



School of  
Veterinary Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# SVM ALUMNI CLASS NOTES



**Updates from DVM Alumni  
1987-2019**

All alumni and family are welcome as we celebrate graduates from the Classes of **1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015**



# Alumni Reunion

Saturday, June 27, 2020 • Veterinary Medicine Building • Madison, Wisconsin



School of  
Veterinary Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

[vetmed.wisc.edu/alumni-reunion](http://vetmed.wisc.edu/alumni-reunion)

### In This Issue

- 4 **1987-1991**  
Rodney Kuenzi  
John Been  
Manette Kohler  
Jeffrey Lohmiller
- 5 **1992-1995**  
Diane Grede  
Todd O'Hara  
Emily Leuthner (Sielman)  
Chris Olson  
Mark Baenen
- 6 **1996-2008**  
Mark Thompson  
Sarah Lautzenhiser  
Kristin Patneau (BeVirt)  
Jennifer Gockowski  
Becky Krull  
Maria Krenz  
Jennifer Bennett
- 8 **2008-2012**  
Erica Esser  
Sara Greenslit  
Will Sander  
Tara Johaneck  
Rachel Kesting  
M. Leanne Lilly  
Ewan Wolff  
Ariel Cunningham  
Laura Russo-Klister
- 10 **2013-2019**  
Rebecca Kohnken  
Rachel Andrews  
Kimberly Hassen  
Diane Huxtable (O'Brien)  
Naomi Rich (Kieper)  
Kate Guerriero  
Rheba Zimmerman (Mabie)  
Brandon Scharping  
Galya Fedderly  
Ian McSweeney  
Jake Nilles



Dear alumni:

I am excited to be sending you the seventh edition of **SVM Alumni Class Notes**. So many of you have shared how much you enjoy hearing about your classmates and other University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) alumni. Thank you to all who took the time to send in your news!

There are a number of other ways for you to stay connected to the school and your fellow graduates throughout the year. I encourage you to visit the alumni section of the redesigned SVM website ([vetmed.wisc.edu/alumni](http://vetmed.wisc.edu/alumni)) to keep up with the latest news, alumni events, and ways to get involved.

New for 2019-20, our Alumni Advisory Board launched an SVM Alumni Awards Program. The board was established in 2008 with the purpose of enhancing the school's support of, and relationship with, alumni. To that end, the new award program seeks to recognize graduates of the school who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the legacy of excellence at the school. Award nominations for the inaugural awards, which will be presented in three categories: Distinguished Service (DVM), Distinguished Service (Non-DVM) and Young Alumni, concluded in March. Please be on the lookout for the announcement of our Alumni Award honorees and recognition plans later this spring.

Recently, it was nice to visit with many SVM alumni at the Western Veterinary Conference (WVC) and the VMX conference in Florida. We are looking forward to welcoming many of you back to campus in June for the Alumni Reunion, celebrating the Classes of 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015. We'll again host a tailgate and continuing education event at the school in fall 2020. Please check our calendar at [vetmed.wisc.edu/events](http://vetmed.wisc.edu/events) for more details about all of our upcoming events as they become available.

Again, thank you for staying in touch.

On, Wisconsin!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristi V. Thorson".

Kristi V. Thorson  
Associate Dean for Advancement and Administration  
[kristi.thorson@wisc.edu](mailto:kristi.thorson@wisc.edu)

#### On the cover

Top Row (left to right): Mark Baenen DVM'95; Diane Grede DVM'92;  
Middle Row (left to right): Sarah Lautzenhiser DVM'00; Kristin Patneau DVM'00;  
Bottom Row (left to right): Mark Thompson DVM'96; Diane Huxtable DVM'15.

[1987]

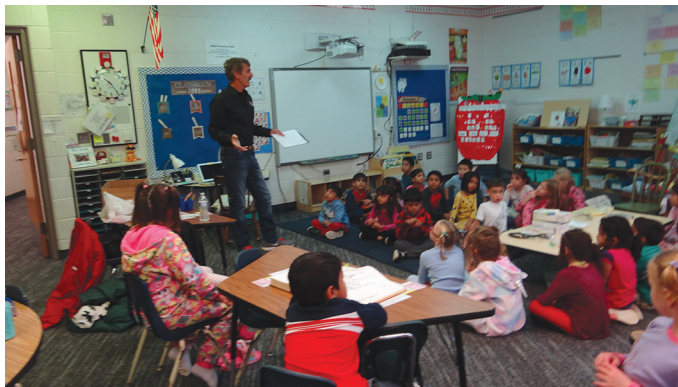


Rodney Kuenzi (left) owner of Kuenzi Family Pet Hospital in Waukesha and Jeff Zuba, DVM'87 (right).

## Rodney Kuenzi

Jeff Zuba DVM'87 and I continued our joint collaboration on the rating of International Bitterness Units on a statistically significant sampling of Midwestern IPAs.

[1988]



John Been explaining the role of a large animal veterinarian to his grandson Dylan's first grade classmates at Rose Elementary in South Barrington, Illinois.

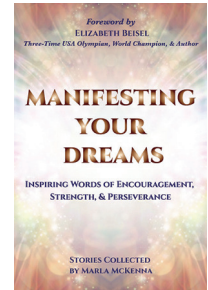
## John Been

I continue to enjoy my membership on the UW School of Veterinary Medicine Board of Visitors, where we recently celebrated the green lighting of the building expansion for the school. The State Legislature and Governor passed funding in the biennial budget that ensures that the project will go forward. Great things are in the future for our alma mater! I am still doing some limited relief veterinary work in dairy medicine but otherwise am having a fine time in retirement with my hobbies. Ranjana and I now have four grandchildren to spoil. Life is good.

[1991]

## Manette Kohler

I've been part of a very exciting project this past year. I am one of 20 authors sharing our stories of how we manifested our dreams, found our purpose in life, or overcame trauma. Every story is distinct, heartfelt, and inspirational as it offers encouragement to face the challenges that life presents, in an effort to find peace, strength, joy, and purpose. My chapter is about how I visualized a successful behavior consultation business (down to minute details) and how everything just fell into place just as I had envisioned. Hard work and determination were central to this dream, but the "Law of Attraction" was a very important factor as well. "Manifesting Your Dreams" was released December 12, 2019, and is available on Amazon. If anyone would like a signed copy, please email me personally. The foreword is written by three-time American Olympian, world champion swimmer, Elizabeth Beisel. Since launching on December 12, 2019, "Manifesting Your Dreams" is a No. 1 best seller, which is so very exciting. It is a dream come true to say the least. Wishing all my classmates and alumni a wonderful 2020!



Manifesting Your Dreams, a No. 1 best seller on Amazon, includes story by Manette Kohler.

## Jeffrey Lohmiller

It's been a busy year for us in upstate New York. Sue started her master's coursework in nutrition this fall at Russell Sage College. I'm closing in on my 20th year at Taconic. The company was sold to a private equity firm in February 2019. I'm adapting to a different business approach under the new leadership.

I had the opportunity to spend a couple of weeks in the Northwoods of Wisconsin hunting with my father in the fall. Sue and I checked one item of our bucket list this year. We spent 10 days in Israel visiting sites in the Holy Land and four days in Egypt. What a powerful, moving experience that was! Brittney moved to Maine and got married there in February. Alexis is still in Dallas. Lauren and her husband returned from their deployment in July, and we are expecting our first grandchild in June 2020. Jacob graduated with a degree in automotive technical services. He moved to Colorado a few days after Christmas and we are empty nesters. We continue to be thankful for the many blessings we've received and wish all a fantastic 2020!

[1992]



Diane Grede with her golden retriever, Hazel.

## Diane Grede

It's been 28 great years, but now, I am heading to retirement! I have been an owner my entire time in this profession and the employees have finally gotten the best of me (not really)! I have had a great staff and have worked with amazing people throughout the years, but it's finally time to hang up that stethoscope. I built a solo practice with two employees into an eight-doctor practice with 40 support staff in Oshkosh, Wisconsin called Animal Hospital of Oshkosh. I am very proud to say I feel we give our clients the best medicine possible!

## Todd O'Hara

I accepted the position of Professor and Head of the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University. It's been an incredible 25 years in Alaska — so incredible that my wife, Carla, will forego the pleasure of 104 degree summer days and stay in Fairbanks where she's in her 15th year as Associate Veterinarian in the Animal Resources Center, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I will continue my "collaboration" with Carla, and with my ongoing research projects at UAF. I dread the heat in Texas and will likely be the only person wearing a Badgers/Packers hat...but starting a bilingual (Spanish/English) toxicology program and stepping into a leadership role

at an exemplary research/biomed institution is pretty exciting! The F1's are doing well. Lars is a fly/ice fishing expert and sophomore biochem major at UAF, and Anne is a junior in high school and a very competitive curler.

[1994]

## Emily Leuthner

My husband, **Mike Leuthner DVM'95**, and I recently partnered with Encore Vet Group, including all three of our clinics in the new arrangement. And now, I'm part of Encore's partnership development team!

## Chris Olson

I am excited to announce that I attended the Chi Institute for small animal acupuncture. This past year I completed my course work, hours of shadowing, and case reports, so I am now a certified small animal veterinary acupuncturist. I am excited to add this skill to my practice and have already been seeing the benefits, helping dogs with pain. I am still working at Country View Veterinary Service in Oregon, Wisconsin. My children are maturing quickly; my oldest daughter is in college at UW-Madison, and my youngest is a senior in high school. I guess that means next year I will need to add another pet or two to the household!

[1995]



Literally camping under my plane in the homebuilt camping area at the EAA AirVenture gathering.

## Mark Baenen

I crossed a couple big items off my bucket list this last year. First, I completed my homebuilt airplane kit, a Zenith CH750 STOL, and it passed airworthiness inspection in March. Second, after flight-testing, I flew my new plane to Mecca — the EAA's AirVenture gathering in Oshkosh. It really is the busiest airport in the world for that week. I spent the week trying to see everything, but it would take a month. It was one of the most relaxing vacations I have ever taken! I've taken several longer trips and now have over 100 hours flight time.

## [1996]

### Mark Thompson (Photo 1, Page 7)

The past few years have been good. My daughter is doing well in college as a junior at Baylor University in Texas, majoring in school social work (like her mother). My son is a junior in high school, preparing for college entrance exams. For the past 22 years, my wife Amy and I have lived in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where she is a school social worker at a Fond du Lac Elementary School.

I am the sole owner of a two-veterinarian clinic. In 2018, our clinic was named American Animal Hospital Association's (AAHA) Practice of the Year, and in 2019, Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association's Outstanding Service Team. I am now on the AAHA board of directors and finishing my MBA online. I am still an avid Packer fan and am on two league curling teams in Appleton.

## [2000]

### Sarah Lautzenhiser (Photo 2 Page 7)

I was awarded a year-long fellowship with Partners For Wildlife, a new initiative housed in the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center. Through this experience, I hope to strengthen my knowledge of wildlife rehabilitation by networking with established rehabilitators, wildlife veterinarians, and regulatory groups. Longterm, I'd like to be of greater service to those working in rehabilitative medicine in the Northern Wisconsin area.

### Kristin Patneau (BeVirt) (Photo 3, Page 7)

My husband, Mike, and I welcomed our long-awaited first child, Mattie Elizabeth, in February 2019. She keeps us on our toes while playing with all of her furry siblings. I continue to enjoy my work at the same small animal practice in the Milwaukee area, where I have worked for the last 18 years. Recently, I have incorporated integrative medicine into my practice after completing my certification in medical acupuncture in 2015 and veterinary western herbal medicine in 2018. I love both the new perspective and the additional tools I now use to improve the quality of life of my patients. We recently had a great time visiting the school for the Fall Auction. It was great seeing all the new changes to SAVMA!

## [2005]

### Jennifer Gockowski (Photo 4, Page 7)

I've been busy building up my illustration business again, post-divorce, and the end of 2019 brought a welcome explosion of work and commissions my way! My custom pet portraits in a scratchboard medium (like a hand-

illustrated engraving) have been increasingly popular. Most of my client subjects are dogs and cats, but I recently received a request for a portrait of owls. (I'd love to venture into equine portraits as well.) My work is shipped all over the country and even the UK. Originally, I trained in scientific and medical illustration, but now most of my work is fine art portraits and watercolor/gouache paintings. However, I'd love to do an occasional scientific or medical project. My work can be found at [jenniferillustrations.com](http://jenniferillustrations.com), as well as on social media: @jenniferillustrations on Instagram and Jennifer Illustrations, LLC, on Facebook.

### Becky Krull (Photo 5, Page 7)

I have taken on coaching, consulting, and speaking roles as my practice career continues to grow.

I have teamed up with my own life coach, Kerry Geocaris, to help other veterinarians who battle with burnout and compassion fatigue. I'm very transparent about my struggles with burnout and offer up my own struggles and solutions to help others regain their love for veterinary medicine.

Check out my story and learn about our coaching tools at <http://elevators.respond.ontraport.net>.

## [2006]

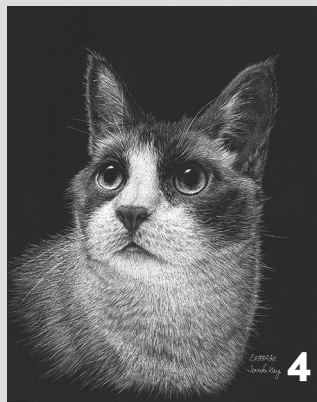
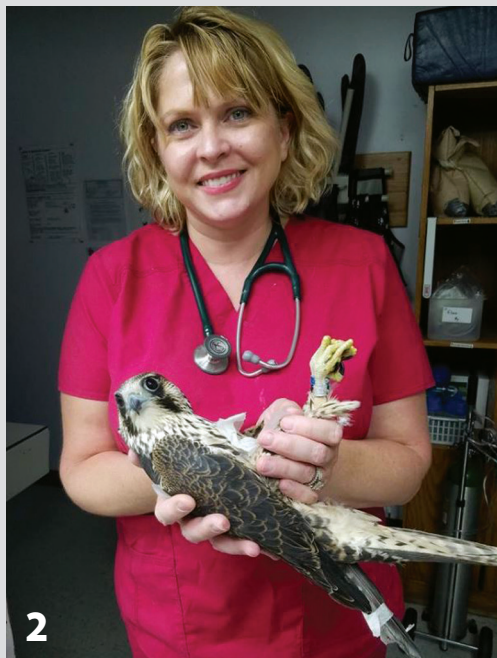
### Maria Krenz (Photos 6, Page 7)

I've owned ZimmVet, located in Zimmerman, Minnesota, since 2008. ZimmVet ([zimmvet.com](http://zimmvet.com)) is a four-veterinarian clinic with a focus on canine and feline care and became an AAHA-certified clinic in spring 2019. It also includes a 40-suite pet hotel, seven-day-a-week doggie daycare, full-time trainer, and pet salon. I live in Princeton with my husband, Josh, and our two children, Hadley (4) and Brixton (2).

## [2008]

### Jennifer Bennett (Photo 7, Page 7)

I was elected to the Board of Directors for the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association in September 2019 and will serve a three-year term. I will also serve in the position of Secretary of the Board for my initial year. I will also be representing Washington state in February 2020 for the AVMA Legislative Fly-In on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., where veterinarians learn how to use their education to shape public policy. I've been the Medical Director of the Seattle Animal Shelter for the City of Seattle since 2017.



1) Mark Thompson with staff of Country Hills Pet Hospital. 2) Sarah Lautzenhiser at the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center. 3) Kristin and Mike Patneau with their first child, Mattie Elizabeth, at SAVMA's Fall Auction. 4) Jennifer Gockowski's first feline portrait, "Cabbage." 5) Becky Krull's unleashed promotion. 6) Maria Krenz with staff of ZimmVet clinic. 7) Jennifer Bennett at the Seattle Animal Shelter.



## [2008]

### Erica Esser (Photo 1, Page 9)

I made a big move from Stevens Point, Wisconsin to Chicago, Illinois. I joined West Loop Veterinary Care, and my daughter started kindergarten at the same elementary school that I went to as a child. We are enjoying exploring the city but do miss the warm feeling of living in Wisconsin.

### Sara Greenslit

I joined AnShen Holistic Veterinary Care this year, providing acupuncture, spinal manipulation, Chinese herbal therapy, and quality of life care. I recently became a certified veterinary spinal manipulation therapist (CVSMT) from the Healing Oasis. I am a certified veterinary acupuncturist (CVA) and a certified Chinese veterinary herbalist (CVCH) from the Chi Institute.

## [2009]

### Will Sander (Photo 2, Page 9)

At the most recent American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and ExoticsCon gathering in St. Louis, I had a mini Class of 2009 reunion with **Rich Sim**, **Renée Schott**, **Noemi Plantz**, and **Scott Medlin**.

## [2011]

### Tara Johaneck (Photo 3, Page 9)

I started a new job at Bay East Animal Hospital in Green Bay, Wisconsin in February 2019. I enjoyed my externship at the clinic during my fourth year and am thrilled to be a part of their team. My husband and I welcomed our third son, Denny James, into our family in August.

### Rachel Kesting

I moved back to Wisconsin in April and started working for Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists in Milwaukee as an ER veterinarian.

### M. Leanne Lilly

I completed my residency in behavioral medicine in July and in October became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behavior. I am one of only 86 DACVBs. I worked as a clinical instructor at Ohio State University and in January transitioned to assistant professor at the Ohio State University's Veterinary Medical Center and College of Veterinary Medicine. I sit on the education committee and plan to present 12 lectures at the Midwest Veterinary Conference. I still sport Badger gear, but hopefully no one will notice because it's the same colors.

### Ewan Wolff

I recently got ACVIM boarded and moved from Affiliated Veterinary Specialists in Maitland, Florida to Bridger Veterinary Specialists in Bozeman, Montana. I am very happy to be back in the Bozeman area, where I attended graduate school, and hope to connect with fellow Badgers who are visiting Yellowstone. Our kids, ages seven and nine, are doing well and are enjoying Montana.

## [2012]

### Ariel Cunningham

After three years of heading the Fairbanks North Star Borough Division of Animal Control, I accepted the position of Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian for USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in North Pole, Alaska. I will be stationed at a very, very, small establishment where I will see cattle, swine, sheep, goats, bison, reindeer and yak. I am really excited about this new career opportunity. If you know any students who are interested in FSIS, remind them to check out our internships!

### Laura Russo-Klister

I continue to practice small animal medicine at North Heights Veterinary Clinic in Appleton, Wisconsin. This year my older son, Cyril Albert, was joined by a baby brother, Francis Edward.



**1)** Erica Esser and her daughter, posing for a selfie by Lake Michigan **2)** Rich Sim (lower left), Renèe Schott (upper left), Will Sander (upper right), Noemi Plantz (lower right), and Scott Medlin (center). **3)** Tara Johanek and her sweet, growing family.



## [2013]

### Rebecca Kohnken (Photo 1, Page 11)

**Josh Heise DVM'13** and I moved to Highland Park Illinois in early 2018, after I completed an anatomic pathology residency and PhD at Ohio State University. Josh had been working at a rural mixed animal practice during that time. Now back to the Northshore of Chicago, where I grew up, we purchased a house and started new careers. Josh is an associate at a small animal only private practice, and I'm a pathologist at the biopharmaceutical company Abbvie, where I perform toxicity and safety evaluation of drugs to support therapeutic development and initiation of human clinical trials. This September, we welcomed our son, Henry Robert Heise. He joins our family of three cats: Wendell, Sebastian, and Mika. We look forward to a happy new year spent with family and friends.

## [2014]

### Rachel Andrews

I passed Phase II of the ACVP exam and became board certified with the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 2019 and was hired as an assistant professor in Radiation Oncology at Wake Forest University, where I defended my dissertation and earned a PhD in 2018.

## [2015]

### Kimberly Hassen

I completed my residency, passed my certifying examination, and am now a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia.

### Diane Huxtable (O'Brien) (Photo 2, Page 11)

My husband, Ken, and I married soon after graduation. Since then, I have practiced small animal general and emergency medicine in California, Virginia, and now North Carolina, as we move frequently with Ken's position in the Marine Corps. In May 2019, we began our greatest adventure yet when we welcomed our amazing son, Callan, into the world.

### Naomi Rich

In August 2018, I married my longtime partner (many of my classmates knew him well) and am currently in my second year of an American College of Veterinary Dermatology residency in Seattle, Washington.

## [2016]

### Kate Guerriero (Photo 3, Page 11)

I completed a laboratory animal medicine veterinary residency at Yale University in July 2018 and started a new job as senior clinical veterinarian at the Washington National Primate Research Center in Seattle. In August 2019, I successfully passed the board certification exam in lab animal medicine and became a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DACLAM).

### Rheba Zimmerman (Mabie) (Photo 4, Page 11)

My household of little Badger fans doubled on August 14, 2019 when I gave birth to a son, Alex Emerson Zimmerman! Two-year-old big brother, Jack Sterling Zimmerman, has been enjoying "teaching" his little brother about the UW sporting events they have attended and introducing Alex to Bucky Badger!

## [2017]

### Brandon Scharping

2019 was a great year for us. In June, I married **Morgan Scharping (Randall) DVM'19**, and Morgan also started working at Lena Veterinary Clinic, where we both practice food animal medicine in Lena, Illinois. In August, we bought our first home in the countryside of Pearl City, Illinois. We have been very blessed, and hope 2020 is as great of a year as 2019.

## [2019]

### Galya Fedderly (Photo 5, Page 11)

Since graduation in May 2019, I moved across the country to Fairfax, Virginia, joining 26 other doctors at Pender Veterinary Centre, where I'm finally achieving my goal of seeing primarily exotic pets. The wide variety of animals I am seeing now allows me to learn new techniques daily! And I'm excited to call Fairfax my new home!

### Ian McSweeney (Photo 6, Page 11)

I adopted a new cat!

### Jake Nilles

I am excited to announce that I have accepted an Ophthalmology residency at UW-Madison, starting July 2020! I can't wait to see you all again!



1



3



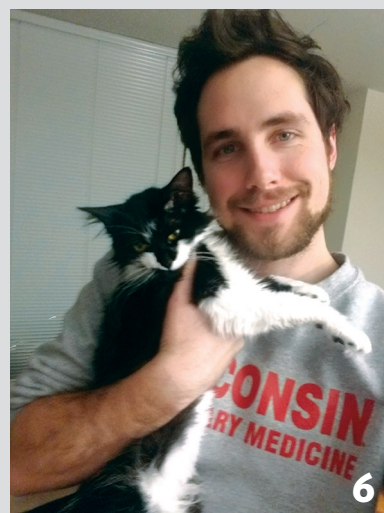
4



2



5



6

1) Rebecca Kohnken and Josh with baby Henry preparing for Christmas celebrations. 2) Diane Huxtable and her family at their North Carolina home. 3) Kate Guerriero celebrating becoming a DACLAM. 4) Rheba Zimmerman and her sons at a UW sporting event. 5) Galya Fedderly at her new job at Pender Veterinary Centre. 6) Ian McSweeny with his new feline friend.



SVM Alumni Class Notes is published by the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. We welcome your suggestions and contributions, though we reserve the right to edit submissions.

The printing and distribution of this magazine were funded by donations to the school. To make a gift, contact Pat Bowdish at [pat.bowdish@supportuw.org](mailto:pat.bowdish@supportuw.org) or 608-332-4750 or Heidi Kramer at [heidi.kramer@supportuw.org](mailto:heidi.kramer@supportuw.org) or 608-327-9136.

Mark D. Markel, Dean

Kristi V. Thorson, Associate Dean, Advancement and Administration

Pat Bowdish, Managing Senior Director of Development Medical Advancement, UW Foundation

Heidi Kramer, Director of Development, UW Foundation  
Design & Editing: Denise Garlow and Ashley Voss

Please address correspondence to:

Kristi V. Thorson  
[kristi.thorson@wisc.edu](mailto:kristi.thorson@wisc.edu)  
2015 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706-1102  
Phone: 608-263-9692



School of  
Veterinary Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

2015 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706-1102

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MADISON, WI  
PERMIT NO. 658

# SVM ALUMNI CLASS NOTES



School of  
Veterinary Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



# DAY OF THE BADGER

*Give Back. Wear Red.  
Stay Connected.*

Badger Nation, are you ready  
to share in a total UW experience?

COMING SOON

[dayofthebadger.org](http://dayofthebadger.org) | [#dayofthebadger](https://twitter.com/dayofthebadger)