



# Aesculapian

For and About Alumni and Friends of the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine

Vol. 7, No. 1 • Spring 2006



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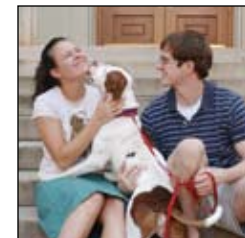
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### About the cover:

Our new dean, Sheila W. Allen, has worn many hats: surgeon, administrator, teacher, innovator, and coleslaw server at College barbecues. See story page 2.

## Sheila Allen is named dean

Sheila W. Allen was chosen to lead the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine on November 1 after an extensive national search.

A specialist in oncologic and reconstructive surgery and an award-winning teacher, her administrative credentials include associate dean for academic affairs, acting head of the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery and, most recently, interim dean after Keith W. Prasse's departure.

She is credited with helping to revise the College's curriculum and its admissions procedures. Students profit from her use of innovative instructional technology to teach basic surgical skills. Teaching students, interns, and residents in the hospital has always been one of her most rewarding roles.

### Surmounting challenges

Dean Allen sees many challenges to veterinary medicine in general and to the College of Veterinary Medicine in particular: the ever-present shortage of funds, faculty recruitment and retention, and a critical shortage of veterinarians.

Her long-term goals will be mindful of these critical issues as she focuses on her short-term plans.

High on the list is building a sorely needed new teaching hospital. Work has begun to plan and fund the hospital which is expected to open its doors in about five years.

A larger, more modern hospital will allow the College to increase enrollment and multiply the number of well-qualified veterinarians available to the state and region.

Research in infectious diseases affecting people as well as animals will be enhanced when the Animal Health Research Center is completed in May.

Two new programs comprise Allen's other major objectives. She hopes to help further develop the DVM/MPH program, which prepares students for careers in public health.

Encouraging students to choose careers in biomedical research is the focus of the DVM/PhD program which is just getting off the ground.


### Goal number one

What does she consider the most critical concern facing the profession? "Educating a veterinary workforce that can meet all the needs of our society," says Allen.

"We need many more veterinarians for all aspects of veterinary medicine: ensuring the safety of our food supply, preserving the health of our food animals and wildlife, providing high quality medical care for large and small animals, and protecting the health of our citizens."

A firm believer in teamwork, Allen does not intend to move closer to any of her goals without the help of everyone

involved.







"Practitioners, educators, donors, and alumni — we all share responsibility for encouraging and educating students: We are fortunate to be able to work with very dedicated people, including our alumni, who are actively involved in supporting and mentoring our students," Allen concludes. 



*"I am honored to be appointed dean of the college. I am excited about our future, and look forward to working with all the wonderful faculty, staff, and students in meeting our goals together."*

### FACTS AT A GLANCE

#### Sheila Wilson Allen

-  DVM from Cornell University, 1981
-  Internship and residency at UGA, 1981-85
-  MS in veterinary pathology, UGA, 1986
-  Joined the UGA faculty, 1986
-  Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons
-  Active in the ACVS, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, and Georgia Veterinary Medical Association

## Bouquets for Dean Allen

*I'm always pleased when we find the best leadership here at home, among our own faculty. With more than 20 years in the veterinary medical college, and an outstanding record in teaching, research and administration, Dr. Allen is eminently qualified for this position. I'm confident she has the experience, knowledge, and skills to lead the college to new heights of performance and achievement.*

— UGA President Michael F. Adams

*Dr. Allen has provided outstanding service to the College of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Georgia, and the profession. Her vision for the college is exceptional, and her understanding of the college's future needs in instruction, research and service is superb. These traits will significantly advance the college and university in the years ahead.*

—UGA Provost Arnett C. Mace

*I've worked with Dr Sheila Allen for nearly 25 years. I was her major professor and faculty colleague for most of them. I hired her as associate dean. I consider her a great friend. She has so many attributes: intelligence, integrity, initiative, high expectations for students and faculty, and humility. I believe she'll emerge as one of the great leaders in our profession.*

— Former Dean Keith W. Prasse

*Dr. Allen's abilities as a surgeon, teacher, and administrator have earned her the respect of her colleagues and students. She has the vision and dedication to provide outstanding leadership for the college and profession in the coming years. I wish her the best in these endeavors.*


— Former Dean David Anderson

## GVMA celebrates 100 years

The Georgia Veterinary Medical Association invites veterinarians, their families, technicians, students, and guests to the Annual Convention and Centennial Celebration, May 31-June 4, in Sandestin.



The convention offers 47 hours of CE courses in the morning hours, leaving afternoons to enjoy Florida's Gulf coast. Family and group events are also scheduled.

"It's likely to be GVMA's largest event ever," says Scott Piper, GVMA communications manager. For details and online registration, visit [GVMA.net](http://GVMA.net). 

More on our website: [vet.uga.edu](http://vet.uga.edu)




## College partners with world's largest aquarium

The College of Veterinary Medicine has entered into an unprecedented partnership with the Georgia Aquarium's Center for Aquatic Animal Medicine.

Students and faculty will have access to the aquarium's collection, and will be able to learn from the veterinarians at its medical center. At the same time, the aquarium's medical staff will benefit from the college's expertise in diagnostics.

As part of the partnership, the College will recruit a faculty member who specializes in aquatic medicine, plus two residents, both of whom will spend time at the aquarium as well as the College.

"We hope it will be a mutually beneficial arrangement," says Dean Sheila Allen. 

## We've cared for UGA mascots for 50 years

It started when CVM faculty treated uga #1 for heartworms in 1956. We've been caring for all six ugas for 50 years ever since. Although many faculty have done the doctoring, Bruce Hollett, professor, large animal medicine, has been the uga doctor-in-chief starting with #5.

Hollett bottle-fed the newborn uga-6 with premie nipples and fingers cut from exam gloves. He has since been the point man for uga-6's healthcare and pre-game baths (those wrinkles really trap the dirt!).

"He's a senior citizen now, but I don't see him much any more because he's been so healthy," says Hollett about the dog who's become a good friend. "I enjoy him because he's a big puppy. He's a fun dog — a good man." 📷



*Future issues of Aesculapian will feature more stories about our 50-year relationship with UGA mascots.*

## Reunion '06 – don't miss it!

Does your graduation year end in 6 or 1? Congratulations! It's your reunion year — time to come back to your alma mater.

But no matter when you earned your DVM, the College welcomes you back on March 31 and April 1 for two days of learning and renewing friendships.

Our keynoter, Fred Quinn, head



*The Athens Classic Center will be reunion headquarters this year.*

of the Department of Infectious Diseases, will provide a glimpse of pioneering work being done at the College. And we have some excellent CE courses planned for small and large animal practitioners.

### What's new this year?

First, we'll be meeting downtown in the Athens Civic Center — a spacious, first-class venue for all our activities.

Second, we've made blocks of rooms available for you in luxury hotels within walking distance of the Center.

You will receive a copy of the reunion program shortly, but you can also see it online at [vet.uga.edu/reunion.php](http://vet.uga.edu/reunion.php)

Finally, in response to your requests, we have replaced the annual banquet with more time for individual class reunions.

As always, we'll be honoring the 50-year class (it's 1956 this year) and presenting awards to our outstanding alumni. Add to that fraternity parties, exhibits, and good food, and you've got the makings of a memorable weekend.

So please make plans to join us for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Reunion. Remember, it won't be the same without you! 📷

## Our e-newsletter: it's back

After an extended absence, our electronic newsletter is up and running again. We've revived [vetmed@uga](mailto:vetmed@uga) to keep you

informed about news and events at the College in an easy-to-read, easy-to-access format.

You'll find it on our website at [vet.uga.edu/alumni/alumni/enewsletter.php](http://vet.uga.edu/alumni/alumni/enewsletter.php). If you have news items you think would be of interest to other alums or suggestions for improving the newsletter, send them to Sue Smith at [tellus@vet.uga.edu](mailto:tellus@vet.uga.edu). 📷

[vetmed@uga](mailto:vetmed@uga)

## Katrina dog goes home thanks to a caring donor

Free, a pit bull found on a rooftop in New Orleans during the Katrina disaster, went home to his owner in Detroit, thanks to Mark Meeler (left with his pet poodle), a local businessman, who volunteered to pay

his way. One of 27 Katrina dogs received and treated by the College of Veterinary Medicine, Free was declared fit to return to his owner, thanks in part to the many veterinarians and students who cared for Free and other Katrina victims. To date, eleven dogs have been sent back home. The remainder were placed for adoption at the College. 📷



*Other Katrina victims with their university friends.*



## Conservation expert speaks to students

Billy Karesh, (DVM '82), director of the Field Veterinary Program for the Wildlife Conservation Society, visited the campus on January 19 to talk to freshmen (above) about expanding opportunities in conservation medicine.

Karesh is responsible for the development of the Field Veterinary Program, created to give health-related services to environmentalists, biologists, health professionals, and livestock specialists.

Most recently, Karesh investigated movement of bird flu in migratory birds in Mongolia. 📷

*Details on our website: [vet.uga.edu](http://vet.uga.edu)*

## Aesculapian

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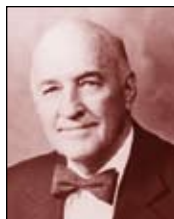
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# ALUMNI HONORS



**Frank R. Craig** (DVM '56) was posthumously inducted into the North Carolina Poultry Federation's

Hall of Fame.

**Billy Myers** (DVM '79) received the 2005 Equine Veterinarian of the Year Award from the GVMA for outstanding and dedicated service to the profession and the equine industry.



**Melissa A. Kling** (DVM '83) received the annual President's Award from the Association of Exotic Mammal

Veterinarians for dedication to and advancement of the organization.

**Lee Myers** (DVM '84), State Veterinarian for the Georgia Department of Agriculture, received diplomate status in the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society.



**E. Max Sink** (DVM '58) received the Meritorious Service Award from the AVMA for his involvement in professional, community, and fraternal organizations. He was the North Carolina representative in the AVMA House of Delegates for 17 years, and received the College's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1995.




**James A. Jarrett** (DVM '60) was posthumously awarded the AVMA Public Service Award for his dedication to the profession

and to numerous professional organizations.

**Stephen K. Crawford** (DVM '98) was recently named State Veterinarian of New Hampshire by the State Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food.

**Ann Drain Jernigan** (DVM '83, PhD '87) was appointed vice president, veterinary medicine research and development, for Pfizer Animal Health in 2005.



"Barnyard Brawlers," a watercolor by **Nancy Floras Adams** (DVM '87), was featured on the cover of the March 2005 edition of JAVMA. 

## Hope to see you there!

### March 31 - April 1

43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference and Alumni Reunion  
The Classic Center, Athens

### June 3

Alumni reception  
GVMA Summer Convention and Centennial Celebration  
Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort  
Destin, Florida

### August 19

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hawaii Dog-0 Luau  
Ashford Manor  
Watkinsville, Georgia

## Continue your education at UGA

### March

4-5 Exotic Animal Medicine

31-April 1 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterinary Conference

### June

23-24 Basic Arthroscopy  
24-25 Basic Soft Tissue Rigid Endoscopy

26 Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery



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