



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

May 2024

Celebrating Our New Curriculum

As I announced on April 29th, our faculty, instructors, lecturers and instructional specialists overwhelmingly approved the first year of our new curriculum, including Phase 1 and the first modules of Phase 2. With over 70% supporting this initiative, I believe it paves the pathway towards implementation of a curriculum that will significantly improve the education we provide to our students, including their day one competencies upon graduation. As all of us know, this has been a long and arduous process over the last almost four years with many challenges and obstacles to overcome. It was only through your passion, dedication, perseverance and true desire to improve our curriculum that we are where we are today. This isn't our final hurdle as we still need to approve Phases 2, 3 and 4 in the coming years. Under Dr. Jon Levine's leadership, I hope we will propose and approve Phase 2 of our curriculum this coming fall. In addition to everyone involved over the last four years, I want to thank our Nimble working group, with chairs Eric Sangren and Ellison Bentley, who have worked tirelessly with all stakeholders to get us to where we are today. I also want to acknowledge all of the staff in the Office for Professional Programs for their leadership and support during this process, and for their efforts in the coming years, as we approve our additional phases in the coming months, and eventually launch the curriculum in the fall of 2025.



On April 24th, it was a pleasure to present to the Dean's Circle, co-chaired with our incoming Dean Jon Levine. As you may know, members of our Dean's Circle are our most dedicated friends and donors who we meet with virtually each spring and in-person in the fall of each year for the Dean's Luncheon. We had an opportunity to celebrate our past successes and look forward to the school's future, including the challenges we will face in the coming years. I very much look forward to the school's bright future under the leadership of our new dean, Jon Levine.

May serves as one of the highlights of every academic year with the school celebrating the Investiture and Graduation of the Class of 2024. As a reminder, the Class of 2024 began in our curriculum under very difficult circumstances in the fall of 2020. We literally were in the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic with tremendous uncertainty surrounding what education we would be able to deliver in-person versus virtually. It was through the dedication, tenaciousness and courage of our faculty and staff that we were able to nimbly create educational opportunities for our students so they could begin their journey in our curriculum. I look forward to our upcoming Graduation Ceremony, as well as our Investiture Ceremony, in a couple of weeks and wish each and every one of the Class of 2024 an outstanding career in this amazing profession.

Last month, I had the opportunity to attend the Class of 2025 Blue Coat Ceremony, hosted by the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association. I wish the Class of 2025 the

best in this coming year and I strongly suggest that you look forward to the opening of our new North Building and hospital this coming June.

Have a fantastic Spring!



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

Congratulations to the Class of 2024

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the exceptional Class of 2024 DVM students, who have reached an incredible milestone in their journey to become veterinarians. With 88 dedicated individuals poised to make a difference in the world of veterinary medicine, we eagerly anticipate their impact on the field. We will celebrate their achievements at the Kohl Center Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 10, and the SVM Investiture ceremony at Memorial Union on Saturday, May 11, as we honor their hard work and dedication.



Sophia Grant-Counard DVMx'24 was awarded the Morrie Waud Equine Excellence Award at the 2024 Celebration of Excellence Award Ceremony. More images from the ceremony can be found [here](#).

UW Veterinary Care News

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

The week of April 15-20 the hospital honored all the great work done in the clinical and anatomic pathology laboratories

by celebrating National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. We also celebrated reception staff members during the week of April 21-27 during National Veterinary Receptionist Week for all the great ways they help support the hospital and our clients. The hospital continues preparations for services moving into the North building and appreciates everyone's patience while the details are finalized. Client services and hospital administration have both already moved into the connector between the two buildings.



The hospital also recently welcomed two new supervisors, **Sarah Harnden, CVT**, in the Small Animal ER, and **Amanda Anderson, CVT**, in the Large Animal Hospital. Additionally, **Alyssa Scagnelli, DVM**, joined the Special Species service as a new clinical instructor.

From the reception staff to the students, nurses, clinicians and everyone behind the scenes, you all play an important role in delivering compassionate care to our patients.

Thanks for all you do!

Chris

Teaching and Learning News

An update from Peggy Schmidt, associate dean for professional programs

Curriculum Revision

Great news! The revised DVM curriculum has been approved and will launch with the Fall 2025 semester for the incoming class of 2029. This innovative, student-centered program is the culmination of nearly four years of dedicated planning, designed to prepare graduates for the ever-evolving landscape of veterinary medicine.



Over the next 16 months, faculty and instructional staff will continue to develop engaging, clinically relevant learning activities and assessments for Phase 1 and the initial modules of Phase 2 in preparation for launch. The tireless work of the Nimble revision group continues as they further refine Phase 2 and start developing Phases 3 and 4 to ensure a seamless educational journey for students.

Directly Observed Procedural Skills (DOPS)

When the class of 2025 begins their clinical rotations in a few weeks, they'll have a new opportunity to track their progress in key clinical skills throughout their last year of veterinary training. Directly Observed Procedural Skills (DOPS) are a form of workplace-based assessment used commonly in other graduate medical training programs to provide in-the-moment feedback on tasks performed in the clinic. Each clinical rotation has a list of possible DOPS students may practice and ask for assessment in via an online survey. Instructors observing the student (faculty, house officers, veterinary nurses) record how much supervision/assistance the student required for that observed procedure and how much they recommend the student have the next time they perform the procedure. In addition to providing meaningful, actionable feedback, we're excited about the opportunity for DOPS to help develop a culture of feedback and growth mindset amongst the clinical year students.

School News

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

On Wednesday, April 10, the school hosted its 11th annual **Spring SVM Phi Zeta Research Day**. Veterinary students, residents, graduate students, and postdocs shared research posters

with the SVM community and learned more about clinical and basic research opportunities. The event also featured trainee flash talks, a reception and raffle, and an inspiring keynote address by Kate Creevy, DVM, MS, DACVIM, Chief Veterinary Officer for the Dog Aging Project.

On Saturday, April 13, the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association hosted the **Blue Coat Ceremony** for our class of 2025 students.



On Saturday, April 20, students, faculty, staff, and friends gathered in Varsity Hall at Union South to celebrate the end of the academic year and to recognize the efforts of the exceptional people who work and learn at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. The annual “Celebration of Excellence” event is made possible through the generosity of numerous donors. [Click here](#) to view this year’s recipients.

Eight SVM faculty and staff will travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to participate in **the Iverson Bell Midwest Regional Diversity Summit** at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, May 21-23. The Iverson Bell Summit is named for Dr. Bell who was the first African-American veterinarian to hold the position of Vice President of the American Veterinary Medical Association. This Midwest regional summit will focus topics of diversity and inclusion, create a space to share strategies, and identify recommendations and evidence-based practices.

Faolain Barrett, current 4th year Small Animal Surgery Resident, passed her ACVS exam to become a Board-certified surgeon.

Michael Cahill (comparative biosciences) was awarded an NIH R01 award, entitled “A multidisciplinary approach identifying PDZ-RhoGEF (ARHGEF11) as a critical regulator of synapses and cognition.”

Seth Eaton (surgical sciences) achieved an important milestone in his ongoing studies of the genetic and pathologic basis of a serious eye disease that affects Cairn Terriers with a recent publication in the journal, "Veterinary Ophthalmology"

Betsy Elsmo (pathobiological sciences) was promoted to the role of Clinical Diagnostic Associate Professor.

Sathish Kumar (comparative biosciences) was named Director of the Molecular and

Environmental Toxicology Graduate Program.

Jojo Maier received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Gillian McClellan (surgical sciences) visited UCSF Department of Ophthalmology as an invited Visiting Professor, where she had the opportunity to meet with existing and future collaborators. She gave a "Grand Rounds" presentation on how lessons we are learning from studying veterinary patients can inform care of children with pediatric glaucoma.

Freya Mowat (surgical sciences) was granted promotion to Associate Professor with tenure, in Comparative Ophthalmology.

Lean Owens (DVM/PhD student in Dr. Tony Goldberg's lab) won first place in the prestigious national 2024 Aurora Pharmaceutical DVM Student Scholarship competition.

SVM in the News



David Gasper (pathobiological sciences) spoke with Milwaukee's NPR for their Bubbler Talk segment, answering a listener's question about "what happens to Milwaukee County Zoo animals after they die."

Tom Friedrich (pathobiological sciences) was quoted in [Time](#) about tracking the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak.

Tony Goldberg (pathobiological sciences) spoke with multiple media outlets, including [Scientific American](#), about his study that shed new light on cross-species virus spillovers that can cause pandemics.

Pam Jahnke, SVM Board of Visitor member host of the Midwest farm report, interviewed [incoming dean Jon Levine](#) for her show.

Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Director Keith Poulsen (medical sciences) has been speaking about the [impact of HPAI on the Wisconsin dairy industry](#).

Upcoming Events

May 9
**SVM Faculty, Staff, and Student
Appreciation Picnic**
11:30-1 pm
SVM overhang

May 10
Commencement
Kohl Center

May 11
Investiture
Memorial Union

June 22
SVM Reunion
11:30-2:30 pm
SVM overhang

