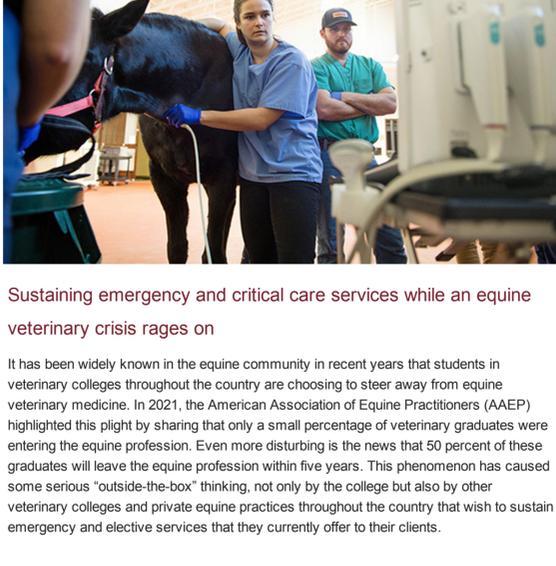


April 2023



Sustaining emergency and critical care services while an equine veterinary crisis rages on

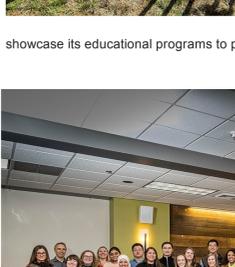
It has been widely known in the equine community in recent years that students in veterinary colleges throughout the country are choosing to steer away from equine veterinary medicine. In 2021, the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) highlighted this plight by sharing that only a small percentage of veterinary graduates were entering the equine profession. Even more disturbing is the news that 50 percent of these graduates will leave the equine profession within five years. This phenomenon has caused some serious "outside-the-box" thinking, not only by the college but also by other veterinary colleges and private equine practices throughout the country that wish to sustain emergency and elective services that they currently offer to their clients.

Around the College



Veterinary professor Audrey Ruple leads effort to standardize reporting guidelines in clinical trials with dogs and cats

Getting researchers on the same page is essential to science. A group led by Virginia Tech's [Audrey Ruple](#) seeks to do just that in regard to reporting guidelines for randomized controlled clinical trials involving dogs and cats, with two papers establishing the guidelines and the rationale behind those guidelines appearing in the journal *Frontiers in Veterinary Medicine*.



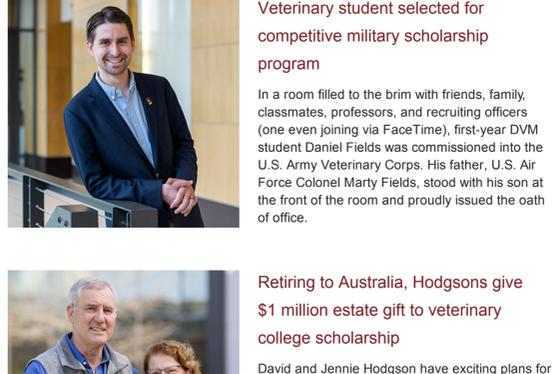
The Equine Medical Center sports medicine complex will be complete in late fall with the addition of a new indoor arena

Demonstrating the power of philanthropy – coupled with a lot of persistence – the newest addition to the [Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center](#) hospital complex is finally underway.



Horseshoes and hedgehogs: Fun for all at veterinary college Open House

The veterinary college hosted its [Annual Open House](#) event on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Blacksburg. The event offered the public an opportunity to learn more about animal and human health, interact with veterinary and public health students and faculty, and experience the college's state-of-the-art facilities. The event is also an opportunity for the college to showcase its educational programs to prospective students and donors.



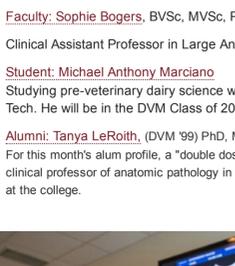
32nd Annual Graduate Research Symposium

The college hosts an [annual graduate research symposium](#) both to support the college's mission of educating a diverse population of professional and postgraduate students preparing for careers in veterinary medicine, biomedical sciences, and public health and to showcase the research of its graduate and training programs. The daylong event features two poster sessions, two oral presentation sessions, and two keynote speakers, followed by dinner and an awards ceremony.



Veterinary student selected for competitive military scholarship program

In a room filled to the brim with friends, family, classmates, professors, and recruiting officers (one even joining via FaceTime), first-year DVM student Daniel Fields was commissioned into the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. His father, U.S. Air Force Colonel Marty Fields, stood with his son at the front of the room and proudly issued the oath of office.



Retiring to Australia, Hodgsons give \$1 million estate gift to veterinary college scholarship

David and Jennie Hodgson have exciting plans for their retired life back in their native Australia, so they're not looking for their \$1 million estate gift to the college to be activated soon. But future first-generation university students with demonstrated financial need, leadership qualities, and high academic standing after the first year of veterinary school will benefit from the Hodgsons' gift in progressing toward a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.



Chilean veterinary student exchange brings new perspectives, opportunities

Virginia Tech has had a longstanding relationship with the Austral University of Chile, and colleges across the university have participated in exchange programs. In a three-month exchange, students from the veterinary college and the Austral University of Chile explore hands-on opportunities. The two Chilean students studying at the veterinary college this year are Priscila Soto and Maksimiano Rodríguez.

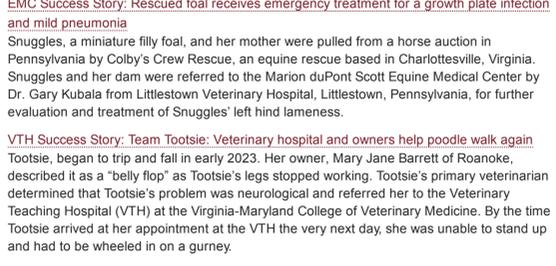


Spotlight on...

Faculty: [Sophie Bogers](#), BVSc, MVSc, PhD, DACVS—Large Animal Clinical Assistant Professor in Large Animal Surgery

Student: [Michael Anthony Marciano](#)
Studying pre-veterinary dairy science within the three-plus-one program here at Virginia Tech. He will be in the DVM Class of 2027.

Alumni: [Tanya LeRoith](#), (DVM '99) PhD, MS, DACT
For this month's alum profile, a "double dose" as Tanya LeRoith is both an alumna (DVM '99) and a clinical professor of anatomic pathology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology at the college.

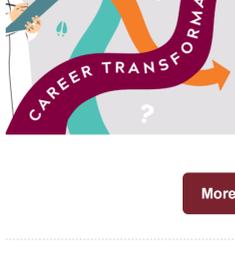


Martha Larson honored with emerita status

Martha Larson, professor of radiology at the college, has been conferred the title of professor emerita by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

Chris Byron named C.R. Roberts Professor of Clinical Veterinary Medicine

Chris Byron, associate professor and head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the college, has been named the C.R. Roberts Professor of Clinical Veterinary Medicine by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.



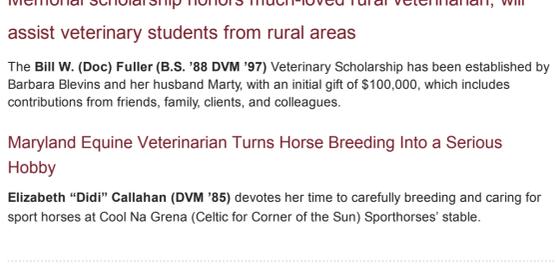
Oncology internship at ACCRC helps guide journey from RVT to DVM for Maryland community college student

As I stepped through the double doors into the bright hallway, hearing cheerful morning greetings and seeing the wagging tail of an alert German shepherd, I knew I was about to open up a new world of opportunity in my journey to becoming a veterinarian.



Ph.D. candidate Saklou receives research fellowship, will employ data analysis for animal, human health

Nadia Saklou first heard the term "clinician-scientist" while attending veterinary school at Colorado State. Now, with experience as both a clinician and scientist at Virginia Tech, she has become a clinician-scientist herself with a fellowship in hand that completes the circle back to Colorado State.



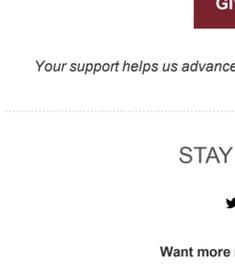
EMC Success Story: [Rescued foal receives emergency treatment for a growth plate infection and mild pneumonia](#)
Snuggles, a miniature filly foal, and her mother were pulled from a horse auction in Pennsylvania by Colby's Crew Rescue, an equine rescue based in Charlottesville, Virginia. Snuggles and her dam were referred to the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center by Dr. Gary Kubala from Littlestown Veterinary Hospital, Littlestown, Pennsylvania, for further evaluation and treatment of Snuggles' left hind lameness.

VTH Success Story: [Team Tootsie: veterinary hospital and owners help poodle walk again](#)
Tootsie, began to trip and fall in early 2023. Her owner, Mary Jane Barrett of Roanoke, described it as a "belly flop" as Tootsie's legs stopped working. Tootsie's primary veterinarian determined that Tootsie's problem was neurological and referred her to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. By the time Tootsie arrived at the VTH the very next day, she was unable to stand up and had to be wheeled in on a gurney.



Emily Schaefer nears completion of fellowship to bolster emergency care at Virginia Tech's equine hospital in Leesburg

Schaefer is in her third and final year of the fellowship in equine emergency and critical care, through The Ohio State University, her committed efforts are funded by sponsor Shelley Duke, EMC Advisory Council vice chair, and her husband, Phil.



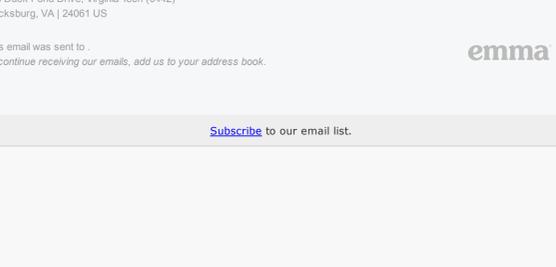
Veterinarians find new career paths with help of program aiming to become national center

Many veterinarians reach a point where they are looking for an exit ramp off the career track they have followed since graduation, even since childhood dreams. A center based at the college helps veterinarians from across the nation find new routes, applying their education, experience and skills to move into areas of veterinary medicine beyond private practice, such as government or industry.

[More VMCVM News](#) →

Vet Med Alumni

[Alumni online](#) →



Memorial scholarship honors much-loved rural veterinarian, will assist veterinary students from rural areas

The **Bill W. (Doc) Fuller (B.S. '88 DVM '97)** Veterinary Scholarship has been established by Barbara Blevins and her husband Marty, with an initial gift of \$100,000, which includes contributions from friends, family, clients, and colleagues.

Maryland Equine Veterinarian Turns Horse Breeding Into a Serious Hobby

Elizabeth "Didi" Callahan (DVM '85) devotes her time to carefully breeding and caring for sport horses at Cool Na Grena (Celtic for Corner of the Sun) Sporthorses' stable.

Vet Med in the News

Celebrating women in Caribbean aquaculture

[Carla Phillips Savage](#), associate professor of practice in aquatic animal medicine in the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine.

Local alternatives to expensive pet surgery or other costly treatments

[Flori Bliss](#), LVT, CCRP, Small Animal Physical Rehabilitation.

It's a Lung Story: Equine Respiratory Conditions

[Megan Marchitello](#), clinical instructor of equine medicine at the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia.

7 Best Top-Entry Litter Boxes of 2023

[Mark Freeman](#), board-certified veterinarian and assistant professor of community practice in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences.

Hoof Rot in Goats

[Kevin Pelzer](#), professor of production management medicine and epidemiology in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

Vaccines for Goats

[Kevin Pelzer](#), professor of production management medicine and epidemiology in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

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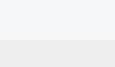
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