

LSU

School of
Veterinary Medicine

La Veterinaire

2019

The News Magazine of the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine



La Veterinaire

This award-winning magazine is published annually by the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

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our vision

The Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine is a diverse and inclusive community that will become a top tier leader in Veterinary Medicine, Biomedicine, Agriculture, and animal health and welfare through innovative teaching, cutting edge research, and exceptional service.

our mission

We teach. We heal. We discover. We protect.

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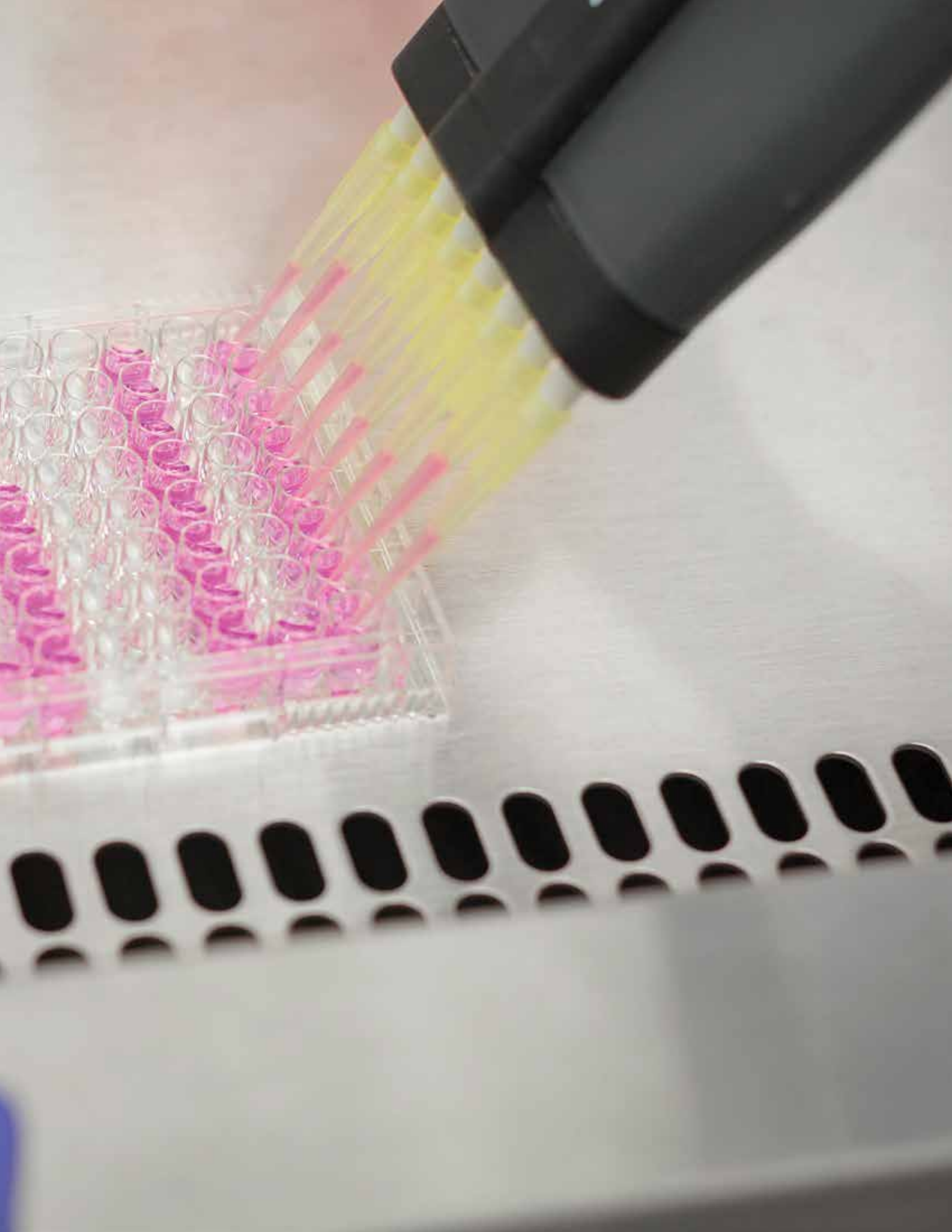
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LETTER FROM OUR DEAN

2019 has been a significant year for our LSU SVM. It culminated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Stephenson Pet Clinic, which will soon house our community practice, dermatology, ophthalmology, and integrative medicine services. It will also provide teaching space for our clinical skills labs, which began in late 2018. We are eternally grateful to Emmet and Toni Stephenson and the hundreds of other donors who generously contributed the private funds to make this clinic a reality.

2019 is also the year in which the LSU SVM undergoes its accreditation. This occurs every seven years and is overseen by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education. Our faculty, staff, students, and alumni came together to help with this process, and I thank them for their efforts.

Our research programs are strong and continue to improve. We currently rank 8th in National Institutes of Health funding for veterinary schools in the U.S. Our research improves the lives of people and animals, and this issue features an article about “superfood” snack bars created by one of our professors as a result of his research.

Our clinical skills labs provide hands-on experience for our veterinary students, and increased class size ensures that we will continue to provide well-trained veterinarians as the need for those veterinarians increases.

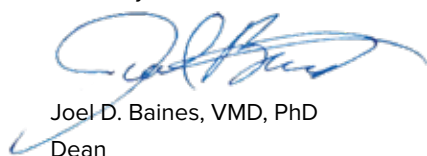
We continue to provide the best, most compassionate care for our patients in our Veterinary Teaching Hospital. We saw more than 29,000 cases in fiscal year 2018-2019. By providing exceptional veterinary care, we help our community while providing our students with exemplary training.

The Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab was recently awarded full accreditation again and works with state and federal animal and public health officials to safeguard animal and human health (One Health) in Louisiana. Our mission to protect also includes disaster response training for first responders and animal welfare volunteers.

Our alumni represent us well in industry, in private practice, in research institutions, and in academia. They are our ambassadors, and we are proud of their accomplishments.

Thank you for your support of the LSU SVM. Geaux Tigers!

Sincerely,



Joel D. Baines, VMD, PhD

Dean

Dr. Kenneth F. Burns Chair in Veterinary Medicine



Joel D. Baines, VMD, PhD, became dean of the LSU SVM on September 1, 2014. He came to LSU from the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, where he was the associate dean for research and graduate education and the James Law Professor of Virology. In addition to serving as dean, Dr. Baines also serves as the Dr. Kenneth F. Burns Chair in Veterinary Medicine. He received a bachelor's degree in microbiology from Kansas State University in 1979 and received a VMD degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1983. He then received his PhD from Cornell University in 1988, studying the molecular virology of feline coronaviruses. He obtained postdoctoral training at the University of Chicago, studying the molecular virology of herpes simplex virus replication. Dr. Baines has been funded by the National Institutes of Health since January 1995, to study herpes simplex virus assembly. His research focuses on many aspects of herpesvirus replication and antiviral therapy. His work has garnered more than 6,000 citations.

On Friday, October 25, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine held a ceremonial groundbreaking for our new pet wellness clinic, the Stephenson Pet Clinic. This 40,000-square-foot facility will become the new home of our companion animal wellness efforts and many of our clinical services, including community practice (primary care), dermatology, integrative medicine, and ophthalmology. The actual groundbreaking was done by doggy volunteers.

Due to weather, the formal part of the ceremony took place in the SVM Library with Dean Joel Baines welcoming guests and recognizing those donors whose generosity made this new building possible, as well as guests representing the state of Louisiana and LSU. LSU President F. King Alexander spoke about why capital projects like this one are important, and LSU Board of Supervisors President Mary Werner also addressed the crowd.

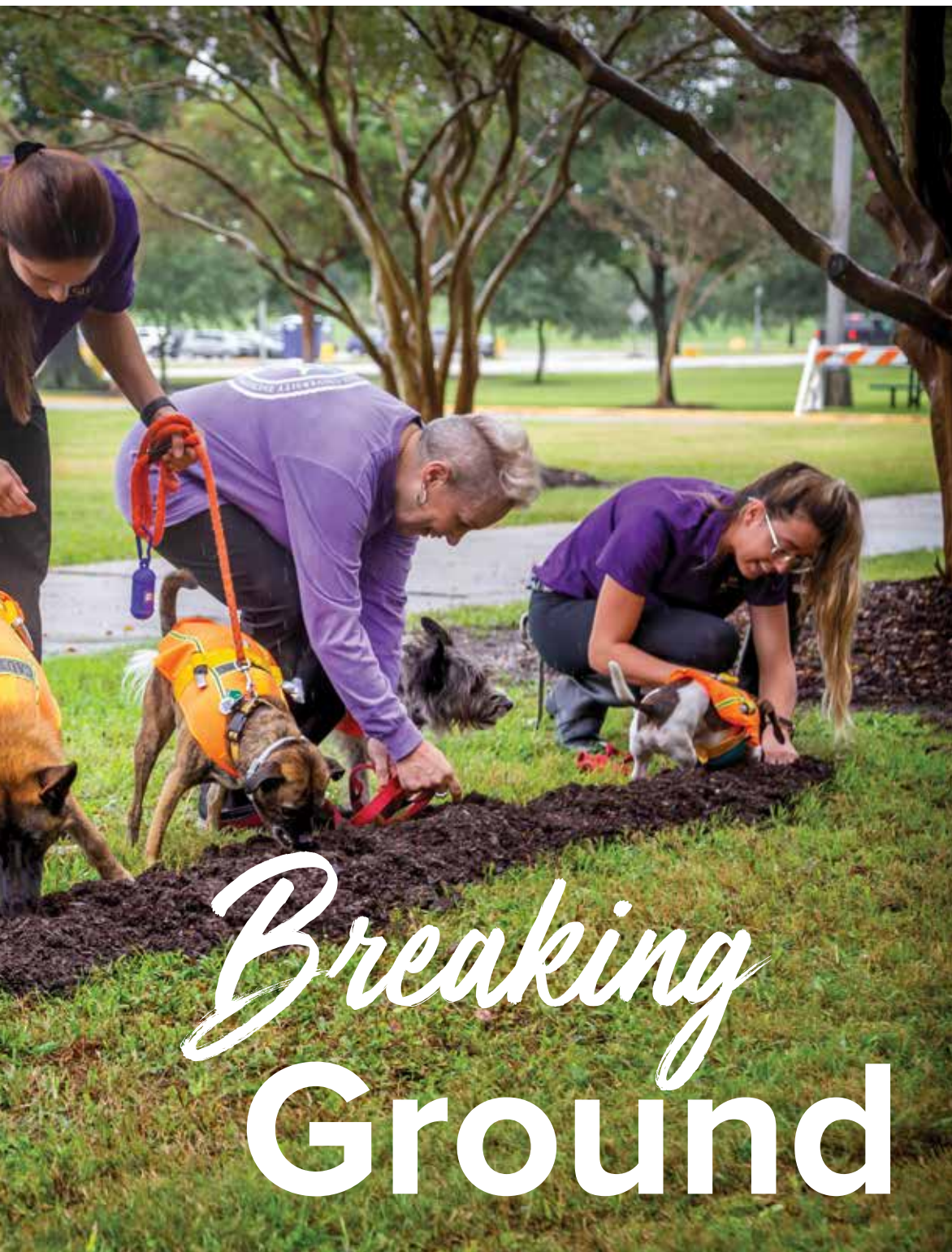
Emmet and Toni Stephenson, for whom the new building is named, shared their passion for this project, LSU, and the LSU SVM. Mark Cooper, chief of staff for Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards also addressed the crowd, and Dr. Mark Mitchell, hospital director, spoke about how this new building will transform our hospital and improve service.

The facility is being constructed thanks to a combination of state



Stephenson Pet Clinic “dig”-naries

FROM LEFT: Our “doggy dig-nitaries” are Coach, a Greyhound owned by Dr. Cullen; Paco, a mixed breed owned by Jeannie Hansbrough, a large animal veterinary technician; Jessie, a terrier mix owned by Dr. Lorrie Gaschen, executive associate dean for diversity; and Waters, a veterinary student in the Class of 2022.



Breaking Ground

nitaries

Domaracki, assistant professor of community practice; Ouida, a Belgian Malinois breed dog owned by Babette Sanmartin, a veterinary student in the Class of 2023; rsity, student and faculty affairs; and Zulu, a miniature Dachshund owned by Susan

funds and \$4 million in private funds, with the primary donors being Emmet and Toni Stephenson. Construction on the current Veterinary Medicine Building was completed in 1978. The LSU SVM has greatly increased the number of people, labs, and services since then, and this new clinic allows us to grow and improve services to our patients.

Construction is expected to begin in the spring semester of 2020 with a completion expected in spring 2021. The two-story building will be approximately 40,000 square feet. The building architect is Tipton & Associates, and the general contractor is M.D. Descant.

Special thanks to our “doggy dig-nitaries”: Zulu, a miniature Dachshund owned by Susan Waters (LSU SVM Class of 2022); Jessie, a terrier mix owned by Dr. Lorrie Gaschen, executive associate dean of diversity, student and faculty affairs; Paco, a mixed breed dog owned by Babette Sanmartin (LSU SVM Class of 2023); Ouida, a Belgian Malinois owned by Jeannie Hansbrough, large animal veterinary technician; and Coach, a Greyhound owned by Dr. Cullen Domaracki, assistant professor of community practice.



TOP: Toni and Emmet Stephenson, for whom the new clinic is named, generously contributed the founding gift for this project.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Acrylic frames with a rendering of the new clinic were gifts for the attendees. LSU President F. King Alexander addresses the crowd. Tiger Athletic Foundation Executive Director of Development Support Services Bunnie Cannon with LSU SVM Senior Director of Development and Strategic Initiatives Tracy Evans. LSU Board of Supervisors President Mary Leach Werner and Toni and Emmet Stephenson attended the ceremony. New Orleans artist Christina Pappion, of Pappion Artistry, did a live painting to commemorate the event. Veterinary Teaching Hospital Director Dr. Mark Mitchell explains how this new clinic will enhance patient care and teaching. LSU Assistant Vice President and University Architect Danny Mahaffey, Architect Ken Tipton, and Louisiana Business Inc. CEO and Founder Rolf McCollister attended the event; Tipton and Associates are the architects for the clinic project. LSU SVM Business Manager Brad Zimmerman, LSU SVM Ophthalmologist Dr. Renee Carter, and LSU SVM donor Renee Michael attended the event.

HEAL



Accreditation

What is Accreditation?

The AVMA Council on Education (COE) is the national accrediting agency for veterinary medical education in the United States, assuring that the standards in veterinary medical education are met by all AVMA-accredited colleges or schools of veterinary medicine and that students enrolled in those colleges or schools receive an education that will prepare them for entry-level positions in the profession. Historically, the LSU program has met all essential requirements for an acceptable college or school as established by the AVMA COE since the graduation of its inaugural class in 1977. Full accreditation was renewed for the School in 2013 for a period of up to seven years.

AVMA COE Site-visit Team

The AVMA COE site visit for accreditation took place November 3 through November 7. The Site Visit Team is made up of five members, two observers, and an AVMA COE staff consultant. Members of the Site Visit Team toured the LSU SVM, asked questions, and met with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and LSU representatives.

The visit began with a reception held in our newly renovated Library, and the members of the Site Visit Team had the opportunity to review posters created by our Summer Scholars students. The Summer Scholars program takes place each year, and first- and second-year students are selected to work on research projects with a faculty mentor. They present their posters at the Summer Scholars Symposium, which is held at a different veterinary school each year. The Site Visit Team focuses on facilities, the curriculum and admissions, clinical resources, school organization and finances, research, faculty, and information resources.

Facilities

On November 4, the team was given an overview of the LSU SVM facilities with members of the Dean's Cabinet: Dean Joel Baines, Executive Associate Dean for Diversity, Student, and Faculty Affairs Lorrie Gaschen, Associate Dean for Accreditation and Student Affairs Joseph Taboada, Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies Rhonda Cardin, Assistant Dean for Finance and Administrative Services Ernie Tanoos, Veterinary Teaching Hospital Director Mark Mitchell, Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department Head Dale Paccamonti, Interim Pathobiological Sciences Department Head John Hawke, Interim Comparative Biomedical Sciences Department Head Tammy Dugas, Information Technologies Director Eric Seneca, and Senior Director of Development and Strategic Initiatives Tracy Evans. The team was given a general tour of the building with additional tours specifically of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and other teaching spaces.

Admissions and Curriculum

The Site Visit Team met with the following LSU SVM committees: Admissions, Courses and Curriculum, and Scholastic Standards. The team also met with the Student Affairs staff. The purpose of these meetings was to go over our admissions procedures and statistics and discuss the DVM curriculum. The Site Visit Team also toured the classrooms, student labs, the IT Help Desk area, and the student learning center. The team visited the Companion Animal Alliance, as the LSU SVM works with the animal shelter to provide veterinary care and learning opportunities for our DVM students and had lunch with students from each of the DVM classes.

Organization and Finances

The Site Visit Team met with our financial staff to discuss our organizational structure, funding sources, and allocations. The team also met with department heads, as well as the heads of the hospital, library, diagnostic lab, and information technology. The team also met with the hospital service chiefs and House Officers.

The Site Visit kicked off with a reception on Sunday, November 3. The reception included poster presentations by DVM students.

TOP RIGHT: Jane Ellis (Class of 2021) discusses her Summer Scholars research project with Dr. Thomas Van Winkle.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Rebecca Schuber (Class of 2021) discusses her research with Dr. Luke Heider.



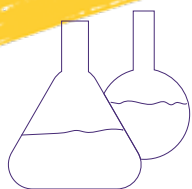
Research

The Site Visit Team met with the associate dean for research and advanced studies and members of our research faculty.

What Happens After the Site Visit

The team was impressed by many facets of the LSU SVM, specifically mentioning our research program, our diversity and inclusion efforts and culture, and our new facilities. The team found us to be open, honest, and accessible. Prior to the site visit, the LSU SVM submitted a Self-Study Report that provided details about our organization, finances, facilities and equipment, clinical resources, information resources, curriculum, admissions, faculty, research, and outcomes assessment. Following the site visit, the SVM will be asked for additional materials and potential remediation. The self-study, supplemental material, post-visit materials and evidence of remediation or plan for remediation, and the completed scoring rubric will go to the AVMA COE where the status of accreditation of the SVM will be taken up at their March 2020 meeting. The SVM will find out the results of that meeting sometime later in the spring or early summer.

LSU SVM By the Numbers

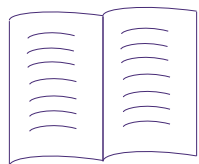


\$11.8 Million

Extramural support for research (\$9.2 million from the National Institutes of Health)

8th

out of 30 veterinary schools in the U.S. in NIH funding

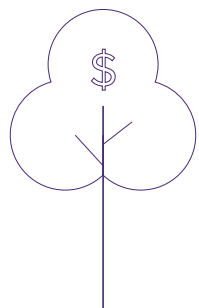


164

Peer-reviewed articles published as author or co-author

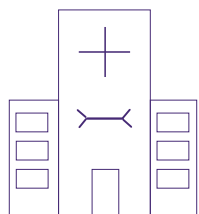
33

Book chapters written and **1** book authored



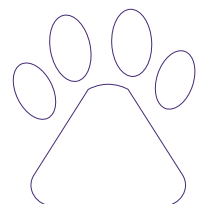
\$3.5 Million

Received by the LSU SVM in cash, pledges, and planned gifts



29,046

cases came through our Veterinary Teaching Hospital

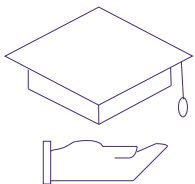
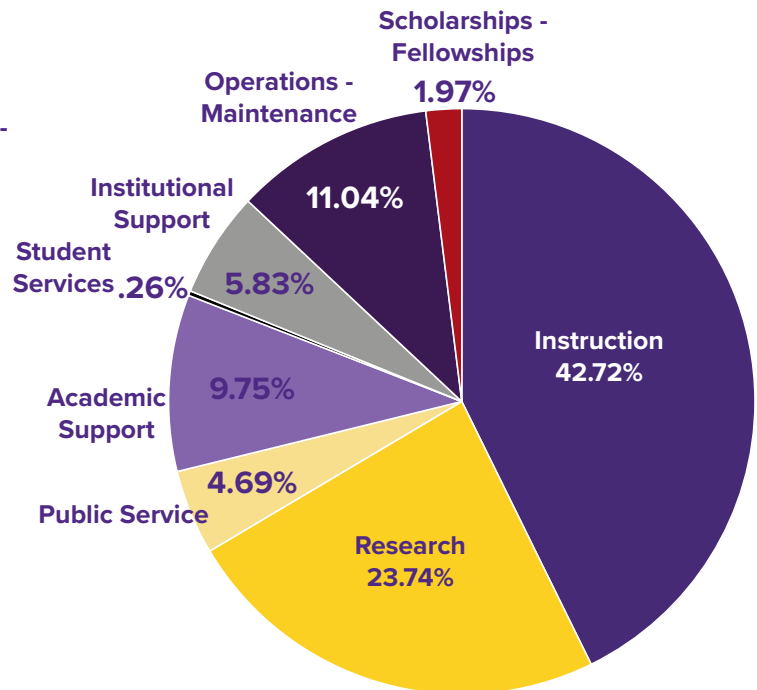
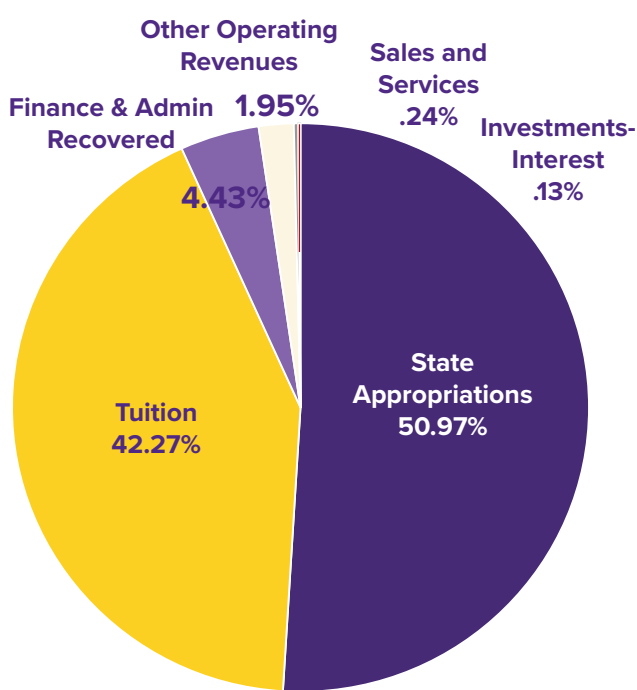


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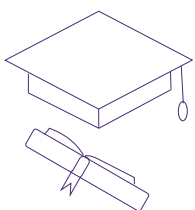
shelters participate in our Shelter Medicine Program in which 1,415 animals received health exams and 405 animals were spayed or neutered



\$39.4 Million in Revenue and Expenditures



\$2.67 Million in Scholarships and Awards have been given to our DVM students since 2004 thanks to generous donors



3,157 DVMs since 1977, our first graduating class

94% Our DVM graduation rate

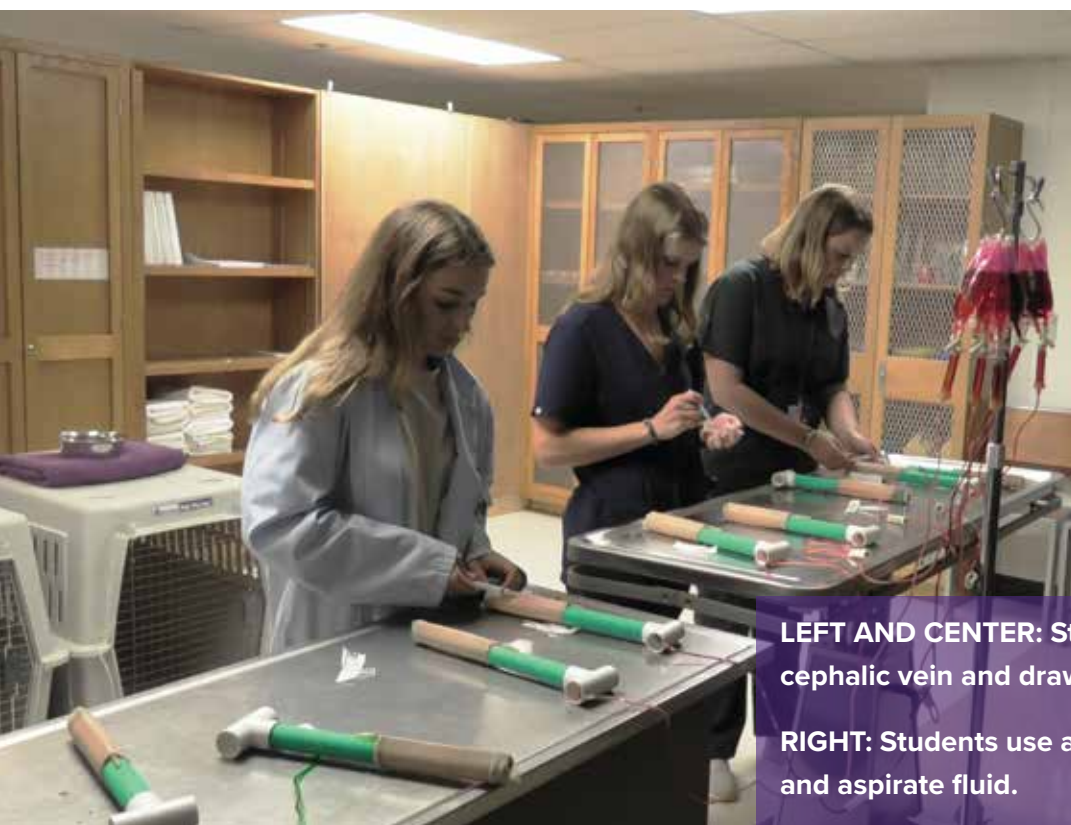
254 PhD's and **188** Master's degrees awarded in our history

Clinical Skills Lab

Putting knowledge into practice

The Clinical Skills Lab gives our DVM students earlier exposure to the skills and techniques that they need for clinics and hands-on exposure to animals. This helps them better understand how their classwork prior to clinics will be valuable when they begin clinical rotations.

They also learn basic suture instrument handling and knot tying. Year II students learn syringe handling and sharps safety, aseptic technique, IV catheter placement, blood draws, ultrasound-guided cystocentesis, fine needle aspiration with two different methods, sample preparation on glass slides for



LEFT AND CENTER: Students practicing accessing a cephalic vein and drawing blood or giving an IV injection.



RIGHT: Students use an ultrasound to find the “bladder” and aspirate fluid.

The clinical skills lab started with the Class of 2022 during Year I in the Fall 2018 semester and continued for the Class of 2022 in Spring 2019. Over the two semesters, the students had five lecture hours, with a two-hour lab for each lecture hour, and then three 2-hour review sessions, followed by Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) at the end of the year. The Class of 2023 participated in the labs in Fall 2019 and will continue in Spring 2020.

Year I students learn restraint and how to conduct physical exams of live dogs, cows, horses, and goats, and cat models.

cytology, as well as intravenous (IV), intramuscular (IM), and subcutaneous (SQ) injections sites in small and large animals. The students also learn bandaging techniques for large and small animals and suture patterns and knots.

Year III students will review skills learned in Years I and II and receive additional communications training, which helps the students interact with clients to get patient histories and symptoms. Year III students also learn electronic medical record-keeping and how to write a Subjective Objective Assessment and Plan (SOAP) for patients.

388 Students enrolled in our 4-year DVM program

89 Class of 2020

101 Class of 2022

87 Class of 2021

111 Class of 2023

TEACH



In Fall 2019, the Class of 2022 completed its first Objective Structured Clinical Examination, where they were tested on four different skill sets that incorporated lessons learned in the Year I and Year II labs. For example, one station required students to show and explain the proper restraint (Year I) for an IM injection in a dog (Year II lab). They then had to show the muscles they would inject (Year I), and how they would hold the dog (Year II). They then demonstrated the ability to safely handle a syringe and needle, draw up the amount specified from a bottle, and inject it into a silicone IM model (Year II).

Lorrie Hale-Mitchell, DVM, CTCVMP, GCTHCP, instructor of integrative medicine and rehabilitation, is the clinical skills course coordinator. There are three coordinators (one for each year): Rose Baker, BVMS, Cvma, MS, assistant professor of equine medicine (Year I); Cullen Domaracki, DVM, assistant professor of community practice (Year II); and Heidi Banse, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, assistant professor of equine medicine. The lab manager is Beth Grandt.

Eagle released in Metairie


On Tuesday, May 28, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's Wildlife Hospital released a juvenile eagle. The release took place on James Drive in Metairie, La., where the bird was found and where his nest is located.

The eagle was brought to the LSU SVM by residents from the neighborhood where the eagle's nest is located; the eagle was brought to the veterinary school's hospital because it was unable to fly and appeared to have a wing injury. After a thorough examination and a series of tests, no fractures or injuries of the bones could be identified. Based on these findings, it is likely that it suffered from a muscle injury. The eagle required supportive care and had been in the veterinary school's flight cage since May 20. Javier Nevarez, DVM, PhD, professor of zoological medicine, and Kelly Rockwell, DVM, zoological medicine intern, wanted to ensure that the eagle was able to fly well enough to be released.

One of the neighborhood residents keeps the LSU SVM up-to-date on the eagle and his family. The eagles still reside in the neighborhood and appear to be doing well.

The LSU SVM's Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana currently accepts more than 2,000 wild mammals, birds, and reptiles annually, with a 15% increase in case load anticipated each year. We do not charge a fee to the Good Samaritans who bring in these sick and injured animals; the Wildlife Hospital provides this medical care from funds donated to the Wildlife Hospital.

Wildlife cases can be dropped off at the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Small Animal Clinic during regular business hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m.). We can accept wildlife cases between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m., but no later than 10 p.m. We can also accept cases on weekends (prior to 10 p.m.).



The Wildlife Hospital team that helped rehabilitate the eagle included (bottom row from left to right) Laurel Upton (Class of 2020), Lauren Feliciano (Class of 2020), Alexis Caillouet (Class of 2020), (standing from left to right), Dr. Javier Nevarez, Jordan Padlo, veterinary technician; Dr. Kelly Rockwell, zoological medicine intern; Julio Ruiz, veterinary technician student; and Lauren Hubicz (Class of 2020).

HEAL



Dr. Javier
Nevarez
watches as
the juvenile
bald eagle
takes flight.

LSU professor's antioxidant research leads to 'superfood' snack bar

LSU AgCenter article by Olivia McClure, Assistant Communications Specialist

When Joseph Francis was growing up in India, he would watch his father mix plants and spices to make home remedies for various ailments.

"He would go to the impoverished areas in the city and use the mixtures to help those that could not afford to go to the hospital or were written off by conventional medicine," Francis recalled.

Years later, inspired by the remedies that had been passed down the generations to his father, Francis would develop his own interest in the health benefits of certain foods. As a neuroscientist at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, he studies how antioxidants in fruits like blueberries can reduce brain inflammation in people and animals with depression and other health conditions.

All of this eventually led Francis to the LSU AgCenter Food Incubator, where he has been making four flavors of his Pranam Superfoods "antioxidant bars" since December. They are already being sold in approximately 40 stores in Baton Rouge and other Louisiana cities.

The bars contain quinoa — rather than oats, a more common base ingredient for such products — and a mixture of antioxidant-rich fruits and nuts.

They are sweetened only with honey. All ingredients are organic, gluten-free and vegan-friendly.

"Every single ingredient that we have added in our Pranam bars is a functional food or a superfood," Francis said.

The bar evolved from a drink that Francis made in his kitchen at home using blueberry powder and some spices.

He asked his family and colleagues to taste the blend. Impressed, they said they'd buy it if Francis sold it.

Francis eventually decided on making snack bars with similar ingredients and soon enlisted the help of the Food Incubator to mass produce them.

AgCenter food scientist Marvin Moncada helped Francis scale up his recipe from 1 pound of the bar mixture to 50 pounds. Changes had to be made to the production process, too, such as identifying an oven temperature that would evenly bake the much-larger batches of the bars.

Moncada also analyzed the nutrition content of the product and recommended adjustments.

"We went through all the ingredients, and finally, we got a good balance of calories, protein and fiber per serving," Moncada said.

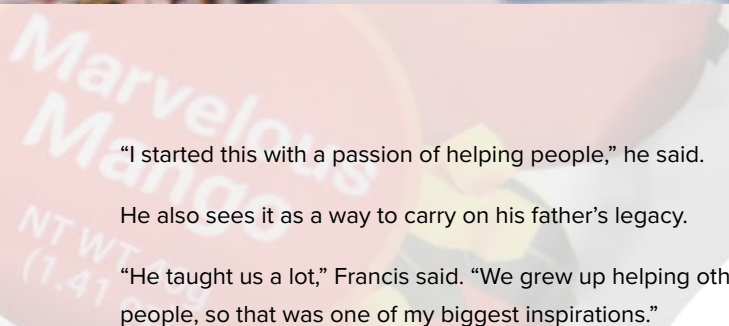
"Marvin has been excellent in the entire process," Francis said. Incubator director Gaye Sandoz also has guided him on marketing, and fellow incubator tenant Joseph Tucker, who makes Hydra-Guard sports drinks, helped with the Pranam packaging design.

Though Francis now makes about 1,000 bars at a time when he works in the incubator kitchen, Pranam remains a family-oriented business. Francis' wife and sons along with Philip Ebenezer, a friend of the family, all pitch in.

Francis said he hopes Pranam — which comes from a Sanskrit word meaning life-giving energy — will one day generate enough money to fund trials related to his research. In the meantime, he said, the bars offer a healthier alternative to other snacks on the market.



Dr. Joseph Francis at the LSU Foundation Fierce for the Future campaign kick-off event.



"I started this with a passion of helping people," he said.

He also sees it as a way to carry on his father's legacy.

"He taught us a lot," Francis said. "We grew up helping other people, so that was one of my biggest inspirations."

Developed by Dr. Joseph Francis, the 100% organic and all natural superfood bar is loaded with antioxidants to reduce oxidative stress and protect against free radical damage. Dairy-free and gluten-free, this great source of protein is made from fruits, nuts, and spices and is full of fruit flavor.

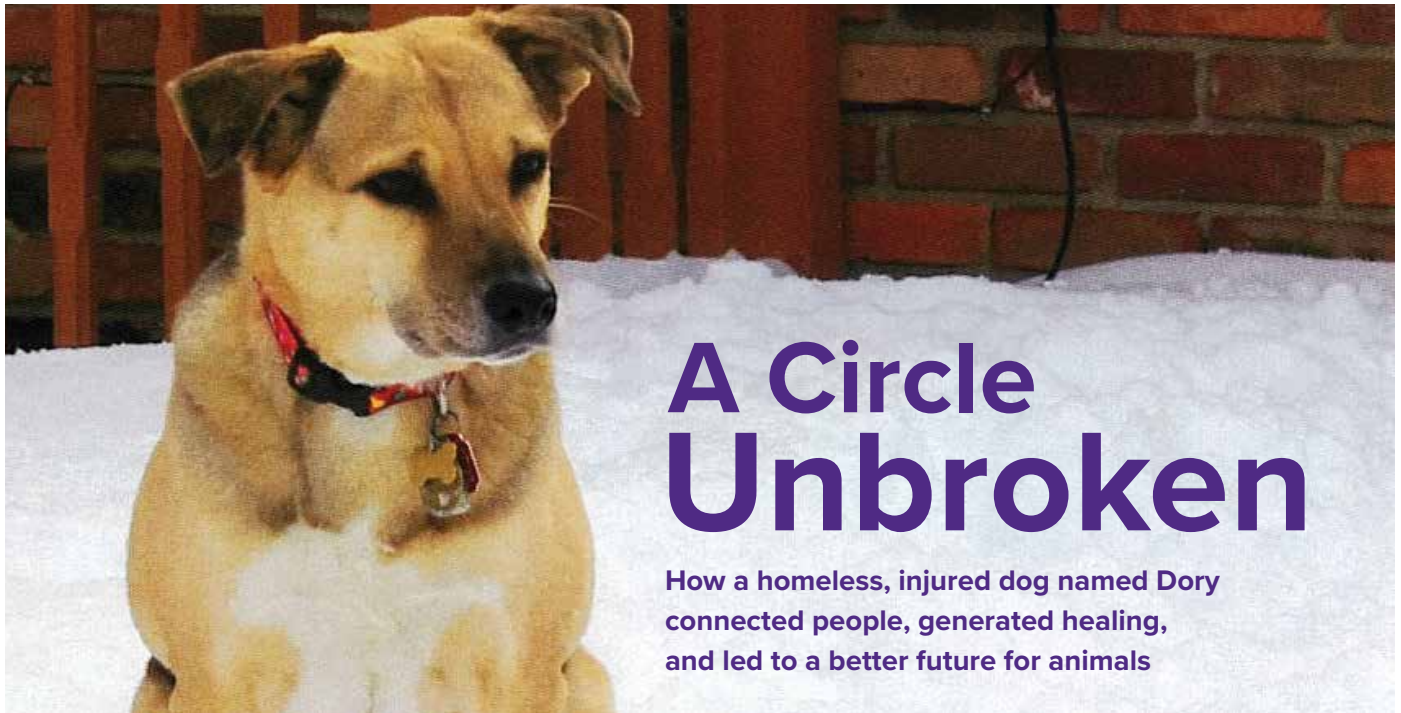
PRANAM BARS ARE SOLD IN BATON ROUGE, LAFAYETTE, GONZALEZ, AND NEW ORLEANS

ALEXANDER'S FRESH MARKET • MAXWELL'S • CALANDROS • CALVIN'S BOCA • BET-R MART • MATHERNE'S • DRUG EMPORIUM • CHAMPAGNE • NUNU'S FRESH MARKET • RALPH'S • MURRAYS • TUREAU'S • ROBERT'S FRESH MARKET • COMING SOON TO WHOLE FOODS AND ROUSE'S MARKET



Joseph Francis, right, pours honey into a bowl of dry ingredients to make his Pranam Superfoods "antioxidant bars" at the LSU AgCenter Food Incubator on Feb. 22, 2019. Philip Ebenezer prepares a tray for baking the bars in the background. Photo by Olivia McClure/LSU AgCenter

DISCOVER



When Dr. Herman Soong answered a knock on his door one winter evening in 2005, it foreshadowed a greater call he would later answer. The boy at the door that night said, “A dog got hit by a car. Is it yours?” It wasn’t Dr. Soong’s dog, but he was concerned and drove to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine where witnesses had transported her for treatment. The veterinarian on duty named her Dory. It was Dr. Soong’s first encounter with the veterinary school, and he was impressed with the excellent care and donated services for the two-year-old stray. But funds were needed for materials, and Dr. Soong covered the cost of hardware needed to fix Dory’s broken legs. That’s when he realized the importance of donations to help the community’s abandoned animals.



**Herman and Connie Soong
at home with their dogs.**

Dory and the plight of other animals like her made a lasting impression on Dr. Soong and his wife, Connie. This year, Dr. Soong, an assistant professor of adult psychiatry and forensic neuropsychiatry at the Tulane School of Medicine, gave an \$8.1 million estate gift to the LSU SVM to create the Dr. Herman C. Soong Shelter Medicine Program. His wife, Connie, gave a \$2 million estate gift to establish the Connie Soong Good Samaritan Fund, through which LSU cares for injured, homeless animals.

“I learned that services the school provides to animals are not necessarily state funded. Animals need help. Someone’s got to do it. So, Connie and I decided to do our part and answer the call to help animals have a secure future,” Dr. Soong said.

Last spring, the LSU Foundation published a story in its Cornerstone magazine about the Soongs’ \$10.1 million combined gift. In the article, Dr. Soong mentioned the dog, Dory, that led him to the SVM.

“The veterinarian named her Dory, after a character in Finding Nemo. I was so relieved to find out that a veterinary student adopted her,” he said.

That veterinary student who adopted Dory in 2006 was Carrie Washburn. She graduated from the SVM in 2009. During those years, Carrie was diagnosed and treated for breast cancer at age 24. Determined to complete school and graduate on time, Carrie received chemotherapy for four months during her winter semester. Upon completion, she headed home to Michigan in May and had a double mastectomy followed by six weeks of radiation. Within a week of her last radiation treatment, Carrie headed back to Baton Rouge with Dory to start her third year of veterinary school. She was in total remission and her prognosis was excellent. Carrie completed veterinary school with no further health problems and graduated with her class.

Carrie was considering job offers when a routine medical checkup revealed cancer in her liver and bones. The Washburn's daughter lived only three weeks more. She passed away at age 27 on September 11, 2009. After Carrie's death, Dory and another dog she'd adopted went to live with her parents in Michigan. Dory had a long and happy life with them until she passed away last April.

"We had grown so very attached to Dory, and with her connection to Carrie, it was doubly hard to lose her," Claudia Washburn said.



Dr. Carrie Washburn (left) with Dr. Catie Cook at a Mardi Gras parade.

Last spring, Cornerstone magazine, with news of the Soong's gift, arrived in the Michigan mailbox of Carrie's parents, Jon and Claudia. They read the article and stopped short at Herman Soong's description of a little brown dog named Dory, treated for broken legs, left at the school, and adopted by a veterinary student.

Last June—14 years after Dr. Soong said goodbye to Dory when she was treated at the veterinary school—the Washburns sent the Soongs a letter. They told the story of Dory and Carrie, making a connection that would bring Dory full circle—from the person who helped save her, to the student who brought her home, to the grieving parents who claimed her, back to the person who helped save her and now others. They wanted the Soongs to know Dory had a great life with them and had brought much joy to Carrie and their whole family—a circle unbroken.

"Dory was first brought to Carrie and she became a loyal friend and companion for her when she was so far from home. After Dory came to live with us, she was a comforting and wonderful reminder of our lovely daughter. We miss Dory every day and we can't help but think seeing her name in the article so many years later was some kind of sign that all is well," wrote the Washburns, who have established the Dr. Carrie Washburn Memorial Scholarship as a way of honoring their daughter and thanking the LSU SVM for supporting their daughter during her illness while attending veterinary school.

Dr. Soong said he'd often wondered what happened to Dory. And it's on his bucket list to meet the Washburns, who wrote, "Little Dory may have been the 'first,' but your generosity has helped many sheltered and abandoned animals and will continue to help many others find their special home."

Dr. Carrie Washburn Memorial Scholarship

Carrie received her DVM from the LSU SVM in 2009 and succumbed to cancer in September 2009. Her family and classmates created a scholarship in her memory.

Dr. Catie Cook, one of Carrie's classmates, helped create the scholarship. She recalls that Carrie was a Disney fan and that after her diagnosis she spoke with her parents about taking a trip to Disneyworld. "Knowing she'd always wanted to swim with the dolphins down there, I took up a collection from her friends in the class so she could do it," said Catie. "We gathered for dinner, and she was truly surprised when we pulled out the card with a few hundred dollars in it to make her dream come true. She deserved it. How many people could make it through the second year of veterinary school with decent grades while undergoing chemotherapy? Carrie was a truly caring and compassionate person who I am honored to be able to have called a friend. The veterinary profession lost a fantastic doctor who was unfortunately never able to practice within her dream profession."

Catie started the groundwork to create the scholarship after speaking with Carrie's family. "Having been best friends in school, I only thought it right to take the reins as I was already in close communication with her family," said Catie. "It's not something I could have done on my own though. Dr. [David] Senior was a true asset in establishing it along with each and every person that donated, no matter how small the sum."

The Dr. Carrie Washburn Memorial Scholarship is presented to a Year I-III student who has experienced a medical hardship during veterinary school through which they persevered.

Endowed Professorships Enhance Research and Teaching

The LSU SVM is pleased to announce that **Cherie Pucheu-Haston**, DVM (LSU SVM 1992), PhD, DACVD, associate professor of veterinary dermatology in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, is the recipient of the **Blanche Donaldson Professorship**. Dr. Pucheu received her DVM from the LSU SVM in 1992. She received her residency training in veterinary dermatology at North Carolina State University from 1993-1995. She became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology in 1995. Dr. Pucheu worked as a specialist in private practice for seven years, then returned to NCSU in 2002 to pursue advanced graduate training. She received her PhD from NCSU in 2006. She joined the faculty of the LSU SVM in 2011.



Mark Mitchell, DVM, PhD (LSU SVM 2001), DECZM, professor of zoological medicine in VCS and director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, is the recipient of the **Mary Louise Martin Professorship**, which was founded in memory of Dr. Mary Louise Martin (LSU SVM 1982). Dr. Martin moved to Africa in 1995 and lost her life in the terrorist bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi on August 7, 1998. Dr. Mitchell received his BS in 1990, his DVM in 1992, and his MS in 1996, all from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He received his PhD from the LSU SVM in 2001. Dr. Mitchell is a Diplomate of the European College of Zoological Medicine. He rejoined our faculty in June 2016 after having previously served on the LSU SVM faculty from 1996 through 2007.



Samithamby Jeyaseelan, DVM, PhD, professor in Department of Pathobiological Sciences, is the **Dr. William L. Jenkins Professorship in Veterinary Medicine**. Dr. Jeyaseelan received his DVM from the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka in 1992 and his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 2001. He joined the faculty of the LSU SVM in 2007. William L. Jenkins, BVSc, M.Med.Vet, PhD, Professor Emeritus of veterinary physiology, pharmacology and toxicology and LSU President Emeritus, served LSU in many roles, including professor, LSU SVM Dean, Provost, Chancellor and President Emeritus for the LSU System. Dr. Jenkins served as the dean of the LSU SVM from 1968 to 1993.



In 2017, **Thomas Tully**, DVM (LSU 1986), MS (LSU 1991), DABVP (Avian), DECZM (Avian), professor of Zoological Medicine in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, received the **Milton and Paula Shepherd Professorship**, which was established in 1996 and is the veterinary school's first endowed professorship. Dr. Tully received his BS in 1982, DVM in 1986 and MS in 1991, all from LSU. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (Avian), as well as a Diplomate of the European College of Zoological Medicine (Avian). He is a professor of zoological medicine at the LSU SVM and clinician in the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. In 2012, he was recognized as the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, an honor recognizing alumni of the LSU SVM for outstanding professional and personal achievements.



In 2015, **Joseph Francis**, BVSc, MVSc, PhD, was awarded the **Everett D. Besch Professorship in Veterinary Medicine**, which was established in honor of the School's founding dean who served in that role from 1968 through 1988. Dr. Francis began working for LSU School of Veterinary Medicine in 2003 and is a Professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Francis received his BVSc in 1990 and MVSc in 1994, both from Madras Veterinary College in India. He received his PhD from Kansas State University in 1999.



Endowed professorships are critical to enhance research at the School of Veterinary Medicine. Each professorship is awarded for five years and recipients are selected on the basis of a distinguished and sustained record in the areas of teaching, research, and public and professional service. The award is used to support academic activities of the professorship position, including instruction and research, equipment and materials, faculty improvement and travel.

With over 100 world-class professors, many considered among the finest in their fields, we are the largest biomedical research facility on LSU's flagship campus. The research discoveries made here have a direct, profound impact on the lives of animals and people in Louisiana and around the globe. To advance critical research efforts and supply the highest caliber teaching professionals for our students, we must recruit and retain a diverse roster of exceptional faculty. At this time, only six endowed full professorships are available in the LSU SVM. We seek to double this number, increasing our competitiveness while creating opportunities to recognize faculty members who exemplify excellence and contribute to the greater good.

LADDL granted full accreditation again

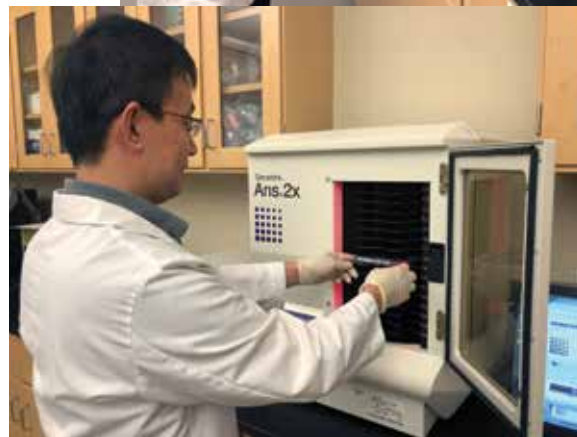
The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) Accreditation Site Visit Committee completed its audit of the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL) in September 2019, and the AAVLD granted LADDL full accreditation through December 31, 2024.

The purpose of the AAVLD accreditation program is to accredit public veterinary diagnostic laboratories in North America relative to technical and operational competence compatible with appropriate standards and to provide administrative assessment. It attests that a laboratory provides quality services with a quality management system consistent with the high standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Requirements for Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories. Full accreditation is granted for a maximum of five years, after which re-assessment is required. LADDL has been accredited by the AAVLD since 2008, and is one of 37 AAVLD accredited diagnostic laboratories in North America and the only AAVLD-accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratory in Louisiana.

LADDL is part of the LSU SVM and provides diagnostic services to producers, animal owners, LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH), and other veterinary practices in Louisiana and surrounding states. Furthermore, LADDL works with state and federal animal and public health officials to safeguard animal and human health (One Health) in Louisiana.

LADDL faculty and staff conduct necessary research for the continued enhancement of the following outreach services: research development and adaptation of diagnostic tests and protocols, research and investigation of livestock and companion animal diseases impacting the health and well-being of the animals and citizens of Louisiana, and research on selective diseases impacting the economics of the animal industries in Louisiana. LADDL also provides support for the teaching and research programs of the LSU SVM to help train tomorrow's veterinarians and scientists and provide diagnostic services to the state and the nation. LADDL faculty participate in the DVM curriculum, graduate programs and offer two residency programs in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology.

LADDL operates in partnership with Louisiana State University, the LSU SVM, Louisiana veterinarians, livestock and poultry producers, and government and state organizations.



FROM THE TOP: Dr. Udeni Balasuriya, LADDL director; Nicole Hazard, research associate; Tarra Hardin, research associate; and Shilang Liu, research associate.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A volunteer with the ASPCA attended disaster response training hosted by the Louisiana State Animal Response Team and the LSU SVM in 2019. The hands-on boot camp included large and small animal decontamination training. Participants used the lake at Cabela's in Gonzales, La., for slack water training. Large animal rescue training was also part of the boot camp.



PROTECT

New Faculty

Ryan Avery, PhD, joined the faculty of the LSU SVM as an instructor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences on September 16, 2019. Dr. Avery received his BS from State University of New York at Geneseo in 2012 and his PhD from the LSU SVM in 2019.



Courtney Nelson, DVM, MS, DACVP, joined the faculty of the LSU SVM as an assistant professor of clinical pathology in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences on August 30, 2019. Dr. Nelson received her BS from Iowa State University in 2012, and her DVM and MS from the University of Missouri in 2016 and 2019, respectively. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.



Lauren Guarneri, DVM, joined the faculty of the LSU SVM as an instructor of clinical skills and surgery lab in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences on April 8, 2019. She received her BA from Cornell University in 2006 and her BVMS from the University of Edinburgh in 2010.



Faculty Promotions

Ann Chapman, DVM (LSU SVM 2001), MS (LSU SVM 2006), DACVIM, was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Dr. Chapman joined the faculty in 2006.



Kirk Ryan, DVM, DACVIM, was promoted to professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Dr. Ryan joined the faculty in 2006.



Outreach



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: More than 6,500 people visited the LSU SVM for its annual Open House, which included an underwater treadmill demonstration. Open House visitors also saw a fistulated steer. Dr. Laura Riggs, associate professor, teaches equine anatomy to 90 campers at our Pets & Vets summer camp. Pets & Vets campers learned about ophthalmology using a maze. Campers also learned how to “scrub up like a surgeon.” More than 100 people participated in the 26th Annual Great Rover Road Run.



Our Faculty and Staff

107 FACULTY MEMBERS

21 Comparative
Biomedical Sciences

56% Male

29 Pathobiological
Sciences

44% Female

57 Veterinary Clinical
Sciences

54 Average age
(29-78)

508 STAFF MEMBERS

55 Administration

31 Louisiana Animal
Disease Diagnostic Lab

53 Comparative
Biomedical Sciences

151 Veterinary Teaching
Hospital

76 Pathobiological
Sciences

38 Average age
(18-71)

142 Veterinary Clinical
Sciences

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~ Chloe the Cat

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LSU SVM IN PICTURES



TOP: DVM students using dissection skills for Halloween in the Anatomy Lab. **LEFT:** The Class of 2019 celebrating before Commencement. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Mike VII, LSU's live tiger mascot, turned 3 on September 13, 2019. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Veterinarians wrote inspirational notes to go in the pockets of the Class of 2020 white coats as part of the Coating Ceremony.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Dean Joel Baines congratulates Brian Walden (Class of 2021) and Cheyenne Blanchard (Class of 2020), who both received the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association Outstanding Student Award. Class of 2023 students participate in the Freshman Leadership Experience. Veterinary Teaching Hospital Director Dr. Mark Mitchell congratulates Lee Ann Eddleman and Ashley Behringer, who received the Vicki Dixon Heart of the Hospital Award and the Susan Weeks Award, respectively. A little girl visiting the LSU SVM for our 37th Annual Open House (more than 6,500 people attended). Open House includes more than 50 exhibits about veterinary medicine, including one about lung pathology.



Our Students

CLASS OF 2020

732 applications received

91 students accepted (67 from Louisiana, 9 from Arkansas and 15 from other states)

23.2 average age (range 20 to 37)

77 female students

14 male students

3.84 average overall required course GPA

CLASS OF 2022

774 applications received

98 students accepted (65 from Louisiana, 9 from Arkansas and 24 from other states)

22 average age (range 18 to 50+)

80 female students

18 male students

3.76 average overall required course GPA

CLASS OF 2021

695 applications received

90 students accepted (62 from Louisiana, 9 from Arkansas and 19 from other states)

24 average age (range 20 to 50+)

78 female students

12 male students

3.79 average overall required course GPA

CLASS OF 2023

757 applications received

111 students accepted (66 from Louisiana, 9 from Arkansas and 36 from other states)

24 average age (range 20 to 40+)

90 female students

21 male students

3.74 average overall required course GPA

TEACH

Our Graduates

DEGREES BESTOWED IN LSU SVM HISTORY

DVM	3,157
MS	188
PhD	254

CLASS OF 2019 AVERAGE STARTING SALARIES

OVERALL: \$84,042

OUT-OF-STATE: \$90,878

LOUISIANA: \$77,548

AVERAGE DEBT

LSU SVM CLASS OF 2019 (63 of 83 STUDENTS): \$144,759

NATIONAL AVERAGE: \$162,436

DVM GRADUATION RATE

94 PERCENT

DVM GRADUATES

FEMALE	1,837
MALE	1,320

Alumni Reunions



What do you get when you cross 200 pounds of crawfish with thirty of your classmates and a few members of the LSU SVM faculty and staff? A spicy, good time with the Class of 1984!

IN 2019, THE CLASSES OF 1979,

1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004,

2009 AND 2014 CELEBRATED

MILESTONE REUNIONS.



On November 23, 2019, more than 500 alumni, family, friends, faculty, staff, and students attended our alumni reunions before the LSU Tigers defeated the Arkansas Razorbacks.





Dr. George Robinson with Dean Joel D. Baines at the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association (LVMA) Alumni and Friends Reception hosted as part of the LVMA's Winter Meeting in Lafayette, La., on February 9, 2019.

Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. George Robinson has more than 30 years of veterinary industry experience holding numerous clinical, operational, and senior management roles throughout his career. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Heartland Veterinary Partners, a veterinary hospital acquisition and support organization. The LSU SVM is proud to honor Dr. Robinson as our 2018 Distinguished Alumnus.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes alumni of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine for outstanding professional and personal achievements. Any veterinarian who received the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Louisiana State University is eligible for the award. Candidates will be recognized for their accomplishments in veterinary medicine and/or contributions to the community through public service.

Prior to joining Heartland Veterinary Partners, Dr. Robinson held a senior management and

operations position with National Veterinary Associates, a group veterinary hospital and support organization with over 300 hospital locations and 900 veterinarians nationwide. Prior to National Veterinary Associates, Dr. Robinson held several management roles with Banfield Pet Hospital, including as a Regional Medical Director for Banfield where he was responsible for multi-hospital leadership and operations for a region (Western USA) with over 180 veterinary hospitals. Prior to these management roles, Dr. Robinson owned, operated, and successfully sold his own veterinary hospitals.

“Dr. Robinson exemplifies the fortitude, talent, and pioneering spirit of our alumni, faculty, staff, and students.”

~ Dean Joel Baines

Dr. Robinson's special clinical interests are avian medicine, orthopedic and soft tissue surgery. His non-clinical interests are business management and the human/companion animal bond. He enjoys lecturing, mentoring, teaching, and sharing his knowledge through journals and media.

In addition to his LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Robinson has an MSPH degree from the Howard University School of Medicine and a BS from Southern University. He previously served as vice president of the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine and is presently a class agent for the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Class of 1981.

"George Robinson was the first African American from Louisiana to attend the LSU SVM," said Joel Baines, VMD, PhD, dean. "He was a pioneer, navigating misconceptions and a rigorous curriculum on his way to becoming student body president."

In May 2018, Dr. Robinson gave the LSU SVM's commencement speech. "It sent chills down my spine because it felt full circle. After I graduated from the school, I spent a lot of time working to influence minority students to attend the LSU SVM," Dr. Robinson said. "I think one of the gaps is exposure and mentorship. A lot of folks don't have a black veterinarian to look to in their community and say, 'I want to be like Dr. George' ... That puts a kind of social responsibility on me, too."

In 2018, Dr. Robinson endowed one of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's first scholarships for minorities and disadvantaged populations. The endowed Dr. George E. Robinson III, DVM, MSPH, Superior Graduate Scholarship commemorates the successful veterinary career of Dr. Robinson and promotes diversity and enhances the SVM experience for all students.

Dr. Robinson recently became one of the newest board members of the LSU Foundation board of directors. He looks forward to applying the fundraising skills he honed while serving as chair of the Southern University Foundation and on several civic and governmental boards in New Orleans. "Philanthropy has always been a part of my life," Dr. Robinson said. "Schools that are considered great have alumni who give back. I've been raising funds for the LSU SVM since the day I graduated. Supporting LSU is a way to create a legacy of service and caring."

"Dr. Robinson exemplifies the fortitude, talent, and pioneering spirit of our alumni, faculty, staff, and students," added Dean Baines.

Distinguished **Alumnus Award** Recipients

1990: Dr. Robert Lewis (LSU SVM 1977), Elgin, Texas

1991: Drs. Larry McCaskill (LSU SVM 1981), Oscar, La., Mark Mikelonis (LSU SVM 1988), Covington, La., and Jim Floyd (LSU SVM 1987), Pittsboro, N.C.

1992: Dr. Allen J. Roussel (LSU SVM 1977), College Station, Texas

2003: Dr. Mike Strain (LSU SVM 1983), Covington, La.

2004: Dr. Alfred Stevens (LSU SVM 1979), Baton Rouge, La.

2005: Dr. Gregory Rich (LSU SVM 1985), Kenner, La.

2006: Dr. Mary Boudreaux (LSU SVM 1979), Auburn, Ala.

2007: Dr. Robert D. Simmons (LSU SVM 1977), Martinsville, N.J.

2008: Dr. Debra Sellon (LSU SVM 1983), Pullman, Wash., posthumously, Dr. Mary Louise Martin (LSU SVM 1982)

2009: Dr. William James (LSU SVM 1980), Dale City, Va.

2010: Dr. Sherril Green (LSU SVM 1985), Palo Alto, Calif., and Dr. J. Trenton McClure (LSU SVM 1989), Charlottetown, Canada

2011: Dr. Rick Alleman (LSU SVM 1980), Alachua, Fla.

2012: Dr. Thomas Tully (LSU SVM 1986), Baton Rouge, La.

2013: Dr. Carol Foil (LSU SVM 1978), Satsuma, Fla.

2015: Dr. Egeene Daniels (LSU SVM 1986), Fort Worth, Texas

2016: Dr. John Dunn (LSU SVM 1997), Brentwood, Tenn.

2017: Dr. Kenneth Arceneaux (LSU SVM 1993), Covington, La.

***No award was given in 1993-2002 or in 2014.**



DVM ALUMNUS

M. Ryan Smith, DVM, DACVECC

What made you want to be a veterinarian?

The challenge. I have always been very drawn towards medical practice, but I tended to enjoy working with animals more than human beings. What really drove me toward veterinary medicine was the challenge of deciphering what the clinical picture was telling you when the patient could not do so. And the longer I have been involved in medical practice, I have enjoyed deeper and deeper levels of complexity on a physiologic level.

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your career?

The faculty laid down the foundation with which to build a career...any area that I wanted. I was able to gain exposure to several different aspects of veterinary medicine through a multitude of electives offered - lab animal medicine, hands-on surgical procedures, behavior, exotic animal practice. I truly did not know which direction to head, even after graduation. When I attended, there was no formal emergency service, nor any faculty specialized in my current field. I was given just enough of a taste of emergency and critical care medicine to feel like I wanted more exposure in order to decide what I thought of it. On gaining that extra experience, it created a shift in my career goals that would come to define me and my practice.

What was the LSU SVM like when you attended (e.g., what's changed since you graduated)?

There have been some remarkable changes in just the last 10 years. Beyond the "eye test" of recent renovations and hospital updates, the school has now fully transitioned to an electronic medical records system. This, by itself, has streamlined workflows quite a bit as there is no longer a wait (or search) for medical records. As well, the addition of both the Emergency and Critical Care services has made a tremendous impact in high level patient care, quality of medicine practiced, and quality of life for other services which had previously been left to deal with all incoming emergency cases.

What does the LSU SVM mean to you?

The SVM has always been a foundation for higher learning in Louisiana. The most enjoyable aspect of this school was always the diverse and welcoming atmosphere. Classmates became family, which has been proven time and again via outreach and support when each of us have had successes, failures, and tragedy. Even when returning to my alma mater as a faculty member, many former mentors (now peers) were enthusiastic to welcome me back. So, to me, the vet school means family.

What have you been doing since you graduated from the LSU SVM?

From 2009-2010, I was an intern at Affiliated Veterinary Specialists in Maitland, Florida. Then from 2010-2012, I was an ER clinician at Southeast Veterinary Specialists. From 2012-2015, I was a resident in Emergency & Critical Care, and then from 2015-2017, I worked as a criticalist at MedVet (Mandeville and New Orleans locations). In 2017, I joined the faculty here at the LSU SVM as an assistant professor of emergency and critical care medicine at LSU (Geaux Tigers!)

Dr. M. Ryan Smith

- Assistant Professor of Emergency and Critical Care at the LSU SVM
- Joined faculty in 2017
- Received his BS from LSU in 2006
- Received his DVM from LSU in 2009
- Hometown: LaPlace, Louisiana
- Pet: Melle (pronounced "Mel-ly"), a 5-year-old cat who acts like a very social dog



**Michael Graziano, MS
(LSU SVM 1981), PhD**

What is your current title, place of employment, and how long have you been there?

Currently, I am vice president of Drug Safety Evaluation at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Princeton, New Jersey. I've been at BMS since 2003 and VP since 2006. Prior to that I worked at Parke-Davis and then Pfizer in Ann Arbor, Michigan. My first job was with Parke-Davis/Warner-Lambert Company in 1987.

What are your job responsibilities?

As VP of Drug Safety Evaluation, I am responsible for the nonclinical safety (toxicology and pathology assessment) of all investigational drugs discovered and developed at BMS. I am also responsible for the Veterinary Sciences department which provides veterinary care and husbandry support for all animals at BMS.

What made you pursue a career in scientific research?

I always wanted to be a veterinarian which is how I ended up at LSU. I was born and raised in New Jersey and graduated from Rutgers University in 1979 with a BS in Animal Science. Since New Jersey doesn't have a school of veterinary medicine, my plan was to enroll in a graduate program at a veterinary college and then apply to their vet school after I established residency and received my graduate degree. At that time, LSU had a relatively new vet school and had also just started a new graduate program in Veterinary Physiology, Pharmacology, and Toxicology. Well, being a New Jersey boy, going down south to LSU seemed like a great opportunity and an exciting adventure. So, I applied, was accepted with a small teaching stipend, and drove on down in the summer of 1979 in my green AMC Hornet. At the end of my first year, however, I decided that I was more interested in research than in being a vet. My research project involved determining the biochemical mechanism of a toxic plant native to the south called coffee

MS Alumnus

weed (cassia occidentalis). For this project we used chickens as our test animals and showed that C. occidentalis was a mitochondrial toxicant. I received a Master's degree in 1981 and I believe I was the first student to graduate from the program which is now named Comparative Biomedical Sciences. After LSU, I attended the University of Kentucky where I received a PhD in Toxicology in 1985 and then did a post-doc at the University of California-Berkeley.

Do you still conduct research, and, if so, please describe your research.

I personally don't conduct research but I lead an entire department that does. My role is to provide scientific direction, review study reports, and to ensure that all animal research at BMS is conducted in full compliance with all regulatory and animal welfare standards. All of our facilities are AAALAC accredited and inspected by the USDA. Our toxicology facility is also inspected by the FDA. The most interesting part of my job is understanding mechanisms of toxicity and determining whether safety findings in nonclinical species are relevant to humans. I should note that many of our studies are published in the scientific literature. Our jobs in drug development are never dull and it seems like we are finding new and interesting discoveries all the time.

How did the LSU SVM prepare you for your current position?

My experience at LSU was incredibly impactful and helped lay the foundation for my career. I actually learned how to conduct research including what questions to ask, how to organize, conduct, and report well-controlled experiments, and, most importantly, how to critically analyze my own work. I give a tremendous amount of credit to my professor, Dr. Wayne Flory, who provided encouragement, showed a lot of patience, and provided the right balance of independence and oversight.

What is a memorable moment or story from your time at LSU?

I have many great memories of my time at LSU including experiencing the culture of LSU football and basketball (the basketball team made the Final Four!), going to the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival and Mardi Gras, playing and officiating intramural sports, helping to teach physiology and pharmacology labs to the first year vet students, and my excitement over my first research experiment that worked!

Honors and Awards

Some notable accomplishments in my career include supporting the marketing approval for many drugs that positively impact the lives of patients including Eliquis, Opdivo, and Farxiga. I have chaired several professional organizations, I am a diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology, edited a book on genotoxicity and carcinogenicity testing, and was honored by being selected as a Rutgers 250 Fellow.

Michael Graziano, MS, PhD

- Received his **MS** from the LSU SVM Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Fine Structure (now Comparative Biomedical Sciences) in 1981
- Received his **PhD** from the University of Kentucky in 1985
- Completed a post-doc at the University of California-**Berkeley**
- Hometown is Palisades Park, New Jersey
- Currently resides in Yardley, Pennsylvania



Congratulations to the Class of 1984!

The Class of 1984 accepted awards from Dean Joel Baines at the 2019 Alumni Reunion Weekend. Given annually, these awards recognize the class that gave the most gifts based on dollar amount and the class with the highest percentage of giving (meaning that, based on the number of people in a class, more people made donations as compared to other classes). In 2019, the Class of 1984 won both of these awards.

In 2015, the Class of 1984 endowed a scholarship to benefit a veterinary student entering Year II who, in the opinion of the faculty, exemplifies the caring and nurturing of the profession through service to his or her peers, school, and/or community.

The **Development Team** is dedicated to building relationships and seeking private funds to help the LSU SVM continue its mission of teaching, healing and discovery. Please contact any member of our team if you'd like to learn how your gift can improve the lives of people and animals.



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Keep in Touch

The **Communications Team** helps market the LSU SVM and share its mission through publications, website management, social media and media relations. If you have a story about the LSU SVM or your career in veterinary medicine, please contact any member of our team.



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Fast Facts

- The LSU SVM is one of only 32 veterinary schools in the United States.
- The LSU SVM is the only veterinary school in Louisiana.
- The LSU SVM's Veterinary Hospital sees more than 29,000 cases each year and is open 24/7, 365 days a year.
- The LSU SVM is a premier biomedical research facility with researchers investigating both human and animal diseases and injuries.
- The LSU SVM's Wildlife Hospital provides free care for more than 2,000 wildlife cases each year at no cost to the Good Samaritans who bring them to us.
- The LSU SVM was the 19th veterinary school established in the U.S. and graduated its first class in 1977. Since then we have granted more than 3,500 DVM degrees.
- The LSU SVM also offers MS and PhD degrees in three academic departments: Comparative Biomedical Sciences, Pathobiological Sciences and Veterinary Clinical Sciences.
- The LSU SVM provides advanced training for veterinarians who work as interns and residents in our Veterinary Hospital.
- The LSU SVM provides veterinary and daily care for Mike VII, LSU's live tiger mascot.

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