WINTER 2021–22

On Call

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

A Groundbreaking Project

See what the future holds with the school's building expansion

Understanding CWD

Researchers unravel effects of devastating deer disease

Giving Thanks

Celebrating the impact of gifts and our generous supporters

School of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

STRONGER TOGETHER

THANK YOU to our dedicated hospital staff, veterinary technicians, residents and interns, students, instructors and faculty, for your perseverance and creative solutions in the face of ongoing challenges.

We've learned some valuable lessons along the way, but one stands out above all the others: ***We accomplish so much more when we work together.***

Patient care, teaching and learning, and clinical research are all in our day's work. And that work is invigorated and sustained through the support of a strong network of referring veterinarians, UW School of Veterinary Medicine alumni, campus and community partners — and beyond.

We can't foresee the challenges around the next corner, but with resiliency, resolve, and teamwork we know amazing things are possible.

Together, we carry on to keep animals feeling happy and healthy.

UW Veterinary Care
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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On Call

WINTER 2021–22

Features

Building Possibility

In June, ground was broken on the long-anticipated UW School of Veterinary Medicine building expansion and renovation, beginning a radical transformation. The new state-of-the-art facility will improve instruction space for students, significantly enhance the small and large animal hospitals, and expand and modernize research spaces.

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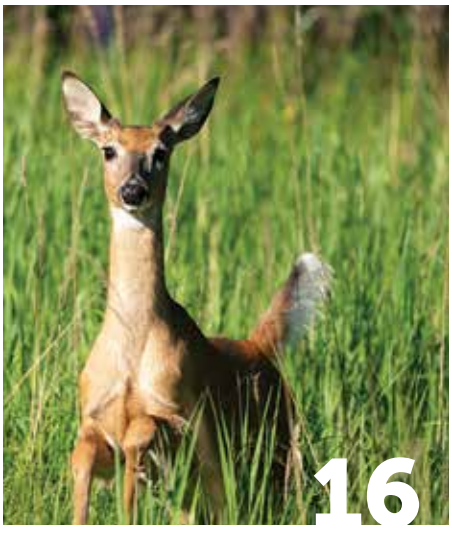

Deer Disease Detectives

Together, researchers at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are working to uncover new insights into how chronic wasting disease affects the state's deer populations.

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With Gratitude

Hospital clients, clinic sponsors, alumni, industry partners, and more. In this special section, we honor the gracious support of donors from all walks of life with gifts of every size, all of which make a difference in advancing the school.

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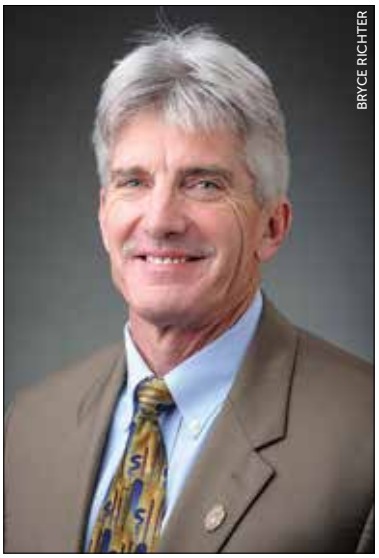
On the Cover

An architectural rendering of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine building expansion viewed from the corner of Observatory Drive and Easterday Lane. Completion of the addition is projected for 2023 and renovations of the existing building in late 2024. (Photo: Courtesy Flad Architects)

School of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Emerging from the Pandemic Even Stronger


BRYCE RICHTER

Mark D. Markel

Welcome to the winter issue of *On Call*. As I write this, the school is slowly emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, with the overwhelming majority of our efforts having returned to pre-pandemic status. We are now fully in person, whether it's with our instruction, our research efforts, or, as has been true throughout the pandemic, in our hospital.

This issue of *On Call* highlights many of the school's strengths and, in particular, acknowledges the importance of our friends who graciously support our teaching, research, and clinical activities through their philanthropy.

We are actively in the middle of the construction of our expansion, with the new building literally going up before our eyes. We are also in the midst of remodeling and refurbishing our current facility, right now focusing on our large animal hospital and research spaces. Our goal is to complete construction of the new building in 2023 and remodeling of our current building in 2024. You can get a taste of what's to come through this critical project on pages 10-15 of this magazine.

We recently celebrated the completion of UW–Madison's All Ways Forward comprehensive campaign, with the campus raising over $4 billion. We at the School of Veterinary Medicine were originally asked to raise approximately $35 million during this campaign, which kicked off in 2015. But thanks to your generous support, we have now raised in excess of $135 million. Critically, our campaign success includes more than $78 million in documented future estate gifts, ensuring long-term investments in the school (read more on pages 24-25).

Whether through scholarship support for our students, gifts to our building expansion project, support of our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, or contributions to our research and clinical enterprises, we would not be as successful as we are without your generosity. On behalf of everyone at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, I want to thank you for all that you do for us, enhancing the impact we have on our students, patients, and animal and human health.

When you have an opportunity, take a ride down Observatory Drive to see the progress of our construction. Or, tune into our continuously updated construction camera at **animalsneedheroestoo.com** for a live view of the excitement. I hope you have a fantastic winter.

Mark D. Markel, Dean

P.S. Are you on Twitter? I recently started tweeting about school activities and would love to connect with you; follow along at @UWVetMedDean.

On Call WINTER 2021-22

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On Call is also available online at: **www.vetmed.wisc.edu/on-call**

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

Ask a UW Veterinarian

Help for an Anxiety-Ridden Older Dog

*This expert response comes from **Amy Nichelason** and **Maria Verbrugge**, veterinarians with UW Veterinary Care's Primary Care service.*

Question: I am looking for advice on how to treat a 14-year-old dog who has separation anxiety. My vet has prescribed trazodone, but this does not work. This all started when we had to put our other dog down. If I leave Murphy at home, he goes from room to room, gets out of breath, and will have accidents. I worry about him since your fine doctors fixed him when he had laryngeal paralysis. So, I have resorted to taking him wherever I go; he has become my work dog. Any suggestions would be helpful.

—Susan, Belvidere, Illinois

Answer: We're so sorry you've been dealing with this after the loss of your other dog. It's great you've recognized the stress your dog is experiencing; this is an essential first step! Separation anxiety can be stressful for both the people and animals in the household.

We think of two main categories for approaching behavior concerns: management and training. Management strategies are anything you do to avoid triggering situations; for example, bringing your dog to work. Other strategies to help dogs with separation anxiety include daycare, pet sitters, or dog walkers.

Training, on the other hand, can take a very long time. It is a gradual process of teaching your dog to cope with being alone. The hard part is that any event where your dog goes "over threshold," meaning he is alone for longer than he can cope, can be very scary and set back his training. So, training exercises are best set up through an experienced dog trainer who uses exclusively positive reinforcement techniques, or better yet, a veterinary behaviorist (visit **dacvb.org** to see if there is one near you).

We're sorry to hear the trazodone hasn't been helpful. You may want to check with your veterinarian to see if they have ideas for a different dose, timing, or medication. No pill will cure separation anxiety on its own, but in some cases, medications can help when combined with management and training strategies. For further information, the book *I'll Be Home Soon* by Patricia McConnell is an excellent resource.

Questions

Have a question for our veterinary medical experts?
Please send it to the *On Call* editor at **oncall@vetmed.wisc.edu**. We cannot guarantee responses to all submissions. For any urgent pet health issue, please contact your veterinarian directly.

Socializing with the SVM

Friends of the school sharing their thoughts (and pets) on social media...

Day trip w/ Sebastian to the UW–Madison Veterinary Clinic (the Mayo of avian care) for CT scan, bloodwork & biopsy. Sometimes this guy takes a village.

–@johnthorsond4
Via UW School of Veterinary Medicine Instagram (@uwvetmed)

And just like that, 10 radiation treatments are complete! So grateful to UW Veterinary Care and the wonderful staff in the Oncology/Radiation departments. Couldn't have asked for better care for Bella!

–@jrnoethe
Via UW School of Veterinary Medicine Instagram (@uwvetmed)

Dearly missed, but never forgotten! We miss you Nika! Thank you so much @eadettman11 for this amazing gift to always remember her by...it's right in the entrance of @uwvetmed!

–@katlin_wi
Via UW School of Veterinary Medicine Instagram (@uwvetmed)

UNSPLASH

Study Shows Vaccinated People Can Spread COVID-19 Virus — But There Is More to the Story

Some people who became infected with SARS-CoV-2 despite being vaccinated had just as much virus in their nasal passages as newly infected unvaccinated people, according to a study published in July by researchers at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC), and Exact Sciences.

Thomas Friedrich, a professor of virology in the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, was a co-author of the study, published ahead of peer review on the preprint server medRxiv. Friedrich is part of UW–Madison's AIDS Vaccine Research Laboratory, which has been collecting genetic samples from positive COVID tests since March of 2020.

The lab uses genomic sequencing to track how the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19, spreads through space and time. They are using these subtle genetic differences to understand how the virus evolves within and between hosts, how it might evolve in the future, and to help fight the disease.

The new findings, from a time in which the more contagious delta variant became predominant in Wisconsin, complement other recent studies of COVID-19 outbreaks that involved transmission of virus from vaccinated people. The Wisconsin scientists did not examine transmission directly in the study, but the finding of high levels of infectious virus in some fully vaccinated people who get sick with COVID-19 explains how such individuals could potentially infect others.

Analysis of nearly 700 COVID-positive samples collected in Wisconsin between June 28 and July 24 showed no significant difference in "viral load" between 310 fully vaccinated people and 389 unvaccinated people. Both the vaccinated and unvaccinated study subjects had high viral loads at the time of their positive tests — levels shown in previous studies to be substantial enough to make them contagious to others.

They also joined with UW School of Veterinary Medicine virologist **Yoshihiro Kawaoka**'s lab to test a subset of samples with high levels of viral RNA and found that nearly all contained infectious virus.

The researchers emphasize that their findings do not mean vaccines are not effective. Some breakthrough infections are expected in vaccinated people since no vaccine is 100 percent effective. And because their study included only people who tested positive, it was not designed to measure vaccine effectiveness.

Vaccination remains critical, the researchers say. COVID-19 vaccines reduce susceptibility to infection, are effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death, and are an important way for almost everyone to help prevent new and dangerous cases. And, as other recent studies have shown, boosters can significantly enhance protection against the delta variant and help reduce its spread.

Still, the results show that vaccinated people, who don't have much to fear in terms of severe disease, must be mindful that they could still be a potential source of infection for others. "If there are people in their lives who are vulnerable, they still need to take care to keep those people safe," says Friedrich. "And so, we still need a community response to the pandemic that includes vaccinated people taking steps to prevent the unlikely — but not impossible — chance that they would transmit infection to others."

As with the CDC at a national level, the findings in Wisconsin of high viral load even in vaccinated people led PHMDC to return to recommending face coverings indoors for vaccinated and unvaccinated people. The PHMDC face covering order is in effect through Nov. 27.

A CHAMP for Children

The newest employee at American Family Children's Hospital has a big smile, a soft spot for kids, and four legs.

Kiko, a two-year-old golden retriever, arrived this fall to work as a facility dog. She will be the first dog in the new Canine Health And Medical Pals program, known as CHAMPs, at the Children's Hospital.

The CHAMPs program pairs a facility dog with a child life specialist to provide customized interventions in conjunction with a coping plan for patients. For example, the dog might sit with a child as they get blood drawn or have a stressful procedure. Kiko is professionally trained to work in health-care settings and provide comfort to children during their treatment process.

Instrumental in laying the foundation for this new program was the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) Pet Pals therapy dog program and **Linda Sullivan DVM'87**, Pet Pals coordinator and professor emerita. Beginning in 1996, Pet Pals volunteer teams of dogs and their owners provided comfort and cuddle time for AFCH patients and families. Conducted in a group setting twice per week, Pet Pals volunteers impacted many lives during the program's 25-year existence.

CHAMPs facility dogs are specifically trained for child therapy and work a full 40 hours each week.

The program is funded entirely through philanthropic donations. Each dog has an individual sponsor. Under a continued partnership between the SVM and UW Health, and in thanks to a generous endowed gift by Sullivan, CHAMPs facility dogs will receive all veterinary medical care at the UW Veterinary Care teaching hospital.

A second CHAMPs dog will arrive in the spring of 2022.

Joined by her primary handler, Brianna Hampton (center), a child life specialist with UW Health Kids, Kiko, a facility dog with Canine Health And Medical Pals (CHAMPs), receives a wellness exam from Elizabeth Alvarez, clinical assistant professor with Primary Care, and fourth-year student Nathan Poser DVMx'22. The program includes a partnership with the UW School of Veterinary Medicine; UW Veterinary Care will provide veterinary medical care for Kiko and a forthcoming CHAMPs teammate.

Honoring Pet Pals

After 25 years of positive impact on thousands of children and their families at American Family Children's Hospital (AFCH), this fall Pet Pals made the difficult decision to come to an end.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all volunteer-based programs at UW Health, including Pet Pals, were suspended indefinitely beginning in March 2020 and continue to be suspended.

What began with three dogs as part of Pet Pals resulted in more than 150 dogs and 200 human volunteers serving the program over the years.

Pet Pals recruited and screened teams of volunteer dogs and their owners to visit AFCH pediatric patients, many of whom are hospitalized for extended periods with severe diseases. The goal was to provide the children with safe and enjoyable visits from loving canine friends.

Instrumental in the program were Pet Pals pioneers and School of Veterinary Medicine emeritus faculty members **Linda Sullivan** and **Chris Olsen**, who worked tirelessly to make possible twice-weekly Pet Pals therapy visits to AFCH. In addition, clinical professor **Ruthanne Chun DVM'91**, then UW Veterinary Care hospital director, provided support that was a significant contribution to Pet Pals' success.

Pet Pals' achievements laid a strong foundation that enabled the new full-time facility dog program, CHAMPs, to begin.

Companion Animal Fund Grant Program Supports 18 New Studies

Thanks to the Companion Animal Fund Grant Program, faculty at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) will pursue 18 new research projects — seven more than in 2020 — aimed at improving animal health care. Over $197,000 in grants were distributed in 2021.

Researchers will explore a variety of subjects, including canine vision testing techniques, dosing protocols for extended-release antibiotics, genetic analysis for equine degenerative ligament disease, canine cancer drug resistance, and alternatives to surgical treatment.

Carrie Schroeder, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Surgical Sciences, was awarded her first Companion Animal Fund grant to study how best to manage pain using a specific type of analgesic block in canine abdominal surgery.

The abdominal area has several planes of fascia, or bands of connective tissue under the skin and between layers of muscle. Schroeder is investigating fascial plane blocks, a regional anesthesia delivered through an injection to block pain to multiple nerves. This method allows for a larger area of pain relief than peripheral nerve blocks, which target individual nerves.

Schroeder will study two types of fascial blocks: the transversus abdominis plane for the front and side of the abdominal wall, and the rectus sheath block along the midline of the abdomen. The goal is to map the areas of coverage by evaluating the spread of the anesthesia in both planes.

This research is highly translational. To date, veterinarians do not have a reliable map of canine abdominal fascial planes to inform pre- and post-surgical anesthesia strategies. Study results could provide a resource for veterinarians to better administer analgesia to dogs undergoing abdominal surgery.

"If patients have more effective regional anesthesia, they will be more comfortable immediately following surgery, thereby reducing the number of opioids prescribed for post-surgical pain relief — another added benefit," Schroeder notes.

She is hopeful the study results will encourage the use of fascial plane blocks by veterinarians in a range of settings. "With the right equipment and training, these blocks are easy to perform," she says. "I'd love to see more widespread adoption of this pain management technique — not just in specialty clinics, but in private practices too."

The Companion Animal Fund is made possible by donations from veterinary medical clinics with strong ties to the school (see page 21) and individual donors. Donations to the Companion Animal Fund, Feline Health Fund, Equine Health Fund, and other gifts support the Companion Animal Fund Grant Program.

Through an annual competitive process, the school awards funds to faculty to further research that will enhance the care of companion animals. In addition, funds support facility and equipment improvements to provide enhanced diagnostics and treatments at UW Veterinary Care.

"These grants have a real impact, often resulting in new and novel treatments — not only at our hospital but across the field of veterinary medicine," says **Kristi Thorson**, associate dean for advancement and administration. To view 2021 study descriptions and investigators: **go.wisc.edu/CAFresearch**.

Denise Garlow

Overheard

Recent commentary by and about those at the SVM

"Every day I get to be an advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves. Animals deserve as much compassion, respect and humanity as we do. To be able to help them, no matter how big or small the act, is very rewarding."

–**Sarah Harnden**, certified veterinary technician with UW Veterinary Care's Emergency and Critical Care Unit, in a UW School of Veterinary Medicine story celebrating veterinary technicians' care, compassion, and expertise.

"If there's one silver lining in what we've learned the past year during the pandemic, it's if we wash our hands, don't touch our mouths, don't touch our eyes, most zoonotic disease will not transfer to us."

–**Doug Kratt DVM'98**, immediate past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, speaking with Network Indiana about good hygiene.

"The goal is to take advances in genome sequencing technology that we and others have been applying to understand how the coronavirus is spreading and make those advances more directly applicable to public health."

–**Thomas Friedrich**, professor of virology, speaking with Wisconsin Public Radio about UW–Madison joining an international effort to create a pandemic prevention institute aimed at helping researchers, public health officials, and governments respond quickly to future pandemics.

Doctor of veterinary medicine graduates Marie Bucko, Stephanie Rinehart, Megan Barry, and Sarah Fischer (left to right, rear) celebrate and wave inflated medical gloves at the graduate and professional degree Commencement ceremony at Camp Randall Stadium in May, capping an academic career altered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

JEFF MILLER

Kibble

Bits of news from around the school

Eradicated: David Vail, professor and Barbara A. Suran Chair in Comparative Oncology, was part of research to report that combining targeted radiotherapy with immunotherapy significantly boosts eradication of metastatic cancer in mice. The combination was also tried as a treatment in pet dogs who had naturally occurring metastatic cancer. The dogs tolerated the treatment well, without toxic side effects. Researchers continue to monitor the dogs to evaluate the combination therapy as a cancer treatment in the veterinary setting, which closely mimics the diversity of patients and tumors encountered in human clinical settings.

Environmental exposure: Lauren Trepanier, the Melita Grunow Family Professor in Companion Animal Health, presented a TEDx talk in October titled How Environmental Toxins Impact Your Dog. She explores her research related to lymphoma, bladder cancer, and environmental toxins and shares tips to reduce exposure. To watch: **go.wisc.edu/trepaniertedx**

'Big gap' in veterinary medicine: A study led by **Erin Lashnits**, clinical assistant professor of small animal internal medicine, provides new insights into how best to diagnose *Bartonella* infection in dogs. The common flea-borne disease is linked to heart infection, organ inflammation, and other ailments. Researchers evaluated the clinical accuracy of six different diagnostic tests for *Bartonella* infection in dogs. The most commonly used tests had very low sensitivity, which can lead to false negative results, while a less common test method was highly accurate. The results could help improve diagnostic techniques applicable to both pets and people.

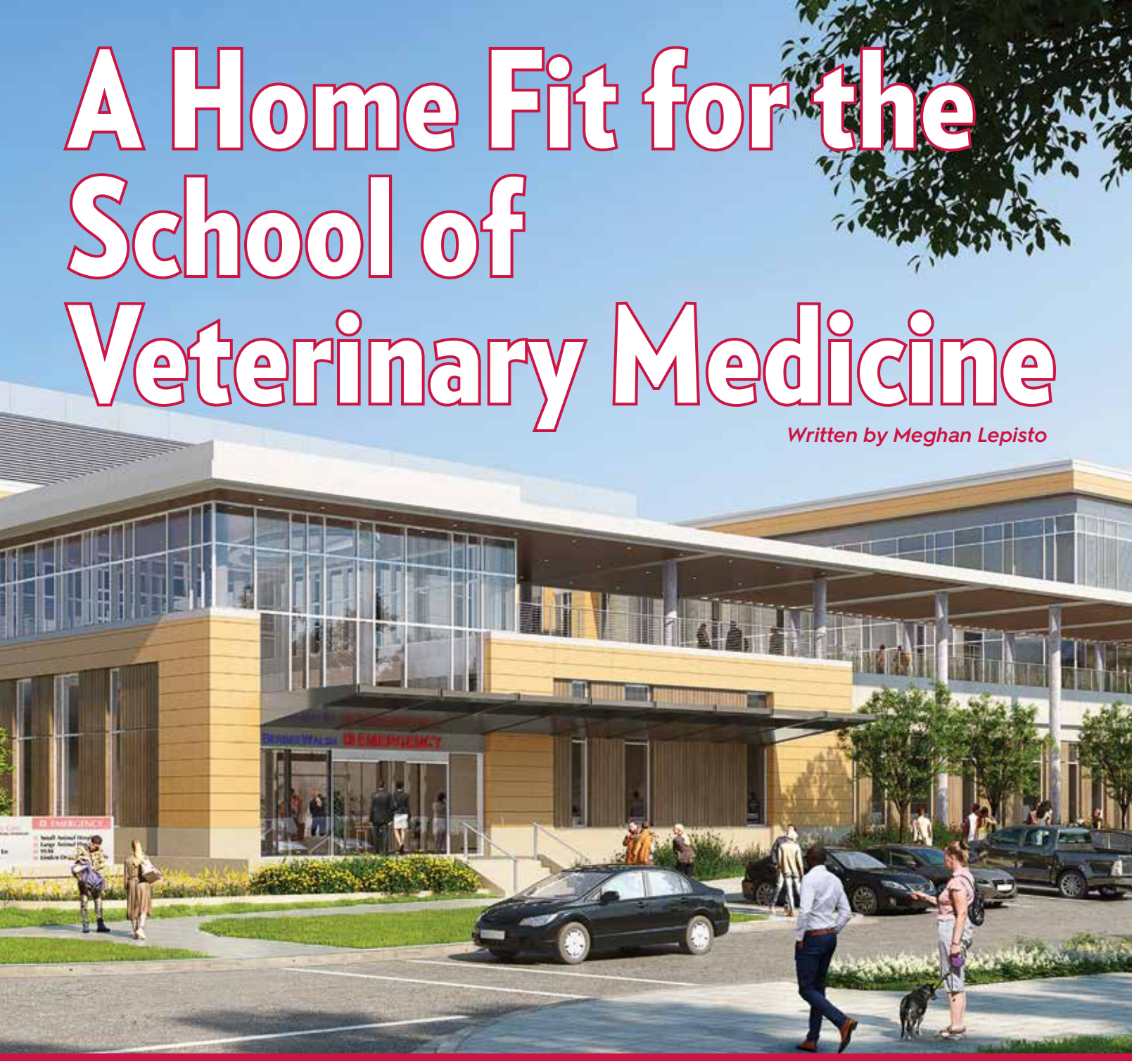
Training transformed: **Nigel Cook**, professor of food animal production medicine, is co-principal investigator on a project to produce and test a digital game to train dairy farm personnel in proper cow handling skills. The university's Research Forward initiative is funding the effort. The multidisciplinary team comprises experts in animal welfare science, veterinary medicine, social psychology and behavior change, human health, and multilingual education and extension.

Local to global: Two alumnae on two different sides of the world — **Stephanie Salyer DVM'11**, technical advisor to Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and **Darlene Konkle DVM'93, MS'97**, Wisconsin state veterinarian — have played critical roles in efforts to address COVID-19. Their work is guided by a collaborative One Health approach that recognizes that animal health, human health, and the environment are interconnected. Read more: **go.wisc.edu/alumnicovid19**

On campus: From May 20-22, 2022, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine will host the Iverson Bell Midwest Regional Diversity Summit, which aims to promote diversity and inclusion in veterinary medicine, with special attention to academia.

A Home Fit for the School of Veterinary Medicine

Written by Meghan Lepisto



Where space limits once constrained the caseload and scheduling capacity for UW Veterinary Care's high-demand specialty services, now there will be room to grow as clinicians deliver compassionate, pioneering care to thousands more patients.

Where cutting-edge research pushed the limits of available space and aging infrastructure, soon critical scientific inquiries to advance animal and human health will be underway in labs that match the caliber of work conducted at the school.

And where veterinary medical students once crowded in tight halls to learn during hospital rounds, new dedicated rounds rooms and small-group instruction spaces will open up a world of possibilities for training the next generation of veterinary medical professionals.

These are just a few of the many enhancements that danced through the minds of UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) faculty, staff, students, and supporters as ground was broken June 18 on the school's building expansion.

"Today we celebrate the beginning of a new era in veterinary medicine at UW–Madison," Chancellor **Rebecca Blank** said at the groundbreaking ceremony. "The construction of this new facility is going to provide the school with a home that befits its reputation and its importance to the university, the state, and the nation."

Several state and campus leaders provided remarks at the event, celebrating the school's global leadership in veterinary medical research, teaching, and clinical care and the project's future impact for veterinarians in training, the state of Wisconsin, and beyond. The groundbreaking ceremony occurred 40 years after the school broke ground on its current building in 1981.

The long-anticipated expansion will include a new building across from the school, in what was previously Lot 62, connected to a remodeled current building on Linden Drive. (A five-story parking garage has been constructed in the east half of the former Lot 62 to make space for the expansion.)

This essential addition and renovation will allow the school to overcome severe space shortages and ensure it remains a leader in training veterinarians, serving animal patients, and making critical research discoveries that benefit both animals and people.

The enhanced facilities will improve instruction space for students, double the size of the small animal hospital, significantly enhance the large animal hospital, expand labs for studying naturally occurring animal and human diseases, and increase and modernize infectious disease research spaces, with specialized features to support and strengthen this crucial work.

Speaking amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Blank and others pointed to the critical importance of infectious disease research conducted at the School of Veterinary Medicine, made all the more evident by research discoveries over the past year-plus. Bolstered by record amounts of external grant support, SVM scientists have advanced the fight against COVID-19 through vaccine, treatment, and containment strategies. Research at the school has also led to more effective cancer treatments for pets and people and identified new ways to fight the flu, amongst numerous other insights in veterinary and human medicine.

"The vet school has long been a leader in responding to public health concerns. This much-needed new facility is going to allow us to stay at the forefront of that type of research on life-saving discovery and innovation," said Blank.

At the groundbreaking event, School of Veterinary Medicine Dean **Mark Markel** and others thanked the myriad individuals and organizations who helped make the building expansion possible, acknowledging "all that they've done to bring us to where we are today."

The milestone marked more than a decade of work advocating for the expansion. A feasibility study conducted by Flad Architects in 2015 laid the groundwork for the school's efforts with university and UW System leadership, political leaders, alumni, friends, and clients to highlight the critical nature of this project. In the interim, the school carefully remodeled janitor closets, locker rooms, and every possible square foot to meet essential needs.

In July 2019, Governor **Tony Evers** signed approval of the building project into law in Wisconsin's 2019-21 budget. State-supported borrowing in the budget will fund approximately $90 million of the $150 million expansion and renovation project (this total includes equipment costs outside of the project budget). The school is committed to raising the remainder of funds. This includes $38 million in private gift support that was needed to allow the building expansion project to be bid in February 2021.

To date, the SVM has raised a cumulative $53 million in private gift support, from donations of all sizes, toward the Animals Need Heroes Too building campaign. The school continues to raise funds needed, with approximately $7 million remaining, to fully outfit the building with the specialized equipment required by complex clinical cases, research laboratories, and teaching spaces.

In the short time since construction began, the evolution has been swift. As of fall 2021, elements of the foundation and structural walls are already in place. Flad Architects, Foil Wyatt Architects & Planners LLC, Affiliated Engineers, Inc., and UW–Madison, UW System, and Wisconsin Department of Administration representatives completed the design for the project. CD Smith is the general contractor.

Completion of the addition is projected for 2023 and renovations of the existing building in late 2024, making the next several years a thrilling phase in the school's history.

As progress continues, you can follow along through an on-site construction camera at **animalsneedheroestoo.com**. There, a timelapse video shows work conducted from July 2021 to the present.

A Future Made Possible

By constructing a new state-of-the-art facility, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) will continue to grow to meet the needs of patients, students, and research programs. Asked to reflect on the direct impacts and what most excites them, members of the faculty and staff shared the following.

The expansion of the teaching hospital and other planned renovations for the SVM will have a significant impact on our students' experience for many years to come. From dedicated space for clinical teaching to expanded areas for patient care, these enhancements will very positively contribute to an improved learning environment. These changes will also help us attract the best applicants and students to study and grow as doctors and professionals here at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.

-Lynn Maki, *associate dean for student academic affairs*

The fourth-year clinical experience in UW Veterinary Care is a pivotal point in students' training, providing the opportunity for hands-on experiences to apply, expand, and master what they have worked so hard learning during early parts of the curriculum. These experiences play an impactful role in shaping who these students will become as veterinarians.

On most hospital services, each day begins and ends with the service's care team meeting for rounds to discuss the day's cases or engage in topic-specific discussions. The building expansion and renovation will afford services their own rounds spaces. These spaces will easily enable fourth-year students on hospital rotations to quietly research, reflect upon, and discuss their cases, uninterrupted, independently or in teams.

Despite being creative and resourceful in our current hospital, the opportunity to soon incorporate these private, conveniently located, and dedicated rounding spaces will create an abundance of impactful, lifelong clinical learning experiences.

-Christopher Snyder, *associate dean for clinical affairs and UW Veterinary Care director*

Passing by the construction site every day, I look forward to working in the hospital's new emergency room and critical care unit. Moving to the north building will significantly expand the space available to hospitalize and deliver care to critically ill cats and dogs. With dedicated space to hold rounds for students, interns, and residents between the ER and CCU, learning opportunities will increase while keeping us closer to our patients.

-Julie Walker,
clinical associate professor, Small Animal Emergency & Critical Care

The building expansion and renovation will have a tremendous positive impact on the Diagnostic Imaging Service. Advanced diagnostic imaging equipment will allow us to provide the highest standard of care to animal patients.

An upgraded MRI with state-of-the-art technology will benefit both small and large animal patients. The addition of equine MRI is new to the SVM and will substantially elevate the quality of care and diagnostics in equine medicine and surgery.

Additional ultrasound and X-ray suites with updated equipment will accommodate the ever-increasing caseload and allow for efficient imaging exams and diagnostic capabilities. An in-house PET/CT will vastly improve patient standard of care by enabling us to better diagnose, stage, prognosticate, and treat cancer in animals. Due to highly sensitive assessment of tissue function, disease is often diagnosed earlier on PET/CT than with traditional imaging modalities.

The addition of PET imaging on-site will also allow for cutting-edge research opportunities to investigate earlier disease diagnosis, delivery of targeted therapy, monitoring of

Grow With Us

Gifts supporting the UW School of Veterinary Medicine building expansion and renovation will allow the school to enhance its teaching and learning, deliver cutting-edge patient care, advance life-saving discovery, expand public service outreach, and maintain the school's leadership position in veterinary medicine.

Together, we can make a difference. Together, we can accomplish more. In order to outfit the building with the specialized equipment required by complex clinical cases, research laboratories, and teaching spaces, the school still needs to raise an additional $7 million. Please consider a gift of any size and join in this special campaign. Naming opportunities are available for gifts and pledges of $25,000 or more.

Join us as we imagine what we can do with room to grow.

Please visit **animalsneedheroestoo.com** to make a gift or for more information, or contact **Pat Bowdish** (608-332-4750 or pat.bowdish@supportuw.org) or **Heidi Kramer** (608-327-9136 or heidi.kramer@supportuw.org).

treatment response, and identification of disease recurrence.

Finally, increased space for interactive rounds rooms will be essential to enhance student teaching and learning opportunities, and collaboration between specialty services.

-Samantha Loeber,
clinical assistant professor, Diagnostic Imaging

Having been involved in the planning and design team for the research facilities, I have a distinct vision for the lab spaces on the second and third floors of our new building.

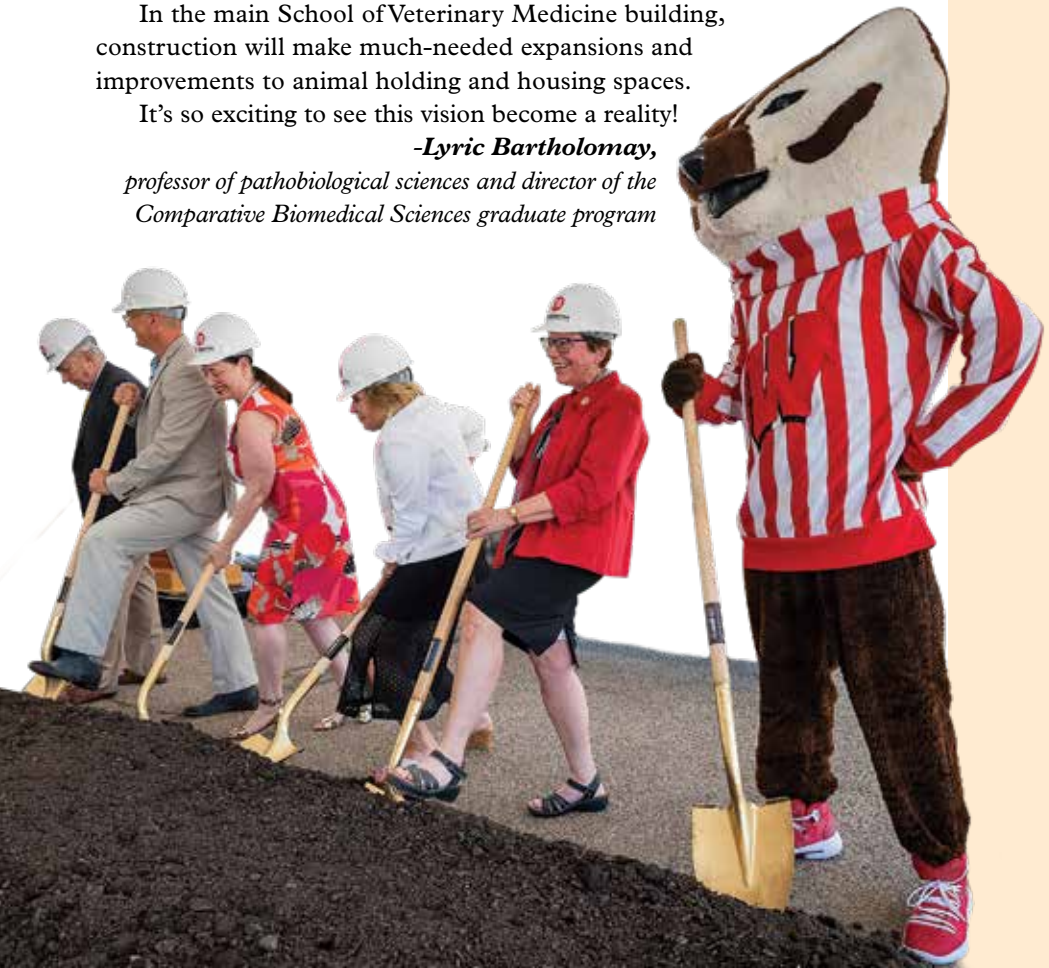
On the second floor, lab space will accommodate basic researchers studying the molecular biology and physiology of animal health. This is much needed because our research operations in the main building are bursting at the seams with students, staff, residents, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty.

On the third floor, new lab spaces are designed to facilitate work with high-containment human and animal pathogens. This, too, is much-needed space that replaces labs that can no longer be sufficiently updated and outfitted to meet the standards for safe operations with high-containment pathogens. And it's a space that will allow our faculty to be nimble and quick to provide research responses to disease outbreaks like the one we are currently experiencing.

In the main School of Veterinary Medicine building, construction will make much-needed expansions and improvements to animal holding and housing spaces.

It's so exciting to see this vision become a reality!

-Lyric Bartholomay,
professor of pathobiological sciences and director of the Comparative Biomedical Sciences graduate program



A Groundbreaking Project

Among the enhancements in the UW School of Veterinary Medicine building expansion and renovation:

- Increased exam room space will better accommodate a growing caseload and decrease client wait times.
- An expanded waiting area will include dedicated space for cats and small exotics to reduce stress on patients and families.
- An improved Emergency and Critical Care unit will allow for a greater number of patients and include a more comfortable recovery area.
- A covered, enclosed arena will allow for large animal neurological and lameness examinations throughout the year, no matter the weather.
- An expanded and updated large animal isolation wing, the only facility of its kind in Wisconsin, will provide safer examination and patient recovery space.
- A cancer center will bring together the expertise of the school's world-renowned medical and radiation oncologists.
- Expanded diagnostic imaging capabilities will incorporate new technologies and equipment, including an in-house MRI for both small and large animal patients and updated CT, for improved diagnosis and treatment.
- New areas for hospital rounds within UW Veterinary Care, where a significant portion of student training occurs, and small-group collaborative learning spaces will benefit instruction.
- Expanded labs for studying naturally occurring animal and human diseases will increase and modernize space to perform globally vital research on infectious diseases like influenza, COVID-19, Ebola, and more.
- A market café, rooftop terrace, and outdoor courtyard with green space will provide spaces for rest and relaxation.

To learn more about these exciting plans for the UW School of Veterinary Medicine's future, visit **animalsneedheroestoo.com**.

Sculpture for Building Expansion Captures SVM Spirit

As work begins on the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) building expansion, alumnus **John Hallett DVM'90** is forging ahead with a related project — a bronze sculpture depicting the educational journey of a veterinary medical student.

The piece, titled Forward Together, is scheduled for completion in 2023 and will be located in a central courtyard between the current and new buildings. It aims to embody the spirit of education, research, and community at the School of Veterinary Medicine.

A veterinarian and artist, Hallett is donating his time and talent to the sculpture's creation.

"There couldn't be an artist more perfectly suited," says **Kristi Thorson**, associate dean for advancement and administration, who is leading the building project on behalf of the SVM. "As a DVM alum, his perspective on the journey students take in their training, combined with his love of science and respect for our researchers, will most certainly be reflected in the finished piece."

A Wisconsin native who grew up in Madison, Hallett watched as the School of Veterinary Medicine was built during his high school and college years. Knowing that a DVM program would soon be available in his hometown, he was excited and appreciative of the effort it took.

He forged a plan to become a veterinarian and focused his undergraduate studies at UW–Madison on animal science to meet the SVM application requirements. When he eventually received notice that he was accepted, he was elated to have fulfilled a years-long dream.

Hallett's Class of 1990 was the fourth to be admitted to the school, completing the student body for the four-year DVM program. He is quick to recall how the school's halls, labs, and classrooms bustled with students and how the administration celebrated that milestone.

As a student, Hallett met his wife **Heidi Johnson**, a fellow Class of 1990 alumna, and today the couple owns Hallett Veterinary Hospital in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

Having so many vivid memories from his time as a DVM student ignites his desire to be part of the school's continuing story.

"I have an emotional connection to the school," he says. "For me, it truly feels like family. The relationships I developed there over the four-year program have turned into lifelong friendships."

Hallett has collaborated with SVM alumni, faculty, staff, and students to help guide his design process for the sculpture. In May, he returned to the school to gain input on the project and work on clay models, drawing inspiration from the school's two resident donor and teaching cows, **Ginger** and **Flower**. This fall, he met with veterinary medical students to sketch models for the sculpture.

The project itself will be a multi-step, multi-year process. After preparing concept sketches and drawings, he'll work with clay to sculpt the figures this winter. In 2022, after all of his drawings and figures are completed, he'll select a foundry. Later that year, the models will go out to mold makers. In 2023, the foundry will cast and assemble the sculpture.

The project will benefit from another generous offer. **Margo and Jack Edl**, long-time friends, clients, and donors to the school, have committed up to $100,000 to match all gifts directed to the new bronze sculpture. Because Hallett is donating his time, all gifts or pledges to the sculpture will directly support the material costs of creation and installation.

Through the Margo and Jack Edl Match, the couple hopes to inspire others to support this opportunity to showcase veterinary medical students and their pursuit of a dream.

"Our love of animals and those who care for them inspired us to share this gift," the Edls say. "We hope you will join us in support of what we believe will become an iconic symbol of the impact veterinary medical students have on the world."

To learn more about Hallett's vision for the Forward Together sculpture, see videos of the process, and support the project, visit **www.vetmed.wisc.edu/svmsculpture**. For more information on the Margo and Jack Edl match, please contact **Pat Bowdish** at 608-332-4750 or pat.bowdish@supportuw.org.

Denise Garlow

Collaborating on

School of Veterinary Medicine researchers work

UNSPLASH

Written by Alisyn Amant

Together, researchers at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are working to uncover new insights into chronic wasting disease (CWD) in white-tailed deer populations. Building on decades of collaboration between the two units, the partnership has proven vital to the study's success.

Marie Pinkerton, a clinical professor of anatomic pathology at the School of Veterinary Medicine, provides necropsy (autopsy) services for the research project, which began in 2017 and is in its fifth year of data collection.

To start, wildlife scientists and field crew trappers humanely caught and attached GPS collars to a sample population of deer in Southwestern Wisconsin — the region of the state where CWD is most prevalent.

From there, electronic signals track the animals' fates. When an animal stops moving, the research team recovers the animal. Their goal is to gain insight into how CWD affects deer populations and eventually build a singular model of data to provide a standard basis for CWD research that doesn't currently exist.

Chronic Wasting

with DNR to study devastating deer disease

The project is the largest study the DNR has ever undertaken.

Since CWD was found in Wisconsin in 2002, it has impacted both wild and captive deer. Stakeholders are working to address and control the disease through a multi-pronged response plan, including research and testing. Of 266,528 wild deer sampled across Wisconsin since 2002 (most of these collected during hunting season), 8,242 have been positive for CWD.

CWD is an infectious prion disease of the deer family. Variant prions, which cause CWD, are proteins that aggregate around normal prion proteins in the body, ultimately changing their shape and causing abnormal cellular reactions. Though the disease is mostly found in the neural tissue of the brain, it can migrate anywhere in an animal's body.

"Those aggregations build up in the body, in the brain, and cause all sorts of cascading consequences," says **Daniel Storm**, a deer research scientist for the DNR and the project's lead researcher. "It causes a cascade of diseases or ailments and eventually kills the deer. It's invariably fatal. No recovery, no cure."

He emphasized the disease's infectious nature. Animals spread it through saliva, urine, feces, and other channels.

"Does CWD cause the deer population to decline? That's our big question: at what prevalence do we see a population impact," Storm says. "What is the prevalence where the disease by itself is causing a decline in the deer population?"

Pinkerton had previously expressed her interest in wildlife research to Storm and other DNR colleagues, so when Storm reached out with an invitation to help with this study, she readily accepted.

When deceased animals are collected, the DNR sends them to Pinkerton for a necropsy to determine the exact cause of death. Her extensive knowledge of pathology and necropsy techniques has made her invaluable to the research team and finding answers to Storm's pressing questions.

"She's got a ton of expertise that we don't have. She's someone that spends her whole career teaching and doing animal pathology work," Storm explains. "That's why we're so lucky to have Marie and the vet school. She's a very willing and eager partner. So it's been really, really awesome for us because it's given us a wealth of information that we wouldn't have gotten otherwise."

Though the study is still in progress (it will wind down in 2022), both Storm and Pinkerton have noticed patterns in the data collected so far. "One of the first trends we established is that deer that are CWD positive are 30 percent or so more likely to die," Pinkerton says. "Which sounds like something that you would say, 'Yes, that's an obvious thing.' But it's nice to also have the numbers to be able to prove that."

Veterinary residents pursuing advanced training in pathology at the school have also become involved in the process. They've been able to execute the Wisconsin Idea firsthand, utilizing their expertise in service to the state while gaining broader knowledge. "It's certainly been an eye-opening teaching experience for them, as far as what wildlife pathology entails," Pinkerton says.

These types of partnerships have proven invaluable, whether working to slow the spread of CWD or confront emerging threats that could impact the state's deer and other wildlife. Most recently, this fall, the DNR confirmed cases of epizootic hemorrhagic disease, or EHD, in deer in Juneau and La Crosse counties. While the agency doesn't believe the disease poses a significant threat, they have encouraged the public to remain vigilant and report to the DNR any sick or unusual deer sightings or deaths.

Additionally, in light of recent research that found that hundreds of white-tailed deer tested in Iowa have been infected with the coronavirus, School of Veterinary Medicine professor **Tony Goldberg** is involved with stakeholders in Wisconsin and beyond about next steps. He has also spoken with multiple media outlets about the implications of deer as potential transmission reservoirs, particularly amidst fall deer hunting seasons. Experts hope the findings encourage the creation of more effective pathogen surveillance systems.

For now, researchers continue to uncover a better understanding of Wisconsin's deer populations while keeping an eye on what's next.

Risk Unknown

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in people.

Some animal studies suggest CWD poses a risk to certain types of non-human primates, like monkeys, that eat meat or come in contact with fluids from CWD-infected animals. These studies raise concerns that there may also be a risk to people. Since 1997, the World Health Organization has recommended keeping the agents of all known prion diseases from entering the human food chain.

Hunters anywhere in Wisconsin can submit a sample from their deer for CWD testing. Testing through the DNR is free for deer harvested in Wisconsin. For more information, visit **dnr.wisconsin.gov**.

Thank You!

Hospital clients, clinic sponsors, alumni, community members, industry partners, and more — the UW School of Veterinary Medicine receives the gracious support of donors from all walks of life with gifts of every size, all of which make a difference. For this, we share a gracious thank you.

Without gifts, we would not have the resources to strategically invest in the people, research, and facilities that set the school and teaching hospital apart from our peers. Together, with your support, we can recruit and train the most outstanding faculty and students, make research discoveries that benefit animal and human health, provide the highest level of clinical care, support scholarships that offset our graduates' debt load, advance our essential building expansion, and more.

We are deeply grateful to all who have contributed. In the pages that follow, we recognize the impact of just some of this generosity and those behind the gifts.

To view a list of all donors who made gifts or pledges of $100 or more between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, visit **www.vetmed.wisc.edu/donor-honor-roll.**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH DONOR SUPPORT

Providing Lifesaving Treatments to More Pets

While some cats might startle or hide when they hear a loud noise, **Kiki** runs to the source to investigate.

"Kiki has always been very strong-willed and even a bit aggressive. I have never had a cat like him," says **Hiedi Hall**, who 11 years ago found Kiki (pictured at left) on her driveway as a tiny kitten and nursed him through infancy with supplemental formula.

> The grant we received was an absolute miracle. People cannot imagine how just the smallest donations can add up and change a family's life so much.

When the fearsome feline became less bold this January and started repeatedly sneezing, his family knew something was wrong.

"For some cats, you might know they do not feel good if they are not eating," Hall says. "With Kiki, we know he is not feeling good if he is not biting or kicking butt!"

Several appointments later, Kiki was diagnosed with periocular lymphoma. Lymphoma is a cancer of cells that are part of the body's immune system. Periocular lymphoma originates in spaces around the eye. Clinicians recommended radiation therapy to fight the disease, which began as a mass above Kiki's left eye and extended into his nasal cavity.

Hall was devastated, though hopeful that Kiki's no-fear demeanor might help him through cancer treatment. But another obstacle emerged: finances. Hall had already withdrawn all she could from her 401K retirement plan to support Kiki's medical care.

Then, at an appointment at UW Veterinary Care, Hall learned of the Petco and Blue Buffalo Foundation Pet Cancer Treatment Fund. This fund supports pet parents who otherwise could not afford the cost of treating pets diagnosed with cancer.

In October 2020, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine was one of 11 of the nation's top veterinary oncology universities to be awarded a $75,000 grant from Petco Love (formerly the Petco Foundation) and Blue Buffalo for pet cancer treatment funds. These funds subsidize the cost of cancer treatments for dogs and cats, and are distributed to clients on a first-come, first-served basis of up to $4,000 per client.

"Pet cancer is the number one disease-related killer of dogs and cats, and a devastating diagnosis for pet parents who cannot afford treatment for their pets," says Petco Love president **Susanne Kogut**. "With all the strides being made in the veterinary oncology field increasing treatment options for pets, our goal is to make these lifesaving treatments available to more pets and their pet parents."

Ruthanne Chun DVM'91, clinical professor and section head of Medical Oncology at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, adds, "The support provided by this fund allows us to offer assistance to clients with financial need. The ability to maintain that human-animal bond and offer meaningful hope is priceless."

Hall, who lives in Rochelle, Illinois, credits the receptionist at a veterinary eye specialist clinic with helping to set in motion her and Kiki's good fortune. Hall had been discussing with the clinic Kiki's case and where she might turn next for consultation.

"By a stroke of complete luck, the receptionist brought up how UW would be much closer, that she took her pet there, and she highly recommended UW for their outstanding care," Hall recalls. "I feel like that conversation changed the course of everything that happened after!"

In March, Kiki received two weeks of radiation therapy at UW Veterinary Care with clinician **Steven Moirano**, a resident with the Radiation Oncology Service. Kiki had his six-month checkup in late September and is doing well, with no signs of recurrence.

"The grant we received was an absolute miracle," Hall says. "People cannot imagine how just the smallest donations can add up and change a family's life so much."

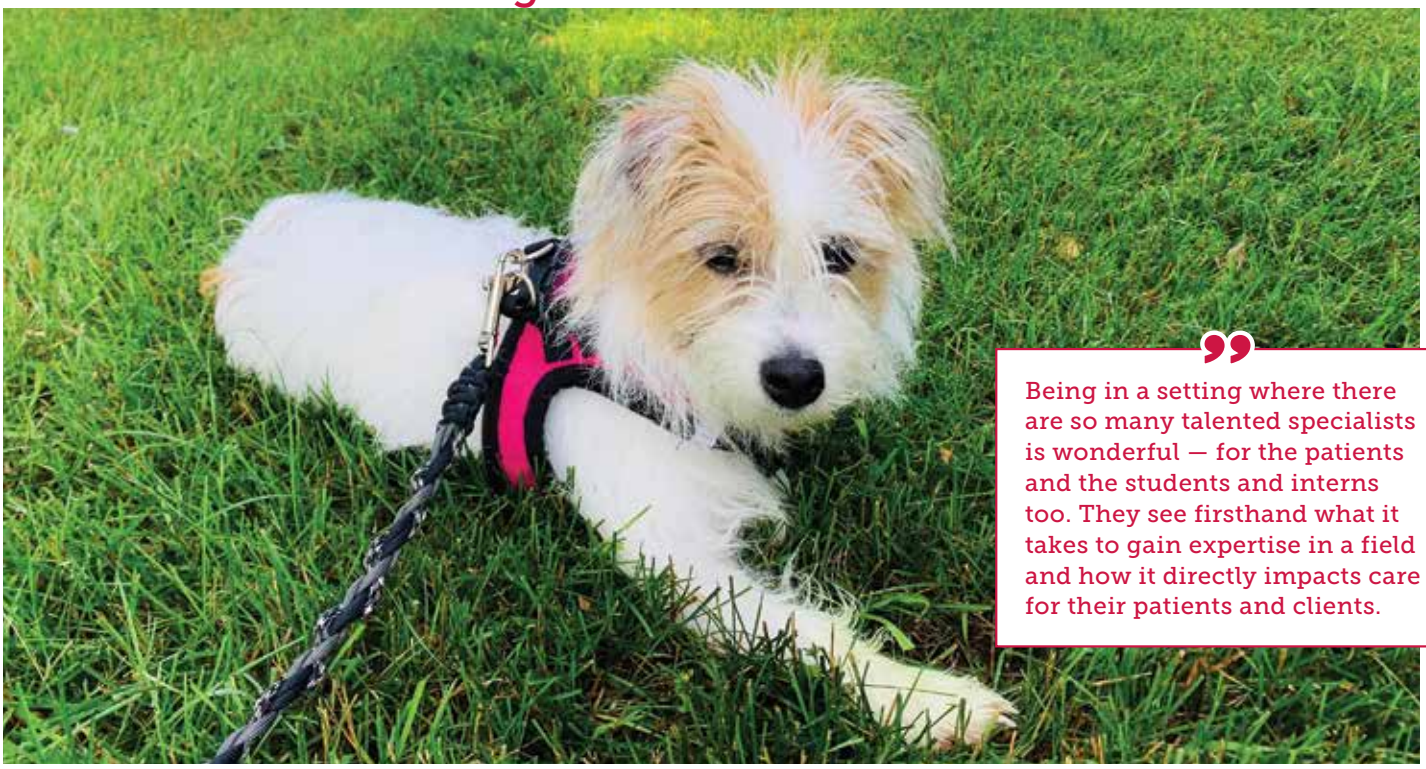
"We are so blessed to not only have more time with Kiki but to have more quality time with him as he is in remission," she adds. "I could never express the amount of gratitude for the grant and the caring, talented team at UW treating Kiki."

Meghan Lepisto

How to Give

None of our accomplishments would be possible without the generous support of friends of the School of Veterinary Medicine. To share a gift for the school, or for more information on ways to give, please visit **supportuw.org/giveto/vetmed** or contact **Pat Bowdish** (pat.bowdish@supportuw.org or 608-332-4750) or **Heidi Kramer** (heidi.kramer@supportuw.org or 608-327-9136).

The Gift of Time and Training



COURTESY DEBORAH WELLS

> Being in a setting where there are so many talented specialists is wonderful — for the patients and the students and interns too. They see firsthand what it takes to gain expertise in a field and how it directly impacts care for their patients and clients.

Deborah Wells and Tom DeBeck's dog Lexi.

DENISE GARLOW

Adam Lepold

Adam Lepold DVM'21, the first person awarded the Zoe and Lexi Wells Primary Care Internship at UW Veterinary Care, speaks with newfound confidence about his first few months as a veterinary intern.

Having started in the role in May, Lepold's transition from a veterinarian in training to graduate to intern was "thankfully smooth." When he learned he was chosen for the internship, he was ecstatic and honored. And now, with two veterinary medical students under his wing, he has added teaching to his duties and loves the role.

"The students ask great questions. I frame their inquiry in a collaborative way — 'Let's look at this problem together. Let's take a step back, come up with a plan, and check-in with senior faculty,'" he explains. "Teaching is a great way to solidify your own knowledge, but it also empowers the students to figure things out."

A gift from **Deborah Wells** and her husband **Tom DeBeck**, along with a commitment from the teaching hospital, recently established this new primary care advanced training program.

For more than 11 years, Wells and DeBeck have brought their pets to UW Veterinary Care. Their experience as clients inspired the gift. "The first line of defense is the primary care doctor," says Wells.

"I know veterinary medical school is expensive, and there's a real need to graduate and start paying off debt, but as a client, I've come to understand that internships give new graduates extra time to apply what they've been taught," Wells says. "And they are exposed to more complex cases in the hospital. Those are invaluable experiences. I've noticed that the further veterinarians develop their relationships with specialist colleagues, the more confident they are to better diagnose, treat, or know when to make a referral. An adept clinician does save lives!"

After completing the one-year primary care internship program, participants can enter the general practice workforce or apply for further advanced specialty training.

Elizabeth Alvarez, clinical assistant professor and section head in Primary Care, is leading the effort to build the next phase of this training program, a two-year primary care residency program at UW Veterinary Care certified through the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP). Completing a residency program, combined with passing a board examination, certifies the trainee as a board-certified veterinary specialist.

The clinic hopes to begin the Zoe and Lexi Wells Primary Care Residency in July 2022.

"There are only about 15 ABVP programs at institutions and practices across the nation, so we are motivated to provide additional opportunities for our early-career veterinarians to pursue this certification," says Alvarez.

She concurs with Wells' assessment of the benefits of advanced training.

"Interns and residents benefit from the additional years of mentorship by working with our experienced UW Veterinary Care clinicians, technicians, and staff to strengthen their knowledge and dive deeper on cases with the collaboration and close proximity of the many specialists at our hospital," Alvarez says.

Wells witnessed the value of this type of teamwork during a visit to UW Veterinary Care with her dog Lexi.

"The vet school operates very much like the Mayo Clinic. It's quite fascinating," notes Wells. "I was there with my new puppy, who was not eating, when our Primary Care doctor called a clinician in Small Animal Internal Medicine. In five minutes, they had a diagnosis!"

"Being in a setting where there are so many talented specialists is wonderful — for the patients and the students and interns too," she adds. "They see firsthand what it takes to gain expertise in a field and how it directly impacts care for their patients and clients."

For several years, Wells and DeBeck have also supported student awards at the School of Veterinary Medicine's annual Celebration of Excellence program recognizing the dedication and achievements of students, faculty, and staff.

"I personally believe that education makes all the difference, and the more, the better," Wells says. "These vets have to be exceptional and empathetic too. They have to figure out what's going on because the animals can't tell them where it hurts. And understanding all the species, breeds, and diseases is quite a challenge. Advanced education helps them immeasurably."

I personally believe that education makes all the difference, and the more, the better."

Lepold can already see how the internship is changing him for the better.

"I am much more well-rounded now. I can handle the routine visits and vaccinations, but I'm also gaining the skills and confidence to manage complicated chronic disease cases. My communication skills are stronger too," he notes. "Veterinary medicine is such a team effort. Problem-solving with my peers, students, and faculty to give the patient a higher quality of life and maybe avoid hospitalization is rewarding, to say the least."

Denise Garlow

Companion Animal Fund Clinic Sponsors

Years of clinic participation effective June 30, 2021

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine receives tremendous support from veterinary medical clinics that make a donation to the Companion Animal Fund when a client's pet has passed away (read more on page 8). These donations are kind and thoughtful gestures by a client's veterinarian at times of great sadness and loss.

The school is grateful for clinic sponsors who share in our efforts to ensure that all companion animals lead longer and healthier lives. Thank you to the following veterinary medical clinics for their generous participation in the Companion Animal Fund Clinic Sponsor Program from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

30-35 Years

Country View Animal Hospital
Dodgeville Veterinary Service
Northside Veterinary Clinic
Omro Animal Hospital
Park Pet Hospital
Shorewood Animal Hospital
Thiensville-Mequon Small Animal Clinic
Wright Veterinary Service

20-29 Years

All Paws Animal Hospital
All Pets Veterinary Clinic
Bark River Animal Hospital
Family Pet Clinic
Jefferson Veterinary Clinic
Kaukauna Veterinary Clinic
Layton Animal Hospital
Loyal Veterinary Service
Muller Veterinary Hospital
New Berlin Animal Hospital
Oregon Veterinary Clinic
Tecumseh Veterinary Hospital
West Salem Veterinary Clinic
Wittenberg Veterinary Clinic

10-19 Years

Delafield Small Animal Hospital
Lake Country Veterinary Care
Metro Animal Hospital
Military Ridge Veterinary Service
North Country Veterinary Clinic

1-9 Years

Birch Bark Veterinary Care
Dr. Noah's Ark Veterinary Clinic
High Cliff Veterinary Service
Marshfield Veterinary Service
Northwoods Animal Hospital
Southwest Animal Hospital

Supporting the Future Generation of Veterinarians

Emma Sweet DVMx'22, the inaugural recipient of the Veterinary Medicine Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship, believes that substantial, meaningful progress comes from purposeful action, and action is needed to increase access to the profession.

"People generally go into this field because they care. They want to work with animals, and they want to help the people behind the animals," Sweet says.

However, a number of financial and social barriers continue to deter individuals from marginalized communities from pursuing an education in the profession. The UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) introduced the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship Endowment Fund to remove some of those barriers and support underrepresented populations.

Sweet was the first scholarship recipient in the 2020-21 academic year; **Erika Kwong DVMx'22** received the 2021-22 scholarship.

Sweet notes her appreciation for the SVM's efforts to provide numerous types of financial aid with the specific needs of the student body in mind.

"They take into account people's financial backgrounds and people's interests," she says.

Upon her admission three years ago, Sweet readily involved herself in student organizations that, like the scholarship, aim to address social disparities within the school and profession. In 2019, she became the local vice president of Broad Spectrum — now known as Pride Student Veterinary Medical Community (SVMC) — a national group supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning (LGBTQ) veterinary students. The group operates under the umbrella of Veterinarians as One Inclusive Community for Empowerment (VOICE), a national student-run organization with local student chapters that seeks to increase awareness, respect, and sensitivity to differences among all individuals and communities in veterinary medicine.

"Veterinary medicine, as a whole, is a field that's overall not very diverse. It's one of the whitest professions that there is, statistically speaking. And, right now, it's one of the few professions that is predominantly female. That was a transition that took place just within the last decade or two," Sweet explains.

Nationally, the number of racially and ethnically underrepresented DVM students currently stands at about 20 percent of total enrollment — a figure that continues to rise. According to the most recent US Census in 2020, almost 40 percent of people in America identify as racial or ethnic minorities.

Among the UW School of Veterinary Medicine's two most recent incoming classes, students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups represent one-quarter of the class. The Class of 2025, in particular, is the most diverse class the school has ever had.

For years, the SVM has taken steps to create a more diverse and inclusive culture. Under the leadership of **Richard Barajas**, director of diversity, equity, and inclusion, the school remains focused on increasing the representation and inclusion of minoritized groups and creating teaching, learning, and work environments that support diversity.

Numerous efforts are underway to help prospective students from underrepresented populations learn more about veterinary medicine, recruit a diverse population of students, and support students' success. This is in addition to school initiatives to recruit and retain a diverse workforce.

"There's always room for growth," Sweet adds. "There are things I would love to see change, but with anything systemic, it takes time."

With that holistic vision in mind, in 2020, Sweet accepted a position on the VOICE chapter's executive board as president of Broad Spectrum. Board members compiled a reformation plan made up of administrative requests related to the academic and social environment of the SVM. The plan addressed issues like gender-neutral bathrooms and accessible grading policies, which includes ideas such as eliminating graded attendance rules and offering additional recorded lectures.

Sweet emphasized the importance of leaving behind a living, breathing document — like the detailed plan she and her peers collaborated on — for future generations of veterinary medicine students to build on.

"That was a huge project for us — a personal project that I, my classmates and colleagues were passionate about," Sweet says. "We're only here for four years. We can try and make something that lives beyond us. Because it's kind of difficult to create change when people cycle in and out so quickly."

For Sweet, the significance of that inter-class support became pronounced further when she considered her educational experiences in contrast with those of the faculty now teaching her.

"I'm going to school now, in the 2020s, and being openly queer is easier than it would have been for some of my faculty who have told stories of when they went to vet school and it was a horrific time for them. I'm not going to say it's perfect now, because it's not. But I don't feel scared," she says.

Asked to look into the future, Sweet solidified her desire to stay involved after graduation and increase inclusion efforts in the workforce. Sweet will relocate to Milwaukee, a diverse but highly segregated city, where community outreach and engagement will remain a priority for her regardless of which area of veterinary practice she ends up in.

"If I make it big enough one day," Sweet says, "I'll hopefully set up my own scholarships."

Alisyn Amant

> People generally go into this field because they care. They want to work with animals, and they want to help the people behind the animals.

Supporting Students of Today and Tomorrow

Gifts have long driven substantial commitments to scholarship support for students at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. And in the 2020-21 academic year, the school was thrilled to launch several new opportunities to benefit students.

Kristen Bernard MS'92 PhD'95, a professor of virology in the School of Veterinary Medicine, and her husband **Rick Ezell** provided a generous lead gift to establish the Veterinary Medicine Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship Endowment Fund. This scholarship fund and the School of Veterinary Medicine Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fund, to support greatest needs in these areas, will help bolster the school's efforts to create a more diverse and inclusive culture within the school and increase the representation of underrepresented populations.

"Diversity is so important to bring different backgrounds and ideas to solve problems facing our society and to better serve our clients and animal patients," Bernard said at the time of her and Ezell's gift.

In addition, **Bradley Poff DVM'87** led a collective effort among peers from the Class of 1987 to establish the SVM Charter Class of 1987 Scholarship Fund.

In total, in 2020-21, the SVM provided **705 scholarships and student awards** for a combined **$2.13 million in student aid**. A full **100 percent** of scholarship applicants received aid.

Providing students with generous financial aid awards, in addition to presenting focused financial training at crucial points in the education, is a critical priority as the school and greater veterinary medical community work to address veterinary medical student debt and the financial health of the profession.

$2.13 MILLION
IN STUDENT AID IN FY21

100%
OF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS
RECEIVED AID

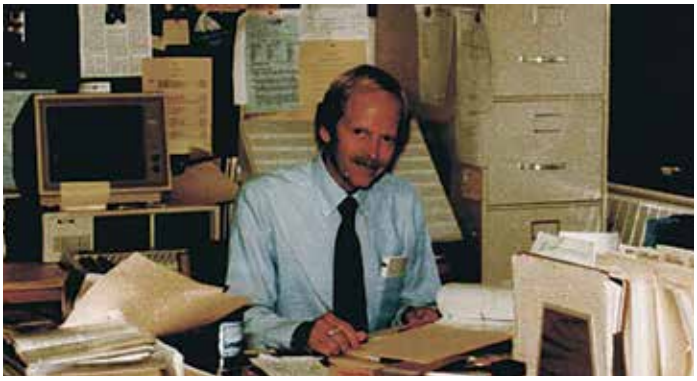
705
SCHOLARSHIPS AND
STUDENT AWARDS

MOVING THE SCHOOL FORWARD

In 2015, UW–Madison launched the All Ways Forward comprehensive fundraising campaign to move the university and its mission forward. As the campaign concludes this December, it has collectively inspired a sweeping surge of generosity and hope as people use their power of giving to create the future they want to see. This includes at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, where to date the school has raised more than $135 million in the All Ways Forward campaign.

Funds raised through this campaign have supported the school's building expansion and allowed for investments in our faculty, research, and substantial new commitments to scholarship support for students. Critically, the school's campaign success includes $78.5 million in future estate gifts that have been documented, ensuring long-term investments in the school. Below are two such examples of this generous support.

Laying the Foundation for Faculty Excellence



Professor Emeritus **Gerald Bisgard** clearly recalls the early days of working alongside Dean **Bernard Easterday** and colleagues during the founding of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) over 30 years ago.

Bisgard was chosen to be the first chair of the school's Department of Comparative Biosciences. "We had a five-person executive committee, made up of senior faculty from both inside and outside the SVM, to recruit new faculty and build the administrative backbone for the department," he recalls. "I felt honored and lucky to be in such excellent company."

Looking back at his days of service to the school and university, Gerald (better known as Jerry), is particularly proud of how the department supported and advised young faculty. As chair, Bisgard made mentoring by tenured faculty a priority.

"New faculty were assigned to an advisory committee consisting of two faculty members and myself," he explains. "We'd meet with them regularly to see how they were doing, read their proposals, and give advice. Training young faculty and getting them off to a good start is critical. Our department was, and still is, lauded for this."

Inspired by the department's current breadth and depth of faculty and a desire to continue the tradition of fostering the scientists of today and tomorrow, Jerry and his wife **Shary** shared a legacy estate gift to establish the Bisgard Veterinary Medical Research Fund.

"Solid research is the foundation that allows us to move forward with new and novel approaches for treating and preventing animal diseases," Bisgard notes. "It's our hope that having startup money to accumulate data — and maybe even publish a paper — will be instrumental in helping faculty when they go for competitive extramural funding and grants."

The fund will specifically support research conducted by Department of Comparative Biosciences faculty members. Scientists in the department currently study cancer, metabolism, neuroscience, reproduction, and many other avenues of biomedical research with implications for advancing animal and human health.

"The School of Veterinary Medicine has been an integral and wonderful part of our lives. We are grateful that we can play a role in supporting the current faculty by establishing this research fund," adds Shary. "And we'd encourage others to do the same. It is a very gratifying way to stay connected with the school. We're proud to see the caliber of research being done today and want to see it continue."

Denise Garlow

> Solid research is the foundation that allows us to move forward with new and novel approaches for treating and preventing animal diseases.

> When my sister's dog Poco was diagnosed with cancer, mom took him to the teaching hospital. She valued their advanced training and keen insights. Poco was saved and lived a good bit longer — and I'm guessing Poco was on her mind when she made her estate plans."

A Lifetime and Beyond of Giving Back

If a person's character can be discerned from early photos, the adage holds true for **June Harper**. "She had a genuine connection with animals right from the start," her daughter, **Jacira Paolino**, says while sharing a picture of a young June riding a bike with her first dog, Rex, in the front basket.

June displayed an early affinity for animals and was often photographed with them throughout her 95 years of a well-lived life. Her daughter shared a picture of her mother at age two, sitting comfortably atop a pony in the yard of her childhood home in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. And another, beaming during her student days at UW–Madison.

"She was a smart, capable, observant and personable woman," says Paolino proudly. Having earned a bachelor's degree in economics from UW–Madison in 1943 and then serving as an efficiency expert at a large department store, Paolino says Harper was ahead of her time. "Mom was in her heyday as a woman at UW."

After Madison, she married and moved to Denver, Colorado. June and her husband Jene also owned and operated a cattle ranch near Rocky Mountain National Park, where they hosted guests, lived among real cowboys, managed a herd of over 180 cattle, and lovingly tended to a menagerie of domestic animals. As a result, Harper grew to respect and admire the veterinary profession and kept in touch with the UW School of Veterinary Medicine over the years as their family's ranch and oil supply business grew.

"She enjoyed learning all through her life and giving back to the community too. Her golden rule was 'You participate in your community and you give back to your community!'" recalls her daughter. Harper followed the credo closely, both in her adopted state of Colorado, by supporting the local animal shelter, and her birth state of Wisconsin, with gifts to UW–Madison. "I think her true love of animals is what kindled her estate gift to the vet school," concludes Paolino.

The hope provided by state-of-the-art veterinary medical care for Harper's own beloved pets fostered her desire to give back. Her unrestricted estate gift to the UW School of Veterinary Medicine will support the school's new building expansion, as well as the greatest needs of the school and teaching hospital.

"When my sister's dog **Poco** was diagnosed with cancer, mom took him to the teaching hospital. She valued their advanced training and keen insights," Paolino recalls. "Poco was saved and lived a good bit longer — and I'm guessing Poco was on her mind when she made her estate plans. It would have made her happy to know that her gift is supporting others going through the same challenging experiences at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine."

Denise Garlow

Student-Advisor Pair Awarded Fellowship for Breast Cancer Research, Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

Abbey Williams, a doctoral student in Comparative Biomedical Sciences at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, and her advisor, **Lisa Arendt DVM'02**, an associate professor in Comparative Biosciences, have received a Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI).

HHMI Gilliam Fellowships have a twofold mission: to support underrepresented PhD students to pursue scientific research and foster more inclusive academic environments at institutions committed to advancing diversity and inclusion in the sciences.

The student fellowship recipients join a strong community of early-career scientists, while the advisors participate in mentorship development training. Both Williams and Arendt will receive funding to implement diversity and inclusion initiatives on campus.

Williams and Arendt study how obesity affects the risk of breast cancer progression. Specifically, Williams studies T cells, a type of white blood cell central to the body's immune response, and how they can become more active against cancer metastasis. A cancer therapy called checkpoint blockade therapy blocks immune-suppressive markers to help T cells more actively fight metastatic lesions.

"Interestingly, these therapies are more effective in obese patients, and it's not really known why," Williams says.

To better understand these responses, Williams studies immune cells in the lungs of obese mice. The lungs are a common site of metastasis in breast cancer. Using methods such as immunohistochemistry, immunofluorescence, and flow cytometry, she studies how the immune cells function within obese lungs. She also plans to use a newer technology to look at the genetic expression of immune cells.

Abbey Williams

Lisa Arendt

In addition to T cells, Williams studies another immune cell called a macrophage, which affects T cell function. She plans to investigate how different macrophage numbers in the lungs can change how effective checkpoint blockade therapy is for an obese patient.

"I hope that we can better understand why obese breast cancer patients have better responses to these therapies and perhaps apply some of those markers and phenotypes to other patients that aren't overweight, but also improve those therapies for obese patients even further," Williams says.

"I'm looking forward to being more of a voice as a student with a disability, just being that representation that I didn't have in college, learning how to make things better for students like me, and using those professional development skills throughout the rest of my training."

Associate Professor **Lisa Arendt** examines under the microscope a group of cells from the mammary gland as part of research studying how obesity affects the risk of breast cancer progression.

In addition to the research funding, Williams and Arendt are excited that the Gilliam Fellowship supports diversity, inclusion, and mentorship training.

"With this award, I'm hoping to work on some of the inclusive parts of this so that as we bring in a more diverse student group, the students feel welcome and they feel supported in the program," Arendt says.

Among their proposed initiatives are inclusive teaching training for School of Veterinary Medicine faculty, offering a cultural competence inventory as a discussion point for students and their mentors, and sharing research on how to support students of diverse backgrounds, including those with disabilities.

"Some of the conversations about students with disabilities in graduate studies is kind of lacking," notes Williams, who has cerebral palsy and hearing loss. "I'm hoping that with this money, we can begin those conversations and hopefully bring awareness that some graduate students might have disabilities and how the mentors could support them."

Separately from the HHMI Gilliam Fellowship, Williams is also working to launch a Bioscience Graduate Student Diversity Initiative. This student-run program will help coordinate diversity efforts in bioscience graduate programs at UW–Madison so more students can benefit from programs that are developed.

"I'm looking forward to helping and being more of a voice as a student with a disability, just being that representation that I didn't have in college, learning how to make things better for students like me, and using those professional development skills throughout the rest of my training," Williams adds.

Meghan Chua

From the CBMS Director

I am delighted and humbled to be the next chair of the Comparative Biomedical Sciences graduate program. I am a faculty member in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, with a research program centered on mosquitoes, ticks, and the pathogens they transmit to animals and people. I started my career path in CBMS, so as an alumna of the program (PhD'04), I have a particular devotion to its success.

As I reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts on our graduate program, I am weighing the setbacks with the set-aparts and am genuinely excited about the road ahead.

The setbacks for our graduate program echo those of researchers everywhere. The campus restart process that guided our gradual return to operations was incredibly successful at preventing the spread of infection. It also significantly impacted our research productivity and morale.

Many graduate students had to stop critical experiments in March 2020 as the bulk of campus research operations shut down. These students didn't have access to their labs for extended periods, then returned to work with staggered schedules to allow social distancing. Some had to wait for research materials that were diverted to diagnostic labs for pandemic response. Others who started their program in fall 2020 didn't set foot in their labs until the following spring.

While we understood the importance of maintaining distance, we certainly felt the impacts of isolation on our personal and professional wellbeing. Amidst the separation, our students found creative ways to build community — organizing social events and welcoming and onboarding new students in uncertain times.

A global pandemic of a zoonotic respiratory disease has also set us apart. We are a graduate program in a school of veterinary medicine internationally recognized for research excellence in infectious diseases at the human-animal interface. Several of our faculty members rapidly pivoted to take on SARS-CoV-2 research, and a number of our students became involved in cutting-edge research to track and control the spread of COVID-19.

This spring, we saw the draw of our faculty and graduate program manifest in record numbers of applicants who expressed interest in infectious disease and epidemiology research.

With all of this in mind, our future looks bright. We are looking forward to new facilities, have next-generation biomedical researchers building interconnectedness, and are seeing many exciting research opportunities in faculty labs that represent the program's full spectrum of scientific inquiry. This fall semester, 11 new students launched their graduate careers with CBMS. We're excited to see the ways they take on the university's tradition of "fearless sifting and winnowing" through academic pursuit.

Lyric Bartholomay
Professor, Department of Pathobiological Sciences
Director, Comparative Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program

Four Honored With School of Veterinary Medicine 2021 Alumni Awards

The University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) Alumni Advisory Board has recognized four graduates with 2021 alumni awards, presented at a celebration event in September at the SVM.

The Alumni Advisory Board launched the awards program in 2019 to recognize graduates who have made significant contributions to society and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers honor the legacy of excellence at the school.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Myron Kebus MS'90, DVM'92

Myron Kebus

Myron Kebus serves as the aquaculture program veterinarian — the state's chief fish veterinarian — with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

A pioneer in developing the field of fish veterinary medicine, Kebus established Wisconsin Aquatic Veterinary Service, the first fish-only private veterinary practice in the Midwest, which catered to fish farmers, public aquariums, ornamental fish breeders and hobbyists across the country.

In 1999, Kebus became Wisconsin's first state aquaculture veterinarian. In this role, he has developed fish health-related regulations and a certification process for fish importation, movement and stocking in the state, worked to increase biosecurity standards in aquaculture, and guided the state's response to the emergence of the deadly fish virus Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia. Many states have looked to Kebus for guidance in creating their own fish health regulations.

Kebus has created training programs for veterinarians in fish health medicine and for fish farmers related to preventing the spread of disease in aquaculture. Veterinarians worldwide have taken Kebus's online fish health course to become certified to inspect and approve fish farms. Since 2005, he and Professor Emeritus **Michael Collins** have taught a fish health selective course for UW veterinary medical students.

Kebus is a founding member and past president of the American Association of Fish Veterinarians, past chair of the American Veterinary Medical Association Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Committee, and has represented veterinarians in the American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section.

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Katie Kuehl DVM'12

Katie Kuehl

Katie Kuehl is an assistant professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences department at the Washington State University (WSU) College of Veterinary Medicine. She is director of the WSU Shelter Medicine program based at Seattle Humane Society, providing hands-on training in shelter medicine and community outreach to fourth-year veterinary medical students.

Kuehl also leads the university's One Health Clinic veterinary team. This partnership with the University of Washington and Neighborcare Health provides integrated medical care for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and their pets. The interprofessional clinic allows students to work alongside other professional students (medicine, social work, and public health) and gain a fuller understanding of the relationships between human and animal health and care for the entire family unit.

In addition, Kuehl is currently conducting research related to pets and coronavirus in collaboration with the University of Washington Center for One Health Research and Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab. Through this coronavirus pet testing study, researchers test animal samples for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Kuehl began her career as a shelter veterinarian at the Dane County Humane Society, where she says helping to provide hands-on training and mentorship to UW School of Veterinary Medicine students, interns, and residents started her on her journey as an educator.

Kuehl was named the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association 2020 WSU Faculty Member of the Year and is president of the Board of Trustees of the Washington State Animal Health Foundation.

FOUNDERS AWARD

Bernard Easterday MS'58, DVM'61 and Susan Hyland MS'73, PhD'78

Bernard Easterday, alumnus and nominator Scott Spaulding, and Susan Hyland.

Bernard Easterday and Susan Hyland were honored for their leading role in the creation of the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine and their long legacy, which continues today, in advising and mentoring hundreds of aspiring veterinarians and researchers across many decades.

Both Easterday and Hyland are graduates of the UW–Madison Department of Veterinary Science, the precursor to the SVM's Comparative Biomedical Sciences program.

After the state legislature established the UW School of Veterinary Medicine in July 1979, Easterday, who had served as a faculty member in the Department of Veterinary Science since 1961, was asked to head up the new veterinary school. He and Hyland — at the time a recent veterinary science doctoral graduate who took on responsibility for academic affairs — were part of a founding team of individuals.

Between 1979 to 1983, the group coordinated the academic planning, recruitment of faculty and staff, and facilities construction necessary for establishing the school. The first class of 80 students was admitted in 1983.

As the school's founding dean, Easterday held this position until retiring in 1994, overseeing many achievements as the school continued to grow its strong international reputation in research, education, and clinical care. Hyland served as the school's first associate dean for academic affairs from 1983 to 2006, supporting students throughout and beyond the rigorous four-year DVM curriculum.

In Memoriam

Dane Jespersen DVM'01 passed away in September at home in Custer, Wisconsin at age 52. As a veterinarian, Jespersen was well known for his kindness and compassion for pets and their owners. He was especially skilled in diagnosing and finding the right treatment to fit the pets' needs and owners' wishes. He was a loving husband, devoted father, and followed the Kipling mongoose motto of "Run and find out," expressed through exploration, curiosity, and a passion for learning.

A Message to DVM Alumni

Prior to our "alumni palooza" event in September at the school, your alumni advisory board met to discuss their priorities for the upcoming year. Some of their past initiatives have included establishing the newsletter they send to you twice a year and creating awards to recognize the accomplishments and impact of you and your colleagues. Looking ahead, they want to engage more of you in a variety of ways, including ideas for supporting our current students in partnership with the school. Be on the lookout for more information soon and please consider joining their efforts.

As I was reflecting on their plans and other recent conversations with alumni, two themes came to mind. The first was how much things have changed since I started at the School of Veterinary Medicine 14 years ago. Our number of DVM alumni has nearly doubled, our alumni demographics have shifted, and what alumni need and want has changed.

For example, when the school first explored social media and whether or not we should utilize LinkedIn, many thought a presence there wasn't needed because veterinarians don't switch jobs very often. While many of you stay with the same employer, more and more, I see you exploring new opportunities — in addition to other professional growth or networking — for a variety of reasons. I want to make sure we're supporting you throughout your careers, as well as connecting you with our students so they can benefit from your mentorship and knowledge.

The second theme is how grateful I am for all of you, the work you do on behalf of the profession, and how so many of you give back to the school. Your support takes many forms – referring prospective students or meeting with current ones, referring cases to UW Veterinary Care, serving on our boards, supporting the Companion Animal Fund clinic program, staying in touch, making gifts towards scholarships, our building project, or other initiatives, and more. Thank you for enriching the SVM.

There have been so many challenges of the pandemic, not least of which is the nonstop pace of work on the frontlines of veterinary medicine. As you carry out your work across all aspects of this profession, please know that we are here for you at the school and eager to hear how we can best support your efforts.

Kristi V. Thorson

Kristi V. Thorson
Associate Dean for Advancement and Administration

Patient Profile

COURTESY CHRISTOPH MANS

New Surgical Procedure Saves Parrot

Bogey, a 24-year-old umbrella cockatoo, underwent multiple procedures over a span of 16 years for a recurrent, serious condition, but nothing worked. **Kim Hannah**, the founder and executive director of Exotic Avian Sanctuary of Tennessee, where Bogey lives, felt hopeless.

Christoph Mans, a clinical associate professor of zoological medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, described Bogey's condition, known as chronic cloacal prolapse, as a disturbing one. The cloaca is the shared outlet in which the intestinal, urinary, and genital tracts of birds open. Bogey's condition caused the internal tissues of the chamber to protrude from her body repeatedly, resulting in severe irritation.

"Multiple procedures had been tried over the years, but they all failed. I was then told nothing further could be done, which absolutely broke my heart," Hannah says. "I started searching the country for someone that might be able to help."

A Midwestern bird sanctuary directed Hannah and her veterinarian, **Brandon Dixon,** to consult with Mans on Bogey's health.

Mans recalled a forthcoming research paper by a colleague in Canada that detailed a novel procedure to remedy the problem. With this in mind, he agreed to take Bogey on as a patient.

The surgical technique was not the only unusual factor in the cockatoo's journey. She also happened to come to Wisconsin with a dedicated online fanbase. Through social media, the Tennessee sanctuary successfully fundraised money for Bogey's medical bills. They also found cross-state volunteers willing to help Bogey get to the hospital on a private plane and home via coordinated carpooling. Hundreds of people interacted with and responded to progress and recovery updates that the sanctuary posted to social media throughout Bogey's journey.

"Pre-Facebook it would have almost been impossible," Mans said, referring to the online coordination.

The surgery, called asymmetric cloacoplasty, involves making an incision and applying a suture to reduce the cloacal opening. The procedure was successful and Bogey recovered well during a three-week hospital stay. When the sanctuary shared a social media post announcing her release from the hospital, followers flooded the comment section with heart emojis and well wishes.

Mans was pleased to have completed a new procedure that solved a complicated, reccurring issue in birds. Bogey, he said, felt the excitement as well: she was energetically dancing and singing the day after her surgery.

"I now have people reach out to me all the time that have the same issue with their parrot and I always tell them to have their vet reach out to Dr. Mans," Hannah says. "I hope this life-saving surgery becomes more widely known and helps save more lives. I will be forever grateful to Dr. Mans and his team and the University of Wisconsin."

Now, more than a year out from her stay at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, Bogey is thriving and continues to receive routine aftercare from her primary veterinarian at home in Tennessee. "I truly believe Dr. Mans saved her life," Hannah says.

Alisyn Amant

EXOTIC AVIAN SANCTUARY OF TENNESSEE

ANIMALS NEED HEROES TOO

OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT

SAVING LIVES AND SERVING WISCONSIN — NO MATTER WHAT COMES NEXT

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine's expanded facility has a strong foundation, but we need your support to make it a home to the cutting-edge equipment that today's complex clinical cases and research breakthroughs demand. *Naming opportunities are still available.*

School of Veterinary Medicine
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Learn how you can help advance the school's future:
Pat Bowdish | 608-332-4750 | pat.bowdish@supportuw.org
Heidi Kramer | 608-327-9136 | heidi.kramer@supportuw.org

www.AnimalsNeedHeroesToo.com

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Creature Comforts

UW Veterinary Care's Primary Care Service recently welcomed a new canine patient.

Two-year-old **Kiko** is not your average golden retriever – she is the first facility dog in the new UW Health Kids Canine Health and Medical Pals (CHAMPs) program at American Family Children's Hospital (AFCH). Kiko is professionally trained for child therapy and will work full-time as part of the hospital's child life team.

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) will provide all veterinary medical care for Kiko to help her stay healthy and happy, as well as a second dog who will join the CHAMPs team in spring 2022.

CHAMPs builds on the success of the SVM's Pet Pals therapy dog program, which for 25 years provided AFCH patients and their families twice-weekly group visits with volunteer teams of dogs and their owners.

Read more on page 7.

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