

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

December 2022

Approaching Semester's End

I want to wish all of our students good luck with their upcoming finals as the semester's end approaches. I know it is a stressful time, but soon the semester will be over with the holidays quickly approaching.

This month, our Dean's Get Together will be cookie decorating, followed by cookie eating. I'd encourage you to stop by on Friday, December 16, in room 2255 from 11:30 to 1, to take part in the festive fun.

As you will note below, I want to congratulate WisCARES for their recent grants from PetSmart Charities to assist us in providing accessible care for vulnerable clients and their animals in the Madison community. I also want to highlight Ruthanne Chun's selection as an honoree of the annual UW–Madison Outstanding Women of Color Awards. Congratulations, Ruthanne, and very well deserved.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season and a joyous new year.



UW Veterinary Care Updates from the Director

Welcome to the following new employees, who are all certified veterinary technicians: **Cheryl Bartels**, a small animal float technician; **Allie Boland**, with the Oncology service; **Janelle Geffert**, a greeter/cashier with the reception team; and **Leslie Michael**, the new Emergency and Critical Care client care liaison.

And congratulations to two employees who have started new roles in the hospital: **Abby Aubart**, a former student employee who is now a float vet assistant in the small animal hospital, and **Shianne Olson**, a former CVT intern and float vet tech, who is now a Primary Care CVT.

Congratulations also to **Shawna Hawkins**, **Anna Martel**, **Cameron Ratliff** and **Gail Huckins** on successfully passing the qualifying and certifying examinations for the American College of Zoological Medicine to become ACZM diplomates.

Enjoy the recent client comment below – a testament to the compassionate care we provide.

"My dog had spinal surgery and was treated so well that I could tell he had fallen in love with the staff there. This made his experience much less scary for him. When I visited him, I could



tell he was no longer nervous." -Melanie

Christopher Snyder, DVM, DAVDC
Director, [UW Veterinary Care](#)
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs

From the Archives



There's no telling what this winter will bring, but here's a glimpse of the beauty and bravery possible as a bike rider navigates the path to the west of the School of Veterinary Medicine and UW Veterinary Care. (Side note: This 2011 photo was taken in March. 🤖)

School News



The [winter issue of On Call](#) has been published and is now mailing after a brief delay at the printer. In this magazine we highlight UW Veterinary Care's [new social work program](#) and social worker **Rhonda Nichols**, the school's [record amount of research funding](#), alumnus **Zach Meyers DVM'22** and [his company Vetreum](#), the [impact of gift support](#) for the school's research, teaching and clinical care, and more.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities has designated UW–Madison as an [Innovation and Economic Prosperity University](#). The APLU awarded UW–Madison this designation based on the university's significant, sustainable and campus-wide commitment to economic engagement, including its past and future

focus on innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development, and public service and community engagement.

Wisconsin Companion Animal Resources, Education, and Social Services (WisCARES), a collaboration of the UW–Madison schools of veterinary medicine, social work and pharmacy, has been [awarded \\$135,000 in grants](#) from PetSmart Charities to help continue their mission and provide low- to no-cost veterinary care.

Teaching and Learning News

An update from Peggy Schmidt, associate dean for professional programs



Curriculum revision efforts continue to meet the projected milestones for implementation in fall 2024, including the critical step of University Academic Planning Council (UAPC) approval of our revision plan. UAPC reviewed the plan and current progress on the revised DVM curriculum and unanimously supported the proposal for substantial curricular change. Members were especially supportive of the early inclusion of clinical skills training, integration of foundational and clinical sciences, and focus on student-centered, active learning strategies.

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine has always used a tiered, letter-grade system for assessing student performance in courses. The increased focus on student wellness in human and veterinary medical professions raises the question as to whether the current grading system should be switched to a pass/fail (P/F) or modified pass/fail (MPF) system to reduce stress during veterinary school.

- Currently, many U.S. veterinary schools utilize a combination of letter grading and P/F grading throughout the pre-clinical curriculum with most utilizing a modified pass/fail (MPF) system in their clinical curriculum.
- A handful of veterinary schools use a P/F or MPF grading system (Washington State University, Virginia Tech, University of Arizona, North Carolina State University) and others are considering similar changes as curricula are undergoing revision.
- For comparison, the American Medical Association approved a policy in 2012, Supporting Two-Interval Grading Systems for Medical Education, which acknowledged the benefits of a pass-fail system for the non-clinical curriculum. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges website, 146 medical schools used a P/F (or similar H/P/F style) compared to 31 medical schools using letter grades, numerical grades or other systems (2018-19 data).

Given the preference and proven track record for the P/F grading system in medical schools and the move towards P/F grading systems with curriculum revision in veterinary schools, the SVM faculty will be considering a proposal to adopt an MPF grading system throughout all four phases of the revised curriculum.

Faculty and Staff News

Welcome to **Nancy Mitropoulou**, clinical assistant professor with the Emergency and Critical Care unit.

Congratulations to several faculty on their recent promotion. In the Department of Comparative Biosciences, **Sathish Kumar** was promoted to professor. And in the Department of Medical Sciences, **Helena Rylander** was promoted to clinical professor and **Starr Cameron** was promoted to clinical associate professor.

At the Nov. 15 School of Veterinary Medicine faculty meeting, numerous faculty and staff received years of service awards. Recognized for 10 years of service: **Heidi Clark, Katherine Harmelink, Jill Medenwaldt** and **Julie Walker**; for 20 years: **Valerie Hammond, Heidi Harding, Gabriele Neumann, Kurt Sladky, Adel Talaat, Jyoti Watters** and **Pamela Yessa**; and for 30 years: **Christian Eisele, Lisa Forrest, David Vail** and **Xiao-Jun Wu**.

Professor emeritus **Tom Yuill** was awarded honorary diplomate status by the American Veterinary Epidemiological Society in September.

Several School of Veterinary Medicine faculty members will be part of a [Dec. 6 webinar](#) hosted by the UW–Madison Global Health Institute (GHI), titled Understanding GHI's One Health Centers. Panelists include SVM professor **Yoshihiro Kawaoka** and research fellow **Alhaji N'jai**. GHI director and SVM professor **Jorge Osorio** will moderate.

Student News



The WVMA Blue Coat ceremony for the Class of 2024 will be held on April 22 at Union South (more details to come).

Dates have also been announced for the 2023 spring graduation events. UW–Madison’s [spring Commencement Ceremony](#) for doctoral and professional degree candidates will be held May 12 at the Kohl Center. The SVM-specific ceremony will be held on the morning of May 13. The SVM Investiture Ceremony will take place at the Memorial Union. The Office of Academic Affairs will continue to share information.

Research News

UW School of Veterinary Medicine faculty and staff will pursue [10 new research projects](#) with support from the school’s Companion Animal Fund Grant Program. In 2022, the program distributed over \$137,000 in grants to studies exploring topics ranging from the absorption of antibiotics in a commonly kept freshwater turtle species to the disease pathology of laryngeal paralysis in dogs to improving anesthesia in horses.

Professor **Tony Goldberg** is among a group of scientists warning that [simian hemorrhagic fever virus](#) and its family of simian arteriviruses could pose a significant health risk to humanity should the right conditions allow it to leap from wild primates to people. They recently published their findings in the journal *Cell*.

Professor **M. Suresh** was a speaker at a scientific workshop in November entitled [Mucosal Vaccines for SARS-CoV-2: Scientific Gaps and Opportunities](#), organized by the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.



Kayla Le, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Surgical Sciences, published an article [in the latest edition of Equine Disease Quarterly](#) describing how the number and types of standing surgical procedures that can be safely completed on the horse continue to grow.

Freya Mowat, assistant professor in the Department of Surgical Sciences, was [awarded a Mark L. Morris Jr. Investigator Award](#) designed to support impactful companion animal research for which there is a pressing need. Mowat will study the effect of toxic heavy metal burden on cognition and sensory decline in older dogs.

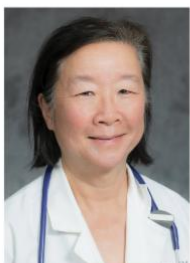
FluGen, a company founded by SVM faculty members **Yoshihiro Kawaoka** and **Gabriele Neumann**, announced an experimental intranasal flu vaccine that [achieved a broad immune response](#). The findings were published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*. FluGen is also working on a new way of protecting against flu and COVID-19 in one vaccine and studying the same approach for respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV.

Assistant professor **Erin Lashnits** and collaborators at North Carolina State University recently [published research in the journal Parasites & Vectors](#), revealing exactly what disease-causing bacteria cat fleas carry. The study’s goal was to understand better what flea-borne pathogens are present in individual fleas and their implications on cats and people.



OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF COLOR

2022-2023 HONOREES



Ruthanne Chun



Maichou Lor



Patricia
Cisneros Prevo



Ashley J. Scott



Spring Sherrod



Terri L. Young

At the UW–Madison Diversity Forum in November, School of Veterinary Medicine clinical professor **Ruthanne Chun** was announced as a [2022-23 honoree](#) of the annual UW–Madison [Outstanding Women of Color Awards](#). Recipients will be honored at a recognition ceremony in the spring.

Upcoming Events

December 9

34th Annual SVM Craft Fair

8 a.m.-1 p.m.

School of Veterinary Medicine Second Floor
(plus an [online presale](#))

[More](#)

December 16

Dean's Get Together

*Featuring holiday cookie decorating
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

School of Veterinary Medicine

[More](#)

SVM in the News



[WisCARES Vets for Homeless Pets in High Demand as Colder Weather Approaches](#)
News 3

[Pet Care November Roundup](#)
Wisconsin Public Radio

[Bird Flu Is Driving up Turkey and Egg Prices. Why Won't We Vaccinate Against It?](#)
Vox

[‘He’s Been Strong’: Shar Pei Mix’s Cancer Treatment at UW Veterinary Care Covered by Grant](#)
WKOW ABC-27

“The report draws attention to a form of

international trade and movement that most people don't know about. It's becoming increasingly apparent that globalization is not only a problem for human diseases but also animal diseases.”

*-Epidemiologist and professor **Tony Goldberg** in a [National Geographic](#) story about how the global donkey skin trade risks spreading dangerous diseases.*

