



# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



June 2024

## Congrats and Welcome!

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! We had a fantastic graduation weekend last month, highlighted by graduation at the Kohl Center on Friday and followed by the Investiture Ceremony Saturday morning. It was a beautiful spring weekend for everyone to enjoy all that Madison has to offer. A memory not to be forgotten were the blue and pink rectal sleeves blown up like balloons, waving to the singing of Varsity at the Kohl Center ceremony.



I also want to welcome the Class of 2025 to their clinical year. Although they are starting out in the South Building hospital, this month we are looking forward to opening our new North Building hospital, significantly enhancing our space and infrastructure along with the educational opportunities our students expect and deserve. It's been a long and arduous process, but ultimately our new North Building will transform much of what we do both clinically and educationally (see news item below). As others and I highlighted at the Blue Coat Ceremony this spring, we encourage our 4<sup>th</sup> year students to take advantage of all the opportunities available to them this year – an exceptional chance to work alongside individuals from almost two dozen specialties, learning from their perspectives and expertise.

Good luck to all in the coming year... I know it will be an amazing one!

Mark D. Markel  
Dean, UW School of Veterinary Medicine  
Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor

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## SVM North Building Opening in June



The first two weeks in June will mark an exciting transition as our North Building is set to open with normal hours on Monday, June 10. We're thrilled to open this welcoming state-of-the-art space that will allow the school and teaching hospital to grow our leadership position in veterinary medicine. The enhanced facilities improve instructional 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. Stay tuned for updates as we shift focus to starting the renovations needed to update and enhance the SVM South Building.

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## UW Veterinary Care News

*Update from Chris Snyder, director, [UW Veterinary Care](#), and associate dean for clinical affairs*

On May 10, we marked the completion of 4<sup>th</sup> year rotations for the class of 2024. We appreciate their commitment, compassion and contributions to the excellent patient care we provide in the UWVC. On May 13, we welcomed the Class of 2025 to begin their 4<sup>th</sup> year rotations, and we look forward to watching them grow and develop during their journey through clinics – especially as many services are moving in early June to our new SVM North Building (see news item above). We have been busy planning and preparing for this transition and are excited to share it with everyone at the SVM and especially with our patients and clients. This month, we're also celebrating the accomplishments of our finishing group of interns and residents. We look forward to honoring them for their dedication and hard work.



## DEI News

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

The SVM sent seven members of its faculty/staff to the [Iverson Bell Regional Diversity Summit](#) hosted at the University of Minnesota in May, continuing conversations and work that started two years ago when UW-Madison SVM hosted it here. The summit included more than 100 attendees from across the Midwest focusing on how to make our schools inclusive environments for all in our community. In 2026 – which will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first summit – the event will be hosted at The Ohio State University.



## School News

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

We're pleased to welcome our new students who have joined us from Ross University (in St. Kitts and Nevis) and St. George's University (in Grenada) for their clinical year. They are Margee Balayan, Patricia Brownsberger, Geoff Camarillo, Sarah Hendrickson, Kami Meador, Grace Pechman, Morgan Piratzky, Fannie Sheinman, Dawson Zalegowski and Wade Zdroik. While these students earn their DVM degrees from their respective universities, they complete all clinical rotations at UWVC. We hope you enjoy your time in Madison and we're grateful to have you here!

We'd like to offer sincere and well-deserved congratulations to CVT [Jill Medenwaldt](#) who was just announced as a "Top Ten" winner in the 2024 campus-wide University Staff Recognition Awards. We greatly appreciate Jill's talent, hard work and dedication!



In May, graduate student [Monica Ridlon](#) was awarded a Ruth Dickie Scholarship from the UW-Madison chapter of Graduate Women in Science. The funds will support her research in understanding why effects of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) – a persistent organic pollutant – on the bladder is fundamental to the greater study of lower urinary tract symptoms for the development of improved human healthcare. Monica also won the Victor Drill award for best poster at the Midwest Society of Toxicology Meeting. **Congratulations, Monica!**

[Dr. Carrie Schroeder](#) (surgical sciences) recently participated in a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the International Anesthesia Research Society and the Society of Critical Care Anesthesia. She opened a session titled, "*Monkey Business in the ORs: When Veterinary Anesthetics Collide with Human Medicine,*" by differentiating between three subfields of veterinary anesthesia: small animal anesthesia (such as dogs and cats), large animal anesthesia (including horses and cattle), and zoo/wildlife anesthesia (such as bears and giraffes).



Professor Emeritus [Christopher Olsen](#) (pathobiological sciences) recently co-authored a new compendium on [preventing zoonotic infections associated with non-traditional pets](#), a project of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and published in the journal *Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases*. In addition, he also recently delivered a keynote address for a symposium in India celebrating World Veterinary Day titled, "Veterinarians are Essential Health Care Workers: One Health and the Roles of Veterinarians in Promoting Public Health."

Congrats to Ashley Oppermann (starting her 4<sup>th</sup> year) who was recently named by *Vet Candy* in their [Rising Stars Awards](#), which shine a spotlight on students whose contributions are transforming the field of veterinary medicine through inspiration and motivation. Earlier this year, Ashley was also profiled by the publication about [balancing motherhood with vet school](#).

## SVM in the News



Two big stories from Wisconsin zoos featuring several SVM faculty, staff and alumni captured a lot of attention this spring! Read about Kendi, a male reticulated giraffe at the Milwaukee County Zoo and his first-of-its-kind procedure [here](#), and Datu, a critically endangered male Bornean orangutan who resides at Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, [here](#).

Professor [Masatoshi Suzuki](#) (comparative biosciences), along with partners in the UW College of Engineering, recently [published findings](#) about how a new model will help researchers connect dots at the intersection of our joints, where two different types of tissues make it vulnerable to injury.

Professor [Tony Goldberg](#)'s (pathobiological sciences) work in Uganda, studying why viruses that cause mild sniffles in humans are devastating populations of chimpanzees and gorillas, was the subject of [a recent feature in The Guardian](#).

SVM and the [Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory](#) (WVDL) have been at the forefront of studying and monitoring the recent spread of avian flu to dairy cattle, a topic that has been covered heavily in the news. The results of recent research about potential risks to humans consuming raw milk were shared by Professor [Yoshihiro Kawaoka](#) (pathobiological sciences) and [Dr. Keith Poulsen](#) (medical sciences), director of the WVDL, in a [letter published in the New England Journal of Medicine](#).

Professor [Douglas DeBoer](#) (medical sciences) was recently interviewed for a comprehensive look at [whether dogs suffer from seasonal allergies](#), and how it presents differently than allergies in their human companions.

## Upcoming Events

**June 21**

**Dean's Get Together**

4:30 - 6:00 pm

SVM overhang

**June 22**

**Alumni Reunion**

11:30 am - 2:30 pm

SVM overhang

