

the NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA • COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
veterinary
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Katie Horne, '08, Dr. Gail Kunkle, Tiffany Holcomb, '08, and Dr. Maureen Long gather prior to commencement exercises for the Class of 2008. For more photos, see p.3-4

UF receives \$1.7 million grant to expand shelter medicine program

BY SARAH CAREY

The University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine has received a \$1.7 million grant from Maddie's Fund to create a comprehensive shelter medicine program that will enhance support for local animal rescue operations, improve disease control and adoption rates among shelter animals and expand professional training to fill the current shortage of skilled providers in this area.

The three-year grant will establish the Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at UF and will build upon UF's existing shelter medicine program. Through that program, which was created in 2003, veterinary students gain clinical experience by providing spay/neuter surgeries to animals awaiting adoption at the local animal shelter.

"This is a transitional time for the animal welfare field as growing demand for animal-friendly solutions is challenging traditional sheltering paradigms," said Julie Levy, D.V.M., Ph.D., who was a co-investigator on the grant and who will become the Maddie's professor of shelter medicine at UF.

"There is an international desire to shift from a reactive animal control model in which massive numbers of animals are processed through shelters with an overall high euthanasia rate to one in which proactive preventive measures reduce shelter admissions with individualized programs tailored to different types of animals to result in higher save rates," Levy added.

The college's existing shelter medicine program was founded by Natalie Isaza, D.V.M., UF's Merial clinical assistant professor of shelter medicine, and has grown in popularity among veterinary students in recent years.

Dr. Cynda Crawford, a UF scientist, will become the Maddie's clinical assistant professor of shelter medicine. A codiscoverer of the canine influenza virus, Crawford will work closely with Isaza and Levy to implement additional clinical and educational programs aimed at educating not only veterinary students but also technicians and others associated with shelter efforts.

Existing partnerships with Alachua County and local animal rescue groups will also be enhanced through the new grant.

Levy said UF was uniquely positioned to become a center of excellence in shelter medicine in the southeastern United States because of its diverse faculty expertise, its location in a region with a large number of animal shelters and rescue groups, and a highly supportive administrative structure.

Maddie's Fund has also worked closely with Drs. Levy, Crawford and Isaza on Maddie's Pet Rescue Project in Alachua County.

"We are thrilled to expand our relationship with this incredibly talented team of veterinarians," said Maddie's Fund President, Rich Avanzino. "I'm certain their work in shelter medicine will take this emerging field to a whole new level."

Alameda, Calif.-based Maddie's Fund®, The Pet Rescue Foundation, (www.maddiesfund.org) is a family foundation funded by Workday and PeopleSoft Founder Dave Duffield and his wife, Cheryl. Maddie's Fund® is helping to create a no-kill nation where all healthy and treatable shelter dogs and cats are guaranteed a loving home.

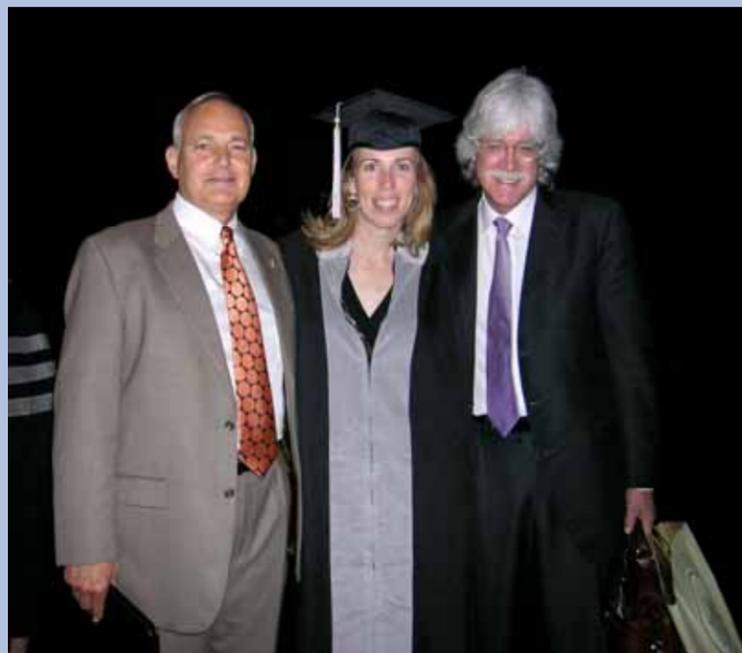
To achieve this goal, Maddie's Fund® is investing its resources in building community collaborations where animal welfare organizations can come together to develop successful models of lifesaving; in veterinary colleges to help shelter medicine become part of the veterinary curriculum; within private practice veterinarians to encourage greater participation in the animal welfare cause; and through the implementation of national strategies to collect and report shelter statistics.

Maddie's Fund® is named after the family's beloved miniature schnauzer, who passed away in 1997.



The Pet Rescue Foundation

And they're off!
 83 students receive D.V.M. degrees, tip tassels to the left



Dean Glen Hoffsis, left, stands with senior class president Mary Gardner, center, and Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, guest speaker, prior to Class of 2008 commencement exercises.

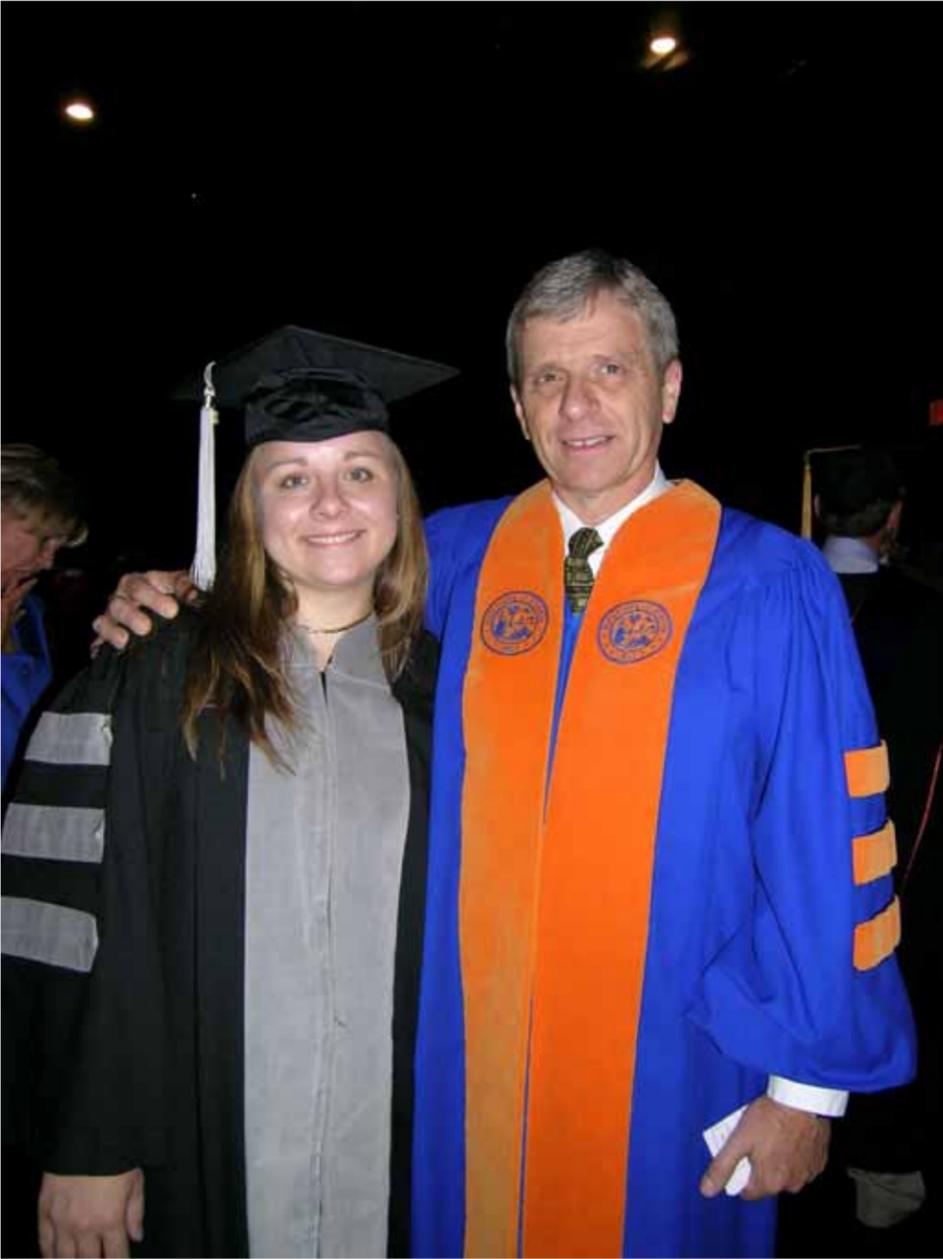
Photo by Sarah Carey



Kara Kligman, with her fiance, Dr. Cassidy Sedacca, class of 2005. The couple got married May 25, the day after graduation.

Photo by Sarah Carey

Graduation activities celebrate achievements of the Class of 2008



Jennifer Frank, '08, and her father, Dr. Murray Brown.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Dr. Nick Bacon, Dr. Andrew Specht, Dr. Amy Stone, Dr. Kris Cooke and Dr. Andre Shih gather for a photo after getting gowned up for commencement exercises.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Brian Harris, Jennifer Regis, and Paul Dutcher share a few last moments together prior to commencement.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Dr. Luisito Pablo and Leigh-Ann Littlejohn are all smiles prior to the start of commencement exercises.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Dr. Alistair Coomer visits with Dr. Scott Rose prior to the start of the 2008 senior awards banquet.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Dr. Lou Archbald, left, and his wife, Sonya, were among the guests at the senior awards banquet. Archbald is a professor emeritus of theriogenology in the department of large animal clinical sciences.

Photo by Sarah Carey

Service is a way of life for new graduate

During his time in the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine, Gregory Reppas has worked with the U.S. Navy's mine-detecting dolphins, tended sled-racing dogs for Alaska's Iditarod and done hands-on work with alligators in St. Augustine.

Reppas, who graduated from UF's Navy ROTC program in 1993, received his second degree from the university when he graduated from the veterinary college May 24.

After earning his undergraduate degree in engineering, Reppas, 38, spent 10 years in the Navy as a cryptological officer working with classified communications intelligence. He was in charge of more than 150 people and several airborne missions but no animals.

After doing some volunteer veterinary work, Reppas decided to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

And though he wants to open a mixed-animal veterinary practice some day, he hasn't forsaken the armed forces just yet. Since his second year of veterinary school, Reppas has been on an Army scholarship with the understanding that after graduation, he will enter the Army as a major in the veterinary corps.

Reppas expects to be deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq, where he would do public health work and "hearts and minds kinds of missions," including assisting local farmers with the care of their animals.

"It's an important task," he said. "These animals are their livelihood."

Reppas said veterinary school has been enjoyable but also challenging after his hiatus from the world of academics.

"I had to learn how to study again, and quickly," Reppas said. "I have to give a lot of credit to the program. It's been a lot harder than I thought it would be."

Reppas is just one of 8,675 students who graduated from UF this spring, including 5,690 bachelor's degree candidates.



In this photo, Greg Reppas is shown in front of a musher team of dogs that had just taken off for the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Race. The ceremonial start is held the day before the actual start as a charity fundraiser as well as to celebrate the historical start of the race, which now takes place 50 miles north of Anchorage, where the snowfall is greater. Reppas had just finished his duties for the day, which consisted of checking, scanning and verifying microchip numbers for the dogs.

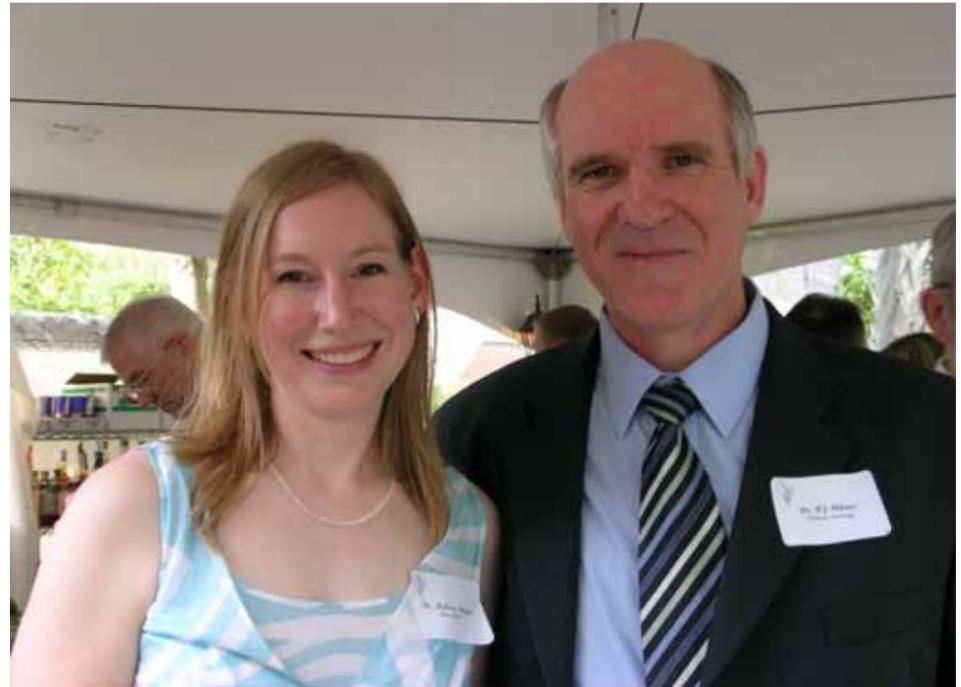
Photo courtesy of Greg Reppas



Greg Reppas is shown here in Anchorage behind the headquarters hotel for the Iditarod race. A "triage" station had been set up in this spot to evaluate all dogs that had been dropped from the race by trail veterinarians at various checkpoints along the Iditarod Trail. Dogs were flown back to Anchorage with colored tags that indicated what type of treatment was in order. The blue tag on the dog Reppas is holding indicates that he most likely was going to be treated with pain medications for the shoulder or parts of the leg and foot

Photo courtesy of Greg Reppas

More 2008 Senior Awards Banquet photos



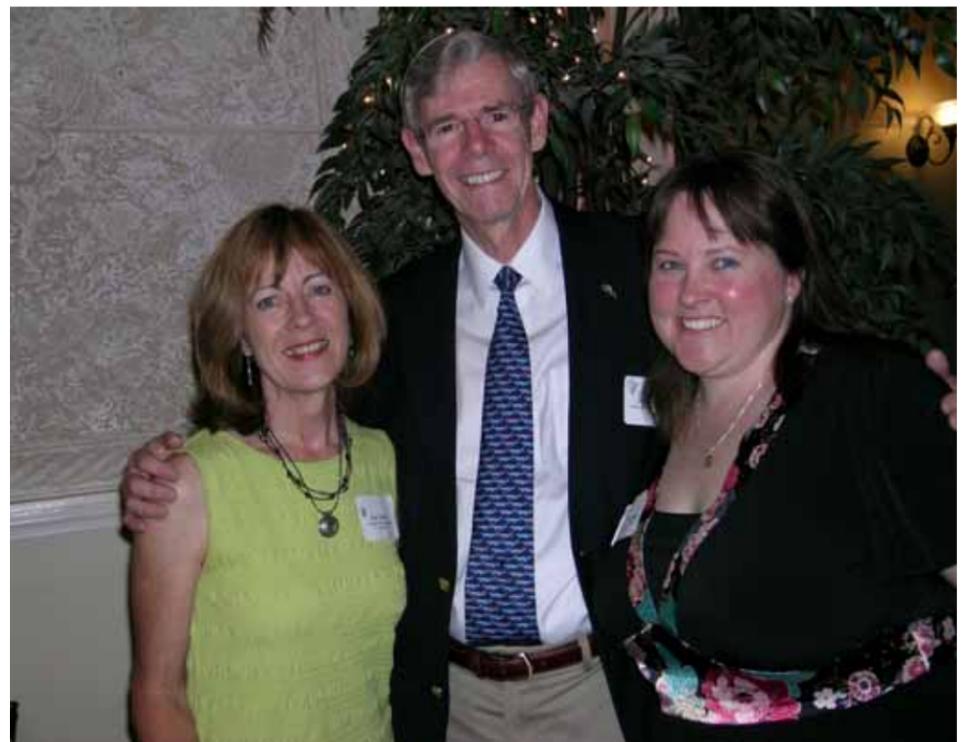
Melissa Moyer, '08, and Dr. Rowan Milner.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Classmates Hal Hawkins, '08, and Justin Sabota '08, visit prior to the start of the 2008 Senior Awards Banquet at the Savannah Grande.

Photo by Sarah Carey



Ann Bloomberg Beshore, left, and Dr. Brooke Bloomberg, '07, right, stand with Dr. Paul Gibbs at the Senior Awards Banquet. Beshore was on hand to present the Dr. Mark Bloomberg Memorial Scholarship, named in honor of her late husband, to this year's recipients Alexis Smith and Rachel Woltman. Gibbs received the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award this year.

Photo by Sarah Carey

Students benefit from Merck summer research program

BY SARAH CAREY

Fifteen UF veterinary students, all rising sophomores, will have the opportunity to gain research experience in the laboratories of faculty mentors as participants in the 2008 Merck-Merial Summer Research program.

“A total of 15 outstanding proposals were received and we were fortunate to be able to fund all 15 applicants,” said Kevin Anderson, an associate professor in the UF College of Veterinary Medicine’s department of physiological sciences who serves as program director. “This was achieved by a grant from Merck-Merial combined with funding sources administered through Dr. Courtney’s office (the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.)

Although two applicants subsequently received individual grants from another source, they are still considered part of the program, he said.

“Through Dr. Anderson’s efforts, our outside funding has increased from \$4,000 last year to \$21,250 this year.”

— *Dr. John Harvey*

Dr. John Harvey, chairman of the department of physiological sciences, attributed this year’s large number of student participants to Anderson’s leadership.

“Through Dr. Anderson’s efforts, our outside funding has increased from \$4,000 last year to \$21,250 this year,” said Harvey. “This money, plus additional funds administered by our office of research and graduate studies, will pay for approved students to receive a weekly stipend of \$425 while they are pursuing their research projects working in the labs of UF faculty members.”

Anderson said the program has been offered to freshman veterinary students, even sometimes without funding from Merck-Merial, since 2003.

Students approved for participation in the program and their mentors include Lexi Abramson (Dr. David Freeman); Santiago Diaz (Dr. Ramiro Isaza); Lara Fine (Dr. Roger Reep); Nikki Helmers (Dr. Don Samuelson); Amanda-Jo Joswig (Dr. Murray Brown); Tyrell Kahan (Dr. Ellis Greiner); Sarah Kelley (Dr. Carlos Romero); Carrie Lawson (Dr. Mary Brown); Leo Londono (Dr. Matt Winter); Catriona Love (Dr. Jeff Abbott); Shannon McDonald (Dr. Iske Larkin); Jess Rivera (Dr. Linda Hayward); Shannon Roff (Dr. Maureen Long); Elijah Rooney (Dr. Mike Walsh); and Meghan Tibbs (Dr. Terry Curtis.)

Pretty in pink



Chelsea, a 12-year-old sheltie owned by Carol Bartels of Jupiter, right, was at the Small Animal Hospital on June 6 for her first chemotherapy treatment.

Photo by Sarah Carey

2008 Alumni Council Distinguished Award Winners named

BY SARAH CAREY

A South Florida equine practitioner, a professor emeritus of small animal neurology, a small animal surgeon and the director of the University of Florida’s mobile equine diagnostic service will be honored for their career accomplishments by the UF College of Veterinary Medicine.

Four awards were given through the 2008 Distinguished Award program, which is sponsored by the college’s alumni council and offers recognition to deserving alumni, faculty and others who have contributed meaningfully to UF and/or to the veterinary profession.

Dr. Robert Boswell of Wellington, a 1985 graduate of the UF veterinary college and owner of Palm Beach Equine Clinic, received the Alumni Achievement Award. Boswell also serves as director of imaging at the clinic, and is a founding member of the Florida Association of Equine Practitioners, an organization that provides continuing education and gives a voice to equine clinicians from all over the state. He served as president of FAEP from 2004-05.

Boswell specializes in sport horse lameness and diagnostic imaging. His clientele includes Olympic-caliber riders in the fields of dressage and jumping.

The Outstanding Young Alumnus Award was given to Dr. Michael Porter, a clinical assistant professor at the UF veterinary college. Porter received his D.V.M. and Ph.D. degrees from the UF veterinary college in 1998 and 2001, respectively. He also completed a residency in large animal medicine at UF in 2004.

As director of the college’s Mobile Equine Diagnostic Service, Porter takes state-of-the-art imaging technology on the road to be more widely available to horse owners and veterinarians.

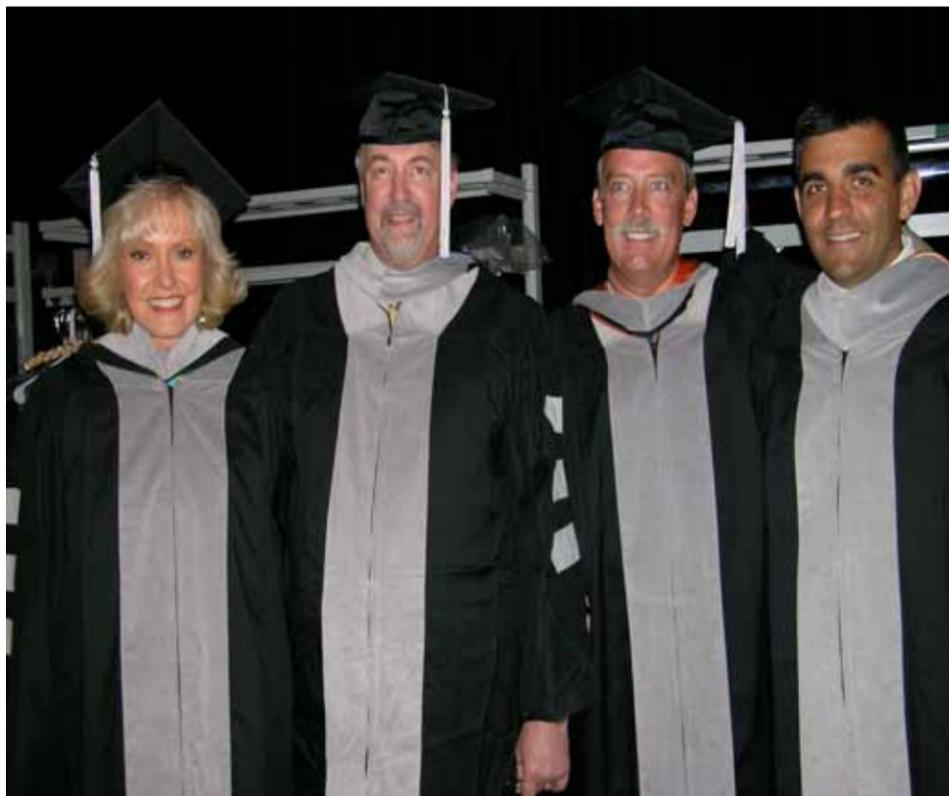
Dr. Cheryl Chrisman, a longtime faculty member and a professor of small animal neurology at UF until her retirement in 2007, has received the college’s Distinguished Service Award. She has received multiple Teacher of the Year awards from UF veterinary students and has a long list of both clinical and research accomplishments.

A board-certified veterinary neurologist, Chrisman served as the small animal neurology service chief for many years and has written two textbooks as well as many articles in prestigious journals in her field. Chrisman has mentored countless students as well as residents in small animal neurology during her academic career at UF and also has been active in organized veterinary medicine. She served as president of the American College of Veterinary Neurologists and has chaired the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine’s board of regents.

She also holds certification in veterinary acupuncture and continues to serve as editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine.

The award for special service to the veterinary profession went to Dr. Gary Ellison, a professor and chief of small animal surgery at UF. A UF faculty member since 1983, Ellison is a highly respected and internationally recognized authority in soft tissue surgery. Through his leadership, the UF veterinary surgery team has progressed into the microsurgery and renal transplantation arena.

Ellison is also a very popular and successful continuing education speaker, having given more than 120 presentations to various groups seeking to enhance their awareness of small



Pictured (left to right) are the 2008 UF College of Veterinary Medicine Distinguished Award winners: Dr. Cheryl Chrisman, professor emeritus of small animal neurology, Distinguished Service Award; Dr. Gary Ellison, professor of small animal surgery, Special Service Award; Dr. Rob Boswell, equine practitioner, Alumni Achievement Award; and Dr. Michael Porter, clinical assistant professor of equine medicine and director of the MEDS program, Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Photo by Sarah Carey

animal surgery.

The awards were presented May 24 at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts during college commencement exercises.