

SVM ALUMNI NEWS

NEWS FOR ALUMNI BY ALUMNI OF THE UW SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Greetings!

The recipients of the 2023 School of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Awards were Dr. William Frahm-Gilles DVM'13, Dr. Ruthanne Chun DVM'91, and Dr. Ken Waller DVM'07 MS'07. The awards were presented at a celebration event on November 11, 2023.

These awards recognize UW School of Veterinary Medicine graduates -- from both the DVM and graduate program -- who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the legacy of excellence at the school.

If you would like to recognize someone with one of the alumni awards, please submit a nomination by May 1, 2024. (Scan QR Code)



SVMAA Leadership Board:

- Tom Bach DVM'94
- Holly Hovanec DVM'18
- Diane L. Larsen, DVM'90, PhD'99
- Jennifer Lorenz DVM'09
- Debra Olbrich DVM'07
- Brad Poff DVM'87
- Kathy Reilly DVM'90
- Ann Sherwood Zieser DVM'90
- Ty Vannieuwenhoven DVM'89



Dr. William Frahm-Gilles
SVMAA Young Alumni Award
(DVM)



Dr. Ruthanne Chun
SVMAA Distinguished Service Award
(DVM)



Dr. Ken Waller
SVMAA Distinguished Service Award
(Graduate Program)

SVMAA Meeting

When: TBD (Meeting information will be sent to members)

Where: Participate in person at the School of Veterinary Medicine or remotely

For remote meeting access, contact Kristi Thorson, Associate Dean
kristi.thorson@wisc.edu

SVMAA - Join or Renew Now

Benefits include:

- Invitation to the school's annual Dean's Luncheon (held in September)
- Invitation to attend SVMAA meetings
- A great way to have a voice in supporting the school, alumni, and the students



Alumni Spotlight // Rich Sim DVM'09



Above: Rich Sim doing a pre-translocation health exam on a free-ranging North Island brown kiwi in partnership with the Save the Kiwi organization and Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari.

Alumni from UW can spread far and wide and have international impacts. One such alumni is Rich Sim class of 2009. Currently Rich is the Head Veterinarian of the Hamilton Zoo of Hamilton, New Zealand. Before moving to New Zealand Rich worked at two zoos as a clinical veterinarian: the Oregon Zoo and the Birmingham Zoo. Prior to that he was in post-graduate training in Chicago, Baltimore (the Maryland Zoo), and Virginia (the Wildlife Center of Virginia). Along the way, he became a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine.

When asked what the best part of his job is Rich's response was "The variety of animals and health challenges that I get to try to help is what makes me happiest. In my career I've tried to treat dermatitis in a scorpion one day and trained White rhinos for an OvSynch program on another day. That sort of variety keeps me learning and striving to be my best as I must be ready for many different problems." Rich describes working at a zoo as a passion-career.

Before vet school Rich studied wild birds for behavioral, ecology, and conservation research projects. With this background, he knew that he wanted to work with non-domestic animals as a veterinarian. During vet school, Rich worked summers at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center and International Crane Foundation. He thought his career with non-domestic animals would be as a governmental agency veterinarian focusing on population level health issues, but during 3rd & 4th year he fell in love with trying to diagnose and treat the health problems of individual animals, and a young zoo vet was born.

With his background in wildlife, conservation and ecology Rich sees working in a zoo as an opportunity to educate people about the Earth and the animals with which we share the planet. "We humans need to be reminded about our impacts on other living things. The animals at our zoos are ambassadors to share that message, and those of us that take care of the animals daily share a passion for making sure that these ambassadors have enriched lives and that we are maximizing their welfare."

Rich notes that a good zoo veterinarian has a solid foundation in domestic animal medicine/surgery and a curiosity to know more. The UW-SVM and its faculty taught him to be a well-rounded veterinarian and nurtured/supported the crazy idea that he wanted to take care of

non-domestic animals. Through many mentors and faculty at the school skills were developed over his 4 years in school and helped him develop and realize his goals. He continues to use skill he developed at the UW-SVM today. He was also appreciative of the time allowed outside the UW-SVM to help him realize where his training in school could take him.

Rich's advice for students interested in zoologic medicine is "This is a career that requires curiosity and open-mindedness. You can never decide that, "oh, I don't like eyes, I'll just refer those." You may be able to convince a specialist to come in to support the care you are providing, but you still need to be open to doing the initial exams and follow up care. If you have a desire to learn as much as you can, then that's a great start towards being a zoo vet."

Alumni of the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine continue to do amazing things. If you know of an alumni we should highlight let us know.

SVM North Building and Sculpture Update

Kristi V. Thorson, Associate Dean for Advancement and Administration

Progress continues with the school's addition and renovation project, with the first two floors of the School's north building expansion opening in April. The first floor expands the small animal hospital and the second houses clinical pathology, a new Badger Market, access to a green roof terrace, collaborative and conference room spaces, and faculty labs and offices. This spring the new large animal arena will also open. Work on the project will continue into 2025, as the 3rd floor of the north addition is completed, which includes BSL2 and BSL3 labs, conference rooms, offices, and space for the shelter medicine program. In the existing south building a new CT and MRI have been installed, with access for both small and large animal patients. Additional renovations include adding PET/CT, updating and expanding large animal isolation, and significantly remodeling the cancer center and small animal hospital service areas. Alumni and donors played a crucial role in supporting this project, with \$62.5 million of its total \$174 million budget coming from gifts and grants. Progress photos are available at www.animalsneedheroestoo.com.

The building project also includes a courtyard between the north and south buildings that will prominently feature the "Forward Together" bronze sculpture created by John Hallett, DVM 1990. This piece embodies the spirit of education, research and community at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine and reflects input from faculty, staff, students and alumni. Dr. Hallett donated his time and talents and the costs of the bronze creation and installation were covered by gifts from alumni, matched by a generous donation from Margo and Jack Edl. A Madison TV station featured this piece when it was installed last fall, which is available at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/giving/svmsculpture/. The sculpture will be covered until the courtyard work is completed later in 2024.



Don't forget to RSVP!

Alumni Reunion

JUNE 22, 2024

MADISON, WISCONSIN





School of
Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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Madison, WI 53706-1102

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SPRING 2024

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