



# AESCULAPIAN

For And About Alumni And Friends Of The UGA College Of Veterinary Medicine • Fall 2003

## Tears and cheers follow Brenda Horton into retirement

**B**renda Horton was hired as administrative coordinator in the Office for Academic Affairs by Associate Dean Oscar Fletcher in May, 1980, even though some of the others in the office were not sure she was the right person for the job.

### What a difference 23 years can make!

When she retires this December she will take with her the praise, gratitude, and affection of literally hundreds of students, alums, faculty, and staff.

Horton grew up in Athens "with a wonderful family." She graduated from UGA in 1975, a business major with a minor in advertising — and without a job.

But after a two-year stint at the College of Business as a secretary who, she says, "didn't know how to type or do any of that stuff," she met the late J.T. Mercer, professor and head of Large Animal Medicine, a move that brought her to the College.

Brenda interviewed for the job she has now after three years with Mercer "who has a very special place in my heart forever," she says.

During the job interview, Fletcher, now dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University, warned her that "seven years is the most you'll be able to take in this job or

you'll be insane." Needless to say, 23 years later this prediction did not come true.

In fact, Horton says, "I kept taking on responsibilities and adding things to my job that really weren't part of it, in addition to duties that needed to be added because circumstances changed."

### What has changed?

"There's a whole lot more counseling," Horton says. Back in the early 80s, counseling students was about 30% of her job. The majority of students were unmarried men

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with few family problems and few financial problems because tuition was much lower.

With the advent of more married women students, some with children, the problems multiplied. "So now I spend about 70 percent of my time with students in counseling situations — everything from personal problems and marital problems to financial problems.

"I've heard a lot of things I wish I hadn't heard," says Horton. "I've learned a lot of things I wish I didn't know. But I've always been very firm about not violating a confidence unless someone's life was endangered or something illegal happened."

An increase in paperwork is another significant change in her job. Today there is a long row of fat binders filled with curriculum schedules in the cabinet next to her desk — schedules which were not part of her job initially.

"I know the courses, I know the numbers," says Horton. "I probably know every professor, what they teach, how they teach it, when they teach it, because I've had to schedule every student's day today life.

"Every day is different, she says, "but I can assure you that every day I have a call from an alumnus. At least one, usually more. Most of the time it's 'Hey Brenda, I need someone to come work in my practice' or 'I just wanted to let you know we've got a new baby.' And I have phone calls from alumni who just want to talk about a problem.

"I've come in at night. I've had students in and out of my house. I've gone to a lot of weddings. I've taken students to the hospital.

"My husband says I have more and more kids every year and I've loved them but I can only claim two of



them on our income tax."

Horton says she's retiring with mixed emotions. "But I think it's time for the college to get someone with some new ideas, and it's time for me to spend more time with my family and do things I haven't had a chance to do.

"I've spent a lot of good years at the College, and it's been good to me. Not a lot of people can say they've worked 25-26 years in a place they've really loved."

## Does UGA have the most loyal alums?

A friendly competition has been launched among five veterinary colleges at Southeastern Conference universities to see which has the highest percentage of donors among its graduates.

The Hill's SEC Veterinary Medicine Alumni Challenge will determine which veterinary school

has the most loyal alumni.

The schools — Auburn, UGA, LSU, Mississippi State, and Tennessee — will split \$25,000 in prize money provided by Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc., sponsor of the challenge.

The percentage of graduates donating will determine the winning school. Winner of the challenge will receive the largest percentage of the prize money.

"The Hill's Challenge is designed to increase annual giving from graduates of all these veterinary schools who feel strongly about their alma maters," says Kathy Bangle, the College's director of development.

"We have 3,200 UGA alums who are potential contributors," she adds.

The competition runs from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, with gifts of at least \$25 counting in the totals.

All the schools involved, including UGA, are at public universities where state budgets are extremely tight and the cost of veterinary medicine education continues to rise.

Contributions made by alumni and friends are used to provide scholarships for students and purchase equipment used in the teaching hospital in order to keep up with advancements in veterinary science and education.

With your help UGA can win! We're counting on you. Your gift will support the College and the new hospital. Please contact Kathy Bangle, gifts@vet.uga.edu or 583.0154 today.

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## Bouquets for Brenda

Brenda Horton is one of the premier employees in our College. Her principal role for more than a decade has been to serve as the touchstone support person for all of our veterinary students. She has handled a myriad of problems with them and for them. They love her. Finding someone to replace her will be a huge task. We thank Brenda and wish her well.



— Keith W. Prasse, dean

Brenda Horton truly has been dedicated to the students of the College of Veterinary Medicine through all her years with us. When I was appointed as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, I looked forward to being able to work with Brenda more closely. I have been blessed by her support, both professionally and personally.



I have been able to continue to teach and work as a veterinarian in the hospital knowing that Brenda will handle whatever comes along in the office, and I will always be grateful for that. She is the consummate professional; yet she has the demeanor and sense of humor to get the job done and have fun at the same time. She has been a friend to many, and we will all miss her dearly when she retires.

— Sheila Allen, associate dean for academic affairs,

I have been fortunate in my administrative career to have had excellent support staff, and Brenda Horton is one of the best. Brenda has served several associate deans and the students, faculty, and staff so well. This length of service is a tribute to Brenda and her skills in working with people. I thank her again for all of her help to me.



— Oscar Fletcher, dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University, and former associate dean for academic affairs at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine.

I worked with Brenda from 1982 to 1988. I have always felt that the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at UGACVM was highly effective and well organized. Brenda should be given



most of the credit for this accomplishment. Every veterinary college needs an on-duty Mom for its students, and Brenda has done that quite well at UGA.

I took away from UGA many great ideas and have used them successfully at K-State and now at Oklahoma State. What I learned from Brenda was that if you respect students, listen to their concerns, and address their needs, you will in turn earn their respect and commitment. Brenda has done a wonderful job, and I have great respect and admiration for her.

— Michael Lorenz, professor and interim dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Oklahoma State University, and former associate dean for academic affairs at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine

Brenda was an invaluable part of the whole College and the Office for Academic Affairs while I was associate dean. She was always an excellent representative for the College whenever prospective students and their parents came to visit. She was the contact for our alums, and a lot of our graduates were placed because of her efforts.

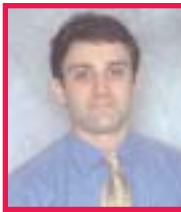


Our students were able to get through four stressful years more easily with Brenda's help. (She spared me a lot of stress, too!) She was super organized in everything she did — seemingly without effort, although I know that was not the case.

In spite of all she did for the College, Brenda never neglected her parents and her family. They came first, and I've always admired her for that.

— Dwight Coulter, former associate dean for academic affairs at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine

Most students at UGA CVM start to trust Brenda with their concerns before they even arrive in Athens for their freshman year. She is always quick to help everyone who approaches her and she always makes the students a priority. Brenda is special because she forms an individual bond with each of the students at the veterinary school.



She is much more of a friend and a confidant than an administrator and I feel that every student here will agree with me when I say that although she certainly deserves her retirement she will be sorely missed.

— Brian Berger, president, Class of 2004

## Are you at the top of your class? Or would you like to be?

We're looking for alums who'd enjoy serving as class representatives — the vital link between their classmates and the College.

As class rep, you would help get news about your classmates' achievements to us and, conversely, help us convey news about the College to your classmates.

Most important, we'd depend on you to encourage your classmates to stay in touch — to attend reunions, receptions, and other alumni activities.

The fun part is, you'd be in closer touch with your classmates, too. If you're interested, please get in touch with Alumni Relations Director Belinda Wells, alumni@vet.uga.edu or 706/542.5732.



## Alumni Receptions

Coming soon to a neighborhood near you

- Maryland: Holiday Inn in Timonium . . . . .November 5-6
- North Carolina: N.C. Veterinary Conference, . . . . .November 6-9  
Sheridan Hotel, Research Triangle Park
- Louisiana: AAEP meeting, New Orleans . . . . .November 21-25
- Florida: North American Veterinary . . . . .January 19  
Conference, Orlando
- South Carolina: Charleston . . . . .January TBA
- Nevada: Western Veterinary Conference, . . . . .February 16  
Las Vegas
- Virginia: Virginia Veterinary Conference, . . . . .February TBA  
Roanoke
- Georgia: 41st Annual Veterinary Conference . . . . .April 16-18  
and Alumni Reunion  
(reunion classes: '54, '59, '64, '69, '74,  
'79, '84, '89, '94, '99)



L. Craig Griffin (DVM '77) and his wife Emily from Bainbridge, Georgia, were among the many alums who attended the Fall Social before the first football game of the season. (We beat Middle Tennessee State University 29-10.) The diminutive Georgia fan is Sarah Beth.



## Studies focus on saving the nation's goat industry

Parasitologist Ray Kaplan, DVM, PhD, is working to address the problems posed by the high prevalence of drug resistance in the gastrointestinal parasites of goats—an important animal food source worldwide and a growing agricultural industry, especially in the southern U.S.

Goats develop only moderate to poor immunity against intestinal worms and are extremely susceptible to these parasites throughout their lives. Goats that are not successfully treated may die from these infections.

*Haemonchus contortus* is the parasite Kaplan is focusing on because it is most pathogenic and most prevalent in the warm, wet climates of South America, South Africa, and the southern U.S.

A goat with 1,000 of these blood feeding worms in its stomach can lose about a quarter to a half cup of blood each day. Animals can be essentially exsanguinated by these worms over several weeks.

Because each female worm can

produce about 5,000 eggs daily, each goat can pass out in its feces millions of eggs onto the pasture each day. In a month's time a small herd of goats can contaminate a pasture with billions of eggs. Eggs rapidly develop to the third larval stage, which are ingested by the grazing goats to start the cycle again.

For more than 40 years, producers have treated goats with chemical dewormers delivered orally or by injection. They used these inexpensive drugs frequently — a practice that put heavy selection pressure on these worm populations for resistance.

Over time the prevalence and intensity of resistance in these worms has increased to the point where many of these drugs now kill few worms.

Kaplan led the first major study in the U.S. investigating the prevalence of resistance on goat farms. In this study, the efficacy of the four commonly used deworming drugs was tested on

**Without effective dewormers you cannot successfully raise goats in the southern U.S. If the industry keeps doing what it has been doing, in a few years there will be no drugs left to kill worms.**



Dr. Ray Kaplan with research subject

18 goat farms in all parts of Georgia. He found that every farm except one had resistance to the two most frequently used dewormers, albendazole and ivermectin.

"Drug resistance is becoming a very big problem," says Kaplan. "We are in a situation where we have severe drug resistance and no new drugs coming down the pipeline.

"We have only one or two drugs that still work on many farms, and it is

critical that we maintain their efficacy.

"The only way we can do that is by using the drugs differently. We are using the term smart drenching for the set of guidelines we are recommending for intelligent use of dewormers."

Kaplan is planning to have workshops on novel approaches to parasite control in every state participating in this project and other states as the

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## Opportunities to participate in clinical trials

For complete information about study methods, incentives for clients and referring veterinarians, and other aspects of these studies, please email inquiries to [hospital@vet.uga.edu](mailto:hospital@vet.uga.edu).



### Iguanas

#### Purpose of study:

To measure renal function using iohexol excretion and come up with a practical diagnostic test for renal function in iguanas and other reptiles.

#### Eligibility requirements:

Any iguana with evidence of renal disease (renomegaly, elevated uric acid, reversed Ca:P ratios) can be included.

### Exotics

#### Purpose of study:

To develop and evaluate a minimally invasive technique for neutering (orchidectomy and ovariosalpingectomy) birds, reptiles, fish, and exotic mammals.

#### Eligibility requirements:

Any species of mammal, bird, lizard, or fish weighing more than 400g will be considered.

### Cockatoos

#### Purpose of study:

To determine if neutering cockatoos before puberty would have a beneficial effect on behavior and health by reducing the number of hormonally-related behavioral and medical problems.

#### Eligibility requirements:

Any sexually intact 6-18 month old that the owners would be interested in having participate in a seven-year study to look at the effects of neutering vs. staying sexually intact.

### Dogs

#### Purpose of study:

To determine if surgery worsens swallowing function in large breed dogs with laryngeal paralysis and increases the risk of aspiration pneumonia

#### Eligibility requirements:

Three types of dogs will be accepted: large breed dogs with laryngeal paralysis but no other major health problems; young large breed dogs without dysphagia or upper airway obstruction, that are coming for ovariohysterectomy or castration; and older large breed dogs who have no signs of dysphagia or upper airway obstruction, and are coming in to undergo either dental prophylaxis or minor surgery.

### Dogs

#### Purpose of study:

To evaluate L-carnitine supplementation on glycemic control and triglyceride levels in dogs with Diabetes Mellitus.

#### Eligibility requirements:

Spayed female and castrated male dogs with nonketotic Diabetes Mellitus who have been treated

with insulin for at least three months prior to initial screening at the Teaching Hospital, and have reasonably controlled diabetes. For more detailed requirements, contact [hospital@vet.uga.edu](mailto:hospital@vet.uga.edu).

### Dogs

#### Purpose of study:

To compare the responses of dogs with chronic renal failure to two different dietary approaches.

#### Eligibility requirements:

Dogs must have stable (not advanced) chronic renal failure. Dogs that have concurrent identifiable systemic diseases would be excluded.

### Cats and dogs

#### Purpose of study:

To document the effects of isoflurane, thiopental, propofol, diazepam/ketamine, and etomidate on intraocular pressure during induction.

#### Eligibility requirements:

Any systemically healthy dog or cat that needs an elective sterilization procedure and is under five years of age.

### Cats

#### Purpose of study:

The purpose of the study is to test the hypothesis that migrating Cuterebra fly larvae cause ischemic damage by producing a substance that causes vasospasm. Eventually, we hope to identify the cellular mechanism of vasospasm, which could potentially facilitate the diagnosis and improve the prognosis of feline ischemic encephalopathy.

#### Eligibility requirements:

We are seeking Cuterebra larvae from feline cases where there has

been an intracranial aberrant larval migration. We would also like to obtain subcutaneously migrating larvae that have been extracted from cats, dogs, or squirrels. The larvae (or pieces of larva) need to be alive or have died in the past few days. For details please email Dr. Debbie James, [djames@vet.uga.edu](mailto:djames@vet.uga.edu).

### Horses

#### Purpose of study:

To test the efficacy of HyperimmuneWNV Plasma in the treatment of West Nile Virus. The College has been selected as a site of study for the new product.

#### Eligibility requirements:

Horses must have a high index of suspicion for having West Nile Virus. Clinical signs must have been present for < 72 hours. They must not have received immunomodulant therapy with interferon.

### Foals

#### Purpose of study:

To measure CD14 and IgG in healthy and sick neonatal foals and to investigate the correlation of the plasma quantities of each of these proteins to the likelihood of septicemia and survival.

#### Eligibility requirements:

Any foal less than 14 days old that is admitted to the Teaching Hospital.



## Muddy flood waters devastate College's labs and offices

The skies opened over Athens about 10 pm on July 1, pouring 5 1/2 inches of rain down on already rain soaked ground.

Muddy rain water that backed up from overwhelmed sewer pipes downstream from the College of Veterinary Medicine plunged through the windows of the basement level offices and laboratories of the Pathology Department and the radiology laboratories.

The result: about \$2 million of damage, relocation of faculty and staff, and the loss of priceless hours of research.

People on the scene reported seeing refrigerators, computers, and other equipment floating in almost 5 feet of water. A \$100,000 piece of equipment in the Clinical Chemistry Laboratory was lost in the flood.

The Radiology Service's imaging area, including CT scanners and ultrasound equipment, was out of service for more than a week.

Barry Harmon, professor and head of Pathology, arrived at 10pm to help. He and more than 50 department faculty and staff had to be evacuated to an adjoining building where they remained more than two weeks.

They left an area of peeling wallpaper with all their belongings in boxes stacked up on any and all surfaces above soggy, dirty floors.

Zhen Fu, a pathology professor whose laboratory received the brunt of the deluge, reported, "The refrigerator was floating. It was terrible. I lost all the work I've been doing for the past six months."

When he reached the lab about 11 pm the water level was about 5 feet, 4 inches high — just two inches shy of his own height.

"We had a notebook where we wrote our data," said Fu. "It was found a week later at the other end of the hallway. It's completely destroyed." He has since applied to NIH for additional support to help him recover the work he lost.

"I don't think people can imagine the severity and amount of the water that came pouring in," says Dean Keith W. Prasse. Way past midnight, he and other faculty and staff members tried to lift computers and other important equipment out of the water on to desks and tabletops.

Fortunately, a pathology resident prevented further damage to more of the rooms by opening a door which let the water out of a hallway to the outside.

The university is insured by the state which will reimburse UGA for \$1.5 to \$2 million worth of damages.

A variety of disaster services responded quickly to calls for help. One company arrived which specializes in taking high-tech instruments apart, cleaning them, and drying them out. They salvaged submerged computers, recovering data on at least 3 or 4 hard drives that had been completely submerged.

"I was really impressed by the quick response," says Prasse. "UGA's Environmental Safety Services was on site when I got there, and support from the University was amazing."

"I can say that based on experience," Prasse adds, "because I was here during the flood of 1978. That time we cleaned out the mud pretty much ourselves."

"We were still carrying out moldy rugs six months after the event, and trying to dry our personal belonging. This time there was a system in place



to help, and we're really thankful."

Disaster Services, Inc. which specializes in fire and water cleanup, is still at work, taking out and rebuilding sheetrock walls, replacing carpet and tile flooring, painting and fixing all the damage.

"I'm grateful to the faculty, staff, and graduate students for working day and night above and beyond the call of duty," Prasse says. "The staff of the Pathology Laboratory was offering hematology services the very next day and, although things slowed down a bit, the service was never interrupted."

"Although it's impossible to name them all, I'd like to thank the college

and university and all those who continue to help us through this ordeal," says Harmon:

- the entire pathology faculty and staff for a cooperative spirit and for meeting their obligations under adverse conditions;
- the staff of computer services for working the entire night of the flood getting a temporary office set up;
- as well as the countless good Samaritans who helped us with everything from environmental safety and emergency services to building repairs and temporary office and laboratory space."



Liz Cuttino, Class of 2006, is trimming a donkey's hooves in a field in Raices, Mexico, because there is no farrier in this area. She's one of the student volunteers participating in the Donkey Program — part of the Christian Veterinary Fellowship Project at UGA — designed to improve the health of working donkeys, horses, and mules owned by Mexican peasants. They receive free veterinary care and basic animal healthcare education. The students need donations of horse care items as well as financial support to continue their work. If you can help, please contact Cuttino at [ecuttino@uga.edu](mailto:ecuttino@uga.edu), 803/236.1169.

## Studies focus on saving the nation's goat industry

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project matures. To date, four workshops have been conducted and several more are planned for later in the year.

Aside from recommending new ways of administering the drugs, Kaplan's group is working on:

- a validation study of a new field test for anemia that can help producers and veterinarians decide when and whether to treat goats for *Haemonchus*
- tests of a naturally occurring fungus that can be fed to goats and will kill the developing parasite larvae in the feces.
- studies of plants containing condensed tannins that can be fed to goats to reduce the impact of parasites.
- Studies investigating the use of copper wire particle boluses for control of *Haemonchus*

Kaplan and his colleagues have received a three-year \$250,000 multi-institutional Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant from USDA, which funds their studies and allows them to put on educational programs.

He is collaborating with Dr. Lisa Williamson, associate professor, Large Animal Medicine, and scientists at Fort Valley State University, Louisiana State University, the USDA in Florida and Arkansas, the University of Puerto Rico, the Danish Center for Experimental Parasitology, and Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute in South Africa.

"We are trying to look at new and better ways to use drugs as well as drug alternatives. An important component of this work is in educating producers and veterinarians on how to use these new concepts and novel approaches for controlling parasites," Kaplan says.

"Without effective dewormers you cannot successfully raise goats in the southern U.S. If the industry keeps doing what it has been doing, in a few years there will be no drugs left to kill worms and the goat industry will suffer greatly."



## Small animal hospital serves small people, too

David Selleck (DVM '78) uses an unusual practice management tool which he says "has probably saved me a lot of time, trouble, and money in the long run." He has turned an extra room over his small animal hospital in Fayetteville, Georgia into a nursery for his employees' children.

"It's a good deal for my employees and a good deal for me," Selleck says, "because it helps me keep good people. Training new people is a big expense. We've got several employees who wouldn't be here today if we didn't have this arrangement."

It started five years ago when several of Selleck's key people — his head receptionist, office manager, and head technician — all became pregnant within about a year of each other. "They wanted to keep working but they didn't want to put their kids in a daycare center," he says.

After a couple of weeks of brainstorming, they decided to hire a nursery worker to keep four or five children in the extra room upstairs for three or four days a week.

"We worked out a deal," Selleck says. "I would pay half of the nursery worker's salary and payroll deduct the other half from the employees' salaries. And it works out great."

That extra room has since evolved into a well-equipped nursery with pastel walls. Everything a small child (or his mother) could want is there: a refrigerator, sink, and hot plate for snacks; a crib and sleeping mats; edu-



Selleck's nursery includes an outdoor playground staffed by Aspen, the Swiss Mountain dog.

Dr. Dave Selleck (r.) is shown with his assistants and their children, as well as his nursery's teacher/caretaker (2nd from l.).

cational tapes for the VCR; and lots of toys of course. A bathroom was added for the potty-training set.

For outside playtimes there's an enclosure — built by the husband of

one of Selleck's employees — which surrounds a sand box, a picnic table, and still more toys.

"Some of my employees have been with me for 12 years and their children are now in preschool," Selleck

says. "They've stayed with me even while they were starting and raising families. It's a win-win situation for everybody."

### Exotics CE course available Dec. 13-14

A basic-to-intermediate CE course in exotic animal diagnostic and surgical endoscopy is available for beginners or those who already use rigid endoscopy but wish to improve their skill and comfort level.

The course covers small mammal, bird, and reptile endoscopy, along with 9 hours of hands-on endoscopy training.

For details and registration information, contact Sandi Kilgo, 542.1451, or email [skilgo@vet.uga.edu](mailto:skilgo@vet.uga.edu).

For more information about exotic animal endoscopy and minimally invasive surgery, go to [www.vet.uga.edu/mis](http://www.vet.uga.edu/mis)

### Got an email address?

If so, we'd like to have it for our files. Please send your email address to us at [alumni@vet.uga.edu](mailto:alumni@vet.uga.edu).

**We have three new ones.** Getting in touch with us will be easier, faster, and less expensive, too, when you use our email addresses:

**[alumni@vet.uga.edu](mailto:alumni@vet.uga.edu)** for any alumni news or business, including news for Aesculapian.

**[gifts@vet.uga.edu](mailto:gifts@vet.uga.edu)** for donations or any other correspondence with our development office.

**[hospital@vet.uga.edu](mailto:hospital@vet.uga.edu)** for questions about referrals.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## He's never seen a critter he didn't like

"What I do is zoological medicine — I treat any animal that's not domesticated, whether it's an endangered lizard or a common bluebird.

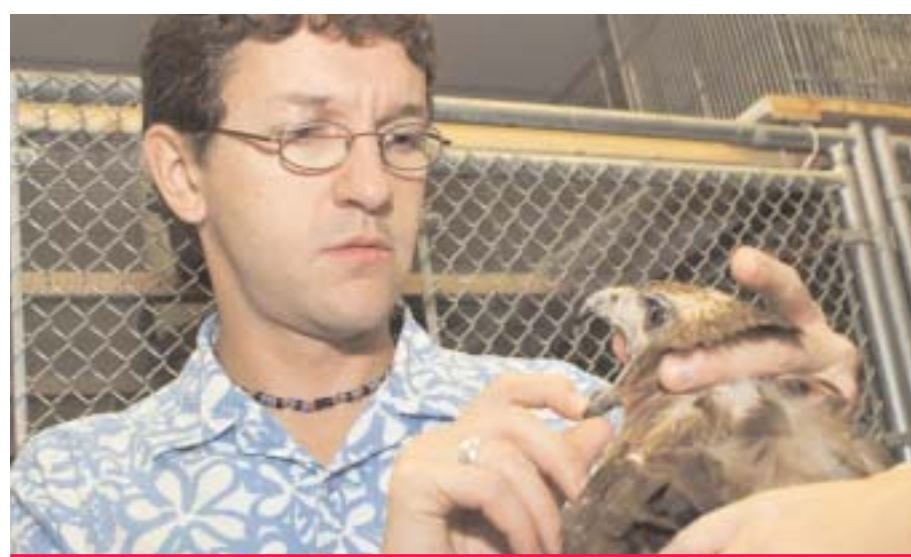
"My patient is anything other than a dog, cat, horse, cow, pig, or chicken," says Steve Divers, assistant professor in exotic animal, wildlife, and zoological medicine.

A parade of interesting cases comes through the door of the Teaching Hospital where Divers teaches veterinary students while he sees patients. Among them "the Toucan with a severely arthritic hind leg; the fire bellied toad with a large bladder stone; the pet rattlesnake with a mass on the side of his neck; the rabbit with a case of nasal mycobacteriosis in its nose."

About 40- 45% of his patients are birds, 30-35% are mammals, and 15-20% reptiles and amphibians. Divers also tends to animals at the local zoo — bears, bobcats, birds of prey, venomous snakes, and fish, among others.

He earned a Diploma in Zoological Medicine from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in London, and became a Recognized Specialist in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine at the Royal College.

"Zoological medicine is a relatively recent specialty. It came into being in the mid-80s, so almost every week we encounter diseases in the hospital that we may never have seen before,"



Exotics specialist Steve Divers

says Divers, who spends half his time doing research.."

Endoscopic diagnosis and surgery are his main clinical research interests.

"A small, delicate bird, reptile, fish or mammal benefits more from such a minimally invasive technique than any other animal," he says. Chances of complication are considerably less and recovery time is much faster.

"I think UGA is comparable to any university worldwide with regard to exotic pet medicine. It's amazing what we can do now.

"We've used endoscopy in iguanas to map the internal organs—some-

thing that had not been done before. We've come up with a very good practical model now that vets in practice can use to evaluate and biopsy internal organs."

Divers, along with colleague Heather Wilson, is also perfecting techniques for endoscopic castration and endoscopic spays in birds, fish, and reptiles.

He was recently on a surgical team that castrated and spayed 17 sturgeons in one day as part of a project to protect an endangered species.

Aside from his work in liver and kidney diseases — two of the major organ problems prevalent in birds and reptiles — Divers is part of an endangered lizard project in the Canary Islands and a feral donkey project in a national park on a Venezuelan island.



## Enrollment is up for Class of 2007

On August 18, 96 students began their four-year pursuit of a DVM degree in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The class of 2007 consists of 10 more students than have traditionally been admitted.

"The increase in enrollment is a result of strong market demand for our graduates," says "Dean Keith W. Prasse. "We simply need more veterinarians.

"Georgia's population grew 20 percent over the past decade and we have increased enrollment to meet this demographic change.

"Laboratories and classrooms are being renovated to accommodate the increase in class size."

Students in this fall's entering class have a median grade point average of 3.67, a median science grade point average of 3.6, and a median GRE score of 1164.

The average age of entering students is 25. Women comprise 84 percent of the entering class - the highest percentage of women the college



Ninety six incoming freshmen were welcomed into the profession at the traditional White Coat Ceremony hosted by the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association in August. GVMA officers and representatives attended along with students' family members. GVMA representatives in the front row are (l. to r.) Dr. Doris Miller, former president; Dr. Gary Bullard, former president and board member; Dr. Ed Mahaffey, president-elect; Dr. West Hamryka, president; Dr. Lee Myers, ex-officio board member.

has ever admitted.

"The percentage of women admitted is similar to the percentage of women in the applicant pool, and parallels that seen in other veterinary colleges in the United States," says Sheila W. Allen, associate dean for academic affairs.

Seventy out of the 96 students are from Georgia. A contract with the Southern Regional Educational Board allows a certain number of students from Delaware, South Carolina, and West Virginia to be admitted because those states do not have veterinary colleges.

The class of 2007 includes two students from Delaware, 14 students from South Carolina, and five from West Virginia.

Five of the entering students come from outside the contract states: California, Connecticut, Florida, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

## Tifton lab saves Georgians dollars and lives

One of UGA's best-kept secrets is a laboratory on the edge of two large ponds 240 miles south of the campus.

It has existed for 35 productive years and employs some of the College's brightest scientific minds engaged in work which saves the state millions of dollars as well as lives.

"We try to figure out why animals are dead or dying," says Charles "Sandy" Baldwin, director of the Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory.

The diagnostic process begins and ends with the laboratory's pathologists. About 51,000 samples of organs, tissues, and blood are sent to the laboratory each year.

"Turnaround time - from the time the sample comes through the door to the time the report goes out - is a phenomenal 2.6 days," Baldwin says. "Not many laboratories can say that."

The lab gives veterinarians much of the information they need to make good treatment decisions. Cases range from crickets to elephants, but horses account for the most frequent submissions. By law they must be tested for equine infectious anemia, or swamp fever, an often fatal viral disease which the state wants eradicated.

The laboratory, which did about 25,000 of these tests last year - an average of 65 a day - is a crucial part of the eradication program.

After horses, biopsies from dog tumors are the most frequent submission. Milk from hundreds of herds also is tested for bacteria by the lab to make sure that it's safe to sell and to drink.

The lab's staff does surveillance for West Nile virus in all mammals except



Toxicologist Larry Thompson inspects the graphite furnace of an atomic absorption spectrophotometer at the Tifton laboratory. The instrument is used for blood lead level analysis.

wildlife in the state. Last year they tested 600 horses, and even helped an alligator farmer who had lost thousands of baby alligators to West Nile.

"Because we have this mission of disease surveillance, the state supports our laboratory," Baldwin says. "We don't recover the total cost here for the 170,000 tests we do. No matter what

we do the charge is minimal, and the state supports the rest of it."

**The lab's staff does surveillance for West Nile virus in all mammals except wildlife.**

All faculty members at the lab use 20 percent of their time for clinical or basic research. One investigator developed a vaccine against a herpes infection in cows.

Another is looking for ways to treat a disease similar to Rocky Mountain spotted fever that is killing thousands of

tilapia, a food fish, worldwide.

Thirty nine employees from all parts of the country keep the lab going. Ten are professionals - mostly veterinarians - who do the diagnostic work.

"Our main point of pride is that we do a good job," Baldwin says. "A lot of laboratories do what we do, but we do an excellent job. And fast. That's important to everyone in Georgia."

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# The case for guiding students to underserve

By Dean Keith W. Prasse

In the past year or so, several professional articles and meetings have focused on the national shortage of veterinarians in food animal medicine. Other traditional fields in veterinary medicine now face human resource shortfalls. Too few new graduates are choosing careers in academic veterinary medicine, biomedical research, laboratory animal medicine, pathology, and public health or regulatory work.

Voices of concern frequently suggest that admissions in veterinary schools are a root cause for these deficiencies. But the problem with supply of the nation's underserved veterinary careers runs deeper than admissions.

Careers chosen by Georgia's graduates closely parallel the national trend. Small animal practice continues to be the predominant career path chosen, with a smaller yet consistent number of graduates choosing

**Careers chosen by Georgia's graduates closely parallel the national trend**

large animal or equine practice.

The number of veterinary graduates entering mixed practice has declined slightly in recent years.

The majority of those seeking advanced study are entering internships followed by residency training to specialize, and their ultimate career objective is private specialty practice.

One way to influence the career choice of new graduates

is to begin to influence who applies. This requires that students gain an understanding of the breadth of opportunities available during their formative years.

Our profession is largely passive in the role it plays to influence young people's career decisions. All of us have to become

more proactive in informing students of the breadth of opportunities in veterinary medicine.

The Association of American Veterinary

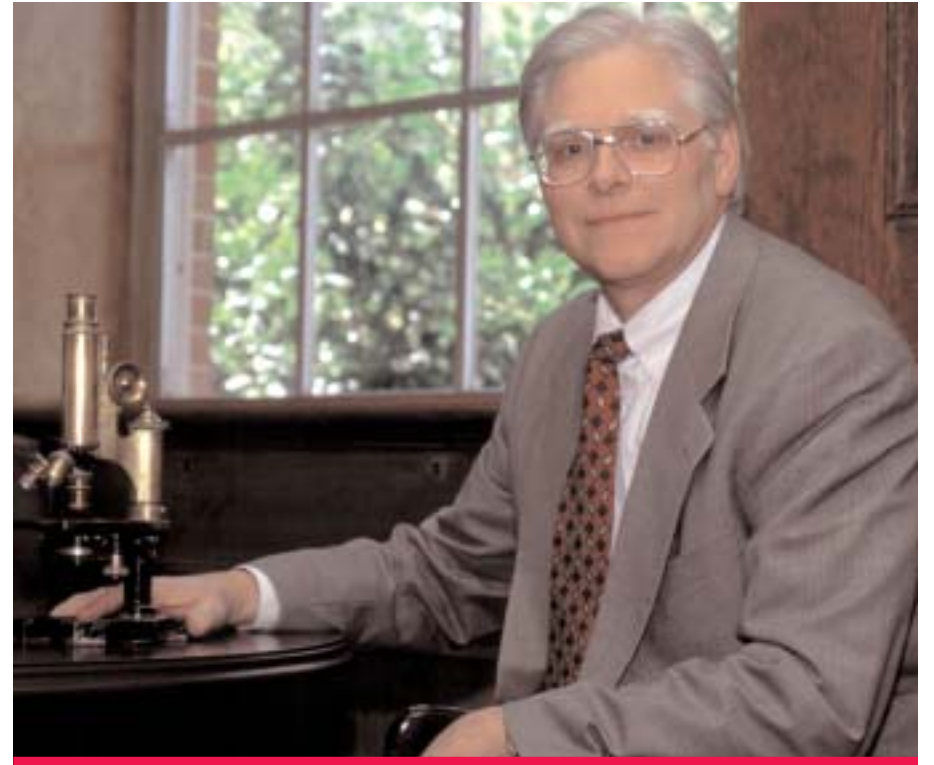
Medical Colleges has initiated a multifaceted campaign to increase awareness and encourage new veterinarians to enter underserved fields.

The recommended initiatives range from providing career-oriented learning experiences in school to national efforts providing incentives or funding to raise base pay for federally employed veterinarians.

Schools and colleges of veterinary medicine are doing their part. Courses to provide learning experiences or knowledge of the

**All of us have to become more proactive in informing students of the breadth of opportunities in veterinary medicine.**

**Our profession is largely passive in the role it plays to influence young people's career decisions.**



breadth of careers are part of our curriculum.

Summer programs are available for students to experience research, and externships in a variety of fields are possible in their fourth year.

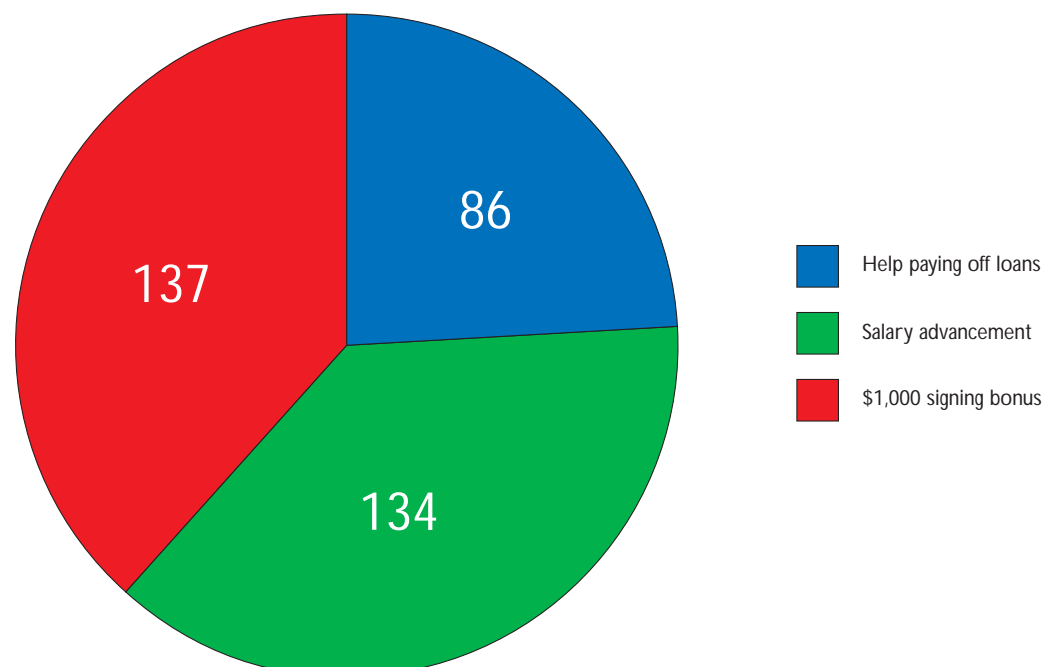
The importance of mentoring and role models is well known, and new programs to augment students' career decisions are under consideration. The Georgia Veterinary Medical Association

also has established a mentoring program for veterinary students.

The veterinarian's oath mentions the wide variety of responsibilities our profession holds in society. Market demand will always be a

major driving force, but professional and financial fulfillment are possible in many careers. We must all work together to educate our future colleagues in these opportunities.

## Incentives: How do job seekers rate help from prospective employers in paying off loans?

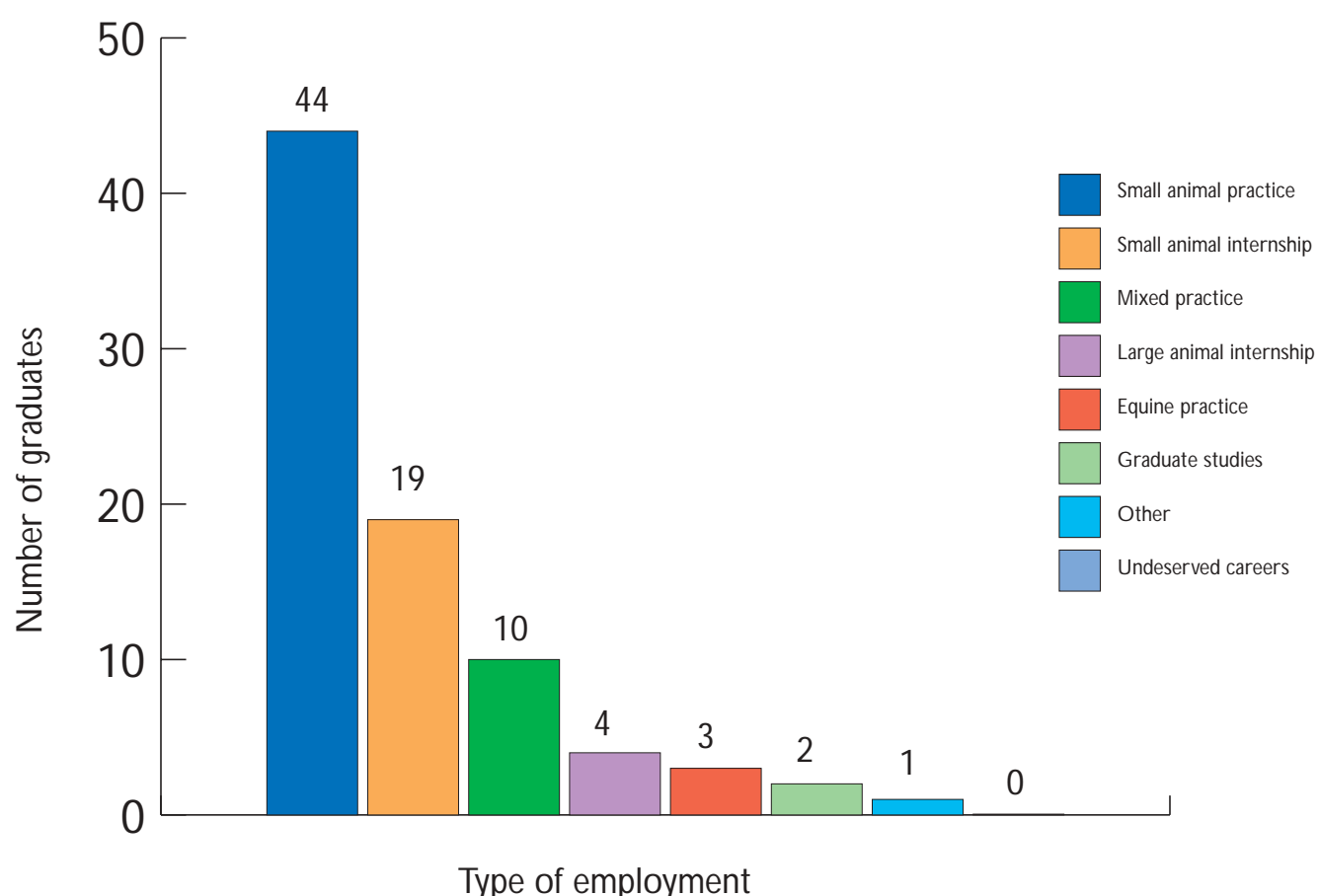


**Attractiveness of Employer Incentives**



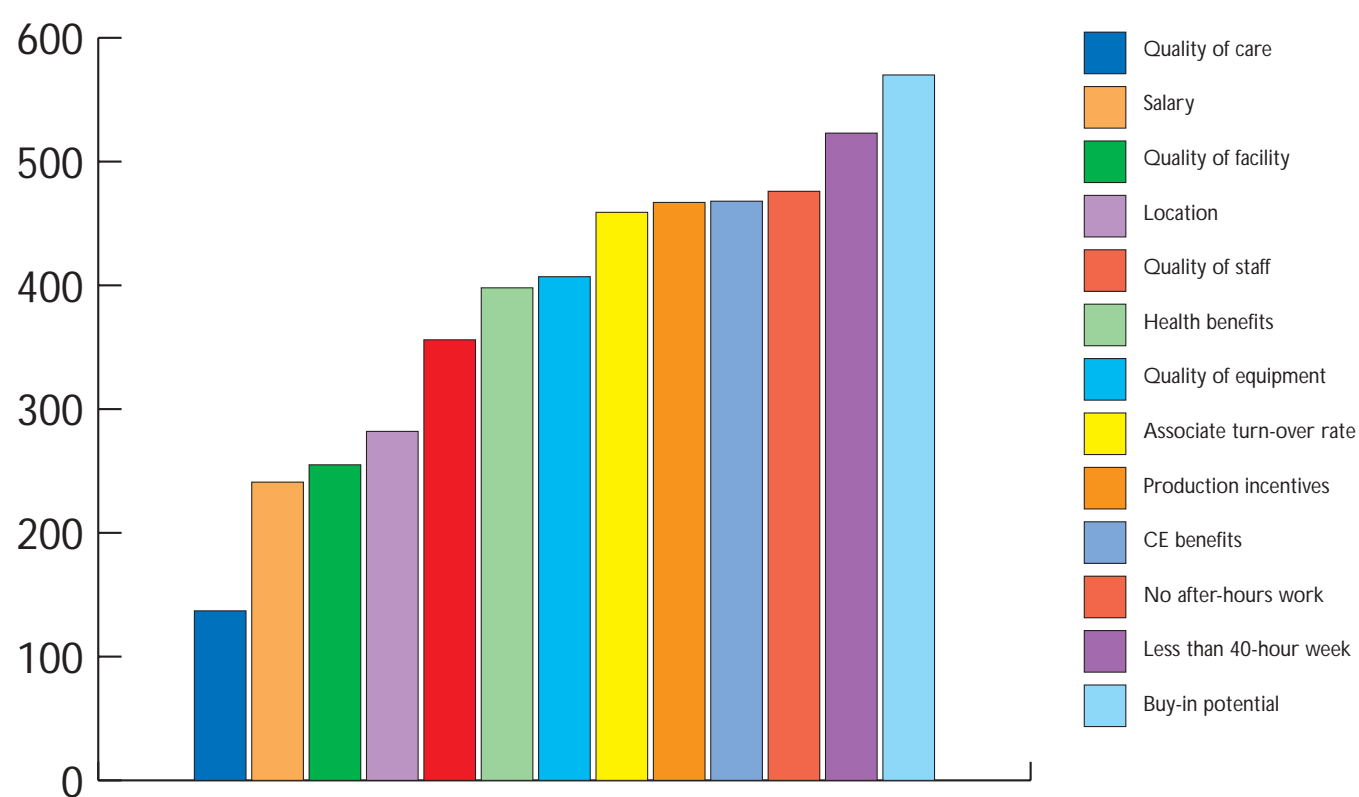
# Underserved careers in veterinary medicine

**Our profession:** How can we step up interest in underserved careers?



**Employment Chosen by the Class of 2003**

**Survey:** Do job-hunting graduates think it's the most important criterion?



**Factors That Influence Graduates' Choice of Employment**

## The doctor is in, but where's the CEO?

Veterinary students are now being taught to do more than work in their practices — they're being taught how to work on them.

This spring, 90 juniors took a new class in the business of veterinary medicine. It covered choosing a career in veterinary medicine, trends in the veterinary industry, financial management, strategic marketing, communications, and human resource management.

Classes were conducted by veterinarians as well as speakers from the Georgia Small Business Development Centers. A panel of practitioners was brought in at the end of each topic to discuss the material presented.

The financial and marketing modules were two sections that students listed as being the most helpful.

"Many employers of DVM graduates have stated in outcome assessment surveys that veterinarians they have hired were very competent in medicine and surgery, but lacked business management skills," says Sheila Allen, associate dean for academic affairs at the College.

"Because wages for veterinarians have remained relatively low, those veterinarians who have the best understanding of finances and how to deal with clients are more likely to be financially successful," she adds.

The class was developed through a partnership between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the SBDC.



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## Reunion Giving

During Reunion Weekend last April, the reunion classes showed their support of the College by making gifts totaling \$84,200. Here's the breakdown by reunion classes.

1953 - \$7,440	1978 - \$18,897
1958 - \$8,400	1983 - \$12,705
1963 - \$9,035	1988 - \$8,938
1968 - \$6,800	1993 - \$3,406
1973 - \$6,047	

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 Dr. Michael Larson Knight  
 Dr. Marc Stephen Kraus  
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 Dr. Thomas James Sheridan IV

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 Dr. Brett Warren Burton  
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 Dr. Christina Suzanne Cable  
 Dr. Pamela Jean Kelly  
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 Dr. David Neal Christensen  
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## It's not too late!

There's still time to nominate an alum for a Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The Alumni Association will bestow the awards at the next Reunion Banquet on April 17th. We welcome everyone's participation in nominating alumni for these awards.

If you've misplaced the nomination form, please contact Belinda Wells, 706/542.5732 or [alumni@vet.uga.edu](mailto:alumni@vet.uga.edu), and she'll be happy to send you one.

Mrs. Lynne Debelly Smith  
 Ms. Tebor Bagwell Smith  
 Mrs. Tracy Smith  
 Mr. Irvin William Snider III  
 Byron F. Snyder Estate  
 Susanne B. & Michael A. Snyder  
 James Andrew Sommerville  
 Mr. and Mrs. Burton Sparer  
 Dr. Phillip Belton Sparling  
 Neal & Suzy Speer  
 Ms. Melissa Ann Spencer  
 Ms. Sally A. Stapleton  
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 George A. & Amelia L. Stewart  
 Greg Stewart  
 Mr. Lawrence Stewart  
 Mr. Thomas R. Stiger  
 Mrs. Eleanor McDonald Still  
 Dr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Still Jr.  
 Mr. Robert J. Stoll  
 Stan & Cindy Story  
 Charles S. & Rebecca J. Stout  
 Dr. Wailani Sung  
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## She's a new contact in the Development Office

Brooke Stortz has joined the College's External Affairs staff as the new Assistant Director of Development.



**Brooke Stortz**

She was previously employed at the UGA

Foundation where she served as an accountant for the past three years.

"In her new position, she will be helping me help the College," says Kathy Bangle, director of development, "by encouraging alums, students, and friends to support the College with their donations."

A native of Griffin, Georgia, Stortz graduated from Vanderbilt University with a major in economics and Spanish. She is completing a master's degree in non-profit organizations this semester at UGA. Stortz's husband Jeff also is affiliated with the College — as a fourth year DVM student.

"I'm delighted to have someone the caliber of Brooke working on behalf of the College," Bangle says. "Brooke is committed to veterinary medicine and has the skills we need to help us reach our development goals."

## Continuing Education Calendar

December 6-7	Small Animal Oncology
December 13-14	Exotic Animal Endoscopy
January 23-25	Koi Health Management
February 21-22	Small Animal Neurology
February 28	Veterinary Psychopharmacology
March 12-13	Arthroscopy
March 13-14	Small Animal Rigid Endoscopy
March 27	Canine Behavior
April 16-18	41st Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Reunion
May 1	Feline Behavior
June 25-26	SA Soft Tissue Rigid Endoscopy
June 27	Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery
August 22	Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
September 12	Small Animal Urology
September 25-26	SA Soft Tissue Rigid Endoscopy
October 23-24	Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery
November 6-7	Small Animal Behavior
November 20-21	Exotic Animal Endoscopy
December 4-5	Small Animal Infectious Diseases
December 11-12	Exotic Animal Endoscopy

For details, contact Sandi Kilgo, skilgo@vet.uga.edu, 706/542.1451, or visit the CE website <http://go-live.vet.uga.edu>.

## In Memoriam

- David L. Booth, (DVM '65) July 27, 2003 – Carroll County, Georgia  
 Carroll C. Gurley, (DVM '58) September 7, 2003 – Atlanta, Georgia  
 Quincy Darbyshire, (DVM '50) – Moultrie, Georgia  
 J. Christian Kirijan (DVM '00) August 6, 2003 – Atlanta, Georgia  
 Robert P. Magdeburger (DVM '62) March 27, 2002 – Elkton, Maryland  
 Thomas Nichols (DVM '86) June 18, 2003 – Vergennes, Vermont  
 Robert Whiteway (DVM '59) May 28, 2003 – Decatur, Georgia  
 Herbert N. Witt (DVM '54) December 21, 2002 – Martinsville, Virginia

## Alumni Honors

**Bonnie Ballard** (DVM '94) of Atlanta is co-editor and contributor to a new book entitled *Exotic Animal Medicine for the Veterinary Technician*. The book has been available since August.

**Needham Bateman** (DVM '71) of Dunwoody was appointed by the governor's office to the State Board of Veterinary Medicine in June 24. He was also chosen to serve as the GVMA Treasurer-Elect last May.

**Rand Carpenter**, (DVM '98) of Harrisonburg, Virginia is serving as a public health administrator for the Mennonite Central Committee in Haiti.

**Kathleen Carr** (DVM '85) was promoted to the rank of full Colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infections Diseases. She serves as the Deputy Commander.

**Allen Causey** (DVM '96) of Florence, South Carolina was featured on the cover of the March issue of Veterinary Forum magazine.

**Gwen Choi (Roesel)** (DVM '86) graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in May with an MD degree. She is currently a resident in urology at the University of Cincinnati.

**Brenda Griffin** (DVM '90) received the Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award during the AVMA Annual Convention in Denver.

**M. Ann Herschl (Larsen)** (DVM '90) was inducted into the Morris Animal Foundation's Veterinary Honor Roll in May.

**Hugh Hill** (DVM '71) of Perry was appointed to the State Board of Veterinary Medicine by the governor's office in June.

**Eugene T. Maddox** (DVM '59) of Cairo was reinstated as a member of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine by the governor's office in June.

## Faculty Honors



**Ed Mahaffey**, former associate dean for public service and outreach, was elected President-Elect of the GVMA in May.



**Linda Medleau** (DVM '81) Received the Woman Veterinarian of the Year Award at the AVMA Annual Convention in Denver.



Veterinary Forum featured Allen Causey (DVM '96) on its March cover. The photo illustrated a humorous feature article about Causey's experience doing surgery on a horse in a 43-year-old house turned into a clinic.

## "Teaching hospital, this is Jennifer"

One of the friendly voices you're likely to hear when you make a referral to the Teaching Hospital belongs to Jennifer Yeast.



**Jennifer Yeast**

Her job and that of her fellow referral coordinators is to expedite communication between in-house veterinarians and referring veterinarians.

She handles almost 60 calls a day, setting up telephone consultations,

directing calls from clients to the veterinarians treating their pets, and getting patient histories from animal owners so she can refer them to the appropriate service in the hospital.

A 1996 graduate from UGA in English, Yeast has lived in Georgia most of her life, and has been a referral coordinator since 1996.

"One of the things I love about this position is that I'm able to work with such a diverse group of intelligent, enthusiastic people, while I'm contributing to the well being of the animals our clients love," Yeast says.

## AESCULAPIAN

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