

# TUSKEGEE VETERINARY MEDICAL PERSPECTIVE

FALL/WINTER 2016-2017

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TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

**G**reetings alumni, friends, and supporters of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM)! Happy New Year! I wish all of you the very best in 2017.

This issue of the Veterinary Medical Perspective highlights the many accomplishments of the research group in the College. Dr. Ayman Sayegh serves as our Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies (RAS).

One of our recent accomplishments in research is featured in this issue and focuses on another U.S. Patent. Congratulations to the researchers credited with attaining another U. S. patent: Dr. Teshome Yehualaeshet (PI) and Co-PI's Dr. Temesgen Samuel, Dr. Woubit S. Abdela, and Dr. Tsegaye Habtemariam, all faculty members in the Department of Pathobiology. As you browse the Perspective, take time to note the continuation of the Legacy Tribute page which in this issue, we salute Dr. Edward Willis and his daughter, Dr. Dana Willis Henderson. Instead of "like father like son", it is "like father like daughter" in this issue.

The College achieved a major milestone since the last issue with full accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE). This achievement would not have been possible without the team effort, hard work, dedication, commitment, faith and endurance of our faculty, staff and especially our students. Congratulations to us!! A continued team effort will be necessary as we move forward expanding our vision and building on our enduring legacy. In ad-



# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Thank You For Your Support of the Tuskegee University  
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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

# Friends of TUCVM Make High End Ultrasound Machine Possible: Thanks to the Tuskegee Alumni Housing Foundation, Inc.

“**T**he faculty, staff and students at the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM), extend a heartfelt appreciation to President Clarence Johnson and the board members of the Tuskegee Alumni Housing Foundation, Inc. (TUAHF) for choosing to make a significant difference in the radiology learning experience for our students. The TUAHF made a donation of \$160,000 toward the purchase of a high end ultrasound machine for the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) here at Tuskegee University,” said Dean Ruby Perry. The ultrasound machine, an Aplio500 Platinum Ultrasound Imaging System, was purchased through Universal Imaging Company.

Ultrasonography is a popular imaging modality in human and veterinary medicine to enhance diagnosis

“Mother Tuskegee” and the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine’s (TUCVM) outstanding track record of producing legacies is putting the spotlight on the Willis Family (Father - Dr. Edward Willis and daughter – Dr. Dana Willis Henderson) in this Fall/Winter issue of the Veterinary Medical Perspective.

**D**r. Edward  
Don-  
ald

Willis grew up in rural Selma, Ala., where animals, both farm animals and pets,

played an integral role in family life. He enrolled at Tuskegee Institute (University) obtaining both an undergraduate degree in Biology in 1961 and the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 1966. He has been in private practice for 42 years but also served for two years on active duty and 25 years of reserve duty as a military veterinarian,

Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Matthew Jenkins Presents First  
Edition of His New Autobiography:  
**POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES:  
My Game Plan for Success**

**A** press release by Urban Classic Books  
(publisher) announced the presentation  
of Dr. Matthew Jenkins' first edition  
autobiography which is a new book  
in which he shares his life secrets. 083 T6a

A special presentation was made by Dr. William T. Watson ('65), TVMAA member and Tuskegee National Alumni Association NE Regional Director on "Giving Back to Sustain the Legacy."



**T**he American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE) at its fall meeting granted the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) full accreditation. The Council took this action during its Sept. 25-27, 2016 meeting. A formal statement has been placed on the AVMA's website at <https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Accreditation/Colleges/Documents/2016-September-Accreditation-Actions.pdf>.

The AVMA COE is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) as the accrediting agency for colleges and schools of veterinary medicine in the United States. Accreditation is in keeping with the regulations of the USDE.

"The removal of probation status to achieve Accreditation through the AVMA represents a cumulative effort between administrators, faculty, staff and students. We are grateful for the leadership of Dean Ruby Perry in guiding this effort. We are also grateful for the AVMA in affirming Tuskegee's storied tradition but now also what promises to be its equally storied trajectory," said Dr. Brian Johnson, president of Tuskegee University.

"I am proud of our faculty, staff, and especially our students. The attainment of full accreditation status for the College of Veterinary Medicine would not have been possible without their dedication

and commitment. This has truly been a team effort from within our college to our administration within the University and our dedicated friends and alumni as well," said Dr. Ruby Perry dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.

After the initial site visit, the AVMA-COE placed the Tuskegee University veterinary medicine program on probationary status and scheduled the next focused site visit for Jan. 2016. Under the leadership of Dean Perry, the college took immediate steps to develop a plan to address the reported deficiencies and to help move the veterinary program toward full accreditation. The Tuskegee University Veterinary Medical Program has a fresh outlook on the future after removing all deficiencies.

TUCVM is the most racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse school of veterinary medicine in North America and the only veterinary medical school at a Historically Black educational institution. It is alma mater to more than 72% of all African American veterinarians and approximately 60% of African Americans currently pursuing a veterinary medical education are enrolled at Tuskegee. 🐾

### **VMTH Receives AAHA Accredited Notice**

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) gave notice to TUCVM that its Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) was accredited with them on Nov. 8, 2016. TUCVM's VMTH has been an accredited practice member of the association

# TUCVM Host Second Annual Toy Drive for Tots at George Washington Carver Elementary School

As the 2016 fall semester came to a close, TUCVM wanted to share in the true spirit of this time of year which was to be thankful and giving. TUCVM showed the spirit of giving through hosting the Second Annual “Toy Drive for Tots” on Dec. 13 at the George Washington Carver (GWC) Elementary School located in Tuskegee.

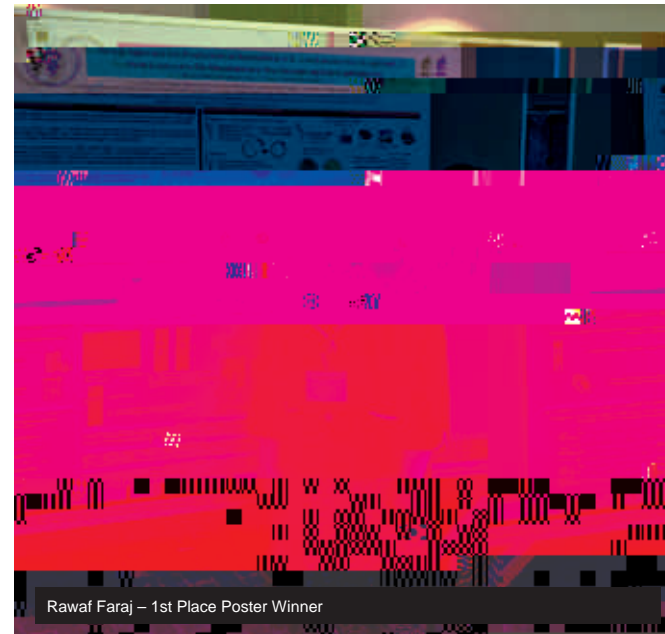
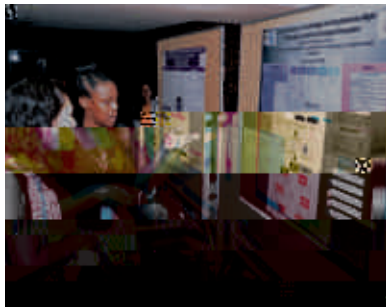
“The 2016 ‘Toy Drive for Tots’ was a continuation of the inspired vision between the veterinary students and the TUCVM administration that was initiated last year by the Class of 2019. It was so successful and appreciated by the GWC faculty, administration and of course precious children that it was then decided that the TUCVM will keep the toy drive as an annual event,” said Dr. Ruby Perry, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

GWC Elementary School had a total of 259 boys and girls in all three classes consisting of pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade. TUCVM had the goal of providing each child in these classes with one gift. To accomplish this, the school was divided into three sections: TUCVM's senior class (fourth year students) and Office of the Dean – gifts for the Pre-k children; TUCVM second and third year students – gifts for the kindergarten children; and TUCVM first year students and the faculty and staff – gifts for the first grade children.

Since the first year class (Class of 2020) was responsible for the holiday decorations in the veterinary college, they also took the lead with organizing the toy drive with the other veterinary students, and were also responsible for providing Santa and Santa's elves. However, the Class of 2020 assisted them in making this year's Toy Drive another successful activity of sharing. The TUCVM faculty and staff assisted as Santa's helpers to distribute the toys to the students.

The teachers and administration at George Washington Carver Elementary School and the Macon County School Board were

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# PHI ZETA RESEARCH DAY AWARDS

## Oral Presentation

**1st place:** Brandi Roseman (TUCVM 3rd year)  
 “Parkinson Disease Modeling in Parkin-Deficient Mice”

**2nd place:** Lantana Grub (TU undergrad, Pre-Vet)  
 “Effect of Pentoxifylline on the Motility of Canine Cauda and Corpus Epididymal Spermatozoa”

**3rd place:** Melissa Lopez (TUCVM 3rd year)  
 “Characterization of vascular remodeling in the canine brain following Traumatic Brain Injury”

## Poster Presentation

**1st place:** Rawaf Faraj (TU Ph.D. Student)  
 “Novel Approach for Production of Recombinant E. coli Enterotoxin B and LipL21 from Leptospira for Development of a Vaccine against Leptospirosis”

**2nd place:** Robert Emeh (Alabama State Univ.)  
 “Novel Antimicrobial Peptide Mitigates Inflammation in Human Lung Cells Infected with Pseudomonas aeruginosa”

**3rd place:** India Howard (TUCVM 2nd year)  
 “Comparison of TransCinnamaldehyde and Curcuma Longa

# 17th Annual Biomedical Research Symposium Focuses on Current and Future One Health Initiatives



One Health Initiatives: Current and Future Perspectives” was the theme for the 17th Annual Biomedical Research Symposium and Fifth Annual Phi Zeta Research Day

held Sept. 15-16 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center and College of V

**T**UCVM welcomed the new first year class of veterinary medical students (Class of 2020) with an

## Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine Holds Open House

TUCVM hosted its High School Open House 2016 on Sept. 30 at the Veterinary Medical Complex in Patterson Hall. TUCVM invited all high school students interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine in the future to attend. The event was free but registration was required.





## TUCVM Students Participate in AAEP Conferenc

TUCVM student Neil Gruber (Class of 2017) was selected as a poster presenter at the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) on Dec. 3-7 in Orlando, Fla. Mr. Gruber entered the national contest through the AAEP for veterinary students and was selected as one of the top three posters in the

## In Loving Memory of one of TUCVM's Pioneers in Veterinary Medicine... Carl Cousins, DVM

Carl Mervil Cousins was born October 13, 1932, in Victoria, Virginia. He was the youngest of four sons born to the late Lucious J. and Annie Dowdy Cousins. His brothers Alphas B., Marquis L. and Rhoecus L. Cousins preceded him in death. His parents instilled in their family the values of honesty, reliability, loyalty, respect and hard work. Dr. Cousins was taught to treat women like he treated his mother and to love God with all of his heart.

He was educated in the Victoria Public School System. In 1948, Cousins graduated class valedictorian of Lunenburg High School. He received his Bachelor's of Science degree from Virginia State College. At the age of nineteen, he was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the United States Army in 1952. Cousins served two years of active duty and was a veteran of the Korean War. His studies were continued in 1955 by entering Tuskegee University, where he received his Doctorate Degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1959. After graduation, "Doc" was recruited by the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine as an instructor of Small Animal Medicine & Surgery and a Rotational Residency Program.

Cousins was an African-American pioneer in Veterinary Medicine. When he entered the field, there were no African-American students, faculty, or African-American veterinarians in private practice in the state of Pennsylvania. In 1960 Cousins passed the Pennsylvania State Veterinarian Medical and Surgical Examination and received his license to practice Veterinary Medicine and Surgery in Pennsylvania. Dr. Cousins established his own highly respected small animal practice, Haverford Animal Hospital, in Haverford, Pa. in 1961. Haverford Animal Hospital served as a resource for students interested in careers in Laboratory Animal Medicine or Veterinary Medicine.

Governor Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania appointed Dr. Cousins to the Pennsylvania Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Examiners. He served 12 years on the state board, two of those years as the chairman of the board. Cousins was the first African-American to serve on a Veterinarian State Board of Examiners in the USA and the National State Board of Examiners. He also enjoyed a rich and rewarding career as a guest lecturer and a member of various committees at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. His passion for education kept him involved in medicine for most of his life. He was a career mentor for young students at Cornell University, Penn State University (Delaware Campus), Cheyney University and the Philadelphia and Suburban School Systems. Cousins also worked with his friend Dr. Leonard Johnson at the Bright Hope Baptist Church Academy.

At the urging of his neighbors, Dr. Cousins opened his second successful animal hospital on Fairmount Avenue in Philadelphia, PA in 1976. This practice was also a training facility for new veterinarians. Cousins worked diligently in the field of veterinary medicine, before and after retirement.

On April 14, 1962, Carl married the love of his life, Althea L. Edmiston. They enjoyed 54 years of marriage. Left to cherish his memory, along with his wife, are two daughters and four grandchildren. Dr. Cousins passed on December 4 and his funeral was held on December 17, 2016 in Wynnewood, Pa.

## Mr. Mark Stinson

Our beloved staff member and friend in the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM), Mr Mark Stinson, passed on November 10, 2016. His funeral service was held at the Tuskegee University Chapel on Nov. 17.

Mr. Stinson, lovingly called "Mark" by the TUCVM, was born to the late Doris Wooldridge McDaniel on July 24, 1954 in Roba, Ala. He was a member of Antioch Baptist

Church in Union Springs, Ala. Mark graduated from South Macon High School on 1974. He was employed with West Point Pepperell Mill in 1978 and later gained employment with Tuskegee University in 1982.

During his time at Tuskegee University, Mark served the TUCVM for a dedicated 34 years as a freight carrier until his untimely passing.

He leaves to cherish his memory two sons, two daughters

## TUCVM Deceased Alumni for Fall/Winter 2016-17

Dr. John A. Best, Jr. ('92)  
February 4, 2017 (South Hill, VA)

Dr. Betty Colette ('62)  
February 5, 2017

LTC.(Ret.) John C. Dockery, DVM ('74)  
September 27, 2016 (Elm City, NC)

Dr. Ahlrich "Rich" J. Eilers, III ('74)  
September 9, 2016 (Louisville, KY)

Dr. John D. Hardy ('63)  
December 24, 2016 (Long Beach, CA)

Dr. Missy Scott Johnson ('99)  
October 10, 2016 (Helena, AL)

Dr. John Slaughter ('78)  
January 25, 2017 (St. Petersburg, FL)



College of Veterinary Medicine  
Patterson Hall  
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