



# ALUMNI E-NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

March/April 2024



## ***Animals Need Heroes Too Campaign Comes to a Close***

As we prepare to open the school's new north building next month, we are excited to announce that we have successfully reached our fundraising goal for this critically important project. Over the past decade plus, we secured more than \$62 million in private support that not only helped pay for design and construction costs, but also for all of the furniture and equipment needs of our new state-of-the-art facilities.

We are grateful to the many friends who helped us reach this critical milestone through their generosity, advocacy, trust and confidence in the school's future. The ***Animals Need Heroes Too*** campaign was more than just a building expansion. Our new and enhanced facilities will significantly improve our ability to train the next generation of veterinary medical and research leaders, to provide exceptional clinical care, and advance discoveries that benefit both animal and human health for decades to come.

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All alumni and their families are welcome  
as we celebrate graduates from the classes of  
1989 • 1994 • 1999 • 2004 • 2009 • 2014 • 2019

# Alumni Reunion

**JUNE 22, 2024**

MADISON, WISCONSIN

**REGISTER TODAY**

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

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## School News

*The latest updates from faculty and staff, and other happenings at the school.*

Following preference balloting by departmental members, **Chad Vezina** (comparative biosciences) has been elected to serve as chair of the Department of Comparative Biosciences effective April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. He will succeed **Jyoti Watters**, who is planning to retire later this year. Thank you to Jyoti for her years of service and congratulations to Chad!!

**Barry Hartup DVM '93** (surgical sciences, emeritus) was awarded the L.H. Walkinshaw Crane Conservation Award by the North American Crane Working Group at their 16<sup>th</sup> workshop in October. The Working Group recognized his career contributions to the research, management, and conservation of sandhill and endangered whooping cranes.

**Peggy Schmidt**, associate dean for professional programs, was recently elected to a 3-year term on the inaugural Board of Governors of the Academy of Veterinary Educators (AVE). AVE is a non-profit educational organization focused on creating a globally inclusive and diverse community of practice for veterinary education.

**Kurt Sladky DVM '93** (surgical sciences/zoological medicine) just returned from India, where he and Dr. Ann Evensen (UW Family Medicine) taught a One Health course for two weeks. The class spent time in urban and rural communities evaluating animal health, human health and the interface between the two. They also evaluated the impact of land use and climate change on zoonotic diseases in India.

**Chloe Fouilloux**, a postdoc in the **Jessica Hite's** lab, has won the Wisconsin Initiative for Science Literacy Award for Communicating Postdoctoral Research to the Public.

**John Svaren** (comparative biosciences) was appointed as a Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, which reflects the high esteem in which he is held by his colleagues.

**Masa Suzuki** (comparative biosciences) received a pilot grant from Roslin Technologies, a stem cell company located on the University of Edinburgh campus. The project aims to develop ES/iPS progenitor cell lines derived from livestock to facilitate cell-based meat production. The plan is to continue/expand the project in the future.

The next **Iverson Bell Midwest Regional Diversity Summit** will be hosted by the University of Minnesota from May 21-23 and the SVM will be taking a small group of interested individuals and providing registration and accommodations. This group will travel to Minneapolis on the afternoon of May 20th and return the evening of May 23rd. If you are interested in participating, contact Richard Barajas at [barajas@wisc.edu](mailto:barajas@wisc.edu) for more details.

The **SAVMA Chapter** at UW-Madison welcomed SVM professor **Lisa Forrest** for a conversation about her experiences in the field of veterinary medicine with a disability. With a career spanning over three decades, she has been at the forefront of TomoTherapy research, advancing our understanding of radiation therapy as a treatment for cancer. She currently holds the role of Chair of the Committee on Disability, Access, and Inclusion on campus, advocating for inclusivity and accessibility for all.

Residents from the University of Wisconsin Department of Anesthesiology at the School of Medicine & Public Health recently attended a workshop at the School of Veterinary Medicine on emergency invasive airway management, facilitated by SVM clinical assistant professor **Carrie Schroeder**. In this training, residents improved their clinical ability to perform key airway access techniques. Although these high-risk cases are rare, they necessitate specialized equipment and training, which the residents gain through this partnership.

A new educational game, released in collaboration with UW-Madison Animal and Dairy Science, is teaching modern principles of dairy herd health in an innovative format. In *Mooving Cows*, players take on the role of a dairy farmer who must work efficiently to maximize milk quality and minimize cow stress. Co-created by SVM Professor **Nigel Cook**, the game has lessons for everyone – from dairy farm workers to those simply interested in learning more about cow behavior. *Mooving Cows* is a free app for iOS and Android devices.

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## SVM Students Attend SAVMA Symposium



*Earlier this month, a group of SVM students traveled to Knoxville, TN for the 2024 SAVMA Symposium! This annual meeting is a chance for DVM students to network, attend wet labs, and hear from experts in veterinary medicine.*

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## SVM in the News

**Amy Nichelason** (Medical Sciences) was interviewed for a New York Times [Wirecutter](#) story about how dogs fare in various temperatures, climates, and terrains, and what health risks might be presented by extreme temperatures in either direction.

**Rob Lipinski Ph.D '08** (Comparative Biosciences) was featured in a [Wisconsin Public Radio story](#) about his team's [research](#) on orofacial clefts.

**Mackenzie Pellin DVM '11**(Surgical Sciences) was a guest on [Veterinary Vertex](#), a podcast of the AVMA journals, to discuss her research on scent detection dogs and how their remarkable noses could revolutionize disease detection

**Grayson Doss** (Surgical Sciences) and **Macy Peterson DVM X24** were recently featured on [Veterinary Vertex](#), a podcast of the AVMA Journals, to discuss their recent hedgehog pain medication articles in *JAVMA* and *AJVR*

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