

*the* NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA • COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
**veterinary**  
*page*

## Thompson named dean at University of Tennessee's veterinary college

BY SARAH CAREY

As you would expect for someone who has been a part of college life at the UF CVM for 32 years, Executive Associate Dean Jim Thompson has a long list of memories which he considers treasures. He reflected on some of those as he prepares for his next career adventure as dean of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, a job he will begin officially Oct. 1.

Thompson remembers early morning and late evening walks along and across the old railroad tracks, long since removed, into Shands at UF for classes as a graduate student studying immunology and medical microbiology and as a veterinary student in the late 1970s — back when Shands consisted of only a medical science building, communicore, pharmacy wing, and dental tower; well before an east hospital wing, an academic research building, or the Brain Institute were even being considered.

After receiving his D.V.M. and Ph.D. degrees from UF, Thompson completed a residency in small animal medicine and was subsequently hired as an assistant professor of small animal medicine.

"I was asked to bring oncology forward in the school and I began that process," he said. "It's great to see that the college has fulfilled that vision now with its stellar oncology team. When the new small animal hospital is built, we will have a complete facility dedicated to companion animals and which will include radiation therapy as well as state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging. So mission accomplished, as far as I'm concerned."

Although he could have continued his promising career as a talented oncology clinician — Thompson holds board certification in small animal medicine, immunology and oncology — his orientation changed permanently after the college went through a Total Quality Management process in 1996. His involvement drew the attention of former dean Richard Dierks, who noted Thompson's detail-oriented approach to problem solving.

"Dr. Nancy Bailey was in the process of leaving the position of associate dean of students and instruction and I was asked if I'd be willing to put my name in the hat to be considered," Thompson said. "I saw this as an opportunity to work with students and faculty to apply the detail-oriented traits I have in order to improve delivery of the curriculum and make things flow better. That's how I got into administration."

Among his fondest memories during his 10 years as academic dean was the challenge of establishing the sophomore coating ceremony as a college tradition. Not only is there now a formal ceremony each year acknowledging incoming junior students' transition into clinics, but students now wear white coats in the clinics — not the blue coats of yesteryear.

"At the time I became academic dean, all the students still wore blue coats, but I noticed that all the other Health Science Center students wore white coats," Thompson said. "It's a symbol of professionalism. I worked hard with the faculty to convince them our students should be granted the privilege of wearing white coats and assured them that clients would still understand and appreciate the difference between students and faculty. The significance of the 'white coat ceremony' is that it enables us to clearly say to the students, 'we welcome you into our hospital and ask you to now shoulder the respected responsibilities expected of all health care professionals.'"

One of the more difficult decisions he made during his first year as academic dean related to testing environment.

"I felt strongly that students sitting side by side during rigorous exams might be tempted to breach their ethical conscience and that as a teaching faculty we should strive to create a testing environment that provided no temptation for students undergoing stressful, high stakes testing," Thompson said. "I remember clearly the initial controversy of requiring students to be separated during our mid-term and final examinations. Students said, 'you should trust us.' Faculty said, 'There's no room to spread the students out and you should trust them.' But this was done for the right reasons for both the students and the college."

When former college dean Joseph DiPietro left in 2006, Thompson was named interim dean of the college while a search was conducted for the permanent dean. Soon after Dr. Glen Hoffsis was hired as dean in late 2006, Dr. Ron Gronwall retired from his position as executive associate dean and Hoffsis asked Thompson to take the job. After being named executive associate dean, Thompson continued as academic dean until Dr. Tom Vickroy was named interim associate dean for students and instruction in late 2007. So the last few years have seen Thompson working two jobs simultaneously, not once but twice.

"All of these jobs have been great opportunities to grow and to understand the college at

even deeper levels," Thompson said.

"Also, we didn't have the money we needed in order to hire people into permanent positions, and I felt I could continue to handle multiple positions as we moved into the beginnings of this budget crisis."

As executive associate dean, Thompson's challenges include streamlining day-to-day operations in the college and the Veterinary Medical Center and making sure people have the right resources to do their jobs.

"I've always viewed this job as one of knocking down barriers."

— Dr. Jim Thompson

"I've always viewed this job as one of knocking down barriers," Thompson said.

Thompson's wife, Joan, the college's pharmacist, will remain in Gainesville temporarily but will join him soon in Knoxville. He said he is thrilled to be embarking on a new career at Tennessee, but added that "UF will forever be in my blood."

"I'm not ending old relationships," he said. "I feel like a dragon protecting my treasures, which are people and ideas and integrity. The University of Florida holds all the treasures that a dragon would want."

### Farewell send-off held for departing CVM administrator at he heads for Tennessee



A farewell presentation and party were held in Dr. Jim Thompson's honor on Sept. 23. In photo, Dean Glen Hoffsis is shown with Thompson's wife, Joan, as together they unveil the portrait that will now hang, along with other former college deans and interim deans, in the dean's conference room. Many members of the college's faculty, staff and student body attended the gathering, along with several longtime associates of Thompson's from the UF Health Science Center, the main campus and the Florida Veterinary Medical Association.

## Harvey named to executive associate dean post



John Harvey, D.V.M., Ph.D., has been named executive associate dean of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, effective Oct. 1.

Harvey was a founding member of the UF veterinary college's faculty in 1974 and has served as chairman of the college's department of physiological sciences since 1995. As executive associate dean, Harvey will be in charge of internal college operations.

"Dr. Harvey has a long history with this college and great institutional knowledge," said Glen Hoffsis, D.V.M., the college's dean. "He will be an excellent right-hand person to have in this position and I am delighted that he has agreed to accept the job."

Harvey replaces James Thompson, D.V.M., Ph.D., who held the post of executive associate dean since 2006 and has left the college to become dean at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

A Kansas native, Harvey earned both his bachelor's and D.V.M. degrees from Kansas State and his Ph.D. from the University of California-Davis. He is board-certified in clinical pathology by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Harvey's research interests are comparative hematology and erythrocyte enzyme deficiencies. He discovered and named the *Anaplasma platys* organism that infects platelets in dogs and, along with co-workers, first recognized and reported four inherited erythrocyte enzyme deficiencies.

Among the honors Harvey has received are the UF Norden Distinguished Teacher Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology, the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Clinical Chemistry, Division of Animal Clinical Chemistry, American Association for Clinical Chemistry, and the Alumni Recognition Award from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

A former president of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology and the International Society for Animal Clinical Pathology, Harvey also served a four-year term on the Morris Animal Foundation's scientific advisory board. He has published 160 journal articles and book chapters concerning comparative hematology and has presented more than 230 scientific and continuing education talks and seminars.

## CVM small animal clinical sciences department chair receives the AVMA's International Veterinary Congress Prize

Dr. Colin Burrows, chairman of the department of small animal clinical sciences and chief of staff of UF's small animal hospital, recently received the American Veterinary Medical Association's 2007 12th International Veterinary Congress prize.

Awarded during the AVMA's annual meeting in July, the prize recognizes outstanding contributions to international understanding of veterinary medicine.

Burrows is a board-certified veterinary internist, specializing in the study of canine and feline gastrointestinal, hepatic and pancreatic disease. His research has focused on canine gastrointestinal motility in health and disease, and on the relationship between diet and gastrointestinal disease.

He has delivered continuing education presentations in more than 50 countries and is an honorary member of both the Austrian and



Russian Small Animal Veterinary Associations.

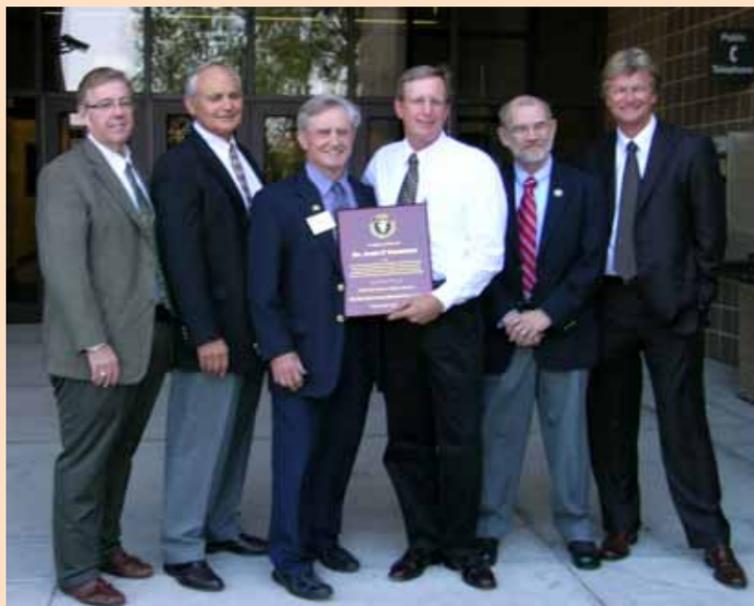
Burrows has also served as coordinator

of the North American Veterinary Conference since 1980 and currently serves as the NAVC's executive director.

## More photos from Thompson farewell send-off



Senior Vice President for Health Affairs Doug Barrett, left, with Dr. Jim Thompson and Dean Glen Hoffsis during Thompson's farewell party on Sept. 23. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Members of the Florida Veterinary Medical Association honored Thompson with a plaque of appreciation. From left to right in photo are Phil Hinkle, FVMA's executive director; Dean Glen Hoffsis; Dr. Steve Shores, representing FVMA; Dr. Jim Thompson; Dr. Ernie Godfrey, representing FVMA; and Dr. Richard Wilkes, representing FVMA. (Photo by Sarah Carey)

## Congratulations in order

Congratulations to Drs. Carrie Goldkamp and Jennifer McCown for passing their qualifying and certifying examinations with the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

Congratulations also to Dr. Jeremy Frederick and Jacob Johnson for passing their qualifying examinations in ACVIM and the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia, respectively.

## UF student wins competition at theriogenology meeting



Justin Phillips, at left, is shown with Dr. James Alexander of Mississippi, who chaired the competition.

UF veterinary student Justin Phillips, class of '09, won first place in the Student Case Presentation Competition at the 2008 American College of Theriogenology meeting, held in St. Louis Aug. 12-16.

Phillips' presentation was on "A Breeding Related Vaginal Laceration in a Mare."

# VMC's first-ever hemodialysis treatment performed on bull terrier awaiting kidney transplant

*...Bull terrior now recuperating from successful surgery at University of Pennsylvania, thanks to unique collaboration*



Dr. Carsten Bandt monitors Zansi's progress during one of several dialysis treatments she received at UF's Veterinary Medical Center prior to having kidney transplant surgery at the University of Pennsylvania.

(UF CVM Photo)

BY SARAH CAREY

Thanks to a unique collaboration between the University of Florida and the University of Pennsylvania, a 14-month-old bull terrier named Zansi is recuperating well at her home in St. Petersburg after successful kidney transplant surgery Sept. 4.

The case represented the first time a patient has received hemodialysis at the UF Veterinary Medical Center and the second time a dog has received a kidney transplant at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. Zansi's litter mate, Toni, provided the donor kidney, said their owner, Jennifer O'Brien. The dogs were imported from a South African breeder.

"Zansi and Toni are both doing wonderfully," O'Brien said Sept. 14. "As far as I can tell, everything is going great."

Soon after Zansi arrived from South Africa, O'Brien noticed she was not eating well and was drinking large amounts of water. Eventually she found an internal medicine specialist in Clearwater who diagnosed kidney disease.

"I began pounding the pavement, doing a lot of research on the Internet to see what our options were," O'Brien said. Although a few other veterinary hospitals in the United States can provide canine kidney transplants, she determined that Penn Vet was logistically her best option for the procedure. There was one problem, however — after the rigorous workup process Zansi underwent at Penn Vet, she was not medically stable enough for surgery.

While equipped to perform the transplant operation, Penn Vet's hemodialysis program is on hold. Hemodialysis is a procedure through which kidney function is mechanically taken over until the patient is stable enough to receive a donor kidney.

The roles of both veterinary colleges were critical in Zansi's care, which led to a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the two institutions.

"We were lucky enough to come across Dr. (Carsten) Bandt and the University of Florida," O'Brien said.

Bandt, an assistant professor of critical care and emergency medicine at UF, has a background in hemodialysis and nephrology.

Through hemodialysis, symptoms known as uremic syndrome — witnessed through clinical signs such as loss of appetite, weakness, seizures and vomiting — can be greatly reduced or eliminated.

"There are only a few veterinary centers capable of doing intermittent hemodialysis," Bandt said. Because of Bandt's expertise, UF joined that elite group and Zansi became the first patient ever to receive the procedure at UF veterinary hospital.

Hemodialysis treatments typically last between five and six hours and most dogs need three treatments per week, Bandt said. Zansi, who still had some kidney function, was able to get by with two weekly treatments.

"She was a rare exception, but she did very well," Bandt said.

Following her treatments, Zansi was deemed stable enough for surgery after gaining weight and displaying an improved appetite and attitude. On Aug. 31, Zansi and Toni headed to Pennsylvania for the transplant operation.

Drs. Lillian Aronson and Heidi Phillips performed the surgery. Phillips said transplants are not recommended for all dogs with kidney disease. Animals with infections or recurring infections or that have cancer are not good candidates for kidney transplants, she said. Aronson initiated Penn Vet's feline renal transplantation program, which recently celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> surgery.

"It is a rare procedure in dogs," Phillips said. "We can only use dogs that are related to each other at this time. In cats we can use unrelated donors, because they are able to suppress their



Junior veterinary students Robin McIntyre and Christopher Gautier were among those involved with Zansi's care at the VMC. (UF CVM Photo)



Shown at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine following Zansi's successful kidney transplant surgery are Zansi and Toni's owner, Jennifer O'Brien, left; Dr. Heidi Phillips, kneeling with Zansi and Toni; and Dr. Lillian Aronson and Lynn Beale at center and right. (Photo courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania)

immune system with medication. They respond to the immune suppression medication better than dogs do."

O'Brien called Penn's veterinary team "very gracious and professional."

"I also feel very strongly about UF, as I come from a family of Gators," she said. "We have had such a positive experience and I am so impressed with all of the people in the dog nephrology world. They are some of the nicest people I have ever come across."

The message O'Brien would most like to convey, however, is for people with dogs in need of such treatments to know there are options for them to receive help.

"I would like to see these options more accessible and more available to the pets that need them," she said.

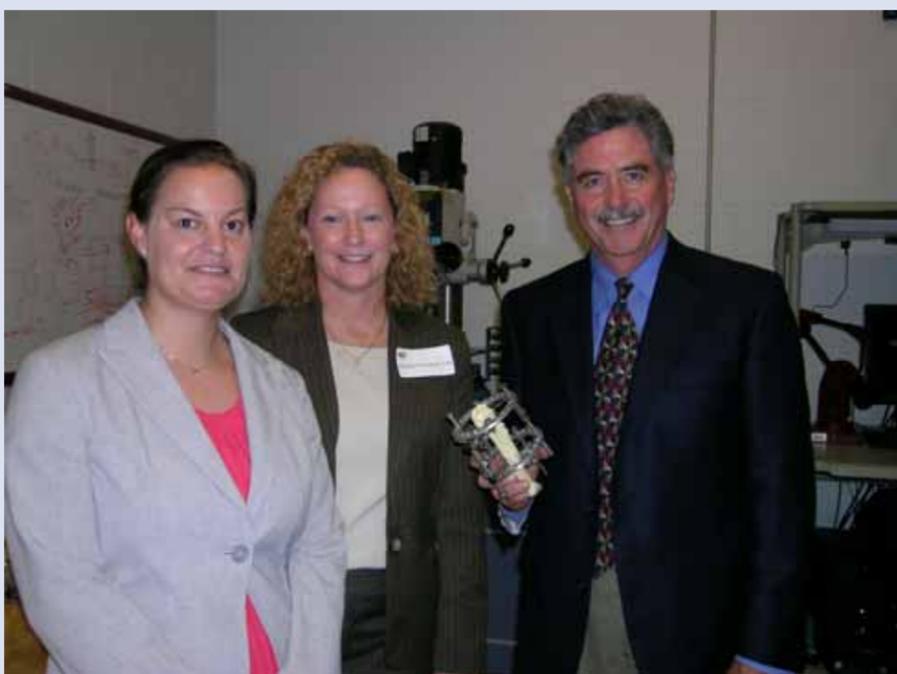
# New Comparative Orthopedics Laboratory dedicated in memory of the late Dr. Rob Parker



Dr. Dan Lewis, professor of surgery in the College of Veterinary Medicine's department of small animal surgery, is shown with special guest Elizabeth Parker Griseck, daughter of the late Dr. Robert B. Parker. Lewis holds the plaque that will be displayed in the new laboratory. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



College of Medicine Interim Dean Michael Good and Dr. Tom Wright, a professor of orthopedic surgery with the College of Medicine's department of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, were among the guests. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Mieko Dunn, assistant director of research; Dr. MaryBeth Horodyski, associate professor and research director with the College of Medicine's department of orthopaedics and rehabilitation; and Dr. Peter Gearren, chairman of the College of Medicine's department of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, holding a device known as a fixator, which is used to stabilize joints as they heal after surgery. (Photo by Sarah Carey)

In the first formal recognition of a collaboration that has spanned more than 30 years, University of Florida doctors who treat both humans and animals came together on campus recently to dedicate the new Comparative Orthopaedics and Biomechanics Laboratory in memory of the late Dr. Rob Parker, a former UF small animal orthopedic surgeon who was killed in a car accident this past year.

The UF College of Medicine's department of orthopaedics and rehabilitation's biomechanics laboratory, formerly housed in the UF Health Science Center, has been renamed to reflect the physician/veterinarian collaboration and is now located in the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's academic building.

More than 60 people from both colleges gathered there on the evening of Sept. 10 to hear brief presentations about the benefits of the intercollegiate collaboration and tour the new lab.

"We needed to expand our laboratory space for gene therapy and stem cell research, so we decided to move our biomechanics laboratory," said Dr. MaryBeth Horodyski, an associate professor and director of the department's research program. "The department looked at several options, including renting space in town and building another facility."

At some point, Horodyski and Dr. Anthony Pozzi, an assistant professor of surgery at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, began communicating and discussion soon emerged between faculty members from both colleges about space possibilities within the veterinary school.

"Once space was identified, several renovations needed to be made," Horodyski said. "Once those were complete, we moved our entire laboratory from the medical science building over to the veterinary academic building."

A major piece of equipment that needed to be accommodated was a multiaxial mechanical testing system (also known as an MTS), used for testing joints in cadaver specimens and which can be used for both animal and human species.

Administrators from both colleges all said that one key advantage of the formal collaboration will be the ability to submit stronger grant proposals.

"Many funding organizations clearly like to see translational research across a university and this new laboratory will clearly align the researchers from both colleges to be better positioned to apply for certain grants," Horodyski said.

Parker, whose name is on the plaque hanging outside of the laboratory, had been a charter member of the veterinary college faculty when the college opened its doors in 1977.

"For 20 years, the name Rob Parker was synonymous with small animal orthopedics in the state of Florida," said Dr. Dan Lewis, a professor of small animal surgery at UF and longtime friend and colleague of Parker's.

"It only seemed fitting as we brought this joint venture together that we dedicate the new lab in his memory."



Dr. Steve Ghivizzani, an associate professor in the College of Medicine departments of orthopaedics and rehabilitation and molecular genetics and microbiology; Dr. Scott Banks, an assistant professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and an affiliate faculty member in the College of Medicine department of orthopaedics and rehabilitation; and Dr. Antonio Pozzi, an assistant professor of surgery in the department of small animal clinical sciences at the College of Veterinary Medicine. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dr. John Harvey, executive associate dean; Dr. Dan Lewis, professor of surgery in the College of Veterinary Medicine's department of small animal clinical sciences; Dr. Antonio Pozzi, assistant professor of surgery in the department of small animal clinical sciences; and Dean Glen Hoffsis gather in the new laboratory following the dedication ceremony Sept. 10. (Photo by Sarah Carey)