

Florida veterinarian

Advancing Animal, Human and Environmental Health

University of Florida

College of Veterinary Medicine

Spring-Summer 2006

Ties from student days led UF graduate to Eukanuba Cup role

BY: Sarah Carey

Illinois native Cyrena Rose, D.V.M., wanted to be a veterinarian since she was in second grade, but was advised in college that there was just too much competition for this to be a viable goal. Rose was studying for her master's degree in zoology at the University of Florida when her husband and experiences finally convinced her that she "had it in her" to become a vet.

"When starting my master's degree, I thought I would become a college professor and teach at the university level," said Rose, a member of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's class of '02. Rose served as class president her senior year.

"I find that I am still teaching: clients about their pets, and technicians and other clinic staff about diseases, preventative medicine and animal care."

No two students' paths are ever the same, but Rose's included the challenge of commuting every weekend back to Brandon, Fla., where her husband lived, and working every weekend for the first two years of veterinary school.

"My experience was different because I was married and living more than two hours away from my husband for the four years I was in veterinary school," Rose said. "I lived with a fellow vet student during the week and commuted home

on weekends, where I worked at Care Animal Hospital and a seafood restaurant. I saw vet school as my 'job' during the week."

Although originally Rose thought she might enjoy being a mixed-animal practitioner, as she progressed through veteri-

nary school she came to see how difficult it would be to master all the necessary information about species ranging from companion animals to horses to goats.

"I elected to focus on small animal care -- cats and dogs," Rose said.

In her first job following graduation from veterinary school, Rose went to work for Laura Joyce-Palma, D.V.M., at Circle of Life Animal Hospital in Tampa. She had met Joyce-Palma while working for Rich Kane, D.V.M., owner of Care Animal Hospital, while in graduate school and during her first two years of veterinary school.

"I met many veterinarians and technicians at his clinic that I have formed great, long-lasting relationships with," Rose added.

Following two years of practice with Circle of Life, Rose and her husband relocated to Miami. She began performing relief work for small animal practices and for the Humane Society of Miami.



Dr. Cyrena Rose at the 2006 Eukanuba Cup.

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Message from the dean



Dr. James Thompson

The 2006 summer semester has arrived and we are tenaciously working to secure our next college dean. I know you will agree with me that it is no easy task to replace former dean Joe DiPietro with another. Working closely with Dr. DiPietro during his transition phase from our college allowed me a rare inside glance into his exceptional leadership and communication skills. He is missed greatly. Very few days pass without me wishing he was here and considering how he might solve issues which the college continues to face. It is hard to believe that this summer marks the first time in nine years that we are without a permanent dean leading our advancements.

I am pleased to report that the search committee, charged with identifying potential candidates for our college deanship, has now placed advertisements in leading professional publications and plans to begin the interview process to secure our next dean sometime in late June. I hold great confidence the faculty, staff, students and search committee will attract many talented individuals for final consideration.

Commencement exercises for the Class of 2006 were held May 27 and now 82 new graduates of our college are on their way to making the veterinary profession stronger and better. During commencement, the college alumni council presented its annual awards to key individuals, all of whom are extremely deserving of recognition. The 2006 Alumni Achievement Award recipient was Dr. Neil Shaw of Tampa; the Distinguished Service Award recipient was Dr. Larry Dee of Hollywood and the Special Service Award recipient was Dr. E.T. York. We are delighted that all of these distinguished individuals were able to be present with us at UF's Phillips Center for Performing Arts on graduation day to accept their awards.

The college's annual Open House, held April 15, drew huge crowds. This year's event featured a first-ever Mini-Emerging Pathogens Symposium with posters illustrating the work of college faculty who figure prominently in this cutting edge niche of animal and human disease diagnostics, treatment and research.

Those of you who know I love to golf won't be surprised that I can personally vouch for the success of the April 1 CVM Golf Classic, held annually in memory of Melanie Meador Penn. This year's tournament raised more than \$17,000 in funds to support student scholarship and college programs.

At the Veterinary Medical Center, we continue to witness huge growth in small animal hospital admissions. In Fiscal Year 2004-2005, UF's VMC reported a record high census of 16,518 accessions (inpatient and outpatients combined) including 12,988 cases from small animal and 3,535 from large animal. In the current FY to date, we are up 21 percent compared to the first five months of 2004-2005.

I'd like to thank all of you -- my fellow alumni, faculty colleagues, staff and others who continue to support the college during this transition -- for all you've done to make my life easier. Please know I am at your service should you have any questions or concerns. Go Gators!

Sincerely yours,
Jim Thompson

Honors and Awards

College names 2006 Distinguished Award Winners

Two veterinarians associated with major small animal practices and a longtime supporter of education in the state of Florida have been honored in the 2006 University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine alumni council's Distinguished Awards program.

Three awards were designated: one for alumni achievement, one for distinguished service to the veterinary profession and one for special service.

This year's Alumni Achievement award recipient is Neil Shaw, D.V.M., a 1993 graduate of the college. Shaw also completed his residency in small animal medicine at UF in 1996, becoming board-certified in that specialty the following year. Shaw is co-founder and medical director of Florida Veterinary Specialists and Cancer Treatment Center, a 47-veterinarian specialty referral and emergency hospital in Tampa.



Dr. Neil Shaw

Shaw also is a past president of the Hillsborough County VMA.

"For many years, Neil has been extremely active and involved with local county authorities, animal services and animal welfare organizations in promoting the interests of the veterinary profession and the welfare of the animal population," wrote Arthur M. Simon, D.V.M., in a letter supporting Shaw's nomination.

Larry Dee, D.V.M., a 1969 graduate of Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine and co-owner of Hollywood Animal Hospital, Hollywood, Fla., received the Distinguished Service award. Board-certified in canine and feline practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Dee has a history of extensive

involvement with organized veterinary medicine. He is president of the World Small Animal Veterinary



Dr. Larry Dee

Association and has been active in the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Broward County Veterinary Medical Association. He is a past president of the FVMA, the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, and the American Animal Hospital Association.

Dee was the first Charlie Bild VIP at UF's veterinary college and has also served on its advisory council.

E.T. York, Ph.D., a fixture on the state's educational scene for many years, rounds out this year's selections as the recipient of the Special Service Award.

York is a former chancellor of the State University System of Florida and served as provost for agriculture and vice president for agricultural affairs, executive vice president and interim president at the University of



Dr. E.T. York

Florida. He was instrumental in establishing the UF College of Veterinary Medicine and has remained involved in advisory committees over the life of the college he helped to create.

"When Dr. York's name is mentioned, his untiring support for the establishment of our college comes to mind," wrote Paul Nicoletti, D.V.M., in a letter of support.

The awards were presented May 27 at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts during college commencement exercises. 🐾

Rose, from pg. 1

"I enjoy working as a relief vet," Rose said. "I have met very interesting people and am learning a lot. I miss following through with my cases and building long term relationships with the clients and their pets."

She'd like to open her own practice at some point, but says for now that option is down the road.

One relationship Rose formed while in veterinary school was with the IAMS Company. She served as the IAMS student representative, which eventually led to her selection to serve, along with another doctor and technicians from Circle of Life Animal Hospital, as members of the veterinary team for the 2006 Tampa Eukanuba Cup sponsored by the American Kennel Club.

"The doctors and technicians split the show into 10 hour shifts," Rose said. "Our responsibilities included emergency stabilization and veterinary care, as well as assisting with health certificates and travel for show animals."

Among the more challenging aspects were the make-shift mobile veterinary facilities the team created to work and travel between two separate show venues.

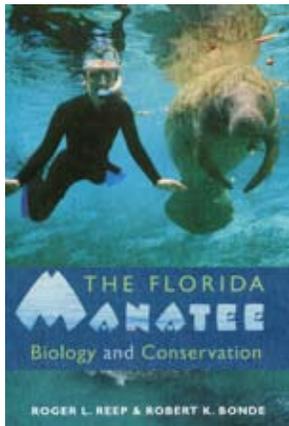
"We had to rely strongly on the physical exam findings and refer back to our regular practice or Florida Veterinary Specialists (another Tampa animal hospital) for any blood work, radiographs or additional diagnostics," Rose said. "It was very rewarding to be there when people and pets at the show needed us, to help these animals compete and to teach the public about these dogs."

Agility, conformation, obedience and teaching dogs all participated in the show, she said.

"Unfortunately, the AKC Eukanuba Cup will not be held in Tampa next year and I will not be the veterinarian for that show, but who knows when it might be back in Tampa or maybe Miami," Rose said. 🐾

Faculty spotlight

UF researchers produce new book on behavior, conservation



The cover of Dr. Roger Reep and Bob Bondes' new book.

Two veteran researchers associated with the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine have co-authored a book on manatee biology and conservation geared toward professionals and lay people interested in the unique and endangered marine mammal.

Roger Reep, Ph.D., a professor of neuroscience, and Bob Bonde, a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Sirenia Project who also is pursuing his doctoral degree at the UF veterinary college, have collectively devoted 45 years to manatee research. The result was "The Florida Manatee, Biology and Conservation," recently published by University Press of Florida.

Reep has published numerous papers and lectured on the organization and evolution of mammalian nervous systems. He was lead organizer for the First International Manatee and Dugong Research Conference in 1994 and for the Florida Marine Mammal Health Conferences in 2002 and 2005. Bonde has published many scientific papers on manatee genetics and mortality and on his aerial surveys, radio tracking and observations of manatees in their natural habitat. 🐬

National association honors third-year surgery resident at UF veterinary college



Dr. Colin Sereda

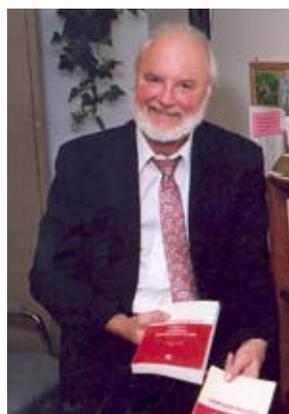
Colin Sereda, D.V.M., a third-year surgery resident at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received a Resident's Award from the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians.

"Dr. Sereda is blessed with a rare combination of skill and compassion," said Christopher Adin, D.V.M., an assistant professor of small animal surgery at UF. "He has given a lot of his time and energy to our program and we are pleased that he is getting something in return."

The AAVC presents two awards annually to veterinarians in the last year of their residency. Awards are given for excellence in academic or institutional practice as well as for demonstrated research accomplishments.

Finalists are nominated by faculty members at their respective institutions. Winners, who receive \$1,000 and a plaque, are chosen by an AAVC judging committee. 🐾

UF veterinary professor emeritus honored by international embryo transfer group



Dr. Victor Shille in his office prior to retirement from the editorship of Theriogenology.

Victor Shille, D.V.M., Ph.D. a professor emeritus of theriogenology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received the Distinguished Service Award from the International Embryo Transfer Society.

Shille was presented with the award on Jan. 10 during the group's annual meeting in Orlando. He received a commemorative plaque and a lifetime membership in the society and will be acknowledged in the society's newsletter.

When he joined the UF veterinary faculty in 1979, Shille helped develop the small animal reproductive component of the college's curriculum, including the clinical program. That same year, he became editor of Theriogenology, a world-class journal of animal reproductive medicine that was at the time three years old.

Under Shille's leadership, the UF veterinary college remained the home of Theriogenology for two decades. Following his retirement in 1993 from his duties as UF's sole clinician specializing in small animal reproduction, Shille devoted his time exclusively to the journal. In 2003, he relinquished his editorial responsibilities.

Established in 1991, the IETS award recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding leadership or service to the society or who have contributed in a meaningful way to furthering the science of embryo production, development and transfer. 🐾

International veterinary group honors small animal department chairman



Dr. Colin Burrows

University of Florida veterinary administrator Colin Burrows, B.Vet.Med., Ph.D., has received the 2006 World Small Animal Veterinary Association/Waltham International Award for Service to the Profession.

Given for exemplary service by any individual who has fostered and enhanced the exchange of scientific and cultural ideas throughout the veterinary small animal world, the award will be presented in October during the 2006 WSAVA Congress in Prague.

Burrows is chairman of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's department of small animal clinical sciences and chief of staff of the Small Animal Hospital.

Burrows served for many years as NAVC's program director and has spearheaded conference activities as the group's executive director since 2002.

"Under his visionary direction, the conference has contributed to and supported many more national and international veterinary medical meetings, the latest being the Latin American

Veterinary Conference held last October in Lima, Peru," said Linda Jacobson, a past president of NAVC.

"Under his leadership, many scholarships were created for international veterinarians who could not have attended such a meeting without the conference's support," Jacobson said. "Dr. Burrows has lectured in more than 39 countries and has been tirelessly unselfish in his travels around the world lecturing on gastroenterology, his area of expertise."

In 1996, Burrows was awarded the WSAVA/Waltham award for scientific achievement. He is the only person ever to have received both awards. 🐾

Two large animal clinical sciences employees win top Superior Accomplishment Awards

More than 350 employees gathered at the J. Wayne Reitz Union's Grand Ballroom on April 25 for the 2006 Superior Accomplishment Awards ceremony. This annual program recognizes staff and faculty members who contribute outstanding and meritorious service, efficiency and/or economy, or to the quality of life for students and employees.

The UF College of Veterinary Medicine had two large animal clinical sciences employees who were among the Superior Accomplishment Awards' top winners universitywide.

Michael Porter, D.V.M., a clinical assistant professor and director of the Mobile Equine Diagnostic Service (MEDS), won top honors in the academic personnel category. He received a \$2,000 check, a commemorative plaque, a DVD of the ceremony and an invitation to the President's Box during an upcoming UF home football game.

Sally Beachboard, a senior laboratory animal technician, received the Jeffrey A. Gabor Employee Recognition Award and \$500.

Beachboard works in the laboratory of Maureen Long, D.V.M. 🐾



Dr. Michael Porter and Sally Beachboard outside UF's Alec P. and Louise H. Courtelis Equine Hospital with their 2006 UF Superior Accomplishment Awards.

Philanthropy

Endowment gifts help plan the future, build on existing strengths

Gifts come to the college in several ways — annual gifts, bequests, charitable trusts. All are important and necessary for Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine to remain viable and on the cutting edge of keeping animals, humans, and the environment healthy.

Many benefactors choose to create an endowed fund which is perpetual and can be named in the donor's honor or in memory of a loved one. Some have lost a beloved pet and named the fund in the pet's memory. The principal of an endowed fund remains intact forever and a portion of the annual income earned is used as stipulated by the donor while a portion is added back to the principal fund to increase its value through the years.

If current or annual gifts are our daily bread, endowed funds will sustain us into the future. Endowed funds allow the college to plan more effectively.

An endowed research fund would allow a department to establish a new initiative on a particular disease affecting animal health, knowing that the income from that fund will be available year after year. Income from endowed funds help to recruit and retain our faculty/clinician experts — an ever-increasing challenge for us as we compete with private practices and other veterinary colleges.



Zoë Haynes

At this time, we would like to acknowledge those benefactors who have made gifts to establish the following endowed funds:

Scholarships

Angel Dogs Scholarship
Aviary and Cage Bird Society of South Florida Scholarship
Bayard and Jean Bidwell Scholarship
Mark S. Bloomberg Memorial Scholarship
Calder Race Course Scholarship
College of Veterinary Medicine Golf Classic Endowment
Edna Croland Scholarship
Clarence and Lucille Dee Scholarship
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Fern Audette Professorship in Equine Studies
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Hill's Pet Nutrition Professorship in Small Animal Clinical Nutrition

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William and Clara Inman Graduate Fellowship
Joseph W. Wunsch Fellowship

Research

Canine Reproduction Laboratory
E. Malcolm Field Neurological Research
Stephen and Dorothy Flynn Memorial Equine Disease Research
Gwathmey Visual Sciences Laboratory
Island Whirl Colic Research Laboratory
Jablonski/Peterson Animal Health Research
Wayne H. Riser Laboratory for Bone and Joint Pathology
Blanche Saunders Dermatology Laboratory

Program Enhancement

George Batchelor Wildlife Fund
Charlie Bild's Friends, Inc. Fund
Philip B. and Georgia E. Hofmann for Equine Studies
North American Veterinary Conference Emergency Fund
William F. Parma Fund for Excellence
Folke Peterson Trust Endowment
Anne Troneck Fund 🐾

UF Veterinary student develops computer based study tool in a flash

By SARAH CAREY

News flash: At age 33, Mary Gardner, a junior veterinary student, is fast becoming an entrepreneur, marketing a computer-driven flash card study program to students not just at the University of Florida, but all over the country.



Veterinary student Mary Gardner with her personal handheld PC outside the Veterinary Academic Building.

The program enables students to create flash cards on their personal computers. Students majoring in a variety of subareas within, say, the category of science, can organize the cards by subject, attach pictures, test themselves, print out cards on paper and swap cards between friends.

For example, for animal science majors: What is a nutrient? What are the six classes of nutrients? What type of cattle is this?

"If you have a PDA, you can put the cards on the PDA version of the software to study away from your PC," Gardner said.

This may not exactly be news to members of her class, the class of 2008, who first heard about Gardner's program a few weeks after starting veterinary school in the fall of 2004. At that time, Gardner had reserved a classroom after hours to present a demonstration of the product she developed with help from her father, a computer programmer, and her brother, a webmaster.

"The pitch was, we have to memorize all these facts, so let's split up the work," Gardner said. "Everyone takes a chapter and we swap the cards."

Although only about 20 of her classmates wound up buying the \$29.95 software package — called PC Flashcards — nearly the entire class of 2009 purchased the program, Gardner said.

"That's because my class by then had done all the work and created so many flash cards, over 20,000 to be exact, that were then automatically available through our Web site to anyone else who purchased the program," Gardner said.

One of PC Flashcards' key selling points is that a portion of the proceeds from each sale go to a student club, class or organization the buyer designates.

"My class has earned more than \$500 just from sales," Gardner said. "It's been our best fundraising event to date. There is no overhead and no inventory and we've learned while we made the cards."

Prior to being accepted into veterinary school, Gardner traveled the world as a software training and design expert employed by the global firm Ecometry, a company that specializes in creating software for mail, phone and Web-oriented businesses such as Nordstrom, Nine West, Ross-Simons, Coach, Lego and other household names.

As she explains it, the program she trained people to operate encompassed just about every aspect of a direct-to-consumer business: advertising, order entry, customer service and shipping, to name a few.

But after a few too many red-eye flights and fluorescent lights, as she puts it, Gardner burned out on corporate life and decided her true dream was to attend veterinary school.

"The flash card business all started because before I was able to apply for veterinary school, I had to complete my prerequisites, which naturally involved a lot of study," Gardner said. "I was making handwritten flash cards and I'd have stacks of them in my house. I thought, this is ridiculous, there needs to be a software product to automate all this."

So Gardner drew up specs and conceptualized the product "on paper." Then she asked her father if he would write the software.

"Within a week, he had a prototype," she said. "He did it to help me study for my own education, but it was soon working so well, some of my friends wanted it. My dad and I then decided, let's make this into a product we can sell on the Internet."

"That's when we enlisted my brother to help build the Web site," Gardner added. "I take care of customer support, marketing and product design, while my father programs the changes and my brother takes care of the Web site. It works out really well."

Students from six other veterinary schools, including those in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and even Canada, are now using the program.

"The program is not just for college students," Gardner said. "We have real estate agents, pilots and high school students using the program. It's a great feeling to know that so many other people have found the product helpful in their studies."

Alexis Schulman, a foreign veterinary graduate from the Dominican Republic, had worked in scientific research for 15 years before deciding she really wanted to return to veterinary medicine.

"I started a NAVLE study group in Yahoo and to my surprise, it grew to around 700 members from all over the world," Schulman said. "When I found out about PC Flashcards, I immediately contacted their Web site and purchased the program." 

Small animal medicine resident appears on journal cover



Dr. Nikki Hackendahl with the April issue of Compendium magazine, showing her on the cover.

Nikki Hackendahl, D.V.M., a third-year small animal medicine resident at the University of Florida Veterinary Medical Center, graces the cover of the April issue of Compendium. A two-part article Hackendahl wrote, titled “Insulin Resistance in Diabetic Patients: Mechanisms & Classifications” and “Insulin Resistance in Diabetic Patients: Causes and Management,” appears in the journal.

“Basically, in some dogs and cats with diabetes, their blood sugar levels do not regulate as well as others,” Hackendahl said. “When these animals have to receive a lot more insulin than we would expect in order for their blood sugar levels to be controlled, or if they cannot be controlled, we say that these animals have insulin resistance.”

The article focuses on insulin resistance and its causes in dogs and cats, and addresses how to diagnose and manage the problem. 

Calendar *items for Florida Veterinarian*

July 8 Referring Veterinarian Appreciation Day (RDVM Day) will be held at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center. To register, contact the UF Department of Conferences at (352) 392-1701 or visit www.doce-conferences.ufl.edu/RDVM. For more information, email cgentil@doce.ufl.edu.

July 16 The AVMA Alumni Reception will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Harbor View Suite, Renaissance Iliaki Waikiki Hotel, Honolulu, HI, during the AVMA Convention. For more information, contact Jo Ann Winn at winnj@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu or call (352) 392-4700, ext. 5013.

July 29 The eight annual Florida Cat Conference and the 10th annual Dog Owners and Breeders Symposium will both be held at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center. To register, contact the UF Department of Conferences at (352) 392-1701 or visit www.doce-conferences.ufl.edu/dog. For more information, email conferences@doce.ufl.edu.

October 6-7 Homecoming activities including the traditional barbecue will be held at the college, time TBA. Gator Growl and football tickets will be available. For more information, contact Jo Ann Winn at winnj@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu or call (352) 392-4700, ext. 5013.

October 14 Veterinary Receptionist Training Day, “It’s What’s Up Front That Counts,” will be held at the Veterinary Medical Center. To register, contact the UF Department of Conferences at (352) 392-1701.



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