, May 2, 2026, 9:30 a.m.  
The Graduate School & Professional School  
College Commencement

General Daniel "Chappie" James Arena

The 2026 College of Veterinary Medicine  
Oath Ceremony will follow the  
Commencement