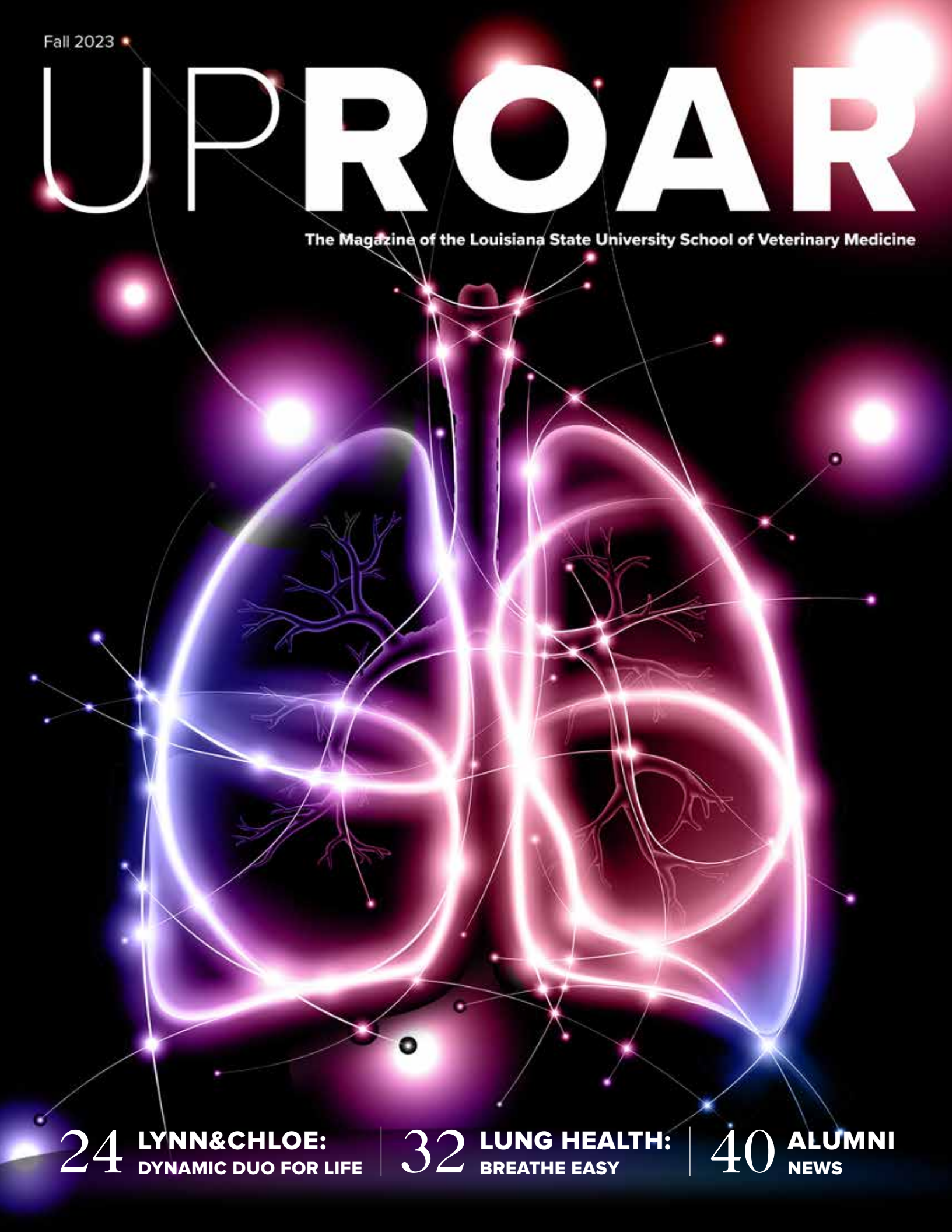
Fall 2023

UPROAR

The Magazine of the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine



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Mission
Improving and protecting the lives of animals and people through superior education, transformational research, and compassionate care.

Vision
Bettering lives through education, public service, and discovery.

Values
Innovation. Compassion. Integrity.

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Dr. Seetharama Jois at work in his laboratory at LSU Vet Med, where he is professor of Cancer Immunology and Computation and Structural Biology. His research focus is on drug design and discovery involving cancer and inflammatory diseases.


We
Teach.
We
Heal.
We
Discover.
We
Protect.

A Message from the Dean

OLIVER GARDEN
BVetMed, PhD, FHEA, FCPP, FRCVS, DACVIM, DECVIM-CA

Be Like Max

Fall semester is well underway, with the wonderful sights and sounds of student life throughout LSU. I am constantly struck by the energy, talent, dedication, and innovation that pervades every corner of our campus at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

Whether it is teaching, healing, discovering, or protecting, our community never ceases to deliver or to amaze me. With every new challenge and opportunity, our people rise to the occasion to advance our school. Perhaps you've noticed. The atmosphere here positively reverberates with the hum of accomplishment. Whether it is the debut of our new, world-class curriculum, the rolling out of exciting capital projects, or the planned class expansion — change is in the air. With great change, it is important to remind ourselves of the momentous strides we have made in the last two years. Through it all, our foundational values of innovation, compassion, and integrity are the ground upon which we build.

OUR FOUNDATIONAL VALUES OF INNOVATION, COMPASSION, AND INTEGRITY ARE THE GROUND UPON WHICH WE BUILD.

One of our recent, joyous developments has been the opening of our Dog Daycare Center at LSU Vet Med. You can get a glimpse on page 5. Who does not like images of dogs playing in a wading pool and happily receiving all the TLC our wonderful Daycare staff provide throughout the day?

From a personal perspective, my brother and I erected a memorial bench in memory of our parents — both now deceased — in the Southampton Sports Centre where my mother used to walk Max, her unruly but adorable Labradoodle. This place holds very special memories for me, both as a child and adult. A group of Mom's dog-walking pals joined my brother and I for a picnic near the bench on her birthday. It was a wonderful, if bittersweet, occasion enjoyed by Max too. Dogs seem to make the most of every moment! They have much to teach us.

As we advance into my third school year at LSU Vet Med, it's clearer than ever that together we are truly making the most of every moment—and it shows.

With my warmest wishes,

Destiny at work with Dog Daycare and grooming client, Maggie.

Dog Daycare Debuts with Howling Success

LSU VET MED DOG Daycare Center officially opened in August with a celebratory gathering involving tours and treats for all.

Nearly a dozen dogs were signed up by their owners for the first week of daycare with plenty of fun, enrichment activities, and supplemental training taking place.

The daily schedule begins with breakfast and potty walks followed by one-on-one activities with staff and dogs. Then comes lunch, indoor activities such as puzzle toys, lick mats, and meeting other dogs in groups of three or four with three staffers on hand. Afternoons bring outdoor activities, including a wading pool and splash pads, followed by potty walks, and individual kennel time for rest and naps. Owners receive fun daily "report cards" on how their dogs did throughout the day.

Heading up the Dog Daycare Center is Destiny Stuart, who has more than 13 years of combined animal care and grooming experience. Her full-time staff include Liz, with 20 years of dog training experience, and Jessica, with a combined grooming and daycare experience of six years. Eight student workers assist and more are expected to be hired as business increases.

"Pets are getting personalized care. It's really touching to see certain dogs come out of their shell here. We always go the extra mile to make sure dogs get the most out of their experience," Destiny said.

Offering an array of services for LSU Vet Med faculty, staff, and students, the Center is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and currently can accommodate up to 38 dogs. Dogs are monitored by at least one staff member at all times, with emails and text updates for owners throughout the day. Pricing packages include discounts for those registering for multiple days.

The facility is equipped to provide full-service grooming, two outdoor securely fenced yards with shade canopies, and spacious indoor play areas and kennels.

Dog owners fill out an application that provides information about their pets, including physical and behavioral needs, temperament, and preferences. Proof of all current vaccines and preventatives are required.

"We're also well equipped to handle special needs dogs," she said.

Destiny, Dog Daycare Center coordinator, can be reached at **(225) 334-1312** or via email at **dstuar2@lsu.edu.**

Destiny Stewart, Dog Daycare Center coordinator, with her team.

Harnessing the Power of Music for Wellness

BY SANDRA SARR

Charlie Rauh performs at his world premiere concert. Four LSU A Cappella Choir singers directed by Dr. Alissa Rowe respond to enthusiastic applause.

ON A TUESDAY NIGHT in September, nearly 100 guests from New Orleans to the east and Lafayette to the west arrived at LSU Vet Med—some for the first time—for our Artist-in-Residence Concert featuring musician-composer Charlie Rauh. Some had read stories in the media and were intrigued by the notion of an artist in residence at a veterinary school. Others had invited Charlie into their treatment rooms and their sphere of trust, where he steeped himself in the world of clinicians and their patients and made music not only for them, but of them.

The evening concert vibrated with the mesmerizing sounds of 12 songs Charlie composed born of his interactions with clinicians, animals, and researchers, including four songs sung with sensitivity and power by members of the LSU A Cappella Choir under the direction of Dr. Alissa Rowe.

"The songs he composed arose from deep within the heart of LSU Vet Med in relationship with our people and the patients and clients we serve. New music, interdisciplinary connections, and exploratory pathways to wellness were generated during this residency," said Sandra Sarr, who manages the Artist-in-Residence Program.

The 2023 residency explored how music contributes to the wellbeing of both animals and people. Charlie often could be found playing his guitar softly during treatment sessions with patients and clinicians, which appeared to create a soothing atmosphere for both.

"It's been fun to see the response of some of the animals when they hear Charlie's music while we're treating them. Charlie would know what tunes they were responding to. They kind of figured out what he was doing, interacted with him, and then started to relax," said Dr. Kailyn Scott, associate clinical professor of Integrative Medicine and Rehabilitation.

For five weeks spanning August and September, Charlie observed our clinicians in action in the Large Animal Hospital, the Wildlife Hospital, Neurology, Oncology, Cardiology, Emergency & Critical Care, Research Labs, Community Practice, Integrative Medicine, Anatomy, Ophthalmology, and Osteopathy. Initial meetings with clinicians that occasionally began tentatively always concluded with enthusiasm and willingness to explore what music might add to wellness efforts at the vet school.

The effects of music on wellness have been well documented in humans, and studies with domestic and other animals have revealed that music also has a powerful effect on them, according to Dr. Susan Wagner, veterinary neurologist and co-author of *Through a Dog's Ear*.

Sparked by this residency, discussions are taking place among LSU faculty in Integrative Medicine, Music Therapy, and Neurology about potential ways to expand and measure the efficacy of music and wellness in animals.

Engaging the LSU community across disciplines was an important aspect of the 2023 residency with the School of Music, just as it was with the School of Art for the 2022 residency.

Dr. Eric Lau, Dean of the College of Music and Dramatic Arts, said during his opening remarks at the concert, "This world premiere performance is something very special. It is rare to see the composer and the

musicians on the same stage performing together, and it is an exciting and enriching opportunity for our students to be able to work directly with the composer on the first performance of this beautiful music. We are so excited about this collaboration with the vet school."

Charlie plays for Johnny, LSU teaching herd horse. Charlie with Dr. Kamile Geist and her music therapy class.

Charlie also helped connect LSU Vet Med across campus by making guest appearances in the classrooms of Dr. Kamile Geist, associate professor of music therapy and Ava & Cordell Haymon Endowed Chair, Dr. Alissa Rowe, associate professor and Galante Director of Choral Studies, and Dr. Christine Cloud, LSU Libraries Special Collections and English literature honors instructor. Charlie's music, up until now, had been inspired by literature, including that of the Brontës, Phillis Wheatley, and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

Giving his all throughout the residency, Charlie performed weekly, "Music at Noon," playing guitar music for faculty, staff, and students to enjoy during their lunch breaks. He accepted every invitation, including Dr. Rebecca Christofferson's to join her at an 8 a.m. visit to jazz pianist Bill Evans' gravesite where she collects insect specimens in the cemetery for her research. He even played his guitar at the request of Anatomy professors wanting to ease the stress of new students as they practiced hands-on techniques in the lab.

"It was a chance of a lifetime to clearly look at the elements that make all life worthy of protection, care, and healing," Charlie said.

His song collection, *Theoria*, will be released by Destiny Records this fall. LSU Vet Med has permission to utilize the music however we wish—in waiting rooms, treatment rooms, in our videos, for student listening at their leisure. Let the music play on for the good of all.

In Dr. Charles Lee's laboratory. More about Dr. Lee: **lsu.edu/vetmed/news/2022lee_charles_grant.php**

IN THE ARTIST'S WORDS

"My time at LSU Vet Med allowed me to create art that is centered in wellness. It led me into personal and creative territory I'd never ventured into, which also redefined my understanding of wellness. This music needed to fully encompass the joy, fear, uncertainty, hope, and focus intrinsic to the pursuit of being well. It needed to honorably represent the practitioners and patients who inspired its creation. I hope that this translation through sound is received as a witnessing. *Theoria*, the title of my album, is translated from Greek: "to gaze at; to contemplate with the eyes or with the mind; awareness of divine realities."

—CHARLIE RAUH, 2023 LSU VET MED ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

LSU Vet Med Hosts Successful "Insights into LSU Vet Med" Event Focused on Diversity and Inclusion

Audubon Zoo provided one of several venues to learn about a career in veterinary medicine.

FROM MAY 30 THROUGH JUNE 9, 2023, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine hosted the second annual "Insights into Vet Med" undergraduate student experience, a two-week program sponsored by the LSU Office of Inclusive Excellence. The program aimed to provide a unique educational experience for undergraduate students from several Louisiana universities, shedding light on the diverse and rewarding field of veterinary medicine.

The event provided a platform for young minds to explore the multifaceted world of veterinary medicine and exemplified LSU Vet Med's commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity within the field. Through interactions with LSU Vet Med faculty and staff, participants gained valuable insights into various aspects of the profession and the personal journey towards a veterinary medicine career as experienced by current faculty members.

The program wasn't confined to the traditional classroom setting. Students had the opportunity to expand beyond lectures and broaden their horizons through lab visits, problem-based learning opportunities, and off-site visits. A trip to the Baton Rouge Zoo allowed attendees to witness firsthand the intersection of veterinary care and wildlife conservation. Additionally, a visit to New Orleans for the National Association of Black Veterinarians Conference in New Orleans added a cultural dimension to their learning experience.

Undergraduate participants gained up close insights into a veterinary education.

With the goal of offering an immersive two-week encounter, the event aimed to expose students to the rigors of the veterinary curriculum, life as a veterinarian, and the

burgeoning career avenues within veterinary medicine. Attendees sharpened their skill sets with mock interviews and résumé review sessions. The program emphasized the significance of a career in animal welfare, underlining the responsibilities and ethical considerations that come with the profession.

"The program provided great insight in to how a vet student lives on a day-to-day basis, both the academic and personal side," said attendee Zacaria Goldsmith, an undergraduate student from Southern University and native of Shreveport, La. "This made me feel more confident about applying to vet school and becoming a veterinarian."

Rangasamy wins science and innovation award for discoveries that could lead to new treatments for deadly lung diseases

Dr. Tirumalai Rangasamy

DR. TIRUMALAI RANGASAMY, ASSOCIATE professor of research at the Center for Lung Biology and Disease, Department of Pathobiological Sciences, was named 2023 Science and Innovation Center Abstract Award winner for his scientific abstract on secondhand cigarette smoke by the American Thoracic Society (ATS) Assembly on Pulmonary Infections and Tuberculosis Award Selection Committee.

ATS 2023 showcases the latest advancements and discoveries in respiratory science, patient care, and global respiratory health. The ATS International Conference is the gathering place for pulmonary, critical care, and sleep professionals, ranging from those in the early stages of their careers to those who have gained international recognition for their research or clinical care advancements. Every year, approximately 14,000 of these professionals attend, present, and learn about the latest advancements, while also connecting with colleagues from around the world and forging new collaborations.

"It is truly the convergence of today's science with tomorrow's care, which is especially important because chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is the third leading cause of death and is killing nearly 5 million people each year. There are no effective treatments," said Dr. Rangasamy, who delivered a presentation at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., in May.

Under the mentorship of Dr. Samithamby Jeyaseelan, Dr. Rangasamy's research focuses on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, allergic asthma, acute lung injury, septic shock, and pneumonia caused by various bacterial species.

Tobacco smoking is responsible for over 70 percent of COPD cases in high-income countries. COPD can be complicated by frequent exacerbations triggered by bacteria, viruses, and environmental pollutants.

In 2019 alone, it was estimated that there were 4.95 million deaths associated with superbugs. There is currently no effective therapy available for treating patients with COPD or COPD exacerbations. Dr. Rangasamy and his colleagues have developed a novel model of COPD-associated bacterial exacerbations, specifically focusing on the mechanisms by which the CRKP superbug causes exacerbations in mice with pulmonary emphysema induced by secondhand cigarette smoke.

"Because of the infection, the lungs cannot expand and contract, which inhibits breathing and can lead to death," he said.

He has published numerous articles in international journals, presented his research at more than 45 national and international conferences, and serves on the editorial board of three scientific journals, including *Frontiers in Immunology*. He is a valued member of the Science Advisory Board and is an honorary member of London Journal Press. Dr. Rangasamy is an Investigator/Co-investigator for more than 12 National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded grants, and his dedication to scientific research has earned him more than 14 national and international awards, including the prestigious Lasker Fellowship.

"I am grateful that my scientific research over many years can be useful in helping to alleviate suffering and save lives," Dr. Rangasamy said.

LSU Vet Med and Puerto Rico

LSU VET MED'S RELATIONSHIP with Puerto Rico and its people goes back decades, with LSU Vet Med at one time having a formal contract with Puerto Rico to hold a seat in each class for a Puerto Rican student. Even after the contract dissolved, LSU Vet Med continued to seek out students from Puerto Rico. In August 2022 and 2023, Dean Oliver Garden and LSU Vet Med faculty, staff, and students visited Puerto Rico for the Colegio de Medicos Veterinarios de Puerto Rico (CMVPR) Conference. They met with alumni, veterinary technicians, technologists, and nurses, and Dean Garden addressed conference delegates. In 2022, the group met with pre-veterinary students from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez. In April 2023, Dr. Blanca Colon (LSU 2011) and other Puerto Rican veterinarians came to LSU Vet Med to learn more about disaster preparedness and response.

"LSU Vet Med has a long history of training veterinarians from Puerto Rico," said Dr. Javier Nevarez (LSU 2001), professor of zoological medicine. "These graduates are proud Tiger fans who have gone to serve in leadership positions such as American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) president (Dr. Jose Arce, Class of 1997), president of the Puerto Rico Board of Veterinary Medicine (Drs. Blanca Colon, Class of 2011, and Juan Amieiro, Class of 1991), and president of the American College of Veterinary Opthalmologists (Dr. Dineli Bras, Class of 2000). There are also two Puerto Rican faculty members at LSU Vet Med, Dr. Jonuel Cruz (LSU 2015) and myself (Class of 2001). Multiple other graduates from Puerto Rico have gone on to become board-certified specialists. Just as in sports, veterinary colleges must recruit top talent in order to remain competitive. Puerto Rican graduates have already shown they are top-tier talent who can elevate the reputation of LSU Vet Med, thereby enhancing our visibility and notoriety across the U.S. Puerto Rican alumni also have strong ties to Louisiana making them ambassadors for the state and LSU Vet Med. An educational parentship with Puerto Rico is an opportunity to recruit top veterinary students, but is also an investment in Louisiana."

A SAVE member inspects a beehive.

Sustainability Advocates and Veterinary Environmentalists (SAVE)

THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVOCATES and Veterinary Environmentalists (SAVE) Committee pledges to establish and consistently maintain a professional and academic community upheld by sustainable environmental practices. Our role is to provide awareness and continuing education throughout the region, and to reduce our carbon footprint here at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine (LSU Vet Med).

Checking the wellbeing of the beehives. Two gallons of delicious honey were collected.

So far, SAVE activities have included establishing an LSU-based Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium (HBVC) Club, hosting information tables for membership, education, and fundraising, starting a composting partnership with 3 Little Pigs cafeteria, collecting food waste for composting, installing reflective stickers on upper-level Vet Med building windows to reduce mid-flight crashes into windows, successfully applying for a Student Sustainability Fund grant from the LSU Student Campus Sustainability Fund to start a Black Soldier Fly Larvae project, going on a fact-finding mission to Republic Recycling in Baton Rouge, participating in the LSU Lakes Kayak Cleanup event. Planned events include making a plant pollinator garden and hosting a public forum on recycling.

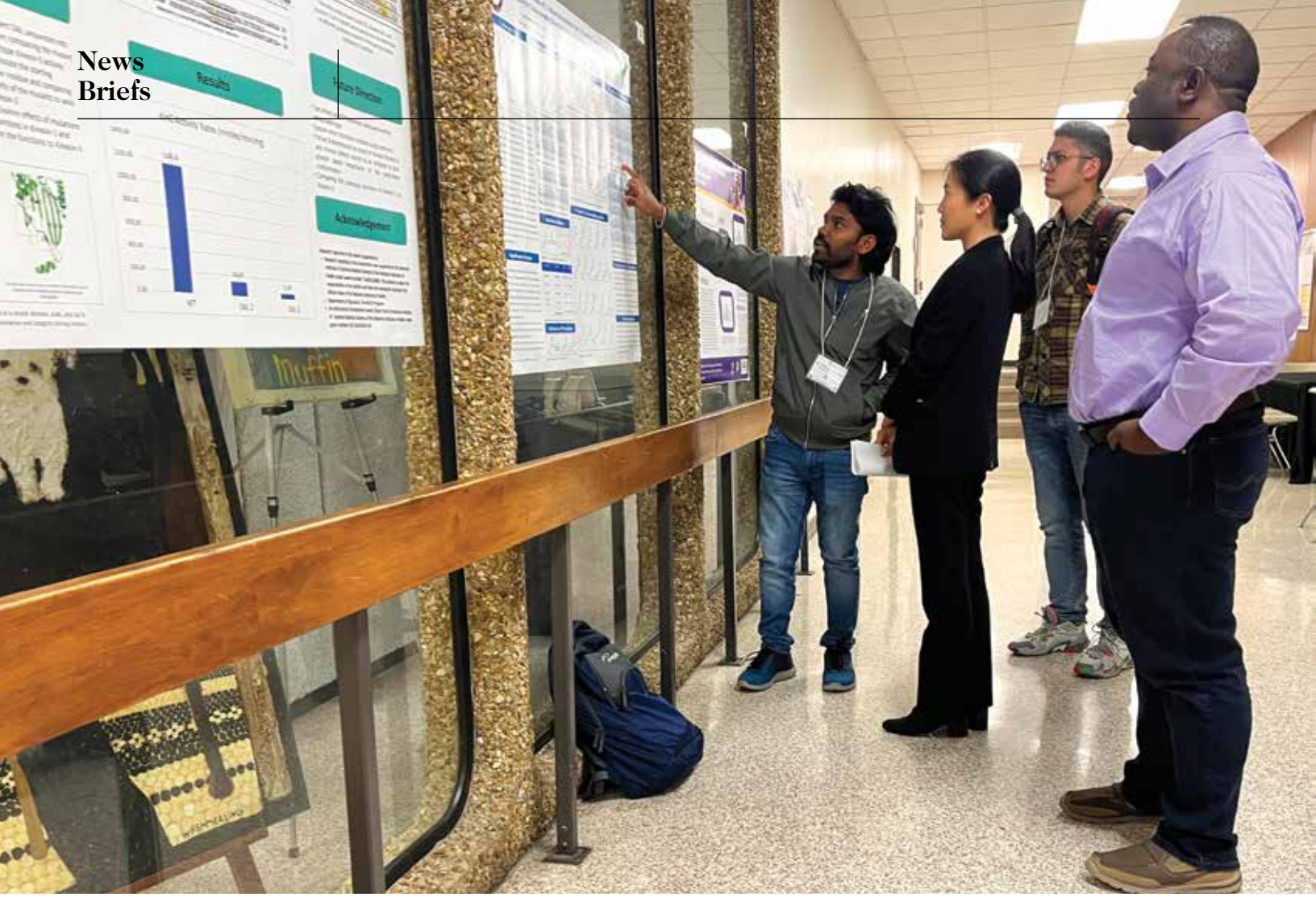
The Student Chapter of the Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium is made up of students and professionals from all segments of veterinary medicine and animal science who care about bees and beekeeping. SAVE experienced an abundant honey harvest from its Italian honey bees. Two gallons of delicious honey were collected.

The group aims to foster connections between animal health, human health, and environmental health and reduce LSU Vet Med's carbon footprint.

SAVE accomplishes its goals through working groups:

- Honey Bees: Working with Southern Italian Honey Bees near the LSU Vet Med campus to incorporate bee husbandry, medicine, and care into the curriculum
- Recycling: Collecting various forms of plastics and having appropriate locations for making reuse more accessible for LSU Vet Med (not limited to just plastic but also includes all aspects of reduce, reuse, recycle (e.g., thrifting, paper, etc.).
- Food Waste: Reducing food waste at LSU Vet Med by utilizing a composting program with Fluker Farms and by collaborating with 3 Little Pigs, LSU Vet Med's dining hall
- Outreach and Advocacy: Working with SAVE in efforts to involve the community in educating about sustainability through social media, lectures, and events

The SAVE Executive Board is comprised of LSU Vet Med students, staff, and faculty: Taina Rodriguez, Ashlee Lineberger, Lucy Barre, Kimberly Boykin, Sita Withers, Mark Mitchell, Bonnie Brocato, and Brian Collins.



LSU is part of NIH program to build biomedical research pipeline

IN SEPTEMBER 2001, LOUISIANA State University was the recipient of a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). This grant was most recently renewed in 2021, and it has been continuously funded from 2000 until 2026 where it will be recompeted for the next five years. The IDeA program builds research capacities in states that historically have had low levels of NIH funding by supporting basic, clinical and translational research; faculty development; and infrastructure improvements. IDeA is administered by NIH's National Institute of General Medical Sciences and is a component of its Center for Research Capacity Building.

In 2021, the $18.5 million grant was matched by a $1.2 million supplement from the Board of Regents that specifically enhances research opportunities for primarily undergraduate institutions (PUIs), faculty and students to work at LSU and other major research institutions in Louisiana. The total funding awarded for the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN) program is now more than $75 million. The LBRN provides infrastructure support, education, training, and research opportunities for students and faculty at primarily undergraduate institutions and fosters connections among PUIs.

Investigators shared research at the annual meeting.

LBRN held its 2023 annual meeting at LSU Vet Med where participants shared research accomplishments.

For more information about the LBRN, go to **lbrn.lsu.edu**

Gus Kousoulas, PhD, head of the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, Hannelore and Hans Storz Distinguished Professor, and Director of the Division of Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine, is the principal investigator, and Brent Stanfield, PhD (LSU 2016), assistant professor (research) in Pathobiological Sciences, is the program coordinator.

"The overall goal of this competitive grant is to facilitate the growth of biomedical research activities in the state," said Dr. Kousoulas. "Previous funding enabled the LBRN to establish a strong foundation for interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research, cyber-infrastructure, education, training, and mentoring programs. The LBRN programs are poised to increase the biomedical workforce within Louisiana and create a pipeline of needed future research scientists. During the past five years, faculty at the participating PUIs have won more than 20 federal and state research awards for more than $5 million. This success will continue as the LBRN provides research opportunities and mentoring for an increasingly diverse pool of both graduate and undergraduate students and faculty and will encourage collaborative research activities."

The current emphasis of the program is to train faculty and students in data science and bioinformatics through specialized courses and virtual training modules. The LBRN has recently expanded the network by allowing all Louisiana-based primarily undergraduate institutions to participate and receive financial support, mentoring and access to LSU facilities. Researchers and students at these schools are paired with mentors and collaborators at the state's biomedical research-intensive centers, including LSU A&M, the LSU Health Sciences Centers in Shreveport and New Orleans, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Tulane Medical Center, and Tulane National Primate Research Center. The program also includes an extensive summer research training program for undergraduates and includes students from 23 undergraduate institutions in the state co-funded by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

In January 2023, the LBRN hosted its annual meeting at LSU Vet Med. This meeting allows participants to meet and review individual research accomplishments and discuss the overall program activity. Keynote speakers included Carrie Robinson, deputy commissioner for sponsored programs, Louisiana Board of Regents; John H. Stewart IV, MD, MBA, FACS, foundation director of the LSU-LCMC Cancer Center, LSU School of Medicine; Oliver A Garden, BVetMed, PhD, FCPP, FRCVS, DACVIM, DECVIM, dean of LSU Vet Med; and Rafael Luna, PhD, associate dean, Morrisey College of Arts and Sciences.

Summer Scholars represent LSU Vet Med in Puerto Rico.

Summer Scholars take a field trip to the Mississippi Aquarium which contains more than 200 species of animals.

Veterinary Summer Scholars Program provides research opportunities for students

FROM MAY THROUGH AUGUST, twenty-six LSU Vet Med veterinary students conducted research as part of the Veterinary Summer Scholars Program, which serves to further students' learning and experiences in research beyond the required classroom and clinical training. The program is competitive and based on proposals submitted by first- and second-year veterinary students. The program encourages innovative studies in human and animal diseases and lends further understanding to veterinary careers in biomedical research. Each year, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) selects medical and veterinary schools to participate in its T35 summer biomedical research program, and LSU has received the funding for the eighteenth consecutive year.

"The Veterinary Summer Scholars Program gives our students a chance to participate in various experimental studies from bench-top to clinical research working with a faculty mentor," said Britta Leise, DVM (LSU 2002), PhD, DACVS, associate dean of staff and faculty advancement, and associate professor of equine surgery. The 10-week experience is intense but is an excellent opportunity for the students to gain valuable experience working in a research lab or on a clinical study. Many students use the knowledge they gain performing future research in residency specialty programs and some even decide to pursue a PhD upon completion of their DVM degree. The national symposium is the pinnacle of the program where the students travel to a meeting as a group proudly representing LSU and their mentors' laboratories. Here they get to present their research findings to other veterinary students from around the world. "I personally love getting to know each student in the program, watching them take pride in the work they complete over the summer and develop confidence in their presentation abilities. This program gives our students exposure to research, opening new career opportunities that many students may not have considered before participating in summer scholars," Dr. Leise said.

To participate in the Summer Scholars program, the students developed their own research plan proposals with the guidance of a faculty member, and a faculty

committee selected the participants based on the proposals. All first- and second-year veterinary students throughout the country and abroad had the opportunity to submit proposals. The program is coordinated by Dr. Leise; Joseph Francis, BVSc, MVSc, PhD, associate dean for research and graduate education and professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBS); Andrew Lewin, BVM&S, DACVO, assistant professor of veterinary ophthalmology in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences; Yogesh Saini, BVSc, MS, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences; and Joseph Taboada, DVM, DACVIM, professor of small animal internal medicine in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS).

This summer, LSU Vet Med research projects were funded by the National Institutes of Health, Boehringer-Ingelheim, the Kenneth F. Burns Trust, the LSU Vet Med Equine Health Studies Program, the Morris Animal Foundation, and LSU.

See full list of Summer Scholars projects at **lsu.edu/vetmed/news/2023/summer_scholars.php**

John Le Receives NIH Predoctoral Fellowship

LSU'S THIRD YEAR PHD candidate John Le has received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, a highly competitive national award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), totaling $126,408 to support his dissertation research for three years. The goal of the NRSA award is for recipients to obtain individualized mentored training to help with their future research endeavors.

A native of Baton Rouge, La., Dr. Le is pursuing his PhD in pathobiological Sciences with mentor Samithamby "Jey" Jeyaseelan, DVM, PhD, professor, and co-director/contact principal investigator of the Lung Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) program. Dr. Jey was the recipient of the 2023 Andrew Lackner Mentoring Award and Le was Dr. Jey's second NRSA award recipient.

During his sophomore year, Le was accepted into the NIH-funded LSU's Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) Scholarship Program which funds students from underrepresented communities to provide research training, academic development, and career opportunities to enrich diversity in biomedical sciences. IMSD program director, Dr. Graca Vicente, introduced him to Dr. Jey, and Le started working in Dr. Jey's lung biology laboratory as a student worker in 2017. He helped complete several sepsis and bacterial pneumonia projects and became a co-author of one.

With others, he spent several months performing flow cytometry experiments to show how the activation of the immune molecules, such as inflammasome led to apoptosis of the lymphocytes and a decrease in T-cell function. He presented these findings twice at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students or ABRCMS (2017 and 2018) and twice at the Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day at LSU Vet Med (2018 and 2019), placing third and second at the Phi Zeta Research Day.

Following his undergraduate tenure, Le continued his studies in Dr. Jey's laboratory to pursue a doctorate.

"Dr. Jey was a phenomenal mentor during his time as an undergraduate researcher, and he continues to serve as an influential figure," Le said.

Within two years as a graduate researcher, he was able to assist and co-author a second publication, this time led by Dr. Tirumalai Rangasamy, research associate professor. This year, Le published an editorial on pulmonary host defense as the first author.

The title of Le's project is, "NLRP10 Inflammasome in Gram-Positive Sepsis." With the support of the prestigious fellowship, Le plans to explore the role of the NLRP10 inflammasome during viral and bacterial pneumonia separately, and he plans to combine his findings and optimized techniques to discover the role of NLRP10 during viral/bacterial respiratory coinfection.

Financing a future: Three veterinary students speak to putting it all together

BREONNA FREEMAN

Breonna Freeman, Class of 2025, from Monroe, La., initially thought she wanted to practice small animal medicine. Then she met Dr. Clare Scully, associate professor of Food Animal Health Maintenance, and she became fascinated with working with ruminants. Breonna is pictured with LSU Vet Med's goats, who serve an important role as blood donors.

"When I was considering vet school, I was very concerned about how I would be able to pay for school as well as the cost to live as a student. There is an immediate expectation for students to take out loans, but I hoped to take out only what I needed. Once I received my acceptance to vet school, I began to look for scholarships, grants, etc. that could possibly decrease the amount of loans I needed to take out, but most were not applicable for entering students.

Over the past two years, I have received scholarship support from the Bayou Kennel Club Inc., the Dr. Jodie G. Blackwell Scholarship, and the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) Student Scholarship.

Receiving scholarship support for my veterinary education is a greatly appreciated honor to me! This support also allows me to focus primarily on my veterinary studies and enjoy the many opportunities that this journey has to offer. I am blessed to be able to participate in various student organizations, service projects, and other academic activities while maintaining time with my family, friends, and community. Thinking about the support I have received as a veterinary student makes me excited about giving back in the future. I know what this support has meant for me and my family, so I cannot help but want to continue this amazing cycle."

MADISON HOPPER

Madison Hopper, Class of 2025, was born and raised in Belmont, Calif., before moving to DeRidder, La., when she was 12. She holds a BS in Kinesiology and a BS in Biological Sciences. A student representative for Hills Pet Nutrition, she wants to become a board-certified veterinary nutritionist.

"Figuring out how to finance vet school has been a very important part in my journey to becoming a veterinarian. I was honored to receive financial support for this upcoming year through a scholarship funded by the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association (LVMA). This is my first scholarship in veterinary school, and I am so

thankful to be a scholarship recipient this year. Receiving scholarship support helps to fund my education while also providing some relief to growing student loan debt. This support means I can focus more on my education and less on the financial stress of veterinary school.

Veterinary school already can be difficult with the rigorous didactic and clinical training. Worrying about student loan debt only increases the stress experienced during one's vet school career. When generous organizations and individuals invest in our education by donating to student scholarships, their donations help to reduce that financial burden. In turn, we, as students, can focus on becoming the very best veterinarians. Having financial support through scholarships also decreases the stress of student loans once we are practicing veterinarians. A seemingly small donation to scholarships can have a lasting impact on us not only while in veterinary school but also as DVMs in the future."

CHRISTIAN FORTNER

Christian Fortner, Class of 2024, of Folsom, La., studied Biological Sciences at Southeastern Louisiana University. He is interested in companion avian and exotic animal medicine and small animal general practice. He aspires to be a trusted, open, and honest part of his future patients' care team while providing them with the best quality medical care available."Vet School is an expensive endeavor for any individual no matter their financial status," said Christian. When I was considering vet school, I definitely had reservations about the price and how I would pay that back after completing my degree. During second year I received the Dr. Carrie Washburn Memorial Scholarship for students with medical hardships and the LVMA Outstanding Student of the Year Award. During my third year, I received the Henry Chester Propes and Mary Wood Propes Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship support that I have received has been extremely helpful. I was able to pay for expenses that built up. These scholarships have contributed to my sense of belonging and support at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. I feel honored that the scholarship committee chose me as a recipient. For the LVMA Outstanding Student of the Year Award, I was nominated by my classmates and then chosen by the faculty. That award made me feel appreciated and supported.

The scholarship support afforded to veterinary students at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine truly helps students pursue their dreams and gives them a sense of belonging and school pride. These awards help students pursue externships, travel to conferences and symposiums for networking and learning opportunities, travel for job/internship interviews, and many other things that are necessary in today's veterinary school climate and cause financial stress for many students. In addition to this, many students, such as myself, have unexpected expenses or complications come up during their time in veterinary school that drain their savings that they built up for school expenses. The scholarships have helped put me on good financial footing for the rest of my career and will be greatly beneficial in helping me build a good quality of life for myself."

Cause for celebration: Dean Oliver Garden, Dr. Mariano Carossino, Dr. Udeni Balasuriya, Dr. Mark Mitchell, Dr. Lorrie Hale-Mitchell, and Dr. Fabio Del Piero.

LSU Vet Med faculty received LSU University Faculty Awards

MARK MITCHELL

On April 25, Mark Mitchell, DVM, PhD (LSU 2002), DECZM, professor of zoological medicine, received one of five LSU Distinguished Faculty Awards, which recognize faculty members with sustained records of excellence in teaching, research, service, and/or any combination of the three. Each recipient received a commemorative watch from the LSU Alumni Association and a salary increase.

At the ceremony, Dr. Mitchell was described as "the consummate clinician/scholar. As a clinician he is a renowned expert in exotic and wildlife medicine. He serves as Director of the Wildlife Hospital at the School of Veterinary Medicine and in that capacity oversees 1,800 clinical cases per year. He also serves as the faculty mentor for the LSU Vet Med Raptor Program that engages students to help evaluate, treat, and rehabilitate injured birds brought into the clinic. As a scholar, Dr. Mitchell has obtained over $2 million in research funding, has published 250 peer-reviewed articles and 75 scientific abstracts, authored 50 book chapters, and co-authored several textbooks on epidemiology and zoological medicine. The results of his research have resulted in advancing medical care to numerous species of animals. He is a tireless educator, often the first person in the clinic and the last one to leave in the evening. He gives lectures, leads hands-on clinical skills laboratories, and provides mentorship to students during their clinical rotations. His students cherish the time they spent with him, and his influence can be seen in animal care throughout the country in university clinics, zoos, and aquariums."

MARIANO CAROSSINO

Mariano Carossino, DVM, PhD, DACM, DACVP, assistant professor of diagnostic pathology, received one of 10 LSU Alumni Association Rising Faculty Research Awards,

which recognize faculty at the rank of assistant professor who have outstanding records of scholarship and published research. Each recipient receives a cash award.

At the ceremony, Dr. Carossino was recognized for his scholarship, which "focuses on understanding the pathogenesis and immunopathology of RNA viruses including rotavirus, equine arteritis virus, and SARS-CoV-2. He is a highly-productive scholar with 27 peer-reviewed publications within the last 20 months alone, nine of which he was primary author. He has gained national and international recognition for his pathological assessment of SARS-CoV-2 in a host of experimentally infected animals including dogs, cats, pigs, deer, primates, mice, and mink."

Both Mark and Mariano exemplify the highest standards of academic excellence, and we are proud to have them as members of the LSU Vet Med community. Congratulations to both of these exceptional faculty members!

Putting a new spin on old drugs

Dr. Juan Martinez presented his research findings at the LSU Science Café.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES HAVE not developed new classes of antibiotics over the last several years and at the same time, the over prescription of antibiotics may be contributing to the rise of drug-resistant bacteria. As a result, researchers at LSU are exploring new ways to combat illness. Instead of attacking the virus, bacteria, or parasite, they are looking at FDA-approved drugs that make the human body inhospitable to certain diseases. On May 30, Professor Juan Martinez shared findings from his research in this area as part of the LSU Science Cafe series at the historic Varsity Theatre at the North Gates of the LSU campus.

Juan Martinez, PhD, professor of Pathobiological Sciences and director of graduate education, is laying the scientific groundwork to tackle the persistent problem of bacteria that cause diseases that are unable to be treated with traditional medications. As part of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Pathobiological Sciences, part of Dr. Martinez' research endeavors is focused on finding alternative strategies to combat certain classes of disease-causing bacteria. He has covered a wide range of biomedical research, including an investigation of tick-borne diseases funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. His lab's work is understanding how bacteria cause disease and at the same time expanding the arsenal to combat some of the most difficult infections plaguing humans and other animals.

Born and raised in Chicago's predominantly Mexican immigrant neighborhood La Villita, Dr. Martinez's fascination with the inner workings of things drew him to the field of science. He earned a PhD in microbiology and microbial pathogenesis from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., and spent four years as a post-doctoral research scholar at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, France. Prior to his arrival at LSU, he was a tenure-track faculty member in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Chicago.

Dean Garden Announces New Leadership Roles

ALEXANDER MURASHOV

Alexander Murashov, PhD, has joined the faculty of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine as the head of the Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBS) department. He is an accomplished scientist and educator with a record of success in both research and teaching. He will be responsible for overseeing the CBS department's extensive biomedical research programs and advanced (MS and PhD) degrees.

Dr. Murashov received his PhD from the Anokhin Institute of Normal Physiology, Academy of Medical Sciences (Russia) and his MD from the Pirogov Moscow 2nd Medical Institute (Russia). His dissertation is entitled "Delta-sleep-inducing Peptide in Mechanisms of Defensive Behavior." He completed his post-doctoral training at Columbia University, Griffith University (Australia), and the Howard Florey Institute of Experimental Physiology (Australia). In 1999, he joined the faculty at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina State University, where he was a professor of physiology.

Dr. Murashov's research focus is on the role of miRNAs in mechanisms of transgenerational inheritance of metabolic and neurological traits and miRNAs in mechanisms of neuronal injury and plasticity. He currently has an NIH R01 award.

UDENI BALASURIYA

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine is pleased to announce that Udeni Balasuriya, BVSc, PhD, is the inaugural associate dean for diagnostic operations. Dr. Balasuriya is also the director of the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, a full-service AAVLD-accredited laboratory housed in LSU Vet Med.

The associate dean for diagnostic operations will be a key member of the LSU Vet Med senior leadership team and report directly to Oliver A. Garden, BVetMed, PhD, DACVIM, DECVIM-CA, dean of LSU Vet Med. Dr. Balasuriya will serve as LSU Vet Med's diagnostic principal and help to promote the school's mission of "we protect."

Dr. Balasuriya is a leader in laboratory diagnostics and disease diagnosis and surveillance using classical and contemporary laboratory techniques. The position requires working collaboratively across the school and university, shaping and implementing a dynamic strategic plan to advance the school's diagnostic and translational research status, fostering collaboration across the institution, developing new and nurturing existing external partnerships, and creating the necessary infrastructure to support a growing diagnostic enterprise. A keen understanding of a variety of funding mechanisms, advocacy, and compliance is essential.

Drs. Murashov, Balasuriya, Pucheu-Haston, and Delcambre.

CHERIE PUCHEU-HASTON

Cherie Pucheu-Haston, DVM (LSU 1992), PhD, DACVD, professor of dermatology, has been promoted to the new role of associate dean for clinical programs. In this new role, Dr. Pucheu-Haston will serve as a leader and strategic visionary for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and various related community outreach services, including oversight of daily operations and management of the faculty, staff, and house officers currently providing clinical services for over 20,000 cases per year. She will direct all clinical operations (small and large animal), operational needs, and the client/patient experience. She will be

assisted in this role by a dynamic support team, as LSU Vet Med continues to expand services and launch additional in-house and outreach initiatives.

Dr. Pucheu-Haston joined our LSU Vet Med faculty in January 2011. She received her DVM from LSU Vet Med in 1992 and her PhD from North Carolina State University in 2006. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology and has experience in both academia and the private sector.

GRETCHEN DELCAMBRE

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine is thrilled to announce the appointment of Gretchen Delcambre, DVM (LSU 2009), MS, as the assistant dean for student outreach and veterinary admissions, effective August 1, 2023. Dr. Delcambre has been an integral part of the LSU Vet Med team, serving as the director of veterinary outreach and admissions since July 2022.

Before joining LSU Vet Med, Dr. Delcambre held significant roles at Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, where she served as the director and later assistant dean for veterinary admissions. During her tenure, she oversaw admissions, combined and special degree programs, and provided professional advising.

As a key member of the Admissions and Student Success team, Dr. Delcambre leads the LSU Vet Med Admissions program and spearheads the outreach and recruitment of prospective veterinary students. Additionally, she offers academic and career counseling to students. Since her arrival at LSU Vet Med, Dr. Delcambre has already made remarkable strides, revamping the admissions process to a holistic approach and launching a Student Ambassador program. She is also actively hiring a dedicated recruiter and working on new policies while conducting in-depth data analysis to bring about innovative approaches in admissions.

Dr. Delcambre earned her DVM from LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, her MS from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, and her BS from LSU. She has published in esteemed scientific journals like the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation, Equine Veterinary Journal, PeerJ, PLoS One, and Analyst. Beyond her academic achievements, she actively contributes to the field and is a member of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges Admissions and Recruiting Committee. Dr. Delcambre has also served as an advisor to American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)'s Holistic Admissions Project, among numerous other professional activities and affiliations.

Brittany Boucher Good as Gold

THE LSU SCHOOL OF VETERINARY Medicine recently celebrated an outstanding accomplishment within the community. Brittany Boucher, who works as an undergraduate student worker in the Large Animal Service, was honored with the esteemed LSU Gold Student Employee of the Year Award in April. Among the 4,000 eligible student employees at LSU, Brittany's remarkable commitment stood out prominently. Notably, the award recipients were nominated by their colleagues.

"I love working at LSU because it's a great environment for learning and teaching," said Boucher. "The doctors and technicians here go above and beyond in their work to ensure that our patients receive the best care all while providing students with hands-on experiences and knowledge to help them throughout their journeys in vet school."

Brittany's contributions as a large animal student technician have left a lasting impression. In addition to applauding Brittany's outstanding achievement, Large Animal Nursing Supervisor, Amy Geeding; MS, CVT, along with her team of veterinary technicians, have nurtured Brittany's growth and provided her with the mentorship and support that are the hallmarks of the learning environment here at LSU Vet Med.

"I am fortunate enough to be able to work alongside these amazing people and get exposure to a large variety of patient cases. These experiences have provided me with unforgettable life lessons, and I couldn't be more appreciative of what I have learned and the connections I have made."

New Faculty

ETHAN ANDERSON, PhD, joined the faculty in August 2023 as an assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Anderson studies Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) and Alcohol Use Disorders (AUDs), including the lasting effects of abused drugs on the brain. He aims to discover novel, translational treatments for SUDs and AUDs that are capable of reducing drug use by reversing neuroplastic adaptations that occur following chronic use.

MELISSA BLAZEVICH, DVM (LSU 2016), DAVDC, joined the LSU Vet Med faculty in April 2023 as an assistant professor of veterinary dentistry and oral surgery in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS). Board-certified by the American Veterinary Dental College, Dr. Blazevich's clinical interests are in endodontic therapy, periodontal therapy, and maxillofacial trauma.

HEATHER DEAN, DVM, joined the faculty in July 2023 as a clinical assistant professor of veterinary practice skills in VCS. In this role, she is responsible for teaching hands-on clinical skills to veterinary students. She received her DVM from the University of Georgia in 2008 and worked in private small animal practices before coming to LSU.

SEETHARAMA JOIS, PhD, joined the LSU Vet Med faculty in May 2023 as a professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences. Dr. Jois investigates how proteins interact with one another to control life processes. He is currently working on three projects: one related to lung cancer, another related to immune response in autoimmune diseases, and the third related to colorectal cancer.

PATTY LATHAN, VMD, DACVIM, joined LSU Vet Med in August 2023 as a professor of small animal internal medicine in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Dr. Lathan's teaching, clinical, and research interests are in endocrinology. Her teaching goal is to make education as fun as possible for the students, and sometimes this involves alternative methods like using music or games. Dr. Lathan's research focuses on diabetes mellitus, Addison's disease, and Cushing's syndrome. She received her

BA in 1998 from Texas A&M, her VMD from the University of Pennsylvania in 2002, and her MS in 2007 from Purdue University.

JACK LEE, DVM, joined the faculty in August 2023 as an assistant professor of emergency and critical care in VCS. Dr. Lee's clinical interests are in point-of-care ultrasound, thromboembolic complications in ICU patients, and feline emergency and critical care. He received his DVM from the University of Tennessee in 2019.

DAVID MARTINEZ, MV, MSc, PhD, joined the LSU Vet Med faculty in August 2023 as an assistant professor of food animal medicine and surgery in VCS. Dr. Martinez's clinical interests are in ruminant metabolic disease, respiratory disease, and neurologic disease. He received his MV and MSc both from the National University of Colombia in 2008 and 2016, respectively. In 2023, he received his PhD from Auburn University. In 2023, Dr. Martinez received the Outstanding American Journal of Veterinary Research Resident Manuscript Award.

SUBMIT NEWS

SANDRA SARR sarr1@lsu.edu

On a tour of LSU Vet Med, the Topes observe the equine treadmill used to study and diagnose patients.

Tope Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana Fund Established

BETH N. AND STEPHEN TOPE have made a $500,000 planned gift to benefit the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana in the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

The Tope Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana Fund will provide support to the WHL, including medical supplies, medication, food, rehabilitation, and other costs of providing care and treatment of injured wildlife, and student training, conference and externship opportunities.

"Negative human encounters for wildlife are continuing to rise, making the support from the Topes so very important. Their donation will allow us to continue to provide advanced medical and surgical care for the more than 1,300 injured wildlife cases presented annually, as well as to provide novel training opportunities for our veterinary students," said Dr. Mark Mitchell, WHL director and professor of Zoological Medicine.

Steve Tope has served as the administrator for the Charles McClendon Scholarship Foundation, which provides scholarships to children of former football players. Beth Tope graduated from LSU in 1983 with a master's degree in reading from the College of Education under the College of Human Sciences & Education. She was an associate professor at LSU. Both are avid supporters of LSU sports.

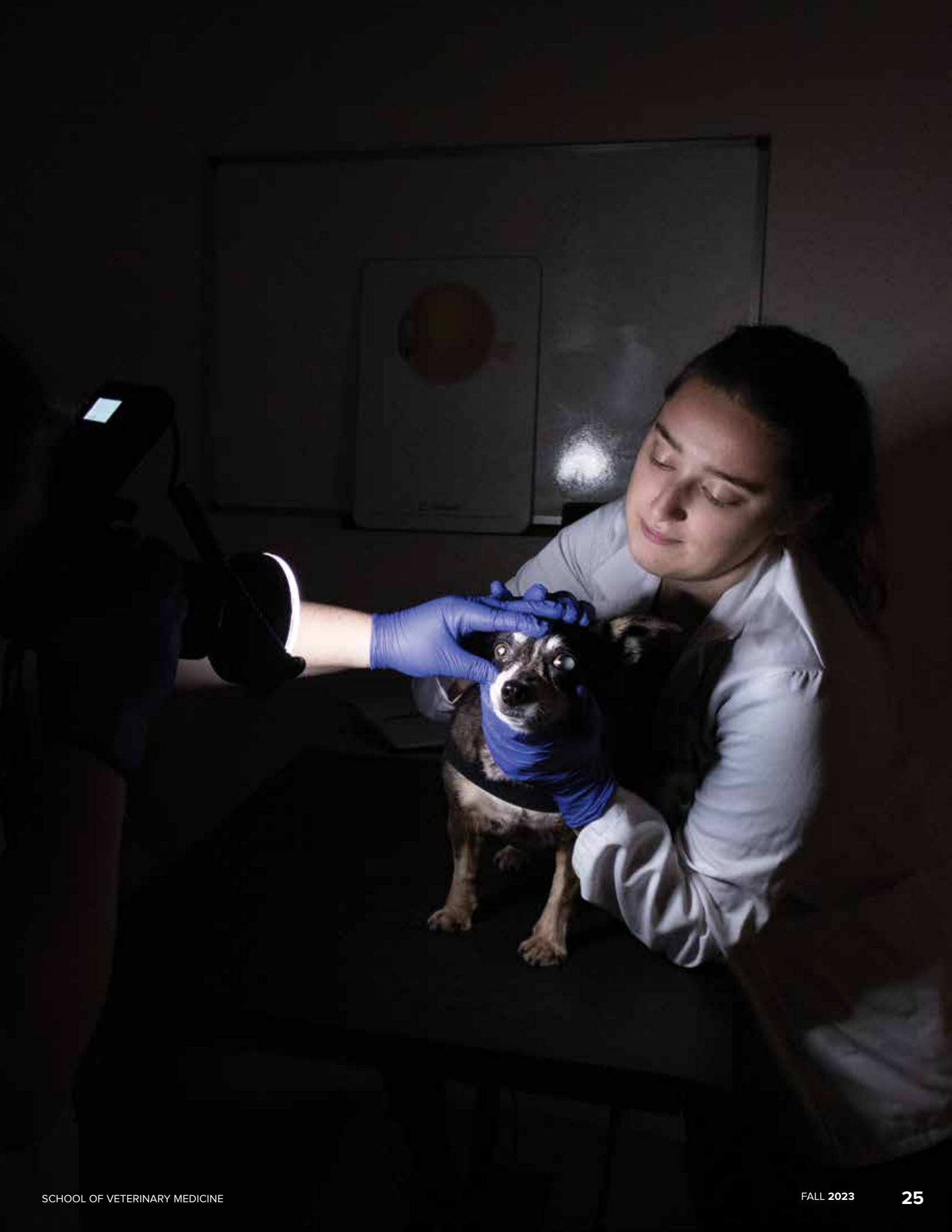
FEATURE

Lynn&Chloe:

DYNAMIC DUO FOR LIFE

Rescue dog surprises adopter by saving his life; now she's blind and gets premium care at LSU Vet Med

BY SANDRA SARR




DIABETIC
ALERT
DOG
FULL ACCESS

LSU Vet Med Ophthalmology Service client Lynn Ladner got more than he bargained for when he adopted a shelter dog named Chloe eight years ago. All he knew was that he liked the way her ears stuck out in a picture the rescue posted, and so he applied to adopt her. Lynn couldn't know then that Chloe possessed a superpower that would save his life.

Just 48 hours after Lynn drove the 18-lb. dog home to Gulfport, Miss., from the rescue on the Alabama-Tennessee border, she awakened him in the night by jumping up and down on his chest.

"My first thought was, 'This dog has gone crazy!' Then I realized I couldn't get out of bed. My vision was blurred, I was dizzy, I could barely function. I called 911," said Lynn, a project manager who does government contract work based out of the NASA Stennis Space Center.

CHLOE SAVED LYNN'S LIFE ONLY 48 HOURS AFTER THEY FIRST MET. "THEY TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER," DR. RENEE CARTER SAID.

Lynn was experiencing a Type 2 diabetic episode. If Chloe hadn't awakened him, he was at great risk for a diabetic coma, a life-threatening disorder that causes unconsciousness. Medics arrived and determined his blood sugar had hit an extreme level. They administered insulin, stabilized him, and said of Chloe, "This dog was alerting you to a life-threatening situation."

UNDERDOG

"I didn't even know there were diabetes alert dogs. I'd never heard of such a thing," Lynn said.

The following morning, Lynn called the rescue where he adopted Chloe and told them what happened.

"I needed to know more about this little dog," he said.

The rescue put Lynn in touch with Chloe's former veterinarian, who told him that two-year-old Chloe had been trained as a diabetes support dog for an older woman. When she died shortly thereafter, Chloe went to live with the woman's daughter whose boyfriend mistreated the dog. A neighbor noticed her plight, intervened, and that's how Chloe ended up in rescue.

Although alert dogs typically receive extensive training geared toward their diabetic owner's particular scent, Chloe saved Lynn's life only 48 hours after they first met.

Caring for Chloe: Dr. Renee Carter, Leigh Ann Burton, Dr. Melanie Maronovich, and Savannah Billings.

Diabetes alert dogs typically undergo two years of specialized training preparing them for their working life. Often the trained dog and the diabetic owner will take two or three weeks of additional training together. These dogs, typically Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, standard poodles, and labradoodles, can range in price from $10,000 to $25,000. Lynn paid $200 to the rescue to adopt Chloe, a dachshund-rat terrier mix.

"She saved my life. I'm a very lucky man," said Lynn, holding Chloe in the waiting room at LSU Vet Med.

THEY HELP EACH OTHER

Now, Lynn does all he can to repay the favor, especially since Chloe, nearly 10, lost her ability to see about a year ago.

Every 90 days, Lynn and Chloe wake up early and head west from their home in Gulfport, Miss., to LSU School of Veterinary Medicine in Baton Rouge, La., where Chloe gets eye check-ups with the Ophthalmology service. They make the five-hour roundtrip as they have for the past four years to have her eyes rechecked and to ensure there is no inflammation or glaucoma.

Chloe was diagnosed with a progressive, inherited disorder known as Progressive Retinal Atrophy or PRA. This condition causes a gradual loss of the photoreceptors or "camera-like" receptors that are present in the retina and important to vision. Over time, patients with PRA unfortunately lose vision in both eyes. Dogs with chronic PRA often develop cataracts and inflammation due to ongoing changes within the eye. Pressures and inflammation have caused Chloe to require long-term medical care for her eyes to keep her comfortable.

Chloe's eyes need to be regularly monitored after her initial diagnosis and treatment. Given the changes in Chloe's eyes, daily eye drops are needed. Lynn will

make the regular trek to LSU Vet Med and administer eye drops twice a day for the rest of Chloe's life.

"Chloe is a sweet girl! She has adapted very well to her vision loss and is a true joy to work with. We will continue to work with her and her wonderful family to monitor the health of her eyes and ensure that she remains comfortable," said Dr. Renee Carter, professor of veterinary ophthalmology.

EVERY 90 DAYS THEY TRAVEL FROM MISSISSIPPI TO LSU VET MED TO CHECK HER EYES. SHE CAN STILL DO HER JOB EVEN THOUGH BLIND.

At home, Lynn helps Chloe adapt to blindness and navigate their space, although she no longer needs much assistance. He puts drops of vanilla on each side of doorways so that she knows how to find the openings.

"She knows where all of the furniture and objects are in the house," he said.

SERIOUS BUSINESS

Even though she is blind now, the former rescue dog can still perform her medical alert duties for Lynn since she performs them based on her sense of smell.

"She ended up alerting me a second time and kept me safe," he said.

Chloe stays close and checks Lynn's breath throughout the day. It's her job. Diabetes alert dogs are

In position to do her job as Lynn holds Chloe awaiting her ophthalmology appointment.

Pressures and inflammation cause Chloe to require long-term medical care for her eyes to keep her comfortable.

trained to detect blood sugar levels before they become too dangerous. This gives the person time to test and use necessary medication before the blood sugar levels change further.

"Before going into a diabetic coma, your breath has a sweet smell and within 12 hours you can die. I take her everywhere with me. If she can't be near me, even temporarily, she thinks something bad has happened to me and she gets very agitated," he said.

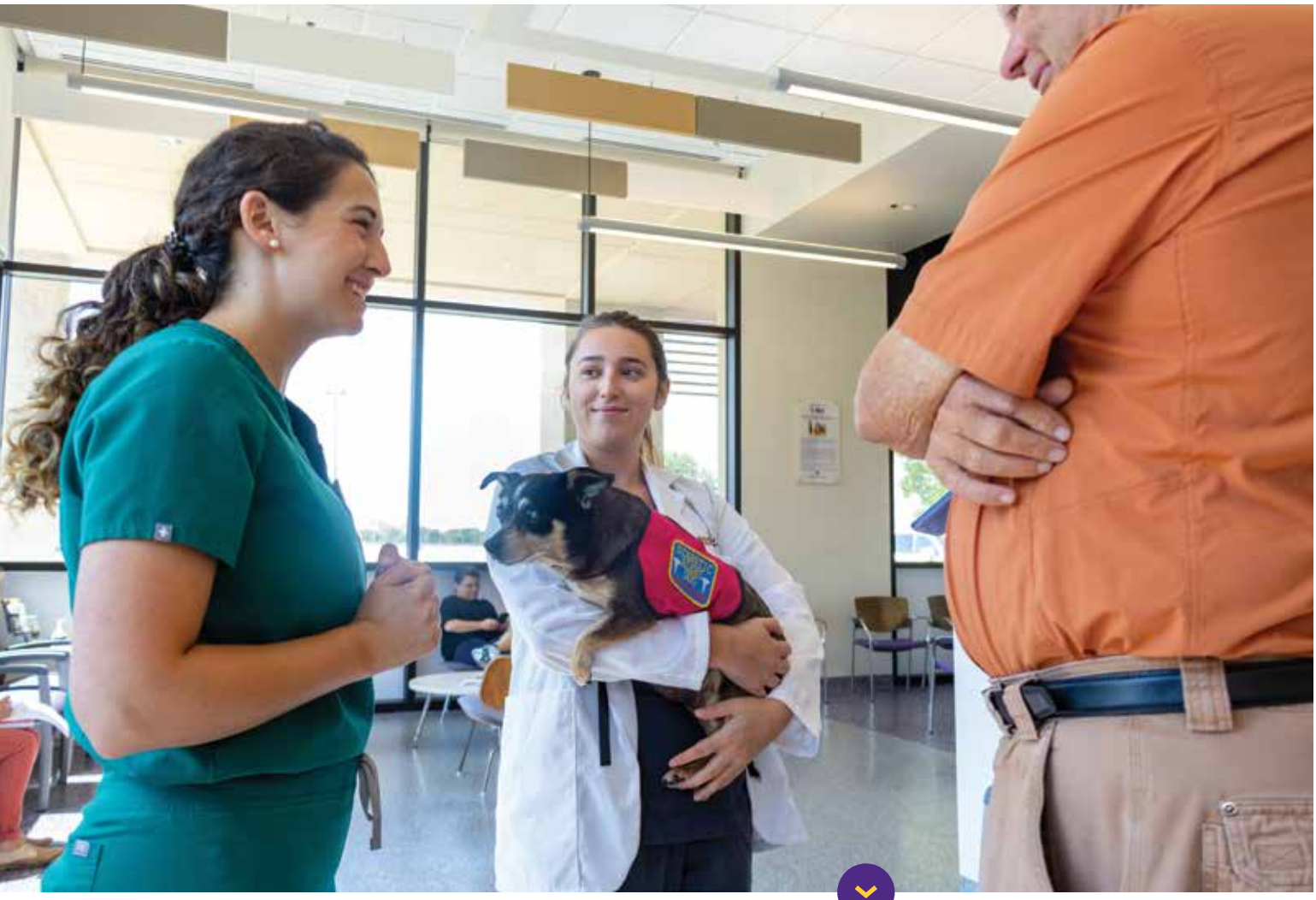
REPORTING FOR DUTY

Chloe has been issued top security clearance to accompany the U.S. Navy veteran at NASA's largest rocket engine test facility, the John C. Stennis Space Center, in Hancock County, Miss. She has also accompanied Lynn to Houston and other work sites.

"The Space Center director knows Chloe and asks about her if I step into a meeting without her. They all love her," he said.

The small-but-mighty dog has gone where few humans will ever tread, including on test stands where rocket engines are tested before launching into space.

As a diabetes alert dog, Chloe is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act, a federal law which protects people with disabilities from discrimination. She accompanies Lynn inside restaurants and other public places where dogs are typically forbidden. On rare occasions when staff questions her presence, he shows them a card



that describes ADA rights concerning service dogs.

"It's recommended that service dogs get retrained every few years, but she doesn't need it," he said of Chloe, who was attuned to his needs the moment they met.

INSEPARABLE

Even though Chloe's job is serious business, her life is filled with fun, chasing toys, doing dances, and running in the yard with two other dogs. At night, Chloe sleeps on the pillow next to Lynn's head. "She snores worse than I do," Lynn said with a laugh.

In the remarkable story of Chloe and Lynn, it's not about who rescued whom. It's about the ways in which they can depend on each other in the most important ways going through life together.

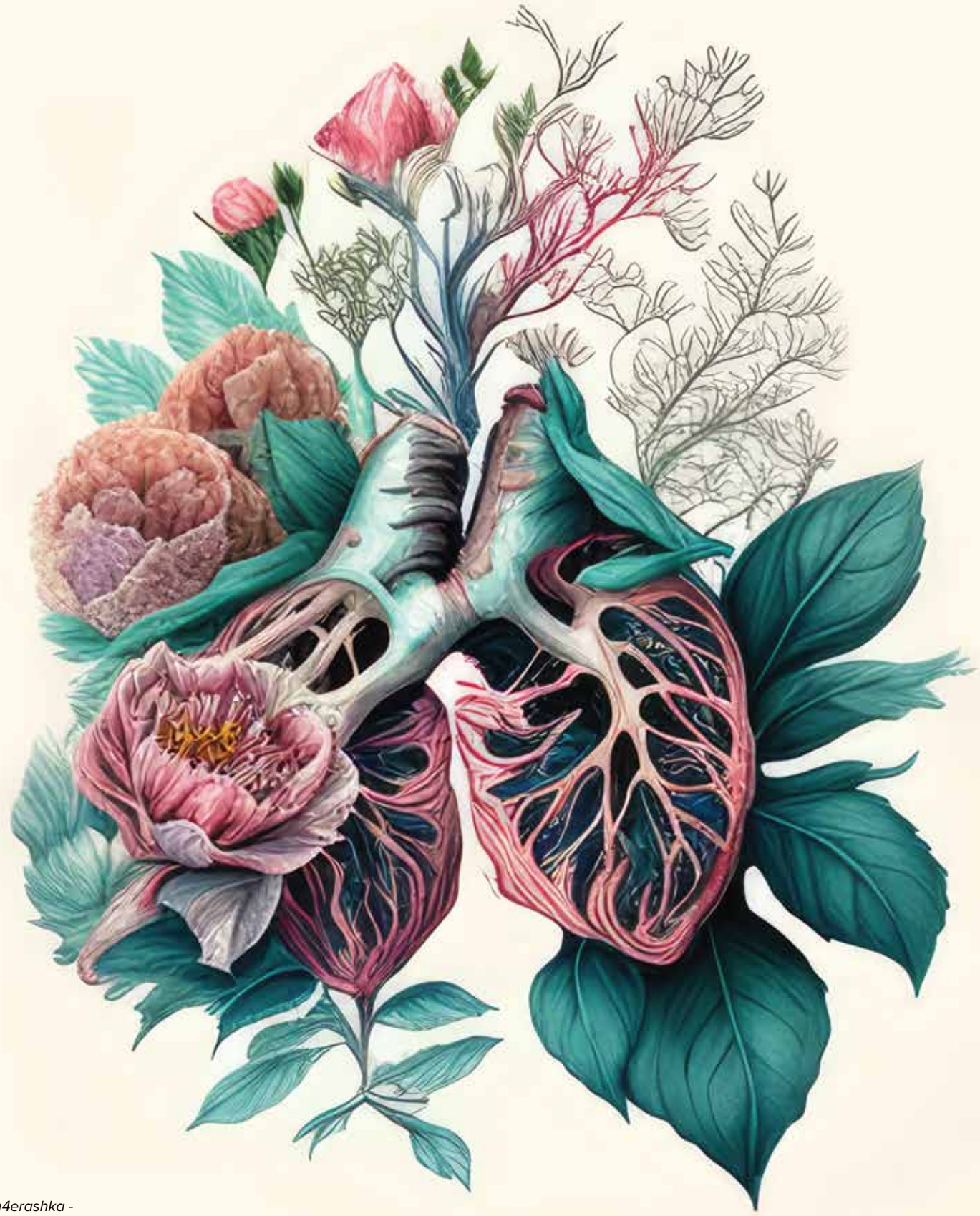
"They take care of each other," Dr. Carter said.

"We're inseparable. I don't know what we would do without each other," he said.

VISIONARY EXPERTISE

LSU Vet Med Ophthalmology service provides the most current ophthalmic care for patients of all species with precision-specialized equipment and techniques. In addition to the diagnosis and medical treatment of eye diseases, the Ophthalmology Service provides advanced surgical services.

Learn more at **www.lsu.edu/vetmed/veterinary_hospital/ophthalmology.php**



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FEATURE

BREATHE EASY

Researchers relentlessly pursue solutions to lung disease to help people breathe easier and live longer

BY SANDRA SARR

Breathe Easy

Dr. Alexandra Noël with assistant at work in her laboratory. For more information about Dr. Noël and her research: **lsu-noel-laboratory.com/dr-noel**

The function of lungs is a subject most take for granted since breathing does not require thought. Our lungs usually do their job effortlessly and reliably. When they don't or can't, medical intervention becomes necessary. Breath is essential to life. And when available medical interventions do not offer sufficient relief, new discoveries become a lifeline.

At the Center for Lung Biology and Disease (CLBD), a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, some of the best and brightest minds are taking aim at all manner of life-threatening respiratory diseases, including bacterial and viral lung infections, asthma, and acute lung injury. Backed by more than $11.5 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health, the CLBD has proven itself a true center of excellence where discoveries are in progress to alleviate human suffering.

Lung diseases are an increasing problem,

There is no yesterday in your lungs

there is no tomorrow either

there is only now

there is only inhale

there is only exhale

there is only this moment

—EXCERPTED WITH PERMISSION FROM
A POEM BY JOHN ROEDEL

especially in babies, the immunocompromised and the elderly. Louisiana is among the top five states most affected by pulmonary diseases. The overarching goal of the CLBD is to gain new insights into the pathogenesis of devastating lung diseases that will guide improved strategies to treat and prevent lung diseases in humans.

A powerful contributor to LSU Vet Med's discover mission, the CLBD augments research on campus in the molecular and cellular immunological mechanisms of pulmonary and pulmonary-related heart diseases.

RESEARCH POWERHOUSE

One measure of success is LSU Vet Med's exponential growth in federally funded research programs. LSU Vet Med now ranks 8th in NIH funding among all U.S. veterinary schools, with NIH funding increasing by 55 percent within the last five years. The CLBD is a key contributor to this growth.

CLBD researchers have earned 14 NIH-funded grants and pursued projects spanning numerous aspects of lung biology and disease, including three of the main pillars of research at LSU Vet Med: 1) infectious diseases, 2) immunology, and 3) inhalation toxicology.

"The goal of the CLBD aligns with LSU Vet Med's overarching strategic plan, which advocates for research Centers of Excellence (COE) that highlight existing and future faculty research strengths and also emphasizes biomedical research aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Louisiana's citizens," according to Dr. Tammy Dugas, co-principal investigator, Everett D. Besch Professor, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education.

"Many of the CLBD investigators focus on multiple aspects of lung research, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Research findings of the CLBD investigators will improve the understanding of the human body's defenses in order to develop effective therapeutics and vaccines against devastating lung diseases that can cause acute lung injury and its severe form, acute respiratory distress syndrome, which is the primary complication in COVID-19 infection in humans," according to Dr. Samithamby ("Jey") Jeyaseelan, co-principal investigator, Dr. William L. Jenkins Professor in Veterinary Medicine and Professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences

EXPANDING DISCOVERIES

Funding comes from the NIH Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence, or COBRE program, which seeks to promote the initiation and development or expansion of unique, innovative, state-of-the-art biomedical and

THE TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS INSPIRE EACH OTHER. SYNERGIES BETWEEN THEM HELP PROPEL THEIR RESEARCH.

Drs. Xing Fu, Sonika Patial, Smriti Mehra, Samithamby "Jey" Jeyaseelan, Tammy Dugas, Weishan Huang, Alexandra Noël, and Yogesh Saini.

behavioral research centers at institutions in states that historically have received low levels of support from NIH, including Louisiana.

"The COBRE grant has succeeded in its purpose, allowing us to recruit young investigators, support their research, and position them to obtain their own federal funding for their projects. Already, our individual investigators have generated 14 external grants amounting to $23,511,328 in federal funds in addition to the initial COBRE grant, which amplifies their research output and productivity," Dr. Dugas said.

According to the NIH, COBRE support comes in three sequential five-year phases: Phase I focuses on developing research infrastructure and providing junior investigators with formal mentoring and research project funding to help them acquire preliminary data and successfully compete for independent research grant support. Phase II seeks to strengthen each center through further improvements in research infrastructure and continuing development and support of a critical mass of investigators with shared scientific interests.

In addition to the $11.5 million for its initial five years, the grant is renewable for two additional five-year terms for a total of more than $32 million. After five years of Phase I support, centers are expected to be able to compete successfully for other sources of research funding, such as program project or center grants from other NIH institutes and centers or other funding sources.

Phase III transitional centers provide support for maintaining COBRE research cores developed during Phases I and II, and sustain a collaborative, multidisciplinary research environment with pilot project programs and mentoring and training components.

"This grant focuses on lung disease, which is an ongoing area of breakthrough research done by the investigators at the LSU Vet Med," Dr. Jeyaseelan said. "This is an outstanding opportunity for a group of new and early-stage investigators to get their research programs off the ground and to flourish. It sets essential milestones in research that they must fulfill and includes the remarkable value of personalized mentoring. It is indeed an awesome program."

"The team of young investigators inspire each other. Synergies between them help propel their research. They are positioned to build their own federally funded research programs at LSU to further their research," Dr. Dugas said.

Co-principal investigators, Drs. Jeyaseelan and Dugas have assembled a team of outstanding investigators with advanced knowledge and research expertise across different colleges on the LSU campus to address immunological mechanisms contributing to numerous infectious and non-infectious pulmonary diseases.

"Working together, they can tackle research problems that they may not have tried on their own," Dr. Dugas said.

BREATH WORK

Meet the CLBD project investigators and their discoveries-in-progress:

WEISHAN HUANG, PHD (PROJECT INVESTIGATOR, LSU VET MED):

Dr. Huang investigates the influence of genetics and environment on how lung diseases progress and explores new therapies for respiratory viral infections such as flu and COVID-19. She studies host-virus interactions, immune responses to infections and vaccinations, mechanisms of immunopathology, and strategies for preventing and treating respiratory viral infections. Dr. Huang's research utilizes the interdisciplinary team expertise at the LSU Vet Med and CLBD including immunology, virology, pathology, molecular and cellular biology, bioengineering, and bioinformatics.

YOGESH SAINI, DVM, PHD (PROJECT INVESTIGATOR, LSU VET MED):

Dr. Saini's interdisciplinary research deals with the cellular and molecular mechanisms associated with allergic asthma, ozone-induced airway disease, and secondhand smoke-induced chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Patients with asthma develop pulmonary exacerbations due to heightened immune responses. Current treatments, such as corticosteroids, aim to suppress immune responses and thus put these patients in the immunocompromised health status. He looks at the role of macrophages (virus-fighting front-responder cells in the airways of lungs) in asthma outcomes.

ALEXANDRA NOËL, PHD (PROJECT INVESTIGATOR, LSU VET MED):

More than 13 million Americans engage in vaping or use of an electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS). Dr. Noel researches how vaping affects health outcomes. There are few reports concerning vaping during pregnancy and no studies on asthma in prenatally JUUL (e-cigarette)-exposed offspring. Dr. Noël is testing the hypothesis that in utero JUUL exposure causes unfavorable birth outcomes and lasting pulmonary health effects. Research shows that inhalation of JUUL aerosols

AT LSU VET MED SOME OF THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST MINDS ARE TAKING AIM AT ALL MANNER OF LIFE-THREATENING RESPIRATORY DISEASES, INCLUDING BACTERIAL AND VIRAL LUNG INFECTIONS, ASTHMA, AND ACUTE LUNG INJURY.

during pregnancy affects the intrauterine environment, impairs lung development, and heightens the effects of allergic airway responses later in life.

XING FU (PROJECT INVESTIGATOR, LSU AGCENTER):

Fibrosis is common in diseases and injuries of tissues and organs, including heart failure-induced cardiac fibrosis and pulmonary fibrosis. Fibrosis is a disease that results when tissue becomes damaged or scarred. In regenerative tissue, such as skeletal muscle and lung, acute injury-induced fibrosis is usually temporary and resolves spontaneously when regeneration is accomplished. The fate and function of fibroblasts in chronic fibrosis are not very clear. Dr. Fu's research delineates the mechanisms by which fibroblast proliferation and differentiation activities impact the development of left ventricular heart failure-induced cardiac fibrosis and pulmonary fibrosis.

CHEN CHEN (PROJECT INVESTIGATOR, LSU COLLEGE OF SCIENCE):

Staphylococcus aureus-associated pneumonia accounts for about 50,000 infections per year in the U.S. and is one of the leading agents of ventilator-associated pneumonia. S. aureus pneumonia has a high rate of mortality due to antibiotic resistance and lack of an effective vaccine. During pulmonary infection, the neutrophil influx is a double-edged sword: neutrophils may clear the invading pathogens, or overzealous neutrophils may cause tissue damage leading to pneumonia. Hence, understanding the mechanisms by which S. aureus keeps lung neutrophils at rest is crucial to decipher how S. aureus maintains its silent colonization state and when/how its presence becomes pathogenic. Dr. Chen's research focuses on revealing a potential new therapy to treat pneumonia associated with massive neutrophil migration.

MARIANO CAROSSINO, DVM, PHD, DIPL. ACVM, DIPL. ACVP (PROJECT INVESTIGATOR, LSU VET MED):

Dr. Carossino studies virus-host interactions during respiratory and persistent viral infections. Obesity and type 2 diabetes affect a large proportion of the U.S. population. Those with these metabolic diseases are at least three times more likely to develop severe COVID-19 or influenza infections necessitating intensive care. Dr. Carossino is focused on dissecting the cellular mechanisms influencing the pathogenicity of viral respiratory infections and driving this increased susceptibility in this at-risk population.

BASEL ABUAITA, PHD (PROJECT INVESTIGATOR, LSU VET MED):

Antibiotic-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection is a major public health threat in the lung and extrapulmonary organs. It is unclear whether stress responses aid or impede pulmonary immunity. Dr. Abuaita's research explores mechanisms by which cellular stress responses in innate immune cells aid in bacterial clearance in the infected lung. Discoveries may reveal new approaches for treating respiratory infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The goals are to define how these stress pathways control the function of innate immune cells of the lung and to test whether modulators of these cellular stresses can help to defend the lung against infection.

WILLIAM BEAVERS, PHD (PROJECT INVESTIGATOR, LSU VET MED):

Staphylococcus aureus, the leading cause of skin and soft tissue infections, causes over 900,000 severe infections annually in the U.S. It is increasingly resistant to commonly used antibiotics. We define how the host kills S. aureus and how S. aureus avoids being killed by the host at the molecular level, focusing on antimicrobial protein post-translational modifications. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, combining analytical chemistry, bacteriology, bacterial pathogenesis, and chemical biology, both in vitro and in vivo, we identify and validate S. aureus therapeutic weaknesses for targeting by the next generation of antimicrobials that will enhance our ability to treat S. aureus infections.

"The lung COBRE grant is working as it was intended. The first generation of lung COBRE scientists are now joining the team as leaders, and they will go on to mentor others," Dr. Dugas said of a program that, each moment, builds toward discoveries to help people breathe easier.

1981

Michael Liles is now semi-retired after running his practice, Liles Animal Clinic, for nearly 30 years. He resides in Searcy, Ark., and recently held a mini-reunion for the Class of 1981 in his backyard. He encourages others to join for the upcoming reunion in 2024 in West Virginia.

1984

Tom Roundtree recently retired in the winter of 2022. Since his retirement, he spends his time in Forrest City, Ark., with his wife, Needie.

Ed Boldt has been asked by the American Association of Equine Practitioners to run for a board position. Ed runs an equine integrative medicine practice, Performance Horse Complementary Medicine Services. He resides in Fort Collins, Col. Ed is a member of LSU Vet Med's Board of Alumni. He led the charge to get big fans in the equine lameness pavilion, helping us keep cool during reunions!

Alumni gathering in Puerto Rico; breakfast after the Colegio Médico de Veterinarios de Puerto Rico meeting in August.

Dr. Greg Rich, Class of 1985, owner of Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital of Louisiana since 1993, is the go-to guy for the care and treatment of avian and exotic pets in greater New Orleans. He frequently makes guest appearances on local news broadcasts.

1988

Jackie (Durand) Simon owns and practices from the Country Place Veterinary Clinic in St. Martinville, La. Jackie is celebrating the practice's 33rd anniversary this August. Jackie and her husband, Mark, have three beautiful grandchildren whom they visit often. She has no plans to retire anytime soon.

AGE AT MATRICULATION

24	18	35
AVERAGE	YOUNGEST	OLDEST

Vanessa Wolf: Preparing Service Dogs for Their Roles

Vanessa Wolf with one of the service dogs she cares for with 4 Paws for Ability

VANESSA WOLF is a veterinarian with a heart committed to making a difference in the lives of children and veterans with disabilities. Her journey with 4 Paws for Ability began in August 2020 when she joined the non-profit organization based in Xenia, Ohio. As an Associate Veterinarian, Vanessa plays a pivotal role in the journey of task-trained service dogs, overseeing their health and well-being from puppyhood to their life-changing roles as companions and helpers.

At 4 Paws for Ability, approximately 120 service dogs are placed with deserving recipients each year. Vanessa is at the forefront of ensuring these dogs are well-prepared for their roles. The organization primarily utilizes breeds like Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Goldendoodles, and more. Vanessa's responsibilities encompass diverse aspects of veterinary medicine, from supervising the breeding process to overseeing artificial inseminations, and monitoring the health and growth of the litters. Her expertise extends to collaborating with local veterinary clinics for surgeries, dentals, and radiographs, ensuring the overall health and well-being of these remarkable animals.

Vanessa's impact goes beyond the medical realm. She is an essential part of a multidisciplinary team that collaborates closely with trainers during the Advanced Training phase. This phase is a critical step in preparing the dogs for their specialized tasks, such as behavior disruption, seizure alerts, mobility assistance, and more. Witnessing the progress of these dogs and the transformative impact they have on the lives of those they serve is a driving force for Vanessa's unwavering commitment. Her dedication to service dogs' health, development, and transformation exemplifies the profound impact that veterinary professionals can have on the world. Through her work, Vanessa embodies the organization's mission of enriching lives, one service dog at a time.

INCOMING CLASS NUMBERS BY STATE

69	LOUISIANA
13	PUERTO RICO
16	AR
2	AL
1	AZ
2	CO
7	FL
1	GA
1	IL
0	INTL
2	MA
2	MI
1	MN
3	MS
2	NC
1	NY
1	NJ
1	NV
1	OH
1	SC
6	TX
1	TN
0	VA
1	WY
135	TOTAL

Dr. Brianna Reid Favret and Family

1989

Carla Sommerdahl is now a Clinical Professor at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. She is entering her third year as the Department Head of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. She still enjoys teaching veterinary students and hopes to recruit more into large animal practice.

2000

Stacey Sabol works as an Associate Veterinarian at the East Suburban Animal Hospital. Stacey currently resides in Jeanette, Pa., with her husband, Shawn.

2003

Nicholas Vaughan remains in Austin, Texas, where he is the proud founder of PAZ Vet. PAZ has five locations in Austin and Nicholas is about to expand his business to San Antonio, Texas.

2004

Amy Bunch recently started the Veterinary Health Alert Network for Louisiana. The network sends out periodic information via email related to veterinary, public health, and zoonotic concerns in the state. She is working on increasing awareness among other veterinarians about her network.

CLASS OF 2027 FACTS

51
(38%)
FROM RURAL HOMETOWNS
(<10,000 people)

26
(19%)
1ST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT
Neither parent holds a 4-year college degree

2008

After graduation, **Travis Procell** practiced in the Dallas area for eight years. He then came back to Baton Rouge where he now resides with his wife, Leann, and their three children. He currently practices at the Prairieville Animal Hospital.

2010

Lindy O'Neal runs her own practice, Animal Medical Center. She resides in Rogers, Ark., with her partner, Josh.

2011

Brianna Reid runs the Reid Veterinary Clinic with her father in Trumbull, Conn. Brianna and her husband welcomed a baby boy, Remy Jean Favret, to the family.

2013

Melanie (Reed) Schroeder has moved to Pensacola, Fla., and works at Sunrise Animal Hospital.

Meredith (Geltz) Barry started her own house call practice. She currently resides in Benton, La.

2014

Alison Wilson received her board certification as a Small Animal Internal Medicine Specialist. She works for the Veterinary Specialist of North Texas and currently resides in Fort Worth.

2016

Jessica Pearson runs her own practice, Pearson Animal Clinic. She lives in London, Ark., with her husband, Scott.

2017

Michael Warshaw moved to Saint Louis, Mo., in September of 2022 to start his new position as a Staff Veterinarian for the Saint Louis Zoo. Prior to moving to Missouri, he worked at the BREC Baton Rouge Zoo as a zoological veterinarian.

Cheryl Choolijan started as an Associate Veterinarian at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo in Frenso, Calif.

Drs. Decambre, Class of 2009, at 2023 Commencement.

In Memoriam

DR. ALLEN LEE, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine faculty member from 1983 to 2005, passed away on August 11, 2023. He was 80.

At LSU Vet Med, he made major contributions to minority student recruitment and mentorship efforts, which led to the retention and graduation of many stellar veterinarians who serve important roles in veterinary medicine today and into the future. Dr. Lee created a lasting impact as one of the earliest members of the LSU Black Faculty & Staff Caucus (BFSC) and provided remarkable leadership in the areas of mentoring and scholarship. Together with the BFSC Founders, Dr. Lee helped establish what is now known as the Annual Black Scholars Program.

Dr. Lee graduated in 1967 from Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Our LSU Vet Med community is grateful for Dr. Lee's many years of service and the many lives he touched.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

Send us your news and photos, including marriages, births, and other milestones: **vetmed@lsu.edu**

Friends and family gathered for the dedication of the LSU Vet Med classroom named in honor of James "Jim" Rumore Sr. A reception followed.

In Memoriam

THE DR. JAMES "JIM" RUMORE SR. Classroom was dedicated April 19, 2023, and Dean Oliver Garden delivered remarks to commemorate the occasion.

"There are times when my job affords me with the opportunity to participate in joyous occasions and mingle with delightful people. Today is just such an occasion.

I am absolutely delighted to welcome all who have come together out of a deep fondness and respect for the late Jim Rumore Sr., and his family, Nancy Rumore, Jimmy Rumore, and Chris Rumore.

Today, we dedicate the Dr. James "Jim" Rumore Sr. Classroom, a space where our third-year students are nearing the final stretch of their veterinary education. They will go on to serve their communities, just as Dr. Jim did throughout his distinguished career.

We celebrate his legacy that this wonderful family continues, not only at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, but within the wider veterinary community and the profession.

In memory of Dr. Jim, his wife and business partner, Nancy, generously provided financial support for this classroom named in perpetuity for him here at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. May those who learn within this classroom have the clarity of vision and drive for life that its namesake had.

Dr. Jim, affectionately known as "Doc," knew early on that his passion was treating animals. Yet his interests were wide and varied. Graduating from LSU in 1975 with a BS in Pre-Vet and Dairy Science, he went on to earn a JD degree from the LSU School of Law in 1980 and a DVM in 1981 from the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

His dreams and his ability to fulfill them truly knew no bounds.

Dr. Jim first practiced veterinary medicine in Crowley, La. In 1986, he opened Acadia Animal Medical Center, which continues to provide vital veterinary services in the rural Acadiana region under the leadership of Dr. Chris Rumore, now head veterinarian and small animal practitioner with special interests in abdominal surgeries and ultrasound diagnostics.

Dr. Jim fulfilled his dream of living and working in Rayne, Louisiana where he spent summers during his youth. There, he made his home with his wife Nancy, veterinary practice owner, CEO, and retired economist, along with their two sons, James "Jimmy" Joseph Rumore Jr. , a rep at Elanco Animal Health, and Dr. Christopher James Rumore, a 2015 graduate of LSU Vet Med.

"Doc" lived his passion: helping animals and making friends with clients. Dr. Jim passed away in July 2020. All who knew him would agree that he took great joy in life. May we all be like Dr. Jim, a compassionate healer who loved life and made the most of it.

We are so grateful to Nancy, who continues her late husband's mission by providing the community with quality and affordable veterinary care. Nancy's generous gift to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine helps us educate the future veterinarians our nation so desperately needs, particularly in rural areas like Rayne. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, Nancy. Your generosity and leadership will be felt for generations to come."

Baaa-lance and Zen

GOAT YOGA *made an appearance at LSU Vet Med as part of Mental Health Awareness Week. Whether students, faculty, and staff are looking for a stress-relieving activity or simply someone to talk to, a mental health break is always beneficial to one's overall health and wellness — especially if it involves cute goats.*

The event was sponsored by the LSU Vet Med Library, Office of Admissions & Student Success, and Dean's Office.

LSU | School of Veterinary Medicine

Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

IF YOU BUILD IT WILL IT FLOAT?
Our first-year DVM students learned team-work, problem-solving, fellowship, and what it takes to be an LSU Vet Med Tiger during a "boat-building" and racing exercise during which everybody won.