

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



Newly engaged CVM graduate Ben Nevitt, '09, and his fiancée, Cassie Becker, at the senior awards banquet May 22. For more photos, see p. 4-5.

New CVM graduates celebrate completion of program, look to bright futures

BY SARAH CAREY

Eighty-four members of the UF CVM's class of 2009 tipped their cap tassels to the left May 23 as they recalled their shared history as classmates and celebrated their futures as veterinarians.

Although the commencement speaker selected by the class to address them -- Dr. Kevin Anderson -- wasn't able to appear due to last-minute illness, his remarks were read in full by Dr. Dan Martin, chairman of the college Alumni Council.

Among the gems from that speech were Anderson's reflections on what their "old anatomy professor" could possibly offer the class in the way of advice or recommendations. For starters, "Never cut an artery with a short name," such as aorta, renal, carotid, or hepatic, he began.

Anderson also told the class not to miss out on the many opportunities they would now have to mentor impressionable middle school, high school and college undergraduates who would soon be knocking at their door begging for experience.

"Don't ignore this chance to help them along the way," he said, adding that he would not be where he is today without the guidance and mentorship of two individuals who gave him "a love of anatomy and teaching... and opened up the fascinating world of neuroscience research."

Anderson offered this maxim to the new graduates: "Eat Your Dessert First."

"I used to think this meant that you should eat your dessert first so that if you die during the main course, well, at least you had your dessert," he said. "I now think of it in a slightly different way. A lot of people don't have fun in their lives because they are constantly feeling the need to get every last item on their 'to do' list done before turning to something they truly enjoy.

"Sometimes it seems like the list is endless and there is always just one more thing to complete," he added. "I think that some of this is driven by our culture; even in childhood, we were taught to wait until we finished our meal before we move to the yummy part: dessert.

"So what I am suggesting to you is to eat your dessert first, or in the middle, but not always last," Anderson said. "In other words, make some time for something fun to do in the day. Take a walk, do a crossword, maybe ride your bike."

Finally, Anderson's speech alluded to YouTube videos of "The Last Lecture" by Dr. Randy Pausch, a Carnegie Mellon University professor who was dying of pancreatic cancer and had only months to live.

"It was a very powerful and moving lecture and I only want to cherry-pick a few of his messages that I want to pass on to you in no particular order," Anderson said.

The first message was to take responsibility for mistakes. "A good apology should have three parts: I'm sorry, I made a mistake and how do I make it right," he said.

The second was to have a sense of fun and wonder; in other words, "eat your dessert first." Finally, show gratitude and thank those who helped you get where you are today.

"If you live your life right, your dreams and good karma will come to you," Anderson said.

College dean Glen Hoffsis also addressed the new graduates, wishing them luck and telling them the world has never needed veterinary medicine more than it does right now.

"The opportunities are unlimited with a multitude of career choices, and an improving economic base for the profession," he said. "You also have relative freedom to pursue your passion with fewer constraints in the form of managed care and regulation than any other health profession."

He added, "A great scholar once commented, 'You cannot do anything FOR anyone; all you can do is give them an opportunity to do something for themselves.' We provided opportunities and a nudge now and then and you accumulated knowledge. You deserve to feel a strong sense of satisfaction and pride."

He urged the class, "Go ahead and swagger around for a few days; you have earned it."

Hoffsis said he hoped the class would stay connected with the college and participate in its events.

"There are a lot of great times in store for you and all you have to do is avoid life's mine fields," he said. "Try to maintain a work/life balance and don't forget to have some fun along life's journey."

Alumni Council chairman Martin presented the 2009 Distinguished Awards, which went to Dr. Julio Ibanez, '80, and Dr. Dale Kaplan-Stein, '81, for Alumni Achievement; Dr. Jerome Modell for Special Service and Dr. Louis Archbald for Distinguished Service. Dr. Tonya Clauss, '03, received the Young Alumni Award but was unable to be present at the ceremony.



Maggie Machen, '09, is shown with her father, UF President Bernie Machen and family friend Dr. Dale Kaplan-Stein, who also received the college's 2009 Alumni Achievement award. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Kristen Ramella, '09; Dawn Keenan, '09; and Dr. Natalie Isaza. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Chetica Maus, '09, helps adjust classmate Laura Baldwin's robe prior to the commencement ceremony. (Photo by Sarah Carey)

Making tracks

AquakidsTV visits UF for filmshoot



Shown above are members of the AquakidsTV crew near the underwater treadmill with Dr. Kristin Kirkby, director of the small animal rehabilitation program (center, with her dog, Bailey) and veterinary technician Wendy Davies (fourth from right) following a videoshoot on May 20.

The crew visited Florida May 18-21 to film several episodes of upcoming shows, all of which will feature UF College of Veterinary Medicine faculty. In addition to the underwater treadmill segment, which will be part of an episode on rehabilitation therapy, filming venues included Clearwater Marine Aquarium, the Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory in Ruskin and Santa Fe Teaching Zoo. The air date of the filmed segments is not yet known.

Students helping the homeless through SCAVMA fundraisers



The Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Association has raised nearly \$1,500 this year in two separate fundraisers to benefit St. Francis House. Most recently, SCAVMA sponsored a social at Sharab's Lounge, garnering \$775. Attending were faculty, staff and students from the colleges of dentistry and medicine, as well as from the UF CVM.

Shown from left to right in the photo are Anna Edwards; Drew Scarborough, class of 2010, who also is the Fort Dodge student representative and FVMA's student representative; Charli Jane Walrond, class of 2010; Lillian Danzy; Vanessa Williams; Lee Smith; and Samantha Holden. Edwards, Danzy, Williams, Smith and Holden are all staff members at St. Francis House.

Dr. Amy Stone is College Council Teacher of the Year



Dr. Amy Stone

Amy Stone, D.V.M., Ph.D., a clinical assistant professor in the department of small animal clinical sciences, has been named the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine's 2009 College Council Teacher of the Year.

The council annually selects an outstanding teacher to receive the designation, based on criteria including knowledge of subject matter, clarity of presentation, concern for students' mastery of subject, fairness, enthusiasm for teaching and overall interest in student welfare. The winner receives \$2,000 and a plaque.

"I really enjoy watching the light come on when students understand new concepts."

— Dr. Amy Stone

Stone received her veterinary and doctoral degrees from UF in 1999 and 2002, respectively. She also conducted post-doctoral training in vaccine and mucosal immunology at UF. She presently serves as chief of the outpatient medicine and dentistry service at UF's Veterinary Medical Center.

Proir to joining UF's small animal faculty in 2006, Stone worked as a relief veterinarian for several practices in the Alachua County area, as well as for the UF veterinary college. She received the Florida Veterinary Medical Association's Gold Star Award for Service in 2004 and in 2008, and has served as secretary-treasurer of the Alachua County Veterinary Medical Association since 2000.

She recently received the prestigious 2009 Pfizer Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

"I feel that it is my job to try to give students the tools to make good veterinary decisions and the confidence to follow those decisions through," Stone said. "I really enjoy watching the light come on when students understand new concepts. It is very rewarding to hear of their accomplishments and feel proud of what they have done."

Veterinary anesthesiologist wins Davis Productivity Award for creative approaches to VMC cost savings



Dr. James Bailey, center, assistant professor of anesthesiology, stands with Michael Gracy of Prudential and Brian Bowen of AvMed during an award presentation held June 9.

Dr. James Bailey, an assistant professor of veterinary anesthesiology at the UF CVM, has received the Prudential-Davis Productivity Award for his cost-savings ideas relating to the VMC's anesthesiology service.

Since 1989, this program has publicly recognized and rewarded state employees and work units whose work significantly and measurably increases productivity and promotes innovation to improve state services and save state and taxpayer money.

The 2009 competition attracted 568 nominations for government innovations and productivity improvements worth \$342 million in cost savings and increased revenue. The University of Florida had two team winners and two individual winners, of which Bailey was one.

Discovery highlight

Kevin Anderson, associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology in the college's department of physiological sciences, and his colleagues have investigated biomarkers circulating in the blood that will allow detection of brain damage after traumatic head injury.

The detection of neuron-specific proteins in blood may also allow clinicians to determine the degree of traumatic brain injury in experimental and clinical conditions. Anderson and his colleagues studied a novel blood biomarker of nerve fiber injury, the heavily phosphorylated axonal form of the high molecular weight neurofilament subunit NF-H (pNF-H).

In this research report, the researchers tested for the presence and amount of this protein released from damaged and degenerating neurons following experimental traumatic brain injury (TBI). They used an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) capable of detecting extremely small amounts of pNF-H in the blood of rats after the experiment. Their assay detected the presence of pNF-H as early as six hours post-injury and the levels peaked at 24-48 hours post-injury followed by a slow decrease to baseline over several days.

They also found a direct relationship between TBI severity and levels of blood pNF-H.

This study provides important new findings that the measurement of blood levels of pNF-H is a convenient blood method for detecting the presence and severity of TBI.

Anderson K.J., Scheff S.W., Miller K.M., Roberts K.N., Gilmer L.K., Yang C., Shaw G.J. 2008: The phosphorylated axonal form of the neurofilament subunit NF-H (pNF-H) as a blood biomarker of traumatic brain injury. *Journal of Neurotrauma*, 25(9):1079-85.



Dr. Kevin Anderson

VETS team members train ASPCA group in fine points of disaster rescue during three-day technical rescue course



UF VETS team assistant instructor David John, left in blue shirt, supervises while members of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' disaster response team prepare to be lowered down a sinkhole in this mock rescue exercise held June 7 as part of a three-day technical rescue course offered by UF.



Secured by rescue lines and belays, members of the ASPCA disaster response team are manually lowered down a sink hole in High Springs by their teammates, who were using a mechanical advantage system. This exercise was one of several performed by the group, which also learned knot-tying techniques and other logistical skills.

The Veterinary Page is the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's internal electronic newsletter. Please submit story ideas to Sarah Carey, editor, via e-mail at careysk@vetmed.ufl.edu or by phone by calling 392-2213, ext. 5206.

More photos of the Class of 2009 from commencement and the senior awards banquet, shot by Dr. William Castleman, are posted at: http://www.wlcastleman.com/ufvetmed/cvmgrad_09/index.htm



Tiffany Newsome, '09; Nicole Kennedy, '09; and Jennifer Miller, '09. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Distinguished Award winners for 2009: In front, Dr. Dale Kaplan-Stein, Alumni Achievement; in rear, left to right, Dr. Jerome Modell; Special Service; Dr. Julio Ibanez, Alumni Achievement; and Dr. Louis Archbald, Distinguished Service. Not pictured is Dr. Tonya Clauss, who received the Young Alumni Award. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Penny Iliff, '09, and Jennifer Bier, '09, are shown after getting into their gowns. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dr. Colin Burrows and Dr. John Harvey prepare to don their regalia. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Stephanie Liff, '09, Erica Rosen, '09, Gretchen Sutton, '09, and Candice Managanaro, '09 are more than ready to get the graduation show on the road. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



James Ward, '09, Andrew Simpson, '09, Erin Brearley, '09, Holly Gans, '09, and Taylor Ohman, '09, pose for the camera a few minutes before lining up to march. Photo by Sarah Carey)



Congratulations to the class of 2009!



Steve Tutela, '09, and Jessica Stine, '09, are shown shortly after their arrival at the Gainesville Hilton. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Valedictorian Jen Owen, '09, and her husband, Shawn Gray, at their table before dinner. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Senior class president Meriam Molstad, '09, and her friend, Jennifer Trombley, at their table during the senior award banquet. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Tina Batlivala, '09, and her family pose for a photo prior to entering the dining room. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Gina Ushi, '09, and her fiance, Maurice Phillips, at their table. (Photo by Sarah Carey)



Dr. Kevin Anderson and James Steeil, '09, greet each other shortly after arriving at the hotel. (Photo by Sarah Carey)