

# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

January 2023

## Happy New Year

I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season and I wish you all a happy new year. I also hope that our students are having a great winter break.

As you will note below, I am excited to announce that Liddy Alvarez is the recipient of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges' [2023 Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award](#), presented by Zoetis. This is one of the most distinguished teaching awards in our profession and is very well deserved by one of our outstanding faculty. Congratulations, Liddy.



Also, I want to highlight that, in a recent [On Wisconsin magazine interview with Chancellor Mnookin](#), she stated the following about the university's dedication to collaboration:

"We have veterinarians working with physicians, pharmacists, and engineers, for example, on research related to animal health that also has major implications for human health in areas like cancer treatment and animal-human disease transmission. Cross-disciplinary work can be enormously challenging, but we know that bringing creative researchers together across disciplines to work on critical problems can spark extraordinary discovery and innovation. There's a serious interest in thinking across here, and that's a great thing."

It's exciting to see the impact of the School of Veterinary Medicine on animal and human health and the recognition we are receiving here at the school for contributing to that impact. Congratulations to each of you for all you do to advance the health of both animals and people.

I look forward to the start of the new semester and wish you a great remainder of your break.

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## UW Veterinary Care Updates from the Director

Welcome to new employees **Meghan Hessler**, a veterinarian who has joined the Emergency and Critical Care unit as an ER client care liaison; **Amanda Resnick**, a veterinary technician in the Morrie Waud Large Animal Hospital, and **Kurt Schuhart**, a greeter/cashier with the reception team.

And congratulations to certified veterinary technician **Michele Dolson** on her new role as a small animal float technician following many years of supporting the Cardiology service.



This recent comment from a client is an excellent way to kick off the new year. Here's to a

great 2023!

*"Phenomenal is the only word that describes our experiences when we visit UW. We could not ask for better care for our little guy. He loves everyone there and you all love him right back." - Kacie*

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

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## From the Archives



These smiles are sure to warm the winter chill (apologies, on the other hand, if a slithering serpent makes you freeze). In this photo, **Jeffery Zuba DVM'87**, then a veterinary medical student at UW, educates children about snakes, specifically a boa constrictor.

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## School News



UW–Madison [ranked eighth in the national research rankings](#) for public and private universities in the National Science Foundation's 2021 fiscal year Higher Education Research and Development data. The university increased its annual research expenditures by \$16.1 million over the previous year, reporting more than \$1.38 billion in annual expenditures across all fields. **Related:** As mentioned previously, the SVM received a [record \\$34.4 million in grants and extramural awards](#) in the last fiscal year.

The 34th Annual SVM Craft Fair in December raised \$1,957 for the school's [Companion Animal Fund](#). Thank you to all of the crafters (29, the most ever), volunteers and shoppers who participated in the event.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion News

*An update from Richard Barajas, assistant dean for diversity, equity and inclusion*

- Beginning this month, Richard Barajas will chair the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\) Committee](#).
- Richard will also provide a module on microaggressions, scheduled to be released in March, for the American Veterinary Medical Association's new [Journey for Teams initiative](#). The first module of the program, covering the power of diversity, is already online. The modules consist of 15-minute interactive experiences that allow teams to explore, discuss and better understand DEI topics.
- Following voting on AAVMC's social media accounts, the podcast episode [Social Colorblindness](#) featuring Richard as a guest, as well as Melanie Ragin of Cornell University, was voted the best episode of AAVMC's [Diversity and Inclusion on Air podcast](#) for 2022.
- On Dec. 3, the School of Veterinary Medicine's DEI advocates hosted a visit to the [Sifting and Reckoning: UW–Madison's History of Exclusion and Resistance](#) exhibit at the Chazen Museum of Art. SVM faculty, staff and students participated in the visit and a group discussion afterward.

## Faculty and Staff News

Congratulations to clinical assistant professor **Elizabeth Alvarez**, recipient of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges [2023 Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award](#). The award is presented to an educator whose sustained record of teaching excellence and ability, dedication, character and leadership has contributed significantly to the advancement of the profession. It will be presented at AAVMC's 2023 Catalyze conference in March 2023 in Washington, D.C.

Professor emeritus **Chuck Czuprynski**, former director of the UW-Madison Food Research Institute, is the recipient of the [2022 Wisconsin Association of Food Protection Leadership award](#).

The Office of Academic Affairs welcomes two new hires this month: **Kathleen Cummings** joins OAA as an administrative and curricular specialist on Jan. 3, and **Margene Anderson**, currently a consultant with the Center for Teaching, Learning & Mentoring supporting the school's curriculum revision efforts, joins OAA full time as an educational advancement and faculty development specialist on Jan. 17.

Best wishes to **Lori Chamberlain**, department administrator with the Department of Surgical Sciences, who departed the SVM in December for a new opportunity with the School of Medicine and Public Health.

## Student News

**Lisa Kim DVMx'24** is a recipient of the [2023 Merck Animal Health Diversity Leadership Scholarship](#). This \$5,000 scholarship recognizes second- and third-year students in good academic and professional standing at an AAVMC member institution who contribute to enhancing diversity and inclusion.

## Research News

**Jennifer Heyward**, a postgraduate trainee and veterinary ophthalmology resident, has been awarded an [AKC Canine Health Foundation 2023 Clinician-Scientist Fellowship](#). Heyward will study why dogs with sudden acquired retinal degeneration syndrome have an increased risk of

blood clot formation to develop new diagnostic and treatment strategies for this disease. Her fellowship mentor is assistant professor Freya Mowat.

Assistant teaching professor **Chelsea Holschbach** was the lead author of a manuscript published in December in the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine titled [Prognostic Indicators for Survival of Downer Cattle Treated Using a Flotation Tank in a Referral Hospital](#). The findings can be used to determine likely outcomes and guide treatment, referral or euthanasia decisions for nonambulatory dairy cattle.

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## A Day in the Life



Frosting, sprinkles and toppings, oh my. SVM faculty, staff and students enjoyed cookie decorating – and consumption – at the December Dean's Get Together. It was a feast for the senses and artistic expression.

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## Upcoming Events

**January 27**

**Dean's Get Together**

4:30-6:30 p.m.

School of Veterinary Medicine

**February 17**

**Dean's Get Together**

4:30-6:30 p.m.

School of Veterinary Medicine

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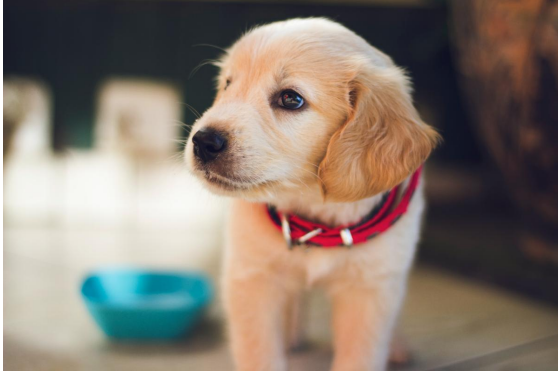
## SVM in the News

[Dog Flu Is Back, Too](#)

The New York Times

[Meat Cultivated at UW-Madison Offers Glimpse Into Possible Food Future](#)

PBS Wisconsin



Caffeine Perks up Calves, Too  
Dairy Herd Management

Crossing the Species Barrier: Primate Virus  
Could Infect Humans  
The Badger Herald

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**“The moral of the story is to try something that has the best odds of working. What I took home from this as a veterinarian is that I should avoid sweet flavors and use oil-based flavorings when possible.”**

*-Amy Nichelason, a board-certified canine and feline practitioner and assistant clinical professor at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, discusses findings published recently in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. Nichelason and colleagues [studied ways to increase medicine acceptance among cats by comparing flavor acceptance in liquid medications.](#)*

