



# AESCULAPIAN

For And About Alumni And Friends Of The UGA College Of Veterinary Medicine • Fall 2001

## Skill, teamwork save severely burned dog

More than 10 veterinarians, 20 veterinary students, and 25 members of the Hospital nursing staff at the College recently treated Honey, a one- or two-year old mutt that was doused with gasoline and set on fire by a 17-year old Atlanta boy.

Honey was first taken to the Atlanta Humane Society, but she was admitted to the Hospital because workers recognized her need for extensive specialized care and reconstructive surgery.

When she arrived on May 16, Honey's burns were so painful she was trembling and could not sit. She had extensive wounds on her abdomen, the inside of her back legs, her side, front leg, and ears. Because more than 10 percent of her body was badly burned, her initial prognosis was guarded to poor.

Members of Honey's treatment team anesthetized her daily to proceed painlessly with the hour-long process of removing burned, dead skin, as well as cleaning and re-bandaging her wounds.

"Her first days were very challenging because so much tissue had to be taken off," said Dr. Sheila Allen, professor of surgery and associate dean for academic affairs.

Honey also had four bacterial infections. Her wounds were five days old when she arrived at the College, so the infections were "grotesque," according to Dr.



*Honey makes her triumphant return by leading the Pet Parade at Six Flags Over Georgia, an annual fund-raising event for the Atlanta Humane Society. Vanessa Dodson, one of the students who cared for Honey while she was in our hospital, walked proudly at the other end of the leash. More than 1,000 people attended the event.*

Branson Ritchie, professor, small animal medicine.

Ritchie and Dr. Richard Wooley, professor, medical microbiology and parasitology, helped manage Honey's topical wounds. To facilitate the debridement process, they applied an experimental compound on her

wounds daily, eliminating the foreign organisms after about three days.

The dog was also given blood and plasma transfusions.

Since she was too traumatized to eat properly, Honey was fed through a gastrostomy tube inserted the day *Continued Page 2...*

## Diagnostic lab is now housed in new, modern building



*"This is really a glorious day – it's a day that people in the Athens Diagnostic Laboratory have been waiting for a long time," said Dr. Doris Miller at the dedication of the new laboratory in August. "It was a long time coming, but we're going to enjoy it and use it to provide the best service we can for the veterinarians and other clients here in the state of Georgia."*

"The Athens Diagnostic Laboratory has come a long way since it consisted of one faculty member back in 1972," said Dr. Doris Miller, director of the laboratory, at its dedication on August 31. "We are now one of the leading laboratory facilities, along with our sister laboratory in Tifton."

The laboratory is now located in a new three story, \$6.3 million brick building, which houses a staff of 21 veterinarians, along with computers and laboratory equipment used to provide comprehensive diagnostic services.

The full-service accredited laboratory performs a wide variety of tests to help practicing veterinarians and clinicians at the College diagnose and prevent diseases, determine cause of death, and advance research.

The specially designed air flow and filters in the building enable veterinarians to work safely with all

types of infectious disease organisms. The building is designed efficiently to allow laboratory space to be shared and easily reconfigured to accommodate changes in personnel and activities.

Animal disease diagnosis and surveillance are missions assigned to the College by the Georgia Department of Agriculture under contract with the University System Board of Regents.

Providing surveillance information to state regulatory agencies about reportable diseases and diseases with public health importance is an important part of the laboratory's function.

"Both diagnostic laboratories are critical elements in the region's surveillance for emerging and re-emerging diseases," says Dean Keith W. Prasse.

Scientists at the laboratory can test for viruses, bacteria, parasites, *Continued Page 2...*

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## Faculty members author book on skin diseases

Professor Linda Medleau and former Assistant Professor Keith Hnilica are authors of a concise therapeutic reference guide about dermatological disorders in small animals.

With over 360 pages and 795 color photographs, *Small Animal Dermatology: A Color Atlas and Therapeutic Guide* aims to expedite diagnosis and treatment of skin conditions by offering succinct summaries of 200 diseases and explaining how to diagnose and treat them.

"This book is very complete, very concise, and very easy to use, especially for a practitioner who doesn't have a lot of time to read," says Medleau. "Other texts are thorough but don't have pictures and concise diagnoses and treatments."

The guide includes 17 chapters on topics such as bacterial, fungal, parasitic, and autoimmune skin diseases; hypersensitivity disorders; and pigmentary abnormalities.

The text also has appendices listing the names and manufacturers of all drugs mentioned in the book.

Medleau spent two years writing the text in Braille, while Hnilica selected the photographs. "He was very picky about using only the best pictures," says Medleau.

"This book is so good, I use it!"

Published in April 2001 for the first time, the guide costs \$89 and is a companion text to Muller and Kirk's *Small Animal Dermatology*.

## Diagnostic lab

...Continued From Page 1

toxins, and other disease-causing agents. Surveillance against mad cow disease is ongoing.

Faculty at the laboratory also teach courses and interact with veterinary students in various ways. Senior students gain experience in diagnostics during their pathology rotations in the laboratory, while those interested in research can take part in research projects.

Funding for the laboratory comes from the Georgia Department of Agriculture, with additional support for utilities and maintenance provided by the University of Georgia.



President Michael F. Adams (l.) takes an admiring look around on a tour of the new Athens Diagnostic Lab while a delighted Dean Keith W. Prasse looks on.

## College hosts future researchers



Relaxing at the Symposium banquet are Dr. Gerry Hickey, from Merck Company Foundation (2nd from left), Dr. Susan Little, College of Veterinary Medicine associate professor and conference co-coordinator (3rd from right), and Dr. Roberto Alvarez, from Merial Limited (2nd from right), flanked by student participants.

About 150 veterinary medical students and faculty from 18 colleges across the country attended a symposium designed to interest students in a research career.

"The College is becoming a leader in involving future veterinarians in biomedical research on a national scale," said conference co-coordinator Dr. Susan Little.

All the students who attended — including nine students from our College — had taken a 12-week sum-

mer program sponsored by Merck-Merial to increase their exposure and experience in biomedical research.

"This is an historic event because it's the first symposium ever to be held specifically for research veterinarians," says Dr. Harry Dickerson, Associate Dean for Research.

Students shared ideas and presented their research during poster sessions at this first annual national Merck-Merial Scholar Symposium on August 3 and 4.

Keynote speakers were Drs. Nancy and Jerry Jaax, whose ebola virus research inspired the book *Hot Zone* and the movie "Outbreak." Other speakers described their research careers in public health, industry, and academia.

"We've set a standard for other symposiums to follow," said Dr. Scott Brown, conference co-coordinator. "Everyone really enjoyed it and wants to do it again."

## Skill, teamwork saves dog

...Continued From Page 1

she arrived at the College.

Two weeks after she was admitted, Honey was healthy enough to undergo split-thickness skin graft surgery.

Seven surgeons divided into three teams removed superficial layers of healthy skin, stretched them into net-like sheets on a dermatome, and placed the thin layers of skin on her open wounds.

Though the skin will never grow fur, the surgery proved to be a resounding success—virtually 100% of the grafts were quickly accepted by her wounds.

The three days following the surgery were another challenging period, according to Allen. But her caregivers were astounded at Honey's spirit. As tortured as she was, Honey was a trouper.

"It's amazing that she continues to be so trusting," says Dr. Katie Diehl, a member of Honey's team.

After the critical phase of one and a half weeks after surgery, she became more active and outgoing. Three weeks after her surgery, Honey was chasing squirrels on the hospital grounds, an indication that her transition from abused animal in precarious health to normal dog was complete.

At a press conference held June 16



A recovering Honey poses for the TV camera, flanked by Dr. Sheila Allen (l.) and Jennifer Harrington, a 4th year student.

at the College, Honey was returned to the Humane Society and adopted by an Atlanta family chosen by the Society from the hundreds who offered to give her a loving home.

"We were sorry that she was injured, but we were glad we were able to help her," says Ritchie. "If there's anything positive about her burns, it's that what we learned from her may help other dogs and human burn victims."

While Honey's attitude may have helped her survive, "there is no question that the doctors and nurses who cared for her around the clock saved her life," says Allen.

## Who's who in the hospital?

A directory of faculty, residents, and interns who offer clinical services in our veterinary hospital will soon be distributed to referring veterinarians and veterinarians who are clients of the College's diagnostic laboratories.

If you would like to receive a copy of the directory — and if you don't receive a copy by November 15 — please contact Dot Sparer, dsparer@vet.uga.edu.



## Student helps fight FMD outbreak in UK

David Hardy, a third year veterinary student, embarked on a 4 week mission of mercy to the UK last spring to help farmers and veterinarians fight their foot and mouth disease outbreak in sheep and cattle.

Hardy, 24, was the first and only student from the United States sent by the USDA to join a team of 15 veterinarians who helped their British counterparts examine herds and euthanize infected animals.

The USDA sent teams of 15 volunteer veterinarians to English farms every week to help halt the epidemic.

"My job was to take blood samples from sheep to see if they had antibodies to the virus," Hardy reports. Working on 10 farms in and near Newcastle upon Tyne, he was also responsible for making maps and euthanizing lambs.

Everything Hardy wore or used had to be disposable or washable. He wore disposable clothes under slickers that could be hosed down with disinfectant, and got his instructions from a book with laminated pages which could also be disinfected.

He came home with photos taken with a waterproof camera that could be hosed with disinfectant, and left behind in a biohazard bag all the clothes and boots he wore during his stay.

"I was pretty amazed at how compliant farmers were," Hardy says. "They knew we were coming and what we had to do, but there was no



*Third year student David Hardy who helped fight the FMD outbreak in the UK with Professor Corrie Brown, director of the College's International Program.*

resistance."

"I've seen foot and mouth disease now and I'm one of the few in the United States who has", he says. "The trip exposed me to another culture and showed me how they handle the disease over there, but it's a shame that we had to kill all those animals."

Hardy was chosen for the mission from a group of 10 CVM students who were asked to write a brief essay describing what they hoped to accomplish.

Dr. Corrie Brown, professor of pathology and head of the College's

international program, forwarded their essays to USDA officials who made the choice.

Brown also was responsible for persuading USDA officials to let a student join the professional team.

For details about Hardy's trip, see his website at [www.vet.uga.edu/vpp/IA/Students/DH/index.htm](http://www.vet.uga.edu/vpp/IA/Students/DH/index.htm).

## Continuing education programs

**Diagnosis & Treatment of Ear Diseases in Dogs & Cats:** November 3-4, 2001

**Psychopharmacology for Veterinarians: Knowing Which Drug to Use and How to Use It:** November 17-18, 2001

**Treating Cancer in Small Animals:** December 1-2, 2001

**Exotic Animal Symposium:** February 3, 2002

**Small Animal Ophthalmology:** March 9-10, 2002

**External Skeletal Fixation:** March 24-26, 2002

**39th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Reunion:** April 12-14, 2002

**Introductory Soft Tissue Rigid Endoscopy:** June 28-29, 2002

**Arthroscopy:** June 30, 2002

**Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery:** July 1, 2002

**Canine Health Symposium:** August 3, 2002

**Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory:** August 18, 2002

For more information, contact: Dr. Bruce Hollett, Director, Continuing Education, 706/542-1451, [bhollett@calc.vet.uga.edu](mailto:bhollett@calc.vet.uga.edu)

## 39th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Reunion April 12-14, 2002



We'll be honoring the classes of 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, and 1997.

Come celebrate with us!

## Oldest CVM alum celebrates his 100th birthday

On June 22, George Thomas Adair, Class of 1931, was honored on his 100th birthday by the citizens of White County for humanitarian acts, veterinary service, and community involvement.

Adair moved to Cleveland, Georgia 65 years ago after graduating from what was then the Division of Veterinary Medicine in the College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts at the University of Georgia. He was one of 67 men who graduated from the division — a precursor of the College of Veterinary Medicine — from 1921 to 1933.

His veterinary career spanned 45 years, from 1935 to 1976. In the early years, Adair was the only veterinarian in a seven county area that had no telephone lines. "Patients had to come get me," Adair remembers, "day, night, whenever."

After making calls for ten years in a Plymouth convertible, he bought one of the first jeeps in the county — a jeep with no top. Clad in a rain suit, "I could Drive in the hardest rain and not get wet," Adair says.

These days he spends most of his time at home reading through his collection of National Geographics — a collection which began 65 years ago.

(This article is based on an interview by Clay Wilson in the White County NewsTelegraph)



*George Thomas Adair, DVM, Class of 1931*

## Come see us and park here



*The new Carlton Street parking deck can accommodate about 800 cars.*

Although the Carlton Street parking deck is not a cure-all for parking problems, the new facility is making life a little easier for CVM personnel and visitors.

Located behind Stegeman Coliseum, the deck is open 24/7 and provides about 800 parking spaces.

Parking fees are \$2 for the first hour and \$1 for each additional hour,

with a maximum charge of \$8 per day. During football games, fans can park cars—but not RV's—in the deck for \$10. RV owners can park on the adjacent surface lot free of charge.

The deck was completed in August at a cost of \$9.25 million.

## Hospital improves parking, waiting area

The din of hammers and heavy construction equipment can be heard these days in the parking lot and the waiting area of the Small Animal Hospital. Significant improvements are under way both inside and outside the hospital to make it more accessible and comfortable for clients.

"Since we're a service oriented part of the College, our job is to do what we can to accommodate our clients," says Ron Stewart, hospital administrator.

The parking lot now holds 36 cars — almost twice as many as

were previously available. Workers are also busy installing electric gates to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the lot.

At the end of their visit, the hospital cashier will give clients a token to open the gate and allow them to pass through. Gates will be open nights and weekends for emergencies, but will be closed for football games.

Renovations inside the Hospital will result in a more spacious, more attractive waiting area with comfortable furniture and a more accessible reception desk. The room's

increased size also will allow clients to keep their pets at a greater distance from other animals in the room.

*Progress can be noisy and messy, but patients and staff will benefit from the outcome.*



## Security system protects patients and personnel

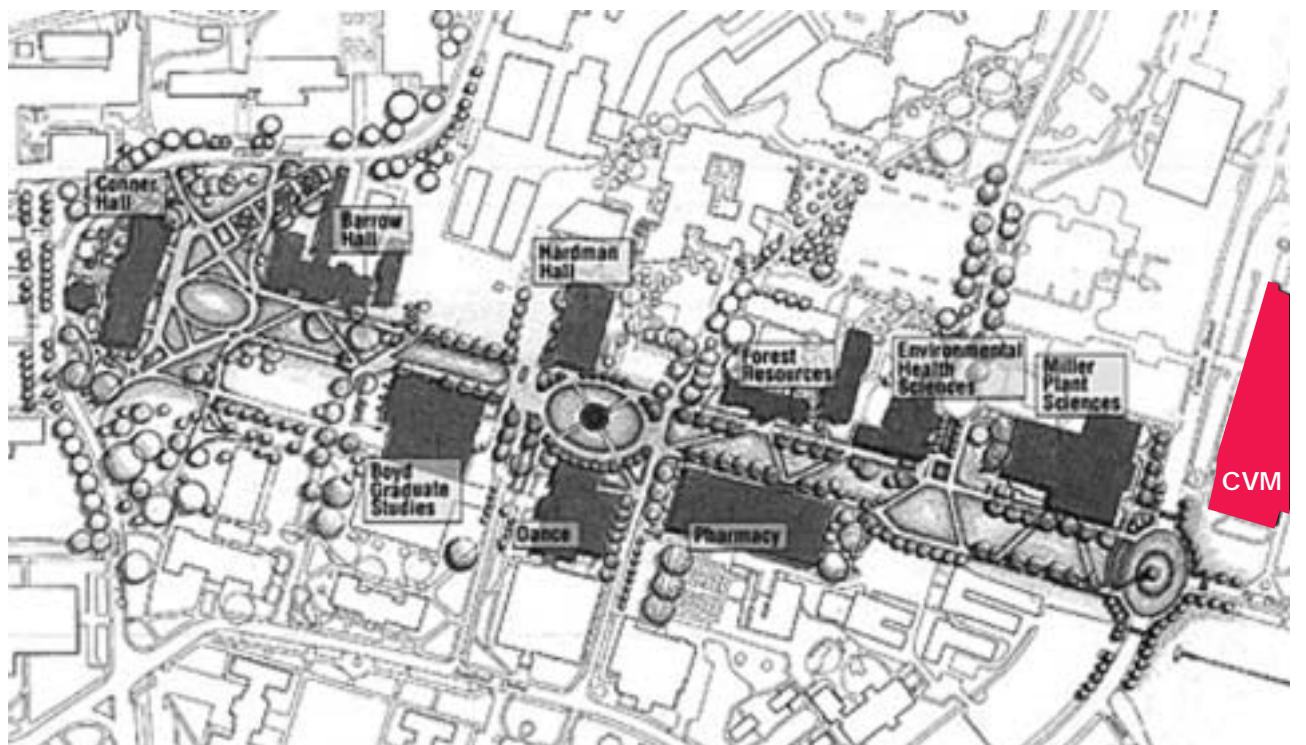
Visitors and College personnel will be able to come and go during normal business hours just as they always have, but the College's new security system will add an extra measure of safety to all who work in or visit the main building.

Handsome new mahogany doors will be the only change alums see when they come back for Homecoming or the Annual Reunion. But before 6am and after 6pm, key cards will be required to open outside doors when the system is completed next January.

The building's exterior doors and some interior doors will be controlled by computer to enable administrators to determine when they should be open or locked.

The system also allows administrators to determine whose key card can open which doors at any given time, according to Paula Tolbert, assistant to the Dean. Only authorized persons will have key cards allowing them to come in after hours or to enter labs and other areas that are off limits to the general public.

## Brooks Drive: For pedestrians only



*The view from College windows will soon look out on fountains and trees.*

In four years, the stretch of campus from Conner Hall to Plant Sciences — across Carlton street from the Small Animal Hospital — will be an aesthetic green space complete with wide sidewalks, open grassy areas, fountains, trees, terraces, and an amphitheater.

Everything except cars. The

College and Hospital will benefit by being situated right next to a park-like area.

Begun July 1, the \$4 million project will not affect football traffic this season. But once Brooks Drive is closed in December, Sanford Drive will become a two way road.

Parts of Brooks Drive will be

opened for parking and tailgating as they are completed.

The project is part of the University's physical master plan to improve the appearance of South Campus and give it the visual appeal of North Campus.

## Media spotlights West Nile Virus

Since the discovery of West Nile virus in Georgia, researchers at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study have been inundated with dead birds suspected of carrying the virus.

They've also been barraged with media attention.

The first infected bird, a crow found in Lowndes County, was diagnosed in the SCWDS labs on July 16. Since then, assistant research scientist Dr. Danny Mead and his coworkers have been working at capacity.

On July 23rd alone, over 60 birds were tested for the virus.

"The map is going to change daily from here on out on the West Nile virus. We're going to see more positive birds," says Mead.

Crews from television and radio stations in and around Atlanta have been frequent visitors to the SCWDS labs, along with newspaper



*TV cameramen showed an irresistible interest in the work of research scientists at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study who are testing birds for West Nile virus.*

reporters. Stories about SCWDS involvement in tracking the virus were written and broadcast all over the state numerous times.

While the enthusiasm of reporters sometimes threatened to interfere with the staff's work, their articles and newscasts helped alert

Georgians to the presence of the virus in birds and educated the public about the need for caution rather than fear.

## Pledges to improve poultry health

Pledges of \$225,000 and \$250,000 to endow the Caswell S. Eidson Eminent Scholar position and expand facilities at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center were made by Lohmann Animal Health International and Aviagen N.A. respectively last July.

These pledges move the College

closer to a goal of \$7.65 million in private and public monies to fund the Global Avian Health Initiative, an effort dedicated to improving poultry health worldwide.

The eminent scholar position is named for Dr. Caswell S. Eidson, a faculty member at the College for more

than 20 years, who conducted research leading to the development of a vaccine for Marek's disease, and made significant contributions to the control of Newcastle disease, infectious bursal disease, and infectious tenosynovitis.

## Pathologists perform first gorilla necropsy



*A team of students prepares to necropsy a silverback gorilla – a first for the students as well as the hospital.*

Pathologist Dr. Corrie Brown and a team of students and residents necropsied Carlos, a 280-pound gorilla, who died recently of a liver disease at the Atlanta zoo in spite of the best efforts of zoo veterinarians.

The necropsy — a first for the hospital — followed strict guidelines for examining the 31-year old gorilla since silverbacks are an endangered species. Special precautions also had to be taken because humans can contract many of the same diseases as gorillas.

In addition to the usual necropsy procedures, the gorilla's aorta received careful scrutiny since apes sometimes suffer aortic aneurysms.

The gorilla's liver turned out to be too damaged to have been treated successfully. "The poor guy had a huge liver abscess," said Brown. "We're trying to determine now what the cause was."



*Aviagen N.A. and Lohmann Animal Health International have supported the Global Avian Health Initiative with pledges totaling almost half a million dollars. Shown presenting a check from Lohmann is Dr. Dave Zacek, president (center). Standing by are Dr. Hiram Lasher (l.), Dr. Chuck Hofacre of PDRC, Dean Keith W. Prasse, and Dr. Stan Kleven, director of PDRC.*

## Limited edition print

Jill Leite's original watercolors and fine art prints are collected by University officials, faculty, and generations of alumni.

This finely detailed print edition of the College of Veterinary Medicine is limited to 950 prints and is individually signed and numbered by the artist.

Superior craftsmanship and the finest materials preserve this historic scene, which is offered double matted and framed, to complement the home or office. A history of the College of Veterinary Medicine is included.

The artist is officially licensed by the University of Georgia. Fifteen percent from the sales of this print will be donated to the UGA Foundation for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

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## The Presidents Club Founding Members

These alumni and friends on the College joined the President's Club during the first 25 years of its existence. Founding members supported the College with a pledge of at least \$10,000 over a 10-year period or a commitment of at least \$25,000 through a planned or deferred gift.

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Donors who have included the UGA Foundation for the College of Veterinary Medicine in their estate plan.

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 Gene Wyatt

## Gift will provide scholarship for outstanding student

A gift of \$100,000 was made to the University of Georgia Foundation for the College to create a scholarship fund. The donation was made by Dr. Donald W. McMillan, Class of '59, and Mildred Sharkey, co-executors of the will of Bobby Lester Johnson.

According to the scholarship agreement, the purpose of the gift is to "provide a scholarship for an incoming first year student with strong academic qualifications." The scholarship is renewable each year contingent upon the student's success.



*Dr. Donald W. McMillan, Class of '59 (r.) and Mildred Sharkey present a check for a scholarship fund to Dean Keith W. Prasse.*



*A visiting student from Kitasato University in Japan, Hiroko Hareyama listens to an explanation of a procedure on a bull by Dr. Andrew Parks. Hareyama was one of 12 exchange students who came with a professor on August 25 to spend two weeks studying at the College.*

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## GVMA chooses Black as Veterinarian of the Year

Dr. C. Carter Black, III, Class of '68, was named Veterinarian of the Year by the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association for his outstanding service to the profession and the state.

He joined the Georgia Department of Agriculture as assistant state veterinarian in 1984 while still in practice.

Five years later, Commissioner Tommy Irvin appointed him associate state veterinarian to oversee the statewide livestock animal health problems.

Under Black's leadership, Georgia has become free of cattle brucellosis, swine brucellosis and pseudorabies.

In 1996, he took a leadership role in supervising the movement, testing, and quarantine of horses involved in the Olympic Games.



*Dr. C. Carter Black, III, Class of 1968, receives his award from former GVMA president Dr. Doris Miller.*

## Blackmon is named Lifetime Achiever



*Dr. Dilmus Blackmon, Class of 1956*

Dr. Dilmus Blackmon, Class of 1956, received the J.T. Mercer Lifetime Achievement Award at the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association annual convention last June.

The award — the most prestigious honor given by the GVMA — is bestowed on the association member who personifies exemplary leadership and service in the veterinary profession.

The first award was made to Dr. J.T. Mercer shortly before his death in

May 2000. "When Dr. Mercer got the award, I said, Well, if you have to do everything J.T. has done, they won't have to present it very often," Blackmon joked.

Blackmon came to the College in 1963 as an assistant professor and rose in the ranks to become head of the Large Animal Department 22 years later.

He was previously honored with the College's Outstanding Faculty Award and the Distinguished Alumnus Award, as well as the Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Teacher Award.

## Faculty Honors

**Dr. Delmar Finco, Professor, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology**, received the 2001 Robert W. Kirk Distinguished Service Award for outstanding achievement and dedicated service to the Veterinary profession and to the specialty of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

**Dr. John Maurer, Associate Professor, Avian Medicine**, was the 2001 recipient of the John M. Bowen Award for Excellence in Animal/Biomedical Research.

**Dr. Linda Medleau, Professor, Small Animal Medicine**, was chosen to be a mentor by the Lilly Teaching Fellows Program, which is a distinctive teaching honor.

**Dr. Fred Quinn** on November 1, 2001 will officially be the new head of the Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology.

## Alumni Honors

**Dr. Harold "Doc" Holbrook** (DVM '53) was honored with the 2001 Maryland Horseman of the Year for his outstanding contribution in the Maryland horse industry.

**Dr. Mark Mosher** (DVM '81) and **Dr. Thomas Nemetz** (DVM '81) were the 2001 recipients for the A.M. Mills Award from the Lambda Chapter of Alpha Psi. Recipients must share the qualities of compassion, humanity, and leadership, and use these qualities to improve the veterinary profession for the future.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the CVM!

## Lasher is cited for contributions to avian medicine program

Dr. Hiram Lasher was presented with the College's Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding work in advancing research and teaching in avian medicine.

Because of his background in veterinary pathology, Lasher has focused much of his work on producing vaccines for poultry.

A pioneer in the industry, Lasher is credited with introducing vaccines against tenosynovitis, Marek's disease, and Gumboro disease.

Recently, Dr. and Mrs. Lasher gave the College \$375,000 to help establish the Caswell Eidson Eminent Scholar Fund and \$25,000 for the Caswell Eidson Scholarship Fund in Avian Medicine to preserve the memory of Lasher's friend and colleague. (See story on page 5.)



## In Memoriam

Dr. David W. Anderson (DVM '62),	April 28, 2001
Dr. Milda D. Boulware (DVM '59),	August 23, 2001
Dr. Thomas E. Flowers (DVM '53),	January 10, 2001
Dr. David C. Forbes (DVM '53),	August 17, 2001
Dr. Earl L. Knox (DVM '51),	September 1, 2001
Dr. James B. Rutledge, Jr. (DVM '54),	July 21, 2001
Dr. Clark H. Shingler (DVM '56),	January 12, 2001
Dr. David J. Wilhelm (DVM '73),	June 25, 2001



*GVMA officers and members hosted a barbecue for incoming students in August to give them a chance to talk to practicing professionals, meet their classmates, learn about the GVMA's programs, and eat great food. Shown here among other notable volunteers are GVMA president Dr. Billy Sanders (far left, first row), past president Dr. Doris Miller (far right, first row), and president-elect Dr. Lee Izen (2nd from left, 2nd row).*

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