



TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Vet Talk

February & March 2026 STUDENT FOCUSED ENGAGEMENT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

TUCVM Holds 2026 White Coat Ceremony to Welcome 59 Students to Clinical Phase



On February 28th among faculty, staff, family members, friends, and special guests, the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine's (TUCVM) Class of 2027 received their "white coats" during the annual white coat ceremony. Pride and excitement marked the transition of 59 veterinary medicine students to the clinical phase of the TUCVM curriculum. Dean Ebony Gilbreath thanked all the special guests that gave greetings including special greetings were given by Tuskegee University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Thierno Thiam, and Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Dr. Calvin Johnson. TUCVM Class of 2027 president Aaryn DuBose and vice president Ahan Jain emceed 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 veterinary medical associations: 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 Odemuyiwa, Interim Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and Ms. Deetra Benn, Director of Student Affairs, presented the white coats to all other students. The ceremony can be viewed here: <https://youtube.com/live/DSvG5I9F7X8>.

TUCVM's OTS Phi Chapter is Now Back!

The Omega Tau Sigma (OTS) Veterinary Fraternity Pi Chapter is back at TUCVM! OTS members are absolutely thrilled to announce the reinstatement of the Omega Tau (OTS) Pi Chapter! After years, they're officially back and ready to make a huge impact! OTS says they are excited to host a vibrant mix of educational, philanthropic, and social events, bringing future members and veterinary students from across the nation closer together. Congratulations to the new 2026 Board Members also. In group photo are OTS E-Board Members for 2026 and general

members to include: Saisrinivas Ennam (c/o 2028) President, Glorianna Wright (c/o 2028) Secretary, Shelby Lee (c/o 2027) Historian, Alexis Hunt (c/o 2028), Alicia Armstead (c/o 2029), Brooklyn Macklin (c/o 2028), Charity Netball (c/o 2027), Chelsea Lee (c/o 2027), Constance Bennett (c/o 2027), Danielle Dorsey (c/o 2027), Dheaven Angeletti (c/o 2029), Dorian McFarley (c/o 2029), Ja'nyah Jennings (c/o 2029), Juanita Smith (c/o 2028), Kennedy Willis (c/o 2028), Kiara Kidd (c/o 2028), Kimberly Henderson (c/o 2029), Lakiyah Durham (c/o 2027), Llyra Means (c/o 2028), Miantranay Wills (c/o 2028), Nakita Thomas (c/o 2028), Nikole Dillard (c/o 2027), Paris Moore (c/o 2027), Saniya Keeton (c/o 2027), Seth Early (c/o 2028), and Velis Mack (c/o 2029). Not Pictured are Zaria Henry (c/o 2027) Vice President, Keith Dancy (c/o 2028) Treasurer, and OTS Advisor Dr. Athema Etzioni (2001 alum).

Students Attend 2026 International Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases

Two TUCVM students, Quinteria Gordon and Laila Barnes, attended the 2026 International Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD), January 17-20, 2026, in Chicago, Illinois, accompanying Dr. Rawah Faraj, Assistant Professor of Immunology and

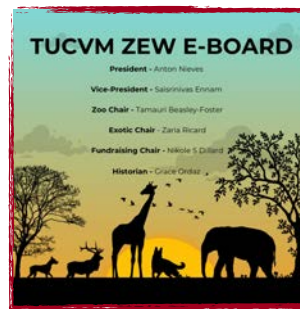
Class Advisor for TUCVM Class of 2029. They both successfully displayed their research posters during the planned poster session in which they presented important findings about tick-borne pathogens in Alabama's east-central region. Their poster presentations were:

"Prevalence and molecular detection of Rocky Mountain spotted fever in ticks from dogs and pigs in the east-central area of Alabama." Laila Barnes, Quintera Gordon, & Rawah Faraj*

"A Comparative Study of the Prevalence and Molecular Diagnosis of Ehrlichiosis in Eastern Area of Alabama: A One Health Concern for Human and Canine Populations." Quintera Gordon, Temesgen Samuel, Benjamin Adu-Addai, Woubit Abebe, Steven Walker, & Rawah Faraj*



THE ZOO, EXOTIC, AND WILDLIFE (ZEW) CLUB SHARES YEAR REVIEW AND GETS NEW E-BOARD



As the term nears its end, the Zoo, Exotic, and Wildlife (ZEW) Club thanks all for the support given to the ZEW Club and its E-Board this year. The ZEW Club in its year-end quick wrap up notes as follows: hosted lecture series featuring guest speakers who shared insight into various aspects of careers and clinical work in wildlife, exotic, and conservation medicine; 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 participated in unique training opportunities, including the Safe Capture Course at the Montgomery Zoo; organized the Exotic Animal Expo where veterinary students

brought their own exotic animals in and invited the pre-veterinary students to foster education, collaboration, and awareness of career pathways in wildlife and zoo medicine; and lastly, through fundraising and member support, made a \$250 donation to the Wildlife Conservation Society, supporting their efforts to protect endangered species and conserve critical habitats worldwide. 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, and Secretary - Zaria Henry. NEW ZEW Club E-Board 2026-27: President - Anton Nieves, Vice-President - Saisrinivas Ennam, Zoo Chair - Tamauri Beasley-Foster, Exotics Chair - Zaria Ricard, Fundraising Chair - Nikole S Dillard, and Historian - Grace Ordaz.

Constance Bennent Featured in Alliance Animal Health Spotlight for Externship at Wentzville Veterinary Clinic



TUCVM third-year student Constance Bennett, Class of 2027, was highlighted by the Alliance Animal Health as their spotlight DVM Student Extern. Ms. Bennett enjoyed her externship again at Wentzville Veterinary Clinic in Wentzville, MO, during December 15-26, 2025. The focus was clinical operations, collaborative patient care, and mixed-practice diagnostics.

Remember, SHARE YOUR NEWS! WE WOULD LOVE TO FEATURE YOU!
PLEASE SEND TO  ARILEY@TUSKEGEE.EDU