

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

Dr. Susan Anderson, former UF CVM faculty member and a 1983 CVM alumna, is shown with Dr. Jim Himes in a photo taken in 2001. (From college archives)



## Groundbreaking for new small animal hospital is landmark for college

BY SARAH CAREY

**F**riends of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine joined administrators, faculty, alumni and students on the UF campus Nov. 21 to celebrate a red-letter day in the life of the college: a groundbreaking ceremony for its new \$58 million small animal hospital.

Members of the pet-owning public, including current and former hospital clients, representatives from the Florida Veterinary Medical Association, practitioners from all over the state and political dignitaries packed the college's Alec P. and Louise H. Courtelis Equine Hospital auditorium while various speakers offered perspective on the monumental occasion. Then the group meandered outside, adjacent to the new building site, for the symbolic breaking of the ground.

"I'd like to acknowledge Louise Courtelis for her many contributions in getting us where we are today," said the college's dean, Glen Hoffsis. He said Courtelis and her late husband, Alec, helped to mobilize donors on behalf of the college years ago, leading to the present project's ultimate success as well as other endeavors that preceded it, including the equine hospital built in 1994.

"She visualized that we would have the finest hospitals in the country, which now position this college for excellence in the future as far as any of us can see," Hoffsis said.

One of the early fundraising efforts Courtelis led was known as "No More Band-aids," symbolizing the end of temporary solutions to the small animal hospital's overcrowding problems. Previously the idea was so daunting to college administrators that only sporadic renovations to the existing hospital — in business since the college opened in 1977 — were thought possible.

Over a period of several years, the college was able to raise \$4.4 million in private gifts, which was then supplemented by state equipment and matching funds to meet the projected cost of construction.

Former college dean Joseph DiPietro, who left UF two years ago to become vice president of agriculture at the University of Tennessee, returned to Gainesville for the groundbreaking. He, too, shared memories of the long road to success and paid tribute to the Courtelises.

"I remember that we were on the heels of the 'It's Performance that Counts' UF Capital Campaign, which was named after the slogan the Courtelises use at their farm," DiPietro said. That particular fundraising campaign



Pictured from left to right at the groundbreaking ceremony for the University of Florida's new small animal hospital are UF provost Joe Glover; college dean Glen Hoffsis; small animal hospital manager Sheri Holloway; UF's vice president for research and graduate studies Win Phillips; state Sen. Steve Oelrich; sophomore veterinary student Caty Love; UF's senior vice president for agricultural affairs Jimmy Cheek; UF's senior vice president for health affairs Doug Barrett; University of Tennessee vice president of agricultural affairs and former UF College of Veterinary Medicine dean Joe DiPietro; and small animal clinical sciences department chairman Colin Burrows. (Photo by Sarah Kiewel)

took place in the late 1990s.

"We had a meeting with Mrs. C., which is what I called her. She may have been a bulldog when she got behind something, but I have always called her a fairy godmother for this college."

That meeting led to more discussion about what was needed and how it could be financed, DiPietro recalled.

"Then we developed a spirit, and then it was one fundraising event after the other," he said.

Dr. Colin Burrows, chairman of the department of small animal clinical sciences and chief of staff of the small animal hospital, acknowledged the efforts of DiPietro and Hoffsis, as well as former executive associate dean Dr. Jim Thompson, for the "countless hours" they spent to bring the project to fruition.

He also paid tribute to the small animal clinical sciences faculty with lines from a sonnet by John Milton.

"They also serve who only stand and wait," Burrows said. "This faculty and staff has served for more than 30 years. I don't know how many animals we have treated; it has to be in the hundreds of thousands. We

have served, but we have stood and waited."

Soon after the college's inception in the late 1970s, it experienced sick building syndrome and was placed on limited accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association. A new equine hospital and veterinary academic building were constructed subsequently, and hospital services now include cardiology and oncology, among others, Burrows said.

"We've grown not only our patients, but the services we offer, and we are now parallel with human medicine in many areas," he said. "It wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many people."

Caty Love, a sophomore veterinary student who is her class president, said her class would be the first to experience some part of their clinical education in the new building.

"A more impressive hospital makes for more and better veterinarians, and that is the ultimate goal," Love said.

The new facility is expected to be completed by late 2010.

### Dr. James Albert Himes 1919-2008

*Beloved friend, colleague,  
mentor (see story, p.3)*



Dr. James Albert Himes

## In the spotlight...

### *Surgery resident honored for research*

Dr. Stanley Kim's presentation, titled "Effect of Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy and Tibial Tuberosity Advancement on Three Dimensional Stifle Kinematics" received first place in the research category of the residents competition at the annual American College of Veterinary Surgeons meeting, held Oct. 23-25 in San Diego.

The presentation was an extension of Kim's masters's thesis project, which he is working on in collaboration with Drs. Antonio Pozzi and Dan Lewis and the newly established Comparative Orthopaedics laboratory.

"Stan's presentation set the standard for visual special effects in the residents' competition, but he also handled some pretty difficult questions from two reviewers in superb fashion," said Dr. Gary Ellison, small animal surgery chief.

Ellison added that he appreciated the support given by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies for the four-year combined master's/ residency program, which was only established a few years ago.



Dr. Julie M. Duval, chair of the Small Animal Residents' Forum, presents the First Place Research Presentation Award to Dr. Stanley Kim from the University of Florida. (Photo courtesy of ACVS)

### *International graduate students recognized for academic achievement*

Several UF graduate students were recently honored for their academic accomplishments during the UF International Student Awards Ceremony, held Nov. 18 at the Reitz Union.

From left to right are Dr. Weerapongse Tangjitaroen of Thailand; his mentor, Dr. Pat Colahan (large animal clinical sciences); Dr. Ana Bassit of Brazil; her mentor, Dr. Tom Wronski (physiological sciences); and Dr. Carla Phillips of Trinidad and Tobago. Phillips' mentor, Dr. Barbie Sheppard, (infectious diseases and pathology) was absent.

Two additional awardees were out of town and unable to attend: Dr. Josh Powe, whose mentor is Dr. William Castleman (infectious diseases and pathology), and Yingling Huang, whose mentor is Dr. David Allred (infectious diseases and pathology.) Congratulations to all!



### **Emeritus professor honored with Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine's prestigious Stange Award**

Dr. Maarten Drost, an emeritus professor of theriogenology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received the prestigious 2008 Stange Award from his alma mater, Iowa State University.

The award was presented Oct. 25 at ISU in Ames, Iowa.

Created in honor of the late Charles H. Stange, D.V.M., a former ISU College of Veterinary Medicine dean, the award is that institution's premier recognition given to veterinary medical alumni. Recipients are recognized for outstanding professional achievements in education, government, industry, practice or other professional endeavors in veterinary medicine.

A 1962 graduate of the ISU veterinary college, Drost served on the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine and at State University in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He was a visiting professor at Colorado State University's embryo transfer unit, worked in private practice and served as a captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps before joining UF's veterinary college as a founding faculty member in 1977.

A world-renowned expert in the field of ruminant reproduction, including embryo transfer technology, Drost was a pioneer in the area of fetal surgery and demonstrated the role of the fetus in parturition in sheep by performing bilateral adrenalectomies in 1968. Drost's team at UF was responsible for the world's first embryo transfer to result in the birth of a water buffalo calf in 1983, a landmark achievement that led to production of the first buffalo calves in Europe in 1985 using the same technique.

Drost retired in 2003 but has remained involved in the profession through his development of a slide database as a teaching tool for veterinarians and veterinary students.

His Web site, "The Drost Project Visual Guide," includes guides to bubaline, equine and canine reproduction and provides visuals for veterinarians and veterinary students wanting information about the male or female bovine reproductive systems as well as learning opportunities for those who wish to brush up on reproductive technology — embryo transfer, artificial insemination or ultrasonography, to name a few.

"I feel honored and humbled," Drost said. "I simply never dreamed that I would meet the criteria for this prestigious award."

He recounted a story of how he came to America alone as an immigrant from Holland in 1955, in hopes of becoming a veterinarian. Although admitted to veterinary school, "disaster struck" and he failed the final examination in bacteriology, meaning he failed the entire course and had to drop out of vet school.

"I went to Kentucky to work in the brucellosis eradication program that winter



Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine dean John Thomson, left, presents Dr. Maarten Drost with the Stange Award in late October. (Photo courtesy of ISU)

quarter, but my student draft deferment was running out, so I came back to Ames and reenrolled in the undergraduate program in the spring," he said. "I received all A's that quarter and even ended up on the Dean's List, and was fortunately readmitted to the veterinary curriculum to repeat the sophomore year."

Drost said he told the story to illustrate how this experience provided him with the credibility to counsel academically troubled students later in his life, "and to tell them to hang in there."

"I told them, you might even become a professor in spite of it," said Drost. "Things have really changed over the years. I never did get an undergraduate degree, nor did I add any advanced degrees such as a master's or a Ph.D."

# Dr. Jim Himes leaves legacy of devotion to students, college life

BY SARAH CAREY

Filled with sadness for the passing of a man who helped define the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, friends and family transformed a memorial service Nov. 19 into a passionate celebration of the life of longtime faculty member and dean of students Dr. Jim Himes.

Past and present CVM students, faculty and administrators as well as members of Himes' family shared their memories of a man who was born in Ohio, but who called Gainesville home for more than 40 years.

After reminiscing and watching slides and a senior skit, the gathering moved outside from the Veterinary Academic Building to the flagpole for a brief candlelight vigil. Himes' longtime friend and coworker, Dot McColskey, read a poem.

People reminisced and paid further tribute to former associate dean for students and instruction at the college, who meant more than words could express to so many of them. The Office of Students and Instruction arranged a tribute to Himes inside the lobby of the VAB, with photos taken over the years and awards that had been important to him.

Also on display: the maroon corduroy coat Himes loved to wear and was frequently photographed in.

Himes came to UF in 1965 as an assistant professor of veterinary science in the College of Agriculture and in 1973 received a joint appointment in the newly-forming College of Veterinary Medicine. He was appointed director of the Office of Veterinary Medical Education for the college in 1975 and served as assistant dean and later associate dean in charge of students and instruction until he retired in 1992.

Even after retirement, he kept the college close to his heart.

"He was just an extraordinary person who made this college his family," recalled the college's dean, Glen Hoffsis, D.V.M. Soon after he was named dean, Hoffsis received an invitation from Himes to have breakfast and "talk about some things."

"It became the first of many chats we would have," said Hoffsis.

During the informal service, Himes was lovingly remembered as a mentor, a friend, a committed advocate for students who shunned praise for himself and as someone who always had a smile on his face.

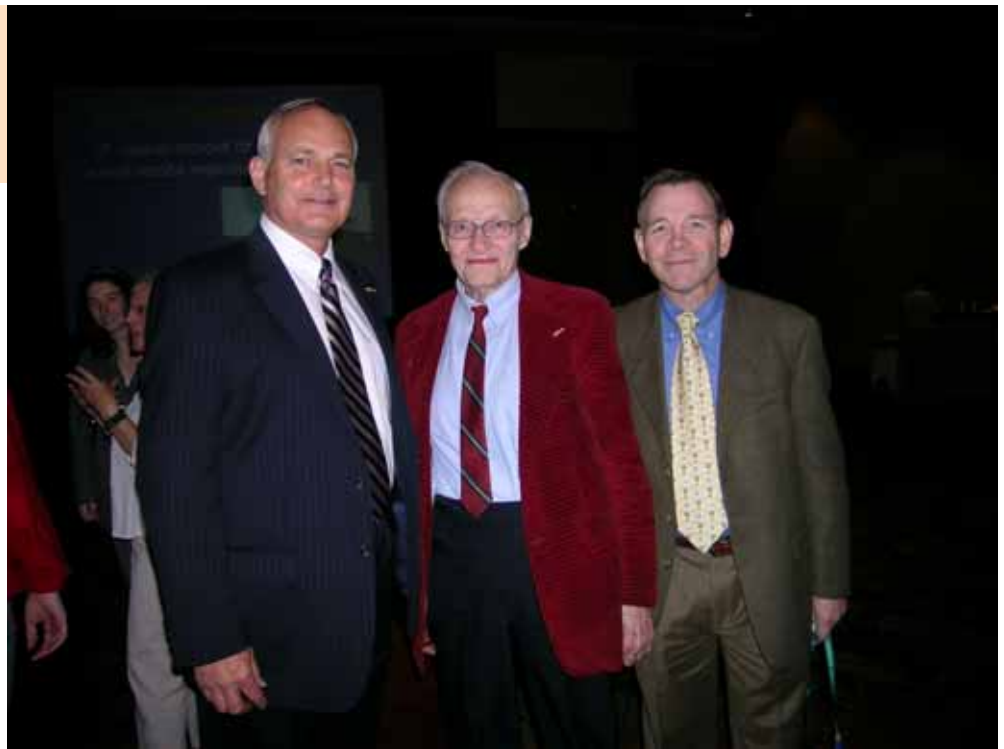
"He made eye contact; he looked directly at you and smiled," recalled Alexa McDermott, junior class president. "I remember seeing him on the first day of freshman anatomy class, when we were scared beyond belief and we saw this person there who was clearly not Dr. (Kevin) Anderson. When we found out he'd been at the college longer than most of us had been alive, we found that to be quite encouraging, because if he could be here that long and still be happy about the place, we could, too."

Tom Vickroy, Ph.D., presently the interim associate dean for students and instruction, said even though Himes was retired, in the 16 years that followed, Himes continued to come into the office at least three days a week — right up until this past summer, when he became ill.

Vickroy said one of Himes' habits was to read the applications of all incoming freshmen in order to understand and know them better.

"I was amazed that after the class of 2012 was selected, he went through all of their applications to learn more about their backgrounds. He probably remembered more about them than I did."

In clearing Himes' desk after news of his death, Vickroy said he discovered a document in which Himes had chronicled the symptoms of his illness following diagnosis with cancer last summer.



Dr. Glen Hoffsis, Dr. Jim Himes and Dr. Link Welborn stand together following the announcement at 2008 NAVC alumni reception that the \$100,000 threshold had been reached to endow the James Himes Alumni Scholarship. (Photo by Sarah Carey)

"It was very clinical and matter-of-fact, him being a man of science," Vickroy said. "But there was one passage that stood out. He wrote, 'There is always a chance that some good can come of adversity.' It was a simple phrase, but very powerful."

Himes' son-in-law, Thomas Clark, and daughter, Leslie, expressed appreciation to everyone for their kindness and support, specifically Dot McColskey and other staff members from the Office for Students and Instruction.

Leslie Clark said her father had been a very private person in many aspects of his life. Most people at the gathering probably did not know that while in Gainesville, Himes had lost both of his parents, four of his siblings, and a grandson, she said.

Himes' youngest daughter, Jill, also suffered from a disabling car accident and he helped care for her.

"He would always rather be talking about what was going on with you than what was going on with him," McColskey said, adding that she never stopped marveling at Himes' memory, even after he became ill.

"For 15 years, he and I worked together on entering grades," she said. "I knew students as 'first initial, last name' because that is how the roster comes in with the letter grade. But he actually would say, 'I wonder what happened with Cathy, it's not like her to get a C.' For me, it was just a job, where he had a unique interest in knowing the habits and study patterns of the students and their abilities. If he saw a dip in what he knew was a student's average grade, he'd say, 'we need to keep an eye on that student, something must be going on with them.'"

Link Welborn, D.V.M., a member of the college's class of '82 and a driving force behind the college alumni council's creation of the James Himes Alumni Scholarship, remembered meeting Himes while a pre-veterinary student in 1977. At that time, Himes was the college's associate dean for students and instruction.

"The period of preparation for veterinary school, and the application and interview process,

(See *HIMES*, p.5)



Pictured in a photo taken sometime in the 1970s are the college's founding faculty members. In front row are Dr. Fred Neal; Dr. Neil Becker; Dr. James Popp; Dr. Martin Young; Dr. Michael Bruss; Dr. Phil Laipis and Dr. Peter McGuire. In back row are Dr. Ron Gronwall; Dr. Donald Forrester; founding dean, Dr. Charles Cornelius; Dr. Jack Gaskin; Dr. John Harvey; Dr. Emerson Besch; Dr. Franklin White; Dr. Jim Himes; Dr. Kenneth Ley; Dr. George Meyerholz; Dr. Pearson Palmore; Dr. George Edds and Dr. Charles Simpson. (Photo from college archives)



From left to right and standing behind Dr. Tom Vickroy, interim associate dean for students and instruction, are members of the students and instruction office: Erin Sanetz, Lynnette Chaparro, Tonie Henry, Dot McColskey, and Dr. Jim Himes. (Photo by Mark Hoffenberg)



Former college Dean Joseph DiPietro; Dr. Jim Himes; Dr. Link Welborn and Dr. Mark Sprayberry at NAVC in 2001 with an oversized check showing the Alumni Council's first contributions to the James Himes Alumni Scholarship Fund. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dr. Link Welborn, class of '82; Dr. Jim Himes; Dr. Geoff Gardner, class of '85; and Dr. Rob Leonard, class of '86, at NAVC in 2008. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dr. Frank Mills holds one of his young daughters while visiting with Dr. Jim Himes at NAVC. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dr. Sandy Accime, class of '04, with Dr. Jim Himes, Sarah Carey and Dr. Colin Burrows at NAVC in 2002. (Photo from college archives)



Shown sharing a light moment during the welcome party at the Florida Natural History Museum for Dean Glen Hoffsis are Dr. Randy Prezzano, class of '00, Dr. Jim Himes and Dr. Destiny Prezzano, class of '05. (Photo by Sarah Carey)

## HIMES, FROM P.3

is a stressful time for every student, and it was no different for me," he said. "However, Dr. Himes' quiet, warm, reassuring manner relieved as much of the anxiety as was possible. He made every student feel as if he cared for them and I'm convinced that he did genuinely care for all of us."

Himes often functioned as a "support group of one" for every veterinary student during their four years of school, Welborn said.

"For many of us, he seemed to magically come up with a \$250 or \$500 scholarship just when we needed it most," he said.

Welborn said the creation of the Himes scholarship came after a suggestion from the college's former dean, Joe DiPietro, to the alumni council about a scholarship fund. The scholarship idea languished a bit, until it was connected to Himes.

"In 1998, it occurred to me that if fundraising was to be successful, we needed to create an emotional attachment to the scholarship," Welborn said. "Naming it to honor Himes was obvious, since he had touched the lives of virtually every alumnus in such a positive way."

Donations from alumni, faculty and staff were predictably generous, Welborn said.

"I had the honor of presenting the first Himes Scholarship of \$1,000 in 2000, and have done so every year since," Welborn said. Because recipients must display the sincere, caring and unselfish attitude associated with Himes, in addition to having financial need, the scholarships are among the most meaningful to be awarded each year, he added.

"It is not uncommon for the recipients to be tearful when they realize they are so well regarded as to be compared to Dr. Himes," Welborn said.

In 2008, the Himes Scholarship reached the \$100,000 threshold needed to qualify for state matching dollars.

Rob Leonard, D.V.M., an '86 graduate, said he remembered Himes as having not just a remarkable memory for names, but about the people attached to those names.

"He would walk into the reception hall at the North American Veterinary Conference and greet you, give you that firm handshake or hug, and make you feel like the most important person in the room," Leonard said. "You could watch him repeat these sincere greetings as he made his way around the room and somehow, you still felt as though to him, you were the most important person there."

He described Himes as someone he will remember as being "the good shepherd" to each class that passed through the college.

"I think we would all agree that Dr. Himes was the consummate goodwill ambassador for our college and profession," Leonard said.

For 12 years, from 1996-2007, Dr. Jim Thompson, who is now dean at the University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine, served as the UF CVM's associate dean for students and instruction.

"I had the great fortune to share Dr. Himes' office home," Thompson said. "It was clear to me that serving our college and students was the major driving purpose in his life. So many students benefited greatly from Dr. Himes watching over and encouraging their efforts to capture the D.V.M. degree. Purpose is a powerful motivator and Dr. Himes had strong life purpose. He will be missed dearly."

Thompson said he remembered a time just before his appointment as associate dean when Himes was housed in an office far from the Office for Students and Instruction.

"It was sad, because all he ever wanted to do was interact with and help students excel in their quests to become veterinarians," Thompson recalled. "He couldn't effectively do that being removed from the office area. His place was in that office and I was pleased when I was appointed that I got the opportunity to get him back where he belonged."

Gail (Overstreet) Cummings, who worked as an administrative assistant in the dean's office for more than 25 years, said when she thinks of Himes she remembers a humble person who always wanted to help the school.

"We had projects that might need someone digging to locate new addresses for alumni and he was willing to spend the time to do that for us as a retired faculty member," said Cummings, who remembered fondly the tradition she and Himes had of taking each other out to lunch on their birthdays.

"He was always there for everyone else, not really worrying about himself," she said.

In lieu of flowers, Himes' family requests that memorial contributions be made to the University of Florida Foundation, James A. Himes Scholarship Fund. People may call the UF Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at (352) 392-2213, ext. 5200, for more information.



Dr. Jim Himes with Dr. Jim Yelvington, class of '81.

(Photo by Sarah Carey)

## Recollecting Dr. Jim Himes

BY EMERSON BESCH, PH.D.

I have many recollections of my friendship with Dr. Jim Himes that began in early 1974. His unpretentious demeanor masked a profound, thoughtful, and substantive individual. One interesting recollection is as follows.

Early in 1981, when I was Acting Dean of the UFCVM, I received a phone call from the former Astronaut, Senator John Glenn of Ohio. He told me that the son of some personal friends had applied for admission to the UFCVM. This family had asked him to inquire about the process of selecting students for interview and admission to our college.

I told Senator Glenn that, as Dean, I was responsible for selecting the veterinary class based on recommendations of the Faculty Admissions Committee. Prior to receiving that recommendation, I did not involve myself in the specifics of any of the applicants or their files. Anyway, student (including applicant) files were confidential and protected under the Buckley Amendment. Senator Glenn told me that the purpose of his call was not to try to influence any applicant's selection, but rather *he wanted to understand the process* by which we selected applicants for interview and eventual admission.

Obviously, Dr. Himes was the one who knew all of the details of the admissions process, and I asked him to come to my office (at the time, his office was across the VMTH entry way from mine). I briefed Dr. Himes as to who was on the phone and the nature of the inquiry.

Dr. Himes took the phone from me and said into the mouthpiece, "Hello John, how are you doing?" Pause. "I am surprised that you did not remember."

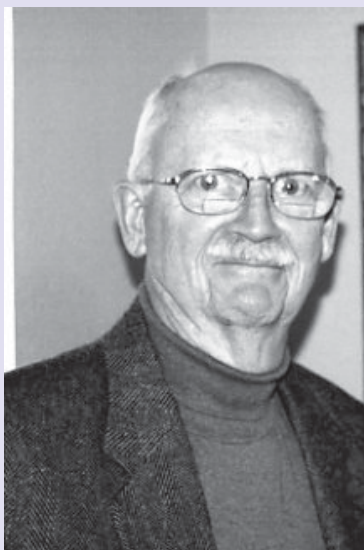
There was more conversation, and Dr. Himes hung up the phone.

As he turned to me, I said, "What was that all about?"

Dr. Himes responded, "John Glenn and I were classmates at Muskingum College in Ohio, and I told him that I was surprised he did not remember me. After he connected my name to that of his former classmate, he said that he did not need any more information about our selection process. He told me that he was going to call his friends and tell them that their son would get fair and equitable treatment from the UFCVM admissions process, because he personally knew the Assistant Dean for Student Services, and he was an honest, sincere, and honorable person."

My response was, "Jim, you never cease to amaze me."

He smiled.



Dr. Emerson Besch

Editor's Note: Dr. Emerson Besch, an emeritus professor of physiology in the college's department of physiological sciences, was a professor of physiology and mechanical engineering at UF from 1974-1993. He served as the UF veterinary college's founding associate dean for academic affairs from 1974-1980 and executive associate dean from 1981-1988. He was acting head of the department of physiological sciences from 1974-76 and acting dean from 1980-81, following founding Dean Charles Cornelius's retirement from the Dean's Office. He was also acting associate dean for research and graduate studies in 1987. Besch and his wife make their home in San Antonio, Texas.

## Farewell to My Friend by Dot McColskey

It must have been a day such as this,  
Maybe it was snow, maybe the mist...

When you were born so long ago...  
But now it's goodbye, amidst the cold.

A strong man, a gentle man, you have always been,  
Through our encounter, you became my friend.

I know you were a dancer, and mischievous, too  
And I'm grateful that I have seen that side of you.

Strange, it seems, I can see your youth,  
And I can see your spirit, and that's the truth.

You worked so very hard all your life,  
You were a man with strong convictions  
for the just, the right.

Hard work, devotion, and purpose, too.  
These qualities describe just an inch of you.

You can be proud of your life's success...  
As a father, mentor, and friend, you were the best.

Though you fought your slumber, she received your smile,  
Even at the end my friend, you went the extra mile.

It soothes my heart in some small way,  
That I was with you at the end when you slipped away.

And so on this mid-winter's night  
I bid farewell to an inspiration, a friend,  
and my shining knight

I thank you, Sir, for touching my life.

Editor's Note: This poem was written by Dot McColskey, a longtime coworker of Dr. Himes from the Office for Students and Instruction. McColskey read the poem during a candlelight vigil held immediately following the memorial service.

## Veterinary Education & Clinical Research Center



An architect's rendering of what the new building will look like.



Dr. Stephen Shores, Gainesville practitioner and Florida Veterinary Medical Association representative; Dr. Richard Carpenter of the Caloosa Veterinary Society; and Dr. Mike Endrizzi of Pfizer Animal Health were among the guests.  
(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dr. Joe DiPietro, vice president of agricultural affairs at the University of Tennessee and former UF CVM college dean, returned to Gainesville for the groundbreaking ceremony. He is pictured here with Dr. Colin Burrows, chairman of the department of small animal clinical sciences, and Dr. Dale Kaplan-Stein, a CVM donor and alumna from the class of 1981.  
(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Members of the architectural team Ziedler and Associates were among the guests.  
(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dr. Jay Dutton, a donor and a member of the class of '98, and Dr. Kris Cooke, an associate professor of small animal medicine.  
(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dr. Kristin Kirkby, a graduate student and a member of the college's class of 2003, is joined by Victoria Ford. Ford has been a generous contributor in support of the new small animal rehabilitation center, a program Kirkby is now coordinating.  
(Photo by Sarah Carey)

Dean Glen Hoffsis and the CVM Administration wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!



Following the ceremony, college dean Glen Hoffsis and senior director of development and alumni affairs Karen Hickok, joined special guests representing the estates of Harriet and Robin Weeks for lunch. The group returned to the dean's office, where they are pictured here. From left to right are: Dean Glen Hoffsis, Karen Legato, Stephen (Rusty) Whitley, an estate trustee; attorney Sandy Rief (Weeks attorney) and estate trustee Robert Richardson. The Weekses estate gifts put the small animal hospital fundraising effort over the top in private donations needed to qualify for matching state dollars.  
(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dean's office employees Jo Ann Winn, Genevieve Mendoza Perez, Rachel McGriff, Katherine Desmond and Sylvia Jackson worked to make the event possible.  
(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Veterinary student Caty Love and student ambassador Shannon McDonald, both from the class of 2011.  
(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dr. John Dame, chairman of the college's department of infectious diseases and pathology, Dr. Mark Pridgeon, a member of the class of '99, and Dr. Paul Nicoletti, professor emeritus of infectious diseases, visit during the groundbreaking event.  
(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dr. Julio Ibanez, a longtime college supporter, previous alumni council president and member of the Charter Class of '80, drove to Gainesville from Miami with his wife, Maria, for the event.  
(Photo by Sarah Carey)



Small animal hospital manager Sheri Holloway and client services manager Dieter Haager.  
(Photo by Sarah Carey)