

WINTER 2022

# AUBURN

V E T E R I N A R I A N

*AUBURN'S EQUESTRIAN TEAM  
& VET MED*

## A WINNING COMBINATION



AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



**BOSHELL PROGRAM**  
The Fight Against Diabetes

**REMEMBERING**  
Woody Bartlett

**2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
J. T. Vaughan Equine Conference & Reunions



From the Dean

# Mutual Helpfulness

When beginning a story on the college, I seldom lead with a discussion of the sixth and final goal of our strategic plan: Operational Excellence. Yet, those of you engaged in veterinary practice, academia, government or industry recognize that operational excellence is the foundation for success by any measure — productive graduates, impactful research discoveries, a healthier planet, a favorable bottom line, etc.

This issue of the Auburn Veterinarian is filled with examples of ways in which the College of Veterinary Medicine thrives through partnerships to resourcefully create educational opportunities and grow in scholarly reputation. The Auburn Creed characterizes such synergism as **mutual helpfulness** and I would contend that operational excellence through partnerships is the engine that will drive our college's advancement in everything we aspire to do (<https://aub.ie/vetstrategicplan>).

What are the qualities of a good academic partner for Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine? I would place shared vision at the top of the list and would list trust, integrity, work ethic and the Auburn Spirit as core values underlying that vision. Inherent within

the Auburn Spirit is a deep belief that everyone is welcome and feels a sense of belonging as they work to achieve their greatest personal potential in support of Auburn's institutional success.

The College of Veterinary Medicine has partnered effectively with other colleges, organized veterinary medicine, government entities, athletics, corporations and a vast pool of supportive alumni and friends. The partnerships described herein represent only the surface of a deep and complex network that underpins the successes we celebrate today and forms a scaffold for our emerging opportunities.

I hope that these stories — made possible through strategic and mutually helpful partnerships — will motivate you to join or re-enlist with us on this exciting journey.

War Eagle!



Dean Calvin Johnson '86





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EXPLORE

# 04 | WORK TOGETHER, WIN TOGETHER

AUBURN'S EQUESTRIAN TEAM  
& VET MED

## CVM VIRTUAL TOUR

Explore the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine's digital campus tour for a look inside today's CVM.

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AUBURN'S  
EQUESTRIAN TEAM  
& VET MED

# A WINNING COMBINATION

WORK TOGETHER, WIN TOGETHER

by Mike Jernigan

## IS AUBURN, WITH ITS LAND-GRANT HISTORY AND STRONG AGRICULTURAL TIES, ACTUALLY A COW COLLEGE?

Not if you ask Greg Williams, head coach of the Tigers' outstanding equestrian team, or Dr. Jennifer Taintor, associate professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences, who oversees the veterinary care of the team's horse herd. For them, Auburn is a "horse college." And the Auburn equestrian team — despite having only competed as a varsity sport since 2002 — has six overall national championships, four hunt seat national titles, one western national title, one Southern Equestrian Conference crown and four Southeastern Conference championships to prove it.

Both Williams and Taintor have been associated with the team and its predecessors from its earliest beginnings in the 1990s, when Williams, a 1986 Auburn animal sciences graduate, managed the animal science equine breeding program, which would eventually evolve into the equestrian program with between 50 and 75 mares and five stallions. Taintor began working for Williams while an undergraduate student "doing a little bit of everything," then continued the job while attending veterinary school.

After graduating and leaving Auburn to go into practice for several years, she returned to Vet Med as a resident in 2000 and once again became active with the equestrian program which, by that time, had begun competing as a club sport. Taintor then joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 2007 and began to oversee most veterinary care for the team, by then a full university varsity sports program under the auspices of the NCAA.



Coach Williams let us students run the program," Taintor recalled of her student job. "It was ours. He taught us a lot about teamwork and problem-solving, plus it was a lot of fun. It was like a family and those experiences really impacted my college career. Working with the team now is like going back home. It's a chance to give back."



Greg Williams, head coach of the Auburn Equestrian Team

Williams also knows the team's horses couldn't be in better hands. "Our history with Dr. Taintor goes back 30 years, when she worked for me as an undergraduate," he said. "As for the equestrian program's history with Vet Med, it goes back to even before the team's beginnings. I started the team in 1996 and the Vet Med involvement has continued to increase through the years with the growing demands of the sport.

"Our team spent six years as a club program and then moved to the NCAA (the NCEA is the governing body for NCAA equestrian teams) in 2002," he continued. "That is when the pressure was really amped up. To have a string of horses competing at the varsity level, day in



and day out, is very daunting. But our care team in Vet Med doesn't just have the expertise, but also the competitive drive to keep Auburn's team ahead of our competition."

Today, the program's approximately 60 horses — which are split almost evenly between those used for Hunt Seat and those for Western competition — are utilized by the university's NCAA equestrian team, the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association team and equine education classes offered through the College of Agriculture's animal sciences curriculum. They are also part of the College of Veterinary Medicine's ambulatory rotations and two equine lameness diagnostic imaging rotations for veterinary seniors. According to Taintor, the horses, which are all donated, are largely ex-show horses that for one reason or another — age, past injuries, disposition, etc. — are no longer able to compete at the highest show level.

"The NCAA equestrian competition is not nearly as intense for these horses, so it's really like dropping down a level for them," Taintor explained. "In a lot of ways, they mimic human athletes. They still want to compete, just at a lower level. A good way to think of them is like Major League Baseball players who, due to injury, are sent down to the minor leagues, or older professional tennis players who

can no longer compete at Wimbledon or the U.S. Open, but still play in charity and celebrity tournaments."

Williams has a slightly different analogy. "I always say college equestrian competition is the rescue program for ex-show horses," he said. "Most of these horses are donated with some type of medical maintenance issue beyond the scope of what a typical owner wants to deal with. The largest number we have are horses that couldn't quite stand up to the rigors of industry competition. In that venue, they have to be perfect every single time, which gets hard for aging horses or those battling a sports injury. That is where we come in. We provide new flexibility and opportunity for these equine athletes."

Just as with human athletes, Taintor said most of the team's horse problems requiring veterinary care are musculoskeletal in nature. "As you would expect, we see a lot of wear and tear on joints, tendons and ligaments," she noted. "Many of the horses are a little arthritic as well. We usually have four or five on the injury list at any one time. If they reach a point where they can no longer compete, we try to find them good homes."

"Keeping the injury list as short as possible is important," she added, "because some horses are more talented than others." Since in

NCAA competition the home team provides the horses ridden by the members of both teams, Williams and his assistant coaches need as much flexibility as possible when considering the horses to be used in each meet. Taintor and the veterinary team determine which horses are able to compete, then the coaches choose their horse lineup based on the opponent and the level of competition they expect.

The success of the system and the synergy between the program and its veterinary care providers have been critical to the team's great success. Not only do the horses have a chance to continue to perform and extend their working lives, their care provides real world experience for numerous veterinary students each year. Equestrian team members are also exposed to the veterinary side of competition, resulting in relationships formed and knowledge gained to last a lifetime.

"We have a number of team members who have gone on to become veterinarians and several members of the current team hope to enter those ranks soon," Williams said. "Another great thing about the relationship between the equestrian team members and Vet Med is how many of these riders will depend on equine sport veterinarians later in life when they are competing as professionals

or adult amateurs. The demand to continue performing at a high level doesn't end with the completion of collegiate eligibility."

Taintor said the synergy works both ways. "Having an equestrian team is just a really good fit for Auburn. Coach Williams is not only very supportive of the relationship with Vet Med, but also the educational aspect of our students learning while helping to provide proper veterinary care. Learning takes practice and time, and he is very patient with the teaching component that comes with caring for the program's horses."

For his part, Williams is quick to point out that he considers the College of Veterinary Medicine an irreplaceable part of the program's remarkable accomplishments. "Not all equestrian teams have veterinary programs at their schools," he concluded, "so they are forced to seek outside help. Others have access to institutional veterinary programs that aren't invested enough to help them stay competitive in the NCAA realm. I feel really fortunate to not only have access to a great veterinary program with the expertise and facilities for competitive equine sports medicine, but also staff and students with a vested interest in the team's success. We all work together to win."



Dr. Jennifer Taintor, associate professor, Department of Clinical Sciences





— BOSHELL RESEARCH PROGRAM —

# BRINGING TOGETHER FACULTY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DIABETES

by Charles Martin

The U.S. recognizes National Diabetes Month every November, and Auburn University scientists are devoted year-round to researching this debilitating disease that affects one in 10 Americans.

Auburn's Boshell Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases Research Program has 54 faculty members from 10 academic units across campus researching causes and treatments for diabetes and obesity-related health issues, principally focusing on the cardiac, neurological and metabolic aspects.

"We have excellent faculty seeking to improve the lives of all people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes," said Professor Robert Judd, chair of the Boshell program and head of the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology in the College of Veterinary Medicine. "Our research will help people and pets, as dogs and cats can suffer from diabetes."

Diabetes and obesity are associated with serious health conditions, including hypertension, coronary heart disease, stroke, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, certain types of cancer, Alzheimer's disease, asthma and musculoskeletal disease.

"We have strong interdisciplinary collaborations among professors who are researching the prevention, cure and management of diabetes and its complications," Judd said. "We actively work together at Auburn and with faculty at other institutions to study the parallel epidemics of obesity and diabetes."

Auburn's program was established in 2001 through an endowment from the Birmingham-based Diabetes Trust Fund in honor of its founder, Dr. Buris R. Boshell, a 1947 graduate of Auburn, then Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

The Boshell program is also home to the Jim Fyffe Diabetes Research Fund that helps support graduate students conducting diabetes research projects. Fyffe was a longtime Auburn football announcer who died in 2003 due to complications from diabetes.

According to 2020 statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 34 million Americans have diabetes. Another 88 million adults are prediabetic, pushing the total number of those in danger of being afflicted with the disease to more than 122 million, or nearly one in every three people.

Examples of Auburn's diabetes research can be found campus-wide and include some of Auburn's most prestigious labs and renowned researchers.

The Boshell program also hosts an annual Boshell Research Day that brings in fellow researchers from around the country to share their research and develop new collaborations. The 13th annual event was held in September 2021, with more than 175 scientists and supporters participating.



Dr. Robert Judd, Boshell Chair and APP Department Head



# BOSHELL RESEARCHERS

## | ACROSS AUBURN

**Rajesh Amin, Associate Professor, Drug Discovery and Development, Harrison School of Pharmacy**

Amin’s research is focused on drug discovery for metabolic-related diseases, including energy dysregulation associated with Alzheimer’s disease and liver disease.

**Chris Easley, Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Sciences and Mathematics**

Easley is leading a research team seeking to enhance biological measuring capabilities to better understand diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

**Emily Graff, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine**

Graff’s lab is looking at ways to help obese cats and humans. She says there are many similarities between human and feline obesity, such as insulin resistance, hepatic steatosis (fatty liver), reduced life span and cancer.

**Michael Greene, Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality Management, College of Human Sciences**

Greene’s research is focused on metabolic diseases associated with obesity, including liver disease and colon cancer. The work in his laboratory spans from performing whole-body metabolism studies to RNA sequencing analysis.

**Ramesh Jeganathan, Professor, Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality Management, College of Human Sciences**

Jeganathan’s research is focused on investigating the molecular links between type 2 diabetes and Alzheimer’s disease, emphasizing aspects that have potential clinical significance.

**Robert Judd, Professor, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, College of Veterinary Medicine**

Judd’s research is focused on the impact of obesity on adipose tissue physiology and how this newly recognized endocrine organ becomes dysfunctional during obesity development. In collaborative studies with Amol Suryawanshi of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Joseph Brewer of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, Judd is expanding his research into the immunology of adipose tissue.

**Amarjit Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine**

Mishra aims to understand more about the regulatory pathways involved in airway inflammation. The Laboratory of Lung Inflammation, led by Mishra, is also interested in metabolic cues that coordinate immune cell activation and differentiation.

**Ya-Xiong Tao, Professor, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, College of Veterinary Medicine**

Tao is studying naturally occurring mutations in two receptors expressed in the brain, melanocortin-3 and melanocortin-4 receptors. His studies are seeking a better understanding of obesity from a genetic standpoint, and potential therapeutics of monogenic obesity.

**Geetha Thangiah, Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality Management, College of Human Sciences**

Thangiah is studying disparities in childhood obesity between African Americans and the white population, with the long-term goal of improving the health of minorities by identifying appropriate interventions.



NEW HISTORICAL MARKER RECOGNIZES

# SITE OF FORMER REGIONAL USDA LAB

by Jayne Hart

The Auburn Heritage Association, in conjunction with the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, recently erected a historical marker on the site of the former Regional Laboratory for Animal Disease Research, established at Alabama Polytechnic Institute in response to the federal Bankhead-Jones Act of 1935. Co-sponsored by Senator John Bankhead of Alabama, the act called for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or USDA, to establish regional research labs across the country to investigate agricultural problems associated with each region. Alabama was one of nine national sites representing the Southeast.

The university donated 40 acres for the complex adjacent to the former API CVM site, now located near the core of campus. Construction began in 1937 and included a main lab building, two buildings for small animals, an autopsy room, cattle and horse barns, isolation barns and facilities for dogs and cats. The new facility was completed in 1939. Auburn researchers concentrated their efforts on parasitic and infectious diseases of domestic animals in the southern states.

In 1938, the USDA hired Dr. B.T. Simms, a 1911 API veterinary graduate and protégé of API Veterinary Medicine founder Dr. Charles Allen Cary, to lead the laboratory. He supervised a staff of 11 veterinarians and parasitologists. Initial studies focused on diseases affecting cattle, including parasitic bovine coccidiosis and Johnes’s disease. The original laboratory closed in 1971 when a modern USDA facility was opened near the current location of the CVM, one mile west on Wire Road. The older facility continued to be used for biological research until the entire complex was razed in 2007, making way for the Auburn School of Kinesiology Building.

“The Regional Laboratory featured a group of investigators who confronted disease problems — namely those of parasitic origin — that were problematic for livestock and small animals,” said Benjamin Beck, director and research leader of the USDA Agricultural Research Service and Aquatic Animal Health Research Unit, of the significance of the marker. “The pace of discovery was substantial and the impact of the research program provided significant societal and economic benefits for food and companion animals and humans alike.”



— REMEMBERING —

# Woody BARTLETT

THE ULTIMATE COWBOY

by Mike Jernigan

According to Reid Hanson, professor of equine sports medicine and surgery at Auburn's J.T. Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital, when the late Haywood "Woody" Bartlett '64 was a young boy, he once told his father he wanted to be a cowboy. His father had other plans and disapproved, but his mother told him to follow his dreams. In the years that followed, not only did Bartlett become a veterinarian and a cowboy himself, he became a patron of others with similar dreams.

Early in his career, Bartlett, who died in June 2021 at the age of 84, owned a mobile veterinary practice and ranch in Pike Road, Alabama. As his subsidiary horse and cattle operation grew, he soon launched primarily into breeding and buying horses and acquired a larger ranch in Wyoming. The list of famous cutting horses in his horse herd was vast and his legacy breeding program won him the 2016 Zoetis AQHA Best Remuda Award for producing outstanding quarter horse bloodlines.

Bartlett also used his cattle and horse ranches to help train a generation of Auburn large animal vet students — and potential cowboys — from across the country over the last quarter century, a legacy that Hanson said was most appropriate.

"Woody had two true loves in addition to horses: furthering the education of Auburn vet students and helping ensure the continuation of the cowboy life."

One of the ways Bartlett supported Auburn vet students was through a castration clinic held at his Pike Road ranch — and more recently his Wyoming spread — every March. This allowed

groups of Auburn large animal students, supervised by several of their professors, to castrate about 50 of his yearling horses each year. "Woody supplied all the food, equipment and staff," Hanson recalled, "and the students did all the work. It was great hands-on experience for Auburn vet students each spring for 25 years."

And Bartlett didn't just talk nostalgically about the cowboy lifestyle, he actively sought to keep it alive. In June of each year, Hanson said he would invite aspiring cowboys from all over the country to his 500,000-acre Wyoming ranch for an intense 10-day breaking clinic led by former professional rodeo rider Bill Smith. Frequent guests included Hanson and other Auburn professors, Dean Calvin Johnson and the late former Auburn head football coach Pat Dye, one of Bartlett's closest friends.

"Woody would house and feed more than 100 people for 10 days. Over that period they would learn the ins and outs of breaking horses and break between 40 and 60 of them," Hanson said. "By the end of that clinic, those horses were ready to be part of the working herd and those participants had learned a whole lot about being real cowboys."

*"He became a vet at Auburn and he was also a world-class horse breeder, but Woody was always a cowboy at heart," Hanson added. "He generally avoided the spotlight, but his legacy will live on in all the vet students he influenced and the cowboys he helped to learn the ropes."*



Dr. Haywood "Woody"  
Bellingrath Bartlett '64



# A PARTNERSHIP WORTH BARKING ABOUT

by Mike Jernigan

When Auburn Police Sergeant and K9 Program supervisor James Perry and his canine partner Ikia — an eight-year-old Labrador retriever and German wire-haired pointer crossbred trained in explosives detection — are working, his thoughts occasionally return to his 2003 Alabama National Guard deployment in Iraq. It was there that he saw firsthand the havoc that IEDs, improvised explosive devices, could cause, along with how military dogs trained to detect them could help prevent tragedy and make soldiers and civilians safer.

Today, keeping people safe is the mission of both Perry and the other handlers and dogs in the Auburn Police Division, APD, K9 program. It is also the primary goal of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine's Canine Performance Sciences, CPS, program, which has led to the two programs forming a close and cooperative relationship. Currently the APD has four dogs specifically bred at CPS for becoming detection dogs or so-called Auburn Dogs — Ikia, Ginger, Underdog and Blair — three of which are trained in explosives/firearms detection and one that alerts on narcotics.

"Auburn's CPS program breeds dogs specifically for performing detection work and is the longest continuously running institutional detection dog breeding program in the nation," explained Pamela Haney, manager of CPS performance research and development. "From the time they are three days old, our puppies are engaged in age-appropriate protocols to prepare them for detection tasks. By the age of 12 months, the dogs have had several evaluations assessing their potential to be successfully trained as detection canines. We focus on preparing dogs that will be placed with operational explosives detection programs, particularly for the specialty of person-borne explosives detection.

"Some dogs may be retained by the program for detection-related research across myriad other target materials, including improvised/homemade

explosives, endangered and invasive species ecological detection and biological/restricted hazardous agents," she continued. "One or two of the highest performing dogs from successful litters are retained for breeding, and other dogs are retained with particular characteristics conducive to needed special detection research, development and other applications."

With the Auburn Police Division having its own growing K9 program, a close relationship between it and CPS was a natural fit. The first CPS-sourced APD dog, a Belgian Malinois named Dora, began serving in 2004. Through the mid-to-late 2000s, Auburn CPS instructors and dogs supported APD's security operations for football games with a new person-borne explosive detection capability that eventually evolved into its patented Vapor Wake explosives detection technology. With this person-borne capability, dogs are trained to detect and track the scent of explosives in the aerodynamic wake from moving persons.

The success of those efforts led to ever-greater cooperation between CPS and the Auburn police, culminating in 2014 with another CPS German shepherd named Elvis joining the APD as a tracking dog. Soon after, Blair, a narcotics-detecting Labrador retriever, which is still working with handler Officer Justin Fant at Auburn High School, was added to the force. The APD has had multiple CPS dogs in its K9 group ever since.

Although Dora, Elvis and Blair came to the APD directly from Auburn, other Auburn Dogs have come to APD by way of private canine training services that have trained the dog and APD handler as a team.

**"Auburn invests close to \$18,000 into the development and training of each dog, which will further advance detection technologies to make the world a safer place," said Haney. "Although a goal of CPS is to place exceptionally capable and prepared dogs in some of the nation's most sensitive security operations, the purpose of the program is not as a business to sell dogs. Rather it is to serve as a national resource for performing research, development and innovation to enhance detection canine capabilities."**

In 2015, the APD acquired Ikia, its first CPS-bred Explosives Detection Dog, EDD. Since then, two more Auburn-bred EDDs have been added, Underdog and Ginger. Sgt. Perry said the APD's plan going forward is to concentrate on EDDs — which can also detect firearms — when adding future dogs. Ginger was recently donated to the



Sgt. Jim Perry and Ikia



department’s K9 unit by the College of Veterinary Medicine as a replacement for veteran K9 Emily, who was retired earlier this year. Before Emily’s retirement, she served two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan helping to protect U.S. troops before working for seven more years with handler Sergeant Bud Nesmith and the APD K9 unit helping keep the Auburn community safe.

Now her role will be taken over by EDD dog Ginger, whose litter was sponsored by a philanthropic gift from Walt and Ginger Woltoz — Auburn Dog Ginger’s namesake — through the “Help Raise a Hero: Support a Litter” initiative. The program is comprised of a philanthropic community of donors who financially support the Canine Performance Sciences breeding program. Ginger mothered several litters of her own before undergoing training to become a police K9.

“Ginger is our first person-borne explosives search dog,” Perry said. “With her being brought into the program in this capacity, we have started moving in that direction with the program as a whole. We have trained Ikia for person-borne explosives detection and are currently working to train and certify Underdog as well.”

What’s it like working with these incredible canines? In addition to pre-event sweeps and person screening at large events like Auburn sports venues, the dogs work every regular shift just like their police partners. To a man, the handlers sing the dogs’ praises.

“Underdog and I work on a patrol shift, and he is with me anytime I put my uniform on,” said handler Officer Justin Sanders, a six-year APD veteran who joined the K9 program in 2020 with his new partner, a 3-year-old Labrador retriever. “On an average day, we respond to suspicious package complaints, calls for service, assist in locating firearms when needed, respond to bomb threats and assist surrounding agencies if requested. At the end of our 12-hour shift, Underdog comes home with me and he is my responsibility at all times.

“He has come to be my best friend and he is a very good listener,” Sanders added jokingly. “I enjoy working with him, and I would like to think he enjoys working with me. Even on off days, we hang out together most of the time, whether it be going on walks, to the park or him riding with me while I run errands.”

Perry is similarly attached to his partner, Ikia, but her unusual breed mix often raises eyebrows.

“People are always asking what kind of dog she is or I’ll overhear them saying things like that’s a ‘labradoodle police dog,’” he said. “That always leads to a conversation about her breed. I usually start by joking that she is a giant schnauzer.

“Then the conversation goes into explaining the cross-breeding process,” he added, “and that she was bred by Auburn University specifically for explosives detection work. People generally are amazed to hear about the program and find it very interesting that Auburn is involved in that kind of research. They usually follow up by asking her name, and of course then they want to know if her name is the same as the store. ‘Yes,’ I say, ‘she came with all of her nuts and bolts, but no directions.’”

But actually, the dogs do come with a long list of preprogrammed directions from their extensive training while at CPS.

“Superior detection dogs are rare,” Haney said. “CPS breeds and develops canines to possess specific traits. They must have a high reward value and be willing to search for long periods. CPS dogs must also have high hunt instincts, with their noses always stimulating them to investigate. They need high trainability, which gives them the ability to learn new tasks quickly. They must be highly motivated, not easily discouraged, attentive and able to work in any environment. And most importantly, the dogs must be medically sound.”

To achieve this, CPS follows state-of-the-art theriogenology practices, incorporating genetic and genomic concepts to influence breeding selection and enhance puppy development. These practices ensure CPS is making genetic progress. CPS puppies attend the program’s 11-month puppy school, where they are socialized, acclimated to being comfortable working in all types of places and learn the game of alerting to an odor to receive a reward.

Dogs undergo constant evaluations to tailor their development and training programs for their future work placement, giving them the greatest chance to succeed. The agency or private detection canine services companies that purchase the dogs from CPS then provide further training in specific targets before each dog begins its working career in law enforcement, security or other detection applications.

Even after the dogs become working canines, training for both dogs and handlers never stops according to Officer Jason Bryan, a New Jersey native who joined the APD in 2018 after transferring from Rutgers to Auburn, where he lettered three years in track and field. He is partnered with Ginger, the four-year-old Labrador retriever recently donated to the police department by the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“Training to become a K9 handler is very hands on,” Bryan said. “To become a basic EDD handler takes a four-week course. Then Ginger and I had additional training to become a Kinetic EDD Team, which means we can search persons in a crowd.

“Once trained, we had to pass a certification test through the United Police Working Dog Association, which involved searching vehicles, rooms, boxes, open areas and people. We had to find all of the training aids with no false indications. After certification, the department requires a minimum of 16 hours training every month for each K9 team, and every year Ginger and I will have to recertify to continue working together.”

A tremendous amount of work, training and love goes into making an Auburn Dog one of the finest detection dogs in the world, from the time it is born into a litter at CPS until it is retired to a life of leisure, usually between the ages of eight and 10 years. During that time, each dog will work intimately with a human handler, putting in the same number of long hours and taking similar risks to keep people safe. It is a tough, sometimes thankless job, but nothing else — man or machine — does it better.

**“The CPS program,” noted Haney, “provides a unique platform in the college for educating veterinary students, breeders, trainers and the public about canine reproduction, puppy development, detection training and, ultimately, protecting the public around the globe through the development of some of the world’s most highly regarded detection dogs. We like to say we are proud to be an essential part of keeping man’s best friend as man’s best defense.”**

For Perry, the feeling is similar, but even more personal. He remains in awe of the dogs’ abilities even after many years spent working with them.

“These dogs are simply amazing,” he concluded. “Their detection abilities far outweigh where all other technologies are today. I genuinely believe we can protect our community and visitors to Auburn and Auburn University in ways that could not be done without these dogs. And they are so much more than simple tools to their handlers. They are police officers, they are friends and they are family.”





— WALT AND GINGER WOLTOSZ —

# HELP RAISE A HERO

by Mike Jernigan

It was soon after Walter Woltosz, who holds both his bachelor's and master's from Auburn in aerospace engineering, toured the College of Veterinary Medicine's Canine Performance Sciences, or CPS, unit on a University Research Advisory Council tour that he and his wife Ginger decided they wanted to be a part of achieving the program's mission. That mission involves cutting-edge research into canine detection technologies that increase the capabilities of Auburn-bred dogs to detect existing and emerging threats.

"Ginger and I both love dogs," Woltosz recalled of that decision. "I told her about the program and we connected with Pam Haney, CPS manager of performance research and development. We liked the program so much and were so impressed with the amazing progress they've made over the last 20-plus years that we decided to sponsor a litter."

The couple, who are also members of Auburn's 1856, Petrie and Foy Societies, Athletics' Pat Dye Society and the College of Engineering's Keystone and Ginn Societies, was able to do just that through the CPS Help Raise a Hero – Support a Litter initiative, comprised of a philanthropic community of donors who financially support the CPS breeding program.

"Donations made through the initiative are used to help raise canine heroes and allow us to conduct research that underlies the development of some of the world's most highly regarded detection dogs," said Haney. "Walt and Ginger's tremendous gifts have helped accelerate the CPS vision of enhancing the abilities and lives of our canine partners to make the world a safer place."

One of the 10 puppies in the litter the couple sponsored was named for Ginger and, after mothering several litters of her own, has now been trained as an explosives detection dog and joined the Auburn Police Department K9 unit to help protect the Auburn community.

"Honestly," said Ginger Woltosz, "I would have been honored to have any of the CPS dogs named after me. The fact that Ginger has proven to be such an exceptional dog, that she was chosen to be one of the CPS breeders — and that she is so excellent in the work she does now with the APD — makes me even more proud and honored. Both Walter and I have been with her for more than one of her litters and played with her pups. We have also been fortunate to observe her as she demonstrated her detection skills."

"Our breeding program provides a unique platform in the college for educating veterinary students, clinicians and the public about canine reproduction, puppy development, detection training and, ultimately, protecting the public around the globe," said Haney. "Help Raise a Hero donors allow us to maintain our program's legacy of Man's Best Friend. Man's Best Defense."

For more information or to find out how you can participate in the Help Raise a Hero initiative, visit [www.vetmed.auburn.edu/cps](http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/cps).



Walt and Ginger Woltosz



Officer Jason Bryan with K9 Ginger and Ginger and Walt Woltosz





Aubie, Dean Calvin Johnson and Richardson

— BLACK ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT —

# DR. JOCELYN RICHARDSON '08

by Mike Jernigan

Dr. Jocelyn Richardson '08, who received both her bachelor's degree in animal and dairy sciences and her DVM from Auburn, was recently recognized as the College of Veterinary Medicine recipient of the 2021 Black Alumni Weekend Awards. The awards are presented annually by the Auburn Alumni Association to recognize honorees for outstanding achievements in their professional lives, personal integrity and stature and service to the university.

The seventh annual Black Alumni Weekend was held November 12-14, 2021, coinciding with the Auburn versus Mississippi State football game. This annual 3-day celebration featured family-friendly social events and networking opportunities, and provided an opportunity to celebrate the heritage, culture and legacy of Black alumni while shaping the future for Black students at Auburn University.

A Dothan, Alabama, native, Richardson is currently the lead veterinarian at Barry Veterinary Hospital in Miramar Beach, Florida. After earning her undergraduate degree from Auburn, she completed a master's degree in food sciences at Alabama A&M University before returning to Auburn to attend veterinary school.

Following graduation, Richardson completed a one-year rotating internship at Memphis Veterinary Specialists, then practiced as a full-time emergency clinician for four years. She later transitioned into preventative care, serving as chief of staff veterinarian at Banfield Pet Hospital in Dothan before taking her current position in Florida. Earlier this year, she was recognized as the 2021 Veterinarian of the Year by Southern Veterinary Partners headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, which owns and operates Barry Veterinary Hospital.



Richardson and Regenia Sanders '95, Alumni Association President



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## 2021

### AND J.T. VAUGHAN EQUINE CONFERENCE

In a change from the previous year's conference which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a large group of participants were welcomed back to Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine September 16-18 for the 2021 Annual Conference and J.T. Vaughan Equine Conference.

This year's gathering continued a tradition of 114 consecutive years of continuing education provided by the Southeast's oldest veterinary program. More than 460 attendees from across the U.S. attended the conferences, which provide opportunities for Auburn alumni, faculty, students, veterinary technicians and other veterinary professionals from across the region and nation to participate in cutting-edge continuing education sessions and professional networking opportunities.

The conference and sessions were sponsored by Southern Veterinary Partners, Covetrus, Merck Animal Health, Boehringer Ingelheim, Elanco, CareCredit, CreditBench, Royal Canin and American Regent Animal Health & Adequan. The three-day program offered presentations in various disciplines of small animal, farm animal and equine veterinary education, as well as numerous health and wellness courses. In addition, the combined conferences included an exhibit hall with 20 vendors.

The 2021 program offered more than 85 hours of professional sessions in various disciplines, including courses designed specifically for veterinary technicians. Online sessions were led by some of the top veterinary professionals from around

the nation, including speakers from the fields of veterinary education, research and business. The keynote speaker was Greg Williams, head coach of the Auburn Equestrian Team, who has led the team to six National Collegiate Equestrian Association overall national championships and four Southeastern Conference titles in his 26-year career at Auburn.

Among this year's professional presenters were Dr. Josep Aisa, assistant professor in small animal surgery (soft tissue) at the University of Tennessee; Dr. Colleen Best, a consultant and educator focused on nontechnical competencies, including veterinarian-client communication, veterinary team performance, well-being and resilience; Dr. Mike Brown, technical consultant for the U.S. beef business for Elanco Animal Health; Dr. Michelle Calvo-Lorenzo, chief animal welfare officer for Elanco; Dr. T. Robin Falkner, private consultant and industry technical services veterinarian; Dr. Richard Ford, emeritus professor of medicine in the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University; and Dr. John T. Groves, who owns and operates Livestock Veterinary Services in Eldon, Missouri.

Other 2021 presenters included Dr. Lore Haug, a behavioral specialist at Texas Veterinary Behavior Services in Sugar Land, Texas; Dr. Dean A. Hendrickson, who has served as hospital director and associate dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University; Dr. W. Mark Hilton, clinical

professor of beef production medicine at Purdue University and a senior technical consultant on the cattle team at Elanco; Dr. Liza Köster, clinical assistant professor of cardiology at the University of Tennessee; Dr. Patty Lathan, associate professor of small animal internal medicine at Mississippi State University; Dr. Sara Place, chief sustainability officer at Elanco; Dr. Brian Vander Ley, assistant professor and veterinary epidemiologist at the University of Nebraska's Great Plains Veterinary Education Center; Dr. Andrew Duke '75, who practices at Duke Animal Clinic in Mobile, Alabama; and Dr. Bert Gaddis, who practices at Indian Springs Animal Hospital in Pelham, Alabama, and is one of approximately 160 practicing animal dentists in the world and the only board-certified animal dentist in Alabama.

More than 500 alumni from the classes of 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016, as well as the classes of 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015 — who were unable to celebrate in person last year due to the pandemic — were in attendance for the 2021 class reunion celebration. Dr. Rory Applegate '11 and Dr. Denty Vaughn '11 were honored as the 2021 winners of Young Achiever Awards during the Class of 2011 reunion. Young Achiever Awards recognize members of the class celebrating their 10th anniversary. The awards recognize recipients' professional accomplishments in veterinary medicine, outstanding contributions to their communities and their overall advancement of animal and human health.

A special event, Career Connect, was held on September 19, following the Annual Conference. This event provided an opportunity for students and employers to interact one-on-one, establish professional relationships and discuss potential job opportunities. More than 45 employers and 150 students participated.

The first day also culminated in an awards ceremony honoring a group of distinguished veterinary professionals who have practiced their profession with great skill, knowledge, energy, compassion and professionalism and who have enhanced the college's reputation.

Three alumni — Dr. David L. Suarez '88, Dr. Douglas Martin '99 and Dr. Mark Cheney '69 — were honored as the 2021 winners of the Wilford S. Bailey Award. The award is the highest honor given to Auburn veterinary alumni to recognize their professional

accomplishments in veterinary medicine, outstanding contributions to their communities and the overall advancement of animal and human health.

It is named in honor of the late Wilford S. Bailey, a 1942 graduate of the college who held a 50-year continuous faculty appointment at Auburn, serving in positions ranging from veterinary instructor to dean to university president. Awardees are recognized in three different areas of eligibility: research and public policy, academia and private practice.

The winners of two other major awards were recognized, including the El Toro Award for Excellence in Food Animal Medicine and the John Thomas Vaughan Equine Achievement Award.

The 2021 El Toro Award was presented to Dr. E. Muncey Pryor II '78. Established in 1994 by Dr. James G. Floyd Jr. and his family in memory of his father, Dr. J.G. "Bull" Floyd, the annual award recognizes a veterinarian who—through his or her high ideals, dedication to the production of food animals and contributions to food animal practice and organized veterinary medicine — serves as a role model for veterinary students.

The 2021 John Thomas Vaughan Equine Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Timothy P. Stewart '79. Named after Dean Emeritus John Thomas Vaughan, the award recognizes leaders who help guide the equine industry to a better future. It is presented to an Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine alumnus who exemplifies the Auburn spirit through leadership, dedication to and passion for one's profession, hard work that improves individual and community outcomes and modesty in the impact that they have had on others and their profession.

**The 2022 Annual Conference will take place October 20-23, 2022.**

Visit the conference website at [auburnvetconference.com](https://auburnvetconference.com) or contact Meredith Smildsin at [vetconf@auburn.edu](mailto:vetconf@auburn.edu) for more information.

#### 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

##### PLATINUM LEVEL

Southern Veterinary Partners

##### GOLD LEVEL

Covetrus  
Merck Animal Health

##### SILVER LEVEL

Boehringer Ingelheim

##### BRONZE LEVEL

CareCredit / Royal Canin / CreditBench / Elanco  
American Regent Animal Health & Adequan



## BAILEY AWARDS

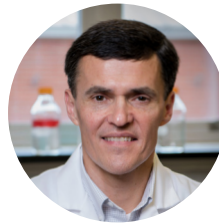
The Bailey Award is the highest honor given to Auburn Vet Med alumni, recognizing their outstanding accomplishments in veterinary medicine, contributions to their communities and the advancement of animal and human health. Named in honor of the late Wilford S. Bailey, a 1942 Auburn DVM graduate who held a 50-year continuous faculty appointment at Auburn serving in positions ranging from instructor to university president, Bailey was the first recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award which was later named for him. Each year, recipients are recognized in three distinct areas: academia, private practice and research/public policy.



**Marcus W. Cheney '69**  
(Private Practice)

Recipient of the 2021 Bailey Award in Private Practice, Dr. Marcus Cheney earned a DVM from Auburn in 1969

and later opened Cheney and Northrop Equine, now Northrop Equine, in Louisville, Kentucky. He has served 10 years on the Auburn Vet Med Large Animal Advisory Council and was appointed by Governor Matt Bevin to the Kentucky Equine Drug Research Council in 2021. Cheney is a prominent internationally respected racetrack veterinarian with a diverse and productive career in racetrack equine practice. He is recognized and respected worldwide by the most notable and successful horse trainers and owners, and he advises on conditions of the finest racing Thoroughbreds worldwide. Throughout his career, Cheney has been a mentor to students and ambassador for the veterinary profession, encouraging many students to consider veterinary medicine as a career.



**Douglas R. Martin '99**  
(Academia)

Recipient of the 2021 Bailey Award in Academia, Dr. Doug Martin received a doctorate in biomedical

sciences from Auburn, joining the faculty in 2004 as an assistant research professor in the Scott-Ritchey Research Center. He currently serves as director of the Scott-Ritchey Research Center and is a professor in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology. In 2002, Martin and his mentor conducted a project on gene therapy of an inherited, fatal, neurodegenerative disease in cats (feline GM1 gangliosidosis) with funding from the NIH. In a 2016 presentation at the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy, the team announced they had cured this disease with a single intravenous dose of adeno-associated virus vectored gene therapy. Human clinical trials were initiated three years later. To date, five children have been treated and given a chance at normal life. Martin has received numerous awards and honors, including the Above & Beyond Award from the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association, Auburn's B.F. Hoerlein Research Award and the 2020 Auburn Faculty Achievement Award presented by the Southeastern Conference (SEC).



**David L. Suarez '88**  
(Research and Public Policy, Other)

After earning a DVM from Auburn in 1988, Dr. David Suarez earned a Ph.D. at Iowa State University.

He is currently Research Leader for Exotic & Emerging Avian Diseases Research at the USDA's Southeastern Poultry Research Laboratory in Athens, Georgia, home to the U.S. National Poultry Research Center. Named recipient of the 2021 Bailey Award in Research/Public Policy, Suarez is an expert in avian influenza virus (AIV) and Newcastle disease virus (NDV). His work focuses on developing and implementing diagnostic tests for AIV and NDV and has been highly effective at curbing and eliminating AIV and NDV outbreaks internationally, as well as in developing robust surveillance systems domestically to protect the \$577 billion U.S. poultry industry. In recognition of his efforts as a USDA employee in response to the avian influenza outbreaks of 2015, he was awarded the AVMA's Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Public Service in 2017.

## YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARDS

The Young Achiever Awards recognize members of the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine's class celebrating its 10th anniversary. This year, two members of the DVM Class of 2011 were honored for their exemplary service to the veterinary profession, professional accomplishments in veterinary medicine, outstanding contributions to their communities and their overall advancement of animal and human health.



**Rory Applegate '11**

Dr. Rory Applegate received a DVM from Auburn in 2011 before completing a small animal rotating internship at the University of

Wisconsin, followed by an internal medicine residency at the University of Tennessee. She is currently a practicing internist and medical director at the Southern Oregon Veterinary Specialty Center in Central Point, Oregon. She has led the SOVSC Veterinary Blood Donor and Veterinary Mentorship programs and currently works alongside the management team to open the region's first standalone veterinary urgent care clinic.



**Denty Paul Vaughn, Jr. '11**

Dr. Denty Vaughn received an undergraduate degree in biology and master's in public health from the University of Alabama-Birmingham

before earning a DVM from Auburn in 2011. He completed a surgical residency at Mississippi State University, a surgical internship at Hollywood Animal Hospital in Florida, a rotating internship at Mississippi State and currently practices at Veterinary Specialists of Birmingham in Birmingham, Alabama.

## EL TORO AWARD



**E. Muncey Pryor '78**

Established in 1994, the annual El Toro Award recognizes an Auburn veterinarian, who, through his or her contributions to food animal practice

and organized veterinary medicine, high ideals and dedication to the production of food animals, serves as a role model for veterinary students and promotes food animal medicine. A Kentucky native, Dr. Muncey Pryor enrolled in Auburn under the SREB agreement and graduated with a DVM in 1978. Following graduation, he entered private practice in his home state and in 1979 opened his own practice serving large and small animal clients at the Henry County Animal Clinic. He remained as owner or co-owner until his retirement in 2020, was a principal founder of the Carroll County Animal Clinic in 2002 and has been active in various professional organizations. Throughout his career, Pryor has mentored many pre-veterinary and veterinary students and young veterinarians.

## JTV EQUINE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**Timothy P. Stewart '79**

Named for Dean Emeritus John Thomas Vaughan, the Vaughan Equine Achievement Award recognizes an Auburn veterinarian

who is dedicated to equine health and exemplifies the Auburn spirit through leadership and commitment to the veterinary profession. Dr. Tim Stewart graduated from Auburn with a DVM in 1979. Following graduation, he has operated and owned a small animal hospital and ambulatory equine practice in south Alabama and northwest Florida for over 30 years. The practice added an equine hospital in 2010. Throughout his career, Stewart has greatly impacted veterinary student education through externships and preceptorships. He has recently been instrumental in his support of the Auburn Vet Med equine clerkship rotation during the clinical year, through which he gives back to his alma mater and mentors students.



# CLASS REUNIONS

CLASSES OF '70, '71, '75, '76



CLASS OF  
1970

**Front Row (L to R):** Carr Hyatt, Rusty Phillips, Steve Copeland, Bernard Salamone, Thomas Shemwell, William Shannon, James Lester



CLASS OF  
1975

**First Row (L to R):** Cecil Boswell, David Cain, Deborah Glasscock, Grady Glasscock, Boyce Wanamaker, George Carlton, Allan Dozier, David Reeves, Andrew Duke | **Back Row:** Thomas Holmes, Jan Bailey, William Berry, Donald Bryant, Philip Gordon, John Crews, Earnest Johnson, Allen Roberts, Andrew Thompson



CLASS OF  
1971

**Front Row (L to R):** James Porter, Linda Clark, Frank Jones, Edwin Nordan, Pat Arrington, Perk Thornton, Oliver Jones, William Mitchell, John Causey, Paul Pack | **Middle Row:** Otis Schmitt, Richard Gossman, Robert Cole, Bryan Bain, Ronald Scott, John Phillips, Glenn May, David Cleveland, Don Stakelbeck, Leslie Schwartz | **Last Row:** Alton Ford, Dan Knox, Paul Cassel, George Moseley, William Moore, William Utroska, Thomas Tallon, David Wilder, Andrew Callaway, Dale Beighle, Jim Perkins, Pat Kyle



CLASS OF  
1976

**Front Row (L to R):** Darry Martin, Clenon Turner, Forrest Townsend, Robert Gukich, Jerry Thomas, Jerry Horn, Joseph Harrison, Paul Click, Roger Holt | **Middle Row:** Dennie Bassham | **Back Row:** Charles Athey, Doug Woolsey, Jack Warner, James Chancellor, Mike Harry, Larry Williams, Jimmie Sain, Barry Lynn Skaggs, John Hathcock, Randy Britt



# CLASS REUNIONS

CLASSES OF '80, '81, '85, '86



CLASS OF  
1980

**Front Row (L to R):** Danny Thrash, Bob Bush, Robert Martin, Lynn Hall, Guy Maxwell, Bill Brom, Marsha Cashwell, Dan Moore | **Back Row:** Walter Schaffeld, Richard Dart, Thomas Watts, Margaret Alexander, Michael Driscoll, Steve Weaver



CLASS OF  
1985

**Front Row (L to R):** Angela Ivey, Kurt Oliver, Lisa Shorter, Philip Smith, Monica Rogers, Alethea Gammage | **Back Row:** Michael Rehm, S. Dru Forrester, Elizabeth Lea Willis Jordan, Ben Wilson



CLASS OF  
1981

**Front Row (L to R):** Mike Christopher, Betsy Sigmon, Genye Hawkins, Susan Coe, Kendra Shaffer, Thomas Fell | **Middle Row:** Glenn Finnell, Alan Howard, W. David Howton, Roger Murphy, Charles Franz, Edmund Steadman, Walter Arnold, Ralph Halbrooks | **Back Row:** Tim Thornhill, James Rice, Charles Roney, Scott McLelland, Kevin Doughty, Joseph Patrick Taylor, Jeffrey Shaffer



CLASS OF  
1986

**Front Row (L to R):** Denise Pelphrey, Jane Mason, Connie Clemons- Chevis, Suzanne Alton, Calvin Johnson, Charles A. Timpone | **Middle Row:** Robert Johnson, John Dougherty, David Turner, Karen Larsen, Darrel Coffey, Deborah Hyams Wade, Kim Garofolo | **Back Row:** Todd Bickett, Robert Hicks, David Harding, David Claunch, Michael Matthews, Frank Vice, Paul Garofolo



# CLASS REUNIONS

CLASSES OF '90, '91, '95, '96, '01



CLASS OF  
1990

**Front Row (L to R):** Cathy Davis, Mary Smith, Frances Wheeler, Harold H. Wade, Faith Hughes, Carolyn Congleton, Joanna Sonmor | **Back Row:** Franklin Wilhite, Randy Fullerton, Jon Todd, Scott Tritsch, Toby Atkinson, Robert Hawkins



CLASS OF  
1995

**First Row (L to R):** Terry Ahern, Tara Garvey Allen, Andrea Shaw, Cindy Thomas-Purvis, Heidi Winot, Tammy Stumpff, Kelly Tierney Stewart, Debora Kilgallin, Valerie Smith, Andrea Anderson | **Back Row:** Todd Thomas, Richard Walker, James Crisman, Roosevelt Albert, Matthew Townsend, Greg Hazelrigg, Dwayne Allen, Charles Jones, Phillip Falkner



CLASS OF  
1991

**Front Row (L to R):** Scott H. Hancock, Linda McCoullough, Carrie Schneider, Babette Authement, Joseph Conn, Bryan Waldrige | **Back Row:** Mike Crowley, Eric Hulsey, David Handel, Roy Moring, Karin Collins, Scotty Head, Craig Martin, Curtis Stovall, John MacDonald



CLASS OF  
1996

**Front Row (L to R):** Kathleen Szabo, Robin Turner, Connie Spencer-Below, Lauri Dispennette | **Back Row:** Christine Akers, Karen Reesor, Anne Elise Napier



CLASS OF  
2001

**Front Row (L to R):** Rebecca Fratello, Kristi Busby, Meredith Voyles, Misty Edmondson, Kimberly Hill | **Back Row:** Elizabeth Bryan, Kevin Barlow, Jennifer Hoch, William McCaw, Troy Youngblood, Robin Burke



# CLASS REUNIONS

CLASSES OF '05, '06, '10, '11



CLASS OF  
2005

**Front Row (L to R):** Alicia Wagoner, Lee Ann Mitchell, Marnie Gamm, Cindy Shower, Leigh Ann Gannon | **Back Row:** Justin Mims, William Earley, Lisa Scebra, Michael White



CLASS OF  
2010

**First Row (L to R):** Roberta Wrighten, Benjamin Palmer, Ashley Ward, Jessica Rush, Victoria Drouet Pratt, Mary Edmonds, Nicole Elstner, Lori Eidson | **Back Row:** Frank Aman, Chance Armstrong, Jill Oliphant, Michael Ruby, Michelle Burch, Lauren Vankeuren, Jane Ashley Stuckey Huey, Erin Brown, Heather Gill, Erin Chamorro



CLASS OF  
2006

**Front Row (L to R):** Blaine O'Reilly, Claire Hacker, William Hagans



CLASS OF  
2011

**Front Row (L to R):** Anne Finke, Lauren Cochran, Sara Lewis, Kimberly Scully, Ashley Homm, Emily Kirkpatrick, Rory Applegate | **Back Row:** Eric Mueller, Mark Finke, Denty Vaughn, Luke Griffith, Audra Judkins, Jordan Gentry, Anna Bannon, Jessica Tully, Amy Mordecai





NICKIE BAIRD NAMED

## ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR CLINICAL AFFAIRS

**A**. Nickie Baird, DVM, MS, DACVS has been selected as associate dean for clinical affairs and professor with tenure in the Department of Clinical Sciences effective Jan. 10, 2022, following a successful national and international search.

A tenured professor with four-and-a-half years in rank and 20 years on faculty in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University, Dr. Baird is well qualified to serve in this position based on credentials, experience and leadership as chief of staff for nine years, member of the Teaching Hospital Administrative Council for 15 years and member of the hospital's interim management team during a recent transition in directorship from 2019-20.

Dr. Baird earned a bachelor's degree from North Carolina State University, master's degree from Texas A&M University and a DVM from Auburn University in the Class of 1984. He is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons or ACVS. Prior appointments include a 3-year faculty appointment at Penn and eight years as a faculty member — from 1990-98 — achieving tenured associate professor rank at Auburn University.

In his role as chief of staff at Purdue, he has represented the interests of the large animal faculty and staff to the hospital director. Dr. Baird will bring a balanced perspective to the associate dean for clinical affairs position that will translate into actionable plans for further advancement of the hospital's academic mission and operations within the context of the college's strategic plan.

Dr. Baird has been highly engaged as a faculty member over his 20-year faculty service at Purdue. He currently contributes

approximately 24 weeks of clinical service per year in Large Animal Surgery I and contributes to didactic/lab courses in Large Animal Surgery I, Large Animal Surgery II and Applied Anatomy of Production Animals. He brings a solid record of scholarly productivity as a senior clinician in the discipline of food animal surgery and its integration with veterinary clinical education. Over the course of his appointment at Purdue, he has mentored 42 graduate students, residents and interns. Of those in the graduate student track, he has served as primary advisor for five and mentor for 10. In the clinical track residency program, he has served as a committee member for 11 residents. He has also served on five master's advisory committees and chaired one. Dr. Baird has a consistent record of service as a mentor for veterinary students — 36 since 2005. His excellence in student engagement is reflected in his service twice as the student-elected keynote speaker at the college's 2020 and 2021 white coat ceremonies.

Dr. Baird has contributed to the publication of 57 peer-reviewed research papers, seven published proceedings in the field of food and fiber animal surgery and has also contributed to multiple case studies derived from hospital patients. He has personally delivered 15 scientific lectures to regional, national or international groups and has engaged the veterinary and veterinary surgery communities with 19 national, 24 regional/state and 16 local continuing education presentations. These have led to 12 peer-reviewed continuing education publications, editorship of four books with multiple chapter contributions and 19 published book chapters. He has been engaged in the ACVS, American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the World Buiatrics Congress, in addition to serving on numerous committees at the university, college and department levels. Collectively, Dr. Baird's performance demonstrates a high level of engagement in academic veterinary medicine, hospital operations, shared academic governance, specialty services and organized veterinary medicine, resulting in a portfolio well suited for the role of associate dean for clinical affairs.

Regarding his appointment as associate dean for clinical affairs, Dr. Baird stated: "It is difficult to find the words to adequately express my appreciation to the Auburn faculty, staff and administration for giving me the opportunity to return home as associate dean for clinical affairs. My experiences at other institutions provide me the unique perspective through which to take a fresh look at our program to build on our strengths and make changes in areas that can be improved. I look forward to working alongside Auburn's world-class faculty in our state-of-the-art facility to provide the best possible care to patients and great service to our clients and referring veterinarians while continuing to produce the outstanding practice-ready graduates that have always been a strength of the Auburn program. Our goal will simply be to make Auburn a little better today than it was yesterday."

CAMUS SELECTED FOR

## ACVP LEADERSHIP PANEL



**D**r. Melinda Camus, associate dean for academic affairs, was recently featured on a national panel presented by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, or ACVP. The panel session titled Inspiring Leadership for Women in Academia, was presented as part of the popular Path Chat series hosted by the ACVP Lifelong Learning

Committee. Camus was featured alongside Dr. Dori Borjesson, dean of the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Susan Tornquist, dean of the Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The ACVP mission is to promote excellence in veterinary pathology through its members as they protect and improve animal, human and environmental health to benefit society.

RAZ, GLARROW

## RECEIVE AVTA AWARDS

**T**wo Auburn Vet Med veterinary technicians were recognized at the 2021 Alabama Veterinary Technician Association Annual Conference October 23, 2021. Danielle Glarrow, Auburn Small Animal Neurology Service technician and secretary of the 2022-2023 AVTA executive board, was named LVT of the Year. According to the AVTA, this annual award honors one outstanding veterinary technician who is currently licensed in the

state of Alabama and whose contributions have consistently worked to elevate standards, encourage other technicians and improve the field of veterinary technology. Maggie Raz, Small Animal Internal Medicine Service technician, was awarded an AVTA Veterinary Technology Distance Education scholarship. Currently a licensed veterinary technician with an associate degree, she has returned to school to pursue a bachelor's degree in Veterinary Technology to support her future career goals of becoming an educator.

KOORY AWARDED

## THE FOUNDATION FOR THE HORSE RESEARCH GRANT

**A**uburn Vet Med equine surgery resident Dr. Sarah Kooy recently received a research grant from The Foundation for the Horse. The Foundation invests in clinical advances supporting its three pillars of impact — equine research, education and at-risk horses. Kooy is one of only seven equine researchers awarded Foundation grants to support on-going impactful equine research performed by AAEP-member graduate students, residents or postdoctoral fellows.

Kooy's research focuses on observing differences in neutrophil proliferation and function with direct and indirect treatment of PRP that will likely further strengthen the need for practitioners to use pure (leukocyte reduced) PRP for enhanced repair of musculoskeletal injuries, which is important to minimize reinjury and protect continued athletic performance.

The grant awarded to fund Dr. Kooy's research is supported by a gift from the Thoroughbred Education and Research Foundation, whose mission is to make racing safer through research and education to improve the health and safety of Thoroughbred athletes.



— PAUL WALZ JOINS —

# SEC ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COHORT

**D**r. Paul Walz, head of the Department of Pathobiology, is one of four Auburn University professors competitively selected to join the 2021-22 SEC Academic Leadership Development Program cohort. The three additional Auburn University faculty joining the cohort include Chase Bringardner, College of Liberal Arts; Lori Hornsby, Harrison School of Pharmacy; and Jeff Reese, College of Education.

The SEC Academic Leadership Development Program's goal is to identify, prepare and advance academic leaders for roles within SEC institutions and beyond. The Auburn participants join more than 500 individuals who have participated as fellows in the SEC Academic Leadership Development Program since its establishment in 2008.

Traditionally, the program operates through three components consisting of a university-level development program designed by each institution for its own fellows, two SEC-wide three-day workshops and a competitive fellowship designed to yield academic growth opportunities for former fellows. However, due to COVID-19, the 2021-22 program experience has been adapted to include both virtual sessions and in-person workshops.

Walz has been a part of the Auburn faculty for 17 years. Before coming to Auburn, he earned the DVM from Michigan State University and briefly ran a practice in Corunna, Michigan. In 2000, he joined the faculty at Kansas State University, before coming to Auburn in 2004. His research interests include medical and surgical conditions affecting food animals, as well as infectious diseases of cattle.



— KELLY, FARRELL AWARDED —

# AABP SCHOLARSHIPS

**A**uburn veterinary students Madison Kelly and Jordan Farrell earned national academic scholarships from the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. The awards were presented at the 54th annual meeting of the AABP in Salt Lake City, Utah, in October 2021. Kelly was one of nine students awarded a \$10,000 Amstutz Scholarship. Farrell was one of 13 students awarded a \$5,000 Zoetis AABP Foundation Scholarship. Both scholarship programs were established to attract veterinary students to food animal practice and provide funds to support the top students who demonstrate the character, knowledge, experience, motivation and potential to become outstanding bovine veterinarians in the United States and Canada.

2021

# STAFF RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Auburn Vet Med Staff Recognition Awards Ceremony is held annually to recognize how vital administrative staff and employees are to the college's success in student education, animal healthcare and research initiatives. The college established an employee committee to recognize and honor employees who consistently and consciously go beyond their normal work activities in support of the college's mission.

## Staff Recognition Award

Angela Sheflin  
Chris Ferrell  
Leigh Anne Kuhn

## Janice Ham Saidla Award

Kellye Berkley

## Deborah Hatch Czerkowski Award

Stephanie Kadletz

## Regina Rodriguez Williams Award

Shannon Hughes

## Dean's Award

Kenny Pitts

# FACULTY & RETIREES



## FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

### Jenna Bayne

Associate Clinical Professor,  
Clinical Sciences

### Douglas Castro

Assistant Clinical Professor,  
Clinical Sciences

### Larissa Castro

Assistant Clinical Professor,  
Clinical Sciences

### Erin Chamorro Ortega

Assistant Clinical Professor,  
Clinical Sciences

### Christine Charvet

Assistant Professor, APP

### Dillon Devathanan

Assistant Professor,  
Clinical Sciences

### Kristine Griffett

Assistant Professor, APP

### Dana LeVine

Associate Professor,  
Clinical Sciences

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# WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD



By Dr. Tom Vaughan '55  
Dean Emeritus

It's bad form to use yourself as an example, **except as a bad one**. So, to enter this little discussion on an autobiographical note would seem to violate that maxim at the outset. Nevertheless, I proceed on this exercise of temerity, not with abandon, but with awareness of the burden of proof in hopes of making my point.

History affords ample example to refute the notion that ours is the worst of times. We didn't invent strife between opposing ideologies. In answer to the question, "Why is politics in academia so vicious?" the response, "Because the stakes are so low..." is matched by vivid accounts of the "stained-glass jungle" of church intrigue. Recent debate in Protestant policy barely balances the one as to whether the President may be censured by the Catholic church on issues over abortion and same-sex foster parentage.

Wordsworth's lines from "The Happy Warrior" are worth remembering: "Tis he whose law is reason; who depends upon that law as on the best of friends; whence in a state where men are tempted still to evil for a guard against worse ill, and what in quality or act is best doth seldom on a right foundation rest." Added at this point, their bones interred under the epitaph of "Stillborn Good Intentions."

No better illustration of the paradox of politics can be found than in the 19th century when the Whig Party was formed in about 1834 in opposition to the Jacksonian Democrats, succeeded about 1854 by the Republican Party which became known by the Democrats as the Radical Republicans, who ardently supported the abolition

of slavery and Lincoln's election to the presidency. Subsequent the Civil War, it was the "Radical Republican Congress" that imposed the Carthaginian peace on the South that left Union soldiers occupying all nine of the Confederate States for 12 years after the end of the war, until the end of Grant's administration. The recession that followed, under the oxymoronic euphemism of Reconstruction, left the South economically crippled for generations, and more certainly contributed to the culture of segregation and regional animus. Thus, the Solid South which emerged from the Civil War remained firmly Democrat until after the mid-20th century, after World War II. How ironic the Red States are now so strongly Republican and the Blue States Democratic, and all their political philosophies diametrically opposed to those of the mid-19th century. What do you suppose Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln must be thinking in their graves?

As we embark on these turbulent waters, an assumption: everyone has a grievance, some petty (tattoos), some profound (climate change). To challenge it, without the opportunity to be heard, puts the advocate on the defensive and closes the door on dialogue, to the exchange of ideas and opinions, and any hopes of compromise or agreement. Avoidance of jumping to a conclusion before hearing both sides of an issue is one of the hardest lessons to learn for the neophyte administration. So, with that life preserver firmly secured, we set sail.

Anyone aspiring to public service — in fact anyone — would be better off to heed the advice of Polonius to Laertes (Hamlet): "Give thy thoughts no tongue, nor any unproportioned thought his act. Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar. The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel. But do not dull thy palm with entertainment of each new-hatched, unfledged comrade. Beware of entrance to a quarrel, but being in, bear that the opposed may beware of thee. Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice; Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment."

Ought to be required reading like taking oath on the Bible.

So, to continue, ostensibly sound policies, laws and principles of government based on rational logic become misinterpreted or purposely distorted to represent certain views or favor selfish goals that may never have been the original intent. Thus, we confuse the issues with extreme claims and identities that arouse the passions and abandon the reason, with argumentum ad hominem, the personal attack philosophy against the man rather than the principle or political ideology. In other words, identity politics. Or argumentum ad absurdum that appeals to the extreme and attempts to establish a claim by showing that the opposite scenario would lead to absurdity, contradiction or impractical result. Remarkably, some of these gain notoriety and public acceptance, and are recognized as vernacular, language of the street. A now familiar example is woke — intended to mean alert to injustice and oppression in society, now interpreted as racism, a brand which is thrown about so loosely today as to replace Hawthorne's Scarlet Letter A with the cancel culture's letter R.

Another is critical race theory — a body of legal scholarship and academic movement of civil rights scholars and activists in the U.S. that seeks to critically examine U.S. law as it intersects with issues of race in the U.S. and to challenge mainstream American liberal approaches to racial justice. Another is equity — impartiality, a system of law designed to protect rights and enforce duties fixed by substantive law. Cancel culture is a modern form of ostracism in which someone is thrown out of social or professional circles for reasons or behavior deemed unacceptable and has mostly negative connotations. Diversity implies multiculturalism and diverse ethnicity. Inclusivity embraces these origins into mainstream society. Black Lives Matter addresses historical oppression and discrimination and modern-day concerns over injustice. (Terms are as defined online including Wikipedia.)

What is regrettable is the misuse of these ideas to indoctrinate those impressionable groups, such as young children, with bias towards certain ethnic groups (the opposite of inclusivity) creating confusion and misunderstanding as to their own identity.

Also under attack is history, which has always been a target of revision, but now faces the possible fate of eradication, on the Biblical (Old Testament) reparation of the sins of the fathers visited upon successive generations — the yet unborn. As Santayana warned, if we forget history, we may be doomed to repeat it.

It would be patently inappropriate in this space for the author to express an opinion, other than to acknowledge the considerable debate these subjects have provoked, especially concerning children's curricula taught in public schools.

So, dare we address resolution of the conflict? By other means than armed revolt which has accomplished only more deeply entrenched division?

I return to personal experience. My father descended from antebellum Virginia plantation stock which risked civil disapproval by providing their employed tenants with instruction to read and write. They were so loved and appreciated that the tenants remained on the farm after the war.

A remarkably related event is that Dr. Robert Russa Moton, the second president of Tuskegee Institute (1915-1935), was a direct descendant of the family that was employed on the Vaughan plantation. In a quote from Moton's autobiography: "In January 1867, my father hired himself to Mr. Samuel Vaughan of Prince Edward County and was made foreman or 'headman' on the Vaughan plantation..." Dr. Moton, who by 1915 had acquired a sterling record at Hampton Institute, was Booker T. Washington's choice for a successor, in agreement with Tuskegee's Board of Trustees which included Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt. Dr. Moton's arrival at Tuskegee Institute concurred within a year of my father's tenure (1914), bringing the lines back together after a lapse of two generations. Then, on the occasion of my brother's death in 1934, Dr. Carver wrote my parents the most beautiful letter of condolence quoting James Whitcomb Riley, which my wife and I placed in the Carver Museum.

Continuing the chronologue of memories, it has been my privilege to have personally known every dean and many of the faculty of the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine since it was established in 1944. It was also my honor to have been asked by the families to deliver eulogies at the funerals of Dean Walter Bowie and distinguished faculty member Dr. Edward Braye.

And I would be remiss if I failed to pay credit to my many teachers outside of the classroom, as exemplified by Robert Smith who, as a young man, had driven teams of mules pulling slipscrapes to build levees on the Mississippi River before bulldozers were invented. Robert and I, as a young instructor, made barn rounds of all the patients in the large animal clinic every morning. I can remember to this day Robert saying, "Dr. Tom, if you'll quit sticking needles in him, I believe I can get him to eat." God bless Robert's memory and the many like him to whom I owe an everlasting debt.

Continuing this tradition on his own after the turn of the century, my father became close friends with Tuskegee Institute faculty, including Dr. George Washington Carver whom I knew as a child.

H.A. Vaughan started out as Macon County's first Cooperative Extension Service agent in 1914 before opening his own small business, an old-time farmer's exchange, selling livestock feed, seed and fertilizer, as well as mule harness and plows for cultivation of cotton and corn. He also farmed himself in a diversified operation of row crops, range cattle and timber. He treated his tenants with as much care and consideration as he did the Institute faculty. During the civil rights protests of 1957-61, the H.A. Vaughan Feed & Seed Store was the only business in Tuskegee that was not boycotted. It is no exaggeration to say that his family was loved and respected by the entire black community — town and gown. The store is still in operation — by the third generation for an uninterrupted century.

My mother, the poet of the family which consisted of four sons, instilled in me a love of verse, one of which was James Henry Leigh Hunts' "Abou Ben Adhem." The theme was captured when Ben Adhem told the angel, "I pray thee, then, write me as one that loves his fellow-men," which earned Ben Adhem God's favor: "And, lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest."

Never presuming so daunting a task as composing acceptable — and enactable — public policy that would satisfy all our grievances and bring peace to the land, how would it be if we could individually adopt Ben Adhem's philosophy and practice it with everyone we met in daily life?

**This, then, is my humble proposition. Starting today, no, yesterday, to the beginnings of time, treat our fellowmen, all of them, with respect and love and forbearance, and see what happens.**

Respectfully, Yr humbl and obdt svt,  
JTV



IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. Marie Hall Attleberger '47** | Marie Hall Attleberger, 97, passed away August 17, 2021. She was the second woman to graduate with a DVM from Auburn and was recipient of the Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2003. A highly respected and nationally recognized veterinary mycologist, she served on the Auburn Vet Med faculty until her retirement in 1986 as professor emerita. As one of her students, Dean Calvin Johnson remembered her as being knowledgeable, practical, authoritative and fair in the classroom and laboratory.

**Dr. James Donald Bilberry '54** | James Donald Bilberry, 90, passed away August 1, 2021. Known as Doc to his countless friends and family, he received his undergraduate degree at Louisiana State University, before earning his Auburn DVM, graduating cum laude. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War before opening a veterinary clinic in McGehee, Arkansas, in 1957. In addition to serving his clients, Doc also dedicated himself to public service and the betterment of his community. He was appointed to serve on the Arkansas State Racing Commission in 1968, and in 1975 helped organize the Delta Chapter of Ducks Unlimited. In 1995, he was chosen as Arkansas Veterinarian of the Year. He is survived by six children, 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Ingram P. "Tom" Johnson Jr. '56** | Ingram P. "Tom" Johnson, Jr., 90, passed away August 22, 2021. After earning his DVM from Auburn, he moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he later opened his own practice, Eastgate Animal Clinic. He later expanded to open Olde Towne Animal Clinic in Germantown, Tennessee. During his years of practice, he served on the Memphis/Shelby County Veterinarian Association board and the Animal Emergency Board, and was one of the founding members of the Animal Emergency Center. He had the opportunity to practice alongside his son, Gram, for eight years until he retired in 1996. Survivors include his wife, Chita, three children, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and a sister.

**Dr. Bobby Grant Lawson '57** | Bobby Grant Lawson, 89, passed away August 2, 2021. He attended Hiwassee College and the University of Tennessee before earning his Auburn DVM. He launched Lawson Animal Hospital in Maryville, Tennessee, in 1960, where he continued his practice until retirement. He is survived by a brother, three children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Dr. Thomas Lynwood "Lyn" Barber '58** | Thomas Lynwood "Lyn" Barber, 87, passed away September 12, 2021. After earning his DVM from Auburn, he began his research career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Research Service, working at Plum Island Animal Disease Research Center in New York. He later completed graduate study at Cornell University College of

Veterinary Medicine, earning a master's and Ph.D. in microbiology. He transferred to Denver in 1969, joining the Animal Disease Research Lab at the Federal Center before retiring in 1985. Over his career, he worked at the University of California Veterinary School in Davis, California, the Greek National Lab in Athens, Greece, and the South African Veterinary Lab near Pretoria and in Mexico City. Survivors include three children and two grandchildren.

**Dr. Ronald Leon Dumas '60** | Ronald Leon Dumas, 85, passed away September 11, 2021. He attended the University of Florida before earning his Auburn DVM. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he owned Dumas Veterinary Hospital in Inverness, Florida, for 36 years. Survivors include his wife, Marie, three children, five grandchildren, one great-grandchild, a brother and two sisters.

**Dr. James Malcolm Kling '61** | James Malcolm Kling, 85, passed away August 26, 2021. He obtained his DVM from the University of Georgia before earning a master's from Auburn in physiology and biochemistry and a Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Florida. He returned to the University of Georgia CVM in 1961, where he taught anatomy for two years. Beginning in 1967, he served as the director of the Office of Research and Support Services, attending veterinarian and professor at the Medical College of Augusta until his retirement in 2001. He taught numerous future veterinarians, physicians, physician assistants and even medical illustrators, and also served as interim vice president for research and interim chair of Pharmacology. In 2009, he was awarded Alumni of the Year distinction from the UGA CVM, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of his graduation. In 2001, in recognition of his contributions, the Malcolm Kling Lectureship in Research Ethics was established at the Medical College of Augusta. Survivors include a daughter, one brother and two sisters.

**Dr. Billy Floyd Lowry '61** | Billy Floyd Lowry, 85, passed away November 7, 2021. He attended Sunflower Junior College and Mississippi State University before earning his DVM at Auburn. Later, he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services for 37 years. Survivors include his wife, Ginny, three children, eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, a brother and a sister.

**Dr. Raymond H. Stone, Jr. '62** | Raymond H. Stone, Jr., 88, passed away August 14, 2021. He graduated from Western Kentucky University before earning his Auburn DVM. He practiced in Morganfield and Madisonville, Kentucky, before opening Stone Veterinary Clinic in Sturgis, Kentucky, in 1966, where he was instrumental in helping eradicate pseudorabies in swine in the state before retiring in 2019. He was a member of the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, serving as vice president, as well as the American Veterinary Medical Association. He was also a member

of the Pork Producers, Beef Producers and Kentucky Cattlemen's Association. Survivors include his wife, Twila, three children, eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and two sisters.

**Dr. Dominic Andrew Cangelosi '67** | Dominic Andrew Cangelosi, 83, passed away August 1, 2021. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Southeastern Louisiana before earning his Auburn DVM. A U.S. Air Force Reserve veteran, he received special training from the Clinical Lab School at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. He was also a member of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, as well as the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association. Survivors include his wife, Frances, two children and six grandchildren.

**Dr. A.P. "Bill" Carney, III '68** | A.P. "Bill" Carney, III, 77, passed away September 2, 2021. He received his bachelor's degree at Mississippi State University before earning his Auburn DVM. In 1969, he opened North State Animal Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. Later, after a career change to the cattle business was short-lived, he founded Poplar Springs Animal Hospital in Meridian, Mississippi. He later opened and operated another business, Animal Medical Supply. He is survived by his wife, Harriette, three children and three grandchildren.

**Dr. Robert V. "Bert" Rogers '69** | Robert V. "Bert" Rogers, 81, passed away October 6, 2021. Following his Auburn graduation, he practiced in Florida at Lake Wales, Sanford, Longwood and for 22 years at the Winter Springs Veterinary Clinic. He retired in 2010. Survivors include his wife, Diana, two children and five grandchildren.

**Dr. Raymond C. Miller '70** | Raymond C. Miller, 79, passed away October 17, 2021. He completed the pre-vet program at the University of Tennessee before receiving his bachelor's degree and DVM from Auburn. Following graduation, he practiced for 30 years. Survivors include his wife, Brenda, five children, seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild and two brothers.

**Dr. Huey P. Claybrook '74** | Huey P. Claybrook, 85, passed away August 30, 2021. He attended Oklahoma State University before earning his Auburn DVM, then owned and operated Weakley County Animal Clinic in Martin, Tennessee, for many years. Survivors include his wife, Nancy, a son, two grandchildren and a sister.

**Dr. Larry S. Smith '77** | Larry S. Smith, 72, passed away October 25, 2021. After earning his DVM and spending two years in private veterinary practice, he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for more than 30 years. Survivors include his wife, Jackie, two children, three grandchildren, a brother and a sister.

**Dr. Eric Russell Lewis '90** | Eric Russell Lewis, 56, passed away October 4, 2021. After earning his DVM from Auburn, he began practicing at Bell Road Animal Medical Center in Montgomery in 1990. He eventually owned the practice and was always pursuing

new learning and training opportunities to improve care for his patients and their families. He was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, and helped establish the Alabama Practice Owners Association. Survivors include his wife, Wendi, parents and two sisters.



MARION S.  
MANN

**Marion S. Mann, 91**, passed away August 1, 2021. A Birmingham native, she graduated from Auburn in 1952 with a degree in physical education and went on to teach at several schools in Georgia, Alabama and Germany. She eventually moved back to Auburn where, following her teaching career, she went on to a second long and distinguished career at the Auburn CVM before retiring in the early 1990s. Known by all at that time as Marion Moore, she was the epitome of a die-hard Auburn fan and "attended, watched or listened to anything Auburn." Even her first honeymoon trip was the 1954 Gator Bowl between Auburn and Texas Tech. Survivors include a son, 10 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, eight great-great-grandchildren and a sister.





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# SAVE THE DATE

## Annual Conference

*October 20-23, 2022*

The 2022 Annual Conference marks a tradition of 115 years of continuing education at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Our Annual Conference provides opportunities for Auburn alumni, faculty, students, veterinary technicians and other veterinary professionals to participate in cutting-edge continuing education sessions and professional networking opportunities.

This year's conference is scheduled to be held October 20-23, at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center, in the heart of the Auburn University campus. We will continue to monitor and follow state and university guidelines as they pertain to COVID-19, and we will make adjustments to the conference format as necessary.

**Registration Opens in April**

[auburnvetconference.com](http://auburnvetconference.com)

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