Annual General Meeting Agenda
10 am Saturday, June 10, 2017
Room 1714, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph

1.0 Call to Order.....................................................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst

2.0 Welcoming remarks..........................................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst

3.0 Remarks from the President of the University of Guelph..............................................................Dr. Franco Vaccarino

4.0 Moment of Silence............................................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst

5.0 Recognition of Volunteers & Call for Board Members....................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst

6.0 Approval of the Agenda.....................................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst

7.0 Approval of the Minutes from the 2016 Annual General Meeting, Saturday, June 11th, 2016

8.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

9.0 Dean’s Address..................................................................................................................................Dr. Jeff Wichtel

10.0 President’s Report .............................................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst

11.0 Treasurer’s Report............................................................................................................................Dr. Tiffany Durzi

11.1 Review Engagement Report

**Motion:** “Appoint two persons to conduct a review engagement and submit a Review Engagement Report. The two persons should not include the OVC Alumni Association Treasurer.”

12.0 Receipt of circulated reports for information

12.1 President’s Report

12.2 Dean’s Report

12.3 Development Report

12.4 Communications Report

12.5 Honours & Awards

12.6 Financial Report

12.3 Development Report ........................................................................................................................Sonia Randhawa

13.0 Resolution Approving Acts of the Directors

**Motion:** “That all resolutions passed and all acts, contracts and business transacted by the Directors since June 16th 2013, be ratified and confirmed by the members of the Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association”.

14.0 Elections:

14.1 Election and Ratification of Officers...............................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst

**Motion:** “That all officers and directors as listed on the slate be elected”.

15.0 Presentation of OVC AA Awards....................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst
1.0 Call to Order...........................................................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst
2.0 Welcoming remarks....................................................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst
3.0 Remarks from the President of the University of Guelph......................................................................Dr. Franco Vaccarino
   • OVC is a huge point of pride for the University
   • OVC is on the radar all over the world. Recent memorandum of understanding signed with Hebrew University in Israel, where our sustainability work is very much point of mind.
   • We are all part of something much bigger- not just dealing with the urgencies of the day, but laying groundwork for the future.
   • Congratulations to the OVCAA award recipients.
   • OVC is at the centre of the human-animal-environment triangle.
4.0 Moment of Silence......................................................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst
5.0 Recognition of Volunteers & Call for Board Members............................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst
6.0 Approval of the Agenda............................................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst
   • Motioned, seconded, carried
7.0 Approval of the Minutes from the 2015 Annual General Meeting, Saturday, June 13th, 2015
   • Motioned, seconded, carried
8.0 Business Arising from the Minutes
   • None
9.0 Dean’s Address ..........................................................................................................................................Dr. Jeff Wichtel
   • Dr. Vaccarino has only been on campus for a couple of years, but he is very engaged and informed on OVC, as is the entire UofG upper management
   • UofG was original meant to service rural communities. Mandate has expanded, but it still at the heart of the campus feel.
   • Dr. Wichtel has been here 7 months, and many positive things have already happened.
     o AVMA Accreditation site team visit: full accreditation received for 7 years, minor deficiencies only associated with outcome reporting for student externships and isolation protocols. Overall, very positive and impressed.
       ▪ Graduates hired in the last few years are better at communications and ability to manage themselves, as per alumni feedback (primary health care centre experience and communications program)
     o Infrastructure updates: Master plan has been in place for several years, but really needed some major funding. $23M (of $33M) has been promised by the province to help with enhanced learning area and expanding/updating small animal surgery and anesthesia areas
       ▪ Moving toward less use of live animals but earlier teaching with models and simulations.
Meeting Minutes - OVCAA AGM
10 am Saturday, June 11, 2016
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- Pet Trust: Has been hugely successful, envy of many other vet colleges! Has been instrumental in our recent successes. Currently $10M campaign to round out $33M for infrastructure updates.
- Strategic Plan: Current plan finished in 2017, will start work on 10 year plan for 2016 and beyond beginning in the fall. Alumni focus groups will be an important part of this.
- Students: Real concern in terms of number of graduates in North America and student debt, but at the same time applications are up for both national and international positions. OVC’s new presence on social media in the last couple of years is helping to reach the demographic we want to attract. Also focus on getting feedback from alumni who hire new grads.
- University of Guelph doing some branding as the “dairy university” – leaders in dairy research, as well as engagement with other agricultural sectors; new Centre for Cardiovascular Investigations – recognizing more expertise on campus. Lots of similar stories of research successes on campus.
- Many thanks for the engagement of OVC alumni and retirees – your contributions are invaluable!

10.0 President’s Report .................................................................................................................. Dr. Bob Van Delst

- Special welcome to OVC 1966, as well as other classes celebrating special anniversaries
- Alumni words of wisdom are always welcome
- Hosted successful networking event at OVMA in January
- Hosted 2 continuing education events at OVC (fall and spring)
  - Thanks to alumni presenters and sponsors
- Held 26 annual alumni hockey tournament in April
- Now also includes a dinner at the Brass Taps – very popular
  - Special thanks for support of Stefanie Sharp from AAD.

11.0 Treasurer’s Report .............................................................................................................. Dr. Tiffany Durzi

- Books are in good shape, events this year have lead to a positive balance. Details available on request.

11.1 Review Engagement Report

  Motion: “Appoint two persons to conduct a review engagement and submit a Review Engagement Report. The two persons should not include the OVC Alumni Association Treasurer.”

  Motioned, seconded, carried

12.0 Receipt of circulated reports for information
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12.6 Financial Report

12.3 Development Report ............................................................................................................ Stefanie Sharp

- Class projects make a great contribution to OVC and UG campus (e.g. Gryphon statue, student scholarships)
- Pet trust campaign is at about 6.5M of target 9.5M
- OVC alumni advancement manager, development manager and now a stewardship manager
- Congratulations again to Dr. Harry Brightwell, OVC 1956 who received the UGAA Alumnus of Honour Award last night.
Meeting Minutes - OVCAA AGM
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13.0 Resolution Approving Acts of the Directors
Motion: “That all resolutions passed and all acts, contracts and business transacted by the Directors since June 16th 2013, be ratified and confirmed by the members of the Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association”.

- Motioned, seconded, carried

14.0 Elections:
14.1 Election and Ratification of Officers........................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst
Motion: “That all officers and directors as listed on the slate be elected”.

- Motioned, seconded, carried

15.0 Presentation of OVCAA Awards....................................................................................................................Dr. Bob Van Delst
- Distinguished Alumnus Award: Dr. Ted Clark (OVC 1966)
- Young Alumnus Award: Dr. Jackie Parr (OVC 2009)
- Alumni Volunteer Award: Dr. Chip Coombs (OVC 1976)

16.0 Adjournment 11:05 AM
President’s Report:

Dr. Chris Doherty, President, Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association

To begin, let us welcome and congratulate the class of 1967 on their 50th anniversary of graduation, as well as other classes who are gathered for special milestones: OVC’52, OVC’57, OVC’77 and OVC’87.

The OVC Alumni Association has had another busy year, with many events on our calendar.

Our Alumni Reception at the OVMA Conference and Trade show in Toronto this past January brought together class-mates, colleagues, and friends for an evening of drinks and appetizers. Dean Wichtel and final year OVC students joined as well, to network with our community of alumni.

Our fourth Continuing Education Symposium was held in the fall, at the OVC Lifetime Learning Centre. Our sincere thanks to all of our OVC faculty presenters: Drs. Andrew Peregrine, Lee Niel, Luis Gaitero and Colleen Best. We were very grateful to have the support of Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Bayer, Purina Petcare, ROI Corp, Merck, Merial and Radiometer in sponsorship of our CE Symposium. Given the success of our symposium series, we are planning to have another this coming fall.

The 27th annual OVC Alumni Hockey Tournament took place at the end of March. With over 150 graduates, spouses, children, and friends in attendance, this is consistently one of the biggest events of the year for us. After a fun pair of days of hockey, dinner was again held at the Brass Taps.

Finally, our “Words of Wisdom” project continues to be a success, and we encourage alumni to submit their helpful words of advice or encouragement for the incoming OVC class of 2021. These comments are placed in the pocket of the lab coat that the students receive at their Professional Welcoming Ceremony in September. If you would like to submit your words, please visit the registration table.

With the academic year coming to a close, it is my pleasure to welcome Dr. Matt Spiegle, OVC 2008, as incoming President. Dr. Paul Woods, OVC 1985 will be assuming the role of Vice President. I would also like to thank the entire OVCAA Board of Directors for all of their hard work through the year, with special mention of the tremendous help that the OVC Alumni Association has received from both Stefanie Sharp and Sonia Randhawa, of Alumni Affairs and Development at the University of Guelph.
I’m honoured and delighted to join you again for the Alumni Weekend celebrations. These opportunities to connect with you, our alumni, are vital as we share the exciting work we continue to do at OVC. I appreciate the opportunity to share just a few of our successes over the past year with you today.

OVC has again been recognized in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) university rankings as a top-ranked veterinary school. This year the QS rankings place the Ontario Veterinary College as the sixth best veterinary school in the world, as well as first in Canada and third in North America.

Along with research impact, the QS ranking methodology relies on academic reputation among our peers, and the desirability of our graduates as perceived by employers. These are two outcomes that we consider of vital importance. We know our graduates are great, but it is particularly gratifying that this is so clearly recognized nationally and internationally.

Without question, we rank where we do because of our amazing staff, students, faculty, and alumni. We all share a commitment to the OVC mission, and it shows.

On the building front, renovations are ongoing in the Health Sciences Centre and we are looking forward to beginning work on both the construction of the new Enhanced Clinical Learning Centre and renovations to the animal isolation unit.

The past 12 months have continued the long list of achievements of our faculty, staff, students and alumni. Here are just a few examples of how OVC and veterinarians are helping make the world a better place.

OVC Strategic Planning

I am very pleased to report we have made significant progress with OVC’s Strategic Planning process. This vital process will guide us through important initiatives that will impact our ability to deliver on OVC’s mission and vision and embrace opportunities in the years ahead.

The planning process started in mid-October with an initial retreat for around 40 people representing key facets of the college (students, staff, alumni and faculty) and our external stakeholders.

Through this process we have identified five Critical Strategic Issues that will impact our ability to deliver on our mission and vision for the college over the next five years.

These are current and emergent issues that will impact our ability to deliver on OVC’s mission and vision to be “a world leader, integrating animal, human and environmental health through innovation, excellence and societal relevance.” They cover several key areas: public profile and outreach; state-of-the-art facilities, infrastructure, and technology; recruitment, retention, collaboration and organizational health; research experience and leadership; and student experience and curricular innovation.

I encourage you to read more about this process and our progress on the OVC website at http://ovc.uoguelph.ca/strategic-planning.

Please watch for more news in the months ahead as we finalize this updated strategic plan and start to work on its many components.
University of Guelph’s Food From Thought
The University of Guelph has received $76.6 million from the federal government to start a “digital revolution” in food and agriculture. The government is investing in U of G’s Food From Thought research project, which will use high-tech information systems to help produce enough food for a growing human population while sustaining the Earth’s ecosystems. Food From Thought will be one of U of G’s largest and most inclusive research projects, spanning all seven colleges. It will be led by 10 principal investigators from across campus, including Drs. Bonnie Mallard and Jan Sargeant from OVC.

Animal research isolation unit
The U of G will receive more than $30 million from the federal and provincial governments to enhance research and innovation facilities. Among the initiatives across campus is a biosafety level 2 production animal research isolation unit located on the OVC campus. The U of G currently has the only facility in Ontario for housing production animals for infectious disease research. Researchers at the U of G have made significant advances in the understanding, treatment and prevention of infectious disease in animals, including cattle, rabbits, sheep, swine and poultry. The ability to accommodate level 2 pathogens is essential for this research. The new facility will improve researchers’ ability to identify and prevent threatening infectious diseases and will allow additional research and training for scientists and veterinarians involving emerging infectious diseases, disease outbreak preparedness, food safety, public health, zoonotic diseases, and the changing needs in health management of livestock.

Construction begins for new surgery and anesthesia facilities
An OVC Pet Trust fundraising campaign, Friends Together for Longer, launched in Fall 2015 is coming to life in the form of new surgery and anesthesia facilities at OVC’s Health Sciences Centre. The new spaces will enhance the learning experience for students, and offer advanced and complex care for pets. Construction of the new surgical spaces began this spring within the existing space at the OVC Companion Animal Hospital.

Major leadership gifts have been instrumental in making these renovations and changes possible: a $2.5-million gift from La Fondation Emmanuelle Gattuso will create the James Slaight Advanced Surgical Complex, which will include multiple operating rooms equipped to offer a vast number of routine and advanced surgical procedures; $1.5 million from Kim and Stu Lang’s Angel Gabriel Foundation will be used to construct a new Anesthesia and Pain Management Unit, which will offer a specialized space for anesthetizing patients and preparing pets for surgery; a $1-million donation from Lindy Barrow will create the Lindy Barrow Minimally Invasive Procedures Suite, an area equipped with computer-controlled technology, which will allow pets to experience faster recovery time and less post-operative pain; and a $500,000 estate gift in memory of John and Jean Waller will build the Anesthesia Recovery Room, a dedicated space for pets to ensure they have a calm, smooth recovery. We are very grateful to all of our generous donors for supporting our new facilities and continue to work towards reaching our goal of raising $9 million. Donors can direct their gifts to OVC Pet Trust’s area of greatest need to help us finish the project.

Hospital renovations are happening in conjunction with construction of new clinical teaching and learning spaces at OVC, announced earlier in 2016 and funded by a $23-million investment from the provincial government. Construction on these spaces is expected to commence in 2017.

Research Networks
Our work on interdisciplinary research and training programs in poultry, dairy and swine is continuing. The Poultry Health Research Network now has more than 60 members and held a second successful Research Day in April. The newly formed Ontario Swine Research Network held their second U of G Swine Research Day in May. Dairy at Guelph comprises 65 researchers across five colleges and 12 departments, covering disciplines from animal sciences and veterinary medicine, to economics and human nutrition.

Hill’s Pet Nutrition Primary Healthcare Centre
In 2010, OVC launched a new model for companion animal primary healthcare education and service delivery: the Hill’s Pet Nutrition Primary Healthcare Centre (Hill’s PHC). OVC’s primary healthcare program offers a unique emphasis on the student experience and on innovative service delivery, with a focus on nutrition, communications and relationship building amongst the veterinary team members, clients and their pets.
Since opening, the centre has provided new learning opportunities for students that are focused on the core competencies required in general practice, which include: surgical, technical, business and communications skills; veterinary leadership skills; expanded knowledge in preventive care with an emphasis on the critical role that diet and nutrition play in overall well-being; and the importance of the human-pet bond.

The Small Animal Primary Veterinary Care Rotation (SAPVC) at the Hill’s Pet Nutrition Primary Healthcare Centre provides all Phase Four students the opportunity to take the communication skills they develop throughout the first three years of the DVM curriculum in a simulated-learning environment and apply them in a supervised real-life setting with clients and client-owned animals. In this way, the communication portion of the SAPVC rotation is the final step in the comprehensive communication skills training that students receive during their four years at OVC.

**Dairy Health Management Continuing Education Program**

The Dairy Health Management Continuing Education Program, an OVC-pioneered continuing education program, welcomes a new cohort of dairy practitioners this spring. It includes 11 classroom modules over two years with an online learning component, providing intensive, science-based education for progressive dairy veterinarians so they may enhance the health, profitability and sustainability of dairy farms.

**Events and visitors at OVC**

There are a wide-variety and number of events and symposia held at OVC throughout the year. This past year, we were pleased to host the Canadian Association of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (CAVEPM) conference, as well as the 71st International Conference on Diseases in Nature Communicable to Man. The latter brought together experts from the medical, veterinary and public health communities, addressing a variety of diseases that are acquired from natural sources, which include wild and domestic animals, contaminated water or food supplies, arthropod vectors and other sources. The event was co-hosted by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and U of G’s Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses.

Researchers from the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem visited the University of Guelph earlier this year to discuss future research collaborations in production animal diseases. The workshop stemmed from a U of G visit to the Israeli veterinary school by president Franco Vaccarino and Malcolm Campbell, vice-president (research), in May 2016 as part of an Ontario government delegation to Israel.

**Social media expands and grows**

Social media continues to be an important part of OVC’s approach to sharing information with students, staff, faculty, alumni, industry and the general public. OVC has expanded its social media efforts on Instagram and Snapchat, offering a peak into what goes into a veterinary education. With over 800 Instagram posts and 21,200 followers, OVC is proud to have the largest following of any veterinary college worldwide.

The 2017 edition of Externship Blogging Project, which features some of our students sharing stories, pictures and video of their externship experiences online, got underway in June. The students will be blogging all summer long – so check it out at ovc.uoguelph.ca/externship.

**THRIVE Club**

OVC THRIVE, a new student club, kicked off this past year. THRIVE stands for “Teaching Healthy Resilience in the Veterinary Environment,” and was built on three main goals; to create an open and accepting culture regarding mental health, to encourage students to prioritize self-care, and to provide tangible resources to help students build resilience.

An important part of achieving these goals is to collaborate with other groups and resources on campus. This year the club developed a variety of events with the U of G Wellness Education Centre as well as the OVC Peer Helpers. In addition, the club’s faculty advisors are all five members of a recently formed research group at OVC – The AWAR2E Team (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Research and Education), and therefore the club is closely connected with those involved in the most current research within the field of mental health as it relates to veterinary medicine and the agricultural sector.
OVC People
One of the factors that make OVC special is the sense of community created by our alumni, faculty, students, staff and supporters.

The College boasts 460 DVM students, approximately 300 graduate students, and 6,400 undergraduate students enrolled in OVC courses with 130 faculty and veterinarians and 200 staff.

New Appointments:
Petrina Aberdeen, Assistant Manager, Project Planning and Events at the OVC HSC (covering Victoria Wentzell’s parental leave)

Dr. Cathy Bauman, Assistant Professor, Department of Population Medicine

Dr. Janet Beeler-Marfisi, Department of Pathobiology

Julie Byczynski, OVC Senior Development Manager, Alumni Affairs and Development

Sharita Carter, Administrative Manager, DVM and Clinical Program and Operations Clinical Studies

Dr. Nathalie Coté, Large Animal Surgery Service and Department of Clinical Studies

Holly Illman, Administrative Manager, Financial and Accounting Services and Operations Biomedical Sciences

Cynthia Kinnunen, Manager, Strategic Plan

Nancy Johnson, Manager, Research Services

Sonia Randhawa, OVC Alumni Advancement Manager (during Stefanie Sharp’s parental leave)

Dr. Tarek Saleh, Chair of Biomedical Sciences - Neurophysiology

Dr. Andrea Sanchez, Anesthesiology, Department of Clinical Studies

Dr. Anita Tucker, Animal Behaviour and Welfare, Department of Population Medicine

Sandra Valeriote, OVC Pet Trust Administrative Assistant

Dr. Martha Winhall, OVC Medical Communications Program Manager

Dr. Patrick Meyers, Equine Reproductive Service and Department of Population Medicine (covering Dr. Tracey Chenier’s sabbatical)

2016 Schofield Memorial Lecture – Dr. Jonna Mazet, Professor of Epidemiology and Disease Ecology and Executive Director of the One Health Institute in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

2016 Chappel Memorial Lecture – Dr. Rocky S. Tuan is the Director of the Cellular and Molecular Engineering Lab, located in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, within the School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh.

Honorary Degrees
November 2016 Convocation:
Dr. Reuben Mapletoft, OVC 1967 and professor emeritus in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

June 2017 Convocation
Dr. Mike Cranfield, OVC 1977, co-director of Gorilla Doctors, which he co-founded after working with the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project in Rwanda.

Faculty, Staff and Alumni Honours
Congratulations to the following OVC alumni, faculty, students and staff members:

Alumni
Dr. Larry Hammell, OVC 1988, was awarded the 2016 CVMA Merck Veterinary Award for his commitment to the enhancement of a sustainable aquaculture industry through logical evidence-based decision-making and for his contributions which have directly influenced aquatic animal health policy worldwide.
Dr. Ole Nielsen, OVC 1956, and former dean of the University of Guelph’s Ontario Veterinary College, has been named a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of his contributions to veterinary medicine in Canada as an academic and administrator.

Dr. Bernhard Pukay, OVC 1974, was honoured with a Life Membership to the CVMA for his significant contributions to the CVMA and veterinary profession worldwide.

Dr. Ernie Prowse, OVC 1976, received the CVMA Small Animal Practitioner Award for his compassion and continuous dedication to the animals in his care.

Dr. Frank Schenkels, OVC 1986, of Schubenacadie, NS awarded Bovine Practitioner of the Year at the 2016 the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) Conference.

Dr. Roger Thomson, OVC 1975, was presented with the 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award for Veterinarians Without Borders (VWB).

A number of Ontario Veterinary College alumni were recognized with awards at the recent Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) Conference.

Dr. Irene Moore, OVC 1986, was presented with the Outstanding Veterinarian Award.

Dr. Jeffrey Latimer, OVC 1992, received the Award of Merit.

Dr. Jennifer Day, OVC 1994, received the Outstanding Veterinarian Award.

Dr. Sandra Watzin, OVC 1990, received the Award of Merit.

Dr. Amy Bennett, OVC 2012, received the OVMA Rising Star Award.

Dr. Frank Schofield, OVC professor and alumnus known for his pioneering discoveries and his involvement in Korea’s independence movement was honoured by the Canadian government with a commemorative plaque installed at the Ontario Veterinary College. The plaque was commissioned by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, overseen by Parks Canada.

Three University of Guelph graduates were honoured at the 2016 U of G Alumni Awards of Excellence gala - veterinarian Dr. Harry Brightwell, former Nestlé Purina PetCare president Karen Kuwahara, and Lucky Iron Fish founder and CEO Gavin Armstrong.

Staff

Congratulations to OVC staff who were honoured with University of Guelph President’s Awards for Exemplary Service in September.

Amanda Bridge, client services associate in OVC’s Health Sciences Centre, who looks after multiple aspects of patient and client care within the Animal Cancer Centre, received the Service Excellence Recognition Award.

Jane Dawkins, OVC marketing communications officer, who received the Spirit Award, has helped inspire community involvement and belonging through social media, leading development of the OVC Instagram account and the exam stress-buster project with the McLaughlin Library.

Roman Poterski, anatomy lab instructor and technician in OVC’s Department of Biomedical Sciences, earns recognition from students for his care and attention to research and teaching. Roman was awarded the Hidden Hero Award.

Stefanie Sharp, Alumni Advancement Manager for OVC, was recognized by the Guelph 2016 40 Under 40 awards.

Graduate and DVM Students

Dr. Faisal Alibhai, who received his PhD in fall 2016, has been nominated by the University of Guelph for the 2017 Canadian Association for Graduate Studies/ Proquest UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award in the category of engineering, medical sciences and natural sciences.

Dr. Jerome Calvalido won a 2016 American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Resident Research Award at the ACVIM Forum in Colorado, presenting his research into cytokine analysis in dogs with multicentric lymphoma.

Angelique Castelo, OVC 2019, won the first Waterloo Region Rainbow Student Award for her work in her veterinary medicine studies and as president of the Student Chapter of the Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association (SCLGVMMA) at OVC.
Sam Deelen, OVC Class of 2018, won the best student research case presentation award for her research Validation of Calf-side Beta-hydroxybutyrate Test and its Utility for Estimation of Starter Intake in Dairy Calves Around Weaning at the 2016 from the American Association of Bovine Practitioners Conference.

Shannon Finn, OVC Class of 2018, received second place in the VIN Foundation’s first annual Solutions for the Profession Competition for her innovative approach to the mental health issues challenging colleagues in the veterinary profession.

Avery Gagnon, OVC 2016, was awarded a scholarship from the Winner’s Circle Scholarship Program, co-sponsored by the American Association of Equine Practitioners’ (AAEP) Foundation, Platinum Performance and The Race for Education.

Jane Newman, Class of OVC 2019, received an American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) Student Seminar Scholarship.

Julia Nguyen, OVC Class of 2018, was recognized by the Guelph 2016 40 Under 40 awards.

Ben Potvin, OVC Class of 2017, received a Merck Animal Health Student Recognition Award. The award recognizes veterinary students who are interested in dairy and/or beef veterinary medicine.

Jenn Reynen-Yirkiw, OVC Class of 2018, won both a Merck Animal Health Student Recognition Award and an Amstutz Scholarship. The Amstutz Scholarship, in honor of Dr. Harold E. Amstutz, is to attract well-trained veterinarians to enter food animal practice, in general, and bovine practice, specifically.

Rose Rumney, OVC Class of 2017, achieved the highest score possible — 800 out of 800 — for the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). Rumney is only the fourth student to achieve the highest possible result out of the 54,000 candidates who have taken the NAVLE in the past 16 years.

Meagan Walker, OVC Class of 2018 was awarded first place prize from the Morris Animal Foundation for her contributions to Small Companion Animal Health Research.

Marissa Weaver, OVC 2016, received the 2016 American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Award for Proficiency in Primary Care.

Faculty

Dr. Jessica Gordon, Population Medicine, was selected for the Beef Cattle Research Council’s 2016-2017 Beef Researcher Mentorship Program.

Dr. Amy Greer, Population Medicine, recognized by the Guelph 2016 40 Under 40 awards.

Dr. Ken Leslie, Professor Emeritus, was awarded the prestigious Metacam 20 Bovine Welfare Award during the Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians (CABV) annual meeting held during the recent American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dr. Neil MacLusky concluded his tenure as Chair of OVC’s Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Bonnie Mallard, Pathobiology, received a prestigious 2017 Governor General’s Award for Innovation, presented by Governor General David Johnston. Mallard’s High Immune Response (HIR™) technology uses animal genetics and immunity to breed healthier cattle naturally and safely.

Dr. Grant Maxie, Director of the U of G’s Animal Health Laboratory, received the Canadian Animal Health Coalition’s 2016 Carl Block Award.

Dr. Éva Nagy, virologist in the Department of Pathobiology, was nominated for a YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math category category.

Dr. Andrew Peregrine, professor at the University of Guelph’s Ontario Veterinary College, has been recognized by the Broad Spectrum Veterinary Student Association (BSVSA) with a LGBT+ Veterinary Awareness Award.

Dr. Alicia Viloria-Petit, a professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), has made this year’s “Top 10” list of most influential Hispanic Canadians.
Dr. Brandon Plattner, Pathobiology recognized by the Guelph 2016 40 Under 40 awards.

Dr. Dale Smith retired after a 35-plus-year career as a graduate student and faculty member involved in Zoological and Avian/Exotic Animal/Wildlife Medicine and Pathology at the Ontario Veterinary College.

Dr. Patricia Turner, pathology professor, received the Griffin Award at the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) Annual Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Griffin Award was established in 1956 to recognize an individual or group of individuals who have demonstrated ethical scientific and/or technological advancements in improved animal care practices.

Research
Our research and graduate studies programs continue to enjoy an international reputation for excellence. Here are a few funding highlights:

Dr. Patrick Boerlin and Dr. Scott Weese, both pathobiology professors, will receive funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to look at the risks of infections from animals and how people can avoid disease.

An inaugural research day for the Centre for Cardiovascular Investigations (CCVI) at the University of Guelph brought together more than 100 researchers, students and research collaborators from across the campus and beyond.

Dr. Sherilee Harper, Population Medicine, will lead an international team in a new $6.6-million research project on food-related aspects of climate change intended to focus on some of the world’s most at-risk populations. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) will contribute $2 million of that amount through its Environments and Health Signature Initiative Intersectoral Prevention Research grants program.

OVG researchers and student have received more than $1.5 million from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) to support their work. OVG researchers include: Dr. John Barta, Pathobiology; Dr. Claire Jardine, Pathobiology; Dr. Stefan Keller, Pathobiology; Dr. John Lumsden, Pathobiology; Dr. Janet MacInnes, Pathobiology; Dr. Bonnie Mallard, Pathobiology; Dr. David Pearl, Population Medicine; Dr. Zvonimir Poljak, Population Medicine; Dr. Karen Shapiro, Pathobiology; Dr. Leonardo Susta, Pathobiology; and awards to students include Dr. Jamie Rothenburger, Pathobiology; and Ari Mendell, Biomedical Sciences.

The University of Guelph received nearly $2 million from the provincial government from programs overseen by the Ontario Research Fund (ORF) and the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science (MRI), mostly to support federally funded projects at U of G.

Dr. Bonnie Mallard, Department of Pathobiology, will use her $250,000 LSARP grant to help develop genomics tools for selecting disease-resistant pigs. Large Scale Applied Research Program (LSARP) overseen by MRI and Genome Canada for genomics research.

Dr. Nicole Nemeth and Dr. Leonardo Susta, Department of Pathobiology, $125,000 to study viral pathogens in birds.

Dr. Thomas Koch, Department of Biomedical Sciences, received $140,000 Early Researcher Award. He studies veterinary and human regenerative medicine.

Dr. Tami Martino, Biomedical Sciences, received $937,125 in project grant competition funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for a five-year study of how incorporating day-night rhythms could improve treatment of heart disease patients.
Bovine Education Trust
Established by the Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners and OVC with start-up funding from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Bovine Education Trust builds upon a longstanding tradition of veterinary practitioners mentoring students.
Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association Student Awards
Margaret A. B. Maxwell Memorial Graduate Scholarship: Nadine Vogt & Samantha Allen
OVC Alumni Association Spirit Prize Phase 2: Eric Kwok
OVC Alumni Association Spirit Prize Phase 3: Sarah Robinson
OVC Alumni Association Robert Clarke Public Health Prize: co-winners Michelle Dueckman and Brendan Dougherty

Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association Alumni Awards
Each year, the OVC Alumni Association highlights the accomplishments and contributions of a few of our outstanding alumni. The OVC Distinguished Alumnus award recognizes OVC graduates who have brought honour to their alma mater and fellow alumni through their contributions to alumni affairs, education, community, their profession, country and the sciences. The OVC AA Young Alumnus award recognizes alumni who have made a significant contribution in their field within 15 years of graduation. The OVC AA Alumni Volunteer award celebrates OVC graduates who bring honour and recognition to the College by giving generously of their time within the college, in their community or veterinary organization.

Distinguished Alumnus Award
The OVC Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes OVC graduates who have brought honour to their alma mater and fellow alumni through their contributions to alumni affairs, education, community, their profession, country and the sciences. This year’s recipient, Dr. Neil Anderson, graduated with his DVM degree from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1967 and with his Master of Science in Epidemiology in 1987.

Dr. Anderson was a practitioner at, and owner of, Cheltenham Veterinary Services in Inglewood, Ontario from 1972 to 1983, and then became Lead Veterinarian, Disease Prevention (Ruminant) at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs from 1983 to 2014.

During his career, Dr. Anderson provided exemplary extension-oriented research information, service, and teaching to the Ontario beef and dairy industries as a practicing veterinarian and then as extension veterinarian with OMAFRA. For example: he was advisor to the OVC Dairy Health Management Certificate Program continuing education program to veterinarians, which has enabled the rapid dissemination of new ideas and technology to the profession and the dairy industry; he authored the first Livestock Medicines Education Course manuals and commodity-specific educational programs for producers that increased producer awareness about issues related to antibiotic use; and he developed relevant regional performance targets for beef producers and their advisors.

His work was founded on the strong correlation between animal welfare and animal productivity and he promoted the appropriate use of medication in livestock, the best designs for housing systems for dairy cattle, and he crusaded for optimized feeding systems for dairy calves. Through his writing, lectures, and farm visits in Ontario, across Canada, and internationally he has always passionately advocated for the humane treatment of animals.

Dr. Anderson has a real talent for helping people see common problems and husbandry practices in an entirely different way, then help them implement practical solutions. The entire Canadian livestock industry has benefited from his work.
The OVC Alumni Association Young Alumnus award recognizes alumni who have made a significant contribution in their field within 15 years of graduation with their most recent degree from the Ontario Veterinary College.

This year’s recipient, Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton, graduated from OVC with her DVM degree in 2000 and her PhD in Epidemiology in 2005. Since 2007, she has been an Associate Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Population Medicine in OVC and she is also an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Waterloo’s School of Public Health and Health Systems.

At OVC, Dr. Jones-Bitton has coordinated, taught in, and contributed to the design of a number of graduate and undergraduate courses in epidemiology, both in the classroom and by distance education. She has also contributed to the development and delivery of lectures in mental health and wellness in the first year DVM course Art of Veterinary Medicine I and in the development and delivery of a new 4th year wellness rotation for DVM students.

Much of Dr. Jones-Bitton’s research has focused on food-borne, waterborne and zoonotic diseases, and on public health where she uses quantitative and qualitative methods to achieve her research objectives. Her newest research focus is the epidemiology of mental health and resilience in the agricultural and veterinary sectors and she is a national leader in studying this very important area of public health. Her research work thus far has resulted in the publication of 60 articles in refereed journals, 113 publications in refereed conference proceedings, and 118 presentations of refereed papers. She has also broadly and passionately communicated her advocacy in the area of mental health and wellness and her commitment to Canadian agriculture and veterinary medicine, in the popular media.

The OVC Alumni Association Alumni Volunteer award celebrates OVC graduates who bring honour and recognition to the College by giving generously of their time within the college, in their community, or with a veterinary organization.

Throughout his career, this year’s recipient, Dr. Mark Gemmill, class of OVC 1993, has always demonstrated the qualities that this award seeks to recognize.

Dr. Gemmill was a founding member of the Farley Foundation, a charitable organization that helps pet owners with limited incomes to receive the non-elective veterinary care that their sick or injured pets require. Not only did he serve on the Farley Foundation’s Board of Directors from 2002 to 2015, but he also served as President for eight of those years.

Dr. Gemmill is a common sight on the front lines of fundraising efforts as well, frequently participating in the Ride for Farley, the Farley Foundation Golf Tournament, and the Fundraise for Farley Month with his entire hospital team. He regularly represented the Farley Foundation to the media and public, appearing on CP24’s Animal Housecalls and various radio shows.

Beyond his involvement with the Farley Foundation, Dr. Gemmill has been a staple of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association. He served as a Board of Directors member from 2000 to 2016, and as the OVMA’s President in 2015. Dr. Gemmill’s altruism extends to OVC as well. An avid hockey player, he has sat on the OVC Alumni Hockey Tournament Organizing Committee for many years, greatly helping in the planning, organization, and running of the annual tournament.

The one feature beyond all others that makes Dr. Gemmill worthy of this award is his consistent willingness to help. In conversations with many of those involved with the Farley Foundation, the OVMA, and the OVC Alumni Hockey Tournament, that theme repeatedly emerged. Whenever there was work that needed doing, a position that needed a volunteer to fill it, or anything or anyone who could use a helping hand, Dr. Gemmill was always the first to rise to the occasion.
As a recent addition to the OVC Development Team, it has been a pleasure working with such a dedicated group of alumni in Stefanie Sharp's absence this year. Thank you to our alumni supporters for your passion and generosity, and helping to ensure that generations of student veterinarians to come have access to first-class education. OVC would not be where it is today without your continued support.

OVC 2016/2017 Priorities

Class Projects
The long-standing tradition of class project fundraising initiatives are still going strong! The impact that class projects have on OVC and our students is tremendous. To date, there are ten active class projects with many under way to launch. Class projects are hugely successful, and allow classmates to come together to honour their time at OVC by giving back to their alma mater, while helping generations of OVC students. Class projects fund a multitude of student bursaries, scholarships, and awards, along with renovations and much needed equipment within OVC.

Surgery & Anesthesia Facilities
The 9 million dollar campaign to create cutting edge surgical and anesthesia facilities at OVC is well underway. We have made great progress in reaching our goal and have secured $6.9 million raised in donations and pledges to date. The new facility will enhance our work with all animals and promote excellence in veterinary medical education; further raising the standard of care offered at OVC.

OVC Highest Priority Account
The OVC Highest Priority Fund supports the college’s fund-raising priorities providing support for urgent and unexpected areas such as supplementing critical research, supporting students in times of need, and seizing opportunities in areas of innovation. Funds are used at the Dean's discretion for areas of greatest student need and innovative programs within the college, whether it be scholarships, bursaries, equipment, or student experience opportunities.

Equine Sports Medicine and Reproduction Services
The Equine Sports Medicine and Reproduction Centre focuses on the quality of life and health care of the equine athlete and/or breeding horse. Board-certified specialists provide the highest level of care in equine sports medicine, lameness, imaging and reproduction, and focus on the needs of veterinarians, owners, riders, and trainers.
It has been another very successful year for OVC Pet Trust. For the second year in a row, more than $5 million has been raised. Funds raised via OVC Pet Trust support health care, research and education at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) at the University of Guelph. Specifically, we support innovative discoveries that improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of companion animals, we train veterinarians to provide exceptional healthcare for pets and we provide leading-edge facilities and equipment for the OVC Health Sciences Centre.

In the fall of 2015, we launched a $9-million fundraising campaign to create new surgery and anesthesia facilities at the Ontario Veterinary College, and to date we are pleased to report we have raised almost $7 million. New facilities will allow OVC to create a new world-class facility, remain at the forefront of veterinary medicine, raise the standard of care and provide the most advanced surgical and anesthesia techniques, diagnoses and treatment in Canada. We are very pleased with the progress we’ve made on this project, and couldn’t have done it without the generous support of our donors, supporters and partners.

We continue to support projects to advance pet health. Each year, we invest more than $500,000 into research, support for graduate students and equipment to benefit companion animal health and well-being.

In 2017, we launched a new Pet Loss Support Guide for veterinarians across Canada to provide to pet owners. The 27-page booklet was developed internally by OVC Pet Trust through a collaboration with The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Centre, and has been very positively received by pet owners and the veterinary community to date.

We hope you will take some time to read the new spring issue of our Best Friends publication, which includes our latest news and updates, as well as various health and wellness research and resources for pet owners. Please visit https://ovc.uoguelph.ca/pettrust/best-friends-spring-2017 to read a digital version of the latest edition of Best Friends.

Please connect with us on social media to stay updated and learn more. We’re on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ovcpet) and Twitter (@OVCPetTrust).

Fitness. Rehabilitation. Diet. Coping with the loss of a pet. OVC Pet Trust shares health and wellness research and resources for pet owners.
Stay connected. Follow @OntVetCollege on Instagram.
Report on Communications
During 2016-2017 OVC’s communications team continued to collaborate with the University of Guelph’s Communications and Public Affairs office to promote teaching, learning and research at OVC.

Highlights include:
International coverage of Dr. Byram Bridle’s oncolytic virus research breakthrough which is leading to human clinical trials; Globe and Mail article on Women in Veterinary Medicine; and CBC The National coverage of Dr. Paul Wood’s cancer research, which involves evaluating the effectiveness of the therapeutic agent rapamycin in treating osteosarcoma in dogs and may have benefits for human health.

Our team remains committed to growing the college’s reach, deepening conversations and expanding engagement with future and existing students, staff, faculty, alumni, colleagues at fellow universities, private and government funding agencies and the broader community. We will also continue to raise the profile of the Ontario Veterinary College by increasing awareness of the role of veterinarians in society.

This year we have continued our collaborative relationship with the UofG Office of Research with an OVC SPARK (Students Promoting Awareness of Research Knowledge) writer exclusively devoted to reporting about OVC research stories.

The Office of Research has numerous strategic alliances with the media. SPARK-written news stories have appeared in agri-food publications across Ontario and Canada, on the University of Guelph website, in the UG Research magazine, one of the University’s flagship publications, and in Torstar and Metroland newspapers allowing our team to expand our reach.

The Externship Blog Project 2017:
Now in its fourth year, nine student veterinarians are taking part in the Externship Blog Project 2017 and will share their externship experiences over the summer.

This web and social media-based project, which originated in 2014, highlights the experience of student veterinarians during their externship placement. Students submit weekly posts about their experiences, talk about their work through writing, photos or video creation. Blogs are posted to the OVC website and promoted through social channels.

Follow our student veterinarians this summer as they post articles and videos about their experiences in mixed animal practices across Ontario at www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/externship.

Integrated Marketing
OVC continues to blend traditional and social media efforts to ensure the college remains a leader in international conversations. Social media content focuses on student experience, learning and research.

We remain active on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ontvetcollege www.facebook.com/OVCAlum

Twitter, Instagram & Snapchat: @ontvetcollege
Traditional ‘Channels’
We are also continuing our traditional communications efforts using a mix of print and electronic communication products, including:

The Crest, OVC’s alumni newsletter, is published three times per year with a readership of 7,000 and is distributed with the U of G’s alumni Portico magazine. Over the past year we have focused on themed issues including the important role veterinarians play in rural communities, mental health and wellness, animal welfare, and diversity of veterinary careers, along with updates on alumni class projects, grads one year out and news from the College.

OVC Pet Trust’s Best Friends Magazine, is published two times per year, has gone through transformation over the past 12 months. The publication now aims to meet pet owners’ needs, covering stories of interest and interviewing OVC companion animal experts in a wide variety of areas. Best Friends also features funded research, patient stories and events. The publication has expanded from eight pages to 24 pages. Readership: 15,000.

OVC Bulletin is a weekly electronic internal newsletter, including news, stories, research updates, announcements, College and student events. Links are included to U of G Centres at OVC and other networks, encouraging an integrated approach to communications across the College. Each newsletter includes links to all social media channels to encourage followers and a call to share story and research updates with marketing communications. Alumni who have a story idea, can contact ovcinfo@uoguelph.ca. To access the Bulletin please visit www.ovc.uoguelph.ca.
Proposed Slate of Officers:

OVCA Alumni Association Board of Directors:

President:
Matt Spiegle, OVC 2008

Vice-President:
Dr. Paul Woods, OVC 1985

Past-President:
Dr. Chris Doherty, OVC 2013

Secretary:
Dr. Maureen E. Anderson, OVC 2003

Treasurer:
Dr. Tiffany Durzi, OVC 2000

Directors:
Dr. Lynn Broadhurst, OVC 1977
Dr. Peter Conlon, OVC 1980
Dr. Tamara Hofstede, OVC 2004
Dr. Colleen Best, OVC 2009
Dr. Joelle Ingrao, OVC 2010
Dr. Bob Van Delst, OVC 1995

Student representatives to be named in Fall 2017.
To learn more about how to get involved with the Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association please contact:

Sonia Randhawa
Alumni Advancement Manager
Ontario Veterinary College
Phone: 519-827-7872 x.56679
Email: ovcaa@uoguelph.ca

www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/alumni/

Facebook.com/ontvetcollege
Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat: @ontvetcollege