

Spring 2017

florida veterinarian

The University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine Magazine

SAVING BO

Pup survives near-drowning,
thanks to UF veterinary
emergency specialists

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

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SPRING 2017



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On the cover

This portrait of Bo, a Doberman pinscher UF veterinarians helped save after a near-drowning episode, was taken at the Professional Dog Training facility in Ocala, where Bo attends classes. (Photo by Mindy C. Miller)



The University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine is supported through funding from UF Health and the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

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FROM THE DEAN

As you read this, we will be well into 2017 and looking forward to continued growth and success as a college. For a moment, though, I'd like to reflect on 2016, a stellar year for the UFCVM. As most of you know, last year we celebrated the college's 40th Anniversary, with a series of events aimed at reminding all of our stakeholders of the many ways in which our college has made, and continues to make, an impact on the world.

By all accounts, our year-long celebration was a huge success, culminating in a festive celebration on Dec. 3. Many members of the college's Charter Class of 1980 attended, along with other alumni, present and former faculty, students, staff and friends of the college representing a variety of groups and interests, from agriculture to health sciences to state government and industry organizations. During the celebration, we showed a new anthem video that visually captures not just the college's story, but the story of the veterinary medical profession and what we're all about. If you have not viewed the video, it's on our website at vetmed.ufl.edu.

Other highlights of 2016 from across our mission of teaching, research and clinical service include:

FACULTY

Many new faculty hires took place across the college, including two individuals brought on board specifically through UF's preeminence initiative. These scientists, Dr. Ilaria Capua, who has a part-time appointment with the UFCVM, and Dr. Rhoel Dinglasan are bringing innovative research programs and fresh perspectives to our college and its students.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

The UF Veterinary Access Scholarship Program, a new college initiative intended to offset student debt, continues to gain traction and to bring in new funding. The college has played a key leadership role at the national level in establishing and growing this innovative and progressive program. More information regarding this follows later.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Tom Vickroy, our executive associate dean, continues to serve as interim associate dean for students and instruction while we renew our national search to fill this key position. Dr. Amanda House, an equine internal medicine specialist, was named director of student affairs after serving in that role on an interim basis to supplement activities in that office.

RESEARCH

Strategic changes implemented in our research program over the past few years are beginning to have a major impact on research programs not only at the UFCVM, but across the whole academic health center. In FY 2016, our faculty successfully increased annual extramural funding by nearly 80 percent over the previous year, with increases seen in federal grants and in private foundation contributions. Most importantly, our faculty took the lead on large collaborative multi-college and multi-institutional grants.

EDUCATION

After undergoing a full accreditation review, including a site visit in October 2015, the college received official word in April 2016 that we passed with flying colors and have been granted full accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education. This designation, subject to annual renewal, will remain current for the next seven years.

As the result of a unique collaboration with SynDaver Labs, UF veterinary medical students are now implementing some of the most advanced technology in the world. In late 2016, the first-ever synthetic canine cadavers were launched in a UFCVM student surgery course. The technology, developed by SynDaver in collaboration with UF small animal surgeons, consists of true-to-life models that provide an alternative to the use of canine cadavers or live animals in teaching. Read more about this exciting collaboration in this issue.

PATIENT CARE

The UF Veterinary Hospitals made significant progress in many of the goals articulated in the past two years through our strategic planning process. These goals include enhancing the hospital's reputation in specialty services, improving its operational model, enhancing communication to referring veterinarians, maximizing student learning opportunities and investing in the staff, house officers and faculty. The college continues to expand the clinical trials program and is actively pursuing accreditation of its diagnostic laboratories through the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

A new Electronic Medical Records portal has been established to allow referring veterinarians to see discharge orders, lab tests and diagnostic images. Automatic electronic notifications are sent to referring veterinarians when significant events occur, providing timely relevant data. Operationally the UF Veterinary Hospitals have improved clinical efficiency and customer services in the call center, reception area and pharmacy. Additional staff have been hired to help leverage doctor time and enhance the patient's experience.

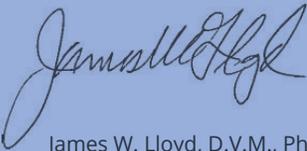
UF Veterinary Hospitals continue to expand the Patient Quality and Safety program, in collaboration with the UF College of Medicine. This is the first program in the nation that uses advanced software to track patient-related events and provides a framework for enhancing patient care. During the last year, the team has focused on developing awareness and changing the culture surrounding quality and safety within the hospitals.

DEVELOPMENT

This past fiscal year marked yet another strong year for fundraising in the College of Veterinary Medicine — raising nearly \$24 million in charitable gifts. Support from friends of the college, who include grateful clients, contributed significantly to this success, providing approximately \$17.5 million. The Dean's Circle of Excellence continues to grow, with 84 members having now raised more than \$2.3 million since inception in 2010. Dollars raised increased by over 20 percent from FY 2015. Our Scholarship Initiative, a key college program to reduce student debt, already has raised \$11 million in cash, pledges and estate commitments in its first two years of existence.

We are so proud of everything we've accomplished and grateful to all of you for your ongoing feedback and support. Look for more exciting news ahead as we move forward to cement our national reputation as a preeminent College of Veterinary Medicine and a place we hope you always feel at home.

GO GATORS!



James W. Lloyd, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Professor and Dean
UF College of Veterinary Medicine



Photo by Getty Images

Left:
A homeless puppy.

Opposite:
Dr. Larry Garcia, a clinical assistant professor of shelter medicine at UF, is shown at the Miami-Dade Animal Services facility with UF veterinary medical students Denae Campanale, left, and Kerrin Maillet.

EDUCATION

COLLABORATION BETWEEN UF, MIAMI-DADE SHELTER WILL HELP HOMELESS ANIMALS

Story by Sarah Carey

Homeless animals in South Florida, their caretakers, University of Florida veterinary medical students and Miami-Dade County residents all will benefit from a new agreement that will add faculty and staff to support operations in the Miami-Dade County animal shelter.

The innovative collaboration is one of the first of its kind in the country and creates a means for the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, known for its world-class shelter medicine programs, to partner with a leading government-operated animal shelter. The collaboration will enhance the adoptability of shelter pets in South Florida, while UF lends academic expertise to shelter operations and provides unmatched learning opportunities for veterinary medical students.

Up to six students at a time will be able to participate in a new course, through which they will spend two weeks at the Miami-Dade shelter as part of their clinical training. The students will be supervised by a UF faculty member who will be permanently based at the facility, along with a UF veterinary medical

technician. The program is set to begin this spring.

The expanded relationship builds on an existing student externship program through which UF veterinary medical students have the opportunity to study off-site at various shelters throughout the state.

“We are thrilled at the opportunity to combine what we offer in academic veterinary medicine with the day-to-day needs of the animal welfare community in South Florida,” said the college’s dean, James W. Lloyd, D.V.M., Ph.D. “Although the pet adoption rates being achieved by the Miami-Dade Animal Care Department are already commendable, particularly for a shelter of its size, partnership with UF will further strengthen its success.”

Lloyd noted that the collaboration was made possible thanks to the efforts of the Miami-Dade County Commission; the county’s mayor; Carlos Gimenez; its animal services department and the South Florida Veterinary Medical Association.

“We all recognize that this important new collaboration will be a win-win for all, most importantly the homeless animals, veterinary medical students

“

We all recognize that this important new collaboration will be a win-win for all.

— James W. Lloyd, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Dean, UF College of Veterinary Medicine

and ultimately the people of Miami-Dade County,” Lloyd said.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jose “Pepe” Diaz, who sponsored the legislation and in whose district the shelter is located, championed the new agreement.

“I am extremely excited knowing that the Miami-Dade Animal Services Department will help provide veterinary medical students with hands-on experience they need,” he said. “This partnership with the University of Florida’s College of Veterinary Medicine, the state’s only veterinary college, will help the county achieve its goal of eliminating shelter euthanasias by humanely reducing the pet population through spaying and neutering.”

The shelter medicine program at the University of Florida is multifaceted and manifests the college’s mission of teaching, research, clinical service and community engagement through a variety of services. In addition to collaborations with shelters across the state of Florida, UF veterinarians work with local shelters from Alachua and nearby counties to provide spay/neuter and other needed medical and surgical services to homeless pets and provide consultative services as well as continuing education and graduate-level training to shelter veterinarians and staff from all over the world.



CLINICAL

UF VETERINARY STUDENTS HONE SURGERY SKILLS USING SYNTHETIC CANINE CADAVERS

Story by Sarah Carey | Photos by Jesse S. Jones

University of Florida veterinary medical students are implementing some of the most advanced technology in the world by using the first-ever synthetic canine cadavers in a surgery lab.

The canine models, which bleed and even have a pulse, have all of the bones, muscles, relevant organs and vascular components found in actual dogs. Made from a library of more than 100 synthetic materials that mimic actual living tissue in terms of mechanical properties, densities and other

properties, the model “is an actual synthetic animal with all of the relevant body systems, with a heart that actually pumps synthetic blood through the core, organs and limbs,” said Christopher Sakezles, president of SynDaver Labs, which makes synthetic human cadavers as training aids in human medicine. “It can be intubated and ventilated.”

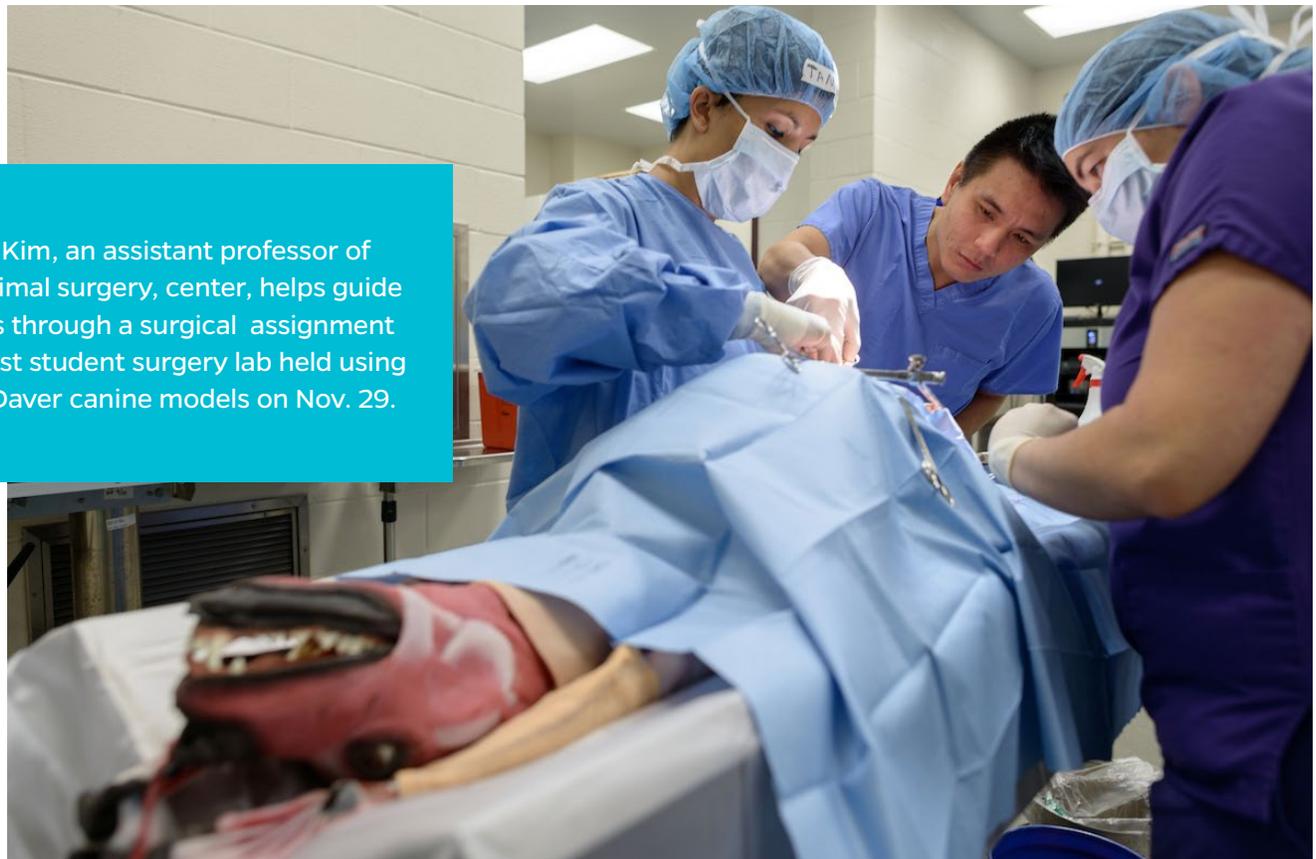
The UF College of Veterinary Medicine bought 25 of the true-to-life models last year after talks with SynDaver Labs. Initially, a team including the college’s executive director, John Haven, and UF small animal surgeons, J. Brad Case, D.V.M., and Stanley Kim, B.V.Sc., visited the company’s headquarters in Tampa to discuss whether the company could create a canine abdominal model that veterinary medical students could use in surgery courses as an alternative to canine cadavers.

“During the visit, we showed them our current human technology and I suggested building the full dog, because, why not?” said Sakezles.

Further discussions then ensued with the UF surgeons to tweak the model’s design.

“We gave them a list of specific features we wanted to see in the model,” said Kim, an assistant professor

Dr. Stan Kim, an assistant professor of small animal surgery, center, helps guide students through a surgical assignment in the first student surgery lab held using the SynDaver canine models on Nov. 29.





of small animal surgery at UF. “They then built a prototype and brought it up for us to test. We tested and provided feedback on three or four iterations of the model before the final product was created.”

The students who participated in the first lab on Nov. 29 were seniors enrolled in an advanced surgery course. Two labs were held in different time slots on that day with students stationed in teams at different work tables. The class was given a series of abdominal surgical procedures to perform — a splenectomy and a liver biopsy were on the list but other types of procedures will be covered in the future — with audiovisual monitors installed on walls above each station as teaching aids.

Chris Alling, a senior UF veterinary medical student who participated in the lab, said the models were

UF veterinary medical students worked in teams to conduct various surgical procedures using the SynDaver canine models during a surgery lab held Nov. 29. Dr. Brad Case, an assistant professor of small animal surgery and one of their instructors, provides feedback in the center image.

helpful from a student’s perspective because all of the typical pressures of surgery, including blood loss, anesthesia maintenance and asepsis, are removed, or at least mitigated.

“Of course, we still do our best to maintain sterile technique and limit hemorrhage, but when errors are made, we don’t experience the same level of anxiety as if we had endangered a living, breathing patient,” Alling said. “This allows us to focus more fully on the surgical techniques themselves, which ultimately builds confidence for when we will be eventually faced with real cases.”

The models are compatible with all known surgical instruments and imaging techniques.

“I thought the lab went spectacularly,” said Case, who assisted in teaching the class. “I think it was great that the seniors got the first shot and were able to do the more advanced procedures. That said, I think the sophomores this spring will love being able to perform their first-ever mock spay procedure in a SynDaver canine versus through the historic use of cadavers. I am really looking forward to that.”

Kim added that he felt “very fortunate” to be a part of the team that delivered this experience to the students.

“It may turn out to be one of my biggest contributions to veterinary medicine,” he said. “Simulation is the way of the future for surgical training in both the human and veterinary fields, and in helping to develop this model, we at UF are leading the way in simulation veterinary surgery.”



This allows us to focus more fully on the surgical techniques themselves, which ultimately builds confidence for when we will be eventually faced with real cases.”

— Chris Alling, UF veterinary medical student.



ZIKA GROUND ZERO

COLLEGE INVOLVED IN NEW \$10 MILLION CENTER TO ADDRESS ZIKA AND OTHER DISEASES

Story by Sarah Carey

With a \$10 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the University of Florida will lead a highly collaborative research program focused on stopping vector-borne diseases such as Zika before they spread farther into the United States.

Four state universities will be involved in the new Southeast Regional Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Disease: The Gateway Program. Rhoel Dinglasan, Ph.D., a new faculty member in the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's department of infectious diseases and pathology hired through the university's preeminence initiative, is the program's lead investigator. Other faculty from the college will be involved as well, including Maureen Long, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor of infectious

diseases, whose laboratory will serve as the program's main diagnostic facility. As such, Long's lab will provide testing through the grant for Zika, dengue and West Nile virus, in addition to screening for Eastern equine encephalitis.

John Dame, Ph.D., a professor and chair of the college's department of infectious diseases and pathology, will serve on the center's management team, as will Glenn Morris, M.D., director of UF's Emerging Pathogens Institute. Other UF faculty members, including experts in medical geography from the department of geography, will participate as well.

Dinglasan enlisted collaborators from the University of Miami, Florida International University and the University of South Florida to work closely with him and the other UF scientists to address the statewide and regional challenge of Zika and other diseases.



FACULTY MEMBER SETTLES INTO LEADERSHIP ROLE, NEW HOME IN GAINESVILLE



Photo by Hannah Pietrick

Dr. Rhoel
Dinglasan in his
laboratory.

“FLORIDA REALLY IS GROUND ZERO. WE ARE THE GATEWAY FOR VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES INTO THE UNITED STATES.”

— Rhoel Dinglasan, Ph.D.

FV: When did you actually arrive at UF to start your new job?

RD: I started on Aug 1, having arrived just a few days before with the moving truck. We are still getting settled in the new home — boxes remain present and annoying — and finding our way around town. Our kids are doing well in their new school.

FV: What drew you to UF and specifically the College of Veterinary Medicine?

RD: I was recruited as part of the UF Preeminence Initiative through the department of infectious diseases and pathology, headed by John Dame. The department had a specific interest in parasitology, which fit well with my established malaria program. The decision to move down to Florida from John Hopkins was also influenced by the fact that my wife’s family lives in Orlando and my wife is a bona fide Floridian. The prospect of building something new and great at UF was, of course, a plus.

FV: Are you forming new relationships and collaborations with other college faculty?

RD: Yes, by default. I pulled in as many faculty as I could muster for the Southeast Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases grant application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Outside of the new center, I’ve formed new collaborations with Drs. Christian Jobin from the department of infectious diseases and pathology and Rick Yost from the department of chemistry; Dr. Tim Garrett from the department of pathology, immunology and laboratory medicine; and Dr. Eric Vitriol from the department of anatomy & cell biology, to name a few. *(cont’d)*

Q

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A

I am very collaborative, as you can see. Since I just arrived in August and the CDC grant announcement came out in September and was due in October, it was imperative that I work with as many folks as I could at UF immediately. My role was primarily to just put the pieces together to fit within a greater vision. I want to stress the fact that this was a group effort and hopefully one that everyone at UF, USF, FIU and UM can be proud of.

FV: What excites you most about this current center project? Are there other scientific efforts you're involved in here as well and how are you spending most of your time from day to day?

RD: The center plants a big flag in Florida and has united other universities in Florida under a single program. I've been told that this interuniversity collaboration is the first time this has happened, but could not tell you for sure. It is important that UF demonstrates prominence in infectious disease research as part of its preeminence mission's objectives. This is one of the first steps I thought I could contribute toward this goal.

The vision behind the center is that it is not the end-all and be-all of our effort. It is the beginning — hence I called it the Gateway Program — apart from the fact that Florida is a gateway for the introduction of infectious diseases. We will continue to compete actively for small, large and very large NIH/DHHS/DoD grants with the plan of leveraging the center's capabilities and network to support these grant applications. Through the center, we are now establishing new collaborations with other academic and public health institutions across all the other states in the southeastern region of the United States. The prospect of a collective, collaborative effort to combat vector-borne disease transmission is always a good feeling. It's better than competing. The CDC program has vision and it is wonderful that our center and all of our participants can be a critical part of it.

FV: Is there anything else you'd like to add about the college's role in "One Health" or in solving difficult disease problems, to make the world a better place?

RD: The center is loosely associated with the One Health mission at present, but it is our hope to tie in more closely by working with Dr. Ilaria Capua, the director of UF's new One Health Center for Excellence. We haven't made an impact just yet and are not close to solving a difficult disease problem in the Southeastern U.S. or Florida for that matter, but we hope to do so over the five-year period of the center award and beyond.



Photo by Evin Barton

Kelli Bar and Dhani Prakoso, both scientists who work with Zika virus, are shown at work in Dr. Maureen Long's lab.

“WE HAVE SEEN ZIKA, DENGUE AND CHIKUNGUNYA, AND IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS SCIENTISTS TO DO OUR PART TO STOP THEM.”

— Rhoel Dinglasan, Ph.D.

“While everyone is imagining the introduction of diseases like Zika into their states, we don’t need to imagine it,” Dinglasan said. “We have seen Zika, dengue and chikungunya, and it is our responsibility as scientists to do our part to stop them.”

Florida provides a unique environment to examine the biocomplexity of vector-borne diseases in real-time. Miami-Dade is often an entry point for such diseases, adding to the urgency of the research and providing a real-world lab. Solutions that work in the densely populated urban environment of South Florida should work in other locations as well, Dinglasan said.

“Florida really is ground zero. We are the gateway for vector-borne diseases into the United States,” Dinglasan said. “But we

have the research capability to stop them.”

The new center will be located at UF’s Emerging Pathogens Institute.

The grant is part of nearly \$184 million in funding from the CDC to states, territories, local jurisdictions and universities to support efforts to protect Americans from Zika virus infection and associated adverse health outcomes, including microcephaly and other serious birth defects. These awards are part of the \$350 million in funding provided to CDC under the Zika Response and Preparedness Appropriations Act of 2016.

“Zika continues to be a threat to pregnant women,” said former CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden. “States, territories and communities need this CDC funding to fight Zika and protect the next generation of Americans.”

SAVIN BO

**PUP SURVIVES NEAR-DROWNING,
THANKS TO UF VETERINARY
EMERGENCY SPECIALISTS**

Story by Sarah Carey

A Doberman pinscher puppy named Bo nearly drowned in the family pool, then his heart stopped upon arrival at the University of Florida's pet emergency clinic in Ocala. But after CPR administered by UF veterinary medical specialists, additional treatment at the university's Small Animal Hospital in Gainesville and a dose of good luck, Bo survived to return home in early November.

A little over a week later, 7-month-old Bo was fully recovered and graduated as top dog in his puppy obedience class.

Ashley Allen, D.V.M., a clinical assistant professor of emergency and critical care medicine, was on duty at UF's Pet Emergency Treatment Services clinic in Ocala when Bo's family brought him in on Nov. 4. In addition to veterinary medical expertise, the availability of a transport ventilator used to take him from the smaller pet emergency clinic in Ocala to the UF Small Animal Hospital in Gainesville helped to save his life, Allen said.

His owners will never forget the day Bo's ordeal started.

"That morning, I let our dogs outside," said Bo's owner, Tania Travieso, of Ocala. "After about five minutes, I asked my son to let the dogs back in. My son noticed that Bo and another one of our



10



Less than 6 percent of dogs and cats that experience cardiopulmonary arrest in the hospital survive to be discharged.



Photo by Minsy C. Miller

“

THEY ASKED US IF WE WANTED THEM TO PERFORM CPR ON BO. IT WASN'T EVEN A QUESTION FOR US. WE WERE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING POSSIBLE TO SAVE OUR BABY.”

— Tania Travieso

dogs were in the pool and that Bo was in distress and underwater.”

Travieso’s son jumped in and pulled Bo out of the pool. Family members wrapped him in a comforter and placed him on a bed. They saw the puppy was conscious but coughing and that blood had begun seeping out of his mouth.

“His gums were gray and we knew he was in major distress,” Travieso said. The family drove Bo to the emergency clinic, hoping for the best. However, soon after they arrived and handed Bo to the staff, UF veterinarians told them Bo’s heart had stopped.

“He had flat-lined,” Travieso said. “They asked us if we wanted them to perform CPR on Bo. It wasn’t even a question for us. We were willing to do anything possible to save our baby.”

“My team and I were able to get the little guy back,” Allen said. “However, we found that he had severe noncardiogenic pulmonary edema — fluid in the lungs not associated with heart disease — which is common in near-drowning events. I talked to the family about how critical he was and that he needed to be reintubated and transferred to UF’s Small Animal Hospital on the transport ventilator. I also gave them expectations going forward.”

Allen explained that most puppies suffering from noncardiogenic pulmonary edema have a good prognosis for recovery. Unfortunately, Bo had been resuscitated, which can lead to severe secondary issues such as kidney failure, neurological signs and abnormal heart rhythms. The primary issue of fluid in his lungs and secondary issues from CPR meant there were significant uncertainties about Bo’s short- and long-term prognoses.

After the family consented, Allen and her team, including veterinary technicians Ryan Coy and Jennifer Lopez, along with third-year veterinary student Alicia Welsh, prepared Bo for the drive to Gainesville by sedating him and placing him on a transport ventilator.

Twice before their arrival, they had to pull over to deal with medical issues Bo was having. By the time they approached the hospital’s entrance, Bo’s lungs had again filled up with fluid.

Bo was close to death, Allen said.

“I jumped out of the van, tipped him down again



Photos by Jesse S. Jones



Photos by Mindy C. Miller



and let all the fluid drain out of his lungs through the tube in his airway," Allen said. "Then he improved again. The UF team met us at the emergency entrance, transported him into the hospital and transferred him from the transport ventilator to the ICU ventilator, where he remained the rest of the day."

Bo was not yet out of the woods, but gradually improved. Three days later, on Nov. 7, the family was finally able to take him home. He made a full recovery with no expected long-term effects.

Less than 6 percent of dogs and cats that experience cardiopulmonary arrest in the hospital survive to be discharged, according to several studies published in the *Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care*.

Top:

Dr. Rachel Davy, Dr. Ashley Allen, Tania Travieso, Andrew Travieso and Dr. Jesseca Bulloch.

Bottom:

Bo and Travieso are shown with Letty Towles, owner of Professional Dog Training in Ocala.

"When they brought him to us in the examination room, we could not believe it," Travieso said. "He has been a totally normal 7-month-old puppy since. He returned to his puppy class for graduation one week after coming home and took first place out of 20 dogs."

She had nothing but positive things to say about the UF veterinarians who saved Bo. In addition, those doctors included Rachel Davy, D.V.M., and Jesseca Bulloch, D.V.M.

"They always had time to give us updates on Bo and answer the millions of questions that we had," she said. "We are so extremely grateful for all of the amazing doctors, students and staff at UF."

40 YEARS AND COUNTING...





40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The college's 40th Anniversary wound down to a festive close with a grand finale celebration on Dec. 3, followed by a brunch for students the next morning. The college's new anthem video premiered to an audience of 250 faculty, donors and alumni, including more than 25 percent of the college's Charter Class and emeritus faculty who came from as far away as Scotland. We are so grateful to have experienced such a wonderful turnout and to have renewed connections with so many this past year as the college marked this milestone. We are looking forward to the next 40 years and all they bring! Many more photos can be found on the college's Facebook page ([facebook.com/ufvetmed](https://www.facebook.com/ufvetmed)) and on our website at vetmed.ufl.edu.





Lindsey Hidenrite, a third-year veterinary medical student at UF, poses with her dog, Cola, in the primary care and dentistry rounds room at the UF Small Animal Hospital.



PHILANTHROPY

FOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, HOPE AND DETERMINATION ARE UNIQUELY PERSONAL

Story by Linda Homewood | Photos by Jesse S. Jones

Lindsey Hidenrite knows firsthand about hope, determination and foster care. They forged her life's unlikely journey through college to become a Class of 2018 D.V.M. candidate at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine and its first Nicoletti Florida Opportunity Scholarship recipient.

Her childhood, shaped by years of being in the foster care system in Kentucky, gave Hidenrite a personal understanding of fear, abandonment and neglect experienced by the animals she helps today. Separated from family and passed from household to household through no fault of her own, her only trusted companion was her cat, Kandie.

"I was known to get in trouble for reading under the covers past bedtime," Hidenrite said, laughing. "But, I always loved learning and had phenomenal teachers who gave me the encouragement to keep going."

Hope eventually brought her to be under her grandparents' care in Jacksonville, Florida, where she could attend a nationally-ranked college preparatory high school. Her love of reading and the sciences, combined with determination, led to her undergraduate admission to UF with one year of college credit already completed.

"My only constant in life was school," said Hidenrite. "Knowledge became my power and helped me learn my true potential, regardless of whatever expectations my past placed upon me."

Volunteering at the Jacksonville Zoo while in high school introduced Hidenrite to animal health and influenced her to pursue her bachelor's degree in zoology. Soon she began volunteering with agencies such as Gainesville Pet Rescue and Helping Hands Pet Rescue. The first in her family to attend college, she was admitted



to UF in 2007 through the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program that made her college dream possible.

Like Hidenrite, Paul Nicoletti, D.V.M., M.S., a professor emeritus of infectious diseases at the College of Veterinary Medicine, had never forgotten the scholarship funding that made college financially possible for him so many years ago, as a new student. Remembering how the gift spurred him to work hard in school, he had contributed to the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholarship and endowed several scholarships at UF, resulting in more than 12 student scholarship awards.

It was in 2013 that Hidenrite, now a UF alumna, and Nicoletti first met, neither one guessing the bond that was to grow between them. UF hosted a Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars

UF veterinary medical student Lindsey Hidenrite examines her dog's ears in a photoshoot at the UF Small Animal Hospital in January.

celebration luncheon for its major donors and recipients like Hidenrite. At the luncheon, Nicoletti's \$1 million pledge was announced for a new graduate-level scholarship, the Nicoletti Florida Opportunity Scholarship. Modeled after the Machen fund, his endowment would ultimately provide tuition assistance for students of veterinary medicine who are the first generation in their families to attend college, and who demonstrate financial need.

Hidenrite had begun working as a veterinary technician and discovered Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at UF. Having achieved one lifelong dream of college, she began thinking about taking the next step in her educational journey to study veterinary medicine. Because of her love of shelter medicine, Hidenrite applied only to UF for her professional degree program in veterinary medicine.

"I wanted the doctor of veterinary medicine degree, and I also wanted the certificate in shelter medicine," said Hidenrite. "The University of Florida was the one place I could get both at the same time."

She was accepted to the UF College of Veterinary Medicine beginning fall 2014. Seeking a professional degree was a big step for Hidenrite, who describes herself as frugal and conscientious about spending. She had to work hard for the simplest things in life that others may have taken for granted — and funding her education was always a very big concern.

During her first year at the college, Hidenrite visited Nicoletti's office from time to time to share her enthusiasm and progress with her mentor. She recalled his support, and how he made a special effort to come across campus to hear her presentation on shelter medicine, even though it was outside his own field of study related to healthy livestock, public health and food safety.

Nicoletti's death in January 2016 came unexpectedly while he was establishing his endowed scholarship, but he had already provided ample funding to make the first award, which would help pay for about 70 percent of tuition. Attending his memorial was bittersweet, but Hidenrite was grateful to meet his family and

express her gratitude to them personally for Nicoletti's contribution to the award she had received as an undergraduate student. She shared with them her memories of how she first met the professor and his continued mentorship as she began her studies in veterinary medicine.

That spring, Hidenrite proudly attended the college's professional coating ceremony, marking the successful completion of her second year of veterinary training. She was not prepared when she suddenly heard her name announced as the first-ever recipient of the Nicoletti Florida Opportunity Scholarship.

"I had no idea that his scholarship would be presented at the ceremony. Emotions swept over me as I walked onto the stage to receive Dr. Nicoletti's scholarship," said Hidenrite. "All I could think of the whole time was 'I wish he was here, I wish he was here!' I wanted so badly to thank him in person."

"Connecting with Dr. Nicoletti's family meant a lot to me," Hidenrite said. "Now, I had their faces to recall as I relayed my overwhelming sentiments in a thank-you letter."

In 2015, the college established the dean's scholarship initiative to address student loan debt by increasing scholarship support to many more students like Hidenrite. Nicoletti, again, had championed the dean's call with a challenge to match all donations to the UFCVM Dean's Scholarship Endowment Fund, up to a total of \$100,000. Alumni of the college, students and others have answered the call, and his goal has been more than met.

Hidenrite hopes to meet future Nicoletti scholarship recipients who, in turn, will benefit from his generosity as she has. She wants them to know about the professor behind the gift — and how much he believed in students.

"No one is ever meant to go it alone, and Dr. Nicoletti will forever be a part of my story and my legacy — and so many more stories to come," Hidenrite said.



No one is ever meant to go it alone, and Dr. Nicoletti will forever be a part of my story and my legacy — and so many stories to come.

— Lindsey Hidenrite

PHILANTHROPY

A DEAN'S CIRCLE LEADER: MEET KATHERINE DOERR

Story by Linda Homewood



Photo courtesy of Dr. Katherine Doerr

Dr. Katherine Doerr is shown at work with her dog, Hank, now 3 years old. Hank has become the office mascot at Dermatology for Animals.

Native Floridian and UF alumna Katherine Doerr, D.V.M. ('10), has gone pretty far in following her career and life goals — all the way to Santa Cruz, California. But her heart is still in Florida as a proud member of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine's Dean's Circle of Excellence.

Growing up near Cocoa Beach, Florida, Doerr loved surfing and water sports and had always wanted to become a veterinarian. Even before high school, she volunteered at local veterinary hospitals.

"I was that girl," laughed Doerr. "I loved animals and wanted to become a veterinarian since elementary school."

At Florida Southern College, while

earning a bachelor's degree in biology, in addition to volunteering with big cat rescue and an animal hospital, she also took an interest in environmental remediation. Doerr worked summers with environmental engineers at NASA, assisting with research on polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, industrial chemicals that were banned in 1979 in the United States. The researchers were investigating ways to convert the toxic chemical residues into harmless compounds.

Graduating magna cum laude from Florida Southern with a minor in chemistry, Doerr was excited to receive her UF College of Veterinary Medicine acceptance letter in 2006 and looked forward to becoming an official Vet Med Gator and attending football games.

Doerr credits the mentorship of two UF professors who helped shape her future path in leadership and in dermatology. Jim Thompson, D.V.M., Ph.D. ('81), an executive associate dean, guided her through the admission process as a prospective student, and later joined her and another classmate attending the Veterinary Leadership Experience. Thompson now serves as dean of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. Rosanna Marsella, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor of small animal clinical sciences who specializes in veterinary dermatology, trained and inspired Doerr's passion in the field.

Doerr was her class valedictorian and received her doctor of veterinary medicine degree from UF in 2010. Marking her graduation, she joined the Dean's Circle with a \$5,000 pledge. Today, she is on her way to doubling that commitment, and at age 32, she is the youngest Dean's Circle Leadership member.

Following her graduation from UF, Doerr accepted an internship at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania, where she developed her skills in internal medicine, surgery and emergency care. Her interest remained drawn to any dermatological conditions encountered, as animals suffering from skin conditions may have hair loss and sores that can affect the human-animal bond, in some cases, leading to abandonment. This compelling reason fueled Doerr's interest in caring for cat, dog and horse dermatological diseases.

"It's so rewarding when we are successful with treatments and the owner-pet bond is fully restored," said Doerr. "When the patients return for a follow-up visit, I am so happy to see owners holding and petting their dog or cat again."

Following her internship, Doerr was eager to begin a two-year dermatology residency at UC Davis' William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. As she gained more training, becoming board-certified to specialize in veterinary dermatology, she found herself building a new life in California.

While in Davis, she met her husband, Lucas Siegfried, who was a graduate student in environmental engineering.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Katherine Doerr

In addition to her love of beaches and surfing, he introduced her to backpacking and mountain biking to persuade her to stay in California. The couple moved to Santa Cruz, almost four years ago, to start their new careers and lives together, visiting family and friends in Florida when possible.

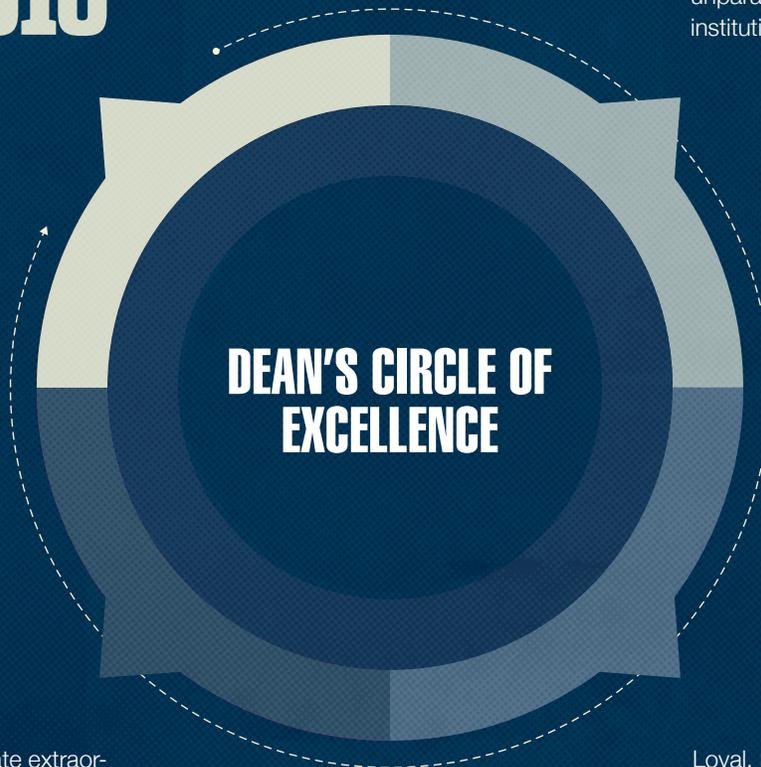
Doerr, enjoying her California work-life balance, joined Dermatology for Animals, a veterinary practice specializing in companion animal dermatology and allergy. Each week, she sees patients in nearby Aptos, California, and travels almost an hour north to their Campbell clinic outside of San Jose. Doerr believes it was the education, training and early mentoring she received at UF that set her course for a career doing what she loves most.

"I feel blessed to have had the experience and high-quality training while at UF, along with having such great classmates and colleagues," said Doerr. "Being able to give back, even a little bit, to support future veterinary students is how I try to say 'thank you' to all who gave so much time and guidance to me."

Dr. Katherine Doerr, shown shortly after her move to Santa Cruz, California in 2013, with her dogs, Toby and Hank. Toby, her companion for 11 years, passed away last fall. Hank was 6 months old at the time.

Founded in
2010

The Dean's Circle of Excellence is a unique club designed specifically to support the ongoing efforts of the college toward unparalleled educational and institutional excellence.

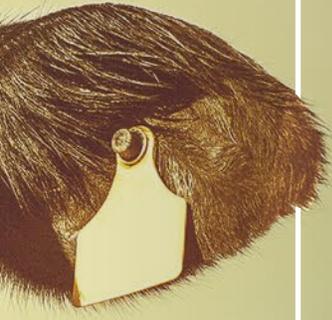


Our members demonstrate extraordinary dedication to the vision and future of the college by providing monetary and intellectual insight.

Loyal, Leadership and Lifetime membership levels available.

For more information about the Dean's Circle of Excellence, contact the Office of Advancement at **352-294-4256** or email advancement@vetmed.ufl.edu.





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HONORS AND AWARDS

2016 HERO VETERINARIAN AWARD GOES TO FACULTY MEMBER

A University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine faculty member, Natalie Isaza, D.V.M., has received the American Humane Association's 2016 "Hero Veterinarian" Award.

Isaza was named the winner on Sept. 11 in Los Angeles during the group's annual Humane Hero Dog Awards ceremony. The global animal health company Zoetis presented the American Humane Hero Veterinarian and Hero Veterinary Technician awards, which was broadcast nationally on the Hallmark Channel on Oct. 28.

A UF faculty member since 2003, Isaza is the Grevior Shelter Medicine Community Outreach clinical associate professor and leads the UF Veterinary Community Outreach Program. UF veterinary medical students who participate in the program gain experience in spay/neuter surgery, physical examination,

medical management of disease and community veterinary medicine.

She also co-founded the St. Francis Pet Care Clinic, which serves the pets of low-income and homeless members of the local community and in which UF students also participate.

"I am humbled and honored to have been chosen as the recipient of this award by the American Humane Association and by the many people who voted for me online," Isaza said. "To me, this award recognizes and honors all of the outstanding shelter veterinarians in our country who strive every day to improve the lives of homeless animals."

The American Humane Hero Veterinarian and Hero Veterinary Technician Awards came from the idea that behind almost every hero pet, and millions more animals, is a hero veterinarian or hero veterinary technician, according to an AHA press release



announcing the award winners.

"These often little-known benefactors save and improve the lives of our two- and four-legged best friends in many ways, and it is time to honor their achievements," the release states, adding that a panel of celebrities and renowned veterinary and animal care professionals considered hundreds of nominees.

The AHA named five finalists in each category in May, and the public made the final determination through a process of online voting.



The Charles Louis Davis Foundation recently honored Claus Buergelt, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor emeritus of anatomic pathology at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, for his career achievements.

The foundation presented Buergelt with its John M. King Award for Sustained Excellence in Veterinary Pathology on

PROFESSOR EMERITUS HONORED FOR CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

Dec. 5 during the American College of Veterinary Pathologists' annual meeting in New Orleans. The award has only been given twice before in the foundation's history, and was established to honor professors and teachers whose careers are focused on the study of pathology, discovery and teaching.

The foundation's mission is to further the international advancement of education in veterinary and comparative pathology. Through a variety of outreach educational programs, the group strives to advance the study of the diseases of animals and the comparison of diseases manifested by diverse species of animals, according to the foundation's website.

A 1965 graduate of Hannover Veterinary College, Buergelt completed

his Ph.D. at Cornell in 1976. He joined UF's veterinary medical faculty in 1978 and has since played a major role in developing and building the reputation of the college's anatomic pathology residency program, in addition to authoring numerous papers and publishing three books. At his retirement from the college in 2006, Buergelt's contributions and critical leadership were recognized as being essential in building and maintaining the high quality of the anatomical pathology program.

Since his retirement, Buergelt has continued his work on the foundation's Faculty of Discussants, and has performed work as a locum, allowing him to continue to teach and influence new generations of veterinary pathologists around the world.

SHELTER MEDICINE PROFESSOR HONORED BY NATIONAL GROUP

Julie Levy, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor of shelter medicine at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, has received the Meritorious Service Award from the Association of Shelter Veterinarians.

The award was presented during the annual meeting of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, held Oct. 5-8 in Atlanta.

A board-certified small animal internal medicine specialist, Levy is associated with the UF Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program. She was nominated for the award by two of her former residents, Staci Cannon, D.V.M., now medical director of Metro Animal Care and Control in Nashville, and Amie Burling, D.V.M., an assistant teaching professor with the University of Missouri's shelter medicine program.

Cannon and Burling called Levy "a true pioneer" whose contributions to the field of shelter medicine over the past three decades have had a profound international

impact on community animals and the humans who care about them.

"Dr. Levy's career achievements could be strikingly quantified through hundreds of research publications, hundreds of students trained, millions of dollars raised for shelter medicine and millions of cats and dogs saved, but her true impact on our new specialty is even more lasting," the former residents wrote in their nomination letter. "She has dedicated her life to a vision where words hold precise and meticulous power to advance understanding, where better is always possible, and where knowledge and intellect serve the least represented among us."

Levy, who joined the faculty in 1997, also founded Operation Catnip, a local organization that brings together veterinarians, technicians, students and community volunteers in an effort to trap, neuter and return stray and feral cats to their environment. The program, which



has provided free neuter and vaccination services for more than 100,500 cats since it was founded in 1998, has been replicated in other veterinary schools around the world.

The award was established in 2010 to honor a remarkable Association of Shelter Veterinarians member for his or her contributions to the advancement of the field through leadership, public service, research, education, advocacy and/or clinical practice. The award recognizes those who serve as exceptional ambassadors of the profession.



Best of the Best

Congratulations

COLLEGE, HOSPITAL WIN 'READER'S CHOICE' AWARDS

The UF College of Veterinary Medicine and its Small Animal Hospital made impressive showings in the Reader's Choice Awards contest sponsored by the Gainesville Sun, which announced the winners in a special section in the paper on Nov. 13.

The college took first place in the Gainesville Sun's 2016 "Best of the Best" Readers' Choice Awards in the Education & Pre-Education University Department category. In addition, the UF Small Animal Hospital was a finalist in the Everyday Services/Veterinarian category.

"No matter where anyone finished, it was amazing to be voted in the top three based on the fact that we received more than 90,000 votes," said Diane Smith of the Sun's advertising department.



GRADUATE RECEIVES UF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Richard Kane, D.V.M., a 1984 graduate of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received the UF Distinguished Alumnus Award in recognition of his accomplishments and service.

Kane is the founder and chief of staff of Care Animal Hospital and is co-founder of Surgi-Care Center for Horses in Brandon,

Florida. His community involvement includes serving on the board of directors of the Humane Foundation for Animals, as a past president of the Hillsborough County Veterinary Medical Society and as chairman of the Board of County Commissioners' animal advisory committee. He is active with the Brandon Chamber of Commerce and business community and has been recognized with awards from several organizations in his community over the years.

Local and national media have highlighted Kane's accomplishments in veterinary medicine and charitable work. Kane's practice also cares for many of his county sheriff's office K-9s.

An honors graduate of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, Kane has served on

its admissions committee and its alumni council. He also is a lifetime member of the Dean's Circle of Excellence, a group of elite college supporters. He received the college's Alumni Achievement Award in 2004 and is a 14-year Bull Gator at UF.

With his wife, Cheri, Kane founded True-Pet Wellness Program, which offers plans to advance pet health wellness care through client and patient management. Kane's daughter, Stephanie Kane Suiter, D.V.M., is a 2012 graduate of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine and practices alongside her father at Care Animal Hospital.

Kane received the award Dec. 17 during UF's commencement ceremony.

IN MEMORIAM

DR. EMERSON BESCH, A FOUNDING COLLEGE ADMINISTRATOR, PASSES AWAY

Emerson Besch, Ph.D., the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's founding associate dean for academic affairs and a professor emeritus in the department of physiological sciences, passed away on Nov. 16 in San Antonio, Texas, where he had lived for many years.

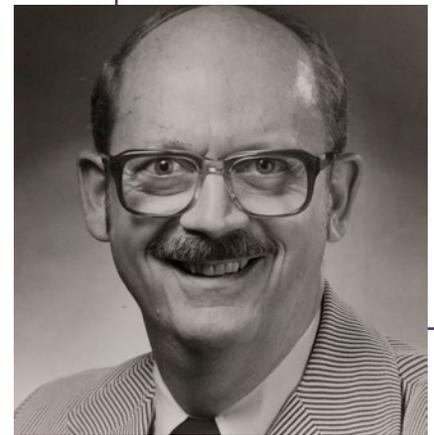
He served as a professor of physiology and mechanical engineering at UF from 1974-1993. He was the college's founding associate dean for academic affairs from 1974-1980 and was executive associate dean from 1981-1988. Besch served as acting head of the department of physiological sciences from 1974-76 and was acting dean of the college from 1980-81, following founding Dean Charles Cornelius' retirement. Besch also served as acting associate dean for research and

graduate studies in 1987.

Gary Ellison, D.V.M., a professor of small animal surgery at the college, said Besch had formally hired him as a faculty member.

"He definitely was the consummate right-hand man for Dean (Kirk) Gelatt and was a key player in making this place run," Ellison recalled. "During my interview, he made me feel relaxed and welcome. He had a large beer mug in his office, so we talked about drinking beer in the Hofbräuhaus in Germany during the interview."

He added that behind the scenes, Besch effectively led the college through some very difficult times, including budget cutbacks, sick-building syndrome and other challenges faced, but eventually



overcome, in the late 1980s.

Daryl Buss, Ph.D., a professor emeritus of physiological sciences at the college and a former dean at the University of Wisconsin's College of Veterinary Medicine, said Besch had been a great friend and administrative mentor.

"I'll miss trading emails with him," Buss said. "And given his passing, I'm all the more glad I met him for breakfast while in San Antonio recently."



CALENDAR

SPRING 2017

APRIL 15

Annual UF College of Veterinary Medicine Open House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

APRIL 6-9

Florida Veterinary Medical Association Conference: Alumni Reception and Dean's Circle Event

MAY 12

Sophomore Professional Coating Ceremony

MAY 27

Commencement

JUNE 10

Dean's Circle Event, at Reilly's Reserve, Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa, by invitation only

JUNE 17

Referring Veterinarian Appreciation Day (Gainesville) and Dean's Circle barbecue at 5 p.m.

JULY 21

American Veterinary Medical Association Alumni Reception

OCT. 19-22

Florida Association of Equine Practitioners Conference: Alumni Reception

OCT. 22

Team Vet Med bike ride/Horse Farm 100

NOV. 4-6

American College of Veterinary Pathology Conference: Alumni Reception

NOV. 17-20

American Association of Equine Practitioners: Alumni Reception

NOV. 30-DEC. 3

Gulf Atlantic Veterinary Conference: Alumni Reception and Dean's Circle Event