

# the veterinary page

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA • COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

## Team Vet Med raises \$27,000-plus for student scholarships

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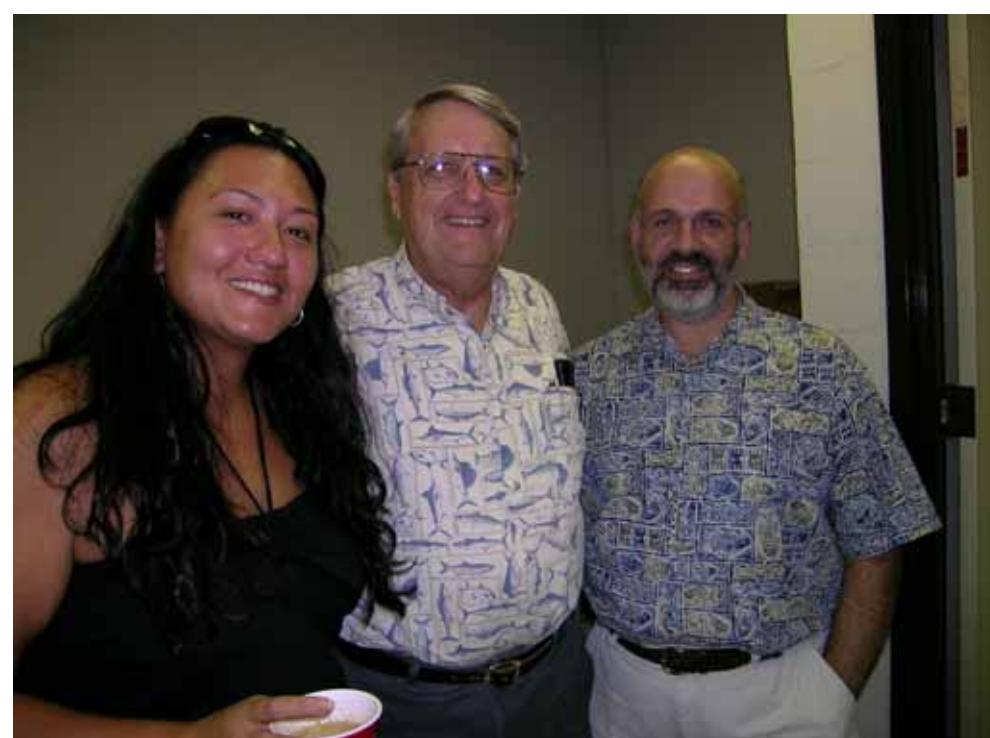


Team Vet Med 2007 riders are pictured prior to departing on the Horse Farm 100 bike ride, sponsored by the Gainesville Cycling Club. Among the riders was former dean Dr. Joe DiPietro, who joined present college dean Dr. Glen Hoffsis, Executive Associate Dean Jim Thompson and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Dr. Charlie Courtney, along with many other faculty, staff and student riders who showed support for the college by participating.

(Photo by Allen Chevreunt)



Katherine Doerr, class of 2010, and Jonathan Block, class of 2010. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Rachel McGriff, Dr. Charlie Courtney and former college dean Dr. Joe DiPietro.

(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Angela Avok, class of 2010 member and president of Team Vet Med, holds up the new team T-shirt she had available for sale during the pre-ride dinner. (Photo by Sarah Carey)

## Small animal ICU supervisor relishes hands-on nature, diversity of job and working with team at UF's VMC



ICU supervisor Jessica Kutsch monitors Moby, a 9-year old black Labrador retriever recovering from major surgery after being hit by a car.

(Photo by Meredith Woods)

BY MEREDITH WOODS

Jessica Kutsch, veterinary care manager of the University of Florida small animal hospital's intensive care unit, is no stranger to the world of animal hospitals. An industry veteran of 15 years and a native of Jacksonville, Kutsch had worked as both a specialized veterinary technician and as a veterinary office manager before arriving at UF's Veterinary Medical Center to become ICU supervisor last September.

Assistant Director of the small animal hospital Sheri Holloway says Jessica was a great fit for the job.

"She had solid background in emergency and critical care and a strong desire to promote the field of veterinary technology. She also had a great positive attitude," Holloway said.

Kutsch currently oversees 13 full-time technicians and 15 part-time technicians. A hands-on manager, she describes her position as that of a "working supervisor."

"I spend about 70 percent of my time on the floor working side by side with the rest of the ICU technician team treating critically ill patients," Kutsch said. The remainder of her time is spent in her office handling administrative functions.

Holloway said Kutsch organizes and directs nursing services, develops and oversees training programs, selects and hires personnel and oversees budgeting, ordering, and maintenance of all nursing and patient care related equipment and supplies in the ICU. Her other responsibilities include orienting and teaching both staff and students.

"She also helps teach the clinical techniques course for the sophomores," Holloway said.

Kutsch, a certified veterinary technician, says working in the unit can be challenging because of the severity of the patients' conditions.

"We follow the clinician's orders to treat animals suffering from infectious diseases, multi-organ system dysfunction, those recovering from major surgeries such as open chest surgery or kidney transplants," she said.

"We maintain IV catheters, check fluid levels, feed patients via feeding tubes, administer all medications, and perform procedures such as evacuating chest tubes and placing central lines," Kutsch said.

In the short time that she's been at the veterinary hospital, Kutsch has proven her technical and leadership skills.

"The staff has a lot of respect for her and has welcomed her in her role as their supervisor because she has proven herself to be both competent and dependable," Holloway said.

Kutsch especially likes working in the intensive care unit because of the important role she plays in helping critically ill patients heal.

"I really like working one on one with the clinicians and feeling like I have a direct influence on a patient's outcome," she said. "I feel like we're the eyes and ears of the clinicians while their patient is in the ICU."

Kutsch said she also loves working on the floor with the nurses.

"This is one of the best jobs I've ever had," she said.

**The Veterinary Page** is the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's online internal newsletter. Archives of the **Veterinary Page** are available at:

<http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/pr/vp/>

Got a story idea? Please submit to Sarah Carey, editor, at: [careys@vetmed.ufl.edu](mailto:careys@vetmed.ufl.edu) or call (352) 392-2213, ext. 5206.



From left to right, in front kneeling with "Bessie" Cuda in the middle in her cart are Amy Beaver and Joy Dias; in rear are Dr. Karri Barabas, Samantha Haas, Dr. Rowan Milner, Jessica Noggle, Kelly Meyer and Dr. Monica Clemente.

(Photo by Steve Milner)

**H**oping to increase public awareness of the fact that animals get cancer and can be treated just like people, members of the UF VMC's oncology service participated in the 2007 "Light the Night" walk in Gainesville Oct. 18.

The team raised \$1,150 for the Northern Florida Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The event is held nationwide in October with evening walks scheduled on different dates in different communities.

All walkers carried illuminated balloons to celebrate and commemorate the lives touched by cancer. All funds raised will support the society's mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and will also be used to improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

"This stemmed from about three years ago when Jim (Dr. Jim Farese), Joy (Dr. Joy Dias) and I felt we wanted to become involved with maybe taking dogs that were cancer survivors over to Shands oncology as therapy dogs for kids with cancer," said Dr. Rowan Milner, chief of the VMC's oncology service. "It was clear pretty early on that there would be lots of hoops involved in doing that. Then we heard about the Light the Night event, which allowed us all to participate as a team with our patients."

In addition to the VMC group, cancer survivor Bessie Cuda, a 4-year-old Basset hound, went along for the 2-mile ride, er, walk. Bessie, sporting a white "Survivor" T-shirt, was pulled in a cart by team members.

"We want to thank our families, friends and supporters," Milner said, adding that a bake sale held by the oncology group raised \$100 just by itself. "We also want to thank Bessie's family for letting us take her in the walk."

Milner said that while the walk was "a lot of fun," veterinary oncologists use a lot of information from human lymphoma in their own research and clinical approaches to treatment.

UF VMC participants included Milner, Dias, Dr. Karri Barabas, visiting veterinarian Dr. Monica Clemente, veterinary technicians Samantha Haas, Amy Beaver, Jessica Noggle, and Kelly Meyer.

### Missouri vet with UF ties wins Dog Fancy award

**D**r. James "Jimi" Cook, a Missouri veterinarian whose collaboration with UF veterinary surgeons in June 2006 helped restore full walking ability to a service dog named Eagle, has been named the national winner of Dog Fancy Magazine's "Thank Your Vet for a Healthy Pet" contest.

Cook, an adjunct faculty member at the UF CVM, is director of the Comparative Orthopaedic Laboratory at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Eagle's owner, Michael Ray of Deltona, Fla., nominated Cook for the award, which is sponsored by Merial, Morris Animal Foundation and BowTie, Inc.

In the course of Eagle's care and follow-up treatment, Cook and Ray, confined to a wheelchair because of a car accident, became good friends. Cook volunteered his services, and longtime friend and colleague Dr. Dan Lewis, head of veterinary orthopedics at UF, arranged for Cook's visit to Gainesville. UF veterinary surgeons were able to learn from the procedure while Eagle benefited from Cook's expertise in treating front limb lameness in dogs.

In his nomination letter, Ray wrote: "Not only did Jimi save my best friend and companion from a life of pain and misery, he also gave me back my service dog."



Eagle, a service dog owned by Michael Ray of Deltona, is pictured here while a patient for the front limb procedure he received in 2006.

(Photo by Sarah Kiewel)

# TVM original scholarship renamed in honor of former college dean

The team of 66 Team Vet Med riders that participated in the 2007 Horse Farm 100 looked sleek and professional in their matching jerseys when they showed up the morning of Oct. 21 at Lofton High School, preparing for yet another group adventure that would raise more than \$27,000 to benefit student scholarships.

The jerseys and the increasingly high numbers of participants -- and money raised -- have been *de rigueur* for several years now, but when former college dean Joe DiPietro started Team Vet Med in 1998, it was another story.

Not that there were any slouchers; most of the original team riders completed the full 100 miles of the race, but no one was really counting. Even in the first few years of its existence, team spirit was high and a good time was had by all, (assuming falls and flat tires were kept at a minimum.)

Today, Team Vet Med exemplifies love of the sport and support for our college from all constituents of college life, with participants ranging from highest level administrators to friends and family of CVM faculty, staff, students and alumni. This year, DiPietro returned to the college from his new job as vice president of agriculture at the University of Tennessee to ride in the event that will now be officially associated with his name.

At the pre-ride dinner, held at the college on Oct. 20, Dean Glen Hoffsis announced that the original Team Vet Med scholarship has been renamed "The Joseph DiPietro Horse Farm Hundred Scholarship" with an amount now totalling an impressive \$130,000.

Four awards of \$1,000 each were given out this year to students with financial need.

Hoffsis himself joined this year's riders, completing 55 miles. Executive Associate Dean Jim Thompson and his daughter, Allie, both completed the entire 100 miles, as did Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Charles Courtney and many other riders.

"I'd like to thank all of our riders and of course, all of our sponsors, for helping make this such a fantastic and successful event," said Jo Ann Winn, who coordinated the event for the college.



Riders Dennis Guttman and Dr. Charlie Courtney visit in VS-20 prior to the pre-ride dinner.

(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Rider Juan Jordan visits with Jim and Jo Ann Winn.

(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Team members make their way through the serving line at the pre-ride dinner, held Oct. 20 in VS-20.

(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Calvin Choi, Dr. Josh Powe and Alison Bawden were among the guests.

(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Three generations of Horse Farm aficionados: Dr. Carlos Campos, class of '02 and the first TVM Scholarship winner,

(Photo by Sarah Carey)