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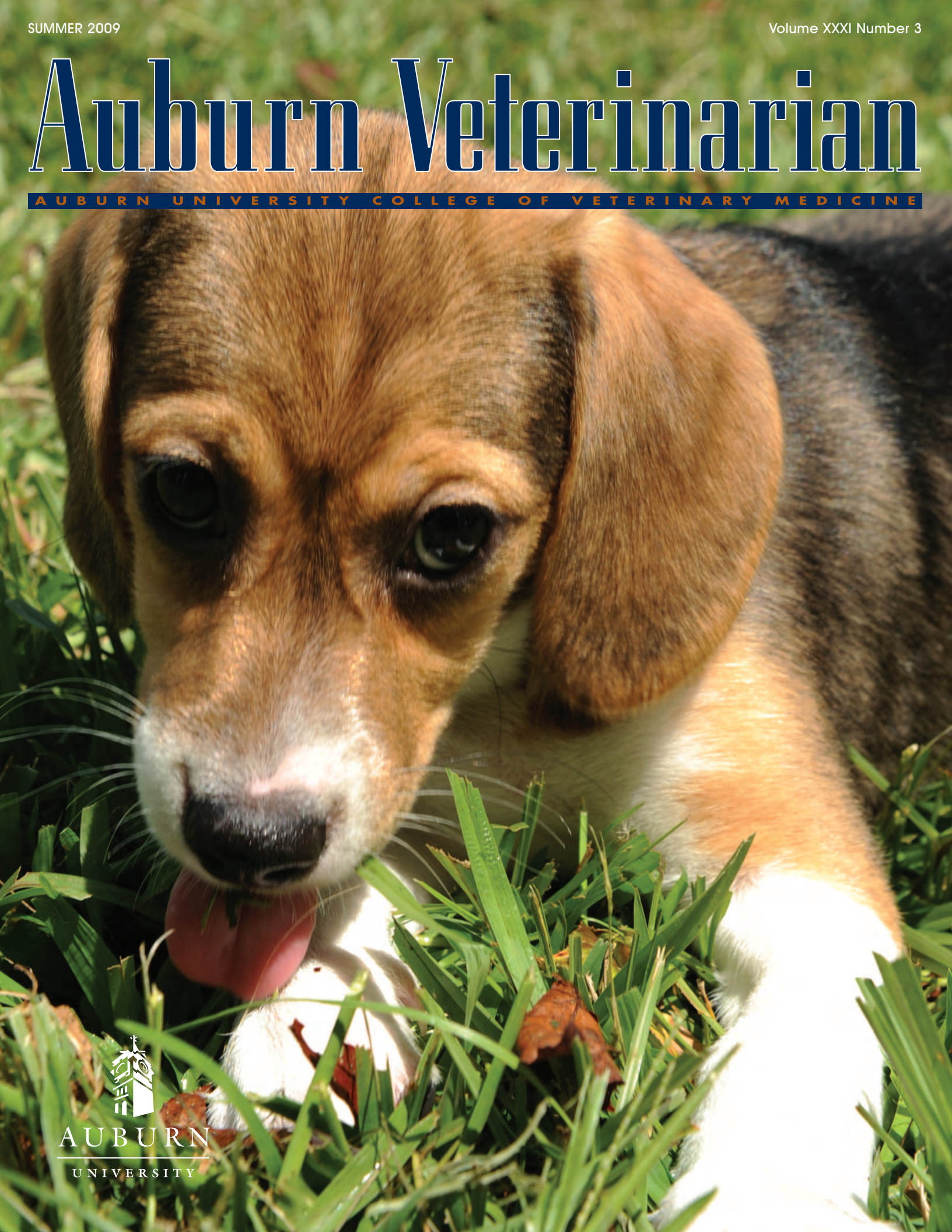
Auburn Veterinarian

AUBURN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

IN THIS ISSUE

ON THE COVER

WHILE IT MAY LOOK LIKE IT IS JUST CHASING BUGS IN THE GRASS, THIS PUPPY IS HELPING SCIENTISTS AT THE SCOTT-RITCHEY RESEARCH CENTER TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE MOLECULAR CHANGES ASSOCIATED WITH INHERITED CANINE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY SO THAT EFFECTIVE THERAPIES CAN BE DEVELOPED.

From the Dean

LONG-RANGE PLANS AND SHORT-TERM CHALLENGES

During the past year, the college began the planning process for a new small animal teaching hospital to be located on the site of McAdory Hall. Hoerlein Hall will continue to support our teaching and research mission as we transition to a new facility over the next few years. Hoerlein Hall will be renovated once the department has moved into the new facility.

The teaching hospital building committee, along with faculty and staff from all areas of the college, have worked hard to develop a plan that will support the college's clinical teaching and research programs for the next 40 to 50 years. With considerable support from our architects, Foil Wyatt and Roy Abernathy, the building committee has completed plans for the largest single project in the history of the college.

The program plan and the schematic design phase of the project are now complete. The next step in the university's approval process is to obtain approval of the funding plan from the Board of Trustees. In the current economy, securing the funding may be the most challenging phase of the project and will most likely take longer than originally projected. The new hospital will address many of the critical needs of our clinical programs and it will also allow the college to increase its enrollment from 95 students per class to 120. The next issue of *Auburn Veterinarian* will feature details of the plan and the design.

I am also pleased to report the college assumed responsibility for all canine detection programs. In April, the Canine Detection Research Institute (CDRI) was transferred to the College of Veterinary Medicine. The canine detection programs have been merged with the Veterinary Sports Medicine Program, which lends to the strengths of both activities. Dr. Rob Gillette is currently serving as the interim director. The detection programs are doing very important work and are supported by extramural funding, primarily through federal agencies responsible for the safety and security of our nation. We are fortunate to be able to contribute to the advancement of detection research and training.

As we progress through this new academic year, I hope all of you will find time to visit our campus in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Dean Timothy Boosinger

Auburn Veterinarian

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CALENDAR

2009

NOVEMBER 11
Phi Zeta Research Day

NOVEMBER 13-14
J.T. Vaughan Equine Conference for the Practitioner

NOVEMBER 27
Football, Fans, and Feathers
Edgar B. Carter Educational Amphitheater

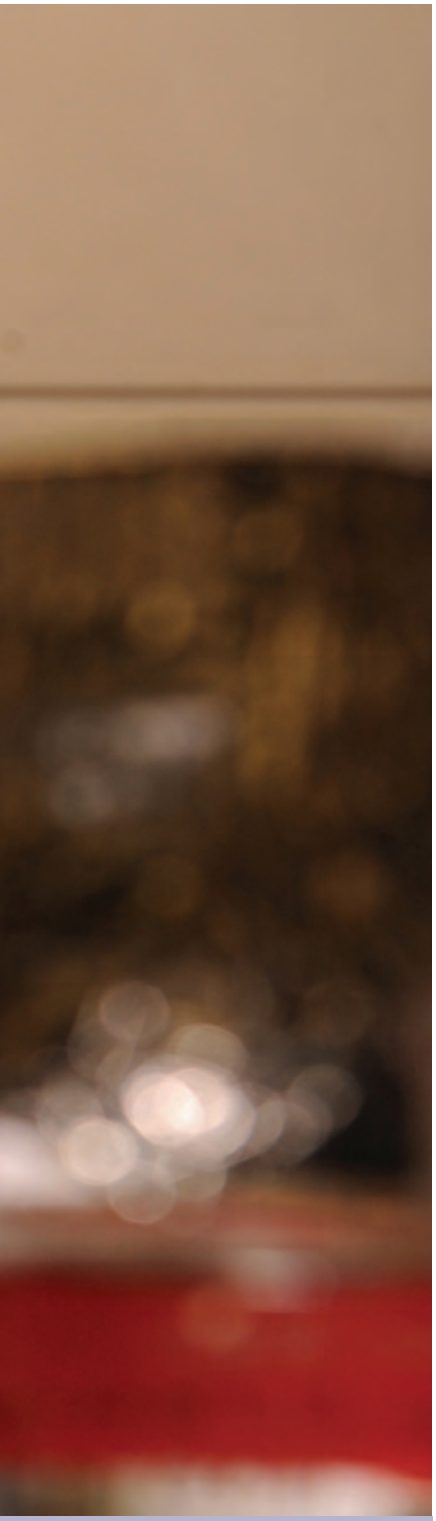
2010

APRIL 8-10
103rd Annual Conference

APRIL 24
Open House

CATSDOGSHUMANS

Scientists at Scott-Ritchey Research Center Seek a Better Future For All



She believes she has the best room in the building adorned with beautiful flowers in a sun-filled window. While plants may be an avocation, Dr. Tatiana Samoylova, a protein/peptide biochemist, uses far smaller organisms in her research. Dr. Samoylova is an expert in phage display technology, the key technology utilized in all her projects. Phage display is a powerful tool that utilizes bacteriophage (viruses that infect only bacteria) to identify molecules that recognize and bind to specific molecular targets, ranging from purified proteins to live cells.

Dr. Samoylova came to the United States almost 14 years ago and today she has no doubt that Auburn is her home. She started her professional journey to the U.S. in her home country, the Ukraine, where she obtained her master's degree in botany and zoology and a Ph.D. in biochemistry. She worked at the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research in Gatersleben, Germany, before coming to Auburn to join the Scott-Ritchey Research Center as a postdoctoral fellow. She currently is an Associate Research Professor at the center. In addition to her research publications on phage display, she is the author of two chapters in methodological books and a co-inventor on multiple U.S. patents and pending patent applications.

Dr. Samoylova's laboratory is focused on the development of immunocontraceptive vaccines for unowned and feral animals, including dogs, cats, and swine. "We should not forget that feral animals damage the environment, create enormous economical losses, and, most of all, transfer dozens of viral, bacterial, and parasitic diseases presenting serious health dangers to humans, agricultural animals, and pets," said Dr. Samoylova.

"To control the overpopulation of feral and unowned animals, my laboratory, in collaboration with Dr. Nancy Cox, Dr. Henry Baker, and others, is developing immunocontraceptive vaccines that are based on species-specific peptides identified through phage display technology," said Dr. Samoylova. "Because the vaccines are designed to cause infertility in the target species only, they have the potential to be used by shelters, as well as through distribution of oral vaccine formulations in areas populated by feral animals. The vaccines are being tested in the laboratory animals and, if proved effective and safe, will be used in the trials involving feral/wild animals."

Because feral swine overpopulation has become a serious problem in Alabama, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Health and Disease and Interdisciplinary Research Programs, and the Alabama Farmers Federation are supporting this work. Additionally, Scott-Ritchey Research Center scientists are working with Vaxin Inc. to develop an injectable adenoviral-vectored anti-GnRH vaccine that can induce sterility and block breeding behavior in dogs and cats.

Dr. Samoylova also has had a long-lasting interest in the design of phage probes that can be utilized in patient-specific anti-cancer therapies. "I strongly believe in the personalized approach for treatment of cancer patients. My belief has led me to the development of a strategy that incorporates the use of phage display-derived peptides for molecular profiling of individual tumors followed by the treatments formulated on the basis of these tumor profiles,"

History of the Program

The Scott-Ritchey Research Center is the vision of the late Dr. B.F. "Frank" Hoerlein, Professor Emeritus and former chairman of small animal surgery and medicine at Auburn. Dr. Hoerlein was committed to research for the health of companion animals, but lacked financial support and facilities.

In 1955 Kenneth Scott, an industrialist and field dog trial competitor from the Great Lakes area, offered to contribute money to support Dr. Hoerlein's research using a matching formula. Donations to the "Scott Fund" were solicited from Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine graduates, usually in the form of memorials for their clients' animals.

When practitioners made a donation in memory of an animal, Dr. Hoerlein would recognize the donation by a letter to both the practitioner and to the animal's owner.

Dr. Ivan Frederickson, a veterinarian in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., approached his client Miss Eleanor Ritchey suggesting she donate to the Scott fund. Miss Ritchey was well known for her love of animals, particularly dogs. It was not until her death in 1968 that it was revealed she had committed her entire estate to expand the vision supported by Mr. Scott.

The Ritchey bequest provided a stable endowment and was used to construct a modern 42,000 sq. ft. research building completed in 1984. The endowment provided sufficient income to support a full time research faculty and technical staff. Based on this endowment, Scott-Ritchey Research Laboratories was established with Dr. Hoerlein as its first director.

Dr. Hoerlein's personal research interests, as well as the interests of the early faculty, focused on neurological diseases of dogs and cats. Under the leadership of subsequent directors, Dr. Steve Swaim and Dr. Henry Baker, research topics have included molecular medicine, infectious diseases, inherited diseases, nutrition, contraception, and reconstructive surgery.

In 1992, the name changed to Scott-Ritchey Research Center to identify it as an interdepartmental, multidisciplinary unit within the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Today, center scientists conduct research and collaborate with other faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University, and institutions worldwide on projects focused on companion animal health.

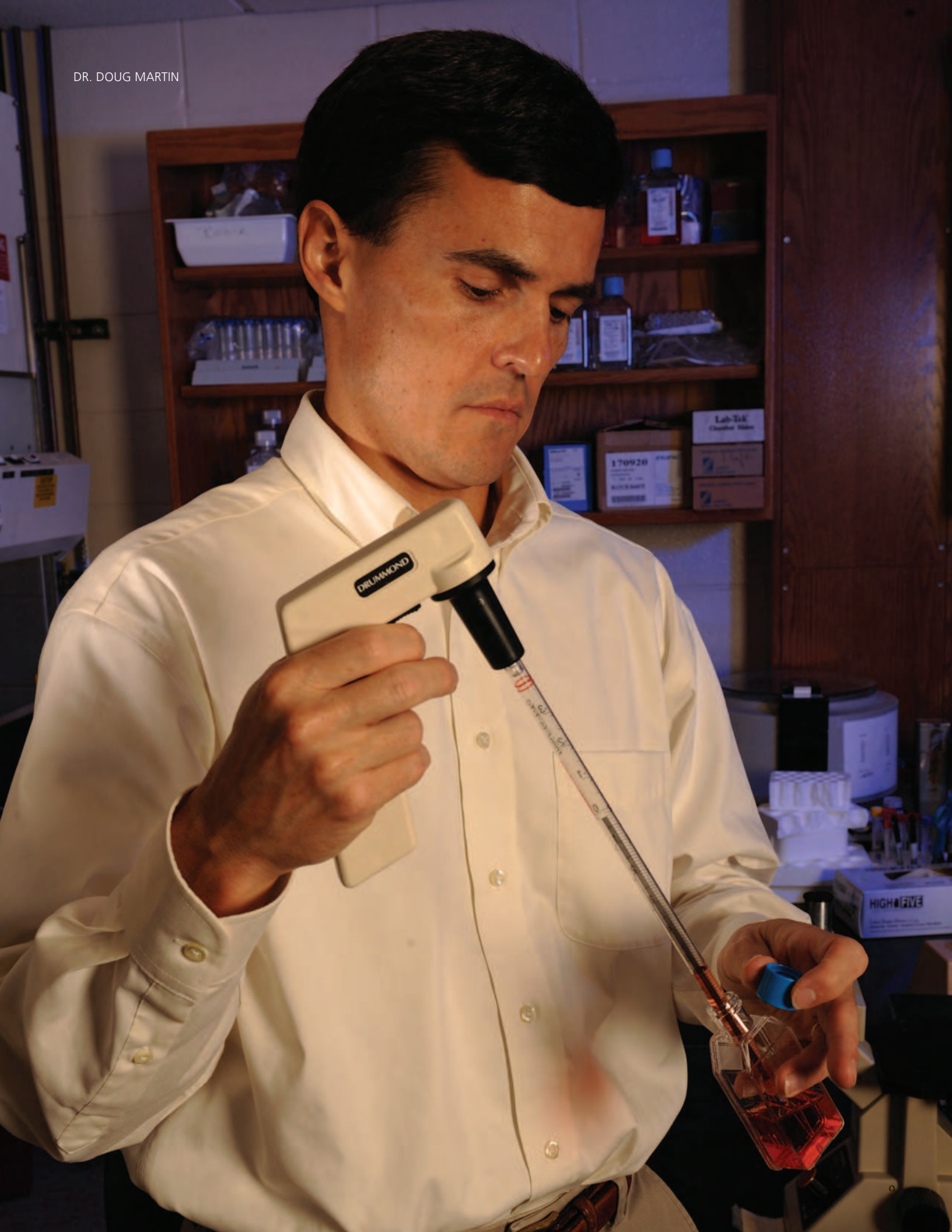
said Dr. Samoylova. "I recognize that a fast, personalized solution for treatment of cancer patients is often a matter of life and death, since such patients have limited time to experiment with therapies designed for general tumor types."

The model cancer system used in her laboratory is the malignant brain tumor (glioma). Currently, there is no curative treatment for this devastating cancer in human patients or in dogs which are also affected by this deadly disease. "To beat brain cancer, the therapies should be focused on brain cancer stem cells that are very aggressive, proliferate, and migrate rapidly within the brain, and are very radio- and chemotherapy resistant. Using phage display, Dr. Cox and I are working to identify biomarkers for brain cancer stem cells. Such biomarkers might be used for construction of targeted gene, drug, or immunotherapies and improved cancer diagnostic agents," Dr. Samoylova said. Dr. Jennifer Koehler, a pathology resident in the Department of Pathobiology, is working on this project as part of her graduate studies.

Gangliosidosis

Professor Emeritus Dr. Henry Baker, Dr. Cox, and Dr. Douglas Martin, are working with feline gangliosidosis, an inherited neurologic disease. "The name people would remember most is Tay-Sachs," said Dr. Cox. "These are Tay-Sachs-like diseases. They have enzymes that don't function properly so they can't break down certain glyco-

ABOVE: DR. NANCY COX, AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PATHOBIOLOGY, IS INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE SCOTT-RITCHEY RESEARCH CENTER.



DR. DOUG MARTIN

DR. BRUCE SMITH

THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE MOLECULAR ONCOLOGY PROGRAM RECENTLY PURCHASED A NEW APPARATUS THAT ALLOWS SCIENTISTS TO RAPIDLY MEASURE THE AMOUNT OF DNA OR RNA IN A CELL. THE MACHINE IS SHOWN IN THE LABORATORY OF DR. BRUCE SMITH, A MEMBER OF THE PROGRAM AND A SCOTT-RITCHEY RESEARCH CENTER SCIENTIST. SCIENTISTS AT THE COLLEGE WILL BE ABLE TO USE THIS MACHINE IN MANY DIFFERENT EXPERIMENTS, RANGING FROM TESTING TREATMENTS FOR CANCER, TO UNDERSTANDING HOW SPECIFIC MUTATIONS CAUSE DISEASE. SEED MONEY FROM A GENEROUS DONOR AND A GRANT FROM THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE MADE THE PURCHASE POSSIBLE.

proteins and glycolipids." The diseases occur in humans, cats, dogs, and a variety of other species. All affected individuals undergo a relentlessly progressive neurologic deterioration that is fatal by a few months of age in cats and by the age of five years in humans.

Gangliosidoses occur with unusual frequency in certain feline breeds, especially Korat and European Burmese cats. Documented carrier frequencies approaching 25% threatened to decimate the Korat breed, a fate averted by an international screening program established by Dr. Baker, who discovered feline gangliosidosis 35 years ago. After soliciting samples from international cat breeders, Drs. Baker and Martin were able to identify carriers (apparently normal animals who pass along the trait to offspring) through a DNA-based test. By identifying carriers, the international screening program has vastly reduced the disease incidence in Korat and European Burmese cats around the world.

In addition to screening for gangliosidosis in cat breeds, Scott-Ritchey Research Center scientists are working to develop gene therapy to correct the disorder in cats and humans. As part of this effort, Dr. Martin and collaborators from other institutions founded the Tay-Sachs Gene Therapy Consortium, an international group of scientists committed to translating current research results from mouse models into clinical trials. The consortium consists of investigators from: Auburn University, Boston College, University of Cambridge (U.K.), Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Other Auburn University investigators instrumental to consortium research are Drs. Baker, Cox, and Aime Johnson. Awards from the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association and the National Institutes of Health has supported the consortium.

Center scientists anticipate wide-ranging benefits from their gene therapy research. While Tay-Sachs is considered a rare disease, it is one of over 40 disorders of cellular metabolism known as lysosomal storage diseases. Lysosomal storage diseases occur in humans at a frequency of 1:7700, similar to that for cystic fibrosis. Therefore, strategies developed for Tay-Sachs disease are expected to benefit many lysosomal storage diseases, three-fourths of which involve the nervous system. Importantly, gene therapy systems that are being developed to treat feline gangliosidosis should also apply to other diseases of cats. "The basic strategies used to transfer genes to the feline brain should translate to many cat diseases, since the characteristics of the brain vectors don't restrict their use in other tissues," said Dr. Martin, who is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology.

THERAPEUTIC RESEARCH FOR CANINE DISEASES

Bruce Smith, V.M.D., Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Pathobiology and a scientist in the Scott-Ritchey Research Center. His research interests are in gene therapy of inherited muscle disease such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy, gene therapy of cancer, and nucleic acid immunization.

Dr. Smith's research program on immunologic and gene therapy for cancer is part of a larger interdepartmental interdisciplinary collaborative program at Auburn known as the College of Veterinary Medicine Molecular Oncology Program. Scientists from several other universities, including the University of Alabama at Birmingham, are involved. Dr. Smith directs several project areas within this group.

One project involves conditionally replicative adenoviruses (CRAds) for canine osteosarcoma. These viruses are designed to infect and kill bone cancer cells while leaving normal cells untouched. Dr. Smith and his collaborators have recently finished a preliminary trial of this technology in a small group of dogs and are hoping to expand that clinical trial to a larger group when additional funding is obtained.

Another project is focused on the delivery of gene therapy to tumor cells. In this case, Dr. Smith, with his collaborators at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is genetically engineering viruses to infect canine lymphoma cells. Lymphoma is a tumor of the blood and lymph nodes and is relatively common. This approach is called suicide gene therapy because the virus transfers a toxin gene to the tumor cells, which then die.

The group is also creating vaccines for tumors. Dr. Smith is leading the effort to invent an approach to deliver vaccines to dendritic cells, which are cells of the immune system that help generate immunity. In addition, he collaborates with R. Curtis Bird, Ph.D., a member of Auburn's Department of Pathobiology faculty. Dr. Bird is creating dendritic cell fusion vaccines for canine breast cancer. This vaccine is created by taking a sample of the animal's own dendritic cells, sorting the dendritic cells away from the rest of the blood cells, fusing the dendritic cells to a canine breast cancer cell line, and returning the fused cells to the patient. The Auburn team's breast cancer vaccine enters a clinical trial at the College of Veterinary Medicine this fall.

$3.5 Million NIH Grant

Advances Bid to Cure Tay-Sachs Disease

Auburn University Part of Gene Therapy Consortium

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a $3.5-million grant to the Tay-Sachs Gene Therapy Consortium to continue research that may halt the fatal genetic disorder. Auburn University is a member of the international consortium whose combined efforts are funded by NIH.

The NIH award was eagerly awaited by Tay-Sachs families and their supporters, who raised nearly $600,000 to assemble the international consortium of experts and help maintain its research agenda while scientists worked to secure federal funding. The NIH grant will help advance an experimental gene therapy for Tay-Sachs and Sandhoff diseases from animal tests to human clinical trials.

Consortium research directors include Douglas R. Martin, Ph.D., Auburn University; Thomas N. Seyfried, Ph.D., Boston College; Timothy M. Cox, M.D. and Begoña Cachón-González, Ph.D., University of Cambridge (UK); Florian S. Eichler, M.D., Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School; and Miguel Sena-Esteves, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Medical School. All have considerable experience and proven track records in the fields of gene therapy and this class of diseases.

"We're fortunate to be part of a consortium of world-class scientists dedicated to providing realistic hope for Tay-Sachs patients and their families," said Douglas Martin. "With great support from private donors and foundations, the initial stages of the project have made success a realistic possibility in the NIH-sponsored research."

Also representing Auburn University in the Tay-Sachs Gene Therapy Consortium are Drs. Henry J. Baker, Nancy R. Cox, and Aime K. Johnson.

"This is a tremendous achievement," said Susan Kahn, executive director of the Boston-based National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association (NTSAD), which made establishing the consortium a top research priority. "While we know much work lies ahead, the potential success of this gene therapy effort gives hope to our member families and may one go beyond Tay-Sachs to other diseases that affect the brain."

PHOTO BY RASHMI PAPPU

"As parents who have sat through a meeting in which we found out that our daughter has a disease with no cure and no treatment, and that she would rapidly lose her vision, ability to swallow and move and awareness, and that she would have uncontrollable seizures and probably die within 2-3 years from pneumonia, I cannot imagine how different it will be for parents who are given hope of a cure," writes Carmen's mother on their family blog.

CARMEN (LEFT) WHO IS THREE YEARS OLD AND LIVING WITH TAY-SACHS CANNOT SEE, MOVE, ENJOY FOOD, LAUGH, OR EVEN CRY. HER PARENTS ARE HOPEFUL RESEARCH FROM ANIMAL MODELS, LIKE THE RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY AS PART OF THE TAY-SACHS GENE THERAPY CONSORTIUM, WILL HELP STOP THE PROGRESSION OF THE DISEASE IN HUMANS.

Direct giving ensures donations go directly to the Scott-Ritchey Research Center. Your gifts help the center continue critically important work and better the lives of canine and feline companions. Naming opportunities, ranging from laboratory equipment, to laboratories, to endowed professorships, and buildings are available.

DIRECT GIVING

CURRENT PROJECTS AT THE SCOTT-RITCHEY RESEARCH CENTER

1. **Characterization** of genetic mutations, genetic testing and development of gene-based therapies for muscular dystrophies and inherited metabolic brain diseases

2. **Development** of contraceptive vaccines

3. **Development** of gene-based therapies for cancer

Scott Fund

Interdepartmental Grants Program

The Scott Donations Fund, established by Dr. Hoerlein and Mr. Scott, continues. Memorials received from practitioners are placed in the Scott Donations Fund. Scott-Ritchey Research Center recognizes these donations with letters to the practitioner and to the owner of the animal being memorialized.

These funds support the Scott-Ritchey Research Center Interdepartmental Grants Program which provides assistance for Auburn faculty outside the center who conduct research on companion animal diseases. The return from these small grants in terms of new knowledge to improve small animal practice is outstanding. Over the years, contributions to the Scott Donations Fund have been exceedingly important for advancing companion animal health, starting with Dr. Hoerlein's pioneering work on treatment of disc disease and extending to current work on molecular medicine. In 2008 the Scott Donations Fund awarded six grants for a total of $48,110.

2009 Award Recipients

DR. BENSON AKINGBEMI
"Cranial Cruciate Ligament Disease of the Hindlimb: Role of Steroid Hormone Action"

DR. AIME JOHNSON
"Embryo Transfer Following Vitrification in the Canine"

DR. ROBERT J. KEMPPAINEN
"Role of Non ACTH Factors in the Regulation of Cortisol Secretion by the Dog Adrenal"

DR. DEAN SCHWARTZ
"The Feline Renal Dopamine D1 Receptor"

DR. ELIZABETH SPANGLER
"Quantitative PCR for Mentoring of Residual Disease in Dogs Undergoing Treatment for Lymphoma"

DR. YA-XIONG TAO
"Pharmacology of Canine Melanocortin 4 Receptor and its V213F Variant"

Scott Fund Donors

2008-2009

Animal Medical Center, Foley, Ala., Dr. John Heilmeier

Animal Medical Hospital, Charlotte, N.C., Dr. Richard Coe, Dr. Susan Coe

Biles Animal Hospital, Bay Minette, Ala., Dr. David Finley, Dr. Michael Biles

Burlington Pet Hospital, Burlington, Ky., Dr. Ben Kordenbrock, Dr. Yvonne Hoffman

Camden Veterinary Clinic, Camden, Ala., Dr. William G. Bledsoe

Care Animal Center, Dothan, Ala., Dr. Ken Clark

Central Animal Hospital, Boca Raton, Fla., Dr. Charles Goby

Community Animal Clinic, Palm Coast, Fla., Dr. Don Walker, Dr. Debra Hyatt, Dr. Caroline Melloy

Family Pet Health Care, Decatur, Ala., Dr. Dawn Monroe

Four Paws Animal Hospital, LaGrange, Ga., Dr. William Whitlow, III

Gautier Animal Clinic, Gautier, Miss., Dr. William McDevitt

Germantown Animal Hospital, Germantown, Tenn., Dr. Larry Hendricks, Dr. Zachary Speth, Dr. John Comas, Dr. Taylor Abernathy, Dr. Richard Gallina

Luckett Animal Clinic, Brandon, Miss., Dr. Patrick Luckett

Northwest Tennessee Veterinary Services, Dresden, Tenn., Dr. Bob Page, Dr. Michelle Westerfeld, Dr. Melanie Burnley

Payton Animal Hospital, Blakely, Ga., Dr. Ken Payton

Plant City Animal Hospital, Plant City, Fla., Dr. W.P. Wicker

Renfroe Animal Hospital, Huntsville, Ala., Dr. Bill J. Renfroe

Riverview Animal Clinic, Birmingham, Ala., Dr. Natalie Wendling, Dr. Amy Tate

Southside Animal Hospital, Birmingham, Ala., Dr. Ken Harris

St. Cloud Veterinary Center, St. Cloud, Fla., Dr. David Andrix

Sugar Creek Animal Clinic, Sugar Land, Texas, Dr. J.L. Cox

Tavares Animal Hospital, Tavares, Fla., Dr. Richard Thompson, Dr. Celia Thompson

Taylor Animal Hospital, Cleveland, Tenn., Dr. Mitchell C. Jordan, Dr. John W. Owens, Dr. Bartley B. Bain

Thornton Animal Hospital, Opelika, Ala., new owner Dr. James F. Moore, IV; previous owner and faithful donor for many years, Dr. Bruce Thornton

Town and Country Animal Hospital, Athens, Ala., Dr. Lori White, Dr. Tavis White

Woodridge Veterinary Clinic, Fairfield, Ohio, Dr. Elwood Barden

Steve Swaim

DR. STEVE SWAIM

Dr. Steve Swaim is Professor Emeritus of the Scott-Ritchey Research Center and the Department of Clinical Sciences. In the late 1970s, Dr. Swaim became interested in plastic and reconstructive surgery as a new discipline in veterinary medicine. In 1980 he authored the first textbook on this topic in veterinary medicine entitled "Surgery of Traumatized Skin: Management of Reconstruction in the Dog and Cat." In 1990 he coauthored with his colleague, Dr. Ralph Henderson, the text "Small Animal Wound Management." Now in its second edition, the book is recognized worldwide as the most authoritative text in veterinary wound management.

SWAIM ENDOWMENT

HONORS WORK OF

DR. STEVE SWAIM

"I first met Dr. Steve Swaim when I was an intern and he was a neurosurgeon at the small animal clinic," said Dr. Nancy Cox. "When I returned to Auburn as a faculty member at the Scott-Ritchey Research Center, Steve had switched from neurosurgery to wound healing, what he called 'dog reupholstery.' He really loved working with skin and figuring out how to heal horrendous lesions."

One of the people who trained with Dr. Swaim is Mike Newman of Decatur, Ala. "He is a surgeon and he was always so impressed with Dr. Swaim that when Steve retired he set up the Swaim endowment in his honor," Dr. Cox said.

"To remain a named endowment, an account has to reach $25,000 and we have now reached that level. The funds are to support a resident with an interest in wound healing. The research will be conducted at Scott-Ritchey. We are a long way from being able to support an entire person and it will be another year or so before we can receive any interest, but eventually we hope it will support a clinical or pathology resident who is studying skin and how to make it heal better— all in Dr. Swaim's honor," said Dr. Cox.

HELP US HELP COMPANION ANIMALS

The Scott-Ritchey Research Center is a unique, privately endowed center of research excellence. World-class scientists of the center perform state-of-the-art research into diseases and other medical problems affecting dogs and cats – research that has the potential to help treat human disease.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE

Direct Giving

Direct Giving ensures that your donation goes directly to the Scott-Ritchey Research Center. Even the smallest donations can make a difference. In addition, there are multiple naming opportunities, ranging from laboratory equipment, laboratories, endowed professorships, and buildings.

The Scott Donations Fund

Make a gift in memory of a lost pet or give a donation card to a client. Donation cards are used to suggest the client make a memorial gift to the Scott-Ritchey Research Center, perhaps in lieu of a fee.

Swaim Fund for Excellence

This endowment is established by gifts from friends of Steven F. Swaim, D.V.M., M.S., for the purpose of providing funds for excellence in the College of Veterinary Medicine. It is an endowment which recognizes Dr. Swaim's contributions to the veterinary profession, companion animal practice, research and teaching. It is our hope that this endowment will provide for the continuation of Dr. Swaim's work by the establishment of a residency program with a focus on wound management.

Development Office
College of Veterinary Medicine
317 South College Street, Auburn, AL 36849
Phone: 334-844-6733
E-mail: giving@vetmed.auburn.edu
All donations are tax deductible.

I would like to support the important research aimed at improving the health of companion animals. Enclosed, please find my check in the amount of

$_____

payable to the Scott-Ritchey Research Center.

Name:

Address:

City, State and Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

Please specify:

❑Direct Gift ❑Scott Fund ❑Swaim Fund

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

This summer, Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine looked like the location of an upscale science fair with veterinary students preparing abstracts describing their research activities and submitting their findings in PowerPoint presentations.

But the presentations, completed by 22 students as part of the Veterinary Scholars Research Program, had titles such as "Thromboelastography as a method of monitoring hemostasis in dogs" and "Alpha-melanocyte stimulating hormone and melanocortin-4 receptor in pancreatic neurons."

Twenty of the students are enrolled in Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine while two attend Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine.

The ten-week program allows students to participate in a research laboratory environment with Auburn veterinary faculty and scientists. The program's mission is to expose veterinary students in their first or second year of school to biomedical research and to career opportunities in research. Co-sponsors include Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, the Merck-Merial Foundation and the Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Scholars Programs, and individual faculty member's grants.

"The program provides an intensive and high quality research experience," said Carl A. Pinkert, Ph.D., associate vice president for research at Auburn University.

Each student is linked to a professor who serves as a mentor. Haroldo Toro, D.V.M., Ph.D., helped direct Contessa Bowman's project which targeted chicken embryo tissues following in ovo delivery of Adenovirus-vectored vaccine. Dr. Toro is a professor of avian diseases in the Department of Pathobiology.

Bowman, a second-year veterinary student at Tuskegee University, is grateful to Dr. Toro for his patience and assistance. She says by allowing her to assist with other projects and to work hands-on with chickens, he helped her to learn as much as possible during the ten weeks.

Along with their laboratory work, students visited extramural sites to learn more about research and career opportunities for veterinarians. Students received competitive stipends and all were encouraged to attend the Merck-Merial NIH Veterinary Scholars Symposium held in August at North Carolina State University. At the symposium students from participating veterinary schools in the United States and Canada presented the results of their summer research projects.

Four of the students who received support from the Morris Animal Foundation are invited to the foundation's national conference held in Denver this spring.

Mary Boudreaux, D.V.M., Ph.D., chair of the Summer Research Fellowship Committee, served as program director of the Veterinary Summer Scholars Program.

2009 Veterinary Summer Scholars and Faculty Mentors

Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine

Adam Breiteneicher ..... Dr. Tatiana Samoylova
Robert Collins .....Dr. Mahmoud Mansour
Adam Cooner ..... Dr. Debra Taylor
Tony Cordray ..... Dr. Byron Blagburn
Justin Farris .....Dr. Dean Schwartz
Emily Galliers ..... Elizabeth Spangler
Drew Humphries .....Dr. Mary Boudreaux
Ashley Hydrick .....Dr. Vicky van Santen
Laura Jackson ..... Dr. Douglas Martin
Jerrod Johnson ..... Dr. Sue Duran, Dr. Misty Edmonson
Meghan Kilgore .....Dr. Peter Christopherson
Stephanie Koehler .....Dr. Valery Petrenko
Kelli McNamara..... Dr. Bruce Smith
Christina Osborne .....Dr. Mary Boudreaux
Amie Lynn Perry .....Dr. Curtis Bird
Kimberly Reid .....Dr. Dan Givens, Dr. Misty Edmonson
Jordan Towns.....Dr. Allison Stewart
Marike Visser .....Dr. Dawn Boothe
Matthew Wall ..... Dr. Robert Judd
Emilee Zimmer .....Dr. Carl Pinkert, Dr. Michael Irwin

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine

Contessa Bowman .....Dr. Haroldo Toro
Tomeka Manson .....Dr. Elizabeth Welles

PRECEPTORSHIPS

HELPING INSPIRE STUDENTS' INTERESTS

"Auburn's professional curriculum is a rigorous four-year program which provides a broad-based education," said Donna Angarano, D.V.M., Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine associate dean of academic affairs.

During the last 14 months of the curriculum, students participate in a series of required clinical rotations where they interact with patients and clients in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The final portion of the veterinary curriculum is a required eight-week preceptorship.

"Most students spend this period with a veterinarian in clinical practice," said Dr. Angarano. During this time students gain supervised, hands-on experience with day-to-day veterinary medical activities.

This spring 97 Auburn veterinary students completed preceptorships in 19 states and in the country of New Zealand. A majority spent their time learning in a small animal clinic, but others gained experience in a mixed practice (large and small animal), or a total equine or large animal facility.

Students by Location

Alabama	23
Kentucky	20
Georgia	12
Tennessee	11
Florida	9
Montana	3
Nevada	2
North Carolina	2
Texas	2
Virginia	2
Washington	2
Colorado	1
Hawaii	1
Maryland	1
Mississippi	1
New York	1
Oregon	1
South Dakota	1
West Virginia	1
New Zealand	1

Types of Practice

100% Small Animal	59
100% Equine	8
100% Large Animal	3
Mixed (Small Animal / Large Animal)	20
Mixed (Small Animal / Equine)	7

The College of Veterinary Medicine is grateful to all those who offer preceptorships. Listed below are veterinarians who recently supervised veterinary students.

Luis G. Arguelles, Castroville, Texas
Cade Armstrong, Montgomery, Ala.
Antonio J. Ballagas, Birmingham, Ala.
Mica Bentley, Seymour, Tenn.
DeWayne Biddle, Sandy Springs, Ga.
Elizabeth Billings, Grant, Ala.
Kimberly Brasher, Nashville, Tenn.
Larry Britt, Plant City, Fla.
Mark C. Brown, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Donald W. Bryant, Owensboro, Ky.
Charles Cameron, Painter, Va.
Barry Carr, Rome, Ga.
Margaret Carter, Fayetteville, Tenn.
Heidi M. Cooley, Charlotte, N.C.
Todd Cooley, Thomasville, Ga.
Ben T. Cox, Campbellsville, Ky.
Miguel Cruden, Huntington, W. Va.
Angela M. Daniels, Dalhart, Texas
Rusty Doerr, Louisville, Ky.
Darrell Durham, LaGrange, Ga.
Wesley Dunn, Montgomery, Ala.
Jud Easterwood, Pelham, Ala.
Jack Easley, Shelbyville, Ky.
Dale Eckert, Versailles, Ky.
Rhonda Ellison, Calera, Ala.
Randall Ezell, Las Vegas, Nev.
Luke Fallon, Lexington, Ky.
Albert B. Few, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Will Flanagan, Danville, Ky.
Lanita Flanary, Paducah, Ky.
Richard J. Forfa, Bealsville, Md.
Gina Forgey, Pensacola, Fla.
David Fuller, Bessemer, Fla.
R.J. Gailor, Louisville, Ky.
Kevin Gray, Sulphur Springs, Texas
David Grinstead, Cynthiana, Ky.
B.A. Guilfoil, Glasgow, Ky.
Jessica Hagstette, Las Vegas, Nev.
David Hanlon, Matamata, New Zealand
Charles E. Harris, Lanett, Ala.
Jim W. Harvey, Okeechobee, Fla.
Daniel Haskins, Stanwood, Wash.
Steve Hendrix, Nashville, Tenn.
Chris Highland, Owensboro, Ky.
Chris Johnson, Versailles, Ky.
Roger Kehler, Kihei, Hawaii
J.A. Keith, Versailles, Ky.
F. Richard Lesser, Ravena, N.Y.
Richard T. Logan, Ozark, Ala.
Cliff Lowery, Petal, Miss.
James D. Lutz, Largo, Fla.
Douglas Mader, Marathon, Fla.
Matt McCord, Bowdon, Ga.
Carla McCorvey, Savannah, Ga.
Donald McCoy, Portland, Ore.
Shannon McGee, Collierville, Tenn.
Mike McLaughlin, Cumming, Ga.
Caroline Montgomery, Birmingham, Ala.
Amy Myers, Prattville, Ala.
Carl Myers, Theodore, Ala.
James Myers, Belle Fourche, S.D.
Francis W. Ogden, Bonita Springs, Fla.
Steven C. Osborne, Decatur, Ala.
John C. Park, Winchester, Ky.
James H. Payne, Greensboro, Ala.
Jo Ann Perrella, Columbus, Ga.
Matt Povlovich, Thompsons Station, Tenn.
Jim Powers, Madison, Ala.
Minoit Pruyn, Missoula, Mont.
E.M. Pryor, New Castle, Ky.
Michael Puckett, Midland, N.C.
Michael Rehm, Mobile, Ala.
Dick Richardson, Missoula, Mont.
JoAnne Roesner, Alpharetta, Ga.
Mark Russell, Huntsville, Ala.
Robert V. Russell Jr., Franklin, Tenn.
Michelle Savigny, Vancouver, Wash.
Rick G. Scherr, Great Falls, Mont.
Jacquelyn Schuder, Gloucester, Va.
George Simmons, Tallahassee, Fla.
Kenneth Sims, Louisville, Ky.
Clark D. Sloane, New Castle, Ky.
Michael Smith, Holly Pond, Ala.
Tim Stewart, Summerdale, Ala.
Christy Wells Stoffle, Newnan, Ga.
Darren Taul, Lancaster, Ky.
David Tumlinson, Montrose, Colo.
Bill van Hooser, Montgomery, Ala.
Ed B. Velasco, Orange Park, Fla.
Robert S. Watts, Nashville, Tenn.
Steve D. Webb, Glasgow, Ky.
Catherine White, Finchville, Ky.
R.E. Whitford, Clarksville, Tenn.
Steven Whittle, Atlanta, Ga.
Cindy Williams, Birmingham, Ala.
Scott Williams, Cleveland, Tenn.
Teresa E. Wills, Owensboro, Ky.
David Wonders, Cornelia, Ga.
Robert Wood, Birmingham, Ala.
Mark Wooten, Nolensville, Tenn.

2009 YOUNG ACHIEVERS

The Young Achiever award is given to one or more members of the class celebrating its tenth anniversary. Nominees are known for their accomplishments in veterinary medicine, their outstanding community service, and for their advancement of human welfare.

The Alumni Advisory Council has named four 1999 Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine graduates as Young Achievers for 2009.

Dr. Jennifer Graham

Jennifer Graham is one of five double board-certified American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (avian) and American College of Zoological Medicine diplomates in the world. After receiving her D.V.M. from Auburn University in 1999, she then interned at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her residency in 2003 at the University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

From 2003-2006 Dr. Graham served on staff at the VCA Veterinary Specialty Center in Lynnwood, Washington, while concurrently serving as an affiliate assistant professor with the department of comparative medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine. She currently holds her position with the University of Washington and works at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Etta M. Bradecamp

Etta Bradecamp is a diplomate of both the American College of Theriogenologists and the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (equine specialty). She currently directs the new Equine Reproduction Center at Old Waterloo Equine Clinic in Warrenton, Virginia. Dr. Bradecamp's interests include embryo transfer, semen cryopreservation, advanced reproductive techniques, and the care of neonates.

She completed an equine practice residency at Louisiana State University and Goulburn Valley Equine Hospital in Victoria, Australia. While at LSU, Dr. Bradecamp conducted research regarding ovulation in the mare and authored a chapter on estrous synchronization in *Current Therapy in Equine Medicine*. Dr. Bradecamp volunteers to help with numerous professional organizations, including the American College of Theriogenologists.

Dr. Fred Caldwell

A Kentucky native, Fred Caldwell is an assistant professor in equine surgery at the John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital at Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine. He completed a surgical internship at Hagyard-Davidson-McGee Associates and a residency in large animal surgery at the University of Georgia. Following his residency, he was a clinical instructor of surgery in the department of large animal medicine at the University of Georgia.

Before returning to Auburn, he spent one year as a large animal emergency surgeon at Cornell University Hospital for Animals. Dr. Caldwell achieved diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2005. His clinical interests include lameness evaluation, orthopedic surgery, dentistry, and laparoscopy. His research interests involve prevention of post-operative abdominal adhesions, post-injury joint restitution, and tendon and fracture healing.

Dr. Antonio J. Ballagas II

Tony Ballagas completed a rotating internship at the University of Pennsylvania veterinary hospital in 2000 and a surgical residency at Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2003. He also received an M.S. degree from Auburn in 2003. During 2003-2004 he served as an instructor in small animal surgery.

A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, today Dr. Ballagas is surgical partner and co-owner of Veterinary Surgery of Birmingham. He is published in the journal of *Veterinary Surgery* and the *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association*. Dr. Ballagas is invited regularly to present at veterinary association meetings and continuing education seminars concerning his work involving canines. In 2002 he received certification to perform the tibial plateau leveling osteotomy procedure.

Photos: FlipFlopFoto

DR. STEVEN KINCAID RETIRES

Auburn veterinary students paid a special tribute to Alumni Professor Steven Kincaid during the Annual Open House in April. They celebrated his upcoming retirement (on August 31) and his dedication as a teacher.

A professor of veterinary histology in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology, Dr. Kincaid retires after 20 years with the college.

Recently selected as SGA Outstanding Teacher, he served as an OTS Zeta Chapter advisor, Student Honor Court advisor, and he is a Norden Distinguished Teaching Award recipient. In 2008 he received Auburn's top honor for outstanding teaching – the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.

On Family Night in April, Michelle Haynes, D.V.M., (2005), spoke of Dr. Kincaid's "skill, devotion, excellence, and care as a teacher," but added some of Dr. Kincaid's greatest contributions did not occur in a lab or classroom during regular class hours.

"I can recall countless occasions when I would be walking out of Greene Hall late in the afternoon on my way home thinking everyone else had gone, when I would hear a collection of voices from the histology lab and see Dr. Kincaid gathered with four or five of my classmates holding an informal help session because someone in the group had requested the extra time and assistance," said Dr. Haynes.

"But perhaps even more outstanding than his teaching ability in the classroom, or his dedication to teaching outside of class time, is Dr. Kincaid's unsurpassed kind, gentle, and caring spirit. And that, to me, is priceless," she said.

Dr. Kincaid joined the Auburn faculty and a microanatomy team of four in 1989. He received a D.V.M. degree from Purdue University in 1969 and a Ph.D. degree from Purdue University in veterinary anatomy in 1977. His research specialty is in the field of pathobiology of bone and cartilage.

BARTOL NAMED ASSOCIATE DEAN OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Frank F. Bartol, Ph.D., has joined the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies. An Auburn University Alumni Professor, Dr. Bartol holds an academic appointment in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology.

Dr. Bartol has been a member of the Auburn University faculty since 1983, when he was appointed as assistant professor of reproductive biology in the College of Agriculture. He was elected to membership in the Society of Phi Zeta, the honor society of veterinary medicine, in 1998. In 2001 he became the first director of the Auburn University Cellular and Molecular Biosciences program, a position he held until his current appointment.

Dr. Bartol earned the B.S. degree from Virginia Tech and received both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Florida through the Interdisciplinary Reproductive Biology program. He also completed advanced training in molecular biology in the Center for Animal Biotechnology at Texas A&M University. The author of many scientific journal articles, Dr. Bartol has delivered numerous invited lectures to regional, national, and international audiences on topics related to his research in reproductive and developmental biology, as well as on the importance of animals to society in both research and education.

ALVMA AWARDS HIGHEST HONOR TO DR. DWIGHT WOLFE

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association has presented the Distinguished Service Award to Dwight F. Wolfe, a food animal professor in Auburn's College of Veterinary

Medicine. The award represents the association's highest tribute. Wolfe is honored for his lifetime of strong leadership, his dedication to research, and for his impact on future veterinarians. He received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Auburn in 1977 and also holds a master's degree in large animal surgery and medicine from Auburn. He is board-certified with the American College of Theriogenologists. Dr. Wolfe has been a member of the veterinary college faculty since 1980 and is a member of the Alabama Livestock Hall of Fame.

VAINRUB AWARDED NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT

Arnold Vainrub, an associate professor of biophysics, is the primary investigator for a $119,974 National Science Foundation grant titled "Isothermal solid-phase PCR using electrostatic control of DNA hybridization." The proposed research investigates the unknown fundamental characteristics of electrostatic DNA hybridization – namely, the yield, kinetic rates, ability to denature long DNA and to support a sufficient number of hybridization cycles, in order to establish conditions for efficient PCR amplification. The specific aims are to (1) construct a fluorescent detector for hybridization and extension of electrode tethered primers, and (2) prove-in-principle and optimize electrostatic isothermal PCR.

AVIAN DISEASES NAMES BEST PAPER FOR 2008

The Awards Committee of the American Association of Avian Pathologists has named "Infectious Bronchitis Virus in the Chicken Harderian Gland and Lachrymal Fluid: Viral Load, Infectivity, Immune Cell Responses, and Effects of Viral Immunodeficiency" as the best paper published in *Avian Diseases* for 2008. Authors of the paper are Frederick W. Van Ginkel, Vicky L. van Santen, S. L. Gulley, and Haroldo Toro. *Avian Diseases* is the official publication of the American Association of Avian Pathologists. Published four times a year, it contains full papers, research notes, and case reports related to the field of avian diseases.

NEW FACULTY

STEPHANIE E. SCHLEIS, DVM, DACVIM

Dr. Stephanie Schleis joined the Department of Clinical Sciences as a clinical assistant professor of medical oncology in October 2008. A native of Louisiana, she graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in biology before entering the veterinary program at Louisiana State University. Following veterinary school graduation with honors in 2004, she completed a one-year rotating small animal internship at Texas A&M University. She went on to complete a three-year residency in medical oncology at the University of Tennessee in 2008.

Dr. Schleis is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Her research interests include lymphoma, hematologic neoplasia, histiocytic diseases, flow cytometry, and equine oncology.

TANYA CIVCO, DVM, DACVIM

Dr. Tanya Civco attended veterinary school at Tufts University College of Veterinary Medicine in North Grafton, Massachusetts, where she earned her D.V.M. in 2004. She then went on to Angell Animal Medical Center in Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts, to complete her one-year rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery. In 2005 Dr. Civco returned to Tufts for her residency in small animal internal medicine which she completed in 2008.

She joined Auburn's faculty in January 2009 as an assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences. Her areas of research include feline diabetes and obesity, but her interests extend to all parts of small animal internal medicine.

DR. RICK TUBBS RECEIVES THE EL TORO AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FOOD ANIMAL MEDICINE

Rick Tubbs, D.V.M., received the El Toro Award for Excellence in Food Animal Medicine at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine in April. The award recognizes veterinarians who, through their contributions to food animal practice, organized veterinary medicine, high ideals, and dedication to the production of food animals, serve as role models for veterinary students.

Dr. Tubbs earned his doctorate of veterinary medicine from Auburn University in 1983. He completed a residency in theriogenology at Mississippi State University where he earned his Master of Science degree in 1987.

He served as assistant professor in swine medicine at Mississippi State before accepting a position in 1991 as swine veterinarian and clinical assistant professor at the University of Missouri. In 1993 he was promoted to clinical associate professor and administered continuing education courses to swine producers and veterinarians.

In 1996 Dr. Tubbs became a partner in Green River Animal Hospital in Bowling Green, Kentucky, as a swine specialist and he is a past president of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians. He has worked for numerous large swine production companies, and consulted and lectured extensively in the United States, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Taiwan, and Spain.

Dr. James G. Floyd Jr. established the El Toro Award at Auburn University in 1994 in memory of his father J.G. Floyd. Dr. Floyd's intention was to recognize outstanding food animal veterinarians before veterinary students of all classes.

DR. CHRIS REEDER '03 and DR. TINA BROWN '04 have achieved diplomate status with the American College of Veterinary Dermatology.

After working in a local clinic for 11 years, **DR. DANA CHILDS '98** has opened her own small animal practice. Tender Care Veterinary Clinic is located in Madisonville, Ky.

Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour has reappointed **DR. DAVID NEWELL '73** of Meridian, Miss., to the state's Board of Veterinary Medicine. The board oversees regulations and guidelines for veterinarians. Dr. Newell works at Till-Newell Animal Hospital where he has been employed for 35 years.

IN MEMORIAM

'43 Dr. Warren Henry (Buddy) Hicks, Opelika, Ala., died May 5, 2009. Formerly of Rocky Mt., N.C., Dr. Hicks practiced veterinary medicine in New York after graduating from Auburn. He volunteered to join the Veterinary Corp as a Lt. in New York where he was stationed and was discharged in 1946 as a Captain moving to Opelika that same year.

'44 Dr. Frank Whitfield Canon, 93, Albemarle, N.C., died June 16, 2009. Dr. Canon practiced veterinary medicine for 20 years in Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Salisbury, N.C. Later he was employed by the United States Department of Agriculture as an inspector in charge of poultry and meat inspection. He retired in 1984.

'44 Dr. Stanley C. Wasman, 87, Bay Harbor Islands, Fla., died July 1, 2009. The first veterinarian on Miami Beach, Dr. Wasman was the founder and first editor of the *Florida Veterinary Bulletin*. He contributed many articles to state and national publications and spoke at national veterinary conventions. He served as director of public information for the Florida State Veterinary Medical Association. His groundbreaking research with animals led to many innovative techniques that were applied to human medical needs such as the use of hypothermia for open-heart surgery.

'49 Dr. Leonard Plunk, Athens, Ala., died Feb. 4, 2009. Dr. Plunk maintained a private practice in Athens for 58 years and also worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 30 years. He retired in 2007.

'59 Dr. Henry Palmer Brooks Sr., 79, Tampa, Fla., died July 7, 2009. His Tampa veterinary practice treated large and small animals, as well as zoo and circus animals. Dr. Brooks is remembered for his great storytelling, as well as his care and expertise in treating animals.

'67 Dr. Michael A. Kronk, 68, Hollywood, Fla., died May 15, 2009. He practiced veterinary medicine for 42 years, 39 of those years were in Davie and the surrounding communities. Dr. Kronk was well known and well loved for his devotion to large animal medicine.

'75 Dr. Bruce Nelson Young, 63, Athens, Ala, died April 17, 2009. He practiced veterinary medicine in Athens for 33 years, first at Eastside Animal Hospital, before fire destroyed the facility, and later at Plunk Animal Hospital where he worked until his latest illness.

APOCRYPHA
BY DR. TOM VAUGHAN ‘55
DEAN EMERITUS

Memento Mori

As I write this, I am still alive. I won't say well, nor even in my right mind, since both sound a bit presumptuous for this time of life. But I am motivated, perhaps provoked is a better word, by having gone to too many funerals, and self-centered though this may sound, relating each of them to my own instance. Plus, I probably have more friends in the cemetery looking up than on the outside looking in.

Rudy Giuliani once said that his father told him that attendance at weddings was optional, but funerals were obligatory. I kind of agree with him, but I wonder if you don't reach a limit. At any rate I feel compelled to jot down a few guidelines for when my own bones have to be interred.

Paraphrasing C.S. Lewis, which approximates a sacrilege in itself, I am a very ordinary layman of the United Methodist Church, not especially "high," nor especially "low," nor especially anything else. But out of respect for my wife and her family of six ordained ministers, as well as my own sainted mother and father, I assume a church service.

First comes the gathering music. Well, I like music, wake up in the morning with a tune in my head, and, to the consternation of Ethel and anyone within earshot, hum or whistle it the rest of the day. So, I have a list of hymns, old timers, that I'd leave to the judgment of Julia Morgan who agreed a long time ago to play for my funeral. And I'd leave the singing to the congregation rather than a choir of angels or a soloist auditioning for the Met. What I'd really like is the original Goldsmith Singers, but they went the way with our grand old director Ernie Justice. Pity.

After the music would come the scripture readings and the eulogy. I'd leave the scriptures to Dr. Mathison with only one request that my mother gave me as a stripling: Micah 6:8 (the King James version of course)

> "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is
> good, and what doth the Lord require of
> thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy,
> and to walk humbly with thy God?"

As to the eulogy, I'd like it to be short and understated. God forbid a serial eulogy, where the speakers try to outdo each other, and truth gets laid to rest with the bones. I've often thought it would be good training in seminary for the would-be young men of the cloth to read McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove*, Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*, and maybe Balzac's *Old Goriot*, so as to get a right frame of mind about crossing the bar. Dampen some of the dramatics, tone down the rhetoric. Ethel has talked about my lying in state when I know some of my acquaintances would twist it into a state of lying. Owing to my love of the sea, I've always thought of a burial at sea, quick and clean. My children all agree that would be most appropriate since I'd be right at home with all the other old crabs on the bottom. Cremation has also come up for consideration, but Ethel says that's probably a moot point since I may be a candidate for incineration one way or the other.

And I wouldn't want to put a guilt trip on all the other men in the congregation who hadn't been perfect husbands or model fathers, or hadn't had the preacher to dinner the first day he came to town, or entertained a lot of angels unawares. I mean, between making a living, paying your taxes, and taking out the garbage, there's just so much of you to go around. I've even pinned some hopes on favorable judgment because I hadn't disinherited any of our children…(yet). One of the many secretaries I worked for, who had a soap opera of her own, used to joke that there were two kinds of families: one who admitted they were dysfunctional, and the other who wrote Christmas letters.

Well, God bless, Ethel has suffered me for 53 years, which may be the principal legacy we leave our children, that and the knowledge that we will always be there when they need us. And that, my friends, is my last request, premature I hope, but unlikely to change.

As to the benediction, no better has ever been penned than the epitaph in Thomas Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*:

> Seek no further his merits to disclose
> Or draw his secrets from their dread abode.
> There they alike in trembling hope repose,
> The bosom of his Father and his God.

- Amen -

Respectfully,
Your humbl and obdt svt,

J.T. Vaughan

AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

Auburn Veterinarian
College of Veterinary Medicine
105 Greene Hall
Auburn, AL 36849-5528

2009–2010 TEACHING HOSPITAL HOLIDAY HOURS

THANKSGIVING WEEK:
November 23-24 – Full Service
November 25-29 – Emergency Only

CHRISTMAS WEEK:
December 21-23 – Full Service
December 24-28 – Emergency Only

NEW YEARS WEEK:
December 28-30 – Full Service
December 31, January 1-3 – Emergency Only

According to hospital policy and to best serve patients, clients should contact their primary care veterinarian to request referral appointments for specialty services. Primary care veterinarians should then contact the appointment desk to arrange referrals during the holiday schedule.

Hoerlein Hall Small Animal Teaching Hospital, 334-844-4690
John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital, 334-844-4490